



**DIXON HUGHES GOODMAN** LLP

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Gary Thomson Elected Chairman of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce**

*-- Thomson will Provide Business Leadership for the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and  
Serve as an Advocate of the Chamber's Blueprint Virginia Business Plan --*

**Richmond, VA, January 30, 2014** – At the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's Annual Winter Board meeting in Richmond this week, Gary Thomson, CPA was elected Chairman of the Chamber by its Board of Directors. Thomson will chair the over 15,000 member business advocacy organization as an established business leader in Virginia and advocate the Chamber's Blueprint Virginia business plan to Virginia's local communities, businesses, statewide elected officials and legislators.

"I'm honored to be elected Chairman of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. In my own leadership role at Dixon Hughes Goodman, I focus on implementing goals that will profitably grow our firm through these economically challenging times. As Chairman of the Virginia Chamber, I will continue to use my own business leadership experience for the good of Virginia's business community as a whole. The Chamber's economic development strategy, Blueprint Virginia, is a unique collaboration of more than 300 organizations and 7000 participants who have developed a business plan and roadmap for economic competitiveness. As we move into 2014, I look forward to advocating Blueprint Virginia as an exceptional business plan that will help maintain the Virginia tradition and ranking as the best state for business," commented Gary Thomson, newly elected Chairman of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

In 2013 the Virginia Chamber of Commerce developed Blueprint Virginia through the grassroots engagement of more than 7,000 business and community leaders from around the state to determine top priorities for strengthening Virginia's economic competitiveness. A steering committee, advisory council and industry councils were formed to set priorities and goals in the areas of education, workforce development, business climate and economic development, transportation, health care,

technology, energy, manufacturing, environment and military & veterans affairs. The Chamber's Blueprint Virginia advances priorities and issues that need further consideration as the business community and citizens compete in a more globally competitive economy. Several goals of Blueprint Virginia are creating a more robust workforce to meet the needs of a growing and diverse business community, strengthening and expanding Virginia's economy to maintain Virginia's rank as the best state for business, ensuring Virginia remains a leader in technology and continuing the development of a safe and efficient transportation system, which fosters growth and development for a competitive economy.

Gary Thomson will serve as Chairman of the Virginia Chamber for a term of one year and will promote Blueprint Virginia with Barry DuVal, President and CEO of the Chamber and its Board of Directors. The Chamber is actively monitoring and noting support of current state and federal legislation of interest to the business community and identifying Blueprint Virginia initiatives in Virginia's budget bill and proposed legislation introduced in the 2014 General Assembly session.

As the Virginia Regional Managing Partner at Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP, a certified public accounting and advisory firm, Thomson leads over 40 firm Partners and over 250 employees. He has more than 28 years of public accounting experience advising businesses and their owners on accounting and tax service needs across multiple industries. He is also the former Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Virginia Business-Education Partnership Program, former Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth's School to Work Advisory Committee and a former member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education.

### **About the Virginia Chamber of Commerce**

With a 15,000 strong membership, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce is a non-partisan, business advocacy organization that works in the legislative, regulatory, and political arenas to act as the catalyst for positive change in all areas of economic development and competitiveness for the Commonwealth of Virginia. To learn more about Blueprint Virginia, visit [www.vachamber.com/blueprint](http://www.vachamber.com/blueprint).

### **About Dixon Hughes Goodman**

With more than 1,800 people in 11 states, Dixon Hughes Goodman is the 15th largest certified public accounting firm in the nation. In addition to comprehensive accounting and advisory services, the firm goes to market by major industry and serves clients in all 50 states. Visit [www.dhgllp.com](http://www.dhgllp.com) for more information.

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