



**GENTRY LOCKE**  
Attorneys

**WOODS ROGERS**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

June 28, 2017

Dear member of the Roanoke Bar Association:

Due to an unexpected shortfall in fundraising, the United Way of the Roanoke Valley has informed the Roanoke office of Blue Ridge Legal Services that its funding this year will be cut by approximately \$29,000. With its already-strained financial resources and additional cuts from the City of Roanoke, BRLS is operating on a tight budget that is currently insufficient to meet the legal needs of the poor in our community. Even more troubling, the loss in funding from the United Way means that BRLS will not be able to replace an attorney who recently left the Roanoke office, and that it will operate with only one attorney. So, this funding cut will further frustrate the ability of BRLS to help those in the Roanoke Valley access needed legal services.

Gentry Locke and Woods Rogers have committed to donate a combined \$15,000 to bridge BRLS's \$29,000 funding gap. BRLS has not asked us to lead this effort, but we believe that this support is necessary to ensure that BRLS can continue its important mission. To help raise the additional \$14,000, we are asking members of the local bar to make a direct financial contribution to ensure that BRLS can continue to help those in the Roanoke Valley who cannot afford legal assistance.

With a direct financial contribution to BRLS, you will also be a step closer to meeting the Virginia State Bar's 2% aspirational goal of providing pro bono legal services. See Rule 6.1(c), Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct.

Please consider making a donation to the Roanoke office of BRLS. We are fortunate to have such a collegial and community-minded bar, and together we can make a real difference! **Our goal is to raise the \$29,000 by July 28, 2017, so a new attorney can be hired.** If you are unable to make a financial contribution at this time, please consider volunteering for the Pro Bono Hotline by contacting Lindsey Coley at [coley@gentrylocke.com](mailto:coley@gentrylocke.com). Thank you for supporting BRLS.

Sincerely,

Monica T. Monday  
Gentry Locke

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Summerlin, III  
Woods Rogers