

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Joseph L. Howard, Jr., chair

The Local Government Law Section had a productive year in its activities. The membership of the section grew well above projections.

The section's primary focus for fiscal 2007 was the quarterly publication of its *Journal of Local Government Law*. This publication provides in-depth analysis of important legal issues faced by local government attorneys in the commonwealth. The Attorney General's Office submitted an article on the process for obtaining an official opinion of the Attorney General on a local government issue. The Division of Legislative Services contributed an article on the Public Records Act. Other topics addressed transfer of development rights legislation; an update of noteworthy bills adopted by the 2007 Virginia General Assembly; changing roles of state and local governments in land-use decisions and transportation funding issues; the sovereign immunity study by the Boyd-Graves Conference; and election law issues faced by local government attorneys.

The Local Government Law Section collaborated with the Construction Law and Environmental Law sections to present a continuing legal education program during the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting. Pierce R. Homer, Virginia secretary of transportation, was a keynote speaker for this program, which also featured James V. McGettrick Jr., an assistant county attorney from Fairfax, and Oliver Amos Pollard III, director of land and community projects for the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville. The topic was "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 Local Government Law Section Board of Governors is composed of full-time city and county attorneys and individuals in private practice who represent localities. Virginia State Bar President Karen A. Gould attended one of the board of governors meetings and spoke about new state bar initiatives. Barbara M. Rose, immediate past chair of the section, worked with bar staff to upgrade the section Web site.

At its annual meeting in June, the section elected Michael H. Long, senior assistant county attorney in Fairfax, chair for fiscal 2008; Phyllis A. Errico, general counsel for the Virginia Association of Counties, vice chair; and Elizabeth K. Dillon, a partner with Guynn, Memmer & Dillon in Roanoke, secretary. Newly elected to the board was Karen M. Adams, senior assistant county attorney in Henrico. Barbara Rose retired from the board at the expiration of her second term.

