

**SPECIAL VSB-VBA JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

*Mark E. Rubin, Chair*

The joint committee has been actively engaged in encouraging the use of alternative dispute resolution processes throughout the bar and the broader community.

In order to expand its membership and generate increased resources to enhance the work of the joint committee, a proposal has been made to the VSB and the VBA to restructure it. The proposal is pending before the governing bodies of each group.

The joint committee, in conjunction with the Supreme Court, presented Advocacy in Mediation Seminars in Richmond and Northern Virginia. The joint committee focused on providing advanced training to lawyers who had prior experience with mediation.

Representatives of the joint committee have been involved with the Supreme Court to prepare revisions to the existing mediation statutes which reflect the changes in mediation practice over the past decade. In addition, the joint committee has been monitoring and commenting on the Uniform Mediation Act being formulated on a national level. In cooperation with a number of other entities, the joint committee has been involved in the drafting of legislation to authorize the use of dispute resolution proceedings by state agencies and local governments.

The joint committee continues to be engaged in efforts with Community Mediation Centers to expand the services offered by these important community assets.

