2003 Bar Leaders Institute
by Manuel A. Capsalis

This past March, 143 bar leaders from across the commonwealth assembled in Richmond and in Abingdon to take part in the 18th annual Bar Leaders Institute (BLI). The Virginia State Bar’s Conference of Local Bar Associations proudly hosted the BLI, presenting the timely theme of “Building Bridges: Meeting the Challenges of Bar Leadership.”

The first session convened on March 3, at the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. Janine Saxe, chair of the CLBA executive committee, welcomed everyone, and Judy Rosenblatt, chair-elect, offered words of encouragement to the many bar leaders in attendance.

The first panel — “Multi-Bar and Community Partnering,” was moderated by Manny Capsalis, CLBA executive committee member and past president of the Arlington County Bar Association. It featured Michael Glaser, past president of the VSB, Judge Thomas D. Horne of the Lououdoun County Circuit Court; Alissa Hudson, executive director of the Prince William County Bar Association, and Judy Rosenblatt. The panel provided a lively discussion on the role of local and specialty bar associations in promoting the good of its members and the community. Of particular note were the inspiring comments of Judge Horne in his discussion of Loudoun County’s Leadership in the Law Summer Camp. Judge Horne, who is a founder of the summer camp project, showed attendees how a bar association can offer a community service project for the leaders of tomorrow.

The second panel dealt with preparing and presenting a CLE and was moderated by Aubrey Rosser, immediate past chair of the CLBA executive committee. Panel members included Gale Cartwright, MCLE director of the Virginia State Bar, Brian Riopelle, CLBA committee member of the City of Richmond Bar Association, and Ed Walinsky, vice chair of the Virginia State Bar’s CLE board. The panel offered invaluable advice on a bar association’s critical task of effectively offering CLE’s to its membership.

The Virginia Bar Association followed with a presentation on how local bars can participate in legislative issues. It was clear from this presentation that much needs to be learned about this process and that it is a task not limited to when the General Assembly is in session. Rather, it is a year-long process requiring both planning and dedicated effort.

Attendees at the Richmond BLI were honored during lunch by an address given by the Honorable Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Jeannie Dahnk, president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, and Daniel Hayes, chair of the budget and audit committee of the Prince William County Bar Association; “Your Last Day in Practice—Planning for the Unexpected,” hosted by Frank O. Brown, Jr., immediate past chair of the VSB Senior Lawyers Conference, and George W. Shanks, member of the CLBA executive committee; and “On-Line Communications” presented by Carole E. Yeatts, past president of the Metro Richmond Women’s Bar Association.

The afternoon continued with a presentation on the task force to study mediation of fee disputes. The Richmond BLI concluded with the presentation of “Professionalism/Civility from the Judicial Point of View,” moderated by the Honorable James W. Benton, Jr., of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. The panel included H. F. Haymore, clerk of the Pittsylvania County Circuit Court; Judge Henry E. Hudson of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia; Judge Angela Edwards Roberts of the City of Richmond Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court; and Judge R. Terrence Ney of the Fairfax County Circuit Court. Those attending were treated to a lively discussion of professionalism and civility, and received an ethics CLE credit.

On March 14th, the BLI reconvened in Abingdon at the Southwest Virginia Higher Educational Center. Those who
LETTER from the Chair

The 18th Annual Bar Leaders Institutes, held this year in Richmond and Abingdon, were great successes, thanks to the efforts of all those involved in organizing them. Each BLI provided attendees, whether new or seasoned bar leaders, with the information and inspiration essential for effective bar leadership. Our keynote speakers, Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., and Dr. Thomas A. Morris, president of Emory & Henry College, were excellent, as were all of the panelists. At each BLI location, it was a pleasure to meet bar leaders from across Virginia and hear about the outstanding work of their local bars.

This year’s So You’re 18 booklets, both the English and the Spanish versions, are now ready for distribution. Those CLBA executive committee members who participated in the process of translating the booklet into Spanish now better understand the complexities associated with accurately translating English text to another language. This project could not have been completed without the financial assistance of the Virginia Law Foundation, as well as the expertise of Cheryl Pavkov of the VSB’s publication’s department and translator Gladys Segal, who helped ensure that the Spanish version of So You’re 18 properly reflected the content and style of the original handbook. Thanks also to the members of the Hispanic Bar Association for their involvement in this project.

The most important stage of So You’re 18 — its distribution to Virginia’s young people—has begun. These booklets have been distributed to high school libraries, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts, central public libraries, Department of Social Services offices and Legal Services offices throughout the commonwealth. The distribution of So You’re 18 offers a unique opportunity for attorneys to educate students about their legal rights and responsibilities.

As my term as CLBA executive committee chair draws to a close, I want to thank all the executive committee members for their continuing support and remarkable collegiality. All of us on the executive committee owe many thanks and congratulations to Paulette Davidson, senior administrative assistant for communications and public service, for her tireless efforts and excellent work throughout this year. Thanks also to Mary Yancey Spencer and the VSB staff for their guidance and support.

Finally, be sure to attend the Bar Leaders Breakfast at the VSB’s annual meeting in June and celebrate the achievements of those local bars receiving Awards of Merit.

Looking for new ideas for a local bar project?

Need help with ideas for building/retaining membership, writing a president’s page, etc.? Check out the CLBA Local Bar Library. We provide topics of interest to local/specialty bars as well as videos available for CLE*, public presentations and school presentations. Check out the web site at http://www.vsb.org/clba/index.html.

Recently added video: Loudoun County Bar Association’s 2002 Leadership in the Law Summer Camp

*CLE credit must be applied for with the VSB MCLE department by presenting party.
So You're 18 . . . So What?
by George W. Shanks

As the CLBA’s eighth annual publication of So You’re 18 makes its way into Virginia’s high schools, it is appropriate to consider the relevance of this little document and why we should invest so much time and energy in its publication. There was a time not so long ago, even before our youth were donning uniforms in huge numbers and being placed in harm’s way, when becoming 18 merely meant an invitation of close personal attention from the local draft board and not much more.

In those days, our society wore a very different face from the one it presents today. In addition to the age of majority being three years’ distant and concomitant rights of contract being unavailable to all but the emancipated few, the notions of landlord/tenant disputes, voting rights, jury service, marriage/divorce and children all seemed academic. Easy credit for an 18 year old was virtually unheard of, and the instant

communications by cell phone, fax, and e-mail were simply nonexistent. The majority thought dual school systems were legally and socially acceptable. Public education had a “one size fits all” philosophy, without consideration of special education and public accommodation. Drinking and driving was a regrettable lapse in moral fiber. Its defense in traffic courts was remarkably successful. Untreatable, life-threatening social diseases were unknown. Spousal abuse, equitable distribution of marital property and “no-fault” divorce still lurked below the surface on the legislative horizon.

With apologies to Dickens, there is nothing so sure as change. We are a different society now than we were 50 years ago, arguably a better one, and certainly a more complex one. While the social scientists, philosophers and moral advisors may find grist for their various agendas in modern statistics on criminal and traffic convictions, divorce, bankruptcy, voter participation, healthcare and lifestyles, we in the legal community must deal with these and myriad other problems on a daily basis.

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have not had the pleasure of visiting Abingdon would be well advised to do so. The area is beautiful, and the local bar leaders representing this section of the commonwealth offer a level of dedication to the bar and to the community that is exemplary. As in Richmond, the BLI was opened by Janine Saxe, followed by the greetings of Ben DiMuro. George Shanks presented the So You’re 18 welcome, and the Virginia Bar Association repeated its educational presentation on how local bars can participate in legislative issues.

The first panel of the Abingdon BLI included a reprise of multi-bar and community partnering, again moderated by Manny Capsalis, and again featuring Michael Glasser and Judge Horne. The session also welcomed panelists Yvonne McGhee, executive director of the Fairfax Bar Association, and Roy Jesse, CLBA executive committee member and past president of Wise County and City of Norton Bar Association. Judge Horne again spoke on the achievements of the summer law camp. The panel discussed the nuts and bolts of multi-bar and community partnering and provided important

insight on how a bar association can get involved in the community, and make a difference for the good of all.

As in Richmond, Jeannie Dahnk introduced luncheon speaker Dr. Thomas A. Morris, president of Emory & Henry College. Dr. Morris presented a spirited discussion about his observations of history and politics, inspiring lively audience participation.

The afternoon offered a reprise of the panel dealing with preparing and presenting a CLE, and again was moderated by Aubrey Rosser. Besides those members from the Richmond BLI, the panel included Elizabeth Dillon, president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association and past chair of the CLBA Executive committee, and Betsy Phillips, past chair of the family law section of the Lynchburg Bar Association.

The Abingdon BLI continued with a presentation on the task force to study mediation of fee disputes, and concluded with a compelling section entitled, “Planning: Practice Crisis Management & Avoiding Receiverships,” moderated by George Shanks. The panel included Frank O. Brown, Jr., Carol Gravitt, chair of the VSB general practice section, and John Johnson. The session offered indispensable advice in planning for the unforeseen and dealing with the potentially overwhelming problems and burdens created in crisis management. The session not only provided needed insight, but also earned attendees CLE credit.

The 18th annual Bar Leaders Institute in Richmond and Abingdon once again confirmed the dedication and commitment of so many bar leaders throughout the commonwealth. The theme of “building bridges” focused the bar leaders on the responsibilities attendant to bar leadership, not only to the members of each bar association, be it local or specialty, but also to the community at large. If the dedication and commitment on display at the Bar Leaders Institute is any indication, the future of local and specialty bar associations in the commonwealth is bright indeed.

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Copies of So You’re 18 may be purchased for distribution at 45 cents per copy by contacting the VSB office at (804) 775-0521 or clba@vsb.org. You may also download a copy at www.vsb.org/clba.
Building Bridges: Meeting the Challenges of Bar Leadership

— EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL —

BAR LEADERS INSTITUTE

March 3, 2003 — T.C. Williams School of Law — University of Richmond
March 14, 2003 — Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center — Abingdon

1: Janine M. Saxe, chair of the CLBA executive committee, extended a warm welcome to participants at the Richmond BLI.

2: Serving on the “Multi-Bar/Community Partnering” panel were (left to right) Roy M. Jessee of the CLBA executive committee and a member of the Wise County & City of Norton Bar Association, Yvonne McGhee, executive director of the Fairfax Bar Association, the Honorable Thomas D. Horne, of the Leesburg Circuit Court, and Michael Glasser, past president of the Virginia State Bar. Serving as moderator was Manuel A. Capsalis, a member of the CLBA executive committee (not pictured).

3: Capturing a few moments before lunch to visit at the Abingdon BLI were Delegate Joseph P. Johnson, Jr., of the fourth judicial district, Frank O. Brown, Jr., past chair of the Senior Lawyers Conference, and George W. Shanks, member at-large of the CLBA executive committee. Brown and Shanks presented “Your Last Day in Practice—Planning for the Unexpected” at the Richmond BLI. Both participated in the CLE “Planning: Practice Crisis Management & Avoiding Receiverships” in Abingdon.

4: The afternoon break-out session in Richmond on “Budget Planning and Managing Tight Budgets” was led by Daniel G. Hayes, chair of the Prince William County Bar’s budget and audit committee, and Caroline E. Costle, treasurer of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

5: The Honorable Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, served as the luncheon speaker at the Richmond BLI. He spoke about the characteristics of good judges.

6: Dr. Thomas A. Morris, president of Emory & Henry College, was the luncheon speaker in Abingdon. He spoke about leadership at the state and federal levels.
7: The Honorable James W. Benton, Jr., of the Virginia Court of Appeals, served as moderator of the afternoon CLE, “Professionalism/Civility from the Judicial Point of View.” Serving on his panel were the Honorable Angela Edwards Roberts, of the Richmond J&DR Court (seated, left), and the Honorable R. Terrence Ney, of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (seated, right). Also serving on the panel were the Honorable H. F. Haymore, clerk of the Pittsylvania County Circuit Court (not pictured), and the Honorable Henry E. Hudson, of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District (not pictured).

8: CLBA Chair-elect Judith L. Rosenblatt provided an update on the CLBA project, So You’re 18, which is distributed to Virginia’s high school seniors each spring by local bars.

9: Sharing information about “Preparing and Presenting a CLE” were (left to right) Gale M. Cartwright, MCLE director of the Virginia State Bar; Elizabeth K. Dillon, president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, and Betsy H. Phillips, past chair of the VSB Family Law Section and a member of the Lynchburg Bar Association.

10: VSB President Ben DiMuro and Judge Horne between afternoon sessions in Abingdon.

11: Taking part in the afternoon CLE “Planning: Practice Crisis Management & Avoiding Receiverships” were Frank O. Brown, Jr., Carol B. Gravitt, chair of the VSB general practice section, and John C. Johnson of Frith, Anderson & Peake in Roanoke. Moderating was George Shanks.

VSB CONFERENCE OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS
Three years ago, Judge Thomas D. Horne, of the Leesburg Circuit Court, developed the concept of lawyers hosting a summer law camp mock trial program. It involved a weeklong overnight camp where 11th graders would learn about the work of a trial lawyer by participating in a mock trial. The camp would be held on or about the last week of June, just after the end of the school year and before the start of the July 4 holiday. Named “Leadership in the Law” Summer Camp, it was designed to help high school students gain appreciation for the American judicial system, to further an understanding of the role of lawyers, and to develop reasoning, analytical and oral advocacy skills.

The concept became a reality in Loudoun County through the hard work and dedication of volunteer lawyers, court personnel, public officials, members of the public and friends of friends who made it a success. For the past three years, 24 specially selected 11th graders spent the last Friday of the last week in June in a courtroom where they made opening statements, directed and cross-examined witnesses and closed with surprising vigor.

In addition to the opportunities shared by the campers, the enjoyment felt by the lawyers who spent time at the camp was universal. Whether it was because the time spent with the students helped the lawyers relive the simplicity of their past or reminded them that we take for granted what trial lawyers do when we go to court or file a pleading, the week left many invigorated.

After observing the Loudoun program, the Arlington County Bar Association and the Alexandria Bar Association both endorsed holding a similar program, following the same model. The site of the 2003 Arlington and Alexandria Summer Law Camp will be Marymount University in Arlington and will take place from Sunday, June 22, 2003, to Friday, June 27, 2003 (the same week as the Loudoun Camp). Twenty-four students will be selected from various high schools in Arlington and Alexandria to ensure that a diverse student body will experience what it takes to put on a mock trial, to be held in the courtrooms of the Arlington County Circuit Court.

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**Operation Enduring Lamp**

Under the ABA’s Operation Enduring Lamp project, 54 programs operated by state and local bar associations in 41 states have mobilized volunteer lawyers who provide pro bono advice and assistance to service members and their families. Practical, usable materials posted on the Operation Enduring Lamp Web site (www.abanet.org/legalservices/helpservicists/home.html) are designed to help service members make sure their legal affairs are in order, and to plan for their families during their absence. Explanations of their legal rights are posted there, together with checklists of necessary information and legal steps that service personnel and their families should take with respect to medical needs, employment, family relationships, contracts they entered in civilian life, and many other day-to-day legal needs.

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**Prince William County Bar Association Helps the Public Find a Lawyer**

The Prince William County Bar Association, Inc., (PW CBA) has launched a Web site (www.pwcba.org) that includes a “Find a Lawyer” feature, providing public access to the entire membership of the local bar. Users of the Web site can search for an attorney by area of law practices, by attorney’s last name or by law firm name.

“The searchable directory provides a particularly valuable service for the public in their search for a local attorney practicing in a specific area of law. It reflects the PW CBA’s commitment to promoting public access to quality legal representation in Prince William County and in the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park,” according to PW CBA President Kathleen Latham Farrell.

Bar associations typically create Lawyer Referral Services (LRS) to facilitate public access to local attorneys. The PW CBA will evaluate such a program in the future because of the higher level of customer service provided through personal contact with an LRS administrator.
The Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association held a night of dinner and dancing on March 15, 2003, at the Boar’s Head Inn in Charlottesville.

The Henrico County Bar Association held its annual banquet on April 26 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The keynote speaker was former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia Harry L. Carrico.

The Lee County Bar Association has purchased a computer system and a legal research program to be housed in the law library of the Lee County Courthouse for members to use to meet their legal research needs. Also, the LCBA made a donation to the Lee County Veterans War Memorial, currently under construction at the Cumberland Bowl Park in Jonesville.

The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia held their Spring 2003 “Completely Casual” Conference April 10–12 at Wintergreen.

The Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association presented a trial advocacy CLE on January 23, 2003. Topics covered were voir dire and jury selection, examination and cross-examination of witnesses and post-evidentiary motions. Other CLEs presented by the NPBA were “Exploring the Ethical Boundaries of Advertising for Legal Services” on March 13, 2003, and “ADR 2003: Current Trends and Issues in Local and State ADR Practice” on February 13, 2003 (presented by NPBA’s ADR committee).

The Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys sponsored a Law Suits Day on Wednesday, May 14, 2003, at the Circuit Courts of Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield and Petersburg. The public dropped off their clean and ready to wear professional clothing, accessories and shoes which were delivered to the Greater Richmond Employment Assistance Team, a welfare-to-work initiative that assists women who are re-entering the workforce.

During the 113th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Bar Association in January 2003, the VBA Law Practice Management Division put together a unique three-hour program, “A New Take on Professional Skills Development.” Experts in the fields of psychology, marketing and personal organization demonstrated cutting-edge professional skills training programs developed specifically for lawyers.

The VBA’s 113th Summer Meeting will be held July 10–13, 2003, at The Greenbrier, in conjunction with the West Virginia Bar Association.

In October the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association will be conducting a new CLE program in Charlottesville, focused on helping lawyers practicing solo or in small firms stay on top of practice developments and the latest legal trends. For more information on this two-day event, contact the VTLA at (804) 343-1143 or vtlaw@vtla.com.

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So You’re 18 is one way to level life’s playing field for those being thrust onto it in earnest. By making information available in a concise format to high school seniors and those community institutions with which they have frequent contact, the CLBA has attempted to bridge the transition from “juvenile” to “adult” in a positive, up-beat way designed to inform, not threaten. And in recognition of the changing complexion of our Commonwealth, this year’s publication has been printed in Spanish as well as in English and will be distributed throughout the state for the benefit of the 24,000 public school students for whom English is a second language.

The CLBA is contemplating translations of this pamphlet into other languages as well, recognizing as we do that “the melting pot” has not cooled. Indeed, it has expanded in directions our parents never imagined and which we are now only beginning to understand. But if we as a profession want to remain responsive to those we serve, we must endeavor to speak a common language—the language of the Rule of Law, with all the reverence and respect for it that phrase implies. So You’re 18 is a worthy step in that direction.
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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 20, 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 Jeannie Dahnk will share her goals for next year;
• Awards of Merit winners will be recognized; and
• The 2003–2004 CLBA Executive Committee will be elected.

We hope you will be able to join us on June 20th 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 16.

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/anmtng for registration forms, schedules, or to register on-line.