

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Susan Massie Hicks, Chair

The Family Law Section focused on education and publication this year. We reviewed and updated the “Divorce in Virginia” pamphlet. We are in the process of revising the Virginia State Bar’s publication, “Financial Issues in Divorce”—one of the bar’s most requested publications. We hope to have the publication to the press by the fall of 2003.

In designing its CLEs this year, the board attempted to identify difficult topics that confront family lawyers on a regular basis. The 21st Annual Family Law Seminar in October 2002 focused on complex issues in custody cases, such as the abuse of expert testimony, criminal aspects of custody cases and parental alienation. The seminar was a great success with attendance at the highest level ever. The May 2003 Advanced Family Law Seminar offered insights from the bench on deposition abuses, especially in how to handle outrageous behaviors we might confront from opposing counsel. At the 2003 annual meeting, we got the “inside scoop” from participants in four cases from the Court of Appeals that had left many of us scratching our heads.

Due to the editorship of Richard Crouch, members received the section’s quarterly newsletter—a quality publication. We are all grateful to Richard for his tireless efforts.

This is the time of year the board says “farewell” to some members and “welcome” to others. Frank Blatt completed his term this year. Craig White and Cheryl Watson Smith were elected to serve in the upcoming year. The officers for the board of governors for the 2003–04 term are J. Patrick McConnell, chair; Cheshire I’Anson Eveleigh, vice-chair; Edward Barnes, secretary; and Susan Hicks, immediate past-chair.

