

First Solo & Small-Firm Practitioners Forum Slated for March 18 in Southwest Virginia

Attorneys to share ideas and concerns with Court and bar

Virginia's solo and small-firm lawyers will have a new forum for learning practical, nuts-and-bolts law-firm management strategies—and earning free continuing legal education credits—next month in Southwest Virginia.

They also will have an opportunity to describe their needs and concerns to members of the Supreme Court of Virginia and Virginia State Bar officials.

The first-ever Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum will be held Friday, March 18, at 1:30 P.M. at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, located off Interstate 81 at exit 14 in Abingdon. The forum will be followed by a Town Hall Meeting. The program will conclude with a reception at 5:30 P.M. No charge will be made for the program, which is supported by the VSB.

The forum takes the place of what previously was the afternoon session of the VSB's Abingdon Bar Leaders Institute. The Twentieth Annual BLI consists of only a morning session in Abingdon, but will maintain its traditional morning-and-afternoon format at its March 7 session in Richmond. (See story at right.)

The Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum is a project of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Its aim is to give lawyers information they need to deal with the management problems they encounter in small practices. The program will carry 3 CLE credits, with 1.5 in ethics, at no charge.

"I hope to see a lot of attorneys from Southwest Virginia," said Virginia Supreme Court Justice Cynthia D. Kinser of Pennington Gap, who chairs the committee that put the forum together. She hopes the program will "reach practically all attorneys who practice in this part of the state."

A featured speaker for the forum will be Nancy Byerly Jones, president of a North Carolina-based law-office management consulting and mediation firm

and once director of the North Carolina State Bar's former Lawyers' Management Assistance Program. She will offer practical advice on technology and trust-account management.

Other speakers will include:

- Roscoe B. Stephenson III of Covington, immediate past chair of the VSB Disciplinary Board. He will outline ethical issues crucial to solo and small-firm lawyers.
- Frank O. Brown Jr. of Richmond. A former chair of the VSB Senior Lawyers Conference, he will describe how to set up a plan for protecting clients should a lawyer die or become disabled.
- A panel of bar leaders, who will talk about VSB resources that lawyers can draw on to help with their practices. Moderated by VSB President David P. Bobzien of Fairfax, the panel includes Phillip V. Anderson of Roanoke, VSB president-elect; William E. Bradshaw of Big Stone Gap, a VSB Executive Committee member; Joseph A. Condo of McLean, a former VSB president; Jeannie P. Dahnk of Fredericksburg, VSB immediate past president; and Elizabeth K. Dillon of Roanoke, a past president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

The Town Hall Meeting will be moderated by Virginia Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr., joined by Kinser and VSB officials, including Bar Counsel Barbara A. Williams, who oversees the disciplinary department.

Kinser said the panel wants lawyers to answer the questions, "What are your needs? How can the state bar help you?"

The organizers plan to take the forum and Town Hall Meeting on the road to three or four other areas of the state, Kinser said.

For registration form, see page 44.

Bar Leaders Institute To Be Held Next Month

The Twentieth Annual Bar Leaders Institute—the Virginia State Bar's program to energize, encourage and inspire officers of local bar associations across the commonwealth—will take place in March at two locations.

The first will be Monday, March 7, from 8:30 A.M. until 3 P.M. at the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law. The program will carry 2 hours of CLE, with 1 hour ethics credit, and the fee will be forty dollars.

The second BLI will take place Friday, March 18, from 9:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M. at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon. The center is off Interstate 81 at exit 14. That BLI program will carry 1 hour of CLE, with 1 hour ethics credit, at no charge.

The Abingdon BLI will be immediately followed by the Supreme Court of Virginia's first-ever Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum and Town Hall Meeting, from 1:30 to 5:30 P.M. The forum will carry an additional 3 hours of CLE, with 1.5 hours ethics credit, at no charge. (See story at left.)

Lunch will be included in both BLI programs and will be sponsored by Attorneys Liability Protection Society.

The luncheon speaker in Richmond will be Dadie Perlov of Consensus Management Group. She is an expert in association structure, governance and culture. Her topic will be "A Good General Knows Where His Army Is—A Great One Knows Where It Will Be Tomorrow."

In Abingdon, Dr. Thomas A. Morris—president of Emory and Henry University and a commentator on Virginia politics—will be the luncheon speaker.

The BLI program details and a registration form follow on pages 42–44.

The Bar Leaders Institute is sponsored by the VSB's Conference of Local Bar Associations.

— TWENTIETH ANNUAL —



BAR LEADERS INSTITUTE

Richmond BLI — March 7

T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond

Abingdon BLI — March 18

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum — March 18

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Richmond BLI — March 7: University of Richmond School of Law
(\$40)

- 9:00–9:30 **WELCOME**—*Manuel A. Capsalis*—Chair, CLBA Executive Committee
GREETINGS—*David P. Bobzien*—President, Virginia State Bar
SO YOU'RE 18 UPDATE
LEGALLY INFORMED
- 9:30–10:30 **NUTS & BOLTS OF LEADERSHIP**—Tips for Reenergizing Your Bar
• *George W. Shanks*—Secretary, CLBA Executive Committee (moderator)
• *Raymond B. Benzinger*—VSB Council Representative, 17th Circuit
• *Frank O. Brown Jr.*—Past Chair, VSB Senior Lawyers Conference
• *Andrew M. Conclin*—President-elect, Henrico County Bar Association and 2004 Local Bar Leader of the Year
• *Jimmy F. Robinson Jr.*—President-elect, VSB Young Lawyers Conference
- 10:30–10:45 **BREAK**
- 10:45–11:15 **INDIGENT DEFENSE TASK FORCE REPORT**—*Steven D. Benjamin*—Member, VSB Indigent Defense Task Force; Member, Chief Justice's Indigent Defense Training Initiative; Immediate Past President, Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Board Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; 2003 Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award Recipient
- 11:15–12:15 **LAWYERS HELPING LAWYERS (CLE/ETHICS)**
James E. Leffler, MS—Mental Health Services Coordinator, LHL
- 12:15 **LUNCH (SPONSORED BY ALPS)**—Introduction by *David P. Bobzien*
Dadie Perlov of Consensus Management Group, an expert in association structure, governance and culture, will present "A Good General Knows Where His Army Is—A Great One Knows Where It Will Be Tomorrow"
- 1:15–2:00 **WHAT I KNOW NOW THAT I WISH I HAD KNOWN THEN**—*Glenn C. Lewis*—VSB Council Representative, 19th Circuit; 2004 VSB Family Law Section Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient; Past President, Fairfax Bar Association

continued on page 43

Richmond BLI—March 7

(continued)

- 2:00–3:00 **FUTURE OF THE JUDICIARY (CLE)**—*Kathy L. Mays*—Director of Judicial Planning, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
2 hours CLE (1 hour Ethics)
-

Abingdon BLI—March 18

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

(No charge)

- 9:30–10:00 **REGISTRATION**
- 10:00–10:30 **WELCOME**
Manuel A. Capsalis—Chair, CLBA Executive Committee
- GREETINGS**
David P. Bobzien—President, Virginia State Bar
- SO YOU'RE 18 UPDATE**
- LEGALLY INFORMED**
- 10:30–11:30 **NUTS & BOLTS OF LEADERSHIP—Tips for Reenergizing Your Bar**
- *Phillip V. Anderson*—President-elect, Virginia State Bar (moderator)
 - *Tracy A. Giles*—Past President, VSB Young Lawyers Conference
 - *Lisa A. McConnell*—Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Scott County
 - *Gregory T. St. Ours*—Past President, Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar Association and 2001 Local Bar Leader of the Year
 - *William T. Wilson*—At-Large Member, CLBA Executive Committee and Board Member, VSB Senior Lawyers Conference
- 11:30–11:45 **INDIGENT DEFENSE TASK FORCE REPORT**
Steven D. Benjamin—Member, VSB Indigent Defense Task Force; Member, Chief Justice's Indigent Defense Training Initiative; Immediate Past President, Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Board Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; 2003 Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award Recipient
- 11:45–12:30 **LAWYERS HELPING LAWYERS (CLE/ETHICS)**
Susan D. Pauley, CSAC—Executive Director, LHL
- 12:30–1:30 **LUNCH (SPONSORED BY ALPS)**
Introduction by *Phillip V. Anderson*,
Dr. Thomas A. Morris—President, Emory & Henry College
1 hour CLE (1 hour Ethics)

Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum and BLI registration form on page 44

Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum—March 18 (No charge)
Abingdon—Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
A resource for attorneys, inspired by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

- 1:30–2:15 **ETHICAL ISSUES CRUCIAL TO SOLO AND SMALL-FIRM PRACTITIONERS (CLE/ETHICS)**—*Roscoe B. Stephenson III*—Immediate Past Chair, VSB Disciplinary Board
- 2:15–3:15 **LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT, TECHNOLOGY & TRUST ACCOUNTING (CLE)**
Nancy Byerly Jones—President of Nancy Byerly Jones & Associates Inc., a law office management consulting and mediation service firm
- 3:15–3:30 **BREAK**
- 3:30–4:00 **LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT, TECHNOLOGY & TRUST ACCOUNTING (CLE)** (*continued*)
- 4:00–4:30 **PROTECTING YOUR CLIENTS IN THE EVENT OF DEATH OR DISABILITY (CLE/ETHICS)**—*Frank O. Brown Jr.*—Past Chair, VSB Senior Lawyers Conference
- 4:30–5:00 **WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DOING FOR YOU— Available Resources Provided by the Virginia State Bar**
- *David P. Bobzien*—President, Virginia State Bar (moderator)
 - *Phillip V. Anderson*—President-elect, Virginia State Bar
 - *William E. Bradshaw*—Executive Committee Member, Virginia State Bar
 - *Joseph A. Condo*—Past President, Virginia State Bar
 - *Jeannie P. Dahnk*—Immediate Past President, Virginia State Bar
 - *Elizabeth K. Dillon*—President, Roanoke Bar Association and Past President, Virginia Women Attorneys Association
- 5:00–5:45 **TOWN HALL MEETING**
- *The Honorable Leroy R. Hassell Sr.*—Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia (moderator)
 - *The Honorable Cynthia D. Kinser*—Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia
 - *Manuel A. Capsalis*—Chair, CLBA Executive Committee
 - *Thomas A. Edmonds*—Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Virginia State Bar and President-elect, National Association of Bar Executives
 - *Barbara A. Williams*—Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar
- 5:45 **RECEPTION**—All attendees are invited to attend

3 hours CLE (1.5 hours Ethics)

REGISTRATION

Please reserve a place for me at the 20th Annual Bar Leaders Institute.

- Please check one:
- Richmond** I will attend the Richmond BLI (lunch included)*
- Abingdon** I will attend the Abingdon BLI Only (lunch included)*
 I will attend the Abingdon Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum Only
 I will attend the Abingdon BLI and Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forum (lunch included)*

Name _____

Preferred first name (for name tag) _____

Bar Title _____

Bar Association _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please return this registration form and your check (if applicable) made payable to the Virginia State Bar to:
Local & Specialty Bar Relations, Virginia State Bar, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2800

*Lunches in both locations are being sponsored by the Attorneys Liability Protection Society (ALPS).