

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

*Christopher J. Habenicht, chair*

The Public Protection Task Force was put in place by Karen A. Gould, president of the Virginia State Bar for fiscal 2007. The task force had a broad charge — to evaluate the bar’s tools for protecting the public from lawyer defalcation and to explore ideas for enhancements to our current regulatory and statutory schemes.

The task force met on a number of occasions during fiscal 2007. The sense of the members was that the bar should have zero tolerance for lawyer defalcation.

The task force decided to make two recommendations in fiscal 2008 to the VSB Council: (1) that the council support an amendment to Virginia Code § 6.1-2.21 to provide an increase the Consumer Real Estate Settlement Protection Act bond from \$100,000 to \$200,000, and (2) that the council support passage of a statute that would require an insurer or its representative to notify a third-party claimant or judgment creditor when a check in settlement of the claim is being sent to the claimant’s or judgment creditor’s attorney or representative.

