

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

GENERAL PRACTICE

Evan H. Farr, Chair

The General Practice Section has had another productive year. Highlights in the past year were:

First Day in Practice Seminar

The first day in practice seminar, started by the General Practice Section, in recent years has been co-sponsored with the VSB Young Lawyers Conference. The program was held this year on October 30, 2001, the day after the Supreme Court's admission and orientation ceremony.

The format changed this year to feature more topics and more speakers during morning "break-out" sessions. The following judges were speakers: The Honorable Leslie Alden, Fairfax County Circuit Court; the Honorable Joel C. Cunningham, Halifax County General District Court; the Honorable Denis F. Soden, Henrico Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court; the Honorable Robert G. Mayer, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division; and the Honorable Robert Merhige, Jr., retired judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia. The following attorneys were speakers: Joseph A. Condo; David Baugh; Mark K. Groves; Joseph W. Richmond; Evan Farr; Frank O. Brown, Jr.; and Gerald Schwartz.

The Tradition of Excellence Award

The General Practice Section annually recognizes a lawyer who embodies the highest tradition of personal and professional excellence in Virginia. The Tradition of Excellence Award has been presented for the past 15 years at the Virginia State Bar annual meeting. This year's worthy recipient of the Tradition of Excellence Award was Tappahannock attorney Alexander F. Dillard, Jr.

Annual Meeting Workshop

At the annual meeting, the General Practice Section co-sponsored (with the Trusts & Estates Section and the Senior Lawyers Conference) a CLE workshop on the topic of "Retirement Planning for Lawyers."

Midyear Meeting in Italy

At the upcoming VSB midyear legal seminar, November 8–17, 2002, in Florence and Rome, our new section chair, Carol B. Gravitt, will present a CLE program on behalf of the General Practice Section entitled, "Basic Technology That Can Make You Richer: The Case for Case Management."

Section Newsletter

The section continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, *General Practice Plus*, that contains timely articles on diverse topics aimed at assisting Virginia general practitioners in keeping up with the law, and to aid the general practitioner via practical tips and technology tools that can be used to maintain and enhance the quality of legal services rendered. Some of the article topics we have published in the last year are: "New Rules Regarding Division of Fees And Sale of a Law Practice;" "Resources for WordPerfect Users in the Legal Profession;" "The Two Most Common and Costly Mistakes Made in a No Fault Divorce;" "Drafting Enforceable Noncompete Agreements;" "The Do's and Don't's of Accepting Credit Cards;" "Disaster Recovery for Small & Medium Size Law Firms;" "Evidentiary 'Short-cut' Statutes;" "Recent Changes in the Law; Adding Binding Arbitration to Your Client Engagement Agreement."

Officers for July 1, 2002–June 30, 2002

Officers of the section are: Carol B. Gravitt, chair; Powell L. Duggan, vice chair; Judy L. August, secretary; and Evan H. Farr, immediate past chair

Acknowledgments

The section wishes to express its gratitude to our bar liaison, Pat Sliger, who keeps the section running smoothly, and also to our new chair, Carol Gravitt, who, as vice chair last year, worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to help lead the section in meeting all of our goals.

