



2018

Virginia Circuit Court Opinions

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**VIRGINIA
CIRCUIT COURT
OPINIONS**

Volume 96

Edited by W. Hamilton Bryson



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PREFACE

In editing these cases, typographical errors have been silently corrected and a small amount of standardization of citations has been done. Many opinion letters conclude with a sentence directing the attorneys to take the next step in the litigation, these directions have been omitted unless they shed some light on the ruling of the judge.

We would like to thank Lucinda Harrison-Cox, who prepared the index, Nathaniel J. Berry, Joseph B. Herbert, and Benjamin K. Hoover who helped in proofreading, and the many judges, and clerks and secretaries to judges, and members of the bar who supplied the opinions printed herein.

I would like to renew my requests that opinions of Virginia circuit court judges be sent to me at the School of Law, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia 23173, or to hbryson@richmond.edu.

W. H. Bryson

Richmond, Virginia
January 2018

It is very helpful to counsel, litigants, and appellate courts when trial judges give careful, patient, and reasoned explanations of their rulings. It is not conducive to a good public perception of the administration of justice when rulings are made peremptorily and without explanation. Even if such rulings have been carefully considered, they may appear to be arbitrary snap judgments to litigants and spectators.

The Hon. Charles S. Russell
dissenting in
Homeowners Warehouse, Inc. v. Rawlins,
242 Va. xiii, xv, 409 S.E.2d 115, 116 (1991)

[If] the Virginia Supreme Court has not ruled upon a case This [federal] Court must determine what the Virginia Supreme Court would do if presented with the question. One way of determining what the Court would do is to look at previous decisions of Virginia Circuit Courts.

The Hon. Claude M. Hilton
Kollsman v. Cubic Corp.,
800 F. Supp. 1381, 1382 (E.D. Va. 1992)

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