

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Brooks M. Smith, chair

In 2006-2007, the Environmental Law Section continued its tradition of high-quality, topical legal education and media for its members.

In October 2006, the section cosponsored at the University of Richmond School of Law a symposium titled "Preserving the Chesapeake: Law, Ecology, and the Bay." This unique symposium brought together experts from federal and state government, leading law firms, nonprofits, and academia to assess past regulatory efforts and identify the steps that still need to be taken to achieve restoration goals for the Chesapeake Bay.

In June 2007, the section collaborated with the sections on Local Government Law and Real Property on a continuing legal education program, "Monday-Morning Quarterbacking the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act and Public-Private Transportation Act: Lessons Learned from State and Local Public/Private Construction Projects in the Commonwealth." The program featured Pierce R. Homer, Virginia secretary of transportation; James V. McGettrick Jr., an assistant county attorney from Fairfax; and Oliver Amos "Trip" Pollard III, director of land and community projects for the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville. They engaged in a spirited debate over issues involved in transportation planning—one of Virginia's controversial political topics.

On the media side, the section produced two issues of its newsletter, *Environmental Law News* (note that the release of the second issue was delayed due to unexpected scheduling problems with our student editors at Washington and Lee University). Each edition contained one or more feature articles, summaries of recent federal and state regulatory changes, and a digest of environmental law case decisions.

We also expanded the section Web site to include archived newsletters and regulatory links of interest.

Finally, the section was instrumental in discussions that led to the Virginia State Bar's partnership with the state to promote land conservation. For information, see www.vsb.org/site/news/item/vsb-partners-with-state-to-promote-conservation-easements/.

Officers for fiscal 2008 are Caleb A. Jaffe of the Southern Environmental Law Center, chair; A. Lisa Barker of the Hanover County Attorney's Office, vice chair; and Joseph J. Tannery of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, secretary.

