

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION

The Honorable Alexander F. Skirpan, Jr., Chair

The Administrative Law Section continued to present high-quality educational programs to its members and interested parties. This year, the section renewed the publication of the *Administrative Law News*, continued its popular luncheon program, organized the National Regulatory Conference and co-sponsored a workshop with the Environmental Law Section at the June VSB annual meeting.

In March, a new issue of the *Administrative Law News* was published under the editorial leadership of Cliona Mary Robb. This issue contained several articles chronicling the development of Virginia's administrative law, including: "Navigating the Seven 'C's: A Practitioner's View of What an Administrative Law Judge Should Do," by Jim Guy; "SCC Introduces 'Case Docket Search'," by Ken Schrad; "Will the SCC Suitout for Telecom Battles," by Bob Gillespie; "FERC Plans for Energy Deregulation Cast Virginia as Battleground State," by Ken Barry; and "SCC Authority to Fill in Statutory Gaps," by Brian Greene. In addition, the *Administrative Law News* included articles to highlight each of the section's planned events and educational opportunities.

On April 11, 2003, the section held its third annual "brown bag" luncheon program in Richmond. This program provides administrative lawyers with the opportunity to hear about the latest developments and exchange ideas with representatives of Virginia's administrative agencies. This year's program included presentations by the Honorable Kenneth W. Thorson, tax commissioner, Virginia Department of Taxation, and John F. Dudley, counsel to the commission, State Corporation Commission. The informal setting and lively discussions have helped this program continue to grow in popularity and become an important event for the administrative law community.

The high point of the year for the section was the National Regulatory Conference, jointly sponsored by the section, the State Corporation Commission and the Marshall-Wythe Law School at the College of William and Mary. This year, the 21st National Regulatory Conference was held at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law on May 5 and 6, 2003. This year's program, entitled, "The Impact of Wall Street On Regulated Industries: Pay No Attention to the Person Behind the Curtain," addressed the significant changes occurring in the regulation of electric and telecommunications utilities, with an emphasis on the impact of financial markets on these industries. The keynote address, "Pay No Attention to the Person Behind the Curtain or the Wizards of Wall Street," was delivered by Susan Abbott, managing director of New Harbor, Inc. The 165 attendees heard panel discussions on: "The Impact of Rating Agencies on Utility Stock Prices and Economic Viability," "Restructuring, Competition and Long Range Planning in the Energy Industry," "The Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review Order and Its Impact on the Telecommunications Industry," "Proliferation of Regional Transmission Organizations" and "Ethical Responsibilities: Are General Counsel Fulfilling Their Proper Role or Are They Too Distracted With Performing Tasks?" In addition, the Honorable Nora Mead Brownell, commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, offered her views on recent actions by FERC and on state/federal matters during a luncheon address. The 21st National Regulatory Conference was a great success.

At the June VSB annual meeting, the section continued its tradition of presenting a workshop on a significant administrative law issue. This year's workshop was co-sponsored with the Environmental Law Section and focused on the nuts and bolts of practicing before Virginia's regulatory agencies. Importantly, after the workshop, the section held a general membership meeting, at which new board members and officers were elected. The section's new officers are: Brian L. Buniva, chair; JoAnne Lewis Nolte, vice chair; and Cliona Mary Robb, secretary. The following section members were also elected to the section's board of governors: Michael Quinan, James Dimitri, William Dudley and James Copenhaver. Allen Glover and Warren Tisdale stepped down after several years of distinguished service on the board. The board will miss their sage counsel and many other contributions to the section's activities.

