

Class Notes Winter 2018



Martin Fruitman '74 passed away at the age of 86, in Los Angeles, CA on January 23, 2018. Marty was born May 13, 1931 in Detroit, and raised in Flint, Michigan. He received as an Engineering Degree from the University of Michigan, and worked an electrical engineer for many years in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Long Island, New York. At the age of 40, Marty returned to school and earned his law degree from William & Mary. He then worked as a Patent Attorney in Millersville, PA until 2008 and then in Valencia, CA until his retirement. Marty was also a U.S. Army Veteran and member of Congregation Degel Israel and Temple Shaarai Shomayim, both in Lancaster. He is remembered as a smart, funny, and enthusiastic problem solver. He could fix any kind of mechanical device and was a wonderful storyteller. Marty is survived by his wife, Susan H. Kmosky, children Sheva and Claire Fruitman, as well as his grandchildren and two siblings.

Jim Metcalfe '74, a retired AUSA, is in his seventh year as an Adjunct Law Professor at Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach where he teaches Advanced Trial Practice & coaches the Regent trial teams competing in interscholastic trial competitions.



Captain Frederick Sasscer Gore, USN (Ret.) '77 passed away on January 25, 2018 in Williamsburg, VA, at the age of 97. He was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Mount Vernon and White Plains, NY. A child of the Great Depression, Sasscer attended the choir school at Grace Episcopal Church in New York City, where he “sang for his supper” since his family could not afford to feed him. This led him to believe that the most important lesson of life is to build and preserve a substantial nest egg. Sasscer would nevertheless persevere and go on to graduate from the University of Maryland where he received an Army ROTC scholarship, and served as a member of the US Navy Reserve at the same time. He was awarded a place at the United States Navy Academy Class of 1945. He was sent to the Pacific in June 1944 and served on the USS Maddox, surviving a kamikaze plane attack. After the war, he went to flight training and became a naval aviator. In 1949 he married his late wife of fifty years Rosalie “Roie” Knight Gore. After retirement from the Navy in 1974, Gore attended William & Mary Law School, staying in Williamsburg to practice law in the Nelson-Galt house on Francis Street. He is survived by three daughters, Carol Gore Ball, Elizabeth Sasscer Gore and Anne Gore Kempself as well as seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and seven nieces and nephews.

Robert Rapaport '79 has been inducted as a Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers (CWCL). The CWCL honors attorneys who have distinguished themselves in their practice in the field of workers' compensation. Members are nominated for the outstanding traits they have developed in their practice of twenty years or longer. Rapaport was in private practice for 35 years with a heavy concentration in workers' compensation before being appointed to the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission, where he served as commissioner, in February 2017 by the Virginia General Assembly.





Gary W. Leydig '80 has recently started his own firm, Leydig Law. Leydig is a trial attorney and counselor for commercial and business matters, and is also a mediator and arbitrator of commercial and business disputes. He is a nationally recognized leader in the representation and protection of dealers, distributors, and franchisees in their disputes with their suppliers and franchisors. In addition, his law firm encompasses a broad range of other commercial disputes.

Pete Fenlon '82 was recently featured in an article by The Daily Progress entitled "World's biggest board game? Catan Studio won't 'settle' for less." Fenlon is currently serving as CEO of Catan Studio. For years, he has served as part of a small team in a Charlottesville home office managing the business behind Settlers of Catan, one of the most beloved board games of the 21st century. Since its debut in 1995, Settlers of Catan and variations of the game have sold over 27 million units in 39 languages, including 1.7 million products in 2017. Felon has also recently worked on Catan corporate philanthropy initiatives to support Childaid Network and food banks throughout the U.S stating that "our brand is based on the values of giving back, sharing resources and building together."



Brian Taylor '82 has been promoted to Vice President, Legal Head of Business Development/Alliance Management for Astellas US LCC and will be responsible for managing legal support globally as well as legal support for other complex transactions. Taylor joined Astellas in 2007, and had previously served as Astellas Deputy General Counsel, Development & Commercial Strategy/Corporate Operations. Prior to Astellas, Taylor served as Vice President of Legal, Pharmaceutical Products Group & Corporate Affairs, at Abbott Laboratories where he was responsible for legal oversight of pharma R&D/commercial and corporate operations.

Terry Budd '83 has taken on the role of General Counsel and Special Trial Counsel for a Dublin-based software company that specializes in cybersecurity software programs. The move comes after decades serving as a partner at K&L Gates. Budd will now practice through his own law firm, Budd Law, PLLC. In his new legal position he will now handle cases while also serving as strategic business counsel. Budd has also received the Best Lawyers in America Award and published the 5th Edition of his Expert Witness Book.



Kathleen Sabo '84 has been announced by the New Mexico Ethics Watch (NMEW) as the organization's next executive director. NMEW is a non-partisan, not-for profit organization dedicated to promoting ethics and accountability in government and public life. Sabo's career has largely concentrated on legislative matters, providing legislative analysis to the New Mexico State Senate Judiciary Committee and New Mexico Legislative Reports, and serving as the Head Majority Analyst for the New Mexico State Senate. A long-time consultant to the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts on legislation and numerous special projects, she represented the agency on a legislative task force and steering committee. Sabo is also an award-winning journalist, and has served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of New Mexico.

Elizabeth L. White '87 has joined the law firm of Sands Anderson at their new office in Williamsburg, Virginia. A Williamsburg native, White is an experienced community association, commercial, real estate, and land use attorney and is a member of Community Association's Institute's prestigious College of Community Association Lawyers. In addition to leading the Williamsburg office, White leads Sands Anderson's Interdisciplinary Community Association Team. White's practice is centered on acting as general counsel to large-scale master planned communities, as well as representing developers, financial institutions, local governments and insurers in connection with planned community developments, condominiums, and operations.



David Hammer '88 has announced his candidacy for the 23rd Judicial Circuit in West Virginia. The 23rd Judicial Circuit is comprised of Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties. Hammer's platform revolves around being fiscally and politically independent, and serving as a fair minded jurist. Prior to announcing his candidacy, Hammer served as a partner at the Law Offices of Hammer, Ferretti & Schiavoni in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

L. Lee Byrd '88, a shareholder of the Sands Anderson PC law firm, has been inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation Fellows Class of 2018. The Virginia Law Foundation Fellows program was created in 1983 by its Board of Directors to encourage and recognize excellence in the practice of law and public service and to support the programs and objectives of the Foundation. The current Fellows membership is nearly 500.



Kevin Hopkins '89 is currently serving for the eighth consecutive year as professor-report of the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee. Hopkins is an Illinois State Bar Association Appointee to the Committee. In addition to his role as professor-reporter, Hopkins also assists the Committee in reviewing and comparing the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct and the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Hopkins has been on the John Marshall Law School faculty since 1996 and was granted tenure in 2001.

Felicia Faragasso '90, was elected to the board of directors of the northern Virginia chapter of Girls on the Run, a not for profit company dedicated to encouraging the development of elementary and middle school aged girls. During the same month, she also began work as senior legal and contracts counsel, secretary to the board, and chief ethics officer of Exostar LLC in Herndon, Virginia.



Kevin L Antoine '91 has received notice from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars that he has been recommended for the Fulbright Specialist Roster. The Fulbright Specialist Roster is a list of all candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming project requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright Specialists. Antoine currently serves as the Assistant Vice President for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He has expressed interest in collaborating with British, Canadian, and other European academic institutions on healthcare access and health equity as provided under their respective universal healthcare laws.

Sabrina Johnson '91 has been appointed to the new position of vice president for equity and access at the University of Mary Washington. University president Troy Paino announced the creation of the cabinet-level position that reinforces the University of Mary Washington's commitment to greater diversity and inclusion. She will also serve as the University's chief diversity officer, and will provide strategic and visible leadership for equity, access, and diversity initiatives across all university program and administrative areas.



Margaret F. Hardy '95 has been re-elected to serve as president of the Sands Anderson's 2018 Board of Directors. Hardy joined the board in 2016, and was elected firm president in 2017. The board leadership will continue to focus on the development of the firm's growth strategies and client services, and commitment to attorney excellence, diversity, and community. She will also continue her leadership roles as the managing shareholder of the firm's Fredericksburg office and as the Healthcare Group Leader.

Jeffrey H. Geiger '96 has been elected to join Sands Anderson's 2018 Board of Directors, where he will work with current president of the Board of Directors and fellow alumnus Margaret F. Hardy '95 in focusing on the development of the firm's growth strategies and client services, and commitments to attorney excellence, diversity and community. Geiger is the firm's General Counsel, and served as the Business and Professional Liability Litigation Group Leader for 10 years.



Fred Gerson '96 has joined a new law firm. The law firm, formerly known as DuretteCrump will now be Durette, Arkema, Gerson & Gill. Gerson, a Richmond business attorney has had a solo practice handling trademark, copyright, licensing and other work for a variety of businesses. Gerson has been solo since 2012, and said he likes the idea of having extra resources from the eight-person firm. Gerson and Durette have had an ongoing relationship in the past, with the two referring clients to each other over the years.

Alicia L. Lewis '99 has been selected to serve as special counsel and Market Risk Advisory Committee Designated Federal Officer by Commissioner Rostin Behnam. Behnam states he is confident that Lewis will bring many years of valuable experience and critical expertise that will help him continue to fight for strong customer protections and safe and transparent derivatives markets.



Meegan Burbank '99 has joined Tom Berry's practice in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and the two have formed the new firm of "Berry and Burbank." The two decided to join their practice as they both have their own individual strengths, and their areas of law overlap, allowing the two to broaden the scope of our practice. The practice now offers a range of assistance including elder law, landlord/tenant and criminal representation, probate matters, civil litigation, and corporate and personal injury law.

Chris Forstner '00 was recently elected partner at Troutman Sanders LLP. Forstner will practice at the firm's Richmond office, specializing in intellectual property. In this capacity, Forstner counsels clients on all aspects of intellectual property law, including patent law and litigation, post grant proceedings, patent preparation and prosecution, technology licensing agreements, and strategic portfolio development.



Joe Grogan '00 is currently serving as the director of health programs at the White House's Office of Management and Budget. In this capacity, Grogan holds the power to nix or give the nod to hundreds of regulations shaping how the federal government runs Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act marketplaces, the FDA, the CDC and all the other sub-agencies contained within the sprawl of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Brian G. Muse '01, who has served as counsel for Sands Anderson PC since 2016, has returned home to Sands Anderson PC's new office in Williamsburg. He currently serves clients in the Hampton Roads and Richmond markets, and the firm believes this location change will allow him to more conveniently serve his clients located in the area. Muse has offered complete consultative guidance for clients navigating labor and employment law for over 16 years.



Derek J. Brostek '01 has been elected to a partnership with Wharton Aldhizer & Weaver PLC, effective January 1, 2018. Brostek joined the firm after retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel. His thirteen years as a Marine Judge Advocate focused primarily on criminal law, including trial work, teaching trial advocacy and strategic policy work, and served in Afghanistan in the areas of operational law and detention operations. Wharton Aldhizer & Weaver PLC is a full service law firm with offices in Harrisonburg and Staunton, serving individuals and businesses in the Shenandoah Valley and the Mid-Atlantic states in numerous areas of the law.

Daniel Fortune '02 has joined Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP and will lead the firm's Cybersecurity Liability and White-Collar Defense practice groups. Fortune has litigated more than 75 jury trials in state and federal courts involving complex matters and computer forensics in his capacity as a Deputy Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division for the Northern District of Alabama.



Ashley Welch '03, the first female District Attorney for the 30th Judicial District in Franklin North Carolina, is seeking a second term. Welch successfully ran on the Republican ticket when the former DA announced his retirement in 2013. Her platform includes a commitment to prosecute violent offenders and those who prey on children, a goal she says her team has made a top priority.

Thomas Cullen '04 was sworn in as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. The Honorable Michael F. Urbanski, Chief Judge for the Western District of Virginia, administered the oath of office at the U.S. District Courthouse in Roanoke in front of a small group of family and friends. President Donald J. Trump nominated Mr. Cullen to be the United States Attorney on February 16, 2018. The United States Senate confirmed his nomination on March 22, 2018. Cullen is currently a principal/partner at Woods Rogers PLC in Roanoke, where his practice focuses on white-collar defense and government investigations.





Michael A. Gaten '04, a Williamsburg lawyer and Hampton native, was chosen as the city's newest Circuit Court Judge, to replace Wilford Taylor Jr., who retired in December after more than three decades on the bench. Prior to this appointment, Gaten was a prosecutor in Newport News and James City and an attorney in recent years at the Williamsburg law firm of Geddy, Harris, Franck and Hickman.

Janelle Lyons '05 has been recognized by *Business North Carolina* magazine as part of the magazine's 2018 Legal Elite Program. Winners are chosen by their fellow North Carolina lawyers from a statewide ballot. In addition, she has also been named to the 2018 North Carolina Rising Stars list, which recognizes lawyers under the age of 40 or with 10 or less years of practice based upon a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The Rising Stars list recognizes no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys in each state. Lyons currently serves as a partner at the law firm of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina where she specializes in Family Law.



Joseph Jay III '06 has joined the Washington, D.C. office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in the Government Contracts, Investigations & International Trade Practice Group. Jay represents clients in a wide range of compliance and regulatory matters before the U.S. Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Inspectors General, and U.S. Attorney's Offices.

Brian Levy '06 has been promoted to serve as a member (partner) of the law firm Stites & Harbison, PLLC. Levy's current practice focuses on representing financial institutions, mortgage servicers, and other creditors in state and federal courts throughout Georgia in commercial loan recoveries and consumer finance litigation. He serves on the firm's Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy and Business Litigation Service Groups, and has extensive experience litigating and arbitrating complex business disputes across a range of industries.



Jeffrey P. Geiger '06 has been elevated to Real Estate Section Vice Chair for the law firm of Hirschler Fleischer. Together with James W. Theobald, Geiger leads the firm's highly reputed land use and zoning practice, top-ranked by *Chambers USA* for 13 consecutive years. He counsels developers in structuring deals, negotiating contracts, obtaining zoning approvals and securing financing. Recently, Geiger worked on the rezoning of 120 acres in Hanover County for mixed-use, live, work, play community with a potential expansion of the county's real estate tax base in excess of \$100 million.

Ryan Browning '07 has been named a partner at the law firm of Manion Gaynor & Manning LLP in Wilmington, Delaware. Browning's practice focuses on civil litigation practice including toxic tort and products liability litigation. Browning has defended clients against claims for negligence, strict liability, breach of warranty, failure to warn, and various consumer protection violations. He also has extensive experience coordinating several clients' national discovery efforts.





Leah Strickland '07 has been elected partner of the law firm Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith, LLP. Strickland's practice focuses on business litigation, employment litigation and intellectual property disputes. She has extensive experience defending against claims under the state and federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. Strickland is currently a member of the San Diego County Bar Association's Legal Ethics Committee and Appellate Practice Section.

Matthew Getty '07 has joined with two colleagues in forming a new firm, McCann Morgan & Getty PLLC, focusing primarily on estate planning; probate and trust administration; elder law; and tax. Getty has handled a broad range of estate planning matters, large and small, including planning around Medicaid qualification. He is also experienced with a wide variety of issues relating to business organization and succession planning, as well as both federal and state tax compliance controversies, including the Vermont land gains tax; meals and rooms tax; the current use valuation program; as well as federal and state income tax liabilities.



Matthew Hansen '08 was recently promoted to partner at Locke Lord LLP in Dallas, Texas. Hansen focuses his practices on complex commercial litigation, including class action defense, energy, antitrust, financial services, consumer protection and consumer finance litigation. His experience includes regularly defending claims arising under various consumer protection statutes. Hansen also has particular experience defending lawsuits arising under the home equity provisions of the Texas Constitution.

Lindsey Vaala '08 was recently named counsel at Vinson & Elkins in Washington, D.C. Vaala represents companies and individuals in a variety of proceedings and areas with an emphasis on competition matters, including multijurisdictional antitrust investigations, class action defense, grand jury proceedings and government investigations, trade secret matters and antitrust matters involving intellectual property.



Dan Matthews '09 was recently named partner at the law firm of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP. Matthews joined Morris Nichols in 2009 and is a member of the firm's Delaware Corporate Law Counseling Group. Matthews advises public and private corporations on a wide range of Delaware corporate law matters, including corporate governance issues as well as mergers and acquisitions, and other complex corporate transactions. He also counsels boards of directors and board committees on fiduciary duties.

Tim Newman '09 has been promoted to partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP in the firm's Dallas office. Newman is a member of the Litigation Practice Group. A former federal law clerk, Newman represents clients in government enforcement actions, cybersecurity matters and complex litigation, including class actions and securities litigation. He has extensive experience representing organizations and executives under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and state regulators. He also represents companies investigating major data breaches.





Jeffrey S. Palmore '09 has been promoted to counsel by Reed Smith, LLP. Palmore is a member of Reed Smith's Richmond office. Palmore represents clients before the Virginia General Assembly, executive branch agencies, and Virginia local governments, and also advises clients on campaign finance, election law, and government ethics matters.

Omid Safa '09 has been elected partner at the law firm of Blank Rome LLP at the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Omid represents policy holders in a broad range of insurance disputes across the United States. In the last five years alone, he has helped clients secure insurance recoveries and judgments worth nearly half a billion dollars. In addition to his active litigation practice, he counsels clients on methods to enhance their insurance programs to avoid preventable disputes as well as secure the most favorable terms when purchasing new insurance policies.



Joelle Laszlo '09 has been promoted to Assistant General Counsel at Vencore. Vencore is a leading provider of information solutions, engineering, and analytics to the U.S. Government. Laszlo provides legal guidance to support all aspects of the business with a focus on ensuring compliance with Federal procurement processes and procedures, teaming and subcontracting conditions and obligations, and operational and contract performance requirements.

Jenny Sabo '09 has joined Insight Global, a staffing services company, as associate general counsel for labor and employment. Prior to Insight Global, Jenny served as an associate at Nelson Mullins.



Bishop M. Garrison '10 addressed Limestone College at the school's MLK Day program. Garrison's speech focused on the current racial, social and political divides plaguing parts of the U.S., and how they can be overcome by listening and committing to doing good in the world. In his speech, titled "Moving Beyond Partisanship Through the Good We Do," Garrison spoke about how his time in the military gave him a chance few have to speak openly with people who possess different worldviews than him, without fear of judgment.

Jonathan D. Puvak '11 has been promoted to the position of partner at Gentry Locke in Roanoke, Virginia. Puvak practices on the firm's Business & Corporate team, assisting businesses, business owners, and governmental entities with corporate governance, commercial transactions, employee benefits, and tax and real estate matters. Puvak was also presented with the Emerson G. Spies Award during the Virginia Bar Association's 128th Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. The award is given annually to a member of the Virginia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) for loyalty, dedication, and enthusiasm. Puvak was named as this year's recipient specifically in recognition of his efforts chairing the YLD's CLE Committee. Puvak planned and coordinated continuing legal education programming for all YLD events during four separate meetings over the course of 2017. This included programming on contracts, aquaculture, alcohol, ethics, and law practice management.





Rica Calhoun '11 has been named Florida A&M University's new Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer. In this capacity, Calhoun will be responsible for providing leadership in offering guidance and communicating with the campus community about compliance risks. She will also advise the president and senior administrators on matters of compliance and ethics. Her responsibilities also include exercising the authority and autonomy necessary to impartially review, evaluate, and report compliance issues across the University. She will also design, implement, or enhance programs that identify and avert compliance issues or unethical behavior.

Kyle R. Elliott '11 was accepted to the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. Over the next year, he will travel to every region of the Commonwealth with his class of highly motivated and politically active Virginians. In this capacity, Elliot and his class will practice the art of civil discourse while learning and debating the public policy challenges that face the Commonwealth and all Virginians today.



Harrison Lee Crumrine '11 married Hannah Louise Ronning at Congress Lake Club in Hartville, Ohio. Harrison works at the Richland County Prosecutor's Office, and Hannah is an RN at the James Cancer Center at The Ohio State University.



Brittany Olwine '11 and **Robert Friedman '11** are celebrating the birth of their very healthy son, Forrest Friedman. Forrest was born on March 12, 2018.



James I. Dougherty '12 has been elected as a new partner at the international law firm Withers Bergman LLP where he began his career five years ago. Based in the firm's Greenwich, Connecticut and New York City offices, he advises individuals on estate planning and administration, probate matters and litigation arising from trust and estate succession issues. In addition, the second edition of his book, *Connecticut Probate and Estate Administration*, which is published by LexisNexis, was released at the end of 2017.

Heather L. Marelo '14 has been promoted from associate to senior associate at the law firm of Androzzini Bluestein LLP. Marelo focuses her practice on tax controversy and international tax compliance, and also assists in teaching Tax Practice and Procedure at UB Law School, editing chapters for Reuter's publication, and was recently published in the Buffalo Law Journal.



Kristen Marotta '15 has joined Fox Rothschild LLP as an associate in the firm's Health Law Practice. Kristen focuses her practice on health care transaction and regulatory matters and represents clients in a range of transactions including restructurings, private equity deals and exits.

Thomas Russell '16 has recently joined Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP in Pittsburgh as an associate practicing in the areas of insurance coverage and general civil litigation.





Jane Brittan '16 has joined the U.S. Secret Service as an attorney. Brittan had previously worked as an employment associate at Paul Hastings.

Andrew W. Monthey '17 has joined Robinson+Cole's Business Litigation Group as an associate in the firm's Boston office. Monthey handles a range of litigation related to property rights, white collar crime, and other general litigation matters. His particular focus is on real estate and title insurance litigation, including disputes concerning ownership, easements, leasing, development, and land use. He represents title insurance companies in litigation over title insurance coverage. He also assists emerging companies with obtaining 'Series A' financing from venture capital firms. He represents large banks in commercial lending transactions, and assists clients with mergers and acquisitions. In addition, he provides counseling for companies on federal regulatory compliance issues, such as compliance under the Bank Secrecy Act, the USA Patriot Act, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.



Kaitlyn O'Connor '17 has joined Nixon Law Group, a law firm representing clients in the healthcare industry. Kaitlyn will be based in the firm's Richmond office, but will divide her time between Richmond and Williamsburg. Kaitlyn's areas of practice include medical cannabis law and policy, telehealth, fraud and abuse, healthcare corporate transactions, and HIPAA privacy/security. She provides legal, regulatory, and business guidance to healthcare providers across the spectrum of care, as well as early stage companies and vendors serving the healthcare industry.