

# REPORTS OF SPECIAL BOARDS

## CONFERENCE OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

*Aubrey J. Rosser, Jr., Chair*

The past administrative year has been another active and productive one for the Conference of Local Bar Associations. Through the planning of its executive committee, and with the support of local and specialty bar associations across the commonwealth, the conference's projects and activities continue to benefit bar organizations.

The conference offered resources and ideas to local and specialty bars in bar organization and procedures, improvement of the legal system at the local level, assisting the public and recognizing bar leaders and groups.

This year's conference was highlighted by two Bar Leaders Institutes held at the T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, and at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon. Entitled, "The Big Picture," these programs offered bar leaders an opportunity to respond to issues and topics of interest. The Richmond BLI dealt with "Nuts and Bolts of Success," crisis management and media relations. The Abingdon BLI focused on emerging trends in the legal system and professionalism and civility from the judicial point of view. Both institutes featured inspiring remarks by Judge Roger Gregory of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The conference revised and published the *So, You're 18* handbook, which has helped local bars' youth-related projects. Local and specialty bars use this handbook to present favorable "first impression" views of the law to youth groups. Through a generous grant from the Virginia Law Foundation, the conference will publish this guide in Spanish during the next bar administrative year.

At the VSB annual meeting and breakfast in June, the conference recognized local and specialty bars for their projects and activities. Over a dozen awards of merit and certificates of achievement were given for the outstanding service these groups provided to their local courts and communities.

Past-chair Joseph Cochran rotated off our executive committee this year. Joe represented the Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association, and his service to the conference was invaluable. He was most instrumental in assisting the conference with grant requests for the "So, You're 18" project.

Newcomers to the executive committee are Tracy Giles of the Roanoke Bar Association, Gifford Hampshire of the Prince William Bar Association and Alex Taylor of the Old Dominion Bar Association.

I thank Barbara Allen and Paulette Davidson, of the state bar office, for all of their work in assisting the conference. Mostly, however, I wish to express my appreciation to all the bar leaders who contributed so much to the development and nurturing of positive images of our legal system and profession.

