

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

BANKRUPTCY LAW SECTION

Dale A. Davenport, chair

It was my good fortune to chair the Bankruptcy Law Section for 2003–2004. The section benefited from an active membership and the Board of Governors, during the seven years in which I served, was committed to its mission and goals.

Tyler Brown of Hunton & Williams in Richmond and David Cox of Dunn & Cox in Lynchburg were elected to the board, filling seats held by Ben Ackerly and me. I remained ex officio as chair. Board members Malissa Giles of Giles & Lambert in Roanoke and Debera Conlon, assistant U. S. trustee in Norfolk, were reelected. Professor Mechele Dickerson was elected vice chair and Rich Maxwell of Woods Rogers was named secretary.

Loc Pfeiffer continued as editor of the *Bankruptcy Law News*—probably the most demanding job in the section. Under Loc's leadership, the publication was produced on schedule and featured many helpful articles. Loc resigned at the end of the year, and the board selected Robbie Westermann of Hunton & Williams to succeed him.

Under the able steerage of Pete Zemanian of Willcox & Savage P.C., section members wrote the features for the October *Virginia Lawyer*.

The section presented the fourteenth annual bankruptcy seminar in coordination with Virginia CLE. The program benefited from a new bankruptcy handbook entitled *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia*. It was published by Virginia CLE and authored by many section members. This program included speakers in four locations around the commonwealth and seventeen videotape venues. Professor Mechele Dickerson of the College of William & Mary's Marshall Wythe School of Law chaired the seminar committee.

Rich Maxwell chaired the Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Conference committee that was held in Richmond in April 2004. There were video replays in three locations in June. The program catered to more experienced bankruptcy lawyers and those who were trying to improve their skills. It had a less formal format than many CLE seminars. One segment dealt with the complexities of bankruptcy tax issues.

Board members Bob Copeland of Copeland & Bieger in Abingdon and Jim Schroll of Bean, Kinney & Korman PC in Arlington led the production of proof of claim seminars. These programs reached credit personnel who routinely file company claims.

Pete Zemanian chaired the section's long-range planning committee. The committee's initiatives will better serve the membership in the coming years. Committee members included Roy Terry of DurretteBradshaw PLC in Richmond; Tyler Brown; Larry Rifken of McGuireWoods in Tysons Corner; Rich Maxwell; Mechele Dickerson and Dale Davenport.

The section lost one of its founders to untimely death in December 2003. Jim Burns of Richmond had served the state's bankruptcy bar as much as any person in recent memory through a variety of roles, including section board member and officer—and as a frequent lecturer at seminars. His accomplishments and service were formally recognized by the board in a resolution of respect presented to his family in May at a meeting of the Richmond bankruptcy bar.

Ann Vaden, a seminar director at Virginia CLE who had worked on countless section programs, moved on to other fields of interest within her organization. She will be missed by our members and remembered for her leadership. Nancy Kern, who had a good start with the Advanced Seminar this year, replaced her.

Professor Dickerson, with the VSB Family Law Section, produced a well-attended continuing education program at the bar's annual meeting. Speakers were our section's Roy Terry; Joseph Condo of Fairfax, a highly regarded divorce lawyer; and the Honorable Jane Marum Rousch, a Fairfax circuit judge.

In preparation for the 2004 annual meeting, I appointed a nominating committee, including Robert Van Arsdale of the U. S. trustee's office in Norfolk; Larry Riken; Don King of Odin, Feldman & Pittleman PC in Fairfax; and David Spiro of Cantor Arkema PC in Richmond. The committee nominated Rich Maxwell and Jim Schroll to succeed themselves for second board terms. Lynn Tavenner of Tavenner & Beran in Richmond and Brian Kenney of Miles & Stockbridge P.C. in Tysons Corner were nominated to succeed Brad Evans and Mechele Dickerson, whose terms were expiring. All four nominees were elected. Professor Dickerson will continue on the board ex officio, due to her election as chair. Rich Maxwell was elected as vice chair and Pete Zemanian as secretary for 2004–2005.

