

Highlights of Council Meeting

June 15, 2000, in Virginia Beach

On June 15, 2000, the Council of the Virginia State Bar took the following actions:

Lawyer Discipline

Approved and recommended to the Virginia Supreme Court, two amendments to Part 6, §IV, ¶13 B.(3) of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court. One proposed amendment states explicitly the current understanding that the bar counsel, subject to the general supervision of the Standing Committee on Lawyer Discipline, acts independently and exercises prosecutorial autonomy and discretion. The second amendment clarifies the bar counsel's authority to examine state and federal criminal history records in the course of investigating and prosecuting a bar complaint.

Approved a special assistant bar counsel program developed and recommended by the Standing Committee on Lawyer Discipline. Under the program, the bar counsel is authorized to designate volunteer attorneys as special assistant bar counsel to prosecute specific disciplinary cases.

Clarified the bar counsel's authority to employ attorneys, subject to funding by the Virginia State Bar Council and the general supervision of the Standing Committee on Lawyer Discipline.

Budget and Finance

Approved the 2000-2001 VSB budget projecting revenues of \$8,182,065 and expenditures of \$8,123,016. Active members dues will be \$250.

Memorial Resolution

Adopted a memorial resolution honoring Past President C. Wynne Tolbert of Arlington, who died May 3, 2000.