

Subject: Bill Thro's Appointment
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Please join me in congratulating Bill Thro on his on his appointment as the new Solicitor General of Virginia. Bill has provided invaluable legal assistance to CNU for many years. Although we will certainly miss his good advice and counsel, we wish him much success and happiness in this new season of his life.



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Kilgore Names William E. Thro New Solicitor General of Virginia

-- Veteran Attorney to Head Section Handling Appellate Cases, Replaces William Hurd --

RICHMOND – Attorney General Jerry Kilgore today named William E. Thro the Solicitor General of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Thro will lead the section of the Office of the Attorney General that is responsible for supervising and conducting the Office's appellate litigation on behalf of the Commonwealth in state and federal courts that involve major constitutional issues or significant policy ramifications for the state. Thro replaces William H. Hurd who left the office earlier this month to enter private practice.

"I am pleased to be able to entrust this responsibility to a talented and innovative lawyer such as Bill Thro," Kilgore said. "The solicitor leads our contact with the appellate courts – all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court – and it is imperative to have a quality legal professional in this important position."

"When someone brings a constitutional challenge to a statute or regulation, they are really challenging the results of our democratic process," Thro said. "As State Solicitor, I will be assisting General Kilgore in defending the results of our democratic process. I am deeply honored and humbled that General Kilgore has entrusted me with such a responsibility."

Thro has served as Deputy State Solicitor for Attorney General Kilgore since 2002. Prior to becoming Deputy State Solicitor, he served Attorneys General Beales, Earley, and Cullen as General Counsel for Christopher Newport University, Interim General Counsel for Old Dominion University, Special Assistant Attorney General, and Assistant Attorney General. Before coming to Virginia in 1997, he spent six years serving Colorado Attorney General Gale A. Norton, now the Secretary of the Interior. He began his legal career as a judicial clerk to the late Judge Ronald E. Meredith of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky.

Over the course of his career, Thro has been involved in constitutional challenges to the Virginia cross burning statute, the trespass policy of a public housing authority, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the requirement that States waive sovereign immunity as a condition of receiving federal funds, Virginia's restrictions on the shipment and delivery of alcoholic beverages, the Colorado Charter School Act, and a Colorado statute regulating collective bargaining by teachers, the VMI Supper Prayers, Virginia's restrictions on out-of-state waste, amendments to Colorado's Constitution concerning the use of school lands, among others.

(more)

Thro, who was a Harry S. Truman Scholar and a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, received his B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* from Hanover College and his M.A. *with Honours* from the University of Melbourne, Australia. His J.D. is from the University of Virginia School of Law where he was a published member of the *Virginia Law Review* and a research assistant to Constitutional Law Professor A.E. Dick Howard.

He is a native of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, the father of three children from a previous marriage and is engaged to the Reverend Julie Urback, Associate Pastor of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, Virginia. Thro is a graduate of East Hardin High School in Elizabethtown.

Hurd had served as Solicitor General in the Office of Attorney General since September 1999, and before that as Counsel to the Attorney General from January 1998 until September 1999. From January 1994 to January 1998, he was Deputy Attorney General for Health Education and Social Services. He has joined the in a position of counsel at Troutman Sanders LLP. While he was Solicitor General of Virginia, the Commonwealth was victorious in two U.S. Supreme Court First Amendment cases: *Virginia v. Black* and *Virginia v. Hicks*. During he tenure, Virginia also succeeded in a U.S. Supreme Court original jurisdiction case brought by Virginia to establish its right to build improvements into the Potomac River and withdraw water from the river (*Virginia v. Maryland*).

"Bill Hurd's contributions to the Commonwealth will remain important for years to come," Kilgore said. "I extend to him my thanks for his many years of service and congratulate him on his new position."