

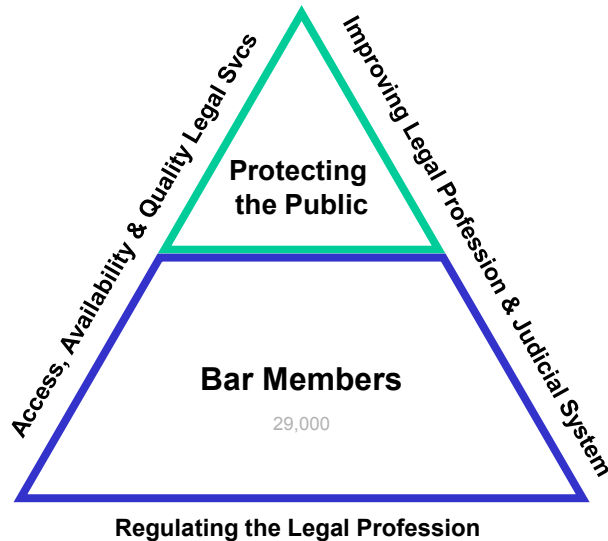
Virginia State Bar Strategic Plan

2016-2018

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 regulate the legal profession of Virginia; to advance the availability and quality of legal services provided to the people of Virginia; and to assist in improving the legal profession and the judicial system. (**About the Bar – Website – <http://www.vsb.org/site/about/>**)

Goals for 2016-2018:

- I. Protect the Public
- II. Regulate the Profession
- III. Advance Access to Legal Services
- IV. Improve the Legal Profession and the Judicial System
- V. Operate the Bar





Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018

The Virginia State Bar's Executive Committee amended the bar's strategic plan at its meeting in April 2015. The strategic plan has five 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 five 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. Client Protection Fund** – Finance and administer the fund to maximize reimbursement of losses caused by the dishonest conduct of lawyers.
 - E. Public Awareness and Communications** - Promote public awareness of rights and remedies through education and communications.
 - F. 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 appropriately reviewing attorney escrow accounts or seeking injunctive relief.



- D. **Practice Audits** – Standardize practice audit template, integrate technology.
- III. **Advance Access to Legal Services** – Ensuring public access to quality legal services.
- A. **Legal Services** – Encourage and support pro bono efforts, appointed counsel, 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, able to serve the commonwealth’s diverse populations.
 - D. **Technology** – Promote the effective use of technology in the delivery of legal services.
 - E. **Lawyer Assistance Programs** – Support organizations with lawyer assistance initiatives.
 - F. **Lawyer Referral** – Provide legal referrals at a nominal fee.
- IV. **Improve the Legal Profession and the Judicial System** – Programs and initiatives to improve the legal profession and the administration of justice.
- A. **Advocacy** – Increase public and member understanding of legal process and the role of the legal profession. Use the Speakers’ Bureau.
 - B. **Candidate Review** – Maintain judicial evaluation processes.
 - C. **Professional Conduct and Ethics** – Continue incorporating professionalism and civility into continuing education.
 - 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.
 - E. **Judicial Independence** – Support judicial independence and educate members and the public about its importance.



- F. **Communications** – Provide information through publications, the website, and other media.
 - G. **Leadership** - Provide leadership opportunities and training to local and state bar leaders and coordinate and recognize volunteers to maximize involvement and minimize attrition.
 - H. **Lawyer Assistance Programs** – Support organizations with lawyer assistance initiatives.
- V. **Operate the Bar** – Maintaining an effective Virginia State Bar.
- A. **Mission Statement** – Consider inclusion of a fourth element in the mission statement: “protecting the public.”
 - B. **Executive Committee** - Plan strategic meetings to eliminate redundancy of reporting and focus primarily on strategy and action items.
 - C. **Strategic Plan** – Monitor progress of the strategic plan through the Executive Committee.
 - D. **Five-Year Plans** – Integrate section, conference and committee 5-year plans into the strategic plan.
 - E. **Sections, Conferences and Committees** – Review the purpose, function and return on investment of sections, conferences and committees to ensure they best serve the VSB’s mission.
 - F. **Technology** – Utilize technology to serve the members and the public through enterprise content management (ECM) and enhanced and expanded web applications. Ensure that we have informed and efficient decision making when making technology decisions.