

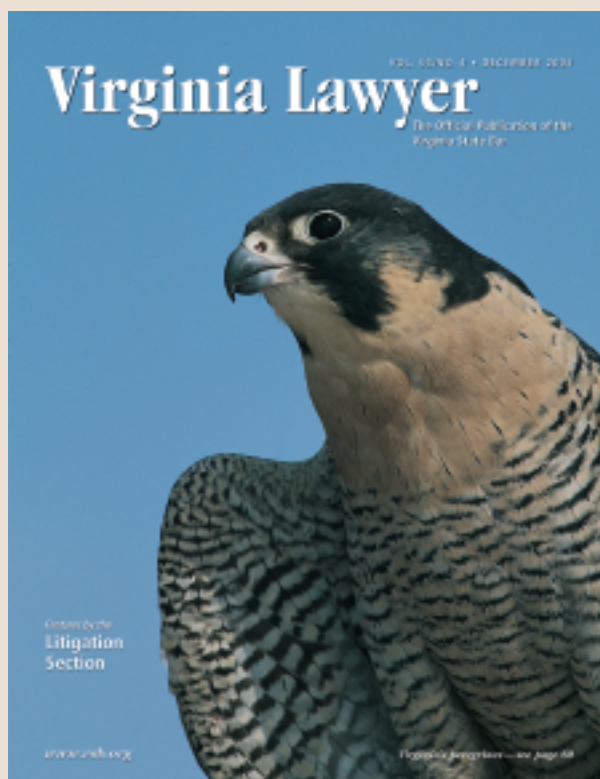
About the Cover

The peregrine falcon holds a special place in the Richmond legal community. Two years ago, a young pair began nesting on a seventeenth-floor balcony of the First National Bank building, outside McGuireWoods LLP's Richmond offices. Since then the birds have reared two broods. Four chicks (called "eyases") survived and are now on their own. Thanks to a "falcon cam," the public has been watching the care and feeding of the chicks at www.falcons.mcguirewoods.com/falcons (the live feed will resume if the pair returns to the site in spring 2005).

The successful breeding is a testament to the efforts of scientists, who have been working to help young birds survive since the species was almost wiped out by pesticides in the 1950s and 1960s. Only about twenty pairs are known to nest in Virginia.

The peregrine eats other birds, which it kills on the fly by dive-bombing them at speeds that can exceed two hundred miles per hour and thrusting its sharp talons into the prey's flesh. In the wild, the peregrine usually lives on cliffsides. The Egyptian god Horus was a peregrine. Hunters have used peregrines since ancient times to knock fowl from the sky or blind gazelles so they can be taken by men and dogs.

The falcon on the cover was photographed in Waynesboro, Virginia, by Lynda Richardson, a Richmond-based wildlife and environmental photojournalist. Her work has appeared in *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife* and *Nature Conservancy*. Richardson is also known for the photography workshops and slide shows given to such prestigious organizations as The Explorers Club in New York. She has received numer-



ous awards in competitions such as Pictures of the Year and the 2003 Nature's Best International Photography competition. Richardson was recently accepted to participate in the prestigious "Pro-Tour of Nature Photography," a monthlong competition that is limited to twenty photographers. For additional information, contact her at Wildlife Exposed, P.O. Box 8296, Richmond 23226. Phone: (804) 272-0965; e-mail: lynda@lyndarichardson.com; Web site: www.lyndarichardson.com.