

THE

RICHMOND LAWYER



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RICHMOND BAR ASSOCIATION
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“ROOTED IN RICHMOND:
HOW A CITY AND ITS BAR
GREW TOGETHER”

“Lessons from
**Parenting
Lawyering**”
By Megan J. Holley

**THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF
THE CITY OF RICHMOND**

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Richmond Lawyer, published by the Richmond Bar Association (RBA), holds the primary goal of keeping RBA members informed about the latest happenings, events, and developments within the organization. *The Richmond Lawyer's* mission is to provide timely and relevant information that supports the professional and personal growth of our members.

The Richmond Lawyer welcomes submissions of articles concerning legal topics of interest to Richmond legal professionals. Criteria for publication include the article's quality, its substantive value, its interest to Richmond lawyers, and the originality of its subject matter. Submissions that relate to cases pending before any court or agency will not be accepted.

The Richmond Lawyer maintains editorial independence to ensure unbiased reporting and to avoid conflicts of interest, with editorial decisions made without undue influence from external parties or RBA leadership. It is important to note that opinions expressed in articles do not necessarily represent the explicit opinions of the RBA. The Richmond Bar does not provide legal advice. The Richmond Bar staff does not perform independent research on submitted articles.

Any errors will be corrected promptly and transparently, with corrections clearly marked and published in the subsequent issue. The publication is committed to protecting the privacy of its members, ensuring personal information is not shared without consent and used solely for publication purposes.

By adhering to this editorial policy, *The Richmond Lawyer* aims to provide a high-quality, informative, and engaging publication that serves the needs of the Richmond Bar Association community.

Readers are encouraged to provide feedback and contribute to the publication, with feedback directed to aholland@richmondbar.org. *The Richmond Lawyer* accepts advertisements relevant to the legal profession, with all advertisements adhering to our ethical standards and subject to approval and payment.

Full Editorial Policy & Calendar available upon request

Articles for submission, feedback, and other communications regarding *The Richmond Lawyer* should be sent to Annie M. Holland, Executive Director via email at aholland@richmondbar.org or by mail sent to P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, Virginia, 23218.

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in 1898, the RBA had already established a
legacy of its own.**



The Richmond Bar Association. A Richmond tradition since 1885.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 05** **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 06** **SHARE THE NEWS**

- 12** **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- 13** **SECTION UPDATES**

- 14** **2025 AWARD RECIPIENT FEATURES**

- 20** **“LESSONS FROM ~~PARENTING~~ LAWYERING”**
By Megan J. Holley

- 24** **LAW FIRM SPOTLIGHT**
ThompsonMcMullan

- 26** **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**
Rodney M. Poole

- 30** **“ROOTED IN RICHMOND:**
How a City and It’s Bar Grew Together”

RBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 3rd | Executive Committee Meeting | 12:30 PM | Zoom
- 4th | RBA Office Closed
- 6th | Family Law Section Coffee Meet Up | 8:00 AM | Coco + Hazel
- 6th | Board of Directors Meeting | 12:30 PM | Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 10th | Pro Bono Committee Meeting | 12:30 PM | Troutman Pepper Locke
- 11th | RBA Office Closed
- 13th | RBA Awards Luncheon | 12:30 PM | Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
- 18th | Corporate Counsel Section Happy Hour & Trivia | 6:30 PM | The Brass Tap
- 19th | Sponsors Committee Meeting | 12:30 PM | Zoom
- 20th | Programs Committee Meeting | 12:30 PM | Zoom
- 20th | Senior Lawyers Section CLE & Social "Elder Fraud" | 4:00 PM | Williams Mullen
- 26th | RBA Office Closed for Half-Day
- 27th | RBA Office Closed
- 28th | RBA Office Closed

DECEMBER

- 1st | Executive Committee Meeting | 12:30 PM | Zoom
- 3rd | Membership Committee Meeting | 12:30 PM | Zoom
- 4th | Board of Directors Meeting | 12:30 PM | Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 10th | Holiday Cocktail Party | 6:00 PM | Science Museum of Virginia
- 16th | Bankruptcy Section Holiday Party | 5:00 PM | McGuireWoods

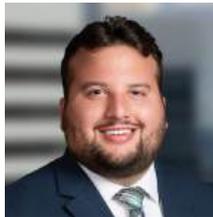
IN THE NEWS

If you've recently landed a new job or promotion, share the good news with the Richmond Bar. Include your full name, your company's name and location, your new title and your areas of concentration in your email. Announcements can be e-mailed to aholland@richmondbar.org or mailed to Annie Holland, at P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218.



Megan J. Holley has joined **Christian & Barton, L.L.P.** as an associate in the commercial real estate and business law departments. She holds degrees from William & Mary Law School and the University of Virginia.

Joseph J. Marino has joined **Christian & Barton, L.L.P.** as a litigation associate. Prior to joining the firm he was a judicial law clerk to the Hon. William E. Glover and the Hon. Ricardo Rigual in Spotsylvania Circuit Court. He holds degrees from the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University at Buffalo-SUNY.



Miles & Stockbridge is pleased to announce that veteran commercial real estate finance lawyer **Matt Murcko** joined the firm's Richmond office as a principal.

Emily Bittner and **Phoebe Brannock** also have joined as counsel and associate to support growth in the firm's real estate and environmental practices, reflecting a continuing commitment to meeting client needs in the growing Richmond market.



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THE RBA PURPOSE

The purposes of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond are to:

- cultivate and advance the cause of jurisprudence;
- to facilitate and improve the administration of justice;
- to promote the delivery of legal services to the entire community;
- to promote an increased understanding by the public of the legal system and respect for the law;
- to inculcate and enhance the highest standards of ethical conduct, integrity, dignity and honor;
- to continue the legal education of its members; and
- to encourage courtesy among all members of the legal profession, including Bench and Bar.

OPENING STATEMENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jennifer J. West



Fall is always one of the busiest and most energizing times of the year for the Richmond Bar Association. In just a few short months, we've hosted our annual Golf Tournament, gathered the bench and bar for another successful Bench-Bar Conference, and seen a full slate of Section programs and socials take shape across the city. Each of these events reflects what makes the RBA so special: members who show up, who connect, and who continue to invest in the strength of our profession and one another.

As we turn the calendar to November, our focus shifts from the fast pace of fall to a season of reflection and celebration. This issue of *The Richmond Lawyer* honors two enduring pillars of the RBA- our award recipients and our rich history.

On November 13, we will gather for the annual Awards Luncheon to recognize members who exemplify the best of our profession through leadership, service, and integrity. Their work often happens quietly, outside the spotlight, yet its impact is far-reaching. Through mentorship, community service, and excellence in advocacy, these individuals remind us that the practice of law is not simply a career, it is a responsibility to use our knowledge and position for the greater good. I hope you will join us at the luncheon to celebrate their achievements. You can register now through the RBA website.

The practice of law is not simply a career, it is a responsibility to use our knowledge and position for the greater good.

As we honor today's leaders, we also take time to appreciate those who came before us. This issue explores the RBA's long and distinguished history (one that stretches back to 1885). For 140 years, the Association has been a constant presence in Richmond's legal landscape, evolving as our community and our profession have changed. From our earliest presidents and founding members to the creation of our Sections and committees, each generation has strengthened the foundation upon which we now stand.

Looking back reminds us how intentional this progress has been. The RBA's commitment to collegiality, professionalism, and service did not happen by accident. It was built deliberately, through the collective effort of members who believed that an engaged bar could elevate both the practice of law and the administration of justice. Today, as we host events, celebrate our community, and welcome new members to the fold, we continue that same tradition of purpose-driven leadership.

The history of this Association is, at its core, a story of people. People who saw the law not just as a means to an end, but as a way to strengthen the fabric of civic life in Richmond. Our award recipients carry that legacy forward, demonstrating that excellence and service remain the hallmarks of this profession.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Awards Luncheon as we celebrate our honorees and the remarkable history that connects us all. Together, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and continue shaping the future of the Richmond Bar Association.

-Jennifer J. West

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Annie M. Holland

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Boise, Idaho, and attend a NABE (National Association of Bar Executives) conference. Each time, I come home feeling two things at once: deeply inspired and a little humbled. Inspired, because I get to hear how bar associations across the country are innovating, evolving, and finding new ways to serve their members. Humbled, because those same conversations remind me that the challenges we face here in Richmond are not ours alone, but they're shared by bars large and small, urban and rural, statewide and local.

We talk often at NABE about engagement- how to reach younger attorneys, how to bring members back in person after years of virtual events, how to communicate value in a world full of constant noise. Sound familiar? It should. The Richmond Bar is not immune to these shifts. Like many associations, we've seen attendance ebb and flow, interest patterns change, and expectations for how people want to connect evolve dramatically.

Yet, every time I describe what we do have, the caliber of our programs, the quality of our Bench-Bar Conference, the commitment of our Sections, and the depth of our history, I'm reminded that the RBA's foundation is remarkably strong. We are not starting from scratch but building on a legacy 140 years in the making.

At NABE, I heard stories from bar professionals who are reinventing how they engage members: creating micro-volunteer opportunities, pairing mentorship with networking, and reimagining what "value" means in a busy professional world. Those ideas resonated deeply. They reminded me that the RBA's next chapter will depend on balancing tradition with innovation and honoring what's worked while being bold enough to try something new.

I truly feel as though our members value the opportunities to connect that the RBA provides. They still want to learn, grow, and be part of something larger than themselves. But they need that connection to feel personal, purposeful, and worth their time. The RBA can deliver that (and already does!) when we create spaces where people feel seen, valued, and part of the conversation.



The Richmond Bar Association is extraordinary not because of its structure or size, but because of its people.

It also reminds me that "modernizing" an association doesn't mean reinventing it. Rather, it means reinforcing what already works and finding smart, strategic ways to enhance it. We can adopt new technology, streamline communications, and expand our reach without ever losing the personal touch that makes this Bar feel like home.

As we celebrate our award recipients and our proud history this month, I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on the same truth I rediscovered at NABE: the Richmond Bar Association is extraordinary not because of its structure or size, but because of its people.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Awards Luncheon on November 13, as we celebrate the members who make the Richmond Bar Association what it is, and what it will continue to become.

- Annie M. Holland

NEED TO MAKE A REFERRAL? WE'VE GOT A DIRECTORY FOR THAT



The RBA's online Member Directory is your go-to tool for trusted referrals.

Easily search by name, firm, or area of practice and connect your clients with colleagues you know and trust.

Available anytime at www.richmondbar.org — just log in to your member portal and click “Member Directory.”

2025 BENCH-BAR



CONFERENCE



Administration of Justice Committee

The AOJ Committee is currently interviewing Chief Justices! Write-ups of these interviews will be available in The Richmond Lawyer and online beginning in January 2026.

Awards & Honors Committee

The Awards & Honors Committee is looking forward to celebrating 2025 Award recipients at this years Awards Luncheon on November 13th at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Register today, you don't want to miss this!

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is reaching out to those members who have not yet renewed their 2025-2026 bar year dues. The Committee encourages members to engage with your colleagues and invite them to join the RBA.

Programs Committee

The Programs Committee is continuing to brainstorm programming, venues, and speakers that would be engaging and valuable to our members. They hope to see you all at events soon!

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is hard at work sourcing and creating valuable content for The Richmond Lawyer.

Continuing Legal Education Committee

CLE season is officially over for 2025, and the RBA is pleased to announce that over 250 Richmond Bar members have taken advantage of our CLE programs this year. Thank you to all of our speakers and moderators!

Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee is excited to host more events, including the annual housing law training on December 2nd. The committee remains dedicated to spreading the word on pro bono opportunities and upcoming events.

Sponsors Committee

The Sponsors Committee is thankful for the Annual and individual event sponsors that they have worked with so far this bar year! The committee hopes to recruit more sponsors in 2026.



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BANKRUPTCY SECTION

The Bankruptcy Section hosted a virtual CLE on October 28th titled “Chat GPT: Can It Help or Hurt You?” which was attended by 45 section members. Stay tuned for more events coming soon!

CORPORATE COUNSEL SECTION

The Corporate Counsel Section held a fall CLE & social with the Business Law Section on October 29th!

FAMILY LAW SECTION

The Family Law Section is gearing up to host an informal coffee meet-up on November 6th at 8:00AM at Coco + Hazel.

REAL ESTATE SECTION

The Executive Committee of the Real Estate Section has met and has a variety of events in various planning stages for the bar year.

This summary of Section activities is certainly not exhaustive. Our Sections are always in the middle of planning their next meeting, social, CLE, or annual events! Keep an eye on your inbox for emails as these events are finalized.

Want to get involved in a certain RBA Section? Email the RBA office to get started!

BUSINESS LAW SECTION

The Business Law Section held a CLE & Social with the Corporate Counsel Section on October 29th at Williams Mullen with great turnout!

ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY SECTION

The Environmental & Energy Section held a social with the Virginia State Bar Environmental Section at CommonHouse. Thanks to all who attended!

LITIGATION SECTION

The Litigation Section held a social at CommonHouse on October 29th and is looking forward to more programming throughout the year!

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION

The Senior Lawyers Section is finalizing details of a November CLE on Elder Fraud, more details will be available soon.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

The Young Lawyer Section had an incredible turnout for their fall kickoff social at Cirrus Vodka. They are looking forward to the rest of the bar year!



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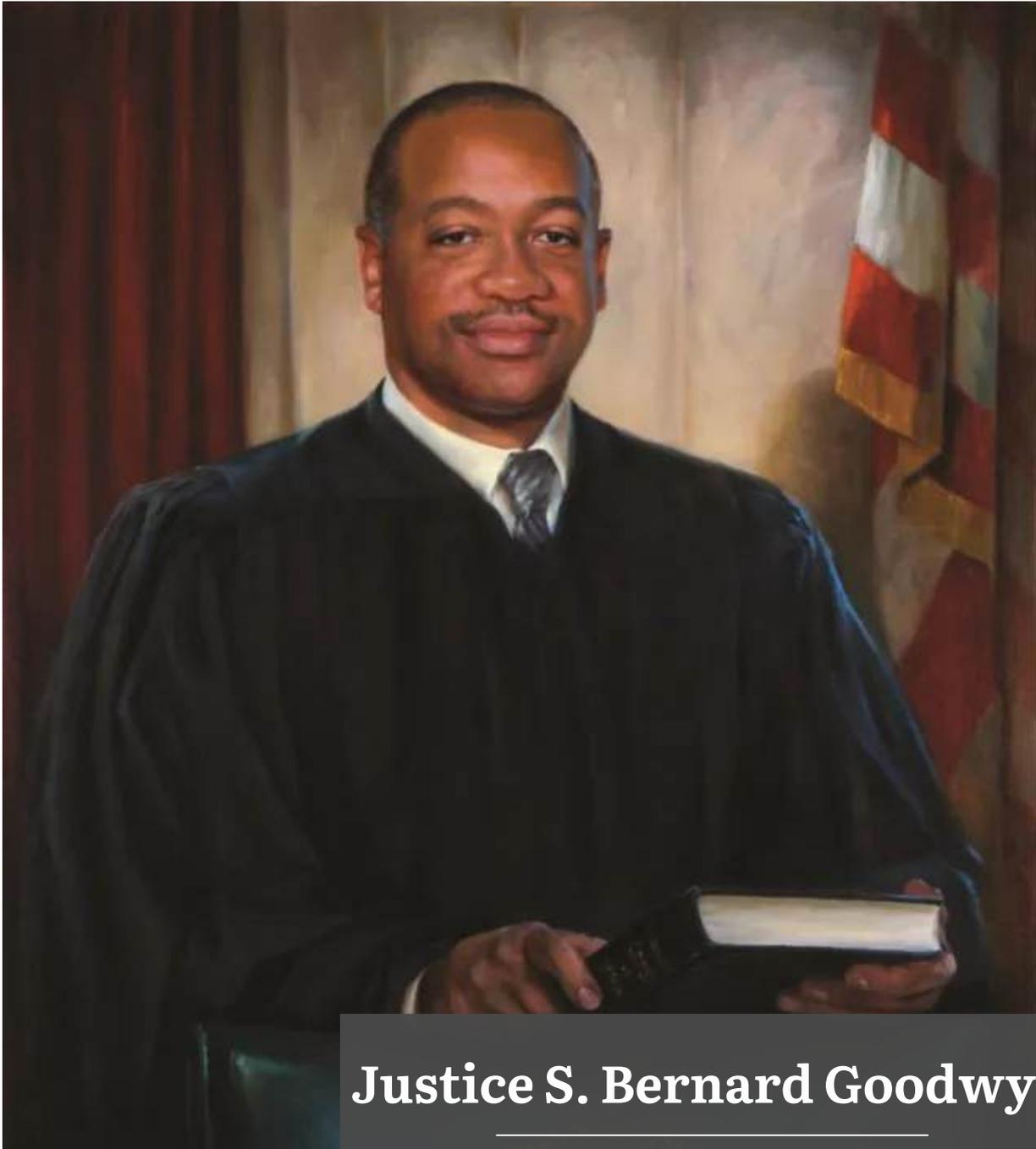
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2025 RICHMOND BAR ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

CELEBRATE THE AWARD WINNERS WITH THE RBA AT THE
AWARDS LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 12:30 PM | LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDENS



Justice S. Bernard Goodwyn

HILL-TUCKER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Chief Justice S. Bernard Goodwyn has long championed public service, equal access to justice, and judicial integrity. Rising from private practice and the bench in Chesapeake to the Virginia Supreme Court (appointed in 2007) and then chief justice (2022), he's served with humility, fairness, and dedication. He has co-chaired the Virginia Access to Justice Commission, sits on the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices, and has been honored with the Virginia Bar Association's Gerald L. Baliles Distinguished Service Award for his broad contributions to the legal community.



Amanda H. Bird-Johnson

2025 YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Amanda Bird-Johnson has quickly distinguished herself as a leader in both the profession and the community. At Williams Mullen, she has served as Co-Chair of the RBA's Bench-Bar Conference, contributed to the CLE and Communications Committees, and chaired the Virginia Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division National Moot Court Committee. Recognized as one of "Richmond's Finest" and named among Virginia Lawyers Weekly's "Up and Coming Lawyers," Amanda has also made an impact through pro bono advocacy and service on the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Board. Her dedication, leadership, and outstanding advocacy have earned her the respect of her peers and the broader legal community.



Jack W. "JB" Burtch, Jr.

HUNTER W. MARTIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

With more than fifty years of practice, JB Burtch has exemplified the highest standards of civility, integrity, and mentorship in the Richmond legal community. Admired for his even temperament, generosity of spirit, and commitment to mentoring new lawyers, JB has consistently modeled the principles of professionalism both in and beyond the courtroom. His recent book, *Raising the Bar: The Mentoring Guidebook for New Lawyers*, further cements his legacy as a guide and inspiration for generations of attorneys.

Lisa A. Bennett

JOHN C. KENNY PRO BONO AWARD



Lisa Bennett, Managing Director of Pro Bono & Triage at the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, has devoted her career to expanding access to justice for underserved communities. She played a key role in launching an expungement clinic model to help clients clear records and improve housing opportunities, and she manages the Richmond Triage program connecting individuals with urgent legal needs to pro bono attorneys. In addition to training and recruiting volunteer lawyers, Lisa personally handles pro bono cases, particularly in the complex area of no-fault divorce. Her leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment have strengthened pro bono efforts across the region and made a lasting impact on the Greater Richmond community.

50-Year Award Recipients

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WILL BE CELEBRATED FOR 50-YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE BAR.

HUGH T. ANTRIM
C. MICHAEL DECAMPS
CHRISTOPHER HABENICHT
VIRGINIA MCGEHEE
JOSEPH RAPISARDA
STUART A. SIMON
R. LEONARD VANCE

University of Richmond Scholarship Recipients

THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS
AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE RBA YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

RAINNI CRUTCHFIELD
JESSICA DEUTSCH
E. WYATT JONES
JULIA SLATER

Lessons from Parenting Lawyering

BECAUSE SOMETIMES THE TOUGHEST NEGOTIATIONS HAPPEN AT THE DINNER TABLE.

BY MEGAN HOLLEY | CHRISTIAN & BARTON

Six years ago this November I took on my toughest client yet. She takes up more of my time than the rest of my clients combined. She has never once paid her bills. She has no respect for my personal life, demanding my attention constantly on nights and weekends. And nothing I do is ever right. In fact, she once asked me to cut up her sandwich, then cried because her sandwich was cut up. Another time she threw a fit of epic proportions because I wouldn't let her eat the "apple" I was cutting up. It was a raw onion. I finally gave in on that one. Then I watched her insist she was enjoying the slice of raw onion she was eating as tears rolled down her cheeks.

I'm talking about my daughter, of course. And while she might be my toughest client, I love her enough that I agreed to take on her associate a few years ago. So far that's going fairly well, though I still haven't seen a dime from either of them despite substantial expenses on my end.

One thing I have learned is that a lot of lessons work just as well in parenting as in lawyering. Here are a few of my favorites:

1. Keep your mouth shut.

Recently Elle (daughter number one) asked me if "the black people are bad?" I immediately jumped on my soap box. "We talk about this all the time," I insisted, "all skin tones are equally good and equally beautiful."

She meant the people in her book wearing all black. Because they were robbers.

I should have known better. This is far from the first time I have over-explained something to a small child. With children, as with clients or opposing counsel, more explanation often means more questions. The more information you provide, the more ammunition you give your opponent. As lawyers we train our brains to always think five steps ahead. It's how we protect our client's interests when drafting a contract or estate plan. It's how we preserve evidence and strategize on the spot in trial. It can be instinct to let your mouth run ahead along with your brain. Don't let it.



It is almost never necessary to respond immediately. It will never hurt you to stop and think a few seconds before you speak. One of the most important lessons I learned as a young attorney is how to handle a question from a client when you don't know the answer. Too often, especially when an attorney is just starting out, they worry they will lose credibility with a client if they admit they don't actually know everything there is to know about the law.



Do you know what actually loses credibility with clients more than any other mistake? Confidently giving them an answer and then having to come back later and tell them you were wrong.

So what do you say when you don't know what to say? "I'm not actually sure about that. Let me check on it and get back to you." That one sentence will save you infinite headaches down the line.

Similarly, the best strategy in a negotiation, deposition or cross examination is almost always to say as little as possible.

So stop, breathe, and stay less. Does your kid want to know where babies come from? The hospital.

Kids, like opposing counsel, are surprisingly willing to accept a shorter explanation. Don't panic. Let them be the one to ask for more.

2. Be sure you understand what they actually want from you.

Most daycares use sign language to communicate with their youngest children before they learn to talk. It's quite effective, and the little ones pick up on it quickly. My husband and I were thrilled to finally be able to communicate with our baby. We responded enthusiastically to her mealtime requests. This was all great until one night at dinner with my family. I happily rushed to clear my daughter's plate as soon as she signed. My little sister, an elementary school teacher, stared at me, open mouthed. "Why are you taking her plate away?!" she asked, somewhat horrified.

"Oh!" I announced proudly, "Elle can sign now! She told me she is all done!"

"I can see that," my sister responded. "But she did not say she was all done. She asked for more."

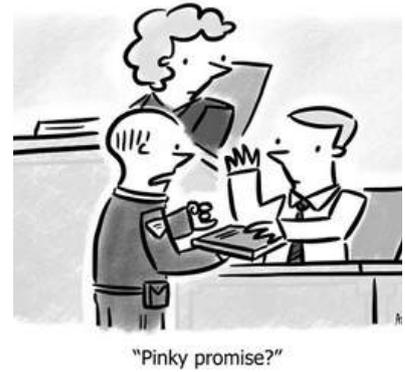
My husband and I had mixed up the signs for "more" and "all done." We had been inadvertently snatching food away from our hungry child for months.

Similarly, just this week I began drafting a land swap agreement for a client. There was a time crunch, so I had begun drafting before we had the final details on the deal. The client had been referring to the need for this "land swap" for months. It had been a lot of work, but everything was on track. Until I got the details. It was not a land swap. Not at all.

Even the most sophisticated clients are often about as fluent in legal speak as I am in sign language. If I had thought to dig into at least the basic structure of the deal before getting started, I could have saved myself a lot of time.

3. Under promise, over deliver.

My five-year-old can't remember where she left her water bottle to save her life. She has actually managed to lose a total of five of them in the past two months alone. Kindergarten can be a pretty distracting place, I suppose. But one time this past summer she saw a Kinder egg in the check out line at the grocery store and I guess I vaguely suggested we could get one another time. You better believe that child never forgets to ask for "that chocolate egg we saw" every single time we've been in a grocery store since.



“So what do you say when you don't know what to say? *“I'm not actually sure about that. Let me check on it and get back to you.”*”

Early on in my parenting career I was wild with my promises, doling them out like Oprah on one of her famous give away shows. “Look under your seat! You get an extra bedtime story, and YOU get an extra bedtime story!” The only thing I promise now is to love them forever, though this is not something I recommend promising to your clients. No matter how confident you are about a playdate at the park with their best friend, things happen. Sunny days turn unexpectedly rainy. Little brothers get sick.

Like children, clients will remember what you promise them. Theirs may not be your only case, but you are probably their only attorney. Their case is central in their mind, even if it isn't in yours. You will be tempted to promise them anything you can in order to win their business. Be careful. Thrill them with your performance, not your promises.

4. We don't negotiate with terrorists.

My husband and I say this all the time. Absolutely critical with both toddlers and big-headed opposing counsel.

5. Enjoy the war stories.

I used to think I had some wild stories from my college years. Then I litigated. Then I had kids. They really do say the darndest things (I'll let you decide who that refers to).



Megan Jessee Holley
Associate, Christian & Barton

Megan Jessee Holley is an associate at Christian & Barton, LLP practicing Commercial Real Estate and Corporate Law. She is a Richmond native who attended the University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary School of Law. She would like to thank her husband, Ben, without whose equal partnership she would never have had the time to take on the clients that actually pay their bills.



All photos shared in this article are shared with the permission of the author (and mother of the children). Professional photographs included were taken by Jacqueline Aimee of [Jacqueline Aimee Portraits](#).

MEET ME at the RICHMOND BAR



MOCKTAIL OF THE MONTH



Fall Sunrise

- 1 oz. Cranberry Juice
- 1.5 oz. Apple Cider
- 4 oz. Cran-Apple Sparkling Water
- 1 oz. Orange Juice

- 1** Combine apple cider, cranberry juice, orange juice, and a handful of ice & shake.
- 2** Fill a glass with fresh ice.
- 3** Strain contents of shaker over the fresh ice.
- 4** Top with 4 oz. cran-apple sparkling water.



EEL Section Social



Young Lawyers Social



Young Lawyers Social



Young Lawyers Social

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THE FIRM STORY

John Thompson and Grice McMullan started what is now Thompson McMullan in a small office in 1973. John was a litigator, Grice a business lawyer, and they were soon joined by Hugh Antrim and Chris Malone, who each served as president of the firm at different times. From the beginning, the founding members focused on building a strong firm that could help solve their clients' business needs and legal issues with an emphasis on client service and the highest quality legal work.

THE MISSION OF THE FIRM →

Our mission is to deliver the highest quality legal services for our clients and provide a welcoming and nourishing place to work for our employees. We anchor our work and lives with our firm's six Core Values: Dignity, Community, Honor, Civility, Teamwork, and Passion. These values have come to define Thompson McMullan as a respected and trusted law firm dedicated to doing things the right way as lawyers but also for our families, colleagues, and the community in which we work. We never lose sight of our twin obligations to serve our clients and respect our employees who make that service possible.

WORKPLACE CULTURE

Thompson McMullan prioritizes its employees and its clients. Firm leadership understands the need for work/life balance and the ways in which investing in our families and community make for better lawyers and better people. Staff and attorneys are given responsibility and ownership of their workload, and our young lawyers learn fast by quickly gaining client and courtroom experience and primary duties on sophisticated legal matters.

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The people and the variety of work. We genuinely enjoy each other and enjoy working together, whether that means strategizing on a difficult legal problem, debating the finer rules of English grammar, or sharing the success of someone's children. We have an open-door policy and both partners and associates take mentoring, guidance, and leadership seriously. We have a broad practice at our firm, and the variety of work—even within practice groups—makes working here exciting and intellectually stimulating.

27

**RICHMOND
ATTORNEYS**

24

**RBA
MEMBERS**

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Hon. Tracy C. Hudson (Ret.)

Former Chief Judge, 31st Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Prince William County

The Honorable Tracy C. Hudson recently retired after thirteen years of distinguished service for Prince William County. Judge Hudson served ten years on the Circuit Court, including one term as Chief Judge, following three years on the General District Court. Prior to his judicial service, he enjoyed a successful private practice focusing on civil litigation with an emphasis on family law, personal injury, wrongful death, product manufacturing and design liability, premises liability, construction defects, and automobile tort liability. He also served as a Commissioner in Chancery for Prince William County. Judge Hudson is a Past President of the Prince William County Bar Association and Founding Director of the Prince William Bar Foundation. He now brings this record of dedication and accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the alternative dispute resolution needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.



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The Richmond Bar
Association

PRO BONO BULLETIN

The Central Virginia legal community's guide to Pro Bono opportunities throughout the area.

This bulletin is made possible by the RBA Pro Bono Committee & the following Pro Bono Partners:

[Central Virginia Legal Aid Society](#)

[Legal Aid Justice Center](#)

[Greater Richmond Bar Foundation](#)

[University of Richmond School of Law](#)

[Virginia Poverty Law Center](#)

Virginia Free Legal Answers - American Bar Association

Who: Attorneys **When:** Any time **Where:** Virtual

ABA Free Legal Answers is a project of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. The purpose of the website is to increase access to advice and information about non-criminal legal matters for those who cannot afford it. Attorneys eligible under certain criteria will be authorized to use the system and to respond to user's requests. You will only answer questions you choose to answer.

The Triage Project - Central VA Legal Aid Society & Greater Richmond Bar Foundation

Who: Attorneys **When:** Varies **Where:** Case dependent

This innovative Private Bar led pro bono project identifies "Triage Champions" in critical substantive law areas where CVLAS lacked the resources to provide full representation. These Triage Champions recruit and train like-minded pro bono volunteers to join their virtual law firms in their respective practice areas. Cases are managed on JusticeServer – a volunteer portal.

If you would like to volunteer for one of our Triage practice areas, please contact Lisa Bennett, CVLAS Triage Coordinator, at lisa@cvlas.org or Vera Thoms at admin@grbf.org.

Community Tax Law Project

Who: Attorneys, Accountants, Enrolled Agents **When:** Ongoing **Where:** Virtual

CTLP handles approximately 800 represented and brief advice cases each year. We have a critical need for volunteers to assist with our very large caseload. If you are interested in becoming a member of CTLP's Pro Bono Panel, please take a moment to complete the attached Pro Bono Survey for [attorneys](#) or [accountants and enrolled agents](#). For more information, please call (804) 358-5855 or email info@ctlp.org.

CancerLINC

Who: Attorneys **When:** Varies **Where:** Varies

CancerLINC is a local non-profit that LINC's cancer patients and their families to legal resources to solve the non-medical obstacles that arise with a cancer diagnosis. Common legal issues include: wills, trusts, uncontested guardianship & custody, public benefits denials, employment, housing & landlord/tenant issues, and bankruptcy.

Pro Bono Housing Unit - Legal Aid Justice Center

Who: Attorneys **When:** Varies **Where:** Virtual

As a volunteer for the LAJC Pro Bono Housing Unit, you will provide remote legal advice to low-income Richmond tenants at risk of eviction. LAJC provides trainings, sample pleadings, and manuals for volunteers. For more information, email Lauren King, Esq. at laurenking@justice4all.org.

Looking for more Pro Bono opportunities? Check out JusticeServer.org.

JusticeServer is a tool that enables attorneys to easily volunteer their time for pro bono cases from one or more legal services providers. And more importantly, it allows them to connect with clients in need of their legal expertise where they can have the greatest impact.

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ROOTED IN RICHMOND

HOW A CITY AND ITS BAR GREW TOGETHER





“The spirit of the City and its commercial, social, and cultural objectives and activities provided a very comfortable environment—even a sense of necessity—for a formal organization of lawyers.”

-THE TALE OF THE CENTURY (1985)

Rooted in Richmond: How a City and its Bar Grew Together

To understand the Richmond Bar Association is, in many ways, to understand the city of Richmond itself. Both were built on history and resilience. Both have constantly evolved- adapting, growing, and paving the way for those who came after.

Founded in 1885, the Richmond Bar Association came to life during a period when the city was still finding its footing after the upheaval of Reconstruction. Richmond was rebuilding its economy, its infrastructure, and its civic identity. Amid that momentum, a small group of attorneys recognized the need for something more lasting than the day's court dockets: a professional home that would uphold the integrity of the legal community and create fellowship among those who practiced within it.



Richmond Skyline
1931

In those earliest days, the RBA's members did not gather in grand halls, but in the spirit of shared purpose. They debated ethics, supported judicial reforms, and championed the improvement of Virginia's legal system. While Richmond's skyline was transforming, the Association was building something equally enduring.

"On the evening of October 29, 1885, a well-attended organizational meeting was held in the Circuit Courtroom. Oddly enough, the Circuit Courtroom was located on the second floor of 1007 East Main Street, over the Owens & Minor Drug Store and opposite the United States Customs House."

-The Tale of the Century, 1985

A Bar Grows with Its City

As the twentieth century unfolded, so too did the RBA's reach and impact. Richmond was expanding outward- neighborhoods growing, industries booming, and a new sense of civic leadership taking hold. The Bar mirrored that growth. What began as a gathering of local attorneys evolved into a network of legal leaders influencing the very direction of the city they served.

By the 1940s and 1950s, as Richmond navigated social and political change, the RBA became a forum for dialogue and professionalism. The bench and bar came together to strengthen the practice of law and, in doing so, to strengthen community trust in the legal profession itself.

The latter half of the century brought pivotal "firsts." The first female member, Elizabeth N. Tompkins, joined the Association in 1932, followed later by the first African American member, Herman T. Benn, in 1966. Both were moments that reflected the city's own slow but meaningful steps toward inclusion. The RBA's sections began to take shape, reflecting the growing diversity of practice areas in Richmond's legal community. What was once a single unified body of general practitioners had become a multifaceted organization, with the Real Estate, Bankruptcy, and Corporate Counsel Sections becoming the first to be formally codified into the Association's bylaws.

Preserving Tradition While Embracing Change

By the early 2000s, Richmond had become a city of contrast -- historic yet modern, steeped in tradition but always eager for progress. The Bar Association, too, found itself balancing legacy and innovation. Longstanding traditions like the Bench-Bar Conference and the Law Day Luncheon continued to anchor the year, while new technologies reshaped communication and community building.

When the pandemic arrived decades later, the RBA (like the city around it) adapted quickly. Meetings moved online. Events found new formats. Through it all, the sense of connection among members never wavered. In many ways, it strengthened.

Today, that same adaptability defines the Association's modern chapter. The launch of a redesigned website, the modernization of *The Richmond Lawyer*, and the creation of new committees and sections all reflect a continued commitment to relevance in a changing world. Yet at its core, the RBA remains what it has always been: a gathering place for those who believe in service, ethics, and the power of community in the legal profession. As one current member puts it, "[The Richmond Bar Association] is, in many ways, an organizing feature of practicing law here in Richmond."

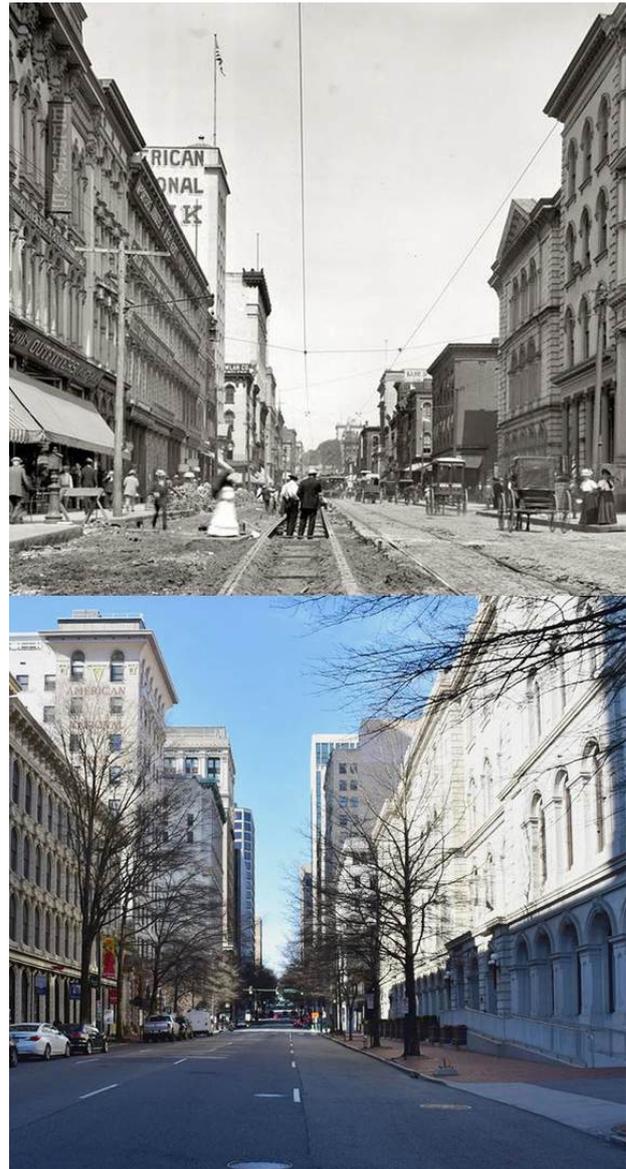
A Shared Legacy

Across the decades, the story of the Richmond Bar Association has never been separate from the story of Richmond—it has *been* the story of Richmond. Members have filled the city's courtrooms, guided its institutions, and shaped its civic life. They've served as judges, mentors, advocates, and neighbors.

"Richmond, a town where traditions do die hard, has changed. The Association has changed too. In some respects, it bears little resemblance to the organization founded in the makeshift courtroom above the drug store a century ago. It has grown in size and complexity. It plays a different role in the professional and social lives of its members. Judge Christian [first President] and Major Carrington [second President] would be amazed."

-The Tale of the Century, 1985

As the city continues to evolve, the Bar stands as a bridge between past and present. Honoring the legacy of those who came before while guiding the next generation of lawyers who will define what comes next.



After all, Richmond's strength has always been in its people, and the Richmond Bar Association, for 140 years and counting, has been where those people come together.

Learn More

The excerpts in this article are drawn from *The Tale of the Century: The Richmond Bar Association, 1885-1985*, written by John O. Peters, who served as the first official Executive Director of the Richmond Bar Association from January 1988 until Lee Martin's appointment in 1996. Peters, an attorney by practice and a member of the RBA from 1964 to 1997, was also an accomplished author. More information about his work can be found [here](#).

A digital copy of *The Tale of the Century* is available online at [this link](#).

To explore additional milestones and historical highlights, visit the **new** RBA History webpage at <https://richmondbar.org/history>.

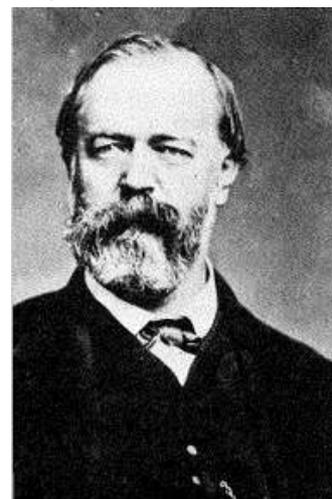


Early in 1886, the Association leased a suite of rooms in the Merchants National Bank Building, 1101 East Main Street.

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Edward H. Fitzhugh, First President of the Association (1885)



Isaac H. Carrington, Second President of the Association (1886)

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