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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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ADAM'S LEGACY

BY PETER A. KATT, ESQ.

On November 5, 2023, David Adam McKelvey was called home at the age of forty-one, away from his wife, Jackie, and his two sons, Ben and Sam. He was also taken from his law firm, Crandall & Katt, of which he was a pillar. Much could be written of Adam and his contributions to his family, church, legal community, and the community at large, but I will save that for the obituaries. Let me tell you how we, as his work family, felt about this fine young man.

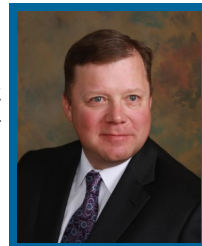
Stephen Huff, a close friend and colleague of Adam, described him as a mountain of a man with a personality and a heart for people to match. Stephen had the pleasure of litigating a number of cases with Adam, and trying several cases to a jury together, which were all memorable experiences. He remembers how Adam's presence and booming voice quickly filled up most courtrooms in our part of the Commonwealth. With his Montvale flavored southern accent, he would articulate with sincere conviction how jurors needed to simply right a wrong that had affected a particular plaintiff. It was often just genuinely that simple of a matter to Adam, regardless of the complex legal issues and strategies that he had developed to get a client's case to that point. Stephen expressed that Adam's relentlessness in advocating for those without a voice, his bias for action, and heart to serve God by serving people were great examples to us all and will be greatly missed.

Adam's unique sense of humor, his booming voice, and general gusto are fondly remembered by Will Pattisall; but he also remembers Adam for his confidence, and his sense of self-assuredness. Beyond the fact that Adam was a brilliant tactician in legal matters, what impressed Will the most is that Adam said what he meant, and meant what he said. Adam admirably stood for what he believed in and never walked it back.

I was forty-two years old when Adam came to work with us fifteen years ago, so I had already been granted one more year on this terrestrial plane than Adam was. He was six months out of the inaugural class of Liberty Law School and was working in the Halifax Commonwealth Attorney's office. What initially struck me about Adam was his intense and insatiable desire to see justice done. In our first mediation involving a tractor trailer crash, he was determined that our client would be fairly compensated and expected the defense to recognize the practicality of our position. However, the first couple offers from the defense deeply offended Adam's sense of reasonableness. Although we were in a separate conference room caucusing, Adam's booming voice let everyone in the building know—including the defense—just how unhappy he was and how we should just walk out and let a jury decide the case. I can still remember the somewhat terrified look on the mediator's face and the shocked, but impressed reaction of our client. Over the years Adam's intensity never waned, but his patience with defense attorneys and adjusters grew. It is a testament to his character that so many of the defense bar have recounted what a joy it was to be around Adam when they had to litigate a case with him.

Anyone who knew Adam knew that Adam was confident of his eternal salvation. And although Heaven has been enriched with another saint, our firm and our community will be poorer with Adam's absence.

Peter A. Katt is a partner at Crandall & Katt.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY CHRISTEN C. CHURCH, ESQ.



I always find the end of one year and the beginning of a new one to be a unique opportunity for reflection.

As I go through the ritual of closing the books on 2023 and starting on the first pages of 2024, I recognize that this act remains one of the few natural opportunities that we have in a world and profession that has drifted toward blurred lines defining time.

Technology and a post-pandemic reality have led to the recognition that a workplace and a workday do not have to fit into a traditional box. This has empowered attorneys to shape their practice, their environment, and their hours. However, without discipline and established boundaries (and I certainly count myself amongst offenders) terms like “business hours” and “business days” have less and less meaning. Like Violet Crawley in *Downton Abbey*, we may find ourselves asking “What is a weekend?” but from a vastly different perspective than the Dowager Countess.

Attorney wellness has increasingly been identified as an issue shaping the future of the practice of law, and is cited as a factor in student decisions on whether they want to go to law school and even for those who do, what job opportunities law students want to pursue upon graduation.

In October, the RBA offered a free CLE to members on the intersection of ethics, competence, and lawyers’ well-being. Burnout is always a concern, one that can lead to increased mistakes and go hand-in-hand with legal competence. It isn’t just large events but the amalgamation of days, weeks, years of everyday struggles – maybe small in a vacuum, but life never is. Death by a thousand paper cuts can sneak up without implementing tools to regain clarity and develop resilience. I am looking forward to the CLE opportunities that Chris Dadak is planning for early 2024, some of which will focus on lawyer wellness.

At December’s membership meeting we had the opportunity to hear from outgoing VBA President Benjamin Leigh, and part of his message was the importance of relatedness and fostering community amongst attorneys. He underscored the need to focus on the opportunities for happiness and wellness one can find as an attorney today.

It was a timely topic, as our December membership meeting occurred the day after Santa at the Station. Santa at the Station is an event many of our members look forward to each year, maybe as much as or more than the children and families we serve. The Roanoke Law Foundation and attorneys and law firms in our community gave of their time and money to celebrate the future of our community. Hundreds of children, families, and volunteers gathered to take time for a shared purpose, the happiness of our next generation.

It was wonderful to hear volunteers reminisce about past years and remember those from our legal community who gave so freely of their time and are no longer with us, and to also have the opportunity to welcome new members of our legal community. A concrete representation that the collective can be worth so much more than the sum of its parts. Happy New Year! I wish you all a wonderful 2024.

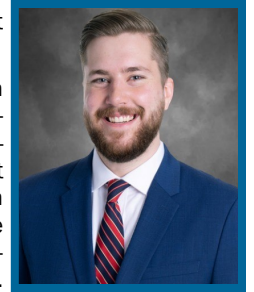
Christen Church is the founding partner at Church Legal, PLLC.

ADJUDICATION IN THE NEW UNCANNY VALLEY

BY JESSIAH HULLE, ESQ. AND MEGAN WORLEY.

“The law must be the servant, not the master, of artificial intelligence.”

The previous statement was written by Bing Chat—powered by generative artificial intelligence (“GAI”) darling ChatGPT-4—when we asked it to write about “artificial intelligence and the law, written in the style of Justice Antonin Scalia.” The merit of the statement is fiercely debatable, but it poses an interesting question. Is the law currently the master of artificial intelligence?



For public policy, the answer is no. At least, not yet. Legal scholars, legislatures, and executives are currently balancing the policy interests for and against GAI and proposing regulations on a rolling basis. Whether the law can effectively control GAI remains to be seen.

For litigation, though, the answer is yes. Judges, especially federal district judges, are actively enacting standing orders and local rules to regulate the use of GAI in their courtrooms. These orders and rules are idiosyncratic, technical, unchecked, and increasingly common.

This article briefly surveys the current state of judicial curtailment of GAI and provides specific guidance for practitioners in the Roanoke area.

GAI Arrives

By now, just about every lawyer in the United States has heard about or used GAI.

GAI, as opposed to traditional artificial intelligence, “refers to deep-learning models that can generate high-quality text, images, and other content based on the data they were trained on.” Put very simply, GAI is “a form of AI that can create something new.” The creative ability of GAI is so impressive that it can fall into the “uncanny valley,” a term used to describe human aversion to things that *almost* appear human but are not.

Acceptance of GAI in the legal field has been fast. In March 2023, a Lexis survey reported that only 10% of lawyers believed that GAI would have a “transformative impact” on the practice of law, and 60% had “no plans to use [GAI] at this time.” However, by November 2023, a Wolters Kluwer survey reported that 73% of lawyers plan to use GAI in their legal work “within the next year.” Additionally, surveys show that a majority of clients expect counsel to use GAI tools in legal work.

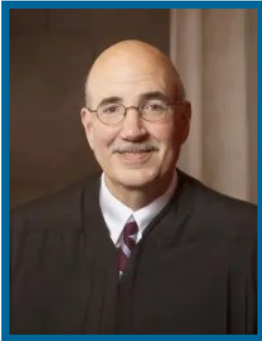
Fortunately, GAI tools are readily available. Free online applications like Copy.ai, ChatGPT, Bard, and Bing Chat are easily accessible on the internet, and legal information behemoths Lexis and Thomas Reuters recently added GAI-enhanced research functions to their platforms.

Unfortunately, though, not all GAI tools are created equal. In a technological misstep now as famous as Zoom Cat Lawyer, in June 2023 two personal injury attorneys in *Mata v. Avianca, Inc.*, No. 22-CV-1461 (S.D.N.Y. 2023) were sanctioned for filing a brief citing “non-existent cases” fabricated by ChatGPT. Unbeknownst to the attorneys, large language model GAI’s like ChatGPT can “hallucinate,” that is, “perceive patterns or objects that are nonexistent or imperceptible to human observers, creat-

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VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: JUDGE FRANK FRIEDMAN

BY SARAH C. JESSEE, ESQ.



Judge Friedman assumed office as a judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals on September 1, 2021. The Virginia General Assembly elected him after the Virginia Court of Appeals increased from 11 to 17 judges.

Judge Friedman grew up in the suburbs outside of New York City. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University. When he graduated college, he had not consid-

ered being a lawyer. His first job out of college was with a local state senator which required him to navigate legal issues when assisting constituents and working with government agencies. This introduction to the legal world prompted him to attend the Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, Tennessee. While attending law school, a Roanoke firm—Woods Rogers—came to campus to interview students. Unlike many of the students there, Judge Friedman was familiar with the Roanoke area. His mother's family was from Ocala, Florida, and his family would drive from New York to Florida, often spending time on the way in Roanoke and the Shenandoah Valley.

Judge Friedman started his legal career as an attorney with Woods Rogers in 1985, where he practiced until being appointed as a judge in 2021. He described Roanoke as a collegial place to practice law with a talented bar. He felt lucky to practice in a friendly but highly professional legal community. Judge Friedman did not anticipate that he would have been an appellate lawyer at the start of his career, although, he explained that it was a natural fit. He was interested in legal research and motions practice which led directly to appellate work. Throughout his time in private practice, he worked on hundreds of appeals. Although appellate law is a unique field—it encompasses many different areas of practice. Judge Friedman explained that he liked the opportunity to learn different areas of law while handling appeals—and he appreciated that appellate work allows attorneys to play a role in developing the law.

Judge Friedman's 35 years practicing as an appellate lawyer helped prepare him for being an appellate judge. He had vast experience with persuasive writing and oral argument. Understanding the standard of review and framing assignments of error are second nature to him. As a judge, he tries to approach cases analytically and with an open mind. He noted that the Court of Appeals case load is high and that lawyers are utilizing the new expanded jurisdiction heavily. This makes it an exciting time to be involved in appellate practice.

For those interested in becoming a judge, Judge Friedman recommended trying to expand their areas of knowledge. He noted that broad perspectives and varied experiences are beneficial to judges. Judge Friedman feels fortunate to have been mentored by Bill Poff, who he described as a brilliant attorney. Mr. Poff influenced his legal writing immensely, focusing on structure, clarity and relentless editing. He also taught Judge Friedman the importance of preparation for oral arguments—including anticipating questions and having a strategic and analytical plan to sway your listeners.

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ROANOKE LAW LIBRARY: NEWS AND INFORMATION

BY JOSEPH KLEIN, LAW LIBRARIAN

I sincerely hope that 2023 was a wonderful year for you all. I have worked at the Roanoke Law Library for almost two decades and have gotten to know and served so many of you during that time. Recently I have gotten to see some of you in a new light. As a foster parent my admiration and appreciation for the Roanoke legal community has grown so much because I have spent many hours in court and in communication with agents of the court. I have been impressed with the professionalism of all parties including the social workers, guardian ad litem, the attorneys on each side, the judges, and the court staff. Television and the media paint a surreal picture of the American legal system, but as I know you all know, each case is of vital importance to all parties and it has been eye opening seeing how that plays out in court. I play some small part in that with my work here in the Roanoke Law Library and I truly appreciate having that opportunity. I feel genuinely blessed to be here serving you.



Spotlight on the Collection- Virginia CLE and Virginia Practice Collection

From time to time, I like to remind you about some of the materials that we have in our collection. The Virginia Continuing Legal Education series is one of our most popular collections. They provide in-depth information on a multitude of Virginia legal topics and often include forms. When we moved from the Courthouse to the main library, I was forced to get rid of some materials because we had significantly less space. Some of the older CLE materials didn't make the move but I was able to keep all CLE materials from the last decade and we are still adding new CLE materials as they are published.

Another great collection for Virginia legal research is the Virginia Practice Series published by West. Each book in the Virginia Practice Series is an in-depth study of a specific area of Virginia Law. There are volumes on most major areas of practice including family, criminal, probate, corporate, and landlord-tenant law. The great thing about both these collections is that while a majority of the law library collection is non-circulating, both the Virginia CLE and the Virginia Practice collections can be checked out by members of the Roanoke Bar Association.

To find out if we have a Virginia CLE or Virginia Practice Series treatise covering the topic you are interested in, all you have to do is search our online catalog at URL rvl.info. Once in the catalog you can search for CLEs just by including the term CLE in your search. It is also possible to look at a list of all the Virginia Practice books just by typing "Virginia Practice" into the search box. The search suggestion "Virginia Practice" in Series" will come up and if you hit this it will give you a list of all the Virginia Practice books in our collection.

2024 will mark my 20th year here at the Roanoke Law Library and I hope that I am able to see many of you in the next year. As always feel free to contact me with any questions about either of these collections or anything else associated with the Roanoke Law Library. I can be reached by phone at 540-853-2268 or by email at joseph.klein@roanokeva.gov.

ADJUDICATION IN THE NEW UNCANNY VALLEY

(Continued from page 1)

ing outputs that are nonsensical or altogether inaccurate.” New GAI programs like Lexis+AI and Westlaw Precision fix this issue by confirming citations against verified databases of real cases. Nevertheless, *Mata* raised the specter of GAI untrustworthiness in litigation. For example, in the months after *Mata*, both the Texas 10th Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan criticized miscites in court filings that appeared to be GAI hallucination rather than subpar Sherardization.

Judges React

In response to *Mata* and other reports of GAI inaccuracy, over a dozen federal courts or judges nationwide have issued standing orders, local rules, or guidance regulating, limiting, or banning the use of artificial intelligence in their courtrooms. The orders and rules vary significantly in scope and effect. Some require litigants to file a certification or form explaining the use of GAI or verifying that GAI output is accurate. Others simply warn litigants about the dangers of relying on GAI.

At least one state court judge, the Honorable Roy Ferguson of the 394th Judicial District Court in Texas, has jumped on the bandwagon as well, requiring litigants to file a certification that all GAI-assisted research and writing is verified for accuracy. Other state courts are considering similar action.

Although commentators question the efficacy or prudence of standing orders that more or less duplicate the signature and verification requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 11 and 26, such orders are likely to continue proliferating. Just recently, the U.S. District Courts in Hawaii and the Eastern District of Texas adopted local rules regulating GAI in all filings before the courts. Also, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit announced on November 21 that it is considering a rule addressing GAI use in appeals.

Virginia Courts Hang Back

Despite this national trend, as of December 1, 2023 we are unaware of any court in Virginia that has issued an order, local rule, or other guidance restricting the use of GAI in litigation. In fact, we have confirmed that no federal district courts or state appellate courts in the Commonwealth, as well as no local trial courts in the Roanoke area, have issued guidance addressing GAI.

To reach this conclusion, we first reviewed the websites for federal courts in Virginia. We found that neither the Western nor Eastern District of Virginia has amended or proposed amendments to its local rules to address use of GAI, artificial intelligence, or any specific AI-assisted product like ChatGPT or Google. It also appears that no judge of either court has issued a standing order on GAI. Likewise, we found that the only restriction on use of GAI in the Richmond-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit is a rule for the court’s Student Essay Contest, which states that “using AI-generated content” is “grounds for disqualification.” As a district court in the Western District of North Carolina recently noted, “[u]se of artificial intelligence to write pleadings is a novel issue, and appears to be untread territory in the Fourth Circuit.”

Next, we surveyed both the Virginia Judicial System website and individual court websites for jurisdictions within the Roanoke area. We found no amended or proposed rules addressing GAI issued by the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or

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“100 YEARS AT THE BAR”

BY SARAH C. JESSEE, ESQ.

The Roanoke Bar Association Centennial Celebration committee created a subcommittee, “100 Years at the Bar,” to plan social events throughout 2024-2025 to celebrate the Association’s 100-year anniversary. The goal is to plan monthly events to allow members to socialize and enjoy the cordiality and professionalism of the Roanoke Bar.



Although the Committee name (“100 Years at the Bar”) was inspired by the decades of friendly drinks shared among members, there will be a mix of events. The committee is looking into planning a Red Sox baseball game, happy hour, trivia night, Saturday tailgate and cornhole tournament, Rail Yard Dawgs hockey game, and a pickleball tournament. At one or more of the events, the committee plans to acknowledge the administrative staff, legal assistants, and paralegals’ immeasurable contribution to the Association over the last 100 years. The Centennial Celebration will also include the Centennial Gala on Saturday, April 5, 2025 and a family fun day event in May 2025.

The “100 Years at the Bar” committee is looking forward to celebrating the past 100 years of accomplishments by the Association. Please mark your calendars once additional event details are shared. If you have ideas for or would like to assist with planning events, please contact Diane Higgs by email at rba@roanokebar.com.

Sarah C. Jessee is an associate at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith

VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: JUDGE FRANK FRIEDMAN

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In reflecting on advice for young lawyers, Judge Friedman recommended finding a type of law that you find interesting. He observed that a positive of being a lawyer is that there are so many types of law—eventually you can gravitate to work you enjoy. He suggested trying work outside of your comfort zone and always striving to improve your skills. He noted that the expanded appeal of right is also giving young lawyers the opportunity to handle appeals a lot more than in the past; he encourages young lawyers to venture into appeals because it is a challenging and also highly rewarding field.

For any lawyer who practices in the Court of Appeals, Judge Friedman emphasized the importance of clear, succinct writing. He recommended always writing with a plan—and, preferably, with an outline. In regard to oral argument, he recommended practicing and listening to your argument before giving it before the judges. Judge Friedman also emphasized the importance of “reading the room” during the oral argument—a good oral advocate cannot be too tied to a script, but must adapt based on how the Judges and opposing counsel are responding to the proceedings. Judge Friedman further noted that, with the expansion of the appeal of right, litigators also need to focus on the rules for preserving error in the trial court, because, often on appeal, error preservation issues go under a microscope. In that way, the reach of the expanded appeal of right affects trial lawyers significantly, too.

Sarah C. Jessee is an associate at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. C. Randall Lowe (Ret.)

Former Chief Judge, 28th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Washington County

The Honorable C. Randall Lowe recently retired as the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court of Washington County after twenty-two years of distinguished judicial service, including eleven years as Chief Judge. As a lawyer, he enjoyed a successful career in private practice, litigating a wide range of civil cases. Judge Lowe is the 2022 Recipient of The Honorable Harry L. Carrico Outstanding Career Service Award and the 2022 Recipient of the Virginia Mountain/Valley Lawyer's Alliance, Roscoe Boler Stephenson Jr. Lifetime Service to Justice Award. He is a Past President of the Washington County Bar Association, Former Chairman of the Washington County Planning Commission, and Former Chairman of the Virginia Judicial Conference Education Committee. Judge Lowe now brings this record of dedication and accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth.

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ADJUDICATION IN THE NEW UNCANNY VALLEY

(Continued from page 4)

the circuit and district courts in Roanoke, Salem, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, Franklin County, and Craig County. Remarkably, it appears that the most recent mention of artificial intelligence on the statewide judiciary website is from 2007, in a report by the Supreme Court of Virginia's Office of the Executive Secretary.

Takeaways

As courts continue to grapple with GAI use in litigation, we suggest three practical takeaways for lawyers in the Roanoke area.

First, know the local rules and standing orders of the court where a case is being litigated. Even courts that have maintained the same rules for years may unexpectedly issue new guidance on GAI. This advice is especially applicable to cases in out-of-state federal courts, where guidance on GAI is more common.

Second, share knowledge about judicial regulation of GAI with other attorneys in local bar association grapevines. Most judicial standing orders and rule amendments do not receive press coverage. Moreover, even national legal research companies are struggling to locate and compile judicial restrictions of and opinions on GAI, due to the difficulty of searching thousands of unique and sometimes-archaic court websites. Word-of-mouth in local bars is therefore the most effective tool for staying abreast of such restrictions in local courts.

Third, learn the basics of GAI. Although we are unable to find any current artificial intelligence-related standing orders or court rules in Virginia, we believe they will likely exist in the future. Hopefully by then, though, attorneys and pro se litigants in the Commonwealth will be familiar enough with GAI tools to avoid the pitfalls present when the tech was first introduced, rendering any such orders or rules unnecessary.

Jessiah Hulle is a litigation associate and member of the artificial intelligence taskforce at Gentry Locke. Megan Worley is a legal assistant at Gentry Locke.

Register Now

Bench Bar Conference 2023

Friday, February 23, 2024

The Shenandoah Club

Noon to 3:00 pm.

Please see <http://roanokebar.com/event/bench-bar-conference-february-23-2024/>

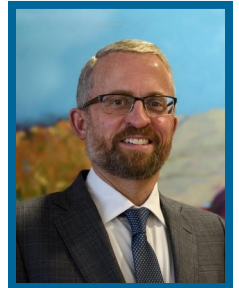
VIRGINIA STATE BAR: UPDATE

BY DANIEL P. FRANKL, ESQ. AND KEVIN HOLT, ESQ.

We are pleased to be your representatives from the 23rd Judicial Circuit on Bar Council, the governing body of the Virginia State Bar. At its meeting on October 13, 2023, in Williamsburg, Council took the following significant actions.



Council approved by a vote of 50 in favor and six opposed, proposed amendments to Rule 8.4 adding a new paragraph (f). The proposed rule prohibits a lawyer from making an agreement with a client or former client limiting the client's or former client's right to file or pursue a lawyer disciplinary complaint. The proposed changes will be presented to the Supreme Court of Virginia for approval.



Council approved by a vote of 57 in favor and one opposed, amendments to proposed LEO 1900, "Duty to Disclose the Death of the Client." The proposed opinion will be presented to the Supreme Court of Virginia for approval.

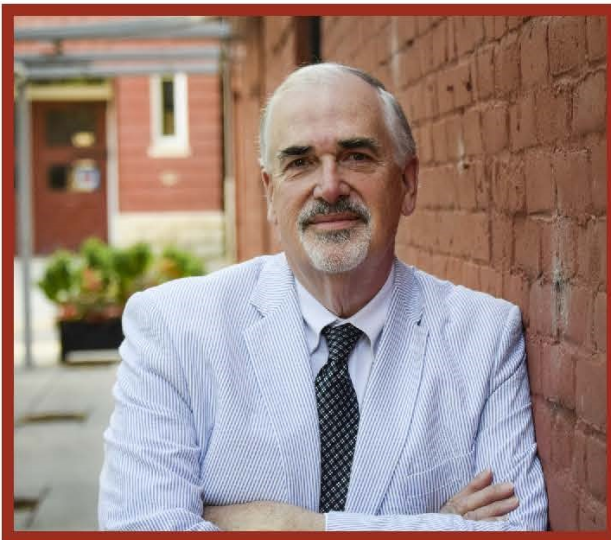
Council approved by a vote of 57 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention, amendments to VSB Conferences' bylaws, including:

- Amendments to the Senior Lawyers Conference Bylaws, which reduced the quorum requirement and clarified that members attending either physically or virtually may vote on actions before their Board of Governors.
- Amendments to the Young Lawyers Conference Bylaws, which reduced the quorum requirement for the transaction of business by the Board of Governors and the Nominating Committee and clarified that members attending either physically or virtually may vote on actions before their Board of Governors or conference meetings.

Amendments to the Conference of Local & Specialty Bar Associations' Bylaws and removal of its Constitution, which combined two separate governing documents, the Constitution and Bylaws, reduced the quorum requirement for the transaction of business by the Executive Committee, clarified that members attending either physically or virtually may vote on actions before their Executive Committee, and set the quorum requirement and approval process for the transaction of business for any subcommittee or other entity established by the Executive Committee.

Council unanimously approved changes to the Virginia State Bar Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Council of the Virginia State Bar, which reduced the current VSB committee and board quorum requirement from a majority of voting members to three or more; required an affirmative vote of a majority of voting members for action to be taken by the committee or board; and removed a provision that is inconsistent with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Council unanimously approved the VSB Access to Legal Services Committee's request for support of the recommendations of the Virginia Child Dependency Legal Representation Workgroup, as convened by the Office of the Children's Om-

MEDIATION**ARBITRATION****JONATHAN M. APGAR**

Having previously served twenty-one years as both a full time and a retired, recalled circuit court judge, Jonathan M. Apgar has successfully mediated scores of cases. He is also certified in civil mediation by the National Judicial College. He offers skilled mediation and arbitration at a modest cost.

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SANTA AT THE STATION 2023

BY LORI J. BENTLEY, ESQ.



The Roanoke Law Foundation held its annual holiday party, Santa at the Station, on December 11 at the Virginia Transportation Museum. Although the weather was cold, the RBA volunteers felt their hearts warmed, seeing so many happy and excited children enjoying the holiday magic! We hosted close to 300 children and family members from the Rescue Mission and from CHIP.

Volunteers treated guests to a pizza and chicken nugget dinner. Then, guests could visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each family received a family photograph with Santa and had cookies while Mrs. Claus read a story. Volunteers helped the children choose small gifts that they could wrap and give to a parent or guardian for Christmas. They also made reindeer Christmas tree ornaments to take home and received a goodie bag that included holiday candy and a stuffed animal. Many RBA volunteers painted faces, directed traffic, applied temporary tattoos, handed out gifts, assisted with craft, sang Christmas carols, helped with Santa photos, and served food and drinks.

Since its inception, this event has been organized by RBA member Lori Thompson, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the families have a wonderful Christmas experience. Due to the growth in size of the event last year, Lori was assisted in planning and preparation this year by a Roanoke Law Foundation committee consisting of Macel Janoschka, Amy Geddes, Jon Puvak, Christen Church and Lori Bentley. These little elves were happy to help Lori Thompson with whatever was needed to make the event a success. As you can see by all the happy faces in the pictures accompanying this newsletter, the Roanoke Law Foundation succeeded!

A special thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers, without whom this event could not have been possible.

Lori J. Bentley is a partner at Johnson, Ayers & Matthews



RBA Volunteers hard at work.



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Allegra Black Della Bryant Mark Bryant Catherine Campbell
Laura Carini CHIP volunteers Christen Church Stephanie Cook
Roy Creasy Jennifer Crook Mollie Elder Gene Elliott
Dan Frankl Amy Geddes The Honorable Scott Geddes
Becky Hepler Kevin Holt Kevin Hurley Macel Janoschka
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Riza Katz-Albert Stephen Kennedy John Koehler
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The Honorable Jacqueline Talevi Lori Thompson Robin Viohl
Jennie Wearing Arianna Webb Hugh Wellons Jamie Wood
Kathy Wright



COURTHOUSE WELCOME WITH JUDGE CARSON

BY ALICHA M. GRUBB, ESQ.



On October 18, 2023, Judge Carson hosted his annual new and young attorney courthouse program at the Roanoke City Circuit Court. The purpose of this program is to introduce young attorneys as well as those new to Roanoke to different aspects of the Circuit Court. Nearly 50 people attended the event this year. Judge Carson introduced us to the Sheriff's Office who gave us great tips on how not be arrested when entering the Courthouse. Big tip – do not bring in a weapon. Michelle Esparagoza and Judge Moseley from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court talked with us about how to access the confidential files and proceedings of that court. Judge Talevi and Rick Kahl spoke with us about the General District Court volume and proceedings. They encouraged us to be patient with the staff and to come observe court to learn how everything works. Judge Clemens and Becky Collier introduced the Circuit Court to us and discussed the various roles of the clerk's office, including probate, land records, criminal filings and civil filings. Finally, Kim Bender talked about docket call and scheduling cases through the judicial assistants.

Following the program, we had a nice happy hour at Corned Beef, sponsored by Gentry Locke and Woods Rogers Vandeveter Black. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event an excellent opportunity for Roanoke's up and coming trial lawyers.

Alichia Grubb is a partner at Gentry Locke.



Attendees mingling at Corned Beef & Company.



VIRGINIA STATE BAR: UPDATE

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budsman, to improve the quality of legal representation in certain child dependency cases. The request to support policy, budgetary, and related legislative activity will be presented to the Supreme Court of Virginia for approval.

As ever, please contact either of us with any questions, issues, or concerns. It is our privilege to represent you on Council.

Dan Frankl is a partner at Frankl Miller Webb & Moyer, LLP and Kevin Holt is a partner at Gentry Locke.



Judge Carson



Judge Moseley



Judge Talevi



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

Active Members

Effective December 12, 2023

John Fitzgerald, Guynn Waddell, P.C

Gavin A. Roe, Woods Rogers
Vandeventer Black

UPCOMING EVENTS

Roanoke Bar Association Meetings 2023 - 2024

September 12, 2023

October 10, 2023

November 14, 2023

December 12, 2023

January 9, 2024

February 13, 2024

March 12, 2024

April 9, 2024

May 1, 2024 (Law Day)

June 11, 2024

Go to www.roanokebar.com for more information on all upcoming events.

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Complete and Forward to: Roanoke Bar Association, P.O. Box 18183, Roanoke, VA 24014

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