

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

JODY A. BEDENBAUGH
Treasurer

BOB MCKENZIE
President

WILL THOMAS
President-Elect

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oyster Roast

Thursday, February 18
5:30-8:00 PM
University House

SAVE THE DATE

Judicial BBQ

Thursday, May 13

Memorial Service

Friday, June 11

Judicial Reception

Thursday, August 19

CLE

Friday, November 5

Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 9



FROM THE PRESIDENT

First of all, I apologize for the picture! However, I was assured that I could not continue to use Beth Bernstein's photo in connection the President's message. I even confirmed this with Beth. I suppose in this regard we have taken a step backward with the *RichBar News*. Hopefully, everything else will be more positive.

Amy Hill is new to the Executive Committee and we welcome her to help us with the tasks of your association. We will miss the wise counsel of Roy Laney. Also, Ward Bradley has taken on the important job of being the editor of this publication, but since John Hearn continues on the Executive Committee, his experience and abilities will be available to help us in this transition.



The past several years with their poor economic performance, have affected every element of our society, including lawyers. Downsizing, lay-offs of lawyers and staff, reduced income and increased competition are items of news we don't care to hear. I am told that less than one-half of last year's graduating lawyers in the state had jobs. Whether this is fact or fiction, I don't know for sure, but I suspect it is true. These things can have an impact on your Bar in several different ways. If it affects our membership numbers, our revenue could suffer. Hopefully this will not happen. If it does, I do not believe that in the short term it will result in any difference with your Bar's performance of the things you expect from it. However, it becomes the Bar's responsibility to increase its relevance in order to maintain membership and to acquire new members.

We intend to try to do this. In addition to those programs you are used to seeing, we are trying to put together a CLE program that will give members additional hours of CLE with little or no additional cost over your dues. It will be designed primarily to assist newer lawyers and those hanging out a shingle or starting a practice to handle a civil case, but it can also serve as a refresher for more experienced practitioners. The statistics are clear. For whatever reason, the number of civil cases being tried to verdict is diminishing. Our Bar has a wealth of experienced talent, good lawyers and judges who can share with and teach us how to do this the right way.

continued on page 4...

FROM THE EDITOR

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve as the editor of the Richland County Bar News. I very much hope to bring you something useful.

At the Compleat Lawyer Award Dinner last April, I heard Tom McCutchen give a wonderful speech on his experience as a lawyer and what being a lawyer means to him. I wish that each of you could have been there to hear it. When Bob McKenzie asked me to serve as editor of the newsletter, I knew right away that I would like to share these remarks with the members of the Bar. So, I encourage you to come to next year's Compleat Lawyer award dinner, and with Tom McCutchen's permission, here is an excerpt from his speech:

"I appreciate very much the invitation to speak to you tonight.

I was admitted to practice law on June 12, 1941 by special examination. In that day, if you graduated from Law School you were not required to take the Bar examination. I entered the Army Air Corps about two days later. In November 1945, I was sent from Salinas, California to Goldsboro, North Carolina to be discharged.

I called the Law School at USC and asked to speak to the Dean. When I left in June 1941, it was Dean Friarson. I told the lady who answered that I wanted to register and she said 'we are on a tri-semester,' and I said, 'that sounds good.' She said, 'Oh no...registration was over ten days ago.' I asked, 'Who is the Dean?' and she said, 'Dean Prince.' I said, 'Let me speak to him.' I told him I was a member of the Bar but I wanted a degree. He said: 'You are registered.' I said, 'Dean, it may take me three days to complete my discharge,' and he said, 'You are registered. Come see me when you arrive in Columbia.' What a great response!

In December of 1945, Mr. Christie Bennett, President of the then South Carolina Bar Association and a great and forceful lawyer, asked me to talk to the Bar about what it meant to return to private life. I spoke. It was very emotional for me. I had been away in the military serving as a pilot for four years, five months and two weeks.

When I began to practice law in January 1946, there were only two ladies who were members of the Richland Bar, Miss

Lester and Miss Etheridge. They were efficient and pleasant. The Bar met every month. You knew every lawyer. You settled some of your cases at the monthly Bar meetings because you knew each other. The clients won.

The practice of law is exciting, invigorating, stimulating and rewarding. I served on active duty as a pilot, and I mention this again for the following illustration: When you are a pilot, your supply of fuel is always of paramount importance and knowledge. So, as a pilot, I learned that you check the fuel in your tanks personally. Of course it has been checked by the Crew Chief and the operator of the truck supplying the fuel. But as a pilot you check it - why? Because the fuel on the ground doesn't do you any good in the air, and that fuel sustains you and your crew.

And, ladies and gentlemen, that is what the law is all about. Knowledge is your fuel, research is your fuel, preparation is your fuel, appearance is your fuel, the manner of representation is your fuel, and if the foregoing is absent, you crash and take your client with you. But you see the people we honor tonight have not crashed. Their tanks were full, and they completed their mission.

We are in a profession where you lose and where you win. You must be sure that the loss was not due to your preparation or lack of knowledge. As you savor the wins, you must reassess your losses.

You must learn from your representations. U.S. District Judge Robert W. Hemphill would say, 'You don't learn much from the cases you win; but you always learn from the cases you lose.' Very few clients are able to assess the severity of their problems, or the difficulty to obtain relief or the legal issues.

Being a lawyer is special. You have the tools to accomplish much. You rescue people; you reestablish people; you revitalize people; you align relationships.



continued on page 3...

FROM THE EDITOR

...continued from page 2

Isn't it interesting that we usually represent people who do not understand their legal problems and hurdles which confront you and them?

What is excellence in the practice of law?

It is recognition of the issues;

It is the ability to assess the outcome;

It is a knowledge of the legal problems;

It is the ability to present the position of your client;

It is your knowledge of the law;

It is your ability to get along with lawyers;

It is your ability to communicate and not create more conflict.

I encourage you to stimulate a cordial relationship with opposing counsel. It is not a sign of weakness. It is an attempt to resolve on a playing field that recognizes the issues.

If some irritating things occur by reason of opposing counsel, just demonstrate your standards and maybe you will elevate such counsel. At the least, your performance will clearly show who is the Compleat Lawyer.

Now let us talk about the lawyers recognized tonight.

Their recognition is unsullied.

They have achieved.

They have been real lawyers.

They have served their clients.

They are the representatives of our profession.

Folks, that is what it is all about.

Can you sleep tonight because of what you did or did not do today in your practice?

The lawyers recognized tonight will sleep well tonight. We are here to accept and recognize outstanding lawyers. When you recognize top people who have performed, you have recognized who they are.

We all know that clients come in various forms:

Some are uninformed;

some clients think they know more than you do as to procedure and what should occur;

some are totally one-sided;

some have another agenda;

some are unreasonable (due to a variety of reasons); and some don't want to pay you for anything.

Our profession involves difficulties daily. But our solutions change the landscape or remove the scars of unwanted change to the landscape.

And we are here to Honor the Recipients of the Compleat Lawyer Award. We are here to recognize lawyers who are outstanding. Let me say this: To excel in your profession is top drawer. Don't ever cease to extol the wonderful qualities of our profession. And let the people know that you are proud to be a lawyer.

The reach for excellence is not fueled by a casual or part-time pursuit. It is fueled by desire and a committed willingness to discover, invest and apply the full scope and depth of the God-given talents and energy you possess. Just as mediocrity is a curse, excellence is the blessing for not having neglected your gifts.

And don't ever forget this Law School, to which most of us are indebted for our legal beginning and for the stimulation that it presented. It is a springboard for success. What more can you ask?"

RICHBARNEWS

Classified Ad Policy

After 15 years of the same costs for advertising, we are going to increase our rates slightly. New rates are as follows:

Classified Ads - \$1.00 per word

Quarter Page Ads - \$75.00

Half Page Ads - \$150.00

Business Cards - \$50.00

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...continued from page 1

It is important that we keep our membership expanding. We are the largest voluntary association of lawyers in the state. For one hundred dollars per year in dues we try to provide a well-rounded, interesting and collegial schedule of events. We are approximately three hundred members short of qualifying for a seat in the ABA House of Delegates. We have been as close as two hundred in the past, and we have many more lawyers than that who live or practice in Richland County and are not members of the RCBA. The ABA House of Delegates is currently being chaired by a member of our association. Wouldn't it be nice for us to have a say-so in our profession's largest national body? Wouldn't it be great to be able to support one of our own in such a high profile position that might lead to a more important position? Help us out! Be active. Make suggestions. Recruit new members and talk up your bar. If you feel like volunteering, contact our Executive Director, Coleman Chambliss, or any member of the Executive Committee. We'll put you to work.

Getting back to the subject of photographs, in reviewing the last pictorial directory, I was struck by how many of our members resembled a set of balance scales. Although we won't reprint the directory just to put your picture in it, we can place your picture on our website so all will be able to put a face with a name. If you haven't already done so, please consider sending us a picture that is suitable for inclusion with the others in the membership section. If you wish to put a new picture there, we can do that as well. Please check the website for instructions.

WWW.RICHBAR.ORG

Have you visited our website lately? We have member listings that include head shots. If your headshot is missing and you want to add it, please e-mail it in jpeg format to rcba@scbar.org.

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JOHN W. WILLIAMS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO KENNETH SUGGS

The John W. Williams Distinguished Service Award, affectionately known as the Tootie, is presented to an RCBA member who has made a significant contribution to the life of the law in South Carolina. The Tootie is the Association's highest accolade. John Kassel presented the Tootie to Ken Suggs at the RCBA's annual meeting in December. In his remarks, Kassel noted that "Ken's legal career epitomizes excellence," having served as president of the SC Trial Lawyers Association only six years after finishing law school. Twenty-five years later he was elected president of the American Association for Justice, the premier national organization of plaintiff attorneys. Ken is currently a partner in the national firm of Janet Janner and Suggs, and heads the firm's medical negligence and pharmaceutical practice.

Ken earned those offices by perfecting his craft as a trial lawyer, building a formidable law practice, and giving back to the community. In addition to being a past president

of the RCBA, he has received a Compleat Lawyer award from the USC School of Law, is a prior recipient of the Appleseed Advocate of the Year, and has been named a South Carolina Super Lawyer for 2009.



Perhaps most significantly, Kassel noted, Ken "was the lawyer who stood in the path of 200 years of *stare decisis* and got rid of contributory negligence as a total bar in South Carolina. Twice. Please read *Langley v. Boyter* and *Nelson v. Concrete Supply Co.*" In sum: "A tireless champion of injured people and their families. No one will care more. No one will work harder."

Congratulations, Ken!

CIVIC STAR AWARD GOES TO GRAY CULBREATH



The Civic Star award is presented to a member of the association who has made substantial contributions to our community through public service. This year, John Lay presented the award to Gray Culbreath. John Lay stated that "there is no one in our organization more deserving of

this award. Everything that Gray does is done well."

A native of Columbia, Gray is a graduate of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School. He attended Wofford College on an ROTC Scholarship and earned his degree in Government. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Gray then entered law school and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Upon graduation, Gray entered the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he served as trial defense counsel for four years. After his discharge from active duty, he returned home to Columbia to work as an associate at Collins & Lacy, the same firm he

worked for throughout law school.

Today, Gray is the managing shareholder of Collins & Lacy, P.C. where his practice concentrates on the defense of class action, product liability and complex and catastrophic injury lawsuits. Gray was recently elected president-elect of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association and will serve as president of this organization in 2011. This year, Gray was the recipient of the 2009 Compleat Lawyer Award from the University of South Carolina School of Law as well as the 2009 Leadership in the Law Award by South Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

Outside the practice of law, Gray serves as the Chairman of the South Carolina State Museum Commission and has held that position since 2001. He is also heavily involved with his children and is a hard working girls youth basketball coach.

Gray has given us each a blueprint for success. He is a mature, calm, respectful and skillful lawyer – a lawyer's lawyer.

MATTHEW J. PERRY, JR. CIVILITY AWARD FOR A LAWYER GOES TO BOBBY FULLER

Bobby Fuller was recognized for his civility and gracious leadership in the community. Bobby has been a commercial real estate attorney in Columbia for more than 25 years. He has also been an active member of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church serving as Clerk of Session, Chair of Transition Committee and a Sunday school teacher.

John McArthur, who presented the award to Bobby remarked, "I have personally witnessed Bobby's civility and the effect on those around him in two forums. First, I am a commercial real estate attorney and have witnessed Bobby's work on numerous occasions in the forum of zoning law. Bobby is recognized as perhaps the preeminent zoning lawyer in the Midlands. His calm and civil manner permeates the proceeding; it affects how council members, commission members, other participants and ordinary citizens perceive the entire process. Through Bobby's civility, he strengthens the citizens' faith in the fairness of the zoning process. I have also come to know Bobby well through our work together on matters at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Bobby's efforts in the church arena are the same as in legal proceedings. His civility in all matters inspires confidence

in the fairness of the process by all constituents within the church."

McArthur stated that "the essence of the law is that in a civilized society, the law provides a peaceful and civil means for settlement of disputes. The public's respect for the law and for

our legal process depends on the public's trust that the process is fair and that trust is bolstered to a large degree by the practice of civility in conducting our legal affairs. Unfortunately, the importance of civility in the practice of law, the recognition that it is not just good manners but is an important underpinning of respect for our entire legal system, has been lost by many. And so we take time to recognize someone who upholds the importance of civility, an award named for Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr., who always exemplified civility." McArthur closed by stating: "Simply put, we should all be more like Bobby."



JUDGE MATTHEW PERRY CIVILITY AWARD FOR A JUDGE GOES TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE JAMES



Harry C. Wilson, Jr. presented the Matthew Perry Civility Award for a Judge to George C. James, Sr. at this year's annual meeting. Wilson stated that "there is no lawyer practicing in this state nor any judge holding court in this state who could

possibly set a better example of courteousness, civility and fair dealing than Judge Perry." Wilson added, "Judge James, it is truly an honor for you to receive this award and to be recognized in the same company as Judge Perry."

Judge James grew up in Sumter and attended Wilson Hall, where he graduated in 1978. He then entered The Citadel and was a Citadel Scholar, graduating cum laude in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Next he attended the University of South Carolina School of Law, graduating in 1985. Judge James returned to Sumter and

began the practice of law with Richardson, James and Player and became a partner in 1988. Wilson added, "That firm merged with our firm, Lee, Erter, Wilson, James, Holler & Smith in 2000, and I had the privilege of working with Judge James until he was selected to the Circuit Court Bench on July 1, 2006."

In private practice, he concentrated on insurance fraud litigation, general defense litigation and 1983 Civil Rights Defense Litigation. Wilson remarked, "It seems to me that he never really recognized how good he was and he looked at trials as just another part of the job. It was uncanny to me how calm he remained throughout the preparation time and in the trial of the case. He was never loud or overbearing but it was obvious the juries liked what he had to say and how he said it. Judge James was an excellent trial attorney."

Wilson closed by thanking the members of the Richland County Bar Association for honoring "one of our favorite sons, George C. James, Jr., with this most prestigious Matthew J. Perry Civility Award."

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE RCBA

After serving four years on the Executive Committee and the last year as President-Elect, Bob McKenzie was installed as President of the RCBA at the annual meeting in December. This was the culmination of years of active service to the association in committee work and program and project participation.

Bob is senior partner of McDonald, McKenzie, Rubin, Miller and Lybrand, L.L.P. He has practiced with this firm and its predecessors since graduation from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is an active litigator in both state and federal court handling jury and non-jury appeals in a wide range of civil litigation. He was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He has attained the designation Diplomat in ABOTA. He is a Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers and a Master of the Bench, John Belton O'Neill Inn of Court, American Inns of Court. He is listed in the publications *South Carolina Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Within the time constraints posed by a full time law practice, he has supported various charitable and civic endeavors in our community, he is active in his church where he sings in the choir (his daughter, Beth Mears, is Director of Music), he works intermittently on the reading list provided by his lawyer son, Jack, and tries to keep up with the activities of his other son, Rob, and his family in Roswell, Georgia.

He has five grandchildren of whom he is very proud. His wife, Sally, allows him some time at Edisto Beach in exchange for maintenance and yard work. He hunts as often as he can and fishes occasionally. On the weekends, he often is seen driving his 1982 Jeep Cherokee in the vicinity of his non-productive farm in Blythewood, where he also relaxes.



Past President Beth Bernstein and Bob McKenzie exchange gavel and leadership of the RCBA

NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE RCBA

Will Thomas has been a member of the RCBA since 1999, and previous to serving on the RCBA Executive Committee, has 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 at the Medical University of South Carolina

Medical Center in hospital administration.

When not practicing law, Will enjoys spending time with his wife, Ashley, and soon to be five year old son, Rogers. When it is warmer, Will enjoys spending time at the beach teaching Rogers to surf. Will enjoys biking, running and taking Rogers to Riverbanks Zoo, and Rogers never seems to tire it. Will has long been an avid Gamecock fan and despite the team's constant struggles on the gridiron, knows that one day the Gamecocks will win the SEC Championship...or at least finish first in the SEC East.



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

NEWEST MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Amy Hill is an attorney at Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC who practices in the areas of commercial disputes, legal malpractice defense and estate litigation. Amy received her undergraduate degree in accounting from Clemson University and

her law degree from the University of South Carolina where she was a member of the Environmental Law Journal.

She previously received the Civic Star Award for her work with the Cinderella Project. She has served on the South Carolina Bar Ethics Advisory Committee, Conventions Committee, and Building Committee. For the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division, Amy has served

as co-chair of the Cinderella Project, co-chair of the Women to Work Project and co-chair of the Minority and Diversity Committee. She currently serves on the South Carolina Bar Professional Responsibility Committee and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. She is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Columbia.

Amy is married to attorney Matthew B. Hill who practices in Richland County at Ellis, Lawhorne, & Sims, PA. They live in Forest Hills with their two boys Burns, age four, and Grant, age two. When not playing with her boys, Amy enjoys reading, traveling, and having a glass of wine with friends.

The editors welcome your inquiries, comments and contributions:

RCBA, P.O. Box 7632, Columbia, SC
29202 or rcba@scbar.org.

2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



First Row (left to right):

John Hearn (Executive Committee), Amy Hill (Executive Committee), Beth Bernstein (Past President)

Second Row (left to right):

Will Thomas (President-Elect), Bob McKenzie (President), Ian McVey (Executive Committee)

Not Pictured: Jody A. Bedenbaugh (Treasurer), Ward Bradley (*RichBar News* Editor)

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RICHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS JURY VERDICTS

2008-CP-40-4923

Randolph Hallman

vs.

Henry J. Cunningham

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: William Padgett

Defendant: William Watkins

Cause of Action: Property/Partition
440

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages \$30,000.00

2007-CP-40-6859

Dayna Lee Gentile, et al

vs.

City of Columbia

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: August Gustav Swarat II

Defendant: Peter M. Balthazor

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal
Injury

Verdict: For plaintiff

Isabella Gentile \$774.00, Dayna
Gentile \$46,000.00

2008-CP-40-352

Johnny Johnson, Ollie Johnson

vs.

Mary B. Roberts

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Overture Walker

Defendant: Dale E. Lang

Cause of action: Auto/ Personal
Injury

Verdict for Defendant

2008-CP-40-2630

Eldon Eargle

vs.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins.
Co.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff John K. Koon

Defendant: Timothy A. Domin

Cause of Action: Contract/
Insurance

Verdict: for Plaintiff

2008-CP-40-7255

Lyall and Richard Abbott

Vs.

Gene Fulton

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: D. Fedor

Defendant: J Andrew Delany

Cause of Action: Automobile/
Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$15,000.00

08-CP-40-4382

S.G.Hartgrave

vs.

Richard D. Davis

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: S. H. Edon, Jr.

Defendant: J.D. Hammond

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal
Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$28,244.54

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TEXT PARTE

Judge Nikiya “Nikki” M. Hall

It’s not easy to catch up with Richland County Central Court Magistrate Judge Nikiya “Nikki” M. Hall, between bond hearings, preliminary hearings, trials and answering questions from court personnel – what DO you do with a passport when a defendant is ordered to forfeit it as a condition of bond?

Fortunately, Judge Hall loves a challenge. As magistrate, she enjoys all of the various duties but favors jury trials because they provide her with an opportunity to delve into legal issues. Along with Judges Kirby Shealy and Caroline Streater, she presides over Richland County Central Court, alternating between her office on Huger Street and the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

A former law clerk to the Honorable L. Casey Manning and a Fifth Circuit Court assistant solicitor, she likes “people law” as opposed to “paper law.” For Judge Hall, she likes criminal law because it involves “dealing with actual lives.” However, it also provides the often difficult challenge of balancing the interests of the victims and the defendants. It’s hard when you have a traumatized burglary victim juxtaposed with a “a seventeen-year-old kid who just got caught up with what his friends were doing and now he’s facing fifteen to life.”

She enjoys the exposure to the citizens of Richland County that being a magistrate provides. Unlike other courts, there’s no shame attached to being called into magistrate’s court, so she is more likely than a circuit court judge to be approached in the grocery store. “Almost everyone’s been to traffic court,” she observes with a laugh.

Judge Hall always wanted to be a lawyer, even writing a paper on the subject at age 10. After she graduated from Irmo High School, she went to historic Spelman College in Atlanta, where she majored in English.

In 2004, she graduated from the prestigious Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC, where students are given many opportunities to experience both lawmaking and legal interpretation first hand. The school is in walking

distance to the United States Supreme Court and Capitol Hill.

“As competitive as Georgetown Law is, they have a big support network and won’t let you fail.” It’s very hard to get into “but they have a lot of resources” to “make sure you succeed.”

As a Georgetown student, she was taught by such esteemed faculty as the late Professor Sam Dash, chief counsel of the Senate Watergate Committee.

Now that she’s back home in South Carolina, Judge Manning, as well as Judge Michelle Childs and Associate Justice Kaye Hearn, have been her mentors. “Judge Manning taught me everything I know,” and she still calls on him for advice. The colorful circuit court judge comments, “she is an outstanding and patriotic citizen of the first rank. She has a keen and insightful intellect and she’s fair and compassionate. Her honesty and integrity makes even George Washington appear devious.”

Judge Hall suggests to lawyers who appear before her to try to work out the minor issues in advance and in a civil manner. She also wants lawyers to be accessible to their clients, lamenting that some defendants tell her they paid their lawyer but haven’t seen him or her since.

Judge Hall also suggests that lawyers continue to learn and not do things just “because we’ve always done it this way.”

She hopes for additional advances in technological use in the South Carolina courts but notes many advances have been made. She worries about the more rural areas of South Carolina.



continued on page 14...

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 18, 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. 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.

CALLING ALL LAWYER-MUSICIANS

The Young Lawyers Division of the SC Bar is calling upon talented lawyer-musicians to participate in this year's Justice Jam, scheduled for April 30 at the Elbow Room in Columbia. Proceeds will benefit Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands. Bands of all flavors are encouraged to submit a demo for consideration. The only qualification is that bands have at least one attorney member.

Please send MP3s to Travis Olmert at travis.olmert@carterlaw.pa.com or CD demos to Travis at Carter, Smith, Merriam, Rogers & Traxler, PA, P.O. Box 10828, Greenville, SC 29603. All demos should be submitted on or before March 22. Remember, only send a MP3 or demo if your band is willing to play.

The lineup will be chosen and announced by April 2.



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NOTEWORTHY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weston Adams III has been elected chairman of the S.C. Conservation Bank.

Rowland P. Alston III announces the opening of **Rowland P. Alston III, LLC** located at PO Box 90928, Columbia 29290. Phone: 776-8141.

Bowman & Brooke announces the opening of its Columbia office located at 1441 Main St. Suite 1000, 29201. Phone: 726-0020. Managing Partner **Joel H. Smith** will lead the firm. Other partners joining the firm are **Pamela Roberts, Courtney Shytle** and **Richard Willis**.

William C. Boyd has received the 2009 Real Estate Award from the March of Dimes, South Carolina Chapter.

Burris Law Firm announces that **Wayne Ridgeway** has become a partner of the firm.

C. Cantzon Foster II announces that **James S. Guignard** and **James E. Knight, Jr.** have been named Of Counsel to the Foster Law Office located at 3100 Devine St., Columbia 29205. Phone: 400-1921.

Collins & Lacy announces that **Ellen M. Adams** has been selected to serve as a member of The Council on Litigation Management. The firm also announces that **Joel W. Collins, Stanford E. Lacy, Gray T. Culbreath, Jack D. Griffeth, Ellen M. Adams, Peter H. Dworjanyn, L. Henry McKellar** and **Donald Van Riper** have been selected for inclusion in the *2010 Best Lawyers in America*. Collins & Lacy also announces that **Logan M. Wells** has become an associate of the firm located at 1330 Lacy St. 29201. Phone: 256-2660.

Childs & Halligan announces that **Tyler R. Turner** has become an associate of the firm located at 1301 Gervais St.

Suite 900, 29201. Phone: 254-4035.

Sterling Davies has been elected secretary of the S. C. Defense Trial Attorneys Association.

The Law Office of Robert Dodson announces its relocation to 1722 Main St., Suite 200, 29201. Phone: 252-2600.

Ellis Lawhorne announces that **Earl Ellis, Jr.** a founding shareholder of the firm was recently selected by *Best Lawyers in America* as the Columbia SC Best Lawyers Workers' Compensation Lawyer of the Year for 2010 and that **Jonathan P. "J.P." Lee** was selected as a member of the 2010 class of Leadership Columbia.

Fisher & Phillips has received a SELMA Award from the Legal Marketing Association Southeast Chapter for its client education programming.

Grier Law Firm announces that it has changed its name to **Grier Cox & Cranshaw LLC** located at 2999 Sunset Blvd. West Columbia 29169. They also have offices in Spartanburg.

Gray Culbreath of Collins & Lacy has been elected to the position of president-elect for the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association (SCDTAA).

Victoria Eslinger and Sue Erwin Harper have been recertified as specialists in employment and labor law by the SC Supreme Court.

Elizabeth Van Doren Gray, Rebecca Laffitte, Ted Speth and **Kathy Dudley Helms** have been invited to become fellows in the Litigation Counsel of America.

Henry Hamilton announces the relocation of his law office, Hamilton & Associates LLC, to 1122 Lady St. Suite 1010, 29201. All other information

remains the same.

Howser, Newman & Besley, L.L.C., announces that **Michal Cooper Jones** has become a member of the firm located at 1508 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201. (803) 758-6000; Fax: (803) 758-4445.

Catherine H. Kennedy has been elected a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Kristina L. Baker announces the opening of her law firm, **KL Baker Law Firm LLC** located at PO Box 1992, Columbia 29202. Phone: 234-0754. Fax: 753-9726.

Tommy Lavender has been elected a fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers.

Lester & Hendrix announces that **Anthony J. Charles** has joined the firm as an associate located at 1901 Gadsden St. Suite A, 29201. Phone: 252-4700.

Masella Law Firm announces that **S. Prentiss Counts** has become an associate of the firm located at 917 Calhoun St., 29201. Phone: 748-9990.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie is pleased to announce that attorney **David M. Bornemann** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 700 Gervais St. #300. Phone: 779-2300.

Nelson Mullins announces that **Betsy Johnson Burn, Amanda Kitts** and **Ronnie McMahan** have become partners of the firm.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Mark Knight** has been named "Columbia, SC Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year" for *2010 Best Lawyer in America*. The firm also announces that **George A. Scott, Jr.** has become an associate of the firm.

TEXT PARTE...continued from page 11

Judge Streater notes that Judge Hall has a professional affect on the bench. She does have a good poker face, and it difficult to read. In addition, Judge Streater observes that research is her strong suit so lawyers need to be make sure they accurately cite the law in her court.

Off the bench, the striking and petite jurist is affable and clever. In her spare time, the energetic judge enjoys working out at the gym.

She's not exactly sure where she wants to be in the future, but notes that whatever path her career takes it must involve "people law." Judge Hall pretty clearly has many options open to her. We can just hope that future is in Richland County.

"Text Parte" is written by Eleanor Duffy Cleary, a sole practitioner in Columbia. You can reach Ellen at edcleary@att.net.

THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OFFERS TRAINING

The Children's Law Center, School of Law, University of South Carolina is conducting a training for attorneys subject to Rule 608 civil appointments in DSS child abuse and neglect cases.

The training will be held in Columbia on Friday, March 19, 2010 at the Courtyard by the Marriott Downtown (next to the law school). Agenda and registration information to be sent out to Richland County Bar Members at a later time.

The training is offered FREE OF CHARGE to attorneys on the civil appointment list for the 5th circuit. For attorneys not subject to these appointments, the cost for attendance is \$225.00.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING



To see and download all of the photos from the Annual Meeting and other RCBA events, go to www.richbar.org and click on "Event Photos."



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NOTEWORTHY...continued from page 13

Nexsen Pruet has earned designation as a Midlands Green Business.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Tushar Chikhlikar** and **Suzanne Grigg** have been elected partners of the firm.

Moore Taylor & Thomas announces that **William B. Fortino** and **R Nichols "Nick" Riley Jr.** have become associates of the firm located at 1799 Sunset Blvd., W. Columbia 29171. Phone: 796-9160. The firm also announces that **Jane H. Downey**, of counsel in the firm was recently appointed to both the South Carolina Pro Bono Committee and the Editorial Board of the *South Carolina Lawyer* magazine.

Nelson Mullins announces that **Brian M. Barnwell**, **Emma T. Dean**, **William D. "Will" Harter**, **Jason P. Luther**, **Susan B. Nielsen** and **Keith Poston**

have become associates of the firm located at 1320 Main St., 29201. Phone: 799-2000.

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein announces that **Michael E. Kozlerek** has become a partner of the firm.

Richardson Plowden announces that **Kathryn Landers Valdes** has become an associate of the firm located at 1901 Main St., suite 1200. 29201. Phone: 779-8900.

Rogers Townsend & Thomas announces the addition of four attorneys to their firm: **Kristine Cato**, **Stephen Lenker**, **Angela Kirby** as shareholders and **Kathleen Palinski** as Special Counsel. **Rogers Townsend & Thomas** announces that it has formed a merger with the North Carolina firm of **Kellam & Pettit** operating under the name of

Rogers Townsend & Thomas.

Simmons Law Firm announces that **Michael G. Corley** has become an associate of the firm located at 1711 Pickens St. 29201. Phone: 779-4600.

Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte announces that **Bess DuRant** has become an associate of the firm located at 1310 Gadsden St, 29211. Phone: 929-1400.

Tompkins & McMaster announces the relocation of its office to 1530 Richland St., 29201.

Turner Padgett Graham & Laney announces that **Sam Sammataro** has been elected a shareholder and that **T. Hudson Williams** and **Virginia "Ginny" Williams** have become associates of the firm located at 1901 Main St., 29201. Phone: 254-2200.

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SHARING ARRANGEMENT: Across the street from Richland County Courthouse. Conference room, extensive library, Westlaw available, 2 furnished offices, break-room, secretary/paralegal. Free parking. Send inquiries to sgwin@complexlaw.net.

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE: 1226 Pickens St., individual offices for firms or sole practitioner, 500 to 5000 sq. ft. Ample parking, Call: 256-4500.

OFFICE SPACE: 1911 Barnwell St. Attractive, professional office suite; reception area; two offices, conference room; direct parking; \$600 per month plus utilities. Call 779-6365.



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CONTACT:

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

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

2999 Sunset Boulevard #200
West Columbia, SC 29169

Phone: (803) 731-0030

Fax: (803)-731-4059

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