



## **FAMILY LAW SECTION**

*Cheshire I'Anson Eveleigh, chair*

The Family Law Section continued its service to its members through continuing legal education, a newsletter and a Web site.

The Web site continues to be useful to section members, and the section Board of Governors hopes to expand its usage in the future. We are also working on having the brochure "Children and Divorce" translated into Spanish, with the cost paid through a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation.

The section grew by about one hundred members this year. It is the fourth largest section of the Virginia State Bar. The section continued its longstanding partnership with Virginia CLE by providing topics and speakers for seminars in the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006. The fall seminars took place in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Hampton Roads and Roanoke. The responses from the participants to the subject matter and speakers were excellent. Although attendance at the Roanoke session was low, the board felt strongly that we needed to continue to have a seminar in that location each fall, and we will work with Virginia CLE to see how we can increase attendance in 2006.

The Advanced Family Law Seminar took place in Richmond and, according to Virginia CLE, it was one of the most well-attended family law seminars in recent memory. The speakers and topics were diverse; they included a review of the *Miller-Jenkins* case that was on appeal to the Virginia Court of Appeals at the time of the seminar.

We ended our fiscal year on a high note by cosponsoring a CLE program with the Litigation Section and Bench-Bar Relations Committee about preparing a client for trial. The seminar included vignettes from members of all the sections, including judges, as well as an ethics session headed by Thomas E. Spahn that was very well-received.

At the conclusion of the CLE program, we presented Frank West Morrison with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Frank gave a wonderful acceptance speech that emphasized how mediation can help family law practitioners assist their clients through difficult times.

We also bid farewell to outgoing board members Laura Lynn Dascher and Edward D. Barnes—our immediate past chair—and welcomed new members Frank W. Rogers III, Christopher W. Schinstock, and J. Rene Hicks. Officers for 2006–2007 are Brian M. Hirsch, chair; Craig E. White, vice chair; Andrea R. Stiles, secretary-treasurer; and Cheshire l'Anson Eveleigh, immediate past chair.

As always, our board worked tirelessly over the year, and we could not have been as successful without the help of Patricia A. Sliger, our VSB liaison.

