

# One of a Kind

by John Y. Richardson Jr., 2007–08 Conference of Local Bar Associations Chair



The Virginia State Bar's Conference of Local Bar Associations annually solicits nominees for the Local Bar Leader of the Year Award. In reviewing each nominee's accomplishments, emphasis is placed on his or her activities in the last ten years. Although the award is based on local bar service, the nominee's dedication to the bench, the bar as a whole, and the public is important. The award is presented at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

Last year's Local Bar Leader of the Year Award winner set a standard that is difficult to recite, much less to accomplish.

On the civic side, our award winner coached for ten years and volunteered in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. He was president of the zoology society that oversees Mill Mountain Zoo and was chair of the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee.

I am partial to persons who, like our honoree, coach youth teams—especially teams their own children play on. It is truly a learning experience for the coach, the kids, and the parents. For those of us who have tried cases, it also provides a host of moments that add color to closing arguments. I am convinced we become better persons and parents from this experience.

Our award winner's most impressive work to those who share his profession was with his local bar association, which he served as president and chair of its foundation.

Because of his efforts, his association's committee system improved. Programs were better-coordinated. He arranged for free continuing legal education credits at bar meetings. Members were recognized for their service—for example, he ensured that his bar members were eligible for the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award.

During our winner's term as bar president, programs prospered and grew. New programs bloomed.

He also excelled as chair of his local bar foundation. A foundation gala black-tie fund-raiser supported a scholarship program and a holiday party for homeless children in local shelters.

The 2007 Bar Leader of the Year was Steven I. Higgs of the Roanoke Bar Association, a solo practitioner. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and University of Richmond School of Law.

Steve's example should be an inspiration to each of us to make the most of our time. He also should inspire us to recognize outstanding members of our own local bars.

See the Web page below for nomination information. Many deserving members are out there.

*23rd Annual Conference of Local Bar Associations*

∞ Awards of Merit Competition ∞

and the

*13th Annual Conference of Local Bar Associations*

LOCAL BAR LEADER *of the* YEAR AWARD

The deadline for the receipt of nominations is April 25, 2008.

For more information on these awards, see [www.vsb.org/site/members/awards-and-contests/](http://www.vsb.org/site/members/awards-and-contests/).