



**A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE
THE HONORABLE JOSEPH MASSENBURG CLARKE, II**

WHEREAS, the Honorable Joseph Massenburg Clarke, II was born on September 27, 1952 in Roanoke, Virginia to John C. Clarke (deceased) and Anne Powell Clarke and died on July 19, 2014 in Cusco City, Peru; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke attended Virginia Commonwealth University and earned a B.S. degree in 1974; and attended University of Richmond's T. C. Williams School of Law and earned a J.D. degree in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke began the practice of law as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Roanoke, Virginia, followed by his employment by the law firm of Dodson, Pence, Viar, Young and Woodrum; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke compiled the Virginia Criminal Law Case Finder beginning in 1987, and developed it through seven editions; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke was appointed as an interim Judge to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for the 23rd Judicial District at the age of 35, and was elected by the General Assembly as a Judge of this Court in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke served as Chief Judge of this Court for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke was a member of many professional organizations including the Virginia State Bar, the American Bar Association, the American Judges Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Virginia Council of Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges, the Association of Trial Lawyers in America, and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke was a committed advocate for the rights of children, which led to his participation in and continuing support of the Best Practice Court Initiative;

WHEREAS Judge Clarke volunteered for many years, beginning in 1979, for Big Brothers and Big Sister of the Roanoke Valley, and served on its Board from 1981-1986; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke's interests revolved around his family and his work; he loved spending time with his family, traveling the world; he enjoyed periodicals and public libraries; and he loved the New York Yankees; and

WHEREAS, as a Judge, Judge Clarke practiced a faithful adherence to the rule of law, thoughtful and deliberate decision making, independence, patience, and mercy; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke will be missed by his colleagues for his personal integrity, his work ethic, his kindness, and his quick wit; and

WHEREAS, Judge Clarke was a loving husband to his wife Vickie Rochester Clarke, a devoted and proud father to his children Sarah Anne Clarke and John Lawrence Clarke, a beloved son of his parents, and a beloved brother of his sister Judith Lightfoot Clarke; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Bar Association honors the memory of Judge Joseph M. Clarke, II and mourns his loss along with his family, the Bar Association, and the entire Roanoke Valley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Memorial Resolution be furnished to the Circuit Courts of the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, the City of Salem, with motions that the Resolution be spread upon the permanent order books of those courts, that a copy be sent to the Clerks of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts for the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, and the City of Salem, and that a copy be sent to his family, to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds him and his memory, and the Association's sorrow at his passing.

Given under the hands of the president and secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 10th day of March, 2015.

Richard C. Maxwell
President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Hugh B. Wellons
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association