

Application Form

Profile

Mr. Matthew W. Light
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name Suffix

milight@botkinrose.com
Email Address

95 East Grattan Street
Home Address Suite or Apt

Harrisonburg VA 22801
City State Postal Code

How many years have you been a resident of Harrisonburg?

19

Home: (540) 819-2793 Business: (540) 437-0019
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

BotkinRose PLC Attorney
Employer Job Title

Demographics - (Submission of this information if voluntary and will not subject you to any adverse treatment should you chose to not complete)

Ethnicity

None Selected

Gender

None Selected

What is your age?

40-50 years old

Are you reapplying for a current position you hold? *

Yes

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority (HRRSA): Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

Serving on HRRSA previously has been enriching for me. Utility infrastructure is a core function of local government. If the toilets don't flush, it affects everyone. I'm proud that HRRSA is run both efficiently and in a manner that demonstrates good stewardship of our environment. Moreover, especially in this last term, we have confronted the issue of how to make sure local significant industrial users are complying appropriately with HRRSA's rules. These are difficult questions of judgment, because it is critical to care for the North River by discharging cleanly from the plant, while still preserving the jobs that help our community thrive economically. We have balanced these issues well to this point, but I'm sure we can always improve, and I'm hopeful that I'll be able to continue my service.

What other interests or concerns do you have regarding the community?

I have practiced law here for many years. I have interacted with and represented important local businesses and institutions. I am on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, where I serve on the public outreach committee and help educate the community about the important work that the Community Foundation and other local charities accomplish in Harrisonburg. I'm also interested in continued downtown improvement; as a resident of downtown, I'm pleased with where it's heading but hope we can continue to provide parks, find ways to preserve Black's Run, and support small downtown businesses.

What relevant experience or education do you have to this board or commission?

As both a business attorney and a local government attorney, I bring a good practical perspective to HRRSA (a local government body) and its business operations. I can analyze risk well, formulate options, and make a decision. I know where HRRSA can be aggressive, and where it needs to treat carefully. I serve on HRRSA's personnel committee and can provide input on employment questions.

Please list any past or present community involvement e.g. City Council, Boards and Commissions, Citizen Academy, etc. in Harrisonburg or elsewhere:

HRRSA Director since roughly 2012; Massanutten Regional Library Trustee 2017-2023. Previous Director of the Shenandoah Valley Technology Council. Director, Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, 2025-present. Town Attorney, Town of Broadway, 2017-2025. General counsel to Valley Community Services Board, Fishersville, Virginia, 2021-present

[MWL_Resume_-_CV.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

EPSAC Applicants only

Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee Applicants only

Matthew W. Light
95 East Grattan Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
540-437-0019 (work)
mlight@botkinrose.com

EXPERIENCE

BotkinRose PLC, Harrisonburg, VA

December 2015 – Present

Practice focuses on estate planning and administration, real estate (especially complex title issues), municipal law, general business services, tax law, and tax-exempt finance. Commissioner in Chancery, Rockingham County Circuit Court, 2018-present. Town Attorney for the Town of Broadway, Virginia, July 2017-December 2025. General counsel to Valley Community Services Board, Fishersville, Virginia, 2021-present.

Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver PLC, Harrisonburg, VA

September 2002 – December 2015

Similar practice areas to those at BotkinRose. Appeared before Virginia Supreme Court. Lead counsel in complex partition suits. Assistant Town Attorney for the Town of Broadway, Virginia, from 2007-2015.

Adjunct Professor, Washington and Lee University School of Law, Lexington, VA

January 2012 – Present

Currently teaching Decedents' Estates and Trusts (i.e., Wills). Previously professor of annual two-week intensive practicum course for 3Ls on commercial transactions.

Judicial Clerk, Hon. James C. Turk, United States District Judge, Roanoke, VA

August 2001 – August 2002

Produced first drafts of legal opinions and provided general assistance to United States District Judge.

EDUCATION

Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA — J.D. *magna cum laude*, 2001

Graduated in top five percent (5%) of class.

1999-2000: Staff Editor at *Washington and Lee Law Review*. Burks Scholar, 2000-01.

Publication: "Who's the Boss? Statutory Damage Caps, Courts, and State Constitutional Law", 57 WASH. & LEE LAW REV. 315 (2001).

Drew University, Madison, NJ – B.A. *summa cum laude*, 1998

Double Major: Latin & Greek and Political Science.

LICENSES/AFFILIATIONS

Virginia State Bar, 2002.

Director, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority, 2012-present (Chairman, 2018-2020, 2023-2025; present Vice-Chairman).

Trustee, Massanutten Regional Library, 2017-2023

Director, The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, 2025-present

INTERESTS

Fenton Art Glass collecting and sales; vinyl records; major league baseball (Nationals).