

24th Annual Conference of Local Bar Associations

Awards of Merit Competition

The Competition

The Virginia State Bar's Conference of Local Bar Associations announces the 24th Annual Awards of Merit competition. This competition is designed to:

- Recognize outstanding projects and programs of local and specialty bar associations;
- Share successful programming ideas and resources with all bar associations;
- Encourage greater service to the bench, bar and public; and
- Inform the public about some of the excellent work of local and specialty bars and the legal profession in general.

The VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations will present the Awards of Merit during the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 19, 2009, in Virginia Beach.

Eligibility

Awards of Merit are offered in six divisions:

- 50 members or less
- 51–100 members
- 101–250 members
- 251–450 members
- 451 or more members
- Multi-bar projects

Additional certificates of achievement may be awarded in each division if deemed appropriate by the judges.

Local and specialty bars are encouraged to submit any successful or unique NEW programs undertaken since April 26, 2008. If a bar completes several projects during Law Week, all the projects may be included in one entry or each project may be entered individually. A local or specialty bar association may submit more than one entry but no more than four.

The judging committee reserves the right to withhold an award in any division if it feels no noteworthy bar programs were entered. The executive committee of the Conference of Local Bar Associations reserves the right to re-categorize the current six divisions.

Judging

The executive committee of the Conference of Local Bar Associations will select an independent panel of judges of local and out-of-state people experienced in bar activities.

Entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Degree of innovation and originality;
- Level of difficulty in implementing and/or sustaining the project;
- Success of the project including scope, importance and duration of benefits derived by the public and/or profession;
- Replicability/adaptability of the project to other local or specialty bar associations; and
- Extent of membership participation.

Entry Instructions

Each entry should include the following information:

- The project's objectives and intended scope;
- Nature and extent of planning and organization;
- Evidence of effectiveness and success of the project;
- Extent of membership involvement;
- Expenses and funding of the project;
- Replicability/adaptability of the project to other local or specialty bar associations;
- Suggestions/recommendations to other bars which may attempt a similar project; and
- If similar projects have been undertaken by another bar association or if this is a continuing project by a bar association, how this particular effort distinguished itself (i.e., effectiveness, scope, participation).

Supporting exhibits such as photographs, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and other printed material may be included in the association's entry. If you wish to submit a videotape for review, please include a copy for each of the three judges.

All entry material will be added to the Virginia State Bar's Resource Library for use by all local and specialty bar associations and will not be returned.

Winners will be notified by telephone by Friday, May 29, 2009. A press release will be sent to local and statewide media announcing Awards of Merit recipients.

Entry Rules & Deadline

1. All entries should have a cover page with the following information:
 - a. Name of bar association.
 - b. Title of project submitted for award.
 - c. Number of members in bar association.
 - d. Name and phone number of bar president.
 - e. Name, title, and phone number of person submitting entry if other than president.
 - f. Suggested media in your local area to receive a news release should project win award.
2. Entries should be no more than five (8-1/2" x 11") pages in length, not including the cover page.
3. Entries should not be placed in a notebook, plastic display sleeve nor exhibition folder. Please send an original and three copies of each entry.
4. Supporting exhibits should be no more than ten pages. (Please include photographs or newspaper clippings if available.)
5. All entries should be sent to:

Paulette Davidson
Virginia State Bar
707 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, VA 23219-2800
(Fax: 804/775-0501, Phone: 804/775-0521)
6. All entries must be postmarked no later than **Friday, May 1, 2009.**