The Sixteenth Annual Bar Leaders Institutes were recently held March 12 in Richmond, at the T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, and March 19 in Roanoke, at Hollins University. Both were very informative and provided bar leaders with a chance to exchange ideas and earn two hours of CLE credit, including one of ethics. Joe Cochran, Chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations Executive Committee, welcomed everyone to the meetings and provided an update on the “So You’re 18” project. An accompanying video was available for viewing and packets of books and videos were picked up by many local bars for distribution. The ever-inspiring Joe Condo, VSB President, also offered his remarks to attendees. Candidates for VSB President-elect, Ben DiMuro and Bill Cremins, introduced themselves and outlined their goals for the VSB, should they be elected. Members of the Disciplinary Openness Task Force gave a report covering the work of the Task Force and its recommendations for opening the disciplinary process to the public at an earlier stage.

Comprised of current and past bar leaders, the Nuts and Bolts of Bar Leadership panel shared lessons learned from their experiences as bar leaders. Topics included planning ahead for your year as president, increasing participation of members, and ideas for bar projects. A Multi-Disciplinary Practice panel indicated that MDPs are likely inevitable, and we need to prepare ourselves for ethical problems that may arise with MDPs. Some budding actors educated the audience with skits designed to show the benefits to clients of MDPs and such problems as confidentiality that can develop.

The luncheon speaker in Richmond, The Honorable Martin F. Clark, Jr., Judge, Patrick County Circuit Court, encouraged would-be writers to continue with their efforts despite the disheartening rejections that sometimes accompany the process. He entertained attendees by reading rejection letters and portions of his book, *The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*.

Virginia Supreme Court Justice Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr. was the luncheon speaker at Hollins. Justice Koontz offered personal and often humorous observations on exactly who bar leaders are and the connection between leadership and professionalism, as well as the suspicion between lawyers and society.

Following lunch, lively discussions were held on how local bars can work effectively with the legislature. The legislators who participated in Richmond and Roanoke encouraged local bar leaders to assist them on a wide range of issues and not to limit contact to judi-
LETTER from the Chair

So, You’re 18: A History

In 1989, the Virginia Lawyers Auxiliary wrote and published the first So You’re 18 handbook for Virginia students, which was enthusiastically received by lawyers and nonlawyers alike. After a few years of ad hoc distribution, it became outdated and fell into disuse. In 1996, the Conference of Local Bar Associations (CLBA) was asked to revive the handbook and prepare it for redistribution. Jon Huddleston, the CLBA Executive Committee Chair at that time, saw that the project was in keeping with the purposes of the CLBA, which is to enhance the public appreciation of the law and the legal profession. He accepted the task and formed a subcommittee of the CLBA Executive Committee to revise the document. The subcommittee, headed by Beth Bittel, overhauled the document and created the current edition of So You’re 18. The booklet has seen minor update revisions since its initial compilation by the CLBA in 1996.

Immediately, So You’re 18 was popular again. The Virginia State Bar fielded calls from local bar associations around the state, asking for copies of the handbook to give to high school students. In 1998, it was suggested that the CLBA distribute a copy of So You’re 18 to every high school senior in the state. The CLBA turned to the Virginia Law Foundation (VLF) for funding, and the VLF responded by approving grant funds in the amount of $20,000—enough money to print 76,000 copies. The copies were given to the Virginia public high school class of 1999 as a graduation gift, so to speak. Those 76,000 copies were given to students by way of the numerous Law Day projects conducted by local bar associations across the state. Some schools opted to include the handbooks in packets which were distributed to seniors at graduation.

In 2000, the CBLA sought funding from the VLF for a second grant involving So You’re 18. The VLF again responded, this time with a grant of $14,413. This year’s project provides “So You’re 18” packets to high school libraries, central libraries, police and sheriffs’ departments and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courts. The packets include ten handbooks and a videotape to complement the information in the handbooks. The videotape is a feature that greatly enhances this year’s “So You’re 18” offering. The video was produced in Richmond at the Governor’s School for Government and International Relations, and other locations, with students and representatives from the bar, the judiciary, and law enforcement. Virginia State Bar President Joe Condo provided an introduction to the tape. The Q & A format is most effective in highlighting information contained in the pamphlet. The CLBA is most grateful to the video participants. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Barbara Allen, the VSB director of local bar relations, the Virginia State Bar for their tireless efforts and fine work in putting together the video.

The packets are ready for distribution now. (If your bar has not yet received these materials, contact Paulette Davidson at the VSB at 804-775-0521 or Barbara Allen at 775-0590.) This year’s project provides another wonderful opportunity for a Law Day project for your local bar. Please plan to participate. You will be helping the CLBA, your local bar, and most of all, your community.

Don’t forget your bar’s “So You’re 18” materials!

If your bar has not yet made arrangements to receive packets containing So You’re 18 booklets and video, please do so as soon as possible. These materials should be distributed to public and private high school libraries, central public libraries, sheriffs’ offices, chiefs of police, and J&DR judges in your area.

As of April 3, 2001, 352 packets remain to be picked up or mailed to local bars, so please call Barbara Allen at (804) 775-0590 or Paulette Davidson at (804) 775-0521 to make arrangements.

Conference of Local Bar Associations Executive Committee 2000–2001

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NEWS and views
Submission Deadlines for Local Bar Connection:

Summer: July 1, 2001
Fall/Winter: December 1, 2001

Mail to the VSB Local Bar Connection at the address on the back cover, or e-mail allen@vsb.org.

Attention Bar Officers
Are we on your mailing list?

Keep the VSB informed about your bar’s activities. Please put the VSB Local/Specialty Bar Director (address on the back page) on your permanent mailing list. Thank you!
While attempting to locate supporting documents for a bar project, a member discovered an old file in his office that contained the original constitution of the Prince William County Bar Association, along with the minutes from the July 25, 1941, organizational meeting. Until those documents were located, the bar could only trace its existence as far back as 1961. To learn that the PWCBA was organized 20 years earlier, and to confirm the identity of the charter members, was a true revelation. It also alerted us that the following year, 2001, would be the 60th Anniversary of the bar, and that we had no time to waste in planning a celebration.

We started by determining past events. Fortunately, the process of capturing the early history of the bar had already begun, through a series of interviews conducted with its more senior members. During these interviews, members were asked to recount the legal community at the time they were beginning their practices and to comment on the changes they had seen during their careers. A summary of each interview appeared on the cover of the following month’s bar newsletter, and served to provide a living history lesson for the membership. The interviews provided insight to changes in private practice, in the Commonwealth’s Attorneys office and on the bench from 1936 to the present. Not only were the articles entertaining, but they also generated tremendous interest in developing specific plans for a commemorative event.

During the six months preceding the 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance, bar members were asked to come forward with memorabilia from the early days of the bar. Members donated pictures from bar events held in the 1960s as well as invitations, personal letters and other documents which reflected the activities of a small and close-knit legal community. Additional research produced photographs of the law offices of the charter members as they appeared in 1941. All of this documentation was used to create a series of visual displays for the evening of the dinner dance. In addition, all 33 living past presidents were asked to provide written remembrances from their terms in office. A commemorative program was designed for the evening, which focused on the overall history of the bar’s projects, programs and awards. The information gleaned from the past presidents was included in the program, as was a copy of the original constitution and reprints of the historical interviews. The program was designed to serve as a single keepsake, reflecting the 60-year history of the PWCBA.

No celebration of this magnitude is complete without special presentations and souvenirs. Retired Circuit Court Judge Arthur W. Sinclair, the only living charter member, was presented with a framed commemorative copy of the original constitution and minutes from the 1941 organizational meeting. Delegate Harry Parrish was also on hand, to present Judge Sinclair with a framed copy of House Joint Resolution No. 710, commending him for a lifetime of service to the Prince William legal community, on the 60th Anniversary of its bar association. All past presidents of the PWCBA were presented with a solid brass magnifying glass, engraved with the seal of the bar association, and every member present received a commemorative wine glass, also imprinted with the bar’s seal.

In addition to the plans specifically relating to the 60th Anniversary Celebration, annual awards were bestowed upon bar members for court-appointed Attorney of the Year for all three courts, for guardian ad litem for the J & DR court, and the professionalism award was presented. The evening began with a cocktail hour, moved into dinner and presentations, and ended with dancing to live music.

We encourage all local bar associations with pending anniversaries to take the time to compile and celebrate the history of your bar. Connecting the past to the present is a great service to your membership—now and for the future.

Dear Local Bar Leader,

As you know, the Joint VBA/VSB Commission on Multidisciplinary Practice (MDP) has been meeting for quite some time to study what direction the organized bar in Virginia might take with regard to multidisciplinary practice. Information about the work of the MDP Commission can be found at its Web page, www.vsb.org/mdp/index.html, which also contains links to other sources of information about MDP. Please encourage your constituents to complete the survey on page 9 of this issue of the Local Bar Connection. A brief informational article about MDP is also enclosed. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. If you or your bar members would like a presentation about MDP—for which MCLE credits can be earned—please call so that arrangements can be made.

James M. McCauley, Ethics Counsel
(804) 775-0565
The Virginia State Bar’s Special Committee on Access to Legal Services Invites You to

The 11th Annual VSB Pro Bono Conference
University of Richmond School of Law • Thursday Evening and Friday, May 17–18, 2001

CHARTING COMMON GROUND

CLEs approved for 6.0 MCLE credit hrs, including, potentially, 2 hrs of Ethics and up to 4.5 child/guardian ad litem (GAL) continuing education credit hrs

Thurs., May 17, 2001—Powell Award Ceremony and Reception
Friday, May 18, 2001—CLE Seminar Presentations

Thursday Evening, May 17, 2001
7:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M., (non-CLE)
Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Pro Bono Award Ceremony and Reception
University of Richmond School of Law—honoring The Virginia Beach Bar Association and The Community Tax Law Project, with special recognition for the Honorable Ronald H. Marks and Nina E. Olzon, Esq.

VSB President Joseph A. Cordo, Moderator
Professor Florence Wagman Roisman, Indiana University School of Law, Guest Speaker

Friday, May 18, 2001
CLE PRESENTATIONS
8:30–9:00 A.M. Registration
9:00–10:30 A.M. (1.5 hr (1.5 Ethics) CLE)
Welcome and General Ethics Dialogue on: The Role of Independent Nonprofits in Meeting Emerging Legal Needs with Glenn C. Lewis, James M. McCauley, Prof. Stacy Brustin, and Marilynn C. Goss

10:45–12:15 P.M. (1.5 hr CLEs)
Breakout Session A (includes 1.5 hrs. child/GAL credit)
De Bene Esse Evidentiary Hearings in Civil and Criminal Cases with an emphasis on interstate child support and custody disputes

Breakout Session B
Restorative Justice

12:15–1:15 P.M. (Non-CLE)
Box Lunch w/ RSVP or BYO Brown Bag Lunch
(Informal Chat Sessions/Choose One or None)
• Meet w/ the Directors of Legal Nonprofits
• Participate in an Idea Exchange w/ Special Guests

Friday, May 18, 2001 (cont’d)
1:15–2:45 P.M. (1.5 hr CLEs)
Breakout Session A
Pro Bono Opportunities for Corporate Counsel, Government and Transactional Attorneys

Breakout Session B (includes 1.5 child/GAL credit hrs.): Basic Court Services for the Guardian ad Litem (discussion to include Batterer Treatment and Anger Management Programs)

3:00–4:30 P.M. (1.5 hr CLEs) w/.5 Ethics credit hours for Session B*
Breakout Session A (includes 1.5 child/GAL credit hrs.): The Fairfax Model Program to Address Child Abuse and Neglect
Breakout Session B (*includes .5 hrs of ethics & 1 hr child/GAL credit): Post Divorce Litigation in High Conflict Families

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for Conference attendees at: The Sheraton Richmond West Hotel (formerly Hyatt Richmond) 6624 W. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, (804) 285-2000

The cut-off date for hotel reservations is May 4, 2001.

Room rate is: $89.00 plus tax (single/double)

Please inform the hotel that you are attending the Pro Bono Conference to receive a special rate.

Check the VSB Web site (www.vsb.org) to download a registration form, or for updates to the schedules; for additional information, call (804) 775-0597 or (804) 775-0522 or e-mail staples@vsb.org.

Seizing the Future: The VSB YLC holds a Professional Development Seminar for Young Lawyers

by Tracy A. Giles

The VSB Young Lawyers Conference orchestrated the First Annual Professional Development Seminar, a two-day seminar held March 9 and 10 at the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business in Charlottesville.

VSB President Joe Condo opened the seminar and welcomed the attendees. Over a dozen presentations covered a wide range of topics pertinent to young lawyers. These presentations also included more traditional CLE topics such as: Issues in Summary Judgment, Writing Contracts and Agreements and Negotiations and Understanding the Jury. More innovative program topics included Emerging Trends in State Court, Managing Your Law Practice, 21 Ways to Avoid Malpractice, Rainmaking, Financial Planning for Young Lawyers, Partnership Considerations and Courtroom Technology. Although most programs carried CLE credit, topics important to young lawyers, but without CLE credit, were offered as well, such as Maintaining a Professional AND Personal Life. Even with the large number of courses and excellent panelists, sponsorships helped keep the price to $100.00 per person, including two meals. Including the young

Seizing the Future continued on page 11
Virginia Bars on the WWWWeb Update

The following local and specialty bars currently have Web sites. Check them out for information and ideas about activities, meetings and membership. If your bar has a Web site not listed here, please submit the URL to sparger@vsb.org.

Alexandria Bar Association
http://www.alexandriabarassoc.com

Fairfax Bar Association
http://www.fairfaxbar.org

Fauquier Bar Association
http://www.fauquierbar.org

Henrico County Bar Association
http://www.henricobar.org

Local Government Attorneys of Virginia
http://www2.institute.virginia.edu/lga

Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association
http://groups.hamptonroads.com/Norf-PortsBarAssoc

Old Dominion Bar Association
http://www.odba.org

Bar Association of the City of Richmond
http://www.richmondbar.org

Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys
http://www.vada.org

Virginia Bar Association
www.vba.org

Virginia Beach Bar Association
http://www.vbassoc.com

Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
http://vtla.com

Virginia Women Attorneys Association
http://www.vwaa.org

Wise County & City of Norton Bar Association
http://www.courtbar.org/county/wisebar

BLI SESSIONS FEATURE VSB AND METRO RICHMOND WOMEN’S BAR WEB SITES

Caryn Persinger, VSB publications manager/webmaster, and Rod Coggin, VSB publications director, reviewed the progress of the VSB Web site since August 1999, when the new home page was launched and the MCLE application was introduced. The home page features full color reproductions of the Virginia Lawyer and Virginia Lawyer Register magazine covers, with links to feature articles, and a find-it-fast box to aid the public in reviewing attorney disciplinary actions. Using live Internet connections at both locations, Persinger and Coggin demonstrated the recently-added search feature, addressed frequently asked questions about the site, and explained the next phase of site improvements that will include a search for attorney malpractice insurance certification and disciplinary actions.

Carolyn White and Renata Manzo of the Metropolitan Richmond Women’s Bar Association explained how the association developed its successful site (www.mrwba.org) and provided detailed materials on start-up planning and fees. Because of her involvement with both the MRWBA and the Richmond Bar Web sites, White was able to address issues from both small- and large-budget bar perspectives. The site demo included navigation to the association’s latest newsletter and members-only links.

CLBA Web Site Under Construction

The Conference of Local Bar Association Web site, now under development, links to a list of the current CLBA Executive Committee, and to a page of general information about the conference.

In the future, it will be updated to display calendars from local bar associations and the CLBA. Links will be available to CLEs, publications, and library resources.

Among the publications will be the current Local Bar Connection newsletter, and the So You’re 18 handbook.

The agendas and sign-ups for the Bar Leaders Institutes will be available, as will the nomination procedures and forms for the awards of merit and bar leader of the year.

The final site will be available at www.vsb.org/clba/. 

BLI continued from page 1

cial selection. There is a greater need for input now because of the declining number of lawyers serving in the General Assembly. They also encouraged developing relationships with your local legislators by keeping them informed of your local bar activities and inviting them to join you.

Three breakout sessions were provided to the bar leaders: Expanding Membership—Millennium Diversity Initiative—Building for the Future, Charitable Immunity for Organizations, and Web Site Technology for Local Bars. The day ended with an ethics CLE on how local bar leaders can assist attorneys as they plan for death and disability and, therefore, protect their clients. The Office of Bar Counsel has graciously agreed to provide speakers for programs on this issue if any local bar desires to host such a program.
Back to the Future
— Sixteenth Annual —

Bar Leaders Institute

March 12, 2001
T.C. Williams School of Law
University of Richmond

March 19, 2001
Hollins University—Roanoke

“Being a true lawyer is more than billing hours,” VSB President Joe Condo said in his BLI greeting. One hundred fifty-seven bar leaders proved themselves as true lawyers as they met in Richmond and Roanoke to fine-tune their bars’ internal operation and public outreach. Bar leaders received valuable information to take back and share with their respective local and specialty bars. Panel discussions at this year’s BLI ranged from ethical problems stemming from MDPs to planning ahead in the event of an attorney’s disability or death.

1: Greeting attendees at both the Richmond and Roanoke BLI was VSB President Joe Condo, who spoke about the meaning of leadership and having the courage to lead colleagues by example.

2: John J. Brandt (left) of Falls Church and Michael E. Harman of Richmond served on a panel in Richmond discussing charitable immunity for organizations and protecting your bar’s future.

3: Kurt J. Pomrenke, past president of the Bristol Bar, served as moderator for the panel on “Nuts and Bolts of Bar Leadership” in Roanoke. The panel discussed such topics as projects that work, improving lawyer public image, dues and communication within a bar.

4: Serving on the same panel in Richmond were Donald J. Gee, past president of the Richmond chapter of the Old Dominion Bar, Gregory T. St. Ours, past president of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar, and John Y. Richardson, Jr., president of the Norfolk/Portsmouth Bar.

5: Justice Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr., of the Supreme Court of Virginia, served as the luncheon speaker in Roanoke. In his message he discussed the tension between lawyers and society, comparing today’s situation to the disapproval of lawyers in colonial days.
“How Local Bars Can Work Effectively with the Legislature” was a panel held at both BLIs. Manuel A. Capsalis, past president of the Arlington County Bar and an at-large member of the CLBA Executive Committee, served as moderator of the panel in both locations. Among those serving on the panel in Richmond were Michael A. Glasser, VSB president-elect, Jan L. Brodie, president of the Fairfax Bar, and The Honorable Brian J. Moran of the Virginia House of Delegates, 46th Legislative District.

Sometimes a good session can carry on even after the session ends. Leslie A.T. Haley, VSB Assistant Ethics Counsel, Howard W. Martin, Jr., past president of the Norfolk/Portsmouth Bar and an at-large member of the CLBA Executive Committee, and Frank Overton Brown, Jr., chair-elect of the VSB Senior Lawyers Section, continue their discussion of protecting clients’ interest in the event of an attorney’s disability or death. Haley served as moderator, and Martin and Brown served on the panel.

Interacting from the audience with the panel on “Nuts and Bolts of Bar Leadership” at the Roanoke BLI is Joseph B. Obenshain, president of the Salem-Roanoke County Bar.
In the past, each profession had fairly well-defined roles. In recent times, the distinctions have begun to blur as many service providers have expanded their services to better meet the needs of their clients. An example of this phenomenon is lawyers being employed by accounting firms and using their experience and training to serve the needs of their employers. But are they “practicing law”?

The “practice of law” is difficult to define.
1. Whatever it is, only lawyers can do it.
2. But many activities that involve the application of law to facts are allowed to be performed by lay persons because those activities have been, by statute or rule, excluded from the unauthorized practice of law.
3. So, there are many instances where lay persons are doing things that historically constituted the practice of law, but their activities are permitted or condoned and are not classified as the unauthorized practice of law.
4. Even where this is not the case, UPL violations are difficult to police, particularly when the clients are well served and do not complain, which is generally so.

Many forms of Multidisciplinary Practice are already in everyday use in Virginia and are permitted under the present rules.
1. Referral networks through which members of different professional disciplines refer clients to one another.
2. Lawyers hire other professionals to help serve the lawyer’s clients either as permanent members of their staff, or ad hoc independent contractors.
3. Law firms may own a separate (ancillary) business to provide services to law firm clients and others, e.g., title insurance agency or consulting firm.
4. Accounting firms hire lawyers who (acting as a lay person) advise clients on matters relating to a wide variety of subjects such as taxation, regulatory compliance, or estate planning.
5. Lawyers currently practice law in institutions owned or controlled by nonlawyers, e.g., in-house corporate counsel, staff counsel for insurance companies and staff counsel for legal services organizations.

Lawyers presently cannot share legal fees with nonlawyers; neither can a nonlawyer have any ownership interest in a law firm. Virginia Rule of Professional Conduct 5.4. This rule is designed to protect a lawyer’s independence and is a key impediment to the implementation of fully integrated MDPs.

Lawyers have suggested that MDP will reduce the efficacy of the following “core values”:
1. Independence—Can a lawyer function independently in an environment controlled by nonlawyers?
2. Loyalty—Will MDP lawyers and MDP firms observe the legal profession’s strict conflict of interest rules?
3. Confidentiality—Will clients of an MDP suffer greater risk that the attorney-client privilege will be lost or waived?

How important are these “core values” to clients? There is no empirical data, but should clients be permitted to choose between business arrangements that provide more or less protection in this regard? Is there a difference between office practice and court work as far as the need for the “core values” is concerned?

Assuming that lawyers in MDPs must comply with all legal ethics rules, what are the possible models for MDPs?
1. Lawyer-Controlled, Law-Related MDPs—Lawyers can practice in any entity the work of which is limited to law-related services as long as lawyers control the entity (which can have nonlawyer partners). Example: Law firm has an architect as a partner.
2. Lawyer-Controlled, General MDPs—Lawyers can practice in any entity, the work of which can include any professional services, as long as lawyers control the entity (which can have nonlawyer partners). Example: Law firm has an accountant/partner who performs separate, non law-related accounting services.
3. Fully Integrated MDPs Employing Only Licensed Professionals—Lawyers can practice in any entity, the work of which can include any professional services, even if other professionals control the entity. Example: Lawyer practices law in an engineering firm.
4. Fully Integrated MDPs—Lawyers can practice in any entity, the work of which can include any services, even if nonlawyers control the entity. Example: Lawyer forms an MDP with a certified financial planner (who is not licensed or regulated by the state) to provide estate planning services.

We, as the bar, have only three options in dealing with MDP:
1. Do nothing (and possibly suffer consequences similar to CRESPA).
2. Try to enforce existing regulations more rigorously (but reported violations are almost nil and the expense could be enormous).
3. Try to find a way to regulate lawyers who practice in these unconventional settings.
MDP Survey

The MDP Commission encourages every attorney to review the short article on the preceding page and fill out the survey form below. Please respond by May 31, 2001.

1. After what you may have already read, as well as reviewing the accompanying summary of Major Points about MDP, do you have enough information to express an opinion in favor of or against MDPs?  
   YES ☐ NO ☐

2. If not, would you like to:
   a) be contacted by a member of the commission studying the issue?  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
   b) receive additional written information?  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
      (if “yes” here, please fill in mailing information below)

3. Referring to the enclosed summary of Major Points about MDP document, which of the three options outlined would you favor:
   a) Do nothing  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
   b) Enforce existing rules and regulations more rigorously (recognizing the added cost and questionable effectiveness involved in this course of action)  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
   c) Find a way to regulate lawyers who practice in unconventional setting—i.e., approve some form of MDP  
      YES ☐ NO ☐

4. If you are in favor of MDP, which of the following models described in the enclosed summary of Major Points about MDP (not currently in existence) would you like to see implemented:
   a) Lawyer-Controlled, Law-Related MDPs  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
   b) Lawyer-Controlled, General MDPs  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
   c) Fully Integrated MDPs Employing Only Licensed Professionals  
      YES ☐ NO ☐
   d) Fully Integrated MDPs  
      YES ☐ NO ☐

5. Do you have clients who have indicated they would like to have available the kind of “one stop shopping” for several needed professional services that could be delivered through an MDP?  
   YES ☐ NO ☐

Please add any comments or suggestions you may have for consideration by the MDP Study Commission: _____________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Name (optional): _____________________________________________________________________
Address (if you wish to have more information mailed to you) ______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Return this survey by fax or mail to
James M. McCauley, Virginia State Bar, 707 E. Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, VA 23219-2800
fax: (804) 775-0501.
HIGHLIGHTS from Around the Commonwealth

The Arlington County Bar Association’s annual holiday party was held on December 8, 2000, at the George Mason Professional Center. Members were encouraged to bring one new, unwrapped toy for donation to OAR’s Project Christmas Angel. On April 28, 2001, ACBA sponsors a house for the Christmas in April project. ACBA volunteers and contributors give their time, effort, and money to help repair the homes of elderly, handicapped or needy individuals in the Arlington community. This makes their 13th house. The ACBA will celebrate its 75th anniversary on May 4, 2001, with cocktails and dinner.

The Fairfax Bar Association once again joined with other local organizations and businesses to participate in the Chocolate Lovers’ Festival on February 3, 2001, sponsored annually by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fairfax. This year’s FBA events were held at the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Special festival presentations included performances of The Chocolate Caper, a mock trial based on the adventures of Robin Hood. A lawyer/doctor team presentation discussed the medical and legal consequences of drug, alcohol and tobacco use by adolescents. The FBA’s Public Relations Committee presented a Community Safety Awareness Program featuring the Fairfax County Police and Fire Departments.

The FBA presented its “Silver Anniversary” Bench-Bar Dinner Dance on March 3, 2001. Music was provided by The Fabulous Hubcaps. Prior to the dinner dance there was a silent auction to benefit The Fairfax Bar Foundation in their efforts to raise and distribute funds to provide law-related educational programs and pro bono legal services to the Fairfax County community.

The Richmond Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee has created the Pro Bono Clearinghouse Project. This project will assist non-profit organizations in locating appropriate legal counsel in a variety of disciplines to facilitate the provision of services. The clearinghouse hopes to create and maintain a database of volunteer transactional attorneys.

The president of the Alexandria Bar Foundation, Alan Anderson, and the president of the Alexandria Bar Association, Gregory Wade, teamed up with Commonwealth’s Attorney Randy Sengel to launch a “Lawyers Challenge” during the sixth annual telethon on February 4, 2001. The telethon benefits The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Attorneys took their places at the phone bank and contacted other attorneys to raise money for the scholarship fund.

The Virginia Beach Bar Association held its annual banquet on January 12, 2001, paying tribute to The Honorable John K. Moore, The Honorable Kenneth N. Whitehurst, Jr. and The Honorable J. Davis Reed, III. Those in attendance danced to the music of Casper.

In a joint community outreach effort, the Lynchburg Bar Association began working with Lynchburg College in the spring of 1999, aiding in the revitalization of three inner-city neighborhoods. The program may continue indefinitely, as long as the community expresses a need for assistance in this area. Originally, members of the bar association were asked to work with Lynchburg College students to teach them to conduct real estate title examinations in order to identify and preserve structures in danger of deteriorating. In addition to serving an instructional role, bar members also made homeowners throughout the three targeted neighborhoods aware of the opportunity to have a will prepared and executed at no cost.

The Roanoke Bar Association was pleased to have The Honorable Martin F. Clark, Jr., of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, as their luncheon speaker on March 13. Clark is the author of the highly acclaimed novel, The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living. (See page 12.)

The Prince William County Bar Association held their 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance February 10, featuring the music of Retrospect, an 8-piece variety band. Several bar members were honored. (See page 3.)

The CLE Committee of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association held a workshop March 22, 2001, on “The Role of the Guardian Ad Litem in Mediation” at the bar association office in Norfolk. Speakers included Geetha Revindra of the Virginia Supreme Court. The bar association also held its third annual Bench/Bar Conference April 19, 2001, featuring keynote speaker Mark L. Earley, Attorney General of Virginia. On May 12, 2001, the association held its annual meeting at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Waterfront Conference Center in Norfolk. Rep. Robert G. (Bobby) Scott of the 3rd Congressional District of Virginia was the guest speaker. Also in May, the bar association presents “Legislative Update,” available for 3 MCLE credits. On June 21, 2001, the association will hold its seventh annual Ethics Extravaganza from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the moot courtroom at Regent University. This program offers 4 MCLE credits.

The Old Dominion Bar Association will hold its 2001 Annual Convention from May 31 through June 3, 2001 at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA. Ten hours of CLE (2 hours ethics) will be offered on Friday and Saturday. A boat ride is planned for Friday night, and the annual banquet will be held Saturday night.

lawyers of the Old Dominion Bar and the
VBA Young Lawyers Division in our plan-
ing allowed us to draw on their resources
and reach a wider audience.

Presenters for the various topics included
distinguished lawyers and jurists of various
ages, practice areas, and backgrounds across
Virginia. The panel on Managing Your Law Practice included representatives of small, medium, and large firms. The Honorable Gerald B. Lee from Alexandria and The Honorable Pamela M. Sargent from Abingdon were two of the panelists on the summary judgment issues in federal court panel. At lunch on Friday, attendees heard about rainmaking from Robert J. Grey of Richmond, Jeannie Dahnk of Fredericksburg, and Lou Michels of Tysons Corner. The Honorable Dennis W. Dohnal of Richmond sat on the negotiations panel.

The Young Lawyers Conference organized this seminar to help fill a perceived need among its members for reasonably priced CLE programming geared specifically toward attorneys two to eight years in practice. The event also stemmed from a desire among the YLC leadership to provide more service to its members.

Although the Young Lawyers Conference has traditionally been seen mainly as the public service arm of the bar, part of our stated mission is to “engage in activities designed to respond to discernible needs among younger members of the bar.” In the future, the Professional Development Seminar will take place, along with programs such as the Admissions and Orientation Ceremony and the First Day in Practice Seminar, in order to help fulfill this part of the YLC’s mission.

The need for programming geared specifically to young lawyers is perhaps greater than ever. Many young lawyers are deciding to hang up their own shingle soon after receiving a law school education that did not teach them much about running a law practice. Even in larger firms, the unrelent-
ing pressures of the billable hour, increased workforce, and 24/7 technology has hastened the pace of law practice and lessened many traditional mentor relationships.

This year, the Young Lawyers Conference cut its teeth by organizing a program of this scope. The job should be easier the second time around and next year’s leadership is already looking forward to expanding and improving the program for more young lawyers in Virginia. To accomplish this goal, we look forward to working with the Conference of Local Bars.

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**Seizing the Future continued from page 4**

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**Circuit Committees on the Resolution of Fee Disputes**

The Virginia State Bar’s fee dispute arbitration program offers an informal mechanism to bring a satisfactory and expeditious resolution to attorney-client fee disputes. Arbitration hearings are conducted on a voluntary basis, and judgments of the CCRFD panel are binding upon both parties.

Currently, there are 12 CCRFDs established around the Commonwealth. These CCRFDs receive referrals from the State Bar.

**CCRFDs are organized in the following judicial circuits:**

- Judicial Circuit 10 (Chair, Charlie G. Butts, Jr., Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 11 (Chair, Denis J. McCarthy, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 13 (Chair, Anthony F. Troy, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 16 (Chair, Stephen K. Lewellyn, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 18 (Chair, Michael L. Zupan, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 19 (Chair, James A. Watson II, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 20 (Chair, Paul A. Maslakowski, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 23 (Chair, Frank W. Rogers, III, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 24 (Chair, Frank W. Morrison, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 27 (Chair, Alan D. Groseclose, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 28 (Chair, Ralph M. Dillow, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 31 (Chair, John D. Whittington, Esquire)

The Virginia State Bar provides arbitration training for new CCRFD members. Barbara O. Allen, VSB Director of Local & Specialty Bars and Virginia Lawyer Referral Service, offers administrative assistance to the CCRFDs, but each circuit committee conducts business independently.

Fee dispute arbitration rules and guidelines, referral to a CCRFD, information on creating a CCRFD for your circuit, and training videos are available by contacting Barbara Allen at (804) 775-0590. If you are interested in sitting on an existing CCRFD, please contact Barbara Allen.

Acclaimed Author, The Honorable Martin F. Clark Speaks At Richmond BLI

Those in attendance at the Richmond BLI, in March, were privileged to hear the words of a fellow Virginian who now has two claims to fame. The Honorable Martin F. Clark, Jr., was one of the youngest circuit court judges in the history of the Commonwealth when he was appointed to the bench in 1992, and now he is the author of the widely praised novel, *The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*, published in April of last year.

Clark had already written several chapters of *Mobile Home Living* when he became a judge. His main character, Evers Wheeling, also a young judge, only partially shares characteristics with his creator. “Unlike Evers, I don’t smoke, don’t use drugs, don’t want my wife dead, don’t suffer from aspiration angst and don’t spend weeks at a time in a hand-wringing funk,” Clark said. However, he admits that he does “… relate very much to some of his struggles with trust, faith, friendship, relationships, politics and the way things seem to play out in the world.”

*The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*. Clark’s first novel, has received highly favorable reviews from all over the United States and is also sold in the United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and France. It was nominated for the 2000 Stephen Crane First Fiction Award, selected as a 2000 *New York Times* “Notable Book” and had its fifth printing in August of 2000.

Clark serves as circuit court judge to the 21st judicial district and lives with his wife, Pam, in Stuart, Virginia.