

SUPPLEMENT TO VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY



2018

VIRGINIA LAWYERS
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Introducing the Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame

In this supplement, you will meet 33 special Virginia lawyers – accomplished men and women who have improved the legal profession in Virginia and left their individual marks in the law of the commonwealth.

They are the inaugural class of the Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame, brought to you by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.

During the course of each year, Virginia Lawyers Weekly celebrates leading lawyers who set the standard for other lawyers in our Leaders in the Law program. We honor promising younger lawyers, or those within 10 years of their bar admission, with the Up & Coming Lawyers awards.

And we salute law firm support personnel with our Unsung Legal Heroes program. The Hall of Fame honors senior lawyers – those age 55 or older.

Criteria for selection to the Hall include career accomplishments, contributions to the development of the law in Virginia, contributions to the bar and to the commonwealth and efforts to improve the quality of justice in Virginia.

We were very pleased with the many nominations we received and the excellence of our inaugural class. We look forward to next year's Hall of Fame event already.

The Class of 2018 was honored at a special celebration and ceremony at the John Marshall in downtown Richmond June 12.

To the members of the class, we are so proud to share your accomplishments with the legal community and we give you our heartiest congratulations!

Paul Fletcher
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

The attorneys & staff of
**CANTOR STONEBURNER FORD
GRANA & BUCKNER**

congratulate

IRV CANTOR

for his induction into the
Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame 2018.



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W. Coleman Allen Jr.



**Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen
Richmond**

Education:
BA, Yale
JD/MBA, University of Virginia

Coleman Allen long has been a stalwart of the plaintiffs' bar in Virginia. He has been president of the VTLA, and chair of the lawyers committee that helped streamline practice with a uniform pre-trial order.

Growing up:

Born and raised in the Richmond area, second oldest of five children (three of whom practice law with me now). My earliest memory is seeing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time at age 5, which I recall as quite impressive.

Early reviews:

"Happy go lucky"

Mentoring efforts:

Particular goals have been working with young trial lawyers to help them fulfill their potential, through teaching on CLE programs, including the VTLA insurance seminar taught every five years in coordination with my book, "Sources of Coverage: Insurance Coverage for Personal Injury Actions in Virginia." Promoting opportunities for women within the bar generally, and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association in particular, has also been important to me.

Professional accomplishment:

I'd like to think I've followed my advice to young trial lawyers, to stand for something beyond mere self interest, and to live your life so that others readily understand what it is that you stand for. My work in a leadership role in my firm has been a special part of my career. I hope that manner in which I have fulfilled the leadership opportunities I've had in bar groups, has contributed to the important work that they do. I take pride in originating with my partners my law firm's scholarship program, which over the past

24 years has helped 15 graduating seniors each year to fulfill their dream of going to college. Hopefully my work in politics and in litigation, particularly at the appellate level, has contributed to change that has improved the lives of people whom I've never met, aside from what I've been able to accomplish for the clients whom I've been blessed to serve.

Personal accomplishment:

The relationships I share with my children as adults is first, and then the friendships I've developed with so many lawyers, judges and political leaders, in the course of working together to improve the civil justice system.

I might have been:

It's a toss up between driving Formula One or riding the World Superbike circuit.

Guilty pleasure:

Speed, whether motorcycle, sports car or boat; some people would describe my English Bull Terrier Billie as a "guilty pleasure," she is endlessly entertaining, and certainly guilty of much!

Favorite getaway:

My home in the country

My next act:

Since I am scheduled to retire at the end of this year, pursuant to a mandatory retirement program I designed and implemented while serving as the Allen firm's president many years ago, this topic has been very much on my mind!

You don't know:

What most people don't know, should probably stay that way!

J. Rudy Austin

Roanoke's Rudy Austin, now retired from practice with Gentry Locke, is known as a tenacious but courteous insurance defense litigator. His leadership included service as VADA president and chair of the VSB Disciplinary Board.

Growing up:

I grew up in Bluefield, Virginia, with my parents, two brothers and one sister. I played football, baseball and basketball. My parents had a small airplane, and I spent most of my weekends at the local airfield. Through these experiences I developed a love for aviation.

Early reviews:

My fourth grade teacher would always move me to the back of the room during group singing because I can't carry a tune.

Mentoring efforts:

I maintained an open door policy during my 50 years of practice and provided mentoring to most of the young litigation attorneys in our firm.

Professional accomplishment:

Leadership in the Virginia State Bar disciplinary system, including serving as Chair of the Sixth District Ethics Committee and the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board.

Personal accomplishment:

My children and grandchildren.

My first job:

Driving nails into boxspring frames and loading trucks as a summer job over seven summers. The relationships and support that I experienced working those years were an integral part of my development and resulted in my philosophical orientation.

My biggest challenge:

Adapting to new technology.

I might have been:

Airline Pilot

Guilty pleasure:

Spending an inordinate amount of time watching sports on television.

Favorite getaway:

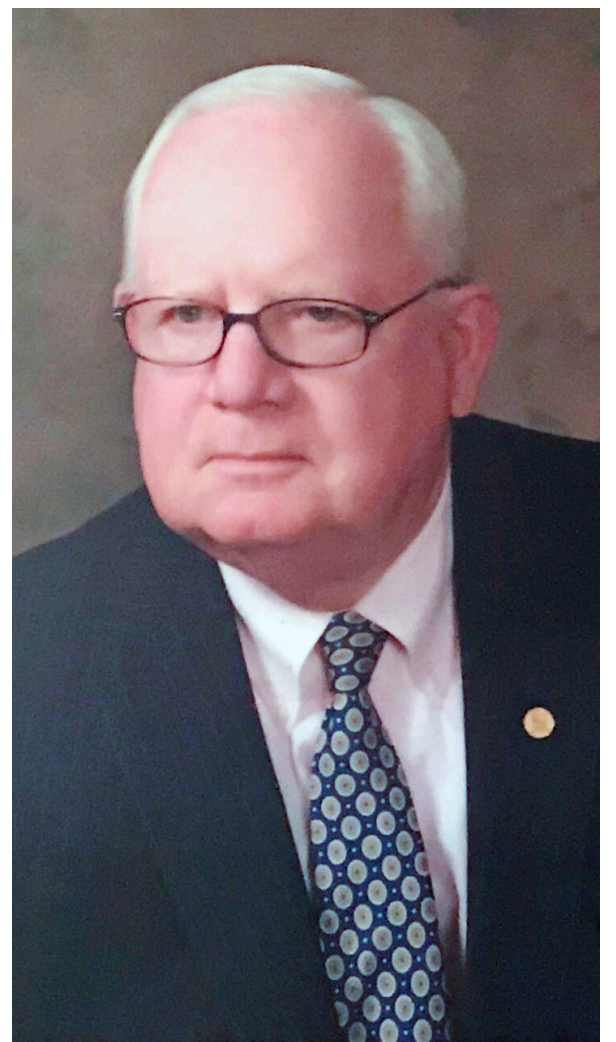
Hilton Head, South Carolina

My next act:

I plan to enjoy my retirement by spending more time reading military history, visiting Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefields, and playing golf.

You don't know:

I have a passion for vintage cars, and I voraciously consume pulp detective novels.



**Gentry Locke, retired
Roanoke**

Education:
BA, University of Virginia
LLB, University of Virginia



Edward “Ed” Barnes

Ed Barnes is one the leading family law attorneys in Virginia, handling cases of all types and complexity. He teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the UR law school, where he was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2006.

Growing up:

I was born in Frankfort, Kentucky. We lived in Arlington while my father was serving in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific in World War II. My father was killed in a car accident when I was 9. The drunken driver who hit him was also killed. I attended the Linton Hall Military School, a military boarding school, through 8th grade. My mother was remarried to a colonel in the U.S. Army, and we traveled around a lot. I attended four different high schools. Therefore, I learned to deal with change. After high school, I attended East Carolina University, where I was chairman of the Men’s Honor Counsel. After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Europe, I attended the University of Richmond School of Law. I clerked for Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico of the Supreme Court of Virginia from 1971-1972.

Early reviews:

“Smart ass” or “outspoken”

Mentoring efforts:

I have served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Richmond School of Law, beginning in 1979. I have taught classes on criminal law, procedures, evidence and ethics in family law. In my firm, I have advised attorneys with respect to strategy, tactics, evidence, ethics and other issues regarding their cases.

Professional accomplishment:

Establishing Edward D. Barnes & Associates Law Firm, which later became Barnes & Diehl, P.C. The rich experience of the association with our lawyers and staff has been professionally and personally rewarding to me.

Personal accomplishment:

My wife and I adopted two children from Romania in 1990. Stefan and Elena were six months old and one week old, respectively. We have a daughter, Jessica, who lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with our two grandchildren. Our children and grandchildren represent the most important accomplishment for us.

My first job:

My first job was a mechanic in an auto rebuild shop while I was in high school. I learned from that experience how to deal with a difficult boss, the value of punctuality and the value of perseverance.

My biggest challenge:

Dealing with a multitude of client personalities, mental health issues, opinions, dictates, indecision, secrets and the wide variety of legal/personal issues presented by them. This all must be done as attorney and counselor at law, serving their interest. It must be done in an ethical way. Clients present the biggest challenges.

I might have been:

An engineer. I served as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1967-1969. I have always enjoyed mathematics and engineering.

Guilty pleasure:

Chocolate and popcorn.

Favorite getaway:

Virginia Beach

My next act:

I expect my current act to last a very long time.

You don’t know:

I was one of the first male cheerleaders at East Carolina University.



Barnes & Diehl PC
Richmond

Education:

East Carolina University, 1966
University of Richmond School of Law, 1972

Congratulations to

John A. C. Keith

co-founder and principal at Blankingship & Keith, PC,

on your four decades of legal service and leadership in Virginia from your partners, associates, and staff.

You are an inspiration, mentor, leader, and friend.

2018 Virginia Lawyers Weekly's inaugural class of the Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame.



John's career highlights include:

- Co-founder and principal of Blankingship & Keith
- Active member in the Virginia State Bar, including a term as President from 1998–99 and current chair of the Disciplinary Board
- Virginia Law Foundation, President
- Boyd-Graves Conference, Chair
- Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, Permanent Member
- Rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell
- Named as a Best Lawyer and Super Lawyer

Founded in 1979, Blankingship & Keith, P.C. is a regional law firm serving clients throughout Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth in all areas of civil practice, including commercial litigation, personal injury, real estate, family law, local government and education law, business, trusts and estates, and tax, from its offices in Fairfax and Prince William counties.

The firm’s mission is to serve each client faithfully, expertly and completely, whether that client is a large corporation, a small business, or an individual.

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ReesBroome PC
Tysons Corner

Education:

B.A., George Washington University, 1969
J.D., George Washington University Law School, 1972
L.L.M., George Washington University Law School, 1974

Joel M. Birken

Joel Birken, a corporate lawyer, co-founded Rees Broome PC with two law school classmates in 1974. He continues to serve in management; the firm now is one of the leading firms in the Metro DC region.

Growing up:

I grew up outside of New York City in a multi-generational household where education was emphasized. I learned about business from my father who supported our family by running his own business.

Early reviews:

A decent but not outstanding student.

Mentoring efforts:

I have mentored young lawyers at my firm throughout my career.

Professional accomplishment:

Having co-founded Rees Broome PC, a law firm that has endured for more than 40 years and has become one of the largest in Virginia.

Personal accomplishment:

Balancing work, bar activities and family and helping raise three children who are now productive adults.

First job:

A porter in a supermarket warehouse. I learned that getting an education was the pathway to avoid sweeping floors for a living.

My biggest challenge:

Maintaining and preserving our law firm after the untimely death of a cofounder, James Rees.

I might have been:

I never entertained entering any other field.

Guilty pleasure:

Reading mystery novels.

Favorite getaway:

Cancun, Mexico.

My next act:

Don't know, haven't finished my current act.

You don't know:

If they don't already know it, perhaps it is best to keep it that way.

Irving Michael Blank

As president of the Virginia State Bar in 2011, Irv Blank, a successful Richmond-based plaintiffs' lawyer, faced down the governor's attempt to grab \$5 million from the lawyers of the commonwealth to fill a budget hole.

Growing up:

I grew up in Danville with one older brother and two younger sisters. Graduating high school in 1961 made me acutely aware of the civil rights movement and the struggle involved. I played tennis for some very good teams and went to Va. Tech where I played both years that I was eligible. I remember thinking that I was a pretty good player until I went to my first national tournament. I left Tech after my third year to go to law school. Most of my memories involve sports and being the only Jewish student in my high school class. At Va. Tech, I served on the Honor Court and was active in the Monogram Club.

Early reviews:

Argumentative.

Mentoring efforts:

I was fortunate to begin my law practice in Richmond where the tradition was for older lawyers to be available to advise and help younger lawyers. I have tried to follow that example and have participated in the mentoring programs of both the Richmond and Virginia State Bars

Professional accomplishment:

The landmark cases that I tried and won in the Circuit and Supreme Court involving the rights of injured persons.

Personal accomplishment:

There are two. As president of the Virginia State Bar, I led the successful resistance to the Governor's attempts to amend the budget of Virginia and take over five million dollars of Virginia's lawyers dues money from the VSB. The second was the reorganization of the Virginia Law Foundation and the VaCLE which were accomplished during my presidency, but begun by my predecessors.

My first job:

Sales clerk in a men's clothing store. I learned to listen to the customer (and the boss) and to treat others as I wanted to be treated.

My biggest challenge: Finding a way to balance the time requirements of raising two children and being available to my wonderful wife of 51 years with the demands of a trial practice.

I might have been:

A tennis player

Guilty pleasure:

Sitting on the beach, doing nothing but watching the ocean.

Favorite getaway:

72nd Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia

My next act:

Exactly what I am doing now, except spending more time with my grandchildren.

You don't know:

I do not like or drink soft drinks. I have a fear of heights.



Blank & Marcus LLC
Richmond

Education:

B.S., Virginia Tech, 1966
J.D., University of Richmond law school, 1967



Irvin V. Cantor

A past president of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Irv Cantor has recovered more than 50 verdicts or settlements larger than \$1 million. His work for injured people includes more than 450 favorable results in traumatic brain injury cases.

Growing up:

Born and raised in Richmond, Va. I attended Westhampton School and Thomas Jefferson High School. I played a lot of sports growing up and would say that any accomplishments I achieved were due to having a highly competitive drive rather than any type of skill.

Early reviews:

An underachiever – more interested in sports and friends than in academics.

Mentoring efforts:

I have had the opportunity to mentor and work with some extraordinary lawyers, especially my

current law partners, Stephanie Grana, Elliott Buckner, Scott Bucci, and Jeff Stedman – all of

whom I continue to learn from every day. The newest member of our team is my son,

Joseph, and serving as a mentor to Joseph has been very special for me.

Professional accomplishment:

My clients: The incredible opportunity to work with – and help – so many wonderful folks at the most difficult times of their lives.

Personal accomplishment:

My family – my wife, Karen, and my three wonderful sons, Joseph, Jackson, and John.

My first job:

Working as a tennis instructor at Byrd Park for the Richmond Tennis Patrons Association when I was a college student. As part of my job, I had to run some of the largest junior tennis tournaments in the Middle Atlantic Region. This job quickly taught me the importance of organization, efficiency, and especially, politeness: tennis parents are among the most demanding and rudest people on the planet!

My biggest challenge:

The continuous struggle to find the balance between a very busy professional career and a very busy family and personal life.

I might have been:

Sports reporter.

Guilty pleasure:

Eating! It is a blessing and a curse that my wife is a fabulous chef, which is why I am way too fat!

Favorite getaway:

The beach at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

My next act:

Writing a book, enjoying time with my family, and playing as much tennis and golf as my body will permit.

You may not know:

I once played a tournament tennis match against a man named Richard Raskind – who later became René Richards. I once put on, as the promotor, a pre-season NBA basketball game for the 76ers that proved to be historic because it was Charles Barkley's very first game as a professional and one of the last pre-season games for Dr. J, Julius Irving.



*Cantor, Stoneburner, Ford, Grana & Buckner
Richmond*

Education:

B.A., University of Virginia, 1975
J.D., University of Virginia, 1978

From all at the firm,

Congratulations

to our partner,

Edward D. Barnes

for his induction into the inaugural
class of **Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame.**



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Bernard J. DiMuro



*DiMuro Ginsberg PC
Alexandria*

Education:

B.A., Northwestern University
J.D., George Washington University

Ben DiMuro is co-founder of a firm known for, among other things, its business work in federal court in Alexandria. After service on the VSB Council and numerous bar committees, he was elected president of the Virginia State Bar.

Growing up:

I grew up in a farming town, 40 miles northwest of downtown Chicago - Round Lake, Illinois. Until I left for college, the town had 500 residents. Now the population of Round Lake is almost 20,000 and is considered a suburb of Chicago.

Early reviews:

An incredibly kind and talented music teacher once insisted that I play Horace Vandergelder in the school's rendition of "Hello Dolly." Horace, of course, was the older, curmudgeonly love interest of Dolly Levi. She chose me, I learned, that after 40 years of teaching, I was the only 18-year-old she had met who could convincingly portray a "grumpy old man."

Professional accomplishment:

I have greatly enjoyed my time spent as a member of Bar Council and then as president of the Virginia State Bar. I would like my legacy to be that I have strived to improve the quality of services rendered by lawyers in Virginia, to improve the quality of life for lawyers and to improve the reputation of our profession.

My first job:

I worked my way through high school and college working at a small golf club in the Midwest. My buddy and I would alternate running the pro shop and tending bar. It was a service job - I learned that listening to people and trying to meet their goals was invaluable - also increased the tips.

My biggest challenge:

First, law school never prepared or warned us about the need to learn the business of law. I struggle to this day with finding a balance between running a law firm (so that everyone earns a living) and providing services to all, including those who cannot afford the fees that the commercial market will bear. Second, it has taken a lifetime to learn that I cannot solve everyone's problem.

I might have been:

I was a very good bartender - Tom Cruise level in "Cocktail" - flipping bottles and double pouring and the like. Maybe I would have run a bar.

Guilty pleasure:

I enjoy having fresh flowers in the office. Surprisingly, very few people who know me have ever felt compelled to send me flowers.

Favorite getaway:

I continue to maintain a deep-rooted affection for Chicago - as it will always feel as though I am going home even though my primary home will always be in Alexandria. Florence, Italy, is another favorite spot.

My next act:

I am one of those fortunate few who wants to do in the next act what I had done in the preceding acts - but a little better.

You don't know:

Although Virginia Lawyers Weekly once described me as "unpredictably abrupt" at times [6/2002], I am actually pretty much a softie. (See comments about flowers above). When they read the article, my partners said I was "predictably abrupt."

Wyatt B. Durette Jr.

Wyatt Durette has been at the forefront of Virginia law and government for nearly five decades. A three-term delegate from Fairfax County in the 70s, he now focuses on complex commercial litigation with a Richmond practice.

Growing up:

My father worked for Dupont as a supervisor for new construction. As soon as a project was well underway, we moved to the next one. Before third grade, I had lived in 12 states and attended school in six of them! After WWII ended, my parents returned to Virginia and we settled down on a farm in Southampton County. My parents were truly exemplary people in terms of their character, work ethic, and devotion to each other and their family. Most of my memories from childhood and college revolve around athletics, which I participated in with passion and some success.

Early reviews:

Probably as mischievous, rebellious, stubborn and a consistent underachiever performing well below my academic potential.

Mentoring efforts:

Since the early years of my practice, I have incorporated mentoring into the way I practice law. In virtually all my cases, I have younger lawyers working with me. I spend time soliciting their input and discussing what we should do and why. We work together to achieve our clients' goals. I encourage questions as to why I believe the case should be approached in particular ways, or why we should deal with opposing counsel in different ways. The mentoring occurs naturally in the way we handle our cases.

Professional accomplishment:

As of now, winning *Tazewell Oil Co. v. United Virginia Bank* after a six-week jury trial against substantial odds and doing so for a remarkable man, Tucker McLaughlin, who became my closest friend.

Personal accomplishment:

Without a doubt, my family. I have eight wonderful children and an equally wonderful stepdaughter. I have close and loving relationships with all the children, so I believe I managed that balance between family and career reasonably well. Nothing is more important than this.

My first job:

Picking cotton. From that experience I learned that I did not want to do that ever again, or anything similar! And that reinforced the importance of getting a college education.

My biggest challenge:

Accepting defeat with any degree of tranquility.

I might have been:

I would have completed my Ph.D. in Political Science at Johns Hopkins and likely become a college professor.

Guilty pleasure:

Excessive amounts of ice cream.

Favorite getaway:

Our backyard pool with music because it transports me into a state of mind I find so peaceful.

My next act:

I am already living the next act of my life with my wife, whom I love dearly. After my political flame out, I returned to practicing law, which I love, and cannot imagine stopping.

You don't know:

(1) I am the last candidate for Governor of Virginia who plowed fields of corn behind a mule; and (2) I write decent poetry for special people in my life for notable occasions



*Durette, Arkema, Gerson & Gill
Richmond*

Education:

B.S., Virginia Military Institute
L.L.B., Washington & Lee
Masters, Johns Hopkins University



Robert J. Grey Jr.

Robert Grey did Virginia proud when he served as president of the American Bar Association in 2004-05. He handles administrative litigation before state agencies and represents trade associations and corporate interests before the General Assembly.

Growing up:

I am a Virginian. I was born in Richmond. I spent my first four years in Europe where my father was stationed in the U.S. Army. I attended Albert V. Norvell Elementary, Chandler Junior High and graduated from John Marshall High School in 1968. What I remember most was that, even though Richmond wasn't desegregated until the early sixties, the African-American community was vibrant, well-educated and we were very connected spiritually, culturally and socially.

Early reviews:

I would have been described as quiet and easy going.

Mentoring efforts:

Oliver Hill was my mentor. He told me practicing law was a full contact sport: If you're not on the field or waiting to get into the game, then you're a spectator. I pass that advice on to all my mentees.

Professional accomplishment:

Being a founding member of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Ours is an organization of more than 300 general counsel and managing partners with the vision of making the legal profession as diverse as the country we serve. We are within striking distance of our first goal: 10,000 legal role models by 2020.

Personal accomplishment:

Being elected president of the ABA in 2004 and working with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Chief Judge Judith Kay of New York and Past ABA Chair Trish Refo on a campaign to establish the ABA Jury Principles. Call it: Better justice through better juries.

My first job:

My first job was a grocery clerk at Colonial Stores. I learned to take pride in whatever work was assigned to me.

My biggest challenge:

Being a minority partner in a majority law firm required me to be creative in building a client base.

I might have been:

If I had not been a lawyer, I would have started a marketing/advertising firm.

Guilty pleasure:

Fast cars.

Favorite getaway:

Hawaii.

My next act:

I would like to be on the PGA Tour and win the Grand Slam of Golf.

You don't know:

I enjoy collecting African-American art.

French was my first language.



*Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Richmond*

Education:

B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University, 1973
J.D., Washington & Lee, 1976

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Phoebe P. Hall



Hall & Hall PLC
Richmond

Education

B.A., University of Delaware
J.D., Georgetown University

A co-founder of Richmond's Hall & Hall firm, Phoebe Hall has been a stalwart leader and mentor in the field of family law for nearly five decades, now focusing on elder law, wills and estates.

Growing up:

My early memories are of going fishing with my grandfather to catch our morning breakfast, of swimming and diving, of sailboat races and family picnics on the beach, and having two brothers who to this day vacillate between teasing me and spoiling me, reminding me that family is everything.

Early reviews:

Phoebe does really well on things that interest her, but don't ever give her a math problem to solve!

Mentoring efforts:

One of the most meaningful parts of my practice has been helping young lawyers develop into seasoned attorneys with character, expertise and judgment beyond their years. Outstanding lawyers such as Julie Cillo, Melissa VanZile, Kimberly Skiba-Rokosky, and Jonathan Murdoch-Kitt all have gone on to make significant contributions to the legal profession.

Professional accomplishment:

To have created and developed a law firm that has helped change the face of the profession, offering a place for women, as well as men, to achieve professionally and exert their influence on the field of law. I am so proud of the people who have been a part of this firm and the roles they have played in our community. They are my legacy.

Personal accomplishment:

To have lived a vibrant and exciting life, filled with the unexpected, to have shared the love of an extraordinary

spouse for 46 years until his death and to have raised two exceptional children who are the love of my life.

My first job:

My first job was babysitting for 25 cents an hour, but that was when you could buy an ice cream cone for 10 cents. I learned that man (or woman) cannot live by ice cream alone.

My biggest challenge:

To carve out time from a core personal and family life to run a law firm, serve as Rector of Virginia Commonwealth University, stay current, and be a good friend means you don't sleep much and really need a daily workout session.

I might have been:

I would have become a teacher or a writer of children's books, but once I realized I could be a lawyer and have my own firm, there was no other choice.

Guilty pleasure:

Having blackberry cobbler à la mode for breakfast at the Dairy Bar!

Favorite getaway:

Anywhere there is a beach, but especially Lewes, Delaware, and Cabo San Lucas.

My next act:

I am already there. At 76, I am getting to look after clients, indulge in some philanthropy, serve on boards, enjoy my kids and grandkids and friends, and travel all over the world (my latest trip having been to Qatar).

You don't know:

I hate conflict and chose to become a litigator. Go figure.

I still believe in miracles.

Robert T. Hall

Bob Hall is renowned for his advocacy in high-profile cases. He won exoneration and a \$2.25 million verdict for one-time death row inmate Earl Washington Jr. and a \$2.4 million recovery for victims of a fraudulent fertility expert.

Growing up:

Born in Ohio where great grandfather Robert Hall founded the Hall China Company. After graduating with honors from Georgetown Foreign Service School, I married Sally Wilson Hall then resigned my commission as a State Department foreign service officer in order to attend Georgetown Law at night. We will have been married 58 years as of June 18 and have three sons and three granddaughters.

Early reviews:

I will not even venture a guess!

Mentoring efforts:

I have mentored two young lawyers under bar programs, but have done more to mentor lawyers collectively through the Northern Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy

Professional accomplishment:

Representing Earl Washington, Jr. in his 18-year effort to be exonerated of his conviction and death sentence in Culpeper County.

Personal accomplishment:

To have gained the respect and recognition of my peers, not just for my professional efforts, but apparently because I have been able to convey to others that my commitment to equal justice for all is fundamental to my belief that our differences are our riches, not a cause for concern or alarm.

My first job:

My first legal job was as a law clerk at Arnold, Fortas &

Porter in Washington where I was able to observe how a law firm working at the molten core of power was able to preserve its values and also work for the benefit of the least amongst us. Abe Fortas was court-appointed counsel for Clarence Earl Gideon (*Gideon v. Wainwright*).

My biggest challenge:

Learning to accept that while the arc of history bends towards justice, the process can be painfully slow and is accompanied by fits and starts which appear to challenge the integrity and purity of that truth.

I might have been:

I would have remained in the Foreign Service.

Guilty pleasure:

I have discovered it permissible to expose, and by exposing, perhaps ridicule another's hypocrisy.

Favorite getaway:

Our summer place in northern Vermont, where we spend two months each summer

My next act:

Write! Non-fiction will suffice. Our professional lives have parallels in late night comedy. With regularity some personality appears who hands us a script of unbelievable, but demonstrably true content that we but need to put on paper.

You don't know:

I once ran for president of the Georgetown Young Republican Club.

In the late 1950s, while a Georgetown undergrad, my wife to be and I helped form the Committee for Legal Aid to Student Victims of Discrimination in order to provide counsel to young people arrested for trespass and disorderly conduct for the crime of sitting in at lunch counters or entering libraries while black.



Hall & Sethi PLC
Fairfax

Education

B.S., Georgetown University
J.D., Georgetown University



Grayson P. Hanes

A co-founder of the firm that is now Reed Smith, Hanes is described as a renaissance man of the law, with a practice that focuses on land use but includes civil and criminal work.

Growing up:

I grew up in Herndon when it was a farming community. I played sports – baseball, basketball and football – and was captain of all three. I played alto saxophone and was first chair of the All State Band for 4 years. I have memories of working on farms and playing sports and music.

Early reviews:

Average and shy.

Mentoring efforts:

Many during my practice: Mark Shaffer, Brian Athey, Judge Arthur Vieregg, Randy Minchew, John Foote and others.

Professional accomplishment:

A member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Personal accomplishment:

Having a wonderful family, law partners and close friends.

My first job:

Working in high school, college jobs and two full-time jobs while full time student in law school. I learned that nothing good gets done unless you outwork the competition.

My biggest challenge:

Reading each year all of the recent Virginia Law Reports and applying them to cases.

I might have been:

Coaching in high school.

Guilty pleasure:

Playing golf with my friends and family.

Favorite getaway:

Sarasota, Florida.

My next act:

Become a real estate appraiser.

You don't know:

1. I am a musician
2. I was a third team All State basketball player in high school as well as playing college basketball.



*Reed Smith LLP
Falls Church*

Education

B.A., University of the South, 1960
J.D., George Washington University, 1963

Congratulations Wyatt B. Durette, Jr. for being inducted into the Hall of Fame



A well-deserved award for someone who truly leads by example. Your achievements over the course of 52 years of practicing law are inspiring and worthy of this special recognition! We are so proud of you! Your friends at:

DURRETTE, ARKEMA, GERSON & GILL PC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



*Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, retired
Richmond*

Education

B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University, 1973
J.D., University of Miami, 1975

Jack L. Harris

Jack Harris is a tireless crusader for a justice system that is open to all and fair to all. He has nurtured Virginia’s legal aid system, advocacy for the poor and the right to trial by jury.

Growing up:

I grew up in Newport News, moved to Miami Beach for a year, and then moved back to Norfolk for my senior year of high school. Because I met my wife, JoAnne, at Granby High School, I came to understand that strange series of moves was a remarkable gift.

Early reviews:

I was seen as happy, reasonably intelligent and possessing leadership ambitions.

Mentoring efforts:

I have worked 27 years with current VTLA Executive Director Valerie O’Brien, a remarkably skilled and effective leader. I have worked with LSCV Executive Director Mark Braley whose special skills have built Virginia’s legal aid system into one envied across the country. And there’s Betsy Edwards, who worked for and with me at VTLA as director of the successful and essential Virginia Fair Trial Project.

Professional accomplishment:

In 1978, I was hired as the executive director of the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia and became one of the founders of the Virginia Poverty Law Center and its first executive director.

Personal accomplishment:

Anything I’ve ever done in my life pales beside the incredible good fortune I have had in marrying my wife, JoAnne, 51 years ago.

My first job:

I worked for my grandfather in his grocery store in Norfolk. He spent his life helping those who lived in that com-

munity purchase not only their groceries but their homes and their autos.

My biggest challenge:

When you feel that a great deal depends on the work you do, whether accurately or not, it is especially important that you also commit yourself to spending time with your spouse, your family, and others not associated with your work.

I might have been:

I was set to attend social work graduate school at Rutgers University before I changed plans and instead attended law school. I came to believe that I could do more through the law.

Guilty pleasure:

I love gelato/ice cream and have pursued that pleasure, with gusto, for most of my life.

Favorite getaway:

For many years, we spent a couple of weeks a year in Wales. Now, we travel when we can to the central California coast, where we love the weather, the food, the sights, the walking, and the unspoiled beauty.

My next act:

Volunteering for causes I believe in, serving on numerous boards, doing occasional consulting, all of which allow me to work with people I admire on behalf of people who can use assistance.

You don’t know:

I served four years in the U.S. Air Force. And, I’ve always been fascinated by real estate, acquiring a realtors’ license and selling homes to many friends and enjoying viewing beautiful properties.

Philip J. Hirschkop

Philip Hirschkop battled for social justice and achieved reforms such as the right to protest, the right to marry without regard to race, the right to attend public college regardless of gender and the right to fair maternity leave.

Growing up:

I was a kid in Brooklyn, but spent most of my school years in a small, rural community in New Jersey where I vaccinated chickens as my principal out-of-school job. Migrant laborers passed through my community to pick potatoes and other crops. My familiarity with their plight gave much impetus to my future endeavors in civil rights.

Early reviews:

They called me very bright and a lot of trouble.

Mentoring efforts:

Lawyers have read law under me, and I have done a great deal of public speaking to bars, dedicated organizations and at seminars. Many highly accomplished lawyers have described me as their mentor.

Professional accomplishment:

I am most proud of my representation of the peace movement and the major demonstrations in Washington against the war in Vietnam. It was democracy working at its best.

Personal accomplishment:

I believe I have taught my children and many people around me the value of kindness and integrity.

My first job:

When I was in college, I worked in the construction industry. Those jobs helped teach me the enormous value of a work ethic.

My biggest challenge:

Getting past outrageous attacks on me by the bar, much of the judiciary and many lawyers because of my civil rights work.

I might have been:

In retrospect, I would have become an architect.

Guilty pleasure:

I love fine food and tend to eat too much.

Favorite getaway:

The Caribbean and scuba diving.

My next act:

Travel, continue to advise people about their rights and help animals.

You don’t know:

I was a Green Beret paratrooper in the Airborne group first issued the Green Beret during the Korean War.

I am far less controversial than most people think, spending most of my day caught up in music and humor.



*Hirschkop & Associates PC
Alexandria*

Education:

A.B., Columbia College, 1960
B.S. Columbia University, 1961
J.D., Georgetown University, 1964



Lynn Forgrieve Jacob

Lynn Jacob, the first woman ever elected to partnership at Williams Mullen, has represented employers across the full spectrum of state and federal employment matters for more than 30 years.

Growing up:

According to my children, I grew up in the tropical paradise of Singapore where I played on a national championship basketball team. Actually, my twin sister, my brother and I grew up in the fabulous New Jersey township of Chatham. We did move to Singapore when we were 16. And, yes, I was on a basketball team in Singapore that won the national championship. But, let's be honest — Singapore is a 30-square-mile country, the Singapore American School is a perennial basketball powerhouse, and I can't hit a jump shot now to save my life.

Early reviews:

Curious and deceptive. My identical twin and I had some fun with our teachers!

Mentoring efforts:

In 1985, Margaret Bacigal and I were Williams Mullen's only female lawyers. We helped others joining our ranks become part of the Williams Mullen family. With support from the firm, Naila Ahmed and I started the firm's diversity program back in 2004. Hopefully I have been a role model for women coming behind me.

My ultimate attorney mentorship project was my three attorney children. All will confirm that, after growing up with me, they have never been surprised by a partner request or thought twice about having a female lead in a case. And they certainly learned to rebut any accusation at a young age.

Professional accomplishment:

I am the first female partner in Williams Mullen's 100-year history.

Personal accomplishment:

My husband Clay and I have raised three great children. We pat ourselves on the back and think we did a pretty good job ... even though they are all lawyers.

First job:

I was a high school teacher. When a student lit up a joint in my homeroom, I sent for the principal and the students got mad at me. I learned that I can't worry what others think; I need to do what I think is right.

Biggest challenge:

Trying to do it all, while doing it well.

I might have been:

A teacher. Every once in a while I will hear someone say "Mrs. Jacob," and it is one of my former students.

Guilty pleasure:

Single malt scotch, Netflix and eBay (sometimes in combination).

Favorite getaway:

Hawaii's garden island, Kauai.

My next act:

Join a garden club and spend more time with my grandchildren, Jack and Shep.

You don't know:

My family comes together for almost every UVa home football game — I throw a mean tailgate.

I have spent more "sick days" at home with my rescue pup, Kate, than I ever spent with my kids — she needs me!



Williams Mullen
Richmond

Education:

B.S., University of Virginia, 1976
J.D., University of Richmond School of Law, 1982

CONGRATULATIONS
TO **BEN DIMURO**
AND TO ALL THE
LAWYERS NAMED
TO THE INAUGURAL
CLASS OF THE
VIRGINIA LAWYERS
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John A. C. Keith



Blankingship & Keith PC
Fairfax

Education:
B.A., University of Virginia
J.D., University of Virginia

Since 1975, John Keith has been litigating and arbitrating commercial disputes, will contests, and trust and estate litigation. A past president of the Virginia State Bar, in 1979 he co-founded Blankingship & Keith, which now has 32 lawyers.

Growing up:

I grew up in Fairfax, where my father was a lawyer, then a judge. After retiring from the bench, he worked for Fairfax Legal Aid. I live in the house where I grew up and raised my four children there. I had a great childhood in Fairfax in the days before kids' lives were organized minute by minute. I loved playing touch football, sandlot baseball and shooting basketball by the hour. Although the Fairfax of today is a far cry from the town of my youth, I enjoy living and working in the place where I was raised.

Early reviews:

My teachers regarded me as smart enough, but decidedly lazy.

Mentoring efforts:

I have greatly enjoyed working with nearly two generations of younger colleagues. Our firm has a formal mentorship program, and I have tried to keep my mentees from making some of the mistakes I have made, while at the same time recognizing that some of my most valuable lessons were learned by failing and/or embarrassing myself.

Professional accomplishment:

I was incredibly fortunate to have been asked by Hugo Blankingship to join him in forming a two-man firm in 1979. Hugo was the best friend and mentor a young law-

yer could possibly have had. We have tried to foster and reflect the values that Hugo stands for as we have rocked along. I am proud of what we have built.

Personal accomplishment:

I am very proud of my children, all of whom have turned out to be wonderful grown-ups. I must give the credit for their success to their mother, Ann.

First job:

I was a lifeguard at a local pool. I learned how to fix pool machinery. But my first real job was as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy where I learned a lot about lots of things, including something about leadership.

Biggest challenge:

There have been quite a few. Trying to be a lawyer and a businessman at the same time is near the top of the list.

I might have been:

A physician, but for Biology 101

Guilty pleasure:

Macaroni and cheese – any kind – gourmet or out of a box

Favorite getaway:

Squam Lake, New Hampshire

Next act:

Go fishing.

You don't know:

1. When I was a toddler, I sat on a volume of Martindale-Hubbell instead of a booster seat.
2. I love "The Big Lebowski."

James W. Korman

Jim Korman practices at Bean, Kinney & Korman and has over 40 years of experience in domestic relations and personal injury matters. In 2014, he received the VSB's Family Law Lifetime Achievement Award.

Growing up:

I grew up in Washington, DC. My mother was an artist. My father was the lawyer for the District of Columbia and later a judge. I saw my father argue the school segregation case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Early reviews:

"Perhaps Jimmy Korman would like to share with the rest of the class what seems to be so funny."

Mentoring efforts:

I am proud to have mentored quite a few lawyers, two of whom – Jim Schroll and Jennifer Brust – have become my law partners and lifelong friends. My philosophy: "Courtesy is not a sign of weakness."

Professional accomplishment:

My most important professional accomplishment is what my firm, Bean, Kinney & Korman, has become.

Personal accomplishment:

Teaming up with my fabulous wife to raise the most fantastic daughter in the history of daughters.

First job:

I was a summer camp counselor. I learned that no one really knows what's in "Bug Juice."

Biggest challenge:

Trying to manage the sometimes unrealistic expectations of clients.

I might have been:

A history teacher, or the star forward for the Washington Wizards.

Guilty pleasure:

Anything with the words "chocolate" and "molten" in the same sentence.

Favorite getaway:

It's a tie between Tuscany and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

My next act:

It will be the same as I have been doing. I have no regrets.

You don't know:

I have a very large collection of political campaign buttons. I really don't like asparagus.



Bean, Kinney & Korman, P.C.
Arlington

Education:
A.B., College of William & Mary, 1965
J.D., George Washington University Law School, 1968



Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy

Hon. Elizabeth Lacy is a Justice (Senior) of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Before that, she served as the Commissioner of the Virginia State Corporation Commission. She was the first woman to hold either office.

Growing up:

I was born in Parris Island, South Carolina, and raised in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. I have a younger brother (now an attorney in Oshkosh). Living on Lake Winnebago, water sports – especially competitive sailing – were the summer focus. It was a small town with many youth activities incorporated into community life. Mother retired as a tenured professor at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; Father worked for a business machine company.

Early reviews:

“Rule follower,” “volunteer,” and “involved student.”

Mentoring efforts:

Mentoring lawyers came through working with my law students, law clerks, Inns of Court, organized bar committees, and encouraging young lawyers and listening to their concerns.

Professional accomplishment:

Early on, working for the Texas Attorney General’s office, I helped draft and get enacted the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. I also appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court. And I received the trust and confidence of governors, the General Assembly, and Virginians to serve as a Commissioner of the State Corporation Commission and Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Personal accomplishment:

Guiding and supporting our four boys, their wives, and their children.

First job:

I worked for the telephone company tracking down unpaid long-distance calls. I learned to be on time for work, “visit” with coworkers only during breaks, and that it felt really good to receive a check for your work.

My first legal job was staff attorney for the Texas Legislative Council, drafting statutes, staffing committees. I learned the importance of drafting language precisely to reflect its intended purpose and also the importance and method of following statutory history.

Biggest challenge:

I began as a 4th grade teacher. That lasted one academic year. Then I decided to go to law school.

I might have been:

I don’t know what else I may have pursued, since I graduated from college in 1966.

Guilty pleasure:

Breakfast in bed (after 7 a.m.).

Favorite getaway:

Our house in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

My next act:

Traveling with my husband, Pat, and growing with my grandchildren.

You don’t know:

I sailed M-16 sailboats competitively from age 9 until we sold the boat during my junior year in college.

I am deathly afraid of snakes.



*Supreme Court of Virginia
Richmond*

Education:

B.A., Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, 1966
J.D., University of Texas Law School, 1969
LL.M., University of Virginia Law School, 1992

Remarkable.

There are far too many fellowships, accolades, distinguished positions, and community service accomplishments to list for **J. Rudy Austin**. Instead, we’d like to mention what people outside the Gentry Locke family may not know about Rudy.

While his judgment and legal knowledge were unparalleled, he always wanted to know your thoughts, considered them thoroughly, and always gave credit where credit was due.

His door was open to anyone, no matter their position, to help with an issue.

Everyone who worked with him felt respected, listened to, and smarter for it.

Our affection and respect for Rudy can be summed up in one word: **reverence**.

Rudy spent his 50-year career at Gentry Locke. He is so remarkable that we still strive to make our interactions and ethics equal to his. **He helped form our core. He is our ideal. He is our Rudy.** We congratulate him on his **Hall of Fame** induction as we continue his exemplary legacy daily.



GENTRY LOCKE
Attorneys



gentrylocke.com/rudy





LeClairRyan PLLC
Richmond

Education:

B.B.A., College of William & Mary, 1977
J.D., Georgetown University School of Law, 1982
(Francis E. Lucey, S.J. Award)

Gary D. LeClair

Gary LeClair co-founded LeClairRyan in 1988, serving as the firm’s chairman during its national expansion from 1988 to 2015. He has returned to full-time practice, serving the needs of private equity and venture capital firms.

Growing up:

I was born in New York City and grew up in its northern New Jersey suburbs, the fourth of seven children. My dad served in France in WWII, and neither he nor my mom went to college. Mom worked until age 73 as a florist. My childhood revolved around athletics. I played three sports per year in high school and earned a full, four-year football scholarship to college.

Early reviews:

Much more interested in recess and lunchtime than in class. I was an uninspired student until knee injuries ended my football career in college.

Mentoring efforts:

I have developed written and recorded lawyer mentoring modules, including Managing Your Calendar, the Mistake Imperative, and the Challenge Response Competency. In our early years, I would take every associate through a one-on-one business development mentoring process. I still do that on a targeted basis. I have mentored more than 40 attorneys in Richmond and across the country, including Jim Guy, Lisa Murphy, Donna Foster, Vern Inge, Jim Hale, Ilan Marcus, Katja Hill and David Lay.

Professional accomplishment:

My team has been lead attorneys on more than 500 business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions. Those transactions have led to substantial social and economic benefits, especially better customer and community outcomes and jobs. As a result of that work, I founded the Richmond Venture Forum, the Richmond Technology Network, the Council of CEOs, Encorepreneur and several

other business affinity groups that are still thriving.

Personal accomplishment:

Convincing April Wells to choose me and then raising our five wonderful children together.

First job:

I began working by shoveling snow, cutting grass and delivering newspapers. I had my first 40-hour per week summer job at age 12, cleaning bathrooms, picking up trash and other menial tasks at a local lake. The next summer I worked in a factory, mostly on the assembly line doing mind-numbing, repetitive tasks.

One of the great gifts my parents gave me was the expectation that I had to earn my way. My early jobs taught me how blessed I am to work in my air-conditioned office at \$500-plus per hour.

Biggest challenge:

Not settling for Level 1 Thinking (simplicity before complexity) and doing the hard work to achieve Level 3 Thinking (simplicity after complexity).

I might have been:

A football coach.

Guilty pleasure:

Floating in our pool in Provence on a warm summer’s evening while sipping ice cold Rosé.

Favorite getaway:

Our olive farm in the South of France.

My next act:

Giving our grandchildren lots of hugs and kisses.

You don’t know:

I am an introvert who would rather be home reading a book than at a cocktail party.

I collect French art.

Judge Gerald Bruce Lee

Hon. Gerald Bruce Lee served on the bench in the Eastern District of Virginia for almost 20 years. Previously, as a state trial judge, he led Fairfax Circuit Court to establish an early internet presence.

Growing up:

I am the son of a mechanic and a clerical worker who instilled in me the values of faith, hard work, persistence and determination. I was loved, encouraged and surrounded by lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins, who remain some of my best friends today. I was the first in my large family to earn a college degree, but not the last. At age 15, I won a Youth Pride Incorporated scholarship for an evening college program at The American University. The education that followed changed forever my life’s trajectory. I live to “pay it forward.”

Early reviews:

My teachers described me as intelligent and pushed me to live up to my full potential. My sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Zenobia Justice, said I could be a college graduate. Years later, I invited Mrs. Justice to my investiture as a Virginia circuit court judge. So few teachers are willing to recognize that some Black boys are not discipline problems, but unfulfilled opportunities.

Mentoring efforts:

As a judge, I created a “teaching” chambers for all who worked there and also ran a “Boot Camp” for law students. Over 25 years, I trained over 150 judicial interns. My mentees include Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax and Judge Pamela O’Berry Evans of the Chesterfield General District Court.

I also co-founded a program that has placed over 100 diverse and under-represented law students and lawyers as federal judicial law clerks.

Professional accomplishment:

Empowering the next generation of lawyers and judges.

Personal accomplishment:

I was blessed to marry Edna Ruth Vincent, my attorney and the love of my life.

First job:

I worked on a farm, priming tobacco alongside Latino men and women. We worked together from “can’t see in the morning to can’t see at night.” I recall how diligently they worked to support their families and send their children to school to learn English.

I also worked as a street sweeper, a janitor, a car washer, a newspaper editor, a radio producer, a college professor, and a lawyer. Each job taught me lessons about human beings.

Biggest challenge:

Overcoming stereotypes and showing each day that excellence comes in all colors. My grandmother taught me that an education “is something nobody can take from you.”

I might have been:

A journalist.

Guilty pleasure:

Cashews after dinner.

Favorite getaway:

A beach with warm weather and chaise lounges for reading a good book.

My next act:

In my third or fourth act in life now as a mediator, I enjoy helping people resolve disputes.

You don’t know:

I love comic book superheroes.

I often wear superhero cufflinks. I have Spider-Man, Bat Man, Superman, Black Panther, Green Lantern, and Iron-man cufflinks in my collection.



U.S. District Judge (ret.), EDVA
Mediator, affiliated with
The McCammon Group
Richmond

Education:

B.A., The American University, 1973
J.D., The American University, Washington College of Law, 1976
Honorary Doctor of Laws, The American University, Washington College of Law, 2003



David S. Mercer

David Mercer practices real estate law at MercerTrigiani in Alexandria. He is a past president of the Virginia Bar Association, and was instrumental in the founding of the Lawyers Helping Lawyers program, serving as its president.

Growing up:

I grew up living in Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Roswell, New Mexico, White Stone, Va., and Northern Virginia. I learned how to hunt and skin a snake on my grandfather's ranch in New Mexico, and I learned how to fish, crab, and shuck and eat oysters at my father's home in White Stone. I was simply a kid who wanted to have fun.

Mentoring efforts:

Working with other lawyers and their families who are suffering from alcohol addiction.

Personal accomplishment:

My wife of 47 years, our three children, and seven grandchildren

My first job:

Paper Boy. I learned the expectations of my boss and that I needed to be reliable.

My biggest challenge:

Filling out timesheets

I might have been:

Working in marketing/public relations

Guilty pleasure:

Sit on a beach, smoke a fine cigar and read a great book.

Favorite getaway:

Duck, North Carolina

My next act:

At some point I would like to be a law school professor and teach condominium law.

You don't know:

I would like to own a 60-foot Buddy Davis sport fishing boat, and go fishing every day.



**MercerTrigiani
Alexandria**

Education:

Hampden-Sydney, 1970
University of Richmond Law School, 1973

Congratulations

to Molly Priddy for being named to the inaugural class of the Virginia Lawyers Weekly Hall of Fame.

Goodman Allen Donnelly joins Virginia Lawyers Weekly in recognizing Molly's career accomplishments, contributions to the bar, development of the law in Virginia, as well as her efforts to improve the quality of justice in Virginia.



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James W. “Jimmy” Morris, III



McCandlish Holton PC
Richmond

Education:

B.A., Randolph-Macon College/Virginia Military Institute
J.D., University of Richmond school of law

Jimmy Morris specializes in the civil litigation defense. He’s a former national president of both the Defense Research Institute and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has tried more than 500 cases to jury verdict in his career.

Growing up:

Grew up in and around Ginter Park, Richmond. Attended Thomas Jefferson High School, where I enjoyed being a “mediocre athlete.”

Early reviews:

“Bright and Jumpy” Teachers always had me sitting in the front row, first desk – right in front of the teacher.

Mentoring efforts:

Mentored many great lawyers and specifically noted among them Michael E. Harmon, Hon. Robert E. Payne, David P. Corrigan and John M. Claytor.

Professional accomplishment:

Membership and past presidency of the ACTL (American College of Trial Lawyers)

Personal accomplishment:

Without hesitation: Children and grandchildren. Sang

“Happy Birthday” twice to Oliver White Hill, Sr. on his 100th birthday, once at the Richmond Bar Association gathering and again during a special celebration honoring Mr. Hill. Even sang it from the podium.

First job:

Mowing grass; learned to get a better job.

Biggest challenge:

Trying to match up with all the great legal minds in Richmond and Virginia.

I might have been:

Working in medicine.

Guilty pleasure:

Tournament bridge

Favorite getaway:

Cape May, New Jersey

My next act:

Keep on keepin’ on...

Anita O. Poston

Anita Poston specializes in business law. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Virginia Bar Association. She also chaired the State Board of the Virginia Community College System in 1989 as an appointee of Gov. Charles Robb.

Growing up:

I was born in Alabama, moved to Indiana at age 3, then Maryland by fourth grade. I stayed in Indian Head, Maryland, until college.

Early reviews:

Hard working, serious student with very engaged parents.

Mentoring efforts:

I have tried to support the younger attorneys in my firm and in the organizations of which I am a part. My door is open for questions and encouragement whenever needed.

Professional accomplishment:

I have always tried to be a competent lawyer – committed to my clients, my firm and the profession.

Personal accomplishment:

A wonderful family and many good friends. I have enjoyed a strong marriage with a great husband who has supported my career, three super children who are a source of lots of pride, and the six most beautiful and smart grandchildren in the world!

My first job:

While in college, I was a teacher for a high school student who was at home in an “iron lung” machine as a result of polio. It was my first experience with an individual with severe health and physical challenges. Her determination and ambition was inspiring and taught me the importance of being positive rather than counting bumps in the road.

My biggest challenge:

Getting my first job after graduating from law school in 1974 was quite a challenge. Law firms in Hampton Roads where my husband found a job were not very enlightened about hiring women lawyers.

I might have been:

Teaching

Guilty pleasure:

Dark chocolate and coffee

Favorite getaway:

Home!

My next act:

Enjoy my grandchildren and good health as long as possible.



Vandeventer Black LLP
Norfolk

Education:

B.A., University of Maryland
J.D., College of William & Mary



Mary M.H. Priddy

Molly Priddy is a medical malpractice defense attorney, and specializes in a number of different areas including health care and risk prevention. She is a past chairman of the medical malpractice section of the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys.

Growing up:

Grew up in Roanoke the oldest of six children, father was a physician, mother was a teacher.

Early reviews:

Hard working student, a rule follower.

Mentoring efforts:

Mentored a number of young medical malpractice lawyers including Kate McCauley.

Professional accomplishment:

Working for more than 30 years representing hospitals and health care providers, many associated with the HCA facilities throughout Virginia.

Personal accomplishment:

A 35-year marriage and raising two children who seem to be happy and contributing to the world around them.

My first job:

I was a middle school teacher for 10 years; learned to work with many different people and to appreciate the varied talents people have to offer.

My biggest challenge:

Representing clients zealously while maintaining civil personal relationships with opposing counsel.

I might have been:

Working in medicine

Favorite getaway:

Goshen Pass, Virginia

My next act:

I enjoy knitting and sewing, and I am learning to play Mah Jongg.



*Goodman Allen Donnelly
Glen Allen*

Education:
Mary Baldwin College, 1969
University of Richmond law school, 1982



*Willcox & Savage PC
Norfolk*

Education:
B.A., Davidson College, 1964
J.D., Harvard law school, 1967

Conrad M. Shumadine

Conrad Shumadine specializes in First Amendment law, antitrust and business litigation. He's a former president of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association, as well as a former chairman of the antitrust law section of the Virginia State Bar.

Growing up:

I am a native of Hampton Roads and grew up on a dairy farm in what was then Princess Anne County, now the City of Virginia Beach.

Early reviews:

I had severe bronchial asthma as a child and missed almost half the school years in elementary school. Since the only thing I could do was read, I think teachers would have referred to me as sickly and bookish.

Mentoring efforts:

I believe you mentor by attempting to set a good example. Success in the law comes from hard work, integrity and a rigorous compliance with the standards of the profession. We all need to remember that the law is the only profession with the goal of justice, and justice cannot be achieved by unjust methods.

Professional accomplishment:

Working with and fostering the careers of the superb lawyers with whom I have been associated. The success of each of those with whom I have worked enriches me, and I am especially thrilled by the success of those who have distinguished themselves in judicial roles.

Personal accomplishment:

Marrying my wife. She has always been my guiding star and inspiration, as well as my best friend.

My first job:

Delivering newspapers for the company that has been my principal client throughout my career. The most important thing I learned was the need to meet the expectations of the customer. No matter how bad the weather, every subscriber expects their paper to be delivered on time every day.

My biggest challenge:

Coming to grips with the fact that as a human institution, the system of justice is and always will be flawed.

I might have been:

I would have become a teacher, because nothing is more important than the education we provide our young people.

Guilty pleasure:

Shopping for the unusual without regard to any demonstrated utility. I have purchased a multiplicity of gardening tools and kitchen utensils all of which do the same thing.

Favorite getaway:

The fitness center next door to my home. A vigorous workout is the best way I know to eliminate stress and preserve your health to the extent possible.

My next act:

I hope I can remain a good grandfather and an appropriate role model.

You didn't know:

I have always mowed my own lawn. I am a devoted listener to tapes from the Great Courses and enthusiastically pursue disciplines about which I know little.



Hunter W. Sims, Jr.



Kaufman & Canoles PC
Norfolk

Education:

B.S., University of Virginia, 1967
J.D., University of Richmond law school, 1971

Hunter Sims has represented clients in a number of different cases in his longstanding career, including practicing in the areas of business litigation, patent infringement, and civil and criminal cases. He's a former chairman of the construction law section of the Virginia State Bar, and also has served in numerous other VSB leadership roles.

Growing up:

I grew up in Richmond. My father was a bookkeeper for a plumbing supply company, and my mother was an elementary school teacher with Richmond City Public Schools. I graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1963.

Early reviews:

I recall notes made on my report cards such as "he talks too much in class," "he can't sit still," "he does not apply himself," and the like. I also recall an occasional trip to the principal's office for conduct-related issues.

Mentoring efforts:

Over the years I have been fortunate to have worked with a number of very talented young people (Steve Noona, Pat O'Donnell and Johan Conrod, and my former partner, Beth McMahon) who have developed into great lawyers.

Professional accomplishment:

I represented Richard J. "Dick" Holland, Jr., who was the president of Farmers Bank of Windsor. Dick and his father were indicted by a federal grand jury charging 31 felony counts arising out of loans the bank made. U.S. District Judge Henry C. Morgan, Jr. granted the Hollands' motions for acquittal on all counts. The Hollands then petitioned the court for attorneys' fees and other costs pursuant to the Hyde Amendment. Judge Morgan granted the Hollands' fee petition, and the government appealed to the 4th U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the fee awards. The final fee awards for Sen. Holland and Dick Holland totaled, after the appeal, \$912,566, which, for a number of years, was the largest Hyde Amendment award in the United States.

Personal accomplishment:

My wife, Marcy, and our two children, both of whom are happily married and have wonderful children and enjoy their own exciting careers.

My first job:

My first legal job was as a law clerk from 1971-1972 for Judge Walter E. Hoffman. Since I wanted to be a trial lawyer, this was a great way to start.

My biggest challenge:

Balancing professional and personal time.

I might have been:

I have no idea what field I would have pursued had I not become a lawyer.

Guilty pleasure:

Golf.

Favorite getaway:

San Francisco and London

My next act:

I have not given much thought to the "next act" as the "current act" is the focus of my attention.

You don't know:

Most people may not know that I am sentimental. I also wish that I had the talent to play a musical instrument.

Thomas E. Spahn

Tom Spahn, a commercial litigator in Northern Virginia, is also known as an ethics expert who hosts an annual seminar with lively hypotheticals. He has written books on defamation and ethics issues facing in-house lawyers.

Growing up:

I grew up as the youngest of three children in a quiet Eastman Kodak suburb of Rochester, New York. My dad was a dentist, and my mom was a nurse.

Early reviews:

A geeky kid with thick glasses and zero athletic talent.

Mentoring efforts:

My mentoring has mostly involved day-to-day interaction with lawyers throughout the firm on ethics, privilege and other issues – emphasizing the importance of our history and culture, as described by my hero Robert Patterson.

Professional accomplishment:

In fall 1975, another one of my heroes, Anne Whittemore, came to Yale interviewing law students. I met Anne in my first ever law firm interview. I remember walking out of the interview thinking how lucky I'd be if I could start out working for Anne, and spend my entire career at that firm. That's exactly what I have done, and I still feel like the luckiest lawyer in America.

Personal accomplishment:

My children Tom and Julie, both of whom became lawyers. Tom spent three years at Sullivan & Cromwell's Palo Alto office before heading into the Silicon Valley business world. Julie practices at her own one-woman immigration law firm in Charlotte.

My first job:

Other than a paper route, my first job was operating an automatic screw machine at a Rochester machine shop that made copy machine parts. I learned that smelling like machine oil for an entire summer impeded social opportunities. And I also learned how important it is to work hard at college.

My biggest challenge:

Trying to keep family first.

I might have been:

I never had a Plan B, so I have no idea.

Guilty pleasure:

Egg McMuffins for breakfast, and Diet Dr. Pepper anytime.

Favorite getaway:

As much as I travel, I reluctantly admit that my favorite "get-away spot" is home. My wonderful wife Karen and I live in Reston and enjoy walking its trails and spending time at the Reston Town Center.

My next act:

I look forward to spending more time with the world's greatest wife.

You didn't know:

During two college summers, I was a full-fledged member of the Teamsters Union – working at a Rochester moving company. Mike Wallace interviewed me while preparing a "60 Minutes" story on left-wing Yale students' violent disruption of General Westmoreland's appearance at Yale. My interview unfortunately ended up on the cutting room floor.



McGuireWoods LLP
McLean

Education:

B.A., Yale University, 1974
J.D., Yale law school, 1977



Judge Diane McQ. Strickland (ret.)

Judge Diane M. Strickland, who founded the first drug and youth courts in Virginia in the mid-1990s, served the court system for 15 years before transitioning into mediation for the last 16.

Growing up:

I grew up in New Jersey, my parents’ pride and joy until a baby brother joined the family when I was eight. There were seven children in my neighborhood, and I was bossy. When I was 10, I organized a play of Peter Pan for charity: Guess who I chose for the lead. In my junior year of high school my family moved to Fairfax County. I hated leaving my N.J. friends, but there I met my husband, Art, whose family relocated from California. As common lost souls, we united with a bond that has held for 50 years.

Early reviews:

Very shy and quiet.

Mentoring efforts:

I have participated in mentoring programs offered by the Virginia Bar Association, the Ted Dalton American Inn of Court and the Virginia Women’s Attorneys Association. When I was a judge, it was my pleasure to be available to younger members of the bar who sought guidance. I have spoken to several bar groups regarding the balancing act of career and personal life. In my mediation practice, I have frequent opportunities to provide guidance.

Professional accomplishments:

Implementing and presiding over the first drug court in Virginia

Personal Accomplishment:

Nurturing children, my own and those with whom I have connected through Sunday School, The West End Center, Barrister Book Buddies, the YMCA and Children’s Health Investment Program.

First job:

My first full time job was University of Virginia Attorney for the student body. I learned never to underestimate what a college student will do when I represented a sophomore who streaked the grounds au naturel on a unicycle. I learned how unobservant a law officer could be when one described my client in court as having worn only a fake nose and glasses during this escapade. My client seated beside me during this testimony wore glasses and had a prominent nose. I then learned that judges sometimes have difficulty concealing their mirth.

Biggest challenge:

Balancing motherhood and career

I might have been:

Teaching

Guilty pleasure:

Chocolate

Favorite getaway:

Visiting my grandchildren in Primavera, Mexico

My next act:

I consider my mediation practice to be my “next act,” and receive great satisfaction from helping disputants resolve differences. While I continue my life as a mediator, I plan to travel. Having been fortunate to visit many countries since my first overseas adventure as a high school foreign exchange student to Peru, I still have a bucket list. The list includes parts of Africa and Southeast Asia.

You don’t know:

1. My husband had to twist my arm to persuade me to attend law school.
2. My husband and I run a nonprofit to provide sponsors who enable street children in Guadalajara, Mexico, to attend school.



*Dispute Resolution LLC &
Roanoke Circuit Court
Roanoke*

Education:

B.A., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1969
J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1972



*Tate Law PC
Abingdon*

Education:

B.A., Westhampton College, University of Richmond, 1973
J.D., University of Richmond School of Law, 1976

Mary Lynn Tate

Respected medical malpractice and personal injury attorney Mary Lynn Tate overcame a childhood of poverty to become a leading trial lawyer, not just in Southwest Virginia, but throughout the state and country.

Growing up:

I was born in Lake City, Tennessee. My father was an underground coal miner. When I was very young, he left the mines after a friend was killed in an underground roof fall. My mother had an eighth-grade education and stayed home with my two older brothers and me while my father worked at jobs ranging from coal mining, truck driving, farming, mechanic, gas station attendant and heavy equipment operator. He was disabled by a drunken driver in 1963. Resources were scarce though sufficient. Other resources were rich and plentiful. They included love, encouragement and protection. I was given a deep sense of self esteem, humor, infinite curiosity, a desire for knowledge and a sense of gratitude.

Mentoring efforts:

I have accepted virtually all requests to provide lawyer training and continuing education programs. I have done this on average four times a year for more than 30 years, covering more than 20 states. I have also committed to trial skills training for lawyers on an annual basis since 1989 as a faculty member at the National Trial Advocacy College at the University of Virginia. I have co-directed the program since 2003. I invite lawyers to call me anytime and I will freely provide advice on the issues with which I am familiar.

Personal Accomplishment:

I believe my most important personal accomplishment is becoming a productive professional from a childhood of poverty, albeit a childhood rich in family love, support and hard work.

First job:

In high school, I worked as an aide in a nursing home, primarily assisting with meal service. My job included feeding

two men who were blind. When the lunch trays arrived on the hallway the first day I was directed to feed these gentlemen, but I received no instruction for this task. I delivered Mr. Wells’ lunch tray to the table in front of his wheelchair. I introduced myself and said that I was new and would be helping with his lunch. He introduced himself and said thank you. Not knowing where or how to begin, I took a spoon, dipped it into the small serving of mashed potatoes and slowly lifted it toward his lips. When he sensed this was what I was doing he said, “Wait, stop. Let’s talk about this.” He was a bit surprised but kind. Working with Mr. Wells, I learned to observe carefully, recognize others’ frame of reference, be patient and empathetic. I also learned the power of questions and saying, “Let’s talk about this.”

Biggest challenge:

The biggest challenge early in my legal career was navigating the male dominance of the profession and negative gender attitudes reflected by disrespectful and unprofessional behaviors, disparate treatment from tribunals and condescension. This “less than” environment stimulated my determination to exceed the expectations of professional competence.

My next act:

For me it’s never only one thing:

- I plan to complete the research and writing of a biography of one of our founding fathers, an immigrant, who was also a justice on our first United States Supreme Court.

- I plan to complete a Certificate in Public Policy Advocacy at the Brookings institution.

You don’t know:

- I am a licensed private pilot.
- I am a cancer survivor.
- I collect books—rare, old and new—and will be a lifelong reader.



Colin J.S. Thomas Jr.



**Timberlake Smith
Staunton**

Education:

B.A., University of Virginia, 1958
L.L.B., University of Virginia, 1962

Cal Thomas has spent more than 50 years as a defense attorney in Staunton with Timberlake Smith. He is dedicated to trial advocacy and has been influential in spreading knowledge on the subject.

Growing up:

My sister and I grew up in the country outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Our home was on several acres of land at the top of a large hill overlooking a lake. Much of my early youth was spent hunting quail and pheasant or fishing - all within walking distance of my home. I attended school through the eighth grade in Baltimore and then graduated from The Hill School in Pennsylvania.

Mentoring efforts:

Because I have been involved in teaching for most of my legal career, I can say that over the years I have developed a close personal relationship with any number of students. I was an early faculty member when NITA first got started. I have taught trial advocacy at both WV&L and the University of Virginia. To this day I still receive calls from former students seeking either legal or personal advice.

Professional Accomplishment:

Not very long ago, I heard another lawyer describe me as "There is no quit in Cal Thomas. He is a fine lawyer..." If I can be remembered as that, I will be satisfied. I am proud of the fact that I had a hand in starting the VADA, the Tides Inn Conference (now Boyd-Graves) and the National Trial Advocacy College at UVA.

Personal Accomplishment:

I have always put family first. Accordingly, my most important accomplishment was somehow persuading Susan Marshall Timberlake to be my bride. Our children and grandchildren - and hopefully soon great-grandchildren are our joint legacy. I would be remiss if I failed to express my pride for having my son, Steuart, be president of the VBA.

Biggest challenge:

The biggest challenge of my legal career has been watching changes occur that diminish the importance of trial by jury, and sometimes diminish our profession. An example would be advertising. I think law is a profession, not a business. In the same vein, I think that charging by the hour has fostered numerous ills. I began practicing law before discovery and all of its problems. Trial by ambush was a wonderful test.

Favorite getaway:

I have two favorite getaway spots: Hatteras Island, North Carolina, where I take my family, including grandchildren, for a week in the summer, and Anna Maria Island in Florida where I spend a little time avoiding winter in Virginia.

My next act:

I strongly suspect that the "next act" is what I am currently doing. I have been blessed with wonderfully good health and am able to spend time helping my children and grandchildren in one way or another. I still frequent the office and occasionally am able to pass on to some of the active lawyers a decent piece of work.

Judge John M. Tran

Judge John Tran was elected to the Fairfax Circuit Court in 2013 after nearly 30 years working in private practice and as a prosecutor in Northern Virginia. He immigrated with his parents from South Vietnam.

Growing up:

In the first 15 years of my life, our family lived in five different countries - South Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and the United States, specifically the DMV - D.C., Maryland and Virginia. My father served as a career diplomat in the South Vietnamese government. In 1975, as we planned for his next posting in West Germany, Communist forces overran Saigon and our lives as we knew it ended and a new life in what was then a foreign country, the United States, immediately began. My mother and two brothers were stranded in Arlington, Virginia, when our father was caught in Saigon. For the next 43 years, realizing my luck in being stranded in as remarkably enriching a community as Northern Virginia, I stayed put. Today, I live three miles away from my former Arlington home.

Early reviews:

Quietly competent and overweight, but deliberately thoughtful peppered with odd tendencies. Unlikely to ever be inducted in any Hall of Fame.

Mentoring efforts:

The mentoring of other lawyers occurred by happenstance. When the opportunities presented themselves, I simply shared what I learned from those who mentored me. I benefited from family, friends, teachers, employers, associates,

partners, politicians, judges and the occasional stranger. I return their gifts by passing on the knowledge they bestowed upon me whenever I am invited to do so and in some instances, when it's not particularly welcomed.

Professional Accomplishment:

I would like to have as my legacy a deserved reputation for promoting access to the courts and the quality of justice. This goal remains a work in progress.

Personal Accomplishment:

I earned the admiration of three generations of women - my mother, my wife and my daughter. Although I have found it more challenging with each successive generation, it became easier after I came to understand Joni Mitchell. This also remains a work in progress.

First job:

I delivered the morning newspaper and learned that being awake at 5 a.m. is a good thing. I also learned that the world is populated by mean-spirited people as well as people who are uncommonly kind and generous. I resolved to avoid the former and to seek out the company of the latter.

You don't know:

I became a naturalized United States citizen in the federal courthouse in Old Town, Alexandria. Visiting the surrounding buildings clustered at the intersection of Prince and Washington Street still rekindles the tremendous sense of relief and liberty I felt the day I became a citizen. I kept my Western birth name: I had been named after then-Sen. John F. Kennedy.



**Fairfax Circuit Court
Fairfax**

Education:

B.A., The George Washington University, 1981
J.D., The George Washington University School of Law, 1984



William T. Wilson

William T. Wilson has served Virginia's legal system as a litigator and a lawmaker for over 50 years, both as a trial lawyer and as a delegate representing the Covington area.

Professional Accomplishment:

I have tried all sorts of cases - capital murder cases; long and hard medical malpractice cases; a case involving whether or not to build the Gathright Dam, which lasted 10 days. But, my most important accomplishments were my service of VSB Council, being chairman of the Senior Lawyers Conference and Chairman of the Conference of Local Bar Associations. I was also privileged to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1974 through 1989.

First job:

When I was 18, I worked on a Norfolk and Western Railroad section gang. I had never known men to work so hard and so well together. I still run into men I worked with in those days and we have a lasting bond. I wouldn't trade anything for that experience.

Biggest challenge:

I came out of UVa Law School in 1963 and went to work for Sen. Hale Collins that September in Covington, Virginia. I didn't have a single relative in the Covington area and, other than the Collins family, did not know a single person in the area. My starting salary was \$400 a month. There were no lawyers or judges in my family, and for the first five years I really

"flew by the seat of my pants." There have been many challenges since then, but those years really put me to the test.

I might have been:

In 1960, I was enrolled in the Graduate School of Forestry at N.C. State. I spent the summer of that year working for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana on the Lolo National Forest. When that summer was over, although enjoyable, I knew that I did not want to go into forestry. In late September 1960, I applied for admission to UVa Law School, got admitted, and here I am.

Guilty pleasure:

As a teenager growing up in Crewe, Virginia, I spent a lot of time hunting and fishing. My mother started to clamp down on me and stop some of that activity, but, as she told me later, she thought better of doing that because she realized that I could be in a lot worse activities, and, besides, she knew I would outgrow it. I still hunt and fish all I can and have not "outgrown it," and I don't really feel guilty about it.

My next act:

I am passionate about protecting the Jackson River. Currently, we're fighting to keep the Atlantic Coast Pipeline from wrecking the beautiful mountains and streams in the Alleghany Highlands. When that issue is concluded, there will be many other issues having to do with the Jackson River. I think I will devote a lot of my time to protecting that river.



*Wilson, Updike & Nicely
Covington*

Education:

B.A., Hampden Sydney College, 1960
L.L.B. & J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1963



*Woods Rogers PLC
Lynchburg*

Education:

B.A., Washington & Lee University, 1962
L.L.B., University of Virginia School of Law, 1965

Robert C. (Robin) Wood III

Robin Wood has over 50 years of experience practicing law in matters including everything from civil to employment, business, intellectual property, corporate sales and acquisitions in Lynchburg.

Growing up:

I was an only child with a mother who was an opera singer, actress, teacher, and director, and a dad who was a lawyer, athlete and sports fan - Redskins and Yankees. My interests were a combination of my parents' influences and experiences. My mother taught me how to sing, which was somewhat of a struggle, and an appreciation of the arts. And my dad encouraged me to play sports with enthusiasm and with sportsmanship.

Early reviews:

Energetic, somewhat rambunctious, but respectful.

Mentoring efforts:

I have taught Virginia Law and Procedure at the Washington & Lee Law School since 1980. My students include bar presidents, local and state legislators, successful business leaders, and many able lawyers and good friends.

Professional Accomplishment:

Together with many lawyers who were members of the Boyd Graves Conference, I worked for over 20 years for Virginia to adopt "one form of action" (now Rule 3: 1). In my opinion this is the most significant improvement of the Virginia's civil justice system.

Personal Accomplishment:

A wife of 55 years, three adult children who are good citizens, three kind and caring daughters-in-law, and seven grandchildren who are coming along very well.

First job:

I was an associate in 1965 with the Richmond firm of Denny, Valentine, and Davenport. A young lawyer could not have had better mentors than John Davenport, Charlie Valentine, Bill Cogar, Jack Kay, Jack Ackerly and Angus McCauley.

Biggest challenge:

Every day is, and should be, a challenge.

I might have been:

I have never thought about it, but maybe a coach or teacher.

Guilty pleasure:

Being a good golfer

Favorite getaway:

Our cabin on the Cowpasture River

My next act:

Stay healthy

You don't know:

I wash dishes and make beds.

We the staff and friends of **Hall & Hall, PLC**
offer our Congratulations to the initial class
of inductees to the Virginia Lawyers
Hall of Fame, and to



Phoebe P. Hall

our leader, mentor, and friend.

We express our warmest thoughts and congratulations!

