

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

Robert B. Beasley, Jr., Chair

The Criminal Law Section enjoyed a successful 2007-2008 bar year which concluded June 30. The Section continued to receive the enthusiastic support of criminal law defense practitioners, prosecutors and judges from across the Commonwealth, and to be the forum where these often separate groups effectively work together for the good of Virginia's criminal justice system. With over two thousand members, the Criminal Law Section is one of the Virginia State Bar's largest Sections.

The section continued to provide a forum for the improvement of the criminal justice system through our newsletters, seminars and Web site.

Our Thirty-Eighth Annual Criminal Law Seminar, held in Charlottesville and Williamsburg, continues to be one of the largest CLE programs in Virginia drawing approximately 600 attendees for the two live locations (Charlottesville and Williamsburg), and over 300 for videotape replays around the state.

The section's Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award was presented to Professor Ronald J. Bacigal, of T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, for his exemplary service to the bar and the commonwealth.

The section continued its perennial efforts to improve the funding and quality of the indigent defense system in Virginia. It monitored the newly established procedures for submission, review and approval of attorney fee waiver claims. In particular, the board invested time and effort to educate section members about the new procedures, and encouraged attorneys to complete the fee waiver applications as an important first step in improving the system.

At the VSB Annual Meeting in June 2008, the section sponsored a lively and interesting program entitled, *The Dos and Don't of Dealing with the Media in High Profile Cases*. The program featured **David B. Freedman**, of Winston-Salem, NC, who represented Michael Nifong in his disbarment proceedings before the North Carolina State Bar; **William R. "Billy" Martin**, of Washington, DC, who most recently represented Michael Vick; and former chair, Craig S. Cooley, who moderated the discussion and offered his own insights on the *Malvo* case.

During the Section's annual business meeting in June, the following officers were elected for the 2008-2009 bar year: **David P. Baugh**, of Richmond, as chair; **John R. Doyle III**, of Norfolk, as vice chair; and **Carolyn V. Grady**, of Richmond, as secretary. The following lawyers were elected to the Board of Governors for four-year terms: **Lisa K. Caruso**, Commonwealth's Attorney in Dinwiddie, **Francis McQ. Lawrence**, with St. John, Bowling, Lawrence & Quagliana, in Charlottesville; and **Judge Ashley K. Tunner**, of the J&DR District Court in Richmond. Judge Dennis W. Dohnal, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, was also re-elected to a four-year term.

My term on the board has been a wonderful experience, and I appreciate the many contributions of my fellow board members. I am especially grateful to Professor Robert E. Shepherd Jr. and Reno S. Harp III for their continued thoughtful guidance and participation on the board. I am sure that the Criminal Law Section will continue to be vitally committed to protecting and improving the criminal justice system in Virginia in future years.