

TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
OF VIRGINIA

JACQUELINE F. WARD TALEVI, CHIEF JUDGE  
305 EAST MAIN STREET  
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153  
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GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE  
GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE  
GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF SALEM

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

September 11, 2020

Roanoke Bar Association  
[rba@roanokebar.com](mailto:rba@roanokebar.com)  
c/o Diane Higgs

Dear Members of the Bar:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding two incidents which occurred within the past several months at the checkpoint at the Roanoke County Courthouse. On two separate occasions, deputies discovered firearms in the brief cases of two attorneys who were attempting to enter the courthouse. Each attorney was permitted to deposit the firearm safely in his/her vehicle and re-enter the courthouse. No one was charged. However, this oversight is unlawful and potentially dangerous as this conduct compromises the security of all persons who work or conduct business in the courthouse.

Please be mindful of the contents of your briefcases, satchels or purses.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline F. Ward Talevi'.

Jacqueline F. Ward Talevi  
Chief Judge