

## Annual Report

### Virginia State Bar Section on Education of Lawyers in Virginia

Lawrence H. Hoover, Jr., chair

July 1, 2010

The purposes of the Education of Lawyers Section are well summarized in the Mission Statement of the Five Year Plan of Goals and Objectives, revised and adopted by the Board of Governors during the year under the leadership of Jeffrey Summers, who chaired the Committee that developed the Plan. It reads:

The Section of the Education of Lawyers in Virginia conducts programs, publishes and distributes educational and professional materials, and undertakes other activities which will enhance the cooperation and interaction among the law schools, the bench and the practicing bar in Virginia regarding the education and training of lawyers from their entry into law school and throughout their careers.

The Board of Governors carried out the Section's mission in fiscal 2010 by publishing two issues of its newsletter, "Education & Practice," ably edited by Jim Boland, Associate Professor at Regent University Law School. The primary focus of these issues was on the need for changes in the law school curriculum so that the law school experience not only prepares students to pass the bar, but prepares students for the practice of law.

During the Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Bar in Virginia Beach, the section sponsored a "Town Hall Meeting" that focused on the fundamental skills and knowledge base needed for a new lawyer to attain competence across a range of legal matters. The presenters included law school deans and professors, judges, practicing lawyers and several law students. It became clear that there is not universal agreement about the correct balance between substantive and practice-oriented courses. Board of Governors members Rod Smolla and John Foote designed and coordinated the panel, which was moderated by Dean Smolla.

The Professionalism Program for Law Students, developed by the Section and the Virginia State Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism, was again offered to

first-year students at each of Virginia's eight accredited law schools. These sessions continued to be well attended and the student evaluations were positive. William Glover and U.S. Magistrate Judge Waugh Crigler co-chaired this project.

Immediate Past Chair, Henry Chambers served as Chair of the nominating committee of the Board of Governors, with members who included Hon. Waugh Crigler (Charlottesville), Jeanne Franklin (Alexandria), George Martin (Richmond) and Frank Morrison (Lynchburg).

The officers for the upcoming year are: Professor A. Benjamin Spencer, Chair; Hon. Waugh B. Crigler, Vice-Chair; Anita B. Poston, Esquire, Secretary.

A Returning Board member serving a second term is: John H. Foote, Esquire;

New Board members beginning their first term are: Alan S. Goldberg, Esquire; Hon. H Thomas Padrick, Jr.; Sharon E. Pandak, Esquire, William E. Thro, Esquire; Wilson F. Vellines. Jr., Esquire.

We appreciate the financial support to the Section provided by all eight laws schools and the following law firms: Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, Vandevanter Black LLP and Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich & Walsh.

During the final Board meeting of the year there was a discussion about convening a conclave on educating lawyers in 2012. This would be an opportunity to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Section, the first of its kind in the country. The vision for the Section came out of the 1992 Conclave, convened by William R. Rakes, then President of the VSB. Mr. Rakes participated in the town hall meeting sponsored by the section at the VSB Annual Meeting this past June.