

Help Seniors and Young People— It's Easy and Rewarding



A GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS (CLBA) is to assist local bar associations with their legal and community programs.

When I attend any gathering of lawyers, we always talk about what we need to do individually and through our bar associations to help other people. Frequently, local bar associations are not active in pro bono programs. They either do not know what to do, or they are discouraged by complicated programs.

I suggest two programs that are rewarding and simple to present. They help people in the community and enhance the image of lawyers.

Senior Law Day Program— This was modeled after a presentation by the Allegheny-Bath-Highland Bar Association in 2004, when a panel made up of a general district court judge, a defense attorney, a commonwealth's attorney, and two general practice lawyers spoke to more than one hundred senior citizens at the courthouse in Covington. The panel discussed the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, produced by the VSB Senior Lawyers Conference (SLC). The SLC has adopted the Senior Law Day Program as a statewide program, and many bar associations since have sponsored similar events.

To assist local bar associations, the SLC distributes a blueprint for the program. For a copy, contact Patricia A. Sliger at (804) 775-0576 or sliger@vsb.org.

So You're 18 Panel Discussion

Program— This program also was modeled after a project sponsored by

the Allegheny-Bath-Highland Bar in 2008. The panel included a general district court judge, the bar president, the sheriff of Allegheny County, a Covington police officer, a private defense attorney, and an Allegheny County assistant commonwealth's attorney. I served as the moderator. We explained information in the Virginia State Bar-published *So You're 18* booklet to juniors and seniors at Allegheny High School. The CLBA Executive Committee encourages all voluntary bar associations to conduct similar programs. The CLBA has sent the program blueprint to all local bar associations.

The *So You're 18* program can easily be presented in 1½ hours. It is a good idea to mix other community leaders with the lawyers and judges on the panel. The booklet has been revised and is being sent to courts and social services departments.

The blueprint and copies of *So You're 18* can be obtained without charge by contacting Paulette J. Davidson at (804) 775-0521 or davidson@vsb.org.

OTHER PROGRAMS successfully sponsored by local bars include The Devil Wore Green— a trust accounting seminar offered free by the VSB— and Wills for Heroes, which helps first responders prepare basic estate planning documents. Information on these and other projects for bar members and their communities are described in the pamphlet *Legally Informed*. (Available online at <http://www.vsb.org/docs/LegallyInformed.pdf>.) Contact Davidson for more information.

CLBA Conferences Set

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum and the Bar Leaders Institute. More information will be posted at <http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/clba/> and distributed in the VSB E-News when it becomes available.

Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum

Shenandoah University, Winchester
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Bar Leaders Institute

University of Richmond
date TBD