# Virginia Local Government Law

# A Government Solution

## By: Andrew McRoberts. *Friday, July 22nd, 2011*

I am often asked. "What kind of law do you practice?"

As a long-time local government attorney, most of my practice involves representing and defending litigation against governments, governmental entities, officials and their employees. That is what I have done for most of my legal career in private practice and as a full-time attorney with Arlington, Culpeper and Goochland Counties.

But a small but growing part of my practice involves representing businesses in need of a government solution.

What do I mean by a "government solution?"

A governmental solution is assistance that a governmental body, official or employee can provide to help solve a problem. This assistance could take the form of an ordinance or statute, amendment of an ordinance or statute, a zoning or other governmental approval, enforcement of applicable state or local laws, a needed administrative interpretation, or simply getting the right people talking to one another. Government can be a powerful ally and problem solver.

To me, litigation is not a government solution. Litigation is a judicial solution and an adversarial one at that, with no guarantee of result. Being adversarial with government can often be the wrong course, and actually delay or prevent a solution. Working cooperatively with government can be wise investment of time and resources.

I happily represent governments and defend them in litigation. My record speaks for itself in that regard. However, in addition, I am pleased to represent select businesses needing a government solution.