



## Law: The Ultimate Power Tool Conference



October 17, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Law: the Ultimate Power Tool Conference. It is a pleasure to have you here and I hope you enjoy the program and this lovely location.

A power tool equalizes – this is what law does or is supposed to do. You no longer need brute strength. What you need is knowledge of how to wield the power tool and wisdom to do so judiciously. Not for nothing does it say “Equal Justice Under Law” on the portico of the United States Supreme Court. Our gender, race, socio-economic class and financial resources, or sexual orientation should not affect how the law is written or determine whether we are able to obtain justice in the courts. As attorneys – those specially trained in the law – to us falls the responsibility to learn how to use the law well, whether in the courtroom, in the boardroom or in administrative proceedings.

Our advocacy on behalf of our clients is dependent upon our command of words and our knowledge of the law but our command of the law can also be used to better our society. This can take the form of pro bono work, volunteering at a community organization or in your place of worship, or as mentorship of those who have just begun practice. It can also take the form of blazing a trail for others to follow as did those women who were the first to be admitted to practice in this Commonwealth.

Finally, we cannot forget our responsibility to ourselves, our families and our business partners. Too often we are last on our lists – we do not do those things that we regularly advise our clients to do, like having testamentary documents, succession planning in our firms, securing disability insurance and other resources. Here too our training and knowledge of the law can be used to our own advantage – and it should be. While the average citizen may be intimidated by the terms, information and decisions that must be made in formalizing these arrangements, we should not be. Our peers, friends and colleagues who practice in these areas can guide us. Making difficult decisions, resolving conflict and developing creative solutions is part of what we are trained to do.

I would like to thank our sponsors and presenters and I would like to thank the members of the VWAA who have devoted so much of their time and energy to this conference – it would not have been possible without you. I hope this weekend will be educational, relaxing and happily memorable. Thank you for spending it with us. With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyung (Kathryn) Dickerson'.

Kyung (Kathryn) Dickerson, President  
Virginia Women Attorneys Association