

Highlights of Council Meeting

October 27, 2000, Williamsburg, VA

At its regular fall meeting on October 27, 2000, the Council of the Virginia State Bar took the following significant actions:

Malpractice Insurance

Adopted the recommendation of the Special Committee on Lawyer Malpractice Insurance that the bar endorse the Attorneys Liability Protection Society as its malpractice insurance carrier, effective January 1, 2001. Council authorized the president to execute the proposed Affiliation and Endorsement Agreement with ALPS. It also concurred with the committee's recommendation that the bar waive the covenant not to compete in the present endorsement agreement with ANLIR.

Clients' Protection Fund

Amended the Clients' Protection Fund rules to raise the per claim maximum payment from \$25,000 to \$50,000; delete the existing income and net worth restrictions; and extend and clarify the time limit for filing a claim.

Access to Legal Services

Adopted a resolution opposing state restrictions on state, local and private funding sources for legal aid societies that would disadvantage legal services clients.

Approved the VSB's participation as amicus curiae in *United States v. Legal Services for New York City* in the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, opposing Legal Services Corporation's audit requirements which would require disclosure of confidential client information.

Public Access to the Disciplinary System

Heard a report on the work to date of the Task Force on Public Access to the Disciplinary System and a recommendation from the president that the system be open only after a determination of probable cause has been made with respect to a pending complaint.

Legislative Activity

Overruled authorization by the Executive Committee at its September 2000 meeting for the Special Committee on Technology and the Practice of Law to participate in drafting and advocating for legislation in the General Assembly which would restrict access by electronic means to sensitive personal information in court files in Virginia. The Council will consider at its February 2001 meeting whether the existing delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to approved legislative activity should be revoked.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR Mission Statement



The mission of the Virginia State Bar, as an administrative agency of the Supreme Court of Virginia, is (1) to regulate the legal profession of Virginia; (2) to advance the availability and quality of legal services provided to the people of Virginia; and (3) to assist in improving the legal profession and the judicial system.

Next Council Meeting

The next council meeting is scheduled to take place in Richmond on February 23 and 24, 2001.

