



GENERAL PRACTICE SECTION

Mona Schapiro Flax, chair

The General Practice Section's 2005–2006 fiscal year brought improvement to our traditional programs and the addition of new programs.

Our year began at the Virginia State Annual Meeting, with the presentation of the Tradition of Excellence Award to Lawrence H. Hoover Jr. of Harrisonburg, a father of mediation in Virginia.

On November 1, 2005, with the help of the Young Lawyer's Section, we presented our annual First Year in Practice Seminar. The seminar was held at the Richmond Convention Center. We were fortunate to have speakers who have returned on an annual basis. We were saddened by the loss of Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr., who ably moderated the panel discussion on civility and courtroom etiquette. However, we were fortunate to have Judge Jerome B. Friedman step in as moderator.

Due to the help of our members, we now have a Web site that is user friendly and often used. Further, we have persevered with many changes in our newsletter process, with admirable results.

Virginia CLE asked the section to cosponsor the first Virginia CLE Solo and Small-Firm Institute. This was a challenge we gladly accepted. The Institute was held May 16–17 at the Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Link Christin of Virginia CLE, this institute far exceeded our expectations. Many of the lectures were standing room only. We hope to be associated and involved with solo and small-firm institutes in future years.

Our year concluded at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting, with a workshop on the new Bankruptcy Act and how the changes affect general practitioners. Judge David H. Adams and attorney Keith L. Phillips were speakers. Charles E. Adams acted as the moderator.

All members of the section Board of Governors gave their time and expertise unselfishly. The members have enabled this board to flourish. I am confident in the leadership of Mr. Adams as the 2006–2007 chair, Daniel J. Farnsworth Jr. as vice-chair, and Linda Y. Lambert as secretary.

Thanks to Patricia A. Slinger, the VSB liaison, for being a friend throughout my tenure on this board. She has been a guiding force. Our board would not achieve its successes without her guiding hand and infinite patience.

