

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL BOARDS

### CONFERENCE OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

*Judith L. Rosenblatt, chair*

Bar year 2003–2004 was eventful and successful, and marked by several new initiatives. In cooperation with the Senior Lawyers Conference, the Conference of Local Bar Associations encouraged and participated in National Health Care Decisions Week. The goal of the project was to educate the public about planning for end-of-life decisions such as advance directives and organ and tissue donation. Another project of note was the Dialogue on Freedom, in which local bars challenged high school classes to learn about and become advocates for our country's core values and its principles of freedom. This was an outgrowth of the events of September 11, 2001.

The Annual Bar Leaders Institute was held in Richmond and Abingdon in March 2004. Luncheon speakers were Robert F. Grey Jr., at the time president-elect of the American Bar Association, and Margaret Edds, journalist and author of *An Expendable Man: The Near Execution of Earl Washington Jr.* Each session concluded with a continuing legal education program entitled "Ethics for the Bar Leader."

Thanks again to the generous support of the Virginia Law Foundation, the CLBA was able to offer its signature handbook *So You're 18* in Vietnamese, in addition to an English version. These were distributed to high schools, libraries, courts and social services agencies throughout the state. The handbook discusses the rights and responsibilities of turning eighteen.

At the Virginia State Bar's Annual Meeting, the CLBA awarded over twenty Awards of Merit and Certificates of Achievement, which marked more local and specialty bars' entries than ever before. A new category representing the partnering of multiple bars on a single project was presented for the first time. The conference also presented the Bar Leader of the Year award to Andrew Condlin of the Henrico County Bar Association.

The CLBA is also pleased to report that with positive support from the VSB's Executive Committee and Council, the conference was awarded a seat on the Executive Committee, joining the Young Lawyers Conference and the Senior Lawyers Conference. This position will be filled by the CLBA chairperson.

Joining the CLBA Executive Committee this year were P. George Eliades of the Hopewell bar and Nancy Reed of the Page County bar. Many thanks to past chair Janine Saxe who departs the committee after a tenure of devoted service.

I thank Barbara Allen and Paulette Davidson of the state bar staff for their work in assisting the conference. Additionally, I thank the other executive committee members, and especially thank the local and specialty bars statewide who make up the CLBA and work tirelessly to ensure its success.

