

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Edward D. Barnes, Chair

The Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar continues to improve the quality and relevance of our continuing education for attorneys, the bench and the public.

We launched our Web site which was extensively used.

The section added more than one hundred members. It now ranks as the fourth largest section of the VSB.

Our section presented a continuing legal education program at the VSB Midyear Legal Seminar in Bermuda. Brian M. Hirsch and Annie Lee Jacobs represented our section with a fine presentation. We also coordinated and held the annual Family Law Seminar in October. These were conducted in Richmond, Fairfax, Norfolk and Roanoke. They featured an update on the law, including case law and legislation. We held a seminar in Richmond in January in conjunction with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

In May, we conducted the Advanced Family Law Seminar at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. We had one of the largest numbers of lawyers and judges attending this seminar in the history of our CLE programs. The program was highlighted by presentations by the Honorable Dennis J. Smith of Fairfax County Circuit Court; David D. Masterman; Susan Massie Hicks; and Lawrence D. Diehl. Edward D. Barnes moderated the program.

Our fiscal year culminated at the VSB Annual meeting in Virginia Beach in June. We cosponsored a CLE program with the Criminal Law Section. Michael HuYoung moderated the program and was joined by the Honorable Lee A. Harris Jr. of Henrico County Circuit Court, and Shepherd D. Wainger. We also cosponsored a continuing legal education program with the Joint Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

This year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award was Donald K. Butler of Richmond. Don is a former chair of the Family Law Section and continues the long line of worthy and distinguished recipients of the award.

We reluctantly bid farewell to two of our distinguished members whose terms were completed—the Honorable Robert P. Frank, judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia, and Paul F. Nichols from Woodbridge. Both will be missed, as they were vital and valuable contributors to the work of our board. We welcome James W. Korman of Arlington and Mitchell D. Broudy of Virginia Beach as new board members.

I thank all of the members of our board for their unselfish donation of time and expertise. Their devotion to the work of this section is inspiring, and I am sure that it will continue under the leadership of Cheshire l'Anson Eveleigh—our new chair. Brian M. Hirsch will serve as vice-president and Craig E. White will serve as secretary for the coming year. I will serve as immediate past chair.

I also appreciate the efforts and the hard work of Patricia A. Sliger of the VSB. Without Pat's guiding hand in our activities, our work would be beyond difficult. Pat is our cheerful, ever-diligent representative from the bar. I know that I speak for our entire board in extending our warm regards and thanks to Pat for her hard work.

