

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION**

*William R. Allcott, Jr., Chair*

Our committee has assisted with a videotape project by a bar section, conducted a successful Law in Society Award Competition, expanded the statewide speakers' bureau and began to develop a survey of members about two bar publications.

A part of our mission is to oversee the bar's videotapes, and in the past we have helped with the preparation of a video to accompany the *So You're 18* handbook for high school students, a new introductory video for the Standing Committee on Professionalism and, this year, a video providing a brief description of the jury system in the commonwealth.

Under the leadership of Jennifer Sparger of the VSB, the speakers bureau has 500 active attorneys signed up and has matched schools, business organizations and civic groups with our volunteer speakers.

Through a grant from the bar's Litigation Section, the Law in Society Award (LISA) Competition reached students in 684 schools in Virginia. This year's topic was online music file-sharing. A teacher's guide—adapted to the state's SOL standards—was distributed after the contest deadline.

The committee began planning a survey on how members use the *Virginia Lawyer* and the *Virginia Lawyer Register* publications—including what information members want from the magazines and how they want to receive it (Internet, e-mail, hard copy, etc.). A nationally-prominent polling firm was contacted to assess its availability to analyze the survey results.

