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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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WHY CARE ABOUT THE FOURTH OF JULY?

BY ERIC H. MONDAY, ESQ.

Days ago the 250th anniversary of the United States was celebrated. As with all things national politics these days, the America 250 observances are mired in controversy, disorganization and vicious partisanship.

As it did in 1776, however, Virginia led the way on the 250th. On July Fourth PBS, for the first time, broadcast ceremonies from Williamsburg rather than DC. The theme was the VA250 slogan, "America—made in Virginia." That is simply put, and also true. Virginia's history is America's story, warts and all – from 1619, 1776, 1865, 1968 to today.

The words of the Declaration, conceived by the Virginian Thomas Jefferson, were delivered by the Virginian George Washington. Those words, inapplicable to three-quarters of the country in 1776, inspired the struggles of the Revolution, the blood and fire of the Civil War and the passions of the civil rights movement. From Patrick Henry and James Madison to Oliver Hill and Bernie Cohen, from *Marbury* to *Loving* to *Obergefell*—those words have come to have meaning to all Americans.

So—what did you do on the 250th Fourth of July?

Raise the flag in salute. Or burn it.

Sang *God Bless America* and enjoyed the fireworks. Or spend the day in guilty contemplation.

Enjoyed everything from pizza to pad-Thai; spent the day in passionate debate over which style of barbecue is best. Or slept in late, watched reruns of *Wheel of Fortune*, and scratched off lottery tickets.

The point, fellow Americans, is that we are free to do any, all, or none of that—because the words written two and a half centuries ago by flawed humans, and the toils and trials of their descendants and immigrants to our great nation, have made it possible for us to do as we please.

Which is, profoundly, something to celebrate.

Eric H. Monday is General Counsel for the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY JON PUVAK, ESQ., PRESIDENT



The 101st year of the RBA is in the books! As a result of the hard work of the Board, Diane Higgs and volunteers, it was another successful bar year. These contributions allowed the RBA to follow-up the centennial celebrations with our signature events for our members and community. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this success.

At the Annual Meeting we recognized the lifelong achievements of Al McLean and awarded him with the Frank W. "Bo" Rogers, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. Al has served the Roanoke legal community for decades and has been a past President and faithful volunteer of the RBA. Also at the Annual Meeting, Jamie Wood was awarded with the Young Lawyer of the Year Award. Jamie has served as the young lawyer representative for the RBA for two consecutive years. This is an important role as the young lawyer plans and executes several important annual events, including the Bench Bar Conference and state and federal courthouse welcome programs. Jamie has executed these events flawlessly while also contributing to the RBA Board. Congratulations Al and Jamie!

As President, I had the opportunity to attend several statewide bar events over the last year. Without exception, when I met someone new and revealed that I was associated with the RBA, I would hear comments about the collegiality and professionalism of our bar. Those comments always felt sincere and were developed by some actual experience that the giver encountered in our region or with one of our members. This is a reputation that has been built on the great work of our prior and current members. We all must do our part to preserve and bolster this reputation.

While the Bar year has ended, planning for next year is underway. The Board will have interesting speakers for our monthly lunch meetings. As always, we encourage you to attend these lunches and use them as a tool to connect with other members so reserve the second Tuesday of each month on your calendar now!

Thank you for the opportunity to lead the RBA and I look forward to the leadership of Dinny Skaff.

Jon Puvak is a partner at Gentry Locke.

To the Members of the RBA,

After giving it significant thought, I have made the decision to retire effective November 1st. I am proud to have participated in the RBA's achievements over the past 10+ years and I've enjoyed working with each of you. I will always look back fondly on my time here.

Diane



VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: A CALL TO SERVICE

BY THE HONORABLE JACQUELINE F. TALEVI



Our criminal courts throughout the Commonwealth rely on qualified attorneys who are willing to accept court-appointed cases to ensure that the justice system functions fairly and efficiently. Court-appointed work is important and meaningful public service, both to the legal profession and to the community at large. Attorneys who participate help ensure that individuals facing criminal charges receive competent representation and that cases move forward in an orderly manner. Without attorney participation, the courts cannot effectively process criminal cases involving individuals who are unable to afford counsel.

Over the past several years, I have noticed fewer lawyers seeking opportunities to perform this important work, while more have stepped away from it. I am writing this article to encourage participation by members of the Bar—not because court-appointed work is financially rewarding, but because it is essential to the efficient operation of our court system.

As I considered this topic, I wondered what circumstances have contributed to this decline. One historical barrier to participation has been the low rate of compensation. Years ago, a court-appointed attorney earned a flat fee of \$120 for representing an individual charged with either a simple or complex misdemeanor offense. Over time, however, the General Assembly permitted attorneys to seek compensation above that cap when justified by the circumstances of the case. More recently, the General Assembly approved a long-overdue rate increase that more than doubled the compensation for representation in lower-level misdemeanor cases without requiring the filing of waiver requests. Fee caps for felony cases were also increased. These changes may reflect a recognition that compensation had remained embarrassingly low for far too long and discouraged many capable, public-service-minded attorneys from placing their names on the appointment list.

Unfortunately, despite these increases in compensation, too few lawyers are signing up for court-appointed work. Are there other reasons?

One explanation discussed among trial court judges is that newly licensed attorneys may not be encouraged or motivated to "give back" to the legal system through court-appointed work because of significant financial pressures. Student loan obligations, credit card debt, and everyday living expenses place considerable demands on a young lawyer's income. Is it also true that some newly licensed attorneys are discouraged from accepting appointments because the work takes time away from billable-hour requirements imposed by their firms?

What has become of the longstanding understanding that lawyers have a professional responsibility to devote part of their time to ensuring that justice is carried out in our courtrooms? Comment to Rule 6.1 of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct addresses this responsibility directly: "Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a personal responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer."

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GEORGE A. MCLEAN, JR.: 2026 FRANK W. "BO" ROGERS, JR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT



Dinny Skaff shared the following remarks made by Judge Samuel Wilson and many others when presenting this award,

Today we recognize George A. "Al" McLean, Jr. as the recipient of the 21st Annual Frank W. "Bo" Rogers, Jr., Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is presented to an outstanding lawyer who embodies the highest tradition of personal and professional excellence in our community.

Al has been nominated for this award a number of times over the past several years, most recently by now-retired Judge Samuel Wilson. Judge Wilson couldn't be with us today to make this presentation, which is based in large part on what he wrote.

Judge Wilson wrote:

Bo Rogers practiced law in Roanoke for more than 50 years. I met him during my first week in the Roanoke Commonwealth's Attorney's office in the fall of 1974. Some years later I was proud to become one of his law partners. He was immersed in the civic life of our city, state, and nation. He was skilled, measured and prepared in every endeavor – thoughtful, kind, patient, humble and professional civil.

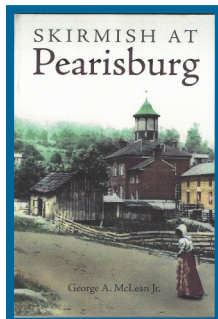
"Al has authored a book entitled *Skirmish at Pearisburg*; authored and soon will publish a book on the folk artist Lewis Miller; written articles for the Virginia Tech Center for Civil War Studies – *Essential Civil War curriculum*; written two articles for the *Encyclopedia of Virginia*, and two more that are currently being edited. He has reviewed books for the *Roanoke Times* and the journal *Civil War History*."

Al has been a member of the Roanoke Bar Association since 1974, 52 years. He was a sole practitioner for the last 36 years of his practice. He is a native of Pearisburg, Virginia and a graduate of Giles High School. He received a BA degree in 1971 from Hampden Sydney College and a JD degree in 1974 from T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.



Al has been married for 54 years to his wife, Anna, who is here with us today. He has two sons and three grandchildren, two girls and a boy, who could not be with us today.

Al served as a Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia from 1977 until 2015, a Commissioner in Chancery for the 23rd judicial circuit, and more than 30 years as a substitute judge for the General District Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the



JAMIE H. WOOD: 2026 YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

Justin Simmons offered the following remarks when presenting this award,

I'm very pleased to present the Roanoke Bar Association's 2026 Young Lawyer of the Year Award to my colleague and friend, Jamie Wood.

As you'll soon learn, her path to Roanoke was anything but ordinary.



Jamie was born in Fairfax, Virginia, but because both her parents were National Park Rangers, her childhood involved frequent moves, much like a military family. She spent time in Chester while her father worked at Petersburg National Battlefield and later in Salisbury, Maryland, while he worked at Assateague Island National Seashore.

During middle school, Jamie spent nearly every summer day at Assateague Island volunteering alongside her father in the visitor center. At the time, she thought she had landed a pretty remarkable opportunity. Looking back, though, she now suspects her parents simply did not want to leave their children home alone all summer. Either way, the government received some free labor, and Jamie developed an appreciation for public service and the outdoors that has stayed with her ever since.

The family eventually settled in Fort Davis, Texas, where her father accepted what he called his "retirement job" with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Fort Davis is a mountain town sitting at roughly 5,000 feet above sea level. It has fewer than 1,000 residents and, notably, no stoplights. Jamie graduated from Fort Davis High School in 2010 as one of just 24 students in her graduating class.

She then attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a degree in Psychology with a minor in Spanish in 2014. While there, she took on an adventure few of us can claim. In the summer of 2012, she joined Texas 4000 for Cancer and bicycled from Texas to Alaska to raise money for cancer research. Most of us consider a ride down the Greenway to be ambitious enough. But Jamie has more drive than most.



After college, Jamie joined Teach for America and spent three years teaching high school Spanish in Corbin, Kentucky—the birthplace of Kentucky Fried Chicken and home of Colonel Harland Sanders. It was there that she met her husband, Alex, who taught chemistry. Their shared commitment to education eventually brought them to Richmond when Alex enrolled at VCU School of Dentistry.

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OUT OF OFFICE WITH JOHN M. MCNEIL, JR.



I am presently the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Roanoke and I have prosecuted for over 25 years. I have prosecuted thousands of criminal cases in my career and no two of them have been the same. I enjoy working closely with Law Enforcement and the local bar in the prosecution of criminal cases. It is a challenging, stressful job but it can also be very rewarding.

When I am not "in the office" as the Commonwealth's Attorney, I can often be found at the lacrosse field as an assistant coach for the Patrick Henry High School boys lacrosse team. I have been involved with the sport of lacrosse for many decades and I have been coaching at the youth and high school levels for the past 10 years. Working with the High School guys is, somehow, the most frustrating and rewarding thing I have ever done at the same time. I often equate it to my time in the Army when I deployed to Iraq in 2005 to help train the new Iraqi military and police forces. There were times when I thought we were going to change the world hand in hand, and there were times when I thought there was no hope for the future of that country (or humanity in general.) While the analogy is a bit dramatic, there are truly similarities between coaching High School lacrosse and trying to train the new Iraqi army immediately after the fall of their country.

I first got into coaching lacrosse in 2017 at the request of Josh Wilkinson, the longtime head coach of the varsity boy's program at Patrick Henry. My son Owen was playing U9 and they needed a coach. I agreed, and with the help of several other dads we produced a great group of kids, many of whom have went on to great lacrosse careers. Not all of them have played at Patrick Henry, as some went on to play at North Cross, William Byrd, Lord Botetourt and other schools. I have been very proud of all the boys that I have coached over the years and the incredible young men they have turned out to be.

Although my son is graduating from Patrick Henry this year and his High School lacrosse career is coming to a close, I will still continue coaching lacrosse as long as they will let me. It is a welcome reprieve from the stress of being the top prosecutor for Roanoke City. Working with the guys keeps me young and on my toes, and I learn the new lingo LONG before anyone else (I apparently have negative aura, by the way.) It is a rewarding endeavor and I am already looking forward to next season!



VIRGINIA STATE BAR UPDATE

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 (VSB).

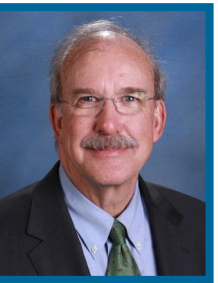
At the Council meeting held on June 4, 2026, just prior to the Virginia State Bar Annual meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Council heard reports from the outgoing President, K. Brett Marston, the interim Executive Director Janet Cuyk, who is standing in for Cameron M. Roundtree, who is on a nine-month military leave to serve in Bahrain, a Financial Report, a Bar Counsel Report, as well as reports from the following sections: 1) Local & Specialty Bar ; 2) Diversity; 3) Senior Lawyers; 4) Young Lawyers along with Committee Reports on Lawyer Referral and the VSB's new Pro Bono Campaign.

Council learned that the Virginia General Assembly approved legislation increasing the statutory cap on VSB dues up to \$350 averting a financial crisis. Council unanimously approved the slate of volunteer candidates to fill vacancies for the 2026-27 term on the Disciplinary Committees. In the Eighth District, Melanie D. Edge and Mark D. Loftis were appointed as attorney members and Charles Coulter and Susan Wirt were appointed as a lay members to serve until 2029. Bylaw changes were adopted to complete the transition of the Local & Specialty Bar Section; 2) Diversity Section; 3) Senior Lawyers Section; 4) Young Lawyers Section, from conferences to sections. Now that they are sections, you will need to opt in to support their ongoing programs as they are no longer being funded by your VSB dues. This year there will be an additional box on your dues renewal that will allow you to contribute \$2.00 to each of these sections. We highly recommend you opt in, to not only be a member of the sections but to also contribute the extra \$2.00 to allow them to keep up their important contributions to the VSB and the general public.

Susan Bradford Tarley was sworn in to succeed K. Brett Marston as the 88th President of the VSB. Bruce H. Russell II was sworn in as the President-elect of the VSB with his term to start in July of 2027.

The Roanoke Bar Association continued its winning ways by taking home three Awards of Merit for its Centennial Celebration, its Centennial Community Support and its RBA History Project. Jonathan D. Puvak, President of the RBA, accepted the awards on behalf of the organization.

Finally, the VSB is seeking comment on a proposed legal ethics opinion 1902 pertaining to an attorney's duties when opposing counsel fails to review and correct outputs from generative artificial intelligence, as well as public comment on proposed amendments to Rule 1.14 of the VSB Rules of Professional Conduct regarding guidance on an attorney's obligations when a client has diminished capacity. If you are interested in commenting, please sign into the VSB website and use the drop-down menu under Rules and Regulations to read and/



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The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



John T. Jessee, Esq.

John T. Jessee recently joined The McCammon Group as a full-time Neutral, bringing with him more than forty-five years of experience as a litigator. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has tried nearly 150 cases including medical malpractice, personal injury and other civil matters throughout Virginia and West Virginia. An American Board of Trial Advocates certified trial attorney and former managing partner of a law firm in Roanoke, he offers deep insight and proven judgment to help resolve complex disputes efficiently. John is a member of the Virginia Bar Association's Boyd-Graves Conference, the Order of the Coif, and a Past President of the Ted Dalton American Inn of Court. He now brings his years of experience and dedication to The McCammon Group to serve the alternative dispute resolution needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

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GEORGE A. MCLEAN, JR.: 2026 FRANK W. "BO" ROGERS, JR. LIFE- TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECI- PIENT

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23rd Judicial Circuit.

Al is a Trustee and elder of Second Presbyterian Church. Before and after his retirement, he has been a frequent volunteer builder for Habitat for Humanity projects.

As noted from an earlier nomination by Ric Scott: **"Al was instrumental in advising numerous other solo attorneys as they developed their practices."**

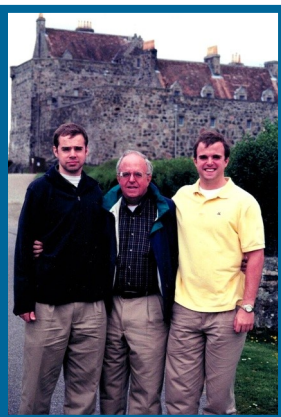
In yet another nomination, Steve Higgs noted that **"Al has long been a friend and professional colleague, but also served as a mentor to me when I was appointed to the Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee panel more than 10 years ago."**

From Lori Thompson, the "instigator" of our Santa at the Station program:

"Al McLean has been a dedicated volunteer at Santa at the Station for the past 20 years. Every December, whether rain, snow or ice, Al dons his Santa Hat and takes his position as "The Nugget Man." We have a lot of volunteers that make the event happen – but only one Nugget Man! It's a position that Al takes very seriously – guarding that Chick-fil-a tray and doling out 2-3 nuggets per person to ensure that every last guest at the event gets served. Al truly brings the Christmas spirit with him to the event every year and makes it special, not only for the deserving children and families who attend, but also for the other volunteers. Al is a pillar of the Bar, and Santa at the Station would not be the same event without him."



Al is a past President of the Roanoke Bar Association, the Historical Society of Western Virginia, the Roanoke Downtown Rotary Club, and a charter Fellow of The Roanoke Law Foundation. He remains active with the Roanoke Bar Association. He was an instrumental member of the History Committee, helping recover artifacts from storage, interviewing, being interviewed, and editing during the production of the video for the RBA's 100th anniversary.



VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: A CALL TO SERVICE

(Continued from page 2)

To be sure, some newly licensed attorneys are signing up to participate, and my colleagues and I greatly appreciate their willingness to do so. Perhaps they recognize that court appointed work provides the opportunity to develop trial skills and courtroom experience. Perhaps they enjoy the challenge and theater of trial work. Perhaps they value the opportunity to meet new colleagues and observe more seasoned attorneys practicing the art of advocacy in the courtroom. Perhaps they understand that while the compensation may never fully reflect the time and effort invested, the benefits of learning courtroom procedures, building professional relationships, appearing before judges, and developing a reputation for competent representation far outweigh the financial limitations. Perhaps, their firms are encouraging/permitting them to do so. Perhaps they simply recognize that both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia guarantee legal representation for indigent individuals charged with offenses that may result in incarceration.

Whatever their reasons, my colleagues and I are grateful for their service.

The Roanoke Valley is fortunate to have many outstanding attorneys who practice regularly in our district courts. Many have served faithfully on the court-appointed list for years. I recently asked David Damico why he continues to accept appointments after nearly fifty years of practice. Paraphrasing his response, he said that he still enjoys the work. He finds it interesting, challenging, and rarely boring.

If you are interested in being considered for the court-appointed list, please let me know. If you would like to discuss what participation entails, I would be happy to answer your questions. If you have recently stepped away from the appointment list, I would also welcome your feedback regarding whether court procedures or the appointment process influenced your decision.

The continued success of our criminal justice system depends upon the willingness of attorneys to answer this call to service. I hope more members of our Bar will consider doing so.

PROBONO CORNER

BY MONA A. RAZA, ESQ.

On June 22, the RBA offered a free 1.5 hour CLE for members, called Protective Orders 101. The webinar was presented by Susheel Varkey, Director of the Center for Family Advocacy, and Staff Attorney for Domestic and Sexual Violence at Virginia Poverty Law Center and Elizabeth Barbour, Senior Staff Attorney at Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley. The webinar was offered as incentive for attendees to join a pro bono list at LASRV where they could be staffed with a domestic violence protective order case and earn pro bono hours for the Virginia State Bar. If you were not able to attend the webinar, but are still interested in being on the list, please contact Mona Raza (mona@lasrv.org) and express your interest. A recording of the webinar can be made available.



Another pro bono training with free CLE, and an opportunity to volunteer at an expungement clinic is in the works for the fall. Stay tuned for information!

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JAMIE H. WOOD: 2026 YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

(Continued from page 3)

While in Richmond, Jamie worked as an event fundraiser for the American Cancer Society while preparing for the LSAT and applying to law school at the University of Richmond. Whether in the classroom, the nonprofit sector, or later in the legal profession, a desire to serve others remained a constant throughout her journey.

Alex is originally from Carroll County, and that family connection ultimately brought them back to Southwest Virginia, where they could build their careers while remaining close to family.

At the University of Richmond School of Law, Jamie served as the Annual Survey Editor for the Law Review and received the Charles T. Norman Award for Best All-Around Graduating Law Student. After graduating *summa cum laude* in 2021, she clerked for Judge Cullen here in the Western District.

Following her clerkship, Jamie joined Woods Rogers as an associate in the Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Health Law practice groups. Even as a relatively new attorney, she has distinguished herself through exceptional legal writing, thoughtful analysis, and a confident courtroom presence that belies her years of practice. Indeed, as her colleague Justin Lugar put it, “Jamie is a young lawyer who quietly and humbly uses her skills and expertise not just to earn a living, but to serve her clients, to do good, and to ensure the rule of law applies equally to all.”

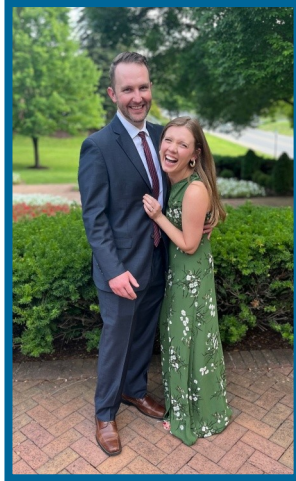
And Jamie’s colleague Mike Hastings had this to say about her skills: “Jamie is an outstanding writer and has a friendly, disarming personality, yet she is a staunch advocate for her clients. She is willing to and capable of diving deep into complex legal issues and presenting them in an effective and persuasive manner.”

Her colleagues admire not only her legal skills but also her ability to remain calm under pressure and treat everyone—even difficult or obnoxious opposing counsel—with professionalism, respect, and kindness.

In fact, while I am sure Jamie has the occasional bad day, you would never know it. She always seems to have a smile on her face and a positive attitude. As her colleague Mollie Elder recalled:

“In one case, there was an attorney from outside the Roanoke Valley who would raise his voice in an angry fashion and repeatedly tell Jamie that his client was right and her client was horrible. Jamie, on the other hand, remained calm and professional. She did not let the other attorney’s unpleasant demeanor rattle her and remained steadfast in obtaining a good result for her client. That is not easy for an attorney at any stage of practice, much less a young attorney.”

When she is not serving her clients, Jamie enjoys listening to audiobooks during her one-hour commute from Floyd,



VIRGINIA STATE BAR UPDATE

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or comment on the proposed ethic opinion or Rule change.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions.

Dan Frankl is Senior of Counsel at Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman, PC. and Kevin Holt is a partner at Gentry Locke.

2025 Volunteer Service Award Recipients

Diamond Level 500+ Hours

Roy Creasy

Jacob East

Henty Woodward

Gold Level 250+ Hours

Chris Dadak

John Eure

Bryce Hunter

Lee Osborne

Bronze Level 100+ Hours

David Beidler

David Cohan

Mollie Elder

Dan Frankl

David Garland

Alexandra Smith

Lori Thompson

Certificates of Recognition

50+ Hours

Kevin Holt

James Taylor

25+ Hours

Jennifer Baker

Vicki Francois

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**GEORGE A. MCLEAN, JR.: 2026
FRANK W. "BO" ROGERS, JR. LIFE-
TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

(Continued from page 6)

From Judge Wilson again:

"In 1974, I appeared in the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke on the other side of a case from Al. I don't remember anything about the case, but I do remember thinking he is thoughtful and courtly. Year by year it became ever so clear that he is much more than that. 52 years later I can say that he, like Bo, is the gold standard for competence, civility and engagement in the life of our community. Like Bo, Al is not simply a lawyer, he is a steward of our community.

"There is a common refrain from those who speak about Al which Don Wolthuis captures:

"There are a couple of character traits that are worthy of mention. The first is humility (not a given in our profession). Al's substantial talents and accomplishments go unheralded by him. The second is steadfastness, dependability. Whether professionally or with his family he was there. No drama just calm substance. That can't be taught in law school but can be appreciated in this man. A citizen, an attorney, a husband and a father."

I'm happy to salute Al McLean this year's recipient of the Bo Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award.



Mark Your Calendars!
September 8, 2026

**For the first Luncheon
of the 2026-2027 year.**

**JAMIE H. WOOD: 2026 YOUNG
LAWYER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT**

(Continued from page 7)

walking her dog, hiking, kayaking whenever she gets the chance, and taking advantage of the many outdoor opportunities our region has to offer. Given her upbringing, that probably comes as no surprise.

The Young Lawyer of the Year Award recognizes not only professional excellence, but also leadership, service, and meaningful contributions to the RBA and the larger community. Jamie embodies each of those qualities.

Since joining the RBA in 2022, Jamie has been an active and engaged member. As Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee, she has strengthened engagement among newer members by coordinating multiple "Courthouse Welcome" programs for both Virginia's 23rd Judicial Circuit and the Western District. She has also helped strengthen relationships between members of the bar and our judiciary by planning the Association's annual Bench Bar Conference for the past two years.

Jamie also played a key role in the RBA's 100th Anniversary celebration. As a member of the History Subcommittee, she helped create the video chronicling the Association's history through interviews with current and former members. She conducted interviews, helped develop the project, and drafted the script for the video's introduction. Through these efforts, she demonstrated leadership, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to the Association and its members.

Her service extends beyond the legal profession as well. Jamie currently serves on the Board of Feeding Southwest Virginia, helping advance the food bank's mission of reducing hunger and supporting vulnerable families throughout our region.

Jamie's journey—from national parks and small-town Texas, to teaching, fundraising, law school, and ultimately legal practice in Southwest Virginia—reflects a lifelong commitment to service, learning, and community. Those of us who know her have seen firsthand her dedication to her clients, her colleagues, our profession, the RBA, and the Roanoke community.

We are fortunate that her journey eventually led her to Roanoke and the RBA.

Please join me in congratulating the Roanoke Bar Association's 2026 Young Lawyer of the Year, Jamie Wood.

Justin Simmons is a principal at Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black.

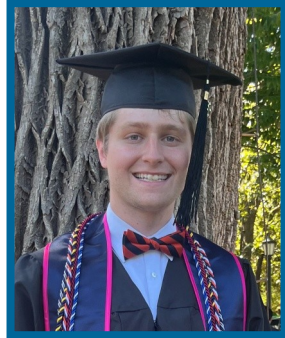


ROANOKE LAW FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS.

At the Annual Meeting, Amy Geddes, RLF Chairman, announced the 2026 scholarship recipients. Gabriella Stanley who will receive the Jane Glenn Scholarship and a James Kincaid Scholarship. Ms. Stanley will attend the William & Mary School of Law. The additional recipient of a James Kincaid scholarship was Nathan Snow who will continue at the University of Richmond School of Law.



Amy Geddes & Gabriella Stanley



Nathan Snow

Ms. Geddes also announced this year's grant recipients; the Local Office on Aging and the Rescue Mission.



Brett Marston passing the baton as he becomes past president of the VSB



Jon Puvak, Brett Marston & Roy Creasy accept Awards of Merit.

RBA RECEIVES THREE AWARDS OF MERIT FROM THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

CENTENNIAL HISTORY PROJECT: TO SHARE THE RBA HISTORY A VIDEO WAS CREATED, ALONG WITH A MOBILE DISPLAY, A NEW COMPOSITE AND A GALLERY OF MEMORABILIA. THE VIDEO INCLUDED PHOTOS AND THE RECORDED INTERVIEWS OF SELECTED MEMBERS.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: AS PART OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY, THE RBA ORGANIZED A YEAR-LONG SERIES OF EVENTS CELEBRATING THE RBA'S LONG HISTORY. THE GOALS WAS TO REINFORCE AND ENHANCE THE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS & THE COLLEGIALLY FOR WHICH OUR BAR IS KNOWN.

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT: FOUR ADDITIONAL PROJECTS WERE SELECTED AND FUNDED IN 2025-2026. THE PROJECTS WERE SELECTED IN HONOR OF OUR CURRENT LONG TIME AND ONGOING SERVICE PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDED THE BARRISTER BOOK BUDDIES, LEGAL FOOD FRENZY, SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO LACK FIXED, PERMANENT HOUSING, AND AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO LEGAL AID FOR THE PRINTING OF BROCHURES.

101ST ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 2026

On June 9, 2026, President Jon Puvak called the 101st Annual meeting to order. The meeting included a Memorial Resolution honoring Diana M. Perkinson, Esq., the announcement of scholarships and grants awarded by the RLF, the presentation of member awards, the elections of the 2026-2027 Board of Directors and the passing of the gavel.



Marilyn Hall accepts donation for RVPA.



Deborah Caldwell-Bono reads Memorial Resolution honoring Diana Perkinson.



Jon Puvak presenting the gavel to new president, Dinny Skaff.



Jon Puvak accepting the past president plaque

SUMMER SOCIAL 2026

On July 7, 2026, the Roanoke Bar Association and the Inn of Court co-hosted a Summer Social at Twisted Track Brew Pub. The event provided a delightful opportunity to mix and mingle while meeting many summer associates.



SHINE & DINE DINNER 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

Active Members

Jinsu Sohn, Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Roanoke Bar Association Meetings 2025 - 2026

September 9, 2025

October 14, 2025

November 11, 2025

December 9, 2025

January 13, 2026

February 10, 2026

March 10, 2026

April 14, 2026

May 1, 2026 (Law Day)

June 9, 2026

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

OFFICERS

Jonathan D. Puvak 989-9399
President

Victor S. "Dinny" Skaff, III 767-2217
President-Elect

Sarah C. Jessee 283-0134
Secretary-Treasurer

Amy H. Geddes 989-0000
Past President

Diane Higgs 342-4905
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer A. Baker 512-1806

David R. Berry 983-9396

Allegra M.C. Black 857-7111

Laura M. Carini 853-5332

Martha W. Elder 983-7535

Andrew S. Gerrish 725-3370

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!

Name: _____ Firm: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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

Email: rba@roanokebar.com