If the notion of solo and small-firm practitioners conjures up a folksy vision of dirt roads and '50s Fords, think again. Since 2005, the Chief Justice has brought his vision of outreach and support to "down-home" attorneys in some of the most avant-garde venues in the commonwealth. In the process, he has changed the face of Virginia's judiciary from distant to dynamic.

Since he became Chief Justice, Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr. conceived of a program to reach out to the "silent majority" of the Virginia State Bar—the solos and small firms that comprise half of the Virginia bar's thirty-nine thousand members. He believed they felt isolated from the urban halls of legal influence, viewed the VSB as more of a disciplinary body than a supportive organization, and felt the Supreme Court of Virginia was unapproachable and largely unsympathetic to their concerns. So he asked Associate Justice Cynthia D. Kinser and a committee of lawyers from around the state to craft a solution.

On behalf of the Virginia State Bar, we look forward to helping you have a productive and rewarding year of bar leadership. Your involvement shows your dedication to our profession and helping to improve the public's perception of lawyers.

Karen A. Gould
President

To officers of Virginia local and specialty bar associations:

As President of the Virginia State Bar for the 2006–2007 bar year, I hope you will invite me to visit your bar. I would be happy to discuss what the Virginia State Bar is doing, or participate in a program that your bar would like to present to its members or the community, or simply come and meet your members on an informal basis.

E-mail me at kgould@cgrpcc.com or call me at (804) 545-2415 if you would like for me to plan a visit with your bar. If you prefer, you can write to me at P.O. Box 1463, Richmond, VA 23218-1463.

Lawyer-Client Fee Dispute Process Will Include Mediation Training: Local Bar Associations Asked To Help
by Frank W. Rogers III

The Virginia State Bar Special Committee on Resolution of Fee Disputes has been working for two years to revitalize the process, add a mediation component, and expand the program to more jurisdictions. Here, committee Chair Frank W. Rogers III describes what lies ahead and how local bar associations can help.

Lawyers and clients in Virginia have had access to a Fee Dispute Resolution Program (FDRP) since 1995. Under the auspices of the Virginia State Bar Special Committee on Resolution of Fee Disputes, local circuit court committees arbitrate disputes in eleven circuits: the Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, continued on page 2

On the Road Again…?
CLBA Chair Travels Through Virginia
by George W. Shanks, CLBA Chair

I f the notion of solo and small-firm practitioners conjures up a folksy vision of dirt roads and '50s Fords, think again. Since 2005, the Chief Justice has brought his vision of outreach and support to "down-home" attorneys in some of the most avant-garde venues in the commonwealth. In the process, he has changed the face of Virginia’s judiciary from distant to dynamic.

Since he became Chief Justice, Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr. conceived of a program to reach out to the "silent majority" of the Virginia State Bar—the solos and small firms that comprise half of the Virginia
Plans are underway for more Solo & Small-Firm Practitioners Forums. Details will be posted on the Virginia State Bar Web site at www.vsb.org.

Or call Barbara Allen at (804) 775-0590 to see if a forum is planned in your area.

The courtroom and electronic home monitoring in lieu of incarceration. Others included appellate mediators, the proposed family court and the recurrent theme of the sad state of indigent defense compensation. He answered each one in turn and reiterated his message. Even as the Supreme Court acts as the final arbiter of.

On the Road Again. . . continued from page 1

The hard work of the local committees has been generally well-received by lawyers and clients who have used the program. The challenge has been to get lawyers to participate in the program.

Why should lawyers consider using fee dispute resolution? Because you can get a quicker decision, and the dispute plays out privately instead of publicly.

At the end of 2004, as a result of a comprehensive study by a task force appointed by VSB President Bernard J. DiMuro, the VSB Council recommended a resolution to incorporate mediation into the FDRP. Since then, the Fee Dispute Committee has been blending a mediation alternative into its rules and procedures.

With the rules in place, training sessions for lawyers and lay volunteers have been scheduled across the state in September or October (see schedule below). It is anticipated that the training sessions will carry mandatory continuing legal education credit opportunities.

If your association is within a judicial circuit currently served by a committee, your bar association may assist by:

• Helping your circuit committee chair identify volunteer lawyers and nonlawyers to serve on the Fee Dispute Committee.

• Disseminating information about the FDRP to lawyers and clients. The information may be obtained from the Virginia State Bar Web site at www.vsb.org, or by contacting Barbara Allen at allen@vsb.org or (804) 775-0590.

FEE DISPUTE TRAINING SCHEDULE

Fee training to prepare attorneys and laypeople to serve as arbiters and mediators of attorney-client fee disputes will be offered throughout the state this fall. Attorneys agree to serve on fee dispute committees. Continuing legal education credit has been applied for. Lunch is included.

To register for one of the courses, contact Barbara Allen at (804) 775-0590 or allen@vsb.org.

RICHMOND Friday, October 20, 10 AM–2 PM, at Virginia State Bar offices, 707 East Main Street, second floor.

NORFOLK Thursday, October 25, 10 AM–2 PM, at Dominion Tower, 999 Waterside Drive, fourth floor board room.

ROANOKE Friday, November 3, 10 AM–2 PM, at Roanoke Higher Education Center, 108 North Jefferson Avenue, room 813.

FAIRFAX Thursday, November 9, 10 AM–2 PM, at Fairfax Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway.

• Encouraging lawyers to consider using the local committee to arbitrate, and soon to mediate, their fee disputes with clients.

If you do not have a locally active circuit committee and if you are interested in helping to form one, contact Barbara Allen or Frank W. Rogers III at fros@mundyrogers.com for more information.

Act quickly, to take advantage of the fall training sessions.

The key to the short- and long-term success of the FDRP lies with the volunteer committee of lawyers and nonlawyers at the local level. If we have a statewide network of active and effectively functioning circuit committees, the special committee can more confidently market the FDRP as a preferred way for lawyers and clients to resolve their fee disputes.

Frank W. Rogers III practices family and plaintiff’s personal injury law at Mundy & Rogers LLP in Roanoke, where he incorporates alternative dispute resolution regularly in his cases. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Washington and Lee University.

George W. Shanks is the 2006–2007 chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations. He practices civil litigation and municipal law with Miller, Earle & Shanks PLLC in Luray. He received his undergraduate degree from Indiana University and his law degree from Temple University. To contact him about CLBA matters, e-mail him at gshanks@harrisonburglaw.com or call (540) 743-4511.
George W. Dodge

Dodge reinvigorated the Arlington Bar Association during his presidency in 2001-2004, and has continued his efforts since.

He focused his efforts on hosting events that were social and substantive, so that more lawyers would be drawn to the bar.

He brought luncheon meetings to the Arlington courthouse where many lawyers work. For dinner meetings, Dodge invited celebrity speakers, such as Kirk Bloodsworth, one of the first people exonerated by post-conviction DNA evidence; USA Today sports columnist Christine Brennan; Virginia Senior Justice Charles S. Russell, and Leslie Dodson, a foster mother of a child returned to an abusive family and subsequently murdered.

Dodge involved judges in bar functions and renewed the association’s role providing continuing education courses. He invited young lawyers to “President’s Luncheons,” at his own expense, to encourage them to become involved.

In a project that grew out of his own interest in local history, he worked to install a display case in the courthouse lobby. There, memorabilia of Arlington’s legal community are exhibited.

Dodge is currently president of the Arlington Historical Society. He is in the final stages of preparing a photography book, Historic Images of Arlington National Cemetery, which will be published in the fall.


Dodge’s solo practice focuses on estates, guardianship and elder law. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond and a law degree from George Mason University.

Arlington Bar members who nominated Dodge wrote: “Motivated by a rare personal dedication, George’s contributions to the bar far exceed the norm. Fortunately his commitment combines with unique creativity and social skills to generate novel approaches which have transformed and recharged the Arlington Bar.”

Carolyn M. Grimes

Grimes also encourages Alexandria lawyers to do other pro bono service and report their good works to The Virginia Bar Association’s Community Service Program. She currently is president of Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and she regularly volunteers to represent LSNV clients pro bono on family law matters. She also teaches continuing legal education to lawyers who volunteer to represent LSNV clients in uncontested divorce proceedings.

Grimes is “one of those rare individuals who can never say no, yet always follows through on her commitments—and then goes the extra mile,” according to the nomination letter submitted by three Northern Virginia attorneys and a retired judge. “She has brought our local bar association back from the brink of fiscal crisis, reinvigorated our commitment to community service and set an example for all to follow.”

Under her leadership, the Alexandria Bar launched a “Beat the Odds” program that helps children overcome academic and other obstacles and awards college scholarships and other grants. The program raised more than fourteen thousand dollars last year to help in its mission, and this year’s fundraising approached twenty thousand dollars.

Bar Leaders of the Year
Local and Specialty Bar Awards Given at Annual Meeting

The following bar associations were recognized by the Conference of Local Bar Associations on June 16 at the VSB Annual Meeting. The awards recognize excellence and high achievement in projects that serve the bench, the bar and the citizens of Virginia.

Awards of Merit

Bar Association of the City of Richmond
The association established a “Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program, in which bankruptcy attorneys talk about “financial literacy”—the wise use of credit cards. They describe the true cost of credit, the temptations to use it and benefits of living without credit card debt. Forty-five lawyers volunteer, and the program has been presented to 956 high school students.

Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association (Three awards)—The association sponsored a “Middle School Mock Trial” project, in which members taught a ten-week course to twenty-two students. Classes included opening statements, direct examination, cross-examination and closing arguments. The students practiced their skills, then presented a “trial” before two local circuit judges and juries made up of students. The association plans to repeat the program annually. A “Wills for Heroes” program, sponsored in Norfolk by the association’s Young Lawyers Section, helped first responders prepare wills, powers of attorney and advance medical directives. More than seventy attorneys and sixty-eight legal staff members volunteered, and more than a hundred members of the Norfolk police, sheriff and fire departments prepared documents. The program was conducted in collaboration with the young lawyers groups of the VSB and Virginia Bar Association. And the association’s fifteenth annual Legal Food Frenzy set a record by collecting 172,734 pounds of food, which was donated to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Forty-three law firms and legal organizations participated.

Metropolitan Richmond Women’s Bar Association
The association created an online voting option for its judicial candidate endorsement process. The option increased participation significantly. Sixty members, or 40 percent of the membership, voted this year compared to twenty-five in the previous year, when fax and postal mail were the only options.

Old Dominion Bar Association—Richmond Chapter
The association held a screening of the movie “Last Boys of Sudan” to increase awareness of and benefit a Doctors Without Borders relief effort. The movie documents the journey of two Sudanese orphans who traveled to a Kenyan refugee camp and then to the United States. The movie’s directors, Megan Mylan and John Shenk, participated. The event raised $2,219 in donations.

CLBA Awards...

Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association
Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Arlington Bar Association

CLBA Awards...continued from page 6

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Prince William County Bar Association
The association operates a “Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Conciliators Program, which offers parties involved in temporary custody, temporary support and temporary visitation an alternative to reach an agreement. Volunteer lawyers from the association are trained to meet with the parties—represented or unrepresented—and adjourn from the courtroom to a conference room. If an agreement cannot be reached, the parties return to the courtroom for a thirty-minute hearing. In either case, the result is a binding court order until a full hearing can be held. Most of the association’s thirty experienced family lawyers participate in the program.

Arlington Bar Association
The association sponsored “Free B. Fridays,” a breakfast at the county courthouse, which recognizes excellence and high achievement in projects that serve the bench, the bar and the citizens of Virginia.

Northern Virginia Women’s Bar Association
The association sponsored “Perspectives from the Bench: General District Court Practices and Procedures” in 2005 and “Criminal Procedure in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court” in 2006. Lawyers who attended received continuing legal education credit. The chapter was able to publish information from the programs to serve as guidelines for lawyers who practice in those courts.

Certificates of Achievement

Arlington Bar Association
The association observed the 250th anniversary of John Marshall’s birth with a gala in November 2005 at the Lloyd House, a historic site that formerly was the home of an attorney who argued the seminal case Marbury v. Madison before the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Anthony Kennedy was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included Lynn Brackenridge, executive director of the John Marshall Foundation, and her husband, former Virginia Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico. The event was held in collaboration with the foundation and several Alexandria historical groups. It drew seventy-five attendees—the capacity of the Lloyd House.

Virginia Women Attorneys Association
The chapter sponsored two seminars—“Varied Perspectives on Mediation” and “Perspectives on Mediation for Extended Family.” The events were held in recognition of Family Mediation Month.

Virginia Beach Bar Association
The association created a “Virginia Beach Law Foundation to help meet legal needs of low-income people, provide education and scholarships, enhance the image of the legal profession, and assist lawyers and their families who are in need. In its first year, the foundation raised fifteen thousand dollars and pledges of fifty thousand dollars to be paid over four years.
Arlington Bar Association
The association sponsors a Social Networking Initiative, designed to improve camaraderie and collegiality among the member lawyers. The bar offers weekly golf nights in spring and summer, bowling in fall and winter, and a monthly “Judges Series,” during which members mingle with judges. The activities have achieved the association’s goal of drawing in lawyers from a wide variety of practice areas.

Chesterfield County Bar Association
Members of the association volunteered for a Pro Bono Protective Order Project sponsored by the county’s Victim/Witness Assistance Program. The volunteer attorneys help people with preliminary and permanent hearings for protective orders, and with appeals where necessary. Approximately fifty lawyers participated.

Fairfax Bar Association
The association held a Colors of Justice reception in May 2006 to raise money toward a five-thousand-dollar scholarship to promote diversity at George Mason University School of Law. About two hundred people attended.

Greater Peninsula Women’s Bar Association
The association sponsored its fourth annual Charity Gala to benefit four Peninsula-area social services programs, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Boys & Girls Club. More than twenty area restaurants offered food samples, other merchants provided door prizes and items for a silent auction, and the Point Plaza Conference Center in Newport News donated its ballroom. (No photo available.)

Henrico County Bar Association
(Two certificates)—The association continued its Partners in Education program, which supports local schools by providing school supplies for needy children, volunteers to help children learn to read, and practice interviews to help high school students with job-seeking skills. The projects collected over $1,500 worth of supplies, matched more than twenty-five reading volunteers, and interviewed eighty-five students in a total of more than four hundred interviews. Members of the association also participated in a Pro Bono Protective Order Project to represent people seeking temporary orders to protect them from family abuse. On a given day, the volunteer lawyer handled as many as five cases. The program is run by the county’s Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

Legally Informed
Ideas Looking for Legs

Legally Informed is a collection of projects sponsored by Virginia’s local bar associations, along with contact names for more information. Consult Legally Informed for ideas that might work in your community. Published by the Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations, and updated every September. To order a copy, contact davidson@vsb.org or (804) 775-0521.

Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys
The association sponsored a You Be the Judge Conference to teach lawyers about the process for becoming a judge. Representatives of the General Assembly and Supreme Court of Virginia, bar leaders and sitting judges participated. The program was designed to appeal to large-firm, small-firm and government lawyers.

Virginia Women Attorneys Association—Northern Virginia Chapter
The chapter sponsored a Business Etiquette Program to help law students at American and George Mason universities with job interviews and professional conduct skills. Topics included how to make introductions, handshakes and the proper use of e-mail in the workplace. The program also served as a tool to recruit new members to the chapter, as the students graduate and become lawyers. In designing the program, the chapter drew on the skills of a member who is a corporate etiquette consultant.

Virginia Women Attorneys Association—Roanoke Chapter
The chapter sponsored a quarterly continuing legal education program for twenty-five dollars a session to lawyers and legal staff in the Roanoke Valley. The programs helped the bar provide affordable CLE credits to lawyers, gave association members an opportunity to show their expertise in areas of law, and offered networking opportunities. Proceeds from the programs were donated to charities.

Information on these and other programs are maintained by the VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations. Address inquiries to allen@vsb.org.
Manuel A. “Manny” Capsalis of Arlington, who served as 2004-2005 chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations, is running for the position of president-elect of the Virginia State Bar.

Capsalis, who has a general practice with Capsalis, Bruce & Reaser PLC, is a veteran of bar work, statewide and with the Arlington County Bar Association, which he served as president in 1999. He got his start with the VSB as a member of the Young Lawyers Conference, became involved with the CLBA in 1999 and became a member of the VSB Council in 2001.

He also currently serves on the VSB Budget and Finance Committee. He is a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation.

Capsalis, 47, is a substitute general district judge in Fairfax and a prosecutor and deputy town attorney for Herndon. He received an undergraduate degree from Duke University and a master's in history and law degree from George Mason University.

He and his wife Carole—who is of counsel to Capsalis, Bruce & Reaser—have daughters ages 16 and 14 and a son, 12.

If another candidate were to emerge, the VSB would mail ballots to Virginia lawyers by November 5.

The next president-elect will serve as president for the 2008–2009 bar year.

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**Advance Directives Day**

Thanks to the Virginia State Bar Health Law Section, bar association members have a new opportunity to volunteer for a quick and useful project: Advance Directives Day.

The first Advance Directives Day took place on April 18, 2006, launched by a Governor's proclamation that designated the date. Health-care institutions and senior centers across the state responded to the Health Law Section's invitation to have someone available to distribute advance directives forms on that day.

More than two thousand people are known to have picked up forms, and at least 162 executed the documents on the spot, reported Nathan A. Kottkamp, who chaired the committee that organized the project.

The section plans to repeat it next year. Volunteer lawyers are needed to speak to groups and individuals about end-of-life planning, and to answer questions from people interested in executing an advance directive.

Bar associations interested in helping out can call Kottkamp at (804) 775-1092.

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**Whatcha been up to?**

We’ll write about it in the Local Bar Connection. We’ll publish it in Legally Informed, our “scrapbook” of ideas for local bar projects. We’ll encourage you to submit it for awards.

Send your bar projects to:
Barbara Allen
Virginia State Bar
707 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, Virginia  23219-2800
E-mail: allen@vsb.org • Phone: (804) 775-0590

Looking forward to hearing from you …
The Richmond Chapter of the Old Dominion Bar Association took up an international charity last year—Doctors Without Borders—and found an unusual way of supporting it—hosting a screening of the critically acclaimed documentary “Lost Boys of Sudan.”

Movie director Megan Mylan attended the event, which took place August 18, 2005, at the Virginia Commonwealth University Commons Theater. The screening raised $2,219, after expenses such as rent, refreshments and advertising were paid for.

“Lost Boys of Sudan” is about Santino Chuor and Peter Dut, orphaned in the Sudanese civil war. They walked hundreds of miles, survived animal attacks and militia gunfire, and reached a Kenyan refugee camp. There, they were chosen to go to the United States, where they faced a different struggle—abundance and alienation in American suburbia.

The project won the Richmond chapter an Award of Merit from the Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations. The chapter was one of twenty-five Virginia bar groups recognized at the VSB Annual Meeting for activities that serve the bench, bar and public.

Out of the Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association comes a public service project that is proving itself very adaptable to different localities.

It has a ready-made textbook (the Senior Citizens Handbook) and an avid audience (seniors, hungry for information on estate matters, health law, caretaking issues and end-of-life questions).

All you need is a venue and lawyer volunteers. The Senior Law Day program was first offered in May 2005 at the Covington Courthouse. More than one hundred seniors attended and sat for more than two hours, rapt, while local lawyers, a judge and community leaders addressed issues important to people in late life.

The event was praised by attendees and garnered significant publicity in the region, said William T. Wilson, the 2005-2006 chair of the Senior Lawyers Conference. Wilson practices in Covington, and he helped create and lead the bar association project.

Since then, Alleghany-Bath-Highland has circulated its project notebook as a model for future programs elsewhere. So far, the Loudoun County, Arlington County and Harrisonburg-Rockingham bar associations have presented Senior Law Day programs.

Bonnie L. Paul of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham bar said 150 people attended that program, which was held in a local high school on May 20 from 1–4:30 p.m. The association had budgeted money to underwrite expenses—primarily rent and refreshments. But the costs were offset by sponsors—for-profit and nonprofit business and government agencies that serve seniors. In fact, extra money was generated, which the bar association will either donate to legal services for seniors or save for the next Senior Law Day program, Paul said.

The program received good publicity, in advance and after the fact. Overall, “We were pleased,” Paul said.

The Senior Citizens Handbook—a joint project of the Senior and Young lawyers conferences—can be obtained from the VSB for [three dollars each or a box of forty-four for thirty dollars. The book can be viewed online at www.vsb.org/publications/senior. To order, call (804) 775-0548 or e-mail harvey@vsb.org.]

The Covington “blueprint” and other resources for organizing the program can be ordered by contacting Patricia A. Sliger at (804) 775-0548 or sliger@vsb.org.

Looking for pro bono opportunities? Visit http://www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono/resources-for-attorneys/
Local bar associations are preparing to step into an important community role: Driving home to teenagers at driver’s license ceremonies the importance of obeying traffic laws.

In doing so, lawyers are making new use of So You’re 18, the popular Virginia State Bar booklet about the legal rights and responsibilities that come with adulthood.

The VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations recently surveyed Virginia juvenile and domestic relations judges about whether the book could have a role in their licensing ceremonies. The answer is “yes.” Judges indicated they would be willing to use the book in different ways at their ceremonies. Some said they would make it available for attendees to pick up. Some said they would be willing to invite local lawyers to give a talk and distribute the book.

Now it’s the local bars’ job to follow up on the opportunity.

The Arlington County Bar Association, which has provided lawyers since 1990 to talk at driver’s licensing ceremonies, introduced So You’re 18 in February as part of its presentation.

Members Mark D. Cummings and Manuel A. “Manny” Capsalis have volunteered their time to tell new drivers and their parents about current traffic laws, penalties for infractions and the consequences of irresponsible driving, and to distribute the booklet. So far, they have talked to about 650 new licensees at the monthly ceremonies.

Their attendance was agreed to by Arlington J&DR Judges George D. Varoutos and Esther Wiggins Lyles. “Judge Varoutos was very receptive to the idea, even though he and Judge Lyles already have a ceremony that lasts as long as forty-five minutes,” Cummings said.

“So You’re 18” booklets are available in Spanish and English. To see it, go to www.vsb.org/site/publications/.

To obtain So You’re 18 booklets and for more information, contact Paulette Davidson at (804) 775-0590 or davidson@vsb.org.

Please help the CLBA keep its Local Bar database current.

Send us your list of current officers, along with the other information indicated below. We will publish new election results in Virginia Lawyer magazine. We also will post the president’s name on our Web site.

Return to: Paulette Davidson Virginia State Bar • 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500 • Richmond, Virginia 23219-2800 Fax: (804) 775-0501 E-mail: davidson@vsb.org

**NEW BAR OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:**

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**SECRETARY:**

**TREASURER:**

**CLBA REPRESENTATIVE:**

Term Expiration: ☐ Check if term is indefinite

**OTHER OFFICERS** (With Title):

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**Voting**  **Drinking**  **Landlord-Tenant**

**American Citizenship**  **Criminal Charges**  **Marriage, Divorce &**

**Military Service**  **Employment**  **Children**

**Jury Duty**  **Contracts**  **Wills**

**Driving**  **Credit**  **Welfare Benefits**

Published by the Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations, and updated annually. Topics include:

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To see it, go to www.vsb.org/site/publications/.

For a free copy, or to order multiple copies, contact davidson@vsb.org or call (804) 775-0521.
in this issue ...

- Letter from VSB President Karen A. Gould
- Fee Dispute Training Opportunity
- On the Road Again—A Year of Small-Firm Forums
- Bar Leaders of the Year
- CLBA Awards
- Bar Project Ideas