

Education of Lawyers Section

George A. Somerville, Chair

The purposes of the Section on the Education of Lawyers include, among others, providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas and information and promoting constructive action on legal education issues; providing a vehicle for continuing dialogue and communication on legal education issues among the academic community, the judiciary and the practicing bar in Virginia; sponsoring projects of special interest and relevance to the members of the Section and the Virginia State Bar regarding the education and training of lawyers from their entry into law school and throughout their careers; and conducting programs, publishing and distributing educational and professional materials, and undertaking other activities which will enhance the cooperation and interaction among the law schools, the bench and the practicing bar in Virginia. The Section pursued those purposes during the past year primarily through our newsletter, professionalism programs at Virginia's law schools, and our presentation at the Annual Meeting of the State Bar in June.

Professor James M. Boland of the Regent University School of Law continues to serve as Editor of the Section's newsletter. We published two excellent issues this year, including Professor Boland's very informative interview with Chief Justice Leroy Hassell in the Spring issue. We are fortunate that Professor Boland has agreed to continue to serve as newsletter Editor for the coming year.

The Professionalism Program for Law Students, developed by this Section and the Standing Committee on Professionalism, was again offered to first-year students at each of Virginia's seven accredited law schools. All 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. Judge Martin Bass was the Board's Committee Chair for this annual endeavor. From a Chairman's prospective, this is a practically perfect program: it brings great credit to the Section and it is exceedingly well run by the Committee with no need for assistance or involvement by the Chair or the Board as a whole.

Our annual meeting presentation was a prequel to a longer, standalone "Conclave" program that we hope to present in the fall of 2006, on "The Lawyer as Public Citizen." Ed Lowry, the Chair of our Emerging Trends Committee and a former President of the VSB, organized and chaired the panel presentation. The other panelists were Professor Margaret Bacigal of the University of Richmond, a former Section Chair; John A.C. Keith of Blankingship and Keith, P.C., another former VSB President; and George Hettrick, Chairman of Hunton & Williams' Community Service Committee and Managing Partner for its *Pro Bono* offices in Richmond and Charlottesville.

Virginia's seven accredited law schools and a number of its leading law firms again contributed to the Section's annual operating budget. On behalf of the Section, the Board of Governors again offers its heartfelt thanks to all of our law schools and the following law firms for their generous support: Gentry, Locke, Rakes & Moore, Roanoke; Hunton & Williams, Richmond; Michie Hamlett Lowry, Rasmussen & Tweel, Charlottesville; Oblon, Spivek,

McClelland, Maier, Alexandria; Reese, Broome & Diaz, Vienna; and Troutman Sanders, Richmond.

The Board also wishes to express its sincere thanks to four outgoing members for their diligent and excellent service over the last six years. Those members are the Honorable Cleo E. Powell, our retiring Vice-Chair; Edward B. Lowry, Esquire; the Honorable Pamela Meade Sargent; and the Honorable Clifford R. Weckstein.

Judge Pamela Sargent served as Chair of the Section's Nominating Committee. The Committee nominated the following slate of officers and governors, which was elected by acclamation at the annual meeting of the Section on June 16, 2006: George A. Somerville, Chair; Professor Henry L. Chambers, Jr., Vice-Chair; the Honorable Rossie D. Alston, Jr., Secretary; and Lisa Hicks-Thomas (Senior Assistant Attorney General), Lawrence H. Hoover, Jr. (Hoover Penrod, Harrisonburg), the Honorable Teresa M. Chafin (Circuit Judge, Tazewell), the Honorable Winship C. Tower (Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judge, Virginia Beach), the Honorable B. Waugh Crigler (U.S. Magistrate Judge, Charlottesville), and the Honorable G. Steven Agee (Virginia Supreme Court Justice), new members of the Board of Governors.

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