

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

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President

JOHN HEARN
President-Elect

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oyster Roast

Thursday, February 17
University House
5:30-8:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE 2011

Judicial BBQ

Thursday, May 19

Memorial Service

Friday, June 10

Family Night at the Zoo

Thursday, June 2

Judicial Reception

Thursday, August 18



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks and Resolutions

First and foremost, I would like to thank Bob McKenzie for his excellent leadership as President of the RCBA in 2010. It will certainly be difficult to match Bob's leadership and focus. Thankfully, Bob will be around another year on the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past President, and his experience and leadership will continue to be of great benefit to our Bar. My hope is that Bob continues to stay involved with the Trial CLE he developed this past year which was so well attended by our membership. As Bob did in his last remarks published in the November/December 2010 *Rich Bar News*, I would like to thank Coleman Chambliss, our Executive Director, for all the work she has done, not only over the past year, but for the past many years she has served as Executive Director. She is tireless in her efforts and truly dedicated to the RCBA.



As always, the new year brings with it a spate of resolutions. I tend to compartmentalize my resolutions into personal and professional resolutions with separate categories for each. Seldom am I 100% successful in accomplishing the resolution, but I often find that I have made some progress towards the resolution by the end of the year. I also find that putting my resolutions in writing, in a place where I will see them often, keeps me focused.

My past personal resolutions have generally involved categories such as exercise (try to run twice a week), general health (limit fast food), finance (save more), family (spend more time with) and mental health (do not expect Gamecocks to win in post-season play).

Past professional resolutions have involved marketing (increase activities), working more efficiently (better utilize the technology available to me), and education (read more of the practice related literature that piles up in my in-box).

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FROM THE EDITOR



We are extremely privileged to be lawyers. We answer important questions. We represent people and business in their most difficult times. Others pay us to know what we think. We inherit a tradition that stretches back before Jesus walked the earth. This tradition has been handed down from generation to generation. It

includes not only the rules, the procedures, and the cases. It includes more than study of the Constitution, common law, and statutes.

It is a tradition of dealing with people in an honorable way. It is a tradition of expecting more from lawyers than is expected from others.

In my practice, I have the opportunity to work with and against outstanding lawyers who have practiced for many years. I recently was discussing the tradition we inherit with an experienced member of The Richland County Bar.

He shared with me his concerns that these traditions and expectations are being lost. The corporatization of the practice of law and the proliferation of lawyers has made the profession more and more difficult. Our profession has become more competitive, and our society has become more litigious. Indeed, we constantly hear that the practice of law must be run like any other business.

I will not argue that we can ignore the business side of the practice of law. A practice that makes no money will not survive. Similarly, I will not argue that we can or should turn back the clock. On the other hand, we should not abandon the traditions and expectations our forbearers placed on the practice of law. Without them, the practice of law really does become no more than a business. If we want others to respect the practice of law, we must respect it ourselves. With this in mind, I offer a synopsis of some of the principles and expectations that

accompany the practice of law.

- Take responsibility for your actions and words
- Correct misunderstandings and misinformation
- Pay attention to detail
- Do not criticize without offering a solution
- Volunteer to fix what is broken
- Try to figure it out yourself, first
- Follow appropriate channels in an appropriate manner
- Treat others with respect and dignity
- Work toward improvements, not destruction or the status quo
- Behave in a way that will get a positive result
- Take into account the demands on and limitations of others
- Commit to personal growth and learning
- Be accountable
- Serve the community

We have received the privilege to practice law from those who came before us. Let us treat it with care and send it intact to those who follow.

** The idea for this column and the list of principles come from an ALPS article by Mark Bassingthwaighe published August 29, 2003. Mr. Bassingthwaighe relied on a publication from the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law for a recital of the professionalism principals.*

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

Contact Angel Warren at 803-788-4114

2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Pictured left to right: Ward Bradley (*RichBar News* Editor), Beth Bernstein (Executive Committee), Bob McKenzie (Past President), Will Thomas (President), Ian McVey (Executive Committee), John Hearn (President-Elect), and Amy Hill (Executive Committee).

JOHN W. WILLIAMS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO BOB COBLE

This award, fondly known as the “Tootie” Williams Award, is presented to a member of the Bar recognized for distinguished and meritorious service to the legal profession or to the public in professional related activities.

Presenting this award was the pleasure of John Sowards, Nexsen Pruet Board Chairman.

Mr. Sowards said that “Bob Coble’s hard work for The City of Columbia and the people of the Midlands is matched by only his high-level or professionalism in practicing law.” Since his tenure as mayor ended, he has also been awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor given by the governor. He is also a member of the Richland County School District One Hall of Fame and earned the Compleat Lawyer Platinum Award from the USC Law School.



YOUNG LAWYERS HELP CINDERELLA GET TO THE BALL

The Young Lawyers Division is sponsoring its annual Cinderella Project, which provides gently worn formal, bridesmaid and prom dresses for young women who lack the financial resources to buy a gown for their high school prom. The project is being held in Aiken, Anderson, Columbia, Greenville and Greenwood, and boutiques will be held in March to give girls an opportunity to shop for their dresses. Clean dresses in all sizes—as well as evening bags and other accessories—are needed. Drop-off locations for each area are listed at www.scbare.org/cinderella. Additional sites will be added as they are identified.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Chair of the Recognition Committee, Reece Williams, introduced his committee and recognized the presenters of the annual RCBA awards.

STEVE MORRISON WINS CIVIC STAR AWARD

Claude Scarborough and Ed Mullins had the pleasure of presenting the Civic Star Award for 2010 to Steve Morrison of Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough. The award honors a member who has been outstanding during his legal career in fields outside the practice of law involving public service in the community. Mr. Morrison has served as chairman of the board of the Columbia Urban League, serves on the board of Benedict College and Allen University. He was instrumental in helping Allen University secure the funding for its new state-of-the-art dormitory.



Mr. Scarborough said, “his selection to receive the Civic Star is truly appropriate, because Steve Morrison is a civic star. In everything he does, Steve is a servant leader. He knows how to build coalitions to get things accomplished in the community.”

Mr. Morrison has served in leadership roles for the Columbia Museum of Art and the Historic Columbia Foundation and co-chaired the United Way campaign for 2008-2009. He has been a leader in the Historic Columbia Foundation which has preserved significant historic places for future generations.



According to Ed Mullins, “Mr. Morrison is known as a fighter for justice and an attorney who inspires others to lift up those in need. For more than 10 years he has served as co-lead counsel for South Carolina’s poorest and most isolated children in a legal action seeking to require the State of South Carolina to provide a constitutionally adequate educational opportunity to every child, regardless of race, socioeconomic status or geography.”

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE RCBA, WILL THOMAS

Will Thomas has enjoyed being a member of the RCBA since 1999. Previous to serving on the RCBA Executive Committee, he served in the position of Co-chair of the Young Lawyer’s Division and Treasurer of the RCBA. Will is also the Chairman of the SCDTAA’s Substantive Health Law Committee, a Member of the S.C. Bar’s Health Law Council and a Member of the American Health Lawyer’s Association. Will is a partner at Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein, LLP and practices primarily in the area of healthcare law where he deals with a variety of litigation, regulatory and transactional matters. Will’s clients include hospitals, physicians, ambulatory surgery centers, cancer centers, dialysis centers and diagnostic imaging facilities. Prior to working in the legal field, Will worked in hospital administration at the MUSC Medical Center in Charleston, SC.



When not practicing law, Will enjoys spending time with his wife, Ashley, and his five year old and six month old sons, Rogers and Shaw. Will also enjoys coaching youth soccer for the YMCA and cheering on Rogers at flag football games. Will is also an avid Gamecock fan and has enjoyed the success of the Gamecocks sports programs in 2010. Based on the success of the Gamecocks in 2010, Will’s oldest son Rogers thinks it is normal for Carolina to beat Clemson in baseball, basketball and football—he has much to learn about being a Gamecock fan.

MATTHEW J. PERRY, JR. CIVILITY LAWYER AWARD GOES TO BECKY LAFFITTE

Joe Berry happily presented this award to his friend Becky Laffitte, “outstanding attorney and everyone’s friend.” Webster’s dictionary defines civility as civilized conduct, courtesy, politeness, a polite act or expression.

“Becky, being a Laffitte, could be no other way. I have known the Laffitte family for almost 60 years and each have the civility gene that many of us wish we had. Charlotte and I see Becky most days at 4:45am to 5:00am at the Wellness Center where we all workout. Her civility abounds at that hour of the morning where she is always a breath of sunshine to those present.

Last but not least when I contacted Becky (at 5:00am recently) to congratulate her on her selection for this award and ask that she let me know who should speak at her presentation, she said she would email me about the award.

I am going to read her email to me dated November 16th in its entirety.”

Joe:

I am humbled that the RCBA Executive Committee would consider me worthy of the Civility award. If permissible, I would prefer that no remarks be made as the event is intended to celebrate The Season with our fellow Bar members. Hopefully, my actions and conduct with fellow lawyers in my day to day practice speak louder than any comments that may be made that night. Again, I am honored and humbled beyond words. Have a great day. Becky

Now that is a person with civility! Congratulations Becky!



MATTHEW J. PERRY, JR. CIVILITY JUDGE AWARD GOES TO JOSEPH M. STRICKLAND

William Witherspoon had the pleasure of presenting this award, which is named in honor of The Honorable Matthew Perry and is given to a judge who is known for setting a major example of civility both in court and in all his other endeavors.

William said he spoke with many of the attorneys who practice before Judge Strickland, Master-in-Equity for Richland County, who handles nearly 2000 cases a year—a packed schedule. Everyone spoke highly of him and his patience and civility.

“Judge Strickland is a graduate of the prestigious Princeton University (where he was actually a member of the University Jazz Ensemble); he attended King’s College in London, England and finally graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School (where he won the Best Brief in a Regional Moot Court competition).

He worked as Assistant Parliamentarian of the United States Senate; interned for the late Honorable Floyd Spence, United States House of Representatives and clerked at some of the largest law firms in the country.

Yet in spite of this impressive resume, as I had heard, Judge Strickland’s parents, both school teachers here in Columbia, taught him that he was no more or less

important than the everyday man he met on the street. He brings this same concern and caring way to the bench with him every day. This upbringing was later driven home when he clerked for the man for whom this award is named, the Honorable Matthew J. Perry, Jr., Senior United States District Court judge. Who better symbolizes the word civility in our profession than Judge Perry.

The adjectives that I heard that best describe Judge Strickland were humble, patient, caring, bends over backwards, kind, understanding, polite, approachable, friendly, and courteous even when he has to rule against you. That is the description of the man we honor tonight.”



FROM THE PRESIDENT...continued from page 1

This year, I added a set of resolutions related to our Bar. First, I resolve to work with the RCBA Executive Committee to grow the membership of the RCBA. Research available from the ABA indicates that the RCBA has some of the lowest dues of any voluntary bar of its size in the country. Given the benefits that the RCBA has to offer, such as the annual free ethics seminar, a host of events like the Oyster Roast, Judicial BBQ, Judicial Reception, RCBA Night at the Zoo, Annual Holiday Party, etc. (either at reduced rates or free of charge), we believe there is substantial value derived from the dues. The RCBA also has a membership committee in place that will be working actively to increase membership. We would urge the members of our Bar to reach out to any non-members who practice here in Richland County and extol the benefits of membership. Achieving membership of 2,000 attorneys would give the RCBA a seat in the ABA House of Delegates.

I am resolved to work with the Executive Committee to increase participation in the events sponsored by the RCBA. While our events are well attended, they are surely under-attended given our membership of over 1,600 members. We realize that the demands of family, not to mention a hard day spent at work, can interfere with attendance, but we urge members to drop by RCBA events if only for 30 or 40 minutes on the way home from work. We ask those of you who regularly attend events to encourage friends and colleagues to join you. As more members attend the events, we believe that our very

large Bar will begin to feel smaller and more cohesive. This, in turn, will foster better relationships especially when we find ourselves on different sides, whether it is in litigation or in a transaction. Our practice and our clients will be the beneficiaries of increased attendance at events.

Another focus will be working with our State Bar, Clerks of Court and Judiciary to find ways to improve the practice of law for our members, notwithstanding the limited resources of both the county and the state. Members of the RCBA Executive Committee have already met with S.C. State Bar President Carl Solomon to discuss some of our members' concerns related to everything from technology and court procedure to our Richland County based School of Law, which desperately needs to replace its physical plant. I encourage members to contact me (willthomas@parkerpoe.com) or members of the Executive Committee to share any ideas you have that you feel will improve the practice of law in our community.

I look forward to working with the membership and the Executive Committee and 2011.



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

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NEWEST MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WARD BRADLEY

James Edward (Ward) Bradley is married to Elizabeth Holderman Bradley. Betsy and Ward have three wonderful boys, James Marshall, Christopher, and Davidson who are 5, 6, and 7. Betsy is a corporate lawyer for Palmetto Health. Ward is a trial lawyer at Moore, Taylor & Thomas.


Ward grew up in Columbia. He attended Irmo High School and then graduated from Davidson College. He received his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He then clerked for State Circuit Court Judge Don S. Rushing and Federal District Judge G. Ross Anderson. After completing his clerkships, Ward worked for two years in the litigation section of the McNair Law Firm. He then went to work at Moore, Taylor & Thomas where he is a partner practicing business and personal injury litigation for plaintiffs and


defendants.

Ward has been active in the State Bar where he is currently chair of the judicial qualifications committee. He has served as the president of the USC School of Law Alumni Association. He has served the Richland County Bar for many years by helping with social events, serving on the memorials committee and editing the Richland County Bar Newsletter.

Ward enjoys spending time with his family, playing guitar, and exercising.

Ward is looking forward to serving on the executive committee with the fine people who make the Richland County Bar organization a success. He is always seeking ideas for the newsletter, so send him some.

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NEWS FROM THE USC SCHOOL OF LAW - PRO BONO PROGRAM SERVES RICHLAND COUNTY

This year, the Pro Bono Program at the University of South Carolina School of Law is celebrating twenty years of service, mostly all in Richland County. Pamela Robinson, the Director of the Program, is not going to be happy with my suggestion that we take time to celebrate the Program's tremendous success and influence over the last twenty years. For Robinson, the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Program is not an opportunity to be patted on the back, but instead an occasion to learn from the Program's past success how to better serve even more low-income members of our community. Because that, as it has been for the last twenty years, is "just what you do."

When the USC School of Law Program was established it was only the second law school pro bono program in the country. It was, however, the first voluntary law school program in the United States. This was important to Robinson; she believed that for volunteer work to be truly meaningful it had to be just that, voluntary.

One of Robinson's goals when she decided to oversee the Pro Bono Program at USC was to "make it easy for law students to volunteer." As a former USC law student, she understood the time and work demands of the students, but she also believed in the students and their desire to work hard for themselves in the classroom and to work for others outside of it. Robinson recognized that a "structured and continuous" program where one director could screen and manage possible volunteer opportunities, acting as a "matchmaker" of sorts, would be the best approach to making pro bono work an important part of students' legal education.

That goal of providing an opportunity, as well as guidance and leadership, is so fundamental to the Pro Bono Program that upper class volunteers begin to work with students as soon as they arrive on campus. Each year, the Program coordinates a service day the first Friday of the first week of class. First-year law students are paired with second and third-year students and then dispersed throughout the county to help with a variety of service projects. Most of the seasoned volunteers on the Pro Bono Board

have been active since this first introduction.

Taylor Denslow is a third-year student and Board Member of the Pro Bono Program, but she said that she began volunteering that "first day as a 1L when I met Pam and learned about the volunteer opportunities available in Columbia." Taylor worked that day with other volunteers at Christian Services Ministry and has been serving others in need throughout Columbia ever since.

"After training to become a Guardian ad Litem with CASA during the fall of 1L year, volunteerism has remained a consistent and stabilizing force throughout law school." Taylor added that volunteering helped to keep her "grounded" through the "stress of exams; the nerve-racking search for jobs; the hours logged in the journal office; and the juggling of personal and academic agendas." For Taylor, "it represents one of the most influential and rewarding aspects of my law school experience."

Other Pro Bono Board Members, like fellow third-year Douglas Rushton, echoed Taylor's enthusiasm for pro bono service as well as the impact it made on their legal education experience. Douglas worked primarily with the CHOICES program at the Department of Juvenile Justice. "The goal of the CHOICES program is to create a conversational environment with a group of kids, ideally who are nearing the end of their incarceration, to expand their understanding of the legal ramifications of their choices in the past, and to think about the same with choices they will face in the future."

Only a few months from graduation, Douglas reflected on the benefits of pro bono service for law students. "I think student involvement with the pro bono program is especially important because it gets people out of the particularly self-interested law school environment." He added that, "service can be an excellent reminder to students about the relative unimportance of things that we tend to get too worked up about day to day when compared with the challenges facing others in the community."

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Another fundamental goal of Robinson's for the Pro Bono Program is to train volunteering law students to eventually become volunteering lawyers. It is clear that students, like Douglas, have accepted this challenge. "If you learn to make time to volunteer in law school, hopefully, you will continue to make time for it when you enter the work force."

The Pro Bono Program has been challenging law students in this same way for twenty years and citizens of Richland County continue to benefit from the work of Program graduates. Carmen Thomas is an attorney at Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough and a member of the Richland County Bar's Public Service Committee. Thomas, however, is also a former Board Member of the Pro Bono Program at the School of Law. She was an active volunteer as a law student, and true to the Program's goals, continues to serve low-income residents of Richland County as a lawyer.

Thomas works with the HELP project every third Thursday of the month. The HELP project serves as a legal clinic for the homeless population of the Midlands. Volunteers from the Richland County Bar staff the project and provide legal services each month. Thomas said that the project is referred homeless and other low-income citizens who need help with anything from expungements to child support or divorces. She enjoys the work and, like Robinson, feels that it is a "responsibility for lawyers to be active in their community."

Because the Program is at a state law school, Robinson believes that a component of the Pro Bono Program's mission is to give back to South Carolina by assisting local lawyers with pro bono clients. In that regard, the Program works with Thomas each month to coordinate law student volunteers to assist with intake procedures at the HELP clinic.

Robinson also believes that the Pro Bono Program can be an invaluable asset to the Richland County Bar. She encourages any Richland County lawyer who has taken a pro bono case to contact her. "We have a phenomenal library and a terrific staff willing to help." Robinson added that the Program "has tremendous resources and law stu-

dents always eager to help." The Pro Bono Program also maintains a foreign language database where local lawyers with pro bono clients who speak a foreign language can have access to law students fluent in a variety of second languages. Robinson feels that "the Program can be a great benefit for law students and Richland County lawyers."

If you want to take advantage of the Pro Bono Program at the USC School of Law you can contact Pam Robinson at 803-777-3405 or email her at robinspd@law.sc.edu. They will help, because, "it's just what [they] do."

Submitted by Michael Peters, Class of 2012

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Please help us have a more complete 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. We will add the new information to the website as quickly as possible. Please note that new admittees may not be listed until February.

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST



Richland County Bar members always look forward to the Annual Oyster Roast, a tradition of this organization for many decades. The function used to be held at the old Dixie Seafood Plant, which many of you may remember. Not only did we outgrow the facility, but it

closed about 12 years ago. We searched for another perfect place to entertain our members. After trying a few places, we have settled on the University House, and that venue has been very popular.

Regardless of location, the oysters have been consistently good every year. Seawells has provided the oysters and the food and drink for the last few years, and our members have been very pleased with the arrangements. There will be special food for non-oyster eaters and plenty of diversity to suit all appetites. We will entertain you with good LIVE music, good spirits, a roaring fire and lots of

camaraderie. We will also have hot coffee.

This year on Thursday, February 17, the event will take place from 5:30-8:00 PM at the University House on the corner of George Rogers Boulevard and Bluff Road (diagonally across from William Brice Stadium). We will brave the outdoor elements and hope for good weather and moderate temperatures. The site is covered and has a big fireplace and plenty of parking with easy access.

As in past years, we are inviting you to bring your children if you wish. Children under 5 are free and children 6-10 will be \$6. All others will be \$12. Reservations are necessary and should be accompanied with your check, or you can register on our website by going to www.richbar.org/events.aspx. This way we will know how many oysters to purchase. This is a very special event, and we hope for great attendance. Some years it has been bitterly cold and rainy, but oyster roast lovers are not deterred. Dress warmly and join us for another great Bar event!

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NOTEWORTHY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bruner Powell Wall & Mullins announces **Matthew H. Stabler** has become an associate with the firm located at 1735 St. Jullian Pl. #200, Columbia 29204. Phone: 252-7693.

Callison Tighe & Robinson has contributed \$10,000 to Harvest Hope Food Bank, marking the second year in a row that the firm has reached out during the holiday season to people in need.

Graybill & Lansche announces that **Ryan W. Newton** has become an associate of the firm located at 2425 Devine St. Columbia 29205. Phone: 404-5709.

The Thomas Law Firm announces that it has new offices located at 2222 Devine St. Columbia 29205. Phone: 799-0705. Fax: 799-0338. E-mail: mthomas@markthomaslawfirm.com.

Turner Padgett announces that shareholder **Michael E. Chase** has been elected to serve as legal advisor to the Board of The South Carolina Self-Insurers Association.

The McCarty Law Firm announces it has relocated its offices to 3924 Forest Dr. Suite 9, Columbia, 29204 and that **Harrison Penn** has become an associate of the firm. Phone: 771-8836.

Kenneth E. Berger announces that he has opened a law firm, **The Law Offices of Kenneth E. Berger LLC**, 5205 Pickens St., Columbia 29206. Phone: 790-2800. Fax: 790-2870. E-mail: kberger@kennethbergerlaw.com.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Dan Leonardi** and **Travis Wheeler** have been elected partners in the firm.

The McNair Law Firm announces **Sharon Bramlett** has been reappointed chair of Council of Advisors for the SC Department of Consumer Affairs.

McWhirter Bellinger & Associates announces that **Blakely L. Molitor** has become an associate of the firm located at 1807 Hampton St., Columbia 29201. Phone:

252-5523.

The firm also announced that **Cynthia K. Mason** and **Melissa G. Mosier** have become associates in the Lexington office located at 119 East Main St. Lexington 29072. Phone: 359-5523.

Rogers Townsend & Thomas announces that the firm has over 400 employees since opening the Charlotte office, when the firm merged with Kellam & Pettit and they have moved into new space at the Coliseum Centre there.

Collins & Lacy announces that two attorneys have been named finalists in the *South Carolina Lawyer's Weekly* Emerging Legal Leaders Award. **Suzanne (Suzy) Boulware Cole** and **Robert F. Goings** are among the top 18 finalists, based on the significant impact they have made on the legal profession and the community at large.

Turner Padgett announces that at the Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association, **Curtis L. Ott** was elected to serve as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Sullivan Law Firm announces **Edward D. Sullivan** has received an LL.M Taxation degree (cum laude) from the University of Alabama School of Law.

The Law Office of Richard G. Whiting announces that **Dick Whiting** has recently been named a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, being recognized for his high level of knowledge, skill and integrity and a reputation for professionalism and competence.

Tina Cundari, of Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, has been elected chair-elect of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia.

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M. Craig Garner Jr. of McNair Law Firm has been named by Best Lawyers as the Best Lawyers' 2011 Columbia South Carolina Banking Lawyer of the Year.

Richardson Plowden announces that **Jared Garraux** was recently selected as a 2011 Emerging Legal Leader finalist by *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly*.

John T. Lay and **David Sojourner** of Ellis Lawhorne have been named in the Midland's Legal Elite in the Business Law category by *Greater Columbia Business Monthly*. John has also been awarded the Fred H. Sievery Award.

Nelson Mullins has been named a "2011 Go-To Law Firm for the Top 500 Companies" in litigation and intellectual property in surveys conducted by the American Legal Media.

Murphy & Grantland announces that **Anthony W. Livoti** has been accepted into membership of the International Association of Defense Counsel.

Tommy Lydon has been named one of the Midland's Legal Elite in the Business Law category by *Greater Columbia Business Monthly*.



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THANK YOU BARNEY GIESE


Daryl Hawkins presented Mr. Giese with a plaque stating the appreciation of his years of service to Richland County. "Richland County has been fortunate to have had a great Solicitor for the past 17 years in Barney Giese. Unfortunately, he chose not to run for re-election and will be going into private practice."

Barney received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina in 1978. In 1981, Barney received his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina Law School.

Barney began his career in 1979 in the Fifth Circuit as a law clerk, recruited by Dick Harpootlian whom Barney credits as having been a mentor and friend. Upon graduation from law school, he was appointed as an Assistant Solicitor. He was appointed as Deputy Solicitor for James C. Anders in 1985 and was re-appointed by Solicitor Richard A. Harpootlian in 1991. In 1993, Barney entered a brief period of private practice before being elected Fifth Circuit Solicitor on November 8, 1994. He was re-elected in both 1998 and 2002. Solicitor Giese currently serves as President of the South Carolina Solicitor's Association.

Mr. Hawkins stated: "His public service has been outstanding and he will be greatly missed."





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NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE RCBA, JOHN HEARN

John's legal work focuses on resolution of title insurance claims, contested foreclosure matters, and property tax sale disputes. Additionally, he manages a wide variety of business litigation matters. Much of John's work is for banks and other mortgage lenders. John travels the state defending claims against lender, and manages a team of lawyers which concentrates on those claims.

John has served on the Executive Committee of the Richland County Bar Association for four years; he is currently President-elect. John also serves as a volunteer Attorney to Assist for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, as a mentor for the South Carolina Bar's Lawyers Helping Lawyers program, and as Chair-elect of the Bar's Consumer Law Council. John serves on the firm's Professional Development Committee. John clerked

for the Honorable J. Ernest Kinard, Jr. of the Fifth Judicial Circuit after law school.

In his spare time, John savors naps, Gilligan's Island reruns, and five-gallon mini-vats of Great Value (tm) Banana Split ice cream, not necessarily in that order. He is married to his high-school sweetheart, Jane, who prefers nail guns and the occasional peanut butter M&M. They have three children, none of whom have (yet) been convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year's imprisonment.



2010 HOLIDAY PARTY (photos taken by Stuart Morgan)



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



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Grier, Cox & Cranshaw LLC
P.O. Box 2823
Columbia, SC 29202

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

2999 Sunset Boulevard #200
West Columbia, SC 29169

Ph: 803-731-0030

Fx: 803-731-4059

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