



VIEWS & VISIONS

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Building Momentum

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FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER

Tom Heywood is Managing Partner of Bowles Rice. He has significant experience in health care, corporate, finance and commercial law, and leads the firm's Government Relations Team.

Heywood was the recipient of the YMCA's 2017 Spirit of the Valley Award. In 2016, he was named to the inaugural class of "Sharp Shooters" by *West Virginia Executive* magazine. *The State Journal* named him one of the state's "Ten Most Influential Business Leaders" in 2012.

He served as Chief of Staff to the Honorable Gaston Caperton, former Governor of the State of West Virginia, from 1990 to 1993, and was chairman of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's election campaigns in 2011 and 2012. In 2016-2017, he was a member of the Jim Justice Inaugural Committee.

Heywood serves on numerous charitable and nonprofit boards, including the West Virginia University Board of Governors, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the West Virginia Roundtable and the Discover the Real West Virginia Foundation. He also participates actively in various business and trade associations.

In recognition of his many contributions to the legal profession and community, he was named a Fellow of the American Bar Association. He also is a past recipient of *The State Journal's* "Who's Who in West Virginia Business" award.

I remember vividly traveling the West Virginia Turnpike as a child. In the early years, a sign at the head of the turnpike in Kanawha County proudly proclaimed the road to be "A Modern Two-Lane Highway, with Three- and Four-Lane Stretches." As I grew up, the turnpike was steadily brought up to interstate standards along its entire 88 miles (and all of us who traveled the turnpike got to witness that progress over the years). What an accomplishment!

Fast forward to today. My wife and I spend a lot of time at the New River Gorge in Fayette County, West Virginia. It is an area renowned for both its incredible natural beauty and recreational venues, and the New River Gorge Bridge, which, like the turnpike, is a marvel of modern engineering. I delight in looking at, reading about and thinking about this stunning span and its relationship to the surrounding environment.

Among the questions I ponder as I reflect on the turnpike and the New River Gorge Bridge is whether the natural environment or the built environment is "better." While I am not sure there is any definitive answer to this question, I do believe that both the turnpike and the New River Gorge Bridge dramatically enhance their natural settings, and improve the quality of human life in manifold and meaningful ways. I hope you agree.

This edition of *Views & Visions* celebrates construction. Men and women who are active in the industry, and who serve as architects, engineers, contractors, developers and builders of all sorts, enhance our environment and improve the quality of our lives in dramatic ways, each and every day. Our hard hats are off to each of you!

This edition's authors discuss the many ways that construction touches and improves our lives. Schools, manufacturing facilities, roads, bridges, water and sewer projects, pipelines, mines, wells, parks, recreation centers, tourism facilities, tech parks, resorts, broadband infrastructure, convention centers, drug treatment facilities and trail systems are among the many projects and facilities featured in the pages that follow. I commend each article to you for your learning and enjoyment.

Some timely themes emerge in the pages that follow. Just as construction itself is about change and improvement, construction processes, materials and systems themselves are constantly changing and improving, as noted by several of our authors. This will certainly continue into the future. We are all better off for the ingenuity of everyone associated with the construction industry.

Our authors also note that collaboration is an increasingly common – and perhaps well-nigh indispensable – feature of construction and development in this day and age.

And, finally, our authors exhibit a keen excitement about the future and appreciation for the opportunities they have to help build, mold and shape that future. There is a lesson here for all of us.

I hope you enjoy this edition as much as I do, and that you take some time in the days ahead to reflect on what the builders in our midst do for all of us. I can't wait to see what they build next! 🏗️