



## **A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE RICHARD LEE LAWRENCE**

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence died in an unfortunate automobile accident on March 18, 2012 at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS the said Richard Lee Lawrence was a lifelong resident of the City of Roanoke, born January 12, 1938, the first of two sons born to Virginia Porter and Reinsley Alan Lawrence; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence attended Crystal Spring Elementary School, Lee Junior High School, Randolph Macon Military Academy, Augusta Military Academy, and graduated from Jefferson Senior High School in 1957. It was during these formative years that he received his nickname “Big Deal” – a nickname that would follow him all his life; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Roanoke College in 1961. At Roanoke College, he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and was active in College Life; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence was awarded a Bachelor of Law Degree from The University of Washington and Lee Law School in 1964; and

WHEREAS after Law School, Richard Lee Lawrence began a long and distinguished career as a Trial Lawyer. He started his legal career as an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney for the City of Roanoke; after serving in that capacity, he went into private practice with the Law Firm of Copenhaver and Ellett. In 1971, when Sam Garrison, the Commonwealth’s Attorney for the City of Roanoke, was called to Washington, DC to assist President Nixon in the Watergate

affair, Richard was appointed by the Circuit Court Judges to fill his unexpired term. It was as Commonwealth's Attorney that Richard honed his skills as a passionate and formidable trial attorney. In February of 1973, after serving the unexpired term as Commonwealth's Attorney, Richard returned to the private practice of law as a founding member of the Law Firm of Lutins and Lawrence; later a founding member of Lawrence and Lumsden, and for the last 17 years, practicing law with his son David, as The Lawrence Law Firm; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence, during his 48-year legal career, earned the respect of his peers at the Bar, his clients, his adversaries and all involved in the judicial process; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence enjoyed a well-deserved reputation for honesty and fair play. He was a champion of the "underdog", often taking cases for little or no compensation, simply because it was "the right thing to do." He never bragged about his successes nor complained about his losses, treating all persons with courtesy and respect. He was a fierce advocate for his clients, living by his motto "Fight for your clients for no one else is going to"; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence had a work ethic matched by few and exceeded by none. He commenced working as a boy delivering papers for The Roanoke Times and World News, and continued working until the time of his death. His work day did not end at 5:00 P.M. or 6:00 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. It ended when the last client was seen, the last telephone call returned, and final preparation made for the next day in Court; and

WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence was a member of the American Bar Association, The American Trial Lawyers Association, The Virginia State Bar, The Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and a faithful member of this Association; and

WHEREAS during his legal career, Richard mentored many young lawyers. He was always available to give advice, share his extensive knowledge of the law or just plain listen and help with a problem. He was voted “Boss of the Year” by the Legal Secretaries Association; and what law firm does not have or use The Roanoke Valley Attorneys Directory, first published by The Krippendorf Law Firm and taken over by the Lawrence Law Firm in 2008; and

As visit to his office will attest, Richard was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. The walls of his office are filled with his trophies from big game hunts and safaris. He travelled the Continents, pursuing his love of hunting and the outdoors. WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence was proud of his affiliation with St. John’s Episcopal Church in Roanoke. In his youth, he served as an altar boy for that church, and he was especially proud of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 21. Rare was the Sunday that Richard did not occupy his spot on the back pew at the 8:00 a.m. church service; and

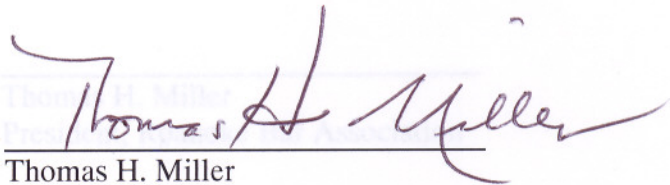
WHEREAS Richard Lee Lawrence is survived by his daughter Julia Haynes Lawrence, his son David Denton Lawrence, one grandson Hudson James Lawrence, his brother William James Lawrence, and his fiancée, the wonderful Debbie Ballard.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Roanoke Bar Association is deeply saddened by the passing of Richard Lee Lawrence, and holds his memory and his contributions to this Association, to this community, and to the cause of justice in highest regard; and

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

furnished to the family, to express the Association's sympathy and sorrow at his passing, and to communicate the esteem by which the Roanoke Bar Association holds his memory.

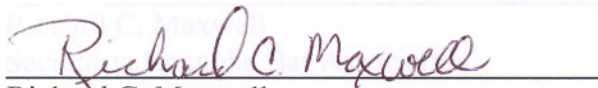
**GIVEN** under the hands of the President and Secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas H. Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas H. Miller  
President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard C. Maxwell", written over a horizontal line.

Richard C. Maxwell  
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association