

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

EDUCATION OF LAWYERS IN VIRGINIA SECTION

Barry Sullivan, Chair

The Section on the Education of Lawyers continued its mission of providing a forum for integrating the bench, bar and academia in improving the legal system in Virginia. Together with the Standing Committee on Professionalism, the section cosponsored a CLE program during the VSB Annual Meeting in June 1999. Professor Jayne Barnard organized the program, entitled What is Character? What is Fitness? Who Decides? that included a panel discussion on how the bar can balance the need to ensure that bar members demonstrate a potential for professional conduct while honoring the bar applicants' constitutional rights. Your chair moderated the panel whose participants included Bernard J. DiMuro, of Alexandria; Philip J. Hirschkop, of Alexandria; Linda S. Laibstain, of Norfolk; and Judge Donald A. McGlothlin, Jr., of Grundy.

Under the auspices of a steering committee chaired by Judge B. Waugh Crigler, the section and the State Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism continued work on a long-range project to design and present a program for all first year law students on professionalism. Professor Michael I. Krauss, of the George Mason University School of Law, represented the section on the steering committee. Law faculty from each of the Virginia Law Schools served as liaisons to the committee and provided insights and guidance on administrative issues as well as on the proposed discussion topics. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of Judge Crigler and Michael Krauss, it is anticipated that pilot programs will be launched at several law schools in the winter of 2000.

Under the leadership of Professor Margaret Bacigal, of the University of Richmond Law School, the section continued the outstanding production of its newsletter Education and Practice throughout the year.

The section began discussions concerning the desire to conduct Conclave IV. A planning committee was appointed to be chaired by Professor Allan Vestal of Washington & Lee University School of Law. Members of the committee include, Professor Jayne Barnard; Judge Johanna Fitzpatrick; Judge Randall Johnson; Edward Lowry; and Thomas Spahn. Bill Rakes, who initiated the conclave concept in Virginia in 1992, has agreed to serve as a consultant to the planning committee. In the coming year, the committee hopes to formulate plans concerning discussion topics, funding and timing for the conclave.

The section continues to be most appreciative of the financial support provided by the six Virginia law schools, which each made an annual contribution to the section's operating budget in the last year. Professor Graham Lilly, together with Dean Taylor Reveley and Bill Rakes, also undertook an effort to seek annual contributions from the larger law firms in the state. Thanks to these efforts, it is expected that approximately six firms will make a contribution to the section's 1999-2000 operating budget.

At its business meeting held during the annual meeting in June, the section elected the following slate of officers: Robert C. Wood, III, of Lynchburg, chair; Judge R. Terrence Ney, of Fairfax, vice chair; and Professor Michael I. Krauss, of George Mason, secretary. In addition the following new board members were elected to three-year terms: Judge Rudolph Bumgardner, of Staunton; Raymond J. Diaz, of Vienna; Professor A. Mechele Dickerson, of William and Mary; and Justice Cynthia D.F. Kinser, of Pennington Gap.

I was honored to serve as Chair of the Education Section this past year. I am grateful to my predecessors as chair, particularly Justice Elizabeth Lacy, my immediate predecessor; to my colleagues on the Council; and to Bet Keller of the State Bar, for much good work and leadership, which are reflected in the many successful activities I have detailed here. I continue to believe that the section provides a unique and important forum for lawyers, judges and legal educators to talk about important issues that face the legal profession today, and I look forward to continuing to participate in those discussions during the coming year. ❀