

# CLBA Awards Given at Annual Meeting

The Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations each year presents two awards to outstanding projects by voluntary bar groups: One—the Award of Merit—honors excellence, and the other—the Certificate of Achievement—recognizes high achievement.

The following associations received their awards during the VSB annual meeting:

## Awards of Merit

**Campbell County Bar Association—Adoption Saturday:** Honored adoptions finalized during 2006 and promoted adoption and foster care to the general community.

**Fairfax Bar Association—Colors of Justice Reception:** More than 150 judges, attorneys and law-school deans joined to award scholarships and encourage diversity.

**Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association—Senior Citizens Law Day:** Presented information to an audience of 150.

**Henrico County Bar Association—(Three awards) Local Bench-Bar Conference:** Judges and clerks of Henrico's three courts discussed topics selected by members of the bar. **Senior Citizens Law Day:** A local state senator moderated a panel that talked about elder issues. **Pro Bono Protective Order Project:** More than 25 lawyers represented persons who sought court protection from family abuse.

**Loudoun Chapter, Virginia Women Attorneys Association—Adoption Day Ceremony and Fair:** Honored adoptive families and challenged opinions that adoptions are too expensive and time-consuming.

**Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association—(Two awards) NPBA Foundation Projects/Revitalization.** The association reactivated its foundation to award scholarships, display a copy of the Magna Carta to a local arts center, and planned a Law School for Journalists. **16th Annual Food Frenzy:** Law firms contributed food for needy people. The Food Frenzy was held statewide in 2006 with the

involvement of Virginia Attorney General Robert F. McDonnell.

**Northern Virginia Chapter, Virginia Women Attorneys Association—Navigating Judicial Selection Program:** Legislators described how judicial selection works and how the bar can influence it.

**Prince William County Bar Association—Circuit Court Conciliators Program:** An alternative way to resolve civil discovery disputes without using judges' time. Litigants met with trained conciliators, who help them resolve or narrow disputed issues.

**Richmond Bar Association, Bankruptcy Section—Courtroom Idol: The Judges Decide:** Bankruptcy judges formed a panel to discuss courtroom skills, etiquette and attorney preparedness.

**Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers—Mentorship for Indigent Defense Counsel:** Experienced attorneys paired with less experienced court-appointed counsel statewide to improve representation. The program also included 10 regional seminars.

**Virginia Women Attorneys Association—(Two awards) Privacy: Does It Exist Anymore? Individual Liberties versus National Security:** An educational panel that featured national experts. **Awards of Distinction Program and Reception:** Celebrated the VWAA's 25th anniversary by recognizing 550 Virginia women attorneys who have practiced 25 or more years.

**Richmond Chapter, Virginia Women Attorneys Association—Go Bring in Some Clients: Conquer Your Fear Factor in Rainmaking:** An opportunity to form networks for legal practice development.

**Roanoke Bar Association—Santa in the Square:** A holiday party for children and parents who lived in five shelters in the Roanoke area. The party took place at the Science Museum of Western Virginia.

**Virginia Beach Bar Association—2006 Membership Initiative, Every Lawyer a**

**Member:** The association identified 208 non-member lawyers who lived or practiced in Virginia Beach and invited them to a social attended by area judges and the VBBA executive board. The drive resulted in a 10 percent increase in membership.

## Certificates of Achievement

**Fairfax Bar Association—Family Law Subject Matter Panel:** Established minimum standards attorneys must meet to be included on a Lawyer Referral and Information Service for family law matters.

**Fredericksburg Area Bar Association—Reuniting Bar Members as a Community:** A series of professional and social functions.

**Henrico County Bar Association—Education Two-Part Program:** Lawyers contributed \$1,500 in school supplies to needy children and conducted mock interviews to prepare high-school students for job hunting.

**Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association—Mock Trial Program:** Held at a local high school to promote knowledge of history and the law, inspire students to consider legal careers, and deter criminal activity.

**Prince William County Bar Association—Senior Citizens Project:** Volunteer attorneys visited the county's two Senior Citizens Centers to talk about issues that affect elders.

**Roanoke Bar Association—Community Outreach:** A Senior Citizen Law Day seminar and distribution of *So You're 18* and the *Senior Citizens Handbook*—two publications of the Virginia State Bar.

**Roanoke Chapter, Virginia Women Attorneys Association—(Two awards) Continuing Legal Education Program:** \$25 classes that allowed members to teach in their areas of practice. **Holiday Reception for the Local Judiciary:** Honored judges and their staffs and provided a social opportunity for lawyers and judges.

# Reminiscences

by George W. Shanks, 2006–07 Conference of Local Bar Associations Chair



The 2006–07 bar year has been incredibly productive for the Conference of Local Bar Associations. This year saw the first formal association of the CLBA with the Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum initiative of Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. The fit of the CLBA's Bar Leaders Institute with the forum was perfect. Presentations were held in Fredericksburg and Roanoke.

In Fredericksburg, the program was highlighted by the luncheon address of Jay G. Foonberg, a lawyer, author and speaker on the joys and challenges of solo practice.

In Roanoke, Justice Donald W. Lemons shared scholarship and humor in his address on "Jamestown Legacy: The Rule of Law."

Edward J. Walters, chief executive officer of Fastcase, explained the value of the legal research product, which is available as a membership benefit to all Virginia lawyers. Frank W. Rogers III described the bar's Fee Dispute Resolution Program, which now offers mediation as well as arbitration services. James E. Leffler, George H. Hettrick and John A. Gibney Jr. described the scope, procedure and benefits of Lawyers Helping Lawyers, program now entering its 20th year in service to Virginia lawyers, judges, legal staffs and families.

The centerpiece of these dynamic presentations was the Town Hall Meeting hosted by Chief Justice Hassell. He has heard lawyers' ideas and responded to their complaints and suggestions in Abingdon, Harrisonburg, Williamsburg, Danville, Fredericksburg and Roanoke. The CLBA will host its 2007–08 Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forums and

Town Hall Meetings in new venues to be announced in the coming months.

The conference continued to distribute its flagship publication, *So You're 18*, using a method developed under the leadership of then-Chair Manuel A. Capsalis, through driver's licensing ceremonies in the state's juvenile and domestic relations courts. The publication is circulated in English and Spanish. The CLBA continues to distribute the pamphlet *Legally Informed* that was conceived by former VSB President Bernard J. DiMuro. The pamphlet summarizes projects developed by local and specialty bars to improve communities and the legal profession.

It is with great pleasure that I can report that Stephen L. Higgs of Roanoke received the 2007 Local Bar Leader of the Year Award. He was honored at the CLBA meeting at Virginia Beach on June 15.

I am proud and humbled that I have been able to preside over the CLBA this year. It is a brief moment in the history of this vibrant conference, which was originally conceived in 1973. Oren R. Lewis Jr. was its first chair.

The conference chairmanship has been a stepping-stone for many leaders who have gone on to the bench, including Robert G. Doumar, Joanne F. Alper, David T. Stitt, William L. Dudley and Janine M. Saxe.

In 1991, at the urging of VSB President J. Flippo Hicks, a revitalized CLBA created its first executive committee, encompassing more than 55 local bars, with Joseph W. "Rick" Richmond Jr. as chair. Richmond's distinguished career included service as president of the

Virginia Law Foundation. By 1992, 94 participating bar associations were in the CLBA. The CLBA-Virginia Law Foundation connection continued with the service of Russell V. Palmore Jr., Jon D. Huddleston and Manuel A. Capsalis. Palmore is a former VLF chair, and Huddleston and Capsalis currently serve on the foundation's board.

The CLBA has been a resource for leadership in the Virginia State Bar. Several CLBA chairs have been elected or appointed to additional terms on the VSB council. They include Arlene T. Starace, H. Victor Millner Jr., Huddleston, Aubrey J. Rosser Jr., Saxe, Judith L. Rosenblatt, Capsalis and Janet M. Palmer.

Former conference executive committee members have aspired to the highest level of service with the bar. Current VSB President Howard Martin, President-elect Capsalis (2008–09) and Huddleston, a candidate for VSB president-elect, are former CLBA chairs.

Many more members of the executive committee of the CLBA have given selflessly of their time, energy and intellect in furtherance of the good works of the conference, and hundreds more volunteers have given substance to its programs. To each of them, I extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

It has been an exciting year. The job is unfinished. In the capable hands of my successor, John Y. Richardson Jr. of Norfolk, I am confident of the continuing excellence of the work of the Conference of Local Bar Associations.