

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS**

*Gail D. Jaspen, chair*

The chief function of the Personal Insurance for Members Committee is to provide oversight of the Virginia State Bar-endorsed health, term life and disability income insurance plans. With the help of the broker-administrator, the Insurance Center for Virginia State Bar Members (ICVSBM), the committee monitors the plans and the details of coverages. When necessary, the committee recommends changes, which must be approved by the VSB Executive Committee. The work of the committee and the administrator relieves attorneys of the time and expense of finding insurance products.

The health insurance plan with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield has grown to cover more than five thousand bar members, staff and dependents. Each insured receives Anthem's "Value Added Benefits," at no additional cost—thanks to the purchasing power of the Virginia State Bar. The ICVSBM can also assist VSB members who reside and work outside Anthem's service area in securing health insurance. With the committee's approval, ICVSBM sent all VSB members under age sixty-five information about the new tax advantages of health savings accounts, which combine a high-deductible health insurance policy with a tax-deductible investment account.

The VSB Group Term Life Plan covers more than 650 persons, and more than 260 are covered under its Group Disability Income Plan. Both plans are operated on a refund accumulation basis, and a period of favorable claims experience allowed for two significant savings for Group Term Life enrollees in 2005. Effective on May 1, 2005, rates were reduced for nonsmokers by 10 percent and for smokers by 5 percent. For those who applied or were enrolled for coverage as of February 17, 2005, the VSB Group Term Life Insurance Plan awarded a six-month "premium holiday."

As anticipated, in fall 2004 the VSB resolved its final differences with the prior administrator, The Reciprocal Insurance Agency Ltd., and Riggs, Counselman, Michaels & Downes Inc. All brokerage records and files were turned over to the VSB and ICVSBM. ICVSBM is now the listed agent on all predispute accounts.

Information about VSB-endorsed insurance plans can now be found online at [www.icvsb.org](http://www.icvsb.org).

As a final note, I would like to express my appreciation to the committee members: Cary B. Bowen, Paul R. Childress Jr., Sean P. Kelly, Gary W. Lonergan, Jennifer L. Redmond, Susan K. Stoneman and Larry S. Wiese; and I thank ICVSBM Vice-President Robert H. Spicknall and VSB Deputy Executive Director Mary Yancey Spencer for all their help on behalf of the committee.

