

# RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association



MIKE POLK  
Treasurer

JODY BEDENBAUGH  
President

DAVE MAXFIELD  
President-Elect

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Judicial Reception

Thursday, August 18, 2016

### Bigg Doggs

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

### Annual Free Ethics CLE

Friday, October 28, 2016

### Lunch & Learns

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Thursday, December 15, 2016

### Annual Meeting/Holiday Party

Thursday, December 8, 2016



## From the President, Jody Bedenbaugh

If you read my last Newsletter Article, you know that I have a baby daughter, Eloise. You may also know this if you simply have access to the internet, since I think she is the most photographed baby in history and numerous pictures of her have been uploaded and shared on Facebook, Instagram, and other forms of social media. As new parents, my wife and I enjoy talking about what she will become, and in the course of conversation I will sometimes get asked if I think she will be a lawyer like her dad. My answer typically varies based on the type of week I am having. If it has been a particularly challenging week, I might pithily respond with some version of “I hope not,” but if I am in a better frame of mind, I may respond that it would make me proud if she did grow up to be a lawyer.



Of course, the discussion is slightly premature. She is currently nine months old and her main interests are her bottle, chewing on everything she can get her hands on, and her Peppa Pig doll, in that order. But it is interesting for me to think about for the first time whether I would want her to be in our profession. On the one hand, the practice of law can certainly be a grind. I have heard it described as “having homework every day.” That is true; and if you are lucky, you have a constant inflow of problems to answer and are constantly faced with competing deadlines from clients, courts, and others. And, sadly, the only thing more stressful than being overworked is the thought of not having enough of it to do.

To be sure, I think nearly all professions have sales and productivity goals, but there does seem to be something unique about the ebbs and flows of a law practice that makes it difficult to balance everything else. On the other hand, I have read a number of articles over the years which point out that one of the keys to happiness is finding a fulfilling career – one where you work on issues that are not only interesting, but challenging and meaningful, with your desired measure of independence. For me, the practice of law provides exactly that.

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# From the Editor, Dave Maxfield



## Waiting for Trudeau.

Despite what my coffee mug says (and as many of you can confirm) I may not actually be the **World's Greatest Lawyer**. Despite that, I've somehow managed to become president-elect of Richland County Bar. Thankfully, that doesn't start until next year. My advance plea for your help in that endeavor is below.

Meantime, since it would be wrong for one person to grasp the levers of both government and the press (however Stalinesquesly cool that sounds) we had to find a new Editor for this newsletter. Enter, my good friend Mike Polk.

Those of you who know Mike already know what a great job he will do. I met Mike in contracts class twenty-five years ago. We were freaked-out little first semester 1L's, getting picked off one-by-one by the Socratic Method, until one day when Mike's number came up. I can't even remember what the Professor asked him or what he said. I just remember that his response was hilarious and that everyone fell out of their yellow molded plastic chairs laughing except Mike, who had delivered his clever retort with perfect deadpan sincerity. I've been a fan ever since. You will be too.

I wish it were this easy to pick presidents. I wish we could all just get together and find a normal, thoughtful, funny, stand-up guy or gal with no major baggage or obvious megalomania. Alas, that animal appears to exist only in remote northern climates; specifically, Ottawa. I'm referring of course to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

First off, he seems like a nice guy. Even as the son of a former prime minister, he went to college to become a school teacher, and then actually *taught school*. He's open about his past – including marijuana use and the fact a Millennium Falcon Lego set he ostensibly bought for his kid was really for him. He can dance. He can box (but he doesn't use it against campaign protesters). And instead of attacking opponents in campaign ads, he makes fun of himself ("Different Hair, Same Platform").

Our political process is now fully incapable of producing such a person organically. So, here's what I'm thinking: [we trade for him](#).



This is not without historic precedent. In 1984, the New York Mets made one of the greatest trades of the modern era when they sent four players to the Montreal Expos for Gary Carter, all-star catcher and one of the top power hitters in major league baseball. Who did they have to give up? Hubie Brooks, Mike Fitzgerald, Herm Winningham, and Floyd Youmans. Not even two years later, future Hall-of-Famer Carter hit the 12th inning single against the Astros that won Game 5 of the NCLS, and then hit the 10th-inning single against the Boston Red Sox that started the fabled comeback rally in Game 6 of the World Series, which the Mets also won.

## Annual Judicial Reception

The Annual Judicial Reception will take place Thursday, August 18th at The Columbia Museum of Art at 5:30 PM. The RCBA entertains the state-wide judiciary every year when they come to Columbia for their Annual Conference sponsored by Court Administration. Catering will be provided by Aberdeen of Camden and valet parking will be available.

Tickets are \$20 per person for RCBA members. All members of the judiciary are guests of the RCBA. You may purchase your tickets on Eventbrite or by mailing a check to RCBA, PO Box 7632 Columbia, SC 29202. More information will be coming to our website and to your inbox soon!

## Annual Memorial Service

The Richland County Bar Association continued its tradition of recognizing those members that passed away in the previous year. Special thanks to Catherine Mubarak and the Memorial Service Committee for their leadership. The following individuals were memorialized at the Richland County Courthouse on Friday, the 17th of June with the Honorable Alison Renee Lee presiding.

- Ronald E. Alexander by Robert A. McKenzie
- William Beau Busch by William L. Smith II
- David Jackson Cooper by Barbara Sullivan Cooper
- Leo Arthur Dryer Jr. by Stanford E. Lacy
- James Henry Fowles Jr. by James H. Fowles III
- Herbert Wellington Hoefer Jr. by The Honorable Jean H. Toal
- James C. Leventis by The Honorable Robert D. Coble
- John Gregg McMaster Jr. by Lt. Governor Henry D. McMaster
- Edmund Heyward Monteith by Joe E. Berry Jr.
- Julian J. Nexsen by John A. Sowards

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comments and contributions. Email  
feedback to [rcba@scbar.org](mailto:rcba@scbar.org).

## From the President (...continued from page 1)

I have found that – once I get over the initial panic that comes from being at the top of a roster or a quickly approaching deadline to close – I am happiest when I am fully engaged, surrounded by files, and working on a plan to meet a deadline or prepare for court. Like many lawyers, I am now more uncomfortable when I do not have a deadline than when I am faced with one. Though we all have clients, judges, and regulators that we have to answer to, lawyers generally have a high degree of independence. Not only do you get to develop your own practice (and are often an owner of the firm in which you practice), but the lawyer has a large degree of the formulation and execution of strategies in handling legal matters. The practice of law also provides meaningful stakes, whether your practice assists individuals at the times they most need assistance, such as after an injury or the death of a family member or during a divorce, or you represent corporations in significant transactions or litigation. There are also countless pro bono and public service opportunities to positively impact the communities in which we live.



One of the other often-cited keys to happiness at work is developing an external social network of colleagues, clients and others. Of course, this is perhaps where the practice of law can be a challenge. Whether you are looking at transcripts, deal documents, case law or something else, the practice of law typically involves a tremendous amount of reading and thus can be very insular. This is where Richland County Bar Association can hopefully help, and one of the main reasons I got involved with the Association was to force myself to get out of the office and socialize with lawyers other than the ones I frequently deal with in my practice. I quoted our Bylaws in the last Newsletter, which state that one of the purposes of the Bar is to “encourage cordial intercourse among its members.” I cannot imagine why I received so many subsequent comments about that line, but I think we can all agree that the Association serves a critical role in allowing us to develop the social connections which are so important to our well-being. Recently we had a great family night at Riverbanks Zoo, hosted a Bigg Doggs breakfast with Chief Justice Costa M. Pleicones, held our annual BBQ, and had a night at a Columbia Fireflies game. Our annual Judicial Reception will be held on August 18. I hope that you were or will be able to attend at least one of these events.

Despite the challenges, thankfully I enjoy the practice of law and would not hesitate to recommend it – though I look forward to enjoying many more days with my daughter and her Peppa Pig doll before we have that discussion.

*Jody can be reached at [jody.bedenbaugh@nelsonmullins.com](mailto:jody.bedenbaugh@nelsonmullins.com).*

**CORRECTION:** On page 13 of the last edition of the Richbar News, United States Bankruptcy Judge John E. Waites was honored as judicial recipient of the 2015 Matthew Perry Civility Award. However, the accompanying photo did not correctly identify the lawyer who accepted in Judge Waites’ absence, who was none other than Judge Waites’ daughter, Charleston attorney Katie Waites.



# Annual Judicial BBQ

At the Annual Judicial BBQ on Thursday, May 19th, we honored William Witherspoon, RCBA member and Past President, upon his installation as SC Bar President. The event was held at The Hall at Senate's End.



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# Noteworthy News & Announcements



**Barbara George Barton** is pleased to announce that she has been selected for inclusion in the 23rd edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. This is the 12th year in which Mrs. Barton has received this honor.

**Barnes Alford** attorneys **Weldon R. Johnson, David G. Wolff, Kay Gaffney Crowe, Alan J. Reyner, Robert T. Strickland, Curtis W. Dowling, and Matthew G. Gerrald** (*Rising Star*) are honored to have been selected for recognition in the 2016 edition of *Super Lawyers* magazine.

The law firm of **Bluestein Nichols Thompson & Delgado (BNTD)** is pleased to announce that partners **John Nichols** and **Allison P. Sullivan** were both recently recognized by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. Nichols was included in the 2016 South Carolina Super Lawyers list and Sullivan was included in the 2016 South Carolina Rising Stars list.

**Bowman and Brooke LLP** is pleased to announce the California Minority Counsel Program (CMCP) has honored the firm with the prestigious 2015 Drucilla Stender Ramey Majority-Owned Law Firm Diversity Award, presented during the 26th annual Business Conference and Awards Luncheon. The firm has a long history of supporting and fostering diversity and inclusion.

**Callison Tighe & Robinson** law firm is pleased to announce the establishment of The Michael W. Tighe perpetual scholarship for select law students of the University of South Carolina School of Law. The scholarship is named for **Mike Tighe**, one of the firm's founders, in honor of his 75th birthday and to commemorate the firm's 45th anniversary.

**Callison Tighe** attorney **Jax Pavlicek** has earned the CIPP/US credential from the International Association of Privacy Professionals. The CIPP/US designation is the preeminent professional designation offered in the information privacy sector. **Kathleen McDaniel**, a member of **Callison Tighe**, has been elected to the South Carolina Bar House of Delegates. McDaniel joined Callison Tighe in 2007 and her practice focuses on government and environmental law.

Five attorneys at **Callison Tighe** have been included in the just-released *Super Lawyers* 2016 edition. *Super Lawyers Magazine* highlighted the following for inclusion: **Michael Tighe, Demetri "Jim" Koutrakos, M. Malissa Burnette, Kathleen McDaniel** and **Janet Rhodes**. Callison Tighe also announces that **Edward "Butch" Barnhill** has joined the firm as of counsel located at 1812 Lincoln St., Columbia 29201. (803) 404-6900.

**Clawson and Staubes LLC** Attorney **Robert "Robb" L. Brown** was recently named a 2016 *Super Lawyers* Rising Star. Brown, who has been named a Rising Star for 4 consecutive years, focuses his work on civil litigation and personal injury.

**Collins & Lacy, P.C.** announces that **Kelsey Brudvig** and **James Williams** have joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1330 Lady St., 29201. (803) 256-2660. Associate **Kerri A. Rupert** was selected into the South Carolina Bar Association's 2016 Leadership Academy.

**Collins & Lacy, P.C.** is pleased to announce co-founder **Stan Lacy** has been chosen as the Platinum recipient for the 2016 Compleat Lawyer Award, given by the University of South Carolina School of Law. The Compleat Lawyer Awards were established in 1992 by the University of South Carolina School of Law Alumni Council to recognize alumni for outstanding civic and professional accomplishments. Recipients are individuals who have made significant contributions to the legal profession and exemplify the highest standards of professional competence, ethics, and integrity.

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

**Collins & Lacy, P.C.** announces the following attorneys were selected for the 2016 South Carolina *Super Lawyers*: **Joel Collins**, Civil Litigation Defense; **Andrew Cole**, Construction Litigation; **Pete Dworjanyn**, Insurance Coverage and **Stan Lacy**, Workers' Compensation. **Claude Prevost, III**, was selected as a *Rising Star* in the field of Construction Litigation.

**Duff, White & Turner, L.L.C.** announces that **Ashley Story** has become an associate of the firm located at 3700 Forest Drive, Ste. 404, Columbia, SC 29204. (803) 790-0603.

**Fisher & Phillips, LLP** announces that **Sheila Bias** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1320 Main St., Ste. 750, 29201. (803) 255-0000.

**Gaffney, Lewis and Edwards, LLC** announces that **Michelle Boykin Matthews** has joined the firm's Columbia office as an associate located at 3700 Forest Dr., Ste. 400, 29204. (803) 790-8838.

**Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.** announces that **Amy Hill** has joined the firm's Columbia office as a partner located at 1201 Main St., Ste. 1200, Columbia 29201. (803) 779-1833.

**Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.** attorney **Lindsay Joyner** was awarded the Katharine Heath Manning Perry Award from the Junior League of Columbia. The award recognizes a member of the JLC who has excelled in community voluntarism and activism, through her JLC placements and through extensions of her JLC work and training.

**Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.** is pleased to announce that attorney **John T. Lay, Jr.** has been listed in the 2016 edition of the well-respected **Who's Who Legal (WWL)** publication. Lay is listed in the Life Sciences – Product Liability practice area where he earns praise from WWL stating, "Lay is an experienced and tenacious trial lawyer."

**Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.** is pleased to announce the following attorneys were selected for inclusion in *South Carolina Super Lawyers 2016*: **Gray T. Culbreath** – Class Action/Mass Torts; **John E. Cuttino** – Civil Litigation Defense; **John T. Lay, Jr.** – Business Litigation; **John Hudson** – Professional Liability Defense; and **Curtis L. Ott** – Personal Injury Defense: Products.

**Gignilliat, Savitz & Bettis, LLP** announces that **T. Foster Haselden**, **R. Hayne Hodges** and **Fred A. Williams** have become partners in the firm located at 900 Elmwood Ave., Ste. 100, Columbia 29201. (803) 799-9311.

**Gignilliat, Savitz & Bettis, LLP** is pleased to announce that **Vance J. Bettis** has been named the 2016 Distinguished Lawyer by the SC Bar Employment and Labor Law Section. This award is presented to an individual nominated and selected by his/her professional peers for meritorious service to employment and labor law practice in South Carolina.

**Lanier & Burroughs, LLC** announces that **David C. Marshall** has joined the firm located at 250 Gibson St., Orangeburg 29115. (803) 268-9800.

**Lewis Babcock, LLP** announces that **David L. Paavola** has joined the firm's Columbia office as an associate located at 1513 Hampton St., Columbia 29211. (803) 771-8000.

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

**McAngus Goudelock & Courie** is pleased to announce the MGC Long Run raised \$31,446.90 for USO South Carolina, a nonprofit organization that strengthens America's military service members by connecting them to family, home and country throughout their service to the nation. The donation is a result of the 2016 MGC Long Run 15k, 15k Relay, 5k and Kids' Fun Run that took place on Feb. 6.

**McAngus Goudelock & Courie** is pleased to announce the addition of **Joseph Bias**. Bias' practice focuses on general litigation and construction. The firm also welcomed **Kimberly R. Thompson** to the firm's real estate group where she will focus primarily on residential closings.

**Pope Flynn** announces that **Gary Pope Jr.** has become a member of the firm located at 1411 Gervais St., Ste. 300, Columbia 29201. (803) 354-4900. Pope will continue to serve clients out of the Columbia office, as well as provide additional service to Upstate clients from Pope Flynn's Spartanburg office.

**John O. McDougall, Michael W. Self, Peter G. Currence** and **Ryan A. McLeod** announce that their firm, **McDougall & Self, LLP**, has been renamed **McDougall, Self, Currence & McLeod, LLP** with offices located at 791 Greenlawn Dr., Ste. 4, Columbia 29209, (803) 776-3130 and 21 E. Calhoun St., Sumter 29150, (803) 778-5062.

**McKay, Cauthen, Settana & Stubley, P.A.** is pleased to announce that two of the firm's partners, **Julius W. "Jay" McKay, II**, and **Daniel R. Settana Jr.**, have been selected for recognition in the 2016 edition of *South Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine. Mr. McKay was selected for the eighth year in a row in the area of Medical Malpractice Defense. He also practices in health care law, products liability, commercial litigation, government defense, appellate law and professional licensure disputes. Mr. Settana was selected for inclusion in the area of Transportation Law. He also practices in insurance defense, and government defense.

**J. Charles "Chuck" Ormond** and **Ben Dunn** announce the opening of **Ormond - Dunn** located at 301 Stoneridge Dr., Columbia 29210. (803) 933-9000.

**The S.C. Office of the Attorney General** announces that **Harley Kirkland** has joined the agency as an Assistant Attorney General located at 1000 Assembly St., Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia 29201. (803) 734-3970.

**Nichole Davis** of the **Richland County Department of Social Services** has been named Young Lawyer of the Year by the SC Bar Young Lawyers Division. The award is given annually to recognize young lawyers who most exemplify excellence in practicing law and public service.



**Keith R. Powell** announces the opening of a solo law practice. **Powell Counsel LC** will focus on educational law, public infrastructure contracting, organizational and public governance, and local government public finance. The firm is located at 808 Harborside Ln., Columbia 29229. (803) 240-4406.

**Alex Sanders** and **Zoe Sanders** announce the opening of **The Sanders Law Firm, LLC** located at 1513 Hampton St., Columbia 29201. (803) 960-3109.

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## Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 8)

The **S.C. Supreme Court Staff Attorneys Office** announces that **Nick Gex** has joined the office located at 1231 Gervais St., Columbia 29201. (803) 734-1160.

Nineteen **Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP** attorneys based in Columbia have been selected by their peers to the 2016 list of South Carolina *Super Lawyers* and *Rising Stars* in 13 practice areas. Additionally, partner **George Cauthen** is listed as one of the top 10 attorneys who received the most votes from their peers. The attorneys and their practice areas are: **Stuart M. Andrews Jr.**, Healthcare; **George S. Bailey**, Estate Planning and Probate; **Mattison Bogan**, Appellate (*Rising Star*); **Mitchell Brown**, Appellate; **George B. Cauthen**, Bankruptcy: Business; **Karen Aldridge Crawford**, Environmental; **David E. Dukes**, Class Action; **Robert W. Foster, Jr.**, Business Litigation; **James C. Gray, Jr.**, Business Litigation; **Sue Erwin Harper**, Employment & Labor; **William C. Hubbard**, Business Litigation; **S. Keith Hutto**, Business Litigation; **Francis B.B. Knowlton**, Creditor/Debtor Rights; **John F. Kuppens**, Personal Injury Defense: Products; **Steven A. McKelvey**, Business Litigation; **John T. Moore**, Bankruptcy: Business; **Edward W. Mullins Jr.**, Business Litigation; **James F. Rogers**, Personal Injury Defense: Medical Malpractice and **Carmen Harper Thomas**, Banking (*Rising Star*).

**Nexsen Pruet** attorneys have elected **Leighton Lord** as the law firm's Chairman of the Board, effective July 1, 2016. As Chairman, Lord will be responsible for shaping the vision and strategy for the eight offices of the firm. Lord joined Nexsen Pruet in 1994, and has previously served as chairman from 2005 through 2010. Lord also helped formed NP Strategy, the firm's communications subsidiary and will continue his involvement with NP Strategy.

**Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A.**, is pleased to announce that six attorneys were selected to the 2016 *South Carolina Super Lawyers* listing: **George C. Beighley**, **Emily R. Gifford**, **Eugene H. Matthews**, **William C. McDow**, **Steven J. Pugh**, and **Franklin J. Smith, Jr.** Four attorneys from Columbia were selected as *Rising Stars*: **Jared H. Garraux**, **Michelle P. Kelley**, **Caleb M. Riser**, and **Joseph E. Thoensen**.

**Robinson, McFadden & Moore, P.C.** is pleased to announce that **R. William ("Bill") Metzger** has been elected to a 3 year term to the Board of Directors and named Chair of the U.S. Leadership Committee of Meritas, a worldwide affiliation of commercial law firms with nearly 7,200 lawyers located in 176 firms in 234 global markets. The firm also announces that **Paul H. Hoefer** has been elected a shareholder in the firm located at 1901 Main Street, Suite 1200, Columbia, SC

**Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC**, is pleased to announce that **Dana A. Pellizzari** and **Clark T. Dawson** have joined the Firm. Ms. Pellizzari is Special Counsel in Rogers Townsend's Business Banking Department. Ms. Dawson has joined the Firm's Transactional Law Department in Columbia as an Associate, where she focuses on residential real estate and title matters.

**Sojourner, Caughman and Thomas, LLC** is pleased to announce that **George S. Bailey** has joined the firm as Of Counsel. Mr. Bailey's experience includes almost 40 years of advising clients on tax, estate planning, probate and business succession matters. In addition, **Karen Hudson Thomas** has been named as a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and **Jennifer Ross MacLeod** has been certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court as Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate.

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RICHBARNEWS

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## Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 9)

**Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC** is pleased to announce that *Super Lawyers Magazine* recognized seven members for inclusion in its 2016 edition. **Tina Cundari** – Business Litigation; **Betsy Gray** – Business Litigation; **Becky Laffitte** – Personal Injury Defense and Products; **Biff Sowell** – General Litigation; **Bobby Stepp** – Business Litigation; **Monty Todd** – Personal Injury Defense and Medical Malpractice and **Cal Watson** – Business Litigation. The firm is also pleased to announce attorneys **Alexis Lindsay** and **Michael Montgomery** have been highlighted as *Rising Stars*. Rising Stars are up-and-coming attorneys who are either younger than 40 or who have been practicing for 10 years or fewer. The Rising Star designation is a new honor for both attorneys.

**Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC** is pleased to announce **Biff Sowell** was honored at the South Carolina Lawyers Weekly's 2016 Leadership in Law awards dinner. These awards honor outstanding members of South Carolina's legal community who work to better the legal profession through mentoring and involvement within their community. Several **Sowell Gray** attorneys have been named to leadership positions within the community: **Ben Gooding** has been elected to the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia; **Alexis Lindsay** has been named to the Board of Directors for the Congaree Vista Guild and **Nick Haigler** has been appointed to the Friends of Epworth Children's Home Board of Directors.

**Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC** is pleased to announce that **Tina Cundari** was named 2016 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the South Carolina Bar. This award is presented annually and recognizes lawyers who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged.

**Turner Padget Graham & Laney, PA** announces that **Jennifer N. Stone** has joined the firm's Columbia office as of counsel and and **Richard A. Jones III** and **Ryan Judd** have joined as associates.



# SOLUTIONS

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# Portrait Unveiling Ceremony for Judge James R. Barber III

The Portrait Unveiling ceremony for South Carolina Circuit Court Judge James R. Barber III was held on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at The Palmetto Club. The event was very well-attended and included remarks from Judge Casey Manning, Dick Harpootlian and Barry George.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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### 1 Year Print & Online

# RCBA Public Service Committee Event

In late March, the RCBA Public Service Committee hosted a celebration event for the students, alumni, and Director – Pam Robinson – of the USC School of Law Pro Bono Program to thank all current and former participants for their service to the Project HELP Clinic.

The program highlighted, particularly, Ms. Robinson's successes during her tenure with the Pro Bono Program, which helped the RCBA Public Service Committee to begin and continue serving Columbia-area homeless by donating time for giving legal advice.

Approximately thirty people attended the event, which was held at the law school, including current students, USC School of Law Professors – Dr. Adams and Professor Medlin, USC School of Law Dean Wilcox, and various other alumni and RCBA members. Presenters shared experiences with the HELP Clinic and other service projects, which were achieved both during and after law school with Ms. Robinson's assistance.

For more information on getting involved in the Public Service Committee, please contact Ashley Story at (803) 790-0603 or at [astory@dwtlawfirm.com](mailto:astory@dwtlawfirm.com).



## From the Editor (...continued from page 2)

Why can't we do this? Surely, Trudeau is ready to move to a bigger market. Personally, I would trade Trump, Kasich, Cruz, Clinton and Sanders – five players in all – for Trudeau. Are you listening Canada? We may even throw in some cash and future Senate draft picks. We can make Trudeau feel welcome by eating French Fries with Donuts and moving the capital to Myrtle Beach. People from Charleston already say "about." South Carolina is ready for this. And I think it's the next logical step in implementing NAFTA.

Will you help me with this? I know it's probably unconstitutional. But that shouldn't stand in the way if it's something we really want to do, right? OK, maybe not. Well, if you won't support this, I hope you will at least help me as president. I would love to have your comments, questions, advice and anything else on your mind before taking office. Email me anytime at [dave@consumerlawsc.com](mailto:dave@consumerlawsc.com) or on Twitter @ConsumerLawSC.

Between now and then, I'll be taking a writing break. Everyone have a great summer, and hope to see you in Myrtle Beach at the Trudeau 2020 Rally, where we'll be handing out free cruellers and LaBatts.

Thanks for everything, cheers, and au revoirs!

# Richland County Common Pleas Jury Verdicts

## **15-CP-40-02121**

Tameka Banks v. Rafael Coleman

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: J. Christopher Wilson, Lauren B.

Dangerfield

Defendant: Elliott Daniels

Cause of Action: Automobile

Verdict: For Plaintiff

## **15-CP-40-01939**

Dwayne Benless v. Lula Webber

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Hampton Eden

Defendant: Elliott Daniels

Cause of Action: Automobile

Verdict: For Defendant

## **15-CP-40-1828**

Cynthia Aviles v. County of Richland

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

## **15-CP-40-1842**

State v. Raymond B. Williamson

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Christopher Morrow

Defendant: A. Good

Cause of Action: SV Predator

Verdict: For Defendant

## **13-CP-40-319**

Daniel O'Shields; Roger Whitley DBA OW

Cars v. PSC Automotive Group DBA Mid-

lands Honda

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Steven Moskos

Defendant: H. Clayton Walker, Jr.

Cause of Action: Unfair Trade Practice;

Fraud

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$6,645.00

Punitive Damages: \$2,381,888.00

## **15-CP-40-2312**

Sallie Thomas v. Kenneth W. Steiner, Jr.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: R.W. Lane, II

Defendant: P. Farr

Cause of Action: Automobile, Personal

Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

## **14-CP-4004304**

George Estrada v. Andrew Marshall and

Linda Marshall

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Gerald Reardon

Defendant: Damon Wlodarczyk

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$47,684.39

## **14-CP-4004304**

Linda Estrada v. Andrews Marshall and

Linda Marshall

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Gerald Reardon

Defendant: Damon Wlodarczyk

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$60,818.32

## **14-CP-4007214**

Christian Reyes v. Andrew Mar-

shall and Linda Marshall

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Todd Ellis

Defendant: Damon Wlodarczyk

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

## **14-CP-4005122**

Khalilah Smith v. Andrew Marshall and

Linda Marshall

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Ralph Riley

Defendant: Damon Wlodarczyk

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$9,452.02

## **14-CP-4005123**

Carletta Williams v. Andrew Marshall and

Linda Marshall

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Ralph Riley

Defendant: Damon Wlodarczyk

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$8,683

## **14-CP-4005124**

Tyrone Ruff v. Andrew Marshall and Linda

Marshall

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Ralph Riley

Defendant: Damon Wlodarczyk

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$17,104





# Richland County Common Pleas Jury Verdicts

## 15-CP-40-1922

Erica R. Myers v. Kay C. Ingram and Isaac S. Ingram

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Kevin R. Horton

Defendant: James B. Lybrand

Cause of Action: Automobile

Verdict: For Defendant

## 14-CP-40-03698

Lawrence Terry v. RCSD #2 - Ralph Schmidt, Traci Batchilder, Jason Powell and Roosevelt Garrick

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Rachel Peavy

Defendant: Thomas Barlow

Case settled

## 14-CP-40-5663

R.H. Shelley v. SC Highway Patrol

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: C. Carter Elliott, Jr.

Defendant: J. S. Hughes

Cause of Action: Death

Verdict: directed verdict for Defendant

## 14-CP-40-7517

K. Johnson and E. Aull v. R. Lumsden

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: G. Reardon

Defendant: Grayson Smith

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$10,000 + \$5,000

## 15-CP-40-1374

D. Green v. R.A. Lysterly

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: B.B. George

Defendant: G. Hanna

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$1,500

## 13-CP-40-3672

K. Robinson and J. Elliott v. W.P. Vasquez

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Mark Sawyer

Defendant: George Hanna

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiffs

Actual Damages: \$2,540 for Elliott; \$3,340 for Robinson

Punitive Damages:

\$3,040 for Elliott; \$3,840 for Robinson

## 15-CP-40-00705

Roy L. Boston v. Zachary

J. Benfield

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Bradd W.

Bunce

Defendant: Charles F. Moore

Cause of Action: Automobile, Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

## 14-CP-7022

Johnny Mack Thacker v. Dewanna Dawkins

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Pro Se

Defendant: C. Krawczyk, C. Hiller

Cause of Action: Automobile; Personal Injury, Property Damage

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$450

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# Health & Fitness: Score!

by John Hearn



It took a long time to write this column. Not hours or days or fortnights or even months. No. It took years. And not five or ten years, either. Nope. This is the Andrew “Action” Jackson piece that required twenty years to compose.

In 1996, I was a newly-solo lawyer on Main Street. I started with one file, a gift from a partner at the law firm I had just left—and to which I returned for good six years later. It went well. Instead of sharpening pencils and reading the phone directory, I spent my first month as a solo preparing and trying that case. Might have been the only best case I ever tried worth a damn, looking back on it. I billed the client. I had a check the next week. It was like that Far Side cartoon of the Almighty making snakes by rolling a piece of clay between His hands like a kindergartener: “Shoot. These things are easy!” And then with the pencils and working my way through the Ba-Bi section of my Southern Bell

reading, another story for another day.

It was somewhere in there that my former boss (and then-future law partner) created the Richland County Bar Association Health and Fitness committee. A human dynamo if ever one lived (even today with four score orbits plus plus plus under his belt), he ably recruited a large group of us to serve with him. I remember the letter well: “Congratulations and thanks for joining the committee.”

The man was Mr. Volun-told before voluntelling was a thing.

The committee did its Important Work well, and the Dynamo was pleased: everything was wonderful. So wonderful, in fact, that he wrote me another letter, this time congratulating me on my ascension to committee chair. (Like I said, the Force is with him—always.) And thus, this column was born.

In the twenty years that followed, I wrote about kayaks and tomatoes, about flossing and peaches (it’s best to floss after eating the peach, apparently), about skiing and sweet corn and dashes—lots and lots of dashes. It’s—what do they call it—wait a sec—I got it—artistical licensure. Or as some folks affectionately label it: absolute dreck.

I’ve written the fake-out column (I’m done—NOT); the obligatory salute to my profession’s elders (before I became one myself, dagnabbit); I’ve even written about my semi-colon, though I might re-think that one, as one lawyer intimated his wife became nauseous as he read it to her aloud. (He was a tad cryptic; something about a projectile, maybe?)

A lot has changed in twenty years. Virtually no client used email for communications with their lawyers back then. I had a pager, which was awesome: “Yeah, I’m sorry, I stopped on 26 but the pay phone was broken.” There was basically only one Online, and it was America, for which eleven bazillion CDs were created. A googlezillion dollars in wireless revenue (and for WHAT?) had yet to be spawned.

continued on page 19...





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# Sowell Gray Member Tina Cundari Named SC Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year

Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC is pleased to announce that Tina Cundari was named a 2016 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the South Carolina Bar. The award was presented at the South Carolina House of Delegates meeting on Thursday, May 19, at the Bar Conference Center.

This award is presented annually and recognizes lawyers who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged.

“We are very proud of Tina and her commitment to serve those less fortunate. She is very deserving of this award and has inspired all of us at Sowell Gray through her example and leadership,” said managing partner Cal Watson.

Tina has maintained a pro bono practice throughout her career, making it a priority to give back to those in need. She helped form the firm’s first Pro Bono Committee and was its first chair. In this capacity, she generated pro bono work for the firm, handled her own pro bono caseload, and encouraged and assisted attorneys in their cases as needed.

Tina led the firm’s effort in the South Carolina Appellate Practice project, which assigns lawyers in private practice to criminal appeals. Under Tina’s leadership, the firm handled four cases, one of which was Tina’s case, resulting in 500 hours of attorney time spent representing indigent clients. She has also worked on a case with the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center, and the Lawyers 4 for Vets clinic, which provides free legal advice to military veterans.

Tina assisted in developing and maintaining a relationship between the firm and the Hannah

## Good Deeds. Great Honor.



**We congratulate Tina Cundari,  
a recipient of the 2016 SC Bar  
Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year award**

Tina would say the pro bono work she does is reward enough.

But we know she has received this honor for her leadership, courage and compassion.

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## SC Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year (...continued from page 18)

House, a shelter for homeless women and their children. The firm's lawyers handled a variety of cases on behalf of the residents and was recognized as the 2012 Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year by the South Carolina Bar.

A statement from her nominations reads, "Pro Bono programs do not succeed without leadership and compassion. Tina exemplifies both of these qualities. She truly cares about her community and helping others, especially those in need. Through her leadership she has helped to develop one of our state's premier pro bono firm programs."

Tina is a member of the firm and practices in the areas of commercial litigation, professional liability and ethics, securities and FINRA, and appellate advocacy.

## Health & Fitness: Score!

(...continued from page 16)

Me? Not so different. Older, with a forehead that resembles a wavy sand dune in the Mojave desert. A fine crop of nose hair. An endless desire for another soft-serve cone. And this hoary column, described by another former law partner (I have TONS of them) as "sort of a stream of consciousness sneeze."

OK, so I added the "sneeze" part. It just popped into my head.

*John can be wretched at [john.hearn@rtt-law.com](mailto:john.hearn@rtt-law.com), where he still has law partners to his complete amazement. And even better, where he still works with two beloved former partners without whom NONE of this would ever happened-EFR and RJT. Thanks, fellas.*

## Communications Update

Be on the lookout for enhancements we are in the process of making to our newsletter and social media sites. We are hard at work finding ways to keep our communications fresh, useful and interesting. If you are interested in getting involved in this effort, please contact Mandy Wren at 803-771-9801 or at [mandy.wren@scbar.org](mailto:mandy.wren@scbar.org).



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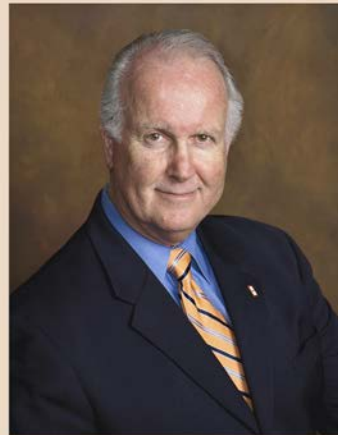
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