

Local Government

Dear Fellow Members of the Bar:

Given the frenzy already surrounding the presidential race and the turbulence of the recently concluded 2000 session of the Virginia General Assembly, one could surmise that governing and the responsibility for providing governmental services to the public must surely rest primarily at the federal and state levels. But as those in the business know, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., was never more correct. All politics are local and "devolution"—a national trend which likely will never be reversed—means that local governments are increasingly called upon to provide many public services that used to be dispensed by Washington and Richmond. The Local Government Law Section is pleased to bring you this theme issue that provides a glimpse of the breadth of subjects that we practitioners, both public and private, now confront.

I urge any member of the Virginia State Bar whose practice involves contact with local governments to become a member of the section. Membership brings quarterly issues of the Journal, in which our members have an opportunity to explore timely topics of interest to them and their colleagues. Membership also provides an opportunity to take part in the section's presentation at the annual meeting of the VSB in Virginia Beach. This year we are teaming with the Real Property Section to explore the ins and outs of developing a residential subdivision in the context of a locality's land use regulations.



We hope that you enjoy this issue and that we will see many of you among our ranks in the near future.

David P. Bobzien