

Spanish Translation of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* Available

J. Tracy Walker, IV 1999–2000 Young Lawyers Conference President



The Young Lawyers Conference is delighted to report that *Libreto para los Ciudadanos de Tercera Edad, Las Leyes & Los Programs Que Afectan A Los Ciudadanos De Tercera Edad En Virginia* will soon be available from the Virginia State Bar. For those of you who do not speak Spanish, that's *Senior Citizens Handbook, Laws & Programs Affecting Senior Citizens In Virginia*.

The *Senior Citizens Handbook*, first published in 1979, is a joint project of the Senior Lawyer Section and the Young Lawyers Conference. Over the years, the Young Lawyers Conference has distributed tens of thousands of copies of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* to senior citizens through programs at retirement communities, community gatherings, churches, "mall walkers" programs, and social clubs. Thousands more copies of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* have been distributed to government agencies, public libraries, law offices, and senior citizens groups.

The English language version of the *Senior Citizens Handbook** is now in its ninth printing. In 1998, under the leadership of Tom Michie and the Senior Lawyer Section, the *Senior Citizens Handbook* was substantially revised, and a significant amount of new material was added. With the assistance of numerous volunteers, Tom greatly improved what was already an outstanding resource for Virginia's elder citizens.

The current *Senior Citizens Handbook* addresses a broad range of laws, issues and programs affecting Virginia's elder citizens. It provides practical guidance for dealing with many of the problems faced by older Virginians and includes comprehensive resource and contact information to aid readers in locating public and private organizations which provide services to seniors. Among the many topics covered are health care (medicare, medicaid, medigap, managed care, long term care insurance, Alzheimer's Disease), long term care (nursing homes, assisted living, adult day care, home care), housing (landlord-tenant issues, reverse mortgages), real estate transfers, probate and estate administration, advance directives, guardianship, funeral services, consumer issues, age discrimination, elder abuse,

grandparent rights to visitation and custody, and financial assistance (Social Security, supplemental security income, pensions, veterans benefits, federal tax relief).

In the winter of 1998, armed with statistics that suggest that Virginia's Hispanic population is among the fastest growing segments of the population, and encouraged by a variety of government and social service agencies, including the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, the Young Lawyers Conference determined that it should help make this valuable resource more readily available to elderly Virginians for whom English is a second language. Under the leadership of Julie McClellan, and with the active assistance and encouragement of the Senior Lawyer Section, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Capital Area Agency on Aging, the Virginia Chapter of the AARP, the Catholic Diocese of Virginia, and other organizations and individuals too numerous to mention, the Young Lawyers Conference launched its plan to translate the *Senior Citizens Handbook* into Spanish. Aided by generous grants from the Virginia Law Foundation and the ABA, the Young Lawyers Conference hired a nationally recognized legal translator, Patricia Michelsen King, assembled a cast of volunteer editors, and began the translation project.

Just one year later, the translation project is almost complete. By the time this edition of the *Virginia Lawyer* is distributed, the Spanish language version of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* will be in print and will soon be available to the public from the Virginia State Bar. Thank you Julie, Tom, and the many others who have worked so hard to promote access to legal services by making this valuable resource available in English and Spanish to Virginia's elder citizens.

The Young Lawyers Conference, in partnership with the Hispanic Bar Association, is moving forward to develop new programs to accompany distribution of the Spanish language version of the handbook. The Young Lawyers Conference is also exploring opportunities to tackle a new translation project. If you are interested in assisting with this effort, or in participating in any of the Young Lawyers Conference's programs and projects, please contact me at McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe in Richmond. ☎

*Now available on-line at <http://www.vsb.org/publications/>