

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Calvin S. Spencer Jr., chair

The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Board administers the program that was established by the Supreme Court of Virginia in 1985. The rules governing the MCLE program were amended in 1990 to require all active members of the Virginia State Bar to complete a minimum of twelve hours of approved continuing legal education courses each fiscal year, including two hours of ethics or professionalism. In 2001, the Supreme Court amended its rules to change the completion deadline for MCLE from June 30 to October 31. The date to certify the completion was changed by the Supreme Court from July 31 to December 15. These changes took effect in 2002.

The MCLE Board consists of twelve members appointed by the Supreme Court of Virginia. The MCLE Board for fiscal year 2004–2005 included Charles M. Allen Jr. of Glen Allen; Jan L. Brodie of Fairfax; George J. Dancigers of Norfolk; Michael L. Davis of Fairfax; R. Lee Livingston of Charlottesville; Sharon D. Nelson of Fairfax; Oliver L. Norrell III of Arlington; Eric M. Page of Glen Allen; Nancy G. Parr of Chesapeake; Calvin S. Spencer Jr. of Kenbridge; Bruce C. Stockburger of Roanoke; and Wilson F. Vellines Jr. of Staunton.

Two valuable members rotated off of the board at the conclusion of the 2004–2005 board year: Charles M. Allen Jr. (1998–2005) and Wilson F. Vellines Jr. (2002–2005). We appreciate their service.

The Virginia State Bar's MCLE department administers the MCLE requirements for the board. The board meets six times a year at the VSB's Richmond office and an average of ten times per year by consent agenda to consider applications. Over the last reporting cycle, the MCLE staff and board have worked on the following: 6,000 course applications; 14,800 accredited sponsor courses; 41 waiver requests; 25 extension requests; 15,000 telephone inquiries; 25,000 letters sent out; and more than 93,000 certificates of attendance.

The board continued to review the standards for approval of distance learning courses and the various delivery formats available. The board updated MCLE Opinion 16 and drafted Opinion 18 regarding in-house and law firm programs (to include in-house courses by corporations and government agencies). At this writing, Opinion 18 is currently open for public comment and likely will be finalized in August 2005.

The Virginia State Bar continued to provide access to members' CLE records on the VSB Web site. Members can check their MCLE record online and download MCLE regulations, opinions, forms or course listings from the Internet.

The MCLE staff, directed by Gale M. Cartwright, continues to work diligently to perform their many responsibilities. On behalf of the entire MCLE board, I wish to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication.

