

## REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

### CONSTRUCTION LAW AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS SECTION

*Terence Murphy, Chair*

The Construction Law and Public Contracts Section enjoyed another successful year of informative seminars and newsletters. In November 2002, more than 100 attendees were present for the 23rd Annual Construction Law and Public Contracts Seminar at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. The seminar provided a year of CLE credits and included presentations on the new the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 and the Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act. Other topics included bankruptcy and Virginia's contractor licensing requirements. The seminar presented a mock direct- and cross-examination of a construction damages expert and a timely luncheon presentation on Pentagon renovations. The 2003 annual program is scheduled for November 7 and 8 at the Boar's Head Inn. Elaine Jordan is the program chair. The program will include a "sticks-and-bricks" segment of practical construction knowledge.

The newsletter committee, headed by Billy Mauck and Joe West, continued their outstanding efforts by producing two newsletters that included state and federal decisions and construction law features. Special thanks is given to Bob Cox for his and his firm's construction law articles.

At the June 2003 annual meeting, the section teamed with the Local Government Law Section to sponsor a CLE program on insurance and indemnity issues in construction. Tim Hughes is to be complimented for this program.

Tim Hughes also worked with Chris McAnney to update the section's handbook and reference manual, which will be distributed in CD-ROM format and will include a member roster.

A highlight of the section's year was the dedicated issue of *Virginia Lawyer* in February 2003. Jack Rephan led the effort to publish articles on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and its effect on contractors and sureties, mechanic's lien issues, federal government contract ethics issues and indemnity claims in construction cases.

My service as chair during the past year was a highlight of my professional career—due in large part to the fine lawyers and friends with whom I have worked on the section's board of governors.

