

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

GENERAL PRACTICE

Powell Lawson Duggan, chair

First Day in Practice Seminar

The General Practice Section's headline production is its annual First Day in Practice Seminar, co-sponsored by the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference, made available to all new bar admittees at a minimal cost. The faculty of the 2003 First Day in Practice Seminar was as stellar as ever, including the following preeminent speakers: Virginia Court of Appeals Judge James W. Benton Jr.; retired U. S. District Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr.; Circuit Judge Leslie Alden; General District Judge Jacqueline Ward Talevi; Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Judge Denis Soden; Craig Cooley; Glenn R. Croshaw; Frank Brown; Gerald Schwartz; Terrence R. Batzli; Joseph W. Richmond; Keith L. Phillips; Sharon D. Nelson; and John W. Simek. These speakers donated their time for this worthwhile cause, and several make return visits each year. The evaluations for this program are always glowing.

The Tradition of Excellence Award

The General Practice Section annually recognizes an attorney with at least ten years of experience practicing law and five years as a general practitioner who "embodies the highest tradition of personal and professional excellence in Virginia and, in doing so, enhances the image and esteem of attorneys in the commonwealth." The 2004 Tradition of Excellence Award was presented this year to Leesburg attorney Robert E. Sevila.

Annual Meeting Workshop

At the VSB Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach in June 2004, the General Practice Section sponsored a seminar on landlord/tenant law. The program dealt with practical issues faced in court and Section 8 housing. The speakers included Judge Barbara Gaden of the Richmond General District Court and Charles Adams.

Section Newsletter

Kathleen McKee from the Regent University School of Law took over the duties as the editor of our newsletter.

2003–2004 Board

The new officers for the section are Judy August, chair; Mona Flax, vice chair; and Charles Adams, secretary. Other board members include Deborah C. Embrey of Lynchburg; Daniel Fransworth of Keysville; Linda Lambert of Richmond; Kathleen McKee of Virginia Beach; George Shanks of Luray; Alexander Simon of Richmond; Jill Dickerson of Farmville; Alexander Dillard of Tappahannock; and David Masterman of McLean. Judicial members include the Honorable Thomas Branch Hoover of New Kent, the Honorable Barbara Joan Gaden of Richmond, and the Honorable Winship Carver Tower of Virginia Beach. The *ex officio* member is Powell Duggan, immediate past chair.

Acknowledgments

Our section's accomplishments would not be possible without our bar liaison, Pat Sliger, who has been indispensable. This section would have perished long ago without Pat's nurturing and supervision.

