

Volume 20, Number 2

# RICHBARNEWS

*Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association*

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# **RICHBARNEWS**

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# From the Editors:

## On Turning 55 and Baseball Hall of Famers

by Van Horger and Mike Polk



To no great fanfare, I recently turned 55. Most of the card writers in my circle have died or retired from sending cards, so I receive most of my birthday greetings from retailers, health care providers, insurance companies, financial institutions, and convenience stores that offer me a free coffee or Slurpee or buy one get one Slim Jims or something.

But this article is not about me. I want to write a little bit about baseball greats Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, and Tom Seaver.

One of the few subscriptions that I have is to *The Athletic*, and one of my favorite sports writers and authors on the site is Joe Posnanski. If you want a break from all the nonsense going on in the real world, I encourage you to pick up copies of two of his books, both of which have been a respite from my 2020 malaise. The first, *The Soul of Baseball: A Road Trip Through Buck O'Neil's America* is about a year spent travelling with the legendary Buck O'Neil. It will make you feel better about the world, and you will enjoy it even if you don't like baseball. I think about Buck O'Neil a lot. I particularly admire the way he lived his life, full of love, grace, joy, and optimism, resistant of bitterness and resentment. The second, the *Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini*, is about, well, Houdini. Just by mentioning his name, I bet

you have a picture in your mind of him. I thought I knew Houdini's story. It turns out I didn't know anything about him, or I should say anything about him that was true. It was a great book.

Before the 2020 baseball season was supposed to ten years ago, he counted down his personal best 100 baseball players of all time, one article at a time, as a series in *The Athletic*. As an aside, he had two great trivia questions (the answers are below):

1. Which two Baseball Hall of Famer's were born on the same day, different years, in the same hometown?
2. What Hall of Famer was both named for a president and played in a movie by a president?

I am a baseball fan (although my friend Reggie Belcher points out that I probably enjoy the thought of being a baseball fan more than watching a full baseball game. He makes a fair point). I mentioned my birthday earlier only because one of the melancholy parts of getting older is that childhood icons start dying with increasing regularity. The deaths are not from a car wreck or airplane crash but rather from cancer, heart disease, or after years of dementia. Most of the time, however, I feel better as I read the tributes that pour in.

So, with a tip of my cap to Joe Posnanski, who wrote articles I looked forward to each morning, here are my favorite stories from the articles he

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# From the President: Living With Uncertainty

by Charles F. Moore



The one certainty in our lives is that there is no certainty whatsoever. When I was sworn in as President at the Annual Meeting back on December 11, 2019, my platform was that we had improved and enhanced all of the various parties and get-togethers of the Richland County Bar Association, and that with those enhancements, the Bar membership needed to come to everything. I am a social person and seeing all of you at our various events has brought me great joy over the past 20 years of my RCBA membership. It was as simple as that.

On February 25, we had a Mardi Gras Oyster Roast and BBQ outdoors at the Gardens of the Woodrow Wilson House in downtown Columbia. It was a great event, in spite of foul weather, and many new faces were in attendance. Nineteen days later, Governor McMaster announced on a Sunday afternoon that statewide the schools were to be closed. Many other closings followed,

to include most attorneys' offices.

In a year where I requested zealous attendance and participation by all members of the Richland County Bar Association, our state, country, and the world have experienced the greatest halt of all travel and social activity ever before seen. My enthusiasm at planning and putting together numerous events for the Richland County Bar membership was stopped cold.

During this time, my vision of us getting together became more complicated. One thing that has become apparent to me over the past year is that we perish alone, and we fail as both individuals and a society when we don't include everybody, we don't make everybody welcome, and we don't greet everyone as a friend. We don't exist on an island. Our actions affect others, and the actions of the past, which only lasted a second, continued to endure. There are many ways to improve upon this - actions far more complicated and detailed that I can outline here - but being together, socializing together, and being kind to one another is a hell of a good start.

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### ***From the Editor (...continued from page 2)***

wrote about Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, and Tom Seaver, greats from my childhood who died this year.

Bob Gibson struck out over 3,000 batters and had a modern-day record 1.12 ERA. In 1968, he threw 28 complete games. To put that in perspective, in 2019, the most a pitcher threw was 3. As he got older, he bristled at being known as the archetype of an intimidating pitcher, as if merely being intimidating brought him his success. He explained that his glare was because he was trying to see the catcher without his glasses. People around baseball nod and say that it wasn't the glasses. (As an aside, he is the only person on this list that I have seen up close, and that was by accident. One summer during law school my friend Byron and I drove up to Cooperstown and it turned out to be induction weekend. We went through the wrong door of some souvenir shop and there were Bob

Gibson, Juan Marichal, and Luis Aparicio signing autographs. We hightailed it out of there.) I did not realize that Bob Gibson was trained by his brother, Leroy. Everyone called him Josh, but no one seems to know why. Josh earned a degree in education, then a Master's degree. He could not get a job as a coach or a teacher, but he influenced some of the greatest athletes of his era. Did you know Josh Gibson taught Bob Boozer how to rebound, turning him into a two time All American, one of the most dominant players in the history of college basketball? Or that he worked with Gale Sayers on ball carrying? Or he worked with college great Johnny Rogers? Or he worked with Marlin Briscoe, the first African American to be a professional starting quarterback? And, of course, Bob. By all accounts Josh was merciless with Bob, pounding him relentlessly in every sport they play. Why? Bob's road was going to be tough, and he wanted to make

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# The Light at the End of the Pandemic:

## Reminders

By Alex Postic



The pandemic hasn't been easy. Most of us feel pushed for time. If you're working at home, you're struggling to balance business and family responsibilities, and you may not have the help you need, whether that's office support staff or the people you hire to take care of everything else, from childcare to housecleaning. Making time to take care of yourself is harder than ever.

My response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been twofold. At first, I was very efficient. I took this gift of time to get on top of my caseload, sending letters to all my clients and re-organizing files. I was healthier and happier, eating well and exercising regularly. My second response, laziness and complacency, was decidedly less impressive. I hosted some pity parties, always a temptation, but one that increased in isolation.

I'm Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*, but in reverse. At first, he's gloomy and engages in some tomfoolery, like groundhog kidnapping. Eventually, he uses his time productively, learning how to play piano and speak French. Although it's probably too late for me to learn piano, and I already speak French (*Merci, Maman!*), I can be positive during a tough time. When 2020 is a distant memory, this is what I'd like to keep.

### Work

Early on, I went through all my files and contacted every client. I updated them and reminded myself what was going on with their cases. Now I keep a list of my cases nearby. In a few minutes, I can see what needs to be done and how it should be prioritized. What a great panic reliever. There's always time to do it because if I don't, I lose valuable time worrying about what I might have missed.

### Food

Do I need to go out to lunch every day? With the closing (temporary, thank goodness) of my favorite lunch spots, I've been eating at my desk, saving money and time. It's also good for my health. I'll be happy to reconnect with my lunch friends, but I'll do it less often and appreciate it more. I've hosted a few super-fueled and focused (with the appropriate sanitizing before and after) lunches in my conference room with friends and colleagues. I hope to continue that practice and connect with more people. I'd love to invite you.

### Fitness

It may not be piano, but I started running regularly early in the Quar (Hipster Tip: the kids call it the "Quar"). Rather than picking it up sporadically, inevitably dropping it when work or social life prevailed, I've found ways to motivate myself, like running different routes, listening to favorite podcasts,





and justifying the purchase of fancy running shoes. In this vein, I'd also like to try to forgo a harmful habit in favor of a healthier one, doubling my advantage. Speaking of less than stellar habits, the pandemic made me see nail biting in a different light. COVID-19 made it not just messy, but unsafe. I'm proud to say I recently bought nail scissors for the first time in my life, and I have to use them.

## Gratitude

I've been journaling since January 2017, but only recently focused on gratitude. I've come to see myself as a fortunate guy. When the world is topsy-turvy or business is challenging, wallowing in self-pity is easy. I'm grateful for the people around me. Although I see fewer people, I've connected more, which I hope to keep up. In March, our oldest two sons returned from college to finish the semester online. While this made our home more chaotic and quadrupled our grocery bill, we now end every

day together around the dinner table. And that is a very fortunate thing.

Am I thankful for COVID-19? Of course not. So many people in our community have already been irreparably hurt by the loss of loved ones, lack of employment, poor health, difficulty accessing education for their children, and numerous other hardships. But in taking time to consider what it's meant for me and my family, I've gained a new appreciation for my health, my work, and my time. That's something I won't forget.

*Alex is a solo practicing trial attorney in Columbia. He is a former Assistant Solicitor in Richland County and York County. Alex is a member of RCBA Wellness Committee and the co-chair of the Annual Ethics CLE. He also teaches at the University of South Carolina's Honors College. In his free time, Alex spends time with his family, plays tennis, runs, and skateboards.*

# Remove Self-Judgment from Your Judgment ...and Get Curious

By Jack Pringle



We all want to get better in our various roles. Or at least that's where I start in these pieces. If you believe you're fully formed and have nothing new to learn, then by all means keep doing what you are doing, telling everyone within earshot how busy you are, and dropping the names of people I don't know.

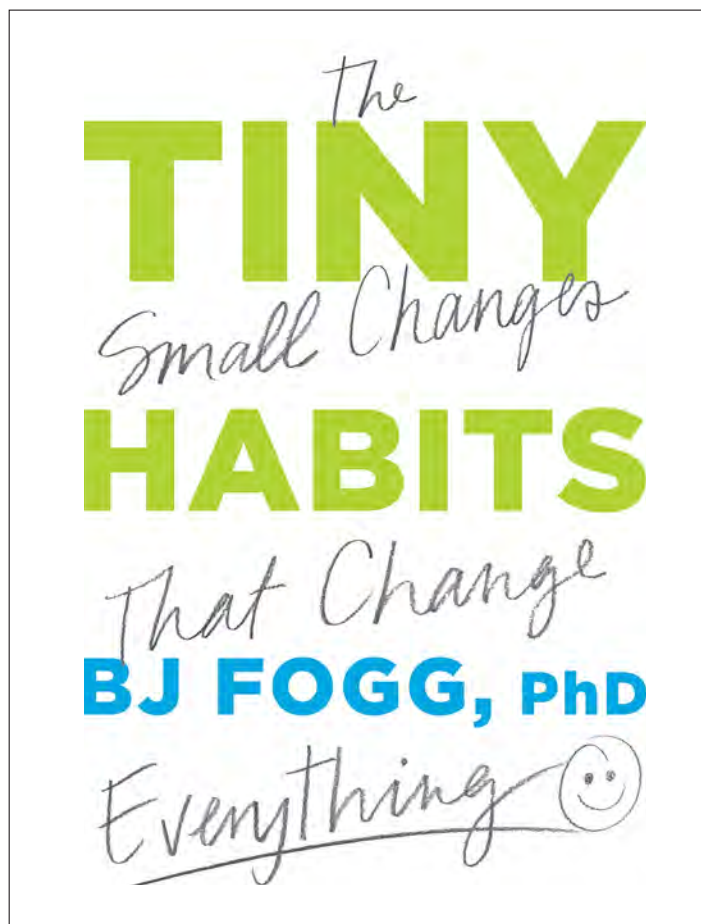
And getting better means improving my behavior, both those conscious decisions I make (judgments), and those automatic decisions I may make without being aware (habits).

Improving my judgment and habits is the process through which I learn new things and develop new skills, sharpen the tools that serve me well, and (hopefully) reduce the incidence of bad decisions and habits.

## Let Me Guess: You Read another "Great" Book?

And once again I have discovered a book that has illuminated not just how important habits are, but also one of the biggest obstacles to developing good habits - my own self-judgement.

The book is *Tiny Habits: The Small Changes that Change Everything* by B.J. Fogg, and I like it so much in part because it encourages me to do the real work and



process of improving my behaviors. I like Fogg's emphasis on the importance of gradual and incremental changes.

I also love that *Tiny Habits* identifies the essential role of emotion in habits, and especially in building new habits and changing old habits (I will come back to that at the end).

## The Importance of Seeing Things Clearly

One theme (expressed in two quotes) leapt off the page:





"Look at your behavior with curiosity and objective distance."

"Once you remove any hint of judgement, your behavior becomes a science experiment."

In any situation where you have a problem to solve, or a decision that needs to be made, it is essential to see the issue or task clearly.

To be more effective (do the right things), and efficient (do things right), how do you evaluate yourself (or your office, organization, etc.) unless you can see clearly what you are actually doing?

What gets in the way of curiosity and objective distance, especially when it comes to the way we think and act? Put another way, what clouds, filters,

narrows, or blinds our ability to see something clearly?

One major obstacle - at least in my experience - is self-judgment. Self-judgment is the harsh inner critic (fueled by emotion and the desire for survival and acceptance) who is much more unforgiving than you ever would be to another person. Paradoxically, self-judgment is also that "biggest fan" capable of placing blame and deflecting responsibility when things go awry, or taking credit where credit is not due. In either case, self-judgment, as the term suggests, is narrowly focused on the self.

"The less there was of me, the happier I got." - Leonard Cohen

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## **Remove Self-Judgment (...continued from page 10)**

### **Why is self-judgment so unhelpful and potentially harmful?**

Self-judgment is not accurate. Consider the following statements:

"I am a good person."

"I am a bad person."

"I am not a creative person."

"I won because I am a more skillful orator."

"I lost because opposing counsel is/had/used \_\_\_\_\_."

"I am not a fitness person."

"I don't work enough."

"I don't spend enough time at home."

These pronouncements are hardly factual or objective, except perhaps in the vaguest of senses. What would your reaction be if you saw statements like these in a brief? (Seeing how these self-judgments look on paper is one reason to keep a journal). Do you ever proclaim "My client is a lawful person!" and then walk away from the podium?

### **Self-Judgment Keeps Us Stuck**

More fundamentally, self-judgment ensures that you are not taking steps to change the shape you're in<sup>1</sup>. Self-judgment categorically labels an immutable characteristic ("I am a terrible writer"), not a circumstance ("That brief was not so effective."). And something that is immutable can't be changed. The binary<sup>2</sup> self-judgment categorization leaves no space for improvement, because instead of appreciating mistakes as discoveries or experiments that show a path to improvement, we fail to see

that we made any mistakes (problematic), or see error as further confirmation of inherent inadequacy or someone else's fault (more problematic).

Back to the harshest critic/biggest fan framework, notice that the statements "I am a good person" and "I am a bad person" both serve to fix you in place. The latter indicates that you don't believe you can leave your current ("bad") predicament, the former suggests you don't believe there is any reason to leave that ("good") state.

Whether it is self-flagellation or self-aggrandizement, self-judgment leaves no room for any distance from the belief that we're completely wrong or unquestionably right(eous). When you're fuming that the judge had it in for you or flying high on your brilliance, you're letting yourself off the hook to be responsible for figuring out what to do better the next time. In other words, self-judgment kills curiosity, and leaves you no space to grow or to want to change, even when the evidence is right in front of your nose.

### **Don't Get Me Wrong**

By discouraging self-judgment, I am not advocating that you stop evaluating yourself or others appropriately or suggesting that "whatever" be your credo. "By ending judgment, you do not avoid seeing what is. Ending judgment means you neither add to nor subtract from the facts before your eyes." - W. Timothy Gallwey, *The Inner Game of Tennis: The Classic Guide to the Mental Side of Peak Performance*.



## **Remove Self-Judgment (...continued from page 10)**

### **Conclusion: So What to Do?**

I have three suggestions (since everyone digs checklists):

- Notice when you're "exercising" self-judgment. Then maybe you can start replacing "I'm bad at..." with "What can I do to...?"
- Celebrate your successes - no matter how small - toward addressing self-judgment (or anything else). Emotions create and cement habits, both good and bad.
- Go easy on yourself and keep in mind that this a

lifelong process.

Bonus: "When in doubt, zoom out." - Reggie Watts. I will let you chew on that.

You've got enough challenges ahead of you without getting in your own way.

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<sup>1</sup>The Band song is not "You don't know...the shape in which I am," so don't @ me about the preposition.

<sup>2</sup>Beware the Binary. <https://www.businessinsider.com/nyu-professor-scott-galloway-conflating-luck-talent-dangerous-2019-12>

## **From the President (...continued from page 3)**

I have missed all of you, but I want you to know that the RCBA has never stopped working and striving to fulfill its mission to advance the science of jurisprudence, facilitate the administration of justice, and encourage cordial intercourse among its members. Your Executive Committee has met every month and Mandy Wren has labored to keep the RCBA moving forward in creative and helpful ways. It has been tough, but we have persevered. Ashley Story takes over as your President next year and I can assure you that she will be a superstar.

So, perhaps this year I won't be able to share that drink with you, or stand by your side and chat it up in front of the fountain of shrimp. My children won't get to play with yours at Riverbanks Zoo. We won't

be able to have dinner together at City Roots and I won't get to meet or reacquaint myself with your wife/husband/partner. But this will end.

As Maya Angelou wrote, quoting a country song, "Every storm runs out of rain." I look forward to seeing all of you once the rain stops and continuing to work with all of you to make our lives and the lives of our clients, friends, and families, better.

Until then, stay healthy, work hard, and let's live with the hope and expectation of a better tomorrow.

*Charlie Moore is a shareholder at Turner Padgett. He can be reached at [cmoore@turnerpadgett.com](mailto:cmoore@turnerpadgett.com).*

# Profiles of Committee/Liaison Leadership



## Tiffany Butler

*Associate at Duff Freeman Lyon and Co-Chair, Wellness Committee*

### What are you up to these days?

On May 28th, I became the proud mommy to an adorable Beagle puppy named Cairo. He just turned seven months old and is feisty, sweet, loving, and at times stubborn. It has been such a delight watching him grow, explore, and learn new things. He can walk up and down the steps by himself and has learned how to jump on the couch. My husband and I have had our hands full over the past few months, but Cairo has brought so much joy into our home!

### What hobbies do you enjoy, or more generally what interests do you have outside of law?

I am an avid Lady Gamecocks WBB fan and try to attend all the home games. I love practicing yoga and have probably practiced at every studio in Columbia! I also enjoy attending local festivals and cultural events (pre-pandemic, of course), especially symphony performances at the Koger Center.

### What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

As I reflect on my life and legal career, where I started and where I am now, I think the most significant piece of advice that I have received is that what other people think of you is none of your business. Similarly, I have learned that how people treat you is a reflection of them, not you. I remind myself daily, especially when things get hectic at work, to not take things personally and that I do not have to react to every little thing. It helps to stop, take a deep breath, feel whichever feeling I am experiencing, then let it go and move on with my day.

### What is your favorite book, movie, or music and why?

My favorite book and movie is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The BBC version with Colin Firth as Mr. Darcy is the best...hands down! I fell in love with historical fiction in college. There is nothing like getting lost in a scandalous period drama on a lazy Saturday afternoon!



**Why did you choose to get involved in the Richland County Bar? What benefits do you see to your involvement?**

I chose to get involved in the Richland County Bar because I wanted to meet and connect with other attorneys in Richland County. Since becoming a member, I have connected with local attorneys and judges from all backgrounds and practice areas and have had the opportunity to serve and co-chair the wonderful Wellness Committee. Serving as co-chair has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had since joining the RCBA. I have met and worked with super talented and dedicated RCBA members who share a passion for promoting attorney health and wellbeing – mental, emotional, and physical.

**Why should someone join your committee or get involved in a leadership capacity with RCBA?**

Regardless of our practice areas and individual backgrounds, we all face challenges in our professional and personal lives. The RCBA Wellness Committee's mission is to promote and support attorney wellbeing by offering a safe space to discuss what are often difficult issues to acknowledge, especially in a profession that can be extremely adversarial and stressful like ours. The committee has grown since forming in 2019, and we are looking for new members who believe in the committee's mission and want to serve

the RCBA by helping to provide resources, training, and other educational events focused on attorney wellness.



**Tina Cundari**

*Chief, Civil Division, United States Attorney's Office, District of South Carolina and Co-Chair, Wellness Committee*

**What are you up to these days?**

Due to the pandemic, I have been working from home since mid-March, going into the office once a week and as needed. We have had the good fortune in the U.S. Attorney's Office of being able to work remotely. This has worked well for the Civil Division, given the nature of our practice and the fact that the vast majority of our cases are in federal court. We have taken full advantage of available technology and have terrific IT support. Although the change in circumstances has not always been easy, we have adapted and have continued to practice at a high level. When I am not working, I spend

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## **Profiles of Committee/Liaison Leadership (...continued from page 12)**

Cory and I marvel at how many dishes we go through in a day, and it's just the two of us!

### **What hobbies do you enjoy, or more generally what interests do you have outside of law?**

Anyone who knows me knows the answer to this question. One of my main interests outside of the law is yoga. I have been practicing yoga for 15 years and have been teaching a weekly class for almost 6 years. The yoga studio where I taught, City Yoga in Five Points, recently closed due to the pandemic. During that time, I recorded my classes in a room at the studio by myself, which was scary and awkward at first but eventually became easier. I spend a lot of time thinking about and preparing for each class.

### **What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?**

Cory often reminds me that the practice of law is a practice. This has been invaluable advice to me in my career, and it is something I remind myself of whenever I am being too hard on myself. It never fails that after a hearing, a deposition, or any important event, I think of things I could have done better. I usually give myself a fair amount of time to reflect on this and then I tell myself to keep moving forward and to keep striving to do better. It's a practice.

### **What is your favorite book, movie, or music and why?**

I just finished reading *Their Eyes Were Watching God*...again. I first read the book in college, and I go back to it from time to time. I'm captivated by the main character's journey of self-discovery and the book's teachings about life and love. The writing is lyrical and powerful. There's even a trial scene near the end. The author, Zora Neale Hurston, intrigues me as well. She did not get the credit she deserved during her lifetime. She spent the last decade of her life broke and working as a maid. Every time I read *Their Eyes*, I feel in some small way like I'm honoring her legacy. I also recently watched the filmed version of the Broadway musical, *Hamilton*. It was incredible to see the original cast perform and to see the actors' facial expressions up close. The talent, the production, and the genius of the writing continue to amaze me.

### **Why did you choose to get involved in the Richland County Bar? What benefits do you see to your involvement?**

I chose to become involved in a committee of the Richland County Bar because the past president, Kristen Horne, asked me to. I jumped at the opportunity to serve as a co-chair of the newly formed Wellness Committee because I am passionate about the topic. I was also excited about the prospect of serving alongside Tiffany Butler. My membership in the RCBA has grown more meaningful and rewarding each year. I find the practice of law (like any of life's pursuits) to be more fulfilling and sustainable when you feel connected and supported. The RCBA provides that for me.

### **Why should someone join your committee or get involved in a leadership capacity with RCBA?**

People should get involved in things that interest them. Serving on a committee is a great way to meet



and work with new people. It can also provide leadership opportunities without a lot of risk. Serving on the Wellness Committee has been extremely gratifying. One of the goals of the committee is to highlight the importance of mental, as well as physical, health and wellbeing. The more open we are as a profession about mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse, the more likely people are to ask for help when they need it. I'm proud of the RCBA for forming the committee and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.



### **Brian Comer**

*General Counsel, South Carolina Youth Advocate Program and Chair, Lunch & Learn Committee*

#### **What are you up to these days?**

I am the General Counsel for a nonprofit child placement agency, and most of the company continues to work remotely. So, I am working from home most of the time and sharing my current "office" with my three kids and my wife, who is also working from home. When I am not working, I am trying to keep my sanity under these conditions by exercising, watching movies, reading, and teaching a 15 year old how to drive (although the latter is not great for keeping my sanity!).

#### **What hobbies do you enjoy, or what interests do you have outside of law?**

I am an avid runner, so I try to run five days a week. I like to cook, and I mainly grill and cook "comfort food." I also love sports, which has been one of the more challenging aspects of dealing with COVID-19 (i.e., not having good sports to look forward to and watch). Outside of these activities, my wife and I

have three children, so much of my time is spent having fun with them and their activities.

#### **What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?**

I keep a running list of quotes to share with my kids, so there are too many to share. However, some of the ones I have always remembered are:

- "Grow where you are planted" (which I am sure someone said originally, but I remember it from Sun-

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## **Profiles of Committee/Liaison Leadership (...continued from page 14)**

day School);

- “What should be done eventually must be done immediately” (credited to former University of Florida Athletics Director Jeremy Foley); and
- “It ain’t about how hard ya hit. It’s about how hard you can get hit...and keep moving forward. How much you can take...and keep moving forward.” (by the great Rocky Balboa).

Professionally, a colleague told me early in my legal career that “If you do good work, everyone will want to work with you. If you don’t, they won’t.” As a young associate, I found this to be true when I pursued work in the law firm, and I later found it to be true in marketing with clients.

### **What is your favorite book, movie, or music and why?**

I am a “favorites” person, so I think about these types of questions quite a bit and ask others for theirs. My favorite book is *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand because - setting aside any political aspects of the book - I enjoyed the story. My favorite movie is *Goodfellas* because I can watch it over and over and never get tired of it. With regard to music, I like a wide variety but will crank up “Wherever I May Roam” by Metallica more than most songs.

### **Why did you choose to get involved in the Richland County Bar? What benefits do you see to your involvement?**

The RCBA does such a great job of providing members with programs, services, and networking opportunities that I really never considered NOT being involved. Through membership, I can see friends, network, get CLE credit...even take my family to the zoo through the annual Night at the Zoo! The organization provides fantastic service to its members, and I genuinely look forward to all of the social events. Through the CLE opportunities provided by the organization, I can satisfy a large portion of my yearly requirements for free or at a low cost, so the membership pays for itself.

### **Why should someone join your committee or get involved in a leadership capacity with RCBA?**

When I left private practice after almost 20 years and went in-house, I wanted an outlet to continue to work with and socialize with other attorneys since I was not going to be part of a law firm. However, beyond this personal reason, I think it is important to serve in the local bar, and the RCBA provides so many opportunities that it is easy to find something of personal interest. I asked to be part of the “Lunch and Learn” committee because I liked the idea of organizing a one-hour free CLE over lunch for members focusing on a topic of general interest. COVID-19 has thrown a bit of a wrench into our planning, but I hope to see members virtually at one soon!





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# Rules, Quick Parts, Add-Ins

## How the Busy Lawyer Can Automate Outlook

by Bill Booth

I am a busy lawyer and, while I use Microsoft Outlook many times during my busy day, I am not willing to devote the time to learn about and make changes. Are you the busy lawyer?

The busy lawyer sees the benefit of receiving and reading posts from other lawyers about topics in his or her areas of practice but receiving them in the main inbox is a huge distraction. Problem solved. Set up rules to make the posts go automatically to a folder with a folder name that identifies the list-serv for which you are getting posts.

The busy lawyer sees the benefit of creating messages to reply to a legal inquiry so the potential client gets immediate notification that he or she is in business and will respond soon, but the busy lawyer usually responds several hours later and slowly types out the reply. Problem solved. Set up reusable pieces of content using Quick Parts or My Templates so that your reply will be ready to go and you can send within a few minutes of receipt.

The busy lawyer sees the benefit of responding to a meeting suggestion and having the ability to be shown instantly if that time slot is open and to schedule quickly. But the busy lawyer usually goes to his or her calendar program to view availability and to schedule. Problem solved. The Meeting Suggestion Add-in feature when viewing a meeting request found in your email shows if you have a conflict and allows you to add that meeting to your calendar easily without leaving Outlook. This add-in will not share your meeting's data with any third-party service.

### Rules

A Rule is an automated action in Outlook that usually you would have to perform manually. A Rule is an action taken if a message meets predetermined criteria. For example, to create a Rule for an email posted to the Solo Firm Community on the SC Bar Connect, simply right-click on the email and choose Rules from the drop-down menu and then you will see Create Rule. The Create Rule interface dialog box will be shown, and you will then select that for messages with *Solo firm*: in the subject line, the email will be automatically moved out of your inbox into the folder named Solo. You can then easily view the Solo folder for any new messages at your convenience. There will be a number displayed next to the folder showing how many email messages have not been read. There are some other settings that can be chosen at the time of creating the Rule, such as having the New Item Alert window appear or playing a ring time.



### Quick Parts

Quick Parts are reusable pieces of content that you can quickly and easily drop into email messages in Outlook. This means blocks of text that you can insert quickly into your emails, appointments, or tasks, but it does not only include text - you can also reuse tables, graphics, and document properties. It will also maintain the formatting of the content.

To create content, open Outlook and type the text you want with the content and formatting required. Select the entire text or content, click the Insert Tab, then on the right side of the ribbon click Quick Parts and choose Save Selection to Quick Parts Gallery. This will open the create new building block dialog box.

To use content created as a Quick Part, after you start a new email message you can place the cursor where you would like to insert the entry. You then go to the insert tab on the ribbon, click on Quick Parts, and then select the thumbnail that matches the entry you would like inserted.

## My Templates

My Templates is a managed add-in that is automatically included with Outlook. You may need to turn on this add-in by navigating to Manage Add-ins from the file menu in Outlook. Once turned on, you will see the View Templates window icon on the ribbon after you start a new email message. After composing a frequently used email message, click on the icon and you will see a new windowpane on the right side of the message window. Add your new template with a name and then the content will be placed under that name.

You can have a template that contains information for a conference call or a template that gives instructions on making a fee payment with a credit card containing the link to your credit card payment service. The template can also contain a link to your intake form using Microsoft Forms. A quick response for setting up an online appointment allows you to quickly respond to legal inquiries.

After you have started an email, select the View



Templates icon to select the template message to be placed in the email. Another advantage of using My Templates is that the template will be available on any computer using your hosted Microsoft Exchange and Outlook.

## Suggested Meetings Add-in

Suggested Meetings is another managed add-in that is automatically included with Outlook. When an email requests a meeting or phone call, this Add-in will show you any conflicts and if there are none, the event can be quickly added to your calendar and an invitation sent to the sender of the email.

## Bottom Line

In conclusion, a bottom line message for all the busy lawyers is that you may be so busy because you have not taken the time to automate the use of Outlook in your law practice for the features discussed in this article. So, take some time to implement one or more these features and you will be making your time more productive.

*William E. Booth III can be reached at [bill@boothlawfirmssc.com](mailto:bill@boothlawfirmssc.com) and 803.791.9211.*

## ***From the Editor (...continued from page 4)***

sure he was prepared.

In 1974, Lou Brock decided he was going to set the stolen base record and ended up breaking Maury Wills then record of 104 stolen bases. The problems were (1) he was 35 years old and (2) that was 30 more than he had ever stolen in a season. One of the reasons he became a ballplayer was that he learned that they made \$8 per day in meal money. That alone was a pretty good deal. My favorite story involves an angel. Brock was having second thoughts about trying out for his college team when he saw a little boy running around the field having a great time. For some reason, on that day, Brock's nerves settled down, he tried out for the team, and the rest is history. The next day he asked a couple of teammates about the little boy, and they did not know what he was talking about – there was no little boy. Brock told this to Buck O'Neil. Buck did not laugh. Buck just said, "You think that boy was an angel? There are angels everywhere." (If Buck O'Neil didn't laugh, I won't, either.)

Tom Seaver won multiple Cy Young awards, won 300 games and struck out 3,000 batters. His nickname says it all: Tom Terrific. Posnanski gives us the following description: "He symbolized a time and a place and a feeling...when baseball was mostly on the radio and in the box scores...when television was still moving from black and white to color...when you went to your very first ballgame and the guy on the mound pitched with such gorgeous rhythm and flow that you could not take your eyes off him." (Speaking of black and white televisions, I was lucky because I had a 12-inch black and white TV in my room. The color TV took

up half of the living room. True, you had to fiddle with the rabbit ears to get all the stations, but I felt lucky to have it. Speaking of fiddling with the TV, remember the vertical and horizontal hold knobs? Man is this article making me feel old).

What is the moral of this article? Maybe it is that sometimes it is fun to reminisce and revisit past favorites. Maybe it is that life is tough, but you can't give up. Maybe it is that sometimes there is nothing better than a good book to get you through tough times. Maybe it is simply that, as co-editor, you can write about stuff you like.

Speaking of which, it is really time to get some new blood running the newsletter. Stay tuned for more updates on this.

Oh, and the answers to the trivia questions.

Grover Cleveland Alexander was named after a president and he was played in movie by a president (Ronald Reagan).

Ken Griffey, Jr., and Stan Musial were both born on November 21 in Donora, Pennsylvania (population less than 5,000).

Note: This article was written before the deaths of Joe Morgan and Whitey Ford, greats in their own right.

*Mike Polk, can be reached at Mike@belserpa.com. The other editor, Van Horger, can be reached at Van\_Horger@scd.uscourts.gov.*







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# RCBA Legal Leaders:

## Membership to Leadership

With just under 2,000 members, the Richland County Bar Association has a considerable number of active and engaged leaders serving in a variety of organizations. However, a few members have risen to even greater heights as leaders in several of the most influential legal associations in South Carolina. Our bar is extremely fortunate to have numerous past and present leaders serving in leadership roles in state, regional, and even national legal entities. We are pleased to share the experiences of several members - how they became involved in their respective organizations, moved into prominent leadership roles and how other attorneys might benefit from joining or increasing their own involvement.

### Making Connections

Nearly all of the leaders commented that valued mentors or personal connections led to their initial involvement. **Beth Burke Richardson**, President of the SC Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, joined the Federal Bar shortly after finishing law school. She had previously clerked for several federal judges and had gotten to know some of the law clerks already involved and it seemed a natural way to continue those relationships. Beth further notes the SC Chapter is relatively small, allowing members to make meaningful connections statewide, and particularly praises the mentoring program between members and Law School students. **Theile McVey**, Past President of the South Carolina Association for Justice (SCAJ) similarly remarked that her involvement resulted from an older member "asking me to take an interest and asking me to take on committee assignments within the association. He wanted to bring both gender and racial diversity to the board and it took him affirmatively looking for folks who had not been truly involved before." **A. Johnston Cox**, President of the SC Defense Trial Attorneys Association (SCDTAA), has been involved with the SCDTAA his entire career. He notes how fortunate he was to have mentors (Earl Ellis, John T. Lay, Jr., and others) who valued and recognized the SCDTAA as a means to develop leadership skills and give back to the legal profession. SC Bankruptcy Law



**Beth Burke Richardson**  
*President of the  
SC Chapter of the Federal Bar*



**Theile McVey**

*Past President of the South Carolina  
Association for Justice (SCAJ)*

working his way through the ranks and now serving as the association's President. **Robert Goings** has long aspired to be a member of ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates) and at the age of 39, is the youngest President of the SC Chapter of ABOTA. He notes several distinguished past Presidents of the SC Chapter that have been very influential on his legal career. He credits these prominent leaders in making the organization what it is today, including the distinct honor of having the current national ABOTA President Luther J. Battiste III hail from South Carolina and our own Richland County.

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Association President **Ian McVey** recalls his early involvement in the SC Bar's YLD following law school. When Richland County Bar President Roy Laney asked him to co-chair the Young Lawyers committee, he eagerly agreed and enjoyed helping other young lawyers build their practices and make connections particularly when partnering with other young professional groups. He later served on the Executive Committee, eventually becoming Richland County Bar President in 2013. Following his tenure as President, he planned to take a break and "just work" but ran for a seat on the SC Bankruptcy Law Association and found himself quickly back on the leadership track,



**A. Johnston Cox**

*President of the SC Defense Trial Attorneys  
Association (SCDTAA)*





**Robert Goings**  
*President of the  
SC Chapter of ABOTA*

## **Path to Leadership**

Like many things in life, if you choose to get involved (i.e. show up and do the job well), people usually notice and often opportunities present themselves. Newly elected President of the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association (SCBLA), **Breon C.M. Walker**, strongly believes “if you’re a member of any organization and not fully taking advantage of the numerous opportunities to get more involved, you are doing yourself a disservice.” Walker initially attended SCBLA social functions to meet other attorneys and soon the organization’s esteemed leadership invited her to serve on the Board. **Ian McVey** echoes that sentiment stating, “My advice to new lawyers - get involved in some type of legal organization/association when you get out of law school! Get in touch with the President of that organization and ask to serve on a committee - this will help you to open the doors for yourself.” In a similar vein, **Johnston Cox** recommends all defense attorneys in South Carolina, especially young lawyers, join the SCDTAA. He shares that through his involvement, he has developed valuable relationships with lawyers

across the state. **Beth Richardson** agrees, noting that joining the state chapter of the Federal Bar Association is a no-brainer for anyone who practices in the federal courts. She credits her involvement in the Federal Bar with growing her professional network both with local counsel and across the country, as well as increasing opportunities to interact with judges at the district and appellate court levels particularly as she accepted leadership roles. **Robert Goings** concurs with the adage that with any organization, “you get out of it what you put into it,” and finds this is especially true for those serving in leadership roles who must address the difficult issues at hand, whether they be specific to an organization or on a national or global scale.

## **Benefits of Involvement**

As South Carolina is a relatively small state, members of the legal community are often well-connected. There are a number of highly regarded legal organizations with a variety of opportunities for all levels of

engagement, as well as avenues to partner with other like-minded organizations. Case in point: **Johnston Cox** and **Breon Walker** are not only law partners, but with Breon serving on the Board of SCDTAA, the two leaders have increased opportunities to work together on issues that have relevance to both of their organizations. In fact, SCBLA and SCDTAA are working together on several diversity issues and are planning joint virtual events in the near future. They note that a number of local and national issues affect attorneys directly and it makes everyone stronger when working together. **Richardson's** presidential tenure ended in September, but the RCBA leadership streak continues as member Janet Brooks-Holmes will serve as the next SC Chapter President of the Federal Bar. All of the attorneys affirmed the value of statewide



**Ian McVey**  
*President of the SC  
Bankruptcy Law Association*



**Breon C.M. Walker**  
*President of the  
SC Black Lawyers Association (SCBLA)*

and regional networking, wealth of impressive CLE offerings, and numerous opportunities for professional and personal growth as reasons for joining, and leading, our state's legal organizations.

**Robert Goings** neatly sums up his own leadership experience by saying, "I work every day with members of ABOTA, many of whom are opposing counsel, but because we have the shared ideals of professionalism, civility and a zealous advocacy for representing our clients before a jury, it is very rewarding." Through her involvement with SCAJ, **Theile McVey** has had opportunities to meet lawyers from across the state that she would have never met but for her role in SCAJ, noting that

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## Update on Supreme Court Beautification Finalizing Plans

by Jack McKenzie

We are delighted to announce that we have reached our fundraising goal and that on October 6, 2020, the Supreme Court grounds project sailed through the Joint Bond Review Committee Phase 1 review. We still have several steps to go, but assuming all goes well, we will be looking at a November 2021-March 2022 construction date.

This project will create a healthier, safer, and more beautiful area for the members of our highest court and their staff to work, and will last into the next century. We cannot thank the members of the RCBA (and members of the South Carolina Bar) enough for their generosity.



*Jack McKenzie is a past president of the RCBA and practices at McDonald, McKenzie, Rubin, Miller & Lybrand. He can be reached at [jackm@mmrml.com](mailto:jackm@mmrml.com).*



## Legal Leaders (...continued from page 24)

while at times it feels like you are taking valuable time away from your practice, the people you meet and really get to know is invaluable. She said an often-shared quote from former Chief Justice Jean Toal to “leave the ladder down as you are climbing up” has influenced her perspective on leadership.

The impressive number of RCBA members guiding influential legal organizations has strengthened and enriched our bar in countless ways and the Richland County Bar is better for the inspiring, dedicated, and challenging work of these legal leaders.



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# Noteworthy News & Announcements

The National Judicial College, the nation's oldest and largest institution of judicial education, announces that **Mayor Stephen Benjamin** is among three new members of the Board of Trustees. Benjamin was first elected mayor of Columbia in 2010 and served as president of the African-American Mayors Association in 2015-2016 and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2018-2019. The new trustees were nominated by the board at the group's meeting in July and then elected by the members of the College's corporation, the American Bar Association's Board of Governors in August.

**The Law Office of Kenneth E. Berger, LLC** is pleased to announce that **Elizabeth "Liz" Dalzell** has joined the firm's Columbia office, located at 5205 Forest Drive, Suite 2, Columbia 29206.

**Boykin & Davis, LLC** announces that **Peter E. Keup** has joined the firm located at 220 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 100, Columbia 29210.

**Burnette Shutt & McDaniel** co-founder **M. Malissa Burnette** is among the honorees for this year's South Carolina ETV Women Vision SC awards. The 11 pioneers represent a range of professions, including the law, government, education, business, the media, and healthcare and were profiled in an hour long special on July 2nd. In its second year, the Women Vision SC initiative focuses on issues affecting women in South Carolina and across the nation and serves as recognition for trailblazing SC women who have made an impact. The selection process begins with viewer nominations. This year, a panel of community leaders reviewed the 90

nominations submitted and narrowed the field to a final 11. Burnette has litigated landmark civil rights cases such as the one that paved the way for women to attend state-supported military schools. She and firm co-founder Nekki Shutt were lead counsel in the case that led to marriage equality in SC.

The College of Charleston is pleased to announce **Derrick L. Williams** has been elected President of the Alumni Association. Derrick is a partner in the law firm **Mickle & Bass, LLC**, where he focuses on representing injured workers throughout the state. He is also a certified mediator. Derrick is a former Commissioner on the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission and was one of the youngest to ever serve in that capacity. Derrick is involved in a number of community organizations and is currently serving as Treasurer for the Richland County Bar Association.

**Crowe LaFave, LLC** announces that **Anna Barber Marsh** has joined its firm located at 500 Taylor Street, Suite 202, Columbia 29201.

**Finkel Law Firm** is pleased to announce that **Sharon C. Bramlett** has joined the firm's office as Of Counsel. Sharon has extensive experience representing banks and other financial services companies in connection with financings as well as workouts and restructures. She also represents financial services clients in connection with compliance and regulatory matters at both the state and federal levels. She currently serves at the Chairman of the Council of Advisors on Consumer Credit, an



advisory board to the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs. Other representations include assisting clients with the purchase, sale, financing, or leasing of real estate or personal property assets. Sharon is a graduate of Leadership South Carolina and Columbia and has been recognized by the United Way of the Midland with a Community Impact Award for her work with the Ready, Willing and Able program for women at Transitions Homeless Center.

**Furr & Henshaw** has consolidated its Myrtle Beach and Columbia offices and **O. Fayrell Furr, Jr.** and **Charles L. Henshaw, Jr.** will join in practicing at 1900 North Oak Street, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. The firm was founded in Columbia in 1978 as the Law Offices of O. Fayrell Furr, Jr., and the Myrtle Beach office was opened in 1983 as the primary location. The firm became known as Furr & Henshaw in 1992. Fayrell Furr and Charles Henshaw together have almost 90 years' experience representing plaintiffs primarily in medical malpractice cases. The firm will continue undertaking plaintiffs' medical malpractice and personal injury cases on a statewide basis. The Columbia office has closed effective July 1.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Elizabeth Black** is serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Richland Library Friends and Foundation for 2020-2021. Formed in 2017 to

support the mission of Richland Library, the Friends and Foundation raises awareness and support to make a variety of innovative and award-winning programs possible in Richland Library's 14 locations throughout Richland County. Elizabeth has served on the Board of Trustees since 2018 and is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Columbia. She focuses her legal practice on commercial litigation matters, with experience trying these cases in courts and before arbitration panels.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Mary Caskey** has been selected as one of nineteen "Women of Influence" by the *Columbia Regional Business Report*. Mary and her fellow honorees were recognized virtually in September. She serves on the firm's four-member Management Committee and chairs the firm's Recovery practice group. Mary, a Certified Bankruptcy and Debtor-Creditor Law Specialist, is an experienced litigator who concentrates her practice in disputes involving financial service providers and creditors' rights for consumer and commercial debts. Mary is listed in the *2020 Best Lawyers in America*® for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and Consumer Law and as one of *South Carolina Super Lawyers*® 2020 "Rising Stars" for Creditor Debtor Rights. Active in the community, Mary is a member of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, American Bankruptcy Institute, South Carolina Women Lawyers

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## Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 28)

Association and the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association. She is the Vice President for Finance for the Junior League of Columbia and a graduate of Leadership Columbia.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Tyra McBride** has joined the firm as an associate and will focus her practice on commercial and financial services litigation. Tyra earned her Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the University of South Carolina School of Law. During law school, Tyra was Associate Editor in Chief of the *South Carolina Law Review* and a student member of Women in Law and the Black Law Students Association. She is also a graduate of Francis Marion University. Prior to joining Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, Tyra served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. George C. James, Jr., South Carolina Supreme Court.

**Ashley Johnson**, an associate with **Robinson Gray** law firm, has been recognized by the South Carolina Bar's Young Lawyers Division as a "Star of the Quarter." She received the recognition for organizing this year's Community Law Week – an annual event that promotes the legal profession while serving the community. Ashley transitioned the projects during the pandemic in order to safely provide vital services to the community. As part of Community Law Week, Ashley helped arrange meals for frontline hospital workers during the COVID crisis, and co-chaired the S.C. Legal Feeding Frenzy, which supports the state's food banks and food rescue organizations. The Feeding Frenzy raised enough for 28,255 meals for South Carolinians in need of food assistance. She also mentors law students at the University of South Carolina. Ashley's practice focuses on workers'

compensation. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in 2010 and juris doctorate from the USC School of Law in 2013. She was a law clerk to the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, South Carolina Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

**Olivia Stafford Jones** was named as Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the South Carolina Bar at the House of Delegates meeting in May. SC Bar Pro Bono Awards are presented annually to a lawyer and/or law firm that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged. These services ensure that representation is provided to individuals and families in need of free civil legal assistance. Jones is fluent in Spanish and an active member of many professional and community associations. She is the co-chair of the RCBA Small/Solo Committee and also serves on the University of South Carolina School of Law Pro Bono Alumni Advisory Board.

**LawyerLisa, LLC** is pleased to announce the hire of **Richard L. Bolen**, the newest attorney to join the firm. With more than 27 years of experience, Rich practiced litigation in upstate New York before moving back to South Carolina to become General Counsel to the SC Secretary of State. In 1998, Rich opened his own law firm in Lexington, which developed into a real estate practice. He continued his focus on real estate closings when he joined a well-established Columbia law firm in 2017. Rich brings his extensive experience to LawyerLisa where he will continue to provide legal guidance on real estate closings and estate planning.

**McLeod Law Group, LLC** announces that **John D.**

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**Hudson, Jr.** has joined the firm and opened the Columbia location at 928 Washington St., Columbia 29201.

**John Mobley** has been appointed to the Board of Governors of the South Carolina Association for Justice. A native of Columbia, Mobley has been a personal injury and criminal defense trial attorney for more than 25 years. The South Carolina Association for Justice (SCAJ) was founded more than 50 years ago by a small group of trial lawyers and is now a statewide organization with more than 1,200 members. SCAJ serves as a resource to its members, promoting connections, providing education, presenting value and preserving justice.

**The John Mobley Law Firm** announces the addition of attorney **David J. Miller** to the practice. Miller practices primarily in the areas of civil litigation/personal injury, family court and criminal defense. Miller graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law. After serving as a law clerk to a circuit court judge and 12 years as a litigator with various firms, he opened David J. Miller Law Firm LLC. The firm became Of Counsel to The John Mobley Law Firm in 2017. He is completing his tenure serving as Chair of the Ethics Advisory Committee for the SC Bar and is a past President of the Kershaw County Bar Association.

**Nelson Mullins** is pleased to announce partner **Carmen Harper Thomas** has been elected as

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## **Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 30)**

chair of the Board of Visitors of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Visitors assists the Board of Trustees and the University's President in the overall advancement of the University of South Carolina Columbia and the University of South Carolina System. In support of its efforts, the Board of Visitors works to encourage alumni participation, invite public and private support, and facilitate internal and external communications with the University's stakeholders. This is Thomas' second three-year term on the board. She earned her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the UofSC School of Law, a Masters of Public Administration from the University's Graduate School, and a Bachelor's degree from the University's Honors College in Journalism and Mass Communications, cum laude. Thomas is a litigator whose experience includes resolving disputes and regulatory issues for financial services companies, energy and telecommunications utilities, professionals and their firms, and companies with innovative technology or business models.

**Nexsen Pruet** announces that **Ray N. Stevens** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1230 Main St., Ste. 700, Columbia 29201.

**Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.**, announces that **Randall Dong** has joined the agency as legal director located at 3710 Landmark Dr., Ste. 208, Columbia 29204.

**Rikard & Protopapas, LLC** announces that **Jeremy C. Hodges** has joined the firm located at 1329 Blanding St., Columbia 29201.

**Jasmine Smith**, an associate with **Robinson Gray**

law firm, has been named to the South Carolina Top 40 Under 40 list for 2020-2021 by National Black Lawyers. The award is extended, following a rigorous nomination and vetting process, to only forty lawyers in each state. Those selected "exemplify superior qualifications, leadership skills, and performance in their areas of legal practice." National Black Lawyers aims to celebrate legal excellence by promoting attorneys as subject-matter experts, developing a strong national network of top African American attorneys and facilitating the exchange of timely information to enable members to maintain their status as leaders. Jasmine practices in the areas of commercial litigation, professional liability and ethics, probate and estate litigation, and appellate advocacy, focusing on family law. She earned a Masters in Counselor Education and after receiving her Juris Doctorate, clerked for both the Honorable John D. Geathers and the Honorable Jasper M. Cureton at the South Carolina Court of Appeals. She is very active in the community, serving on numerous committees and boards.

**The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General** announces that **Eric B. Guimaraes** and **William H. Raye** have joined the agency located at 1000 Assembly St., Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia 29201.

**La'Jessica Stringfellow**, an associate with **Robinson Gray** law firm, was recognized by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) as a "Star of the Quarter" during the group's Spring Virtual Conference. She was recognized for her work planning a webinar on nonpartisan volunteer opportunities for young lawyers for the ABA YLD



Civic Engagement committee. La'Jessica currently serves as the Young Lawyers Division liaison to the Section of Litigation and previously served as vice-chair of the YLD Civic Engagement Committee. Before joining Robinson Gray, La'Jessica was an assistant solicitor in the 11th Circuit Solicitor's office, where she prosecuted domestic violence, sexual assaults, and other violent crimes. Before that, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable John C. Few with the South Carolina Court of Appeals and the South Carolina Supreme Court. She is a graduate of Virginia State University, and received her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

**Sweeny, Wingate & Barrow, P.A.** announces that **Aaron Hayes** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1515 Lady St., Columbia 29201.

**Turner Padgett** announces that **Benjamin E. Calhoun** and **Hood Dawson** have joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1901 Main Street, Columbia 29201.

**The University of South Carolina's School of Law** announces that **William Hubbard**, a prominent South Carolina attorney and former president of the American Bar Association, has been named the new dean of the state's only public law school. Hubbard is a former partner with Nelson Mullins and an alumnus of UofSC. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the university in 1974, graduating magna cum laude, and juris doctorate from the School of Law in 1977. As a student, Hubbard was awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, the university's highest student honor. Hubbard's numerous professional affiliations include service as the president of the American Bar Association from 2014-2015, past president of both the American Bar Endowment and the American

Bar Foundation, and current chair of the board of directors of The World Justice Project. A longtime supporter of the university, he served as a member of its Board of Trustees since 1986 and as chair from 1996-2000. Hubbard received the Order of the Palmetto in 2002. Hubbard was chosen after an extensive national search and succeeded Dean Rob Wilcox, who retired after 34 years with UofSC as a professor and nine years as dean.

**Sam Wellborn**, an associate with **Robinson Gray** law firm, has been named vice chair of the Diversity Committee for the SC Bar. His plans include: 1) Developing a joint event with the S.C. Chamber of Commerce related to diversity and inclusion in the workplace 2) Playing an active part in the committee's efforts to engage prospective lawyers and develop the pipeline of diverse legal professionals 3) Supporting the committee's continuing efforts to offer in-house training and moderated discussions on diversity and inclusion for law firms and other organizations. The Bar's Diversity Committee promotes full and meaningful participation in the legal profession in SC by people of diverse backgrounds. This is in keeping with the values of Robinson Gray, which holds to the principle that having a staff that reflects the entire community is crucial. Sam is a member of Robinson Gray's business litigation practice group, and primarily focuses his work on regulatory and administrative law. Sam completed his bachelor's degree and a Master of Public Administration degree at the University of South Carolina. During that time, he served eight years in the Army Reserves and was deployed to Baghdad in 2005. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 2013 from Wake Forest University School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy.

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