

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Gary C. Hancock, Chair

The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Board administers the mandatory legal education program established by the Virginia Supreme Court, by Rule of Court, in 1985. The rule was amended in 1990, requiring all active members of the Virginia State Bar to complete a minimum of 12.0 hours of approved CLE courses each fiscal year, including 2.0 hours of ethics or professionalism.

The MCLE Board consists of 12 members appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court. The MCLE department administers the MCLE requirements for the board. The board meets six times a year at the office of the Virginia State Bar, and an additional ten times per year by consent agenda to consider applications only.

Over the last reporting cycle, the MCLE staff and board have worked on the following:

Course Applications	4,815
Accredited Sponsor Courses	14,105
Waiver Requests	38
Extension Requests	33
Telephone Inquiries	15,000
Letters Sent Out	25,000
Certificates of Attendance	90,000
Interim MCLE Reports—April 2001	23,000
Form I Reports—July 2001	23,000

The Virginia State Bar continued to provide access to members' MCLE records on the VSB Web site. Members can check their MCLE record on-line and download MCLE regulations, opinions, forms or course listings from the Internet. For the period ending June 30, 2001, there were 36,000 hits on the MCLE Web site.

The board amended its regulations to expand the definition of professionalism to include malpractice prevention programs, thereby expanding the scope of program topics that would meet the mandatory ethics component required of VSB members.

The board amended its regulations and proposed amendments to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia to change the completion deadline from June 30 to October 31 for VSB members to complete the mandatory continuing legal education required of each member. The date to certify completion was extended from July 31 to December 15. The proposed changes called for the next certification deadline following July 31, 2001, to be December 15, 2002. The board is awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court of Virginia regarding their approval of the proposed changes.

The board scheduled a special meeting for November 5, 2001, for purposes of long-range planning in order to consider numerous specific and global issues relating to MCLE policies and regulations. Three subcommittees to be

chaired by Laurie Dolson, Chuck Allen and Ed Walinsky were appointed by the board in June to research, study and make preliminary recommendations to the board at its planning meeting.

David R. Denton served the board for six and one-half years, including one and one-half years as chair. The board will miss David's thorough knowledge of MCLE policies and regulations, pleasant and professional demeanor and dedicated leadership. Gary Hancock, as the board's vice-chair, became chair of the board, and Karen Gould was designated as acting vice-chair.

The board regretted the loss of its MCLE director on September 1, 2000, with Barbara Sayers Lanier's move within the VSB organization to the position of clerk of the VSB disciplinary system. Barbara had capably served the board for 15 years. The board was delighted with the appointment of Gale Cartwright as MCLE Director. Gale's strength of leadership is already providing positive direction and great assistance to the board. Finally, the board acknowledges that without the dedication and hard work of MCLE directors Barbara Sayers Lanier and Gale Cartwright, and their professional staff, the board's work would not be possible.

