

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

Jody A. Bedenbaugh

Will Thomas

John Hearn

Annual Free Ethics CLE

Friday, November 4

*Developments in Legal Ethics and
Lawyer Advertising and Marketing*
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**Annual Meeting/
Holiday Party**

Columbia Museum of Art

Thursday, December 15, 2011

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FREE half-day CLE

Thursday, October 27, 2011

*For attorneys willing to volunteer
for one Homeless Experience
Legal Protection ("HELP") Clinic*
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Of the many calamitous events that have occurred during my lifetime, I can tell you exactly where I was and what I was doing on the day of three such occasions: (1) the day President Reagan was shot; (2) the day the Challenger exploded; and (3) the day terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

I vividly recall how nice the weather was in Columbia, SC on September 11, 2001, and I remember that when I learned of the first attack, I was reviewing documents that would eventually be produced in an OTC drug case. A colleague informed me that one of the towers had been hit, and I thought that would be characterized as one of the worst accidents of all time. After being informed that the second tower had been hit I, like most, knew that America was under an attack that was much less conventional than anything else our country had experienced in the past. I recall wondering exactly how the country would respond to a band of terrorists who ostensibly had no single national allegiance.

As I was heading for a break room to find a TV to watch the coverage, I suddenly remembered that my father made a rare visit to New York City to deliver a presentation on clinical trials. It took me a while to reach him and determine that he was safe. It then occurred to me that I had two friends who worked in the Twin Towers, one in the south Tower and one in the north. I learned that both were in the Towers when the planes hit and both were able to safely exit the Towers prior to their collapse, despite being told via an intercom system that they were safe and to remain where they were.

Although the events of 9/11 brought the country together in ways not seen since World War II, it did not take long for division and enmity to materialize, stoked by the usual suspects—the media and politicians. Not surprisingly, much of this played out in our judicial system. We have had no shortage of legal issues: How should enemy combatants be tried, in military or civil courts? Are certain provisions of the Patriot Act constitutional? Is water-boarding a legitimate interrogation technique or torture banned by the Geneva Convention? Are the families of the victims who died on 9/11 being justly compensated? Should a Mosque



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From the Editor

Betsy’s mother Carolyn Holderman died Friday, September 23, 2011. She left behind three daughters, three sons-in-law and ten adoring grandchildren.

On Thursday, she was at our house helping our boys with their homework. She was in perfect health. On Friday, she suffered a stroke in her home and died.

There was no warning. There was no chance to say goodbye. She was there. Then she was gone. In the blink of an eye our world went upside down. In that instant, she went from an active presence in her family’s life to a memory.

Carolyn was a tremendous person who poured herself into everything she did. She was an elder in her church. She was a lunch buddy at Bradley Elementary. She served numerous boards and nonprofits in the midlands. In fact, one week before she died she received an award for the Central Carolina Community Foundation for a project bringing seniors and college students together to share their stories on the internet.

She was such an active and energetic person that it is almost impossible to imagine life without her. I never really told her

how much she meant to me or thanked her adequately for what she did. Now I will not have the chance to do so.

Being a lawyer is an honor and a privilege. It is also an invitation to hard, all-consuming work. The practice of law can be a pressure cooker. That pressure cooker can take over life and push away the people and relationships that make life worth living.

The purpose of this newsletter is not to feature an obituary for Carolyn. The newspaper has done that. Instead, it is to share information that is helpful to your life or your practice of law. I have shared this story to remind us all of this: Life is uncertain. None of us knows what lies around the next turn or what news the next phone call will bring. Tell the people in your life that you love them. Show the people in your life that you love them. You may receive no warning when your time with them is over.



Mind Mapping Software



One of my guilty pleasures is watching the television show “The Apprentice.” Anyone who’s seen it knows its premise: a group of contestants compete in business-related tasks for the “grand prize” of getting to run one of Donald Trump’s companies for a year. Losing contestants get humiliated and “fired”

by Trump in his “boardroom.” Contestants get humiliated in other ways too, like when Trump gives them a tour of his Manhattan apartment (think of a 1600’s Florentine brothel decorated by MC Hammer).

My favorite catch-phrase on “The Apprentice” (besides “You’re Fired” and “thrown under the bus”) is “Skill-Set.” As in, “this task is just so NOT within your Skill-Set, Heather.” Since many of the contestants on “The Apprentice” are (or were) lawyers, this got me thinking: what exactly is a lawyer’s “Skill-Set?”

Essentially, we seek one thing: a favorable outcome for our clients. Our success at making this happen depends on mastering the following “Skill-Set:”

- 1. Collecting as much information as possible;
- 2. Organizing that information (what helps, what hurts, what matters, what doesn’t); and
- 3. Presenting the relevant information in the most compelling manner possible.

Most of us are actually pretty good at these Skills (we got through law school after all). But we are terrible at integrating them. We collect information in different ways and keep it in different places. We have to compile it and re-read it all to organize it properly, and then we go through the entire process again when it is time to present. We switch tools (paper, database, presentation software) multiple times along the way. Often we find ourselves re-entering the same information multiple times.

Not very efficient. Toyota doesn’t build cars by stopping the production line to change tools or doing the same work twice. You shouldn’t build cases that way either. This brings me to Mind-Mapping software.

A Mind Map is simply a diagram used to visualize information. The pieces of information are usually shown as radiating from a central word or theme. While you can make a Mind-Map on paper, you run out of space quickly and cannot rearrange information easily. Mind-Mapping software, on the other hand, allows unlimited pieces of information to be added and rearranged in any way that makes sense. The information can then be sorted, filtered and searched.

So what does this do for our Skill Set? First, it provides a single “container” in which to **collect** all case information (witnesses, legal research, legal claims and elements, documents, theories, arguments, etc.). This approach ensures that the cardinal rule of information management (don’t lose the information!) is obeyed, and can later be found easily in one giant (and searchable) page.

Next, mapping allows us to **organize** what we’ve collected. As information goes into the map, patterns and meaning start to emerge. A witness’s statement begins to make sense in light of the information around it. Since Mapping software allows nodes or “bits” of information to be dragged around and attached to other information, the process of building a case becomes like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. The database capabilities of the software allow our information be to tagged, sorted, and filtered (e.g., to show only that which “Witness A” knows regarding the issue of “Design Defect.”) Little by little, we can actually see our case being “built.”

After the map is built, of course, it is time to take it for a spin, that is, to **present**. For litigators in particular, presentation is where the rubber meets the road. Maps let the lawyer do more than just tell the decision maker about his case: now he can SHOW them. Chances are they will remember your map better than your words, too. Studies show most people learn visually (which do you recall -- the opening lines of “War & Peace” or the “Mona Lisa”)?

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2012 Bar Convention: Make plans to attend!

The 2012 Convention, to be held in Columbia January 19-22, is shaping up to be one of the best yet! In addition to an outstanding CLE line-up, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer are slated to speak, and the Benedict College Gospel Choir will perform following an introduction by Hootie & The Blowfish band member Jim Sonefeld. Visit this website for a sneak peek of the choir’s special performance: <http://www.withalittlelove.org/watch-the-video>.

The Convention offers something for everyone, and this year is no exception. Here are just a few highlights:

- Attend the Legislative Reception on the Capital Grounds on Wednesday;
- Participate in the President’s Welcome Reception on Thursday at the Columbia Museum of Art;
- Hear remarks by Chief Justice Jean Toal, in addition to the presentation of the Bar Foundation’s DuRant Award, at Friday’s Plenary Luncheon;
- Enjoy an informative historical tour of Columbia with

- stops at the Governor’s Mansion, Robert Mills House, Hampton-Preston Mansion and Seibels House AND hear a presentation by well-known South Carolina authority Dr. Walter Edgar (tentative);
- Attend the Judicial Reception on Friday night; and
- Much more!

Book your hotel reservation and win!

This Convention will be an exciting one! Make your reservation by Nov. 1, and you will be automatically entered to win a Carolina Clemson weekend getaway. This weekend includes tickets to the Carolina-Clemson November football game in Columbia, hotel accommodations and meals for two. Visit www.sobar.org/convention for hotel information, updates about this year’s events or to register online. A printed Convention brochure will be mailed this month.





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Mind Mapping Software

(...continued from page 3)

Thus, Mind-Mapping software improves all three aspects of our "Skill-Set" by integrating the preparation of the case collection, to analysis, to presentation. Which is a nice thing to have going for you, next time your opponent tries to "throw you under the bus."

Software Resources:

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contributed by Dave Maxfield of Trotter & Maxfield



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Annual Free Ethics Seminar

The RCBA’s annual free ethics seminar will be held on Friday, November 4, 2011 at the University of South Carolina School of Law’s auditorium. This year’s program will feature a presentation by Furman University President Rodney A. Smolla, who before becoming the 11th President of Funman University, served as the Dean of the University of Richmond School of Law and the Dean of Washington and Lee University School of Law. President Smolla is considered to be a First Amendment Scholar and has published a two volume treatise on “Law of Lawyer Advertising.” He will be speaking on the topic “Developments in Legal Ethics and Lawyer Advertising and Marketing.”

We are also proud to announce that University of South Carolina School of Law Dean Robert M. Wilcox will be speaking to us on the topic “Civility, Dignity and Freedom of Expression.”

The presentations of President Smolla and Dean Wilcox will be followed by a presentation by C. Tex Davis, who is a Senior Assistant Disciplinary Counsel for the South Carolina Supreme Court’s Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Mr. Davis will be speaking on “Social Medial: How to use it and not violate the Rules of Professional Conduct.” Concluding the program will be a presentation by Harvey Watson of Ballard, Watson and Weissenstein of West Columbia. The title for Mr. Watson’s his presentation is “Pound of Prevention: Best Practices to Avoid Allegations of Misconduct.”

Please remember that parking is limited. If you can carpool from your office it is helpful. It is even easier to have someone drop you off and pick you up.

Registration is done via email at the bar office rcba@scbar.org Please include your e-mail with your name. When possible it is helpful to register in groups from your firms.

Electronics Recycling: Not Just the Thing, It’s the Law

The City of Columbia residents are now required to recycle eletronics. It’s the law, effective July 1, 2011.

In May 2010, the South Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that requires residents to recycle desktop, laptop, notebook and tablet computers as well as computer monitors, printers and televisions. The legislation specifically says that residents “may not knowingly place or discard” a computer, computer monitor, printer or television “in any waste stream that is to be disposed of in a solid waste landfill.”

Recycling Electronics for City Residents

- City residents may recycle electronics at the Public Works

- headquarters, 2910 Colonial Drive from 9:30 to 3:30 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Only City of Columbia residents can recycle e-waste through the City’s program; proof of residency is required.
 - The e-waste must come from a City residence, not a business or other organization.
 - E-waste includes end-of-life computers, monitors, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, audio and stereo equipment, cellular phones, digital cameras, and other electronic devices.

For more information, visit <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/e-cycle/residents.htm>.



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It is again time to discuss the RCBA’s important annual awards with your colleagues. We encourage you to submit your nominations for the Executive Committee to consider. The awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the RCBA on Thursday, December 15th at the Columbia Museum of Art. Members who wish to submit nominations must do so in writing to the Recognition Committee chair, Reece Williams, at reecewilliams@ctrlawfirm.com.

“Tootie” Williams Award

The John W. Williams Distinguished Service Award, affectionately known as the “Tootie” Williams Award, is based upon distinguished and meritorious service to the legal profession or to the public in professional related activities.

The Williams Distinguished Service Award is the highest recognition given by our association and it is determined by the Executive Committee based upon written nominations from members of our association.

Past recipients of the award include Chief Justice Jean H. Toal, the Honorable Matthew J. Perry, the Honorable Carol Connor, the Honorable Robert Burnside, Tom McCutchen, Julian Nexsen, David Robinson, John Gregg McMaster, Alex Sanders, Ed Mullins, Jr., I.S. Leevy Johnson, Terrell Glenn, Julius McKay, Heyward McDonald, Jeter Rhoads, Lester Bates, Jr., Henry Hammer, the Honorable Jasper Cureton, Claude Scarborough, D. Reece Williams, Joe Berry, Jr., Luther Batiste, William C. Hubbard, Ken Suggs, and the Honorable Bob Coble.

Civic Star Award

The Executive Committee of the RCBA also selects an attorney to receive the Civic Star Award from among the nominees submitted by the membership.

The Civic Star Award is based upon exceptional and meritorious service to the Richland County community by a member of the RCBA for activities outside of the legal profession. Commitment to community service is important to the members of RCBA. Most members volunteer in the community and some give many hours of their time and talents. Sometimes only their friends and co-workers know the depth of their giving.


Recent recipients of this award have been Matt Hill, Anthony

Hayes, George Cauthen, Cravens Ravenel, David Belton, Mike Kelly, Michelle Childs, Rosalyn Frierson, Jane Trinkley, Amy Hill, Steve Benjamin, James E. Smith, Gray Culbreath, and Steve Morrison.

Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award

The Civility Award of the RCBA is named after the US District Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr. It is awarded to the judge and to the lawyer who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the RCBA, best exemplifies the word “civility.” The Executive Committee recognizes that it is a high honor to be nominated or selected for this recognition as attorneys perform their responsibilities in various capacities of the legal profession.

The past recipients of the award include the Honorable G. Thomas Cooper, Danny Crowe, the Honorable Casey Manning, the Honorable Bratton Davis, Jim Leventis, Susi McWilliams, the Honorable Marvin “Buddy” Kittrell, Bobby Fuller, the Honorable George James, the Honorable Joseph Strickland, and Rebecca Lafitte.



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From the President

(...continued from page 1)

be located within the former shadows of the Twin Towers? Are the prisoners in Guantanamo being treated fairly? The list goes on, but most of the work to sort out these domestic issues fell on the shoulders of our profession, and regardless of how you feel about the ultimate outcome, much of what makes this country great comes down to America's system of laws and its legal professionals who operate within that system, despite its often cited shortcomings.

But what makes this country truly exceptional is the dedication of those willing to risk their lives for our freedoms, which includes members of the RCBA. Since 9/11, the day when nearly 3,000 civilians lost their lives, many have fought in the conflicts that collectively have been termed the War on Terror. Unfortunately, many of America's and South Carolina's finest have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country and our freedoms. I hope you took the time this past 9/11/11 to honor all of our fine service men and women who have fought for our freedoms, many of whom selflessly gave their lives. Many Americans are still in uniform in the Middle East and here at home. They need our support, even when the current War, unlike those of the past, does not often get the attention that it should in our media. To learn more about the Americans in general and South Carolinians in particular who have made the ultimate sacrifice, I urge you to visit "Honor the Fallen" at <http://militarytimes.com/valor/index.php>.

Find the RCBA on Facebook! Network with your fellow members, stay updated on all RCBA events, see posted photos, and more.



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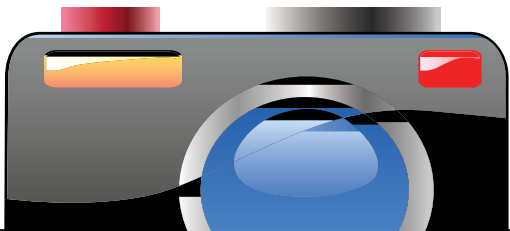
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Classified Ads - \$1.00 per word
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- Resolution of the ad and all images within the ad must be 300 dpi
- Email ads to contact@richbar.org

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



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New Dean and New Goals for the Law School

In April, President Pastides appointed Associate Dean Robert Wilcox as the Dean of the USC School of Law. Dean Wilcox did not effectively become the chief executive until July 1st, but it is clear that he has been preparing for his new responsibilities for quite some time.

Some of you may remember Rob Wilcox as a classmate, and many others, like me, will remember Dean Wilcox as one of the most respected and well-liked professors at USC. Dean Wilcox graduated from the USC School of Law in 1981. Since 1986, he has worked for the law school in the academic realm, either in a professional ethics or property classroom, and administratively, as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Dean Wilcox’s extensive experience in each facet of the law school has allowed him to assume his new position with clear and ambitious goals for the USC School of Law.

Dean Wilcox plans to attain his vision for the law school by implementing several short-term goals aimed at accomplishing broader and more ardent long-term aspirations. Looking forward, Wilcox believes that for the law school to achieve its mission, the school needs to show the public, and especially the business community, that it is “an integral partner in economic development in South Carolina.” Essentially, the state has an interest in producing good lawyers who can serve its commercial needs. “A strong bar will reduce the cost of business” for many South Carolinians. Wilcox feels that the law school has a duty to continue to produce good lawyers and to “prove to the general public that the law school is an asset to the state.”

In addition to a public duty, Dean Wilcox also has goals for the law school to better serve students and the bar. “We owe a responsibility to the profession as the main training vehicle” and “are working on strengthening recognition that the law school serves an important function in the development of professionals.” To that end, Wilcox believes that the legal community will be best served through increased interaction among the practicing bar, the courts, and the law school. Dean Wilcox plans to utilize more practicing attorneys to help students focus on “the development of analytical and professional skills.”

Dean Wilcox has already begun introducing new programs and revising the degree program, from the admissions process, to the third-year curriculum. The initial goal will be for the law

school to “ensure incoming law students have better information regarding the opportunities, requirements, and expectations of the profession.” All first-year students are now enrolled in a course designed to introduce them to the legal profession. In addition, there will be regular “panels of lawyers and judges from a variety of legal fields and environments.” The overall aim will be to help students have a better understanding of the life and career of a lawyer.

The first-year students will not be the only beneficiaries of the knowledge and experience of practicing lawyers. Dean Wilcox has also organized groups of lawyers and judges to talk to small groups of upper-class students. He believes that the school has a duty to help the high percentage of students who come to law school not sure about what they want to do, and especially those who even graduate still unsure. With this advice, students would be “more likely to make a better career choice,” and the law school will produce better and happier lawyers.

Dean Wilcox also plans to implement additional courses designed to teach practical skills to upper-level students. “This will be a critical part of upper level education.” Wilcox wants to “create a series of capstone courses for 3Ls, which will be heavily dependent on adjunct faculty.” These courses will follow a Business School model where groups of students, supervised by a professor, will work as a team through a mock representation of a client.

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“Patience is not waiting passively until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later and somewhere else. Be patient and trust that the treasure you are looking for is hidden in the ground on which you stand.” - Henri J. M. Nouwen

In addition to the capstone courses, Dean Wilcox plans to take advantage of more externships for third-year students and embellish the already-strong clinical program. Third-year students will be able to participate in externships with various public agencies as well as the courts. Currently there are externship opportunities with the Children’s Law Center and the local judicial system. Wilcox also plans to add “an administrative law externship where students are placed in the District of Columbia for the summer.”

The law school will also add a clinic course for upper-level students in addition to the currently available courses in bankruptcy, non-profit, federal litigation, and criminal practice. The ultimate goal for Dean Wilcox is for every third-year student to have the practical experience of a capstone course, externship, or clinic. This will undoubtedly be a great service to graduating students and those who employ them.

Dean Wilcox also has plans to create specific areas of concentration in the law school curriculum that are particularly important to South Carolina. He believes that building certain areas will allow the school to “bring together the desire for a top-quality, national program and the goal of serving a public function.” Wilcox intends to create a certified program in children’s law, which will work with The Children’s Law Center that is already a part of the law school, and to rebuild the widely-recognized environmental program. Dean Wilcox also understands that many USC graduates serve small business clients, often as attorneys and business advocates, and plans to introduce a program focusing on representing small businesses as well.

These new concentrations will be designed to attract quality students as well as better serve the needs of the public. Dean Wilcox believes that more accessible practical experiences will help address the broader goals of improving academics and adapting to “reflect the needs of the market.” To combat the rising trend of market saturation, the law school has already begun to decrease the size of the incoming classes. This year, the first-year class was limited to 215 students, down from 240 the year before. This, like most of Dean Wilcox’s new strategies, is “designed to improve the marketability” of graduates. “The programs will make students less expensive to train after law school.”

As always, an underlying issue with all these ambitious goals is

affordability. “It’s the biggest challenge; how to do this without a huge increase in money.” Creating new programs, attracting the best students, and providing financial aid to worthy students will certainly generate a greater financial obligation. The University of South Carolina has shown that it believes that the law school is an asset of the University and has already “made a substantial commitment.” Over the next four to five years, the law school will be able to add an additional ten faculty positions as well as replace the positions lost over the last several years. A larger and more flexible faculty will perhaps make the greatest impact in achieving Wilcox’s vision for the law school.

Dean Wilcox’s final goal is to build “a facility worthy of the program.” The new building is “not simply about appearances,” but is about creating a “professional learning environment.” The building will be designed with the flexibility to accommodate new academic programs, integrate students and faculty, and to create different and more efficient student study spaces. Dean Wilcox is committed to making this long-time idea a reality. Even though the new building is “not the goal itself, it is a critical component of the whole project.” The University of South Carolina is also committed to the building project and has made a considerable contribution to its funding, increasing the funds raised past the two-thirds mark.

Students at the law school are motivated and excited for the future of the law school. The University has made substantial financial commitments, and with the appointment of Dean Wilcox, has ensured that our law school will be led by someone who has the experience and desire to implement and achieve a vision that will make the USC School of Law a superior and modern legal program.

All of these changes will require a lot of hard work and time from everyone involved. If you want to help the USC School of Law, now is the time to get involved. Dean Wilcox suggests that one thing we can do is to encourage potential law students to consider USC. The Admissions program will also be developing a formal program to attract students who have been admitted, but have not enrolled. In addition, the law school needs volunteers to meet with students in small groups to discuss their experiences. If you want to help, please e-mail Dean Wilcox at wilcoxrm@law.sc.edu. Thank you for your help!

contributed by Michael Peters, Class of 2012



Robinson McFadden & Moore announces that **Page M. Kalish** and **L. Marshall Coleman Newton** have joined the firm located at 1901 Main St. #1200, Columbia 29204. Phone: 227-1138.

Nelson Mullins announces that **William A. “Bill” Prince** has become of counsel in the Columbia office located at 1320 Main St. 29201. Phone: 799-2000.

Kristy Grafton Goldberg announces the opening of **The Law Office of Kristy Goldberg LLC** located at 1720 Main St. #301, Columbia 29201. Phone: 252-2299.

McWhirter Bellinger & Associates announces that **John Meadors** has joined the firm located at 1807 Hampton St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 252-5523.

David Sojourner Jr. has been recertified as a specialist in taxation law by the SC Supreme Court.

McNair Law Firm announces that **Amber Martella** has become an associate of the firm located at 1301 Gervais St. 29201. Phone: 799-8900.

M. L. “Bart” Bartlett of Bartlett Law Firm/Collaborative Law Center and **Shannon K. Burnett** of Burnett & Cairns announce the formation of the **Columbia Collaborative Law Center LLC** located in two areas: In the northeast as Bartlett Laws Firm/Collaborative Law Center at 1700 Woodcreek Farms Road, Columbia (Elgin) 29045, Phone: 699-2490 and in Blythewood as Burnett & Cairns at 109

North Main St., Blythewood 29016. Phone: 786-1758.

Richardson Plowden announces that **Emily R. Gifford** was selected as chair-elect of the Self Insurers and Risk Managers Committee within the ABA’s Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS).

Nekki Shutt of Callison Tighe has been certified as a specialist in employment and labor law.

The American Health Lawyers association has ranked **Nelson Mullins** as its third largest healthcare practice in the United States.

Cynthia Blair of Rogers Townsend & Thomas has been selected for the 2012 Leadership South Carolina class.

Ellis Lawhorne announces that **Will Umbach** has become an associate of the firm located at 1501 Main St. 29201. Phone: 254-4190.

Finkel Law Firm announces that **Gerald M. Finkel** and **Janet B. Haigler** have been named *SC Super Lawyers for 2011*.

McDonald McKenzie Rubin Miller & Lybrand announces that **James B. Lybrand Jr.** has been selected as a *SC Super Lawyer for 2011*. The firm also announces that it has been named as a first-tier law firm by U.S. News and World Report in its ranking as “**Best Law Firms**” in the nation for 2011-2012

Collins & Lacy announces that **Ellen Adams** has been elected managing partner of the statewide law firm.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie announces that **C. Edward Rawl Jr.** has been selected to serve on the South Carolina Bar’s Judicial Qualifications Committee.

The firm was recognized by Speech Technology magazine for the firm’s implementation of BigHand’s digital diction workflow software.

Turner Padget announces that **Drew Williams** has been appointed to a second term as Co-Chair of the Construction Litigation Committee of the ABA. The firm also announces that **Shannon Furr Bobertz** has been elected Vice President of the Friends of the Richland County Public Library Board.

Nelson Mullins announces that **A. Mattison “Matt” Bogan** has returned to the Columbia office as an associate following a clerkship with the Honorable Richard Mark Gergel.

Rogers Townsend & Thomas announces that **John Hearn** has been elected to head the SC Bar’s Consumer Law Section Council. The firm announces that **Cynthia Blair** has been selected for 2011-2012 class of Leadership South Carolina. The firm also announces that **Teri K. Stomski** and **Michael W. Eisenrauch** have joined the firm as Special Counsel.

Gallivan White & Boyd PA announces **Laura Watkins Jordan** has joined the firm as an associate.

Jack Barnes announces a new phone number for his office: 840-6327.

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McNair Law Firm announces the launch of its new tax blog at www.sctaxlawyers.net. McNair Law Firm also announces that its Pawleys Island office has a new address: 11019 Ocean Highway, Pawleys Island, SC 29585. Phone: 843-235-4100.

Marion Joyce Marshall has just has published a new novel called *Elizabeth Island*. It is a suspenseful mystery that includes betrayal, greed, love, hate, revenge, and redemption.

Collins & Lacy announces that **Jack D. Griffith** has been named President-Elect of the SC Bar Foundation Board of Directors. The firm also announces that **Jon Ozmint** was the Keynote Speaker at the Columbia International University’s Prison Initiative Commencement.

The Law Office of Hall & Bowers has moved to 1727 Hampton Street, 29201. Phone and fax numbers remain the same.

Childs & Halligan announces that **Dwayne T. Mazyck** has become an associate of the firm located at 1301 Gervais St., Suite 900, 29201. Phone: 254-4035.

Robert F. Goings announces the opening of **Goings Law Firm LLC** located at 914 Richland St., suite A-101, 29201. Phone: 350-9230.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Amy Clayton** has been selected for the Leadership Columbia Class of 2011-2012 and that **James Rourke** has become an associate of the firm located at 1230 Main St. #700, 29201. Phone: 771-8900.

The McKay Firm announces that **Peter Leventis IV** and **Janet Brooks Holmes** have been named partners of the firm.

TurnerPadget announces that **Catherine H. Kennedy** has been elected chair of the Probate, Estate Planning and Trust Law Section of the SC Bar.

Lewis Cromer and Benjamin M. Mabry announce the dissolution of the law firm of Cromer & Mabry. **Lewis Cromer, Tandi D. Ross** and **Julius W. Babb IV** will continue to practice with the firm of **Lewis Cromer and Associates, LLC** located at 1522 Lady Street, Columbia, SC 29201. **Benjamin M. Mabry** will continue to practice with the **Mabry Law Firm, LLC** located at 300 Candi Lane, Columbia SC 29210. **Janet E. Rhodes** is an associate of this firm.

The McNair Law Firm announces that **Benjamin E. “Ned” Nicholson V** was recently elected to serve a two-year term as the President of the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the SC partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Pope Zeigler Law Firm announces a new website concentrating on bonds, other financial solutions for government entities and public utility regulation. The site features case studies, online event registration and other resources for government agencies and public utilities. See www.PopeZeigler.com.

Collins & Lacy announces that the firm is working to combat growing health concerns in SC with its employee wellness campaign, **Live Well 24/7**. Over the last year employees of the firm have stepped more than nine million

(...continued from page 12)

steps and lost more than 100 pounds.

Daniel R. Settana Jr. has been selected to serve on the Trucking Substantive Law Committee for the SC Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association.

David C. Sojourner Jr. has been recertified as a specialist in taxation law by the Supreme Court.

Harvey & Vallini announces that **Matthew D. Sullivan** has become an associate of the firm located at 211 W. Main St. Lexington 29072. Phone: 212-1010.

Law Business Research Magazine has recognized **David Dukes, Steve Morrison, Ed Mullins, Richard North and Jim Rogers**, all of Nelson Mullins, for their leadership and performances in product liability law.

Turner Padget announces that **Virginia “Ginny” Williams** has been elected to the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia, Inc.

We have received information from a number of firms listing their attorneys who have been selected to *Best Lawyers in America*:

Ellis Lawhorne: **F. Earl Ellis, Jr., William Harbison, Ernest G. Lawhorne, Mary Sowell League, Lana H. Sims, Jr., Rita Bragg Cullum, David G. Sojourner, Jr., Karen Hudson Thomas,**

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William O. Higgins, William P. McElveen Jr., Robert P. Bethea Jr., John L. McCants, W. Cliff Moore III.

Callison Tighe: Michael W. Tighe, Ralph Robinson, Nekki Shutt and M. Mallisa Burnette.

Richardson Plowden: Leslie A. Cotter Jr., Frederick A. Crawford, Steven W. Hamm, Francis M. Mack, Frank E. Robinson II and Franklin J. Smith Jr.

The Barton Law Firm: Barbara George Barton

Nexsen Pruet: Ralph Barbier, Mark L. Bender, Michael T. Brittingham, Russell T. Burke, Henry W. Brown, David E. Dubberly, C. Jones DuBose Jr., Victoria L. Eslinger, William H. Floyd III, Julian Hennig III, Timothy L. Hewson, Fred L. Kingsmore Jr., William Y. Klett III, G.

Marcus Knight, W. Thomas Lavender Jr., Alan M. Lipsitz, W. Leighton Lord III, Burnet R. Maybank III, Julio E. Mendoza Jr., Edward G. Menzie, William G. Newsome III, James W. Potter, Matthew B. Roberts and John A. Sowards

Sowell Gray: Grady L. Beard, Elizabeth Van Doren Gray, Rebecca Laffitte, Thornwell F. Sowell, Robert E. Stepp, Monteith P. Todd and J. Calhoun Watson

Collins & Lacy: Joel Collins, Stan Lacy, Gray Culbreath, Pete Dworjany, Ellen Adams, Donald Van Riper, Henry McKellar and Jack Griffith

McNair Law Firm: Michael M. Beal, Durham T. Boney, M. John Bowen Jr., Sharon Bramlett, Carl B. Carruth, O. Wayne Corley, M.

Elizabeth Crum, John W. Currie, Erik P. Doerring, James P. Fields Jr., M. Craig Garner, Joel E. Gottlieb, Paul D. Harrill, Dorothy M. Helms, Celeste T. Jones, Judith L. McInnis, Richard J. Morgan, Jonathan H. Nason, Benjamin E. Nicholson, A. Victor Rawls Jr., Sara S. Rogers, Michael Seezen, James C. Siokos, W. Marshall Taylor Jr., Joseph D. Walker, Ethan R. Ware, Lee W. Zimmerman

Turner Padgett: J. Kenneth Carter Jr., Michael E. Chase, Danny C. Crowe, John E. Cuttino, Cynthia C. Dooley, Charles E. Hill, Catherine H. Kennedy, Lanneau W. Lambert, Edward W. Laney IV, Curtis L. Ott, Steven W. Ouzts, Thomas C. Salane, Franklin G. Shuler Jr., W. Duvall Spruill.

FREE half-day CLE on Thursday, October 27, 2011

The Public Service Committee is offering a FREE half-day CLE on Thursday, October 27, 2011, to attorneys willing to volunteer for one Homeless Experience Legal Protection (“HELP”) Clinic in the remainder of 2011 or in 2012. This free CLE marks the Public Service Committee’s project during national Celebrate Pro Bono Week, October 23–29, 2011. **It has been approved for 3.75 hours of credit.** Since 2008, the RCBA’s Public Service Committee has served homeless clients in the Midlands by offering pro bono legal services and providing basic information about access to government benefits, IDs, housing, child custody and visitation, expungement, and other common legal issues affecting the homeless. Speakers at the CLE will provide general background materials on these topics so that attorneys volunteering at the HELP Clinic can offer their assistance. The event will take place from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Meridian Building, located at 1320 Main Street, in Columbia. Immediately following the CLE, the Public Service Committee and the Young Lawyers Division will host a social event for all CLE participants and young lawyers.

In Columbia, the HELP clinic takes place from 8:00-10:00 am on the third Thursday of each month at the office of Catholic Charities of the Midlands, on the corner of Assembly and Taylor Streets in downtown Columbia. Community organizations serving the homeless help identify clients by encouraging individuals with identified legal needs to attend. Clients are seen by appointment only and meet one-on-one with attorney volunteers about their legal issue. Though the attorney volunteers at the HELP clinic only serve HELP clients during their meeting time at the clinic, many clients are referred to other groups for additional support and services.

In addition to the Richland County Bar volunteers, USC School of Law students also have participated by helping clients complete intake forms. The HELP clinic is excited to be taking ad-

vantage of USC Law’s new student pro bono law clerk project, Carolina Clerks. A USC Carolina Clerk is working with a HELP attorney volunteer in an ongoing matter to establish guardianship of a HELP client’s minor siblings after their mother passed away this summer.

The HELP Clinic was started by the Public Service Committee of the RCBA in 2008 in conjunction with a growing national effort called Project HELP (Homeless Experience Legal Protection). Project HELP was started by Judge Jay Zainey, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Zainey started Project HELP in New Orleans to assist homeless people with maintaining certified copies of identification documents so that they would be available for service providers. Due in part to Hurricane Katrina’s profound impact on New Orleans residents, Project HELP has grown dramatically and expanded to other cities including New York, Chicago, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Shreveport, Birmingham, Savannah, as well as our own Columbia, South Carolina. The success of the HELP Project in Columbia depends on having a ready and able supply of attorney volunteers. We know many of you are ready, so this is your opportunity to become able.

To REGISTER for this free CLE, please click the “Register Online for RCBA Events” link on the homepage of the RCBA website at www.richbar.org, email rcba@scbar.org, or call 803.771.9801. Please be sure to include your bar number and contact information. CLE materials will be distributed electronically to registered attendees. For questions, please contact Kristen Horne, Chair of the RCBA Public Service Committee, at kristen.horne@nelsonmullins.com or at 803.255.9530, or any member of the committee listed on the RCBA website. The committee would also like to express its thanks to Cupcake on Lincoln Street in the Vista for generously providing cupcakes to our clients and volunteers.

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HELPFUL INFORMATION		
Legal Staff Professionals/ Midlands Meeting: 2nd Tuesday 1:00 Call Laura Foster at 803-799-9800 ext 338 or e-mail lfoster@mcnair.net	Palmetto Paralegal Association Call Adrith D. Schrauger at 803-217-7557	S.C. Women Lawyers Association Call Angel Warren at 803-788-4114

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Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

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Save the Date



Please mark your calendars for The Annual Meeting and Holiday party of the RCBA!

Date: Thursday, December 15th

Location: Columbia Museum of Art

Time: The meeting starts at 5:30 and the party will be from 6:00-8:00.

Classifieds

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: On Calhoun St., 2nd floor office, small library, conference room and full bathroom, with shared kitchen downstairs; off-street parking, one block from U.S. District Courthouse. \$550 plus 1/3 utilities per month. CALL: 256-7777.



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



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