

Environmental Law Today

by A. Lisa Barker, chair, Environmental Law Section

Climate change, global warming, recycling, and green development were once the concern only of policy wonks. These environmental issues now pervade our lives and our law practices from the local level to the state, federal, and international levels. In this *Virginia Lawyer*, Grady A. Palmer III, an assistant city attorney in Chesapeake, discusses local air pollution issues. Tauna Szymanski of Hunton & Williams LLP reviews policies that affect climate change in the global context. Mary V. Cromer, formerly of the Southern Environmental Law Center and now on the staff of the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, describes the application of the federal Clean Water Act to mining operations in Southwest Virginia. And Nicole M. Rovner, deputy secretary of natural resources for the commonwealth, reviews environmental initiatives of Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's administration.

The Virginia State Bar's Environmental Law Section provides continuing education at the bar's annual meeting. The section cooperates with other bar organizations and with the T.C. Williams Law School at the University of Richmond. The section's board of governors continues to explore relation-

ships with other organizations to advance the educational goals.

During 2008, the section joined with the environmental law sections of the Richmond Bar Association and the Virginia Bar Association to sponsor a student writing competition in memory of Kathy Rae Frahm. Frahm volunteered for each of those organizations and, at the time of her death in September 2007, was director of policy for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The winner of the competition was William Hughes, a recent graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, who submitted an article on the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Lawyers who work in every facet of law will find that environmental law affects their clients. I encourage bar members to become involved in our section and to join us in our activities. Other board members are Joseph John Tannery of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Katherine D. Will of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Caleb A. Jaffe of the Southern Environmental Law Center; John K. Byrum Jr. of Troutman Sanders LLP; Angela L. Jenkins of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; E. Carter Nettles Jr., a practitioner in Wakefield; Kerri L. Nicholas of the Office of the Virginia Attorney General; Andrea W. Wortzel of Hunton & Williams LLP; John G. Douglass, dean of the University of Richmond School of Law; Daniel C. Summerlin III of Woods Rogers PLC; and M. Ann Neil Cosby of Sands Anderson Marks and Miller PC.