

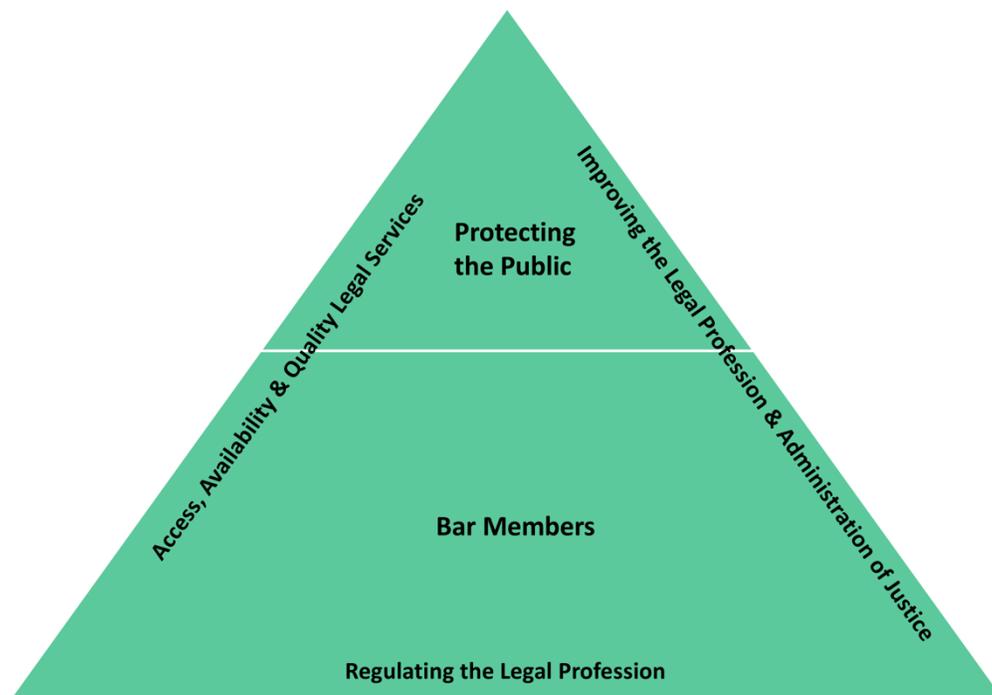
Virginia State Bar Strategic Plan

2019-2024

The Virginia State Bar (VSB) was created in 1938 by the General Assembly as an administrative agency of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The creation of the agency unified Virginia's lawyers in a mandatory state bar. The VSB is governed by its Council and Executive Committee, whose members are elected or appointed from every judicial circuit in the Commonwealth. The mission of the Virginia State Bar, as an administrative agency of the Supreme Court of Virginia, is to protect the public by regulating the legal profession of Virginia, advancing the availability and quality of legal services provided to the people of Virginia, and assisting in improving the legal profession and the administration of justice. <http://www.vsb.org/site/about/>

Goals for 2019-2024:

- I. Protect the Public
- II. Regulate the Profession
- III. Advance Access to Legal Services
- IV. Improve the Legal Profession and the Administration of Justice



Strategic Plan 2019-2024

The strategic plan has four goals within the mission statement. The goals provide a framework for the aspirations and continuous efforts of the committees, conferences, sections, and departments.

Strategies were identified that support the four goals. Many strategies advance multiple goals. To further the strategies, the committees, conferences, sections, and departments should implement programmatic tools or tactics.

- I. Protect the Public** – Protect the public by educating and assisting lawyers to practice ethically and competently, and by disciplining those who violate the Supreme Court's Rules of Professional Conduct, all at no cost to Virginia taxpayers.
 - A. Regulation of the Legal Profession** – Efficiently regulate the legal profession to protect the public from lawyer misconduct.
 - B. Unauthorized Practice of Law** – Promptly investigate and act upon allegations of the unauthorized practice of law.
 - C. Early Intervention** – Identify problems early and promptly intervene.
 - D. Clients' Protection Fund** – Finance and administer the fund to maximize reimbursement of losses caused by the dishonest conduct of lawyers.
 - E. Fee Dispute Resolution** – Foster trust and communication between attorneys and clients and confidence in the legal profession through voluntary fee dispute resolution.
 - F. Public Awareness and Communications** – Promote public awareness of rights and remedies through education and communications.
 - G. Transparency** – Promote public confidence in the profession and the regulatory system through continued transparency.
- II. Regulate the Profession** – Regulate the profession through principles that guide lawyer behavior and enforcement proceedings for noncompliance with such principles.
 - A. Discipline** – Strive for timely investigation and prosecution of disciplinary complaints and the imposition of appropriate sanctions.
 - B. Legal Ethics** – Provide legal ethics opinions and confidential advice through the ethics hotline.

- C. **Client Property** – Prevent loss of client property by expedited investigation, intervention, and resolution of cases involving client property when circumstances warrant.
- III. Advance Access to Legal Services** – Ensuring public access to quality legal services.
- A. **Legal Services** – Encourage and support pro bono efforts and organizations that offer or support civil legal services and indigent defense.
 - B. **Outreach** – Develop and implement law-related community education programs and projects.
 - C. **Diversity** – Encourage availability of diverse population of lawyers competent to serve the Commonwealth’s diverse populations.
 - D. **Technology** – Promote the effective use of technology in the delivery of legal services.
 - E. **Lawyer Referral** – Provide information about the legal system to the public and lawyer referrals to individuals who can afford an attorney.
- IV. Improve the Legal Profession and the Administration of Justice** – Programs and initiatives to improve the legal profession and the administration of justice.
- A. **Advocacy** – Increase public and member understanding of the legal profession and the administration of justice.
 - B. **Candidate Review** – Maintain judicial evaluation processes.
 - C. **Professional Conduct and Ethics** – Inculcate professionalism into, and civility among, its members.
 - D. **Mandatory Continuing Legal Education** – Promote competence and professionalism through high-quality continuing education programs and requirements.
 - E. **Lawyer Population** – Promote diversity in the legal profession and the judiciary.
 - F. **Judicial Independence** – Support judicial independence and educate members and the public about its importance.
 - G. **Communications** – Provide information through publications, the website, and other media.

- H. Leadership** – Provide leadership opportunities and training to local, specialty, and statewide bar leaders and coordinate and recognize volunteers to maximize involvement and minimize attrition.
- I. Well-Being Initiative** – Promote lawyer well-being and organizations with lawyer assistance initiatives.
- J. Enhance the Practice of Law** – Support members through services, benefits, resources, and programs, which enable members to be better lawyers.

Approved by Executive Committee October 25, 2018
Approved by Council October 26, 2018