

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION

Christopher D. Pomeroy, Chair

This has been a successful year for the Environmental Law Section. We focused on continuing our traditional emphasis on education through high quality programs and publications. We presented three CLE programs, published three issues of the *Environmental Law News* and lectured on environmental law at The College of William & Mary.

Our "Environmental Directions in Virginia in 2002 and Beyond" program at the annual meeting featured presentations by former Governor Gerald Baliles, now with Hunton & Williams; W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources; Dennis Treacy, Vice President of Environmental Affairs and Government Relations at Smithfield Foods, Inc.; and John Butcher, former Senior Assistant Attorney General who represented the Department of Environmental Quality. Co-sponsored by the Administrative Law Section, this program offered members 1.5 CLE hours.

We also co-sponsored an annual meeting workshop entitled, "Toxic Mold Exposure Claims" with the Construction Law and Local Government Law sections. This program featured comprehensive presentations by Stephen Busch of McGuireWoods on liability and litigation issues, and by Matthew Jacobs of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart on insurance coverage issues. This program provided 1.5 CLE hours.

In the spring, our "2002 Virginia Environmental Regulatory Update" teleconference brought five program managers from the Department of Environmental Quality together with section members for an insightful discussion of current developments. We were grateful for the participation of DEQ's Harry Gregori (Brownfields/Special Programs), Karen Sismour (Waste), John Daniel (Air), Larry Lawson (Water) and Ellen Gilinsky (Wetlands). Many section members from across the Commonwealth and beyond took advantage of this convenient 2-hour CLE event.

We continued publishing the section's newsletter, *Environmental Law News*. We distributed a winter and spring and summer edition. *Environmental Law News* is a journal-style publication prepared and edited by law students on Washington & Lee University Law School's *Environmental Law Digest*. It provides section members with law review articles and summaries of legislative, regulatory and judicial developments in Virginia environmental law.

We established the Virginia State Bar Environmental Law Award to recognize the student author who contributes the best article to the *Environmental Law News* each year. The award is intended to promote scholarship and articles of exceptional quality. It will be awarded for the first time this fall.

We lectured to undergraduate business students at The College of William & Mary during the winter. We addressed the implications of environmental regulation in today's business climate while providing an overview of the major environmental laws affecting the business community. Special emphasis was placed on the legislative and regulatory process and the role of environmental regulation in business transactions and public relations.

We made efforts to increase membership in our specialty section, which includes more than 400 attorney members. At the annual meeting, the section elected four new board members: Kathy Frahm, Karla Haynes, Karen Lebo, and J.T. Morgan. We appreciate the significant efforts of those board members whose terms recently expired: Former Chair Edward Boling, Leonard Vance, John Stoddy, Judge Theodore Markow and Nicole Roberts.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge Dolly Shaffner of the state bar for her extraordinary service to the section. Without her tireless support, the section could not sustain the high level of activity and opportunities that the membership enjoys throughout the year.

