

LITIGATION SECTION

Robert E. Scully Jr., chair

The Virginia State Bar Litigation Section had another outstanding year in 2004–2005. As she does every year, Patricia A. Sliger, our tireless VSB section liaison, kept us on track and on budget. Vicki H. Devine served as treasurer and found the funds we needed to support our various projects.

The Litigation Section Web site became operational in 2005. It can be accessed through the VSB Web site by clicking on “Sections” or by going directly to www.vsb.org/sections/lg/index.htm. Many thanks to Ann K. Grenshaw who saw us through several years of the development process. Thanks are also due to Patricia Sliger and the current and former members of the board of governors, who provided the past issues of *Litigation News* that are posted on the site and that have already been well received.

The Litigation Section was the featured section in the December 2004 *Virginia Lawyer*. The articles were written or obtained by members of the board of governors on timely subjects and received high praise from readers of that magazine.

Kevin W. Motley became editor of the *Litigation News* in 2004. He survived a difficult change of publishers and has maintained the high standards for both format and content previously set by R. Lee Livingston.

The section cosponsored two major continuing legal education workshops at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. “What Trial Lawyers and Judges Need to Know about Bankruptcy” was cosponsored with the Bankruptcy Section and Bench-Bar Relations Committee. The meeting’s showcase program, “The ABA Modern Jury Principles and the Virginia Jury,” also was cosponsored with the Bench-Bar Relations Committee.

The Litigation Section also sponsored a reception for appellate judges at the annual meeting. The reception was an opportunity for appellate lawyers to converse with several members of the Court of Appeals of Virginia, including Chief Judge Johanna L. Fitzpatrick. William H. Shewmake was honored as the retiring chair of the appellate subcommittee. L. Steven Emmert became the new chair of that subcommittee.

Paul M. Black and Thomas E. Albro represented the section as panelists at a CLE program on lawyer advertising at the VSB 2004 Midyear Legal Seminar in Bermuda.

As we have in the past, the section sponsored the Law in Society Award high school essay contest.

Unfortunately, as is the case every year, we lost several valuable board members due to the expiration of their terms. In 2005, Judge Lydia Calvert Taylor and Jacqueline G. Epps retired as board members. They will be greatly missed. They will be replaced by Simon H. Scott III of Sams & Scott PC, in Norfolk and the Honorable Rodham T. Delk Jr. of the Suffolk Circuit Court.

At the annual meeting of the section board of governors at Virginia Beach on July 18, 2005, new officers were elected. Samuel W. Meekins Jr. of Wolcott Rivers Gates in Virginia Beach was elected chair. Vicki Hansen Devine of Fumiss, Davis, Rashkind and Saunders PC in Norfolk was elected vice-chair, and R. Lee Livingston of Tremblay & Smith LLP, in Charlottesville was elected secretary.

The section remains the largest in the Virginia State Bar, with 2,235 members. It has sound and dedicated leadership. It is well positioned to continue to achieve its mission of providing educational opportunities that enhance the capabilities of the bench and the trial bar in the commonwealth.

It was an honor and privilege to serve as the chair of the section, and I thank each of the members of the board of governors for their outstanding efforts.

