

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION

JoAnne L. Nolte, chair

The Board of Governors of the Administrative Law Section continues its efforts to offer meaningful educational programs to its members and other interested parties. Vice-chair Cliona M.B. Robb and I presented a proposal to amend the section's bylaws, previously approved by the section, to the Virginia State Bar Council in the fall of 2004. The proposal permitted the annual section membership meeting to be held either in conjunction with the May National Regulatory Conference (NRC) or at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting. The amendment was approved and the 2005 section meeting was held in the spring, following the NRC in Williamsburg.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW NEWS

T. Borden Ellis, an attorney with NiSource, edited his final edition of the *Administrative Law News*, published in late summer of 2004 before retiring as newsletter editor and assuming a position on the section's board of governors. Ellis also contributed an article on the newest member of the State Corporation Commission, Commissioner Mark C. Christie. Kenneth A. Barry from Hunton & Williams wrote of American Electric Power's attempt to join a regional transmission organization. Alexander F. Skirpan Jr., a hearing examiner at the SCC, wrote an article clarifying the commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Cassie R. Craze analyzed the Supreme Court of Virginia's decision in *State Water Control Board v. Crutchfield*. At the time she wrote the article, Craze was a third-year law student attending the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law. She will be assuming a judicial clerkship in the near future. Ashley C. Beuttel, an attorney with the Office of the Attorney General, submitted an article on a recent SCC decision involving the Utility Transfers Act. Brendan O'Toole, a law student at the University of Richmond, contributed an article on regulatory powers of the Virginia Racing Commission. Kiva Bland Pierce, an attorney with The Conrad Firm, summarized the events of the 2004 NRC.

BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

In March of 2005, the section hosted a successful Fifth Annual Brown Bag Luncheon program. Through the leadership of past president Brian L. Buniva of LeClair Ryan, the luncheon speaker was Virginia Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy who offered helpful tips to the participants on honing their appellate practice skills. Many of the presubmitted questions can be viewed on the section's Web site at www.vsb.org/sections/ad/.

NATIONAL REGULATORY CONFERENCE

The twenty-third National Regulatory Conference was held May 12–13, 2005, in Williamsburg. The program, entitled "Regulatory Chrysalis: Emerging from the Cocoon," focused on how the regulatory world is changing. Stan Wise, commissioner of the Georgia Public Service Commission, delivered the keynote address.

Through the leadership of Vice-Chair Robb and her committee—made up of in-house counsel, private firm practitioners and attorneys from the public sector—the conference boasted a new format for the materials that were disseminated, which included a beautiful commemorative binder. Each NRC committee member received conference lapel pins to recognize their efforts to make the conference a success.

The panels offered attendees up-to-the-minute information and discussions concerning the following: energy markets, moderated by John A. Pirko of LeClair Ryan; telecommunications, moderated by Dr. Irene Leech, president of the Virginia Citizens Consumer Counsel; regulatory process, featuring a mock trial moderated by Philip R. "Duke" deHaas, counsel to the SCC; fuel industry issues, moderated by James C. Dimitri of McGuireWoods LLC; and legal ethics, moderated by Kiva Bland Pierce of The Conrad Firm.

WEB SITE

The section boasts a facelift to its Web site (www.vsb.org/sections/ad/index.htm), updated under the oversight of Michael J. Quinan of Christian & Barton. To have items posted on the Web site, contact Quinan with your suggestions at mquinan@cblaw.com.

WELCOME THE NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

New board members and officers were elected at the conclusion of the NRC for the 2005–2006 term. The section's new officers are: Cliona M.B. Robb, chair; James S. Copenhaver, vice-chair; and Michael J. Quinan, secretary. Vishwa B. Link, an attorney with Dominion Resources Services Inc., was elected to the board of governors.

