

EDITOR'S BRIEF

In this issue of *The Colonial Lawyer: A Journal of Virginia Law and Public Policy*, six authors present insightful commentary on a number of diverse and changing areas of Virginia law.

On the subject of the sanctioning of lawyers, Keith Finch's article explores the purposes and effects of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11 and the equivalent provision, § 8.01-271.1, of the Virginia Code. Additionally, Mr. Finch reports and analyzes the results of a survey conducted by *The Colonial Lawyer* of general district court and circuit court judges in Virginia regarding their respective views on the implementation of § 8.01-271.1.

On the medical-legal front, Deborah Ryan addresses whether the Natural Death Act of Virginia, § 54-325.8:1-13 of the Virginia Code, is useful to individuals existing in a persistent vegetative state. She explores the right of both the patient in this condition and the surrogate decisionmaker acting on behalf of the patient to discontinue treatment. Ms. Ryan concludes that the Natural Death Act should be amended to categorize persons in a persistent vegetative state as legally dead or to guarantee the patient in a persistent vegetative state the right to deny treatment by expanding the living will doctrine.

Anne Bowling examines recent developments in the law on the subject of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and discrimination in the workplace. She surveys statutory and case law both on the federal and state level, and concludes that in order to prevent workplace discrimination, employers must take steps to educate themselves and their employees about the disease.

Michael Grattan discusses the effect of the Supreme Court's decision in Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association on government regulation of religious institutions under the free exercise clause of the first amendment. He examines the zoning power of governments and the impact of Lyng on different states' treatment of religious use property in the zoning context. Mr. Grattan then discusses how Virginia, which has never squarely addressed the role of federal or state free exercise clauses in the zoning context, should merge its existing zoning law with the free exercise jurisprudence after Lyng. He concludes that as long as Virginia lawmakers act reasonably and consider religious beliefs when making zoning decisions, they should be able to zone religious facilities almost without constraint.

In our final article, *The Practitioner's Guide*, Peter Jordan and Steve Nachman, the Research Editors for the publication, provide a general overview on the subject of lawyer advertising and solicitation in Virginia. Following the article is an interview with Phillip B. Morris, President of the Virginia State Bar Association, regarding efforts of the Bar Association to further regulate solicitation by lawyers in Virginia.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to introduce the new Editrix-in-Chief of the publication for 1990-1991 academic year, Lisa J. Entress. I wish you all the best in the

coming year. I wish also to express my gratitude to my editors and staff for a job well done. Your commitment has made this year a success.

The Editors and the Staff of *The Colonial Lawyer: A Journal of Virginia Law and Public Policy* hope that you, the practitioner and the scholar, find the articles of Volume 19, Number 1, insightful and stimulating. Your suggestions, comments, and criticisms are welcomed.

Thomas Paul Sotelo
Editor-in-Chief