

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association



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AMY HILL
President

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President-Elect

UPCOMING EVENTS

Judicial BBQ
Thursday, May 15

Family Night at Zoo
Thursday, May 22

Memorial Service
Friday, June 13

SAVE THE DATE 2014

Judicial Reception
Thursday, August 21

Annual Ethics CLE
Friday, November 7

Annual Meeting/
Holiday Party
Thursday, December 11



From the President, Amy Hill

As a lawyer or as a judge, I am sure that each of you has had to defend the practice of law and our court system to others at some point in your career. A neighbor is annoyed with his jury summons. Friends complain about how long it takes for their case to get to trial. And, of course, we have all had to endure a distant relative's unfortunate affinity for bad lawyer jokes told over a Thanksgiving meal. Bless his heart.

Sure, our system is not perfect. South Carolina has one of the lowest numbers of judges per 100,000 members of the population. Furthermore our judges carry one of the largest caseloads per judge of any in the country. As of 2010, South Carolina had one judge for every 100,000 residents and each judge had 5,060 cases on the docket. (These are results from a joint study in 2010 (the most recent dated study) by the Conference for State Court Administrators, the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for State Courts.) By comparison, the national average is 3.1 judges per 100,000 residents and 1,780 filings per judge. Notwithstanding these statistics, the judges throughout our State, and those in Richland County in particular, are doing very well with the limited resources each finds at his or her disposal.

We need more judges and we need more funding for our judicial system. We can only resolve this problem and achieve the goal of a more efficient judicial process by educating the public and our elected officials on the benefits and complexities of the judicial system. If our family, neighbors and friends do not understand the need for an efficient court system they are unlikely to support the allocation of additional money for judicial budgets. Each of us should act as ambassador for the legal system not because it is our chosen profession, but because without the court system, our system of government does not work.

When I meet with a client to discuss a new case, one of the first questions is how long it will take to get before a judge. Whether they are the plaintiff or defendant, the client wants the process concluded as quickly as possible so that they can limit expenses and so that they can continue with their life or business without the dispute hanging over them. These questions present a good opportunity for us to tell them where South Carolina ranks relative to the rest of the country when it comes to the number of judges and the number of cases each judge must handle.



continued on page 3...

From the Editor, Dave Maxfield



“Being the parent of a young teenage son is not easy, but you can do it” my right brain says. Meanwhile, my left brain is calculating the cost of military boarding schools in French Guiana.

But whenever I get ready to throw in the parenting towel, I’m reminded of some of the benefits of being a father to a teenage boy. Like having someone to help move heavy furniture. Or having someone who wants to go with me see “Need for Speed: Most Wanted” and complain that it’s juvenile (when that – and the fact that Nicholas Sparks didn’t write it – is the entire point). Or not having to go to Gymboree ever, ever, ever again.

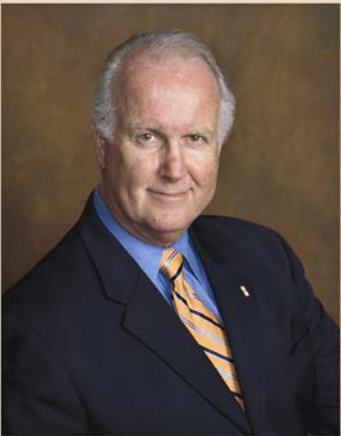
Another benefit to having teenagers is that their English teachers start assigning novels that are actually good. Well, good for the most part. There’s still *Jane Austen*. When I had to read *Jane Austen* in high school my thought process went like this: interesting setting, OK, some dialogue. More dialogue...talking...talking....talki—Oh my God they’re still just talking..... Somebody just DO something! A note to any English teachers reading this: *Jane Austen* is absolutely unreadable for any male under the age of 120. We’d rather be forced to watch a triple feature of “Beaches,” “The Piano,” and “Terms of Endearment” while planning a bridal shower during the Super Bowl. My proudest academic achievement is graduating from college with a degree in English and an emphasis in English Literature, and still managing to avoid ever having to finish anything by *Jane Austen*.

But then there’s all the great books. *Moby Dick*. *Last of the Mohicans*. *Catcher in the Rye*. And of course, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. You remember *Lord of the Flies*, right? It’s World War II. A planeload of English schoolboys being flown to safety crash lands on a deserted tropical island. With all the adults dead, the boys have to fend for themselves. Things start out pretty well. Two of the boys, Ralph and Piggy, discover a conch shell on the beach and use it as a horn to summon the other boys. The boys elect Ralph as the leader, and Ralph puts another boy, Jack, in charge a group of boys to hunt for food for the others. Meanwhile, Ralph, Piggy and another boy named Simon work to build shelters.

But soon enough, things start to fall apart. A rivalry develops between Ralph and Jack as Jack grows obsessed with hunting and increasingly savage. Paranoia starts to take root as well, and when the silhouette of a dead pilot’s parachute is seen against a mountainside, the boys are terrified that it is the shadow of the Beast of the island, who is stalking them. Their fear enables yet more savagery, as more boys flock to Jack and his tribe of hunters for protection. Even Ralph, the cool-headed leader, eventually succumbs to the hysteria.

Amidst the hysteria is another boy, Simon. Unlike Jack or Ralph, Simon is not strong. He’s timid and prone to fainting and nosebleeds. But he’s compassionate and wise. And as things are breaking apart,

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

Simon goes searching for the Beast and finds nothing. On his journey, he learns what all of the others have missed – that the Beast is something that the boys created. More than that, Simon understands that the boys’ fear of the Beast has turned them into beasts themselves.

They had become their own worst enemy. Tragically, when Simon returns to the campfire – covered and in blood and dirt - to tell the other boys that the beast is “only us,” they take him for the Beast and stab him to death with their spears.

Last week, fugitive NSA leaker Edward Snowden addressed the South x Southwest conference in Austin, Texas via live-stream video from Russia. Having previously revealed the U.S. Government’s massive surveillance of its own citizens, Snowden called for public accountability for such programs. He also said that we as citizens should exercise our right to encrypt our communications to protect our privacy from government surveillance (which, by the way, reportedly extends to law firms’ communications with their clients, see, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/us/eavesdropping-ensnared-american-law-firm.html>). Michael Daly, writing for the Daily Beast, reacted immediately to Snowden’s appearance. He wrote that he considered Snowden’s presence in Russia as an endorsement of Russia’s Ukraine policy. Daly admonished Snowden to “come home from Russia and face the music” so that he could be arrested and prosecuted properly. Other opinions ran the usual “hero / traitor” gambit, with everything in between.

So what is Snowden? Hero? Traitor? Or Both? All whistleblowers betray someone or something. What you think of Snowden likely depends on what you think the “real” America is. Is it simply a regime? Or is it a people with a set of inalienable principles? How we treat Snowden when he finally returns to the campfire of America likely depends on how we answer this question.

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RICHBARNEWS

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Bachelor of Arts, College of Charleston
Master of Administration, Business & Economics, Appalachian State
Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina

cgvincent412@hotmail.com843.343.8990

by Bill Latham



called WordRake [<http://www.wordrake.com>].

Created by Gary Kinder, lawyer, New York Times bestselling author, and writing expert for the American Bar Association, WordRake does not replace your spell/grammar checker, but supplements it. It is designed to “declutter” and streamline your writing - just what I needed. It gives you a report in “blue-line” format, allowing the user to accept or reject the proposed changes. The program recommends deletion of unnecessary legalese and the substitution of simpler word choices. While some of the suggestions are just plain wrong or I prefer my original word choice, many of the suggested changes are significant improvements. The example below shows how WordRake works:

“When asked how he ~~made the decision to approve~~^{approved} \$250 million of exposure to BLMIS, [JPMC Employee 2] explained that, in essence, he ~~simply~~ closed his eyes and guessed.”

After using WordRake for over 18 months, my writing has improved because I am learning from the corrections not to make as many mistakes on the front-end.

WordRake integrates with Microsoft Word, but not Microsoft Office (reportedly coming soon). Therefore, if you want to grammar check your emails, you must “cut and paste” the text to Word and run it through the program – a small inconvenience.

I was so impressed with WordRake I convinced the management of my firm to provide it to all of our attorneys. WordRake is sold on a subscription basis. The cost is \$99.00 per year for an individual subscription with other pricing plans available based upon subscription length and number of licenses. WordRake offers a free 3-day Trial with no credit card required, so you can try it for yourself without risk. Highly recommended!

Bill Latham can be reached at bill.latham@nelsonmullins.com. You can read more of his articles at <http://hytechlawyer.com>.

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	Felicia Preston	255-8080	feliciapreston@parkerpoe.com

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

Each of us needs to do our best to champion the judicial system on a daily basis. We need to explain the benefits of our legal system to students and to teachers. We need to make a point to thank those of our friends and acquaintances who serve on juries.

We must advocate increased funding to our elected leaders. We need to educate to our clients, family, and friends on the importance of our judicial system and the need to support its continued funding.

There is a misconception among the non-lawyer public that funding the judicial system is merely a means to increase lawyer pay. However, as we are aware, and as many of our clients come to find out, a slow judicial system serves only to increase legal fees and to further sour the participants' opinion of the legal system. Our citizens and businesses must support a well-funded judicial system in order to have their disputes timely heard in a court of law. It is our responsibility as lawyers and judges to foster this support and understanding among those who rely on the system to provide justice.

We need to build support for increased funding of our legal system in our communities, social circles and with our elected officials. If funding remains static, the system will continue to be criticized for being inefficient, unless we each make regular efforts to educate the population. An educated community will speak with one voice to better accomplish our goals.

Amy Hill can be reached at ahill@sowellgray.com.

"South Carolina has one of the lowest numbers of judges per 100,000 members of the population. Furthermore our judges carry one of the largest caseloads per judge of any in the country. As of 2010, South Carolina had one judge for every 100,000 residents and each judge had 5,060 cases on the docket."



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

And, of course, it depends on our level of paranoia. There are, no doubt, beasts in this world. Some are real (war, famine, poverty) and some are not. The most terrifying ones mix reality and paranoid fiction. Which is why Fox News can make "Obamacare" as frightening to some as terrorism.

As countries go, America is like a teenager. We're susceptible to the same magnified fears, drama, and overreaction that plagues teenagers generally. But, as I've witnessed with my own son, teenagers can be compassionate, altruistic, idealistic and selfless. The part that keeps me awake at night as a parent is that all of these qualities seem to co-exist at once. And the fact that which will win out in the end remains yet to be determined. In the meantime, all we can do is our best.

Being a teenage country is not easy. But we can do it.

Dave Maxfield can be reached at dave@consumer-lawsc.com.

The invention of the teenager was a mistake. Once you identify a period of life in which people get to stay out late but don't have to pay taxes – naturally, no one wants to live any other way.

~ Judith Martin

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



Our Nation's Veterans fought for us.
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BNTD has the experience - military and legal - to navigate the veteran's benefits system.

Eugene Powell, COL, JAGC is a retired SSA judge and a veteran of the Vietnam and Desert Shield/Storm Eras and **Kenny Dojaquez**, MAJ, AR (US Army, Retired) is an Iraq War veteran. Gene and Kenny represent disabled veterans at all levels of the VA administrative process. Our nation's veterans fought for our country. Let BNTD fight for them! Call us at 877.524.4675 for a free consultation.



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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
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Call Angel Warren
at 803-788-4114

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

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

Noteworthy News & Announcements



The Law Offices of Wilmot B. Irvin announces it relocation to 1612 Marion St. #221, Columbia 29201. All contact information remains the same.

Tushar Chikhliker of Nexsen Pruet has been elected to the Board of Trustees of South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.

Turner Padget Graham & Laney announces that William H. “Buck” Daniel IV and Patrick D. Quinn have joined the Columbia office located at 1901 Main St. 17th Floor, 29201. Phone: 254-2200.

Callison Tighe announces that Nekki Shutt has been honored with SC Equality’s first founder’s award.

Andrew N. Cole and Mikell H. Wyman have been certified as circuit court mediators by the SC Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification.

Danny Crowe and Matthew C. LaFave announce the formation of Crowe LaFave LLC located at 500 Taylor St. #401, 29201. Phone: 724-5729.

Nexsen Pruet announces that William Floyd has been appointed to SC Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities Board and that Rick Mendoza has been selected to Participate in Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative.

I.S. Leevy Johnson has been elected a state delegate of the American Bar Association.

Mays Foster Gunter & Murphy announces that it is now Gunter & Murphy LLP and that Thomas D. Kilpatrick has joined the firm located at 2512 Devine St., 29205. Phone: 254-7091

The Taylor Law Firm in W. Columbia announces that ElizaBeth D. Branham has been sworn in as President of the SC School Boards Association.

Michelle P. Kelly of Richardson Plowden has been appointed by

Governor Haley to the State Workforce Investment Board.

Callison Tighe LLC has merged with Sherwood Cleveland PC to create a new practice group in banking and commercial finance at the firm.

Ogletree Deakins announces that Ted Speth has been elected to the Board of Directors and Kathy Dudley Helms has been named managing shareholder of the Columbia office located at 1320 Main St. 29201.

Gallivan White and Boyd has launched a newly redesigned website www.GWBlawfirm.com.

Jennifer L. Mallory of Nelson Mullins Law Firm has received a graduate certificate in Clinical Research and the Law from Seton Hall University School of Law.

John B. McArthur has been elected chair of the City Center Partnership Board.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie announces they have opened an office in Florence and added 2 workers’ compensation attorneys there and they have added 6 worker’s compensation attorneys in the Greenville office.

Nelson Mullins announced that Chantelle Lytle has become an associate of the firm located at 1320 Main St. 29201. Phone: 799-2000.

M. Malissa Burnette of Callison Tighe has been honored with the Barbara W. Moxon Advocacy Award from Planned Parenthood Health Systems.

Curtis Ott of Turner Padget has been sworn in as president of the S.C. Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association. Rob Tyson of Sowell Gray has been elected to the board of directors of the SC Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association.

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

Bluestein Nichols Thompson & Delgado announces that Allison Sullivan has been named a member of the firm.

Gallivan White & Boyd announce that shareholder John T. Lay has been elected president-elect of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

Robinson McFadden & Moore announces that Kevin K. Bell has been re-elected president, Bonnie D. Shealy has been re-elected vice president and R. William Metzger has been elected director of the firm.

Adams and Reese announces that Tara E. Nauful and Lindsey C. Livingston have joined the firm as Partners, William H. Short Jr. as Special Counsel and Dawn M. Hardesty as associate of the firm.

Turner Padget announces that Catherine H. Kennedy has been chosen for the 2014 Leadership in Law award by the SC Lawyers Weekly.

Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte announces the SC Bar honored Bobby Stepp with the Trial and Appellate Advocacy Award at the Convention.

Barnes Alford announces that Alan J. Reyner has joined the firm as a partner and Jennifer I. Waxman become an associate of the firm located at 1613 Main St. 29201. Phone: 799-1111.

Davidson & Lindemann announces that Todd R. Flippin and Steven R. Spreuwers have become associates of the firm located at 1611 Devonshire Dr., Second Floor, 29204. Phone: 806-8222.

Collins & Lacy is celebrating its 30th anniversary by unveiling a new look that still pays homage to the law firm’s decades of tradition. The firm turns 30 on April 1 and is marking the milestone with a renovated brand that includes an introduction of a new color palette, a refreshed logo, and a new identity suite of deliverables.

Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte announces that Tina Cundari has been sworn in as president of the John Belton O’Neill American Inn of Court.

Ed Mullins has received the John H. Pickering Award from the National Center for State Courts.

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South Carolina Bar Foundation Increases Funds for Legal Services and Law Related Education

COLUMBIA, SC (April 9, 2014) – The South Carolina Bar Foundation held its 8th annual gala and generated almost \$50,000 which will support civil legal services programs and law related education initiatives in South Carolina.

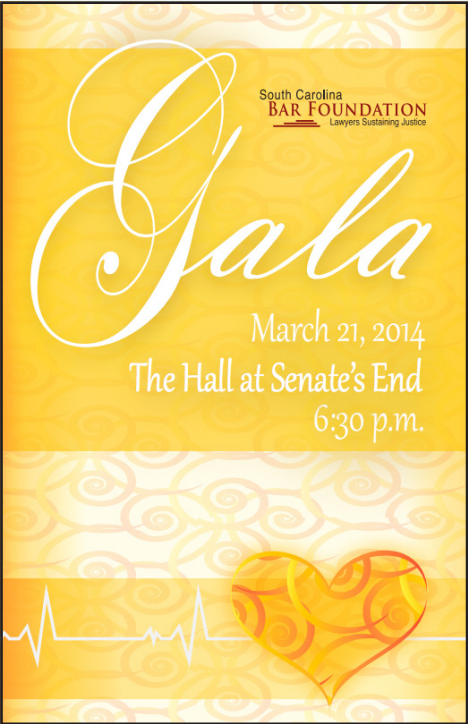
Attorneys, judges and other members of South Carolina’s legal community came together at The Hall at Senate’s End on March 21. The event honored many including the Nifty Fifty of the South Carolina Bar – the Class of 1964. Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal, Justice Costa Pleicones and Bar Foundation President Beverly A. Carroll presented each class member with a commemorative pin recognizing their achievements in law.

Others honored at the gala included Sharon Y. Ward, 2013 SC Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year, and Kimberly P. Shelton, 2013 Ellen Hines Smith Legal Services Lawyer of the Year. One portion of the program titled “Martha’s Moment” was dedicated to Judge Marc H. Westbrook, a committed public servant who passed away in 2005.

Following the awards, honorary chair Gov. Richard W. Riley provided the keynote address. “Supporting the Bar Foundation is not just another check you write to a charity,” said the governor. “The benefits are real. Your support saves someone from losing their home. Your support reunites a dad with his children. Your support keeps a woman safe through an Order of Protection. Your support enriches the minds and lives of youth through law related education opportunities.”

The gala was made possible due to many sponsors including Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, Collins & Lacy and Hamilton Martens Ballou & Carroll. View presentations delivered at the event here. To help augment the funds raised at Gala 2014, download the Foundation’ donor form or make a gift online.

The South Carolina Bar Foundation funds the advancement of justice by improving access, education and accountability. Since 1987, the Foundation has allocated approximately \$45.6 million to various legal-related organizations that work on behalf of the justice community. For more information, visit www.scbarfoundation.org.





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*Mike Riling, Partner in Riling, Burkhead & Nitcher
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He can serve your law firm in similar matters.

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DURANT, SCHRAIBMAN & LINDSAY, LLC
4408 Forest Drive • Third Floor • Columbia, SC 29206 • 803.790.0020 • george@gdurant.com
References from leading members of the bar available upon request.

Lawyers Helping Lawyers Launches Sustained Program

The South Carolina Bar is proud to unveil a new program for Bar members who are coping with the challenge of illness and the impact it has on their personal and professional lives.

SUSTAINED will pair these attorneys with a lawyer who has experienced a similar challenge.We all know that it helps to talk to a colleague who understands how to navigate the challenge of illness while practicing.

Members of the Bar who have been affected by the challenge of illness, if you are willing to volunteer to help others new to the challenge and share your experience and support, please contact Beth Padgett,

Assistant Director of Lawyers Helping Lawyers at 803-576-3801 or bpadgett@scbar.org.

Members willing to become a part of the Sustained Network are assured of confidentially. Contact information will be provided only to a requesting fellow Bar member who may need your assistance.

The need for this assistance is ever-growing. Many other states are rising to the challenge. We look forward to the Sustained Network becoming an integral part of the Bar’s service to its members and their family and associates.

Richland County Common Pleas Jury Verdicts

12-CP-40-7138
Jeannine Buchanan vs. Ergard C. Gibbs
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: B Bunce, J. Roquemore
Defendant: J. Delaney, C. Gibbs and M. Beale, Jr.
Cause of Action: Personal Injury/Auto
Verdict: For plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$5000.00

12-CP-40-7875R
James Washington vs. Brandon Gadsden
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Jamie Walters
Defendant: John Grantland
Cause of Action: Personal Injury/auto
Verdict: for Defendant

13-CP-40-1258
Sarah Campbell vs. Lisa Potts
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Melvin Bannister
Defendant: J. Delaney, C. Gibbs
Cause of Action: Personal Injury/Auto
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual damages: \$1,763.81

10-CP-40-2526
Darren Sweigart,as father and legal guardian of minor, Chase Sweigart vs. Marcus J. Brown

Attorneys:
Plaintiff: James W. Fayssoux Jr.
Defendant: Robert A. McKenzie, Amanda Pittman
Cause of Action: Personal Injury/dog bite
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$30,407.40

11-CP-40-5997
Elizabeth Long vs. Thomas J. Holbrook, Jr., etal
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Charles Henshaw
Defendant: G. Chambers
Cause of Action: Medical Malpractice
Verdict: for Defendant

12-CP-40-2457
Brad Cordell vs. Mackenzie Nichols
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: C. Bradley Hutto
Defendant: Karl S. Brehmer
Cause of Action: Personal Injury/ Auto
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$35,176.91

12-CP-40-1664
Lloyd P. Calhoun vs. Carl G. Bau-guess, Jr.
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: M. Jeffcoat, T. Player

Family Night at the Zoo



Richland County and Lexington County Bar members and their families are invited to get together for this enjoyable evening on Thursday, May 22nd at Riverbanks Zoo at 6 PM. You don't have to have children to enjoy the evening. Bring your spouse or significant other for a special date night. The regular zoo guests are gone for the evening, so we will have a wonderful time having the zoo and all its animals to ourselves. Riverbanks Zoo has set aside the evening just for Bar members and their families. The zoo keepers will stay late and keep as many animals as possible outside for our viewing pleasure. There are many new animals residing at the zoo since last year that your family will enjoy seeing.

The menu will include hamburgers and hotdogs and all the trimmings. This event has been a lot of fun and many families have really enjoyed sharing the evening. Encourage your colleagues to participate and we will continue to make this an annual event. Reservations will be REQUIRED in order to prepare the right amount of food. The Zoo charges us ½ price for children 4-8 years. Children under 4 are free, therefore we need know how many children are in the 4-8 bracket you are bringing. You will receive a postcard in May with further details.

Judicial BBQ

It is that time of year again when we honor the local members of the judiciary with a fabulous BBQ. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 15 at 5:30 PM. This year’s the event will be held at the Seibels House & Gardens. The Callison Tighe chefs will spend all day cooking the pigs. Everyone has come to appreciate their expertise in preparing a delicious feast for members and their guests. You are encouraged to go home and change into casual clothing. We also encourage you to bring your family to the event.



It is VERY IMPORTANT to let us know in advance if you are coming. We do not like to run out of food. We have live music for your listening entertainment. The cost will be \$20 per person, children under four are free, and children ages 5-10 are half price. We will post registration details on www.richbar.org soon, and you must register by May 14th.

Memorial Proceeding Set for June

The Richland County Bar Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 13 at 12:00 PM on the second floor of the Judicial Center. The Honorable Casey Manning will be the presiding judge. Susan Campbell and Ward Bradley, chairs of the RCBA Memorial Committee, will organize and plan the ceremony. All business in the other courtrooms ceases for that hour in honor of those being memorialized. The ceremony is dedicated to the memory of recently deceased members of the Richland County Bar Association and allows friends and family members to remember them as members of our collegium. It is equally important that we honor their service to the Bar and that we uphold the dignity of our great profession. The committee encourages you to participate by attending this special event and honoring our past members.

The ceremony will begin promptly at noon and last for one hour. You are urged to arrive on time so as not to interrupt the proceeding. Please remember that parking spaces are limited and allow time to walk. The service will be followed by a reception with refreshments that will be served in the lobby, where you will have an opportunity to speak with the families and friends of those remembered. No reservations are necessary.

HEALTH & FITNESS

by John Hearn



Shelfish

Man. I hate spring.

No, it’s not the pollen. Or the bees. Or for that matter, the birds, which really have nothing to do with the bees in an erotic sort of way, despite the rumors. Nope, I’m fine with four weeks of jaundiced windshields and whatever is going on back at

the hive-nest. (I don’t understand it, but different strokes for different species, right?)

Instead, spring means graduations (hate them) and worse, weddings. Graduations and weddings mean dressing up. Dressing up means buying clothes. And buying clothes means mortal shame, unless you are someone like Elton John or Lady Gaga or that plaintiff’s lawyer you know who wears seersucker every day between Easter and Halloween. It must be nice to only have one summer wardrobe.

But as it happens, I’ve got a wedding, so I’ve been back to the haberdasher. It’s been a few years.

You see, some things scar you for life. For me, one of those things (the list is long) is the boys’ department at Belk. (Only then it was Belk’s. Pity the vanishing apostrophe. RIP.) The clearance racks. The changing dungeon. The dead man walking, cuffs dragging the floor like a woolen funeral train, to the mirrors that looked back at you for infinity.

And then one of your parents (figure it out) says to the sales clerk:

“You see, he has this little shelf back here.”

True dat. Some things we remember verbatim despite years of relentless and vengeful gelato self-medicating.

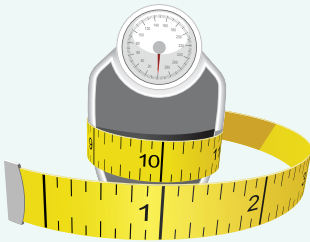
What made it worse still was the nomenclature of the times. The word now is “plus” or simply “big.” Back in the Hill City bargain basement days circa 1975, though, there was a far more insidious mark of doom: “Husky.”

Yep. Husky. Not the dog. Not Lauren Bacall or Eartha Kitt. Just. Plain. Husky. Husky looking at the two colors in husky. It’s tough decorating a shelf with such a limited palette.

It got worse later. I kinda bottomed out (look at all that shelf space!) somewhere in my late 20s. I had been dispatched to an “upscale” men’s store in Charlotte. (Upscale in the way that Steak and Ale is to fine dining, perhaps. On a good day.) My salesperson didn’t mince words. There was no husky room in their inn. I was dispatched to Plus Place. Yay!

Plus Place was OK. You could pretend you were one of the tall instead of one of the bigs. The sales guy was either bigger than you were or was taller than 6’6”. There were fatter customers spread around. You paid too much. You slyly and guiltily eyed the top end of the size range, just to see how far one could go before the transfer to 4x Sweatpantslandia. Why diet? Buy bigger! At least the palette improved (now with even MORE shelf space.)

Last weekend, I pulled down the yearbooks. I look back at my 15-year-old “husky” pictures with wonder—I was maybe ten pounds heavy. I vaguely remember a pair of size 33 jeans that I wore incessantly—especially since the 34s cut off my lower-body circulation. It will take a good bit of decomposition for me to get back there, I reckon.



Years later, I’ve come full circle. There is a June wedding. I’ve been back to Belk. (I’m not shilling for them, OK? No product placement allowed. I’ve got husky principles.) I’m good to go for the nuptials. My eldest has pledged not to place a flute of champagne atop my shelf as I walk her down the aisle.

I’ll save the shame spiral story surrounding an old-school Chunky Bar for another time. Right now daddy needs a new pair of shoes.

John writes The Column except when he doesn’t. He celebrates people of all shapes and sizes since he has been all shapes and sizes himself. You can reach his shelf at john.hearn@rtt-law.com.

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

Hemphill P. Pride II has received a Key to the City from Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin.

Stacy E. Thompson of Bluestein Nichols has received the Mullis Award of Excellence from the President’s Council of the SC Association for Justice. **Allison Sullivan** has received a Leadership in Law award by *SC Lawyers Weekly*.

D. Reece Williams III has been elected president of the USC Ex Libris Society.

Pennington Law Firm announces that Michael P. Morris and Brandon M. White have joined the firm located at 1501 Main St. #600, 29201. Phone: 929-1070.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Bob Coble** has been re-elected as chair of Columbia World Affairs Council.

Nelson Mullins announces that Daniel Lumm has become an associate of the firm located at 1320 Main St. 29201. Phone: 799-2000.

Hedrick Gardner announces that Edwin P. Martin, Jr. has been certified as a Circuit Court Mediator by the SC Supreme Court.

Catherine H. Kennedy of Turner Padget, has been a recipient of the *SC Lawyers Weekly* Leadership in Law Award.

Mickle & Bass Law Firm announces Rocky Hughey has joined the firm located at 1803 Hampton St. 29201. Phone 929-0029.

McNair Law Firm announces that Francenia “Frannie” B. Heizer has been selected for induction into the Richland One Hall of Fame, celebrating her outstanding contributions to Richland One and her devotion to public service.

Joseph D. Dickey Jr. announces the opening of Dickey Law Group LLC located at 1612 Marion St. Suite 312, 29201. Phone: 380-5575.

Collins & Lacy. is celebrating its 30th anniversary by unveiling a new look that still pays homage to the law firm’s decades of tradition. The firm turns 30 on April 1 and is marking the milestone with a renovated brand that includes an introduction of a new color palette, a refreshed logo, and a new identity suite of deliverables.

Pope Zeigler announces that **Margaret Pope** has been appointed to the board of directors & advocates of the Historic Columbia Foundation. **Gary T. Pope Jr.** has been selected for the 2014 class of Leadership Columbia.

Rogers Townsend & Thomas announces that Robert Bryan Barnes was reelected to the board as chair, Cynthia Durham Blair and Kristine L. Cato were elected as board members; James K. “Jake” Cluverius Jr., Sean M. Foerster and Joseph “Joe” Thompson IV were elected as shareholders of the firm.

Collins & Lacy announces that Jack Griffeth has been elected to the American Board of Trial Attorneys.

ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY

If you go to the Member Directory on www.richbar.org and see that any of your contact information and/or headshot is missing or outdated, please e-mail the information and photo (in jpeg format) to rcba@scbar.org.

BUILDING FOR SALE OR LEASE AT 1813 MAIN STREET

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Contact Craig Davis at 803.256.5200 or davislawfirm@truvista.net



Classifieds



OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: 1328 Blanding Street, Columbia 29201. Downtown Columbia, 1 block from Richland County Courthouse. From 2,200 to 4,000 sq. ft., available upstairs or downstairs. Basement storage area. Utilities, parking and phone system included. Call Bill Cotty at 803-252-7130 or (cell) 803-920-7779.

FURNISHED OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE: Secretarial assistance. Library. One block from Five Points. Call 254-8000.

THE RCBA IS ON FACEBOOK & LINKEDIN

You can always go to www.richbar.org for information, but we keep Facebook and LinkedIn updated all the time, so remember to check these sites for latest happenings, important announcements, and other useful information about what's going on with our Bar.

 [linkedin.com/company/richland-county-bar-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/richland-county-bar-association)

 [facebook.com/richlandcountybar](https://www.facebook.com/richlandcountybar)

Stay "in the know" & follow us on both!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The RCBA posts legal-related employment opportunities on our website. Visit <http://richbar.org/EmploymentListings.aspx>.

Additionally, we post the listings on the RCBA Facebook and LinkedIn pages. To submit a listing, please email it to rcba@richbar.org.