

Criminal Law Section

2009-2010

Richard E. Trodden, Chair

With over 2,400 members on June 30, the Criminal Law Section remains one of the largest and most active sections in the Virginia State Bar. Consisting of prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and professors the section represents and brings together every aspect of this area of law in a spirit of camaraderie.

The Fortieth Annual Criminal Law Seminar in February 2010 continued to be one of the highlights of the Section activities for the year. Due to severe weather conditions, the Charlottesville session was cancelled for the first time ever. However, the Williamsburg session and the videotape replays were very well attended. This seminar offers an excellent agenda of continuing legal education presented by some of the most respected practitioners and legal scholars in the state, and at the same time affords practitioners and judges the chance to connect in a relaxed setting.

The section presented its Carrico Professionalism Award during the 2010 Williamsburg Seminar to The Honorable Jere M.H. (Mac) Willis, Jr., of Fredericksburg, who retired from the Court of Appeals in 2002.

The section sponsored a well-attended seminar at the Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach entitled: ***“Melendez-Diaz and Confrontation – Practicality and Efficiency v. Constitutional Guarantees.”*** The program featured a panel discussion including **Steven D. Benjamin**, Benjamin & DesPortes, P.C., Richmond; **Dean John G. Douglass**, University of Richmond School of Law; and **Stephen R. McCullough**, Opinions Counsel and Senior Appellate Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Richmond. Immediate Past Chair, **David P. Baugh**, served as moderator. Board members Nina Ginsberg and Claire Cardwell assisted in organizing this interesting program.

During the section’s annual business meeting in June, the following officers were elected for the 2010-2011 bar year: **Carolyn V. Grady**, Richmond, as chair; **Casey R. Stevens**, Woodbridge, as vice chair; and **Lisa K. Caruso**, Dinwiddie, as secretary. The following attorneys were elected to the Board of Governors for a four-year term: **Joel R. Branscom**, Fincastle; **Linda D. Curtis**, Hampton; **Andrea Moseley**, Alexandria; and **Hon. Charles E. Sharp**, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court, Stafford. **Hon. Neil H. MacBride**, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, was also elected to serve as an ex officio member of the board.

On a personal note, my experience of serving on the board has been an enriching one. There is a great amount of wisdom and insight in the collective board. The dedication of my fellow board members richly deserves praise. They are each dedicated to a just and

fair criminal justice system. A special “shout out” is required for Reno Harp III for his steady hand and good judgment and to Bet Keller and Terry Patrick for their generous service to the board and the Section membership.

8-30-10