

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

*John Barry Donobue, Jr., Chair*

The Virginia Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee is a joint committee of the Virginia State Bar and The Virginia Bar Association. Formed in 1986 at the inception of the ADR movement, the committee's two dozen members were appointed by the governing bodies of the VSB and the VBA. The committee has been involved in CLE, promotion of ADR and legislation.

Because of greatly increased interest in ADR, in January 2002, committee membership was opened to all members of the VSB and the VBA. Membership has expanded greatly. Applications may be obtained from the VSB headquarters or the VBA headquarters or by contacting committee Secretary-Treasurer Guy Tower, [gktower@kaufcan.com](mailto:gktower@kaufcan.com).

The expanded committee gives members the ability to enhance and maintain their ADR skills, to meet and network with leading practitioners and to advance the public interest.

Activities this year included:

- A very well attended CLE at the VSB annual meeting featuring nationally prominent ADR figures;
- Institution of a committee newsletter on ADR developments and practice, with a strong front page endorsement of the committee by Chief Justice Carrico;
- Participation in the review leading to modifications of the Virginia Mediation Act;
- Assisting drafting and passage of the Virginia Administrative Dispute Resolution Act that promotes and establishes machinery for the use of ADR in government agencies;
- Appointment by the Governor of two committee members to the Virginia Interagency Dispute Resolution Advisory Council;
- Conducting pilot ADR demonstration programs in middle schools; and
- Commencing analysis of the proposed amendments to the Uniform Arbitration Act.

