



VBA Young Lawyers Division receives top honors at ABA Annual Meeting (again!)

The VBA Young Lawyers Division received top honors in Division IC competition at the Young Lawyers Assembly of the American Bar Association at the ABA Annual Meeting held in Chicago on Saturday, August 6, 2005.

The VBA/YLD earned first place recognition for the Comprehensive Category, which highlighted the VBA/YLD's most significant public service and service to the bar projects during the year.

In addition, the VBA/YLD received first place in the Single Project Service to the Public category in recognition of the Adult Protective Services Video, which was a collaborative effort between the VBA/YLD Video Series Committee, led by Chair Michael Walton, and members of the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) organization. The video focuses on the reporting of abuse, neglect and

exploitation of "adults at risk." (See related article below for more details.)

Finally, the VBA/YLD earned second place in the Single Project Service to the Bar category in honor of the University of Richmond Law School Council's efforts this past year. Such efforts included free CLE programming, a mentor program and a competition with peer law schools to gather necessities and donations for domestic violence shelters. The University of Richmond Law School Council is chaired by Katja Hill and Heather Hays.

— Rudene Mercer Bascomb
Chair, ABA Awards of Achievement

House candidates will debate at VBA/YLD Town Hall Meeting in C'ville

The VBA/YLD Charlottesville Town Hall Meeting Committee will sponsor a debate between David Toscano (D) and Thomas McCrystal (R), candidates for the House of Delegates seat in the 57th District (Charlottesville). This seat is currently held by Del. Mitchell Van Yahres (D), who has announced his retirement.

The debate will be held at 7 p.m. on October 5, 2005, at the Charlottesville City Council Chambers, located in City Hall (Downtown Mall at 7th and East Main Streets).

For more details about the debate, please contact Committee Chair Vaden Warren at (434) 972-9090 or vwarren@whiteheadwarren.com.

VBA/YLD and FACT produce informational video for mandated reporters of abuse of at-risk adults

The VBA Young Lawyers Division, in partnership with The Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT), recently completed production of a 25-minute video entitled, "Protecting Adults at Risk: A Mandated Reporter's Guide to Recognizing and Reporting Suspected Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation."

As the title suggests, this informational piece is targeted toward required reporters of abuse of at-risk adults, defined as the elderly and adults with mental disabilities. In addition to a series of dramatizations highlighting the "warning signs" of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, the video also explains to mandated reporters how to fulfill their legal duties by submitting reports to the Virginia Department of Social Services, the state agency charged with policing this problem.

The video features commentary from Governor Mark Warner as well as a number of experts in this field. Entities represented on the steering committee for the video included the Virginia Department of Social Services, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Crater Area Agency on Aging, and Virginia Guardianship Association.

The video was introduced this summer at FACT's annual Collaboration Conference, which came on the heels of Adult Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month (May 2005). VBA/YLD and FACT are offering a complimentary copy of the video to each local Department of Social Services along with more than 100 other organizations whose members are mandated reporters of adult abuse. VBA/YLD and FACT also have arranged for a video duplication company to handle the ordering of additional videos by interested parties. There is no copyright restriction on the video, in the hopes that organizations who receive it will take the liberty of making copies for its personnel who need to view it.

News Flashes

⚙️ Expand your professional library this month: **if you order American Bar Association publications through the VBA Book Program before August 29, shipping is free!** Visit www.vba.org/books.htm for more details.

⚙️ As everyone returns from summer vacations, VBA Young Lawyers Division activities gear up for the fall. **Know any young lawyers who'd like to get involved?** Encourage them to join the VBA/YLD and participate in our committee projects!

⚙️ Plan now to attend the VBA's **116th Annual Meeting**, to be held **January 19-22, 2006**, at **Kingsmill in Williamsburg**. More information will be available in the fall. For dates of other upcoming VBA events, visit www.vba.org.