

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

BANKRUPTCY LAW SECTION

Donna J. Hall, Chair

The Bankruptcy Law Section had a very active and successful year. The section continued to provide high quality educational programs for attorneys, debtors and creditors, and various opportunities for its members to expand their knowledge of bankruptcy law and interact with other parties who regularly appear in bankruptcy cases.

News of the section's activities and summaries of recent bankruptcy cases were published in the *Bankruptcy Law News* and on its Web site at www.vsb.org. One newsletter was dedicated to the Honorable Blackwell N. Shelley, Jr., who passed away unexpectedly on February 26, 2001. The summer issue of the newsletter included photos of Judge Shelley and highlighted a memorial resolution presented at the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference by Judge Shelley's long-time colleague, the Honorable Douglas O. Tice, Jr. Judge Tice's resolution detailed the history of Judge Shelley's life as a practicing attorney and as a judge. It concluded with an acknowledgement with great respect of the life of Judge Shelley and his service as a United States Bankruptcy Judge.

In January of 2002, the section presented its annual basic bankruptcy seminars in Richmond, Roanoke, Norfolk and Fairfax. The program was entitled "Bankruptcy is Back: A Practical Guide to Important Bankruptcy Topics." Speakers included distinguished bankruptcy judges, trustees, debtor and creditor attorneys. They gave practical tips on exemptions, relief from stay, discharge and dischargeability, taxes and bankruptcy fraud.

The section promoted its Chapter 7 video, "Chapter 7, Your Rights and Responsibilities"—showing it to Chapter 7 debtors attending Section 341 meetings in Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk and Alexandria. The video is an important public service because it provides Chapter 7 debtors with information on how a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case affects their financial affairs.

The annual meeting of the section was held during the Virginia State Bar meeting in Virginia Beach in June 2002. The meeting included an educational program entitled, "Workouts to Washouts: Protecting Your Clients' Interests in a Troubled Economy," sponsored with the Business Law and Corporate Counsel Sections. Workouts were discussed in a panel format. Speakers included: Stanley J. Samorajczyk, of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld; Guy A. Davis, of Penta Advisory Services; and Peter Potter of Shaw Pittman. The section thanks the Corporate Counsel and Business Law sections for their assistance in making this year's program a success.

The membership elected Roy M. Terry, Jr., Peter G. Zemanian, and Robert T. Copeland to the board of governors. Lawrence E. Rifken was elected to serve a second three-year term. John W. Lamie and Donna J. Hall retired from the board of governors. Officers for next year are Michael A. Condyles, chair; Dale A. Davenport, vice chair; and A. Mechele Dickerson, secretary.

