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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 AMY H. GEDDES, ESQ.

The RBA has been extremely busy this year and we will continue to have a variety of special events for our 100th Anniversary. On Saturday April 5, 2025, we hosted the 100th Anniversary Gala with assorted beverages, cocktails, dinner, dessert and music. The Centennial History Committee has been conducting video interviews all year to commemorate the history of the RBA. These interviews were available for viewing during the gala. A special thank you to the members of the History Committee for working hard to conduct all the various interviews throughout the year. The History Committee includes Chair Justin Simmons, Judge William Broadhurst, Diane Higgs, Kevin Holt, Joey Klein, Al McLean, Tom Miller, Dinny Skaff, Devon Slovensky, and Jamie Wood.



At the gala we also had displays of previous composites, photographs, and documents commemorating the history of the RBA and our various accomplishments along with historical banners that will be traveling to the various Roanoke City libraries for a special display. The evening included an RBA trivia contest. The winner, Alisha Grubb won a free RBA lunch at the Shenandoah Club. A very special thank you to our Gala Committee for all their hard work planning such a fun and special evening to celebrate our Centennial. Thank you to Chair Phil Anderson, Lori Jones Bentley, Diane Higgs, Jon Puvak, Melissa Robinson, and Judge Diane Strickland.

In other RBA news, the Young Lawyer Committee hosted our Annual Bench Bar Conference at the end of February with a new twist. Nine judges from both the state and federal bench served as celebrity judges for a game of Judicial Squares. RBA members were selected as the competing contestants. The event was a lot of fun and provided a new and different way for the bar members and members of the judiciary to interact and spend time together while enhancing their knowledge and earning two hours of CLE credit. Hats off to our Young Lawyers Chair, Jamie Wood for all her hard work in planning such a fantastic event!



In philanthropic news, on Saturday, March 1, 2025 a group of RBA members spent the day working on a house for Habitat for Humanity framing rooms, pouring cement for porch posts, and clearing out tree limbs and brush. The weather cooperated and significant progress was made on the house. On April 24, the RBA again hosted the Shine and Dine dinner for Roanoke City Schools



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THE REUBEN E. LAWSON FEDERAL BUILDING

BY JOHN P. FISHWICK, JR., ESQ.*



On January 4, 2025, a landmark in Roanoke that many of us are familiar with, the Richard H. Poff Federal Building, officially received a new name, becoming the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building. The change is the culmination of an effort that began in the Fall of 2022 and was championed by the Roanoke Branch NAACP, the Roanoke Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Roanoke Valley Ministers Conference, the Roanoke City Council, and Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, who introduced the renaming provision. Congressman Ben Cline cleared it for passage, and the provision was ultimately part of a bill signed into law by President Biden.

Reuben E. Lawson was a trailblazing civil rights attorney who practiced in Southwest Virginia in the 1950s and 60s. A pillar of Roanoke's African American community, Mr. Lawson not only represented the Roanoke Branch NAACP but played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement in Southwest Virginia. Mr. Lawson notably filed the first desegregation suit in the region, *Walker v. Floyd County School Board*, Civil Action No. 1012 (W.D. Va. 1960), delivering the papers to the Court by hand and guiding the young African American plaintiffs into the federal courthouse. This case ultimately resulted in Judge Roby C. Thompson ordering that Floyd County admit 13 African American students into its high schools, which before then enrolled white students exclusively, despite *Brown v. Board of Education*'s holding that racial segregation is unconstitutional. Similar efforts and results soon followed in Pulaski County, Grayson County, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, and Lynchburg. Other notable accomplishments of Mr. Lawson's included spurring the Roanoke City Council to integrate Roanoke's then-segregated football stadium in the wake of professional players threatening to boycott a game there in 1961.



Despite these monumental efforts—and results—Reuben E. Lawson's place in history was often overshadowed by other civil rights titans like Thurgood Marshall and Oliver Hill. When I began learning more about Mr. Lawson and the significant cases he filed, and won, I was immediately struck by two things. First, Mr. Lawson's skill as an attorney and orator in service of ensuring that his fellow African Americans were afforded their rights under the United States Constitution and *Brown v. Board of Education*. Second, how so few outside of those who personally knew Mr. Lawson were aware of his decisive legal victories. The time was long past due to find some way to give Mr. Lawson the recognition he deserved.

Soon, I was joined by the Reverend Edward T. Burton in an effort to rename the Richard H. Poff Federal Building after Reuben E. Lawson. Reverend Burton served as pastor of Sweet Union Baptist for 50 years and knew Mr. Lawson not only as a friend, but through their shared work in the NAACP. In fact, at the time, the Roanoke Branch NAACP would often use Mr. Lawson's law office as a meeting space.

Changing the name of a federal building is not without its

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MY SUPERLATIVE CASE

BY VICKI L. FRANCOIS, ESQ.

It was just another typical day in July 2024, when I was undertaking a routine task that most lawyers that I know abhor: going through my e-mail inbox at work. I always try to start with my junk e-mail folder first, to weed out the low hanging fruit. The semblance of apparent progress by deleting what is mostly junk e-mail makes me feel some sense of satisfaction. I finally ended up in my usual inbox, where I was seemingly met with an ordinary array of requests. Except, one lone e-mail stood out. Why would the U.S. State Department be e-mailing me, a solo attorney, in the "Wild West" of Virginia?



Surely this had to be some sort of phishing or scam e-mail. Like most solos, I have no fixed IT Department. Yet, I made the arguably dangerous decision to open the e-mail. Little did I know that opening that single e-mail would control the course of my life for the next few weeks.

The U.S. State Department had been contacted by a woman in Mexico whose six-month-old son had allegedly been abducted by the child's father from Mexico. The child was reported to be living with father in his family home in Martinsville, Virginia. Was I willing to undertake a Hague Convention case concerning the international abduction of this child from Mexico to Virginia -- on a pro bono basis? After re-reading the e-mail several times, and knowing I already had a full trial schedule in place for the next few weeks, I responded and initially asked for more information.

The kind people at the State Department were easy to reach and responded promptly. Yes, a little boy had in fact been taken. Mom and dad were married and had been living together in the United States before making the joint decision to relocate to Mexico, where mother's family still resided. The couple rented an apartment with a one-year lease and began to run a pet food shop together that was owned by mother's parents.

This was not a long-term relationship, and yet it had sadly and frequently been peppered with incidents of intimate partner violence during most of its duration. The relationship took an especially dark turn when the father became patently violent during the 2023 Super Bowl. (Before the child had been conceived). The mother denied that she had suffered physical abuse, but her black eye and bruises were self-evident. That single incident caused father to be discharged from the U.S. military.

The hope was that relocating to Mexico would provide them with a fresh start. But the quest for harmony was short lived. By the end of May 2024, the father moved out of their joint apartment in Mexico. They continued to run the pet shop together, but the mother remained the primary custodian of the child by agreement. Other incidents of intimate partner violence would be also captured on the shop's surveillance camera, where you could often hear the baby screaming in the next room while mother was being accosted.

Unlike most of my friends and family, I have never felt the drive to become a parent. I knew, even as a child, that being a parent just had to be one of the hardest jobs in the world—and

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THE REUBEN E. LAWSON FEDERAL BUILDING

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challenges, however. While the General Services Administration ("GSA") does have some authority to rename federal buildings, see 40 U.S.C. § 3102, the typical practice is for the United States Congress to enact legislation, signed into law by the President, officially redesignating the name of the building. Thus began the effort to introduce a bill to Congress changing the name of the Richard H. Poff Federal Building to the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building. The process of bringing legislation from Roanoke, Virginia, to the United States Capitol was, perhaps unsurprisingly, not quite as straightforward as a *Schoolhouse Rock* special. But it began as such efforts often do: as part of a grassroots movement, local boots on the ground.

After a press conference on October 11, 2022, we distributed flyers and sample letters, encouraging people to write their federally elected representatives. In the months that followed, the effort to rename the federal building received a number of endorsements, including from the Roanoke Branch NAACP, the NAACP Roanoke Youth Council, and Roanoke Ministers Conference. Concurrent with these efforts, Reverend Burton and I spoke about Mr. Lawson to students at William Byrd Middle School learning about the Civil Rights era.

Local and state governments became involved in the proposal, too. On January 17, 2023, the Roanoke City Council voted unanimously to support renaming the federal building after Reuben E. Lawson. State legislators Sam Rasoul and John Edwards also backed the proposal, and in February 2023, both the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate agreed to Joint Resolution No. 680, "Commemorating the life and legacy of Reuben E. Lawson."

The next step was meeting with the folks who could actually introduce this legislation in Congress: Senator Tim Kaine, Senator Mark Warner, and Representative Ben Cline. I was part of a contingent that included several prominent leaders in Roanoke's African American community, such as Reverend Burton. As a result of our meetings with these Congressmen, a bill was eventually introduced, and passed, in the Senate: The Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023 (S.3412).

Representative Cline cleared the bill for passage, and, last year, the bipartisan Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (Public Law No. 118-272; S.4367) was introduced and—over a period of months—debated, amended, refined, and ultimately passed by both houses of Congress (including votes in favor by Senators Kaine and Warner and Representative Cline), where it went on to be signed by President Biden into law on January 4, 2025. The Act included several public buildings reforms, and most relevant here was Section 2315 of the Act, which officially redesignated the Richard H. Poff Federal Building as the Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building. The full text of Section 2315 follows:

SEC. 2315. REUBEN E. LAWSON FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds that—

- (1) Reuben E. Lawson dedicated his life and career to promoting the ideals of equality and inclusion as a lawyer for the Roanoke chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (commonly known as the "NAACP") who actively worked to end segregation in

ETHICS CORNER: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR CLIENT DIES?

BY ANDREW GERRISH, ESQ.

When a client dies while a matter is pending, the attorney no longer has a client, at least for the moment. Va. LEO 1900 (quoting ABA Formal Op. 397). At that point, the attorney must be careful not to run afoul of Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3 (Candor Toward The Tribunal) and 4.1 (Truthfulness In Statements to Others). According to Virginia Legal Ethics Opinion 1900, following a client's death, "any act or omission that perpetuates the belief that the lawyer represents the client or has any authority to act on behalf of a client violates Rule 4.1 either by affirmatively misrepresenting the lawyer's authority or by failing to act and therefore passively misrepresenting the lawyer's authority."



So, what should an attorney do when the client dies? When dealing with opposing counsel, "the lawyer must disclose the client's death before any further substantive communication with opposing counsel." *Id.* Importantly, the "lawyer does not violate Rule 4.1 by simply avoiding any substantive communication with opposing counsel while, for example, determining whether there is a representative of the client's estate and whether that representative wishes to hire the lawyer to continue to pursue the client's claim." *Id.* Thus, assuming no substantive deadlines are approaching—such as a deadline to respond to pending discovery—an attorney can simply lie low while working to figure out who will become the new client.

It would be improper to respond to pending discovery or serve discovery before informing opposing counsel. And although the opinion is silent on this issue, it appears that even after the client's death has been disclosed, it would also be improper to respond to pending discovery (such as requests for admissions) until a new client is in place. If deadlines are approaching, best practice would be to inform opposing counsel and seek an agreement providing relief from any pending deadlines until the new client is in place. If an agreement cannot be reached, the attorney should seek relief from the court.

But what duties does the attorney owe to the court? An attorney must inform the court of the client's death "no later than the first communication or appearance after learning of the client's death." *Id.* An "appearance before a court without disclosing the client's death would violate Rule 3.3 by making a false statement of material fact to the court." *Id.*

Virginia Legal Ethics Opinion 952 previously allowed an attorney to accept a settlement offer following a client's death if the attorney disclosed the client's death when accepting the offer. Virginia Legal Ethics Opinion 1900 expressly overruled Opinion 952. A "lawyer cannot accept or make an offer of settlement on behalf of a deceased client." Va. LEO 1900. The "lawyer has no client and no authority to accept or make a settlement after the client's death unless and until the administrator of the estate or other successor in interest retains the lawyer to pursue any remaining claim on behalf of the estate." *Id.*

Andrew Gerrish is a partner at Frith Anderson & Peake.

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BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2025

JAMIE H. WOOD, ESQ.



We held this year's Bench Bar Conference on February 28 and introduced a fresh format—Judicial Squares! Inspired by the Hollywood Squares gameshow, our local judges participated as our celebrities and answered bar exam questions covering a variety of topics. Contestants were challenged to determine whether the judge provided the correct answer or misled them with an incorrect answer, while working to get tic-tac-toe on the game board. Thank

you to our contestants—Dennis Brumberg, Amy Geddes, John Neal White, John Koehler, Allegra Black, and Emily Jewett for joining in the fun.

We are so appreciative of the celebrity judges who agreed to play the game and make this a fun and engaging program—Judge Paul M. Black, Judge Leisa K. Ciaffone, Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon, Judge Heather P. Ferguson, Judge Scott R. Geddes, Judge Adam H. Moseley, Judge Thomas W. Roe, Jr., Judge Rachel D. Thompson, and Judge Michael F. Urbanski. Special thanks to Judge Christopher Clemens for hosting Judicial Squares and bringing his good humor and light up Christmas blazer!

Jamie H. Wood is an associate at Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black.



The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. Lee A. Harris, Jr. (Ret.)

Former Chief Judge, 14th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Henrico County

The Honorable Lee A. Harris, Jr., the longest-serving judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia, recently retired after 35 years of distinguished judicial service on the bench of the Henrico County Circuit Court, including three terms as Chief Judge. His judicial career began as a Judge of the General District Court in Henrico County, where he served for two years. Early in his legal career, Judge Harris served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Henrico County and later as the Commonwealth's Attorney in that office. He also enjoyed a private law practice in Richmond, litigating a wide range of civil, criminal, and family law cases. Judge Harris 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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THE REUBEN E. LAWSON FEDERAL BUILDING

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Southwest Virginia;

(2) arguing a number of significant cases in the Western District of Virginia, Reuben E. Lawson fought to ensure the enforcement of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), so that schools in the Roanoke region would be fully integrated; and

(3) Southwest Virginians are indebted to Reuben E. Lawson for his important work in ending segregation, and it is fitting that he be remembered in the current home of the court in which he valiantly fought.

(b) Redesignation.—The Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the “Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building.”

(c) References.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Richard H. Poff Federal Building shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building.”

As of the time of this publication, a person walking past 210 Franklin Road would still see a sign identifying the structure before them as the “Richard H. Poff United States Courthouse and Federal Building.” That, however, does not take away from the fact that a law passed by Congress and signed by the President has renamed our federal building in honor of Reuben E. Lawson. While it may take a bit more time for the building’s outside appearance to reflect that reality, Mr. Lawson’s deserved place in history is now a matter of federal law.

To that end, I close this article not on the renaming of the federal building, but the purpose that such renaming served: honoring Reuben E. Lawson. He was a skilled attorney, a community leader, a man who served his community with intelligence and grace, who stood up to injustice by holding our society up to the promises enshrined in our Constitution. No matter our race, color, or creed, we can all benefit from remembering Mr. Lawson and upholding his legacy as we wield the privilege of our legal profession.



*John P. Fishwick, Jr., is the owner of Fishwick & Associates PLC. He is the former United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. Daniel J. Martin, an associate in the firm, assisted in the writing of this article and with the effort to rename the Richard H. Poff Federal Building after Reuben E. Lawson.

MY SUPERLATIVE CASE

(Continued from page 2)

one that I simply did not want. But then I stared again at the State Department e-mail. I had never handled a Hague Convention case before. I do not speak Spanish. But, I could inherently feel the pain of this mother, in another country, longing for the return of her first and only child. I thought, “If I don’t help this mother, who will?” With the support of my long-term right-hand paralegal, Barb, and my soon-to-be law partner, John Johnson, I took the case.

On July 12, 2024, I filed a 57-page petition with exhibits seeking the return of the child to mother and to Mexico in the Henry County Circuit Court. I set the case for trial a mere 20 calendar days later. I did this to intentionally divest the juvenile court of jurisdiction, on the off chance that the father might file petitions for custody and visitation in Henry County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. It was a sound strategic move on our part, because I learned just a few days before our circuit court trial date that the father had in fact made those filings in Henry County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

It was also fortunate that my client tried to do everything right in this situation. Once she learned the father had taken the child, a child abduction alert was issued within 8 hours. But by then, but by then, the father and child had already crossed over into Texas. Mother also had criminal charges taken out against father in Mexico for the abduction. But the father could not be found to be served. She would call or text the father, and he would elect whether or not to reply. But he never told her where he and the child were.

The mother and her young brother were flown to the U.S. to try to locate the child. They began in Texas. They ultimately made their way to Martinsville, where all they could afford was modest accommodation.

Knowing this lodging was not a suitable place for any child, my wife and I insisted that my client and her brother stay with us at our home until the trial date. And for the next two weeks, I got to witness the sadness, madness, and pain that the father had inflicted upon the mother and her entire family. She could not sleep. She could not eat. She cried daily. Every night we’d talk about the case, providing me with the most personal insight of any case I will likely have in my career.

Day 20, the trial date arrived. We had purchased a used baby car seat on expectation that we would prevail. I had read well over 1,500 pages of texts, case law, and police reports in those 20 days. I had prepared a draft order. I had prepared a six-page summary of The Hague Convention that was given to the Court and to the father to ensure everyone was clear on the burdens of proof and the controlling authority.

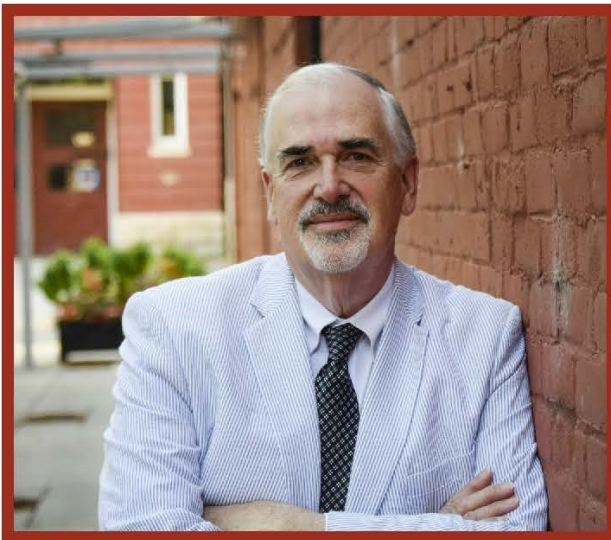
Day 20 was also Day 40. It had been 40 long heart-breaking days since my client had seen her child. And when the baby came into the courtroom in his stroller, a lightness and smile appeared on her face that I had never seen before.

A few hours later, we left the courthouse—with a baby in a stroller.

Those few weeks were one of the most challenging times in my career. I had to learn a whole new area of law in an drastically short amount of time, while feeling like I had no room for error. Sharing a roof and meals with my client and her brother, seeing and hearing her pain daily, and knowing this child’s entire future was likely riding on the skills and ability of a determined lawyer. It was utterly humbling.

I still dislike the task of going through my e-mails. But now,

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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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

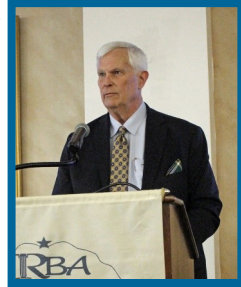
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high school graduates who are experiencing homelessness. Thank you to our Member Services/Public Services Chair, Mollie Elder for coordinating and planning these important events.

The Honorable Charles Dorsey presented a moving Memorial and Resolution in honor of Judge Onzlee Ware at our March luncheon. Judge Ware's family, friends, Roanoke City Mayor Joe Cobb, Roanoke City Sheriff Hatch, and many of Judge Ware's staff and former mentees attended and joined the RBA in acknowledging Judge Ware's many contributions to the Roanoke Valley legal community, judiciary, and general assembly.

At our April luncheon, Roanoke City Mayor Joe Cobb presented the RBA with a proclamation commemorating the RBA's Centennial and founding. We were also honored to have the Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn, Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court as our speaker. Justice Goodwyn spoke about the importance of access to justice for all and encouraged all of us to



Judge Dorsey



Mayor Cobb presents City Proclamation to Amy Geddes, RBA President.



Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn, Chief Justice of the VA Supreme Court

provide pro bono legal services to not only give back to our community but also to uphold the integrity of the rule of law and our profession. Thank you to Jon Puvak for all his hard work this year in scheduling all our speakers.

On May 7th RBA members enjoyed another fantastic Trivia Night at Corned Beef & Company.

We have one Centennial Celebration event remaining: Family Fun Day at Camp Icimani on May 31, 2025, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Family Fun Day will include free food and drinks, live music, a kickball tournament, games, and a variety of other activities for kids and adults. Registration for Family Fun Day is available on the RBA website. If you have not been able to attend any of our centennial celebrations so far, you are missing out on a lot of fun and I encourage you to attend our remaining event and celebrate this important milestone with us!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our remaining monthly meetings for the year and 100th Anniversary events!

Amy H. Geddes is the managing partner of OPN Law.

THE VIRGINIA LAW FOUNDATION CLASS OF 2025 FELLOWS INCLUDES FAMILIAR FACES

BY ANDREW GERRISH, ESQ.

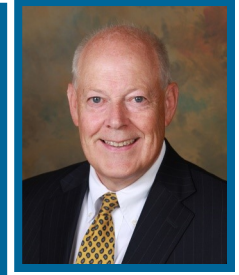
On January 23, 2025, the Virginia Law Foundation inducted its 2025 class of Fellows. Among the twenty-six inductees were a number of Roanoke Bar Association members, including: Victor O. Cardwell; Mark K. Cathey; William B. Hopkins, Jr.; and Nancy F. Reynolds.



Victor O. Cardwell



Mark K. Cathey



William B. Hopkins, Jr.

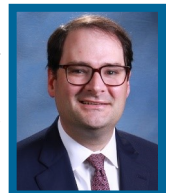


Nancy F. Reynolds

Founded in 1974, the Virginia Law Foundation seeks to "promote, through philanthropy, the Rule of Law, access to justice, and law-related education." As part of its mission, the Foundation provides grants to support law-related projects throughout the Commonwealth. And the Foundation's Fellows Program "encourages civic-mindedness and recognizes excellence in the practice of law and public and professional service." Nominated confidentially by their peers, Fellows "comprise a group of more than 800 of the best and brightest legal practitioners, committed to the highest ideals of the law and to the concept of citizen lawyer." Fellows "demonstrate the highest professional standards in their practice and exceptional leadership in their communities."

Please be sure to congratulate your Roanoke colleagues on this well-deserved honor.

Andrew Gerrish is a partner at Frith Anderson & Peake.



MY SUPERLATIVE CASE

(Continued from page 6)

I keep an eye peeled for the "special ones" that may be buried against the backdrop of all the ordinary. And I hope that from now on, you will too.

Vicki L. Francois is a principal at Wiese Law Firm, PLC.

FLYING AND VOTING – NEW RULES MAY IMMEDIATELY IMPACT YOU

BY VICKI L. FRANCOIS, ESQ.



As busy lawyers, sometimes we do not have the time to follow up on the news and other things that may impact our day-to-day non-legal lives. That said, there are two legal issues that should be on your personal radar if they aren't already.

FLYING WITH A REAL ID: U.S. citizens, and permanent residents of the U.S., who are over the age of 18 years who want to fly *within* the United States on, or after, May 7, 2025, should strongly consider going down the Department of Motor Vehicles now and making sure that your driver's license is Real ID compliant. This means your identity has been verified by the DMV, and your new driver's license will have a white star on the upper right-hand side.

It is also wise to bear this in mind if you have a high school or graduation trip planned for your older children. You don't want to get to the airport to only be turned away because your 18-year-old graduate does not have a Real ID to check in or to board the flight.

The Real ID Act was initially passed in 2005 and first slated to take effect in 2020. But with the onset of COVID, that deadline was ultimately delayed many times.

There is no reason to believe at this point that the Real ID requirement will be extended beyond May 7, 2025.

Of course, you are still free to fly within the U.S. with a current passport after May 7, 2025, if you do not yet have a Real ID.

FEDERAL VOTING IF THE SAVE ACT PASSES: The SAVE Act is the acronym for the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act. On January 3, 2025, Texas Representative Chip Roy reintroduced the SAVE Act as H.R. 22. It's stated goal is to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 by requiring proof of United States citizenship to register to vote for any *federal* election.

The SAVE Act could have sweeping ramifications, especially for female voters. Some estimate that as many as 84% of women change their name upon marriage. Other estimates provide that as many as 69 million women currently do not have a birth certificate that matches their current name. So even if you have been married for over 30 years now, and you were born in the United States, you will be unable to vote in any federal election without a passport starting this fall if the SAVE Act passes and your current name does not match the name on your birth certificate. The Resolution is also clear that a Real ID *will not suffice* to vote in a federal election if the SAVE Act passes.

Considering the many changes and the reduction in force being made to federal government infrastructure by the Trump administration, it is strongly advised that if your current name does not match the name on your birth certificate for any reason, you should quickly apply for a U.S. Passport.

Of note, President Trump signed Executive Order 14248 on March 25, 2025. While the goal of this Executive Order is to preserve and protect "the integrity of American Elections" it does not mirror the SAVE Act. The Executive Order does expressly allow for the use of a Real ID to vote in federal elections. See Sect. 2(a)(ii)(B). Of course, the Executive Order also provides that a current passport constitutes proper document to enable one to vote in a

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federal election as well. See Sect. 2(a)(ii)(A).

I often tell my clients that my job as a trial lawyer is to "hope for the best but prepare for the worst." As such, obtaining a U.S. Passport now that matches your current name is clearly the best path to follow to ensure that no one is disenfranchised from voting in any future federal elections should the SAVE Act become law.

Vicki L. Francois is a principal at Wiese Law Firm, PLC.

Congratulations To our Award Recipients



**2025 Local Bar Leader
of the Year**

Lori J. Bentley

**2025 Frank W. "Bo"
Rogers, Jr.
Lifetime Achievement
Award**

Roy V. Creasy



**2025 Young Lawyer of
the Year**

Alichia Grubb

(Continued above)



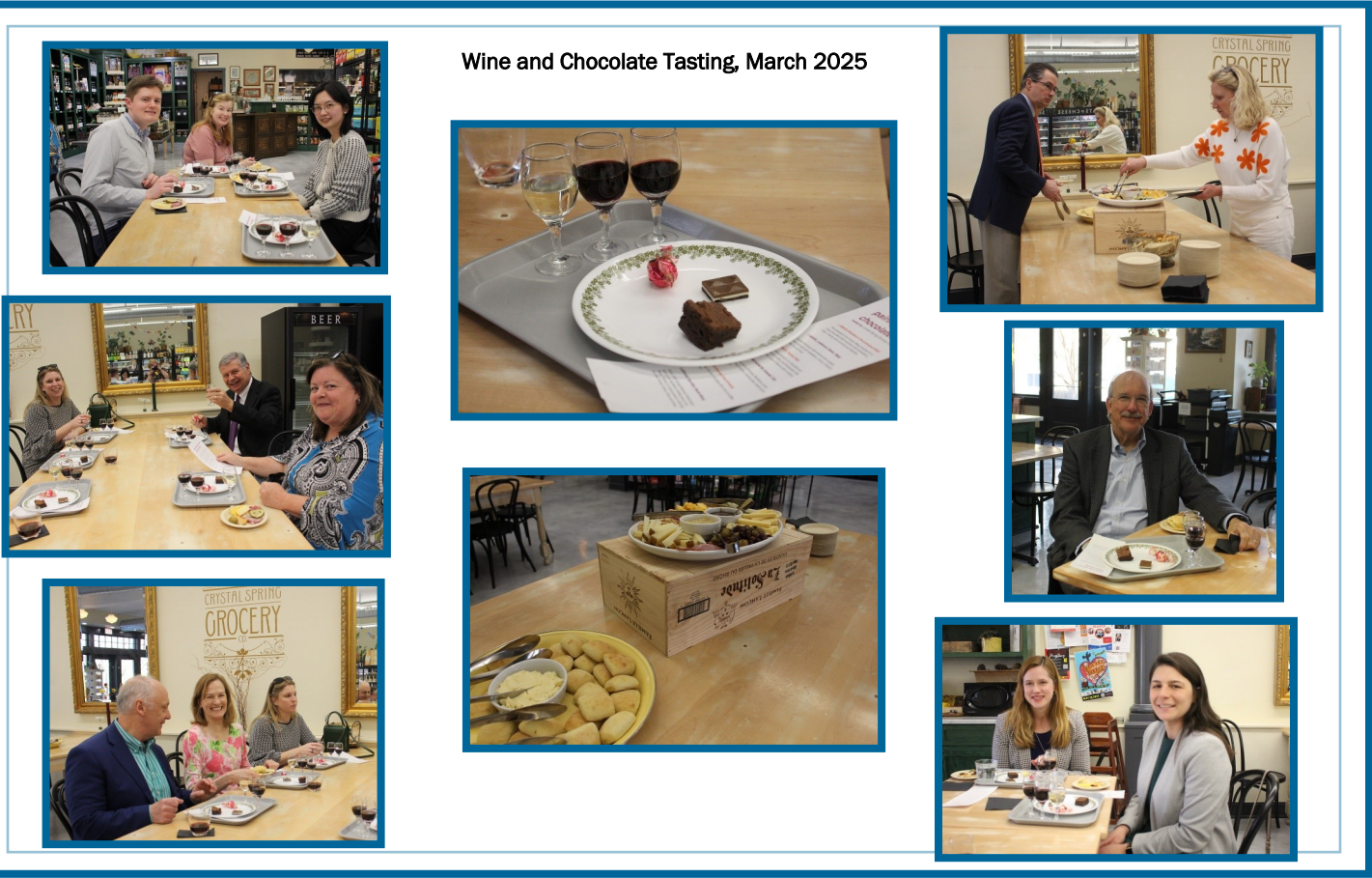
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RBA CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Centennial Gala,
April 2025

100 years!



Wine and Chocolate Tasting, March 2025



Trivia Night at Corned Beef Company, May 2025



ANNOUNCEMENTS

| NEW MEMBERS | UPCOMING EVENTS | OFFICERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|---|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| <p>The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new members:</p> <p>Active Members</p> <p>Julian F. Harf Spilman Thomas & Battle</p> <p>Michael W. S. Lockaby Spilman Thomas & Battle</p> <p>James T. Taylor Spilman Thomas & Battle</p> | <p>Roanoke Bar Association Meetings 2024 - 2025</p> <p>September 10, 2024</p> <p>October 8, 2024</p> <p>November 12, 2024</p> <p>December 10, 2024</p> <p>January 14, 2025</p> <p>February 11, 2025</p> <p>March 1, 2025</p> <p>April 8, 2025</p> <p>May 1, 2025 (Law Day)</p> <p>June 10, 2025</p> <p>Go to www.roanokebar.com for more information on all upcoming events.</p> | <table><tr><td>Amy H. Geddes President</td><td>989-0000</td></tr><tr><td>Jonathan D. Puvak President-Elect</td><td>989-9399</td></tr><tr><td>Victor S. “Dinny” Skaff, III Secretary-Treasurer</td><td>767-2217</td></tr><tr><td>Christen C. Church Past President</td><td>566-5663</td></tr><tr><td>Diane Higgs Executive Director</td><td>342-4905</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="2">BOARD OF DIRECTORS</th></tr><tr><td>Allegra M.C. Black</td><td>857-7111</td></tr><tr><td>Christopher S. Dadak</td><td>387-2320</td></tr><tr><td>Martha W. Elder</td><td>983-7535</td></tr><tr><td>T. Daniel “ Bo” Frith, IV</td><td>985-0098</td></tr><tr><td>Andrew S. Gerrish</td><td>725-3370</td></tr><tr><td>Sarah C. Jessee</td><td>283-0134</td></tr><tr><td>Devon Munro</td><td>877-652-6770</td></tr><tr><td>James J. O’Keeffe</td><td>491-0634</td></tr><tr><td>Mona A. Raza</td><td>344-2088</td></tr><tr><td>Justin E. Simmons</td><td>983-7795</td></tr><tr><td>Jaime H. Wood</td><td>983-7785</td></tr></table> | Amy H. Geddes President | 989-0000 | Jonathan D. Puvak President-Elect | 989-9399 | Victor S. “Dinny” Skaff, III Secretary-Treasurer | 767-2217 | Christen C. Church Past President | 566-5663 | Diane Higgs Executive Director | 342-4905 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS | | Allegra M.C. Black | 857-7111 | Christopher S. Dadak | 387-2320 | Martha W. Elder | 983-7535 | T. Daniel “ Bo” Frith, IV | 985-0098 | Andrew S. Gerrish | 725-3370 | Sarah C. Jessee | 283-0134 | Devon Munro | 877-652-6770 | James J. O’Keeffe | 491-0634 | Mona A. Raza | 344-2088 | Justin E. Simmons | 983-7795 | Jaime H. Wood | 983-7785 |
| Amy H. Geddes President | 989-0000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jonathan D. Puvak President-Elect | 989-9399 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Victor S. “Dinny” Skaff, III Secretary-Treasurer | 767-2217 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christen C. Church Past President | 566-5663 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diane Higgs Executive Director | 342-4905 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allegra M.C. Black | 857-7111 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christopher S. Dadak | 387-2320 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Martha W. Elder | 983-7535 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T. Daniel “ Bo” Frith, IV | 985-0098 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Andrew S. Gerrish | 725-3370 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sarah C. Jessee | 283-0134 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Devon Munro | 877-652-6770 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| James J. O’Keeffe | 491-0634 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mona A. Raza | 344-2088 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Justin E. Simmons | 983-7795 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jaime H. Wood | 983-7785 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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