

Annual Report of the Criminal Law Section
2010-2011
Carolyn V. Grady, Chair

The Section enjoyed another successful year and continues to enjoy the support of a broad cross section of the Bar's membership. We have 2382 members, including 323 judicial members, and remain one of the Bar's largest and most active sections. The Section continued to provide a forum for the improvement of the criminal justice system through our newsletters, seminars and website.

Our 41st Annual Criminal Law Seminar was held in Charlottesville and Williamsburg in February. It continues to be one of the largest CLE programs in Virginia, yielding just over 825 attendees with 160 in Charlottesville, 385 in Williamsburg and over 280 video replays all over the Commonwealth. This year the Seminar offered an excellent agenda of continuing legal education by some of the most respected practitioners and legal scholars in the state, and at the same time, afforded practitioners and judges a chance to connect in a relaxed setting to better the practice of law in Virginia.

The Section, under the leadership of Lisa Caruso who likely will be Chair in the 2012-2013 year, has agreed to assume the responsibility of providing four articles and a Chair Introduction for the December 2012 *Virginia Lawyer* Publication. The *Virginia Lawyer* has not focused on criminal law issues in many many, years so this is a big honor for the Section.

At the VSB Annual Meeting in June, the section co-sponsored a continuing legal education program with the Family Law Section Entitled "Battle on the Home Front: Veterans in the Court System - a Closer Look at PTSD, Collateral Damages of Criminal Convictions and Family Law Issues. The attendance and interest were overwhelming as the large group heard the discussion led by a panel of speakers from the mental health field and the military. The panel was moderated by Paul Galanti, the Commissioner of Veterans Services for the Commonwealth. On the panel were Lt. Col. Anthony Caruso, Julia E. Keller from Gilbert, Albiston & Keller, P.C., David P. Morgan from Cravens & Noll, Richmond and F. Don Nidiffer, Ph.D. from the University of Virginia Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences. The panel focused on a hypothetical and the audience was educated on the myriad of issues involving the representation of service members with and without PTSD.

At our business meeting in June, Casey Stevens of Woodbridge was elected Chair of the section for 2011-2012. Lisa Caruso of Dinwiddie County was elected Vice Chair and Fran Lawrence of Charlottesville was elected Secretary. The following members were elected to the Board for four year terms: Colette McEachin of Richmond, Theo Stamos of Arlington, Robert Morecock of Virginia Beach, Judge Michael McGinty of York, King William and King & Queen Counties, Eugene Fishel of Richmond and Judge Ivan Davis of Alexandria. The Section also approved an amendment to the By-laws which changed the composition of the Nominating Committee.

The Section appreciates the continued commitment of Professor Ron Bacigal of the T.C. Williams School of Law who edits and produces the section's newsletter and spearheads the coordination of the seminar planning each year. We also greatly appreciate Reno Harp for

another year of thoughtful guidance and assistance to the Board as it manages the affairs of the section. We remain indebted to Elizabeth Keller and Theresa Patrick at the State Bar who provide vital assistance to help keep the section running smoothly.

I have truly enjoyed my tenure on the Board and the honor of serving as Chair of the Section. I am grateful for the guidance of Reno Harp who continues to move the Section into the future through the institutionalization of various processes and procedures. I hope that all of our members have found our seminars and programs to be engaging and enjoyable and I am confident that our Section will continue to be vitally committed to protecting and improving the criminal justice system in Virginia in future years.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn V. Grady
Chair, 2010-2011