



Juli M. Porto

Principal

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Juli M. Porto handles a wide range of appellate civil matters in the Court of Appeals of Virginia and Supreme Court of Virginia.

In addition to bringing and defending appeals, she consults with trial attorneys to develop legal theories of recovery and draft complaints, brief and argue dispositive and post-trial motions, and monitor trials in preparation for defending or prosecuting an appeal. Juli is a member of the Virginia Bar Association's Appellate Section Council and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association's Amicus Committee. She has published articles in The Virginia Trial Lawyers Association Journal, VTLAppeal, and Law360 and regularly teaches continuing legal education courses in appellate law to other attorneys across the state.

At the trial level, Juli devotes her practice to personal injury matters with complex liability issues. She has been honored for her legal accomplishments by several organizations and is regularly ranked as a top attorney by Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers, Arlington magazine, Virginia Business magazine, and the Washingtonian.

As an undergraduate, she was a Distinguished Cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and after an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, graduated as an Honors Scholar from New York University.

Practice Areas

- Appellate and Trial Consulting Practice
- Personal Injury
- Automobile and Trucking Accidents
- Brain Injury
- Justice for Crime Victims, Inadequate Security Litigation

- Product Liability
- Wrongful Death

Education

- George Mason University School of Law (J.D.)
- New York University (B.A, *Honors Scholar*)
- United States Military Academy (, National Defense Service Medal, Air Assault (Honorable Discharge))

Bar Admissions

- Virginia State Bar
- District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- Supreme Court of the United States

Professional Honors & Activities

Professional Honors

- *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* (Leader of the Year 2024)
- *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* (Leaders in Law - Class of 2024)
- *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* (Go To Lawyer, Appellate Litigation)
- *Washingtonian's* Top Lawyers (Personal Injury)
- *Super Lawyers* (Appeals)
- *Northern Virginia Magazine* (Personal Injury)
- *U.S. News - Best Lawyers in America*, (Personal Injury)
- *U.S. News - Best Lawyers in America*, (Appellate Practice)
- The National Trial Lawyers "Top 40 Under 40" (Personal Injury)
- *Virginia Business Magazine* "Legal Elite" (Appeals)
- Arlington Magazine's Top Attorneys (Personal Injury & Appeals)
- American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys "10 Best in Client Satisfaction" (Personal Injury)

Presentations and Lectures

- *Case Law Update* (VTLA Annual Convention 2024)
- Faculty, *Appellate Practice: Building and Perfecting Appellate Skills* (Virginia CLE 2024)
- *Case Law Update* (VTLA Annual Convention 2023)
- *5 Things Every Trial Attorney Should Know About Appeals* (Fairfax Bar Association 2023)

- *Appellate Bonds* (VBA Appellate Summit 2023)
- *What To Do When Things Go Wrong on Appeal* (Fairfax Bar Association 2022)
- *Faculty, Appellate Advocacy Academy* (Virginia CLE 2022)
- *Convention Committee, VTLA Annual Convention* (VTLA Annual Convention 2022)
- *Ethics in Appellate Practice* (VBA 5th Appellate Summit 2021)
- *Chair, VTLA Annual Tort Law Seminar* (VTLA Tort Law Seminar 2021)
- *Appellate Analysis: The Law of Duty* (VTLA Annual Convention 2021)
- *Obtaining Neuropsychological Raw Data* (VTLA Traumatic Brain Injury Retreat 2021)
- *Ridehail Seminar* (VTLA Annual Convention 2020)
- *Technology & Advocacy* (VTLA Advocacy Summit 2019)
- *Litigating the Pressure Injury Case* (VTLA Nursing Home Litigation Retreat 2019)
- *Proving Damages* (National Business Institute 2016)
- *Getting the Most Out of Medical Experts and Records* (National Business Institute 2016)
- *Microsoft PowerPoint for Courtroom and Client Presentations* (National Business Institute 2015)
- *The Many Uses of Microsoft Excel in Legal Practice* (National Business Institute 2015)

Professional Memberships

- Virginia Law Foundation, *Committee on Continuing Legal Education*
- Ridehail Crime Victim Litigation Group, *National Chair*
- Virginia Bar Association, *Appellate Section Council*
- Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, *Amicus Committee and Judicial Relations Committee*
- American Association of Justice
- Fairfax County Bar Association
- Prince William County Bar Association

Published Articles

- Quoted, *Virginia appeals court rules judge wrongly dismissed asset forfeiture challenge*, Virginia Mercury (July 25, 2024).
- *Court Clerk Error Is No Excuse For A Missed Deadline*, Law360 (April 29, 2024).
- Quoted, *'We need the cases': Virginia's high court issuing fewer opinions*, Virginia Lawyers Weekly (September 25, 2023).
- Quoted, *How Va. Appellate Overhaul is Shaking Up the Old Dominion*, Law360 (February 8, 2023). sub. req.
- Co-author, *Essential Strategies for Representing Brain Injury Plaintiffs*, Law360 (February 25, 2021). sub. req.
- Quoted, *Uber's Challenge to Balance Driver Safety With Customer Privacy*, New York Times (March 10, 2020), available at: tinyurl.com/PortoNYT.
- *Is There a New Sheriff in Town Named "A.H. Tingler?"*, VTLAppeal, Vol. 3, No. 2, at 6 (2020).
- *Be Careful What You Ask For: Cashion v. Smith May Not Keep You From Getting It*, VTLAppeal, Vol. 3, No. 1, at 10 (2020).

- Co-author, *Itemizing Intangible Damages in Closing Argument*, The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Vol. 23, No. 3, at 8 (2012).

Community Service

- Service2School: Helping Veterans Apply to School, 2011 – present

Representative Cases

Appellate

- Chung v. Law Firm of Urban & Falk, PLLC, 2024 WL 4594323, Record No. 1665-23-4 (Virginia Court of Appeals 2024)
- Foster v. Foster, 2022 WL 2202988, Record No. 1141-21-2 (Virginia Court of Appeals 2022)
- Elliott v. Elliott, 2022 WL 598336, Record No. 0754-21-4 (Virginia Court of Appeals 2022)
- VTLA Amicus, Doe v. Baker, 299 Va. 628, 857 S.E.2d 573 (Virginia Supreme Court 2021)
- Jung v. Park, 2021 WL 1235422, Record No. 191495 (Virginia Supreme Court 2021)
- Hampton v. Meyer, 299 Va. 121, 847 S.E.2d 287 (Virginia Supreme Court 2020)
- Wilson v. Lee, 2018 WL 633522, Record No. 170347 (Virginia Supreme Court 2018)
- Toraish v. Lee, 293 Va. 262, 797 S.E.2d 760 (Virginia Supreme Court 2017)
- Wakole v. Barber, 283 Va. 488, 722 S.E.2d 238 (Virginia Supreme Court 2012)

Personal Injury

- Working with co-counsel, secured a \$9,000,000 settlement for the families of three students who tragically lost their lives and two survivors of the November 2022 University of Virginia shooting, to achieve justice and advocate for reforms to improve campus safety and prevent future gun violence.
- Secured a \$5,075,000 settlement for a client who suffered paraplegia after a rear-end collision caused their truck's seatback to collapse, propelling their head into the rear compartment.
- Secured a \$3,000,000 settlement for an engineer who sustained multiple fractures and underwent several surgeries following a head-on collision.
- Achieved a \$2,325,000 settlement for a woman who suffered permanent leg injuries and life-altering consequences in a broadside collision, highlighting the importance of thorough case preparation, including a "day in the life" video and a life care plan.
- Secured a \$3,250,000 settlement for the estate of a 16-year-old boy who tragically lost his life in a construction trench collapse, holding the construction company, its manager, and the property owner accountable for negligence and unsafe conditions.
- Secured a \$2,850,000 settlement for a young woman who suffered burns to her face, neck, and torso from a defective pressure cooker and her husband's loss of consortium claim, demonstrating that a manufacturing defect in the locking mechanism caused the explosion despite the defendants' claims of user error.
- Achieved a \$1,100,000 settlement for a lifelong athlete and father who suffered permanent knee injuries requiring multiple surgeries after a collision with a tractor-trailer on Interstate 66; successfully demonstrated the connection between his injuries and the initial crash despite defense challenges.

- Secured a \$1,100,00 settlement for an 8-year-old child permanently injured after being struck by a package delivery driver who veered to the wrong side of the street, causing significant damage to the child's knee and long-term physical and emotional challenges.
- Secured a \$1,475,000 settlement for a client with rheumatoid arthritis who fractured his elbow after tripping over a displaced cement slab in an outdoor retail courtyard, a condition found to violate the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

News & Insights

- The Supreme Court of Virginia Affirms Warrantless Arrests on Home Curtilage are Constitutional When Officers are Lawfully Present and Have Probable Cause
- Supreme Court of Virginia Weighs in on Interpretation of Virginia Code § 19.2-306.1 Governing Probation Violations
- Virginia Supreme Court Issues Opinion in West Virginia & Appalachian Laborers' District Council Challenge to Sycamore Cross Solar Project
- Virginia Supreme Court Reverses Murder Convictions Over Excluded Expert Testimony
- Virginia Supreme Court Upholds Amazon Flex Drivers' Employee Status—But on a Technicality
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Reviews a Conviction for Possession of a Controlled Substance.
- Commonwealth v. Cappe: Sufficiency of Evidence and Procedural Default on Evidentiary Error
- The Court of Appeals Addresses the Constitutionality of Virginia Code § 20-124.2(B2)
- Urgent Call for Auto Safety Reforms: Addressing Seatback Failures
- The Supreme Court Affirms the Court of Appeals' Opinion that a "Sudden Emergency" Instruction to the Jury Was Appropriate
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Reverses and Remands a Significant Ineffective Assistance of Counsel Case
- The Supreme Court reverses the Court of Appeals' reversal of a \$7,000,000 Verdict
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Rejects Multiple Challenges to a \$2 Million Medical Malpractice Verdict.
- The Supreme Court determines the admissibility of an officer's body-worn camera footage.
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Applies the Fugitive Disentitlement Doctrine
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Reverses the Court of Appeals Sitting en banc Due to Appellant's Failure to Preserve an Issue for Appeal
- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized Among Virginia Business Magazine's Legal Elite
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Issues a Published Order to Explain its Rationale for Dismissing a Petition for Appeal
- The Supreme Court Addresses the Temporal Reach of Virginia's 2021 Sentencing Reform Legislation and Clarifies When New Statutory Limits on Suspended Sentences Apply to Existing Cases
- A Split Supreme Court Reverses an en banc Opinion from the Court of Appeals Concerning the Virginia Computer Crimes Act
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Clarifies Important Issues Regarding the Admissibility of Child Victims' Out-of-Court Statements in Sexual Abuse Cases
- The Supreme Court Issues an Unpublished Order Which Finds that an Unsigned Complaint is a Legal Nullity and Void Ab Initio.
- The Supreme Court Clarifies What Constitutes "Ownership" in Authorized Use of Vehicle Cases
- Principal Juli Porto Named Virginia Lawyers Weekly's 2024 Leader of the Year
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Issues a Relatively Short Opinion in an Attorney Disciplinary Action
- Eleven Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys in Arlington Magazine's 2024 List
- The Court of Appeals of Virginia Interpreted the Federal CARES Act in Relation to Virginia's Eviction Laws

- The Court of Appeals Releases an Opinion Discussing the Nuances of the Ministerial vs. the Discretionary Act of Driving for Purposes of Applying Sovereign Immunity
- Rule 5A:8(b)(4)(ii) strikes Again
- the Supreme Court Saves a Litigant from Immediate Appellate Death by Reversing a Summary Dismissal from the Court of Appeals
- The Court of Appeals Defines “Just Cause” in the Adoption Context
- The Court of Appeals Describes Limits to the Authority of a Board of Zoning Appeals.
- The Court of Appeals considers whether a respondent may file a demurrer to a petition filed pursuant to Code § 15.2-2314
- The Court of Appeals interprets the bad faith disclosure exception to the general rule that prohibits the disclosure of information related to reports of the abuse of children to DSS
- Twenty-Seven Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine in the 2025 Edition of Best Lawyers in America
- Lifelong Athlete Secures \$1,100,000 Settlement Following Tractor-Trailer Collision
- In a case of first impression, the Court of Appeals addresses whether Code § 8.01-249(6) permits a delayed action for childhood sexual abuse
- In this 61-page opinion, the Court of Appeals reverses the largest damages verdict in Virginia history
- In this week’s published civil opinion, the Court of Appeals decides whether a fiduciary can exercise a general power of appointment
- The Court of Appeals explains the proper way to challenge the appointment of an estate administrator
- The Court of Appeals analyzes the scope of employment issue in the context of a sexual battery
- Blankingship & Keith Plays Integral Role in Securing \$9 Million Settlement in UVa Shooting Cases
- Twenty Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2024
- The Court of Appeals clarifies the adverse witness rule
- Blankingship & Keith Secures \$2.85M Settlement in Pressure Cooker Explosion Case
- Sidar v. Doe, Record No. 0837-23-4 (Va. Ct. App. Apr. 16, 2024)
- Blankingship & Keith’s Personal Injury Lawyers Secure Three Major Settlements Totaling \$6.675M, Recognized in Virginia Lawyers Weekly
- Williams v. Boggess, Record No. 0600-23-3 (Va. Ct. App. Apr. 9, 2024)
- Davis v. Wal-Mart Assocs., Inc., Record No. 0503-23-3 (Va. Ct. App. Apr. 2, 2024)
- Pompell v. Commonwealth, Record No. 1246-23-3 (Va. Ct. App. Mar. 26, 2024)
- McNally v. Virginia Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Record No. 0816-23-3 (Va. Ct. App. Mar. 26, 2024)
- Green v. Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC, Record No. 0144-22-3, Rehearing en banc granted
- Parrish v. Vance, Record No. 1687-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Mar. 12, 2024)
- Howard v. Harris, Record No. 1499-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. Mar. 5, 2024)
- Shaw-McDonald v. Eye Consultants of N. Va., Record No. 0067-23-4 (Va. Ct. App. Jan. 30, 2024)
- Stanton v. Virginia Beach – Fire Operations, Record No. 0344-23-1 (Va. Ct. App. Jan. 30, 2024)
- Stanton v. Virginia Beach – Fire Operations, Record No. 0344-23-1 (Va. Ct. App. Jan. 30, 2024)
- Boyette v. Sprouse, Record No. 1278-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. Jan. 23, 2024)
- Smith Development, Inc. v. Conway, Record No. 1245-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Jan. 9, 2024)
- Brown v. Kirkpatrick, Record No. 1100-22-1 (Va. Ct. App. Dec. 19, 2023) (en banc)
- Boxley v. Crouse, Record No. 0183-23-3 (Va. Ct. App. Dec. 28, 2023)
- Martin v. Lafountain, Record No. 0971-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Dec. 12, 2023)
- Appellate Bonds
- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine as "Legal Elite" in Virginia Business Magazine's 2023 Rankings
- Colvey v. City of Chesapeake, Record No. 1692-22-1 (Va. Ct. App. Nov. 28, 2023)

- Ten Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized as “Top Lawyers” by Northern Virginia Magazine
- Graydon Manor LLC v. Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, Record No. 1012-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Nov. 21, 2023)
- Baez v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0073-23-3 (Va. Ct. App. Nov. 14, 2023)
- Clutteur v. Rosier, Record No. 0104-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Oct. 31, 2023)
- Neal v. Sec'y of the Dep't of Veterans Affairs, Record No. 1219-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Oct. 24, 2023)
- Wright v. Graves, Record No. 1079-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Oct. 17, 2023)
- Thirteen Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys by Arlington Magazine
- Anderson v. Clarke, Record No. 230172 (Va. Oct. 12, 2023)
- Minor v. Heishman, Comm. of Accounts, Record No. 0980-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Oct. 10, 2023)
- Parrish v. Callahan, Record No. 1342-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Oct. 3, 2023)
- Amazon Logistics, Inc. v. Virginia Employment Comm., Record No. 0310-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. Sept. 26, 2023)
- Stack v. Larsen, Record No. 1301-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Sept. 26, 2023)
- Blankingship & Keith Appellate Principal Discusses Impact of Reduced Supreme Court Opinions in Virginia Lawyers Weekly
- Be Careful What You Ask For...
- Forbes v. Cantwell, Record No. 0212-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Sept. 12, 2023)
- City-to-City Auto Sales, LLC v. Harris, Record No. 0728-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. Aug. 29, 2023)
- Salunkhe v. Christopher Customs, LLC, Record No. 1195-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Aug. 22, 2023)
- Twenty-two Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine in the 2024 Edition of Best Lawyers in America
- Navy Fed. Credit Union v. Lentz, Record No. 1115-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. Aug. 15, 2023)
- Choi v. Choi, Record No. 0727-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Aug. 1, 2023)
- LKQ Corp. v. Morales, Record No. 1173-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. Aug. 1, 2023)
- Miles v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0288-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. July 25, 2023)
- Walker v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0464-22-2 (July 18, 2023)
- Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners, LLC v. Anderson, Record No. 1180-22-1 (Jul. 11, 2023)
- Brown v. Kirkpatrick, Record No. 1100-22-1 (Va. Ct. App. July 5, 2023)
- CSE, Inc. v. Kibby Welding, LLC, Record No. 1438-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. June 13, 2023)
- Commonwealth v. Muwahhid, Record No. 0618-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. June 13, 2023)
- City of Hampton v. Williamson, Record No. 210988 (Va. June 8, 2023)
- King v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0397-22-1 (Va. Ct. App. June 6, 2023)
- Orndoff v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0973-21-4 (Va. Ct. App. June 6, 2023)
- Abouemara v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0284-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. June 6, 2023)
- Maust v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0505-21-4 (Va. Ct. App. May 30, 2023) (en banc)
- Blankingship & Keith Principal Juli M. Porto Honored as a "Go To Lawyer" for Appellate Law by Virginia Lawyers Weekly
- Happe v. Zimmerman, Record No. 0588-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. May 23, 2023)
- When is a Final Order Final?
- Brandon v. Coffey, Record No. 0440-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. May 16, 2023)
- Veldhuis v. Abboushi, Record No. 0776-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. May 9, 2023)
- Virginia Access to Justice Commission Recognizes Blankingship & Keith Attorneys on 2023 Pro Bono Honor Roll
- Williams v. Legere, Record No. 1225-22-1 (Va. Ct. App. May 2, 2023)
- Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2023

- Holman v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0629-22-2 (Va. Ct. App. Apr. 18, 2023)
- Ranger v. Hyundai Motor America, Record 220058 (Va. Apr. 6, 2023)
- Bland-Henderson v. Commonwealth, Record No. 1359-21-2 (Va. Ct. App. Apr. 11, 2023)
- Jalloh v. S.W. Rodgers, Record No. 0920-22-4 (Va. Ct. App. April 4, 2023)
- Yourko v. Yourko, Record No. 22039 (Va. Mar. 30, 2023)
- Evans v. Truist Bank f/k/a Branch Banking & Trust Co., Record No. 0631-22-3 (Va. Ct. App. Mar. 28, 2023)
- What To Do When Things Go Wrong: You Missed The Deadline To File Your Notice of Appeal
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Offers New Recommendations for Window Coverings Safety
- Virginia Department of Corrections v. Bishop, Record No. 0987-21-3, 75 Va. App. 1 (May, 24 2022)
- Khine v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0900-21-1, 75 Va. App. 435 (September 13, 2022)
- Jacks v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0833-20-3, 74 Va. App. 783 (May 17, 2022) (en banc)
- Beginning Your Appeal in the Court of Appeals
- Can Social Media Companies Evade Accountability?
- Appellate Principal Juli Porto Quoted in Law360 Article
- Changes in Virginia Law Regarding Improving UM/UIM Coverage
- 20 Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Named “Legal Elite” by Virginia Business Magazine
- Five Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Named “Top Lawyers” by Northern Virginia Magazine
- Ten Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Named “Top Lawyers” by Washingtonian Magazine
- Juli Porto and Rob Stoney Achieve \$3 Million Settlement for Client
- County of Henrico v. O’Neil, Record No. 0932-21-2, 75 Va. App. 312 (August 2, 2022)
- Ellis v. Commonwealth, Record No. 0818-21-1, 75 Va. App. 162 (July 19, 2022)
- Blankingship & Keith Principal Juli Porto Obtains a Pair of Appellate Victories for Her Clients
- Juli Porto Participated in a Panel on Virginia's Refashioned Appellate System