

CORPORATE COUNSEL SECTION

Daniel K. Maller, Chair

The Corporate Counsel Section had another full year of activities representing and promoting the interests of in-house attorneys in Virginia.

The year started with a terrific program at the VSB Conference on Multidisciplinary Practice, which the Corporate Counsel Section co-sponsored along with several other sections and groups. MDP is an issue that places Corporate Counsel in a somewhat unique position, and an issue which the legal community will need to confront in an organized fashion to balance the tremendous interests and resources arrayed in favor of promoting MDP without borders or regulation.

Leading in to the 2000–2001 bar year, we had planned to organize an approach to the bar on a developing issue related to requirements for corporate counsel “waiving in” to the Virginia State Bar. This issue had been brewing since the Virginia Supreme Court asked the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners to administer the admission of practicing attorneys in 1999, according to guidelines issued by the Court on June 11, 1999. The corporate counsel board of governors had been discussing several pending complaints raised by individual corporate counsels seeking admission to the Virginia State Bar. We had determined to ask the State Bar council to establish a panel to recommend changes to the Supreme Court guidelines to facilitate corporate counsel joining the Bar. In the meantime, Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico, in a letter dated September 26, 2000, requested the VSB to undertake a study of “alternative approaches to the current method of licensing in-house corporate counsel in Virginia.” At the meeting of the State Bar council in late October, vice-chair Cathy Mayes and board members Darragh Davis and David Rosenfeld were present to represent the section. Ms. Mayes and Mr. Rosenfeld agreed to serve on the commission appointed by the council, along with several other prominent Virginia attorneys. The commission has held several meetings and has begun the process of developing a coherent recommendation for the Virginia Supreme Court, with the able and active assistance from the corporate counsel representatives.

Board member and secretary Lorri Kleine again managed our law student writing competition. We extended this year’s deadline to March 15 to include spring break, and were rewarded with several worthy entries from around the state. The winners and their papers were as follows:

- **1st place** Jill Kantor Waigner, The College of William & Mary: “The Use of Mediation by Corporate Counsel”
- **2nd place** Howard McFadden, University of Virginia: “Corporate Compliance Programs in Light of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines”
- **3rd place** Heather Cain, University of Richmond: “Employers and the Right to Monitor Employees’ Computer Usage”

We also succeeded in the creation of a corporate counsel Web site. Board member J. Philip Hart has taken on leadership of this project, and the site is now live and available through the VSB’s site. Our goal is to make information about section activities more available to members as well as providing a resource to members for the exchange of views and information, taking advantage of today’s technology.

At the VSB annual meeting, we hosted a CLE on recent developments in employment law, which was well attended. At the business meeting, we elected two new board members, Scott E. Snyder of Travelers Insurance and Edythe Katz of e.spire Communications. Officers for the coming year will be Cathy Mayes, chair; Lorri J. Kleine, vice-chair, and J. Philip Hart, secretary.

