

TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Donna Esposito Fincher, chair

The Trusts and Estates Section successfully organized and presented two educational programs in fiscal 2007.

In October 2006, the Twenty-fifth Annual Trusts and Estates Section seminar took place in Fairfax, Richmond, Norfolk, and Roanoke. The seminar was cosponsored by Virginia CLE and covered a variety of timely topics in the area of estate planning and administration. Recent developments in federal tax law and Virginia law were presented, along with selected ethics issues for trusts and estates practitioners. The program also focused on drafting and administration issues related to minor beneficiaries, charitable gifts, and retirement accounts.

In June 2007 at the Virginia State Bar Annual meeting, the Trusts and Estates Section presented a program titled “New Charitable Legislation under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and Selected Topics: Fiduciary Litigation under the Uniform Trust Code and New Rules of Court.” The speakers, Michele A.W. McKinnon and Dana G. Fitzsimons Jr., provided thorough outlines on these topics.

In fall 2006, the section published a *Trusts and Estates Newsletter*. Topics included the charitable giving provisions under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the law of insurable interests in trusts in light of the decision in *Chawla v. Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company*, and the new early termination provisions of trusts under the Virginia Uniform Trust Code.

The Trusts and Estates Section is establishing a Web site for its members. At the annual board meeting of the section in June, the board of governors approved the creation of a Web maintenance committee to maintain the site by ensuring the accuracy of the information and adding information of interest to section members, such as the newsletters. During fiscal 2007, the Trusts and Estates Section conducted a survey to determine whether its members would be interested in participating in an electronic mailings list to share ideas and knowledge. The survey indicated that the members have a great interest in such a list, and the section will consider this idea further once the Web site is functioning.

At the VSB Annual Meeting, Victoria J. Roberson was elected chair; John T. Midgett, vice chair; Julie A. King, secretary; Neal P. Brodsky, newsletter editor; and Martha L. Sotelo, assistant newsletter editor.

