

"Counselors at Law"

All lawyers, regardless of practice areas, are primarily counselors. Our high calling is to give sage advice to our clients and assist them in solving their problems. When the problem involves a dispute with another party or bears potential of a dispute developing in the relationship, a working knowledge of the advantages, disadvantages and availability of dispute resolution processes is an essential item in the counselor's tool box. Comment 1 to Rule 1.4 of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct states that a lawyer has a continuing duty to advise the client about the availability of dispute resolution processes that might be appropriate to the client's goals.

The Virginia ADR Joint Committee will focus in 2009 on helping lawyers develop expertise in counseling clients on the merits of different forms of ADR. An outstanding panel of experts will address these issues at a seminar to be presented in conjunction with the VBA meeting in January and the VSB meeting in June. If you are interested having this program presented as a regional program in your area, please let us know so that the ADR Joint Committee can look into possibly assisting you with arrangements. The program will be a valuable assist in your practice.

M. Bruce Wallinger
Chair, ADR Joint Committee
Hoover Penrod PLC
342 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
(540) 437-2235
bwallinger@hooverpenrod.com