

Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc.

The LGA has evolved from a small core group in 1975 to a membership today of more than 650 public and private attorneys. The LGA serves local government attorneys throughout the Commonwealth who represent counties, cities, and towns, as well as attorneys in private practice who specialize in local government law.

LGA's Primary Goals

- Promote the continuing education of local government attorneys in matters of common interest. LGA has been approved as an Accredited Sponsor by the MCLE Board of the Virginia State Bar since 1986.
- Provide a forum through which members can exchange ideas and professional experiences of importance to local government attorneys.

Weldon Cooper Center For Public Service
University Of Virginia
700 East Franklin Street, Suite 700
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2318
PHONE 804.371.0202
FAX 804.371.0234

Questions?
Email LGA at lgava@virginia.edu
or call 804.371.0202.
Please visit our website lgava.org

Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc.



Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc.

Serving Attorneys Who Practice Local Government Law & the Communities They Represent



Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc.

Membership Benefits

Conference/CLE Credits LGA's spring, fall, and regional conferences keep members up-to-date on issues of local government law, trial and appellate practice, and related fields. Speakers include government and private attorneys in Virginia, as well as state and federal judges. Each conference program gives members the chance to earn 7-9 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit, as well as annual CLE ethics credits. The cost is typically less than most commercially produced seminars.

Handbook LGA publishes the *Handbook of Virginia Local Government Law*, an invaluable resource for both public and private practitioners. Over 25 chapters thoroughly address key areas of local government law. The *Handbook* is updated annually and is available on CD-ROM.

Monthly Newsletter LGA publishes the monthly *Bill of Particulars*, which is produced by and for attorneys. It focuses on immediate local government issues—primarily court decisions. The *Bill of Particulars* is the only publication of its kind in Virginia, and it is available only to LGA members.

Amicus Briefs LGA periodically files *amicus curiae* briefs in cases involving important local government issues. Past amicus briefs have dealt with issues of municipal finance, federal court intervention in zoning matters, governmental immunity, and eminent domain, among others.

Online Services LGA's website makes CLE materials from past conferences readily available to LGA members. The website includes a membership directory, job postings, and information on member services. LGA's email network (the ListServe) makes it easy to consult with, and receive legal guidance from, fellow LGA members. LGA's network of professional colleagues has proved particularly valuable to smaller localities.

Practice Groups LGA offers members the opportunity to join practice groups in particular areas of the law. These groups meet and discuss issues that are of common interest and participate in educational opportunities that meet the needs of attorneys in the group.

Public Policy Resource LGA is regularly asked by both the Virginia General Assembly and state agencies to offer legal advice on state policy issues, or to recommend knowledgeable attorneys from among its members to serve on legislative study committees and commissions. This acknowledgement of LGA as a valuable public policy resource has brought increased recognition to the overall importance of local government.

Membership Categories

Active Members All cities, counties, and towns in Virginia are eligible to become active members. The locality's chief legal counsel serves as the designated representative to the association. Other attorneys in the office, or other offices within the locality, may be placed on the mailing list free of charge, upon request. Any school division or school board whose civil legal counsel is other than that representing the local government may become an active member. The Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League are also classified as active members.

Dues for active members are based on the locality's most recent population estimate, as produced by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia, at the time the member joins (see membership application for dues rates).

Associate Members Service authorities, airport and industrial development authorities, private law firms, and other entities concerned with one or more facets of municipal law are eligible to become associate members. The Office of the Attorney General is also classified as an associate member. Associate members designate their chief legal representative to the association. Other attorneys in the office, or regional offices with a different mailing address, may be added to the mailing list free of charge, upon request. While associate members benefit from all of LGA's activities, they are nonvoting members of the association. They also are not eligible to hold office or be elected to the board of directors.

Dues for associate member law firms are based on the total number of lawyers in the firm at the time it joins. Dues for all other associate members fall under the "other institutions" category (see membership application for dues rates).

Retired Members Civil legal counsels who were formerly engaged on a full-time basis to represent a city, county, or town, and who are not otherwise eligible to be an associate member, may join the association as retired members. Retired members may attend LGA conferences for continuing legal education (CLE) credit, and they may be appointed to standing and ad hoc committees.

Retired members pay significantly discounted member dues, as set by the board of directors (see membership application for the dues rate).

Membership Application & Dues

The enclosed LGA membership application sets forth the dues amounts for LGA's three membership categories. LGA operates on a fiscal year that begins September 1 and ends August 31.

New members who join after March 1 pay only one-half of the full dues amount for the first year.

Please visit our website lgava.org