

## **MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

*Calvin S. Spencer Jr., 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 date to certify the completion was changed by the Supreme Court from July 31 to December 15. These changes took effect in 2002.

The MCLE Board consists of twelve members appointed by the Supreme Court of Virginia. The MCLE Board for fiscal year 2005–2006 included Timothy C. Carwile of Waynesboro; Jan L. Brodie of Fairfax; George J. Dancigers of Norfolk; Michael L. Davis of Fairfax; R. Lee Livingston of Charlottesville; Sharon D. Nelson of Fairfax; Oliver L. Norrell III of Arlington; Eric M. Page of Glen Allen; Nancy G. Parr of Chesapeake; Calvin S. Spencer Jr. of Kenbridge; Bruce C. Stockburger of Roanoke; and Jacqueline M. Reiner of Richmond.

The Virginia State Bar's MCLE department administers the MCLE requirements for the board. The board meets six times a year at the VSB's Richmond office and an average of ten times per year by consent agenda to consider applications. Over the last reporting cycle, the MCLE staff and board have worked on the following: 6,500 course applications, 18,800 accredited sponsor courses; 24 waiver requests; 35 extension requests; 15,000 telephone inquires; 25,000 letters sent out; and more than 93,000 certificates of attendance.

The board continued to review the standards for approval of distance-learning courses and the various delivery formats available. After much spirited debate and consultation with accredited sponsors, the board voted against a proposal to institute a cap on the number of distance-learning MCLE hours a member could earn each year. The board finalized Opinion 18 regarding in-house and law-firm programs (to include in-house courses by corporations and government agencies) this year.

The VSB continued to provide access to members' CLE records on the VSB Web site. Members can check their MCLE record online and download MCLE regulations, opinions, forms and course listings from the Internet.

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 hard work and dedication.

