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# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME)

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
ASSISTANT CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

WESTERN REGION



## VDH- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER:

The Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is a statewide medical examiner system with four regional district offices encompassing 17 forensic pathologists and a Chief Medical Examiner. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for determining the cause and manner of deaths that occur under certain circumstances in Virginia. Every case we undertake has two equally important components: the emotional and practical issues of family members and the scientific aspects of the investigations we conduct.

By the nature of the work we do here, we have become especially sensitive to the needs of families. And we are acutely aware of the precise scientific analysis that law enforcement agencies require. Each member of the medical examiner's staff is committed to providing the respect families deserve and the detailed information demanded by the legal community.

Our [website](#) provides helpful, easy-to-understand information about our processes, the medical and legal requirements of our job, and medical and statistical reports.



### ABOUT THE MEDICAL EXAMINER:

Virginia became one of the first states to institute a statewide medical examiner system in 1946. In that year, the General Assembly of Virginia abolished the office of Coroner's Physician and appointed a Chief Medical Examiner. Four years later, in 1950, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) became a division within the Virginia Department of Health.

In Virginia, medicolegal death investigators conduct a medicolegal death investigation, serving as the principal case investigator for deaths falling within the OCME statutory authority. The OCME currently supports more than 160 local medical examiners, who may conduct scene investigations in their locality. The OCME receives the initial notification of death and determines if the death should come under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner. Local medical examiners may examine and sign the certificate of death on medical examiner cases, or using professionally established guidelines, refer certain classes of cases for more intensive death investigation and medicolegal autopsy.

## VDH- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

When an autopsy is required, it is conducted in one of four district offices: Manassas, Norfolk, Richmond or Roanoke. Each district is staffed by board certified forensic pathologists, death investigators, administrative, and morgue personnel. The Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. William T. Gormley, is responsible for the overall operation of the state's medical examiner system.

Virginia's medical examiners and forensic pathologists are committed to public safety and to public health. To promote public safety, they testify to their findings in civil and criminal courts throughout the Commonwealth. They advance public health through their investigations of deaths that present a hazard to Virginia's citizens, such as emerging infections and bioterrorism. Public health is also supported through a well-established surveillance and fatality review program, one of a few forensic epidemiology units in the nation. The State Child Fatality Review Team, as well as maternal mortality review and intimate partner homicide surveillance projects are all located within the OCME. In 2002, Virginia became a demonstration site for the National Violent Death Reporting System.

### PURSUANT TO SECTION 32.1-283 OF THE CODE OF VA THE FOLLOWING DEATHS ARE INVESTIGATED BY THE OCME:

- › Any death from trauma, injury, violence, or poisoning attributable to accident, suicide or homicide;
- › Sudden deaths to persons in apparent good health or deaths unattended by a physician;
- › Deaths of persons in jail, prison, or another correctional institution, or in police custody (this includes deaths from legal intervention)
- › Deaths of persons receiving services in a state hospital or training center operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services;
- › The sudden death of any infant; and
- › Any other suspicious, unusual or unnatural death.



## OCME VISION

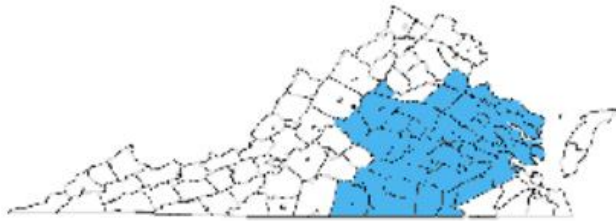
**The overall vision of the OCME is to be the best medical examiner possible. The following missions form the core of OCME staff members' efforts in accomplishing this goal:**

- › Conduct medicolegal death investigations.
- › Perform autopsies to certify cause and manner of death.
- › Provide public service to citizens and professional colleagues throughout the Commonwealth.
- › Educate peers and professionals on subjects related to death investigation.
- › Reduce violent death by conducting surveillance and fatality review.
- › Provide support and technical assistance to local fatality review teams.
- › Administer the State Anatomical Program.

## District Offices

### CENTRAL DISTRICT:

400 East Jackson Street  
Richmond, VA 23219-3694  
Phone: (804) 786-3174  
Fax: (804) 371-8595



### NORTHERN DISTRICT:

10850 Pyramid Place, Suite 121  
Manassas, VA 20110  
Phone: (703) 530-2600  
Fax: (703) 530-0510



### TIDEWATER DISTRICT:

830 Southampton Ave., Suite 100  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
Phone: (757) 683-8366  
Fax: (757) 683-2589



### WESTERN DISTRICT:

6600 Northside High School Road  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
Phone: (540) 561-6615  
Fax: (540) 561-6619



## ABOUT THE ASSISTANT CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER POSITION:

The Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is seeking an Assistant Chief Medical Examiner to join the staff of three current forensic pathologists for the OCME Western District, based out of Roanoke, that covers the western region of the state of Virginia. The successful candidate will conduct postmortem exams, approximately 250 medicolegal autopsies per year, consultations with interested parties, court testimony, supervision of staff, and other administrative oversight duties. This position advises/supervises local medical examiners as part of a fifty-five-year-old statewide medical examiner system. Educational responsibilities include the instruction of forensic pathology fellows, medical students, public safety officers, and others. The pathologist will participate in educational, training and research activities, and participate on committees. **This role offers a great work-life balance with Sundays off, holiday rotation, and no on scene requirements except in emergency situations. This role requires occasional overnight travel.**

## EXPERIENCE AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

The minimum requirements for this position are: experience performing forensic autopsies and postmortem examinations, ability to write and converse competently and clearly in the English language, ability to get along with other professionals and community officials, ability to communicate effectively as a teacher, completion of approved training program in forensic pathology (at least one year of experience), a medical licensure in Virginia (or obtain one upon employment), Board Certification or eligibility in anatomic and forensic pathology required with American Board of Pathology (or certification must be achieved within 2 years of employment), and a valid driver's license.

## JOB CONTINGENT UPON:

A Successful completion of a fingerprint-based background check and completion of Statement of Economic Interest required upon employment.

## COVID POLICIES:

In accordance with Executive Directive #18, as a condition of employment, the Commonwealth of Virginia requires all Executive Branch employees to disclose their vaccination status. Proof of vaccination will be required during new employee orientation on your first day of work. Employees that are not vaccinated must be tested weekly.

## COMPENSATION:

The annual salary range for this position is \$180,000-\$230,000.

If you think your qualifications are a match and you are interested in further pursuing this position, please use the link below to view the entire job description and formally apply.

**[ASSISTANT CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER »](#)**



# EXCELLENT BENEFITS

Benefit	Coverage
Medical, Dental, Vision	Wide range of State Health Benefit Plans and options that include medical, dental, vision, prescription drug coverage, behavioral health, Employee Assistance Programs, and free wellness visits.
Employee Assistance Program	Provided with certain plan options.
Health Care Flexible Spending Account, Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account	A pre-tax benefit option to cover medical and dependent expenses such as daycare, after school care, and other fees.
Group Life Insurance (Basic Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance)	<p>100% employer paid- equivalent to 2 times the new employee's annual salary for natural death.</p> <p>*For accidental death: coverage is equivalent to 4 times the employee's annual salary.</p>
Supplemental Life Insurance	Optional additional coverage for employee, spouse, and dependents. Employees are responsible for 100% of the premium.
Virginia Sickness and Disability Program (VSDP)	Provides eligible employees supplemental replacement income during periods of partial or total disability. Eligible employees may receive short-term disability supplemental replacement income for up to 125 workdays after meeting a 7-calendar day waiting period. Long term disability benefits may be applicable after the expiration of the maximum period for which the employee is eligible to receive short-term disability benefits. New hires and re-hires are eligible for disability benefits after a year of state service.

# EXCELLENT BENEFITS

Benefit	Coverage
Annual Leave	<p>Accrued or earned after each semi-monthly pay period and is based on years of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<u>0-5 Years of Service</u>: Employees accrue leave of 4 hours per pay period, up to 12 calendar days per year.</li> <li>-<u>After every 5 Years of Service</u>: The accrual rate increases by 1 hour up to a maximum of 9 hours per pay period, or 27 calendar days per year.</li> </ul>
Retirement	<p>Membership into the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) is automatic. The VRS retirement plan is a qualified 401 (a) defined benefit plan which pays eligible members a lifetime benefit amount based on years of service, age, and compensation.</p>
Available Voluntary Saving Plans	<p>The Commonwealth’s Deferred Compensation Plan is a voluntary tax-deferred retirement savings program that is available to individuals who are employed by the Commonwealth of Virginia in either a salaried or wage position.</p>
Holidays	<p>13 Paid Holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Election Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving (2 days), Christmas Day</p>
Educational Leave & Assistance	<p>Leave may be provided at the discretion of the agency for the purpose of allowing employees time to further their education. Employees may receive full or partial pay or may be placed on unpaid leave. Financial assistance may be provided for study related to an employee’s work.</p>
Compensatory Time	<p>Non-exempt employees are eligible for paid time off for working additional hours outside of the standard workweek; having worked on an official office closing day, a holiday, a scheduled day off, or when a holiday falls on employee’s scheduled day off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eligible employees accrue compensatory leave on an hour-for-hour basis.</li> <li>- Accrued compensatory time leave lapses within 12 months from the date it is earned, and once lapsed, compensatory leave may not be used or paid off upon an employee’s change of status.</li> </ul>
Other Miscellaneous Programs	<p>CommonHealth Wellness Program, Worker’s Compensation, Virginia College Savings Plan, membership with Virginia Credit Union, Discount Programs for health/fitness/hotels/car rentals/cell phone services/travel, and other insurance and savings programs</p>

For more information about benefits, please visit the [Virginia Department of Human Resource Management website](https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/).

## ROANOKE VALLEY IN VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE

Virginia's Blue Ridge is made up of the City of Roanoke at its heart and surrounding communities within an hour radius, including the City of Salem, Botetourt County, Franklin County, and Roanoke County. The region offers a refined, authentic, Metro Mountain adventure nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the Blue Ridge Parkway-America's Favorite Drive.

The City of Roanoke is known as "The Star City of the South" and has been named an "All American Hall of Fame City" by the National Civic League. With a population of over 100,000, it's the largest city in Western Virginia and largest city along the Appalachian Trail. Roanoke has a vibrant city center that's pedestrian friendly and features a variety of great local restaurants & breweries, shops & boutiques, attractions & museums, unique art studios & galleries, outdoor recreation, and public spaces that regularly host live music and special events.

Roanoke also has a reputation for being one of the best cities in the country for outdoor recreation and is home to the Virginia Triple Crown, showcasing three of the best hiking trails in the Commonwealth- Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob, and Tinker Cliffs. With a passionate outdoor-oriented local community, you can take advantage of exceptional outdoor opportunities, all within the city limits.



### ARTS & CULTURE

Experience the arts & culture of the City of Roanoke in Virginia's Blue Ridge by taking part in several fun activities. Enjoy first class performing arts productions presented by local organizations, special events & concerts at live music venues, and visit numerous local museums located within Downtown Roanoke.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Whether you're into biking, hiking, fishing, bird watching, horseback riding, water sports or rock climbing, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

### HIT THE TOWN

The downtowns, farmers' markets, and antique shops of the region are filled with delicious foods, fantastic crafts from right here in the valley, and one-of-a-kind shops and galleries for the perfect gifts! Not to worry—you can still find major chain retailers and department stores at two local malls in the region.



## THINGS TO DO

Take a scenic drive through the Blue Ridge Mountains. Take a hike on the iconic Appalachian Trail. Go for a ride in America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital. Discover wildlife while kayaking on the Upper James River Water Trail. Dine at a local restaurant and enjoy fresh, amazingly prepared ingredients, or sample the craft beverage scene. No matter what you decide to do, there's a fun adventure waiting for everyone in the Roanoke Valley in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains!



### BEER, WINE, & SPIRITS

Virginia's Blue Ridge is home to an impressive collection of locally-produced craft beer, wine, and spirits. Our setting in the Blue Ridge Mountains makes it an ideal location for growing grapes, as well as producing outstanding craft beer with the rich water source in streams and rivers that flow through the mountain.

- › A Few Old Goats Brewing
- › Barrel Chest Wine & Beer
- › Big Lick Brewing Company
- › Blue Ridge Vineyard
- › Amrhein's Wine Cellars
- › Atheling Meadworks
- › Franklin County Distilleries
- › And much more!

### DINING

You'll find every flavor at local restaurants in the City of Roanoke in Virginia's Blue Ridge. Whether you are enjoying comfort food like biscuits or country ham, international cuisine like banh mi or tacos, a sweet treat, Southern fare, or authentic Italian dishes, it's all part of the foodie experience in the City of Roanoke.

- › Scratch Biscuit Company
- › The Roanoke Restaurant
- › Mi Tapatia
- › The River & Rail
- › Local Roots
- › Fortunato
- › 419 West
- › Alexander's
- › And much more!



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Roanoke is blessed with beautiful mountains and foothills with a wide variety of outdoor activities from kayaking, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, to hunting, backpacking, and birding.

- › [The Blue Ridge Mountains](#): The Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia are one of the most beautiful and iconic parts of the American landscape. The Mountains are home to the Blue Ridge Parkway, known as America's Favorite Drive, and a portion of the Appalachian Trail.
- › [The Appalachian Trail](#): The Appalachian Trail is one of the most iconic scenic hiking trails in the world and it has several access points in the Roanoke Valley.
- › [Smith Mountain Lake](#): Close to Roanoke, Smith Mountain Lake is Virginia's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest lake. It features over 500 miles of glistening shoreline. There is also a
- › And much more!

## ROANOKE'S RICH HISTORY

### EARLY SETTLERS

The first pioneers explored the Roanoke Valley region as early as the 17th Century. An exploration party's report in 1671 told of the "blue mountains and a snug flat valley beside the upper Roanoke River." For the next 70 years, after this initial exploration, the region remained undisturbed by settlers. As the land to the east of the mountains became developed, pioneers began moving into the western regions of Virginia. These early settlers from eastern Virginia were joined by people from Pennsylvania seeking new lands in the rich Shenandoah Valley. The newcomers began farming in the Roanoke Valley by 1740.

### TOWNS

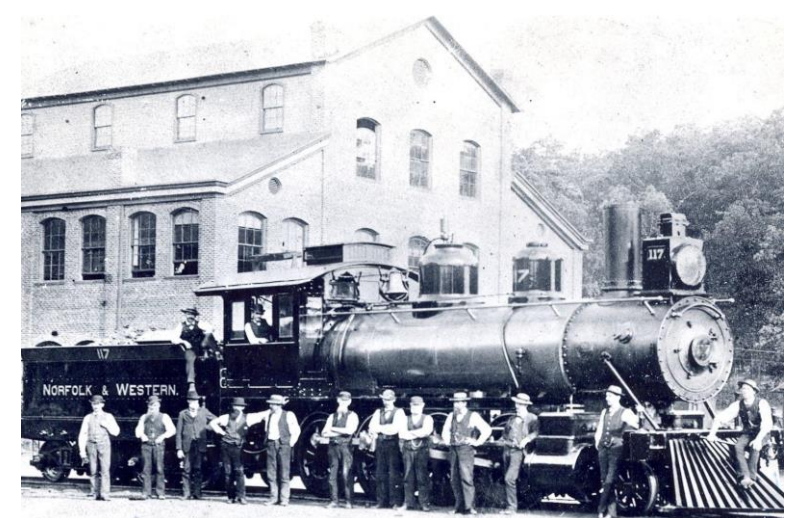
Towns formed within what is now the City of Roanoke in the first decades of the 19th Century. Antwerp was subdivided in 1801 followed by Gainsborough in 1825 (the present Gainesboro neighborhood) and Old Lick in 1834. The Gainsborough settlement remained the most populous community until 1874 when the Town of Big Lick was chartered. Named for a series of salt marshes, or licks as they were called, that ran through the area and brought gatherings of buffalo, elk and deer, this tiny village of less than 500 people was to become the Town of Roanoke in 1882 and in 1884, the City of Roanoke. The new town was located along the old Atlantic, Mississippi, and Ohio Railroad later to become the Norfolk and Western.

### SHENANDOAH VALLEY RAILROAD

The completion of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad from Hagerstown, Maryland, to its junction with the newly formed Norfolk and Western Railway in 1882, marked the start of Roanoke's rapid growth. The adjacent town of Vinton was also incorporated at this time.

### COUNTY SEAT

The Town of Salem, established in 1806, became the county seat for Roanoke County. Salem was the largest town within the area during these formative years and was located on two stage lines. Salem remained the major center of activity in the Roanoke area until the mid 1880's and then became an independent city in 1968.



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education is an extremely valuable part of Virginia's Blue Ridge, and it's one of the many reasons the region is so attractive to potential businesses and families that relocate to the area. People know their children will receive a quality education, and there are many local options to continue their education with our fantastic institutions of higher learning in the area. Thousands of young people take advantage of the opportunity to spend their undergraduate or graduate years enjoying college life in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Roanoke Valley and its surrounding communities boasts an impressive collection of colleges and universities of 21 institutions of higher learning within a 60-mile radius of the Roanoke Valley. The colleges and universities of Virginia's Blue Ridge are conducting research to deal with some of the most difficult issues facing society and lead at the cutting edge of developing new technologies. The teaching and training provided by these colleges and universities will prepare students to become influencers and decision makers in industries all over the world.

### K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEMS:

- › City of Roanoke Public Schools
- › City of Salem Public Schools
- › Botetourt County Public Schools
- › Franklin County Public Schools
- › Roanoke County Public Schools

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

- › Virginia Tech
- › Hollins University
- › Radford University
- › Roanoke College
- › Virginia Western Community College





## Sheila Hill-Christian

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Fahrenheit Advisors' client portfolio demonstrates successful search engagements across the U.S., from C-suite positions to middle-management roles. Our experience encompasses organizations of all sizes, across a wide variety of industries and in public, privately held, PE-owned, nonprofit and government organizations.

Fahrenheit Advisors' uniqueness and years of expertise add up to sophisticated insight: Knowledge and know-how to help companies navigate the difficult task of selecting high-impact team additions and candidates in making the right choices on career transitions.

I will partner with you to ensure you have everything you need to make an informed decision about your next career opportunity. We will work together front start to finish to navigate this opportunity and make sure it's a great fit for the next step in your career.

If you think your qualifications are a match and you are interested in further pursuing this position, please formally submit your application using this link:

[\*\*SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION »\*\*](#)