

Annual Report  
Virginia State Bar Section on Education of Lawyers in Virginia  
Professor Henry L. Chambers, Jr., chair  
July 31, 2009

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 2009 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 the preparation of a Five-Year Plan of Goals and Objectives.

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. The Fall 2008 issue focused on curricular reform with the lead article focusing on Washington and Lee Law School's innovative third-year program. The Spring 2009 issue focused on the effect of the economy on law student employment prospects. The newsletter also contained various topical articles and information regarding events at Virginia's law schools. The section has begun the process of providing future newsletters in electronic form through the section's webpage on the VSB website. 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 well-attended and student evaluations were very positive. William E. Glover and U.S. Magistrate Judge B. Waugh Crigler co-chaired this project.

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 19, 2009. The program, "Well Tailored ADR: Getting Your Client the Right Fit Is a Matter of Ethics," was presented by a panel consisting of Lawrence H. Hoover, Jr., Charles V. McPhillips, John H. O'Brien, Jr., and Charles Witthoefft.

The section produced a Five-Year Plan of Goals and Objectives as requested of all sections by VSB President Manuel Capsalis. The plan focuses on determining whether and how the section will continue to fulfill its mission. A large part of the plan is the assessment of the state of education of lawyers in Virginia. To that end the plan notes:

Over the next four years, the [section] will review the current state of the education of law students, the examination of candidates for the bar, the accession of new lawyers into the profession, the basic training of those new lawyers during the first five years of practice, and their accumulation of knowledge, skills, and abilities as they progress through the profession. In the fifth year, the SEL will summarize its findings and make recommendations to the Virginia State Bar for any improvements that it deems could be beneficial to the profession.

The development of the plan was chaired by Jeffrey M. Summers.

Outgoing chair Henry L. Chambers, Jr. served as chair of the section's nominating committee, with members who included Professor Margaret I. Bacigal, Cynthia E. Hudson, Gregory T. St. Ours, and Judge Winship Tower.

The officers for the upcoming year are: Lawrence H. Hoover, Jr., chair; Prof. A. Benjamin Spencer, vice-chair; and Anita O. Poston, secretary. Returning board members serving a second term are: Judge Teresa Chafin, Judge Waugh Crigler, Lisa Hicks-Thomas, Lawrence Hoover. New board members serving their first term are: Humes Franklin, III, Amandeep S. Sidhu.

Departing members of the Board of Governors are: Judge Winship Tower. The section thanks her for her service.