

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW SECTION

Stephen E. Noona, Chair

As I conclude my term as chair of the Intellectual Property Section, I want to thank the section's officers and board members for the significant accomplishments of the past year. Thanks to the efforts of the board, the Intellectual Property Law Section of the Virginia State Bar has continued its dynamic growth and active participation in the practice of the burgeoning intellectual property field. Our section has earned the reputation for not only being one of the fastest growing sections (membership now over 1,400), but also for carrying out and following through on first class continuing legal education seminars—while at the same time contributing to the overall health of the Virginia State Bar.

Last year, as a result of a nationwide patent interference seminar organized by Charles F. Wieland III, and profits earned from our annual fall seminar, the section contributed over \$15,000 to make it possible for the Virginia State Bar to place attorney disciplinary information online. That information is available on the state bar's Web site, www.vsb.org/attorney/attSearch.asp. As past-chair Mary Dalton Baril said, "The new feature will make it easier for Virginians to make informed decisions about attorneys and puts Virginia in the forefront of states providing electronic access to information about attorneys."

On a related front, Brad Lytle successfully organized the section's 13th annual fall CLE seminar weekend in Chantilly, Virginia. The section held a profitable, interesting and well-attended seminar. Speakers included the Honorable Randall R. Rader from the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, two former commissioners of the Patent and Trademark Office, the Honorable Gerald J. Mossinghoff, the Honorable Q. Todd Dickinson and the Honorable Stephen G. Kunin, deputy commissioner for patent examination policy for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In April, the section joined forces with the George Mason University School of Law to sponsor an ethics and IP seminar. At our June meeting at Virginia Beach, we teamed up with the Antitrust Section to present a panel of speakers on antitrust issues and federal enforcement initiatives relating to intellectual property. The section elected Charles F. Wieland III, chair; Lee N. Kump, chair-elect; John Farmer, vice chair; Christopher J. Mugel, secretary; Bradley D. Lytle, honorary board member, and Stephen E. Noona as immediate past chair.

This year finished as strongly as it started. The section agreed to be featured in the June/July 2002 issue edition of the *Virginia Lawyer*, which focused on intellectual property issues. The section has scheduled its 14th annual fall CLE weekend for September 2–28, 2002, at Wintergreen Resort. Great people continued to accomplish great things this year. Next year will be even better.

