

Senior Lawyers Conference



Frank O. Brown, Jr., 2001–2002 Senior Lawyers Conference Chair

On June 14, 2001, the council of the Virginia State Bar established the Senior Lawyers Conference (SLC). All members of the Virginia State Bar who are 55 years of age or older and who are in good standing are automatically members of the SLC. No dues (other than those required for VSB membership) and no application for membership are required. The council also recommended an amendment to Part 6, Section IV of Rule 5, to make the chair of the SLC an *ex officio* member of council. The Supreme Court approved the amendment.

The purposes of the SLC are to uphold the honor of the profession of law, to apply the knowledge and experience of the profession to the promotion of the public good, to encourage cordial discourse and interaction among the members of the VSB, and to pursue its mission and goals as follows, as stated in the SLC Bylaws:

“The SLC shall serve the particular interests of senior lawyers and promote the welfare of seniors generally. In serving the interests of senior lawyers the SLC will plan and present programs and activities and produce publications of interest to senior lawyers, and coordinate activities for senior lawyers by, for, and with state and local bar associations. To promote the welfare of seniors generally, the SLC will study issues of concern to seniors, prepare and present programs and publications designed to explore and develop such issues, advocate appropriately on behalf of such issues and cooperate with other entities interested in such matters.”

There are currently more than 6,500 active, associate and judicial members of the VSB who are 55 years of age or older, and during the next five years, another 4,500 members of the VSB will reach age 55. This group has a continuity of interest, and a wealth of talent and experience.

The board of governors consists of 24 members, who are from various judicial circuits throughout the Commonwealth. The board of governors is vested with the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the activities of the SLC, subject to the rules of integration and the bylaws of the VSB.

In addition to the chair, the officers of the SLC for 2001–2002 are: William J. Kinnamon, Jr., chair-elect; Patricia Ann Barton,

1st vice-chair; Colin J.S. Thomas, Jr., 2nd vice-chair; Clarence M. Dunnaville, Jr., secretary; and William Brice Smith, treasurer.

In order to make the most efficient use of its limited budgetary resources, the board of governors intends to publish the SLC newsletter and to communicate with senior lawyers as much as possible, using the SLC home page on the VSB Web site at www.vsb.org. Please be sure to visit the SLC home page frequently for newsletters, communications, and helpful links to other sites of interest to senior lawyers.

The following are some of the activities that have been proposed for the SLC: continuing the preparation, revision and distribution of the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, in conjunction with the Young Lawyers Conference (YLC); continuing the programs to educate members of the bar on the need to make plans for dealing with a law practice in the event of a lawyer's disability or death, and to reduce the need for appointment of receivers; presentation of appropriate CLE programs; studying and recommending solutions regarding retirement issues and other issues of concern to seniors; encouraging pro bono services by senior lawyers; having appropriate social functions for senior lawyers at the VSB annual meeting, or elsewhere, to promote collegiality; seeking broad participation by SLC members in SLC and VSB activities, including those of the various sections of the VSB, the YLC, and local and specialty bar associations and groups.

The board of governors will solicit the input of members regarding what programs and activities are of interest to members. A [questionnaire](#) is appended to this column. Please copy it, complete it, and mail or fax it to Patricia Sliger, SLC Liaison, Virginia State Bar, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, VA, 23219-2800, Fax (804) 775-0501.

The membership of the SLC contains a wealth of knowledge, experience, wisdom and goodwill and is a significant pool of talent available to contribute to the best interests of the bar and the public. ♪

Note of thanks: I thank my fellow board members, Colin J.S. Thomas, Jr. and William Brice Smith, for sharing many of their excellent ideas, which have been incorporated into this column.