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For Release:

Virginia Wine Four Centuries of Change Now Out

Attorney Andrew Painter today presented autographed copies of his recently-published book, *Virginia Wine: Four Centuries of Change* to Virginia's outgoing Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Todd A. Haymore and Virginia Wine Marketing Office Director Annette R. Boyd. Painter also provided autographed copies for former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe an appreciation for the administration's support of the Virginia wine industry.

Virginia Wine: Four Centuries of Change focuses on the history of Virginia's wine industry from its earliest Spanish accounts in 1570 through its rebirth and growth in the modern era. It provides a background on nearly all industry participants from Captain John Smith to Thomas Jefferson, to modern viticultural pioneers.

Painter began writing the book in 2009 and has spent the better part of the last decade conducting research on the subject in libraries, at wineries and historic sites, and at academic institutions. Originally conceived as a conventional winery tour guide, the focus of the work evolved into a comprehensive historical account of the development of Virginia wine. "Given the widespread interest in wine, generally, and its increasing importance to Virginia commerce, the challenge proved irresistible," Painter remarked.

As Virginia's wine industry has grown, so too has academic and recreational interest in understanding its past. The book provides a detailed, yet readable examination of the dynamic personalities, diverse places, and engrossing personal and political struggles that have played a role in establishing the Old Dominion as one of the nation's preeminent wine regions. Chronologically divided into four chapters, each of which cover a different era of Virginia's wine history, the book offers a series of illustrations and photographs the author compiled from various sources highlighting many of the industry's personalities and events.

"Although its focus is on the commonwealth, I have found it to be a quintessentially American tale," Painter remarked. "It represents the marriage of individual inspiration, persistent private sector experimentation, with reluctant, then steadfast and critical, public sector support." A multitude of industry subject matters are also highlighted, including the goods, trends, events, secondary industries, and jobs that have revolved around the growing of grapes and the making and promotion of wine.

Virginia Wine: Four Centuries of Change offers forwards by individuals who have contributed to the growth of the industry in recent decades, including former Virginia governor Gerald Baliles, winemaker Gabrielle Rausse, Oakencroft Vineyards founder Felcia Rogan, viticultural consultant Lucie Morton, and wine writer Hudson Cattell. Offered in paperback, the book is published by the George Mason University Press and is being distributed by the University of Virginia Press. The book is available for purchase on amazon.com and the University of Virginia Press' website, <http://www.upress.virginia.edu/title/5257>.