

## :: REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS ::

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### **BANKRUPTCY LAW**

*Peter Gilbert Zemanian, chair*

It has been an honor to serve as your 2006-2007 Bankruptcy Law Section chair, and a privilege to witness the dedication of so many bankruptcy practitioners in and around Virginia. We are proud of the generosity of our section members. Many have offered their time and talents to improve bankruptcy practice. This annual report highlights accomplishments of the section in fiscal 2007.

Continuing legal education is central to the mission of the section. Due to recent legislative and procedural changes to the bankruptcy practice, however, the section experimented with a different seminar format. The annual basics program (held live in four locations) has been replaced by a telephonic seminar, presented in four two-hour sessions. Complementing the new telephone seminars was the section's annual advanced consumer conference. The section's summer program at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach was a joint presentation with the Real Property Section. James R. Schroll of Bean, Kinney & Korman PC in Arlington handled administrative duties related to the section's fiscal 2007 CLEs.

The section is preparing a pilot program for conducting public seminars on consumer bankruptcy. The section's goal is to present the seminars regularly at schools, libraries, and community centers throughout Virginia, and possibly to broadcast it on public-access TV. H. David Cox of the Cox Law Group PLLC in Lynchburg is leading this initiative.

The section recently signed a contract with Virginia Interactive to upgrade the functionality of its Web site. The first enhanced service will be to make available online the Western District of Virginia judges' instructions for consumer debtors. Future enhanced services may include electronic distribution of section notices, publication of locally issued bankruptcy court opinions and possibly an interactive chat room capability. Robert T. Copeland of Copeland & Bieger PC in Abingdon and Lynn L. Tavenner of Tavenner & Beran PLC in Richmond are the section's Internet gurus.

Other accomplishments included an update of the bankruptcy brochure to conform to the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, thanks to H. Jason Gold of Wiley Rein LLP in McLean. The section might translate the brochure into Spanish. The section also helped defray costs of the November investiture ceremony in honor of Judge Kevin R. Huennekens.

The section's three newsletters included articles by Judges Douglas O. Tice and William F. Stone Jr., as well as section practitioners. The newsletter committee is chaired by Richard Daniel Scott of LeClair Ryan PC in Roanoke. He succeeded Robert S. Westermann of Hunton & Williams in Richmond.

The section nominating committee nominated Steven Bret Ramsdell of Tyler, Bartl, Gorman & Ramsdell PLC in Vienna and Cecelia Ann Weschler of the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Norfolk to join the board of governors. Eligible for reelection were Brian Francis Kenney of Miles & Stockbridge PC in McLean and Lynn Tavenner. The election was held at the annual meeting on June 15, 2007. Leaving the board after many years of service and a very productive role as 2005-2006 section chair is Richard C. Maxwell of Woods Rogers PLC in Roanoke.

The board of governors selected Roy Madison Terry Jr. of Durette Bradshaw PLC in Richmond to serve as secretary for fiscal 2008. Robert T. Copeland will be vice chair and James R. Schroll will serve as chair.

