

RICHBAR NEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

JODY A. BEDENBAUGH
Treasurer

BETH BERNSTEIN
President

BOB MCKENZIE
President-Elect

Upcoming Events

**Annual Meeting/
Holiday Party**
Columbia Museum of Art
Thursday, December 10
5:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE 2010

Oyster Roast
Thursday, February 18

Judicial BBQ
Thursday, May 13

Memorial Service
Thursday, June 10

Judicial Reception
Thursday, August 19

CLE
Friday, November 5

Annual Meeting
Thursday, December 9



FROM THE PRESIDENT

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. ~ Carol Sobieski and Thomas Meehan, Annie

*Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.
~ Theodor Seuss Geisel, attributed*

A man never knows how to say goodbye; a woman never knows when to say it. ~ Helen Rowland

Why does it take a minute to say hello and forever to say goodbye? ~ Author Unknown

I hate goodbyes! They are never easy and I doubt I could say it more succinctly than the variety of quotations set forth above. Nevertheless, I must do so as my tenure as your Richland County Bar President is reaching its end.

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of 2009. It seems like just yesterday I was preparing my first President's message and now I am writing the last one. I am excited at the prospect of not having to write another article and disappointing my editor for not complying with the editorial deadlines, but I will sorely miss serving as your Bar President.

We have accomplished many of our goals this year. We could not have done so without the commitment of our Executive Committee and Advisory Committee chairs, and the support of our bar membership. Thank you!

The RCBA is dedicated to service to our membership and the community at large. Through our successful Project HELP and other law related public service projects, we have been able to provide pro bono legal clinics for the homeless and underprivileged.

continued on page 4...

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FROM THE EDITOR

WALSTIB

And so it goes. Goodnight moon. Au revoir. Hasta la Winnebago.

I've been through every catchphrase in the book, but none of them seem to fit. This should be the easiest column of all to write. The ingredients list is familiar--a low bow, a slew of props to all what done bring me to the dance, a few pithy quotes—"wear sunscreen" comes to mind—and that's that. Or at least that was the plan back on Halloween. And the week after. Repeat as needed—and I've needed a lot.

I guess I'm struggling with saying goodbye, so let me do that first: Goodbye. Although this really is more of the French, above, or German *weidersehen* variety. Assuming the Mayans were wrong and the WMDs stay safely unexploded, I'll return to these pages on a regular basis in a scant 25 months. That's barely enough time for me to clean out my attic. So for those of you who enjoyed the column, don't despair. For those who did not, too bad. The unfinished sentences, the questionable punctuation, the—endless—dashes (the lazy scribe's bestest friend) will return.

Next, the on deck circle. My friend and occasional legal nemesis Ward Bradley will serve as editor-in-chief beginning in 2010. Ward has been a go-to guy for this association since long before I was active—his wife Betsy is a prior RCBA president—and I leave you in the best possible hands, I'm sure. I look forward to reading Ward's work in these pages next year and beyond.

Now, the important part, the list o' gratitude. It goes without saying that I will leave someone out, and to those folks, I'm sorry. Ask Ward for a correction or something. First thanks, I suppose, must go to my long-time friend Gene Rogers, who in one master stroke both created the Health and Fitness Committee of the RCBA and, days later, installed me as its chairman. Thus began my articles for the newsletter some eight years ago, and eventually, my position as editor of the Richbar News. Semper fi, Gene—my debt to you runs deep and wide.

Next, to the four presidents for whom I served as Richbar editor: Frank Knowlton, Daryl Hawkins, Roy Laney, and Beth Bernstein. Each of them brought their own special talents to the job and to their Richbar articles, and every one of them devoted countless hours to the yeoman's (and yeowoman's) job of RCBA president.

While I owe all of them my thanks and blessings, duty mandates that I give uberprops to Frank, who initially offered me this gig. Why a man who climbs mountains and apparently eats massive legal treatises for morning snacks (no calories, high fiber) would invite me to this party shall forever remain a mystery to me, but I am mighty glad he did.

Seventh (just checking to see if you are paying attention), thanks to the latest regular contributors to this effort: Ellen Duffy Cleary and Drayton Hastie. Ellen's Text Parte columns have been a gift from the heavens—smart, well-written, and informative articles featuring various judges and commissioners who serve Richland County. Drayton's Health and Fitness columns remind us that broadening our horizons does not necessarily mean we must concomitantly broaden our buttocks. Thanks to you both.

For the past couple of years, I have had the great pleasure of working with Helen Johnson, our managing editor. As much as I'd like to take credit for the redesign of the newsletter, that's all Helen. In addition to the redesign, she's had to put up with missed deadlines, unfulfilled promises of camera-ready art, and all the things that go with herding a mess of lawyers—not to mention lots—of—dashes. One of the many reasons I know Ward will flourish is that Helen remains as our managing editor, and we can all be grateful for that good fortune.

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FROM THE EDITOR

...continued from page 2

And then there's Coleman. What can I say? Coleman has had my back since the very beginning. She may not be a lawyer, but she is the absolutely conscience and consciousness of the Richland County Bar Association. She knows everything, and she's done every job the RCBA has ever had at least once. Probably few of you know that Coleman's husband, Jack, has supplied tons of content to the Richbar News over the years, with nary a credit until now—thanks, Jack. As for Coleman, my management books tell me that no one should ever be indispensable in an organization. In reply, all I do is paraphrase George Kennedy's classic line about the Boeing 747 in Airport: good thing that the RCBA can't read.

I guess that's a wrap. Put her to bed, folks.

And for only the second time ever, I'll invoke editor's privilege. The photos in this issue were taken by my youngest daughter, Jane, a freshman at USC. They are a tribute to my sisterfriend Number One, who leaves the Court of Appeals soon for a nicer chair down the street. Good luck to her, and heaven help any of you whose appellant or respondent ever kicked a dog.



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Legal Staff Professionals/Midlands Meeting:

2nd Tuesday 1:00

Call Laura Foster at 803-799-9800 ext 338 or e-mail lfoster@mcnair.net

Palmetto Paralegal Association

Call Adrith D. Schrauger at 803-217-7557

S.C. Women Lawyers Association

Contact Angel Warren at 803-788-4114

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. - M. Acklam

My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am. - Unknown



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FROM THE PRESIDENT...continued from page 1

Our annual Ethics CLE, Lunch-n-Learns, and Bigg Dogg breakfasts all have been very successful and well attended. We also have had wonderful participation at our social events throughout the year.

We have updated our website to meet the changing demands of the internet and have joined in the new age of social media. If you have not already done so, please become a fan of the RCBA facebook page.

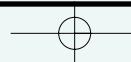
I know that under the strong leadership of our President-Elect, Bob McKenzie, we will continue to prosper. He has many exciting events planned for the upcoming year and offers much experience and knowledge. I also must mention our executive director of 15 years, Coleman Chambliss. Coleman is the one who keeps our association strong and organized.

My family and I wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

*Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Some trails are happy ones,
Others are blue.
It's the way you ride the trail that counts,
Here's a happy one for you.
~ Dale Evans*



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ANNUAL MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY



On December 10, your association will host its Annual Meeting at the Columbia Museum of Art. At this meeting, the new officers will be elected, announced and recognized. The RCBA will also present the John W. Williams Award, the Civic Star Award and the Matthew Perry Civility awards. It is one of the highlights of our bar year to celebrate with the persons receiving these honors.

Immediately following the meeting, the bar will entertain the association members with a favorite party to celebrate the season. Each year you are invited to gather at the museum for wonderful food and good "cheer" catered by Aberdeen Catering of Camden. The event is free to our members (and spouses). The action begins with the meeting in the atrium at 5:30 with the party following in

the Garden Room from 6:00-8:00. Please remember to put this important date on your calendar. Postcards will be sent prior to the function and you will need to RSVP by sending an e-mail to rcba@scbar.org, or by registering online at www.richbar.org on the "Events" page. (If you forget to respond, we may not have enough food!)



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DUES NOTICE

The South Carolina Bar Fee Statements will be mailed out this month to all attorneys in the state. The SC Bar collects dues for most of the county bars. Please look at your Fee Statement and check Richland County in the proper box and add \$100 to the total. This is the simplest way to pay your state and local bar dues and save the RCBA from billing you separately.

A TIDBIT ON WINDOWS 7

Microsoft has just released its new operating system, Windows 7. If you were staying with Windows XP until something better than Vista came along, most experts agree this is it. However, experts also agree that it is simpler to purchase Windows 7 on a new PC than to try and load it on your old PC with XP running. Moving from XP to Windows 7 will require a custom (clean) installation -- you won't be able to keep all your software and settings in place. Vista users will have an easier time upgrading but could still have issues depending on which version of Windows 7 they choose and which version of Vista they use currently. To see if your computer is ready for Windows 7, go here: Upgrade Advisor - <http://bit.ly/x63sv>.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Happy Holidays Richland County! As we all have loosened our belts for Thanksgiving's feast, and loosened our wallets for Black Friday's spend-money-to-save-money-palooza (am I the only one who refuses to see the logic inherent to that one?), we look forward now to greeting the Season's cheer and the auspices of another New Year. Let us not forget to compliment the largesse by focusing our minds and bodies upon a goal to promote our health and well being. To this end, there is one activity that remains in season year round - running!

Although jogging is great way to stay fit, it is also one of the most popular competitive sports in this state, with races literally almost every weekend throughout the year. For a sampling, go to <http://sc.milesplit.us/meets/calendar/2009/road/all> to check out a calendar of upcoming races. I betcha thought that list was fairly comprehensive - not even close! You can also check out <http://www.sciway.net/sports/running.html> for even more. What's that you say? There are endorphin binging lunatics who know of races other than these? Inconceivable! Doh! I mean, right you are! See <http://running.net/south-carolina-running-calendar>.

Okay, some of you may point out there is some overlap on those listings, and, of course, some may object to the fact that many of the races listed are scattered across the state. For those of you less inclined to turn a weekend race into a mini-weekend getaway (how'd you think the Cooper River Bridge Run has gotten so popular over the years?), believe it or not, there's a calendar dedicated just to the greater Columbia area hosted by the Columbia Running Club (whose President just so happens to be an attorney). Check out: <http://www.colarunclub.com/TourDeColumbia/Schedule.aspx>.

Although races may not be an activity that necessarily suits everyone's fancy, many races have varying distances and levels of competition. Even if you do not want to jog, you can go out for a walk at an event in which pedestrians rule the roads. If you are past your racing prime and can never hope to actually win one of these races (let's face it, pretty much all of us), you can still



compete within your gender and age bracket. Who cares if you placed 3rd to last overall if this was actually 2nd in your bracket, right? Just think of your water cooler bragging points for that one.

For the jogging junkies, what's the point of all that hard work if you don't get the opportunity to showcase your talent every now and again. And even for the more demure lawyers out there (heh), the true advantage to these races are that they provide a goal, a date by which to set your sites for maximizing all the hard work and training you do - or will do, if you want to be in decent shape for the race - you get the idea!

"Health & Fitness" is written by Drayton Hastie, who can be reached at dhastie@rtt-law.com.

RICHBARNEWS

Classified Ad Policy

After 15 years of the same costs for advertising, we are going to increase our rates slightly. New rates are as follows:

Classified Ads - \$1.00 per word

Quarter Page Ads - \$75.00

Half Page Ads - \$150.00

Business Cards - \$50.00

All ads must be prepaid. Ads must be obtained by the 15th of the month previous to publication in January, March, June, September and November.

SRLs? WHAT'S THAT? SC ACCESS TO JUSTICE RESPONDS

It's hard to believe that one year ago, in November 2008, the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission completed our public hearings at the South Carolina Supreme Court. The time has passed very quickly. The 24-page Executive Summary from the hearings is available online at <http://scaccessstojustice.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/executive-summary-april2009.pdf>. At that time, the Commission identified three priority work areas; (1) increasing pro bono service "Pro Bono," (2) enhancing access to the civil legal system for self-represented litigants "SRLs," and (3) increasing resources and awareness of staffed legal programs "Staffed Programs."

After the hearings, the economy tanked and the needs became ever increasing to ensure that South Carolinians would not be denied access in the civil legal system simply because they were not able to pay for legal representation. Many of the initiatives took on additional priority. One such area is our SRL initiative. While the Commission was conducting public hearings, we learned of individuals who had been denied their day in court or turned away because they had no attorney. In a perfect world, the Commission would like for everyone who desired it to receive legal representation, but the reality is that many people are unable to afford an attorney. But they've received a Summons and Complaint and must appear. Many have no idea how to proceed on their own – as many judges and clerks of court can attest. Now more than ever, the Commission needed to help.

After the public hearings, the Commission met with a Clerk of Court work group to discuss the needs as they saw them. And we proceeded by scheduling an ethics training on the difference between legal advice and legal information. Dean Wilcox of the USC School of Law graciously volunteered to conduct the training. The clerks were curious, attentive and asked really good questions. They also learned that ethics is often gray, with no distinct black or white line.

The Clerks recognized that they needed to work with the public as well and clearly define their role to the general public. As you enter most Clerks' offices, you'll likely see

a poster that delineates what Clerks Can and Cannot Do which is available online at <http://www.sccourts.org/clerkOfCourtManual/clerkSign.pdf>. Additionally the SC Courts' website, www.sccourts.org, offers a section designated for SELF HELP RESOURCES on the home page. As resources are developed, they'll be added here.

The Clerks Work Group also developed Frequently Asked Questions, which are in the final development stage. Once these have been approved by the South Carolina Supreme Court, they too will be added to the SC Courts' website, but may also be added to each county's website as well.

Another SRL initiative included developing a multi-document Divorce Packet with instructions, also available on the courts' site. Other SRL initiatives still in progress include an Appellate Guide developed by the Court of Appeals staff attorneys, an Etiquette Video and an update to the Guide to Magistrate's Court both headed by Judge Michelle Childs, and a partnership with the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging to develop resources for the state's senior population.

For more information about the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission, please visit our website at www.scatj.org or our blog at <http://scaccessstojustice.wordpress.com>.



TEXT PARTE

Chairman Andrea C. Roche

Balance is the watchword for South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission Chairman Andrea C. Roche, who has served on the Commission since 2006 and as chair since June 2008. She strives to maintain equilibrium between the competing interests of doctors, workers, employers, and insurance companies as she leads the Commission. There's also the balance between leading a state agency, which requires both people skills and number crunching, and keeping up with her golfing and spectator sports.

Chairman Roche is so sociable and convivial that it's easy to forget how scholarly and cerebral the Yale Law School graduate is. The self-assured Camden native is easy to be around and doesn't flaunt her genius-IQ and sponge-like mind. However, her intelligence is obvious to those who are familiar with her work as a lawyer and a Commissioner.

Her genuine concern for working South Carolinians may be rooted in her deep Christian faith. She's active in the Catholic Church, attending St. Mark's in Newberry and St. Peter's in Columbia. She and husband, Jimmy, split their time between their home in Columbia and their lake home in Prosperity.

As a lawyer in private practice with Barnes, Alford, Stork and Johnson, she learned to practice law "the right way," she says. Her mentor Weldon Johnson taught her to represent clients and to deal with other lawyers in an ethical and civil manner. She proclaims she was proud to be part of that law firm. She was also positively influenced by Judge Robert Chapman, the federal judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit for whom she clerked. She laughs that the Judge once insisted a trooper give him a get a speeding ticket even though the trooper tried to back off when he learned he was a federal judge.

Chairman Roche loves serving on the Workers' Compensation Commission because of the same civil manner she sees from most of the lawyers who come before her. The "workers' comp bar is a really good bar,

and a smaller bar," with many good lawyers involved. She has "among the best judicial temperaments I have ever seen," proclaims Marvin "Bo" Mullis, a long-time workers' compensation lawyer, who represents injured workers. "Even when she gives them nothing, my clients still like her."

She thrives on the medical aspects of injury law and she admits to becoming a lawyer only because she couldn't be a doctor. It seems she couldn't get through second semester Calculus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She did make it through Yale's prestigious law school, which doesn't assign grades or ranks, but places nearly every graduate in their job of choice. She notes that her education was not necessarily superior at Yale but that the students were "super-smart." She had classmates "who would not only have read the assignment, but would have read the entire opinion and would have read biographies on the justices writing the opinion."

Competitive at golf and in life, Chairman Roche nonetheless prefers the non-adversarial role she takes as a Commissioner over her role as an aggressive civil litigator. "I love the law, but I didn't like the fighting about it." Golf is one of her passions but she finds less time for that with her responsibilities as Chairman. She is a serious amateur golfer with a handicap of 7. Workers' Comp lawyer Ernie Peagler, who represents injured workers, notes she is competitive, but in a "good way."

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RICHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS JURY VERDICTS

2008-CP-40-7014

Brian Spruell vs. Richard Hahn
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Garry L. Wooten
Defendant: J. Austin Hood
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$18,002.00

2007-CP-40-8435

National Grange Mutual Ins. Co. vs. Brent Clintwood, Linda Clintwood, Ronald Clark, Susan Clark, Henry Graham
Renee Graham; Phoenix Contract Glass, LLC
Attorneys;
Plaintiff: Frank Mack, Emily Gifford
Defendant: Baron Stanton for Clarks pro se for Clintwoods
Cause of Action: Breach of Contract
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$10,000.00

2006-CP-40-3615R

Elizabeth Fettler vs. Frederick Gentner
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Everett H. Garner
Defendant: Ronald Alexander
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: For defendant

2008-CP-40-609

Elizabeth McClendon, Whitney Robinson vs Sho Quazar Carter
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Overture Walker
Defendant: James B. Lybrand
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

2007-CP-40-0981

Calvin D. Capehart vs Malessia Nelson
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Gene Stockholm
Defendant: Ronald Alexander
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual damages: \$6,000.00

2007-CP-40-3078

Linda Hubble vs. Danielle Jennings
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Sherod H. Eadon
Defendant: Clifford Koon
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$91,919.29

2008-CP-40-0568

Keith Kershaw vs. June Southwell
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Michael V. Hart
Defendant: E. Dale Lang, Jr.
Cause of Action: Auto/ Combination
Verdict: for Defendant

2008-CP-40-3973

Deloris Black vs Elizabeth Langford
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: John Patrick Hayes
Defendant: James B. Lybrand, Jr.
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal injury
Verdict: for Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$4,300.00

2008-CP-40-0711

G.T. Phalo vs. C. Whitaker
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: R.F. Mahon Jr.

Defendant: J. Austin Hood
Cause of Action Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict : For Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$5,581.00

2008-CP-40-3644

Princess Davis vs. Golden State Food Corp.
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Gerald Reardon
Defendant: Sarah Eibling, Paul Collins
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: for Defendant

08-CP-40-5552

Timothy Portee vs. Always Precise Protection Agency
John Portee
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Daryl G. Hawkins
Defendant: J. Boone Aiken III
Bonum Sams Wilson III
Cause of Action: Personal Injury/ Assault & Battery
Verdict: for Plaintiff
Actual Damage: \$157,030.55
Punitive Damages: \$157,030.55

08-CP-40-2903

Tyneshia Brooks vs. Furniture Barn, Eugene Creech
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: M. Dawson, James R. Snell
Defendant: K. Baker, Kelly Cannon, A. J. Cox
Cause of Action Personal Injury, Emotional Distress, Assault
Verdict: For Defendant

continued on page 11...



JURY VERDICTS

continued from page 10...

2008-CP-40-5703

Carrie Harris vs. Mattie C. Hall Health Care Center

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Pamela R. Mullis, Marvin Mullis

Defendant: Phillip Florence Jr., Jeremy Stephenson

Cause of Action: Wrongful Termination

Verdict: for Plaintiff

08-CP-40-7014

Rachele Spruell et al vs. Richard Hahn

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Garry L. Wooten

Defendant: J. Austin Hood

Cause of Action Auto /personal injury

Verdict: for Plaintiff

Actual Damages \$7,500.00

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2009 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee	Chair(s)	Telephone
Bigg Doggs	George Johnson	252-9700
Circuit Court Liaison	Daryl Hawkins - Chair Jack McKenzie Matthew Richardson Reece Williams Thomas Kennedy DeAndrea Benjamin	733-3531 252-0500 254-6542 256-2371 227-4290 771-8007
CLE Seminars	Steedley Bogan	256-6747
Health & Fitness	Drayton Hastie	771-7900
Family Court Liaison	Ashlin Potterfield	376-2001
Master-in-Equity Liaison	Sam Waters	771-7900
Memorials	Ward Bradley	796-9160
Probate Court Liaison	Mike Polk	929-0096
Newsletter	John Hearn Eleanor Duffy Cleary Drayton Hastie	744-1305 734-1330 771-7900
Program	Betsy Bradley John Bradley Ian McVey	296-3140 231-7825 256-2371
Lunch-n-Learns	Thomas Kennedy Ronald Cox	227-4290 540-2034
Public Service	Kristen Horne - Chair Billy McGee - Co-chair Dan Leonardi Carmen Thomas Brook Andrews Sarah Wendell	799-2000 799-2000 771-8900 255-9385 238-3142 734-1160
Recognition	Reece Williams	256-2371
Young Lawyers	Matt Bogan Rebecca Roser Jay Bressler	255-9589 779-8900 779-3080
If you are interested in serving on any of these committees or have any suggestions for a committee, please contact the committee chair(s).		

TEXT PARTE

continued from page 8...

Both tell the story of him beating her on the golf course despite the unwritten rule about letting the judge win. He knew better than to insult her by doing that. Peagler commented that he respects Chairman Roche and admires her intellectual skills. He notes, "when I lose at the Commission, I know why."

Belinda Ellison, Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Section of the SC Bar, remarks, "in these tough economic times, state agencies feel the crunch just like the rest of the community. Chairman Roche has the difficult job of chairing the Workers' Compensation Commission in the downturn but has done so with grace and efficiency."

She loves competition on the sports field and is a "sports nut." She is a fan of both Carolinas but attends all Gamecock football, men's' and women's' basketball, baseball games. It's all about balance.

"Text Parte" is written by Eleanor Duffy Cleary, a sole practitioner in Columbia. You can reach Ellen at edcleary@att.net.



NOTEWORTHY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rowland P. Alston III announces the opening of **Rowland P. Alston III, LLC** located at PO Box 90928, Columbia 29290. Phone: 776-8141.

Baker Ravenel & Bender announces that Charles E. Baker, Jay Bender, Catharine G. Griffin and D. Cravens Ravenel were recently selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2010*.

Barbara George Barton has been honored again to be selected to be included in the 1020 edition of the *Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law.

Stacy Elizabeth Thompson of Bluestein Nichols Thompson & Delgato has been elected to the board as representative of the Fourth & DC Circuits of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants. The firm also announces that **O Eugene Powell Jr.** has become Of Counsel and that **Blake Alexander Hewitt** has become an associate at the firm located at 1614 Taylor St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 779-7599.

Burris Law firm announces that Wayne Ridgeway has become a partner of the firm located at 907 Elmwood Ave. Columbia 29201. Phone: 779-5842.

Central Carolina Community

Foundation announces that **D. Michael Kelly** has been elected chair and **J. Hagood Tighe** has been elected vice chair and **Judith M. Davis** has been elected secretary/treasurer.

Charles E. Carpenter of Carpenter Appeals and Support has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2010*.

Collins & Lacy announces that **Gray T. Culbreath** has been selected for the 2009 Leadership in the Law Award. The firm also announces that **Gray Culbreath** and **Joel W. Collins, Jr.** have been invited to join the Litigation Counsel of America.

Lanneau W. Lambert will serve a three year term on the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Good to Great Foundation Board.

The Law Offices of Robert Dodson announces its relocation to 1722 Main St. #200, Columbia 29201. Phone 252-2600.

John D. "Jay" Elliott was invited to speak to the Fifth World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His presentation "About Time: The Prospects for U.S. Ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child," resulted in the Congress' passage of a resolution urging the U.S. to exercise its leadership in advancing the rights of children through ratification. The convention on the Rights of the Child is the most ratified U.N.

convention in the world, with only the United States and Somalia not having adopted it.

Vicky Eslinger has been named 2009 Advocate of the Year by the SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center.

F. Earl Ellis and **John T. Lay, Jr.** of Ellis Lawhorne & Sims have been selected to the Litigation Counsel of America. The firm announces that **Rita Bragg Cullum** has graduated as a member of Class II of the Midlands Diversity Leaders Initiative of the Riley Institute at Furman University. The firm also announces that **Austin Smith** and **Drew Walker** have joined the firm located at 1501 Main St. Phone: 254-4190.

First Citizens Bank announces that **John Marshall Mosser** has joined the bank as in-house counsel in the bank's corporate headquarters located at 1230 Main St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 931-1161.

Fisher & Phillips announces that **Cheryl Behymer** has been named a Riley Institute Diversity Fellow and is the chair-elect of the SC Diversity Council.

Steve Fitzer, past president of the RCBA, was recognized by SC Legal Services for 25 years of service in representing indigent parties in Family Court. He is the longest serving participating referral attorney in the history of the organization.

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Carl L. Solomon of Gergel Nickles & Solomon and has been selected for inclusion in the *Best Lawyers in America* 2010 and has been elected treasurer of the SC Association Board of Governors.

Harrison & Radeker announce that **Andrew M. Thompson** has become an associate of the firm located at 923 Calhoun St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 779-2211.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd announces that **A. Parker Barnes** has been named to the American Red Cross on Central Carolina Creative Grants Think Tank Committee. **Suzanne H. Clawson** has been named co-chair of the Bishop Search Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. **Clarke W. DuBose** has been named to the Medmarc Honor Roll. **Edward G. Kluiters** has been named to the SC Economic Developers' Association Board of Directors and is co-chair of the Legislative Committee. **Steve A. Matthews** has been elected to the board of the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Foundation. **Steve F. McKinney** has been invited to become a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. **Gary W. Morris** has been named treasurer of the Committee of 100. Also of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd: **Dalhi N. Myers** has been named co-chair of the Organizing Committee for the 49th Annual Congress of the International Association of Young Lawyers. **Benton D. Williamson** has been elected to chair the board of trustees of Still Hopes

Retirement Community. **John P. Boyd** has been named to serve on the Wind Energy Production Farms Feasibility Study Committee and to the executive committee of the SC Biomass Council. **Mary M. Caskey** has been elected to serve on the Columbia City Ballet Board of Directors. **Tigerron A. Wells** has been elected to the Columbia Development Corporation Board. **Sarah Spruill** has spoken at the Municipal Association of SC's annual conference. **John K. Van Duys** has chaired the Private Activity Bond panel at the Annual Tax and Securities Law institute held by the National Association of Bond Lawyers. **Kathleen Goodpasture Smith** has served on a panel at the SC Chapter of the 2009 Healthcare Financial Management Association Annual Institute.

D. Andrew Williams, Lisa Hostetler, Reyburn W. Lominack III and Dan Leonardi have been selected to participate in the 2010 Leadership Columbia class.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie has been named one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina for 2009.

McCutchen Blanton Hopkins & Campbell announces that **Paul B. Deal** has become an associate with the firm located at 1414 Lady St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 256-6152.

McNair Law Firm has been named by the 2009 edition of *Southern Business & Development* magazine in its top ten list for Economic

Development in the South. The firm announces that **Michael M. Beal** has been named by *Best Lawyers* as the Columbia Area Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Lawyer of the Year for 2010 and **John W. Currie** has been named by the same source as the Columbia Area Corporate Lawyer of the Year for 2010.

Michael D. McMullen announces a change in location of his law office to 1722 Marion St. 29201. Phone: 252-4433. Fax: 252-6082.

Rosalyn Frierson has joined the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts.

Nelson Mullins announces that **Emma T. Dean** has joined the firm located at 1320 Main St, Columbia 29201. Phone: 799-2000.

Nexsen Pruet attorneys played a key role in the negotiations between The Boeing Company and the State of South Carolina. **Leighton Lord, Billy Wilkins, Ric Tapp and Burnie Maybank** worked with Boeing officials to negotiate the incentives package approved by the SC legislature. The firm has earned designation as a Midlands Green Business joining other Columbia-area organizations that are committed to environmentally responsible practices in the workplace. The firm announces that **Tommy Lavender** has been elected as a Fellow by the Board of Regents

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of the American College of Environmental Lawyers. The firm also announces that **Rusty Infinger** has been appointed to serve a term on the board of South Carolina Legal services.

Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart announces that **Ted Speth**, managing shareholder in the firm's Columbia office, has graduated from The Riley Institute's Midlands Diversity Leaders Initiative Class II. The firm has been ranked No. 1 in labor and employment law in South Carolina in the 2009 edition of *Chambers USA*. Also Columbia attorneys **Katherine Dudley Helms**, **Leigh M. Nason** and **Charles T. Speth II** were ranked as leaders in the field of labor and employment law by *Chambers USA*.

Timothy G. Quinn announces the relocation of the **Law Offices of Quinn & Quinn** to 2309 Devine St., Columbia 29205. Phone: 771-0936. The firm also announces that **William M. Saltzman** has joined the firm as an associate.

Richardson Plowden announces that **Kathryn Landers Valdes** and **Caleb Martin Riser** have become an associates of the firm located at 1900 Barnwell St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 771-4400. The firm also makes a case for Healthy Hearts: They hosted a garage sale to benefit the American Heart Association in November.

Robinson McFadden & Moore announces that **Dina G. Boorda** has

joined the firm located at 1901 Main St. #1200, Columbia 29201. Phone 799-8900.

Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte has been named one of the top litigation firms in SC by *Benchmark Litigation*, a definitive guide to the country's leading lawyers and law firms. The guide names three members of the firm as local "litigation stars": **Bobby Stepp**, **Betsy Gray** and **Biff Sowell**. Firm members **Elizabeth Gray** and **Rebecca Laffitte** have been invited to become Fellows of The Litigation Counsel of America, a legal honorary society that inducts less than one half of one percent of the country's attorneys. Firm members **Cal Watson** and **Grady Beard** have been certified as Circuit Court Mediators by the South Carolina Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification. The firm hit the streets in September to help clean up downtown Columbia as part of its commitment to the Keep the Midlands Beautiful program. Their area covered 6 blocks of Lady Street in the Vista near their offices. They will repeat this clean-up four times a year as a part of their commitment to a better environment.

Tompkins & McMaster announces the relocation of its office to 1530 Richland St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 799-4499.

Turner Padget Graham & Laney announces that **T. Hudson Williams** and **Virginia W. Williams** have become associates of the firm located at 1901 Main

St. #1700, 29201. Phone 254-2200. The firm also announces that **John E. Cuttino**, a shareholder with the firm has been elected to the national board of Directors of the Defense Research Institute. Additionally, the firm announces that **Lanneau W. Lambert, Jr.** has been selected to the 2009 Leadership in the Law award by the *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly*, recognizing those individuals whose leadership, both in the legal profession and in the community, has made a positive impact on our state. **Reginald W. Belcher**, of Turner Padget, was recently named Board Chair of the American Red Cross, South Carolina Blood Services Division.

Catherine Kennedy, of Turner Padget, has been elected as Fellow of the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel. Turner Padget announces that **Steven W. Ouzts** and **John E. Cuttino** have been inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America. The firm has been named one of the top litigation firms in SC by *Benchmark Litigation*, a definitive guide to the country's leading lawyers and law firms. **W. Duvall Spruill** was named a "Litigation Star" and three additional share holders **Richard S. Dukes**, **Nicholas W. Gladd** and **R. Andrew Williams** were named as "future stars."



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Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

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Send inquiries to sgwin@complexlaw.net.

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The editors welcome your inquiries, comments and contributions: RCBA, P.O. Box 7632, Columbia, SC 29202 or rcba@scbar.org.

OFFICE SPACE: 1911 Barnwell St. Attractive, professional office suite; reception area; two offices, conference room; direct parking; \$600 per month plus utilities. Call 779-6365.

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Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. - Hamilton Wright Mabie

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