

# VBA NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Virginia Bar Association Executive Director Plans to Retire in July 2011

Guy Tower, executive director of The Virginia Bar Association has announced plans to retire from his position next year.

In a letter to VBA president Steve Busch of Richmond, Tower outlined his plan to retire, effective July 31, 2011. He joined the VBA in 2005, following a career which included partnerships in the Hunton & Williams and Kaufman & Canoles law firms in Richmond and Norfolk, participation as a founding member of The McCammon Group and serving as director of judicial education for the Supreme Court of Virginia.

In his letter, Tower noted that he will be 70 years old next year and, citing the Association's accomplishments during his tenure, said that he believes that "this is an opportune time for a transition" both for the organization and himself. He praised Busch's leadership in undertaking a "comprehensive and coherent" strategic planning process for the VBA which he and Busch expect to be completed prior to his retirement.

Tower also expressed his pride in other projects initiated by recent VBA presidents. Those projects include the multi-faceted Pro Bono Summit held earlier this year under the direction of immediate past president John Epps of Richmond, the widely-acclaimed VBA Rule of Law Project, which continues to be led by 2008 VBA president Mike Pace of Roanoke, the Principles of Professionalism for Virginia Lawyers, which were promulgated by a commission appointed by former president Bill Van Buren of Norfolk and which have been endorsed by multiple Virginia courts and bar organizations, and the campaign which raised almost \$100,000 from Virginia lawyers for post-Katrina restoration of the legal infrastructure in Louisiana and Mississippi that was activated by former president Jim Meath of Richmond.

"I have been honored to be a member of the VBA for more than 40 years," Tower said. "I deeply value the relationships that I have developed within the Association, and it has been an extraordinary privilege to serve as its executive director. I am particularly proud of the VBA's work to advance the highest ideals of the legal profession through advocacy -- especially in its important law reform work at the Virginia General Assembly -- and public service."

When asked about Tower's accomplishments, Busch noted that "Guy Tower has been well recognized as a leading lawyer in the Commonwealth for decades. The broad experience he brought to the VBA propelled our organization to new heights. This is evidenced by our legislative successes, enhanced relationships with other bar-related organizations and the

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Supreme Court of Virginia, and the excellent staff that he has developed to support our mission.”

Busch also said that the executive committee of the Association would oversee the search process for a successor to Tower, designing a timetable for completing the search that takes into account adopting a new strategic plan.

Tower, who was one of the first business lawyers in Virginia to have an active practice as a mediator, said that it is likely that he will return to that practice following his retirement.

The Virginia Bar Association is the oldest and largest voluntary organization of lawyers and judges in Virginia.

**THE MISSION OF THE VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION**

**The Virginia Bar Association is a voluntary organization of Virginia lawyers committed to serving the public and legal profession by promoting the highest standard of integrity, professionalism, and excellence in the legal profession; working to improve the law and the administration of justice; and advancing collegial relations among lawyers.**