



Appellate and Trial Consulting Practice

Blankingship & Keith's Appellate and Trial Consulting Practice group thoroughly understands Virginia's many unique rules and laws.

Strategic Guidance for Protecting Your Legal Wins

At Blankingship & Keith, our Appellate and Trial Consulting Practice is focused on helping you navigate Virginia's complex legal landscape, including the latest developments in appellate procedure. We are here to protect the successes you've achieved in lower courts and develop strategies to safeguard your interests when facing an appeal.

Why Clients Trust Us

Our clients rely on us not only for our extensive knowledge of the law but because we offer a proactive approach to minimize risks and prevent losses. We have successfully represented clients at the Court of Appeals of Virginia, the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the federal Fourth Circuit. Whether you are looking to overturn an unfavorable decision or preserve a hard-fought victory, you can count on our team to be with you every step of the way.

Expertise That Works for You

Our appellate team brings an in-depth understanding of the rules governing the appellate courts, giving you an edge in developing a winning strategy. With broad expertise across personal injury, family law, corporate law, real estate, and more, we offer the legal insights necessary to handle even the most complex appeals. Our reputation for excellence is well-established in the legal community, and we're committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for you.

Early Intervention for Success

Appealing a decision often begins long before the trial concludes. We work with you to identify potential appellate issues during the trial and ensure the record is preserved to strengthen your case later. By closely monitoring trial proceedings and becoming fully immersed in the trial record, we ensure that every detail is addressed and no opportunity for success is missed.

With Blankingship & Keith, you gain not only legal representation but a trusted partner focused on protecting your rights and courtroom victories.

Related Attorneys

- Juli M. Porto
- John A.C. Keith
- David J. Gogal
- Gifford R. Hampshire
- Laurie L. Kirkland
- Robert E. Scully, Jr.
- Sandra L. Havrilak

Related Cases

- Pope v. Pope, 2025 WL 1737866, Record No. 0955-24-4 (Virginia Court of Appeals 2025)
- PAE Nat'l Sec. Sols., LLC v. Constellis, LLC (No. 1598-23-4, 2025 WL 36973, Va. Ct. App. Jan. 7, 2025)
- No. 1598-23-4, 2025 WL 36973, Va. Ct. App. Jan. 7, 2025
- 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)
- Lee v. Spoden, 776 S.E.2d 798 (Va. 2015)
- Wakole v. Barber, 283 Va. 488, 722 S.E.2d 238 (Virginia Supreme Court 2012)

Representative Matters

Representative matters include:

- 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).
- Susan E. Phillips v. John Mark Rohrbaugh, Jr. 2021 WL 4898511 (Virginia Supreme Court 2021).
- Historic Alexandria Foundation v. City of Alexandria, et al., 299 Va. 694, 858 S.E. 2d 199 (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).
- Shareholder Representative Services, LLC v. Airbus Americas, Inc., 292 Va. 682, 791 S.E.2d 724 (Virginia Supreme Court 2016).

- Paul Lee, et al. v. Lisa Spoden, 290 Va. 235 (Virginia Supreme Court 2015).
- Martin and Drewry v. City of Alexandria et.. al., 286 Va. 61, 743 S.E. 2d 139 (Virginia Supreme Court 2013).
- Town of Leesburg v. Long Lane Associates, 726 Va. 61, 727 S.E. 2d 27 (Supreme Court of Virginia 2012)
- Barber v. Wakole, 283 Va. 488, 722 S.E.2d 238 (Virginia Supreme Court 2012).
- McLean v. Ray, 488 F. App'x 677 (4th Cir. 2012).
- Dean v. Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County, 281 Va. 536, 708 S.E.2d 830 (Supreme Court of Virginia 2011).
- Mary Renkey, et al. v. County Board of Arlington County, et al. 634 S.E.2d 352, Record No. 052139 (Virginia Supreme Court 2006).
- Gen. Tech. Applications, Inc v. Exro Ltda, 388 F.3d 114 (4th Cir. 2004).
- Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County v. United States, 276 F.3d 1359 (Fed. Cir. 2002).
- Turner and Wall v. Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County, 263 Va. 283, 559 S.E.2d 683 (2002)
- Cox v. Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County, 249 F.3d 295 (4th Cir.), cert. denied, 122 S. Ct. 544 (2001)
- Alexakis v. Mallios, 261 Va. 425 (Virginia Supreme Court 2001).
- Premier Signatures International, Inc. v. Feld Entertainment Productions, Inc., 1999 U.S. App. LEXIS 14028; Case No. 98-2456 (unpublished opinion) (4th Cir. 1999).
- George Atkisson, et al. v. Wexford Associates, et al and Wexford Associates, et al. v. George Atkisson, et al., 254 Va. 449, 493 S.E.2d 524 (Virginia Supreme Court 1997).
- Hazel & Thomas, P.C., et al. v. Shahram Yavari, et al., 251 Va. 162, 465 S.E.2d 812 (Virginia Supreme Court 1996).

Testimonials

Trial Attorney Testimonials

- "Ms. Porto assisted me in the drafting of the Circuit Court order my client was appealing to the Court of Appeals, and she represented him on the appeal. Her knowledge, expertise, and professionalism were invaluable. I highly recommend her!"
- "A well known appellate lawyer, who did not handle family law cases, recommended Juli Porto to represent my client on an appeal by her ex-husband on a spousal support award to my client. My client prevailed on the appeal, and she will be forever grateful, as will I, on the professional and competent manner in which Juli handled the appeal. She quickly isolated the legal issue to be addressed in her well researched brief and well presented oral argument. Juli also developed a good relationship with my client, who I know would have been pleased with Julie's representation regardless of the outcome."
- "I retained Juli Porto to argue an appeal before the Supreme Court of Virginia and I could not have been more pleased with the result. After an adverse ruling in Circuit Court dismissed the case, she was able to argue before the Supreme Court and secure a reversal. I was very impressed with both her written argument and oral argument. I would highly recommend her for any appellate work."

Client Testimonials

- "I cannot thank Juli Porto enough for her expertise, knowledge, support, guidance, professionalism, time and fight for me in my appellate case. Juli absolutely went above and beyond and I am so grateful for her. She will evaluate your case, be upfront and honest regarding your situation, keep you fully informed along the way and take as much time as you need to answer any of your questions or calls. Without any reservation, I highly recommend Juli Porto. If you are in search for an appellate attorney, look no further! Juli Porto is the one you need on your side!"
- "Juli Porto offered wise counsel as we walked through a very challenging time. She was responsive, insightful, and went above and beyond to support the best possible outcome."

News & Insights

- Virginia Supreme Court Clarifies Sovereign Immunity for Municipalities and Employees in *Ellis v. Jolley*
- Supreme Court of Virginia Rules Updated Accrual Statute Is Not Retroactive
- Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Announces 2025 Northern Virginia Magazine Top Attorneys
- Virginia Supreme Court Defines Boundary on Remorse vs. Trial Rights
- Blankingship & Keith Named Among 2026 "Best Law Firms" by Best Lawyers®
- Supreme Court of Virginia Clarifies Standards for Judicial Expulsion and Dissolution of LLCs
- Ten Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized Among Arlington Magazine's 2025 Top Attorneys
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Rejects Summary Contempt for Witness's Alleged Intoxication in *Orndoff Case*
- Supreme Court of Virginia Addresses Fourth Amendment Limits on Intrusive Searches Incident to Arrest
- Thirty Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Editions of Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®
- The Supreme Court of Virginia Addresses the Difference Between Retainers and Advanced Legal Fees
- Virginia Supreme Court Upholds SCC's Denial of Dulles Greenway Toll Hike
- Blankingship & Keith's Juli M. Porto Prevails in Virginia Court of Appeals, Secures Complete Appellate Victory in Divorce Case
- Virginia Supreme Court Rules on Use of Unsigned Contract Copies as Evidence
- Virginia Supreme Court Weighs in on Good-Faith Claim-of-Right Defense
- Virginia Supreme Court Rejects Adequate Assurance Doctrine in Contract Disputes
- Virginia Supreme Court Strikes Down 2023 Broadband Expansion Statute
- Twenty-One Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2025
- Supreme Court of Virginia Clarifies: Unpaid Child Support Can Be Pursued as Contractual Claims
- Supreme Court of Virginia Finds Harmless Error Applies to Exclusion of Expert Testimony
- 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)

- 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
- Supreme Court Provides Important Guidance on the Proper Standard for Reviewing Plea Withdrawal Denials and Reaffirms the Significant Discretion Given to Trial Courts in These Matters
- 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 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.
- Three Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Honored by Virginia Lawyers Weekly
- 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
- 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
- Twenty Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2024

- The Court of Appeals clarifies the adverse witness rule
- Sidar v. Doe, Record No. 0837-23-4 (Va. Ct. App. Apr. 16, 2024)
- 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
- Calway v. City of Chesapeake, Record No. 1692-22-1 (Va. Ct. App. Nov. 28, 2023)
- 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)
- 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
- 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
- Appellate Principal Juli Porto Quoted in Law360 Article
- 20 Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Named "Legal Elite" by Virginia Business Magazine
- Thirteen Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Named 2022 Top Attorneys by Arlington Magazine
- 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)