

## REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

### **BANKRUPTCY LAW SECTION**

*Michael A. Condyles, chair*

It is with great pleasure that I have had the opportunity to serve as chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section for the 2002–2003 bar year. The section was very active during the year, initiating new projects and pursuing old ones. There was a high level of participation in these projects—both from the board of governors, as well as from members.

The section's new year began with the election of three board members at the annual meeting at Virginia Beach. They were Pete Zemanian of Willcox & Savage, P.C., in Norfolk; Roy Terry of Durette & Bradshaw, P.L.C., in Richmond; and Bob Copeland of Copeland & Beiger, P.C., in Abingdon. Donna Hall, of Troutman Sanders LLP, in Norfolk, and John Lamie, of Browning, Lamie & Sharp, in Abingdon, rotated off the board.

After two years of dedicated service to the newsletter, Malissa Giles stepped down and was replaced by Loc Pfeiffer. The newsletter committee published four editions of the *Bankruptcy Law News* during the year. Newsletters featured a "Judges' Corner" that provided the courts' prospective on matters of importance to bankruptcy practitioners and the judiciary. Judges Mitchell, Adams and Krumm contributed to the "Judges' Corner."

The section will sponsor an issue of *Virginia Lawyer*. Pete Zemanian chairs the committee responsible for its publication. Through his hard work, the authors for each of the articles have been selected and the project is on target for October 2003.

In January 2003, the section co-sponsored with Virginia CLE the 13th Annual Bankruptcy Law Seminar entitled, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road: A Guide to Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Cases." The seminar was presented in Richmond, Norfolk, Fairfax and Roanoke. Dale Davenport chaired the committee and coordinated the preparation of this informative and enlightening seminar.

The section presented the First Annual Advance Consumer Bankruptcy Law Conference. The conference was held on May 2, 2003, at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. It was designed for bankruptcy lawyers with debtor or creditor practices. It provided a more detailed analysis and focus than the bankruptcy law seminar that was presented earlier in the year. Rich Maxwell, of Woods Rogers & Hazelgrove, P.L.C., in Roanoke, chaired the committee responsible for the program. He performed an excellent job in coordinating this new conference.

The section was also active during the year in further promoting and developing previous projects. The Chapter 7 video, "Chapter 7, Your Rights and Responsibilities," is being shown to Chapter 7 debtors attending Section 341 meetings in Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk and Alexandria and is also being marketed to bankruptcy practitioners. The video explains to Chapter 7 debtors how bankruptcy works and explains the consequences of improper conduct. The section also published a bankruptcy brochure that explains the basic elements of bankruptcy in general layman's terms and is available to bankruptcy practitioners to provide to their clients.

Thanks to the hard work of Dale Davenport, an excellent program entitled, "Appropriate Asset Planning for Risk-Takers," was presented by the section in conjunction with the annual bar meeting. Speakers for the program were Gregg Nivala, Assistant United States Attorney; Dennis Belcher, a partner with the law firm of McGuire Woods, L.L.P.; and Mechele Dickerson, a professor at the College of William and Mary School of Law. The Honorable Ross W. Krumm, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Harrisonburg Division, moderated the program. The workshop was beneficial to bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy practitioners alike.

At the section's annual meeting on June 20, 2003, two new board members were elected. These new members are David Cox and Tyler Brown. Debra Conlon and Malissa Giles were re-elected. The board of governors also elected Rich Maxwell, secretary; Mechele Dickerson, vice-chair; and Dale Davenport, chair.

