

# REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

## **BANKRUPTCY LAW SECTION**

Jeffrey L. Tarkenton, Chair

The Bankruptcy Law Section concentrated its efforts this year on a variety of educational programs and publications. First and foremost, the section continues to publish the Bankruptcy Law News on a quarterly basis. Michael A. Condyles served as the Bankruptcy Law News editor, from June 1996 until June 1999 when he was followed by Rebecca B. Connelly. The Bankruptcy Law News includes articles addressing various bankruptcy issues, recent developments and news regarding the section and the courts. During Michael's tenure as editor, the Bankruptcy Law News expanded its editorial board to twelve members and consistently published a high quality product on which both judges and attorneys rely.

As in past years, the section assisted the Virginia CLE with its annual basic bankruptcy law seminar that was held in January. The seminar, entitled "Hot Topics in Chapters 7 and 13" was given to over 200 hundred participants at locations in Roanoke, Richmond, Tysons Corner and Norfolk. The program was also presented by videotape at select locations throughout the state.

In conjunction with the Virginia State Bar's 61st annual meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the section conducted its annual workshop program on June 18, 1999. This year's bankruptcy program was titled "Bankruptcy Fraud: Protect Your Client, Protect Yourself." The panelists for the program included Stanley J. Samorajzyck, Debera F. Conlon, and Kevin R. Huennekens. The program was moderated by the Honorable Stephen Mitchell, Bankruptcy Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia (Alexandria Division).

The section also presented a seminar in Norfolk on preparing proofs of claim. The purpose of the seminar was to provide persons who routinely file proofs of claim with information on the proper manner of preparing the claims, thereby increasing the potential of recovery for a greater number of creditors, while at the same time reducing the time and expense wasted on improperly filed claims.

The section also began to implement the recommendations made in 1997 by its long-range planning committee. In particular, the section began the production of a video for presentation to Chapter 7 debtors on their rights and responsibilities. The Virginia Law Foundation awarded the section a \$15,000 grant to produce the video.

The section's officers for the 1999-2000 are Helen P. Parrish, chair, Benjamin C. Ackerly, vice-chair and Donna J. Hall, secretary. Lawrence Rifkin was elected as a new member to the board of governors, and Michael A. Condyles, Donna J. Hall and John M. Lamie were elected to serve second terms on the board. Donald F. King completed his second term on the board and was not eligible for reelection. On behalf of the section, I thank Don for his six years of active and faithful service. We hope that each will continue to contribute to the section's efforts. ❀