

If You Call—We Are Ready



Colin "Cal" J. S. Thomas, Jr., 2002–2003 Senior Lawyers Conference Chair

Shortly before his death, Winston Churchill was advised that an up-and-coming young writer had copied from one of his speeches without giving proper credit. Churchill responded, "How flattering!" With that preamble, I am happy to report that the New York State Bar Association, with its 70,000 lawyers, sought the aid of the VSB Senior Lawyers Conference regarding the continuity of law practice issues. We call it "planning for death or disability." The ABA Senior Lawyers Committee discussed our conference activities. The South Carolina senior lawyers asked to be on our mailing list for our publication because they would like to do as we do. How flattering!

The State Bar informed us that they have few copies of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* in stock and that there is a need for an updated version. We were called. We are working on it. We are ready.

A seminar on planning for retirement was needed. We were called. On May 8, 2003, a seminar on the subject will be presented in Richmond by the senior lawyers—with assistance from Virginia CLE. Speakers will include some of the best lawyers in the state and there will be one hour of ethics credit. This will not be a program for old lawyers, but will be relevant to anyone retiring within the next several years, to law firm managers and to lawyers' estate planners. It will be a superior program. We are ready.

We were called to sponsor a CLE workshop at the annual meeting. We will. We are ready.

We received a call from the State Bar to help in the closings of the practices of sole practitioners who made no prior provisions. We are doing that. We are ready.

The mission of the VSB Conference of Senior Lawyers is "to uphold the honor of the profession of law . . . encourage cordial discourse and interaction . . . apply the knowledge and experience of the profession to the promotion of the public good" We considered that a call, and we are ready.

On February 11, 2003, the board of the Senior Lawyers Conference unanimously passed a resolution for me to request that an hour of training in civility and professionalism be added to the present requirements for mandatory continuing legal education.

I speak for our board, and I believe that I speak for all senior lawyers, when I say that we are proud to be lawyers and we are proud of our profession. We understand the constant need for improvement to promote the public good. Civility and professionalism can improve. While an annual hour of teaching of civility and professionalism may not be a panacea, it is a start.

The resolution passed by the board of directors of the Senior Lawyers Conference does not say what I know was in the hearts and minds of every member who voted—it was more than just to request the additional hour. The senior lawyers were saying, if you call, we are ready.

Who better than we to help teach civility and professionalism! ☺



65th Annual Meeting Senior Lawyers Conference Programs

Joint CLE Program with Trusts & Estates and General Practice Sections

Friday, June 20, 8:30 A.M.–10:00 A.M. 1.5 Credits

"Estate Planning and Tax Reform"

The Senior Lawyers Conference will cosponsor a CLE workshop covering important aspects of estate planning, including the effects of the most recently enacted Tax Reform provisions, and including important considerations for lawyers regarding their own estate plans. The program will be followed by the **Senior Lawyers Conference Annual Meeting**, including the election of officers and Board of Governors members.

Fifty-Year Awards Luncheon

Saturday, June 21, 12:45 P.M.

A special luncheon in honor of all those members who have completed fifty years of service as a member of the Virginia State Bar. *By invitation only.*