

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Valerie O'Brien, VTLA (804) 343-1143

Virginia trial lawyers earn national award

The Young Trial Lawyers Section of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association has received the Robert J. Bonsignore Public Service Award from the New Lawyers Division of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America for the recently revised video teaching aid, *The Road to Virginia Justice*. This national award recognizes new lawyer organizations that have achieved the highest standards in promoting and performing public service and was presented last month in Boston.

The Road to Virginia Justice project, headed jointly by M. Bryan Slaughter of *Michie Hamlett Lowry Rasmussen & Tweel* in Charlottesville and Jason Konvicka of *Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen* in Richmond, demonstrates basic legal principles to students at a very impressionable and important age.

Using the privilege to drive as an illustration, the program emphasizes that the rights and privileges of living in a free society create a duty to participate as responsible citizens. The video illustrates important differences between criminal and civil trials, emphasizing the importance of the right to a trial by jury.

The original *Road to Virginia Justice* video was developed in 1989 and shown to more than 13,000 middle and high school students in the Commonwealth. The revised version was made with a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation and the generous support of a number of VTLA member firms.

END