

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

CONSTRUCTION LAW AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS SECTION

Christine McAnney, chair

The Construction Law and Public Contracts Section enjoyed another successful year of informative seminars and newsletters. In November 2003, more than one hundred attendees were present for the twenty-fourth annual Construction Law and Public Contracts Seminar at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. The seminar included presentations on electronic discovery, surety, geotechnical developments and "ins and outs" of the Virginia Public Procurement Act. It provided a year of continuing legal education credits. The Honorable Robert Wooldridge presided over a mock presentation of a construction scheduling claim.

The 2004 annual program was scheduled for November 5 and 6 at the Boar's Head Inn. Richard Smith was the program chair. The program included our second "sticks-and-bricks" segment on practical construction knowledge.

There were a number of changes on some of the section committees. The section has benefited for as long as I can remember with Joe West and Billy Mauck as editors of the section's newsletter. I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication. With the spring 2004 issue of the newsletter, the torch was passed to new board members Matt Pritts and Todd Metz. We will be looking into less expensive ways of publishing the newsletter in the future. There is also new blood for the Section's Handbook Committee. Tim Hughes and I turned over the reins for that committee to new board members Brett Marston and Greg St. Ours.

At the June 2004 annual meeting, the section teamed with the Real Property Section and presented a seminar entitled "Contractors are from Mars; Architects are from Venus; What is an Owner to Do?: The 1997 AIA Contract Forms Revisited." The speakers were Jim Lowe (former section board member) of Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern Inc., an architectural/engineering firm based in Roanoke; Bill Thurston (former chair of the section) of Marchant, Thurston, Honey & Blanks LLP in Richmond; and R. Webb Moore of Hirschler Fleischer in Richmond. Billy Mauck was the chair of the Spring Program Committee.

My service as chair during the past year has been a highlight of my professional career—due in large part to the fine lawyers and friends with whom I have worked on the section's Board of Governors. I want to thank all of the board members and Virginia State Bar staff who assisted me during this past year and made the section work. I have enjoyed working with these very talented people.

