

In Memoriam

Robert David Brickman
Crested Butte, Colorado
April 1937 – November 2017

Charles Paul d'Evegne
Mechanicsville
August 1939 – November 2017

Burton Leigh Drewry Jr.
Lynchburg
October 1956 – December 2017

Howard J. Falcon Jr.
West Palm Beach, Florida
May 1927 – July 2017

John R. Fitzpatrick Jr.
Fairfax
November 1923 – March 2017

William A. Forrest Jr.
Richmond
November 1929 – November 2017

Killis Thurman Howard
Lynchburg
February 1950 – November 2017

Peter Jeffrey Jones
Manassas
March 1951 – September 2017

Thomas M. Keenan
Westport, Connecticut
June 1936 – September 2017

Harry C. Lewis
Washington, D.C.
August 1926 – October 2017

Edgar A. Massenburg
Hampton
August 1925 – June 2017

Richard Austin Merrill
Charlottesville
May 1937 – October 2017

Earle Clinton Mobley
Portsmouth
November 1958 – October 2017

James Dennis Molloy
Washington, D.C.
July 1943 – October 2017

Mayer A. Sarfan
Newport News
February 1928 – October 2017

Robert Mitchell Sielaty
Sun City Center, Florida
January 1941 – October 2017

William W. Sweeney
Lynchburg
April 1928 – November 2017

Frank Talbott III
Richmond
March 1929 – July 2017

John Bernard Tieder Jr.
McLean
May 1946 – December 2017

Seeking Nominations

The Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference is seeking nominations for the **R. Edwin Burnette, Jr., Young Lawyer of the Year Award**.

This award honors an outstanding young Virginia lawyer who has demonstrated dedicated service to the YLC, the legal profession and the community.

Previous winners can be seen at <http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/ylc/r-edwin-burnette-jr-young-lawyer-of-the-year-award>.

The nomination deadline is April 1. Nominations should be sent to:

Dean E. Lhospital

University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400793, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0793
del6u@virginia.edu



Howard Wesley Dobbins

Howard Wesley Dobbins of Richmond, former president of the Virginia State Bar and of counsel with Williams Mullen, died December 25, 2017.

Dobbins was the president of the VSB in 1974–75 and served on the bar’s executive committee. He was a chair of the VSB’s business law section and a member of its board of governors for the senior lawyers section from 1990–94.

A member of the bar since 1946, Dobbins specialized in law related to banks and other financial institutions, including organization and licensing, representation before regulatory and administrative bodies, mergers and acquisitions, and commercial litigation. He lectured frequently on various financial and commercial subjects and had extensive experience as a trial lawyer in all state and federal courts, at both trial and appellate levels.

Dobbins was also well known for his experience in governmental matters and often testified before committees of the Virginia General Assembly in his capacity as general counsel to the Virginia Municipal League.

“Howard Dobbins was a lawyer’s lawyer,” says Calvin Fowler Jr., president and CEO of Williams Mullen. “His knowledge of the law was extensive and his skills covered multiple practice areas. Howard was a leader in the legal profession and was respected and admired by his peers.”

Only in 2015 — at the age of 95 — did Dobbins fully retire from the firm.

An obituary in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* notes Dobbins’ deep respect for the law and jurisprudence, as well as a playful sense of humor. Asked by a doctor the secret of a long and healthy life, Dobbins answered, “A little Jack Daniels every day,” according to the obituary.

Dobbins was also a member, trustee, and former deacon of Second Baptist Church, a Sunday school teacher, and a member of the Country Club of Virginia and the Commonwealth Club.

Born June 19, 1919 in Louisville, Kentucky, Dobbins graduated from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va., in 1942 with bachelor of arts and juris doctor degrees. He was



elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa in the undergraduate school and to Phi Delta Phi and Order of the Coif in law school. Dobbins was elected student body president and served as co-editor-in-chief of the *Washington & Lee Law Review*. He also enjoyed an accomplished athletic career there, playing basketball and football, and was inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame.

Dobbins served in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific theaters with the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Frankie Muse Freeman

Virginia native and prominent civil rights lawyer Frankie Muse Freeman died Friday, January 12, 2018. Freeman was born in 1916 in then-segregated Danville, Virginia and went on to graduate from Howard University School of Law in 1947.

She founded her own law firm in 1948 and was legal counsel for the NAACP when it filed the landmark discrimination cases against the St. Louis Board of Education and the St. Louis Housing Authority. In 1964, she became the first woman of color appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Freeman worked as general counsel of the St. Louis Housing Authority and as Inspector General for the Community Services Administration during Jimmy

Carter’s presidential administration in 1979. She was still practicing law in St. Louis until the age of 90. In 2007, Freeman was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia.

In her volunteer efforts, Freeman was active in the leadership of Howard University, the United Way, the Girl Scouts, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Last year, the VSB created the Frankie Muse Freeman Award in her name to honor those organizations that make outstanding contributions to pro bono services for the poor. The inaugural award was won by McGuireWoods.



William Thomas Stone Sr.

The Honorable William Thomas Stone Sr., believed to be the first black judge in Virginia, passed away on January 18, 2018.

Born in Washington, D.C., on January 8, 1931, Stone graduated from Bruton Heights High School in segregated Williamsburg, Va., and won a scholarship to Central State University, a historically black college in Ohio. He served in the Army in Korea and received a certificate in mortuary science after college, but law books borrowed from the College of William & Mary, where Jim Crow laws prevented him from studying, piqued his interest in the law.

He moved back to Washington to earn his law degree at American University's evening division, while working as, among other jobs, a police officer at the U.S. Supreme Court. He graduated in just three years — rather than the typical four required of night law students.

Back in eastern Virginia, Stone started a solo practice and later hired two white attorneys, creating what's believed to be the first integrated law partnership in Virginia in 1964. In May of 1968, at just 37 years old, Stone was sworn in as a judge, making him the first black judge to serve the Williamsburg-James City area. As a substitute judge, he presided over cases in General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for 30 years, resigning in 1998.

Supportive of the civil rights movement, Stone hosted leaders like Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Roy Wilkins when they came to eastern Virginia. After retiring from the law in 1999, Stone continued to operate Whiting's Funeral home in Williamsburg — the family mortuary business owned and operated by the aunt and uncle who raised him after his mother died when he was 13.



Stone married Sara Cumber in 1956 and had four children with her. Their daughter, Jacquelyn Stone, followed her father into the law and is a lawyer at McGuireWoods in Richmond. Described as a “gentle giant” by his adoring family and “a giant in the legal community” by Delegate Michael Mullin on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates, Stone touched the lives of everyone he met.

Donald Hall Kent

The Honorable Donald Hall Kent of Richmond, VA passed away January 19, 2018, at the age of 79. After serving in the United States Army, Judge Kent attended college and law school at the University of Richmond. He worked in private practice as a partner at the law firm of Thomas Kent Haddock & Sewell in Alexandria before serving as Chief Judge of the Alexandria Circuit Court for 21 years. After retiring from the bench, Judge Kent worked as Counsel for the Virginia Judicial Inquiry & Review Commission. He later worked as a mediator and arbitrator for the McCammon Group, where he worked until December, 2017.

Judge Kent won many legal accolades in his career including receiving

the VSB Criminal Law Section's Carrico Professionalism Award in 2001, and the Distinguished Law Alumni Award from the University of Richmond. He also served as the Chairman of the Model Jury Instructions Committee and Education Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia, and was a former president of the University of Richmond Law School Association. He was also a retired adjunct professor of the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.

In his private life, Judge Kent was active in the Derbyshire Baptist Church, and enjoyed golfing and cheering on the Richmond Spiders. Judge Kent is survived by his wife of 57 years, Linda Saunders Kent; his daughter Lisa Kent



Duley and her husband Michael; his grandchildren Michael Jr. and Caroline, and his son Donald Hall Kent Jr.