

Dear Professor Malawer:

I recently read the feature on global trade law in the December 2007 *Virginia Lawyer* and was excited to learn about the evolving legal dimensions of global commerce.

I found your article on U.S.-China trade litigation to be especially stimulating and relevant. The violation of the National Treatment Principal alleged by the United States against China in *VAT & Integrated Circuits* reminded me of an international arbitration hearing I participated in before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes in December 2005. My research as a legal assistant in this case focused on our firm's claim that the respondent violated article 1102 of the North American Free Trade Agreement with respect to its treatment of our client's services. As you may know, article 1102 obliges the NAFTA parties to treat investors from other NAFTA parties as favorably as domestic investors.

The underlying dynamics of U.S.-China trade are rarely as simple as portrayed in the mainstream media. Your article, while focusing on the legal scope of international trade between the two countries, offers a geopolitical context for a matter of great importance to American interests in the twenty-first century. Clearly, rules and regulations of the global commercial arena will play a critical part in forming attitudes that the United States and China hold toward one another for years to come.

Garrett H. Hooe
Richmond

Dear Editor,

In the February 2008 edition of *Virginia Lawyer* magazine, VSB President Howard W. Martin Jr. expresses a well-meaning and sincere thank you to those lawyers throughout the state who "volunteer their time and energy for bar and law-related activities each year." His pyramid diagram

illustrating the Virginia State Bar volunteer system is educational and informative. However, Mr. Martin has neglected to recognize those nonattorney volunteers who act as lay members on VSB committees donating their time and energy. Lay volunteers are neither mentioned in the body of the article nor represented in the pyramid.

Lay volunteers on VSB committees have the opportunity to provide an important, objective perspective during committee discussions and balance to committee decision making. It also provides the lay volunteer with a very positive insight into the legal profession, the commitment that our Virginia lawyers have towards their clients, and the good work being done by the Virginia State Bar. These have been my experiences during my tenure on the Standing Committee for Lawyer Advertising and Solicitation.

I understand and respect the fact that the primary audience for the magazine is attorneys. However, the membership should be aware of the role that lay volunteers play in the Virginia State Bar.

David R. Selig
Chief Executive Officer, Community Care Network of Virginia Inc.

Mr. Martin's response:

Mr. Selig is absolutely correct about the value of lay volunteers to our system of governance. As my February column mentioned, fifty-nine nonlawyers serve in the bar's disciplinary system alone. Many more serve as the voice of the public on the other committees that carry out the bar's mission. Add the monetary value of the nonlawyers' time to the pyramid, and the estimated yearly contribution of all volunteers is substantially higher than what was shown on the diagram.

Be assured, Mr. Selig, that my gratitude extends to you and to all lay VSB volunteers for your diligent service. The bar could not do its job effectively without you.

Dear Editor:

The March 2008 *Virginia Lawyer Register* includes documentation of the suspension for five years of a (male) lawyer who stipulated to having inappropriately touched or solicited sex in lieu of a fee from six female clients. (And these are the ones who came forward.) Happily for him, a charge of solicitation for prostitution based on taped evidence had earlier been dropped and he was allowed to plead guilty to assault and battery. The five-year suspension, acquiesced in by the bar via its (male) counsel, was approved by a panel of three (male) circuit judges. There is not a word in the suspension order about mandatory mental health counseling and risk assessment prior to reinstatement. And we wonder why in the public eye lawyers are so often rated at the level of pond scum.

Victor M. Glasberg
Alexandria

Letters

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