

MILITARY LAW

Marcus A. Brinks, chair

Membership: (6/01/07): 197

Budget: The section's budget was set at \$3,105. Expenditures of \$3,706.74 left a deficit of \$601.74. The Virginia State Bar apparently has a contingency account that made up the shortfall. The printed newsletter accounted for \$2,504.48 of the expenditures. In view of the high newsletter costs, the section is pursuing production and dissemination of an electronic newsletter. The proposed budget for fiscal 2008 is \$2,720, based on a membership of 170.

Special activities: Steve Chucala and Edward L. Davis investigated and reported on the obligation of nondomiciliary service members to pay Virginia personal property taxes on vehicles co-owned with nonmilitary, nondomiciliary spouses. The section further studied implementation of the Expanded Legal Assistance Program. ELAP is designed to allow active duty judge advocates to represent lower-ranking service member clients in minor cases before Virginia courts. The program is currently stymied, in large part because the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners levies a \$250 investigation fee for the military attorney's application to practice under the ELAP provision.

Continuing legal education: Neal A. Puckett spearheaded a highly successful effort for a free continuing legal education program. He secured the assistance of Col. Eric Rissling, the staff judge advocate at Langley Air Force Base, to provide a meeting site. Michael Geffroy and Charles Gittins presented a program about mobilization legal issues, combat-zone military justice, the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, Article 32 litigation, and ethics. Program attendance increased from twenty-seven at the 2006 program to more than fifty at the May 4, 2007, program. Active duty and National Guard lawyers from various services joined Virginia Defense Force and civilian colleagues.

Other activities: The section published a newsletter, the *Military Law News*. Articles included promotion of democracy and rule of law in Iraq, obedience to orders and the law of war, the military's return to college campuses, and adoption-cost reimbursement.

Officers and board members: Officers and board members for fiscal 2008 are year are Richard J. Prevost; chair ; John B. Gately, vice chair; Andrea E. Brotherton, secretary; Gary M. Bowman, new board member; and Charles R. Allen Jr., Marcus A. Brinks, and Prescott L. Prince, board members elected to a second term.

