



Media Resource/ Expertise Guide

This guide will help busy newsroom staff and editors identify and locate bonafide legal experts to interview for fast-breaking news or longer, in-depth features.

WHO: A knowledgeable team of attorneys with more than 66 years of combined experience. The firm's roster includes some of the area's leaders in Estate Planning, and Elder Law; however, each Oast & Taylor attorney has developed individual areas of expertise in specific areas of the law.

WHAT: The firm's expertise includes 10 "core expertise areas"

1. Estate Planning
2. Estate & Trust Administration
3. Guardianships & Conservatorships
4. Long-term Care Planning
5. Personal Care Management
6. Special Needs Planning
7. Personal Injury Settlement Consulting
8. Veterans Benefits
9. Life Care Planning
10. Litigation

WHERE: Background or observations provided by Oast & Taylor professionals can provide residents of Hampton Roads and northeastern North Carolina with insight and make complex legal issues understandable on camera, in-studio or in print.

WHEN: Oast & Taylor recognizes the fluid nature of the news industry experts will accept interview requests, both planned and last-minute, and will strive to meet media deadlines to the best extent possible.

WHY: Each bio includes the following sections:

- I. Individual Expertise
Legal specialty areas considered "expert" level
- II. Additional areas of legal or consultant specialization/interest/expertise
- III. Significant "off duty" interests (feature topic background)
- IV. Non-law expertise
- V. "Other calling" a field or occupation that they either considered, or were formerly before entering law, or could easily be if not for practicing law

HOW: Contact our agency: O'Brien et al, Kevin Gaydosh ,
Business Hours: (757) 422-3231 After Hours: (757) 646-3493

William H. "Bill" Oast III

Juris Doctor—Washington & Lee University (1974)

Undergraduate: Washington & Lee University: BA, 1971

Born in Lexington, VA

Member: Virginia Trial Lawyers

Admitted: Virginia State Bar, 1974; US Supreme Court, 1980

Expertise:

- Guardianships and Conservatorships
- Estate & Trust Administration
- Litigation

Additional areas of legal or consultant specialization/interest/expertise

- 40+ years of legal expertise
- Uncontested Guardianship, Conservatorships
- Guardian ad Litem
- Divorce work (former president of Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers)
- Virginia Super Lawyers list by Super Lawyers Magazine: 2007, 2009 – 2014

Significant "off duty" interests (feature topic background)

- Reads 4 newspapers a day
- Donates blood platelets at the American Red Cross
 - 20 years as donor (1993)
 - 215+ platelet donations; 16 gallons whole blood
- Baseball fan

Non-law expertise:

- Played collegiate rugby
- Avid bird watcher

"Other calling"

- English/poetry teacher

Potential news story tie-ins:

Law/Legal:

- Petty disputes in divorces
 - Designations of funeral and burial
- Late life divorce: elderly/seniors getting divorced after decades of marriage
- "Blended" families
- Second marriages & prenuptial agreement
- Lawyer sons, daughters of legal families
 - Father was a lawyer (Washington & Lee)

Non-legal:

- Children of US Marines
- Interesting/unusual birthplaces (birth hospital was Stonewall Jackson's house)
- Members of unique or odd associations or clubs
- Professionals who played non-traditional sports (rugby)

Stephen E. Taylor

Juris Doctor—University of Richmond School of Law (magna cum laude)

Allen Chair Editor, University of Richmond Law Review

Undergraduate: American Studies, University of the South (Tennessee)

Born and Raised in South Hampton Roads

Expertise:

- Estate Planning
- Elder law
- Fiduciary & Trust Litigation

Additional areas of legal or consultant specialization/interest/expertise

- Only O&T attorney licensed to practice in Virginia and North Carolina
- Accredited: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Virginia Beach Task force on Aging

Significant “off duty” interests (feature topic background)

- Tidewater Arts Outreach board
- Animal Rescues/Adoption
- Young Adults Alzheimer’s Association (YAAA)

Non-law expertise:

- Sports teams: Baltimore Orioles, Washington Redskins
- Worked six years on US Capitol (for US Senator George Allen)
- Senior thesis on Henry Ford (American automaker)
 - Recruited to run for US president
- Movie Westerns
- Collegiate track (javelin)

“Other calling”

- Politics/Working in Government

Potential news story tie-ins:

Law/Legal:

- Family disputes where a family member serves as Trustee
- Legal issues in Hampton Roads, Virginia and North Carolina
- Illegal or banned sports in Virginia
- Power of attorney
- Married couples in the same profession
 - Married to another lawyer (Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney)

Non-legal:

- Music and art’s effect on the sick, the elderly, Alzheimer’s
- Rescue dog owners (Labrador)
- Business leaders recruited to run for political office
- Energy, environment and economic futures

M. Bradley “Brad” Brickhouse

Juris Doctor – Regent University School of Law

Undergraduate: Virginia Military Institute: (BS, Economics and Business)

Admitted: US District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

Born and raised in Chesapeake

Expertise:

- Guardianships
- Estate Litigation
- Fiduciary Abuse Litigation

Additional areas of legal or consultant specialization/interest/expertise

- Remedy and prevention of elder abuse
- Chesapeake Task Force on Aging

Significant “off duty” interests (feature topic background)

- Three children (ages 5, 5 and 8)
- Assistant baseball coach
- Sail boats
- VMI Alumni Association

Non-law expertise

- Firefighter/EMT/Fire Science degree from TCC
- Business degree (VMI)

“Other calling”

- Chesapeake Firefighter/EMT

Potential news story tie-ins:

Legal

- Litigation relating to elder law
 - Wills/lost wills
 - UPAs
 - Probate
- Lawyer sons, daughters of legal families
 - Grandfather was a Judge (Judge Oast)
- Attorneys who attended law school part time while working full time
- Non-typical professions before the Law (Chesapeake Fire Dept.)

Non-legal:

- Firefighting families (grandfather)
- First class of Hickory High School (1997)
- Professionals who played non-traditional sports (rugby)

Sandra L. Smith

Juris Doctor—College of William & Mary School of Law (2000)

Law Review, Moot Court

Post Graduate: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Master of Aviation Management, 1979)

Undergraduate: Purdue University (BS, Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering)

Expertise:

- Long Term Care Planning
 - Assets Protection
 - Veteran's Benefits
- Special Needs Planning
 - Co-wrote *Special Needs Trusts* chapter in Virginia Lawyers Practice Manual
- Estate Planning

Additional areas of legal or consultant specialization/interest/expertise

- Certified Elder Law Attorney –National Elder Law Foundation
 - One of only 4 in Hampton Roads
- Accredited: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Virginia Super Lawyers list by Super Lawyers Magazine: Rising Star 2008
- Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach Task Forces on Aging

Significant “off duty” interests (feature topic background)

- Society of Women Engineers
- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Adam Lambert charity support

Non-law expertise:

- USAF Marquez Award and Bronze Star recipient (Desert Storm 1991, 1992)
- Licensed pilot

“Other calling”

- Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret.)
- Initially studied to become a private investigator

Potential news story tie-ins:

Law/Legal:

- Implications of long term care planning
- Reverse mortgage implications for the elderly
- Making complex legal concepts understandable to senior clients
- Navigating Medicaid, Social Security benefits

Non-legal:

- Transition from multiple successful careers (Engineering, Military, Law)
- Cat fancier (Cats from Oman during the Gulf War)
- Life and Health insurance agent
- All Girl Catholic high school graduates
- Upstate NY native comes to Hampton Roads via military life
- Women who succeed in traditionally male-dominated fields