

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

FAMILY LAW SECTION

J. Patrick McConnell, chair

The Family Law Section has the responsibility of providing continuing education for attorneys and family law information to the public in Virginia.

In the fall of 2003 we presented seminars in four locations on “Successful Strategies for Your Custody Case.” The course described updates in the law from the standpoints of attorneys and guardian *ad litem*. The course also examined ethical issues in custody cases.

At the Midyear Legal Seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona, we presented a course on “What Every Lawyer Should Know about Divorce,” focusing on general divorce issues. The course was given again in spring 2004 in Northern Virginia.

In May 2004, we presented an Advanced Family Law Seminar, directed at more experienced family law practitioners. Subjects included discovery, burden of proof, a legislative update and computer law, as well as ethical issues in computer law.

The section updated pamphlets that are available to the public and attorneys. In June of 2004, the committee, headed by Ken Murov, published a booklet entitled “Financial Aspects of Divorce,” designed for clients who are preparing for or involved in a divorce.

This year we were successful through the leadership of our editor, Richard Crouch, in publishing four issues of *Family Law News*, which contained up-to-date articles affecting family law practitioners throughout the state.

At our meetings throughout the year, we had committees on:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Guardians *Ad Litem*
- Law-School Liaison

At the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach in June, we cosponsored a seminar with the Bankruptcy Section on family law and bankruptcy. Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. gave a presentation directed at family law practitioners and honored Glenn Lewis with a Lifetime Achievement Award. At our annual meeting we also elected our officers for the 2004–2005 year: Edward D. Barnes, chair; Cheshire Eveleigh, vice chair; Brian Hirsh, secretary; and J. Patrick McConnell, past-chair.

