

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association



MIKE POLK
Treasurer

WARD BRADLEY
President

JODY BEDENBAUGH
President-Elect

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting/Holiday Party
Thursday, December 10, 2015
5:30 PM
Columbia Museum of Art

SAVE THE DATE 2016

Oyster Roast
Thursday, February 18, 2016

Family Night at the Zoo
Date TBD

Judicial BBQ
Thursday, May 19, 2016

Memorial Service
Thursday, June 16, 2016

Judicial Reception
Thursday, August 18, 2016

Annual Free Ethics CLE
Date TBD

Annual Meeting/Holiday Party
Thursday, December 8, 2016



From the President, Ward Bradley

On Work, Staying Power and Coleman Chambliss

We have the largest voluntary bar in South Carolina and one of the most active. This is not an accident. Nothing gets done without work, and there is a lot of work behind the Richland Bar that most of us never see or acknowledge. Every year we put on a free ethics CLE. We have a barbecue, zoo night, oyster roast, judicial reception, and holiday party. We put out a newsletter, maintain a website and keep up with memberships. Our young lawyers have receptions and a welcome party for new admits. We maintain contact with the Court system- Federal, Appellate, Circuit, Family, Probate and Magistrate to keep you up to date. We maintain a jobs listing for those seeking employees and those looking for employment. We administer Project Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP) in conjunction with the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program. We have a yearly memorial service to remember and honor our fellow lawyers who have passed away.



These programs and activities did not happen overnight. They have been established through the years by trial and error. One person has held our association together through the last 22 years. She has served with 22 bar presidents as our executive director. Coleman Chambliss is a wonderful person, a great friend, and the only person to serve as our bar's executive director. She has put together newsletters, organized parties, kept membership lists, collected money, cleaned up, and cheerfully done the work it takes to make this organization successful. Every

continued on page 4...

From the Editor, Dave Maxfield



Through Being Cool

There comes a time in every man’s life when you figure out how cool you no longer are. For me, it finally happened three weeks ago. More in a moment on that; but first, a bit of back-ground.

I’m 47 so, as a realist, I should have seen this coming for a while. The writing was certainly on the wall. I know because my two teen boys and pop-culture hyperaware 11-year girl keep reading that wall aloud to me as we ride in the car listening to the radio: Me: “Who is this guy that keeps yelling in the middle of everyone else’s songs?” Them: “Dad. Seriously. That’s Pit Bull.” Me: “Pit Bull? So, wait, this is his song?” Them: “No! He’s just featured in it.” When did people start guest starring in other people’s music? Everyone knows guest stars are for TV. Pit Bull is apparently the John Saxon of the new millennium.

Motor vehicles are, I’ve discovered, the very crucible in which we age. Think about it. When you were a kid stuck in the back seat of your parents’ car, you had to listen to whatever boring, old, lame crap they listened to. My father used to drive me around listening to music that made Lawrence Welk sound like speed metal. I couldn’t even believe such a station existed outside of elevators and Buick dealerships, and if I had been big enough to ride in the front seat then I would have grabbed the wheel and swerved us into an electric fence just to make it stop. Not cool. (*But, see end-note, infra.)

When you first start driving for yourself, however, all that changes. The car now becomes the epicenter of all things cool and rebellious. Because when you’re rolling your own bucket, you have the power. You could even impose your tastes on your passengers, thus not only being cool, but actively showing how cool you were

to others. “Dude, if you don’t like hearing The Clash turned up to 11 on the Kenwood, get out and walk.” It was a pretty cool time.

But it changes again when you have kids of your own. And not for the better. For starters, it’s just hard to look cool driving a Dodge Grand Caravan. Even if you paint flames on it and blast Wu-Tang Clan. It just looks like you’re trying too hard. You become what my kids would call a “Try-hard” (which sounds like a good thing, but apparently it’s not). Effort is the opposite of cool, which has to look effortless.

Finally now, at my age, the only cool factor left in driving your own car is that no one can see how un-cool your clothes are. But you can’t hide forever. Which brings us back to my moment of realization: The Day I Showed Up for Work in Cargo Shorts. My cool thirty-something paralegal Kristy was first to attack: “Nice cargo shorts. Are you guest-hosting Survivor?” I asked my other paralegal, twenty-something Janel, if something had happened overnight to make cargo shorts uncool. Janel replied tactfully: “Well, it wasn’t actually overnight. It was more like 12 years ago.” Kristy then brought up a pie graph on her computer called “Who Wears Cargo Short?” 92% of wearers were photojournalists. The other 8% were guys like me who didn’t get the memo.

But you know what? I don’t even care. Because Cargo Shorts are USEFUL. You can put your cell phone, your wallet, your keys, and 17 granola bars in them. And useful is cool. You know what else is cool? Effort. Because when bad, lame, terrible things happen (like floods) there’s nothing cooler than being useful to other people. There’s nothing more impor-



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From the Editor

(...continued from page 2)

tant than effort. And if we here in Columbia didn’t know that before, we know it now, as we joined with people we never knew to work in neighborhoods we’ve never been to, amazing people all around the country with how together we can really be despite all of our perceived differences.

So, I’m proud to rock the cargo shorts. Lots of cool guys wore them before me: Sir Alec Guinness in Bridge on the River Kwai; some of the commandos in Rat Patrol. Adam Sandler on vacation. More importantly, they look good with rubber boots, and are pretty legit for holding granola bars when you’re shoveling mud. And that’s pretty cool.

*Endnote: my dad is actually really cool; he knows and can play jazz tunes on the piano that I never heard of until I read *On the Road*. It took me 20 years to figure out he was just torturing me.

Dave Maxfield can be reached at dave@consumerlawsc.com.

The editors welcome your inquiries, comments and contributions. Email feedback to rcba@scbar.org.



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BNTD has the experience - military and legal - to navigate the veteran’s benefits system.

Eugene Powell, COL, JAGC is a retired SSA judge and a veteran of the Vietnam and Desert Shield/

Storm Eras and Kenny Dojaquez, MAJ, AR (US Army,

Retired) is an Iraq War veteran. Gene and Kenny represent disabled veterans at all levels of the VA administrative process. Our nation’s veterans fought for our country. Let BNTD fight for them! Call us at 877.524.4675 for a free consultation.



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ONLINE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Join the RCBA or renew your membership online by going to <http://richbar.org/MembershipRegistration>. You can make the \$100 payment online using Pay Pal. If you would prefer to register by mail, this is still an option too. The mail-in membership registration form can be found here: <http://richbar.org/Membership>.

From the President

(...continued from page 1)

tradition, every party and every service we provide has gone through Coleman.

Coleman is retiring this year. The Holiday party will be her last event. We will miss her terribly. She has been training Mandy Wren this year, and she will leave the position in good hands.

Many of you know Coleman. Some of you may not. Whether you know her or not, please make a point to thank her for her years of hard work for our bar. You will find her at the nametag table at the Holiday Party. She has had a hand in everything this bar has done successfully for more than two decades.

Also From the President

If you drive down Kilbourne Road near Shady Lane, you will find an unusual site. Children’s toys litter the trees – dolls, bicycles, and toy cars. You can also find clothes, books and shoes. So much of our community was washed away, and the signs are everywhere.

The first week of October our community was hit with the worst flood of our lifetimes. Cars floated away. Houses were underwater. Our neighbors were evacuated by the National Guard. Roads were washed out. Dams burst. Businesses were destroyed.

We are still recovering. Many of our bar members were hurt by this flood. Some are still without a home as they contemplate whether to tear down or rebuild what is left.

Our community responded well to this devastation. People opened their doors to neighbors, lent cars and volunteered to tear out. Friends brought food, cared for children, and donated for the cause.

We are now rebuilding the roads, rebuilding the dams, and re-



Coleman with her grandchildren in 2014



Coleman on the porch of Gregg Street circa 1967

building our lives. Life for many of us is back to normal.

But there is still much work to do. Some of us are still without a home. So let’s reach out to one another and help with the hard work of rebuilding as we move forward together.

Ward Bradley can be reached at ward@mttlaw.com.

Chief Administrative Judge Duties

submitted by Alison R. Lee, Circuit Judge At Large

I look forward to assuming the duties and will try to work with the attorneys. However, certain rules will apply for an orderly resolution of pending cases.

1. Rosters are posted online at least one month prior to the term. Please review them. Requests for status conferences will be entertained and scheduled for the first 2 weeks after the roster is published. Requests for status conferences can be sent by US Mail, email to aleesc@sccourts.org or fax (803) 576-1768.
2. Continuances will NOT be granted for the parties to mediate their cases.
3. Continuances will NOT be granted once the trial term of court begins.
4. All continuances must be in writing stating the reason for the request and accompanied by a motion cover sheet and filling fee. Continuances must be filed with the clerk of court and placed in my box in the Clerk’s office. Emails and fax requests will NOT be considered.
5. Attorney protection requests should be submitted in a timely manner for consideration.
6. Non-jury motions will be scheduled as soon as practicable. Memoranda or proposed orders must be sent to the presiding judge not later than the Wednesday before the non-jury term begin.
7. Please do not email me directly, contact Betty (administrative assistant) or my law clerk.

From time to time there may be some additional information that needs to be communicated. I will try to do that in advance. My goal is to work towards resolving the old cases pending for more than 365 days. Using a master list from the clerk’s office, there may be a roster meeting of all of the older pending cases in order to get correct information, update the files in the Clerk’s office, and move towards resolving the case.

Additionally, at some point, the jury coordinator will no longer give courtesy calls about the roster. Each attorney is responsible for notifying the clerk of updates to the roster, such as settlements.



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Noteworthy News & Announcements



Clawson & Staubes announces that **Robb Brown** has joined theColumbia office as a part-ner and that **Anna Wade Sumner** and **Jescelyn T. Spitz** have joined the firm’s Columbia office as associates located at 1612 Marion St., Ste. 200, Columbia 29201. (800) 774-8242.

McLeod Law Group announces that **Walton J. “Tad” McLeod IV** has joined the firm’s Columbia office located at 2909 Devine St. 29205. (803) 451-6057.

Fisher & Phillips announces that **Christina Rogers** has become an associate in the firm’s Columbia office located at 1320 Main St., Ste. 750, 29201. (803) 255-0000.

Olivia S. Jones announces the opening of Olivia Jones Law, LLC located at 1720 Main St., Ste. 303, Columbia 29201. (803) 402-3815.

Willson Jones Carter & Baxley announces that **Sarah Alphin** has been named shareholder in the firm’s Columbia office located at 4500 Fort Jackson Blvd., 29209. (803) 782-2520.

McDonnell and Associates announces that **Andrew Thompson** has been promoted to title director in the firm’s Columbia office located at 2442 Devine St., Columbia 29205. (866) 931-8793.

Sowell Gray announces that **Eve Goodstein** has become an as-sociate in the firm located at 1310 Gadsden St., Columbia 29201. (803) 929-1400.

Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. is pleased to announce that share-holder **John T. Lay, Jr.** has been named president-elect of the In-ternational Association of Defense Council.

C.D. Rhodes, public finance attorney with Pope Flynn, a public

finance and governmental law firm based in Columbia, has been appointed to the board of directors & advocates of the Historic Columbia Foundation.

Karen Aldridge Crawford, a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, has been selected by Legal Business Research for its *Who’s Who Legal: Environment 2015* and *Who’s Who Legal 2016 Compendium Edition*. She is the only South Carolina envi-ronmental lawyer selected for inclusion.

The top University of South Carolina School of Law Mock Trial Team was recognized with an award named in honor of **D. Re-ece Williams III** of Callison Tighe. The award was presented to **Monica Bracey** from Greer and **Steven Luckie** of Lexington, both members of the law school’s Class of 2015.

Adams and Reese attorney **Will Umbach** has been accepted into the Leadership Columbia Class of 2015-2016.

Weston Adams III has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarbor-ough LLP’s Columbia office, where he will practice in the areas of environmental, energy and appellate law.

John F. Kuppens, a partner in Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarbor-ough LLP’s Columbia office, has been selected by Law Business Research for its *Who’s Who Legal Product Liability Defense 2015* directory. He has also been elected as the first vice president of DRI-The Voice of the Defense Bar.

The S.C. Bar Young Lawyers Division recognized **J. Clarke New-ton**, of Bluestein Nichols Thompson & Delgado for his role as co-chair of the Protecting our Youth Committee, which educates at-risk high school students on the consequences of their actions. **Allison P. Sullivan** was also recognized for her role as co-chair of the YLD Professional Development Committee.

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Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 6)

I. S. Leevy Johnson has received a Presidential Citation from ABA President **William Hubbard**.

McNair Law Firm announces that two sharholders, **M. Ryan Gen-try** and **Stacy Taylor**, have joined the firm located at 1221 Main St. #1800. 799-9800. The firm continues to expand its environ-mental practice with the addition of **Stacy Taylor** and share-holder **Pam Baker**, who returned to the environmental team ear-lier in the summer.

Brandon S. Smith, of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, was recognized by the S.C. Bar Young Lawyers Division for his role as co-chair of the Publications and Marketing Committee.

Finkel Law Firm announces that **Francis M. “Brink” Hinson** has joined the firm’s Columbia office located at 1201 Main Street. (803)765-2935.

The S.C. Bar Young Lawyers Division recognized **Ashleigh R. Wil-son**, of Bowman and Brooke, for her role as co-chair of the Justice Committee, an outreach program established to foster diversity in the legal profession.

Legal research service Fastcase has selected **William C. Hubbard**, a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and president of the American Bar Association, as one of its *Fastcase 50*, a com-pendium of leaders in innovations in legal services delivery.

Merritt Webb Wilson and Caruso announces that **Elisabeth W. Shields** and **Shayla R. Hayes** have joined the firm’s Columbia office located at 8910 Two Notch Rd., Ste. 400, 29223. (803) 255-0655.

Catherine H. Kennedy has been named the recipient of the South Carolina Bar’s Robert P. Wilkins Probate and Estate Award.

Tally Parham Casey has been selected to participate in the Lib-

erty Fellowship Class of 2017.

Rick Detwiler, a member at Callison Tighe, is now certified as a South Carolina Circuit Court mediator. Detwiler joins two oth-er Callison Tighe attorneys, **Reece Williams** and **Mike Tighe**, in earning certification. **Malissa Burnette**, the fourth lawyer on the firm’s Alternate Dispute Resolution team, is a certified federal mediator.

Jennifer Hollingsworth of Nexsen Pruet has completed the Mid-lands Class of Diversity Leaders Initiative.

LawyerLisa announces that **Mike Mathison** has become an asso-ciate of the firm located at 534 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia, 29210. 563-5163.

Emily R. Gifford has been certified as a circuit court mediator by the SC Supreme Court Board of Arbitrator and Mediator.

Wyche Law firm announces that **Matthew Richardson** has been honored by South Carolina Association of Justice with the Mat-thew J. Perry Public Service Award.

Duff White & Turner announces that **David N. Lyon** has become an associate of the firm located at 3700 Forest Dr. #104

McDonnell and Associates announces that **Stephanie Weissen-stein** has joined the firm and **Jonathan Howell** has been promot-ed to compliance counsel in the office located at 2442 Devine St. 29205. Phone: 866-931-8793.

Seth Rose announces the opening of Seth Rose Attorney-at-Law located at 1528 Blanding St. 29201. Phone 851-4884.




Jay Elliott has been featured as a trailblazer for juvenile defense by the National Juvenile Defender Center.

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Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 7)

John J. Hearn has been elected to the board of directors of the American Legal and Financial Network.

Gary Pickren, of Blair Cato Pickren and Casterline, has been chosen as Closing Attorney for the year by the Building Industry Association of South Carolina.

Bruner Powell Wall & Mullins announces that **Robert C. Osborne III** has become an associate with the firm located at 1735 St. Julian Place #200, Columbia 29204. Phone: 252-7693.

Ken Mathews announces that **Foster Mathews**, formerly with the Fifth Solicitor’s Office, is now practicing law with him at the Law Office of Kenneth M. Mathews, 1331 Laurel St. 29201. Phone: 252-1242.

McLeod Law Group announces the opening of its Columbia office located at 2909 Devine St. 29205. Phone: 451-6057.

Ogletree Deakins announces that **Kiosha Dickey** has joined the firm’s Columbia office located at 130 Main St. 29201. Phone: 252-1300.

The SC Bar Young Lawyers Division has named six President’s Award recipients from Columbia or the Midlands: **Sebrina “Sable” E. Burgess, Tommy Preston, William Johnson, Adam Landy, D. Nichole Davis** and **Marshall Newton**. The awards recognize YLD members who exemplify dedication to public service and YLD initiatives.

David Scott announces that his new firm name is Jordan Rauton & Scott LLC and his new mailing address is PO Box 948, Lexington SC 29071. Phone: 785-7878.

Kathryn Mansfield announces a change of address to Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice LLP., 1727 Hampton St., 29201. Phone: 454-7721.

Michael Jeffcoat Firm announces that **Dayne C. Phillips** has joined the firm located at 4723-A Sunset Blvd. Lexington SC 29072. Phone 808-9600.

Nelson Mullins announces that **James Burns** has returned to Nelson Mullins as a partner after serving as SC Governor Nikki Haley’s Chief of Staff. The firm also announces that **David L.M. Brown** has become an associate with the firm.

Chappell Smith & Arden announces that **Andrew Fajardo** has joined the firm located at 1510 Calhoun St. 29201. Phone: 929-3600.

Turner Padget Graham & Laney announces that **Lanneau William Lambert, Jr.** has been elected as president of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. The firm also announces that **R. Allyce Bailey** has become an associate at the firm located at 1901 Main, 29201. Phone: 254-2200.

Nexsen Pruet announces that bankruptcy law specialist **Rick Men-doza** has been elected to The American College of Bankruptcy.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough announces that legal publisher Law Business Research has selected **John F. Kuppens** for its *Who’s Who Legal Product Liability Defense 2015* directory.

McDonnell and Associates has been placed on Inc. 5000’s list of fastest growing private firms, ranking number 855 nationally and number 9 in SC in the magazine’s annual ratings.

The SC Office of the Attorney General announces that **Alicia Olive, Ivory Narcisse** and **Brooks Biediger** have joined the agency as assistant attorney generals located at 1000 Assembly St., 29201.

Moore Taylor Law firm announces that **J. Mark Taylor**, a senior partner with the firm has been selected as Columbia’s Family Lawyer of the Year.

Classifieds

6 NEWLY RENOVATED OFFICES AVAILABLE FOR RENT: Located at 1803 Hampton Street. Rent includes use of a reception area, conference rooms, break area and utilities. Rent is \$500 to \$750 depending on size. Please call at (803) 251-2288 for additional information.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT OR LEASE: 1001 Washington St. One office available, \$395 per month. Listed on National Register of Historic Places. This property is in an ideal Vista location. Common Conference room. Beautifully and historically rehabilitated, but with modern wiring, HVAC, data cabling, etc. Contact Robert Lewis at (803)798-2838 office or (803) 606-1545 mobile.

OFFICE SPACE/SHARING AVAILABLE: 2204 Devine St. Furnished office and conference room, optional administrative assistance, parking. \$625.00/month plus utilities. Call 803-799-3767.

OFFICE FOR LEASE: 2019 Park Street. Designed for attorneys; 6,000 square feet; 15 offices; conference room; conference room/library; break area; support staff space; parking lot. Call (803) 779-6365.

OFFICE FOR RENT: 1911 Barnwell Street. Reception area; two offices; conference room; file room; direct parking; \$625 per month, plus utilities. Call (803) 779-6365.

2015 DUES REMINDER

Remember to pay your dues for 2015 by checking the Richland County Bar Box for County Dues and adding \$100 to your total on your SC Bar Fee Statement before the end of the year.

You can also pay your dues by mail. To do this, go to <http://richbar.org/membership>, print out and complete the Mail-in Member Application, and mail it to Post Office Box 7632. Columbia, SC 29202.



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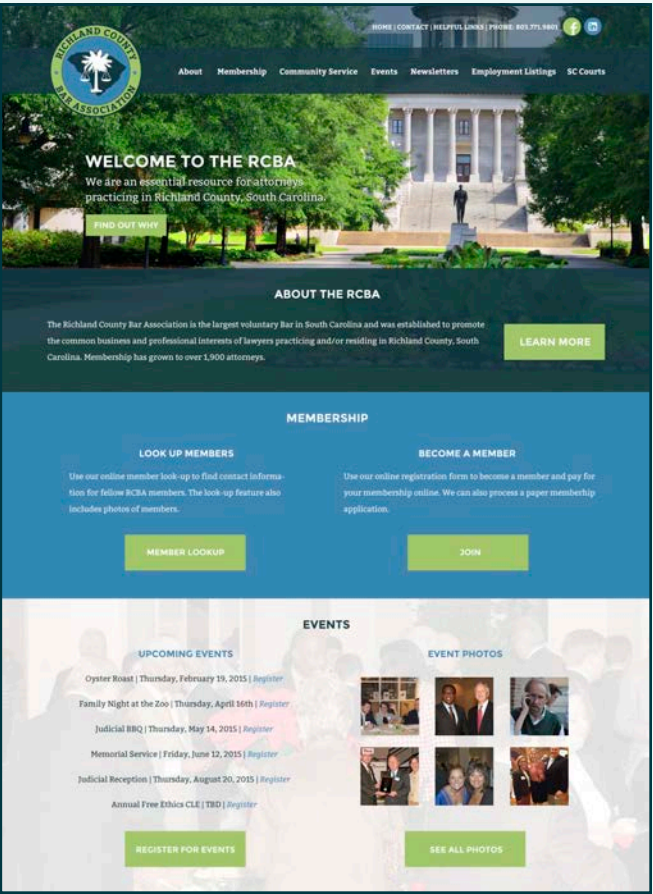
New RCBA Website is Now “Live”

We have just launched a new RCBA website at <http://richbar.org>. The site is fully responsive, so it is easy to read on tablets and smart phones. It contains a wealth of information, photos, old newsletters, employment opportunities, and documents related to its members and all of the great work that this association is involved in each year.

It has a member directory with contact information and headshots of all of our members. If you go to the site and see that your headshot is missing, please send it to rcba@scbar.org so we can add it to the site. If you are not yet a member, you can register using our online membership registration.

The new site also contains a listing of all of upcoming events. For events that require registration, the link to the registration page is included.

Please visit the site and let us know what you think by writing to rcba@scbar.org. We are always open to suggestions, feedback, and ideas for how we can make the site as useful and inviting as possible.



Spotlight on Dave Howser of Howser, Newman and Besley, LLC

Why is your firm involved in the RCBA?

We consider our involvement to be both educational and social. We enjoy being with other lawyers outside the courtroom and within the practice of law.

How do you approach membership in the RCBA with new Associates?

We encourage and support new Associates to get involved with the RCBA. We feel it is beneficial for them to get involved early and stay involved throughout their career.

Is membership in the RCBA valuable to your firm?

Absolutely – we believe it is mutually beneficial – it used to be that the Thursday Bar meeting was a huge social event in Columbia and great way to interact with other attorneys in the community. Membership in the RCBA is a g great opportunity to spend time with local attorneys and stay up-to-date on what is going on in the legal community.

The CLE’s are always educational and great reason to join for this opportunity alone! We encourage our Associates to take advantage of this. Another great benefit is the quarterly newsletter to see what is going on locally.

What is your favorite RCBA event?

The February Oyster Roast is always fun. The Judicial Reception each August is a good opportunity to interact with members of the state judiciary and I enjoy attending the BBQ also. The family events are nice for those with young children.

Thank you to Dave Howser and the partners and associates of Howser Newman and Besley for their continued support of the Richland County Bar Association.





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Richland County Common Pleas Jury Verdicts

14-CP-40-3219

State Farm vs Jessica L. Lang

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Austin Hood

Defendant: Chris Archer, Jeff Goodwin

Cause of Action: Subrogation

Verdict: For plaintiff

Actual damages: \$300.00

14-CP-40-4044

Zack Bukley vs. Robert Bessinger

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Todd Ellis

Defendant: Mark Whitlock

Cause of Action: Assault

Verdict: For plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$18,000.00

13-CP-40-2982

A.A. Wright vs. J.L. Burroughs

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Vannie Williams

Defendant: Karl Brehmer

Cause of action: Auto/ Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

02-CP-40-3361

Stevens & Wilkinson of SC Inc. vs. City of Columbia

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Dick Harpootlian, Chris Kenney

Defendant: Kathleen McDaniel, Reese Williams

Verdict: for Defendant

Actual Damages: \$1,602,915.21

13-CP-40-01363

Geddings Crawford vs. Geoffrey Forsythe, et.al.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Curtis Ott

Defendant: Gerald Reardon

Cause of Action: Breach of Contract

Verdict: For Defendant

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: Quantum Meruit \$25,000

14-CP-40-2806

R. L. Canzater vs. I.M. Robinson

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Anthony Russo

Defendant: Albert Pierce

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury

Verdict : For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$30,000

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

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The Element of Style

“Good morning, judge.”

“Oh happy day” he intoned, each word dropping a whole note or so. The man knew his declining inflection. He settled into his morning routine reading and signing orders. I moved to the

empty desk in the next room and fired up WordPerfect

.

We were in one of those great old courthouses still left two decades ago, maybe in the metropolis of Bishopville, when the knock came. I answered the door. “Judge, there is someone here to see you.”

“O-Kay.”

I led the lawyer in. He was local, and his suit was like mine and the judge’s: modest. The poor bloke was visibly nervous, with perspiration already on his brow at 8:45 a.m., the freezing and drafty upstairs visiting chambers notwithstanding.

“Your Honor, I’m Daniel Dogood.”

“Good for you,” said the judge in his usual deadpan.

That shook Dogood a bit. “Um, yes, your Honor, it’s good to see you. I don’t think we’ve met.” Dogood waited on the judge’s response. None came. The judge didn’t waste a lot of words.

Dogood shifted from his left foot to his right. He began unconsciously rattling his change. “And judge, um, I’m on this weeks’ roster, um, down at number 23 or so. I don’t think we’ll be reached this week.”

“Never know. I was in Chester last week and knocked 30 cases off the docket.”

Danny Boy was really rocking now, back and forth, back and forth. Ching-ching-ching went the change and the keys and the Blistex. “Um, yeah, judge, well, you see, I’ve got a witness from out of town and we’re trying to settle the case and my dog ate my homework, so I was just trying to see...”

The judge spread his hands in front of him, as if closing a car’s trunk with measured force—not a slam, just solidly. “It’s no problem. Come to the roster meeting and we’ll DEAL with it. That’s all.”

Grateful for his cue, Dogood thanked himself out.

His Honor looked at me, rolled his eyes, and went back to reading another 30-page memo. Each one took him about three minutes to digest, dissect, and decipher. I saw it with my own eyes. He would also mention it every so often. More often than so, perhaps. As fate would have it, Dan’s number was about to be up. By Monday afternoon the first 20 were off. The court set numbers 2 and 9 for trial for Tuesday and Wednesday. Monday evening, the judge poked his head in.

“Call Mr. Dogood and Mr. Snerdly and tell them they need to be ready to go Thursday morning.”

I could hear Dan, now unwillingly The Man, swallow hard as I gave him the news. I mean cartoon hard, like the Roadrunner just as he hits that portable Acme hole in the road. “But I was number 23!” “Yes sir, that’s right. Now you are number 3.”

It was a car accident case: low impact, no property damage, the kind Snerdly had been defending without much trouble for years.

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He would have none here. Br’er Dogood was a nervous wreck. Bless his heart—he did the best he could.

Blessings aside, Dogood’s closing argument was a mess, sure enough. Disjointed. Tentative. A little whiny. (I understood a lot better when in the lion’s den myself a couple years later. There is a reason the Golden Rule is not for closing argument. It works.)

After the judge’s charge, we retired to chambers, plopped down into our chairs. Again with the eye-rolling. I rolled right back. The judge let out a sigh.

“Well, I wouldn’t have done it like that. But maybe that’s just his STYLE. Maybe it works for him.” He closed the air trunk again.

He was right. And thus was born one of my life’s greatest lessons,

one that I share with every young lawyer I come across. And one that will never go out of style or pass into dust.

Oh happy day.

Incredibly, despite his clumsy writing and lifelong bondage to Breyer’s chocolate ice cream, John is a shareholder at Rogers Townsend in Columbia. You can reach him at john.hearn@rtt-law.com. Stay away from the freezer and no one gets hurt.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The RCBA posts legal-related employment opportunities on our website. Visit <http://richbar.org/employment-listings> to view all of them.



Moore Taylor Law Firm
congratulates

John Bradley

on his accomplishment
of completing the Bost Marathon
on April 20, 2015
with a time of 3:39:03



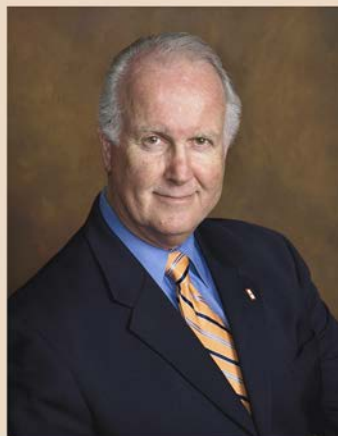
Annual Meeting and Holiday Party



On Thursday, December 10th, the RCBA will host its Annual Meeting and Holiday Party at the Columbia Museum of Art.

The Annual Meeting will start at 5:30, and the party will go from 6:00-8:00. At the 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. Award recipients will be featured in our next issue.

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 this event to gather at the museum for wonderful food and good “cheer” catered by Aberdeen Catery of Camden.



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