Roanoke Bar Association

ROANOKE BAR ASSOCIATION

ROANOKE BAR REVIEW

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INTERVIEW WITH JUDGE TURK

BY LINDA L. GUSTAD

Senior United States District Court Judge James C. Turk celebrated thirty-five years on the federal bench in October 2007. Nominated for the position by President Richard M. Nixon, Turk was confirmed by the United States Senate on October 12, 1972, and received his commission to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia on October 17. Judge Turk sat down recently to talk with Linda Gustad about how it all began.

"I did not seek the position [as federal trial court judge]. That's not the way it worked back then," Turk ex-

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VIEW FROM THE BENCH -- A FEW THOUGHTS ON SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

BY MICHAEL F. URBANSKI[1]

When I left the private practice of law a few years ago and began my new job as Magistrate Judge, I knew that conducting settlement conferences or mediations would be an important part of my responsibilities, but I have been amazed by both the volume of such proceedings and by the challenge they present.

Although I practiced law in Roanoke for twenty years before moving back to federal court, I had not had any experience

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plained. In the fall of 1972, the late H. Emory Widener, Jr., who was then Chief Judge of the Western District, was nominated to fill a vacancy on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Republican leaders in Virginia then put Turk's name forward as candidate for the resulting vacancy on the district court bench.

Even after President Nixon called Turk and offered him the judgeship, Turk wondered if he should accept it. "I liked what I was doing. I enjoyed my work in the state senate, and I liked the practice of law and my law partners."

Turk had started work at the law firm of Dalton and Poff in Radford in the summer of 1952, fresh out of law school. "I was supposed to start in July, but Ted [Dalton] asked me to start in mid-June so I could stay at his house and take care of his bird dogs while he [Dalton] was at the Republican Convention in Chicago." With Richard Poff also out of town campaigning for Congress, Turk and Ted Dalton's secretary, Neal Campbell, were the only people in the office that morning he first reported for work. "I often told Neal that she taught me as much about law that summer as I ever learned at law school," Turk said. The firm handled everything, from real estate closings to insurance claims to criminal defense appointments. A case would come in, and Neal would find a similar case the firm had handled in the past for Turk to model pleadings on for the new case. "I didn't know how to do a title search. Neal taught me. That summer, I remember, I even defended a rape case. I was scared to death. I don't know how I survived, but I did." In the twenty years of law practice that followed, the firm handled many federal cases, Turk said, "But I never really thought about or aspired to be a federal judge."

Turk was elected as a state senator in 1959 for the district that included Radford and Montgomery County and others. "At that time, Virginia was real backward as far as citizen participation in government was concerned," Turk said, "so the Republicans in the General Assembly set out to change that," by introducing bills to eliminate the poll tax and the literacy test required for voter registration. Among other issues, Turk also fought to keep public schools open in the face of strong public resistance to desegregation orders. From 1965 to 1972, Turk served as minority leader of the senate. It was challenging, but rewarding work.

> When my father became a Judge I said to him, "Be kind to the *young lawyers*." When I became a Judge, he said to me, "Be kind to the *old lawyers*."
>
> —McCOLLOCH, Claude, *Notes of a District Judge* (privately printed, Portland, Oregon, 1948), Part II, p, 25.

So when President Nixon called, Turk was not sure he wanted to be a federal judge. "But everyone told me that I couldn't turn it down and if I did, I'd never get another chance. So I accepted. Once I said, 'Yes,' I made up my mind not to look back. And I've enjoyed it. I really have. I can't believe it's been 35 years." Although he worked long hours, he resolved not to take the work home to second-guess his rulings. "I made up my mind to do the best I could to be fair and then move on. That's why I always like everyone to have their right to appeal."

Turk's investiture ceremony was held in Abingdon in late October 1972. "I remember it was cold," Turk said. "Ted Dalton [by then United States District Judge] swore in Emory Widener as Fourth Circuit judge and then Emory swore me in as district judge."

When Turk came on the bench, he and the late Ted Dalton were the only judges in the Western District, which stretches from Bristol in the southwest to Winchester on the north edge, east past Lynchburg, and south to Danville. As Judge Dalton was past 70 years of age when Turk took office, Turk was designated as chief judge of the district as soon as he became eligible (after one year). He served in that capacity for twenty years.

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Interview with Judge Turk

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Given the size of the district and Dalton's disinclination to travel at his age, Turk made regular trips from Roanoke to the five other divisional offices of the court.[1] An early challenge he faced was a backlog of thousands of black lung cases in the Virginia coal country. In these cases, coal miners who suffered from black lung disease (Pneumoconiosis) sued the federal government to recover benefits.[2] "None of those cases ever settled, so we had to hear arguments and write an opinion in each case," Turk explained. "I'd take my two law clerks and Ted's two law clerks and Glen Conrad, who worked in Abingdon at that time, and we'd hear oral arguments for two days straight, with a new case starting every five or ten minutes. Then, Glen and the law clerks would draft opinions and the secretaries would type them up.[3]"

The criminal case load in 1970s was very different than now. The drug cases that are so common in federal court now did not come to the forefront until the 1980s; before that, firearms possession, fraud, and moonshine were big issues. "The probation officers did presentence reports on the defendants even before the indictments came down," Turk said. "I'd go to one of the divisions, have a grand jury return indictments, and appoint counsel for the defendants. Then the Assistant United States Attorneys and counsel would confer on the charges and the presentence reports, work out oral plea agreements, then come to court and make joint recommendation for disposition on each case. I'd take guilty pleas and impose sentence, all by the end of the day."

Although many of the criminal defendants entered guilty pleas, many cases had to be tried. At that time, court-appointed defense counsel did not get paid by the court. New attorneys just out of law school would sign up to be on the panel for appointments and then "just rotated through." Turk remembered, "The moonshine defendants would never testify against each other. It's different now. In these big drug cases, that's the first thing they do, trying to make the best deal for themselves."

From the beginning, Turk tried to continue an effort Judge Dalton had started—to increase the federal court's workload. He observed, "Before Judge Dalton became a federal judge, most attorneys were afraid of federal court. For instance, when I was in law school, there were only two days a year when you could be admitted to practice in the Western District. Judge Dalton and I tried to allay attorneys' fears by making it easier to be admitted and less complicated to have motions heard." To this day, the Western District has no local rules on procedures litigants must follow, although the court has issued a few standing orders governing procedures.

Asked about his judicial style, Turk said, "I'm a strong believer in settling as many cases as you possibly can. In most instances, settling cases brings about better results than trials. A good settlement is when neither side is satisfied." Turk is also well known for his habit of shaking hands with every attorney and every party when a case is over.

In criminal cases, Turk has made no secret over the years of his dislike of the strict federal sentencing guidelines, which took effect in November 1987. He particularly disagreed with the harsh mandatory sentences for career offenders and for crack cocaine offenses. He said, "The penalties for crack shouldn't be so much more severe than for regular cocaine—I think."[4] When he sentenced a repeat offender to what he believed was a fair sentence and the Fourth Circuit reversed under the sentencing guidelines and required an increased sentence, Turk's view was, "Reversal doesn't mean I was wrong. It means that two or three people on the court of appeals disagreed with me. And a decision isn't right just because it's affirmed."

Asked about memorable cases, Turk first mentioned Mathews v. Eldridge, 361 F.

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Supp. 520 (W.D. Va. 1973), aff'd 493 F.2d 1230 (4th Cir. 1974), rev'd, 424 U.S. 319 (1988). "I held that a person on Social Security benefits should receive a hearing before those benefits could be terminated, and I still think he should. But the Supreme Court said that due process didn't require a hearing," Turk said. "I've been told that it's one of the cases most cited by attorneys."

Perhaps Turk's most famous case was Falwell v. Flynt. See 797 F.2d 1270 (4th Cir. 1986), rev'd by Hustler Magazine v. Falwell, 485 U.S. 46 (1988). After Larry Flynt published a bawdy parody of Jerry Falwell in Hustler magazine, Falwell sued. Turk remembered, "It was a fun case to try. I liked both of them [Falwell and Flynt]. Flynt testified that he did it on purpose to upset and embarrass Falwell. His legal advisors had told him that he would get in trouble, but he did it anyway. So I found for Falwell and the Fourth Circuit affirmed, but the Supreme Court reversed." Because Falwell was a public figure, the Supreme Court held, the publisher's First Amendment right to free speech precluded Falwell from recovering damages for intentional infliction of emotional distress. Turk attended an event celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the case. Flynt and Falwell were both there, too, discussing the case and its public impact. "Afterwards, Falwell took Flynt back to Lynchburg to a football game," Turk remembered.

Turk has also decided many habeas corpus cases, including cases in which a state inmate was sentenced to death and after completing all available state court appeals and petitions, came to federal court to claim constitutional problems with his trial or sentence. Turk said, "I was never comfortable handling death penalty habeas cases. I think I was reversed on every one I granted. I am of the opinion that the death penalty cannot be fairly administered at the trial level." After he took senior status in November 2002, and could limit his caseload to some degree, Turk asked to be removed from the rotation for assignment of death penalty habeas cases in the district.

Turk has watched court staffing in the Western District grow and change tremendously during his tenure. In 1972, the clerk's office in Roanoke had only three clerks, all women, handling district court and bankruptcy court cases. The probation office for the district had only four officers, all male. The first female officer, Sue Hill, was appointed in 1975. By contrast, in 2008, the district court clerk's office in Roanoke has 33 employees, including nine males, and the probation office in Roanoke alone has 19 officers, including five women, plus support staff. The district now has three senior judges, four active judges, three full-time magistrate judges, and one part-time magistrate judge.[5] The Western District docket is now completely electronic, and law clerks draft opinions and orders on computers. Turk relies on his shorthand when taking notes in the courtroom and dictates letters for his secretary of more than thirty-five years, Shirley Simpson, to type on her computer.

Turk was born and grew up in Roanoke County. Drafted into the military in 1943, he served three years, stateside. He and his younger brother, Maynard, both attended Roanoke College in the late 1940s under the GI Bill. In 1954, Turk married Barbara Duncan. The Turks have five children and fifteen grandchildren. Sons Robert (Bobby) and James Jr. (Jimmy) are attorneys, and Bobby Turk, following in his father's footsteps, serves as a circuit court judge in the New River Valley area.

Asked what drew him to the legal profession, Turk said, "I'd had so much fun in college and wasn't sure what I'd do out in the cold world. My senior year the dean of Roanoke College was moving to a new position at Washington and Lee. He gave Maynard and me both scholarship applications and said, 'Why don't you boys come with me to W & L and

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Interview with Judge Turk

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go to law school?' The scholarships came through, so we went. Before the grades came out on our first set of exams, I worried that I'd lose that scholarship." In fact, Turk finished second in his law school class.

After thirty-five years on the federal bench, Judge Turk still carries a regular case load despite his senior status. Most days, he drives to the office from his home in Radford, although he does often head home a little earlier than in past years, especially on Tuesdays, when his dog, Baby Girl, comes with him. "I can't say what's been my favorite part of the job," Turk said.[6] "I've enjoyed my relationships with the attorneys in the district. And I don't mean to brag or anything, but I feel good about my decisions, that most of them have been right."

[1] The Big Stone Gap Division of the court was closed when Turk took office, but reopened several years later, bringing the district back up to seven divisions.

[2] Claims for black lung benefits arose under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, 30 U.S.C. § 901, et seq. Later claims under Part C of the Act were administered by the Department of Labor and were reviewed by the court of appeals, not the district court.

[3] In 1975, the Western District moved civil cases along from filing to disposition in less time on average than any other district court in the nation; the Western District ranked seventh in the nation that year in moving criminal cases along quickly.

[4] On November 1, 2007, amendments to the guidelines went into effect that, among other changes, reduced the sentencing ranges for crack cocaine offenses.

[5] Although strict numerical statistics do not paint a complete picture of a court's case load, the numbers are interesting. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, the Western District had 239 criminal cases filed and 710 civil cases filed. In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, the district had 364 criminal cases filed and 1,145 civil cases filed.

[6] A Roanoke Times article from October 29, 2002, quotes Jimmy Turk, "My father has probably enjoyed his job more than I've seen anybody enjoy their job in my lifetime." He also said his father had told him many times that being a federal judge has been the most rewarding experience he's had in his lifetime.

View from the Bench

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in conducting mediations. Certainly, I had participated in dozens of them, both in proceedings conducted in federal court by the Fourth Circuit Mediator or Magistrate Judges and with private mediators, but I had not conducted any myself. Over the past three years, I have conducted well over one hundred settlement conferences and consequently have learned much about the process from the perspective of a neutral. I hope the following observations will help those who are preparing themselves and their clients for settlement conferences.

At the end of the day, the goal of any settlement conference is that justice be done. Because of the modern cost of litigation and the vagaries of trial, resolution of cases through mediation is far more prevalent than it was when I started practicing law. In the 1980s, mediation was unheard of, and if the lawyers could not get the case settled over the phone, the parties went to trial. These days, however, the cost of litigation is a much more significant factor for parties to consider when conducting a cost benefit analysis of any proposed resolution. Indeed, I believe that mediations are so popular these days in large measure due to the high cost of trying a case to verdict. The cost of litigation, therefore, is always an important factor in getting a case settled at mediation.

The Federal Judicial Center trains all new Magistrate Judges in mediation techniques, and annually conducts seminars for Magistrate and District Judges on the subject. While these excellent programs were certainly helpful in making the transition from mediation advocate to neutral, success as a mediator also depends on one's experience and practice. Having sent legal bills for more

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than twenty years, I can speak with some credibility to parties and their counsel about the cost of taking a deposition, writing a summary judgment brief, or trying a case. I think that is helpful in getting cases resolved. By the same token, the fact that I get to conduct settlement conferences in a federal courthouse also helps get parties motivated to settle cases.

In considering whether to seek a settlement conference in federal court, it goes without saying that it is of primary importance to know the practice of the District Judge trying your case. Here in the Western District, each District Judge approaches convening a settlement conference differently, and you have to investigate what each District Judge expects in that regard. Many District Judges address settlement conferences in their pretrial orders, so that is a good place to start. If the pretrial order does not address settlement conferences, here in the Western District you may request one by motion or by communicating with the District Judge assigned to your case. If the pretrial order already refers the case to the Magistrate Judge for mediation, counsel may communicate your interest in having a settlement conference scheduled by contacting that Magistrate Judge.

The timing of a settlement conference can be critical to a successful resolution. Depending on the amount in controversy and complexity of factual and legal issues, some cases cry out for settlement early in the case, even before any discovery is taken. Counsel should try to assess the goals of the litigation and the net cost of the litigation to the client early in the case. If the cost of litigation is significant in comparison to the likely outcome, it is often helpful to schedule a settlement conference early to avoid spending the client's money on counsel and transcript fees that could be better spent resolving the case.

Occasionally, early settlement conferences are not successful for a number of reasons. First, there seems to be a natural tendency for counsel to be more bullish about a case early on, before discovery reveals cracks and nuances in your legal theory. Second, and often more significant, clients appear less willing to settle a case before experiencing a bit of the process. We have all experienced clients whose firmly held settlement position of "millions for defense and not a penny for tribute" changes after being subject to a deposition, attending an early motions hearing, or receiving a few months of legal bills. Sometimes it takes the reality check of a taste of the litigation process for certain clients to appreciate the benefits of a settlement conference. Certain cases may require resolution of a legal issue or some factual discovery before serious settlement negotiations can be entertained. Whether a settlement conference is going to be more successful early on or later in the case is going to depend on a variety of factors, including the projected cost of discovery, the mindset of your client, and the stakes involved in the litigation. Counsel ought to think long and hard about when it makes the most sense to schedule a settlement conference.

From my perspective, no time is too soon to try to get a civil case settled. The costs of litigation are so prohibitive to most clients that parties in federal court ought to be thinking about mediating a case from the outset. In my practice, if we do not get a case settled at the first face-to-face mediation session, we have met with some success by staying involved and continuing settlement discussions with counsel over the telephone, or even by convening a second settlement conference. Obviously, the former is much more efficient, and frankly, sometimes certain parties need a bit of time to think about what was learned at the settlement conference before they are prepared to resolve a case.

In cases in which I am conducting settlement conferences, I always enter a Settlement Conference Order which

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View from the Bench

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sets forth what is expected of the parties attending the settlement conference. Counsel need to read and pay attention to that order as it imposes certain obligations on counsel and the parties.

First, it requires that parties negotiate in good faith. It serves no purpose to come to a settlement conference if the parties have little or no interest in settling a case. All of us have had clients who tell us that they refuse to settle, and counsel need to explore that refusal with the clients to see whether it is a knee jerk response to a lawsuit, is emotional, or whether there is a well thought out reason for such refusal. In my experience, it is very rare that a case truly has no settlement value. Indeed, sometimes the mediation process itself helps to persuade clients that settlement is in their best interest. Many times I have had counsel tell me that there is no chance of settlement, yet somehow the case gets resolved. Perhaps it is the persistent drumbeat of billable hours that, at a settlement conference, turns adverse parties into strange bedfellows. All that being said, if you have fully considered the issue with your client and believe that it is truly not in your client's best interest to settle a case and that your client is unwilling to settle, don't mediate it.

Second, mediations don't work if persons with authority to settle the case are not physically present. Telephone mediations seldom work, and I think there are several reasons for this. First, unless you are present, you do not have the same level of investment in the settlement process. Second, there is no way to know whether the person on the phone is really paying attention to the arguments made by the other side or whether they have the phone on mute and are playing Tetris. Third, I believe that one of the principal advantages of a settlement conference is to give the parties the opportunity to look each other in the eye and speak freely about the case without it being used against them. In the same vein, another advantage to mediation is to allow the neutral direct access to the clients without the filter of counsel. Finally, it is not a good idea to play games with the authority issue by bringing a minion disguised as the master; such efforts are readily transparent and can cause the other side to believe that your side is not really interested in settling the case.

Third, I believe that parties ought to exchange written mediation statements and allow their clients to review them. If the parties want to address settlement expectations or strategy, they can do so in a separate, confidential letter to the neutral. Optimal written submissions are short and consider the pros and cons of each case. It is very often helpful to attach critical documents or photographs and to reference controlling precedent. Attaching large volumes of discovery or pleadings is seldom helpful as key points can be buried in a mountain of paper. I require parties to include in their mediation statements the identity of the party representative attending the mediation and a representation that this person has full authority to resolve the case. I do so because the parties have had some dealings with each other prior to the settlement conference, and I want to make sure that any concerns about who the other side is bringing and their authority are resolved ahead of time. Further, if there are any unusual issues or concerns, it is often helpful to discuss them in advance of the session. Such calls can help save significant time and effort.

I have certain expectations of the parties coming to a settlement conference. First, I expect that counsel will have explained the process to their clients beforehand. While that may seem a bit obvious, I have had some mediations where it was obvious that counsel had not told his client what to expect. In that regard, it is helpful if counsel has had a frank discussion with the client about realistic settlement expectations. Second, I require the parties to have engaged in some

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settlement discussions beyond an opening demand and offer. That helps the parties to assess whether coming to a settlement conference is going to be fruitful. Third, plaintiffs in personal injury cases need to have a clear understanding and plan concerning lien issues. If there is a significant lien issue, the lienholder should be included in the settlement process. Finally, it bears repeating that the parties negotiate in good faith and that the party representative present at the settlement conference has the authority to settle the case without getting the approval of others who are not present. The court devotes substantial time and effort to conducting settlement conferences and expects the parties to do the same. A settlement conference is often the best opportunity parties have to talk directly to each other and settle a case, and these efforts can be frustrated when one side comes to the conference without the actual decision maker.[2]

On the day of the settlement conference, I suggest that you have a realistic outcome in mind and prepare your client for it. If either counsel or the client are not prepared for the settlement conference, delay or frustration is likely to result. By the same token, taking extreme or outrageous settlement positions only prolongs the process. You and your client should be prepared to advocate your case and to do your own negotiating; you ought not expect the neutral to do it all for you. In that vein, during the opening session, talk to the other side. You should not address your argument and discussion to the neutral. An opening session at mediation is not oral argument on a motion for summary judgment. The neutral is not the decision maker in a mediation, so address the person who can help you get your case settled - the party on the other side. In that regard, remember that a heartfelt apology - client to client - can be effective in helping to bury the hatchet if it is done right. By the same token, a halfhearted effort can make matters worse. Sometimes parties feel the need to continue the litigation strategy of attacking the other side in the opening session of a settlement conference, calculated to scare the other side into settling. That strategy is almost always a disaster and does not help resolve cases. Instead, it generally causes folks to dig their heels in.

Settlement conferences can be very effective tools to resolve disputes, but only work when both sides bring persons who have the ability and willingness to resolve the case and when counsel and the client are prepared for the process. Rational people, facing the cost, distraction, pressure, and anxiety of a lawsuit, will nearly always choose to settle a case if each side is willing to listen to the other and explore realistic settlement opportunities. It is my privilege to help you try to do that.

[1] *United States Magistrate Judge (W.D.Va.) The views expressed in this article are mine alone; thus, they may or may not be consistent with the philosophy and practices of other District and Magistrate Judges conducting settlement conferences in federal court in Virginia.*

[2] *It is for this reason that my Settlement Conference Order provides that if a party appears at a settlement conference without complying with the terms of the order, including the obligation to have the decision maker present, monetary sanctions representing the fees and expenses incurred by the other parties in attending the settlement conference may be awarded.*

The RBA Legislative Committee wants to hear from you. Do you wonder what legislative changes have been developing in the Virginia Assembly related to your legal specialty? Is there a statutory change or a new piece of legislation that you would like to propose? An existing bill that you would like to track? Please call or email Roy V. Creasy, Chair of the Legislative Committee, to let him know topics of interest or statutory discussions or amendments that you would like the committee to investigate. Email: creasyroanoke@excite.com. Telephone: 342-0729

President's Column

by George A. McLean, Jr.

It is an honor to have been elected President of our Association. I joined the Board of Directors several years ago. Since that time, there has been a phenomenal growth in the activities of our Association. When I joined the Board, we had just begun the Barrister Book Buddies Program. With the help of many hard working volunteers, we have created the Youth Court Program, the Santa in the Square Children's Christmas Party, and the Law Day Gala.

Barrister Book Buddies are now reading to 48 elementary school classes in the city school system. The Youth Court Program is used as a model for similar programs throughout the state. Our Santa in the Square Children's Christmas party provides an evening of fun for underprivileged children living in homeless shelters. The Law Day Gala is a delightful social gathering. More importantly, the Galas have raised an average of $13, 500.00 for the Roanoke Bar Association Foundation. All of these projects have received an award of merit from the Virginia State Bar Association. During that same time, the Virginia State Bar Association has recognized two of our Presidents, Gene Elliott and Steve Higgs, as Outstanding Bar Leaders of the Year. The projects would not have been possible if not for the hard work of many volunteers.

This year we are developing the Non-Profit Resource Center Program under the leadership of Scott Austin. This spring, Judge Urbanski is helping us to establish a practice training program for young attorneys. Both of these programs will need the help of additional volunteers. I hope you will help us continue the outstanding work of the Association by volunteering for at least one of these programs.

Roanoke Law Library News & Information

BY JOSEPH KLEIN

We had an extremely busy and exciting year in 2007 at the Roanoke Law Library, and we truly appreciate all of the support we received from the Roanoke Bar Association and the Roanoke legal community. We also want to take a moment to remind everyone that if the Roanoke City Courthouse is open, the Roanoke Law Library is open. Normally we are open every weekday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We are here to help you find the legal information that you need so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions.

Electronic Databases

Most people don't realize that having a library card allows you free access to some very powerful electronic databases capable of searching investing information, professional and scholarly journals, and news media from around the world. You can access all of this from your home or work computer with your library card number. Simply go to www.roanokeva.gov/library and click on "Internet Resources" and you will be taken to a listing of all of the databases available including "TheStreet.com," "Heritage Quest" genealogy databases, and "Find it Virginia." "Find it Virginia" includes the Infotrac databases for news, investing, reference and encyclopedia, health and wellness information, literary criticism, and probably most interesting to you LegalTrac, a legal journal database with hundreds of full text publications. Phone the Law Library at 853-2268 with any questions.

Roanoke Public Libraries Emerging Artists Series

We also want to take a moment to let you know about an exciting series that has been taking place at the Main Library on Jefferson Street every month. The Emerging Artists series is a monthly event where the Library presents the work of local artists who have had very little exposure in the area. Roanoke Libraries provide "gallery space" at the Main Library on Jefferson Street for the featured artists to exhibit their work for a month, and also hosts an opening reception, partnering musicians (also usually emerging local artists) with the visual artist for this one night. The opening reception also provides opportunities to meet with the artists and refreshments are provided.

Emerging Artists exhibits have featured paintings by Brian Sal Corral, Monica Novicki, and Ashley Williams, and the drawings of Billy Bob Beamer; with music ranging from high school wonders, Juniors, to a classical string trio. Some exhibits have been totally musical such as the Black Atlantic Project, a cross cultural collaboration of musicians from the UK and USA, and a Roots of Hip Hop retrospective complete with break dancers, rappers, djs and graffiti artists.

Please keep on the lookout for future Emerging Artist events and try and make it to one of the opening receptions, you'll be glad you did. For more information look for a copy of the Roanoke Public Library newsletter, Inkspot, at the Law Library or contact any City Library branch.

Legal Workshops

Laura Keller, a Bar Association member, local attorney, and the former Law Library manager held two family law workshops that were open to the public at the Law Library in October and November to great success. This is a series that the Law Library hopes to continue into the New Year and we would love to branch out into other areas of the Law if we can find willing presenters. Please contact Joey Klein, Law Librarian, at 853-2268 if you are interested in participating or if you have more questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new active members:

William M. Braxton, Esq.
Office of the
Commonwealth Attorney

Lindsay K. Grindo, Esq.
Johnson, Ayers & Matthews, PLC

Erin W. Hapgood, Esq.
Guynn, Memmer & Dillion, PC

Macel Hubbard Janoschka, Esq.
Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP

Lindsey A. Waters, Esq.
Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Meeting

  William C. Davis, Professor of History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Tuesday, March 11, 2008, Noon; Shenandoah Club

- CLE Opportunity

  The Devil Wore Green: An Interactive Trust Accounting Primer & *Electronic Communications*—Presented by James M. McCauley, Ethics Counsel, Virginia State Bar, Thursday, March 13, 2008, 10-Noon; Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 115D

SAVE THE DATES!!

Bench Bar Conference—April 25, 2008

Gala and Law Day Celebration—May 16, 2008

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