

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

James S. Copenhaver, chair

Twenty-fifth National Regulatory Conference

The Twenty-fifth National Regulatory Conference (“NRC” or “conference”) was held May 22-23, 2007, in Williamsburg. The program, titled “Regulation ... Alternate Regulation ... De-regulation ... Re-regulation ... What’s the Name of the Game?,” examined diverging regulatory trends that face the energy and telecommunications industries. In celebration of the conference’s twenty-fifth anniversary, five former commissioners from the Virginia State Corporation Commission opened with a round-table discussion that focused on the history of the NRC, prior case decisions, changes in the industry, and current regulatory issues. The panel was moderated by Commissioner Theodore V. Morrison Jr., who highlighted the role of former commissioner Preston C. Shannon in initiating the NRC and made a presentation on behalf of former commissioner Thomas P. Harwood, who was unable to attend. The panel included Virginia Justice and former commissioner Elizabeth B. Lacy and former commissioners Preston C. Shannon, Hullahan Williams Moore, and I. Clinton Miller.

The NRC was a success, due in large part to the efforts of program Chair Brian R. Greene and volunteers from the Administrative Law Section. The NRC panels continued the recent trend toward an increasingly interactive debate format, which has been well-received by attendees. The success of the NRC is also apparent from attendance that appears to have outgrown its current venue at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary.

Newsletter

Ashley C. Beuttel edited the Winter 2006-2007 edition of the *Administrative Law News*, which featured articles on the Virginia SCC’s approval of a performance-based rate plan for Virginia Natural Gas, a ruling on Dominion Virginia Power’s petition seeking preliminary assurances in advance of construction of a new coal-fired generating facility, the Virginia Office of the Attorney General’s annual report on the status of stranded costs, a commission investigation into significant incidences of telephone directory errors and omissions, and revised “Rules Governing Disconnection of Local Exchange Telephone Service.”

Annual brown-bag luncheon

On April 6, 2007, the section hosted its Seventh Annual Brown Bag Luncheon Program, moderated by Cliona M.B. Robb. Kenneth J. Schrad, director of the SCC’s Division of Information Resources, provided a General Assembly update and discussed the commission’s appointment of former Virginia Tax Commissioner Danny M. Payne to the new position of chief administrative officer of the SCC.

VSB Annual Meeting CLE program

Kiva B. Pierce spearheaded the section’s support of a successful continuing legal education program at the VSB’s Sixty-Ninth Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. The program, titled “A Variety of Issues that Keep General Counsel Up at Night,” was cosponsored by the sections on Corporate Counsel, Administrative Law, and Antitrust, Franchise and Trade Regulation.

Annual meeting

The section’s annual meeting was held during the NRC for a second consecutive year, and attendance continued to climb significantly from previous years. The section’s business meeting included election of officers and new board members. New officers are Brian R. Greene, chair; Kiva B. Pierce, vice chair; and Vishwa B. Link, secretary. Ashley C. Beuttel, Arlen C. Bolstad, Mark A. Keffer, Renata M. Manzo, and Louis R. Monacell were elected to the section Board of Governors, and Beuttel continues as newsletter editor.



ANTITRUST, FRANCHISE AND TRADE REGULATION

Kenneth W. Dobeare, chair

Programs

At the 2007 Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting, the section cosponsored a seminar on a variety of current topics of interest to corporate counsel. The speakers included Allen C. Goolsby and Louanna O. Heuhsen, both partners at Hunton & Williams, and Leon E. Roday, senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of Genworth Financial Inc. The panel explored a number of topics, including corporate investigations, shareholder activism, and a number of pending and proposed legislative changes. The program was well-attended, and Douglas M. Garrou did an excellent job of coordinating the section’s participation in this event.