

## **MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD**

*Eric M. Page, 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, including two hours of ethics or professionalism, each fiscal year. In 2001, the Supreme Court amended its rules to change the completion deadline for MCLE from June 30 to October 31.

The MCLE Board consists of twelve members appointed by the Supreme Court. Members for fiscal 2007 included Vice-Chair Ronald Lee Livingston of Charlottesville, Jan Lois Brodie of Fairfax, Timothy C. Carwile of Waynesboro, Michael Lees Davis of Alexandria, Jacqueline May Ford of Richmond, Michael Lawrence Goodman of Glen Allen, Diane Pomeroy Griffin of Portsmouth, Sharon D. Nelson of Fairfax, Nancy Grace Parr of Chesapeake, Calvin Stanley Spencer Jr. of Kenbridge, and Bruce Calvin Stockburger of Roanoke.

The VSB's MCLE department administers the MCLE requirements for the board. The board meets seven times per year at the VSB's Richmond office and an average of ten times per year by consent agenda to consider course-approval applications. Over the last reporting cycle, the MCLE staff and board have considered the following: 7,150 course applications, 17,900 accredited sponsor courses, 21 waiver requests, 26 extension requests, 18,000 telephone and electronic mail inquiries, and more than 104,000 certificates of attendance.

The board undertook an extensive review of its regulations and opinions to clarify criteria for credit qualification for courses dealing with legal ethics or professionalism. The board also began the process of amending its regulations and opinions regarding accredited sponsors.

The MCLE staff, directed by Gale M. Cartwright, continues to work diligently to perform their many responsibilities. On behalf of the MCLE Board, I thank the staff for their conscientious work and dedication in helping lawyers discharge their obligation to provide competent representation of clients.

