

REPORTS OF SPECIAL BOARDS

CONFERENCE OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

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The major goals of the Conference of Local Bar Associations (“CLBA” or “Conference”) for this year were to follow through on the success we have had with the *So You’re 18* handbook by making the handbook available to all high school seniors in the Commonwealth, and to again conduct two quality programs for training local bar leaders. The Virginia Law Foundation made a generous grant through which the Conference was able to publish 67,000 copies of the *So You’re 18* handbook. Copies were distributed to every senior in the state’s public high schools during the spring of 1999. The Executive Committee of the Conference developed a plan to involve all local bar associations in the distribution and presentation of the handbooks to high school students. Considering the number of students involved, the distribution and presentation of these handbooks was a huge undertaking. The involvement of local bar associations proved invaluable, and allowed members of the local bars to make direct contact with a multitude of students. The goodwill that the local bars garnered from this project is immeasurable, and the Conference hopes to continue distribution of the handbook in some form in future years.

The Bar Leaders Institute (“BLI”) was presented at two locations, Richmond and Lexington. This was the third consecutive year that programs were presented in two places, and both programs were a tremendous success. The number of registrants at both locations continued to increase over prior years, though a spring snow on the day of the Lexington BLI kept many registrants from attending. For the first time this year, CLE credit was available to bar leaders who attended the BLI in either place.

Phil Stone, president of Bridgewater College and past president of the Virginia Bar Association, was the luncheon speaker in Lexington. Robert Gray, president-elect of the American Bar Association and a Richmond attorney, was the luncheon speaker in Richmond. Also, bar leaders from all over Virginia participated in panel discussions and lectures which were enthusiastically received by attendees at both locations. The Virginia Commonwealth University Adcenter unveiled its ad campaign commissioned by the Virginia State Bar. The campaign received an overwhelmingly good response in both Richmond and Lexington.

The Conference again held its annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the State Bar in Virginia Beach. At that meeting, the Conference recognized various bar associations for outstanding programs by presenting Awards of Merit and Certificates of Achievement.

The success of the Conference this year is largely due to the hard work and dedication of the members of the executive committee. Of course, without the active participation of local bar leaders the Conference could not exist. The various local bar associations consistently enhance the profession and contribute to their communities through the many programs presented by them throughout the year. ❀