The Chair’s Corner
by Charles M. Lollar

I never met a man I didn’t like. Well, not me, Will Rogers, as he is credited with this credulous quote. Interestingly, it’s a misquote of a statement Rogers made about Leon Trotsky in the November 6, 1926, edition of Saturday Evening Post: “I bet if I had met him and had a chat with him, I would have found him a very interesting and human fellow, for I never yet met a man that I didn’t like.”

Wow. Leon Trotsky was a Russian revolutionary, Marxist theorist, and Soviet politician whose particular strain of Marxist thought is known as Trotskyism. Will Rogers thought that if he had met and spoken with and perhaps gotten to know Trotsky, he would have found him interesting and human. That goes from credulous to enigmatic. In case you forgot, Leon Trotsky, whose real name was Lev Davidovich Bronstein, was not well-received in our country in 1926. He was thought to be responsible for the mass murder of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and to help mastermind one of history’s worst totalitarian regimes.

Double Wow. To suggest that had they met and chatted, Rogers would have found Trotsky interesting and human may be profound, but it is also very controversial. No wonder the context of this quote has been forgotten.

Enough about bad people. Another related statement by Rogers is “I joked about every prominent man in my lifetime, but I never met one I didn’t like.”

When the person goes from despot to dignitary, it’s easier to use the verb like in the same sentence. And it’s even easier to like good people.

I never met an attorney I didn’t like.

Admittedly, I’ve never heard anyone say this, much less admit to thinking it. But it is true. Some of the most congenial people I’ve ever had the pleasure of getting to know are attorneys. And that getting to know part helped me truly appreciate the person. Not easy to do when you first read words published by that attorney directed at a client you are duty-bound and paid to defend and protect. In a profession where its members obtain their livelihood from taking opposite positions, it becomes a bit harder to like one another.

Now to the point. We have great opportunities to get to know fellow attorneys, to share in appreciation for all that attorneys do to improve the many communities where they hang their shingles. Some of the best opportunities to meet and nurture professional relationships are through bar associations. The Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations offers many opportunities to rub elbows with our colleagues in every corner of our commonwealth. Indeed, one of its goals is to foster relationships with the Virginia State Bar and local and specialty bar associations, including the attorneys who are members.

On October 18, 2018, the CLSBA’s Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum will be held at the Wytheville Meeting Center, including the traditional Town Hall Meeting with The Honorable William C. Mims of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Attorneys from the New River Valley and well beyond will have the opportunity to share a full day of interesting topics focusing on solos and small law firm practices, good for CLE and Ethics credits at no charge. Lunch is included and provides attendees time to break bread while sharing ideas and experiences. Rumor has it that one’s law practice can get a new lease on life.

On March 26, 2019, another Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum will be held at the Suffolk Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront Hotel, for attorneys throughout Hampton Roads. On Friday, April 21, 2019, the CLSBA has scheduled the annual Bar Leaders Institute at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. We’ll round out the year with a final Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum on May 8, 2019, at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House.

The CLSBA Annual Meeting and Breakfast will take place on June 14, 2019, at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach. The Conference will recognize many bar associations with awards for

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meritorious projects, and also present awards to the Local Bar Leader of the Year, the Specialty Bar Leader of the Year, and the Bar Association of the Year. At the June 2018 annual breakfast meeting, **Jay Myerson was awarded Local Bar Leader of the Year and the Fairfax Bar Association was recognized as the Local Bar of the Year**. It would require all of my allowed word count to list all that Jay and the Fairfax Bar have done this past year (and in previous years) to improve the practice of law in Virginia and to enhance the public understanding and appreciation of law and the legal profession. The bar and the person set a great example in legal leadership.

The Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations has a rich history of bar leadership, both in the Virginia State Bar and in its member associations. Barbara Anderson is a perfect example. We are grateful for her many contributions to our profession, as she continues her active level of participation well beyond her tenure as our 2016-2017 conference chair.

As I assume the leadership of the CLSBA, I want to first express appreciation to the immediate past chair, Alan McGraw, who so capably chaired the conference during a very full year of activities. Seeing Alan decked out in his Hawaiian shirt at this year’s Annual Meeting and Breakfast at Virginia Beach was an inspiration in itself. His vibrancy this past year matched the rainbow colors of his shirt. And that leads to a big THANK YOU from all of us on the CLSBA Executive Committee to Paulette Davidson, our conference VSB liaison, for all the hard work she does every year to make our many activities occur seamlessly, certainly from the perspective of the chair.

By the way, Will Rogers also said “Why don’t they pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting anybody from learning anything? If it works as well as prohibition did, in five years we will have the smartest people on earth.”

CLSBA offers a simpler way to get smart. **Register to attend one of our forums scheduled October 18, 2018, March 26, 2019, or May 8, 2019, get active in your local or specialty bar, attend our Bar Leaders Institute April 21, 2019, and submit entries of your outstanding bar projects in our Awards of Merit Competition by April 19, 2019.** You will receive CLE credit learning about topics that will help you become a better lawyer, learn to be a leader in the law, learn how satisfying it is to see your bar’s projects receive well-deserved awards, and learn how easy it is to like each of our colleagues by working with them to improve our profession.

Charles M. “Chuck” Lollar is the 2018-2019 chair of the Virginia State Bar’s Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations.

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**Call for Nominations**

Nominations Sought for VSB Board and Committee Vacancies

Volunteers are needed to serve the Virginia State Bar’s boards and committees. The Nominating Committee will refer nominees to the VSB Council for consideration at its October meeting. All appointments are made by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Vacancies in 2019 are listed below. All appointments or elections will be for the terms specified, beginning on July 1, 2019.

- **Council Members at Large:** 4 lawyer vacancies (of which 2 incumbents are not eligible for reappointment, 1 incumbent is eligible for reappointment to a second term and 1 incumbent has resigned). May serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms.
- **Disciplinary Board:** 6 lawyer vacancies and 1 lay member vacancy (of which 4 lawyer members are not eligible for reappointment and 2 current members are eligible for reappointment to a second term, and 1 lay member is eligible for reappointment). District committee service is required. May serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms.
- **Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board:** 3 lawyer vacancies (of which 2 members are not eligible for reappointment and 1 current member is eligible for reappointment to a second term). May serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms.

Nominations, along with a brief résumé, should be sent by September 7, 2018, to Doris Henderson Causey, Chair, VSB Nominating Committee, Virginia State Bar, 1111 E. Main St., Suite 700, Richmond, VA 23219-0026, or e-mailed to nominations@vsb.org.
2018 CLSBA Annual Meeting, Breakfast, and Awards

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the 2018 CLSBA Annual Meeting & Breakfast. We had a great turnout, as usual, and almost everyone donned their traditional Hawaiian shirts. Len Heath joined us to share his vision for the Virginia State Bar’s 2018-2019 year. Awards were presented to this year’s Local Bar Leader of the Year, Bar Association of the Year, and Awards of Merit winners.

Local Bar Leader of the Year

Jay B. Myerson, founder of the Myerson Law Group in Reston, is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association where he has held many roles, including president from 2012-2013, current chair of the Judicial Funding Task Force, and past roles as the Fairfax Bar’s delegate to the American Bar Association and member on the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention Policy and Coordinating Council. He is also currently on the board of directors of the Fairfax Law Foundation.

Luis A. Perez of Luis A. Perez P.C. nominated Myerson, enumerating his numerous volunteer activities both with the Fairfax Bar and with other legal entities including the American Inns of Court, the George Mason Inns of Court, and the American Bar Association.

David J. Gogal of Blankingship & Keith seconded the nomination, noting, “Jay has tirelessly planned and coordinated the effort to persuade our state legislators to fill judicial vacancies and increase the number of judges appointed by the General Assembly, in order to meet the needs of justice in our commonwealth.”

Sharon D. Nelson of Sensei Enterprises said of Myerson, “His leadership qualities are exemplary. He gently guides people toward consensus and is always diplomatic – even when others are not.”

In his endorsement of Myerson, William P. Daly Jr. of Rees Broome PC in Tysons Corner added, “And the fact is, when someone comes looking for help, Jay is going to say yes and help regardless of how many other things he is working on.”

Myerson graduated from Georgetown University and Georgetown Law School. His practice focuses on family law and criminal defense. He has held a number of roles in the Virginia State Bar, including currently serving on Bar Council and on the faculty of the Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course.

Bar Association of the Year

The Fairfax Bar Association (FBA), has over 2,000 members, making it the largest voluntary local bar association in the commonwealth with judges, lawyers, paralegals, law students and legal staff working among its ranks.

The FBA was nominated by executive director Courtnie L. Norris who enumerated the many programs that the bar supports including the Fairfax Law Foundation, book drives, Jazz4Justice, Heroes vs. Villains 5K, the FBA Paralegal food drive, and the Young Lawyers Toys for Tots.

The FBA also manages the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center and donates thousands of dollars and thousands of legal hours to the Center to assist low-income Fairfax county residents with civil, family, employment, landlord-tenant and many other legal issues.

In the community, the FBA had over 200 members volunteer for programs with schools including court tours, mock trials, classroom speakers, and the Devonshire Program that educates at-risk teenagers about drug and alcohol related legal issues. Additionally, the FBA operates a law library at the Fairfax County Courthouse that is open to the public and serves more than 60,000 people each year. The FBA has also developed a new pro se program designed to assist both the public and the courts with the swelling number of pro se domestic cases.

Awards of Merit

The Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.

The Prince William County Bar Association (PWCBA) implemented a comprehensive plan to heighten awareness of its existing programs while partnering with community organizations to better expand their impact and outreach. Some of these included joining the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce, developing a Speakers Bureau of lawyers willing to address the public on legal topics of interest, and working with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide volunteers and raise money for the group, in addition to numerous ongoing pro bono initiatives for juveniles, senior citizens, and low-income county residents.

Roanoke Bar Association

The Roanoke Bar Association created a public education seminar entitled Foster Care: The Road to Permanency and Social Media & Internet Safety. This program is part of a broader initiative called You and the Law that the RBA implemented in 2010 at the behest of Circuit Court Judge William Broadhurst to help educate the public about the courts and the legal system. The foster care seminar brought together commonwealth attorneys, sheriffs, social workers, and lawyers and was delivered live as well as videotaped for viewing on the RBA website.

The following nominating committee report was then presented and passed:

Chair: Charles M. Lollar (Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association); Chair-elect: Lewis A. Martin III (Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association); Secretary: Sandra T. Chinn-Gilstrap (Danville Bar Association); Treasurer: Susan N.G. Rager (Northern Neck Bar Association); At-Large: Nicholas J. Gehrig (Alexandria Bar Association); and At-Large: Joseph W.H. Mott (Roanoke Bar Association)
I hope you were able to read the message from Chief Justice Lemons in your recent dues statement reminding members to start tracking their pro bono contributions and encouraging attorneys to voluntarily report their pro bono contributions on next year’s annual license renewal form. As Chief Justice Lemons’ letter highlights, the need for free and low-cost legal services on behalf of the poor is great and voluntary service is one of our highest ideals of our profession; it can also be one of the most rewarding ways to employ our skills and talents as lawyers. The new voluntary reporting rule was drafted with these same ideals in mind. It highlights the importance of pro bono and provides a mechanism to measure efforts being undertaken to close the justice gap in Virginia. It’s also a great opportunity for Virginia attorneys to tell the bar about the work they’re doing in the pro bono space.

Whether it’s in the form of direct service hours or financial giving, we feel confident your members are committed to the aspirational goals of Rule 6.1. If they’re not already engaged in pro bono, the new rules provide a platform to ignite interest and raise awareness about Rule 6.1 and the myriad pro bono opportunities available to members so they can identify ways to contribute that work for them.

The bar is here to help Virginia attorneys understand and navigate the new rule. In October, we’re launching an educational roadshow series to bring voluntary pro bono reporting information to members in all areas of the Commonwealth, including details about local pro bono opportunities available to attorneys interested in volunteering. The first presentation will be part of the annual Pro Bono Conference on October 17, 2018, in Norfolk, Virginia. Our calendar is filling up fast with additional presentations throughout the state.

Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting FAQs

On February 27, 2018, the Supreme Court of Virginia approved a new provision requesting that each active VSB member report their pro bono hours and/or financial contribution in support of pro bono legal services on their annual dues statement.

When does the new rule go into effect?
December 1, 2018

When will I see it on my annual dues statement?
The July 2019 dues statement for the 2020 bar year will be the first to incorporate voluntary pro bono reporting.

If I plan to report on my annual dues statement, when should I begin tracking my pro bono contributions?
Attorneys can report contributions made during the 12 months prior to the annual dues statement. As a practical matter, attorneys should start tracking their hours and financial support starting on July 1 of the year prior to the annual dues statement on which they plan to report. They should continue tracking through June 30 of the current year’s dues statement. For example, attorneys who wish to report on their July 2019 dues statement should start tracking on July 1, 2018, and keep tracking through June 30, 2019.

What membership classes are subject to voluntary pro bono reporting?
The rule requests that active members voluntarily supply information regarding pro bono service and financial contributions.

Does the rule allow me to opt out if I don’t wish to report my pro bono hours and/or financial contribution?
Yes. The new rule sets forth voluntary, not mandatory, pro bono reporting. Active members who wish to opt out of reporting should select option 4: No Report.

Does the new rule mean that I must perform pro bono service?
No. The new voluntary pro bono reporting rule is meant to complement the aspirational goals of Rule 6.1 of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct. This new rule is an opportunity for active Virginia bar members to report their contributions to pro bono and as a mechanism to assess the justice gap and respond with programming to help close it.

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What types of pro bono service hours can I include in my report?

Legal services for which you should track and report your hours include the following four categories taken from Rule 6.1(a) and its comments:

1. Providing low bono or pro bono legal assistance to someone who lacks the financial resources to hire a lawyer (poverty law). Examples in this category include but are not limited to providing advice or representation to low-income clients through legal aid and the independent pro bono programs in the Free and Low Cost Legal Resources in Virginia pamphlet, or through partnership programs like the Triage Project, or answering client questions on https://virginia.freelegalanswers.org.

2. Providing nominal fee or free legal assistance to assert or protect the rights of individuals in which society has an interest (civil rights law). Examples in this category include but are not limited to providing advice or representation to veterans, ACLU clients, and people with disabilities.

3. Providing pro bono or sliding scale legal services to religious, charitable or civic groups (public interest law). Examples in this category include but are not limited to providing advice or representation to non-profit organizations through the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Clearinghouse or the Fairfax Law Foundation.

4. Engaging in volunteer activities to increase the availability of pro bono. Examples in this category include but are not limited to training and mentoring lawyers who have volunteered to take legal aid referrals, helping recruit lawyers for pro bono referral programs, developing informational materials that provide legal information to the public or promote pro bono programs, joining the VSB Special Committee on Access to Legal Services or other boards, committees or bodies that increase access to pro bono services on the state or local level.

Can I report hours that I have discounted or written off in retrospect because the client couldn’t or didn’t pay my fees? What about hours related to losses associated with contingency fee cases?

No. Comment 6 to Rule 6.1 requires that the free or nominal fee nature of the legal work must be established in advance of the representation for it to be considered pro bono under the rule – i.e., no writing off fee losses and no contingency fees.

What types of financial contributions can I include in my report?

Active bar members should report direct financial support of programs that provide legal representation to low-income persons or their interests. Examples in this category include donations and other direct financial contributions to legal aid and non-profit legal services providers, such as the portion of event ticket purchases allocated directly to legal aid and other non-profit organizations that provide legal services to the poor.


Crista Gantz is the director of Access to Legal Services at the Virginia State Bar.
Affiliation with The Virginia Bar Association
By C. J. Steuart Thomas, III

The Virginia Bar Association has a rich history and offers an unparalleled value and experience to its members. Starting in 2018, The Virginia Bar Association will offer an exciting opportunity of affiliation to local and specialty bars. This is intended to give affiliated bar members a taste of the VBA experience. The VBA will offer certain benefits to the local and specialty bars to help strengthen them and increase their membership. The VBA hopes that the reciprocal benefits of affiliation will produce a strong network throughout the Commonwealth.

To become affiliated, the VBA asks the bar groups to identify their top three leaders (generally the president, president-elect, and the next officer in line) and certify that those leaders are members of the VBA. In return, the VBA will provide three key opportunities to the affiliated bars’ membership. The affiliated bars’ members will have free use of the VBA’s new member center, VBA on Main; will be able to attend VBA CLEs at discounted rates; and the bars will have access to the VBA legislative agenda.

VBA on Main opened for business in October 2017. Located on East Main Street in downtown Richmond, in the Bank of America Center, more than half of the 7300 square feet of space is dedicated to the VBA's members and affiliated bar groups. It features a board room that seats 26, four smaller conference rooms, personal work spaces, a spacious break and coffee area with a beautiful view of the Capitol, copiers, robust wireless internet, and video technology. For those outside Richmond, the space effectively provides a Richmond office. For those in Richmond, it provides a convenient meeting space and social gathering area. For local and specialty bars, it is a great meeting and work space.

The VBA has 20 substantive sections made up of many of the Commonwealth’s leading practitioners in those areas. Each section presents CLE programs for Virginia lawyers, throughout the year. Many sections have forums that are considered "can't miss programs" by practitioners in those areas. Some examples are the Appellate Summit, the Corporate Counsel Fall Forum, the Conference on Labor Relations and Employment Law, and the Capital Defense Workshop. There is opportunity for everyone. Attending these programs at discounted rates will provide a great benefit to affiliated bar members.

Since its formation, The Virginia Bar Association has consistently worked to achieve landmark improvements to the administration of justice and the legal profession in Virginia. For example, the VBA has lobbied successfully for the General Assembly's filling and funding of judicial vacancies. Its substantive sections create a yearly legislative agenda that bubbles up through the membership. Any member can submit proposed legislation or legislative changes to one of the VBA's sections. Beginning in 2018 any affiliated local or specialty bar will have the opportunity to propose legislation to the association. Lawyers from the substantive sections and interested bars are heavily involved in the lobbying efforts. A recent example of the work by our members was the successful passage of a "fix" for the Thorson privity issue led by the Wills, Trusts, & Estates Section.

At a time when voluntary bar participation is more important than ever, the VBA believes that investing and associating with the local and specialty bars will strengthen it, the affiliated bars, and the legal profession in the Commonwealth.

C. J. Steuart Thomas III is the 2018 president of The Virginia Bar Association.
RESOURCE CORNER

Are you looking for a CLE speaker for your bar association’s next meeting? The following organizations offer free CLE programming to all local bars:

1. Virginia State Bar
   - Ethics Department—contact Kristy Hall at 804-775-0557 or hall@vsb.org
   - Access to Legal Services—contact Cris Gantz at 804-775-0522 or doss@vsb.org
   - Fee Dispute Resolution—contact Stephanie Blanton at 804-775-0576 or blanton@vsb.org
2. Virginia CLE—contact Marcus Gaither at 800-979-8253 or vacle@vacle.org
3. Virginia Lawyers Helping Lawyers—contact Tim Carroll or Jim Leffler at 804-644-5510 or info@valhl.org
4. ALPS—contact Amy Esp at aesp@alpsnet.com or 406-728-3113—see ad on last page

Have you started making plans for Law Day 2019 - Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society? The ABA has a plethora of information and resources available to you. Visit their website for more information.

The ABA’s Bar Leader Weekly includes a lot of great information and ideas. There’s a great article titled 3 Mistakes to Avoid when Welcoming New Members that you may want to check out.

For more ideas, please contact Paulette Davidson at davidson@vsb.org or 804-775-0521.

Bar Leaders Institute

The Bar Leaders Institute will once again be at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. This year’s date is Friday, April 12, 2019. We are excited that the ABA has agreed to send one of their bar services staff to talk about Strategic Planning for Bar Associations. While we are still in the planning stages, we want you to know that we listened to your requests from last year regarding more time for networking and to ask questions during the Bar Projects Showcase and will be implementing those changes. Another topic being covered will be How to Plan a CLE from A to Z. If you have topic suggestions you’d like to share with us, we would be happy to hear them.

Please share your ideas with Paulette Davidson at davidson@vsb.org.
Get recognized for your hard work. Start thinking now about the projects, people, and bar associations you’ll want to submit for the 2019 CLSBA Awards

Call for Nominations

34th Annual Awards of Merit Competition

The Virginia State Bar’s Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations announces the 33rd Annual Awards of Merit competition. This competition is designed to:

- Recognize outstanding projects and programs of local and specialty bar associations.
- Share successful programming ideas and resources with all bar associations.
- Encourage greater service to the bench, bar, and public.
- Inform the public about some of the excellent work of local and specialty bars and the legal profession in general.

24th Annual Local Bar Leader of the Year Award

The Virginia State Bar Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations’ recognition of a Local Bar Leader of the Year identifies past and presently active leaders of local bar associations who have continued to offer important service to the bench, bar, and public. The award is a continuing monument to the dedication of local bar leaders. It also emphasizes the importance of close cooperation between the Virginia State Bar and local bar leaders.

3rd Annual Specialty Bar Leader Of the Year Award

The Virginia State Bar Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations’ recognition of a Specialty Bar Leader of the Year identifies past and presently active leaders of specialty bar associations who have continued to offer important service to the bench, bar, and public. The award is a continuing monument to the dedication of specialty bar leaders. It also emphasizes the importance of close cooperation between the Virginia State Bar and specialty bar leaders.

6th Annual Bar Association of the Year Award

The Virginia State Bar’s Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations seeks to recognize and honor the Bar Association of the Year. This award will be presented to a bar association that demonstrates the impact it has made upon the legal community and community at large, regardless of the size of that bar association.

The VSB Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations will present these Awards during the VSB Annual Meeting on Friday, June 14, 2019, in Virginia Beach.

All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 19, 2019.

See CLSBA website (http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/clba/clba-awards) for criteria and nomination procedures.

To sign up for the CLSBA Annual Meeting and Breakfast, please email your name, bar/court affiliation, and number attending to Paulette Davidson at davidson@vsb.org.

Newsletter Information

The Connection is published online two times a year by the Virginia State Bar’s Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations, in January and July. We invite you to submit information about projects and/or events going on at your local/specialty bar association to be included in the “Highlights from Around the Commonwealth” section. You are also invited to submit articles for the magazine. Articles should be no longer than 700 words. Submissions should be sent to CLSBA Coordinator Paulette Davidson via email at davidson@vsb.org. If you have any questions, please contact Paulette at 804-775-0521.

Lawyers Helping Lawyers 2018 Fall Conference

Wintergreen Resort
September 14 & 15
Keynote Speaker Justice William C. Mims
Earn CLE credit
Enjoy fellowship and food at Wintergreen Resort at a beautiful time of year!
Agenda and registration available on the Lawyers Helping Lawyers website: www.valhi.org
GET CONNECTED

CLSBA Executive Committee Meetings

- Thursday, September 13, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.
  VSB Offices, 1111 E. Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond
- Thursday, November 15, 2018 @ 11:00 a.m.
  VSB Offices, 1111 E. Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond
- Thursday, February 7, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m.
  VSB Offices, 1111 E. Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond
- Thursday, April 11, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m.
  Embassy Suites Hotel, 2925 Emerywood Pkwy., Richmond
- Wednesday, May 15, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m.
  VSB Offices, 1111 E. Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond

Other CLSBA Events
http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/clba-calendar

- Thursday, October 18, 2018
  Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum
  Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville
- Tuesday, March 26, 2019
  Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum
  Suffolk Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center, Suffolk
- Friday, April 12, 2019
  Bar Leaders Institute
  Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- Wednesday, May 8, 2019
  Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum
  Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center
- Friday, June 14, 2019 @ 7:30 a.m.
  CLSBA Annual Meeting and Breakfast
  Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach

Other VSB Events of Interest
http://www.vsb.org/site/events

- Friday, November 9, 2019
  Annual Forum on Diversity, University of Richmond, Richmond
- Monday, April 8, 2019
  VSB TECHSHOW, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond
- Friday, May 3, 2019
  Indigent Criminal Defense Training, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond
- Thursday-Sunday, June 13-16, 2019
  Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting
  Virginia Beach

Keep Us in the Loop!

When your bar association holds its elections, please be sure to send that information to Paulette Davidson at davidson@vsb.org. Paulette keeps a database of all Virginia bar associations and provides this information to individuals/organizations such as:

- Courts wanting to get the word out about rule/procedure changes
- Attorneys looking to join a local or specialty bar association
- Members of the public seeking to hire an attorney in a specific locality
- Bar associations looking to connect with other bars for events, etc.
- Members of the General Assembly seeking input from local attorneys
- Groups such as ALPS when they want to offer free CLE and/or funding for such to the members of a local/specialty bar
- Newly licensed attorneys at the VSB Admissions and Orientation Ceremonies in the Spring and Fall

Fee Dispute Resolution Program

Now that your work is done, do you find yourself in a dispute with your client over fees and costs? The Virginia State Bar offers another way to settle those disputes, without resorting to costly litigation.

The Special Committee on the Resolution of Fee Disputes oversees the Fee Dispute Resolution Program to provide an avenue, other than litigation, for the expeditious and satisfactory resolution of fee disputes between attorneys and their clients through mediation and uniform arbitration proceedings and works to foster trust and communication among attorneys and clients.

For information on the program, go to our website at www.vsb.org/site/about/resolution-of-fee-disputes.
We know that strengthening the legal community starts with you.

That’s why ALPS is bringing risk management education directly to Virginia’s local bars. Take advantage of FREE CLE Speakers for your members.

ALPS and the Virginia State Bar’s Lawyers’ Malpractice Insurance Committee are committed to delivering risk management education and resources aimed at enhancing the practice of law in the Commonwealth. That’s why we offer high-quality speakers on malpractice prevention issues and invite you to request a speaker for an upcoming gathering at no cost to your bar.

Call or email ALPS Risk Management Coordinator, Amy Esp, at (406) 728-3113 or aesp@alpsnet.com. For more information, visit vaportal.alpsnet.com/local.