

## REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

### LITIGATION SECTION

*Paul M. Black, chair*

A priority for the section in 2003–2004 was the establishment of the new section Web site, which will incorporate current and past issues of the *Litigation News*, the section's newsletter. Access to this material on the Web will be a great benefit to section members. Ann Crenshaw deserves much of the credit for keeping this process on track, and we offer her our thanks. Kevin Mottley assumed the role of editor of the *Litigation News*, and he has done an admirable job in taking over from Lee Livingston. The board thanks all of those members of the bar who have provided articles or commentary over the past year. The *Litigation News* remains one of the best newsletters of any bar section.

The Young Lawyers Committee of the Litigation Section provided assistance to the section in reviewing the Virginia State Bar Law in Society Award Competition essays. First place was won by Katelyn Cordle, a student from the Governor's School for Global Economics in Keysville, Virginia. The Law in Society Competition, which the Litigation Section also supports financially, fosters critical thinking about issues in our profession by high school students who may develop an interest in law as a career. The board also made a concerted effort to encourage urban school participation in the program during the past year, and we thank Jackie Epps for her efforts.

The section has considered and debated numerous issues affecting our practice over the year, including the Judicial Council's consideration of the use of commissioners in chancery, proposed amendments to the Federal Rules, and the continuing debate on law and equity rules of practice. The board also considered the proposed "unbundling" of legal services in litigation, and how that may affect section members. The "unbundling" debate evolved into our section's continuing legal education program at the VSB Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. Entitled, "Litigation (Unbundled): Suits with Multiple Pants," the CLE program was well attended and actively debated. Bob Scully and Sam Meekins are to be commended for their work on the program. This remains an issue before the board as it transitions.

Members of the board continue their outstanding service. The new chair is Robert E. Scully, Sam Meekins is vice chair and Vicki Devine is secretary. New board members include the Honorable Michael F. Urbanski, United States magistrate judge; Kevin P. Oddo; Gregory J. Haley; Scott R. Ford; and Mary H. Zinsner. Returning board members include R. Lee Livingston, Jacqueline G. Epps, Harry M. "Pete" Johnson III, Jennifer L. Parrish, Colin J. S. Thomas III, Philip G. Gardner, the Honorable William H. Ledbetter Jr. and the Honorable Lydia C. Taylor. Pat Sliger continues to provide her invaluable services as the board's liaison to the VSB.

Thank you all for an outstanding year.

