

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION

Karen L. Lebo, Chair

The Environmental Law Section sponsored or cosponsored continuing legal education seminars this year and published the *Environmental Law News* in conjunction with student editors at Washington and Lee University School of Law.

In 2004–2005, we published four editions of the newsletter—an increase from two editions published in 2003–2004. Deputy Hanover County Attorney Barbara M. Rose edited the *Environmental Law News*, working with the W&L students to insure high quality. Each edition contained a feature article, summaries of recent regulatory changes in state and federal environmental codes or regulations and a digest of recently published environmental law decisions. Articles discussed the King William County reservoir project; recently adopted Virginia water quality standards regulations for the Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributaries; the Wilderness Act of 1964; the Environmental Protection Agency’s Utility Mercury Reduction Rule; the U.S. Forest Service’s Roadless Area Conservation Rule, the impact of the federal Endangered Species Act in Virginia; early action compacts and relaxation of federal Clean Air Act enforcement; and the standards of review applied in challenges to state and federal environmental agency actions.

This year we began planning for the publication of the October 2005 edition of *Virginia Lawyer* that will feature environmental law. Chosen by the board to write articles were Andrea W. Wortzel of Hunton & Williams, Stewart T. Leeth of McGuireWoods LLP, Marina L. Phillips of Kaufman & Canoles PC and Caleb A. Jaffe of the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville.

The section and the University of Richmond T. C. Williams School of Law will cosponsor a symposium about the Chesapeake Bay in the fall of 2005.

The section offered members the option of subscribing to an e-mail discussion group that would allow the section to distribute announcements to environmental law practitioners. The section’s Web site also archives section newsletters and links to state and federal government Web sites.

The Environmental Law Section cosponsored with the Real Property Section a spring CLE entitled “It’s Not Easy Being Green: A Practitioner’s Guide to Environmental Due Diligence” at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting. Presenters at the CLE included Ray K. Forrester of the Forrester Group in Springfield, Missouri; Lisa M. Murphy of LeClair Ryan in Norfolk; and Keith H. Canon of Marsh Environmental Practice in Richmond.

The section elected Heather Nixon Stevenson of McGuireWoods LLP, chair for the 2005–2006 bar year. Also elected were Brooks M. Smith of Hunton & Williams, vice-chair, and Rick R. Linker, of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, secretary. Caleb Jaffe, of the Southern Environmental Law Center was elected to the board and will edit the *Environmental Law News* for the 2005–2006 bar year. Chair emeritus Marina L. Phillips retired from the board. We wish her well.

We appreciate and enjoyed working with Dolly Shaffner, our VSB staff liaison who has been a mainstay for the Environmental Law Section board. While we will miss working with her, we wish her the best in her new position with the Virginia State Bar.

