

## REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

### EDUCATION OF LAWYERS SECTION

*Raymond J. Diaz, chair*

The Section on the Education of Lawyers continued its mission of providing a forum for integrating the bench, the bar and academia to improve Virginia's legal system. At the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting, the section cosponsored a well-received program entitled "Get a Life! Creating, Maintaining and Living with the Complete Lawyer." Participating speakers included the Honorable Carl Horn III, a United States magistrate judge and author of *Lawyer Life: Finding a Higher Calling in the Practice of Law*; Scott M. Hollander, a nationally known child advocate about whom the television show "The Guardian" is loosely based; former VSB President John A.C. Keith; Karen Turner McWilliams, a partner in a large firm and the mother of two children; Chris Condo, wife of a busy litigator; and Robert Siedel, a well-known psychologist. The program was moderated by then-VSB President Jeannie P. Dahnk.

The Professionalism Program for Law Students, developed by this section and the Standing Committee on Professionalism, was again offered to first-year students at each of Virginia's seven accredited law schools. All sessions were well attended and student evaluations were strongly positive. The program will remain a staple for those beginning the study of law in the commonwealth.

Professor Eric DeGroff, completing his highly successful tenure as editor of the section's newsletter, again was a major contributor to the work of the section this year. Professor DeGroff announced his retirement as editor because of additional duties he is assuming at the Regent University School of Law and within his denomination. To the relief of a concerned section chair, Professor James Boland of Regent has agreed to become editor of the newsletter and assume the important responsibilities of the position.

Ed Lowry continued as chair of the Emerging Trends Committee. The committee, which helped develop the program presented at the annual meeting, plans to continue the theme of the program and is working towards the presentation of a symposium on the topic of "Creating and Maintaining the Complete Lawyer."

Virginia's seven accredited law schools contribute to the section's annual operating budget. The law schools' contributions are matched by a number of Virginia law firms. This year's Fundraising and Law Firm Contributions Committee, chaired by George A. Somerville, did an excellent job of soliciting support for the section's programs.

On behalf of the section, the Board of Governors offers our sincere thanks to the following firms for their generous support: Edmunds & Williams, Lynchburg; Gentry, Locke, Rakes & Moore, Roanoke; Hunton & Williams, Richmond; Michie Hamlett Lowry Rasmussen & Tweel, Charlottesville; Rees, Broome & Diaz, Vienna; Troutman Sanders, Richmond; and Woods Rogers, Roanoke.

At the section's annual business meeting, the Honorable Ed Burnette presented the Nominating Committee's report. The following officers were elected for the 2004–2005 bar year: Raymond J. Diaz, chair; the Honorable Cleo E. Powell, vice-chair; and Professor Joan M. Shaughnessy, secretary.

William G. Broaddus of Richmond and Eric R. Thiessen of Abingdon were elected to their second three-year terms on the Board of Governors. The section also welcomes the following new members of the board: the Honorable Rossie D. Alston Jr. of the Prince William County Circuit Court; Professor Henry L. Chambers Jr. of the University of Richmond School of Law; Brian K. Jackson, vice president and in-house counsel for Ukrop's Super Markets Inc.; and Bruce C. Stockburger, a partner with Gentry, Locke.

The board offers its sincere thanks to Professor Margaret Ivey Bacigal, Robert E. Glenn, the Honorable R. Terrence Ney, and William B. Poff, outgoing members of the board who have contributed significantly to the work of the section for the last six years.

