

## REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION

*Stewart T. Leeth, Chair*

This has been another successful year for the Environmental Law Section. We were involved with two CLE programs during the year and published additional issues of *Environmental Law News*.

At the bar's annual meeting in June 2003, our CLE focused on administrative practice. The program was entitled, "Administrative Law Practicum: Nuts and Bolts of Appearing before an ALJ." Speakers included Allen L. Knapp, Virginia Department of Health, director of enforcement, Office of Environmental Health Services; Robert A. K. Payne, Virginia Department of Health, director of enforcement, Office of Drinking Water; C. Meade Browder, Jr., Virginia Office of the Attorney General, senior assistant attorney general and chief, Insurance and Utilities Regulatory Section; John M. Holloway III, Hunton & Williams and Michael D. Thomas, Virginia State Corporation Commission, hearing examiner.

The program provided practice tips for preparing an administrative record, presentation of witnesses in administrative settings, dealing with extremes—the *pro se* appellant v. the energetic litigator, mechanisms for settlement prior to hearing and judicial review. A portion of the program also spotlighted administrative proceedings before the State Corporation Commission and involved several participants in the controversial setting of a new power station by Tenaska Virginia Partners, Ltd. This program was co-sponsored by the Administrative Law Section. It offered members 1.5 CLE hours.

In the spring, we co-sponsored "A Roadmap to Conservation Easements for Professionals & Landowners," that was held at the Donaldson-Brown Conference Center at Virginia Tech. Speakers included W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., Virginia secretary of natural resources; Nancy A. McLaughlin, associate professor of law, University of Utah; Kristen Smith, McGuireWoods, L.L.P.; Randi Lemon, Lucas Real Estate Appraisal Services; Tamara Vance, Virginia Outdoors Foundation; Jesse J. Richardson, Jr., assistant professor of urban affairs and planning, Virginia Tech; Stephen Wagner, Joyce Graham and Michael Van Ness.