

# Thank You

by Jack W. Burtch Jr., 2006–07 Senior Lawyers Conference President



I am amazed by the elasticity of time. When I was young, a school year felt like an eon. Those last school days before summer vacation seemed to move at glacier pace. Today it's just the opposite. Last week I was sitting with a client talking about a case scheduled for late September. "September's almost here," I said, "and we have a lot to do." Well, June has come and gone and another bar year is over. It has moved so quickly that it seems like a blur. I'm stepping aside as chair of the Virginia State Bar Senior Lawyers Conference. George W. Shanks will lead us for the next year, which he probably will find equally short.

There are many people who deserve my gratitude. Thank you, Patricia A. Sliger. As our liaison from the bar, Pat's good-humored persistence kept the program, and our board, on course. Without Frank O. Brown Jr., one of the founders of this conference, our Web site and newsletter would not be such

effective tools for our mission. Frank's continuing encouragement and enthusiasm for our work keeps us motivated. William Henry Oast III is coordinating a complete rewrite of the *Senior Citizens Handbook*. This formidable task will benefit every Virginia senior citizen who needs to know what resources are available to make the senior years better and more productive. William T. Wilson, a past chair, has nurtured the growth of our Senior Citizens Law Day Program so that every local bar association now can have the resources to put one on for the senior citizens in their areas. Robert L. Calhoun is working with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee to develop a senior-friendly dispute-resolution process. Each board member has contributed wisdom and energy to fulfill our purpose.

Last year, our presentation at the VSB Annual Meeting focused on the care for and rights of senior citizens in nursing

homes and continuing-care facilities. This year, our presentation will look at how experienced lawyers can pass on the best traditions of the bar to new generations. We will determine how our conference can work with the Virginia Department for the Aging's project to enhance legal assistance for seniors, and we will discuss how senior lawyers can retool their careers.

Every Virginia lawyer aged 55 and older is a member of our conference. There are more than 12,000 of us. I can't write 12,000 individual thank-you letters, but I do want to thank every conference member and especially every member of our board for their support, encouragement, energy and willingness to stay centered on our mission and service to our profession and Virginia's senior citizens.

Visit the Senior Lawyers Conference Web site at  
[www.vsb.org/slc/index.html](http://www.vsb.org/slc/index.html).