

## REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

### EDUCATION OF LAWYERS SECTION

*Professor Margaret Ivey Bacigal, Chair*

The Section on the Education of Lawyers continued its mission of providing a forum for integrating the bench, bar and academia to improve Virginia's legal system. At the annual meeting, our section co-sponsored a CLE program entitled, "Corporate Meltdown: Counsel in the Hotseat." Panelists included James B. Comey, Jr., United States Attorney, Southern District of New York; George M. Cohen, Edward F. Howrey Research Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law; Frederick J. Krebs, president, American Corporate Counsel Association, Washington, DC; and N. Pendleton Rogers, Troutman Sanders, L.L.P., Richmond. Thomas E. Spahn with McGuire Woods, LLP, McLean, was the moderator. The annual meeting planning committee, chaired by the Honorable Pamela Meade Sargent, organized an outstanding program.

The Professionalism Course for Law Students, developed by our section and the Standing Committee on Professionalism, was again offered to first-year students at each of Virginia's seven law schools. All sessions were well-attended, and student evaluations were positive. Justice Kinser, chair of the Education During Law School Committee, and her committee, are to be commended for their help and participation in the programs. The Honorable B. Waugh Crigler and Professor Michael I. Krauss, George Mason School of Law, were presented resolutions recognizing them for their dedication in developing and implementing this program.

Ed Lowry continued as chair of the Emerging Trends Committee. After examining the broad body of work in this area, the committee decided to hold a symposium on the topic of "Creating and Maintaining the Complete Lawyer." Representative lawyers, jurists and academicians will be invited to attend. It is hoped that the symposium will generate ongoing discussion culminating in a statewide program.

Professor Eric DeGross continued to do an outstanding job as editor of the section's newsletter. Two editions were published.

Virginia's seven law schools contribute to the section's annual operating budget. Support is also sought from law firms. This year's Fundraising and Law Firm Contributions Committee, chaired by Ray Diaz, did an excellent job of soliciting support for the section's programs.

On behalf of the section, I want to thank the following firms for their generous support: Edmunds & Williams, P.C., of Lynchburg; Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, of Roanoke; Michie, Hamlet, Lowry, Rasmussen & Tweel, P.C., of Charlottesville; Rees, Broome & Diaz, of Vienna; Troutman, Sanders L.L.P., of Richmond; Williams Mullen, of Richmond; and Woods Rogers & Hazelgrove P.L.C., of Roanoke. The section plans to continue its effort in the coming year to expand the number of law firms that contribute to our section's operating budget.

At the section's annual business meeting, the Honorable Ed Burnette presented the nominations committee's report. The following new officers were elected for the 2003–2004 bar year: Raymond J. Dias, chair; the Honorable Cleo Powell, vice-chair; and Joan Marie Shaughnessy, secretary. The following board members were elected to a second three-year term: the Honorable Cleo E. Powell; Professor James Ryan, University of Virginia; the Honorable Pamela Meade Sargent; the Honorable Clifford R. Weckstein; Edward B. Lowry and George A. Somerville.

Thanks is also expressed to outgoing board member Professor Richard Balnave, who contributed significantly to the section's work.

As I complete my term as chair, I want to express my appreciation to board members for their tireless efforts on behalf of the section and for their work on our standing committees. These include: admissions to the bar, annual meeting planning, education during law school, emerging trends in the legal profession, fundraising and law firm contributions, newsletter and nominating. Thank you all for helping to make this a productive year and for contributing to our mission through your support.

