

#### EDITOR'S BRIEF

In this edition of the Colonial Lawyer, the staff has attempted to address several issues that are on the forefront of state and national legal and social debate. The article concerning the Chesapeake Bay stresses the importance man has played in the decay of that estuary and the role we must all play in its resurrection.

Greg Tolbert's article addresses the issue of marital rape. The article is the second in a two-part series. In 1986 Virginia amended its code, abandoned the common law marital rape exemption and statutorily prohibited marital rape. The article examines the new law and analyzes its purpose, scope and limitations. Another current debate in Virginia centers around water rights and uses. Sherri Davis and Bruce McDougal suggest that reform is necessary.

Gary Close's article centers on a current crisis in zoning law as it affects churches and other religious organizations. This topic is of great debate in both Fairfax and Henrico counties in Virginia. The article analyzes the zoning law and suggests the analysis courts should apply when confronted with free exercise arguments offered by churches and religious organizations. The last article in this issue is a short commentary by Dale Barney emphasizing the need of a small-claims court in Virginia.

We, the staff of the Colonial Lawyer, welcome your comments and sincerely hope that this issue will alert our readers to the most current legal issues in Virginia and the nation.

  
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Senior Editor