

BANKRUPTCY LAW SECTION

A. Michele Dickerson, chair

It has been my pleasure to serve as chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section for 2004–2005. The section was active during this year, especially after the much-anticipated bankruptcy legislation was signed into law.

Robert S. Westermann of Hunton & Williams edited and streamlined the format of *Bankruptcy Law News*.

The section presented the annual basic bankruptcy seminars in conjunction with Virginia CLE in January and February in Norfolk, Northern Virginia, Richmond and Roanoke. Richard C. Maxwell—section vice-chair of Woods Rogers PLC in Roanoke—chaired the seminar committee.

The section presented the annual Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Continuing Legal Education program in April. The program was designed for more experienced bankruptcy lawyers. Rich Maxwell changed the program due to new bankruptcy laws.

The section presented proof-of-claim seminars to help members of the credit community who routinely file claims for businesses. Under the direction of Roy M. Terry Jr., of DurretteBradshaw PC in Richmond, the section presented a proof-of-claim seminar in Richmond in May.

Under the able leadership of Peter G. Zemanian of the Zemanian Law Group in Norfolk, the section organized seminars to educate members about the new bankruptcy laws. These programs were conducted on the following dates: July 19 (Roanoke), July 21 (Fairfax), July 26 (Norfolk) and July 28 (Richmond) and included at least one local judge, a representative from the U.S. Trustee's Office and selected presenters.

The section cosponsored a continuing legal education seminar, "What Judges and Trial Lawyers Need to Know About Bankruptcy," at the sixty-seventh annual meeting of the Virginia State Bar. The section was pleased to sponsor this program with the Litigation Section and VSB Bench-Bar Committee. Speakers were the Honorable David H. Adams, United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia; James E. Brydges of Taylor & Walker PC in Norfolk; and Douglas M. Foley of McGuireWoods LLP in Norfolk.

A nominating committee—comprising board member Lawrence E. Rifkin of McGuireWoods LLP in McLean and former section chairs Michael A. Condyles of Kutak Rock LLP in Richmond and Donna J. Hall of Troutman Sanders LLP in Norfolk and Donald F. King of Odin, Feldman & Pittleman PC in Fairfax—nominated H. Jason Gold of Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP in McLean to succeed Larry Rifkin, whose term expired. Also nominated were Peter G. Zemanian, Roy M. Terry Jr. and Robert T. Copeland to second three-year board terms. These members were elected to the board at the annual meeting.

Rich Maxwell was elected chair of the section; Pete Zemanian was elected vice-chair; and James R. Schroll was elected secretary for 2005–2006.

