

Volume 19, Number 3

RICHBARNEWS

Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association

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Increase Your Range in Times of Change

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RICHBARNEWS

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On the Cover

Photo by Lucas Brown of Kickstand Studio



From the Editors

by Mike Polk & Van Horger



I recently went on a girls' weekend with my high school friends. One of the ladies suggested we all bring one of our favorite things under \$25 and draw numbers to exchange. I'm not proud of it, but my first reaction was honestly that we are all very busy and do not need a homework assignment for what is supposed to be a relaxing trip. (I know, what a Debbie Downer). But everyone else seemed to like the idea so I kept quiet and completed the assignment.



I have to admit that it turned out to be such a great idea. The gifts were not profound—a really great-smelling candle or someone's favorite wine—but it was fun to see and hear everyone's simple pleasures. It got me thinking about how I love learning things from my friends and colleagues. I am always on the hunt for tips to make life easier or more enjoyable—what book could you not put down, what can I listen to on my next long drive or flight, what is the best thing to bring someone who is sick or just had a baby? Hopefully the full *Bar Bites* will be back in the next issue, but consider the abbreviated version on page 6 to tide you over. In addition, check out all of the articles to see what you can learn from our members' experiences.

Farm to Table Dinner

On Thursday, October 10, members enjoyed a four course farm to table dinner at City Roots.



From the President

Working, Learning, and Calibrating

by Kristen Horne

For my birthday last month my husband Chad gave me new wireless ear buds. I asked for them because I spend so much time on conference calls in my company's open, agile workspace and my standard-issue headset was starting to drive me crazy. So, I got these fantastic ear buds and an acid yellow case cover so I don't lose them, and have been putting them to a lot of good use for work.



An unexpected benefit is that I have also started listening to many more podcasts. While I'm running errands, waiting in doctor's offices and for kid-activity pick up, or doing yardwork, I'm likely listening to a podcast now. My favorite podcast is *The Slowdown* with Tracy K. Smith. Even if you take nothing else away from this letter, I hope you'll give this every weekday 5-minute poetry podcast a shot. Tracy K. Smith served as the 22nd United States Poet Laureate from 2017-2019. In each episode she shares a brief essay about her connection or response to the poem she has selected before reading the piece. My girls and I listen on the way to school and are, most often, enchanted. Enjoy! Other favorites include *Reply All*, *Second Life*, *Happier with Gretchen Rubin*, and *HBR Women at Work*. My kids would want me to include their number one choice, *Smash Boom Best*. The list goes on and on and I'd love to hear your recommendations.

Having listened to a lot of episodes in the past several weeks, a pattern emerged: in running your career, your company, your family, your life, regular check-ins to calibrate your goals against your accomplishments and the things you are working to achieve are good. Gretchen Rubin, a former law clerk to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, suggested in her podcast using Labor Day as a "catalyst to think about making our work lives happier, healthier, more productive, or more creative."

There is also something about the month of September with the excitement of back-to-school (anyone else get nostalgic about fresh stacks of notebooks and sharpened pencils? Just me?), the energy of the fourth quarter business hustle, the promise of an eventual reprieve from the oppressive heat, that is highly motivating. It is hard to believe that we are rounding out three quarters of 2019, and accordingly of my time serving as your RCBA president. That leaves just a few more weeks to get things done. So it seems fitting to take a look at all of the great things the RCBA has accomplished this year and look ahead to what is yet to come.

So many of you generously shared your insights in focus group sessions with the Weathers Group early this year. The Executive Committee is finalizing its planning overview as a result of that work, and we have already implemented many of the ideas that emerged as a result of those discussions.



What We've Done

- The brand-new Wellness Committee, co-chaired by Tiffany Butler and Tina Cundari, hosted the ropes course during our annual RCBA Zoo Night and held a Wellness CLE in conjunction with the Lunch and Learn committee with about 25 bar members attending. You've seen their wellness tips in our e-blasts. Let them know what more you'd like to see happen in this area.
- Our solo and small firm members have a new committee too, co-chaired by Olivia Jones and Jonathan Milling. They are looking for ways to make RCBA membership even more impactful for our solo and small members. If you have any ideas or requests, please let Olivia, Jonathan, or me know.
- More judges attended the RCBA Judicial Reception this year than in our collective memory. It was a lively and engaging night.
- Our partnership with USC Law continues to deepen. RCBA members are serving as 1L mentors and have come out to roundtable discussions and networking events addressing issues like women in law and professional development.
- The court liaisons are reenergized and actively connecting our members to our judges and court staff so we can get updates and problem solve together. Recently Jonathan Spitz hosted an event with the Probate Court. Derek Williams hosted a luncheon with the entire Worker's Compensation Commission

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Working, Learning, and Calibrating (continued from page 4)

featuring an update about implementation of its new online filing system and a discussion about how the Commission and its staff can work with lawyers to make sure that matters are being resolved efficiently.

- Charlie Moore (RCBA President-Elect) and I brought great insights back from a seminar hosted by the National Conference of Bar Presidents, where the agenda included topics like inclusion and diversity and understanding implicit bias to make sure all voices are heard, the bar as a navigator for changes in the legal profession, and making the bar work for multigenerational members.

What's Coming Next

That's a little sample of the successes we have had so far. The questions always on my mind after celebrating what has gone well are "what could have gone better," and "what's next." In a rapid-paced professional world, I always want things done sooner, and I imagined that the formal planning process would have been wrapped up by this point in the year. However, the robust conversations at our Executive Committee meetings are exciting and are pushing our planning to be more impactful to our future leadership and our members, so I'm grateful for the thoughtful pace. The work will be done well.

Thank you for all you have done to help us get so much done this year. We are working hard, focusing on testing new ideas, and learning ways to do things better. I'm energized by our community of lawyers who are giving their time to push the RCBA to continuously improve. Maybe we should host a podcast about it. There would be plenty of great material to cover!

Kristen Horne is an Assistant Vice President and Senior Counsel for Unum Group, which includes Colonial Life, Unum US, and Unum UK. She can be reached at khorne@unum.com.

Bar Bites



"Elizabeth Gilbert's *City of Girls* is one of the best books I've read in years. The writing is phenomenal. It's a beautiful story tracing the life of the narrator over sixty years, highlighting the independence she finds, along with champagne and late nights."

- Whitney Harrison, McGowan Hood and Felder



"I was out of town when a close friend and neighbor passed away. Before I could get back in town, the extended family was already at their home and people were already visiting. I called Ellen Chase Burden, RD, LD and asked her to make a platter of ham biscuits to take to their house. Ellen did this within a few hours and personally delivered the biscuits to the family. I was very grateful for her promptness and ability to get this done so timely and on a Saturday. I know the family appreciated it as well. Ellen cooks and caters meals. She is licensed and registered dietician. I have ordered food from her before and will certainly do it again in the future. She can be reached at ecburden@gmail.com." - Marion Moses, *The Law Offices of Marion M. Moses*



"A friend recommended to me the Harvard Business Review's podcast: *Women at Work*. It did not disappoint. The first one I listened to, *Step into the Spotlight*, focused on the concept of visibility in the workplace—a concept I had never thought much about. The speakers are engaging and relatable. It gets my mind moving on my morning drive to work. Check it out—even if you're not a woman!" - Beth Warren, *United States Attorney's Office*



"I highly recommend the book *Last Days of Night*. It tells the story of the coming of the electrical age in the US. It's about Edison, Tesla, and Westinghouse, and is told through the perception of Westinghouse's lawyer Cravath, who later founded and lead the law firm by the same name." - Matt Bogan, *Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough*

Attorney Online Scheduling Tools: How Can They Help My Practice?

by Bill Booth

So, why do new clients come to you? Is it because of your experience or because you are the easiest to schedule with? Yes, we all experience examples of scheduling online for many services—dentist, doctor, car service, or personal trainer. Consider using Microsoft Bookings or Acuity Scheduling (<https://www.acuityscheduling.com>) to enhance your scheduling system plus perhaps eliminate phone tag for setting up phone calls or office appointments.



MS Bookings is a new scheduling tool available with certain plans for Office 365 at no extra charge. An easy-to-set-up, customizable webpage lets your clients or prospective clients find available times and book appointments 24/7. You get a private calendar for managing your appointment scheduling and automatic confirmations and reminders that save time.

MS Bookings is a cloud-based application and there is an iOS app and an Android app. It offers a one-month free trial (actually, you will receive a one-month trial for Office 365 Business Premium which includes MS Bookings). You can add a “Book Now” button to your website or to your Facebook page. If you offer an initial free telephone call, you need to specify that no specific legal advice will be provided during the call. You can also enable text message notification (preview feature).

If you would like to see the use of MS Bookings by a law firm, the Swenseth Law Office, PLLC, in Devils Lake, ND, offers online scheduling of phone consultations and office meetings (<https://www.swensethlawoffice.com>). That law firm offers seven services including an initial consultation for legal services by phone or in the office at no charge.

Are there alternatives to MS Bookings?

If you do not have an Office 365 plan that includes MS Bookings, there are several other online scheduling applications. One is Acuity Scheduling. It offers a robust set of features with a monthly subscription. You connect your calendar to it, set up appointment types, set any limitations or forms you want to integrate, and you are up and running quickly. You create a link and an email message for accessing your booking calendar. This is useful if you get messages from your website or another portal asking you to discuss a legal need. You can quickly email asking the prospective client to schedule an online meeting with you and acknowledge that you can talk then to the prospective client. Acuity Scheduling also offers a link for receiving a payment.

MS Bookings has three primary components

1. An online Bookings page where your current or prospective clients can schedule appointments with specific attorneys. This page can be a standalone page or embedded in your website and works on desktop and mobile devices.
2. An online back end where you can view and manage appointments, set up an attorney list and schedules, specify your services and pricing, record client preferences, and customize how the service works.
3. A mobile app you can use to view and manage MS Bookings and access custom information from anywhere you can get an internet connection.

MS Bookings Set Up

For an Office 365 plan that includes Microsoft Bookings, you can begin the setup by logging into the administrative portal at <https://portal.office.com>. Once logged into the Office 365 portal, if you do not see the MS Bookings icon, you will need to click on the “waffle” area on the upper left of the screen and the MS Bookings icon will appear.

The configuration is highly customizable and easy to configure. To set it up, you:

1. Enter your firm information.
2. Set your scheduling policies, such as length of appointments, acceptable cancelation times, and automatic notifications.
3. Define your service offerings, including service name, description, location, and pricing. You can also add internal notes about the service.
4. Create your attorney list.
5. Set attorney working hours.
6. Schedule business closures for vacations or other reasons.
7. Publish your MS Bookings page.

A typical list of services could be:

- Family Estate Planning Consultation
- General Legal Matters
- Property Taxation Consultation
- Real Estate Closing Consultation
- Small Business Planning Consultation

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How MS Bookings Works

MS Bookings appointments can be made two ways: clients or perspective clients can schedule an appointment themselves using the online MS Bookings page or you or your staff can manually enter appointments. To make an appointment, the person first selects the service he or she wants. Then, based on an availability schedule you created, they can choose a day and time and enter their contact information to book the appointment. As soon as the appointment is submitted, the client or potential client is emailed confirmation notice. The notice contains details of the appointment and a link for directions. It also includes a link the client or potential client can use to change or cancel the appointment. The date is automatically added to your calendar or your staff's calendar. MS Bookings works with Outlook Calendar and Google Calendar. Your client or potential clients won't see your linked business calendar; they only see the MS Bookings calendar you publish online. So, are you ready to offer scheduling online and make it easier for your clients or prospective clients to reach you and maybe increase your revenue?

William E. Booth III can be reached at bill@boothlawfirm.com and 803-791-9211.

Supreme Court Beautification Update

by Jack McKenzie

One hundred and twenty degrees. That was the temperature on a not-so-hot August day inside of the car of a staff member of our Supreme Court. This is not unusual—in direct sunlight the temperature inside of a car can climb to 130-170 degrees—but it is intolerable. Another staff member at our Court relayed that on extremely hot days her shoes stick to the asphalt. This too is not a rarity—asphalt has a tendency to get both oily and soft in extreme heat—but it too is unacceptable. The members of our highest court and their staff should not be working under these conditions.

Our plan incorporates seven shade trees in this area where currently there are none. According to the EPA, shaded surfaces are typically 20–45°F cooler than unshaded materials. Evapotranspiration (in essence, a tree “sweating” water), can help further reduce peak summer temperatures by 2–9°F. Furthermore, our plan incorporates light-colored pavers, which absorb only 25% of the energy reaching them, whereas asphalt absorbs some 60-95%. The end result is unquestionable: Our efforts will help make this area both cooler and healthier.

We are two thirds of the way to our financial goal. If you have contributed toward it, then we thank you. If you or your firm have yet to donate, then please consider doing so. All donations are tax deductible and every penny goes toward bricks and mortar. The result will be improvements we can all be proud of, enhancements that will last far into the next century.

Judicial Reception

The Judicial Reception was held on Tuesday, September 17 at the Columbia Museum of Art.



Family Night at the Zoo

The family night at the zoo was held on June 26 at Riverbanks Zoo.



Increase Your Range in Times of Change

When is relying upon your skills and experience not enough?

by Jack Pringle



I am trying to make the case that both habits (routines, practices) and curiosity (an interest in learning new things and different ways of solving problems) are essential skills for lawyers. Let me approach it a different way.

What is the Value of Experience?

A lot of us have a fair amount of experience (measured in years of practice, cases tried, etc.), and as a result consider ourselves to be pretty skilled.

But what is the true value of experience? When does experience matter? When does experience translate into skill? Why does experience result in skill? Consider the importance of rules, repetition, and feedback in developing experience and skills.

(As usual, nothing I write about is really original. This exercise is culled from an excellent book called *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*, by David Epstein.)

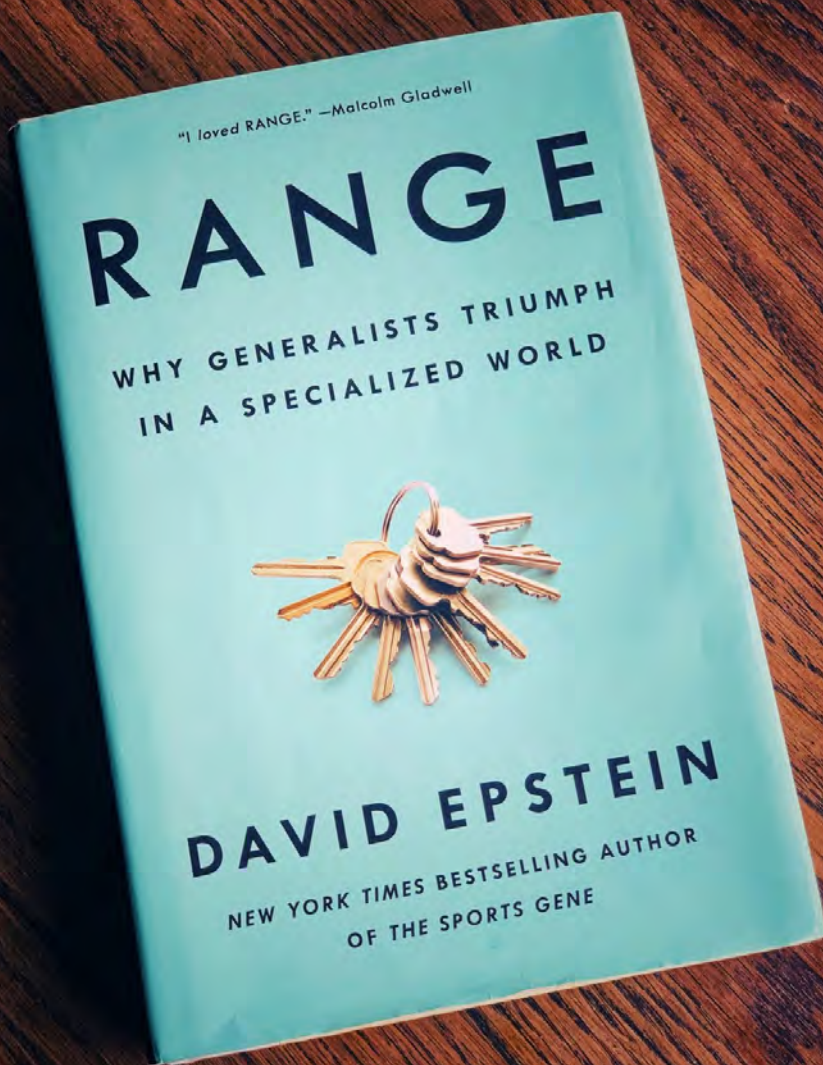
Rules

One condition for developing a skill is a “playing field” where experience can take place. This is intuitive for anyone who’s played sports or pursued hobbies. And what defines the “field”? The rules. The law practice provides a series of rule-based frameworks: civil, criminal, appellate procedure, evidence, professional responsibility, etc.

When you know the rules of the game and the boundaries for appropriate conduct, you’ve got an environment to develop useful skills. And, as you’ve no doubt noticed, some among us find it quite difficult to take action without knowing exactly what the rules allow or proscribe.

Repetition

Armed with rules and given a chance to put them into practice, lawyers get various opportunities to hone their craft. If you do something repeatedly—like argue hearsay and its exceptions, or shepherd a Section 1031 exchange to its conclusion—you’ll build skill. That is pretty much the definition of a habit, right? If you try cases or conduct hearings of more or less the same type, you learn to do things well (depone and qualify experts, conduct discovery, get a document into evidence) in part because repetition makes you better.



The idea that repetition actually leads to skill of course presumes that the repetition is correctly performed. (Recall the old sports adage "*Practice doesn't make perfect. Practice makes permanent. Perfect practice makes perfect.*"). Which leads to...

Feedback

It seems perfectly apodictic (shout-out to the late Judge Ralph King Anderson, Jr.) that feedback rewards appropriate repetition, and turns experience into skill. The law practice offers a lot of immediate and clear feedback, in the form of a jury verdict, an appellate decision, or a transaction closing. Of course, you can also build skills from failures (negative feedback), as long as you're willing to learn the right lessons from those setbacks.

And you solve problems for clients with the skills you've developed.

The Advent of Wicked Problems

Particular experience creates and builds skills in solving "kind" problems. "Kind" problems are the ones where "staying in your lane" makes sense: the terrain is familiar, you know what works, and you know what to do as a result.

But ask yourself about the usefulness of those skills (tools, if you like) when the landscape changes, such as when you encounter unfamiliar challenges (e.g. hiring and retaining associates), increased competition, new business models, complicated technologies, and a changing economy. How do you respond when your lane gets paved over, when you are the only one travelling it, or when you can't discern a lane at all?

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Increase Your Range (...continued from page 12)

Flipping the analysis above around, how useful are your skills when:

- the rules of the game are unclear or incomplete;
- there may not be repetitive patterns or patterns that are obvious, or
- you don't get feedback, or you receive inaccurate feedback?

These are “wicked” problems. A great deal of the anxiety that lawyers and law firms face currently is due to the fact that more of the problems we see are “wicked” in nature: containing more ambiguity, and offering fewer clear answers or paths forward.

“I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.”

- *Abraham Maslow*

Take Stock of Your Skills

When is relying upon your skills and experience not enough? Are there instances where relying only on what you know and have encountered can actually harm you? As Epstein puts it, sometimes “dropping your tools” (in favor of adapting or adopting a flexible mindset) is not only helpful, but crucial. That hammer you’ve been using might not be the right tool for every job. Those of you who’ve encountered a scorched-earth litigator in a mediation (or in a law firm budget meeting for that matter) may have a sense of what I am getting at...If it’s possible that your current challenges tend toward wicked rather than kind, then can you consider the possibility that your skills might need a little augmentation? Have you stopped to consider what your skills are, especially those that have become so habitual that you aren’t even really aware of them? Can you identify the way those skills can continue to serve you, combined with the skills of those around you? Have you considered how your skills might be applied in other areas (that is the textbook definition of innovation, by the way)? Are you willing to consider ideas and potential solutions that don’t fit neatly into your “lane”?

Are you curious to know more about the answers to these questions?

Conclusion: Yes AND

I am not suggesting that your skills aren’t valuable or relevant. I am telling you they are not sufficient, especially as the problems of the law practice get increasingly more complex.

Jack Pringle, an attorney at Adams and Reese, LLP in Columbia, helps businesses and individuals manage information. He can be reached at jack.pringle@arlaw.com or @jjpringle on Twitter.

Richland County Common Pleas Jury Verdicts

18-CP-40-1781

Beth-Anee & John W. Greenley, Jr. v. Johnson & Johnson et.al.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff(s): W. Switt, N. Finch

Defendant(s): L. Herns, M. Brown, A. Brown

Cause of Action: Personal Injury, Products Liability

Verdict: For Defendant

18-CP-40-0712

Ruben Galloway v. Garnett J. Davis Shepard

Attorneys:

Plaintiff(s): Barry B. George, Paige George

Defendant(s): Monica B. Towle, Brett H. Bayne

Cause of Action: Automobile, Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$40,000

18-CP-40-1435

County of Richland v. Southeast Industrial Park, LLC

Attorneys:

Plaintiff(s): Mitchell Willoughby, Andrew R. Hand

Defendant(s): Michael H. Quinn, Michael H. Quinn, Jr.

Cause of Action: Property, Condemnation

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$95,100

17-CP-40-1890

Michael Cohen v. SC Department of Corrections

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Shawn T. Pinkston

Defendant(s): David A. DeMasters, Michael Wren

Cause of Action: Personal Injury, Excessive Force

Verdict: For Defendant

17-CP-40-3823

Sophia Haynes v. Natalie Toth

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Sherrod Hampton Eadon

Defendant: Rogers E. Harrell III

Cause of Action: Automobile, Pain & Suffering;

Emotional Distress

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$6,000

17-CP-40-6813

Sang H. Ju v. Gregory Keith Fowler, et. al.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Robert Dodson

Defendant(s): Bret H. Bayne, William H. Bowman III

Cause of Action: Automobile, Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$5,169.25

18-CP-40-3560

Kenneth Jones v. Harry Rogers

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: William Jones

Defendant: James P. Newman, Jr.

Cause of Action: Automobile, Personal Injury

Verdict: For Plaintiff

Actual Damages: \$10,000



Is There Such a Thing as Balance?

Practicing Law as a Single Mother

by Ashley Stratton

Billable hours, basketball practice, book club, baby dolls, and boo-boos..I'm often asked how I do it. How do I manage a career, parent three active kids by myself, and maintain some degree of mental and physical health? Typical answers include "It's only by the grace of God" and "I just take it a day a time."

Depending on how well I know you, I might add that a glass of wine helps.



The truth is that life as a single mother practicing law is hard. How do I pick up a sick kid from school in Lexington when I'm at a hearing in Oconee County? How do I arrange child care when I have mediation in Charleston that could last anywhere from three to seven hours? Can I commit to helping out in my daughter's kindergarten class every week and still meet my billing goals? Can I work a full day, take my son to practice, and cook a wholesome dinner?

While these are all logistical questions, what it really boils down to is finding peace in the struggle. Whether you are a single working mom, a stay at home mom, the breadwinner of the family, or the managing partner of your firm, you probably face challenges finding a sense of balance in your life. Unfortunately, there's no secret formula for achieving that mystical sense of balance. We all have different personalities, families, jobs, interests...the list could go on. With all of these differences, balance will look different for each person.

This brings me to my first point: stop comparing yourself to others. When it comes to how you manage your life, you need to have blinders. It doesn't matter how late your law partner stays at the office, how many times your neighbor makes it to the gym, or how well-dressed your cousin's kids are. Block that out and consider what works for you. After all, "comparison is the thief of joy." (T. Roosevelt.)

After you stop comparing, start accepting that there's no such thing as perfect. As a typical firstborn overachiever, I find it awfully difficult to admit that I'm neither the "best" mom, nor the "best" lawyer. (I put these terms in quotes because what exactly is the "best"? Who determines what the "best" is?) Thank goodness we are no longer in law school being ranked against our classmates. We are not striving for first place, but simply trying to find peace and fulfillment with whatever life throws our way.

Part of finding peace and accepting that I don't have to be the "best" is learning that it doesn't have to be all or nothing. For instance, since becoming a mother, I've worked "part time." (There's really no such thing as "part time." Defense lawyers, am I right?) This means I'm not at the same level professionally as many of my peers. It also means I spend a lot of time with my kids. I'm happy with this schedule and feel



a sense of balance because I understand and accept that my time and resources are limited.

Another way to find balance is to do what I can when I can. Consider the gas tank analogy...if you're on empty and only have enough money to get a quarter of a tank, you wouldn't stay on empty just because you couldn't fill it all the way. The same goes for working out, for example. My schedule doesn't allow for extended trips to the gym every day, but I can squeeze in a 20 minute run, take the stairs at my office, or do 10 minutes of body weight exercises with my kids (my five-year-old does a mean plank). Similarly, I won't be the president of the Bar Association, but I can serve on the Wellness Committee. And I'm not the class mom, but I can chaperone an occasional field trip. When you can't do it all, remember that some is usually better than none.

Even then, there may be times when we need help; but if you are anything like me, you hate asking for help. It may feel like a sign of weakness or an imposition on others. Or like me, you might just be stubborn. Although self-sufficiency is admirable, I have found that I'm happier within a support community. For me, this includes my parents who are a tremendous help with their grandkids. It also includes friends who relate to my struggles—single moms, female attorneys, and folks with similar goals. I need these people. I can't do it alone. And that's okay!

As a single mother of three practicing law, balance means accepting my limits and my need for others. Balance may look differently for you. I can't promise a long visit, but maybe one day between basketball practice and book club, we can sit down over a beverage and talk about it.

Ashley Stratton is a member of Gallivan, White & Boyd's insurance and business and commercial litigation groups. She can be reached at astratton@gwblawfirm.com.

No Guarantees for Tomorrow:

A Profile of Ashleigh Wilson

By Amy L. B. Hill



Ashleigh Wilson wasn't born in Columbia or even in South Carolina, but since she arrived here at the age of five, Ashleigh made Columbia, South Carolina her own. From the time I first met Ashleigh in 2013, it was clear she was a force to be reckoned with. If you doubt me, just take a look at the awards and accolades she has received. In recent years she has been named one of the Best and Brightest Under 35 in Columbia, the Young Professional of the Year by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and received the South Carolina Bar's Young Lawyer President's Award. A graduate of Columbia High School and Wofford College, she received the Heart of the Terrier Award while a college student. In addition to practicing law at Bowman and Brooke, Ashleigh has been appointed to serve on the State Ethics Commission.

Ashleigh is energetic, hard-working, and she can talk like it's a sport. But, Ashleigh's particular brand of conversation is not just a lot of talking. Rather, she is one of those rare people who says what she means and has a way of chatting with you in a disarming and refreshing manner that immediately puts you at ease. She is inquisitive and self-deprecating, but she also pushes to make things happen. You know where Ashleigh stands on things because she tells you with a friendly smile in no uncertain terms. I am sure this refreshing candor, which can be rare in the legal world, is exactly what has made Ashleigh so successful in our community as a sought-after leader.

Ashleigh was born in Washington D.C. where she enjoyed living close to her mother's family. However, when Ashleigh was 5, her parents decided to move back to her father's native South Carolina. When Ashleigh was a freshman in high school, her father passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Ashleigh and her mother were left trying to figure out how to move forward after such an unexpected loss. Her father's sudden death in his 40s formed Ashleigh's outlook on life. She tries to approach situations without fear or delay because she knows that life is precious and there are no guarantees for tomorrow. Ashleigh says she has taken risks in life and in the practice of law that she might not otherwise have taken. She always strives to make the best of the moment she is in because you never know what tomorrow might look like.

Another valuable lesson Ashleigh learned as a result of her father's unexpected death: you must be able to take care of yourself. Ashleigh took note that her mother was able to provide for both of them without her father's income. Ashleigh's mom, Deborah Wilson, worked as a fourth grade teacher, and later in administration, at the Title One office for Richland One School District. She counts herself lucky that her mother was working and able to maintain financially after they lost her father's construction business due to his death.

Ashleigh also simply counts herself lucky to have her mother in her life. Ashleigh has a half-brother that grew up in D.C. She saw her brother a good bit growing up, but for the most part she grew up as an only child. Ashleigh's mother was many times her source of entertainment as well as a parent. Importantly, now as adults, Ashleigh and her mother are close friends. They like to get together on a regular basis. In fact, they are planning a trip together this year to visit South Africa, a life-long dream of Ashleigh's that she doesn't want to put off any longer.



Ashleigh is a talented tennis player and counts tennis as an important part of her life. She transferred to Columbia High School for her senior year from a small church school. Not really knowing any of her classmates, tennis gave Ashleigh the ability to meet people and an identity at a large school. She has continued using tennis as both a favorite pastime and a way to meet new people.

Ashleigh graduated from Wake Forest Law School after majoring in philosophy at Wofford, which she describes as the best major hands down. After law school, Ashleigh clerked for Judge Robin B. Stilwell in Greenville. She later handled post-conviction relief cases at the Attorney General's office. She counts those early years at the AG's office as incredibly valuable because of the great experience she gained handling cases by herself and just getting on her feet in both the state circuit and appellate courts. She was able to observe the court experience with Judge Stilwell but practice her craft at the AG's office. Today Ashleigh works at Bowman and Brooke, a national firm with a Columbia office. She primarily defends companies

sued in products liability cases. Ashleigh loves the firm she works for and is especially grateful to have Dick Willis as a mentor, who has emphasized the importance of being a leader as well as a hard worker. Ashleigh is still a young lawyer, but she has already accomplished quite a bit in her professional life. I feel certain that we will continue to see Ashleigh as a leader in our legal community for many years to come.

Amy L.B. Hill is a litigation attorney at Gallivan, White & Boyd. She can be reached at ahill@gwblawfirm.com.

Noteworthy News & Announcements

Thomas Andrews of **Andrews Law Office, LLC** was elected to a four year term on Forest Acres City Council in May 2019. As a solo practitioner, he primarily assists veterans in obtaining their VA benefits and handles personal injury cases.

Christopher J. Archer announces the opening of **Archer Law Firm, LLC** located at 1728 Main St., Ste. 106, Columbia 29201.

Barnes Alford is pleased to announce that **Jeffrey D. Hopkins** has joined the firm as an associate. Mr. Hopkins earned his B.A. from the University of South Carolina in May 2014 and his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in May 2017, where he received the Compleat Lawyer Bronze Award. Prior to joining Barnes Alford, Mr. Hopkins clerked for the Honorable Amy W. McCulloch of the Richland County Probate Court in 2017 and the Honorable Walton J. McLeod, IV of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in 2018. Mr. Hopkins will practice primarily in the areas of estate planning, taxation, probate law, and corporate law.

Bluestein Attorneys announces that **Clarke Newton** has been named to the Leadership Columbia Class of 2020. He is one of 63 rising community leaders who will participate in the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce program, the 47th class since the program was founded in 1972. Clarke received his bachelor's degree in 2005, majoring in political science, and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2009.

Bruner, Powell, Wall & Mullins, LLC announces that **J. Croom Hunter** has joined the firm's

Columbia office as an associate attorney located at 1735 St. Julian Place, Ste. 200, Columbia 29204.

Chappell Smith & Arden, P.A. is pleased to announce **George A. Taylor** has joined the firm. George's practice is concentrated in workers' compensation and personal injury claims. He has handled hundreds of cases before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission, including through trial and appeal before the South Carolina Court of Appeals.

Collins & Lacy attorney **Michael Burchstead** has been named to a SC Bar leadership position. Burchstead began service as a council member for the South Carolina Bar Government Law Section in July. He is one of six council members who work to keep section members informed, support continuing education and professional development as well as contribute to the SC Bar Foundation's Children's Fund and Disabled Lawyers Fund. Burchstead leads the Collins & Lacy Government, Ethics, and Compliance Practice in Columbia.

Davidson, Wren & DeMasters, P.A. announces that **Jonathan M. Riddle** has joined the firm as an associate attorney, located at 1611 Devonshire Drive, Second Floor, Columbia, 29204.

Fidelity National Title Insurance Company/Commonwealth Land Title announces that **Dawn Watkins** has joined the company as underwriting counsel located at 700 Huger St., Ste. 100, Columbia 29201.

Elizabeth Franklin-Best announces the opening of her firm, **Elizabeth Franklin-Best, P.C.**, located at 2725 Devine St., Columbia 20205.

Ben Gooding and **Ashley Johnson**, both associates with **Robinson Gray** law firm, have been named as among the Best and Brightest community leaders under 35 by *Columbia Business Monthly*. The magazine said they were being named to the 2019 class of Best & Brightest for “for their excellence in both career and community work.” They were featured in the magazine’s September issue, and along with the other young leaders named, they were honored at The Palmetto Club. Ashley’s practice focuses on workers’ compensation. Ashley has also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Her involvement in the community is extensive. She serves on Columbia City Council’s Design Development and Review Commission, mentors first-year law students, is on the boards of SC Whitmore School and Columbia Bethlehem Community Center, and is involved with the Junior League of Columbia and Junior Achievement. Ben focuses his practice in the areas of appellate advocacy, professional negligence, and commercial litigation. His business litigation practice covers a wide variety of business disputes, including banking litigation, legal actions between members of an LLC, commercial landlord/tenant disputes and securities arbitration. His community involvement includes service on the boards of both Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd is pleased to announce that **Sterling Moose** has joined the firm. Moose focuses her practice on corporate and nonprofit tax law. She received her Master of Laws in Taxation

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from New York University School of Law. Prior to joining Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, Sterling was an attorney with a national law firm in North Carolina. She received her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law and her B.S. in Accounting from Clemson University. While in law school, Sterling was a member of the Order of the Coif and Women in Law. She was a student member of the John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court and the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. Sterling served as President of the Student Bar Association and Production Editor for the *American Bar Association Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*.

Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo, L.L.P. is pleased to announce that **Brandy G. Price** and **Alexis K. Reynolds** have joined the firm located at 1230 Main Street, Suite 325 Columbia, 29201.

Hannah C. Honeycutt has been selected to serve as the Executive Director of the **South Carolina Access to Justice Commission**. Honeycutt will lead the Commission in its mission to address barriers to legal representation in South Carolina. She is a graduate of Wagner College with a BA in English and Spanish, and a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law. Honeycutt comes to the Commission from the Richland County Public Defender’s Office, where she served for five years as an assistant public defender. Created by the Supreme Court of South Carolina in January 2007, the Access to Justice Commission is charged with identifying civil legal needs and developing a long-term plan to provide these services for low-income South Carolinians.

Kenison Dudley & Crawford, LLC announces that **Kyle McGann** has joined the firm’s new Columbia

Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 20)

office located at 1122 Barnwell St., Columbia 29201.

Kathleen McDaniel, a founding partner of **Burnette Shutt & McDaniel**, is among those selected for 2019 Women of Influence honors. Presented by the *Columbia Regional Business Report*, the award recognizes women who are working to make the Midlands a better place. This year's 25 recipients include professionals from all walks of life, including CEOs and other business executives, professors, leaders of non-profits and attorneys. McDaniel's practice focuses on environmental law, government law and permitting issues. She earned a bachelor's and master's in scientific fields before attending law school, training that helps her offer clients a unique perspective on many issues. A skilled litigator, her work also includes utility and energy law, administrative law, eminent domain, annexation and more.

McAngus Goudelock & Courie, a regional insurance defense firm, is pleased to announce that workers' compensation attorney **Jason Lockhart** has been included in the 2019 Fastcase 50, an award that honors a diverse group of lawyers, legal technologists, policymakers, judges, law librarians, bar association executives and other legal innovators. Lockhart has taken the lead at MGC on projects that are innovating the business of law in an effort to serve clients more effectively and efficiently. He spearheaded The Insurance Defense Incubator, a "Shark Tank" style pitch that challenged MGC's lawyers to develop ideas that would improve processes, increase efficiencies and lead to enhanced client service. Lockhart is using AI and data analysis tools to benefit clients

by evaluating cases more accurately, reducing the time a file remains open and working toward more favorable settlement and trial outcomes.

Eugene Powell, a retired U.S. Army colonel and member of **Bluestein Attorneys'** SC Veterans' Advocates Team, was recently honored by the University of South Florida for his decades of active and reserve military service. Powell, along with other veterans, was inducted by the USF Office of Veteran Success into the Next Greatest Generation Veteran Fund Hall of Honor, in recognition of his 35 years of active and reserve service with the U.S. Naval Reserve and U.S. Army during the Vietnam and Gulf War eras. Powell and his wife are Co-Founders of the Eugene and Mary Lou Powell Veteran Success Last Mile Scholarship at South Florida. The scholarship helps veteran students who still need assistance in paying tuition beyond what is covered by the GI Bill. His practice at Bluestein Attorneys focuses on Veterans Disability, helping those who have served get the benefits to which they are entitled.

Robinson Gray is pleased to announce that member **Beth Burke Richardson** is one of 25 women in the Midlands who have been selected as 2019 Women of Influence by the *Columbia Regional Business Report*. *CRBR* annually honors women who are setting the pace in their careers as well as working to make the Midlands a better place. Nominated by readers of the business publication, the 25 were chosen by a panel of judges. Beth's law practice focuses on business disputes of all kinds, in courtroom and arbitration settings, including FINRA. Beth is highly active in the community, having served on the boards of Central Carolina

Community Foundation, East Point Academy, and the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network. She also served as Chair of the Board of New Morning Foundation. She received her undergraduate degree in Women's Studies from Duke University in 1997 and her juris doctorate from Washington University Law School in St. Louis in 2001.

The McKay Firm welcomed several new attorneys.

Eric Guimaraes practices in the areas of general civil defense, governmental defense, and transportation defense. During his time at the University of South Carolina School of Law, Eric was a Law Clerk in the Richland County Solicitor's Office, served as President of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, was on the executive board of the Black Law Students Association, and was a student member of the John Belton O'Neill Chapter of the American Inns of Court. Prior to joining The McKay Firm, Eric was an Assistant Solicitor for Richland County. **Makenzie Polston** practices in the areas of general insurance defense and civil litigation. She graduated Cum Laude from Presbyterian College with a degree in Psychology and a Minor in Spanish and received her JD from the University of South Carolina. During law school, she was a member of the Moot Court Bar and Mock Trial Bar. She served as the Associate Justice of Administration for the Mock Trial Bar and competed in competitions across the country. Makenzie was a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable R. Lawton McIntosh prior to joining the Firm. **Ryan Swancy** has also joined the firm and practices in the areas of general insurance defense and civil litigation. A native of Charlotte, he graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he majored in Political Science and International Studies. Ryan then earned his Juris

Doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law. During law school, Ryan served as the Research Editor for the South Carolina Journal of International Law and Business. Prior to joining The McKay Firm, Ryan was a Law Clerk for The Honorable Brian M. Gibbons, the Chief Resident Circuit Judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Collins & Lacy announces several new attorneys

have joined the firm's Columbia office in recent months. **J. Scott Pierce** has joined as an associate in the Retail & Hospitality Practice Group. The firm's Retail and Hospitality Practice Group defends leading national and regional brands operating retail, hotel, food service, bar, and entertainment establishments. Before beginning his business litigation defense practice in 2018, Scott clerked for the Honorable L. Casey Manning; worked as a policy specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and as a tax associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers. He earned a psychology degree from the University of South Carolina Honors College and his J.D. from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law. **J. Lucas Richardson** has joined as an associate in the Trucking Defense Practice Group. Attorneys in this group represent motor carriers, owner-operators, shippers, freight forwarders, and brokers in litigation statewide arising from commercial vehicle accidents and cargo claims across the state of South Carolina. Luke earned his bachelor of arts in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, at the University of South Carolina School of Law. **Robert M. Peele, III** has also joined the firm in recent months. Rob has defended civil litigation claims since 2012. Before that, he served as a Deputy General Counsel for the South Carolina Department

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of Corrections. Peele's practice will focus on matters involving construction, professional liability and trucking defense. Peele earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and his law degree from the Charleston School of Law.

Page M. Kalish announces the opening of **PMK Law, LLC** located at 3104 Devine St., Columbia 29205. Website - <https://pmklawllc.com>.

Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A. is pleased to announce that **Kelly M. Reid** and **John W. Gibson** have joined the Firm as associate attorneys. Ms. Reid joins the Construction Law Practice Group. She worked as a law clerk for the Firm while earning her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Prior to joining Richardson Plowden, Ms. Reid served as a law clerk to the Honorable Clifton Newman. She earned her Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, from Colgate University. Mr. Gibson focuses his practice in Corporate and Healthcare Law. Mr. Gibson earned his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law, while simultaneously earning his Master's in Health Administration from the UofSC Arnold School of Public Health. Prior to joining Richardson Plowden, Mr. Gibson worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Paul M. Burch. While attending law school, Mr. Gibson served as a law clerk for the Office of General Counsel at the Greenville Health System (Prisma Health). He also worked as a Graduate Assistant at Palmetto Health (Prisma Health) drafting corporate integrity agreements.

Smith Currie has merged with **Matthew E. Cox, LLC** and is now **Smith, Currie & Hancock, LLP**.

Smith Robinson Holler DuBose & Morgan, LLC announces **Bruce Greenberg** and **Shanon Peake** have joined the firm as associates at the firm's Columbia office, located at 2530 Devine Street, Columbia 29205. **Alex Atkinson** has also joined the firm as an associate in the Sumter office, located at 126 N. Main Street, Sumter 29150.

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General announces that **Cydney Milling** has joined the agency as an assistant attorney general located at 1000 Assembly St., Rembert C. Dennis Bldg., Columbia 29201.

The South Carolina Bar Foundation is pleased to introduce their 2019-2020 officers and board members. Several RCBA members are serving in leadership roles this year. **Christopher R. Koon** will serve as President. New board members are **John K. DeLoache** and **Hagood Tighe**. Returning board members include **Tiffany Butler**, **George Cauthen**, **Lisa Cotten**, **Byron E. Gipson**, and **Whitney Harrison**. The Bar Foundation is grateful for the service and dedication of its board and anticipates a successful year.

Strom Family Law, LLC announces that **Patricia W. Morr** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 2110 N. Beltline Blvd., Columbia 29204.

Lisle Traywick, an associate with **Robinson Gray** law firm, has been named to the Leadership Columbia Class of 2020. Participants experience a 10-month curriculum including monthly daylong sessions, a retreat, a class project, and a variety of enrichment activities around the area. Lisle's selection continues a Robinson Gray tradition of involvement in the program. Firm Member Nick Haigler is a former chairman of the Leadership

Columbia Advisory Board. A native of Columbia, Lisle graduated *cum laude* from Wofford College, receiving his bachelor's degree in government with a concentration in political thought and a minor in economics. He then earned his juris doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Turner Padgett announces its new Government Relations and Public Policy service with the addition of two well-established government affairs attorneys, **Edward J. Schafer** and **James F. Knox**, in the firm's Columbia office.

United States Attorney Sherri A. Lydon announces that **Tina M. Cundari** has been named the Civil Chief for the United States Attorney's Office.

White & Story LLC announces that **Molly Flynn** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 3614 Landmark Dr., Ste. 3F, Columbia 29204.

Richard L. Whitt announces the opening of **Whitt Law Firm, LLC**, located at 401 Western Lane, Suite E, Irmo 29063.

Recent Events

Recently, the Lunch & Learn and Wellness Committees co-hosted a lunch on recognizing depression and substance abuse in the legal profession; the Workers Compensation Commission Liaison held a luncheon with Commission members and the General Sessions Liaison and 5th Circuit YLD co-hosted a breakfast for young attorneys with Judge Jocelyn Newman.





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