



2011 Year End Construction Law Musings and Reflections

The enclosed proposition for the sale of 3000 rifles to the Commonwealth was lately received from Mr. Gouldman. As the Executive has no power to purchase that species of arms, it did not undertake to deliberate on the propriety of accepting or rejecting the proposal. But as it is connected with a subject now under legislative consideration, and of great importance to the public, it is thought proper to communicate it to the General Assembly, with great respect and esteem I have the honor to be yr most obt. servant

J. Montross

Wow! Another year has passed and 2012 is just about upon us! I hope all of you had a great year and I look forward to a wonderful 2012 here at Musings.

As I sit here reflecting (or "Musing") this day after Christmas, I am amazed at how quickly the first full calendar year of my [solo practice](#) has passed. It seems

like only yesterday that I was [announcing the move](#) and receiving the great response to that move. Now, with that first full year under my belt, I am more sure [than ever](#) that my move was a great one. Solo practice really suits me, and also lends itself well to my area of practice, construction law. Where having a staff of one may have its outward limitations, the flexibility and sense of piloting my own ship more than makes up for this apparent limitation. Judicious use of the cloud (through [Clio](#), my [Blackberry Playbook](#), my ScanSnap scanner, and other [web based](#) technology) makes this apparent lack of administrative support almost a non-factor.

I've also found that my potential client base (contractors, subcontractors and other construction professionals) find my solo status to be a strength rather than a weakness. More flexible billing options, being a fellow business owner, and the responsiveness linked with a smaller structure are factors that my construction clients have seen as a bonus. In short, those worries that I may have had relating to my move are no longer there.

This year I was honored to be named to both the [Virginia Super Lawyers Rising Stars](#) and the [Virginia Business Legal Elite in Construction Law](#). Add this to my new membership on the [Board of Governors of the Virginia State Bar's Construction Law and Public Contracts Section](#) and appointment to the Executive Committee of the Richmond Chapter of the [AGC of Virginia](#) and this was a great year over all. Thank you to all of you that were involved with these great honors.

On the [Construction Law Musings](#) front, the year has been an interesting one as well. There was big news in 2011. As my readers know in spades, the [construction economy has been rocky](#) to say the least. The Virginia General Assembly made [some key changes](#) that will affect Virginia construction projects. We found out that the Chinese Drywall claims in Virginia [will be a sticky situation](#) (also search Musings for

"Dragas" for more on this issue). Also, with the economy the way it is, [sticking to the letter of your contract documents](#) and [getting written change orders](#) is even more imperative. I encourage you to peruse the various pages of Musings for some of the other 2011 developments in Virginia construction law.

Of course, 2011 would not have been such an interesting year here at Construction Law Musings without the wonderful [Guest Post Friday](#) contributions. These posts ranged from [IPad apps](#) to [green building](#) to [insights into federal contracting and claims](#). These last few links are only a few of the great posts and perspectives provided by the wonderful guest contributors to this construction law blog. Thank you to everyone that contributed (and continues to contribute) to the Guest Post Friday series here at Musings, this blog would not be the same without you.

Thank you to all of you who read and comment to this blog on a regular basis. Your thoughts and support keep me going when the creative juices seem dry. The encouragement provided by the knowledge that folks are out there reading is a real blessing.

Most importantly, and saving the best for last, thank you to my wonderful wife and great kids for the support, laughter and encouragement throughout 2011. That support and love made the good times sweeter and the inevitable and occasional struggles worthwhile.

Image via [Wikipedia](#)

Please check out my [Construction Law Musings Blog](#) for more on Virginia construction law and other topics.