

SIMMS SHOWERS LLP

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H. Robert Showers, Jr. **Principal Partner, Simms Showers, LLP**

Robert Showers helped start Simms Showers LLP in 2002, originally only a Baltimore-based law firm, as a principal partner and heads up the new Northern Virginia/Metropolitan D.C. office. His practice focuses on civil and commercial litigation and church, nonprofit and business law. He regularly handles numerous lawsuits for and against church, nonprofits and small businesses and represents them on corporate, risk management, tax-exempt, liability, land use, intellectual property, construction and employment issues (EPL, D&O and Media Liability) to defend against current litigation and avoid future problems.

Prior to joining Simms Showers in 2002, Mr. Showers was a managing owner in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area firm for 13 years where he headed up its litigation department practicing in similar areas of the law. Mr. Showers, has served hundreds of churches and nonprofits nationwide with legal representation of denominations such as the Southern Baptists, Christian Missionary Alliance, Assemblies of God, Presbyterian Church of America, Church of the Nazarene, Seventh Day Adventists, major nonprofits such as New America Foundation, Americans United for Life (AUL), Mercy Ships, Youth With a Mission (YWAM), American Bible Society, Shelter for Life, Christian Herald Association (Bowery Mission), and numerous associations such as Liberty Church Planting Network, Gospel Rescue Mission Fellowship, Northstar Church Network, Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability, Association of Christian Camping and Conference Centers International, Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, and Christian Legal Society. He has represented numerous small businesses and individuals in a wide variety of business litigation, intellectual property, employment, personal liability, construction, and contract issues.

Before going into private practice in 1989, Mr. Showers acted as Deputy Assistant Attorney General and served as Executive Director of the National Obscenity Enforcement Unit

(NOEU), later called the **Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section** (CEOS), within the U.S. Department of Justice. Through NOEU/CEOS, he spearheaded the national task force against child pornographers, obscenity traffickers and organized crimes as well as creating a national law center and clearinghouse for anti-pornography intelligence information. He has served as Special Assistant, to the U.S. Attorney General as his criminal justice and drug policy advisor as well as personal liaison to the 93 U.S. Attorneys. Prior to his appointment as Special Assistant, Mr. Showers served as Assistant U.S. Attorney in Raleigh, N.C. where he did a variety of federal prosecutions and handled complex civil litigation as Chief of the Civil Section.

Mr. Showers took a leave of absence from his law practice in 1992-93 to start up and run the nonprofit **National Law Center for Children and Families** where he served as its first President and General Counsel and still actively participates on the Board as Director and Secretary. Since leaving the U.S. Attorney's office and Department of Justice, Mr. Showers has trained hundreds of law enforcement and prosecutors, assisted numerous cities and counties in drafting and defending ordinances regulating sexually oriented businesses, legally helped victims of child abuse crimes, defended churches and nonprofits in many areas including sexual misconduct and child abuse and represented organizations on many other types of civil and commercial litigation and risk management issues.

Mr. Showers has lectured extensively nationwide and written articles on church and nonprofit law, sexual misconduct, and anti-pornography and child sexual abuse. He is the co-author of **Don't Touch That Dial – The Impact of the Media on Children and Family** (Huntington House, New Orleans 1993); **Child Exploitation and Pornography – A Guide to Prosecutors and Investigations** (NLC 1995); **Sexually Oriented Businesses – A Guide to Cities and Counties** (NLC 1995); **Legal Hotspots in the Church** (2003-2019); **a series of Child Protection and Risk Management memos for churches and nonprofits** and numerous law review articles, the most notable entitled *Regulation of Pornography – The North Carolina Approach* (Wake Forest Law Review, Fall, 1986) and *Church Law in Virginia* (pending). Mr. Showers has also appeared in numerous cases and filed numerous briefs before many federal courts including the U.S. Supreme Court on various constitutional issues.

In 1977, Mr. Showers graduated *cum laude* from Wake Forest University with honors in History. In 1980 he graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law where he served with distinction on the Law Review and Moot Court Board. He has been married for over 30 years and has three wonderful daughters. He serves on the boards of the National Christian Legal Society Board (Past President), Hope Force International, Every Orphan's Hope, National Law Center for Children and Families, Gateway Community Church and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.