

Education of Lawyers in Virginia

Annual Report for 2007-2008

Professor Henry L. Chambers, Jr., Chair

Among the purposes of the Section on the Education of Lawyers are:

To provide a vehicle for continuing dialogue and communication on legal education issues among the academic community, the judiciary and the practicing bar in Virginia;

To sponsor projects of special interest and relevance regarding the education and training of lawyers from their entry into law school and throughout their careers;

To conduct programs, publish and distribute educational and professional materials and undertake 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 fiscal 2008 through a newsletter, professionalism programs at Virginia's law schools, a co-sponsored continuing legal education seminar at the State Bar's Annual Meeting and co-sponsorship of the Virginia State Bar Pro Bono and Access to Justice Conference.

Professor James M. Boland of Regent University School of Law continued as editor of the section's newsletter. The section published two issues this year which focused on the ABA Conclave on Legal Education co-sponsored by the Section in 2007 and its aftermath. The newsletter contained articles concerning the lawyer as public citizen, educating lawyers for the 21st Century and attempts to increase diversity in the profession and bar organizations. The newsletter also contained information regarding events at Virginia's law schools. Professor Boland will continue as newsletter editor during the upcoming year.

The Professionalism Program for Law Students, developed by the education section and the Virginia State Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism, was offered to first-year students at each of Virginia's accredited law schools. The sessions were almost uniformly well-attended and student evaluations were strongly positive. Circuit Judge J. Martin Bass was the chair of this annual project, and U.S. Magistrate Judge B. Waugh Crigler served as cochair. William E. Glover will serve as chair of this project for the upcoming year. The section thanks Judge Bass for his past service and Judge Crigler for his continued service.

The section co-sponsored a continuing legal education program with the Virginia ADR Joint Committee at the VSB annual meeting in Virginia Beach, on June 20, 2008. The program, "Solutions for the Future – Interest Based Negotiation," was presented by Dean John Douglass of the University of Richmond School of Law and was well received. The section owes thanks to Vice-Chair Lawrence H. Hoover, Jr. for coordinating this program.

The section co-sponsored the Annual Pro Bono and Access to Justice Conference with the VSB Special Committee on Access to Legal Services. The conference was held on May 22 and 23, 2008, in Lexington, at Washington & Lee University. It included talks and panels on the

evolving role of clinical legal education; economic development partnerships; cultural literacy and document translations; and predatory lending and the housing crisis. Past President of the American Bar Association Robert J. Grey, Jr. was the featured speaker at the Pro Bono Award Ceremony and Reception.

The section was pleased to see the successful result of its initiative on the third-year practice rule. The section through the VSB had asked the Virginia Supreme Court to amend the third-year student practice rule, which required qualified law students to obtain written approval from a court or administrative tribunal ten days prior to appearing. The ten-day requirement was thought to be too restrictive. On October 26, 2007, the Supreme Court removed the ten-day restriction. This allows an eligible student to obtain written approval from a court or administrative tribunal at any time prior to the student's appearance.

Judge Rossie D. Alston, Jr. served as chair of the section's nominating committee, with members who included Professor Margaret I. Bacigal, Sharon K. Eimer, Cynthia E. Hudson, Gregory T. St. Ours, and George A. Somerville.

The officers for the upcoming year are: Henry L. Chambers, Jr., chair; Lawrence H. Hoover, Jr., vice-chair; and Anita O. Poston, secretary. Returning board members serving a second term are: Judge G. Steven Agee, Judge Walter S. Felton, Jr. and Anita O. Poston. New board members serving their first term are: William E. Glover, Professor A. Benjamin Spencer, and Jeffrey M. Summers.

Departing members of the Board of Governors are: Judge J. Martin Bass, Associate Dean Winston S. Moore and Professor Joan M. Shaughnessy. The section thanks them for their service.