

FAMILY LAW SECTION

by Terrence Batzli, Chair

The 2000–2001 year continued the section’s principal emphasis, being the education of the family law bar. The board of governors worked closely with the Virginia CLE in selecting topics and speakers for the annual November Family Law CLE and the Advanced Family Law CLE held in April. The section also presented its own program at the June VSB annual meeting at Virginia Beach, focusing on information technology, including discussions of the current pilot projects involving electronic filing of documents with the circuit court and additional information on the fabrication of e-mail “evidence” in family law cases. The presentation was made in cooperation with the Technology Task Force, which was spearheaded by Frank Blatt, a member of the board of governors.

Work with the law schools around the state continued in an effort to ensure students’ familiarity with the practice of family law, and members of the board will be working with the Marshall Wythe School of Law at The College of William and Mary in preparing family-law-related courses to be offered at the law school. Law students continued to volunteer for the section’s Legal Research Guild, standing ready to assist the board in locating information when the board is asked by the General Assembly for its opinion on certain family law related issues.

The Family Law Section’s Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to retired Chesapeake Circuit Court Judge E. Preston Grissom, a worthy recipient.

Richard and John Crouch continued their yeoman service to the section by preparing and editing the quarterly *Family Law Newsletter*.

The Family Law Section enters its 25th year in 2001–2002, and in recognition of its anniversary, all lawyers and judges who formerly served on the board and currently serve on it were invited to a reception held at Virginia Beach, in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Those members completing terms this year were The Honorable Rosemarie P. Annunziata, The Honorable Bonnie C. Davis and Timothy T. Szabo. Newly-elected board members are The Honorable Robert P. Frank, The Honorable A. Bonnwill Shockley, The Honorable Richard D. Taylor, Chesire l’Anson Eveleigh and Paul M. Nichols. In addition, the officers for the 2001–2002 term will be Torrence Harmon, chair; Susan Hicks, vice-chair; J. Patrick McConnell, secretary and Terrance Batzli, immediate past chair.

