

Highlights of the February 24, 2018, Virginia State Bar Council Meeting

At its meeting on February 24, 2018, in Richmond, the Virginia State Bar Council heard the following significant reports and took the following actions, all of which are subject to approval by the Supreme Court of Virginia:

Legal Ethics Opinion 1750

The VSB Council voted 55-5 in favor of Legal Ethics Opinion 1750 regarding advertising issues. LEO 1750 is a compendium opinion on advertising issues, in light of the significant updates to Rules 7.1 and 7.3 which took effect on July 1, 2017. Throughout the opinion, references to the Rules of Professional Conduct have been updated with the current “false or misleading” language of Rule

7.1, and references to since-withdrawn or modified LEOs have been removed or updated. The proposed LEO will be sent to the Supreme Court of Virginia for its consideration.

Amendments to Paragraph 13 to change references from CRESPA to RESA

The VSB Council unanimously approved amendments to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13 that conform Paragraph 13 to Chapter 27.2 of title 55 of the Code of Virginia, renaming CRESPA (Consumer Real Estate Settlement Protection Act) to RESA (Real Estate Settlement Agents). The proposed changes will be sent to the Supreme Court of Virginia for its consideration.

Amendments to Paragraph 13 to definitions of burden of proof and Disciplinary Record

The VSB Council unanimously approved amendments to Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia and the addition of Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-1.1 to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. These amendments add clarity to the definition of Disciplinary Record and define burden of proof in disciplinary proceedings as clear and convincing evidence. The proposed changes will be sent to the Supreme Court of Virginia for its consideration.



The Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations sponsored the annual Bar Leaders Institute on March 9 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. CLE panel members included (above, left) Tameeka Williams, Lewis Martin, and Jay Myerson. Attendees (above, right) VSB President Doris Henderson Causey (left) with Christina T. Parrish, president of Hill Tucker Bar Association, and Richard E. Garriott Jr., president-elect of the VBA. Speakers included Judge Manuel A. Capsalis, Causey, and CLSBA Chair Alan McGraw.

Local and Specialty Bar Elections

The Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.

Sarah Jean Knapp, President
Kristina Keech Spitler, President-elect
Jacqueline Waynmita Lucas, Secretary
Justin Michael Hargrove, Treasurer
Mark Thomas Crossland, Director
Turkessa Bynum Rollins, Director
Jessica Harbeson Foster, Director
William Deckel Wides, Director

The VSB Team that Helps Virginia Lawyers Get It Done



Left to right: Paulette Davidson, Lauren Parrish, Maureen Stengel, Dolly Shaffner, Andrew Barber, and Stephanie Blanton

When they are not running busy practices, or serving as judges and commonwealth's attorneys, or working as lobbyists, legislators, in-house counsel, and myriad other roles that high-achieving lawyers are known for, many Virginia lawyers work with a dedicated team of staff at the Virginia State Bar to make an entire range of information, events, and learning opportunities available to people of all ages across the commonwealth.

Much of this work emanates out of bar services and the section and conference liaisons — the team that runs everything from the Supreme Court-mandated Professionalism Course, to the CLE-packed Annual Meeting, to the Fee Dispute Resolution Program, to the conferences serving new and established lawyers and promoting diversity, to the 20 specialty law sections ranging from criminal lawyers to family lawyers — each striving to improve the legal profession through networking and peer learning.

Other resources coordinated by this team and written by Virginia

lawyers, include the popular *Senior Citizen's Handbook*, which provides legal information to Virginia's aging population, and the *So You're 18* program that informs teenagers about their rights and responsibilities once they reach the age of majority. The team also implements the highly successful TECHSHOW, now in its fifth year, and the Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr. Indigent Criminal Defense Training Seminar, now in its 14th year, each hosting over 500 participants.

This VSB team includes: Maureen Stengel, who is the head of the department and has worked for the Virginia State Bar for 27 years, overseeing not only the professionalism course, but the annual meeting, Young Lawyers Conference, and much more; Dolly Shaffner, who has been the unflappable force behind too many events to count, as well as liaison to multiple sections in her 25 years at the VSB; Paulette Davidson, who coordinates the Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations, has a working knowledge of every single bar in the com-

monwealth, and brings 28 years of experience to the VSB; and, Stephanie Blanton, with seven years here, who, in addition to handling FOIA compliance and assisting the bar's deputy executive director, is also tasked with coordinating the Diversity Conference and the Fee Dispute Resolution program. And bringing new faces and fresh ideas to the team are Lauren Parrish and Andrew Barber, who handle the untold details required to get so many lawyers to so many places.

Those of us at the VSB never fail to be impressed by our Virginia lawyers' willingness to volunteer, to speak, to teach, and to help, and this team of bar service professionals is the quiet force behind those hard-working lawyers.

If you would like to be a part of any VSB program, please contact Maureen Stengel at stengel@vsb.org, and she will connect you with the appropriate resources.