

VIRGINIA LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Catherine Ann Lee, chair

Since 1977, the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service (VLRS) has been the most effective means of providing quality legal assistance to those seeking low-cost help from the private bar.

The VLRS requires that panel members remain in good standing with the Virginia State Bar. VLRS membership fees and consultation charges have increased only once in the past decade.

The VLRS application now displays the rules and regulations of the service to ensure that all new panel members are fully informed when joining. This information is also available on the Virginia State Bar Web site at www.vsb.org.

The marketing of the VLRS continues at the VSB Admission and Orientation ceremonies and the VSB Annual Meeting Expo. Lawyers also are recruited at local bar events such as the Bar Leadership Institute. The program is advertised through phone directory yellow pages and the *Virginia Lawyer* and *Virginia Lawyer Register*.

Credit card usage now exceeds 30 percent of VLRS revenues, which include membership and consultation fees.

The service committed its staff resources and toll-free hot line to provide free legal services to victims of Hurricanes Isabel and Gaston. The Disaster Relief program is cosponsored by the young lawyers sections of the Virginia State Bar and The Virginia Bar Association.

In closing, special thanks are extended to the 2004-2005 VLRS committee—Jay C. Paul, Cheryl Jordan Avery, Mary Margaret Benzinger, Michael D'Wayne Clower, Glenn Robert Lawrence, Francis Xavier Lillis, Kevin Edward Martingayle, Neil Edward McNally, Daniel Leigh Rosenthal, Carol Joy Schrier-Polak and Richard Julian Stahl—and the VSB support staff—VLRS Director Barbara O. Allen, Toni B. Dunson, Sheree L. Patterson, Lydia M. Maddox and Lily M. Norman.

