

CONSTRUCTION LAW AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS SECTION

Timothy R. Hughes, chair

The Construction Law and Public Contracts Section enjoyed another extremely successful year for 2004–2005. We held our twenty-fifth annual fall program at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. Our continuing legal education program provided attendees with all the CLE credits required for the year.

Our fall program covered recent developments in the law, ethics, environmental issues, jury selection, land use and Occupational Safety and Health Administration-related matters. We added shorter practical guide vignettes on how to handle practice issues and smaller construction disputes. We continued our “sticks and bricks” presentations with a program on site work issues. We held a mock trial involving construction issues that was presided over by the Honorable John Richard Alderman. Richard F. Smith did a wonderful job preparing for this seminar.

Our spring program at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting focused on site issues, environmental reviews and “Miss Utility.” Kristan B. Burch and Jack Rephan selected excellent speakers.

We have consciously attempted to have seminar topics that are not only informative and educational, but also have practical application. It is a challenge to offer a balanced series for lawyers experienced in this field and to feature basic matters for newer construction and public contracts lawyers. We believe our seminars strike a balance that is helpful and responsive to the needs of our section.

Matthew P.W. Pritts and Todd R. Metz produced an excellent and informative newsletter for our section, and they are to be commended.

The section updated its handbook of construction cases. K. Brett Marston and Gregory T. St. Ours analyzed cases, wrote summaries and coordinated others' writing. Board members also wrote summaries.

It has been a distinct pleasure and honor to serve as chair of a section comprised of such distinguished lawyers. I would like to thank all of the board members for their tireless assistance and enthusiasm and to thank to the Virginia State Bar staff who are so crucial to accomplishing all of our tasks—especially our state bar liaison, Elizabeth L. Keller.

