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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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY CHRISTEN C. CHURCH, ESQ.

As I wrap up my year as president of the RBA, I find myself looking back at the accomplishments of the organization and the Board over my years of service, as well as how the RBA has been a presence in my practice since nearly day one of being an attorney.



First, I want to take this opportunity to thank our membership, our Board, and our Executive Director, Diane Higgs. Seeing the efforts and dedication that goes into planning our meetings and speakers, service opportunities and events like Santa at the Station, CLEs, and our quarterly news publication has been eye opening. Not even a pandemic could shut down our efforts. During the current bar year, Centennial Committee participants have spent innumerable hours meeting and organizing events to ensure we have an eventful 100th year of the Roanoke Bar in 2025!

I remember like it was yesterday receiving the results of the bar exam (Narrator's voice over: "It was in fact not yesterday, but nearly 16 years ago"). I immediately called my classmate and coworker, Ben Byrd, to celebrate never having to prepare for or take another bar exam. My next memory is Mike Pace coming to my office to congratulate me for passing the bar and talk to me about the importance of service as an attorney. I think he may also have left application forms for the RBA and the VBA.

Many more attorneys than I have the space to individually name here have encouraged me over the years to get involved in bar organizations and modelled behavior that emphasized the value of bar association involvement and service. We see that dedication exemplified in this year's Frank "Bo" Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Gene Elliott, and Young Lawyer of the Year, Brittany Haddox.

I encourage all attorneys, whether you have practiced for 2 months or 20 years or more, to consider ways that you would like to become involved.

One of the things that I found to be the largest adjustment from moving from a large firm to operating a solo practice is the quiet and the lack of the day-to-day bustle, of being part of a clearly defined team. But our legal community here in the Roanoke Valley ensures that even as a solo practitioner, I do not feel alone. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may ever be of any assistance, whether in your practice or in your desire to become more involved in the RBA.

Thank you so much for the honor of serving as your RBA president

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to celebrating 100 years of the RBA with you in the coming months with President Amy Geddes at the helm!

Christen Church is the founder of Church Legal, PLLC.

RBA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION UPDATE

BY AMY H. GEDDES, ESQ.



I am very humbled and honored to serve as the RBA President during our 100th Anniversary celebration year. This is a huge accomplishment for our Bar and we have a lot to celebrate and remember as we look back over 100 years. The RBA has set up multiple committees to plan a full year of celebrations and philanthropy events to continue our long standing traditions of having fun and giving back to the community. Our hope is

that all of you will join us throughout this celebration year because we have a lot to be proud of and celebrate.

Our kick off celebration event will be a Salem Red Sox baseball game and picnic on Saturday August 10th in the covered Left Field pavilion. Nick Leitch of Gentry Locke will be singing the National Anthem and that is reason enough to come to the game to hear Nick sing! The doors open at 5:05 p.m. with the game starting at 6:05 p.m. and there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian baked beans, chips, cookies, soda and bottled water. Every RBA member gets two free tickets and additional tickets are available for purchase. Please go to the Events link on the RBA website to sign up for this fun event. We really hope to see you there!

We are also hosting the first ever RBA Pickleball Tournament and you can sign up for this as well on the Events link on the RBA website. Tournament play will occur this summer and culminate in the finals at an event hosted by Chip Casola at his beautiful cabin on October 5th at 1:00 pm. We will have other games, music, and food by Mission BBQ and you do not have to be a pickleball player to come and watch the finals and enjoy the day. This event is also free so please sign up and join us!

We will be hosting other events throughout the year including a legal trivia night at Twisted Track Brewpub, a Railyard Dawgs game, and other happy hour events at various locations. We will have a Family Fun Day on May 31, 2025, at Camp Icimani with catered food, a kickball tournament, cornhole, a scavenger hunt, a rock wall, face painting, inflatables, and other fun events. Our biggest event of the year will be the RBA Gala to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the Roanoke Country Club. Continue to check the Events link on the RBA website for more details and to sign up for the various events as they are added.

I am looking forward to a very fun and productive year with the 2024-2025 RBA Board and all of you. If you are interested in volunteering on any of the various Centennial Committees or helping with any of the various events, please let Diane Higgs or me know of your interest. Enjoy your summer and don't forget to sign up for the August 10th Salem Red Sox Baseball game and picnic and the Pickleball Tournament event!

Amy H. Geddes, Esq. is a partner at OPN Law.

INVESTITURE OF THE HONORABLE C. KAILANI MEMMER

BY CHRISTEN C. CHURCH, ESQ.

The Investiture Ceremony for The Honorable C. Kailani Memmer as US Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Virginia was held earlier this year, on March 15, 2024, in the Ted Dalton Ceremonial Courtroom in the Richard H. Poff Federal Building.



The ceremony was moving, both beautiful and unique, with elements of Judge Memmer's Hawaiian heritage woven throughout the program. The courtroom was at capacity with an overflow room for those who wished to observe the investiture ceremony.

Victor "Dinny" Skaff, III, former law partner of Judge Memmer and recently elected Secretary/Treasurer of the RBA, delivered remarks, outlining his experience working alongside Judge Memmer throughout their shared years of practice, where he had the opportunity to observe Judge Memmer's deep legal skills and commitment to her profession, colleagues, and family.

Catherine Crooks Hill, a member of the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners, on which Judge Memmer served for a number of years before taking the bench, also delivered remarks. Ms. Hill underscored Judge Memmer's commitment to service and dedication to current and future lawyers in the Commonwealth.

Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon administered the Oath of Office to Judge Memmer.

Local bar organizations work together to provide each new judge with a custom judicial robe, which is presented during the investiture ceremony. Presenting Judge Memmer with her Robe during the investiture ceremony were: Christen Church representing the The Roanoke Bar Association, along with Bryson "Bryce" Hunter representing the Federal Bar Association, Rachel W. Lower representing the Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association, and Johnal M. White representing the Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

Christen Church is the founder of Church Legal, PLLC.

Salem Red Sox Game Picnic
Saturday, August 10, 2024



Free Tickets
Still Available!

Register on the RBA Website
<http://roanokebar.com/event/rba-salem-red-sox-game-and-picnic-august-10-2024/>

BRITTANY M. HADDOX: 2024 YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT



Monica Mroz offered the following remarks in presenting this award.

I had the honor and privilege of presenting the RBA Young Lawyer of the Year Award to Brittany Haddox. I've known Brittany since she was a Washington and Lee University law student member of the Ted Dalton American Inn of Court. I have also practiced law with Brittany over the last five years at Virginia Employment Law. I can't think of anymore

more deserving of this award.

Brittany was born and raised in the Roanoke valley. I am pretty sure she was born running. At age twelve, her Christmas list consisted of items she wanted for her own apartment. After starting Roanoke Valley Governor School, she didn't much see the point, because she could not earn dual credit for the all the classes RVGS offered. She planned to graduate High School early but was convinced to stay for a senior year only when the Principal, who was doing the convincing, capitulated to her terms that she be allowed to attend all of her classes at Virginia Western Community College to earn credit toward her college degree. After she graduated high school, she attended Virginia Tech and earned her bachelor's degree in two years. I think you are seeing a pattern here, but in case it's still not clear, Brittany went straight into law school at W&L (no gaps of any kind for this girl), which she financed independently. She graduated in 2013, with honors. Because she had too much downtime in law school, she worked for Terry Grimes while she attended school, and after graduation, went straight to work for him. In 2019, she joined Strelka Employment Law, which is now Virginia Employment Law.

Brittany has packed 22 years of practice into her 11-year career. She has tried numerous employment discrimination and criminal cases and represented clients in other administrative settings. She has successfully argued for reversal at the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. She argued the first case where constructive demotion was recognized in Virginia. She has successfully resolved through mediation and negotiation hundreds of cases. When the inevitable and frequent questions come up at our small firm, "has anyone ever had this happen," or "has anyone ever argued this or defended that," Brittany is the one who most often can say "yes" and share something helpful.

Brittany also gives back to her legal community. She is a member of several organizations including RBA, VBA, Ted Dalton American Inn of Court (TDAIC), and NELA. She has been a board member of TDAIC for several years and continues to serve on the Board. She is a frequent presenter and contributor to CLE and conference programming.

Her practice focus is employment law in all its phases—pre-litigation, litigation, administrative proceedings, and appeals. Brittany works a case like an extremely efficient engineer. While we all wander down an occasional rabbit hole, she keeps such distractions to a minimum. Her pace is punishing, and everyone runs to keep up. But her speed doesn't compromise her preparation, which she takes very seriously. At a hearing, trial, or argument, she is always prepared to do her part and if Opposing

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EUGENE M. ELLIOTT, JR.,: RECIPIENT OF 2024 FRANK W. "BO" ROGERS, JR. LIFE- TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

K. Brett Marston offered the following remarks in presenting this award.

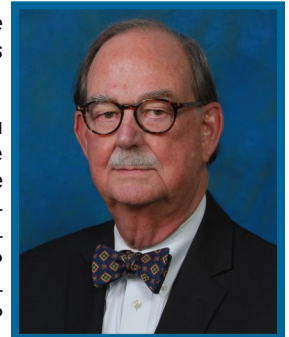
What comes to mind when you think of Gene Elliott? His incredible collection of bow ties? His distinctive mustache? His energetic commitment to the success of this bar association and the Virginia State Bar? His gentlemanly manner? His successful solo practice for decades? These are all well-known and obvious attributes of this year's very deserving Roanoke Bar Association Bo Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award winner. These, however, are just the tip of the iceberg of a life and a career well lived, thus far!

In short, Gene is the consummate son, father, husband, attorney, bar leader, bow-tie wearer, model train-collector, citizen, and friend. While there are many things that you know about Gene already, the best part of presenting this award is to get to share with you some things that you may not know so readily.

Let's start with Gene's background. He grew up a hard-working young man in Huntington, WV, with his parents Gene Sr. and Irene Elliott and his late sister Lynda. It was there that Gene reports having his first encounter with "the law," when he served as a school safety patrol officer. Summers there were filled with fascinating jobs like working in a local funeral home doing visitations, handling flowers, and interacting with families; working in the toy department at the local Sears Roebuck at Christmas; and stocking Keebler cookies in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio.

In his last two years of high school, Gene got his first major exposure to the Commonwealth of Virginia when he attended Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg where, in addition to his education, he first learned to tie a bow tie. From there, Gene returned to Huntington, graduating from Marshall University with a degree in Political Science and a minor in the SAE fraternity.

Beyond his safety patrol days, Gene's interest in the law comes honestly. His grandfather was a well-known attorney in Huntington. As he began considering law school himself, Gene's father had Gene talk with a friend who was an in-house attorney with Island Creek Coal Co. This led him to apply and be accepted at Washington & Lee Law School starting in 1969. At W&L, Gene excelled and earned a Notes and Comments



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INVESTITURE OF THE HONORABLE LEISA CIAFFONE AND THE HONORABLE RACHEL L.D. THOMPSON

BY YANRONG ZENG, ESQ.



The Roanoke County Courthouse was filled to capacity on June 6, 2023, as fellow judges, family members, lawyers, and distinguished guests gathered to celebrate the investiture of two female judges: Honorable Leisa K. Ciaffone as Circuit Court Judge and Rachel L. D. Thompson as Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge.

The ceremony, guided by Chief Judge James R. Swanson, commenced with Judge Christopher Clemens administering the oath of office to Judge Thompson. Her robe was presented by representatives from the Roanoke Bar Association, the Salem-Roanoke County Bar Association, and the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. Judge Thompson's former law firm partner and mentor, Christine Poarch, shared inspiring stories highlighting Judge Thompson's leadership and resilience while managing a law firm, raising four young children, and actively participating in various legal organizations. Judge Thompson expressed profound gratitude to her husband, Bradley, a former Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, for his unwavering support, and to her children for bringing joy to her life.

Judge Ciaffone followed with reflections on her challenging journey to become a Circuit Court judge, and playfully compared herself to Susan Lucci. She pledged to uphold the court's traditions diligently and took pride in her decade-long approach to judgeship by treating it as both an art and science. Judge Hilary D. Griffith, a fellow JDR judge and close friend of Judge Ciaffone, shared heartfelt sentiments about their enduring friendship and filled the room with laughter through light-hearted humor. Judge Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr. then administered the oath of office to Judge Ciaffone, with her robe presented by several well-respected retired senior judges.

The event concluded with a reception in the courthouse library, where guests continued to celebrate the newly appointed judges.

Yanrong Zeng, Esq. is an Associate at OPN Law.



Robing of Judge Thompson.



Judge Clemens administering the Oath of Office.



Judge Thompson addressing the audience.



Administering the Oath of Office to Judge Ciaffone.



Judge Ciaffone addressing the audience.

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. Michael T. Garrett (Ret.)

Former Chief Judge, 24th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Amherst County

The Honorable Michael T. Garrett has retired after eighteen years of distinguished judicial service. Most recently, he served eight years on the Circuit Court with one term as Chief Judge. Prior to that, he served ten years on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court where he was Chief Judge for two years. As a lawyer, he enjoyed a successful career in private practice and served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Amherst County. A Past President of the Lynchburg Bar Association, Judge Garrett is a former Mentor Judge for newly elected Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges and a former Faculty Member of the Virginia State Bar's Professionalism Course. Judge Garrett now brings this record of dedication and accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, and judge *pro tempore* needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth.

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EUGENE M. ELLIOTT, JR.: RECIPIENT OF 2024 FRANK W. “BO” ROGERS, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Editor position with the school's law review, then ranked 10th nationally.

Those were the days before many summer associate positions, so Gene worked at the local ABC store (no doubt where he acquired his taste for good bourbon), at a steel mill, and on an urban renewal demolition job on walls seven stories up. Gene credits the variety of interesting jobs that he held in his youth to the helpful ability he gained to relate to people from all backgrounds.

Fortunately for him and us, Gene's success at W&L landed him a job in Roanoke with the firm of King, Fulghum & Rennick where he began as an associate in 1972, at which time he also joined the RBA. I'd say it was fortunate for Gene in multiple ways. In addition to having a good position to start his legal career, it was at a party organized for him by the partners of the firm (here at the Shenandoah Club) that he met his future father in law, Bob Bondurant. Bob then introduced Gene to one of Bob's daughters, Laura. Gene describes it as “close a thing to love at first sight” as he has ever known to occur.

Soon after, Gene struck out on his own legal practice, which he continues to this day here in Roanoke, practicing in the areas of real estate, wills and estate administration, and small business law, with an occasional touch of litigation thrown in. In practice, Gene has always been a beacon of civility, ethical practice, and professionalism. It is appropriate that for many years Gene represented Bill Jones, the owner of the local “Mr. Formal Wear” store. In a little known secret, Bill could not tie a bow tie, yet he was president of the American Formalwear Association. At the 100th Anniversary celebration of the tuxedo, Gene had to pre-tie Bill's real (as opposed to a clip-on) bow tie for him to go to celebrations from New York to LA.

For those who, like me, have known Gene well for the last 15-20 years, you would assume that Gene has been involved in Bar service and leadership his whole career. Gene confesses that he didn't get involved beyond being a member until he was in his 50's. At that time, he decided it was his time to step up, give back, and be involved.

Gene's genuineness, attention to detail, and patience, quickly led him to leadership positions in the Roanoke Bar Association, where he served as president in 2003-2004, and the Roanoke Bar Foundation, where he served as chair from 2004-2005. He has been a constant participant in the Santa in the Square/Station program each holiday season. As a result of his service to and leadership within the RBA, the VSB Conference on Local & Specialty Bar Associations (CLSBA) named him Local Bar Leader of the Year in 2005. In 2006, Gene was inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation. In that same year the General Assembly passed a joint resolution commending him for his bar service and service to the community. Thereafter, he went on to join the board of the CLSBA and became chair of that active group often donning his most garish Hawaiian shirt to celebrate with the CLSBA at the VSB Annual Meeting.

In 2015, Gene put his name in the hat to represent the 23rd Judicial Circuit on the Bar Council for the Virginia State Bar, where he served actively for two terms. During that time, Gene had the honor of being selected to serve on the VSB Executive Committee for six years. For five of Gene's years on the VSB

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BRITTANY M. HADDOX: 2024 YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

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Counsel isn't keeping up, she'll do their part too. Having worked cases side by side with her, I have personally observed her empathy and concern for her clients, her sharp advocacy, and her uncompromising ethics. In terms of tenacity, she's a barnacle—you can't shake her, and her energy is boundless. She is a force to be reckoned with. Those who have litigated with her and against her, know it. She may cushion the full brunt of that force with lots of “Happy Friday!”s and “Have a wonderful weekend”s, but you feel it just the same. If you were going to get her something on Friday, and you didn't, you know you are going to be hearing from her at about 7:30 am on Monday morning (“Hope you had a great weekend!”)—unless she gets to you on Sunday, while she is likely simultaneously water-skiing at the lake or snowboarding at Snowshoe. One last Public Service Announcement for her practice—when she says, “last and final,” she really means it.

But each one of us is so much more than a lawyer, and so is Brittany. As you can see from the pictures shared throughout this presentation, she has an amazing daughter, Finley, who is her “ride or die.” She's 8. When Brittany and I go out together, Finley often picks the venue. She has an enormous Great Dane, Brutus, who enjoys making frequent and awkward zoom appearances, lurking beside her in the unapologetic way that only a dog can pull off. And if you haven't figured it out from the photos, Brittany is an inveterate traveler and adventurer.

Brittany Haddox has joined the list of the several outstanding women attorneys I have had the privilege of working with. I have learned so much from her, and I look forward to working with her for as long as I can. Congratulations, Brittany—you earned this, and you keep earning it every day.



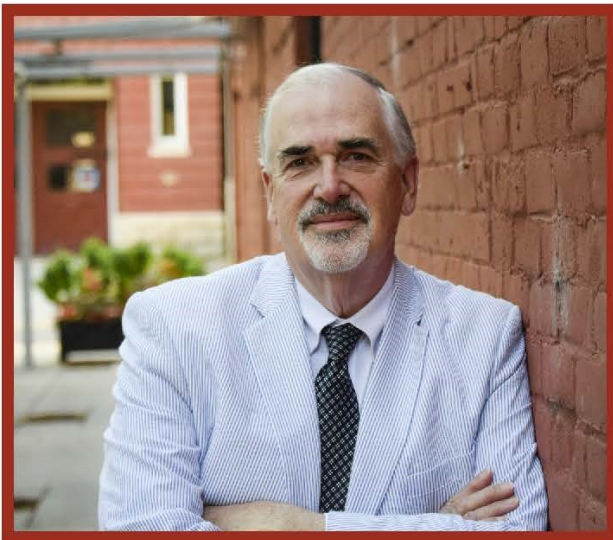
Monica Mroz is employed at Virginia Employment Law.



Brittany Haddox with Christen Church.



Brittany Haddox with Monica Mroz & Christen Church.

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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EUGENE M. ELLIOTT, JR.,: RECIPIENT OF 2024 FRANK W. “BO” ROGERS, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Council, I worked alongside him and observed his work on behalf of our circuit, the attorneys in Virginia, and the public to make the VSB, its members, and those they serve better. No one was and is more committed to improving the VSB and meeting its mission than Gene.

In addition, he provided service as Chair and Co-Chair of the VSB’s Lawyer Referral Service Committee. That committee’s programs were in an annual \$100,000+ deficit until Gene and another attorney helped develop a system whereby the program would receive fees for referring worthwhile cases out to attorneys. The Referral Service is now in a firm financial condition and most importantly delivers increased legal services across the Commonwealth.

Renu Brennan, the Bar Counsel for the VSB, worked with Gene through that process and provided these thoughts:

Gene, through his pragmatism, vision, leadership, and dedication to the bar, transformed the VLRS during his tenure on the Committee. Gene assumed the helm of VLRS leadership at a critical time, and his bar leadership skills and knowledge and conscientious review of the budget was indispensable.

Gene’s leadership was extraordinary – he identified the need and helped craft the solution and did not stop working until the rules were approved.

Cameron Rountree, the Executive Director of the VSB, provided this praise for Gene:

Unflinchingly willing to volunteer his time to the improvement of the practice, Gene has been the epitome of professionalism in the law.

Gene’s extraordinary and selfless service during his career unquestionably makes him worthy of this award and many more. Moreover, Gene’s collegiality, wisdom and sartorial sensibility make us all proud to claim him as a Virginia lawyer.



VIRGINIA STATE BAR UPDATE: SUMMER 2024

BY DANIEL P. FRANKL, ESQ. AND KEVIN W. 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 May 30, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Council took the following significant actions.

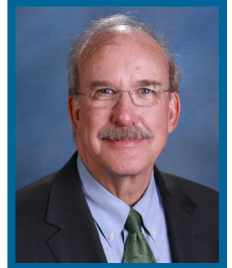
Council unanimously approved the slate of volunteer candidates to fill vacancies for the 2024–25 term on the Disciplinary District Committees. A tie-breaker vote was held for District 3 – Section III between Adam E. Strauchler and Emilee Manzi Hasbrouck, in which Council elected Adam E. Strauchler.

The 2024 Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting took place May 29–June 1, and the 2024–25 VSB president was inducted. Michael M. York was sworn into office and took over the presidency of the VSB on July 1, 2024. He has served on VSB Council and Executive Committee, as chair of the Legal Ethics Committee, on the Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee, and on the Budget and Finance Committee. Prior to becoming an attorney, York was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and investigative reporter who covered federal courts for The Washington Post.

K. Brett Marston, managing partner of Gentry Locke, was also sworn in as president-elect for 2024–25 and will take over the presidency of the VSB on July 1, 2025.

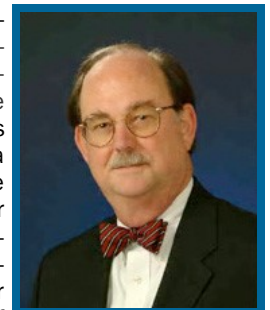
As ever, please contact either of us with any questions, issues, or concerns. It is our privilege to represent you on Bar Council.

Dan Frankl is with Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman and Kevin Holt is a partner at Gentry Locke.



EUGENE M. ELLIOTT, JR. RECEIVES 2024 EDWARD L. CHAMBERS JR. LIFETIME BAR SERVICE AWARD

Eugene M. Elliott, Jr. was the recipient of the 2024 Edward L. Chambers Jr. Lifetime Bar Service Award presented by the Virginia State Bar at the VSB Annual Meeting held in June. This award recognizes an exemplary Virginia lawyer or judge who has enhanced the legal profession in Virginia by his or her extensive and longstanding commitment of time, knowledge, and leadership on various Virginia State Bar boards and committees. The purpose of the award is to recognize those who serve extraordinarily and selflessly during their career without recognition commensurate to the level of their service to the Virginia State Bar.



ROANOKE LAW LIBRARY: NEWS AND INFORMATION

BY JOSEPH KLEIN, LAW LIBRARIAN



Summer is here, and I am flabbergasted that half of 2024 is already gone. For me, summer is consumed by swim season, which for my wife and me means ferrying our children to swim practices or swim meets just about every day. So much fun, but also so exhausting. I hope you all have fun summer plans, perhaps lazy days on the beach or by the pool. Summer also means kids are out of school. As always, the Roanoke Public

Libraries have a fantastic Summer Reading Program planned. The theme this year is “Adventure Begins at Your Library.” There are literally hundreds of fun and educational programs happening the entire summer for kids of all ages. Additionally, there are chances to win prizes for children and adults, including gift cards to area attractions, as well as local restaurants and businesses. For more information and a complete schedule, see our online brochure at <https://www.roanokeva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19590/Summer-Programs-2024>



Materials that Circulate to RBA Members

I also wanted to take a moment to remind you of all the legal materials that are available to and can be checked out only by members of the Roanoke Bar Association. The entire Virginia Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Collection is available for check out. Prominent Virginia attorneys write Virginia CLE’s, and there are hundreds of subject-specific books on most topics of Virginia law. In my almost 20 years at the Roanoke Law Library, the Virginia CLE collection has been the most-used set of materials besides the Code of Virginia and the Virginia Forms set. The most popular Virginia CLE titles include: **Virginia Family Law: A Systematic Approach**, and **Corporations and Partnerships in Virginia**. These books are incredibly useful because of the depth with which they cover specific legal topics and because they usually include all the pertinent legal forms.

Additionally, volumes of the Virginia Practice series published by West are available for check out. This collection includes 16 titles on topics ranging from real estate and DUI’s to landlord-tenant law, to name a few. These books are updated regularly and are great for boning up on areas of law that might be new to you.

It is possible to search our catalog at www.rvl.info to see if we have a book that might help you with your legal research. When you do a search, you can easily limit that search to the branch “Law Library.” If the record shows that the desired volume belongs to the Virginia CLE or Virginia Practice collections, then the materials can be checked out. As always, feel free to call me at 540-853-2268 or email me at joseph.klein@roanokeva.gov with any questions.

RBA WORK DAY WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BY SARAH C. JESSEE, ESQ.

On March 9, 2024, Roanoke Bar Association members volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity build site. Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to provide safe, affordable home ownership to local families. They advance this mission principally through residential housing development for qualifying low-to-moderate (working class) residents seeking permanent homeownership as their solution to affordable housing. This was the first year that the RBA teamed up with Habitat for Humanity. Molly Elder, Service Committee Chair, coordinated this volunteer opportunity.



The RBA volunteers met at a house on a rainy Saturday morning prepared to help. This house was a “complete rehab.” It started as a blighted property, and the majority of the major renovation was complete, which was good news for the volunteers with less experience in do-it-yourself projects and construction. The volunteers painted doorways, windowsills, doors and other final touches, as well as assisting with installing trim work. Volunteers also assisted in the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The ReStore is a non-profit store and donation center selling used and new items to fix, repair, maintain or decorate homes. The ReStore is open to everyone, and profits from the ReStore go to help to build more Habitat homes.

In April, the home on which RBA volunteers assisted was dedicated, and Habitat-Roanoke welcomed another homeowner into its ranks. This home marked the 286th home that the organization has sponsored. Habitat Roanoke plans to complete 19 homes in 2024—more homes than the program has taken on in any previous year in its 38-year history. The RBA members who volunteered were grateful for the opportunity to work on this build site and to further the Habitat for Humanity mission.

Sarah Jessee is a partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith.



Habitat Work Crew

EUGENE M. ELLIOTT, JR.: RECIPIENT OF 2024 FRANK W. "BO" ROGERS, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Continued from page 8)

All of this led to his co-selection this year for the Edward L. Chambers, Jr. Lifetime Bar Service to the VSB Award. This award is given to recognize lawyers who have enhanced the legal profession in Virginia by their extensive and longstanding commitment of time, knowledge, and leadership on VSB boards, committees, sections or conferences.

Gene tells me that meeting and working with all the wonderful people, fellow lawyers, and bar staff have been his favorite parts of being involved.

Gene has always been committed to his community as well. He was the first president of the Mill Mountain Zoo, which he helped save from closure. Gene was also president of the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc. and has been a member of its Executive Board for several decades. He was president during the 1985 flood and led the effort to move it out of the flood zone to its present location.

At a personal level, Gene has enjoyed many things beyond his practice and bar involvement. Gene is the proud father of three adult children: Alyson Bond, Gene III, and Neal. He also loves spending time with his four grandchildren who range in age from 26 years old to 7 months old!

In addition to his extensive bow tie collection, rumored to be in the hundreds, Gene has a most impressive collection of Lionel standard-gauge trains. You need to accept his invitation to see this remarkable collection. He also collects Vanity Fair legal prints, and hunting decoys.

These are just part of what he and Laura are hunting for when they spend frequent weekends traveling to antique stores and shows throughout the Mid-Atlantic. In addition, he and Laura love dancing to the sounds of beach, rock, and big band music and hosting Thanksgiving celebrations for the entire, extended family.

Like many of you, I have had the pleasure of working with Gene in practice, and in leadership at the RBA and then at the VSB. No one cares more, works harder, or represents our part of the state any better than Gene. For these reasons, on behalf of the Roanoke Bar Association, I am proud to present Eugene M. "Gene" Elliott, Jr. with the 2024 Frank W. "Bo" Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award!

Brett Marston is the managing partner at Gentry Locke.



RBA 99th Annual Meeting



Amy Geddes, incoming 2024-2025 president accepts gavel from Christen Church, outgoing 2023-2024 president.



Christen Church receives past president plaque from Amy Geddes.



ROANOKE LAW FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 2024 FELLOWS CLASS

The Roanoke Law Foundation held the annual Fellows Reception on May 14, 2024 at 202 Social House. Lori Bentley, 2023-24 Chairman of the Foundation welcomed the Trustees and Fellows. An induction ceremony was held for the new 2024 Class of Fellows. The Class of 2024 includes Anthony "Tony" Anderson, Lori J. Bentley, Martha "Mollie" Elder, Agnis C. Chakravorty, Ann McGee Green, Todd Leeson, Jennie L.M. Waering, and Michael Whitlow.



Fellows Class 2024 and 2023.



Roanoke Law Foundation Fellows

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS
<p>The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new members:</p> <p>Active Members</p> <p>None</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS
<p>Roanoke Bar Association Meetings 2023 - 2024</p> <p>September 12, 2023</p> <p>October 10, 2023</p> <p>November 14, 2023</p> <p>December 12, 2023</p> <p>January 9, 2024</p> <p>February 13, 2024</p> <p>March 12, 2024</p> <p>April 9, 2024</p> <p>May 1, 2024 (Law Day)</p> <p>June 11, 2024</p> <p>Go to www.roanokebar.com for more information on all upcoming events.</p>

OFFICERS	
Christen C. Church President	566-5653
Amy H. Geddes President-Elect	989-0000
Jonathan D. Puvak Secretary-Treasurer	983-9399
Lori Jones Bentley Past President	767-2041
Diane Higgs Executive Director	342-4905
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DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS!

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Complete and Forward to: Roanoke Bar Association, P.O. Box 18183, Roanoke, VA 24014
 Email: rba@roanokebar.com