

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

This is with reference to the Virginia State Bar's president's message in *Virginia Lawyer*, October 2006.

It is not enough that "(t)he MCLE rules serve a laudable purpose." Americans are inundated with laws based on good intentions. Laws should deliver a laudable result; otherwise the legal system itself will fall into disrepute.

The VSB president presents no evidence that Mandatory Continuing Legal Education does achieve the purpose ascribed to it, and the 40 percent of Virginia lawyers to whom she refers may think it does not. Among busy people procrastination is an ordering of priorities.

MCLE provides well-paid employment for people whose services might be more

productively used, unless, of course, it is shown to work.

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