

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

CONSTRUCTION LAW AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS SECTION

D. Stan Barnhill, Chair

As in past years, the section concentrated on serving its membership through timely continuing legal education in the form of seminars and newsletters.

The 19th Annual Construction Law and Public Contracts Seminar was held on November 6 and 7, 1998, at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. Attendees for both days' sessions were able to earn their full twelve hours of CLE credits, including two hours of ethics. Under the leadership of Tom Folk, the seminar's planning committee put together a timely and informative program presented by engaging speakers. The ethics segment focused on the new professional rules that will become effective on January 1, 2000. Equally timely, a number of speakers focused on the new industry contracts published in 1997 by the American Institute of Architects and the Associated General Contractors. As in prior years, the forensic presentation represented a highlight of the seminar. The 20th Annual Seminar has already been planned for November 5 and 6, 1999, and, like its predecessor, should provide attendees a wealth of instruction on contemporary construction law issues. In commemoration of the section's 20th anniversary, a special effort has been made to secure former chairs as seminar speakers.

The section's Spring program, conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Bar on June 18, 1999, was also a success. The program dealt with potential liability for design professionals under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Under the able editorship of Joe West and Billy Mauck, the Construction Law and Public Contracts News was published in the Fall of 1998 and Spring of 1999. Both issues were full of case summaries, many of which unpublished in any other forum, of immeasurable value to construction law practitioners in Virginia. Joe and Billy have brought new life and intellectual vigor to the newsletter, which will only get better under their guidance.

Due to unanticipated technical problems, the section was not able to issue a revised Construction Law and Public Contracts Handbook and Reference Manual in the 1998-98 fiscal year. The manual editors, Chris McAnney and Tim Hughes, will see that the manual in electronic format is issued to all members of the section before the end of the millennium.

A new slate of board members has been elected for the 1999-2000 year. The new officers are: Robert K. Cox, McLean, chair; William L. Thurston, Richmond, vice-chair; and John S. Norris, Virginia Beach, secretary. I will continue to serve on the board as immediate past chair. Other board members are: Steven M. Blatt, Harrisonburg; Dennis M. Dayton, Alexandria; Timothy R. Hughes, Fairfax; Elaine R. Jordan, Richmond; James K. Lowe, Roanoke; Christine McAnney, McLean; William R. Mauck, Jr., Richmond; Jack Rephan, Norfolk; Joseph D. West, District of Columbia; James L. Windsor, Newport News; and Hon. Thomas Fortkort, Judicial Member.

I found the opportunity to serve as chair of the section immensely rewarding. I encourage all members of the section to alert the current officers of your willingness to become more involved in section activities. You will likewise be amply rewarded. ☼