

# Who's who? Attorneys involved for county, citizens

**MONTEREY** — When next week's trial on the county's decision to grant a permit to Highland New Wind Development kicks in, several faces will appear in court. Citizens attending may see some or all of the following, though not all will be actively involved in the proceedings:

■ **Greg Haley** — Attorney with Gentry, Locke, Rakes & Moore, Roanoke. Haley was hired by the county to assist and advise during any legal matters that arise regarding the wind energy project, and has been involved in defending the county's actions in court in conjunction with county attorney Melissa Dowd for more than a year. Practice areas and specialties include commercial litigation, local and municipal governments, business competition and trade secrets.

■ **Melissa Ann Dowd** — Highland County attorney, Monterey. Dowd has for years represented the county board, and will participate in defending supervisors' actions along with Haley.

■ **John W. Flora** — Attorney with Keeler Obenshain, Harrisonburg, representing Highland New Wind Development LLC. Practice areas range from large corporations to small private companies. Experience in negotiating business transactions, wealth management, and federal and state taxation law. Flora has been involved extensively with mergers and acquisitions revolving around the poultry industry.

■ **Brian Brake** — Also an attorney with Keeler Obenshain, representing Highland New Wind Development. Practice areas range from civil litigation to medical malpractice and

personal injury. Likely to be the attorney involved during proceedings on HNWD's behalf.

■ **James W. Jennings** — Attorney with Woods Rogers, Roanoke, representing Allegheny Mountain landowners who served notice on the county under the Endangered Species Act of their intent to bring a civil suit against the county, which still may come before the courts eventually. Practice areas include local government, regulated industries, commercial litigation, and regulatory compliance, among others. Assisted by Woods Rogers attorney Daniel C. Summerlin III, who specializes in environmental law.

■ **John C. Singleton** — Attorney in private practice under the Law Offices of John C. Singleton, Warm Springs. Singleton serves as co-counsel with Jennings and Summerlin representing Allegheny Mountain landowners. General practice; also serves as Bath County commonwealth's attorney.

■ **David S. Bailey** — Attorney in private practice, Beaverdam, specializing in law and science for the environment. Represents Highland landowners and residents in four separate legal challenges against the county and the planning commission.

■ **Judge Paul Sheridan** — Highland's regular circuit court judge Thomas Wood stepped aside in the cases surrounding the proposed wind energy project. The Virginia Supreme Court appointed Sheridan, retired, last October. Sheridan served 18 years in the 17th judicial circuit court in Arlington, the last five as chief judge. He has 20 years of experience on the bench, much of which is related to land use issues.