



[To view this email with images in your browser, click here.](#)

Governance



Volunteers Sought for VSB Disciplinary Board 2024

Three volunteer attorneys and one lay member are needed to serve on the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board beginning on **July 1, 2024**.

New VSB Website Spurs Increased Online Renewals, Fewer Late Fees

This year, 75 percent of lawyers paid online and 90 percent paid on time, increases over both of last year's numbers. The VSB will no longer mail paper statements. **Dues statements for 2024-2025 will be emailed**, so lawyers should keep emails current with the VSB. Lawyers should also check their portal for an update on how to opt out of having their names and addresses disclosed as part of VSB membership lists.



CPF Pays \$272,996 in Last Fiscal Year

The VSB's Clients' Protection Fund (CPF) paid \$272,996 for 32 claims to petitioners during fiscal year 2023.

VSB Seeks Comment on Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Comment deadline is September 11.

Volunteers Sought for Medical Malpractice Review Panels

There are three lawyer vacancies with terms **available immediately**, and six lawyer vacancies **available July 1, 2024**, as of August 29.

Supreme Court of Virginia Amends Rule Pertaining to Discovery and Inspection

Ordered on August 11, 2023, and effective October 10, 2023, the Supreme Court of Virginia has amended Rule 3A:11 regarding Discovery and Inspection.

2024 Annual Meeting Date Change

The 2024 VSB Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach will be held **May 29-June 1**.

Compliance

If you haven't paid your dues: Take Action by the October 8 deadline to **AVOID SUSPENSION**. **Sign in now** to complete outstanding renewal requirements.



The MCLE compliance deadline is **October 31, 2023**. Sign into the VSB Portal to review your MCLE record. Now is also the time to apply for non-approved courses and complete your MCLE requirement.

Reminder: Of the 12.0 CLE hours required each year, 2.0 must be in ethics or professionalism and 4.0 must be from live, interactive programs. Answers to most questions and a list of courses may be found on the MCLE page. If you have questions, please contact the Regulatory Compliance Department at (804) 775-0577 or MCLE@vsb.org.

Discipline

Disciplinary hearings are public meetings found on the disciplinary docket and on the VSB calendar.

Recent disciplinary system actions:

Robert Edwin Dean II, license revoked, effective July 31, 2023.

Brittani Nata'lita Baldwin, license revoked, effective August 17, 2023.

Christopher Louis Contreras, license revoked, effective August 25, 2023.

Astrid Lockwood, license revoked, effective August 25, 2023.

Robert Edwin Walker Jr., reprimand, effective August 2, 2023.

Patrick Michael McGraw, reprimand, effective August 22, 2023.

Thomas Joseph Robl, reprimand, effective August 23, 2023.

Paul Robert Smollar, admonition, effective July 26, 2023.

Private discipline: 2 private reprimands

Pro Bono / Access to Justice

Join us for the the **Pro Bono Conference** on October 18 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. The conference includes 6 hours of free CLE with the theme of "Poverty & the Law: Context and Content for Lawyers Representing Low-Income Clients." The 2023 Powell Award and Legal Aid Award will be presented at the dinner.

Kids In Need of Defense's (KIND) NoVa office seeks two pro bono attorneys to represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children. There is no court appointed counsel in immigration court, even for children, and about 50 percent of unaccompanied children do not have lawyers. Many are eligible to stay in the U.S., but without a lawyer, 9 in 10 children will be ordered deported. Contact

Sofia Lorenzo at slorenzo@supportkind.org or for more information visit www.supportkind.org.



Events, CLE, & Grants

Registration is now open for the **Bench-Bar Dinner** on **October 3** at Virginia Union University in Richmond! The annual event celebrates women and minorities in the legal profession. The scope of honorees is now in line with Goal III of the ABA and includes persons of different sexual orientations and gender identities (LGBTQ) and persons with disabilities, in addition to women and racial minorities. **View list of honorees and register today.**



Please email VSB Liaison Mallory Ralston no later than September 8 with names of judges confirmed or elevated this past year that do not appear on the list of honorees, so that we may honor all jurists recently elevated who belong to demographics that have traditionally been underrepresented on the bench.

Three **FREE Solo & Small-Firm Practitioner Forums** have been scheduled for the 2023-24 year. Please note that these will be in-person only events and they'll all have the same agenda:

September 18, 2023 – Eastern Shore Community College, **Melfa**

October 2, 2023 – Washington & Lee University School of Law, **Lexington**

May 17, 2024 – Mountain Empire Community College, **Big Stone Gap**



Check out our free and low-cost CLEs, including the **ALPS Fall Ethics CLE Tour** of Virginia: "The Firm Retreat" and the Solo & Small Firm Practitioner Forum. There are about 15 free options with several offering live interactive credit.

The **38th Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Seminar** is September 15-16, at the Boar's Head Resort in Charlottesville. 10.0 hours of CLE. Registration and information. Also coming up:



42nd Annual Family Law Seminar is in three locations or via webcast:

- **Richmond (live on site and webcast):** October 3
- **Fairfax (live on site):** October 10
- **Virginia Beach (live on site):** October 17

44th Annual Construction Law and Public Contracts Seminar is **November 3 and 4** in Charlottesville at the Boar's Head Resort or via webcast. Find more information on these CLEs.



The **Virginia Law Foundation** has awarded more than \$700,000 in grants to 32 organizations across the Commonwealth that promote the rule of law, access to justice, and legal education. The VSB received grants for the Diversity Conference's Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute and for the Senior Lawyer Conference's Civility in the Profession video. See the full list of grant recipients.

Virginia Lawyer

Coming in October 🍂: **The Pro Bono Issue.**

If you would like to promote your services, your accomplishments, or your attorneys, there's no better place to reach 50,000 lawyers across Virginia and the USA. Contact Dee Norman to discuss advertising, or if you have a topic you'd like to write about. As always, thank you to our authors, readers, and our wonderful advertisers.

Stay connected to the VSB.

