



EDUCATION OF LAWYERS SECTION

George A. Somerville, chair

The Section on the Education of Lawyers provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas and information and promotes constructive action on legal education issues; provides a vehicle for continuing dialogue and communication on legal education issues among the academic community, the judiciary and the practicing bar in Virginia; sponsors projects regarding the education and training of lawyers from their entry into law school and throughout their careers; and conducts programs, publishes and distributes educational and professional materials, and undertakes other activities that enhance cooperation and interaction among the law schools, the bench and the practicing bar. The section pursued those purposes during the past year, primarily through our newsletter, professionalism programs at Virginia's law schools, and our presentation at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in June.

Professor James M. Boland of Regent University School of Law continues to serve as editor of the section newsletter. We published two excellent issues this year, including Professor Boland's very informative interview with Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. in the spring issue. Professor Boland has agreed to continue to serve as editor for the coming year.

The Law School Professionalism Program, developed by this section and the Standing Committee on Professionalism, was again offered to first-year students at each of Virginia's seven accredited law schools. All sessions were well attended and student evaluations were strongly positive. The program will remain a staple for those beginning the study of law in the commonwealth. Judge J. Martin Bass of Stafford was the committee chair. From a chair's perspective, this is a practically perfect program: it brings credit to the section and it is exceedingly well run by the committee, with no need for assistance or involvement by the chair or the section Board of Governors as a whole.

Our annual meeting presentation was a prequel to a longer, stand-alone "Conclave" program that we hope to present in fall 2006 on "The Lawyer as Public Citizen." Edward B. Lowry, chair of our Emerging Trends Committee and a former VSB president, organized and chaired the presentation. The panelists were Professor Margaret I. Bacigal of the University of Richmond, a former section chair; John A.C. Keith of Fairfax, a former VSB president; and George H. Hettrick, chair of Hunton & Williams's Community Service Committee and managing partner for its pro bono offices in Richmond and Charlottesville.

The board of governors thanks the seven Virginia law schools and the following law firms for generous support of the section's operating budget: Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP in Roanoke; Hunton & Williams in Richmond; Michie, Hamlett, Lowry, Rasmussen & Tweel PC in Charlottesville; Oblon, Spivek, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt PC in Alexandria; Reese, Broome & Diaz PC in Vienna; and Troutman Sanders LLP in Richmond.

The board also thanks four outgoing members for diligent and excellent service over the last six years: Judge Cleo E. Powell, retiring vice chair; Judge Pamela Meade Sargent; Judge Clifford R. Weckstein; and Mr. Lowry.

Judge Sargent served as chair of the Section's Nominating Committee, which nominated the following officers and governors, who were elected by acclamation at the annual meeting of the section on June 16, 2006: George A. Somerville of Richmond, chair; Professor Henry L. Chambers Jr. of Richmond, vice chair; Judge Rossie D. Alston Jr. of Manassas, secretary; and Lisa Hicks-Thomas of Richmond, Lawrence H. Hoover Jr. of Harrisonburg, Judge Teresa M. Chafin of Tazewell, Judge Winship C. Tower of Virginia Beach, Judge B. Waugh Crigler of Charlottesville, and Justice G. Steven Agee, new members of the board of governors.

