

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION

Marina Liacouras Phillips, chair

The goal of the Environmental Law Section in the 2003–2004 year was to expand the scope of our services to include more members across the state. In that regard, we held a Board of Governors section meeting outside of Richmond for the first time. The spring meeting was held in McLean and featured a presentation by Peter J. Murtha, director of the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on his office's enforcement resources and strategies. The presentation generated positive feedback and we intend to continue our program of presenting speakers at luncheon meetings in various locations around the state.

The Environmental Law Section organized and sponsored two continuing legal education programs this year. The first was a 2004 Virginia Environmental Regulatory Update Conference. Presenters included the senior program heads from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, who provided summaries and updates of their specific regulatory programs.

Our summer CLE took place during the Virginia State Bar's Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. The Environmental Law Section partnered with the Taxation Law Section to present "Pollution Control Can Save You Money: The Tax Savings and Economic Benefits of Conservation and Property Clean-up." Presenters included Mark Botkin, a tax attorney in Harrisonburg, who explained the tax benefits of environmental remediation; John Sternlicht of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, who described how environmental remediation can provide economic benefits to the Commonwealth of Virginia; and Chris Evans of DEQ's Land Renewal/Brownfields Program, who described Virginia's brownfields program. This CLE generated the largest attendance at an Environmental Law Section CLE in the past five years.

In December 2003, the section co-sponsored a conference entitled "Key Environmental Issues in USEPA Region III" with the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. This conference allowed senior Environmental Protection Agency regulators from Region III to discuss developments in clean air, clean water, brownfields and citizen suits.

The section elected Karen Lebo of Hunton & Williams chair for the 2004–2005 year. Other officers elected include Karla Haynes of the Virginia Beach city attorney's office, vice chair, and Heather Stevenson of McGuireWoods, secretary. Newly elected board members include David Graham of Kaufman & Canoles, Brooks Smith of Hunton & Williams and Barbara Rose, deputy county attorney for Hanover County. We are grateful for the continued support of our most recent chair, Stewart Leeth, who served as chair emeritus this year.

As always, we sincerely appreciate the efforts of Dolly Shaffner, without whom the Environmental Law Section would have been unable to achieve the successes described above.

