

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

JODY A. BEDENBAUGH
Treasurer

BOB MCKENZIE
President

WILL THOMAS
President-Elect

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Meeting/
Holiday Party**
December 9, 2010

SAVE THE DATE 2011

Oyster Roast
February 17

Judicial BBQ
May 19

Memorial Service
June 10

Family Night at Zoo
June 2

Judicial Reception
August 18



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Finale

In reviewing my previous contributions to this publication I was struck by the impression that I may have vaulted from the area of things pertaining to lawyering squarely into the realm of preaching. I have some formal training in the former; my credentials would not pass a *Daubert* challenge for the latter. Nevertheless, my interest in and love for our profession and this Bar compel strong feelings on my part. I find I am not alone in this regard.



The RCBA functions well as a voluntary organization because the membership wants this. The attendance at our functions and the words of encouragement and/or concern to the elected leadership as well as the new ideas and proposals for activities by our members have shown me there is sufficient interest to keep us ahead of the status quo. How far ahead we manage to stay depends on our vision and willingness to work.

My year as your president has been a personally rewarding experience. Our CLE speakers -- and we have sponsored eleven hours of free credits -- were as accomplished and interesting as any CLE faculty for whom premium prices are paid. We have immense talent at this Bar! Your committees have functioned in those areas that are important to the Bar's work and that further the system of justice we seek to uphold. Through cooperation the USC Law School and the RCBA have continued to provide reciprocal benefits to better the abilities of practitioners and to better prepare the students for the law. The members of the Executive Committee have been responsible and responsive while representing you. Our Executive Director, even though faced with personal loss and additional duties caused by new endeavors which we undertook, has remained cheerful and efficient. She has also planned and staged some superlative social functions which have exposed the membership to networking opportunities among lawyers and judges. For myself and on your behalf I thank all who participated.

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FROM THE EDITOR



My grandfather, Jim Bradley, was born May 13, 1917, the son of a butcher at a company store, and the third of five children. He grew up walking and riding in horse carts in western North Carolina. They had no running water and no electricity. He graduated number one in his high school class having never missed

a day of school. College was out of the question. He had no money for college. The money he made working in the A&P Grocery Store went to help his family. He went from stock boy to checkout at the A&P. From there he went to the drugstore as a cashier. Next, he was a teller at a bank. And from there he became an auditor for the FDIC. He impressed a bank in Lancaster, South Carolina. When its president left, the bank asked him to take the job. He stayed in Lancaster for the rest of his life working for Springs Mills and the Springs Company.

Although he did not have the opportunity to go to college, he believed very strongly in education. He sent both his sons and all his grandchildren to college and graduate school. He spent over thirty years on the board of trustees at the University of South Carolina.

He lived in the same modest house in Lancaster for fifty years. When I went to visit him there, he always bought me shoes or a jacket or gave me money. I did not realize for a long time that he gave me those things because he did not have them as a boy.

If you had met him, he would not have told you about his history. He would have been more interested in learning

about you. He would not want me to write about him, and he would be amazed that other people would be interested in him. This column is not really a place for me to honor my grandfather and, although I love him very much, that is not the reason for sharing his story with you.

As your editor, I have tried to bring you useful information for your profession as a lawyer and your life. We are engaged in a difficult profession, and we live in tumultuous times. We have already labeled this time “The Great Recession.” But our forebears and some of our current bar members went through much more and expected much less. They were rationed in World War II. They did not have access to the education and social programs we have. They have given the generations that followed gifts bought with sacrifice: freedom, education, and an opportunity to make a better future.

My grandfather was a wonderful man but his story is not unusual. Most of the people in his generation began the same way. They were poor, they were rural, and they had limited opportunities. They began with little and gave much. They asked for little in return.

As we look for a way to the future, look to the past. Remember that the luxuries and opportunities today were not even imaginable to the generations that came before us. With the holidays upon us, I will share a piece of advice my grandfather gave to me:

“Remember that your family and friends are the most important part of your life. Tell them that you love them and appreciate them. Show them that you love them and appreciate them.”

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

TEXT PARTE - JUDGE J. ERNEST KINARD, JR.



Circuit Court Judge J. Ernest Kinard, Jr.'s successful tenure on the court serves as confirmation that the mandatory retirement at age 72 for judges is an outdated and arbitrary rule. The longest serving active judge on the circuit court bench until he assumed working retired status on September 1 has never missed a day of court

for health reasons. At 71, Judge Kinard paddles canoes, rides a bicycle most every day, plays golf, uses a stepping machine, and even enjoys white water rafting.

He began serving as a resident judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in 1988, after practicing law in Camden for 24 years. He has held court in all 46 counties and has served as chief administrative judge in numerous circuits.

Richland County is different, he notes, because the work load is so much greater than in any other county. Most lawyers either practice in or appear in the county of the capital city and as a result, the volume of administrative orders is exceedingly high.

Fortunately, Judge Kinard is a speed reader, who can quickly read and comprehend motions and briefs put before him. Law school friend Reece Williams describes him as "impossible to fool," as he is not easily swayed by style over substance. Lawyers respect his candor.

That's consistent with the Judge's advice to lawyers: stay true to yourself and level with everybody.

Judge Kinard was the first presiding judge of the State Grand Jury and was one of the pilot judges when Alternative Dispute Resolution was implemented in South Carolina, largely responsible for the success that initiative has had in easing civil dockets.

He received the Trial Jurist of the Year Award from the South Carolina chapter of the prestigious American

Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2006.

A list of his accomplishments as an outstanding trial judge does not paint the full picture of Judge Kinard. He travels extensively with his wife, Kay, of 47 years of whom he boasts, "she still looks good." He has visited all fifty states and every Central American country and many other countries. He has a knack for languages and taught himself Spanish. He has three children who all live in South Carolina, as well as five grandchildren. He obviously loves spending time with family.

He supports the Richland County Bar and can be found at virtually every function. His suggestion for the Bar is that it take a public stand in defense of lawyers and judges when they are attacked based on incomplete or erroneous information. He does not want the Bar to defend the actions of individual judges or lawyers, but observes that the Bar should take on the roll of explaining the law to the public. For example, the public should be told that judges have little discretion in altering negotiated sentences, and that bonds must be set in most cases. Instead lawyers and judges are left exposed to attack by a misinformed public, often for political gain.

No doubt Judge Kinard will be around South Carolina's courts as an active retired judge for a good many years. Clearly, his positive influence in improving trial courts will be felt for many decades to come.

"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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ANNUAL MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY



On December 9, the RCBA hosted its Annual Meeting at the Columbia Museum of Art. At this meeting, the new officers were elected, announced and recognized. The RCBA also present the John W. Williams Award, the Civic Star Award and the Matthew Perry Civility awards. It is one of the highlights of our Bar year to celebrate with the persons receiving these honors. Award recipients will be featured in our next issue.

Immediately following the meeting, the Bar entertained the association members with a favorite party to celebrate the season. Each year you are invited to this event to gather at the museum for wonderful food and good “cheer” catered by Aberdeen Catery of Camden.

“To have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation - this is to have succeeded.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

MEMBER HEADSHOTS

If you go to the Member Directory on www.richbar.org and see that your headshot is missing, please e-mail it in jpeg format to rcba@scbar.org so that we can add it to the website.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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My personal wish list for the RCBA is within the realm of possibility. It may not be a list identical to that of any group or individual, but it takes into account the present status of the economy and the political and governmental landscapes as I see them. For what it is worth, I pose the following as something to consider:

1. An increase in membership to 2000 members (this will allow dues to remain constant and will qualify the RCBA for a delegate to the ABA).
2. A standing room only attendance at our memorial service (this is an honor due to our departed friends and their families).
3. Increased attendance at our social events (we need to know each other better in a non-adversarial setting).
4. Increased participation in committee activities (we can affect how we practice; we can affect our relationships and perception by the public).
5. Better organization of the younger lawyers (this is the source of the Bar's future leaders, plus they have the most enthusiasm and energy).

Why were these things not accomplished while I held this office? I guess it's because I'm an ineffective preacher. However, I will keep trying.

Have a great holiday season and a Happy New Year!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL REGIONAL COMPETITION RESULTS

The 2010 State Middle School Mock Trial Regional Competitions were held this past weekend. Congratulations to Crayton Middle School, Dutch Fork Middle School, Forestbrook Middle School, Hand Middle School, Gold Hill Middle School, Greenville Middle Academy, Johnsonville Middle School, Lexington Middle School, Ocean Bay Middle School and St. Anne's Catholic School. These schools will compete in the State Competition on Saturday, December 4, in Lexington.

The Law Related Education (LRE) Division would like to thank all of the attorney volunteers that made the 2010 Middle School Mock Trial Regional Competitions a success. Attorney volunteers served in the roles of mock trial regional coordinators, attorney coaches, scoring judges and presiding judges.

If you are interested in starting or coaching a mock trial team, or if you are interested in judging one of the upcoming high school competitions scheduled for February 26 (Charleston, Conway, Columbia, Greenville), March 11 (Columbia) and/or March 12 (Columbia), please contact Cynthia H. Cothran at ccothran@scbar.org.

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RICHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS JURY VERDICTS

09-CP-40- 5985

Graham Neal Cobb vs. Wayne Mitchell

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: William Hughes

Nicholson III

Defendant: J. Austin Hood

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal injury

Verdict: Defendant

09-CP-40-3996

Lehua Figueroa, et al vs. CBL/ Associate Properties, et al

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Dietrich Lake

Defendant: Shannon Bobertz

Cause of Action: Personal Injury/ Libel and Slander

Verdict: For Plaintiffs

Actual Damages: \$6500 for each plaintiff

Punitive Damages: \$25,000.00 for each plaintiff

09-40-CP-1210R

East Coast Food Sales and Brokerage, Inc. vs. Wachovia NA, et al.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Leo A. Dryer Jr. and Andrew S. Radeker

Defendant: Stacie C. Knight

Cause of Action: Contract case

Verdict: For Defendant

09-CP-40-5037

Richard Jennings vs. Emily J. Covington

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Barry George

Defendant: L. D. Plexico

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$385.00

2009-CP-40-2237

Kimberly Oxendine, et al vs. Leslie Brunelli

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: James Leventis and Fritz Jekel

Defendant: E. Dale Lang, Jr.

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$15,000.00

09-CP-40-2237

Joann Hill vs. Roland Smallwood

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Michael V. Hart

Defendant: H. Ronald Stanley

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

09-CP-40-6063

Jonathan E. Clark vs Leesha Diane Ashford

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Brian Dumas

Defendant: Clifford O Koon, Jr.

Cause of Action: Auto/Personal Injury

Verdict: For Defendant

09-CP-40-1845

Emily M. Brooks vs James A. Stephens

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: John Charles Ormond, Jr.

Defendant: James E. Smith, Jr.

Cause of Action: Property/ Constructive Trust

Verdict: for Defendant

RICHBARNEWS

Classified Ad Policy

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.

DUES NOTICE

The South Carolina Bar Fee Statements have been sent out with fees due by the end of December. The SC Bar collects dues for most of the county bars in this statement. Please look at the statement and check Richland County in the proper box and add \$100 to the total. This is the simplest way to pay your state and local dues and save the RCBA from billing you separately.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Greetings Richland County, and welcome to another holiday season! As we *loosen* our belts following Thanksgiving's splurge-a-palooza, I am certain that there are some of us who are simultaneously looking for ways to *tighten* our purse strings as we approach the gift giving season and the annual assessment of the coming year's family budget.

During an uncertain economy, people often look for expenses that might be characterized as non-essential. A good friend of mine with a landscaping business noted that many clients reduced their maintenance schedules or even limited work to an ad hoc basis. Similarly, my best friend (my wife!) has noted a reduction in the frequency of her personal training sessions. Under these circumstances, I'm going out on a limb and positing that those among you who do not already have and (here's the key) use a fitness club may be unlikely to embark upon the additional expense of acquiring or maintaining one in the coming year to facilitate fulfillment of your New Year's resolutions.

Those of you who are tried and true fit-o-philes will likely cut your cable and/or cell phone plan before giving up your gym membership, so feel free to carry on. For those of you who are setting a goal for fitness because you are not quite there yet, take heed. Getting fit can seem an arduous task, and I am told that there are some in the legal profession who have been known to procrastinate. When one combines an arduous task with a proclivity to put things off, then it is easy to come up with "reasons" that become impediments to your fitness goal. Chief among the reasons I've heard regard various and sundry "issues" related to the gym - it's too expensive, it's too time consuming, it's too far away, it's a meat market, it smells funny, etc. (OK, maybe that last one warrants attention).

The great thing about fitness, however, is that it does not require a gym membership to accomplish! You need only the drive and perseverance to embark upon fit and healthy activities. Those of you who have read my past suggestions for healthy activities know that none have entailed a gym (past newsletters are accessible online). Basic work outs that target any section of your body can

be accomplished in your very home!

Using your own body weight can prove one of the most useful methods for improving your fitness. Push ups target your arms, chest and shoulders. Sit ups target your abs and your core. Aerobic work outs such as jumping jacks and jogging (either in place if you prefer to stay home or around your neighborhood) target your legs and arms while increasing your heart rate and allowing you to break a sweat. Each of these simple exercises you are certain to have known since grade school, and each can be accomplished in your very living room - even while you watch TV!

Another great prop free work out for your legs and glutes is the nefarious "air chair." Put your back flat against the wall with your feet 18" away from the baseboard and slide slowly down until your thighs are level and parallel (as if you were sitting in a chair). For the full body air chair work out, hold a weight (anything will do, like a hard back book) in each hand with your arms extended straight in front of you as you assume the position detailed above. Hold the position as long as you can without moving. If you hold it past a count of 30, you will know why I characterize it as nefarious.

If you throw in a few props, then your regimen can expand considerably. For instance, you can do dips with three stable chairs. Place one to either side of you and one in front of you less than the distance of your feet to your torso. Place your right hand facing forward on the chair to your right and the same for your left hand on the left chair. Transition your weight to your arms and lift your feet one at a time to the chair in front of you. Position yourself comfortably with your legs slightly bent and your knees together. Slowly lower yourself (dip) between the chairs and back up again and repeat.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

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Another great and easy prop is your entertainment center. Pop in a work out DVD and follow the instructions provided. Throw in a curl bar or some dumb bells, and your options increase further. If you can turn a screwdriver, then you can install brackets for a pull up bar in an inconspicuous doorway - just don't forget to take the bar down after you use it! (I could hear a few of you out there licking your lips at such a premises liability opportunity.) There are, of course, many, many more work outs that can be conducted in your very home, and there is a wealth of information online in this regard.

As with most work outs, the key is doing them in sets. Do three sets of push ups with sit ups in between, and I guarantee that you will be feeling the burn. Tailor the number of reps to suit your drive and ability. Work out different body areas on alternating days. With consistent application, you will be amazed how quickly your stamina and number of reps can increase.

Home work outs also provide the opportunity to include the whole family. Additionally, you don't have to buy over priced water and other gym accoutrement. Let your budget be not the inhibitor to your health and fitness. While other excuses may still be concocted by conscientious fitness objectors, the gym simple aint' one of 'em. Go home and work out Richland County!

"Health & Fitness" is written by Drayton Hastie, who can be reached at dhastie@sc.rr.com.

2010 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee	Chair(s)	Telephone
Bigg Doggs	Billy McGee	255-9431
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CLE Seminars	Steedley Bogan	256-6747
Health & Fitness	Drayton Hastie	771-7900
Family Court Liaison	Ashlin Potterfield	376-2001
Master-in-Equity Liaison	Pearce Fleming	254-4751
Membership Committee	Wes Few Jay Elliott	212-4963 252-9236
Memorials	Susie Campbell Ward Bradley	256-6152 796-9160
Probate Court Liaison	Mike Polk	929-0096
RichBar News	Ward Bradley Eleanor Duffy Cleary Drayton Hastie	796-9160 376-0075 771-7900
Programs	Betsy Bradley John Bradley Ian McVey	296-3140 231-7825 256-2371
Lunch-n-Learns	Thomas Kennaday Ronald Cox	227-4290 540-2034
Public Service	Kristen Horne - Chair Dan Leonardi Carmen Thomas Elizabeth Cook Olivia Jones	799-2000 799-2000 771-8900 400-1975 799-9668
Recognition	Reece Williams Joe Berry	256-2371 779-2650
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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH LEGAL PROBLEMS

The Pro Bono Program has reactivated the Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) program which seeks to provide free or reduced fee legal services to active military personnel who are stationed in South Carolina or whose case is related to South Carolina. LAMP's effectiveness depends entirely on the volunteers. The program seeks to offer assistance in many areas of law

including: wills/trusts, powers of attorney, landlord/tenant, family, guardian/adoption, employment/labor, military and consumer.

If you are interested in becoming a LAMP volunteer, please e-mail ccoker@scbar.org or kelly.teague@scbar.org.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) members earned from LRS referrals more than \$738,250 between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010!

To grow your business as well, the Service invites you to apply for membership at any time, although our fiscal year begins on July 1, 2011. LRS is your connection to new business and offers a simple, equitable, inexpensive and practical method of introducing people with legal

problems to qualified attorneys.

To join the service or renew your membership, fill out the application located at http://www.scbar.org/meber_resources/lawyer_referall_service and mail it to the South Carolina Bar, PO Box 608, Columbia, SC, together with your check in the sum of \$50 per county and a copy of your professional liability insurance policy declarations page. Questions? Call Joan Brown at 803-576-3794.



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NOTEWORTHY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



William C. Hubbard of Nelson Mullins has been elected president of the American Bar Foundation.

Breon Walker of Ellis Lawhorne has received the Gary Walker Memorial Scholarship to attend the International Association of Defense Counsel's Trial Academy at Stanford University.

Rikard & Moses announced that **Peter Protopapas** has joined the firm and the name of the firm has changed to **Rikard Moses & Protopapas LLC**, located at 1803 Hampton St., 29201. Phone: 978-6111.

Edward Bender of Nexsen Pruet and **J. David Johnson IV** of Turner Padgett have been selected for the Leadership Columbia 2010 Class.

Daniel Hayes, of Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, has been officially certified as a Medicare set-aside consultant by the International Commission on Healthcare Certification.

Frank Shuler of Turner Padgett Graham & Laney has written a new book titled *A Guide to Drafting an Employee Policies Manual* which serves as a guide to South Carolina businesses to ensure that employment policies adequately address new amendments and regulations.

Jay Courie of McAngus Goudelock & Courie and **Elizabeth Van Doren**

Gray of Sowell Gray and John T. Lay Jr. of Ellis Lawhorne have received the 2010 Leadership in Law Award from *S.C. Lawyers Weekly*. **Barton Law Firm** announces that **Patrick Mohan** has become an associate of the firm located at 1715 Pickens St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 256-6582.

Duff White & Turner announces that **Lindsay Anne Thompson** has become an associate of the firm located at 3700 Forest Dr. #404, Columbia, 29204. Phone: 790-0603.

Carole H. Gunter of Mays Foster Gunter & Murphy has been recertified as a specialist in estate planning and probate law by the S.C. Supreme Court.

Ellis Lawhorne & Sims announces that it was recently recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers In America* in the inaugural issue of *2010 Best Law Firms*.

William Davis Jr. announces the opening of the **Bill Davis Law Firm LLC** located at 1225 Pickens St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 726-0556.

Steven A. Husman of Turner Padgett has been certified as a circuit court mediator and arbitrator by the SC Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification.

Richardson Plowden announces that **Michelle P. Kelley** has become an associate of the firm located at 1900 Barnwell St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 771-4400.

Willoughby & Hoefer announces that **Chad N. Johnston** has become an associate of the firm located at 930 Richland St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 252-3300.

Turner Padgett announces that **Sam Sammataro** has been elected to serve as Vice President of the South Carolina Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

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

The *Columbia Business Monthly* magazine has recognized **John T. Lay** and **David Sojourner** as being among the Midlands' *Legal Elite*.

Nelson Mullins announces that **Derek A. Shoemaker** has become an associate of the firm located at 1320 Main St., Columbia SC 29201. Phone: 799-2000.

Ellis Lawhorne's John T. Lay, Jr. has been awarded the Fred H. Sievert Award presented by DRI, an international organization of defense attorneys. The award is a national honor given annually to one individual who has made significant contributions to the goals and objectives of the defense bar.

Nelson Mullins announces the firm has joined forces with **Lahive & Cockfield** a Boston based intellectual property law firm.

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NOTEWORTHY...continued from page 12

Murphy & Grantland announces that **Brent Boyd** has been invited to join the prestigious Council on Litigation Management, a nonpartisan alliance comprised of thousands of insurance companies, corporations, Corporate Counsel, Litigation and Risk Managers, claims professionals and attorneys.

The Greater Columbia Business Monthly magazine has announced that six McNair Law Firm attorneys have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the magazine's inaugural edition of *Legal Elite*. They are: **Michael M. Beal, John W. Currie, Joel E. Gottlieb, Dorothy M. Helms, Richard J. Morgan and Joseph D. Walker.**

The Greater Columbia Business Monthly magazine has announced that twelve attorneys from Nexsen Pruet Law Firm have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the magazine's inaugural edition of *Legal Elite*: **David Dubberly, C. Jones Dubose, Victoria Eslinger, William Floyd, Fred Kingsmore, Mark Knight, Jimmy Long, Angus Macaulay, Rick Mendoza, Ed Menzie, Billy Newsome, William Wilkins.**

McAngus Goudelock & Courie announces their offices have relocated to Meridian 10th Floor, 1320 Main St., 29201. The PO Box will remain the same at PO Box 12519, Columbia 29211.

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Jimmy Byars** has become an associate in the Columbia office located at 1230

main St. Columbia 29201. Phone 771-8900.

Christopher Mills announces the relocation of his office to 2008 Lincoln St., Columbia 29201. Phone: 748-9533. Fax: 753-9123.

Turner Padgett Graham & Laney announces that the firm has been recognized in the 2011 edition of *Benchmark Litigation: A Definitive Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys* as a recommended litigation firm in South Carolina for the second consecutive year.

Six of the firm's attorneys have been recognized as "Local Litigation Stars." In Columbia they are: **Edward W. Laney IV, Steven W. Ouzts, W. Duvall Spruill, Timothy D. St.Clair. D. Andrew Williams and Nicholas W. Gladd** were selected as "Future Litigation Stars."

Ellis Lawhorne announces **Jessie King** an environmental law attorney has been named to the South Carolina Chamber's Environmental Technical Committee, advising Chamber members on environmental law and regulations that could impact the business communities.

Callison Tighe announces that **Malissa Burnette**, a specialist in Employment and Labor Law, has joined the firm as a member.

Turner Padgett announces that **Lanneau W. Lambert Jr.** has been elected to serve as the Vice President

for Community Relations for Junior Achievement of Central South Carolina for the 2010-2011 term.

Berry Quackenbush and Stuart announces that **James H. Quackenbush Jr.** has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of "*The Best Lawyers in America.*"

Nexsen Pruet announces that **Ed Menzie** has been named Columbia, SC Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year for 2011 by *Best Lawyers in America*.

McNair Law Firm announces the **M. Craig Garner, Jr.** has been named by *Best Lawyers* as the Best Lawyers' 2011 Columbia Banking Lawyer of the year.

Ellis Lawhorne's **David Sojourner** has been named Best Lawyer's Lawyer of the Year for Trusts and Estates (Columbia)

Nelson Mullins announces that **David E. Dukes, Stuart M. Andrews and George S. Bailey** have been selected by *Best Lawyers in America 2011* edition as best lawyers in their respective practices.

Bernstein and Bernstein announces that Rip Sanders has joined their firm located at 1019 Assembly, Columbia 29201. Phone: 799-7900.

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NEWS FROM THE USC SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENTS

REACHING OUT TO ALUMNI

Last Spring, the University of South Carolina School of Law dropped into the third tier of the U.S. News and World Report Law School Rankings. Reactions varied among those associated with the Law School. Some were surprised or disappointed, some rushed to assign blame, and others were apathetic. The students, however, were frustrated.

The School of Law appointed a Blue Ribbon Panel to assess the situation. The common denominator in the Panel's report was funding. This may have been disappointing, but it was certainly not surprising. The Panel found it undeniable that our School of Law "spends less per student than almost all American law schools; charges a higher in-state tuition than almost all state law schools in the South; and raises less money in philanthropy from its alumni than many of its peers." Lack of resources could be cited as a culprit in any organization's struggle to improve and is perhaps an easy answer to a more complicated problem as the reasons for funding deficits are numerous and complex.

Students at the Law School recognized that alumni support was one area ripe for growth. The students believed that decreased alumni support was simply a side effect of a more troubling problem. There is a "disconcerting gap between the student body and our alumni," second-year Amanda Pickens noted. Students, like Amanda, believed that they had a responsibility to improve the school's relationship with its alumni.

After a class discussion of the Panel's report, a group of 14 students got together and decided to establish a student development task force. "The task force was formed to begin fostering those relationships," Pickens said. The task force is still accepting new members and the students hope that it will eventually evolve into a Student Alumni Council. Conor Duggan, another second-year student, was at the meeting and is working directly with the School's Development Office. "I think it is important for students to be aware of their relation with the school while we are here."

The students want to reconnect with law school alumni. "We want to talk to and meet our alumni – it's really that simple," Pickens said. "Our goal on the task force is to begin talking with our alumni. We want to engage and invite them back into our law school community."

"I think that student involvement in alumni interactions is mutually beneficial. Students are eager to help the current state of our school, they want to be involved and share their stories (both good and bad) of what USC Law means to them. I think this new perspective will give a new viewpoint for alumni, and help reconnect them with the law school," Duggan added.

According to Duggan, the student development task force will work closely with the Development Office at

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the School of Law and will also maintain careful communication with Dean Palmer and the Law School Ambassador Program. Jerry Grimes, Director of Development at the School of Law, also attended the task force meeting. Grimes listened to the students' concerns and shared the students' enthusiasm for the initiative.

"We were so pleased when the students came to us and offered their help. The student task force will be invaluable to our alumni relations and development efforts. We're seeking to help connect alumni to their school and to hopefully inspire them to help us build for the future by investing their time, talent and treasure to make the School of Law the best it can be."

Rachelle Bussell, Senior Director of Development at the School of Law, also understood the significant advantage students can receive from an active alumni group.

"As we continue to seek new ways of connecting with and engaging our alumni, having the support of current students will be extremely helpful. I also know that the students benefit immensely whenever alumni come back to the law school and get involved with them through special events, classroom presentations, mentoring or other forms of interaction."

For students like Amanda and Conor, the efforts of the task force are focused on much more than raising money, for they will graduate before students ever walk

down the halls of a new building or enjoy lower tuition from well-funded scholarships. "In the face of our recent struggles at the law school, I think we have lost site of what makes our school and bar so unique – our relationships," Pickens said.

Conor added that he believed improving the ties between students and alumni would ultimately benefit everyone involved with the USC School of Law community. "I think if we establish the culture of giving back and remaining connected with our school while we are here, we will be able to retain alumni involvement as we head out into the practice of law. In essence, we are alumni now."

If you are interested in working with the School of Law please call Jerry Grimes at 803-777-6618 or email Jerry at grimesg@law.sc.edu. We can use your help!

submitted by Michael Peters, Class of 2012

Internet trivia: Did you know...

- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.



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NOTEWORTHY...continued from page 13

McGowan Hood & Felder announces that Susan F. Campbell has joined the firm located at 1517 Hampton St. Columbia 29201. Phone: 779-0100. Fax: 787-0750.

Todd Rutherford has been named 2010 Legislator of the Year by The S. C. Chiropractic Association.

Nexsen Pruet has moved up on *The National Law Journal's* list of the 250 largest law firms in America.

D. Andrew Williams of Turner Padget has been appointed national co-chair of the ABA Construction Litigation Committee.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie announces that Brittany Lozanne has joined the firm located at 700 Gervais St. 29201. Phone: 779-2300.

Turner Padget announces that Danny C. Crowe has been named the Columbia, SC *Best Lawyers* Alternative Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year for 2011.



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