Virginia Lawyers Weekly is pleased to present the next group of honorees in our program recognizing the leading lawyers in a particular field of law. In this issue, we showcase “Virginia’s Go To Lawyers” for medical malpractice law, from the plaintiffs’ and defense side.

The attorneys featured on the following pages were nominated by their colleagues and chosen by a panel from Lawyers Weekly. We expect some readers will argue there are some excellent lawyers who should have been included. Let us know! And please nominate them for future lists.

Other practice areas for 2023 editions of Virginia’s Go To Lawyers will be announced soon.

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding medical malpractice law attorneys.

Kelly Caplan
Group Editor
LYNNE JONES BLAIN

Lynne Jones Blain has nearly 40 years of experience defending clients in the most complex medical cases, including claims of traumatic brain injury, medical malpractice, nursing home and long-term care, and products liability. Active in the legal community, she is the former chair of the Defense Research Institute’s Products Liability Committee Seminar, and is a current member of the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Inns of Court.

Blain, a former professor at the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law, is also a frequent and sought-after speaker on the lecture circuit. She has presented at a variety of conferences and seminars over the years, on issues including analysis of life-care plans, documentation in a nursing home setting, the ethics of the relationship between the defense counsel, the insured and the insurer; and numerous other topics.

IRVING CANTOR

One could say — quite accurately — that Irving Cantor wrote the book on being an effective trial lawyer. In 2014, Cantor and Judge Samuel Johnston, wrote “The Art and Science of Mastering the Jury Trial,” published by the Virginia Trial Lawyers Foundation.

Cantor parlayed his passion for appealing to juries into Jury Impressions, a consulting company that he founded to provide a variety of services to trial lawyers across the country, including arranging mock trials and focus groups.

Traumatic brain injury cases comprise the largest portion of Cantor’s practice. After a noteworthy four-decade career, a significant volume of his cases come from referrals from other trial lawyers, and numerous professionals in the field — including attorneys, judges, claims adjusters and physicians — have sought him out to represent them in their own injury cases.

ANTHONY COTTONE

Anthony Cottone has established himself as one of the premier up-and-coming defense attorneys in medical malpractice litigation. He has already secured favorable results for a wide variety of specialized health care providers in courts across Virginia, and is a prolific speaker and writer on health law issues and risk management.

A demonstrated leader in the profession, Cottone chairs the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys Medical Malpractice Section and the Professional Liability Defense Federation’s Healthcare Malpractice Claims Committee. He has also contributed articles to numerous legal publications, including The Virginia Journal of Civil Litigation and the Professional Liability Defense Quarterly.

Prior to joining Byrne Canaan, Cottone practiced medical malpractice defense and general liability defense law in Pennsylvania.

JASON DAVIS

Combining impeccable litigation skills with the wisdom of a trusted adviser, Jason Davis guides and defends complex medical malpractice cases for every major health system in Hampton Roads. Davis is well known for his effective presentation style in front of a judge or jury, but he extends his expertise well beyond the courtroom walls. He routinely shares his experience and industry knowledge with healthcare providers on EMFALTA and HIPAA-related matters, healthcare decisions, medical staff matters and other risk issues.

Davis is also a skilled leader. He is a member of the Kaufman & Canoles Executive Committee and co-chairs its Health Care Practice Group. Davis is also president of The Williams School, second vice president of The Norfolk Forum, and the immediate past president of The Norfolk SCPA.
Congratulations to Gary Brooks Mims for being honored as one of Virginia’s 2022 Go To Lawyers for Medical Malpractice

Our firm is proud of Gary’s 42-year career and decades representing the injured due to medical malpractice.
Congratulations to
Tony Russell
for being named one of
Virginia Lawyers Weekly’s Go To Medical Malpractice Attorneys

GARY BROOKS MIMS

After amassing more than 20 years of medical malpractice defense work, Gary Brooks Mims now uses his wealth of experience in the field to benefit plaintiffs. Mims began practicing law at the dawn of the ’80s. While he has earned many accolades during his distinguished career, he feels his greatest reward is earning justice for his clients.

A former counsel to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics, Mims gives back to his profession through service on numerous boards and committees, including the Virginia Association of Trial Lawyers’ board of governors and as a master in the George Mason American Inn of Court.

Mims is also an adjunct instructor at the Antonin Scalia Law School, a lecturer at Washington & Lee University and a member of the Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course, as well as a devoted mentor to students and other attorneys.

MICHAEL E. OLSZEWSKI

Over the past 20 years, Michael Olszewski has steadily built a list of clients that any medical malpractice attorney would envy.

In addition to running his bustling practice, Olszewski heads the Hancock Daniel Appellate Advocacy group, representing clients before the Virginia Court of Appeals and the Virginia Supreme Court.

Colleagues recognize Olszewski for his thoughtful analysis and wise judgment, and for using the most advanced technologies and trial techniques available. He has built a reputation both in and out of the courtroom for his ability to provide clear and intelligent representation.

Olszewski says his success can be attributed to the empathy he feels for his clients.

“After all their years of study and training to become part of the healing profession, a malpractice claim can deal a heavy blow to a provider’s confidence,” he says.

DOUGLAS E. PENNER

A prolific attorney with a unique background in hospital risk management and claims, Douglas E. Penner is well known for defending almost every medical specialty in malpractice lawsuits across Virginia.

Penner has earned a sterling reputation for his skill in representing healthcare providers before the Department of Health Professionals Licensing Boards. He also works with providers to analyze regulations and statutes to ensure compliance and mitigate liability exposure.

His board practice includes nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, pharmacists, physicians, dentists, nurses, and other healthcare providers in Virginia, and he has tried cases to verdict in courtrooms across the state. His varied experience in claims and risk management gives him an uncommon edge when it comes to understanding and counseling clients on risk prevention measures.

ELIZABETH GUILBERT PERROW

Elizabeth Guilbert Perrow has been earning accolades for her advocacy and litigation skills from virtually the start of her legal career. She benefited from early guidance from respected Roanoke defense attorney George Wooten, and over the years has continued to hone her craft by collaborating with some of the best attorneys in the business.

Just 10 years into her career as a practitioner, the Roanoke Bar Association named her “Young Lawyer of the Year.” In 2012, she became the second-youngest attorney to serve as president of the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys, and only the second woman to serve in that role.

She is also a Ted Dalton Inn Master of the Bench. Victor O. Cardwell, president of the Virginia Bar Association, said of Perrow: “She maintains the highest professional and ethical standards of any lawyer I know.”

Gary Brooks Mims
Managing Partner, Frei, Mims, Perushek
Fairfax

Michael E. Olszewski
Partner, Hancock Daniel
Fairfax

Douglas E. Penner
Partner, Crenshaw, Ware & Martin
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Congratulations to Ed Weiner for being selected as a Go To Lawyer for Medical Malpractice
The Virginia Lawyers Weekly congratulates you on your selection as one of Virginia Lawyers Weekly's Go-To Lawyers for medical malpractice law.

With experience as both a defense and plaintiff’s medical malpractice attorney, Nick brings unique experience to his clients’ matters. He's tried more than 150 jury trials, and is an effective litigator who truly knows how to speak to a jury.

Clients turn to Nick as their Go-To because of his vast trial experience and his compassion and dedication.

Powell M. (Nick) Leitch, III
Medical Malpractice Attorney

Congratulations,
Nick!