

EDUCATION OF LAWYERS SECTION
FINAL - 8/31/05

The Section on the Education of Lawyers continued its mission of providing 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 of the accredited law schools in Virginia. Unfortunately, the program 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 Boland, of the Regent University School of Law, produced two interesting and comprehensive issues of the newsletter as the new editor of the Section's newsletter. He assumed the position last fall and fulfilled his new responsibilities without missing a beat.

Ed 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 of "The Lawyer as Public Citizen." The committee also spent time and energy on securing outside funding from law firms in Virginia, with the goal of presenting the program in the spring of 2006. A date and location have not yet been determined for the program, as the fundraising is still underway.

Virginia's seven accredited law schools contribute to the Section's annual operating budget. The Section's budget is rounded out by matching contributions from a number of Virginia law firms.

On behalf of the Section, the Board of Governors offers our sincere thanks, in particular, to the following firms for their generous support: Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, Roanoke; Michie, Hamlett, Lowry, Rasmussen & Tweel, Charlottesville; and Williams Mullen, of Richmond.

At the Section's annual business meeting, Judge Rudolph Bumgardner presented the Nominating Committee's report. The following officers were elected for the 2005-2006 bar year: George A. Somerville, chair; The Honorable Cleo E. Powell, vice-chair; and Prof. Joan M. Shaughnessy, secretary.

The following board members were elected to their second three-year terms: Dean Winston S. Moore, of George Mason University School of Law; and Professor Joan M. Shaughnessy, of Washington & Lee University School of Law. The Section also welcomes the following new members of the Board of Governors, each of whom was elected to a three-year term: The Honorable Walter S. Felton, Jr., of The Court of Appeals of Virginia; The Honorable J. Martin Bass, of the Circuit Court of Stafford County; and Anita O. Poston, of Vandeventer Black LLP, in Norfolk. Prof. Paul M. Thompson, of the University of Richmond, was also elected to fill the unexpired term of Brian K. Jackson.

The Board offers its sincere thanks to The Honorable Cynthia D.F. Kinser, The Honorable Rudolph Bumgardner and The Honorable R. Edwin Burnette, Jr. as outgoing members of the Board who have 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 that make up the Board of Governors. The Section will be especially well-served by its incoming Chair, George Somerville.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond J. Diaz
Chair, 2004-2005