

VSB Teams With ALPS to Teach Lawyers About Trust Management

by Darrel Tillar Mason

The Virginia State Bar's Lawyers Malpractice Insurance Committee (LMIC) has partnered with Attorneys Liability Protection Society (ALPS), the bar's endorsed malpractice insurance carrier, to produce a new risk management continuing legal education program that is available for presentation to voluntary bar organizations.

The program is based on a 68-page publication, *Lawyers and Other People's Money: A Resource for Maintaining Trust Accounts*, now available for free download on the VSB's Web site. Bar members Frank A. Thomas III and Kathleen M. Uston donated their time to update a fourth edition of this publication. ALPS provided a grant to the VSB to cover the costs of professional editing and related expenses.

LMIC member and former VSB President Jean P. Dahnk, Ethics Counsel Leslie A.T. Haley and Uston, an assistant VSB bar counsel, developed an interactive program to teach principles of trust account management described in the book.

Local and statewide bar organizations interested in offering the program to their members should contact any of the following for details: Dahnk, at (540) 373-8600; Haley, at haley@vsb.org; or Paulette J. Davidson of the VSB staff, at (804) 775-0521. The program can be tailored to award one to two CLE credit hours. Costs of materials for attendees and travel expenses of presenters will be paid through the LMIC's risk management budget funded by ALPS. Sponsoring bar groups will be responsible for arranging a

place for the presentation and advertising the program.

With input from the LMIC, ALPS has nearly completed the development of a trust accounting software program based on Virginia ethics rules. The LMIC is working to make this software available to VSB members later this year. It is anticipated that a live tutorial for the software could be combined effectively with the trust accounting seminar for the presentations.

These efforts are part of the VSB's commitment to help lawyers maintain trust accounts in accord with the bar's legal ethics rules.

Darrel Tillar Mason is chair of the Virginia State Bar's Special Committee on Lawyer Malpractice Insurance. She practices in Glen Allen.