All You’ve Got to Do Is Ask

AN OLD FRIEND OF MY DAD’S had a well-deserved reputation for his leadership with community organizations and as a tremendous fundraiser. At a gala dinner, held in his honor, he was asked to share the secrets of his success. He smiled, as he looked out at the audience and after a long pause told us, “All you’ve got to do is ask.”

As chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations, I’m extending an invitation to you to partake of the many resources the Virginia State Bar has to offer. The task of effective bar leadership is new to most presidents and vice presidents of volunteer bars. Learning is usually done on the job and since most terms of office are just one year, it’s over just when you start to figure it out. The Virginia State Bar is ready to come to your rescue. All you’ve got to do is ask.

The CLBA, along with other sections of the Virginia State Bar, can assist your bar by:

• assisting your association to find best governance practices;

• facilitating the exchange of ideas and communication with other bars;

• coordinating programs with other specialty and local bars;

• helping improve your bar’s productivity and accountability;

• bolstering member recruitment and retention; and

• providing a liaison between your bar and other bars throughout the state.

The Virginia State Bar’s many standing and special committees can help your bar — from technology issues to continuing legal education. The State Bar’s helpful staff stands ready to assist your local bar to be even more successful. All you’ve got to do is ask.

To fulfill its mission of grooming better bar leaders the CLBA will present a Bar Leaders Institute (BLI) on March 5, 2012, at the University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law. We are pleased to have Elizabeth Derrico, a representative of the American Bar Association, present a most informative session on strategic planning for bar associations of all sizes. The presentation will involve helping your bar in many ways, including how to:

• form a mission statement;

• devise a strategic framework;

• form a long- and short-term strategic plan;

• create a budget;

• implement programs; and

• evaluate success.

Registration information and other details will be posted on the CLBA page of the VSB website as it becomes available at http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/clba/. Your CLBA Executive Committee invites current and prospective bar leaders to attend this valuable program. Please contact Paulette Davidson at the VSB (804) 775-0521, davidson@v sb.org with any thoughts or questions regarding how the VSB can be of assistance to your bar association.

All you’ve got to do is ask.

Bar Leaders Institute (BLI)
March 5, 2012
University of Richmond
T.C. Williams School of Law
see page 24 for more information