

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

JODY A. BEDENBAUGH
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President

BOB MCKENZIE
President-Elect

UPCOMING EVENTS

Judicial BBQ

Thurs., May 14 at 5:30 PM

Family Night at the Zoo

Thurs., June 4 at 6:00 PM

Memorial Service

Fri., June 12 at 12:00 PM

Lunch and Learn

How to Handle a Court Appointed Abuse and Neglect Case

at Nelson Mullins on
Mon., June 1 at 12:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE 2009

Judicial Reception - Aug. 20

CLE - Nov. 6

Annual Meeting - Dec. 10

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The best and safest thing is to keep a balance in your life, acknowledge the great powers around us and in us. If you can do that, and live that way, you are really a wise man. - Euripides (484 BC - 406 BC)

As I sit down to write this month's President's message, I have just resolved a wrongful death damages dispute through mediation; organized and celebrated my daughter's 5 year old birthday party -- a party of 30 children at the Columbia Marionette Theater; celebrated my sixth wedding anniversary; and marked another milestone for my other daughter -- the arrival of her first tooth at 8 months. And all of this in the last 24 hours! Am I overwhelmed, tired, and feel a sense of guilt? Yes.



I don't think I am alone in feeling the demands of career, family, community service and personal sanity. Is it a constant struggle for you to balance your busy schedules to no avail? How do we strike a balance?

In attempting to answer this question, I looked to others in our profession for ideas and solutions. Jill Burkhardt and Lisa Wientreb, fellow attorneys, offered an interesting perspective, as follows.

Although it may not feel or look like you thought it would, you may already be doing it! You just need to redefine your success. Do you hold yourself to a high professional and personal standard? Do you work diligently and fully apply yourself to each task given? And when making those hard decisions -- whether to go to a board meeting or your child's ballet recital; whether to stay at the office one more hour and miss putting your child to bed -- are these decisions made with thoughtful consideration? Are these decisions taking into account your deeply held priorities? If so, then you have struck the right balance.

continued on page 6...

FROM THE EDITOR

Seasoning



Change. Anyone have any? At least the winter of our discontent is behind us, and the dog days of summer have not yet descended. No, it's equinox time. Fresh leaves in a thousand shades of green. Verdant fields.

Spring hopes eternal, yes? Eternally vernal.

2009 marks my fifteenth year at the Bar. Taking the long view, it's been a good run for the law business, for the economy, for the country. Emphasis on has.

Now I remember why I wound up at the corner of Sumter and Greene in the first place. The year was 1990. Two of my brothers and I were in the family business, schlepping sheet metal for one of what used to be called The Big Three. (As I write this, I wonder if by the time you read it there will still be Three. Or Two. Or Big.) Dad was ready to call it quits given the looming recession of 1991. Law school seemed a prudent alternative, and it proved to be. Graduation, and there were jobs, jobs, jobs. Cars. Houses. More cars. Flat screens. \$150 cable bills. Cable bills!

Hot fun in the summertime, it was. Some reveled in our success to the point of excess, and some far beyond that. Some of us worked hard; some of us took a less diligent path. Some of us lived within our means. (I know at least two such scriveners among us. They aren't smug. They are out helping folks now, even as they struggle.) Many of us weren't so prescient. We spent. We spent our paychecks. We spent our savings. Many of us spent our houses. And then some of us were just spent.

Suddenly—suddenly—last summer was over. We went back to school, and there was a new vocabulary in place. Bailout. Toxic. Meltdown. Conservatorship. Too big to fail. At first, it was the other guy, the other industry. And then the other

girl, you know, up in New York, she landed that big job after school and now she's back home?

And then maybe it was you.

So where are we? What now? As the great philosopher Madge once said: "You're soaking in it." Spring has sprung forward. You see, the March equinox is the movement when the sun crosses the line in the sky above the earth's equator - the true celestial equator - from south to north, around March 20-21 of each year. At that time, day and night are balanced to nearly 12 hours each all over the world and the earth's axis of rotation is perpendicular to the line connecting the centers of the earth and the sun.



Somehow that seems fitting. We are at a midpoint, at the fulcrum between darkness and light. And we are moving toward the light. The light is different this year, though. The greenscape up ahead is not the color of money. Instead, it's the promise of the garden, the soil, the good earth...all of which must be tilled, worked, weeded, nourished...before giving up its bounty of the true green, the green that is real. Collateralized debt obligations don't flourish in direct sunlight; corn and beans do just fine.

continued on page 7...

HEALTH & FITNESS

“Thank You Sir, May I Have Another!” or Why Paddling’s Not Just For Fraternities Anymore

In the course of your travels from home to work and back again, I’ll wager that many of you have noted that you no longer need an overcoat, that there’s a subtle fragrance in the air, or that the previously bare foliage is becoming simultaneously fuzzier and more vibrant. Others of you may have noted that a judicious squirt from the windshield wipers was better able to clear the blar from your vision than even that second cup of coffee. Those of you more oblivious to these signs have, at the very least, had to set your clocks forward. Indeed, one need not be a soothsayer to bear witness to such auguries as these.

Yes, it’s here, regardless of the official date for the vernal equinox, Spring has arrived to Richland County. With the warmer weather and sunshine comes the lure of the outdoors, and while our lakes and rivers may once have seemed relatively uninviting in the cold, they now become positively enticing. What does this have to do with health and fitness, you ask? Surely he does not propose that we swim the lakes and rivers for fitness? No, I don’t, and don’t call me Shirley.

The many lakes and rivers in close proximity to Richland County provide great opportunities for canoeing and kayaking, and yes, fair reader, your arms, upper torso, and core will benefit mightily from paddling. Additionally, what other form of exercise will also allow you to idly float, fish, and even hoist the proverbial 12 ounce curl (should you be so inclined) all at the same time? Once again, enjoyment and exercise! Further, when the heat index is in the triple digits, the Saluda River, whose waters exit the base of the dam and thus the bottom of Lake Murray, remains a breathtakingly cool and refreshing 50 to 60 degrees.

When it comes to paddling, most people are more familiar with canoes and less conversant with kayaks. While the uninitiated may avoid kayaks due to the legitimate desire not to end up floating upside down and face first through rapids, there are many sorts of kayaks other than whitewater kayaks. See <http://www.kayakhelp.com/types-of-kayaks.php>. In par-

ticular, sit-on-top, recreational, and touring kayaks merit your consideration if whitewater is not your fancy.

Believe it or not, the Broad, Saluda and Congaree Rivers offer both “flat water” paddling as well as whitewater rapids classed I through V! I can think of no other metropolitan area that actually has class V rapids that run through town. Water flow fluctuations incident to SCE&G’s hydroelectric operations can dramatically affect the Saluda, and to a lesser extent, the Congaree. Be certain to check <http://www.sceg.com/en/my-community/lower-saluda-river> for information regarding water levels and planned releases.

The best way to familiarize yourself with existing options and opportunities for paddling is to contact the two outfitters, River Runner Outdoor Center, <http://www.riverrunner.us/index.asp>, and Adventure Carolina, <http://www.adventurecarolina.com>, which both offer guided tours, lessons, rentals and sales. Trips vary from the relatively mundane, such as the diversion canal tour, to more specialized jaunts through the Saluda’s impressive array of whitewater rapids, to overnight trips along Cedar Creek, through the Congaree National Park, and to the landing adjacent to the Highway 601 bridge over the Congaree River.

continued on page 4...



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Master-in-Equity Liaison	Sam Waters	771-7900
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Probate Court Liaison	Mike Polk	929-0096
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Program	Betsy Bradley John Bradley Ian McVey	296-3140 231-7825 256-2371
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Recognition	Reece Williams	256-2371
Young Lawyers	Matt Bogan Rebecca Roser Jay Bressler	255-9589 779-8900 779-3080
Members who wish to offer assistance or ideas are welcome to call the committee chair. Many things are being planned by your association and the RCBA welcomes your input.		

HEALTH & FITNESS

(continued from page 3)

My favorite “quick and easy” trip puts in at the Gervais Street Bridge landing (between Senate and Gervais on Gist Street) and takes out at the Rosewood landing (at the end of Rosewood Drive, after you cross Bluff Road). The only trick to this trip is to stay to the river right (like “stage right” except you are facing downstream instead of the audience) after you go under the railroad trestles so you are positioned to shoot the locks and avoid the Low Head Dam. Canoes, whitewater kayaks, recreational kayaks and sit-on-tops are appropriate for this venture. Both the landings are on the river left.

For flat water paddling on Lake Murray, refer to <http://www.lakemurrayguide.com/sc-marinas.htm> for a list of public landings and marinas where one can put in. Dreher Island State Park provides a particularly nice launching point for a day on the water, and its location on the lake provides better access to the upper reaches of Lake Murray, where motor boating traffic is less. Touring kayaks are best for covering long distances on flat water.

Sunshine, warm weather, and water all go together hand in hand. Exercise incident to a good paddling trip followed by a cool dip can present the pinnacle of refreshment for both the mind and body. Richland County has an abundance of venues in close proximity for you to get in your paddling exercise, enjoy nature, and share a fun trip with family and friends. Nothing is stopping you - just do it!

“Health & Fitness” is written by Drayton Hastie, who can be reached at dhastie@rctt-lam.com.

IAN McVEY - NEWEST MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



The newest member of the RCBA Executive Committee is Ian McVey, who practices with Callison Tighe & Robinson, LLC. Ian is a litigator concentrating his practice in commercial litigation, business and contract disputes, construction, title and real property litigation, as well as residential and commercial mortgage foreclosures. He is a graduate of the

University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. After living in Charleston for three years, Ian moved to Columbia to attend law school, graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2003. Ian clerked for the Honorable John C. Hayes, III, resident judge for the Sixteenth Circuit prior to returning to Columbia in 2004 to practice law.

Prior to joining Callison Tighe, Ian practiced in the areas of real estate, foreclosures, and litigation.

Ian has been active in the Richland County Bar Association since returning to Columbia serving as Chair of its Young Lawyers Division. He also served as the chair of Membership and Publicity Committee of the South Carolina Bar's Young Lawyers Division.

Ian is married to Theile Branham McVey, an attorney with the John D. Kassel on Laurel Street. He and his wife attend Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, though he will admit nowhere nearly often enough. They have one daughter, Molly, who is almost two years old. When not practicing law, Ian enjoys spending time with his family or outdoors.

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE ZOO

Come and have a private viewing of the baby giraffe and the baby Koala Bear! Their activities have only been open to viewing for a couple of months.

Richland County and Lexington County bar members and their families are invited to get together for this enjoyable evening on June 4th 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. After all, the regular zoo guests are gone for the evening, so we will have a wonderful time having the zoo and all its animals to our-

selves. 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.



Your Executive Committee has decided to make this a free evening for members and their immediate families. 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. Postcard reminders will be mailed out. Reservations will be REQUIRED in order to prepare the right amount of food. The zoo charges us half price for children between four and eight. Please let us know the ages of the children you are planning to bring with you when you make your reservations.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued from page 1)



Isabel and Caroline Sanders

of whether you have met success in striking a balance. Your basic core principles are your best guide.

Balance is the equilibrium of opposing interests or forces. Recognize that these decisions are sometimes agonizing and are not without sacrifice and compromise. You cannot make everyone happy all of the time and pleasing others cannot be the sole measure

Assess your “balance success” over a long period of time rather than by days or weeks. While a snapshot into one week of your life may look as if you are out of balance, you should broaden your scope and observe yourself over a longer period of time. Ask yourself, have I been consistent in following my core principles? If so, then I think you are obtaining balance in sync with your priorities.

In our busy lives, we should not forget to give ourselves permission to redefine how we manage balance within our life. Although it may not be always perfect, we are doing it and it is working for us, or at least we are doing our best and striving for it. Rather than feeling guilty, we should congratulate ourselves on our success.

This month's message was inspired by a column in the SDCBA Lawyer, “Balance: It Doesn't Mean Pleasing Everybody All the Time” by Jill Burkhardt and Lisa Weinreb, 2007.



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There are some things so serious you have to laugh at them.
- Niels Bohr

PMAP - YOUR GUIDE TO...

Succession planning. No matter how old you are or how good your health is, you - particularly those of you in solo practice - need to have a plan for disability or death. Many lawyers have no idea what would happen to their law practice if they died or suddenly were unable to work. A new column in the webzine *Law Practice Today* addresses this and other issues lawyers face in their practices. It is written by bar association practice management advisors across the U.S. and Canada. The current article, co-authored by Courtney Kennaday, Director of the Bar's Practice Management Assistance Program, is titled "When You Go to Heaven, Will Your Practice Go to Hell?" For assistance with your succession planning, e-mail pmap@scbar.org.

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

FROM THE EDITOR

...continued from page 2

This spring, rediscover what is real. Reconnect with your family, with your friends, and yes, even with the facts in your files...because each of those things, in their own way, can vernalize you something fierce. Embrace the equal parts of dark and light, the promise of a supper outside on a warm May evening, catch a baseball game down in the Vista.

Pitchers and catchers have long since reported. Time for the rest of the team to step up. Pace yourself. It's going to be a long season, but we can only play it one game at a time. Stay loose. Be the ball.



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

RICHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS JURY VERDICTS

2006-CP-40-6758

Creative Communications Services
vs.
Harold R. Beard Agency, Travelers
Property Casualty Co. of America
Attorneys:
Plaintiff : Ian McVay, Richard Dittweiler
Defendant: Byron Roberts
Cause of Action: Contract/ Insurance
Verdict: For Defendant
Actual Damages \$3500.00

2006-CP-40-5485

Tori N. Amick
vs.
Samuel A Darko
Attorneys: Plaintiff: Everette J. Mercer
Defendant: John M. Grantland
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict : For Defendant

2006-CP-40-6972

Marilyn and Rohn McVeigh
vs.
William Woods
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: David Fedor
Defendant: Mark Goddard
Cause of Action: Auto/personal Injury
Verdict: For Plaintiff

2006-CP-40-3155

State of South Carolina
vs.
Joe McFadden, Jr.
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: R. Westmoreland Clarkson
Defendant: Belinda Davis-Branch

Cause of Action: Sexual Predator
Verdict: For Defendant

2006-CP-40-1329

State of South Carolina
vs.
Anthony I. Miller
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: R. Westmoreland Clarkson
Defendant: Belinda Davis-Branch
Cause of Action: Sexual Predator
Verdict: For Plaintiff

2004-CP-40-2974

Deborah w. Culler
vs.
Richland County Sheriff's Dept
Leon Lott
Attorneys: Plaintiff: Joseph Henry, Barron Grier, Brad Crenshaw
Defendant: Robbie Garfield
Cause of Action: Personal injury/ Malicious Persecution/Libel and Slander/ Assault
Verdict: For Defendant

2007-CP-40-6132

Tony Leonard
vs.
Bradley Ray
Attorneys: Plaintiff: Barry George
Defendant: Damon Christian Wlodarczyk
Cause of Action; Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: For Plaintiff
Actual Damages \$3628.78

2006-CP-40-1590

James Cooper Darby, James and Dawn Darby
vs.
Thomas Guidice, SC OB/GYN As-

soc., Palmetto Baptist Hospital, Palmetto Baptist Hospital, Palmetto Health Alliance, Palmetto Medical Center
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Alexander B. Cash
Defendant: Robert Hood, James Hood
Deudra Hightower, Monteith Todd
Cause of Action: Medical Malpractice
Verdict: For Defendant

2007-CP-40-6505

Isabella Scruggs
vs.
Jerry M. Snow
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Barry George
Defendant: William Bowman III
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: For Defendant

2007-CP-40-0847

Ronnie Hood
vs.
Mark Holcombe
Attorneys:
Plaintiff: Daryl Hawkins
Defendant: Nicole Haltiwanger
Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury
Verdict: for Plaintiff
Actual Damages: \$179,001.00



MEMORIAL PROCEEDING SET FOR JUNE

The Richland County Bar Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 12 at 12:00 PM on the second floor of the Judicial Center. The Honorable James R. Barber will be the presiding judge.

Ward Bradley, chair of the RCBA Memorial Committee, will organize and plan the ceremony. It is traditionally held in June of each year. This program is mandated by the court for the association. 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 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.

Those being remembered this year who died in 2008 are: James W. Alford, Everett N. Brandon, Walter W. Brooks, James E. Chaffin, Jr., J. Reese Daniel, William E. Hancock III, John W. Lindsay, T. English McCutchen III, Douglas McKay, Thomas T. Moore, William J. Nicholson, Gene V. Pruet, Hugh S. Roberts, H. Clay Walker, Jr. and Nancy M. Young.

ABA SECTION OF LITIGATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

You are invited to the ABA Section of Litigation Annual Conference from April 29 – May 1, 2009 at the Marriott Marquis, Atlanta Georgia. Choose from more than 60 outstanding CLE programs organized in 20 practice tracks presented by an outstanding national faculty. Hear the new Attorney General of the United States, Eric Holder, speak at the John Minor Wisdom Awards Luncheon on May 1, 2009.

With reduced registration fees, this conference is a great opportunity to fulfill your annual CLE requirements in two days. Register online by April 8 to receive a discounted registration fee. First-time conference attendees who are Section members also receive an additional discount. As a member of a participating local bar association, you are entitled to an even lower registration fee. For more information and to register, please <http://www.abanet.org/litigation/nosearch/sac09.html>.



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TEXT PARTE

Judge Stephen D. Dennis

Talking to Columbia Municipal Judge Steven D. Dennis, it's easy to forget he wears a robe over twelve hours a week, presiding over city trials, preliminary hearings, and bond hearings. He is so easy-going and good-humored off the bench. Judge Dennis is generous with his laughter, which is thunderous and sincere. He tells a great story and it's obvious it would be fun to socialize with him.

However, his common sense and respect for the people who come into his court dominate when he puts the robe on. He firmly believes that if litigants are treated with respect they will not be so disappointed if the case doesn't come out their way. "I think at the end of a court session I have got a lot of folks who leave the courtroom feeling like they have gotten a fair shake, like they have been heard, like the justice system is in good shape and that we're doing the right thing." He likes jury trials best, noting that dealing with the jurors is rewarding and interesting.

He's a total egghead, listening to tapes on science and mathematics in his car for recreation. He received his bachelor's degree at USC in Math in 1971. USC had its infamous student riots while he was there, but Judge Dennis's father was a national guardsman and warned him to lay low. He "stayed in his dorm and didn't

cause any trouble."

His sense of humor would have precluded him from making a very good revolutionary anyway.

In 1975, Judge Dennis graduated from USC law school and has practiced every kind of law imaginable for the last 34 years. He never

thought about becoming a lawyer until his junior year at Carolina, when an electrician he was working for suggested he go to law school so that there would be some trustworthy lawyers. His math skills helped him think logically and easily transferred to the law.

Raised in the mill community of Olympia, south of Columbia, he's down to earth despite the Math degree. He still has the common sense instilled by his large family. He's a cousin to the Jaco's, who own the famous Spit and Argue Club across from the Fairgrounds.

Juggling criminal and personal injury law with the demands of being a judge, he clearly enjoys being on the bench. He has been to numerous judicial seminars and conferences all over the country, honing his skills. The experience has led him to the conclusion that South Carolina's system of electing judges of the courts of record is still better than any other, despite its flaws. "I think we have good judges," he opines, noting improvement over the years.

While his original plan was not to become a lawyer, he now has started a family tradition. His son, Patrick Dennis, is chief counsel for the SC House Judiciary Committee. Son Matthew manages Lowe's home improvement stores.

When Judge Dennis is not listening to math tapes for fun, he enjoys watching baseball and horseracing. He's a Boston Red Sox fan and has been to the Kentucky Derby multiple times. At 60, he's looking forward to retirement in the years to come, when he will spend his days on his land in Georgetown County, fishing and gardening with his hound dog. In the meanwhile, Judge Dennis will continue to provide the citizens of Columbia with a court in which they will be treated with respect.

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

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JUDICIAL BBQ

It is almost that time of year again when we honor the local members of the judiciary with a fabulous BBQ. Please put the date on your calendar for Thursday, May 14 at 5:30 PM. Mike Tighe, Reece Williams, and all the Callison Tighe chefs will spend all day cooking the pigs in the parking lot at University House. Everyone has come to appreciate their expertise in preparing a delicious feast for members and their guests. There will also be other wonderful food prepared by Seawells that complements the BBQ. You are encouraged to go home and change into casual clothing.

We are encouraging you to bring your family to the event. Children four to eight are included at half price and children under four are free. 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.

Be on the lookout for a postcard for event announcing all the particulars.



RCBA Pictorial Directory

The long awaited picture directory has arrived. The books are in the RCBA office which is on the 3rd floor of the SC Bar Building on the corner of Park St. and Taylor St. Most firms have picked theirs up already. All you have to do to get your directory is to go to the Bar office and pick yours up. The directory is free to Bar members. It is a handy reference to have in your office. You can send a stamped (\$2.40) envelope (11 x 13) to Coleman Chambliss (RCBA, P.O. Box 7632, Columbia, SC 29202), and she will mail one to you.



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WWW.RICHBAR.ORG

Be sure to visit our website periodically to read announcements and more. Also, the membership directory on the site has recently been updated, so please verify that the information is correct. If you need to make corrections, please send them to Coleman Chambliss at rcba@scbar.org.

*When you get into a tight place
and everything goes against you,
till it seems as though you could
not hang on a minute longer, never
give up then, for that is just the
place and time that the tide will
turn. - Harriet Beecher Stowe*

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OFFICE SPACE: 1407 Elmwood-at one time was SC Trial Lawyers. Approx. 1800 SF. Great set up for law office. Off street parking behind building. \$1500 per month. The Wolfe Co. 771-4567.

OFFICE SPACE: 1530 Richland St. \$2432 per month, 4 separate large offices, waiting room, reception area. The Wolfe Co. 771-4567.

OFFICE SPACES AVAILABLE: OWNER WILL PAY TENANTS MOVING COSTS. Individual offices with utilities included from \$295 per office. Office suites with utilities, copier, fax, shared conference room and reception area from \$400 per office. Various locations throughout downtown Columbia: 1000 Washington Street, 2027 Taylor Street, 2800 North Main Street, 1527 Blanding Street. Contact Robert Lewis at 256-1268 or Robert@Lewis-co.com.

OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE: Great Downtown Location - convenient to Courthouses and Interstate - Spacious open lobby & reception area - Several private offices - large storage/file room - Break room/Kitchen - Currently used as attorney office, but adaptable for many uses. Call Kate Gene Dixon/Jim Boland with Russell & Jeffcoat 782-9171.

OFFICE SPACE: 2537 Gervais St. Fully restored historic home with state of the art wiring and networking, ample on-si-

te parking, shared conference and break rooms. Space suited for sole practitioners or firm, 175 to 1250 SF. Call 446-2873.

BANK OWNED OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE: 1116 Blanding Street, First Floor of Marlboro Building 2100 sq.ft. Great location directly across the street from Richland Courthouse. Entire first floor convertible into two separate units. \$250,000 negotiable, financing possible. (803) 424-5044.

OFFICE SPACE FOR SUB-LEASE: NBSC building in downtown Columbia.. 3,206 sq.ft. on 10th floor with good views, new carpet and new paint. 5 offices, two conference rooms, a work area, kitchen, file room with shelves, and receptionist/waiting area. Contact Bill Hopkins or Susie Campbell at (803) 256-6152.

ATTORNEY NEEDED: The SC Budget & Control Board is currently recruiting an attorney to provide legal support primarily in the areas of procurement law, contracts, and administrative law. The successful candidate must have a Juris Doctor degree and experience as a practicing attorney. Must be licensed as an attorney for at least 2 years and licensed to practice law in South Carolina. Interested candidates may apply online at www.jobs.sc.gov, RE: Attorney-Unclassified - 106880 by April 10th or call 803-737-0739.

OFFICE RENTAL: One room office for one attorney for rent. Includes use of waiting room, conference room, parking and electricity. 1313 Elmwood Ave. Columbia Call 254-5563.



NOTEWORTHY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert J. Thomas was recognized as the recipient of the Trial and Appellate Advocacy Award at the SC Bar Convention in January.

Daryl Dwain Smalls announces the opening of his new office, Daryl D. Smalls, Attorney at Law, located at 6326 St. Andrews Rd. #207, Columbia SC 29212. Phone: 551-9085.

Finkel Law Firm announces that **Andrew M. Wilson** and **Ashley R. Batson** have become associates of the firm located at 1201 Main St. #1800, 29201. Phone: 765-2935. Lawrence H. Brenner has become of counsel to the firm.

Paige J. Gossett, US Magistrate Judge, District of South Carolina, announces her relocation to 901 Richland St., Columbia, SC 29201: Phone: 765-9580.

Hucks & Felker announces its relocation to 9610 Two Notch Rd. #5, Columbia, 29223. Phone 865-6370.

Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart announces that **William L. Duda** has become a shareholder of the firm.

Richardson Plowden & Robinson announces that **Emily R. Gifford** has been selected for membership in the Surety Claims Institute, a national organization of select claims professionals and attorneys who deal in fidelity and surety bond matters. The firm also announces that **Drew Hamilton Butler** has become a shareholder of the firm.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd announces that **Sarah P. Spruill** has been named shareholder of the firm.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Ed Menzie** has been named Columbia Corporate Lawyer of the year by Best Lawyers in America. The firm also announces the relocation of its Greenville office to 55 E. Camperdown Way #400, Greenville 29601. **Molly Hughes Cherry** of Nexsen Pruet has been named to the SC Women Lawyers' Association board of directors. The firm also announces that **William Floyd III** has been appointed by Governor Mark Sanford to The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council.

Ficher & Phillips announces that **Ricchele Keel Taylor** has become an associate of the firm located at 1901 Main St. #1400, 29201. Phone: 255-0000

Turner Padgett Graham & Laney elected **Edward W. Laney IV** as Chief Executive Officer. The firm also announces a new governance structure with the Executive Committee led by **Edward W. Laney IV**, **R. Wayne Byrd**, **Michael S. Hopewell** and **Lanneau W. Lambert**. **Catherine Hood Kennedy** of Turner Padgett has become Special Counsel in its Business Group with the firm located at 1901 Main St. #1700, 29201. Phone 254-2200. **Nicholas Gladd** has become a shareholder of the firm.

Pope Zeigler announces that **Lee Edward Dixon** has joined the firm located at 1411 Gervais St. 29201. Phone: 354-4609.

SC Bar recognized the following Midlands lawyers as graduates of its inaugural Leadership Academy: **Tina N. Herbert** of McAngus Goudelock & Courie, **Shelby K. Leonardi** of Nelson Mullins, **Lucy Grey McIver** of Lee Er-

ter Wilson James Holler & Smith; **Ashley A. McMahan** of the SC Attorney General's Office, and **Genevieve N. Waller** of Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands.

McWhirter Bellinger & Associates announces that **Aimee J. Zmroczek** become an associate of the firm located at 1807 Hampton St., 29201. Phone: 252-5522.

Laura Valtorta announces that Knowles Publishing is offering her new book *Social Security Disability Practice*. The book is available at www.knowlespublishing.com.

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands announces the promotion of **Ginny N. Waller** as the new Executive Director of the organization.

Sowell Gray announces that **Betsy Gray** has been named Columbia "Best-the-Company Litigator of the Year" for 2009.

John O. McDougall of McDougall & Self has been selected as SC Best Lawyers Family Lawyer of the Year by *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Nelson Mullins announces that **Tom Brumgardt** has become a partner of the firm and **Rachel Hedley** has become of counsel in the firm's Columbia office.

continued on page 14...



NOTEWORTHY (continued from page 13)



Moore Taylor & Thomas announces that **Stanley L. Myers** has been named a Partner with the firm located at 1700 Sunset Blvd., W. Columbia, SC 29171.

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative announces that **Susan L. Maupin** has become the Vice President for Human Resources for the company located at PO Box 669, Lexington 29071. Phone: 749-6555.

Collins & Lacy, P.C. is pleased to announce that **Gray T. Culbreath** has been selected to receive the Gold Completion Lawyer Award from the University of South Carolina School of Law. The firm also announces that **Charles L. Appleby** has been appointed to the 2009-2010 Board of Visitors of the Medical University of South Carolina and that **Eric G. Fosmire** has been selected to serve as a member of the Council on Litigation Management.

John Schmidt and **Missy Copeland** announce the opening of Schmidt & Copeland LLC located at 1201 Main St. #100, Columbia, 29201. Phone: 748-1342.

McNair Law Firm announces that **John W. Currie** has been named by Best Lawyers as the Columbia Area Banking Lawyer of the Year.

McKay Cauthen Settana & Stubleby announces that the firm has moved to 1303 Blanding St. 29201. Phone: 256-4645.

Baker Ravenel & Bender announces that **Bradley L. Lanford** and **Samuel M.**

Mokeba have been named partners with the firm.

Carpenter Appeals & Trial Support announces that *The Best Lawyers in America* has recently selected **Charles E. Carpenter Jr.** as a member and that the American Law Institute has invited Charles E. Carpenter Jr. to membership.

The Law Office of Arie D. Bax announces that **S. Naki Richardson-Bax** has joined the firm located at 1720 Main St. #301, Columbia 29201. Phone: 255-0861

Mark Hardee and M. Christine Hardee announce the relocation of **The Hardee Law Firm** to 2301 Devine St., Columbia 29205. Phone: 799-0905

Whitener & Wharton announces that **Shawn R. Willis** has become a member of the firm and the firm has changed its name to Whitener Wharton & Willis PA.

Ellis Lawhorne announces that **Breon C. M. Walker** has become an associate of the firm located at 1501 Main St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 254-4190. The firm also announces that **Matthew B. Hill** has become a shareholder of the firm. and that **Lana H. Sims, Jr.** has been selected to serve as the South Carolina membership chair for the ABA.

SCANA Services Inc. announces that **Jim Odell Stuckey II** and **Jay Evan Bressler** have joined the legal department located at 1426 Main St., Columbia 29218. Phone: 217-6084.

Callison Tighe & Robinson announces that **George Harold "Hal" Hanlin** has rejoined the firm as a Member. **D. Reece Williams III**, of Callison Tighe &

Robinson, was recently featured in *Irish America Magazine's* "Stars of the South" tribute.

Duff White & Turner announces that **Laura Callaway Hart** has become Of Counsel to the firm located at 3700 Forest Dr. #404, 29204. Phone: 790-0603.

SC Legal Services announces that **Olivia Jones** has joined the Columbia office located at 2109 Bull St., 29201. Phone: 799-9668.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie announces that **Barrett Burley** has become an associate of the firm located at 700 Gervais St. #300, 29201. Phone: 779-2300. The firm also announces the opening of a new office in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis announces that **Christina M. Summer** has been certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court as the firm's eighth specialist in employment and labor law.

The Danley Law firm announces that **Al Danley** was selected for inclusion in the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Kernodle Root Varnado & Coleman announce that **Donna S. Givens** has joined the firm in its Midlands office, located at 4721 Sunset Boulevard, Suite D, Lexington, SC.

Lott & Searcy, LLP announces the relocation of its office to 3022 Millwood Avenue, Columbia 29205.

Judith Ann Whiting announces the relocation of her law office to 1408 Gregg St., Columbia 29201. Mailing address remains the same.

PROJECT H.E.L.P. UPDATES

Richland County attorneys are helping Columbia area homeless people with their legal needs through a new RCBA initiative in conjunction with a growing national project called Project H.E.L.P (Homeless Experience Legal Protection). Project H.E.L.P. was started by Judge Jay Zainey, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Zainey started Project H.E.L.P. in New Orleans to assist homeless people with maintaining certified copies of identification documents so that they would be available for service providers. Since Hurricane Katrina's tremendous impact on the needs of New Orleans residents, the project has grown dramatically and expanded to other cities including New York, Chicago, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Shreveport, Birmingham, Savannah, as well as Columbia.

In Columbia, the RCBA H.E.L.P. project operates a once-monthly morning clinic offering pro bono legal services and providing basic information about access to government benefits, identification documentation, housing, child custody, and other common legal issues affecting the homeless.

Community programs serving the homeless help the clinic identify clients by encouraging individuals with identified legal needs to participate.

In the five sessions since the program began in November, RCBA attorneys have already assisted approximately thirty H.E.L.P. clients. Attorney participation has been outstanding; H.E.L.P. volunteers have enjoyed meeting and working with their clients. USC Law students and area paralegals have also participated by helping clients complete intake forms.

An initial training session in October attracted nearly 60 attorneys and paralegals who received a basic information framework to assist them in counseling H.E.L.P. clients. A second training session is planned for Fall 2009. The CLE is expected to cover commonly seen issues like expungement and check fraud, which will be beneficial to attorneys who did not attend the October training as well as those who did.

continued on page 16...



SLED License 1586

Byrd, Stillinger & Associates

PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS

Brian L. Stillinger, President
MBA Business Administration
Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice
Military Fraud Investigator
Military Security Specialist, Presidential Security
1989-1997 - USMC

Elizabeth L. Cook, Senior Investigator
Juris Doctor (Licensed in SC)
Master of Public Administration
Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice
Former certified law enforcement officer
Former civil and criminal litigator

Our staff includes three additional experienced Private Investigators.

Private Investigations Infidelity and Custody Disputes Criminal Defense Insurance Fraud Process Service Covert Video & Photography Counter Surveillance Sweeps 24 Hour Surveillance	Database Research Missing Persons Individual Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Current & Previous Addresses- Date of Birth- Employment History- Asset Searches	Global Positioning Systems System Sales Rental & Monitoring Surveillance Fleet Vehicles Covert Installations Available
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1416 Park Street | Columbia, SC 29201 | 803.400.1974 | pi@investigatesc.com | www.investigatesc.com

PROJECT H.E.L.P. UPDATES

(...continued from page 15)

Project H.E.L.P's host, St. Lawrence Place, is a transitional housing facility for working homeless families in Columbia. The facility's 30 units provide housing for homeless families referred to St. Lawrence Place by various shelters and other agencies in the city. Each St. Lawrence Place family participates in programs developed by professional staff who emphasize family enrichment, education instruction, job training, and interpersonal skills. There is also an after-school program for children.

Active participation in these programs is required for families living at St. Lawrence Place. Residents are also expected to find and keep employment, maintain their apartment properly, pay bills in a timely manner, and demonstrate growth and progress in their family's life plan.

Half-day legal clinics will be held every third Thursday of the month. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Kristen Horne at 255-9530.

PRACTICAL TIPS TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

On Friday, April 17th, 2009, Amy Landers May, an Attorney for Rogers Townsend & Thomas, P.C., will speak at the Northeast Campus of Midlands Technical College on "Practical Tips to Avoid Plagiarism." This event will take place at the Center of Excellence of Technology at 151 Powell Road, Columbia, SC 29203, from 8AM - 10AM. The first half hour will be used for networking of attendees. The participants

will gain an understanding on the different types of plagiarism and ways to avoid it. In addition, each person will leave with a basic understanding of copyright laws and have the ability to correctly cite and paraphrase the words and ideas of others. This event will be sponsored by the Midlands Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD).

- PAGE 16 -

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Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

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