

Office of the City Attorney
Municipal Center – Building One
2401 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

November 25, 2022

Via email to ebooth@pzlaw.com

Virginia Beach Bar Association
Attn: Ed Booth, President
2425 Nimmo Parkway, Building 10B
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Re: Nomination of Christopher S. Boynton for Circuit Court Judge and General District Court Judge

Dear Mr. Booth:

It is my pleasure to hereby nominate Deputy City Attorney Christopher S. Boynton for Circuit Court judge and General District Court judge for the City of Virginia Beach.

Mr. Boynton, who lives in the City of Virginia Beach, was born in Williamsburg, Virginia on October 9, 1970. He received his B.A. in Economics with a minor in Government from the University of Virginia in 1992, where he was an Echols Scholar and a Virginia Scholar. Mr. Boynton received his law degree in 1995 from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary, where he was a Goodwin Scholar. He was admitted to the Virginia State Bar, the Supreme Court of Virginia, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1995. He was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in 2007.

Mr. Boynton has 27 years of active trial practice. He has been a civil trial attorney with the Virginia Beach City Attorney's office since 2000 and was previously a litigation attorney with Cooper, Spong & Davis, P.C. from 1995-2000.

Since 2009, Mr. Boynton has served as Deputy City Attorney for Litigation where he is presently responsible for all civil litigation involving the City of Virginia Beach and its employees. He has eight attorney direct reports, all while maintaining an active trial practice. His practice currently involves handling the City's highest profile and most difficult cases, mostly in Virginia Beach Circuit Court and the Eastern District of Virginia federal court. Those cases include complex personal injury and Section 1983 police excessive force cases, civil rights litigation, employment litigation, commercial litigation including construction, real property, development, and land use disputes, and enforcement and defense of municipal ordinances and authority.

As part of his service with the City Attorney's office, for several years Mr. Boynton prosecuted DUI and other traffic and criminal misdemeanor cases in Virginia Beach Circuit and General District courts. During his time with Cooper, Spong & Davis, Mr. Boynton represented plaintiffs in personal injury cases and defendants in misdemeanor criminal and traffic cases in circuit and general district courts throughout Hampton Roads.

In all areas of practice, Mr. Boynton has demonstrated a strong ability to distill and analyze complicated factual scenarios, identify and assess legal issues, apply applicable law to pertinent facts, and reach well-reasoned and often insightful conclusions. He is a skilled oral advocate, perceptive, quick-witted, and articulate. Importantly, he also has the common sense, balanced temperament, calm demeanor, humility, and personal skills necessary to make a fine jurist.

Mr. Boynton has been an AV-rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell continuously since 2013. He is a recent Past President (2018) of the Virginia Beach Bar Association, having served on its Executive Board from 2013-2019. He is a long-time active member of the Virginia Beach Bar Association, having earlier served as Chair of its Circuit Court Liaison and Membership committees. Mr. Boynton is also a Past President (2012-13) of the James Kent American Inn of Court, and a recent Past Chair (2017-18) of the Virginia State Bar's Construction Law and Public Contracts Section Board of Governors. He presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Beach Bar Foundation.

In addition to his service with various bar organizations, Mr. Boynton's service to our community includes six years on the Board of Directors for Tidewater Community College, with two years as its Vice Chair from 2000-2002. Mr. Boynton served as President of the University of Virginia Club of Tidewater from 2006-07 and served on its board for many years. Mr. Boynton is a 1999 alumnus of Leadership Hampton Roads, and served on the Board of Directors for the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce (Portsmouth Division) in 2000.

Mr. Boynton has not been publicly reprimanded nor has his license to practice law ever been suspended or revoked by the VSB Ethics Committee or similar bar agencies elsewhere. He is intelligent, hardworking, experienced, organized, and energetic. He is of the highest moral and ethical character and is highly respected by his colleagues and peers. I believe Christopher Boynton has the experience, education, skill, character, demeanor and temperament to be an excellent Circuit Court or General District Court judge, and I highly recommend his selection.

Very truly yours,



Mark D. Stiles
City Attorney

I second the nomination of Christopher S. Boynton for Circuit Court and General District Court judge of the City of Virginia Beach.


Brandon H. Zeigler

Seen: 
Christopher S. Boynton

Enclosures

cc (w/encl.): Kathy Stull, Executive Director, Virginia Beach Bar Association

Christopher S. Boynton is Deputy City Attorney for Litigation for the City of Virginia Beach.

Educational Background: He received his J.D. in 1995 from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary and his B.A. in 1992 from the University of Virginia.

Experience: He is an AV-rated trial attorney who, as Deputy City Attorney since 2009, is responsible for all of the City's civil litigation while maintaining an active trial practice and handling the City's most high profile and difficult cases. He also has prior experience in the prosecution and defense of DUI and other traffic and criminal cases. He has been a trial attorney with the City since 2000, and represented plaintiffs in personal injury cases and defendants in criminal and traffic misdemeanors with Cooper, Spong & Davis from 1995-2000.

Professional/Community Activities: He is a recent Past President (2018) of the Virginia Beach Bar Association, a recent Past Chair (2017-18) of the Virginia State Bar Construction Law & Public Contracts Section Board of Governors, and a Past President of the James Kent Inn of Court. He previously served as Vice-Chair of the Tidewater Community College Board.

CHRISTOPHER S. BOYNTON

813 Carolina Avenue
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451
(757) 288-1618
chrisboynton2016@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy City Attorney (Litigation), Virginia Beach City Attorney (2009-present)
Responsible for all civil and social services litigation on behalf of the City

- Lead trial counsel
 - Federal Section 1983 excessive force and state law personal injury litigation defense
 - Enforcement and defense of municipal authority
 - Commercial and complex civil litigation
 - Construction, real property, land use, and contract litigation
 - Employment and civil rights litigation
- Eight attorney direct reports

Senior City Attorney, Virginia Beach City Attorney's Office (2005-09)

Associate City Attorney, Virginia Beach City Attorney's Office (2000-2005)

- Prosecuted DUI, criminal and traffic offenses

Associate Attorney, Cooper, Spong & Davis, PC (1995-2000)

- Commercial and Complex Civil Litigation
- Construction and Real Property Litigation
- Plaintiff's Personal Injury Litigation
- Criminal and Traffic Defense

EDUCATION

National Trial Advocacy College, University of Virginia Law School (2004)

Marshall-Wythe Law School, College of William & Mary, Juris Doctor (1995)

William A. R. Goodwin Scholar

National Trial Team (Executive Board and Bar)

Governor's Intern (Spring 1995)

University of Virginia, Bachelor of Arts in Economics (1992)

Echols Scholar

Virginia Scholar

Golden Key National Honor Society

ADMISSIONS

United States Supreme Court (2007)

Supreme Court of Virginia (1995)

United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (1995)

United States District Court, Eastern District of Va. (1995)

United States Bankruptcy Court (E.D. Va. 1995, W.D. Va. 1999)

Commissioner in Chancery, Portsmouth Circuit Court (2000)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Virginia Beach Bar Association (2000-present)

Executive Board (2013-19); President (2018)

Virginia State Bar, Construction Law & Public Contracts Section

Board of Governors (2008-19); Chair (2017-18)

James Kent American Inn of Court

Executive Committee (2010-14); President (2012-13)

Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association (1995-2000, 2022-present)

South Hampton Roads Bar Association (2022-present)

**HONORS &
AWARDS**

Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated, Peer Review Ratings
(2013-present) (Preeminent Legal Ability and Ethics)
2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 Virginia Business “Legal Elite”
2020, 2021 & 2022 Coastal Virginia “Top Lawyers”
“Forty Under Forty,” Virginia Business Observer (2000-01)
“The 10 Hottest Young Lawyers to Watch,” Virginia Business
Observer (March 1999)

**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

Tidewater Community College Board
Vice-Chair (2000-02), Executive Committee (1997-2002)
Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors, Portsmouth Division (2000)
University of Virginia Club of Tidewater
President (2006-07), Jefferson Scholars Regional
Selection Committee (2006-present)
Leadership Hampton Roads (1999)
Vann H. Lefcoe Leadership Development Program (1997)

**SEMINARS &
AUTHORSHIPS**

Personal Injury Litigation: Immunity of Local Government Entities.
Virginia Beach Bar Association (2014)

State and Local Contracts – A View from the Inside. 34th Annual
Construction and Public Contracts Law Seminar (2013)

**Lessons from the Front Lines: Administering and Litigating the
Public Construction Contract.** VSB Annual Meeting (2013)

Claims Management in a Self-Insured Municipality. Local
Government Attorneys of Virginia Fall Conference (2011)

Post-Tanner Noise Enforcement. Local Government Attorneys of
Virginia Fall Conference (2009)

Enforcement of Liens and Judgments in Virginia. Attachments
Chapter. Virginia Law Foundation (Co-editor 1997-2003)

Construction Contracting for Public Entities in Virginia.
“Access to Public Records” and “1997 AIA Documents” Chapters,
Lorman Educational Services, Inc. (Author/presenter 1999)

**REPORTED
CASES**

Holloway et al. v. City of Virginia Beach et al., 42 F.4th 266 (4th Cir. 2022)
City of Virginia Beach v. Virginia Marine Resources Commission,
70 Va. App. 68 (2019)
Wright v. City of Virginia Beach, 2017 Va. App. LEXIS 192 (2017)
***Lynnhaven Dunes Condominium Association v. City of Virginia
Beach***, 284 Va. 661 (2012)
City of Virginia Beach and VMRC v. Clark et al., 281 Va. 679 (2011)
Tanner v. City of Virginia Beach, 277 Va. 432 (2009)
In Re Grand Jury G.J. 2005-2, 478 F.3d 581 (4th Cir. 2007)