



## **2008 to Present: The Second Century**

Commencing its second century in 2008, the firm experienced change, and continued to adapt to the ever-changing needs of its clients. In doing so, it reinforced its place as a pre-eminent provider of legal services in Northern Virginia, and beyond.

The firm said sad goodbyes to some attorneys, and introduced many new attorneys as well. The passing of beloved partners Jesse B. Wilson III, Gary W. Brown, and Randolph Church, Jr. was felt keenly by those who grew up as lawyers with these greats, and even by those in the firm who knew them only through stories and legends, and never had the privilege of practicing with them. Long-time partner W. McCauley Arnold retired in 2013. Anne Reilly Jones, a partner who had worked principally with one of the firm's major clients, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, resigned in 2014 to serve as the Foundation's General Counsel, and continued to work closely with the firm in that capacity. Anne succeeded Randolph A. Sutliff, former President of the firm, who served as the Foundation's General Counsel and then as its Deputy Executive Director. Also in 2008, Daniel P. Lyon—an associate since 1992 and partner since 2000—became general counsel to a government contracting corporation that he helped found, along with his wife. In 2019, Dan rejoined McCandlish as Senior Counsel. Brian R. Sanderson left the firm in 2015, Adam W. Smith left at the end of 2018, and various associates joined the firm and later moved on to other positions. All are missed by their former colleagues at the firm.

### **2009**

Alan B. Croft joined the firm as Senior Counsel in March 2009, practicing principally out of the Leesburg office. Prior to becoming a member of the firm, Alan practiced as a litigation attorney for over thirty years, including for a time with Hazel & Thomas, and most recently with a boutique D.C. firm. He has served as lead counsel in more than 100 trials in state and federal courts throughout the United States as well as countless hearings before arbitration tribunals. Relying upon his experience as a criminal prosecutor for the Commonwealth of Virginia early in his legal career and later as the president of a real estate development firm, Alan has concentrated on handling matters involving complex technical and commercial issues.

Laura Golden Liff also joined the firm as a summer associate in 2009, and then, as a full time associate in 2010. Another Northern Virginia native, Ms. Liff devoted a great deal of time and energy in encouraging *pro bono* participation among the firm's attorneys. She served as a chair of Virginia Bar Association's Pro Bono Hotline and was recognized as being among Virginia's "Legal Elite" by *Virginia Business* for her leadership. Ms. Liff's practice included family law and domestic relations, as well as complex commercial and fiduciary litigation. The firm also hired Derek E. Karchner as a summer associate in 2010, while he attended Catholic University's Columbus School of Law in the evenings. Derek joined the firm full-time as an associate in 2011, in the firm's business and real estate practice groups.

## **2011**

After forming and successfully running his own firm for over 35 years, Benjamin J. Trichilo joined the firm in 2011, bringing with him extensive experience as a trial and appellate lawyer. Ben focuses on worker's compensation and personal injury matters. Ben's representation of the Washington Football Team has been a source of interesting worker's compensation matters, and reinforces the allegiance of (most of) our attorneys and staff to the franchise that has both delighted and frustrated football fans in the Washington Metropolitan area since 1937.

## **2012**

2012 saw the relocation of the firm's Leesburg office. Having outgrown its long-standing home adjacent to Dodonna Manor in Leesburg, the Leesburg office moved into a newly constructed office space at 201 Loudoun Street.

The firm also welcomed Angela G. Campbell as a full-time associate. Prior to joining McCandlish Lillard, Ms. Campbell served on the staff of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott from 1997 to 2005. During her tenure on Capitol Hill, Ms. Campbell progressed in responsibility and was ultimately appointed as Senator Lott's Counsel and Director of Projects.



**"Ice Bucket Challenge" for charity**

While 2012 saw many positive developments, the firm mourned the passing of Jesse B. Wilson, III. Just months before Mr. Wilson's passing, the firm had re-instituted a tradition Jesse had started: Hound Dog Day was (and is) celebrated by the firm each year on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, exactly six months after Groundhog Day. According to legend, if on August 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Wilson's hound dog

rose and walked to its water bowl for a drink , the region could expect summer to continue for six more weeks, but if he passed it by, winter would certainly come early.



**McCandlish attorneys in lobby of Fair Oaks Plaza, April 2015.**

***Left to right, rear:*** Lawrence J. McClafferty, Robert H.J. Loftus, Stephen C. Price, Autumn D. McCullogh, John W. Farrell, William J. Walsh, R. Peyton Mahaffey, Alan B. Croft, Adam W. Smith, Ralph M. Tener, Eric J. Berghold, Derek E. Karchner. ***Front:*** J. Robert McAllister, Laura G. Liff, Benjamin J. Trichilo, Bethany R. Benes, Angela G. Campbell, Gary W. Brown, William J. Bethune, Rachael E. Pashkevich, Douglas J. Sanderson

## **2015**

In May, 2015, the self-proclaimed, “supremely awesome” Wendy Musco joined the M&L family as our new Office Administrator. Wendy replaced Tom Duka, who relocated to South Carolina. Wendy wasted no time in whipping the attorneys into shape, and in perfectly appropriate, passive aggressive manner, firm management effectively retaliated by stripping her of her middle initial. Everyone else gets one (*Bob Loftus even gets two: RHJL*), but it was determined that Wendy would be perpetually referred to as just, “WM” in firm memos. Turning the slight to her advantage, Wendy pointed out that her new moniker works rightside up and upside down. Wendy focuses on everything that it takes to keep our law firm running.

While the firm had always celebrated Hound Dog day internally, the firm hosted the first Hound Dog Day Community-Wide event on Saturday, August 1, 2015. The event raised funds and awareness for pet adoption on behalf of four regional dog rescue groups. The free event brought local community members and their canine companions out to Lake Fairfax in Reston to enjoy an array of outdoor activities and to witness the annual proclamation of whether or not there would be six more weeks of summer.

Peyton Mahaffey, President of McCandlish Lillard, read the Hound Dog Day Proclamation and informed all who gathered that on Saturday morning, the hound dog did indeed stop and drink from his water bowl, meaning six more weeks of summer. While disappointed with this news after an already hot summer, event Co-Chairs, Laura Golden Liff and Rachael E. Pashkevich, presented the event beneficiaries with checks from the funds raised through sponsorships and signature Hound Dog Day t-shirt sales.

The public enjoyed free music, glitter tattoos, strolling jugglers, a photo booth and over twenty pet-related exhibitors. Barbeque, hot dogs and snow cones were among food items available from local food trucks. The exhibitors offered pet-related products and non-profit information on local pet rescue and support groups.





August 2015 Hound Dog Day firm community-wide event in Reston



## **2016**

In 2016, the firm welcomed Elizabeth L. Gray as a principal. Liz joined to expand the firm's already burgeoning Wills, Trusts and Estates practice. Liz has developed an extensive practice in the areas of elder law, estate planning, special needs planning, guardianships and conservatorships, and estate administration. She has also established a reputation as one of the preeminent elder law and special needs attorneys in Virginia.

In August 2016, Peyton Mahaffey was named a member of the 2016 class of "Leaders in the Law" by Virginia Lawyers Media, the publisher of *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*. The award recognizes those who are setting the standard for other lawyers in the Commonwealth, by

changing the law, serving the community, changing the practice of law, or improving the justice system.

## **2017**

Our long-time friend and partner, Gary W. Brown, passed away in August, 2017. Gary joined our firm in 1990, and had retired in May 2017 after 50 years of practicing law. Born and raised in Oklahoma, Gary entered the private practice of law in the Washington, D.C. area in 1970. He concentrated in the area of medical malpractice defense, legal malpractice defense, product liability and employment discrimination, and was a trained arbitrator and mediator. In addition to being active in community affairs, bar activities and church activities, Gary headed up the Medical Malpractice Defense Group of the firm. He was Chairman *Emeritus* of McCandlish Lillard's Board of Directors. Each year around the holidays, Gary led a toy and clothing drive at the firm to benefit the Salvation Army. That tradition continues, and is now led by legal assistant Sarah Glover.

We are pleased to share some photos from happier times, at Gary's retirement party thrown by the firm earlier that year.



**At Gary Brown's retirement party.**

***Left to right, rear:*** Adam W. Smith, Peter Lipresti, Lawrence J. McClafferty, Robert H.J. Loftus, Douglas J. Sanderson.

***Front:*** Elizabeth L. Gray, C. Vincent Leon-Guerrero, Alexandra L. Rhee, Mark Brown, Ralph M. Tener, Dana Simpkins, Alice and Gary W. Brown, R. Peyton Mahaffey, Stephen C. Price, Alan B. Croft, Randy Sutliff, Joseph A. Figueroa, William J. Walsh, Bethany R. Benes, Wendy Musco, William J. Bethune.





Kathryn Swain first joined McCandlish Lillard in 2017 as a summer associate. After graduating from George Mason University Law School in 2018, Ms. Swain clerked for the Honorable Judge Daniel E. Ortiz of the Fairfax Circuit Court. In the Fall of 2019, Ms. Swain came aboard as a full-time associate practicing in the areas of civil litigation, estate planning, and family law. She capably serves on the Board of the Fairfax Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section.

In August 2017, Virginia C. Haizlip joined the firm as a principal. Ms. Haizlip had already established a successful career as a family law attorney in Northern Virginia. Upon joining the firm, Ms. Haizlip expanded her practice to include estate planning and elder law. She was named an Influential Women of the Law by Virginia Lawyers Weekly in 2019 and serves on the board of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, having completed a term as President in June 2020.

## **2019**

In 2019, Melinda Merk joined the firm as a principal. As a seasoned tax and estates and trusts attorney, Melinda enjoys working with a wide range of clients to successfully protect and preserve their wealth. She brings a unique and diverse perspective from her work in private law practice at a large national firm, Big Four accounting, and private banking/trust services. Melinda was recently awarded the Accredited Estate Planner® (AEP®) designation by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils, which distinguishes designees for their dedication to being a collaborative advisor.

Daniel P. Lyon, a former principal of McCandlish, rejoined the firm as Of Counsel. Dan had departed in 2008 to establish and operate a successful government consulting company, which he co-founded with his wife Paula. Dan served as the company's General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer and a member of its Board of Directors. Daniel has extensive knowledge related to the legal and financial needs of government contractors.

Peyton Mahaffey was named to the Class of 2019 for the “Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame.” The Hall of Fame is sponsored by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*, and honors attorneys on the basis of their career accomplishments, contributions to the development of law in Virginia, contributions to the bar and the Commonwealth, and efforts to improve the quality of justice in Virginia.



**Peyton Mahaffey and wife Libby at Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame Induction in May 2019**

With the inspiration and leadership of new colleague Melinda Merk, the firm invited clients and colleagues to join us for an open house in June. We had a great turnout, and enjoyed getting to see everyone outside of business hours – even if still in our office space!





## **2020**

In March 2020, Randolph W. Church, Jr. passed away. Church became the firm's Managing Partner in 1972 (a position he would hold until 1983). He was originally from Richmond and attended undergraduate and law school at the University of Virginia. Church joined the firm on June 27, 1960, and quickly developed a reputation for meticulous preparation on all matters that he handled. He practiced in virtually every Virginia court early in his career, and was capable of handling almost any legal matter for both businesses and individuals. Church's long hours were legendary and he reputedly made use of a shower facility in the firm and maintained a cot in his office. Reliable and attentive to detail, Church was a master at serving and retaining clients brought into the firm by McCandlish and others. During his tenure with the firm, Church would become general counsel to such entities as the Fairfax County Water Authority and American Medical Laboratories, Inc. He argued a number of cases before the Virginia Supreme Court on a variety of legal subjects. Church also continued and enhanced the firm's reputation for participation in bar and civic activities.

COVID-19 hit early in the year, but McCandlish not only survived, it thrived. The firm remained open for business during the pandemic while rigidly adhering to Governor's orders and CDC guidelines. It even hired a new associate and paralegal. Not surprisingly, many people started to think about estate planning during the global pandemic, and the firm hosted a number of webinars for potential clients and referral sources. The attorneys and staff worked from home as needed, discovered other new and creative ways to get our work done, and sometimes learned to hate Zoom.

## **2021**

Jessica Arena joined McCandlish Lillard in early 2021. She focuses her practice on commercial litigation and represents clients across Northern Virginia. Prior to joining McCandlish, Jessica worked for a large D.C. firm, representing insurance companies in coverage disputes, bankruptcy, and direct-action suits in state and federal jurisdictions. Jess also served two years as a staff attorney with





the Loudoun County Circuit Court, where she assisted the Court in preparing for pretrial hearings and drafted letter opinions for cases taken under advisement by the Court.

**Continuing to Look Forward**

We continue to view ourselves as part of a world economy. We have expanded the use of voice mail, email, teleconferencing and iPhones to include Apple Watches, Zoom, Web-Ex, and similar video conferencing—all in the tradition and spirit of our founders: whatever it takes to be in touch and serve the business and legal needs of our clients. Phase I of Metro's Silver Line is now operational, and the remaining portion is under construction and will reach its terminus at Loudoun (Moorefield) Station in the next couple of years. Development continues, even as the economy waxes and wanes.

Today, we view ourselves as beneficiaries of a legacy of excellence and leadership built over more than a century of practice in Northern Virginia. But far from being stuck in the past, this legacy drives us toward the future, helping us to anticipate the legal challenges our clients will face tomorrow. While we are proud of our history, we speak the language of technology. We believe that the lawyers at McCandlish Lillard not only benefit from a tradition of excellence, we stand ready to counsel and advise our clients when possible, and fight when necessary, in order to face tomorrow with confidence and success, no matter how uncertain it may seem.

The Washington metropolitan region is ever-changing, and always presenting new and serious legal challenges to our clients. The firm is well-positioned to help our clients meet and take advantage of these challenges and to create opportunities for them as well. In doing so, we work as hard as we can, and with as much grace as we can. Along the way, we also try to have some fun and do some good for those who could use a break.

Somewhere, Jesse Wilson is looking down, and smiling.