

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association



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SAVE THE DATE

Memorial Service

Friday, June 09, 2017

RCBA Night with the Fireflies

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Judicial Reception

Thursday, August 17, 2017

Annual Ethics CLE

Friday, October 27, 2017

Annual Meeting/ Holiday Party

Thursday, December 7, 2017

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for more information about all
of our upcoming events!



From the President, Dave Maxfield

Outside-In

One of the great things about the Richland County Bar is the way it embraces “outsiders” and not only accepts them, but weaves them into the community. I (reformed Atlanta boy, never going back, thanks) am a case in point. But a better example of how the “not from around here” folks are not only woven in, but have become depended on (and dare I say critical) to the just functioning of our legal community, is Sue Berkowitz.



You may know Sue as the Director of South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center. Appleseed serves the low-income members of our community. Poor mothers and fathers, disabled vets, hungry kids, immigrants. Unless we’re really searching, these members of our community can be easy to overlook. But they’re everywhere: of this community and yet, seen as outside it. And unfortunately, far more likely to be harmed by lack of advocacy than most of our paying clients. Appleseed’s mission is to be a forceful advocate for these members of our community by effecting systemic change. That may be through education, lobbying, a class action, or anything between. Whatever has the most impact and does the most good.

Sue embodies this effort. There are many amazing things about her (more on that below) but the one that blows me away - after knowing her for over twenty years - is there has been zero leakage in enthusiasm, energy, or belief in her mission in that time. Despite political challenges and even personal attacks, she not only persists, but does so with the enthusiasm of a 3L in a clinic. How did she become this fusion reactor of justice? And how did we get lucky enough for this “outsider” to choose Columbia?

It almost didn’t happen at all. Like a lot of other kids from the Northeast, Sue came to USC as an undergrad from Connecticut. She had no plan to stay after, returning to the Northeast and

continued on page 4...

From the Editors, Mike Polk and Van Horger

The Power of Nice

In this issue, we have included a few articles relating to civility in the Bar, including articles discussing the Oath of Civility, the power of mentoring, and the value gained when outsiders settle in the community. I have also learned much about civility from rather mundane interactions with other lawyers who always displayed a bit more kindness than necessary. It seems that true civility is not just refraining from prohibited uncivil behavior, but may often be found in the small kindnesses lawyers routinely extend that often receive little recognition.



The personal story that stands out most in my mind comes from one of my first cases in federal court. It was an ERISA case, of which I had zero experience handling. As I recall, the plaintiff's lawyer had been in direct discussions with my corporate client prior to my involvement, but was up against the clock and had to file the case before they were able to resolve it. This meant that my client, who I had significant experience representing in other types of cases, needed some local representation. Because they were confident it wouldn't go far, they asked me to handle.¹

Luckily, my client was right, and in just a few short weeks, it appeared that the plaintiffs' attorney had concluded that there was little liability for my client in the case. During a discussion with opposing counsel (in which I was uncharacteristically listening more than talking in an effort to keep my utter ignorance of ERISA law concealed), he said, "Well Van, I think the best thing to do is to ask the court to enter a Rubin order." I paused a moment and racked my brain for knowledge of anything called a Rubin order. I came up short. While trying to figure out the best spelling of the term to type into Google, I simply replied, "Of course I can't agree to that without discussing it with my client."

I recall that there was a pause before he said, "Van, do you know what a Rubin order is?" There was something about the way he delivered the question - while direct, it was sincere and polite and devoid of any condescension. The jig was up. I believe my articulate response, probably spoken more as a question, was "Um, no?" Opposing counsel then kindly explained to me that it was an order conditionally dismissing the case but giving us 60 or 90 days to hash out the settlement details.² After this explanation, I agreed that a Rubin order sounded like a great idea, feeling confident my client would consent to a dismissal.

As fate would have it, as a law clerk, I now email lawyers on a weekly basis to inquire about whether or not they consent to a Rubin order when there is an indication that they have agreed to settle a case. If I am not certain from past experience with the lawyers that

1 Rest assured this is not a story about malpractice. Although it was unspoken, it was absolutely clear that the client and I were both comforted by the fact that there were plenty of others at my firm with ERISA experience that we could have pulled in if needed.

2 I have not fully researched it, but I have heard that the term "Rubin order" comes from the name of the judge who first began implementing the orders. While a Rubin order technically closes the case (removing it from the court's active docket), it allows either party to reopen the case for a period of time (usually 60 to 90 days) after the dismissal if they are unable to finalize settlement.

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RCBA Night with the Fireflies



Come out for an evening of fun with your fellow RCBA members! Join us on Thursday, June 22nd in the Palmetto Pavilion at Spirit Communications Park as the Fireflies take on the Kannapolis Intimidators. First pitch is at 7:05 pm. The buffet will be available starting one hour prior to first pitch.

Your ticket includes game tickets, delicious buffet meal, and \$5 Glow Dough to be used for adult beverages, children's activities, or Fireflies merchandise. Be on the lookout for an email noting that tickets are available for purchase. It's going to be a great time and we hope to see you there!

From the Editors (...cont'd from page 2)

they are aware of the effect of a Rubin order, I try to explain it, and I think of the kindness of that plaintiff's lawyer³ every time.

The incident taught me a few things. First, sometimes the way you communicate something is more important than the content of the communication. It was subtle, but the sincere tone in which he (essentially) asked me if I had any idea what he was talking about made all the difference. Additionally, it is usually transparent to those around you when you are only pretending to be knowledgeable about a topic.⁴ People generally respect someone who is honest about what they do not know. Finally, you really learn who a person is by the way they treat you in your less-than-proud moments. When someone chooses to communicate with patience and kindness in these instances, they are remembered because of it. Most importantly, it makes us more likely to pay it forward when we have the opportunity to be kind to someone else.

Van Horger can be reached at van_horger@scd.uscourts.gov and 253-6431. Mike Polk can be reached at mike@belsarpa.com and 929-0096. Follow him on twitter @polkzilla.

³ That lawyer was Rob Hoskins, a Greenville lawyer who sadly passed away last year. That was my only interaction with Rob, but I have told this story to those that knew him better, and my impression of him as respectful and kind has always been confirmed.

⁴ To be fair, some are better at this than others. It was an important one for me, as I am not known for having a poker face.



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

attending law school in Massachusetts. Afterward, she had a job all lined up at the Legal Aid Society of New York. Problem 1: her South Carolina-born fiancée Harry, a filmmaker, couldn't work in New York with a union card. So, she returned to South Carolina, "just for five years," and prepared to sit for the South Carolina bar exam while Harry worked on getting his union card.

That's when Problem 2 arose. Back then, 1983, there was a sort of residency requirement: you had to be physically present in South Carolina by April 1st to sit for the bar exam. Sue politely asked the Character and Fitness Committee to make an exception. When the Committee said no, Sue took on her first client - herself - and petitioned the South Carolina Supreme Court to change the rule, which she argued was unconstitutional. She was right. The Supreme Court changed the rule. Thus, Sue won her first case before Day 1 of the Bar Exam.

On Day 2 of the Bar Exam, something else fortuitous happened. She met Larry Lavin, then director of South Carolina Legal Services. Larry knew talent and tenacity when he saw it, and immediately offered Sue a job, which she accepted. But even after she passed the bar and went to work for Legal Services, she was still the "new girl" there. That meant she got the "dog" cases that no one else wanted.

One of her first supposed dog cases was to recover a stereo that a landlord, owed rent, had taken by distraint after evicting a tenant. The problem was that Sue's client was not the tenant, but a woman who had lent the stereo to her brother. The landlord took the stereo from the brother's home following eviction, and the woman wanted to get it back. Something didn't seem right or fair to Sue about that. It was common practice back then, but it seemed a little heavy-handed. So instead of simply suing the landlord for the stereo, Sue, who "didn't know enough to be afraid," filed a federal lawsuit to declare the entire distraint statute unconstitutional. She won and stopped an abusive and invasive practice statewide. (Oh, and she got the stereo too).

Sue spent the next several years at Legal Services, helping thousands of individuals in the process and never dimming in her enthusiasm. But she was always thinking bigger, and asking how things might be changed systemically to improve her clients' lives and make justice a reality for them, too. Sue moved to the state back-up center for legal services, which eventually became South Carolina Appleseed that she now oversees. Since its founding, Appleseed has been at the forefront of advocacy for the poor, the disabled, and others who have little or no voice.

A lot of her work now involves lobbying for the rights of her clients in the Legislature. No easy task, as the poor don't exactly have a super PAC to help move the ball. But as in everything else, Sue remains undeterred, and even cheerful. That means working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle on an issue. And (even though she's an avowed Yankee Liberal) everyone on both sides of the aisle loves her. Her pragmatism, enthusiasm, and friendliness gets results (see, e.g., the South Carolina High Cost Loans Act in which she was instrumental). Those results have benefitted the people of South Carolina. And not just Sue's clients, but everyone.

O.K. I lied a little when I said "everyone" loves her. Certain finance companies who make high interest loans to low income consumers don't love her. They not only filed a lawsuit to block funding to Appleseed, they also filed a SLAP suit against her personally. Sue took



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From the President (...continued from page 4)

it as instructive, thinking “if they are doing this to me, imagine what they are trying to do to our clients.” And she won that too. I could go on forever here. Before I run out of space, let me say this: There are angels and saints among us in the Richland County Bar. People like Sue, whose accomplishments are too big to ignore, and people like many of you, who quietly and without recognition do the right thing, help people who cannot help themselves. It all matters. True communities include everyone. And as Sue demonstrates, so often it’s the people who we initially think of as “outsiders” that make all the difference.

Dave Maxfield practices consumer law at Dave Maxfield Consumer Law and can be reached at dave@consumerlawsc.com.

Richland County Common Pleas Jury Verdicts

15 – CP – 40 – 7559

Gerald Simpson and DS, a minor v. Diego Lopez

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Lisa McPherson

Defendant: Geov Hanna

Cause of Action: Automobile - Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiffs

Actual Damages: \$11,720.99/\$4,530.90

Punitive Damages: \$150,000/\$150,000

15 – CP – 40 – 7265

Tiffany Wilson, et al v. Teshon Houston

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Christopher Isgett

Defendant: John Andrew Delaney

Cause of Action: Automobile

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$1,602.84

15 – CP – 40 – 1003

Anna Ehrhardt v. Coleman Fowble, MD/Midlands Orthopaedics, P.A.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: J. Kata and J.D. Waller

Defendant: Lee Weatherly

Cause of Action: Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice

Verdict: For Defendant

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Here Lies a Captive Heart Busted? *by John Hearn*



Prologue: Friday, November 3

The end of a long week, and I still had something to do: teach a yoga class at 7:30 on Friday night. Great. What the heck was I thinking when I agreed to sub? Stupid karma. Fortunately, the studio's Warm Detox class was just before - one of my favorites - so I zipped over in time to make the 6:00 pm start.

About 6:30, flowing and pig-sweating as usual, I felt a little sick. My chest hurt. I completed the class with some difficulty, but nothing terrible. The pain didn't seem to be getting worse. I reported my distress to the instructor, who was concerned. Could I teach my class? Did I need to go get checked out? "Nah, I'll be OK." I was teaching a yin-style class, mostly passive stretches. "I'll be fine, really. Get

on home to your kids." A few minutes later, my class was settled in and I taught through steadily-

decreasing pain. I got home about 9:30 and felt fine. "You know, honey, I was worried something was wrong in class. I thought I was having a heart attack, but I think it was just a pulled muscle combined with a small panic attack."

"Glad you are OK."

The next morning, bright and early, I hopped on a plane for Palm Springs, Californy. It was mostly a work trip with a play day on the front end (Saturday). No stress there: unfamiliar city, a bunch of people I didn't know, left my credit cards on the plane - you know, just another day in the life of a road warrior.

And Palm Springs was great. I took the tram up the side of the mountain and hiked a bit. I hit the pool. I pondered the inherent paradox that somehow allowed for the intersection of Bob Hope Drive and Doris Day Way. Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday - all by my lonesome. Good trip.

Getting home Tuesday night was rough. A four-hour delay in Dallas. I watched the presidential returns start to come in. My guy was losing. Tiny Tim would never be both President, or First Lady, or both. Finally we get in the air. I jumped on the wifi to see the final election result. No stress there.

I eventually dragged in about 1:00 a.m. Was it only Tuesday/Wednesday? It seemed like a long week already. No matter - gotta make the doughnuts. So it was up with the dawn, work a full day, and maybe a double-dip yoga night. The studio owner taught both classes and she invariably perked up my mood.

Thirty minutes into the first class that evening, and there was that pain again from the Friday before. I pushed back to child's pose for a bit, and then tried to rejoin the class. After a few minutes of struggle, I bailed for the lobby. I'd never left a class in progress before. My yoga buddy Kacie was there and I told her I was hurting.

"Do you want me to take you to the hospital?"

"No. Yes. Maybe. I dunno." We went outside to snag some of the brisk night air. The pain lessened. It must have been another panic attack. We headed back in, and...

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Here Lies a Captive Heart Busted? (...continued from page 6)

Psych. To be continued. You didn't really think I'd burn this one up in a single issue, did you?

John is the author of Hey, May I Have (Another) Extension? and I'm Sorry, Your Honor, I Will Refrain from Rattling my Change in Court. You may reach him telepathically or via email at john.hearn@rtt-law.com.

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Family Night at the Zoo

RCBA Family Night at the Zoo was held on April 27th at Riverbanks Zoo. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and night at the zoo just for RCBA members and their families.



RCBA Memorial Service

Please join your fellow colleagues on Friday, June 9th at 12:00 noon at the Richland County Judicial Center. We will pause to honor the following individuals who passed away in the previous year:

William "Bill" Austin
William "Bill" Cotty
Vance L. Cowden
Judith M. Davis
Bruce G. Dew
Ann L. Furr

The Honorable Tanya A. Gee
The Honorable J. Ernest Kinard, Jr.
Anthony R. Plante
James H. Quackenbush, Jr.
Kitrina A. Wright



The Oath We Took *by Jamie Smith*



“More civility and greater professionalism can only enhance the pleasure lawyers find in practice, increase the effectiveness of our system of justice, and improve the public’s perception of lawyers.” - Sandra Day O’Connor

Every member of the South Carolina Bar has taken the Lawyer’s Oath of Office, and in doing so, swore an oath of civility, pledging to opposing parties and their counsel “fairness, integrity, and civility... not only in court, but also in all written and oral communications.” As former in-house counsel for a telecom company, I have litigated beside and across from members of several state bars in venues across the country. The position exposed me to a wide array of legal scenarios and was truly an invaluable learning opportunity. But perhaps the most important lesson gleaned from my experiences in other

jurisdictions is that the civility oath taken by South Carolina attorneys is largely unique to our state; only a handful of others include similar language in their various oaths of office. And that language is more than just words—it is an embodiment of the tradition of respect that members of our bar have adhered to for centuries. Before exploring the legal profession beyond South Carolina’s borders, I took for granted the tradition of civility embraced by members of our bar. Now, I realize that this culture we have developed is tremendously beneficial to practitioners; it encourages healthy interpersonal relationships between attorneys rather than the cut-throat and overly aggressive opposition adopted by lawyers in other jurisdictions.

I have since left the in-house position to join a local firm, and currently interact primarily with South Carolina attorneys. Grateful for the privilege of practicing law in a community dedicated to upholding the values of civility, I consulted with local experts to explore the history and meaning of the oath. Ethics expert and professor at USC School of Law Dr. Gregory B. Adams, South Carolina Disciplinary Counsel Lee Coggiola, and Dean Robert M. Wilcox of the USC School of Law provided keen insight into the before history, meaning, and importance of civility in the South Carolina legal profession.

Why Did South Carolina Adopt the Civility Oath?

Members of the South Carolina Bar have historically carried a proud reputation of courteousness and professionalism and have, in essence, inherently honored an unspoken duty to demonstrate civility in the practice of law. The standard of conduct no doubt stems from the general air of politeness and charm embedded in southern culture. Our bar members have dutifully carried the tradition through the decades, cultivating a more pleasant way of practicing law than we see in other jurisdictions.

However, not even South Carolina attorneys are all civility all the time, and about two decades ago the Court perceived a decline in civility among South Carolina attorneys. This decline sparked an initiative, spearheaded by Chief Justice Toal, to maintain the standard of conduct expected of members of our bar. In 2000, through the adoption of Rule 420, SCACR the Chief Justice appointed a Commission on the Profession to carry out the initiative through emphasis and encouragement of professionalism in the practice of law. Through the efforts of the Commission, the Court adopted the civility language and incorporated it into the Lawyer’s Oath.

According to Dean Wilcox, an appointee to the Commission at the time, the civility oath served as a means of impressing upon its reciters the monumental importance of exercising civility in the legal profession. He explains, “I think the Court was making clear they considered this to be a fundamental aspect of being a lawyer, and they wanted every lawyer to focus on that aspect of their professional being.”

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The Oath We Took (...continued from page 8)

When asked why civility is such an important component of the profession, Dean Wilcox's response, though simple, resonated. The cordial working relationships that naturally stem from engaging in civil behavior are necessary not only to maintain a healthy profession and to make the practice of law more pleasurable; civil interactions between opposing counsel and parties increase the public's confidence in the legal system. And of utmost importance, when you treat opposing counsel in a less than civil matter, you may make it harder to settle, negotiate, or get a plea agreement; incivility has a direct negative impact on our clients.

What Does the Duty of Civility Entail?

Language from a handful of Supreme Court opinions offers some guidance as to its expectations of attorney conduct in accordance with the civility oath. The court advises that "[a]ttorneys' obedience to ethical precepts may require abstention from what in other circumstances might be constitutionally protected speech."¹ The Civility Oath prohibits attorneys from "attacking" one another, requires that we "behave in a civilized and professional manner" while advocating for our clients,² and mandates that we "temper [our] criticisms in accordance with the professional standards of conduct."³

But this language, though helpful, still leaves attorneys with a proverbial gray area as to what constitutes incivility. Disciplinary Counsel Coggiola gives a more personal guideline than what we have heard from the court - when communications and conduct become personal, about you instead of the client, then you know you've crossed over the threshold into incivility. The topic of civility very clearly hit a nerve though, and Coggiola expressed grave concerns about the way attorneys treat each other. When asked how many ODC complaints are civility-related, she responded that of 1542 complaints in 2016, "[o]nly 1.62% alleged incivility (about 25 complaints). I would not use these statistics because they truly do not tell the story. Often incivility is part of other complaints and unfortunately is not reported."

That the Disciplinary Counsel is concerned about the unreported incivility, though, does tell the true story - it is a problem in need of addressing. But the statistics also support a position that the scope of the duty of civility is, in large part, simply following the Rules of Professional Conduct. Dean Wilcox noted that the few court opinions on civility pointedly tie in the violation of the civility oath with a violation of a rule of conduct. Conversely, Dr. Adams observed that violations of the rules of professional conduct often violate the oath

1 In re Anonymous Member of S.C. Bar, 392 S.C. 328, 709 S.E.2d 633 (2011).

2 Id.

3 In re White, 391 S.C. 581, 707 S.E.2d 411, reinstatement granted, 393 S.C. 227, 712 S.E.2d 436 (2011).

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Summer is upon us again. Time for ice cream, gardens, pools, baseball, rosé, and generally, “famously hot” weather. If you haven’t checked out Columbia’s new baseball scene, the Fireflies, it’s time. The Fireflies opened the season with a five-game winning streak, and although they haven’t been able to keep that dream alive, it’s good baseball. The entertainment (gimmicks?) between innings will keep you (and your kids) laughing and engaged, and there are special promotions all summer long, including \$2 Tuesdays, Wag-along Wednesdays, Thirsty Thursdays, Fireworks Fridays, and Splash Sundays. I haven’t been on a Sunday, but I understand the splashing involves a firetruck in right field. I did recently go on a Friday when the ZOoperstars were in town, and they were a hoot! They included characters such as Tim TeeBull and Peyton Manatee, and they performed for the crowd five or six times between innings. In case you’ve been living under a rock, Tim Tebow is playing for the Fireflies this season, and he is a clear fan favorite. The park also boasts craft beers, real ice cream, and

popcorn that rivals the movie theatre variety – what more could you ask for? RCBA Night with the Fireflies is coming soon - check out page 3 for more details!

If you’ve enjoyed a book, movie, activity, restaurant, concert, or vacation lately, let us know! Email jgooding@goingslawfirm.com.

What We’re Watching

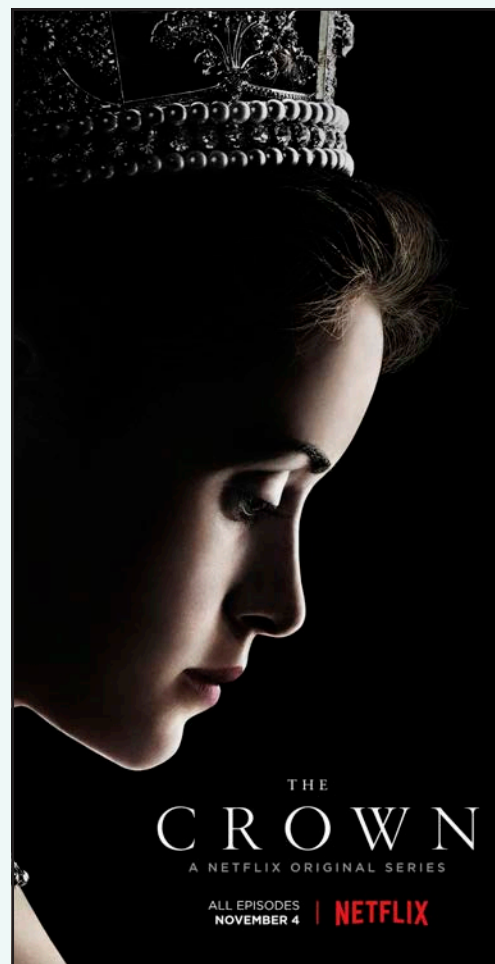
The Crown on Netflix and *Z* on Amazon are both binge-worthy! *The Crown* is about Queen Elizabeth’s early reign, and *Z* is about F. Scott Fitzgerald (author of *The Great Gatsby*) and wife Zelda. But I couldn’t convince my husband to watch either! – Ashley Kirkham, Collins and Lacy

We just recently hosted some college kids from Oxford, England who confirmed that *The Crown*, depicting Her Majesty The Queen of England’s ascension to the throne in the 40s, as a newly married young woman with little children, and then *Victoria* on PBS, about the rise of Queen Victoria during the Industrial Revolution, are well-regarded made-for-television depictions of history. Interestingly, the Oxford kids mentioned that that *The Crown* even captured an aging part of the English dialect. A great getaway for a lawyer who reads or argues all day but wants something superb and easy to watch at night. – Beth Richardson, Sowell Gray Robinson Stepp & Laffitte

What We’re Doing

Yoga rhymes with beer. Or at least it does on Sundays, when Yoga with Jean happens on the regular at Conquest Brewery near Williams-Brice. A mere Hamilton (\$10) will get you a fine yoga workout and a pint afterward. Whether you count that as free yoga or free beer is up to you, but this is a fun class that is beginner-friendly. Most Sundays at noon; check Yoga with Jean on Facebook before you roll out. - John Hearn, Rogers Townsend & Thomas

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Bar Bites (...continued from page 10)

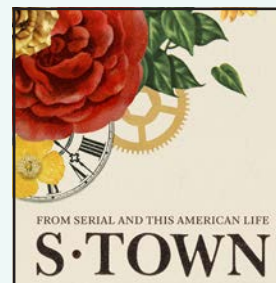
My husband and I enjoy spending time in Hot Springs, NC, right outside of Asheville. There is a lovely inn called Mountain Magnolia Inn, which is right in the middle of town with gorgeous views of the mountains from your balcony. The town also has private tubs along the French Broad River that are filled with natural hot spring water for a soak. The Appalachian Trail goes right through town, so there are a lot of great hiking trails nearby. It's only about 3.5 hours from Columbia, but great for a weekend getaway. - *Shannon Bobertz, SCDNR*

I went to Artista Vista with some friends in April and made a girls night out of it. We gallery hopped between City Art, If Art Gallery, and Gallery 80808 before eating at Motor Supply Company. It was a great Vista night! – *Alexis Lindsay, Sowell Gray Robinson Stepp & Laffitte*

Mod Pizza is our new go-to spot for dinner out with children. The number and variety of toppings (and drizzles!) is impressive - from the expected (pepperoni, sausage, bacon) to the upscale (asiago, gorgonzola, artichoke hearts) to the “Why haven’t I thought about putting this on a pizza?!” (roasted cauliflower, rosemary). I hear they even offer a vegan cheese option. Pizzas are transferred from the line to the oven and are ready within minutes. Try it out! - *Mary-Allison Caudell, Halligan Mahoney & Williams*

What We’re Listening To

Just finished the podcast *S-Town*. It’s from the creators of *This American Life* and *Serial*. Really enjoyed it and highly recommended it. While listening, the lawyer in me just kept saying “this is why everyone needs a will.” – *Marshall Minton, Turner Padgett Graham & Laney*



The Oath We Took (...continued from page 9)

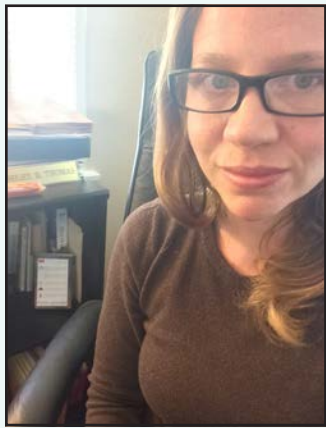
of civility. In effect, the oath of civility is an emphasis on the importance that attorneys simply abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct already in place.

That said, an argument exists that circumstances may arise where one cannot reconcile the extremely critical duty of zealous advocacy with the duty of civility. Dr. Adams explained the fault in this argument, providing that, “Zealous advocacy has to be, first and foremost, proper advocacy, advocacy that is permissible, that is not unlawful, that is not unethical. And so if uncivil behavior is unethical and a violation of our oath of office, and it is, then uncivil behavior can never be zealous advocacy.”

The Bottom Line?

As it turns out, the Rules of Professional Conduct already require civility of attorneys, but we need to be more cognizant of that fact and strive to uphold the longstanding reputation of our bar. So when debating whether conduct may be a violation of the oath of civility, ask yourself a few questions. Am I perpetuating the stigma against lawyers? Am I acting within the rules of conduct? Am I acting in the best interest of my client? Would I be okay with opposing counsel engaging in the same conduct? If the answer to any of these questions is no, it's time to change strategy.

Jamie practices law at Mike Kelly Law Group, where she concentrates primarily on civil litigation in the areas of personal injury, automobile accidents, consumer law, and insurance denials. She can be reached at jsmith@mkllawgroup.com.



This May, Lawyers 4 Vets will close out its third year and embark on a fourth year of bringing together South Carolina Veterans with much needed legal services. The Lawyers 4 Vets initiative is a unique legal clinic designed to address some of the most significant unmet legal needs of our Veteran population. Through our pro bono partners, we help Veterans with child support orders and modifications, criminal records clearance via expungements or pardons, and we also draft wills and healthcare POAs for the Veteran and their spouse. Veterans are pre-screened over the phone and then have an appointment to meet with a volunteer attorney one-on-one at the monthly legal clinic that takes place at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

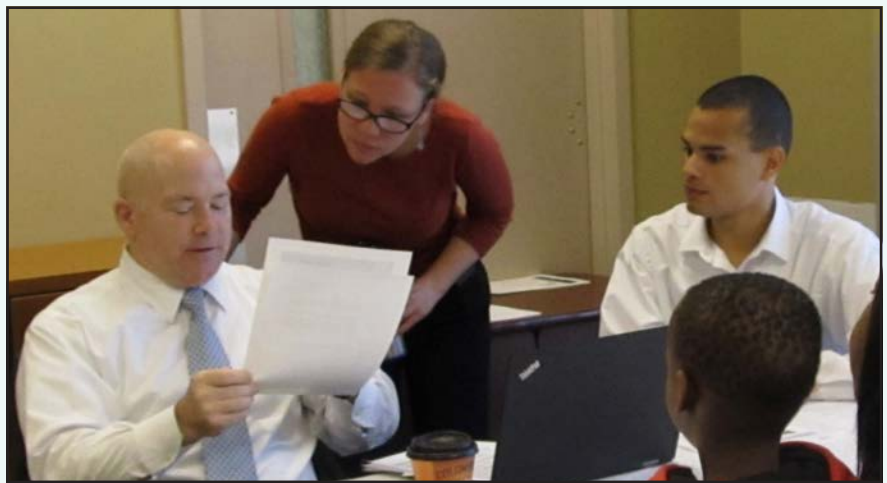
Since 2014, Lawyers 4 Vets has received over 2500 phone calls from Veterans looking for legal help. In total, we have scheduled over 750 appointments for Veterans to meet with our pro bono attorneys at

the monthly legal clinic. For those Veterans who are over our income guidelines or have legal issues outside the scope of our clinic, we serve as a referral source to help match them with the service that meets their needs. All of this goes to show what an immense need there is for a program like Lawyers 4 Vets.

Current ABA President Linda A. Klein made the unmet legal needs of Veterans a focus of her term as ABA President, and as a result established the ABA Veterans Legal Services Initiative to focus on the delivery of legal services to our Veterans. Over the past few years, several models for legal clinics have been developed. Some rely on local legal services programs, some are law school clinics, and some, like Lawyers 4 Vets, rely solely on pro bono volunteers. Over the last three years, we have found there is a great need amongst Veterans for legal services and there is great interest within the South Carolina Bar and volunteer legal services to give back to these deserving individuals. We have an amazing group of over 100 volunteer attorneys who have either volunteered directly at our clinic or have taken a referral. This clinic truly couldn't work without such an wonderful group of attorneys!

Would you like to volunteer with Lawyers 4 Vets? If you answered YES, we would love to have you. A number of law firms have "sponsored" a month by providing the pro bono attorneys for a clinic. It is a great firm project, and firms that have volunteered with Lawyers 4 Vets tend to come back time and time again! Not with a firm? We are also happy to take any individual attorney or group of 4-6 attorneys to sponsor a month.

Lawyers 4 Vets is a project of SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center. SC Appleseed is a 501(c)(3) organization that fights for low income South Carolinians to overcome social, economic, and legal injustice. To find out more about SC Appleseed, please visit scjustice.org.



Bill Latham (Nelson Mullins Riley Scarborough), Ashley Thomas (SC Appleseed), and Chadwick Devlin (NMRS) Assisting a Veteran with an expungement.

To find out more about the Lawyers 4 Vets Pro Bono Legal Clinic, please email Ashley Thomas at athomas@scjustice.org. Ashley is an attorney with SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center whose work includes prisoner reentry, housing and homelessness, helping Veterans, and managing SC Appleseed's grassroots organizing campaigns.

What is Miracast and Why Should I Care? *by Bill Booth*



If you are looking for a way to project the screen showing on your tablet or PC to a large screen TV or to a projector screen, you might want to check out Miracast. You may already have the ability to use Miracast, as most new tablets and laptops running Windows 10 added this feature a few years ago. The Microsoft Surface Pro line of tablets has the necessary components built-in. The idea is to eliminate the need for a cable when connecting your device to the TV or projector. You may be in a conference with a client or witness going over circumstances of a car accident and need to obtain an affidavit. As you type the affidavit, the client or witness can proof and comment observing the affidavit on the TV screen. Later, you may be preparing for trial and can easily display the key visual evidence for viewing with the client simultaneously, without the need to print out two sets of photographs or documents to use or reference as you prepare. You may be in a mediation conference and want to use PowerPoint to present your case or even to show documents, photographs, or even a video saved on your device. Most

mediators have a large TV screen in the initial meeting room. You may be in trial and want to use PowerPoint in the presenter view so you can see the next slide without looking at the screen every time you change the slide. Instead, you are looking at your device in front of you and looking at the jury as the slides come up on the large screen. Looking back at a slide is distracting to the jury and might make the jury think that you're not sure of the next slide or its meaning. You now have the means to be mobile as you present your PowerPoint slides.

The setup is simple and easy to use. By connecting a small device called a Miracast display adapter to the large screen TV or projection screen, you can connect wirelessly to your device. You can find this adapter for less than \$50. You only need to plug it into both an empty HDMI port and a USB port (for power to the adapter). While most TVs have the USB port, you can also plug into a nearby electrical outlet using a standard USB adapter. A projector with an HDMI port works also for plugging in the display adapter. You need to switch the input on the TV or projector to the Miracast adapter. If you are using a Windows 10 tablet or laptop, there is already a setting



for you to connect to the display adapter; you simply choose the adapter and the magic happens. Some smart phones also have this feature, including Android phones. In a few seconds, your device's screen will appear mirrored on the external display. The magic continues so that when you start a slideshow in PowerPoint, you will see the full slide on the large screen as if the large screen is a second display device. You can even change the projection setting so you are again looking at the main screen on your tablet or laptop.

At last, there is a way that allows a PC, tablet computer, or smartphone to communicate directly with a TV without the need for a Wi-Fi router.

Which is to say, Miracast is a cool, slick way to project wirelessly.

William E. Booth III can be reached at bill@boothlawfirm.com and 803-791-9211

Wolfgang Buchmaier *by Amy L. B. Hill*



While I consider the Richland County Bar Association a congenial, small bar with many familiar faces, this is the largest county bar in the state. As a result, it can be easy to get used to only seeing those members who practice in your particular area or who serve with you on a certain board or committee. With that in mind, RCBA is hoping to spotlight a different bar member in each newsletter so that we can all get to know each other a little bit better. The attorney we chose for this newsletter is Wolfgang Buchmaier. I am sure he is familiar to many as he often attends RCBA events and has served on committees with the South Carolina Bar.

Wolfgang was born in Munich, Germany. He grew up outside of Munich in Muehldorf, which is a small town located in the German countryside. His father was a lawyer, and Wolfgang aspired to follow in his footsteps. After serving his mandatory military service of 15 months, Wolfgang attended law

school in Munich. After graduation, he began a lengthy legal residency program that is required to be fully licensed as lawyer in Germany. One of his rotations during his residency brought him to Arlington, Virginia where he worked with a young lawyer who had recently started his own criminal and trial practice. Wolfgang enjoyed the work very much, but he never really thought he would work in the United States. However, that changed when he met Ann, a young lawyer, at a wedding in Memphis. At the time they met, she was clerking for the Louisiana Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Wolfgang found a way to get to New Orleans by doing research for his German doctorate at Loyola University. However, as things got more serious with Ann, Wolfgang decided that he would need to get a U.S. law degree in order to practice in the United States. He proceeded to get an LL.M. from Tulane Law School.

After his graduation, Wolfgang and Ann married in April 1997. They began trying to determine where they would settle down. Wolfgang was not interested in living in a large city. They knew that Wolfgang wanted to take advantage of his German connections and they hoped to live in a smaller metropolitan area. After some research, they choose South Carolina because, at the time, South Carolina had per capita the highest German direct investment of any state. Wolfgang applied for jobs with firms in Greenville and Columbia. He ended up accepting a position with the McNair Law Firm and began working in their Columbia office. In 2004, Wolfgang opened his own firm practicing mainly in the areas of cross border business and branch formation, immigration law, and international probate and estate law. His personal



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Wolfgang Buchmaier (...continued from page 14)

and legal ties to his home country of Germany as well as his understanding of other European countries have been beneficial in establishing his practice. He sets up South Carolina businesses for foreign companies or individuals and assists them with corporate, business, and immigration needs. Ann initially worked as a staff attorney with the South Carolina Supreme Court. However, after staying home for a number of years with their children, she now serves in a nonlegal position with SCDEW.

Wolfgang and Ann have three teenage children. Wolfgang enjoys the outdoors and takes advantage of the area's kayaking locations. He even competes in kayaking events, but when asked if he ever won, he simply replied that his goal is to not come in last when competing with young twenty-something-year-olds. Thus far, he has not been able to convince Ann or his children to embrace the sport. Wolfgang enjoys the Columbia area where the Richland County Bar has offered him a chance to meet local attorneys and establish relationships in the legal community.

Amy L. B. Hill is a litigation attorney at Gallivan, White & Boyd. She can be reached at ahill@gwblawfirm.com.

Judicial BBQ

RCBA members enjoyed delicious BBQ, bluegrass music and beautiful river views as we honored members of the local judiciary on May 11th.



Use Your Device as a Tool - And Resist Being Tooled by It - The New Body Part *by Jack Pringle*



Everyone reading this article owns at least one smartphone. And chances are you are not going back to a flip phone, a bag phone, or a rotary dial phone hanging on the wall in your kitchen.

“These cases require us to decide how the search incident to arrest doctrine applies to modern cell phones, which are now such a pervasive and insistent part of daily life that the proverbial visitor from Mars might conclude they were an important feature of human anatomy.” - Chief Justice Roberts, Riley v. California.

And I know you have some legitimate uses for your device: very convenient to get things done at any time and wherever you are. Literally at your fingertips you enjoy ridiculous amounts of computing power and broadband internet speeds and video and pictures and those GIF memes, emojis, etc., etc. I get it.

But I am pretty sure that none of us planned to be on our devices constantly, at least not in the way we actually use them. Be honest: when you are on your smartphone, how often are you doing productive things (i.e. producing rather than consuming)? And how often are you doing “unproductive” things intentionally?

I am not being a scold. No one enjoys playing as much as I do. The question is whether you decided to play, or whether your device just happened to be there and you started swiping and typing.

Are You Using the Device, or Is it Using You?

Bright, shiny devices that are so easily accessible and so full of bells and whistles tend to hijack self-control. And left to our own devices (thanks, I will be here all week), we are likely to create our own little Skinner Boxes - with games, social media sites, and constant checking of all our information streams - all the while not knowing that we’re doing it.

Your attention is being sought and used relentlessly by those doing business in the online world.

“If you’re not paying for something, you’re not the customer; you’re the product being sold.” - Andrew Lewis.

Technology as a Servant, Not as a Master

And when computer tools are using us, we don’t get a chance to determine the ways in which we can use these technologies as part of our “extended mind” - allowing computers to perform tasks that free up our minds to do higher-level thinking. That higher-level thinking is what is going to enable work and workplaces to continue to evolve as automation advances.

In other words, if you are going to have your device as another appendage, then put it to work for you.

Train Your Mind-Try Meditation.

Headspace (www.headspace.com) is just so easy to use. And you can use it anywhere. At any time. Carving out those quiet moments

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Use Your Device as a Tool (...continued from page 16)

may create the space for you to see the way your mind works, and how these technologies have commandeered your attention and created the idea that you are so “busy” all the time.

And I certainly am a proponent of getting quiet - whether through meditation, getting outside, exercising, or undertaking other pursuits - and away from devices altogether. But I don't think it is an all-or-nothing proposition.

The key is to have the space and frame of mind to discern what tools to use and when. And to realize who or what is being used.

Give Your Mind a Rest.

See above. In addition, stop keeping all these ideas in your head. Use Evernote (www.evernote.com) or a similar program to memorialize and organize things for later use. If the device is going to be with you at all times, at least take advantage of that fact. As the late great Mitch Hedberg remarked:

I sit at my hotel at night, I think of something that's funny, then I go get a pen and I write it down. Or if the pen's too far away, I have to convince myself that what I thought of ain't funny.

Free Up Your Attention (And Your Time).

Quit complaining that you don't have time unless you have gotten smarter about the way you use your time. Try Boxed (www.boxed.com). Or Amazon Prime (please - you know how to find Amazon). Use your time and attention to do meaningful things. An afternoon of shopping and hauling things around is not meaningful when there are available alternatives.

Feed Your Mind.

There has never been a better time to learn new things. And these devices make myriad information sources - tools for lifelong learning - available to you at any time. Below are just two examples.

Listen to Books. It has never been so easy to have great content with you at all times. Consider a subscription to Audible (www.audible), and listen while you drive, exercise, walk, or otherwise have downtime.

Listen to Podcasts. Long-form discussion. Topics directly related to the profession, your interests, or your particular entertainment choices (please end the tyranny of terrestrial radio). Always available. Pushed directly to your device. You don't have to do anything but click and listen.

Conclusion

The age of machines (artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, the blockchain) is only just getting started. The changes in the way we live and work are going to be significant (and arguably have already been significant).

In order for humans to figure out where we fit in, we have to have lots of attention and figure out where to spend (pay) it. That means understanding these tools - their benefits and risks - and making sure we use them wisely and effectively.

Jack Pringle, an attorney at Adams and Reese, LLP in Columbia, helps businesses and individuals manage information. He can be reached at jack.pringle@arlaw.com or @jjpringle on Twitter.

Health Hacks: You Already Know What You Don't Know About Food

by Jim Rogers



A couple of months after reading a Health Hacks column by my colleague and friend, Miles Coleman, about smartphone apps that could be used to track and analyze your food intake, I asked Miles if I could write a “response.” I expect these apps are handy tools for elite athletes (a category that definitely includes Miles) with specific defined goals, but if your average Jane or Joe is tracking everything they eat that closely with an app, chances are they are in an unhealthy relationship with food.

I think it’s unfortunate that the diet and exercise industry has infected the way that Americans think about food, and in many ways, made food a constant negative obsession. Think of the various food “villains” du jour that have moved in and out of popular culture over the last 20 years, all with the perception that if we could reduce or even eliminate the consumption of, successful weight management will follow. Calories, fat grams, carbs, white sugar, white flour, high fructose corn syrup, gluten, food

that cavemen didn’t eat, etc., have had their 15 minutes of infamy. Entire brands of foods have come and gone that capitalized on the fad of the day, like Atkins, Snackwells, and Healthy Choice. Worse yet, we easily buy into (and literally buy) expensive bars, powders, shakes, and supplements marketed by the diet and exercise industry that have little nutritional value and questionable benefits—and none of which are actually food.

More importantly, we need to be mindful of the very real and very dangerous negative consequences that may occur when angst and negativity are associated with food. The incidence of eating disorders in the United States has steadily and rapidly increased in every decade since the 1950’s. If you think of eating disorders as diseases that only afflict young Caucasian females, think again. Recent epidemiological data shows that with the exception of anorexia, there is no difference in the incidence of other eating disorders, such as binge eating and bulimia, across ethnic lines. The number of males with eating disorders is likewise on the rise. It is estimated that males comprise 10% of those who suffer from diagnosable eating disorders. A recent study alarmingly showed that 85% of college men were dissatisfied with their bodies. The increase of eating disorders in both females and males of all ethnicities is not surprising given the barrage of unattainable body images from numerous sources, including the magazine covers that purportedly promote health that are unavoidable at almost every grocery store checkout.

If you have children, you might reflect on the way food is treated in your household and what your kids may be picking up from observation. According to a study as far back as the 1990’s, 82% of 9 to 11 year olds perceived their family “sometimes” or “very often” to be on a diet. Although the median age for the onset of any eating disorder is between 18 and 21, anorexia is more likely to begin five to six years earlier. On the flip side, eating disorders other than anorexia can commonly begin at a much older age than 21.

Food should be a source of pleasure, and I advocate that you try to treat it as the natural hedonistic joy that it can be. I expect that you have known since grade school everything you need to know about how to have an enjoyable and healthy relationship with food. Fruits



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Health Hacks (...continued from page 18)

and vegetables are good for you. Keep portions sensible. Eat a balanced diet. But, be flexible. I bet we all learned about the food pyramid in school, and it remains a good guide. Diets and food plans that sound unhealthy inevitably are. You are not a caveman, so there is no reason for you to try to eat like one. Any diet or approach to food that includes the word “never” or “none” is destined to fail. Be moderate in all things, including moderation. You will inevitably want and need to allow yourself to enjoy the foods that make you happy, but beware of the cycle of denial, overindulging, and guilt.

Julia Child lived a full and rich life, and died two days short of her 92nd birthday. She clearly loved food, made a successful career out of it, and instilled the joy of food into some Americans at a time when the TV dinner was considered progress. She would never have made it to the cover of *Shape* magazine (or the cover of *Men's Health* if she was a man), but I expect she didn't care, and neither should you. You don't have to eat like a French chef every day, but try to rise above the rabble of food fads, use your common sense, and allow eating to be the pleasure that it should be.

Jim Rogers is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. Jim has never run a marathon or completed an Iron Man competition, and it is unlikely that he will do or could do either. However, Jim enjoys exercises of many varieties. You can reach him at jim.rogers@nelsonmullins.com.



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Noteworthy News & Announcements



Baker, Ravenel & Bender, L.L.P., announces that its senior partner **Cravens Ravenel** has retired from the practice of law following a distinguished career of nearly 50 years. Ravenel's practice was focused on complex civil litigation in the areas of products liability, professional malpractice, and construction defects. Ravenel was named a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and recognized in the publication *Best Lawyers in America*. Ravenel's contributions to the profession and community included service on the South Carolina Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness; the Midlands Commission on Homelessness; chair of the Board of Trustees, South Carolina Episcopal Home at Still Hopes; Board of Directors of the Greater Columbia Human Relations Council; and vice chair of the Richland County Election Commission.

Barton Law Firm, PA is pleased to announce that **Christine Brimm** is becoming a partner in the firm, which will be renamed **Barton Brimm, PA**. The firm is relocating to 3955 Hwy 17 ByPass, Suite D, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. It will continue to provide representation throughout the state of South Carolina in the field of bankruptcy law.

Belser & Belser, PA announces that **Charles H. McDonald** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1901 Main St., Ste. 1550, Columbia 29201.

The Brooker Law Firm, PA announces that **Israel Stone, Jr.** has become an associate in the firm located at 508 Hampton St., Ste. 201, Columbia 29201.

Cromer Babb Porter & Hicks, LLC announces that **Samantha E. Albrecht** has joined the firm as an associate located at 1418 Laurel St., Ste. A, Columbia 29201.

Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. is pleased to announce an unprecedented achievement - three attorneys are now simultaneously serving as presidents of all three major defense bar organizations. **John E. Cuttino** of the firm's Columbia office is president of DRI-The Voice of the Defense Bar, **H. Mills Gallivan** of the firm's Greenville office is president of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel and **John T. Lay** of the firm's Columbia office is president of the International Association of Defense Counsel. While the three organizations have a combined history totaling 230 years, this is the first time ever that their incumbent presidents have all been from the same firm.

Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. has named **Amy Springett** as the new Marketing Director. Amy brings more than 16 years of experience in creative marketing communications. She will lead the firm's marketing and communications efforts for all four locations. Amy is a graduate of the College of Charleston and holds a BA with a focus on Media Communications. She is a member of the Legal Marketing Association (LMA) and the past Marketing Chair of South Carolina Chapter of Women in Business.

Sowell Gray Robinson Stepp & Laffitte, LLC attorney **Ben Gooding** has been elected to the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's board of directors. The Federation, formed in 1931, promotes effective habitat conservation and respect for outdoor traditions through statewide leadership, education, advocacy and partnerships. Ben focuses his law practice in the areas of appellate advocacy, professional negligence and commercial litigation. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division and on the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia. He graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law and the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business earning his undergraduate degree in Finance.

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Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 20)

McDonnell and Associates, PA announces that **Jennifer Cooper** and **Stephanie Weissenstein** have joined the firm located at 2442 Devine St., Columbia 29205.

McDougall, Self, Currence & McLeod, LLP announces that **Alyssa H. Richardson** has been named a partner of the firm located at 791 Greenlawn Dr., Ste. 4, Columbia 29209.

McNair Law Firm, P.A. is pleased to welcome **Paula Williamson** as Communications Manager. Among several duties, Williamson will manage the Firm's public relations efforts and support the diverse marketing initiatives across its eight locations. A graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in broadcast journalism, Williamson has legal marketing experience working for both a large national firm and a small local firm where she assisted in leading public relations, multimedia content management, and the development of client materials. Williamson has enhanced her communications skills through her involvement with the Legal Marketing Association of the Southeast's (LMASE) Columbia chapter, serving as the 2017 Local Steering Committee Chair.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP debuted in The Am Law 100, jumping from the 103rd position in 2015 to 88th in 2016 in *The American Lawyer's* annual ranking of law firm revenue, after posting the fifth largest percentage increase in revenue among the Am Law 100 firms. Managing Partner James K. Lehman noted that Nelson Mullins has been working to expand strategically its footprint and to enhance practices with the additions of key attorneys throughout the country. Nelson Mullins' revenue has grown 41 percent since 2013, largely thanks to its investment in Atlanta, where it went from 76 lawyers in 2008 to more than 140 lawyers now, *The American Lawyer* noted. Am Law also pointed to the Firm's opening of new offices in recent years, most notably in New York City in 2015. Nelson Mullins also expanded to the West Coast in November 2016 with the opening of a Denver office and again in early 2017 in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Lehman said client support also allows Firm attorneys to offer their time and talents back to the community through pro bono legal services. Firm attorneys provided more than 30,000 hours of pro bono service in 2016—an average of almost 60 hours per lawyers—to a diverse group of people, such as children, the elderly, the poor, the victimized and the incarcerated.

The Law Office of Kenneth E. Berger announces that **Andrew Johnson** has joined the firm located at 5205 Forest Dr., Ste. 2, 29169.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is pleased to announce that **Danielle Maynard** has joined the Office of General Counsel as Assistant General Counsel for Health Services. Danielle graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law and the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining DHEC, Danielle was Legal Counsel for the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. DHEC's Office of General Counsel is located at 2600 Bull Street, Columbia 29201.

The S.C. Office of the Attorney General announces that **Nicholas N. Smith** has joined the agency as an assistant attorney general located at 1000 Assembly St., Rembert C. Dennis Bldg., Columbia 29201. (803) 734-3970.

Andrea White and **Ashley Story** announce the opening of **White & Story, LLC** located at 3614 Landmark Dr., Ste. EF, Columbia 29204.



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

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The Importance of Having a Mentor *by Sheila M. Bias*



We've all heard it, "law school does not teach you how to be a lawyer." Law school teaches you everything you need to know about reading law, interpreting law, applying law, and writing about the law - but not necessarily how to be a professional in the law. Where does that additional education come from? If our state's newest law students and lawyers are not learning all the professional skills vital to being a lawyer in the classroom, they are missing a crucial and vital part of not only what it means to be a lawyer, but what it means to be a lawyer in the State of South Carolina.

South Carolina lawyers are a rare breed. We have some of the best and brightest legal minds in our nation and some of the most zealous advocates you can find. Our lawyers are fierce, gritty, tenacious, and every other adjective clients want to have describe the person whom they have hired to protect their interests. But, what makes our lawyers unique is the high level of civility that is displayed day in

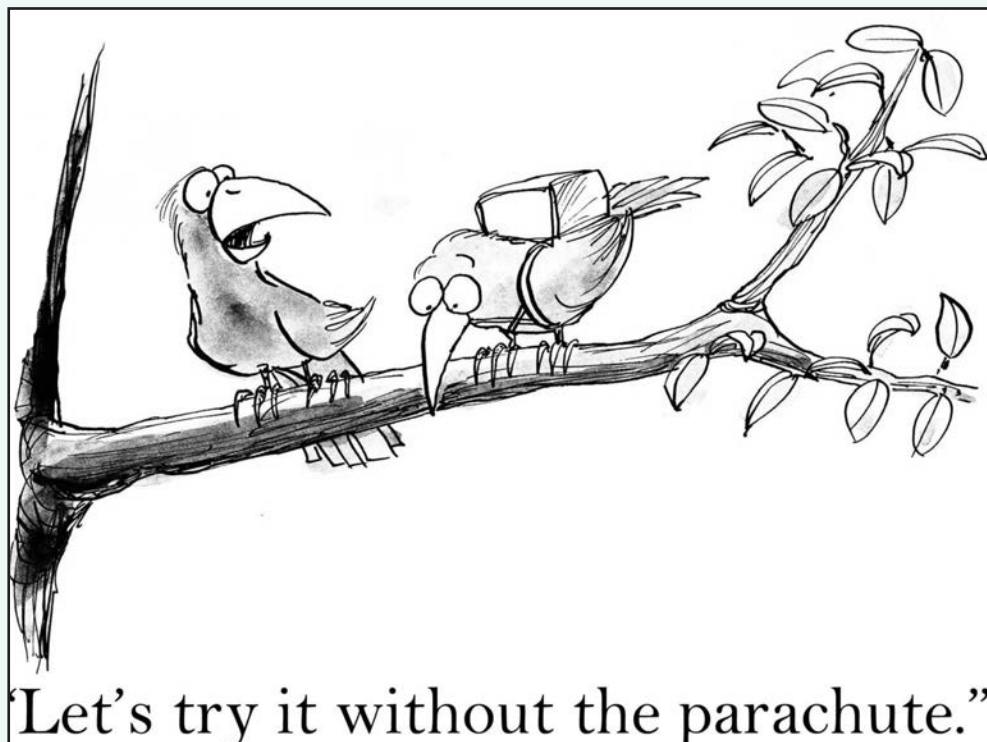
and day out by our state's lawyers. Civility is not an option, but a requirement. However, lessons in civility, like some other practical lessons about how to be a lawyer, are generally learned outside the four walls of a law school. So, how do we bridge that gap? How do we take the blocks of knowledge learned in law school to build an outstanding lawyer that we then cloak in civility? One answer is mentoring.

As members of this noble profession and standard-bearers of the South Carolina lawyers' civility oath, we owe it to the future of our profession to provide guidance, support, and sometimes cautionary tales to our new and future peers. We need to transfer the knowledge that a phone call may get you farther than a motion to compel; that you can still grab lunch with a person whom may have just left you, metaphorically speaking, a little bloody and worse for wear, in court; and that your word must always mean something.

We also owe it to ourselves and our peers to continue to seek out and cultivate relationships with those who can be our own mentors. We've also heard it said before, "the practice of law is a 'practice.'"

It is something you have to work on every day; and what practice is not successful without a coach? No matter where you are in your career, it is invaluable to have someone you can "bounce ideas off of" or call when you have a question about ethics, procedure, case theory, or development.

I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without my lawyer mentors. I have received advice on a variety of topics from



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Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 21)

standards of professional competence, ethics and integrity. Congratulations to the following RCBA members who were recognized with the 2017 Compleat Lawyer Awards - Platinum: **Joy S. Goodwin** and **Ken H. Lester**; Gold: **Theile Branham McVey** and **James E. Smith, Jr.** and Silver: **Emma Thomas Dean**.

Congratulations to **all RCBA attorneys** named as *2017 South Carolina Super Lawyers*.

The Importance of Having a Mentor (...continued from page 22)

professional development, personal development, court room etiquette, navigating office politics, job searching, networking, building a book of business, and everything in between. Like most, I have found that my interactions with my mentors have developed into relationships and friendships that have provided me with guidance along the way. I recall the calming voices of experience who have stopped me from being too aggressive or too short-sighted with opposing counsel. I am reminded of the wise voices who taught me the importance of building positive and respectful relationships with office staff members. I am motivated by the strong voices who challenged me to seek out new projects and bigger roles in my cases.

I encourage all of us to take the time to mentor a peer or future lawyer. The future of our profession and our Bar depend on it. Not sure where to start?

If you are looking for something with structure, the South Carolina Bar has a formal mentoring program for new lawyers; and through the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism, you can mentor a 1-L or 3-L law student at the University of South Carolina School of Law. These programs allow you to serve as a mentor to law students or lawyers in the early years of practice. The programs also give you great resources to help guide your mentoring relationships—such as how to set mentor relationship goals, how to plan your mentoring relationship activities, and how you can best support your mentee. If you want something less formal, think about how you can give guidance to lawyers around you. If you encounter a lawyer who seems to be in need of some helpful advice, take a moment and talk to them. Give them the guidance and support you would want to receive if the shoe was on the other foot. Remember, the future of our profession and our tradition of civility depends on our instilling those values into each other and the next generation.

For more information on mentoring new lawyers, please contact Nichole Davis, Program Administrator for the South Carolina Bar Lawyer Mentoring Program, at mentors@sccbar.org. For more information regarding mentoring law students at the University of South Carolina School of Law, please contact Sharon Williams with the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism at scwillia@law.sc.edu.

Sheila is an attorney in the Columbia office of Fisher & Phillips LLP, providing employers with practical solutions to their employment and labor law concerns as well as representing them in litigation and before administrative tribunals.

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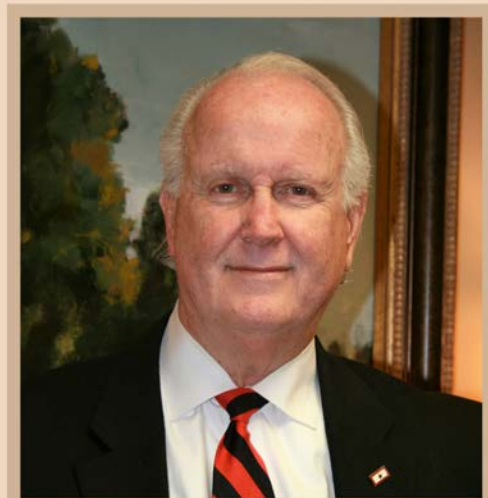
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