

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

William R. Allcott Jr., chair

In 2004–2005, the Special Committee on Publications and Public Information began implementation of changes to the format of the *Virginia Lawyer Register*. The new format and content were suggested by responses to a survey of member attitude toward bar publications conducted in the 2003–2004 fiscal year.

The committee also reviewed the advertising standards applicable to the *Virginia Lawyer* magazine and the *Virginia Lawyer Register* and made recommendations to the Virginia State Bar Council and Executive Committee for minor changes.

The annual Law in Society essay competition, funded by a grant from the VSB Litigation Section, asked Virginia high school students to write an essay on a subject related to the Constitution and the rule of law in society. Volunteer lawyers, who also assisted with presentation of awards, graded the essays. Awards included cash gifts as well as a set of reference books and were presented to the winners either on or near Law Day or at the school's annual scholastic awards ceremonies.

This year, students considered the legal aspects of preferential treatment in college admissions. Students reflected on the role of the Constitution in promoting or restricting preferences for geographic, ethnic and gender diversity, economic status and family connection with the educational institution, among other factors.

The committee will be exploring ways to include more students in the competition in future years, as it believes that the bar provides a valuable service by exposing young people to the role of law and legal issues in society.

