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## Preface

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# PREFACE

The *University of Richmond Law Review* proudly presents the thirty-seventh issue of the *Annual Survey of Virginia Law*. Since 1985, the *Annual Survey* has served as a guiding tool for practitioners and students to stay abreast of recent legislative, judicial, and administrative developments in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Today, the *Annual Survey* is the most widely read publication of the *Law Review*, reaching lawyers, judges, legislators, and students in every corner of the Commonwealth.

The *Law Review* is honored to dedicate this issue to the memory of Chief Judge Walter S. Felton, Jr., an Associate Editor for *Law Review* Volume 3—the first student-run issue. Judge Felton’s ambition is further demonstrated by his distinguished legal career. As a pillar of his community, Judge Felton’s loss is felt by many. We remain extremely thankful for his service and dedication to this *Law Review*, the legal profession, and the country.

This issue of the *Annual Survey of Virginia Law* contains five Judicial and Legislative Updates, each providing summaries of changes in the last year to substantive areas of the law. The topics of these thorough and well-written updates include Cannabis Law; Civil Practice and Procedure; Criminal Law and Procedure; Taxation; and Wills, Trusts, and Estates. Additionally, this issue contains three Articles focused on narrower topics in the law, including: a critical analysis of Virginia’s standard for obtaining a preliminary injunction; a comprehensive discussion of utility bill relief in Virginia, in the context of COVID-19 and the energy justice movement; and a thoughtful proposal for how Virginia can prohibit the use of noncompete agreements for the benefit of the Commonwealth, as well as employees and employers within the state.

The enduring *Annual Survey* tradition is made possible by the thoughtfulness and talent of our authors, many of whom contribute to the *Annual Survey* every year. Each piece is a culmination of

expertise and sacrificed time in the name of legal scholarship. I am deeply grateful for these authors' continued kindness and commitment to our publication and its mission of serving Virginia's legal community.

I would also like to extend sincerest thanks to the *Law Review* staff and Editorial Board for their careful editing and hard work. Throughout the summer and fall, the members of *Law Review* selflessly dedicate their time and effort to perfect the already incredible pieces. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for what you all have done behind the scenes. Thank you also to our faculty advisors, Professors Jessica Erickson and Carl Tobias, for their invaluable guidance and mentorship.

To my fellow Executive Board members, thank you for your concerted effort in fine-tuning the details and putting this book together. To Matthew Brock, thank you for your thoughtful leadership, and for doing everything in your ability to bring my vision to life. To Joshua Stenhjem, thank you for your adaptability and commitment to streamlining our processes. To Kelly Boppe, thank you for your kindness and willingness to help. To Cassidy Bowling, thank you for your patience and resilience in light of any challenge that comes our way. To Emily Casey, thank you for your positivity and your editing (and baking) skills. To Ryan Dunn, thank you for your humor and your ability to uplift everyone around you. To Bridget Maas, thank you for your friendship and insightful advice throughout this process. To Roger Drake Herring, thank you for going above and beyond to ensure the success of our publication. I am so grateful to share this experience with each and every one of you.

Finally, thank you to my loving and supportive friends and family. Special thanks to my parents, Kevin and Sunny, and my sister, Karen, for always believing in me. And of course, thank you to Daniel Papa for your unconditional love, and for making the necessary sacrifices to support all my endeavors. I would not be where I am today without you all.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Editor for this distinguished publication. We hope this year's *Annual Survey of Virginia Law* serves as a valuable resource in your legal practice. Thank you for your continued readership and patronage.

Kelly S. O'Brien  
*Annual Survey Editor*