

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION

Thomas J. Michie, Chair

The Senior Lawyers Section, organized in 1987, had 334 members at the beginning of the year, June 30, 2000. Our membership is limited to active attorneys age 55 years and older. The year was one of change in our status and increased involvement in activities to benefit the bar and community. As a result of becoming a Senior Lawyers Conference, we have approximately 6,500 members.

Senior Lawyers Conference

Beginning in the year 1999–2000, the executive committee, under the leadership of William B. Smith as chair of the subcommittee, studied the desirability of becoming a Senior Lawyers Conference, developed by-laws for such a conference, and in June, 2001, won approval of the executive committee and council of the Virginia State Bar. The result is that we begin the coming year as a conference with membership consisting of all active attorneys, 55 years of age and older. We believe this change of membership will greatly facilitate planning and using the talent of older lawyers for the benefit of the public and the profession. Great thanks and enormous credit is due to Bill Smith for his persistence and skill in bringing this to pass.

Untimely Death or Incapacity of Solo Practitioners

When a solo practitioner dies unexpectedly or becomes seriously incapacitated, problems arise for the solo practitioner's clients, family and, perhaps, creditors. The surviving spouse may be overwhelmed by the problems. These problems often must be resolved by the State Bar at considerable expense. This past year, the Senior Lawyers Section worked with bar staff to develop approaches that will lessen the number of situations in which these problems arise. The section hopes, eventually, to provide volunteer senior attorneys, where appropriate, to assist the family in determining how to wind up the attorney's business. Much work needs to be done to bring this new program to fruition, but the section and the bar staff have made a beginning.

MCLE Program

Education of practitioners as to the problem of untimely death or incapacity is an important part of the solution to the problem being addressed in the prior paragraph. The section, in conjunction with the Trust and Estates Section, sponsored a well attended and useful program on "Planning for a Lawyer's Disability or Death" at the VSB annual meeting in Virginia Beach on June 15, 2001. This was done under the excellent leadership of our incoming chair, Frank O. Brown.

Senior Citizens Handbook

Revisions on this ongoing and major project were unnecessary during this past year. Both English and Spanish editions continue to be made available in conjunction with the Young Lawyers Conference to provide the senior citizens in the Commonwealth valuable assistance in the understanding of their rights, responsibilities, general legal background and services available.

Quarterly Newsletter

The *Senior Lawyer News* continues as our major source of spreading the good news of senior lawyering, as well as articles of general interest and extracurricular activities. The newsletter provides our members with an excellent return on a nominal investment (\$15 dues per annum). Francis N. Crenshaw is our current editor, and associate editors are Clarence M. Dunnaville and Robert A. Cox. In order to stay within our budget, it was necessary to have only three issues.

Finance

Clarence M. Dunnaville, Jr., treasurer, provided the board with current reports on the fiscal picture. The position of treasurer is a new one for our section, effective this past year. The treasurer will provide review and guidance of fiscal matters. The Virginia State Bar administrative office will continue to receive and disburse funds on behalf of the section.

Other Matters

At the Annual Business Meeting on June 16, 2001, the following officers were elected:

William J. Kinnamon, Jr.	Chair-elect
Patrica Ann Barton	1st Vice-chair

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Colin J. S. Thomas, Jr.	2nd Vice-chair
Clarence Moseley Dunnaville, Jr.	Secretary
William B. Smith	Treasurer
Francis N. Crenshaw	Newsletter Editor

Members of the Board of Governors for the 2001–2002 year, other than the officers, are:

Richard Cocke	Carolyn O'Neal Marsh	J. Willard Greer
F. Mather Archer	Thomas F. McPhaul	John F. Kay, Jr.
Evans B. Brasfield	Thomas J. Michie	Robert Hunter Manson, III
Malcolm M. Christian	G. Marshall Mundy	Robert C. Wood, III
Robert A. Cox, Jr.	William E. O'Neill, Jr.	Jimmy F. Robinson, Jr. (YLC Liaison)

The conference continues to be indebted to, and indeed dependent upon, Pat Sliger, conference liaison, for orderly and efficient activities. Her many hours devoted to our senior meetings and other functions are greatly appreciated.

