

REAL PROPERTY SECTION

Larry J. McElwain, chair

The Real Property Section—the third largest in the Virginia State Bar—sought to respond to the needs and desires of its membership, which were expressed during the quarterly board and area representative meetings in Charlottesville, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg. Responses were framed by standing committees and by ad hoc committees appointed to address specific issues.

The traditional continuing legal education seminars were well attended. The Advanced Real Estate Seminar in February 2005 at Kingsmill in Williamsburg was sold out. A new feature of this year's advanced seminar was breakout sessions focused on residential or commercial matters. More topics were presented and attendees had a direct say in the curriculum. The reviews of that program—along with the twenty-third annual Real Estate Practice Seminar, held at four locations throughout the state—and the seminar held during The Virginia Bar Association's summer meeting (cosponsored with the Environmental Section) were uniformly laudatory. Planning for the 2005–2006 seminars is under way.

The section publishes its newsletter, *The Fee Simple*, twice a year. *The Fee Simple* is invaluable, with past issues a part of many members' personal libraries. We established a writing competition this year. The winner will be published in *The Fee Simple* and its author will receive a monetary award.

One of our goals was to rekindle the relationship of the section with the Real Property Section of The Virginia Bar Association, to highlight topics that should be addressed by the state legislature.

The section is a vibrant, responsive mechanism to enhance the quality of law practiced by its members.

