

# Senior Lawyer NEWS

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Frank O. Brown Jr., Editor



## Robert A. Cox, Jr.

A Remembrance by James L. Weinberg, Esquire

Robert “Bob” Cox, Jr. was timeless – in his appearance, demeanor, and values. Bob died on April 9, 2020, at age 96. I was fortunate to know Mr. Cox from a

young age as I grew up observing the firm and its growth as a child, a summer mailroom clerk, and subsequently a colleague of Bob. When I first arrived as an

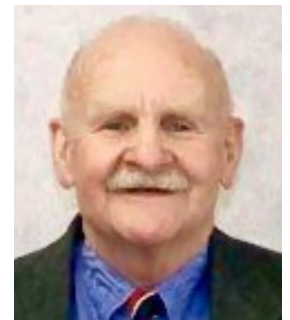
Continued on page 5 >

## Sam Beale, III

A Remembrance by Thomas B. Davison, Jr., Esquire

Sam Beale was a man of strong character, professionalism, compassion, kindness and humor. He was admired by his law partners and clients, and truly loved

by his family and friends. He passed away on December 2, 2019, having been preceded in death by his loving wife, Beverly Williams Beale. He is survived



Continued on page 6 >



## Richard Waters “Dick” Davis

A Remembrance by Gary C. Hancock, Esquire

On June 2, 2019, the City of Radford and the New River Valley lost a giant of the law and the community with the passing of Richard Waters “Dick” Davis at the

age of 87. Dick was a familiar fixture in local courts for sixty years, beginning his practice with the well-known law firm of Dalton, Poff & Turk. Dick’s named law partners went

Continued on page 7 >

## Roger Lee Amole, Jr.

A Remembrance by Barbara S. Anderson, Esquire

Roger Lee Amole Jr., of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away 80 years young on January 13, 2020 surrounded by loving family after a courageous battle with

pulmonary arterial hypertension. Born in Roanoke, Virginia, to Mary Dibrell Raleigh and Roger Lee Amole, Sr., Roger graduated from Jefferson High School



Continued on page 9 >

associate at Hirschler, Fleischer, Weinberg, Cox and Allen, my office was located between the offices of Alan Fleischer and Bob Cox. (No pressure there.) I had the privilege of working with Bob on matters regarding several of his long-standing clients. Bob worked with a calm demeanor, no matter how testy negotiations became between the parties. He led by example with an intensity and thoroughness that always put the interests of clients first. His methods were not the “leave no stone unturned, don’t worry about the expense,” mentality of the New York practice from which I had come, but a practical, no-nonsense approach to problems and the law.

**He recognized that the practice of law is a service, that there is no substitute for timeliness, and that a lawyer should be readily accessible to clients. These standards were always evident in his practice. He was loyal to his long-time clients, and he continued to handle matters for these clients well into his 90s.**

As Rick Witthoefft, who joined the firm in 1972, observed: “Bob’s loyalty to his clients was repaid, and seeing that in practice was a good object lesson for us all. He was a patient teacher of younger lawyers and made himself available for us to learn. He insisted that we, individual lawyers and firm, represent our clients professionally and also recognize our duty to the bar and public.”

Bob grew up in Smithfield, Virginia. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute as it was then known, for

two years, but was drafted in 1943. After completing officer training, he served in Germany near the end of World War II. He returned to Smithfield where he taught high school math for a year and met and married Clara Atkinson. He attended the University of Virginia, received an undergraduate degree in 1949, and entered law school. He was recalled by the armed forces after two years and spent another year in Germany. Bob completed law school in 1954.

The family moved to Richmond and he became an associate in a small firm that would eventually bear his name, Cohen, Cox and Kelly. Bob joined Hirschler Fleischer in 1965, becoming the third partner in the small firm that also had three associates. Bob’s areas of expertise were commercial transactions, commercial real estate, estate planning and estate administration. Among his clients were some of Richmond’s most important real estate developers. Bob handled the legal work for what would become the area’s largest corporate center, Innsbrook. He was fond of saying that the last record room title examination he did personally was for the land that became Innsbrook.

The 1970s were years of dramatic growth for the firm. Bob’s business acumen and leadership skills enabled him to manage the firm through this period as the firm’s first managing partner. In 1975 his name was added to the firm when it became Hirschler, Fleischer, Weinberg, Cox & Allen. Rick Witthoefft recalls: “My main thought about Bob’s

contributions to the firm, especially in my early years, was his focus on wanting us to move from a collection of lawyers under the same roof to a more structured firm mind-set. Not everyone was on the same page, but Bob stayed steady in that approach and diplomatic in dealing with some strong personalities. As long-term managing partner in earlier days, and an outstanding lawyer as well, Bob was central to the firm’s growth and development as an institutional law firm. Bob could be stern on policing administrative policies (a pointed memo from “RAC” on repeated noncompliance was a rite of passage for some).” Many attorneys still recall sinking stomachs if they picked up their phones to a greeting of “This is Bob Cox” in Bob’s distinctive gravelly voice. You knew that meant you needed to remedy immediately your delinquent timesheets (or similar transgression).

Yet, as Rick said, “Bob was always great company, in and out of the office, and was devoted to the well-being of all of our lawyers and to the firm’s success.” This is the lasting impression of Bob shared by those of us lucky enough to have worked with him.

There were two things – besides the photos of family – you noticed when you walked into Bob’s office. One was a proclamation honoring Bob from Ferrum College where he served as Trustee for many years. The other was a large photograph of his boat the Little Slam. Bob was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending time with his

wife Clara and their children at their home at Horse Point on the Piankatank River near Deltaville. Bob and Clara also were charter members of Welborne United Methodist Church. He served

in many capacities and was instrumental in the relocation of the Church to its present site.

Bob was a mentor to many at the firm and friend to all. He

was a great lawyer, a patient teacher, and a kind man who enjoyed a good laugh. He had a warm and welcoming smile and always made time to stop by to say hello. We miss him.



Beale continued from page 1

by his four children, Leigh Anne Stevenson, Sam Beale IV (Julie), John Beale (Jessica), Ben Beale (Paige) and his ten grandchildren, all of whom he loved dearly.

Sam was born in Branchville, Virginia where he was the Senior Class President at Boykins High School. Following graduation, he enlisted in the Army and served his country for three years. While in the service he was part of a touring baseball team that traveled to various military bases to entertain the troops. Upon completion of his service, he enrolled in Old Dominion University. There he participated in his love of athletics by continuing to play baseball. Realizing that he was not a candidate for professional baseball, Sam decided to pursue an education in the field of law and subsequently attended the Law School at the College of William and Mary. He ultimately earned his law degree followed by a Masters Degree in Taxation.

Sam began his legal career at Hunton and Williams Law Firm. As the story goes, on the first day of his arrival at the firm, as a new associate from a no-stop light town to metropolitan Richmond, he got on the elevator in his usual casual attire. Joining him on the elevator were several much older

and well-seasoned senior partners both of whom were dressed in their daily three-piece, dark, striped suits. One of the partners humorously asked Sam if he was heading to play golf that day based on his wardrobe. Sam got the message and immediately purchased the appropriate attire required by this prestigious law firm. This was quite an adjustment for Sam as his true personality was folksy and small town. Sam, in his quiet and reflective humor, loved telling his friends about this introduction into the practice of law.

After receiving great legal training there for several years, he branched out on his own and began a firm which is now known as Beale, Davidson, Etherington and Morris, P.C. He was a well-known member of the Virginia State Bar, the Virginia State Bar Association and The Richmond Bar Association. His expertise was in the field of Real Estate Law and he was highly respected by his clients and known for his professionalism among fellow attorneys. He was truly dedicated to his practice and was always available to provide guidance and advice to his clients and fellow attorneys when requested. Sam was an incredible mentor to many, guiding countless individuals and large corporations

through the complexities of residential and commercial real estate transactions which established him as an ultimate authority in those fields. He also became involved within the banking community being instrumental in the formation of Commerce Bank of Virginia and serving on the Board for several years.

Sam was considered by his children as an amazing provider, teacher, coach, and Dad. He taught his children a strong work ethic and a commitment to the classroom. He served as a PTA president in the various schools which his children attended. His children credit both Sam and Bev for guiding them to become the good parents and citizens they are today. He was actively involved in the formation of the Tuckahoe Little League and Kanawha Football Association. This allowed him the opportunity to influence many young children in Henrico County through his coaching talents. He was always available to each of his children and grandchildren by supporting and encouraging their athletic, educational and community endeavors. He rarely missed their events.

After his family, which was always first, his second great love was baseball. He was best described as