

Editor's Brief

Four articles in this issue represent development of diverse areas of Virginia law. Our first article focuses on an aspect of the national concern over the AIDS virus. However, the five articles do more than convey information about the topics they contain. They are samples of the caliber of writing that the students of the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law produce every semester.

The disease of AIDS has spawned much discussion in legal circles concerning societal treatment of its victims. Mr. Sotelo assesses federal laws regarding the handicapped and their applicability to AIDS sufferers in our first article.

Contrasted with the emotionally charged topic of AIDS is the subject of liquidated damages provisions in construction contracts. Ms. Soraghan's work discusses the validity of such provisions when both the contractor and the contractor's customer are responsible for a delay in the completion of a project.

Mr. Gray's piece invites legislative or judicial reform of Virginia's libel law as it affects public school teachers and the press in small towns. He argues that the protection of the teachers afforded by the current state of the defamation case law comes at the expense of threatening the viability of small town publishers, who thrive on coverage of such figures.

In an increasingly crowded society, determination of land use rights are critical. Mr. Lady discusses competing lines of precedent in deciding whether and at what stage land use rights vest in their holders.

Should a person who kills another human being during the commission of a felony be chargeable with murder or manslaughter? Mr. Thomas' article thoroughly reviews the confusion of the Virginia courts in dealing with this difficult legal question, and offers suggested jury instructions when the situation arises.

I wish to make a special note of thanks to Mr. Thomas the Managing Editor, for all his hard work in making this issue one of our best to date.

We here at *The Colonial Lawyer: A Journal of Virginia Law and Public Policy* hope that you, the scholar and the practitioner, find the following articles of Volume 17 Number 2 insightful and stimulating, and we welcome any comments you might have for this or future issues.

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Senior Editor