

EDUCATION OF LAWYERS SECTION

Raymond J. Diaz, chair

The Virginia State Bar Section on the Education of Lawyers continued to provide a forum for integrating the bench, bar and academia to improve Virginia's legal system.

The Professionalism Program for Law Students, developed by this section and the Standing Committee on Professionalism, was again offered to first-year students at six accredited law schools in Virginia. The program scheduled at George Mason University was cancelled at the last minute due to bad weather. The sessions were well-attended and student evaluations were strongly positive. The program will remain a staple for those beginning the study of law in the commonwealth.

Professor James M. Boland of the Regent University School of Law, the new editor of the section newsletter, produced two interesting and comprehensive issues. He assumed the post in fall 2004 and fulfilled his responsibilities without missing a beat.

Edward B. Lowry continued as chair of the Emerging Trends Committee. The committee worked on developing an agenda and identifying speakers for a conclave on the topic "The Lawyer as Public Citizen." The committee secured funding from law firms in Virginia to present the program in spring 2006.

Virginia's seven accredited law schools contribute to the section's annual operating budget. The budget is augmented by matching contributions from Virginia law firms.

The section board of governors thanks the following firms for their generous support: Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP of Roanoke; Michie, Hamlett, Lowry, Rasmussen & Tweel PLLC of Charlottesville; and Williams Mullen of Richmond.

At the section's annual business meeting, Virginia Court of Appeals Judge Rudolph Bumgardner III of Staunton presented the nominating committee's report. Officers elected for the 2005–2006 bar year were George A. Somerville of Troutman Sanders LLP in Richmond, chair; Circuit Judge Cleo E. Powell of Chesterfield County, vice-chair; and Professor Joan M. Shaughnessy of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, secretary.

Elected to second three-year terms were Dean Winston S. Moore of George Mason University School of Law and Professor Shaughnessy. Elected to new three-year terms were Court of Appeals Judge Walter S. Felton Jr. of Williamsburg; Circuit Judge J. Martin Bass of Stafford County; and Anita O. Poston of Vandeventer Black LLP in Norfolk. Professor Paul M. Thompson of the University of Richmond was elected to fill the unexpired term of Brian K. Jackson.

The board thanks Justice Cynthia D. Kinser of Pennington Gap, Judge Bumgardner and General District Judge R. Edwin Burnette Jr. of Lynchburg, who all contributed significantly to the work of the section for the last six years. It has been my pleasure to serve as the section's chair and to work with the judges, academicians and leading private practitioners who make up the board of governors. The section will be especially well-served by Chair Somerville.

