



## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION**

*William R. Allcott Jr., chair*

The Special Committee on Publications and Public Information (publications committee) undertook the following projects in the 2005–2006 fiscal year:

**Online lawyer look-up:** The Virginia State Bar Council approved a proposal by the publications committee that a lawyer look-up feature be added to the VSB Web site. The feature will allow the public to obtain addresses and phone numbers of record for lawyers who sign up to be in the database. At the end of the fiscal year, the VSB's Information Technology department was working with its Web site contractor to develop the program. The proposal was initiated by committee Vice Chair Bruce M. Marshall as a convenience for lawyers who are trying to reach other lawyers.

Lawyers will be listed in the look-up database only if they opt into the program through a password-protected page on the VSB Web site. E-mail addresses will not be posted.

**VSb e-mail policy:** The VSb Council, based on a recommendation by the publications committee, established a policy for use of members' e-mail addresses by the VSb. The addresses can be used in three ways:

- In extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the VSb executive director or a majority of officers.
- In a periodic newsletter of official bar news and event dates, in accordance with guidelines to be determined by the publications committee.
- By members of VSb sections and committees as they conduct business for the bar.

**Law in Society Award:** The committee oversaw the Law in Society Award contest, in its thirteenth year. The contest solicits essays from high school students on a given law topic, and winners are presented with awards by members of their local bars. This year's topic was shield laws. The prizes are funded by the VSb Litigation Section.

The publications committee recognized Peggy Hays of Lexington who recently retired from teaching at Rockbridge County High School. Many of Mrs. Hays's students have won prizes in the contest over the years.

Mrs. Hays will attend the Virginia Social Studies Educators Conference conference in October 2006 on behalf of the VSb, so she can promote the contest and demonstrate how it can be incorporated into curricula and Standards of Learning requirements.

**2006–2007 Officers:** William R. Allcott Jr. will serve as chair for the upcoming bar year, and Mr. Marshall will serve as vice chair.

