



JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Joseph A. Condo, chair

The Judicial Nominations Committee conducted its organizational meeting by telephone conference call on October 6, 2005. Joseph A. Condo was selected chair during that meeting. Judicial vacancies occurred on two courts, which required the committee to conduct interviews of candidates.

Judge Claude Hilton of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, announced his intention to take senior status, and the committee was asked by U.S. Senators John W. Warner and George F. Allen to interview candidates for that position. The committee convened December 15, 2005, at the VSB's Richmond office, interviewed five candidates, and after deliberation reported the names of the two best qualified: U.S. Magistrate Judge Liam O'Grady and Anthony J. Trenga, Esquire.

Two vacancies on the Court of Appeals of Virginia resulted from the retirements of Chief Judge Johanna L. Fitzpatrick and Judge Rudolph Bumgardner III. The committee convened December 19, 2005, at the VSB's Richmond office, interviewed three candidates, and after deliberation reported the names of the two best qualified: Fairfax Circuit Court Judge R. Terrence Ney and Winchester Circuit Court Judge John E. Wetsel Jr.

Committee members made themselves available for the two separate, daylong meetings, on relatively short notice during a busy time of the year. Several members spent substantial time conducting a background investigation of one the candidates. During the meetings, all members asked pertinent and incisive questions that indicated that they had thoroughly reviewed the candidates' submissions, and they offered valuable and perceptive insights about the candidates during the committee's deliberations.

