

PROFESSIONALISM

Dana D. McDaniel, chair

The Standing Committee on Professionalism is charged with responsibility for administration and ongoing oversight of the renamed Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course, which is required of all newly admitted active members of the VSB. The purpose of the course is to encourage attorneys to uphold and elevate the standards of honor, integrity, and courtesy in the legal profession. Since institution of the program in 1988, over 23,500 new admittees have taken the course—more than 80 percent of the current practicing bar in Virginia.

The course faculty is composed of distinguished lawyers and judges representing a broad cross section of the legal profession in Virginia. Faculty members are nominated by their peers and invited by Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. to accept appointment for a three year term.

The course was offered eight times in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke, Newport News, and Charlottesville during fiscal 2007. Approximately 1,500 persons attended these courses. The committee was hopeful that the number of attendees would decrease after the initial influx of registrants under the Virginia Corporate Counsel Rule, but the course has seen no such decrease. As such, the eighth course added in fiscal 2006 will be permanent to help accommodate the number of Northern Virginia attorneys required to take this course.

In September 2006, the committee recommended changing the name of the course to honor Senior Justice Harry L. Carrico, who was instrumental in the establishment of the program. Additionally, for almost fifteen years, Justice Carrico had attended virtually every course across the state to deliver the luncheon address. With the approval of the VSB Council and the Supreme Court of Virginia, the course was renamed the Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course in February 2007.

The Supreme Court continues to demonstrate its support of the course. This past year, Chief Justice Hassell, Justice Donald W. Lemons, and others have given an inspiring luncheon address at each course. The involvement of the Chief Justice and the leadership of the bar demonstrate to new lawyers the VSB's commitment to professionalism. The committee was also delighted to have U.S. District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee and former VSB president Joseph A. Condo as luncheon speakers this year.

The committee continues to oversee faculty selection, course material updates, and faculty training activities. Also, the committee reviews the course evaluations and strives to update the course agenda and format to meet evolving demands.

Finally, the committee continues to work with the Professionalism for Law Students program cosponsored by the VSB Section on the Education of Lawyers. This former pilot program has become a fixture at all accredited law schools in Virginia, thanks to the diligent work of Stafford Circuit Judge J. Martin Bass, Fairfax Circuit Judge David T. Stitt, U.S. Magistrate Judge B. Waugh Crigler, and the committed faculty.

