Melendez-Díaz and Confrontation – Practicality and Efficiency v. Constitutional Guarantees

Sponsored by the Criminal Law Section
Virginia State Bar

Friday, June 18, 2010 - 11:00 a.m.
Cavalier Oceanfront Hotel
(1.5 Credits; no Ethics)

The program will involve a detailed discussion of the constitutional and financial implications of implementing the mandates of the Sixth Amendment and Melendez-Díaz in criminal trials in Virginia. Speakers will address the matter of how Virginia will afford the requirement of financing sufficient laboratory support to provide testimony and expert attendance in every criminal trial requiring forensic and expert opinion, from the smallest drug misdemeanor to the most complicated DNA-involved felony.

Steven D. Benjamin – Benjamin & Desportes, P.C., Richmond.

John G. Douglass – Dean and Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond.

Stephen R. McCullough – Senior Appellate Counsel and Opinions Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Richmond.

Moderator:

David P. Baugh - Virginia Capital Defender/Central District, Richmond. Immediate Past Chair, Criminal Law Section.

Annual Section Business Meeting: 12:30 p.m.

Register for the 2010 VSB Annual Meeting and this program