

Senior Lawyers Conference: Committed to Seniors



THE SENIOR LAWYERS CONFERENCE (SLC) remains busy investigating ways to support senior citizens in the many obstacles and challenges they may face, such as health care and housing.

Meanwhile, conference membership continues to grow. It now comprises more than seventeen thousand members aged fifty-five and older.

Our conference's dedicated attorneys share their knowledge, experience, and dedication to carry out many worthwhile projects that assist the senior citizens of Virginia. It is heartwarming to see so many senior lawyers and judges respond to the call of so many worthy organizations.

The conference has updated the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, with efforts led by committee Chair William Henry Oast III. The handbook is one of the most requested publications published by the Virginia State Bar. It offers information regarding the laws and programs that affect senior citizens. The revised edition is scheduled for distribution in early 2009.

Senior Law Day Programs are very popular. Through the ongoing efforts of Conference of Local Bar Associations Chair William T. "Bill" Wilson and SLC Vice Chair John H. Tate Jr., we are seeing the expansion of the program throughout the state. Most recently, Tate was instrumental in presenting a successful Senior Law Day Program in October at Virginia Intermont College. The Bristol Bar

Association, the Social Security Administration office in Bristol, and the AARP sponsored the program.

The blueprint for planning a Senior Law Day Program serves as a planning resource guide, and is available by contacting Patricia A. Sliger at (804) 775-0576 or sliger@vsb.org.

The Senior Lawyers Conference has been invited to participate in many pro bono projects. John M. Oakey Jr. has graciously agreed to chair the SLC Pro Bono Committee. John and his committee will investigate the proposed projects and recommend which projects the conference may support and become actively involved in.

The Liberty Day Project is one of the many proposals that has been presented to the conference. This project focuses on educating Americans about the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The project began more than ten years ago in the classrooms of elementary students.

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Today, this project involves the support of local bar associations and civic organizations in other states. The Liberty Day Project is expanding its efforts to educate a broader audience with the

help of the SLC and the Young Lawyers Conference of Virginia.

Frank O. Brown Jr. continues to do an outstanding job as editor of our newsletter, *Senior Lawyers News*, and our website, <http://www.vsb.org/slc>. He offers a continuing legal education course, Ethics: Protecting You and Your Clients' Interests in the Event of Your Disability, Death, or Other Disaster, to bar associations throughout Virginia. Planning documents are available to attorneys at <http://www.vsb.org/slc/attorney/index.html> to assist with planning for their future. Contact Sliger for more information.

THE SENIOR LAWYERS CONFERENCE will continue to share its experience, knowledge, and energy to promote the efforts of the Virginia State Bar and volunteer bar associations to make a difference in the lives of our senior citizens throughout our communities.