

Look for the Silver Lining!

by Robert E. Hawthorne

Greetings from the VSB Senior Lawyers Conference (SLC). The April 2018 issue of *Virginia Lawyer* magazine is the Senior Lawyers Conference-dedicated issue. The SLC currently has some 19,630 members. All members of the Virginia State Bar who are 55 years of age or older and who are in good standing are automatically members of the SLC (we might be called the VSB's "Silver Lining"). The purpose of the SLC is to uphold the honor of the profession of law, to apply the knowledge and experience of the profession to the promotion of the public good, to encourage cordial discourse and interaction among the members of the Virginia State Bar, and to pursue its mission and goals as follows: The SLC serves the particular interests of senior lawyers and promotes the welfare of seniors generally.

As such, the SLC plans and presents programs and activities, produces publications of interest to senior lawyers, and coordinates activities for senior lawyers with state and local bar associations. To promote the welfare of seniors generally, the SLC studies issues of concern to seniors, prepares and presents programs and publications designed to explore and develop such issues, advocates appropriately on behalf of such issues, and cooperates with other entities interested in such matters.

The SLC, which was created in 2001, grew out of the VSB Senior Lawyers Section which was established in 1987. The core programs of the SLC are coordinating and presenting Senior Citizen Law Days, providing pro bono legal services, presenting CLE Ethics Programs to lawyers on protecting their and their clients' interests in the event of the lawyer's disability, death, or other disaster, providing input on lawyer well-being, sponsoring the Fifty Year Awards Ceremony at each Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting, and publishing the VSB Senior Citizens Handbook.

In response to interest expressed by Virginia lawyers, in 2017, the SLC worked

with Virginia CLE in planning, producing, and presenting a three-credit hour MCLE Ethics Program, entitled *How To Close, Sell, Or Buy A Law Practice*, which was presented as a live interactive webcast and telephone seminar in November and December 2017. The seminar is available now on video on the Virginia CLE website (www.vacle.org).

One of the articles in this issue is *The Importance of Guardians Ad Litem* by Marissa D. Mitchell. This article is part of a focus on guardians ad litem by the Senior Lawyers Conference.

The many activities of the SLC happen because of the contributions of the members of the board. As chair, I would be remiss if I did not thank Frank Brown Jr. for his role in producing the conference newsletter, conducting the seminar on closing a law practice, being a presenter at the CLE referenced above, putting together this dedicated issue, and assisting in the preparation of this chair's introduction. Thanks are also due to John Oakey for his efforts for pro-bono services. Robert Vaughan Jr. is thanked for his work with the Senior Law Day program, as well as being a presenter at the CLE program with Frank Brown, Jim McCauley, and me.

The SLC hopes you find this issue to be helpful and informative.



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