

THE VIRGINIA LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Eric Roland Spencer, Chair

For more than 20 years, the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service (VLRS) has provided effective and quality legal assistance to the citizens of the commonwealth, the United States and Canada. The VLRS is the public service arm of the bar and strives to promote the image of the legal profession.

Last year, the VLRS received more than 33,000 calls and made more than 23,000 referrals. The VLRS assisted many more individuals with referrals to public service or governmental agencies. VLRS representatives attended the VSB annual meeting, the Young Lawyers Conference admission and orientation ceremonies and many local bar meetings. The VLRS advertises statewide conferences through *Virginia Lawyer*, local bar publications and telephone directories. The current membership in the VLRS is approximately 1,000. If you are not a member of the VLRS, now would be a good time to join.

The VLRS continues to be self-sustaining—exceeding its revenue projections. The collection of consultation fees by credit card has increased from 27% to 30%. The success of the VLRS could not have been possible without the efforts of the VLRS staff: Barbara O. Allen, director; Toni B. Dunson and Sheree Patterson. Victoria Meadows, a long-time senior staff member of VLRS, retired in December 2002, to enter her own mediation practice. She will be missed. After serving ten years on the committee—including one as chair and one as co-chair—I will be rotating off of the committee this summer. I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with the committee.

A special thanks goes to all committee members: Sally Andrews, Cheryl Jordan Avery-Hargrove, David Anthony Furrow, Catherine Ann Lee, Jay C. Paul, David Wayne Pugh, Daniel Leigh Rosenthal, Richard Julian Stahl, John Minh Tran and Steven King Whitaker.

