

VTA Announces New Legal Services Benefit for Members

The VTA is pleased to announce the launch of a new service to add value to the dues investment made by our members. Through a special arrangement, members of the VTA and the VMWA can now receive one free personal or two free telephone consultations with VTA's general counsel, Robert G. "Bob" Rothstein, a principal with the law firm of Franklin & Prokopik. Should your legal matter be complex, such as defense of a highway accident or review of a property lease, a billing rate for the matter will be negotiated.

As explained in the attached profile, Franklin & Prokopik is nationally known for its trucking and transportation expertise. The Firm's lawyers are active in all aspects of the transportation industry, representing motor carriers, private fleet operators, brokers and freight forwarders, both directly and through their insurers. Franklin and Prokopik has even created their own Emergency Response Team to provide 24 hour assistance, 365 days a year. An attorney with transportation experience is always on call at (877) 752 0001, and can quickly respond to any need. Visit their website at www.fandpnet.com for more information about the firm and its credentials.

Bob Rothstein has a depth of expertise in trucking issues, having served as General Counsel for the Truckload Carriers Association and the American Moving and Storage Association, and as an attorney and Assistant Branch Chief with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

So, the next time you have an issue that needs legal advice, take advantage of this member benefit by contacting Bob Rothstein at (703) 793-1800 or rrothstein@fandpnet.com.

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TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE PROFILE

FRANKLIN & PROKOPIK is known nationally for its expertise in trucking and transportation issues. The Firm represents motor carriers, private fleet operators, motor coach operators, brokers, movers, freight forwarders, shippers, terminal operators, and stevedoring companies, directly and through their insurers. We provide quality legal services to the transportation industry in a cost-effective manner.

FRANKLIN & PROKOPIK attorneys have specialized knowledge to help clients navigate their way around the industry's many challenges and specific issues that arise:

- Operational Expertise – We handle highway accident litigation, personal injury matters, and cargo claims. We can help you anticipate and avoid problems with shippers through a comprehensive review of transportation documents.
- Business Expertise – We can ensure that your interests are protected before you enter into essential business and operating agreements, such as equipment lease agreements, independent contractor operating agreements, terminal lease agreements, insurance coverage issues, and employment handbooks.
- Regulatory Compliance Knowledge – We can help you comply with regulatory requirements such as operating authority, fuel tax accounts, vehicle registration, and safety compliance matters, including preparing for motor carrier safety audits and protecting your company's safety fitness rating.
- Driver Issues - We know that drivers are the face of your company, and we can help you retain your experienced driving force by defending drivers against hours of service violations, equipment violations, traffic citations, and criminal charges.
- Legislative Expertise – Sometimes the resolution to problems simply lies outside the box. We can design a legislative strategy to help achieve your goals and leverage your resources with those of like-minded businesspeople.
- Workers' Compensation Litigation - This is a significant part of our transportation practice, and our attorneys possess specialized knowledge and trial expertise in state workers' compensation matters before the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission.
- Emergency Response Team - We know that accidents and emergencies occur outside of traditional business hours. Accordingly, an F & P attorney with transportation experience is always on call at 877-752-0001 to provide 24-hour assistance, 365 days a year.

- Specialized Programs – We work with clients to develop custom claims-investigation programs and safety measures to reduce the number and cost of all types of claims. We follow through with motor carriers and their insurance companies and independent adjusting companies to make sure claims-reduction goals are met.

We understand that "one size does not fit all", so we tailor each client relationship as a partnership to best serve our client's needs in a cost-effective manner. We offer attorneys with varying levels of seniority and different transportation specializations, supported by an experienced group of paralegals. We have handled cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, based in Richmond, VA, and the United States Supreme Court. On behalf of our clients, we're proud of the substantial contributions our attorneys have made to Virginia transportation law.

The Firm's quarterly newsletter, *F & P Liability Dispatch*, is distributed as a courtesy to industry representatives, and we frequently provide speakers for transportation-related organizations and functions. To receive a complimentary copy or copies of past issues, to be added to the mailing list, or to request a speaker, please contact Joan Hartman, Office Manager at 410-230-3631 or e-mail jhartman@fandpnet.com.

Representative clients:

Those with local roots:

Estes Express
Interstate Van Lines

National Carriers:

C.R. England
Cardinal Logistics Management
Celadon Trucking Services, Inc.
R + L Carriers
Swift Transportation
Werner Enterprises, Inc.

Private Fleet Operators:

Comcast
ConAgra Foods, Inc.
Coca Cola Enterprises
Federal Express
SYSCO Corporation
USA Waste/Waste Management, Inc.

Insurers:

Baldwin & Lyons/Protective Insurance
Lancer
Carolina Casualty Insurance Co.
Lincoln General
RLI
Harco National

We also work closely with insurance administrators used by our clients, including:

- AI Transport
- Corporate Claims
- Gallagher Bassett Services
- Crawford and Company

We're proud of our many affiliations with the transportation industry. Founding Principal Robert T. Franklin serves as General Counsel to the [Maryland Motor Truck Association](#) (MMTA); the Towing and Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM); and is Counsel to the Maryland Movers Council. Bob is a Past Chair of the [Defense Research Institute](#) (DRI) Trucking Law Committee; the American Bar Association TIPS Commercial Transportation Litigation Committee; and the American Law Firm Association's (ALFA) Transportation Practice Group.

Firm Principal Robert G. Rothstein is dedicated to serving the legal, legislative, regulatory, and business interests of motor carriers and logistics providers. He serves as General Counsel to the Virginia Trucking Association (VTA) and is a member of several federal and state trucking and transportation communities, among them the Transportation Lawyers Association and Association of Transportation Law Professionals. He is a member also of the American Bar Association and the New York State, Pennsylvania, and Virginia Bar Associations. Mr. Rothstein was General Counsel of the American Moving and Storage Association from 2001 to 2008, and General Counsel of the Truckload Carriers Association from 1992 to 2001. He was also an attorney and Assistant Branch Chief with the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. Rothstein's civic involvement includes providing *pro bono* legal services to trucking industry organizations Women in Trucking and Trucker Buddy International. He has maintained a valid Class A Commercial Drivers License for more than 20 years, and still logs at least one cross-country trip each year behind the wheel of an eighteen-wheeler.

The Firm's attorneys are also active in the [United Motorcoach Association](#) (UMA), the [Transportation Lawyers Association](#) (TLA), the [Association of Transportation Law Professionals](#) (ATLP), the [Trucking Industry Defense Association](#) (TIDA), the Federal Bar Association's Transportation Law Committee, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. The Firm is an Allied Industry Member of MMTA and provides the Association's "Legal Services Program," offering courtesy consultations to MMTA members as a benefit of their membership. It is also a member of Towing and Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) and administers the Legal Services Program for its members. The Firm is an Associate Member of the [American Moving and Storage Association](#) (AMSA), [National Tank Truck Carriers](#) (NTTC), and the Virginia Trucking Association (VTA).

Do we love trucks? You bet!! The Firm has a [model truck collection](#) of nearly 2,000 units, and has created its own [F&P Truck](#).

For more information on FRANKLIN & PROKOPIK's transportation practice, and how we can help you, please contact one of the following attorneys:

- Robert T. Franklin, Direct Dial 410-230-3623, or rfranklin@fandpnet.com
- Tamara B. Goorevitz, Direct Dial 410-230-3625, or tgoorevitz@fandpnet.com
- Andrew T. Stephenson, Direct Dial 410-230-3638, or astephenson@fandpnet.com
- Robert G. Rothstein, Direct Dial 703-793-1800, or rrothstein@fandpnet.com