

## LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

*George W. Shanks, president*

In fiscal 2007 the Conference of Local Bar Associations continued its association with the Solo and Small-Firm Practitioners Forum initiative of Virginia Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. Presentations that combined the CLBA's Bar Leaders Institute and the forum were held in Fredericksburg and Roanoke.

In Fredericksburg, the program included a luncheon address by Jay G. Foonberg, an author and speaker on the joys and challenges of solo practice. In Roanoke, Virginia Justice Donald W. Lemons shared scholarship and humor in his address on "The Jamestown Legacy." Edward J. Walters, chief executive officer of Fastcase, described the free legal research product available to all Virginia State Bar members. Frank W. Rogers III described the bar's Fee Dispute Resolution Program, which offers mediation and arbitration services. James E. Leffler, George H. Hettrick, and John A. Gibney Jr. described the scope, procedure, and benefits of Lawyers Helping Lawyers, a program entering in its twenty-second year of service to Virginia lawyers and judges, their staffs, and their families.

Each forum concluded with a Town Hall Meeting hosted by Chief Justice Hassell. Through that program, he now has heard lawyers' ideas and responded to their complaints and suggestions in Abingdon, Harrisonburg, Williamsburg, Danville, Fredericksburg, and Roanoke.

The conference continued to distribute its flagship publication, *So You're 18*, using a method developed under the leadership of former Chair Manuel A. Capsalis, through driver's licensing ceremonies in the state's juvenile and domestic relations courts. The publication is circulated in English and Spanish. The CLBA continues to distribute the pamphlet *Legally Informed* that was conceived by former VSB President Bernard J. DiMuro. It summarizes projects developed by members of local and specialty bars to improve their communities and the legal profession.

Stephen L. Higgs of Roanoke received the 2007 Local Bar Leader of the Year Award. He was honored at the CLBA meeting at Virginia Beach on June 15, 2007.

The conference continues to be a resource for leadership in the Virginia State Bar. Howard W. Martin Jr., VSB president for 2007-2008, formerly served on the CLBA executive committee; Manuel A. Capsalis, who will become VSB president in 2008, is a former chair of the conference; and Jon D. Huddleston, another former chair, is running for VSB president-elect for fiscal 2008.

CLBA officers for fiscal 2008 are John Y. Richardson Jr. of Norfolk, chair; William T. Wilson of Covington, chair-elect; Gifford R. Hampshire of Manassas, secretary; and Nancy Marie Reed of Luray, treasurer. New members of the executive committee are Vanessa L. Jones of Chesterfield and G.W. Nolle of Rustburg.

