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THE CIVIL LITIGATION FIRM

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Born and raised in Southwest Virginia, Leanna brings experience from years of appellate litigation to her clients at Harman Claytor. After graduating from Washington and Lee Law School, Leanna served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable William P. Johnson, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. She returned to Richmond to join the Criminal Appeals Section of the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. In nearly four years as an Assistant Attorney General, Leanna argued dozens of appeals in the Court of Appeals of Virginia, the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Leanna also focused on defending cases in habeas corpus challenges brought by inmates in state and federal court.



Assistant: Kelly Allen
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Professional Activities & Honors

- Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys
- Defense Research Institute
- Richmond Bar Association
- Henrico County Bar Association

Publications

- Student Note, *Examining Rule 11(b)(1)(N) Error: Guilty Pleas, Appellate Waiver, and Dominguez Benitez*, 74 Wash. & Lee. L. Rev. 551 (2017)

Reported Cases

- *Sanford v. Clarke*, 52 F.4th 582 (4th Cir. 2022)
- *Pena Pinedo v. Commonwealth*, 300 Va. 116, 860 S.E.2d 53 (2021)
- *Shahan v. Commonwealth*, 76 Va. App. 246, 880 S.E.2d 858 (2022)
- *Haefele v. Commonwealth*, 75 Va. App. 591, 878 S.E.2d 422 (2022)
- *Brown v. Commonwealth*, 75 Va. App. 388, 877 S.E.2d 156 (2022)
- *Cage v. Commonwealth*, No. 0978-21-1, 2022 Va. App. LEXIS 628 (Dec. 13, 2022)
- *Pulley v. Commonwealth*, 74 Va. App. 104, 866 S.E.2d 600 (2021)
- *McCarthy v. Commonwealth*, 73 Va. App. 630, 864 S.E.2d 577 (2021)
- *Brooks v. Commonwealth*, 73 Va. App. 133, 856 S.E.2d 599 (2021)

Education

- Davidson College, B.A., 2012
- Washington and Lee University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2017
 - Washington and Lee Law Council Law Review Award for Outstanding Student Note, 2016

Bar & Court Admissions

- Virginia State Bar, 2017
- United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- Supreme Court of Virginia