

CONFERENCE OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Joseph M. Cochran, Chair

In 2000–2001, the Conference of Local Bar Associations again sponsored the Bar Leader’s Institute (BLI) in two locations and carried out another facet of the “So You’re 18” Program.

The BLIs were held in Richmond at the University of Richmond T. C. Williams School of Law on March 12, 2001, and in Roanoke at Hollins University on March 19, 2001. While the attendance at the Richmond BLI was very strong, attendance at the Roanoke BLI was not as we had hoped. We presented panel discussions and speakers on numerous topics of interest to local bar leaders. We again received very favorable comments from participants at both BLIs.

Patrick County Circuit Judge Martin F. Clark, Jr., was our luncheon speaker in Richmond. Judge Clark is an accomplished writer, and he spoke of his experiences as a writer and a judge as well as his recent best-selling novel, *The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*. We were particularly fortunate to have as our luncheon speaker in Roanoke, Virginia Supreme Court Justice Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr. His remarks concerning the law profession were entertaining and enlightening and were enjoyed by all.

Thanks to a grant of approximately \$14,000 from the Virginia Law Foundation we were able to carry out another phase of the “So You’re 18” project. The grant funds were used this year to distribute *So You’re 18* booklets and an accompanying videotape to public high school libraries, sheriff’s offices, police departments and juvenile domestic relations courts. The videotape features Governor’s School students from Richmond, and various law enforcement officials, judges and attorneys answering questions and providing information. We are particularly grateful to State Bar President Joseph Condo for his participation in the video. Special thanks to the Director of Local Bar Relations, Barbara Allen, assigned to the conference, for her wonderful efforts producing the videotape as well as to the tape production subcommittee of the conference executive committee, which consisted of Janine Saxe and George Shanks. Also, special thanks go to Janet Palmer and Mannie Capsalis who reviewed the *So You’re 18* handbook for updates.

At the conference annual meeting at Virginia Beach in June, the Bar Leader of the Year Award was presented to a former member of the Conference of Local Bar Associations executive committee Gregory T. St. Ours of the Harrisonburg Bar Association. In addition to the Bar Leader of the Year Award, the conference recognized outstanding local bar association programs and projects with Awards of Merit and Certificates of Achievement. Also, at the annual meeting, the conference membership amended the bylaws to expand the membership of the conference executive committee by three seats. It is hoped that the expansion will allow for flexibility maintaining a diverse geographic representation on the executive committee.

This year saw the departure of Howard Martin, of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association, from the conference executive committee, who found it necessary to resign his position on the executive committee to pursue other duties. We also saw the departure of Elizabeth Dillon, chair of the conference executive committee for 1999–2000 and a long-time member of the conference. Both will be missed greatly and many thanks go to them for their fine contributions to the conference and the Virginia State Bar. We welcome two members to the conference executive committee: John Richardson, from the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association, and Roy Jessee, of the Wise County Bar Association. We are excited to have representation from far southwest Virginia on the conference executive committee.

As chair of the Conference, I want to personally thank all of the executive committee members for their fine work this year. They are a fine group of people and our profession, the Virginia State Bar and their respective local bar associations are strengthened and enhanced by their hard work, dedication and fine character.

