

# REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

## **ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION**

Anthony Gambardella, Chair

This year the Administrative Law Section schedule has pursued its usual ambitious calendar of continuing legal education functions. The section's two major activities, The National Regulatory Conference in May and a CLE seminar on the newly amended Freedom of Information Act at the annual meeting in June, were well received by all accounts. Congratulations to the section members and support staff who worked hard to assure the success of these programs, and a special thank you to all of the speakers and participants who make these projects so valuable.

### **National Regulatory Conference**

The 1999 National Regulatory Conference, held on May 11 and 12 in Williamsburg, was entitled "Competition At The Crossroads: Regulatory Advances and Retreats." The conference took another close and timely look at deregulation and industry restructuring in the electric, natural gas and telecommunications industries. Keynote speaker Peter A. Bradford opened the conference with a discussion of the expectations and challenges of the changes now taking place in the telecommunications and energy industries. His address, panels on competition in the local telephone service market and in Internet access, and several panel discussions of restructuring in the natural gas and electricity sectors, all made for lively conference sessions.

### **Annual Meeting CLE Seminar**

The section also continued its practice of presenting CLE seminars at the annual meeting of the bar in June. This year's CLE program addressed the considerable amendments to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act adopted in the 1999 Session of the General Assembly. The FOIA is always a subject of interest to anyone who deals with Virginia's agencies of government, and its reconsideration and amendment will bring it to the forefront again. Panelists involved in the issue for local government, state government and the media discussed the issues soon to be confronted under the new statutory provisions.

### **Technology Task Force and Additional Activities**

The section has begun participation in the Technology Task Force recently organized by the bar to consider a number of issues with respect to the impact of information and communications technology on law practice. In addition, the section plans to continue its publication of the Administrative Law News and its liaison activities with the Virginia Administrative Law Advisory Committee and the Virginia Association of Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers.

### **Organizational Matters**

At its business meeting during the annual meeting of the bar, the section elected new officers: Edward L. Petrini, chair; Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, vice-chair; and James P. Guy, II, secretary. Three new members of the Board of Governors were also elected to replace members whose terms expire. John D. Sharer of Richmond will join the board and assume sole responsibility for editing the newsletter in light of Mr. Guy's new duties as secretary. H. Allen Glover, Jr. of Roanoke and Warren L. Tisdale of Norfolk will begin new terms on the board. ❧