One swallow does not make a summer,” wrote Aldo Leopold, “but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring.” Closer to Richmond, that harbinger took the form of the Seventeenth Annual Bar Leaders Institute. This year’s Richmond BLI convened on a bright but chilly March 4 at the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond to assess “The Big Picture.” The assembled 89 bar leaders were welcomed by Aubrey J. Rosser, Jr., chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations, who, in turn, introduced Virginia State Bar President Michael A. Glasser, who brought greetings and encouragement from the VSB. Barbara O. Allen, director of local/specialty bar relations and the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service, provided a concise report of the many resources available to bar leaders. Joe Cochran, CLBA executive committee past chair, gave an update on the 2002 edition of So You’re 18, including exciting news about its bilingual publication next year.

The first session of The Big Picture, moderated by CLBA executive committee member Manuel A. Capsalis, featured Lee Martin, executive director of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond, Judge Thomas S. Shadrick of the Virginia Beach Circuit Court, Judge Walter W. Stout, III, of the Richmond Circuit Court, and Alexander L. Taylor, Jr., president of the Richmond Chapter of the Old Dominion Bar Association. The panel provided a lively discussion on the nuts and bolts of success for bar programs and interaction with the bench—and stimulated animated audience participation.

The second session dealt with crisis management. Moderated by John Richardson, CLBA executive committee member, the panel of Judge Joanne F. Alper of the Arlington Circuit Court, Peter C. DePaolis, president of the Fairfax County Bar Association and Conrad M. Shumadine, secretary of the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association, explored various crisis scenarios from the bar leader’s perspective. Attendees earned a CLE credit.

Frank O Brown, Jr., chairman of the Senior Lawyers Conference made a special pre-luncheon presentation. His informative, humorous and low-key delivery was well-received as he “spotlighted” the newest and largest of all of the state bar’s conferences.

Judge Roger L. Gregory, of the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, gave a compelling and inspirational luncheon address, laced with wit, personal anecdotes and a delivery which brought the audience to its feet.

The three afternoon breakout sessions—one for large bars, one for small and medium bars and the other for specialty bars—gave an opportunity for personal interaction on a variety of important subjects. The final speaker of the day was Paul E. Fletcher, III, editor of Virginia Lawyers Weekly, whose “Primer for Lawyers” in dealing with the media was challenging, thought-provoking and also carried a CLE credit.

By March 15, the weather had softened as the BLI took its road trip to Abingdon and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. Recalling Wordsworth’s “Written in March”—“there’s joy in the mountains, there’s life in the fountains...,” 85 attorneys and judges from across the western part of the Commonwealth brought their energy...
LETTER
from the Chair

For the past several years, my family and I have attended the annual meeting of the Virginia State Bar in Virginia Beach, and the Howard Johnson’s Hotel was our lodging of preference. This was mainly due to its closer proximity to the lower (or more active!) area of the beach. We had, in fact, become quite used to the hotel and its amenities, and each year looked forward to another enjoyable stay.

Imagine my surprise when I recently visited the beach and found that the Howard Johnson’s had been torn down to make room for a more up-scale hotel. I was shocked! Indeed, HoJo’s was showing the wear of its age, and yes, it was a bit frumpy, but certainly it could have been renovated or upgraded to meet the demands of today’s more sophisticated traveler. Now, my family and I will be required to explore forming a new relationship with a new place, although we will certainly miss the old “H.J.”.

Change is often very hard to deal with, and the same can be said for local bars and their projects. What used to be a great program or project might now be out-of-step or trite. Yet many organizations hold on to these activities as if they were gold, when the bar and public might be better served by a program’s retirement and the creation of something newer, and perhaps better.

This spring might be a good time to reassess the effectiveness of your bar’s activities, with an eye toward the “cleaning house” of the old ideas, with the introduction of new projects for the future. At least we could all brainstorm a bit about what things might be more effective to further the goals of our organization. I encourage you to try.

We’ll miss you, Howard Johnson’s.

Aubrey J. Rosser, Jr.

“So You’re 18” Video Wins a Telly Award

VaVs Productions, the Richmond-based production company that produced the CLBA’s “So You’re 18” video, recently learned that the video was a winner in the 23rd Telly Awards. Since its beginning, the Telly Awards, which recognizes a high standard of achievement, has become a well known, highly respected national competition. It has become one of the most sought-after awards in the television, commercial and video industry.

Each Telly Awards entry is rated on a 10-point scale. Entries with a score of 7.0 to 8.9 are “finalists” and receive the bronze Telly. Entries with a score of 9.0 or higher, as was the case with “So You’re 18,” are “winners” and receive the silver Telly. Entries do not compete against each other. Rather, they compete against a high standard of excellence.

Each year, the judges consist of a group of more than 20 highly qualified production professionals. They are from all regions of the United States, from small town and major cities and from small and large firms. They also represent a cross-section of producers: from agencies, television stations, production houses and corporate video departments. All judges in this year’s contest have previously won a silver Telly.

Donations Sought for Portrait of Oliver Hill

The Black Law Student’s Association of the University of Richmond, in association with the Old Dominion Bar Association, is seeking donations from any firms or individuals who are interested in helping fund a portrait of Oliver Hill. The painting of the civil rights leader will hang in the university’s law school.

The tax deductible donations should be made payable to The Black Law Student’s Association and mailed to Sue Alitorelli, Dean’s Office, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, VA 23173. Please attach a note specifying that the check is for the Oliver Hill project. All persons who make donations to the project will receive an invitation to the unveiling and reception at the UR Law School in which Mr. Hill will make a personal appearance. If you have questions, please call Reis Alsberry at (804) 795-4986.
Conference Call
by Frank Overton Brown, Jr., Chair—Senior Lawyers Conference

On March 4, 2002, in Richmond, and on March 15, 2002, in Abingdon, I had the privilege of participating in the Seventeenth Annual Bar Leaders Institute, sponsored by the Conference of Local Bar Associations. I commend all who were involved in making these Institutes so successful. The participants were experienced and interested bar leaders, who brought with them seasoned perspectives and diverse insights, as well as questions, to be shared with the other attendees.

I was pleased to be able to share with attendees some facts about the 7,722 member Senior Lawyers Conference (SLC). All members of the Virginia State Bar who are in good standing and are 55 years of age or older are automatically members of the SLC; there is no application required, and there are no additional dues to be a member of the SLC. The purposes of the SLC are to uphold the honor of the profession of law, to apply the knowledge and experience of the profession to the promotion of the public good, to encourage cordial discourse and interaction among the members of the VSB and to pursue its mission, as stated in the SLC Bylaws:

The SLC shall serve the particular interests of senior lawyers and promote the welfare of seniors generally. In serving the interests of senior lawyers the SLC will plan and present programs and activities and produce publications of interest to senior lawyers and coordinate activities for senior lawyers by, for and with state and local bar associations. To promote the welfare of seniors generally, the SLC will study issues of concern to seniors, prepare and present programs and publications designed to explore and develop such issues, advocate appropriately on behalf of such issues and cooperate with other entities interested in such matters.

The resources provided by the SLC to BLI attendees were in furtherance of SLC purposes and included materials on civility and materials to assist attorneys in planning for the attorney’s disability or death. All of these materials may be found on our Senior Lawyers Conference Web site at www.vsb.org/slc on the “attorney resources” page. In response to requests made by attendees at the Bar Leaders Institute, we have added to our “attorney resources” page a Durable Special Power of Attorney, which may be used by an attorney to designate another attorney to handle his or her practice in the event of disability. The contents of the Durable Special Power of Attorney may be modified, mutatis mutandis, to make up an agreement, which could be effective during an attorney’s lifetime and after death or to provide the powers needed in the attorney’s Last Will and Testament. All local bar associations should encourage attorneys to protect their clients’ interests by planning ahead for the attorney’s disability or death. We appreciate your help in this important effort; its success will not only be in the best interests of clients, but will also help the Virginia State Bar by reducing the need to allocate Bar resources for receiverships.

As always, we welcome input from local bar associations and their members, as well as ideas for our joint cooperation in projects affecting senior lawyers and senior citizens. Please help us in our bringing together this community of interest. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to me at lawinorder@aol.com. Also, please visit our SLC Web site at www.vsb.org/slc to use the valuable resources and links which are found there. Thank you.

BLI continued from front page

and enthusiasm together for one of the most dynamic BLI’s in memory. Although the intros were similar, the programs were substantially different and included a Nuts and Bolts Panel moderated by CLBA executive committee member Roy Jessee, highlighting the successful programs of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, as presented by Renae R. Patrick; by the Roanoke Bar Association, as explained by Jennie L.M. Waering; and by the VSB/VBA YLD Emergency Legal Services Program, chaired by Brett A. Zwerdling.

Judge Gregory did a reprise of his luncheon address and for those fortunate enough to hear him twice in two weeks, he gave an entirely different presentation, but with the same show-stopping delivery.

The luncheon was preceded by a brief but moving memorial in remembrance of those killed at Appalachian School of Law. Presentations were made by Michael Glasser and by Eugene M. Elliott, Jr., of the Roanoke Bar Association, and were accepted by Dr. Lucius F. Ellsworth, president of Appalachian School of Law, who was accompanied by Board of Visitors members Gerald Gray and Joe Wolfe, as well as a number of students from the law school.

After lunch, the attendees received twoCLE credits—one for the dynamic presentation of Kathy L. Mays, director of Judicial Planing of the Virginia Supreme Court’s Executive Secretary’s Office on Emerging Trends in the Legal System—and another for participating in the lively panel discussion moderated by Supreme Court Justice Cynthia D.F. Kinser on “Professionalism/Civility from the Judicial Point of View.” Kinser and her impressive panel—Judge James P. Jones, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Judge Charles B. Flannagan, II, Judge of the 28th Judicial Circuit, Dollie M. Compton, Clerk of the Russell County Circuit Court, Judge Suzanne K. Fulton, General District Court Judge for the 30th Circuit and Judge Charles F. Lincoln, Juvenile Court Judge for the 28th Circuit—generated an abundance of audience interaction.

The day was concluded with a well-attended reception and an opportunity to carry on the interchange of ideas stimulated by the day’s presentations. It was the consensus that anyone having the opportunity to hear Kathy Mays speak on the incredible challenges and opportunities facing the profession in the next two decades, should do so without fail. Likewise, anyone having any doubt of the nobility and purpose of the law as a life pursuit should listen to the inspirations and aspirations of Judge Gregory. The seventeenth redux of the Bar Leaders Institute will be a hard one to top. The smart money says Barbara Allen will do it next year. Mark your calendar for March 2003, and stay tuned.
1: During the afternoon “Where Do You Fit in the Big Picture?” session in Richmond, Linda M. Jackson, President of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, led discussion for leaders of specialty bars.

2: At the Richmond BLI, Manuel A. Capsalis, of the CLBA executive committee, served as moderator of Session I of The Big Picture, “Nuts & Bolts of Success.” Serving on his panel were The Honorable Thomas S. Shadrick of the Virginia Beach Circuit Court, and Lelia Martin, executive director of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond.

3: Also serving on Capsalis’ panel were The Honorable Walter W. Stout, III, of the Richmond Circuit Court, and Alexander L. Taylor, Jr., president of the Richmond Chapter of the Old Dominion Bar Association.

4: Paul E. Fletcher, III, editor of Virginia Lawyers Weekly, conducted an afternoon CLE, “Dealing with the Media: A Primer for Lawyers.”

5: During the afternoon “Where Do You Fit in the Big Picture?” session in Richmond, Judith L. Rosenblatt, member of the CLBA executive committee, engaged leaders in the discussion of subjects suitable to large bars.

6: At the Richmond BLI, VSB President-elect Ben DiMuro introduced the luncheon speaker, The Honorable Roger L. Gregory. The Richmond BLI was also the occasion of DiMuro’s 50th birthday.
7: In Abingdon, both the Virginia State Bar and the Roanoke Bar Association presented resolutions of sympathy to the Appalachian School of Law for the tragedy that struck the school earlier in the year. Pictured here (left to right) are Aubrey Rosser; Michael Glasser; Joe Wolfe and Gerald Gray of the Board of Visitors of the law school; and Dr. Lucius F. Ellsworth, president of the Appalachian School of Law. Eugene M. Elliott, Jr., (not shown) presented the resolution on behalf of the Roanoke Bar Association. Elliott is chair of the Roanoke Bar Association's communications committee.

8: Seizing a moment to visit after lunch in Abingdon were The Honorable Roger L. Gregory and Michael Glasser.

9: Welcoming all attendants and participants both to the Richmond and Abingdon BLIs was Aubrey J. Rosser, Jr., chair of the CLBA executive committee.

10: Offering information on successful bar projects was the panel of: Renae R. Patrick of the VSB Bench-Bar Committee and past president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association; Brett A. Zwerdling, chair of the VSB YLC/VBA YLD Emergency Legal Services Program; and Jennie L. M. Waering, of the U.S. Attorney's Office and member of the Roanoke Bar Association.

11: The reception (sponsored by ALPS) after the Abingdon BLI gave attendees the opportunity to catch up with one another and discuss the day's topics.
HENRICO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

For the fifth consecutive year, the Henrico County Bar Association sponsored the "Ask a Lawyer" project at Virginia Center Commons Mall, in Henrico County. Volunteer attorneys provided 15-minute legal consultations, at no charge, to members of the local community. This year, the project took place on Saturday, May 4, 2002. From 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., volunteer attorneys provided pro bono legal services in an informal, non-threatening atmosphere, answering simple legal questions or referring individuals to appropriate agencies or to the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service. Additionally, they provided literature on a number of legal topics.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION:
Local Attorneys Doing Their Part to Assure Equal Justice for All

The Prince William County Bar Association celebrated this year’s national Law Day theme, “Celebrate Your Freedom—Assuring Equal Justice for All,” with four Law Day projects in May:

- a mock trial presentation that gathered area high school students into several independent jury pools to view, deliberate and render separate verdicts based on the evidence presented
- a blood drive to benefit the American Red Cross in honor of the victims, rescue workers and families of the 9/11 tragedy
- a CLE, Stop the Violence, designed to train legal advocates for victims of domestic violence
- a month-long “So You’re 18” project providing lawyers to give classroom presentations to local high school students on how the laws governing them change when they become 18.

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

by Collin J. Hite

The VSB Young Lawyers Conference orchestrated its Second Annual Professional Development Seminar, a two-day seminar held at the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business, March 15 and 16.

VSB president-elect Bernard DiMuro opened the Seminar and welcomed the attendees. Presentations for CLE covered a wide range of topics pertinent to young lawyers as well as more traditional CLE topics such as: Oral Advocacy, Writing Contracts and Working with the Federal Defender. Although most programs carried CLE credit, topics important to young lawyers without CLE credit were offered as well, including Emerging Trends in the Law, Opening a Solo Practice, 21 Ways to Avoid Malpractice, Rainmaking, Partnership Considerations and Balancing Family and Work.

The Honorable Pamela M. Sargent from Abingdon moderated the panelists on the Oral Advocacy panel, which include Judge Lydia Taylor of the Norfolk Circuit Court. John Keith, former VSB president, enlightened the attendees with a thoughtful session on emerging trends in the legal landscape of practicing law. The two-day program provides a unique mix of topics all aimed at helping young lawyers in the early stages of their careers.

The YLC 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. This year saw a successful continuation of the program that began last year. 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.”
John Curtis Youngs is the recipient of the Arlington County Bar Association’s 2001 President’s Award. President Mark D. Seidelson presented the award to Youngs at the association’s holiday party. Judge George Varoutsos presented Delegate Jim Almond with the ACBA’s “Person with the Mostest” award. The board of directors of the ACBA has approved a new mentoring program, named for ACBA member and Substitute Judge Earl E. Shafer. Questions about the program may be directed to one of the committee co-chairs: Paul W. Barnett at (703) 237-8855 or Mary Benzinger at (703) 525-1362.

Ann T. Burks will become the 118th president of The Bar Association of the City of Richmond on June 1, 2002. She has been assistant counsel at Ethyl Corporation since 1994, and prior to that job she practiced at Hunton & Williams in the litigation section. The bar association announced that Vernon W. Henley is the 2002 recipient of the Liberty Bell Award given at the association’s annual Law Day luncheon.

The Fairfax Bar Association will be holding its June election via the Internet. The FBA will send members an ID and password, and members will have the option of voting over the Internet or using traditional paper ballots. On Tuesday, April 30, 2002, the FBA held its Law Day Luncheon at the Fairfax Country Club. Jerry W. Kilgore, Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia served as speaker.

The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia held its spring conference at the new Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, March 21–23. The conference repurposed the “Local Government Law 101” option from the Roanoke Conference, with sessions on land use law, employment law and eminent domain.

At the request of the Metropolitan Richmond Women’s Bar Association, the Circuit City Foundation donated a $500 gift card, providing the Child Development Center at St. Joseph’s Villa with two television sets, two VCRs, a two-way radio and a boom box. MRWBA members contributed a personal computer, children’s computer games, toys, clothes and cash donations.

The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association sponsored three driver improvement classes earlier in the year. Participants were able to have five points deducted from their driving record. The NPBA held its 10th annual Legal Food Frenzy in February to benefit the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia in February. The NPBA held its fourth annual Bench/Bar Conference April 25, 2002. Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico was the speaker.

The Honorable Arthur W. Sinclair was present at the Prince William Bar Association’s annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to present the bar’s highest honor, the Arthur W. Sinclair Professionalism Award, to John Foote. Other members of the bar received Court Appointed Attorney awards. They were Bob Coleman, Mark Newman and Mark Henshaw. Dennis Carluzzo received the juvenile court’s Guardian Ad Litem award. At its annual meeting on April 5 the association membership was addressed by Senator Colgan, Delegates Parrish, McQuigg, Lingamfelter and Callahan. It announced that it plans a Legislative Issues Forum in cooperation with other Northern Virginia bar associations for the fall, and that it will launch its new Web site (www.pwba.org) at the VSB annual meeting.

Kellye Clarke, of the Northern Virginia chapter of the Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys, organized a group of girls from George Washington Middle School, in Alexandria, and several female attorneys to celebrate Take Your Daughter to Work Day on Thursday, April 25, 2002. The group traveled to the Federal Courthouse in Alexandria where they sat in on a Park Police Docket with a magistrate for an hour, had a short tour of the courthouse after which a judge spoke with them.

In March, the Virginia Beach Bar Association teamed up with the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association to host The Funniest Lawyer Contest to benefit Children’s Hospital of the Kings’ Daughters.

In January 2002, the VBA Law Practice Management Section became the VBA Law Practice Management Division, the first of its kind in Virginia.

All VBA members are members of the new LPM Division, which focuses on individual as well as group practice management. No dues are required beyond those paid for VBA membership. The Division is established to help each member manage his or her personal and professional life and practice, in addition to helping individual lawyers, practice groups and law firms of all sizes to manage their practices.

Heman A. Marshall, III, managing partner of Woods, Rogers & Hazlegrove in Roanoke, will serve as the first chair of the Law Practice Management Division.

The planning group joined with the VBA Young Lawyers Division to present “21st-Century Professionalism: A Balanced Life vs. The Bottom Line,” offered on January 18 during the VBA’s 112th Annual Meeting at the Williamsburg Lodge & Conference Center. Moderated by former VBA president Phillip C. Stone of Bridgewater, the program’s panel included Melissa Amos Young of Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore in Roanoke, Jeffrey Jones of Palmer & Dodge in Boston, and Dr. Ellen Ostrow, founder of LawyersLifeCoach.com. A standing-room-only audience of lawyers, judges, spouses and guests participated in the discussion of “new professionalism” issues.

Law Day 2002

At the Richmond Bar Law Day Luncheon on May 1, Chief Justice Carrico presented Law in Society Award winner David Duvigneau with his award. David, a senior at the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies, received honorable mention for his essay, “Recommendations for Amending the Post-September 11 Anti-Terrorist Laws.”

The VSB and its Litigation Section sponsor the annual contest for Virginia’s high school students to increase understanding and appreciation of the legal system. The winning essay can be read on-line at www.vsb.org/publications/lawinsociety.
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Local Bar Connection
A newsletter published three times a year by the Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations

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Published and distributed without charge to Virginia Local and Statewide Bar Leaders, VSB Council, VSB Section and Committee Chairs, Pro Bono Steering Committee, Board Members of Young Lawyers Conference, Chief Judges of Circuit & District Courts, Law Libraries, Legal Aid Project Directors and Pro Bono Coordinators.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Virginia State Bar.

Local and Statewide Bar Association Officers and Conference Representatives
VSB Executive Committee and Council Members
Presidents and Chairs of all VSB Sections, Special Committees and Conferences

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Bar Leaders Breakfast of the Conference of Local Bar Associations (CLBA) on Friday, June 14, at 7:30 A.M. in the Orion’s Roof Restaurant at the Cavalier Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach. During this meeting:

- VSB President-elect Ben DiMuro will share his goals for next year;
- Awards of Merit winners will be recognized; and
- The 2002–2003 CLBA Executive Committee will be elected.

We hope you will be able to join us on June 14th for the Bar Leaders Breakfast. The breakfast will be completed before the start of CLE programs offered on Friday morning. If you plan to attend, please complete and return the form below or e-mail us with your information at CLBA@vsb.org by Monday, June 10.

Name: ____________________________________________
Title: ______________________________________________
Bar Association: ____________________________________

Please return this registration to Paulette Davidson at the Virginia State Bar, 707 E. Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, VA 23219-2800 or fax to (804) 775-0501.

If you would like more information on the Annual Meeting, please contact Bar Services at (804) 775-0514 or visit the VSB Web site at http://www.vsb.org/anmting for registration forms, schedules, or to register on-line.