

# Senior Lawyers Conference

by John H. Tate Jr., Chair



## Senior Lawyers Past and Present

I AM HONORED to be the chair of the Senior Lawyers Conference this year, and I invite any member of the bar to contact us with issues you believe are important or should be addressed by the conference—especially elder issues and related matters.

As you know from the reports by previous chairs, the conference is responsible for conducting the fifty-year honors presentation for our brothers and sisters who have traveled that long and arduous road as members of the Virginia State Bar. It was a great pleasure to participate in ceremony on June 19, 2010, in Virginia Beach, when VSB Immediate Past President Jon D. Huddleston presented fifty-year certificates to qualifying members of the bar.

Also at the annual meeting, in cooperation with the General Practice and Trusts and Estates Sections, the Senior Lawyers Conference presented a continuing legal education program, “The Basics of Administration.” This program, which was very well received, was presented by John M. Oakey Jr. and other members of the conference. This program reviewed issues that arise in estate administration, including working with courts and the commissioner of accounts when closing an estate. The program was enjoyable, illuminating, and interactive.

Because large law firms have estate specialists, the annual meeting program was more directed to small firms and solo practitioners who must deal with estate issues that are new to their practices. It is usually a difficult time for a client, as most are dealing with a

personal loss in their lives at the time they seek the advice of an attorney in an estate. The CLE program could be very helpful to the general membership of the bar. I suggest that this format and the program content be considered for an expanded CLE program.

During the 2010 General Assembly, an important revision was passed to the laws that govern durable powers of attorney. This new legislation, a comprehensive revision of the law regarding a power of attorney, is particularly important to senior lawyers and seniors in general. This new statutory enactment is in Chapter 7 of Title 26 of the Code of Virginia and is titled the new “Uniform Power of Attorney Act.” The revision is in twenty-four pages in the supplement to Volume 5A, Title 26 of the Code (if you still use books, as some senior lawyers do in my part of the state). This act is a comprehensive guideline for the drafting of power of attorney, the use of the document, and new statutory rules applicable to the agent and the principal. All of us who deal with senior issues or a durable power of attorney

column on many occasions, is available for a one-hour local bar association CLE program on planning for the disability and death of an attorney. William T. “Bill” Wilson chairs the SLC’s Senior Law Day Program, and he and Paulette J. Davidson, our VSB liaison, are happy to assist any bar association or other group of lawyers with presenting a Senior Law Day Program. Frank Brown can be reached at [lawinorder@aol.com](mailto:lawinorder@aol.com), Bill Wilson at [WTW1130@aol.com](mailto:WTW1130@aol.com), and Paulette Davidson at [davidson@vsb.org](mailto:davidson@vsb.org).

John G. Mizell Jr. was an excellent leader of the conference for the past year and made its work proceed smoothly. During the year, Patricia A. Sliger, our longtime VSB liaison, retired, and I join all the other members in thanking her for her years of dedicated service to the conference and to the bar. We all look forward to the work of Paulette Davidson, who has begun her service with great enthusiasm, and was very organized for the functions of the conference at the annual meeting.

*All of us who deal with senior issues or a durable power of attorney in our general practices need to acquaint ourselves with the new statutory requirements.*

in our general practices need to acquaint ourselves with the new statutory requirements.

Frank O. Brown Jr., whose service to the bar has been mentioned in this

We look forward to another successful year in the conference and thank all of the members who have retired from the board for their dedicated service.