Highlights of the October 4, 2013, Virginia State Bar Council Meeting

At its meeting on October 4, 2013, in Norfolk, the Virginia State Bar Council heard the following significant reports and took the following actions:

Amendments to VSB Bylaws Regarding Executive Committee Size
The motion to amend the Bylaws of Council, Part II, Article VI, “Executive Committee,” Sec. 1, changing the total number of members from thirteen to sixteen failed by a vote of 28 to 28.

Rule Change
Council unanimously approved amendments to Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5 and Comments 5 and 13 regarding the temporary practice of foreign lawyers.

Paragraph 13-13 Amendments
Council approved by unanimous vote the proposed amendments to Paragraph 13-13 regarding participation and disqualification of counsel.

Clients’ Protection Fund Limits and Assessment
Council approved 48 to 5 seeking an amendment Va. Code § 54.1-3913.1 to authorize the Supreme Court to continue the $25 CPF assessment beyond June 30, 2015.

Council voted 44 to 12 to refer the proposed per-claim limit increase to $100,000 to the CPF Board for consideration of a gradual phase-in.

Virginia Code § 2.2-1839 Amendment
Council approved by unanimous vote pursuing the amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-1839 to include a risk management plan for VSB pro bono volunteers.

YLC Website and Social Media Policy
Council approved by unanimous vote the proposed YLC website and social media policy.

Weiner Is President-elect Designee of the Virginia State Bar

Edward L. Weiner, founder and senior partner at Weiner Spivey & Miller PLC in Fairfax, is the new president-elect designee of the Virginia State Bar.

Weiner will take over as president for the 2015–16 year. He will follow Kevin E. Martingayle, who will be president for 2014–15 after the term of Sharon D. Nelson ends.

Weiner is president of the Fairfax Bar Association. He also is a past president of the VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations. In 2012 he was appointed to serve on the Virginia Supreme Court professionalism faculty.

Weiner founded Jazz 4 Justice, a fund-raising model to be used by local bar associations and university music departments to benefit their programs, in 2000. Numerous Virginia universities have joined this partnership between education, music, and law. This event has received an award from the American Bar Association, as well as an award from the VSB for being an innovative fundraising program.

He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton, and received his J.D. from the University of Richmond and his LL.M in International Law from Georgetown University Law Center.

Weiner is a member of the board of directors of the George Mason University Center for the Performing Arts, serves on the board of directors of the University of Richmond Law School Alumni Association, and is the host of an annual Law Day celebration that benefits the Fairfax Law Foundation’s pro bono programs.

His practice areas are personal injury and medical malpractice.

He will become president at the VSB annual meeting in June 2015.