



Virginia Law Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Rule of Law Event to Recognize the Honorable J. Michael Luttig and Jeanne F. Franklin

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA, **September 8, 2025** — The Virginia Law Foundation (VLF) and the Virginia Holocaust Museum (VHM) will recognize **the Honorable J. Michael Luttig** and **Jeanne F. Franklin** at their jointly hosted Rule of Law Event on October 23 at the VHM in Richmond. This annual event illuminates a primary lesson of the Holocaust—the centrality of the Rule of Law in the preservation of civil societies —and annually recognizes the contributions of legal leaders who uphold this principle.

“It is only through a disciplined adherence to a set of laws fairly, independently, and evenhandedly administered, that we secure freedom, order, and liberty for all,” comments **VLF President Stephen E. Noona**. “The Honorable J. Michael Luttig is a true giant in the legal profession and has tirelessly supported the Rule of Law and the public’s understanding of this overarching principle that guarantees our liberty. Like Judge Luttig, the Virginia Law Foundation has celebrated this fundamental principle of Constitutional government throughout its 51-year history. We also believe that the Rule of Law and civility in the law go hand in hand. Great lawyers, like Jeanne F. Franklin, who steadfastly adhere to professionalism, cooperation, and legal civility stand out not only as role models but also as catalysts for a better and more respected legal profession.”



The Honorable J. Michael Luttig will receive the Rule of Law Award. Judge Luttig served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1991 to 2006, following his appointment by President George H.W. Bush. Prior to his judicial service, he held prominent roles in the federal government, including assistant attorney general at the Department of Justice, counselor to the attorney general, and assistant counsel to President Ronald Reagan. He also clerked for then-Judge Antonin Scalia and later served as law clerk and special assistant to the chief justice of the United States.

Jeanne F. Franklin, this year’s recipient of the Civility in Law Award, has led a distinguished legal career in public service, including advocacy for Native American rights at the U.S. Department of the Interior and civil rights litigation for the Navajo Nation. A past president of the Virginia Bar Association and board member of the Virginia Law Foundation, she has championed initiatives to promote civility, professionalism, and civic engagement. Her recent work includes launching Virginia’s “Building Bridges” movement to support civil discourse and the Rule of Law.

The event’s program begins with a luncheon at 11:00, followed by an engaging discussion on the Rule of Law by University of Virginia Professors A.E. Dick Howard and Charles Barzun at noon. Their hour-long presentation will provide attorneys with 1.0 MCLE credit, and at 1 p.m., the awards will be presented to Judge Luttig and Ms. Franklin.

Registration is now open, and while the luncheon is complimentary, tax-deductible contributions in celebration of this event and the award recipients are suggested. Attorneys seeking MCLE credit for the program may register to attend either in person or via live webcast for a \$75 fee.

For full event information, including information on registration and sponsorships, please visit virginialawfoundation.org/ruleoflawevent.

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About the Virginia Law Foundation

The Virginia Law Foundation promotes, through philanthropy, the Rule of Law, access to justice, and law-related education. Since 1984, the VLF has provided more than \$30 million in grants to support law-related projects throughout the Commonwealth that further its mission. Its **Fellows Program** encourages civic-mindedness and recognizes excellence in the practice of law and public and professional service, and its education division, **Virginia CLE**, is the recognized leader in continuing education for Virginia lawyers. Learn more at virginialawfoundation.org.

The Virginia Holocaust Museum, located at 2000 E. Cary Street in Richmond, preserves and documents the Holocaust in exhibits and its archival collections. Through permanent exhibits, educational programming, and outreach, the museum employs the history of the Holocaust and other genocides to educate and inspire future generations of Virginians to fight bigotry, racism, and anti-Semitism. Learn more at vaholocaust.org

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