

LITIGATION SECTION

Glenn W. Pulley, Chair

This year, the Litigation Section board of governors felt it was time to re-evaluate the section's goals, objectives, and its program of work. We were well satisfied with the basic framework of the section's government and activities, and the machine seemed to be running smoothly, thanks to the leadership of the board, the support of the membership, and the administrative talents of the State Bar's staff. Nevertheless, a "check under the hood" at this time in the section's development seemed to be a good idea.

We began with a well-attended board retreat in Charlottesville, in October. The weekend included several sessions facilitated by a professional from the University of Richmond and the usual social opportunities that energized the group. We left Charlottesville after forming small committees whose charge was to study well-defined issues and report back to the full board in February. Some of the issues included:

- A) Revision of the section's mission statement;
- B) Determining the demographics of our section's membership;
- C) Rejuvenating our Young Litigator's Section;
- D) Creating and maintaining a section Web site;
- E) Assisting litigators and judges in resolving discovery disputes;
- F) Revising the section's budgetary format.

The committees responsible for studying these issues have tackled the assignments with enthusiasm but the process is ongoing, and the 2001–2002 board will likely see the tangible results of this hard work.

The retreat and its epilogue did not interrupt the traditional work of the section that included:

- A) Producing quarterly issues of our newsletter containing utilitarian articles written by our membership and edited by Lee Livingston;
- B) Presenting seminars at the mid-year meeting in California and at the annual meeting in Virginia Beach, orchestrated by Susan Armstrong and Tom Albro, respectively;
- C) Sponsoring financially and providing judges for the 2000–2001 Law In Society essay competition in high schools around the Commonwealth;
- D) Sponsoring financially a start-up program to assist moot court competitors in the Commonwealth's law schools.

The membership and our financial resources continue to grow—a mixed blessing. There is a greater opportunity for the section to improve litigation and dispute resolution in Virginia, but there is also a great challenge for the section's board members to lead more effectively by using available talent and resources. In my opinion, the section's leadership is in good hands with the recent election of Frank K. Friedman as chair, Tom Albro as vice-chair, and Paul M. Black as secretary. New board members include: Philip G. Gardner, Harry M. Johnson, III, Michael G. Phelan, and William H. Shewmake will serve as chair of the appellate practice subcommittee. Returning board members include: R. Lee Livingston, newsletter editor; Susan C. Armstrong; Vicki H. Devine; Jacqueline G. Epps; Samuel W. Meekins, Jr.; Robert E. Scully; The Honorable Mosby G. Perrow, III; The Honorable Lydia C. Taylor; Kevin W. Holt and Kevin W. Mottley, co-chairs, young lawyers committee and Ann K. Crenshaw, computer task force liaison. I will remain on the board for one more year in an ex-officio capacity as the immediate-past chair of the section. It will be a pleasure to continue my service.

