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The views expressed in the *Roanoke Bar Review* do not represent the policy or carry the endorsement of the Association unless specifically noted.

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LONGEST SITTING ACTIVE CIRCUIT JUDGE RETIRES¹

BY SAMUEL G. WILSON

One of Virginia's most respected jurists, retired Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge, Thomas Horne, has described Clifford R. Weckstein as "[t]he Mark Twain of the Virginia Judiciary, [a man with] a special insight into the worldly controversies that are forever flummoxing judges, a special command of the English language, and a red pencil respected by his peers." Forty-one years have passed since Cliff and I first met in a courtroom, and the only thing surprising about Judge Horne's description is his ability to capture Cliff's special mix of talents in a short, powerful sentence.



Cliff felt the pull of diverging career paths – one, journalism, and the other, the law. And he always recognized that those paths shared a common skill set: a devotion to the essential facts and the ability to express them intelligently, interestingly, and simply. After graduating from the University of Virginia with a B.A., Cliff chose the law. He attended Marshall-Wythe School Law at the College of William & Mary, graduating with a J.D., though plainly he never surrendered his journalistic instincts. As a consequence of Cliff's choice, the law gained a principled, compassionate man with a magnificent intellect and sense of humor, and journalism (sort of) lost a ruthless editor.

We were both admitted to practice law on September 27, 1974, were sworn in locally on October 11 by Judge Ernest W. Ballou, and later that morning appeared on opposite sides of our first case in the Circuit Court, with Judge Robert J. Rogers presiding. I was an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, and Cliff was an associate to Barry Lichtenstein, a model lawyer and human being. Barry, whose young life was stilled by cancer in 1981, combined civility, genuine kindness, legal acumen, and persistence in a unique mix that dissolved his adversaries in and out of the courtroom. He was a fitting role model not simply for law, but also for life. How fortunate Cliff was to have such a mentor and to capture and share Barry's experiences with yet another generation. As an aside, I note that my first perceptions of Cliff arising out of our first Circuit Court encounter were these: this guy was born to do this stuff, and he reminds me of Chiam Topol who played Tevye in the 1971 film *Fiddler on the Roof*. He can turn a simple sentence into a melody worth hearing. Those initial perceptions have never changed.

Cliff has publicly reported that "modesty should forbid [him] from telling [the result of our first case]." Whatever the result (which the ravages of time, not modesty, forbids me from telling), it was a happy coincidence for me that we met. I gained a friend, advisor, and a stunningly frank, world-class editor.

¹I had selected other possible headings:

10. Why my jokes will no longer be funny
9. He has forgotten more than I ever knew
8. Who are these people and why are they calling me judge?
7. They tell me I was once a judge.
6. I love what I do. What is it that I do?
5. Twenty-eight years is enough.
4. I quit.
3. I use the word counselor because I cannot remember your name.
2. Like equity, I would follow the law but I cannot see where she went.
1. If I could wander for 12 more years I could be just like Moses.

(Continued on page 7)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY JOSEPH W. H. MOTT, ESQ.



Well, ready or not, the holiday season is upon us. It's a good time to reflect on the blessings we enjoy from a profession that enables us to live in comfort, and that provides us the ability to give back to our community.

As an organization, we can be rightfully proud of all that we do as a voluntary bar association of our size. Thanks to the membership's hard work, we were able to present a varied diet of programs this past fall.

Barrister Book Buddies

The RBA filled all the requested slots (34 classes in five schools) in this award-winning collaboration with the Roanoke City Schools. Reading is a key skill of academic development, and this program helps elementary students develop a lifelong interest in reading, while helping the school system achieve its academic goals for these students.

You and the Law: Your Day in Court

On October 6, the Roanoke Law Foundation, in conjunction with Judge Talevi, the General District Court Clerk's Office staff, and the Roanoke City Sheriff's Department, hosted 30 members of the public on a tour of the city courthouse. The glimpse of the inner workings of the court helped to take the mystery out of the institution and educate the citizens it serves. Thanks to all the RBA lawyers who helped with the project, and a special thanks to Tom Miller and Rich Maxwell for their work on bringing this new program to fruition.

Rule of Law

RBA members again this year presented programs emphasizing the importance of the Rule of Law in our society at the middle schools in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem. Having worked in conflict areas where the rule of law is challenged, to say the least, I found that my discussions with these Eighth Graders gave me new insight into how to promote the rule of law in countries where it is not well established. It came down to the wire, but we were able to fill all of the classes in this joint endeavor with the Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association.

Santa in the Square

Lori Thompson birthed this baby and has lovingly nurtured it to its tenth birthday. The Roanoke Law Foundation and RBA members continue to support it with their time and donations. What more can I say about this program? The photos in this issue tell a better story than I ever could.

The Website

On the technical front, despite undergoing a revamp and update in the last two years, the website has experienced various problems this fall that limited member and public access at times. After a review and evaluation of the problems, we have changed hosting companies and contracted for periodic updates that should result in a smoother, more bug-free platform. Please let me, Cathy Caddy, or a board member know if you experience any glitches with the site.

Upcoming Events

Don't forget our evening dinner meeting on January 12th. The Gala winter gathering for the RBA struggled in its last few years, and this change-up of the monthly luncheon meeting gives a substitute opportunity to gather and socialize after the breathless bustle of the Christmas season—and to earn CLE credits!

Macel Janoschka and the Young Lawyers Committee are hard at work on the Bench-Bar Conference. Mark your calendars for the afternoon of February 26, 2016, as this opportunity for straight-from-the-horse's mouth advice on practice in the valley is not to be missed. Plus, it is likely the only opportunity in the year for you to ask all the darn questions in your colloquy with the judge.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Joseph W. H. Mott is an Assistant U. S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia

VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: JUDGE LEISA CIAFFONE

BY ROBERT E. DEAN, ESQ.

Judge Leisa Ciaffone grew up in "that house," as she puts it. "It was the house where kids in the neighborhood went for a snack."

It was a busy, bright home, where friends, neighbors, and other family members were always stopping by to visit or hang out after school. "Something was always going on," she says. "It was bustling with activity."

Judge Ciaffone grew up in a suburb of Richmond. She lived with her parents, maternal grandparents, and two siblings. Her parents were high school sweethearts.

Her father worked as a skilled tradesman. Her mother was employed, usually part time when her kids were young, in various clerical positions, and volunteered at several local social services organizations. The family took in foster children and was active in their church.

"I had a great mom," says Judge Ciaffone. "She mothered anyone she could get her hands on. Living with extended family, we didn't get away with much. There were always lots of eyes on us as teenagers."

Judge Ciaffone now serves as the Chief Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for the Twenty-Third District. She hears cases in the city of Salem, the city of Roanoke, and Roanoke County.

Long before embarking on a legal career, Judge Ciaffone was motivated to find a career where she could help others.

She attended Hollins College, where she studied Psychology and Art History. Her focus was studio art, primarily print making.

"I did not go to college intending to apply to law school," says Judge Ciaffone. "I just took what interested me, and I knew I wanted to be involved in the community."

Following graduation, she briefly lived in Northern Virginia, but soon returned to the Roanoke area, where she accepted a job with Sanctuary Group Home.

"We provided safe housing for children who could not live at home, along with children who were in transition from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, or runaways who simply needed shelter," says Judge Ciaffone. "It was rewarding work and a powerful introduction to families and children in need of services."

After working in Roanoke, Judge Ciaffone decided to go to law school. She moved home with her parents to attend the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.

"I loved law school. I threw myself into my first year."

At the University of Richmond, Judge Ciaffone was drawn to classes that emphasized procedure and rules. "I really enjoyed family law," she says. "I also loved litigation. We are engaged in a profession that applies rules to seek the truth. So I loved rule-oriented classes: civil procedure, evidence, etc."

When it came time to graduate, Judge Ciaffone was unsure where she might practice. She had been dating a teacher from the Roanoke schools who had relocated to Florida. Then, he proposed.

"I did not want to live in Florida with the alligators," she says. "My husband didn't want to live in Richmond. He had gone to Virginia Tech and worked as a teacher in Roanoke." So they returned to Roanoke.



(Continued on page 10)

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Hon. J. Michael Gamble (Ret.)

Retired Judge, 24th Judicial Circuit of Virginia

The Honorable J. Michael Gamble recently retired after serving the 24th Judicial Circuit of Virginia for twenty-four years, including two terms as Chief Judge. Prior to his tenure on the bench, Judge Gamble served Amherst County in many capacities, including as Town Attorney, School Board Attorney, Assistant Commissioner of Accounts, and Commissioner in Chancery. Judge Gamble is a former member of the Steering Committee of the Boyd-Graves Conference and Past Chair of both the Judicial Conduct Committee and the Virginia Model Jury Instructions Committee. A leader of the bar and in the community, he is a Past President of the Lynchburg Bar Association and of the Amherst-Nelson Bar Association. Judge Gamble now brings this exemplary record of leadership and achievement to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

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YOU AND THE LAW: YOUR DAY IN COURT

BY AUDRA M. DICKENS, ESQ.



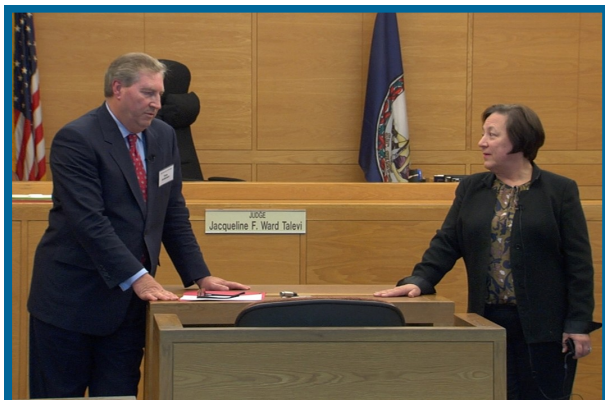
On October 6, 2015, the Roanoke Law Foundation hosted its **You and the Law: Your Day in Court** program at the Roanoke City Courthouse. The event was very successful, with a great turnout of over 30 attendees. The program opened with a discussion on courthouse security by several dedicated members of the Roanoke City Sheriff's Office. The attendees were incredibly engaged during this portion of the program, asking questions ranging from "Why are attorneys permitted to have their cell phones in the courthouse?" to "What mental health training is provided to the courthouse deputies?"

The attendees were then taken on a tour of both the Civil and Criminal General District Court Clerk's Offices, where Rick Kahl, Clerk of the Roanoke City General District Court, and Jean Wyatt, the Supervising Deputy Clerk, offered a behind-the-scenes look at how the Offices function. Mr. Kahl and Ms. Wyatt also answered questions as to how the Offices can and cannot help citizens with their cases.

At the end of the night, the attendees moved to one of the General District courtrooms to hear from Judge Jacqueline Ward Talevi, who explained the rule of law, and how it impacts all aspects of the judicial process. Tony Anderson, of Anderson & Friedman, and Betty Jo Anthony, Assistant Roanoke City Commonwealth's Attorney, then put on quite the performance by walking the attendees through the mock case of *Commonwealth vs. Jane and John Doe*. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Anthony highlighted each of their respective roles in the judicial process and how they each decide the best course of action for their clients.

The program ended with an informative discussion about identity theft and scams. Lt. Bill Breedlove from the Roanoke City Police Department and Ms. Anthony explained what actions you should take if you discover that your identity has been stolen and what the police and the Commonwealth's Attorney can do to prosecute identity-theft cases. Julie Andrews, one of a number of young lawyers who attended the event, stated that the event was a "great success on multiple levels—great turn out, engaging presentations, and interested participants who seemed to enjoy the night from start to finish." The Roanoke Law Foundation has posted the video of this "Your Day in Court" event to the Roanoke Bar website and is already considering another similar event for early 2016 featuring the circuit court.

Audra M. Dickens is an associate at Frankl, Miller & Webb, LLP



Tony Anderson and Betty Jo Anthony negotiate a plea at **You and the Law: Your Day in Court**.

BARRISTER BOOK BUDDIES RECOGNIZED

As President Mott noted in the President's Corner on page 2, the RBA has once again filled every teacher request for a buddy for the 2015–2016 school year. This is the 16th year of Barrister Book Buddies.

Roanoke City Public Schools recently recognized Barrister Book Buddies as part of the annual Read to Me Day and featured a picture of our own Jennie Waering and Karen Peters in Mrs. Tibbs's second grade class at Lincoln Terrace.



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ROANOKE LAW LIBRARY NEWS AND INFORMATION

BY JOSEPH KLEIN, LAW LIBRARIAN



Holiday Greetings from Your Roanoke Law Library

The holidays have always been a special time for me. I am enormously grateful for the moments of reflection—for all of life's blessings at Thanksgiving, for the joy and wonder on children's faces at Christmas, and for the focus on the future that New Year's Eve brings. I would like to wish the entire Roanoke legal community happy holidays. I hope that your post-

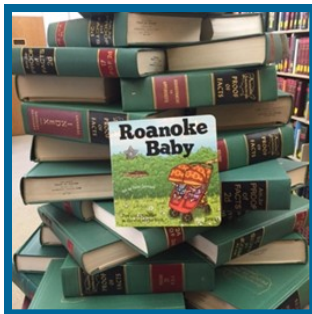
holiday weigh-in is not traumatic, that you are able to keep all your resolutions, and that your credit card statement is not overwhelming, come January.

Westlaw Next

As I have previously discussed, we no longer have access to Westlaw Classic, and while I initially lamented its loss, I have come to appreciate the new and innovative features Westlaw Next offers. In most ways it is superior to Westlaw Classic, and I believe it makes legal research easier and quicker. Our Westlaw Next subscription provides free unlimited access to all of the same powerful resources as Westlaw Classic. We still have all United States federal statutes and case law. We also have access to statutes and case law for all 50 states. Additionally, we subscribe to powerful, Virginia-specific secondary resources, including the Virginia Practice series. Finally, we have access to the spectrum of American Jurisprudence resources, including Am Jur 2d, Proof of Facts, Trials, and Forms, as well as law review publications and the American Law Reports. Westlaw Next makes it simpler to search these resources, to find what you need, and to print and send your information to the appropriate place. If you are interested in learning more, please give me a call at 853-2268 or just stop by the library, and I will be glad to get you started.

Roanoke Baby Book

The Life Ring Foundation has given the Roanoke Public Library a sizeable grant to support early childhood literacy. In particular, Life Ring has thrown its support behind the Library's Star City Reads program. Star City Reads is the City of Roanoke's campaign to have all children in the city reading at grade level by the third grade. Reading aloud to pre-school age children is the most powerful tool that parents can use to prepare their children for school. One of the initiatives of this program is to provide every child born in Roanoke Memorial Hospital with a copy of Roanoke Baby, a board book illustrated by Paige Garrison. This wonderfully fun book has scenes around the valley, familiar to all of us. Roanoke makes a splendid gift for any child, or anyone expecting a child, who has a special connection to our city. Every Roanoke City Library branch has copies of Roanoke Baby for sale for \$10.



VWAA HONORS JUDGE DILLON

The Roanoke Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association paid special recognition to one of its own on November 4, 2015: U.S. District Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon. Thirty-five VWAA members and others met for lunch at Table 50. Chapter secretary Susan Wadell, a long-time associate of Judge Dillon, read a resolution, written by VWAA (and RBA) member Jonnie Speight. The resolution commends Judge Dillon for her dedication and many contributions to the cause of justice in the Roanoke Valley, including her past service as president of the Roanoke and the Roanoke/New River Valley chapters of the VWAA and as president of the Roanoke Bar Association.



U.S. District Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon (center) accepts a framed copy of the resolution in her honor by the VWAA Roanoke Chapter, presented by chapter president Devon Slovensky (left) and secretary Susan Waddell. The chapter also presented Judge Dillon with a more practical gift for her new office in the federal courthouse: a set of decorative bookends.

VWAA'S HOLIDAY RECEPTION

On December 3 the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Roanoke Chapter, hosted its annual holiday reception to celebrate the local judiciary and their staff. Attorneys, judges, and staff enjoyed the festive event, with high spirits and fellowship in the White Room at Blue 5 Restaurant



Kai Memmer and Judge Philip Trompeter, retired, enjoy the 2015 Holiday Reception.

RVLSA CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNUAL BOSSES' NIGHT

RVLSA . . . the association for legal professionals held its 50th annual Bosses Night on September 17 at the Fairfax Ballroom. Bosses Night is RVLSA's annual fundraiser for its scholarship program, and is also an event to honor a deserving Boss and Member for dedication to the legal community and commitment to and support of RVLSA and its members.

In celebration of 50 years of recognition, all bosses were honored and recognized. Betty Moorman-Sweat, PP, PLS, was named 2015 Member of the Year. Honorary member Cathy Caddy was recognized for her service to the RBA. After a wonderful dinner, guest speaker Nick Leitch, Esq., entertained and educated everyone.

RVLSA appreciates the continued support of the Roanoke Bar Association and the attorneys in the Roanoke Valley. Your support allows RVLSA to present annual scholarships to deserving students who plan to study and pursue a career in the legal field.



Cathy Caddy and Betty Moorman-Sweat with the 50th anniversary banner.

RBA ENDORSES JUDGE CLEMENS FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIP

The members of the Roanoke Bar Association convened on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, and cast their votes on which of several fine nominees the RBA would endorse to fill the vacant seat on the 23rd Judicial Circuit Court bench.

After tallying the secret ballot votes, the RBA endorsed Judge J. Christopher Clemens as a candidate to the circuit court bench. Judge Clemens has been a full-time General District Court Judge in the 23rd Judicial District since 2009.



Happy Holidays!

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LONGEST SITTING ACTIVE CIRCUIT JUDGE RETIRES

(Continued from page 1)

Before he became a Circuit Judge, he had an uncommon breadth of experience, handling everything from personal injury litigation to capital murder. His peers recognized him as a “lawyers’ lawyer” and sought his advice and assistance on a wide array of subjects. This recognition has followed him throughout his career.

He has spent 28 years as a Circuit Judge and, in that role, has distinguished himself as a thoughtful, compassionate jurist who masters the most difficult cases, presides with seeming ease over complicated trials, simplifies complex legal issues, distills them for juries (and the appellate courts), and serves as a legal reference for his colleagues throughout the Commonwealth—a point echoed time and again by his judicial colleagues as well as the lawyers who appear before him. Cliff’s Circuit Court colleague, Judge William Broadhurst, has described Cliff’s command of the law as “comprehensive, perhaps legendary.” In the words of another Circuit Court colleague, Judge David Carson, Cliff has an “encyclopedic command of the law” and “graciously [renders] assistance to senior jurists who often seek his counsel.” Retired Circuit Judge, A. Joseph Canada from Virginia Beach said it well:

Judge Clifford Weckstein is well known in the legal community all over Virginia. He is known for his intellect, integrity and his superior knowledge of the law. He treats all participants in the legal system with respect. He has helped many young lawyers develop their skills. He was never too busy to help young lawyers.

He has done much to make our judicial system better. He is full of integrity, brains and compassion. He is one of the best judges in Virginia. If there were a Hall of Fame for judges, he would be the first to be selected.

Senior Virginia Supreme Court Justice Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr. summed up this way: “Judge Weckstein has a large heart and an equally large intellect.” As a testament to these qualities, every statewide and specialty bar gave Cliff its highest recommendation to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court of Virginia.

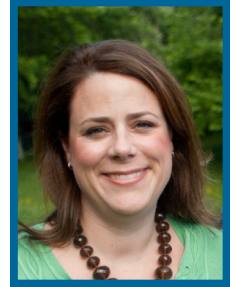
Perhaps Cliff’s greatest contributions to the legal profession flow from his unswerving, selfless commitment to professional education. He has given more lectures throughout Virginia on trial practice, the law, and professionalism than nearly any other jurist in Virginia history. And for nearly 30 years he has taught at the National Trial Advocacy College at the University of Virginia School of Law. One of his long-time colleagues on the Trial Advocacy College faculty is United States District Judge Robert J. Conrad of the Western District of North Carolina. Judge Conrad says that he has a mantra to employ when faced with a tough courtroom decision: “WWWWD’: What would Weckstein do?”

Cliff is not simply a master of the courtroom, the common law, and a repository of homespun wisdom. He is also a student of classic English and American literature, loves the sound of iambic pentameter, and essentially carries the manual of style in his head. He interned at the *Roanoke Times* and later worked there as a copy editor, which probably explains his strong love of journalism and his disdain for split infinitives,² dangling participles, and misplaced modifiers. In the words of Judge Broadhurst, Cliff is a veritable “Strunk & Weckstein.” As a consequence, Cliff has never hesitated to call or write journalists at the *Roanoke Times* (or anywhere else, for that matter) to correct perceived factual inaccuracies, legal misunderstandings, or grammatical missteps – though he always deliv-

(Continued on page 11)

HILARY D. GRIFFITH SWORN IN AS NEW JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT JUDGE

On June 19, 2015, many gathered to celebrate Hilary Griffith’s investiture at the Roanoke County Courthouse in Salem, Virginia. The lighthearted yet meaningful ceremony beautifully reflected Judge Griffith’s personality. Lots of laughter and joy permeated from the packed courtroom where dozens upon dozens witnessed the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit’s Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court’s fourth investiture in two years.



Representatives from the Roanoke Bar Association, Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association, and Virginia Women Attorneys Association participated as they assisted Judge Griffith in putting on her robe for the very first time. Following the robing, Christine Lockhart Poarch, Judge Griffith’s friend for over a decade, read heart-felt remarks.

The Honorable Leisa K. Ciaffone, Chief Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, administered Judge Griffith’s oath. Finally, Judge Griffith’s speech reflected on her experience as a sub-judge and gave warm thanks to the many people who impacted her along the way. Pastor Josh Yerton from Restoration Church gave the closing prayer and benediction. Following the ceremony, the celebration continued in the Roanoke County Courthouse library.

Judge Griffith is married to Congressman Morgan Griffith who was present at the investiture with their three children: Abby, Stark, and Davis.

Judge Griffith attended Hollins University for her undergraduate degree and later attended law school at Indiana University. Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Griffith was an assistant commonwealth’s attorney in Boutetourt County and later became a partner at Stanley, Houchens & Griffith located in Salem. Judge Griffith began hearing cases on July 1, 2015.

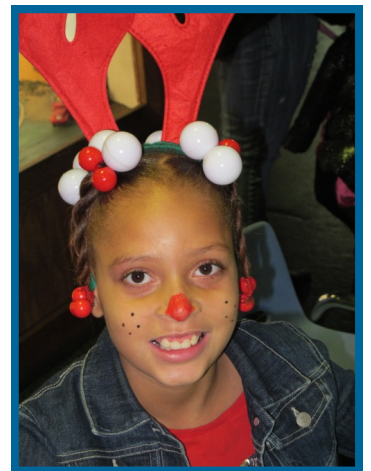


Judges of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: Hon. Onzlee Ware, Hon. John Weber, Hon. Hilary Griffith, Hon. Leisa Ciaffone, and Hon. Frank Rogers.

²There is, however, some evidence in his recent writings indicating that he has mellowed somewhat on split infinitives.



SANTA AT THE STATION - DECEMBER 7, 2015





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More photos from Santa at the Station

are available on the RBA web site

www.roanokebar.com

Click on the Post

VIEW FROM THE BENCH: JUDGE LEISA CIAFFONE

(Continued from page 2)

When Judge Ciaffone first moved to Roanoke, she accepted a job with Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, where she practiced for nearly 15 years.

"My time at Gentry Locke was the greatest way to learn to practice law," she says. "I was very supported by my colleagues. I was taught the right way to do things."

She recalls Rudy Austin, Charlie Williams, and David Paxton as among her early mentors at the firm.

The firm emphasized "approaching litigation in a manner that is friendly and honest and collegial. That's one thing that I recommend to all new lawyers in the Roanoke Valley, and something that I believe distinguishes our local bar: our collegiality. It allows us to better help our clients and makes the process that much more efficient."

She credits the firm's approach to training young lawyers, which emphasized mentoring by the firm's senior members. It's another feature that she believes distinguishes the close-knit Roanoke bar.

"I remember preparing to try my first jury trial on my own. Jane Glenn stopped by to say, 'I heard your first jury trial is next week.' When I told her Bill Wilson represented the other side, she said, 'How about I go to help out?'"

Judge Ciaffone says Ms. Glenn dropped everything to help her at trial. "That was the type of team approach that made practicing at Gentry Locke so special," she says.

In 2001, Judge Ciaffone opened a private solo law practice closer to her home in Salem. She concentrated on family law, serving as a guardian ad litem and sitting as a substitute judge.

"It was a wonderful experience—and a wonderful challenge. As a solo attorney, you are the IT department, collections, and the office manager," says Judge Ciaffone. "But I loved every minute of it."

Before starting her own practice, Judge Ciaffone developed a detailed checklist to open a law practice. The checklist has since been passed around to other Roanoke lawyers starting their own practice.

In 2013, Judge Ciaffone was appointed to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for the Twenty-Third District. "Going onto the bench was an easy transition because I had substituted for such a long time," she says.

On the bench, Judge Ciaffone shapes the lives of families throughout the Roanoke Valley. She also sees her role as judge as participating in a system of justice that helps families and children in crisis.

She welcomes the opportunity to help lawyers who are new to her courtroom.

"I harken back to my Gentry Locke days. You get a reputation as a young lawyer. Always be prepared. Always be ethical and honest. Always exhibit professionalism to the court, and its staff. It will help you be a successful attorney."

Additionally, she emphasizes the importance of allocating enough time on the docket for each case as a practice pointer for family attorneys.

"Be sure to advise the clerk and the court how much time will be involved in a case up front, when you file the matter," she says. "It is important not to underset the time required to hear cases. People in our courtrooms are under a tremendous amount of emotional stress and we want to ensure that your clients feel heard. It instills confidence in our judicial system."

This past year, Judge Ciaffone's husband retired from the Roanoke city schools. Their two children have graduated from college and begun their own careers. She says, "The empty nest takes some getting used to, but we've acclimated quite well!"

Robert E Dean is an attorney with Rob Dean Law in Roanoke



LONGEST SITTING ACTIVE CIRCUIT JUDGE RETIRES

(Continued from page 7)

ers his good-natured critiques discreetly, in private, and with a twist of humor, often self-effacing. Journalists are not alone. The works of colleagues, lawyers, family, and friends are not immune. Whenever I consulted him concerning sentence structure, syntax and word usage, I arrived prepared to see more red ink than I ever saw in elementary school.³ Judge Broadhurst's thoughts mirror my own, "[Cliff's] help always made one's work better, but the drafter needed to come with his or her writer's ego firmly belted in."

I would like to proclaim Cliff's editorial talents to be unique. But in point of fact, they are no more unique than are his command of English literature and world history, or even his cadence in delivering one-liners. They are modeled, or even "lifted" from a true master. While at the *Roanoke Times*, Cliff once wrote an article in which he purported to quote directly from Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn." But he got the quote wrong, and an alert reader and true master and prototypical Renaissance man, Cliff's father, Norbert Weckstein, took him to task. Cliff, be precise. These are Keats's words: "'Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.'"

While visiting New Caledonia this past February, I witnessed the most magnificent sunset over the South Pacific I thought I had ever seen. The sky and the ocean blended imperceptibly into one another. I sent Cliff a photo, together with the following allusion to Forest Gump: "Sometimes I didn't know where the water ended and heaven began." Cliff responded: "Great picture and great quote but the actual quote is this: 'I couldn't tell where heaven stopped and the earth began.'" And, to an attached photograph of my wife and me, he responded, "Two people looking deceptively normal. Nice picture." So on the question of uniqueness, I rest my case.



Cliff is devoted to his three children, Ginny, Meg, and Ben. Like their father, all three are graduates of Patrick Henry High School.

Ginny has an undergraduate and an M.A. degree in English from the University of Virginia. She lives in Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, England, where she works for a local organization that provides housing for children with emotional and behavioral difficulties. She is married to Nick Segar, an English professor at nearby Teale University.

Meg is also a UVA graduate. She resides in Washington D.C. and is a senior product development analyst at a healthcare technology company.

Ben is a graduate of Roanoke College and is an admissions counselor there.

Virginia Lawyers Weekly once reported Cliff's cautionary instructions to his Circuit Court colleagues, from a speech Cliff delivered to the Judicial Conference of Virginia: "When you write, you're a surgeon. Excise, excise, excise." Though circumstances might inspire you to start with Magna Carta and work forward, he reportedly said, "[t]ake it out back and read it to the dumpster, where it will resonate," and then get rid of it. Well, I am inspired by Cliff's unsurpassed dedication to his profession, his insightfulness, his accomplishments, and his genuine respect and compassion for his fellow man, but I am also chastened by his instructions to his colleagues, which always caution brevity. And so I will keep my personal observations brief.

There is a pureness of purpose that is rarely seen, a purpose to contribute, to make a difference, to give rather than to take, to see goodness that is hidden from others, and to respect the marginalized. I am no clairvoyant. I cannot say that I recognized that Cliff had these precise purposes in his heart when we first met in a courtroom in 1974. But I do take credit for this—I recognized that there was something special about him. Forty-one years later, I can now report what I've seen.



Samuel G. Wilson is a retired U.S. District Judge from the District Court for the Western District of Virginia

IN MEMORIAM

The following are the Association's losses since September 1, 2015:

Charles O. Cornelison (September 19, 1945 – October 23, 2015)

Harvey S. Lutins (August 24, 1928 – November 2, 2015)

In grateful recognition of the contributions of Mr. Cornelison and Mr. Lutins to our profession, and their contributions to our Association, the Association laments their passing.

³I have no doubt, for example, that on reading my above reference to his mastery of "classic" English, Cliff would immediately question my use of the word "classic" rather than "classical."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new Active members:

Adam H. Moseley
Moseley Law Firm, PLC

Bradley C. Tobias
Gentry Locke

LEADERS IN THE LAW

Virginia Lawyers Weekly recently announced the 2015 Class of honorees in their "Leaders in the Law" program. Congratulations to **Frank W. Friedman, Esq.** (Woods Rogers, PLC) and **Thomas H. Miller, Esq.** (Frankl Miller & Webb, LLP) who were among the honorees.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Roanoke Bar Association Meetings 2015 - 2016

September 8, 2015

October 13 2015

November 10, 2015

December 8 2015

January 12, 2016
(Evening Meeting)

February 9, 2016

March 8, 2016

April 12, 2016

May 2, 2016
(Law Day)

June 14, 2016
(Annual Meeting)

Go to www.roanokebar.com for more

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