

SENIOR LAWYERS CONFERENCE

Frank O. Brown, Jr., Chair

The Senior Lawyers Conference was established by the VSB Council in June 2001. All members of the Virginia State Bar who are 55 years of age or older, and who are in good standing, are automatically members of the conference. There is no application required, and there are no additional dues charged to conference members. The conference had 7,721 members at the end of the bar year.

Purposes of the Senior Lawyers Conference

The purposes of the SLC are to uphold the honor of the profession of law, to apply the knowledge and experience of the profession to the promotion of the public good, to encourage cordial discourse and interaction among the members of the VSB and to pursue its mission and goals as follows:

“The SLC shall serve the particular interests of senior lawyers and promote the welfare of seniors generally. In serving the interests of senior lawyers, the SLC will plan and present programs and activities and produce publications of interest to senior lawyers and coordinate activities for senior lawyers by, for and with state and local bar associations. To promote the welfare of seniors generally, the SLC will study issues of concern to seniors, prepare and present programs and publications designed to explore and develop such issues, advocate appropriately on behalf of such issues and cooperate with other entities interested in such matters.”

The SLC Board of Governors

The board of governors from judicial circuits throughout the state are: (the number after each name indicates the judicial circuit): Chair, Colin (“Cal”) J.S. Thomas, Jr. (25); Chair Elect, Patricia A. Barton (19); First Vice Chair, William Brice Smith (2); Second Vice Chair, Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr. (13); Treasurer, G. Marshall Mundy (23); Secretary, R. Hunter Manson III (15); and Newsletter Editor, Frank Overton Brown, Jr. In addition to the officers listed above, the other members of our board of governors are: F. Mather Archer (3); C. Butler Barrett (6); Evans B. Brasfield (13); Frank Overton Brown, Jr. (14); C. Glasgow Butts (10); Malcolm M. Christian (13); Richard Cocke (14); Robert A. Cox, Jr. (13); William W. Eskridge (10); Carolyn O’Neal Marsh (12); Thomas F. McPhaul (4); H. Victor Millner, Jr. (22); William E. O’Neill, Jr. (18); Overton P. Pollard (13); Hon. Alfred D. Swersky (18); Ebb H. Williams III (21); William T. Wilson (25); and Walter F. Witt, Jr. (13). Honorary board of governors members are: The Honorable James E. Kulp; The Honorable Robert R. Merhige, Jr.; and The Honorable Joseph J. Spruill, Jr.

SLC Core Programs

SLC Web Site

With the assistance of VSB staff, we developed our SLC Web site at www.vsb.org/slc. This site provides a wealth of resources for lawyers and the public and provides information and links to support our core programs.

Planning for a Lawyer’s Disability or Death.

Through working with the office of bar ethics counsel, our SLC Web site and participating in the Bar Leaders Institutes (BLI) in Richmond and in Abingdon, we continued to encourage lawyers to protect their clients’ interests by planning for the lawyer’s own death or disability.

Promoting Civility

In our newsletters, at the BLI and in the *Virginia Lawyer*, we continue to promote civility and cordial discourse among members of the bar.

Working Relationships with Young Lawyers Conference and Conference of Local Bar Associations

We have developed strong working relationships with the Young Lawyers Conference and the Conference of Local Bar Associations, and we will be working on projects with them in Bar Year 2002–2003. The Senior Lawyers Conference is the Virginia coordinating organization for National Health Care Decisions Week, to take place in October 2002 to provide education and assistance to the public, through local bar associations, regarding advance planning for health care decision-making. This is an important program for the public, especially for senior citizens.

Senior Citizens Handbook

We plan to work with the Young Lawyers Conference on the revision and update of the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, an invaluable public resource, available in English and Spanish.

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

MCLE Programs

At the Virginia State Bar annual meeting in June 2002, we co-sponsored, with the Trusts and Estates Section and the General Practice Section, a CLE workshop, "Retirement Planning For Lawyers." In the spring of 2003, we plan to sponsor an expanded half-day retirement planning seminar for lawyers.

Senior Lawyer News

Our SLC newsletter was published on-line on our Web site in its fall, winter, and spring issues, all under the capable direction of Frank Grenshaw, longtime senior lawyer and newsletter editor. Frank retired as newsletter editor as of June 30, 2002. We thank him for his wisdom and years of service.

Annual Meeting Luncheon Recognizing 50 Year Award Recipients

At the 2002 VSB annual meeting, the Senior Lawyers Conference hosted a luncheon for the senior lawyers receiving their 50-year awards. This was very successful, and we plan to make this an annual event.

VSB Staff Liaison

Patricia Sliger has wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supported our efforts and programs. We thank her for her help.

