



Senior Law Day Programs — Five Years of Success

MAY 24, 2010, will mark the fifth anniversary of the flagship program of the Senior Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar. On May 24, 2005, under the able leadership of William T. “Bill” Wilson of Covington, the first Senior Law Day Program was held in the Alleghany County Circuit courtroom. Planned by the Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association in conjunction with the League of Older Americans, the program provided valuable information to senior citizens in the community and was attended by more than 150 persons.

Since that initial offering, more than twenty programs have been held across the commonwealth from Luray to Marion and from Fairfax County to the Northern Neck. The Senior Lawyers Conference now offers a blueprint for local groups that wish to help sponsor such a program. An information packet can be obtained from the Virginia State Bar office by contacting Paulette J. Davidson at (804) 775-0521 or davidson@vsb.org.

In many instances, members of the Board of Governors of the Senior Lawyers Conference have provided the plans and local bar associations have implemented a program in partnership with local area agencies on aging. As the program developed, distribution of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* has been integral to the effort. Handbook chapters often are used as topics. Each program is designed for the special needs of a community.

Subjects include Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, supported living and nursing homes, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, protection against fraud, and elder abuse.

The programs have been held at retirement communities and churches as well as courthouses.

F. Warren Haynie Jr. of Lottsburg worked with the Northern Neck Bar Association to sponsor a series of Senior Law Day programs in Kilmarnock, Montross, and Tappahannock. On some occasions,

the Senior Law Day Program combines with a continuing legal education program for solo and small-firm practitioners.

On January 21, 2010, 350 persons attended a Senior Law Day Program at led by SLC board member Frank O. Brown Jr. and his son Matthew, at Richmond’s First Baptist Church

More programs are being planned. Joseph W. “Rick” Richmond Jr. is spearheading a program to be held on May 4, 2010, in Charlottesville, where it will be videotaped in the city council chambers and broadcast on public access television. Other programs are scheduled for this year in Marion, Leesburg, and Lexington.

As we move forward, we hope that more local bar associations across the state will tap this valuable resource as a way to reach out to their communities and further enhance a positive image of attorneys.



The Senior Citizens Handbook: a resource for seniors, their families, and their caregivers. 2009 edition available.

We’re as busy as ever at age fifty-five and over, and we face new challenges and opportunities, with little time to search them all out. How can anyone find out about them all and, with such an array of choices, how does anyone begin to make a selection?

The Senior Citizens Handbook. Available online at <http://www.vsb.org/docs/conferences/senior-lawyers/SCHandbook09.pdf>.