

Bar Leaders Institutes Offer Networking, Leadership Basics for Local Bars



W. Scott Street, III 1999–2000 VSB President

As president of the bar I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to travel around the state and visit as many members of the bar as possible. I especially look forward to the upcoming Bar Leaders Institutes—two very important occasions for the Virginia State Bar—to get better acquainted with local bar leaders and hear about the progress of your bar year.

The Conference of Local Bar Associations links the Virginia State Bar and 143 local, specialty and other voluntary bar associations across the Commonwealth, and for 15 years has sponsored these annual days of training and networking that are designed to foster strong, effective local bar leadership. Because of increased interest in recent years, the Bar Leaders Institutes have been held at two locations. These well-regarded bar programs offer the opportunity to learn about the nuts and bolts of bar leadership as well as effective programs.

“Back to Basics: Bar Leadership within the Profession and the Community” is the theme of the Bar Leaders Institutes that will be held at the University of Richmond School of Law on March 6, and at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon on March 10.

Richmond program topics will include how local bars can maintain successful legislative relationships and the ongoing discussion of judicial selection. Panelists will include both former and current members of Virginia’s General Assembly. Another program session will highlight important developments in the future of law libraries—the theme of this issue of the *Virginia Lawyer*. The luncheon speaker will be Dr. Phillip C. Stone, president of Bridgewater College and a former president of The Virginia Bar Association.

In Abingdon, the subjects for discussion will be civility in the courtroom and goals of a bench-bar conference.

In addition to distinguished members of local bars and the judiciary, the panelists will represent the leadership of the Old Dominion Bar Association, The Virginia Bar Association, Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys, Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and the Virginia Association of Women Attorneys.

Over the past several years, some lawyers from southwest Virginia have commented that their geographic location makes it difficult for them to participate regularly in State Bar activities. I decided we might make things a little easier by bringing a State Bar meeting to the southwestern part of the Commonwealth. Not only will the Bar Leaders Institute in Abingdon be the first time a BLI has been held west of Roanoke, but we have planned a special event at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center at the conclusion of the BLI. Virginia Supreme Court Justice Cynthia D.F. Kinser, a Lee County native, has graciously agreed to attend as our special guest and conduct a CLE presentation, which will be free for all attendees.

Additionally, there will be an informal update on recent developments at the State Bar, and I will try to answer any questions those attending may have. The afternoon program will conclude with a reception.

I encourage you to plan to attend one of these programs and to spread the word among your colleagues.

Look for the BLI agendas, including a registration form, beginning on page 46 of this issue. For more information, you may contact Barbara Allen at the bar at (804) 775-0590.

I hope to see you there. 🍷