



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION MEMORIALIZING
THE LIFE OF THE LATE G. MICHAEL PACE, JR.**

WHEREAS Gerald Michael (Mike) Pace, Jr., a distinguished lawyer, member and former President of this Association, and a consummate husband, father, and friend, passed away on January 8, 2024, at the age of 66; and

WHEREAS there has seldom been someone who squeezed so much life into much-too-short of a time as Mike did; and

WHEREAS Mike was born in Salem, Virginia on March 11, 1957, graduated from Andrew Lewis High School (where he excelled both in the classroom and on the football and golf teams), earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Hampden-Sydney College in 1979, and a Juris Doctorate from Washington & Lee University School of Law in 1984, after which time he joined the Roanoke law firm of Gentry Locke as an associate; and

WHEREAS Mike was a loving and devoted husband to his wife Nancy Hinchee Pace, to whom he was married for 39 years, and a proud father to two daughters, Maggi Pace and Cate Pace Golden about whom he often said he “gave away his curls to;” and

WHEREAS Mike was deeply committed to valuable family time with Nancy and his two daughters, ensuring that he made time away from the office to support them in their academic and athletic endeavors; and

WHEREAS Mike practiced his entire 29-year “private practice” career at Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP; and

WHEREAS Mike was a gifted practitioner focusing primarily on real estate and commercial matters, and was recognized universally for his skills and experience in those fields; and

WHEREAS Mike was a tireless worker who excelled at handling multiple tasks at once, so much so that some people would say that he had 48 hours in a day; and

WHEREAS Mike was a natural leader who quickly ascended the leadership ranks at Gentry Locke serving in multiple leadership roles within the firm, including as chair of the firm’s growing Commercial Practice section, as chair of the Business Development Committee, and later becoming the firm’s second managing partner at the age of 41, serving in that role as managing partner from 1999 until 2013; and

WHEREAS Under Mike’s leadership and diligent efforts Gentry Locke grew as a firm in its numbers, stature, and focus; and

WHEREAS one of Mike’s long-lasting contributions to the firm was his founding of an in-house education program known as Gentry Locke University (GLU) to further educate young attorneys about the practical aspects of legal practice; and

WHEREAS Mike was a leader in every sense of the word serving both the bar and his community in countless ways, including the Virginia Bar Association, in which he served as its president in 2008; the Roanoke Bar Association, serving as its president from 2000 to 2001; the American Bar Association; the National Conference of Bar Presidents; the Virginia Law Foundation; the Roanoke Regional Chamber of

Commerce, in which he served as Chair of the board; the Roanoke Regional Partnership, of which he was President of the board; the Roanoke Business Council, of which he was the Chair; and the Roanoke Business Leadership Fund, where he also served as Chair; and

WHEREAS Mike was a kind soul who was known throughout Gentry Locke and the community as a true friend who always had time to ask about your family and how you were doing; and

WHEREAS Mike's favorite character was Atticus Finch. Mike embodied Atticus to many and was known amongst his colleagues and the bar as a "citizen lawyer;" and

WHEREAS Mike had a love for teaching, instilled by his mother, and took on roles as an adjunct professor at both Roanoke College and Washington and Lee University School of Law, where he helped to found a practicum for third-year law students that has been implemented across the state of Virginia; and

WHEREAS Mike had a passion for the rule of law and ensuring that others were educated about it, leading to his establishment of the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law, an educational program that has gained international recognition and pairs members of local bar associations with middle school civics teachers to educate students about what the rule of law is and how it forms the basis of our society; and

WHEREAS Mike was invested in the development of Roanoke College where he founded the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law and later served as the College's general counsel; and

WHEREAS Mike was an ardent supporter of his alma mater Hampden-Sydney College and served as a trustee of the college and as president of the Hampden-Sydney College Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS Mike was recognized for his accomplishment in founding the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law when he received the Virginia Bar Association's highest award, the Gerald L. Baliles Distinguished Service Award, in 2013; and

WHEREAS Mike was honored with the Roanoke Bar Association's Frank W. "Bo" Rogers Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020; and

WHEREAS Mike was known for always being very nattily dressed, with his bowtie and glasses; and

WHEREAS Mike was a passionate hunter and fisherman with excellent marksmanship skills; and

WHEREAS Mike always recognized that becoming a lawyer was all about relationships; He recalled this piece of advice from his father to be the best he ever received: "If they (clients) don't like you, they won't ask you to do their work," and "if you don't meet them where they do their work, you won't get it;" and

WHEREAS Mike lived fully each day and left a long-lasting, positive, and meaningful mark on his community, his firm, his profession, and his family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of Gerald Michael (Mike) Pace, Jr., and holds his memory and his contributions to the legal profession and to his community in the highest regard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Memorial Resolution be forwarded to each member of the Gerald Michael Pace Jr. family as an expression of

sympathy and appreciation from this Association on behalf of all the lawyers of the Roanoke Valley for all of his contributions to his community and his accomplishments.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Circuit Courts of the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, and the City of Salem, as well as the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division, with motions that this resolution be spread upon the permanent common law order books of those courts.

GIVEN under the hands of the President and Secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 10th day of September, 2024.

_____,
Amy H. Geddes, Esq.
President Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Victor S. Skaff, III, Esq.
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association