

Volume 21, Number 1

# RICHBARNEWS

*Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association*

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# **RICHBARNEWS**

*Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association*



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Ashley C. Story - President

Walter H. Cartin - President-Elect

Charles F. "Charlie" Moore - Immediate

Past President

Michael J. Polk - Member

Harrison Saunders VI - Member

Derrick L. Williams - Member

Claude T. Prevost - Treasurer

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# From the Editors: Heaving a Sigh, Saying Goodbye

by Van Horger and Mike Polk



*"I leave and heave a sigh and say goodbye - Goodbye!"*

*The Sound of Music, "So Long, Farewell"*

It is with a sigh of relief and contentment that Van and I say goodbye to you. Van and I have been the editors of the newsletter since about 2016, and it is time for new blood and new ideas. We could not be happier that Chris Boguski and Jescelyn Spitz have agreed to take over as co-editors. We know they will do a great job, and we are excited to see what they can do.

Van and I would like to thank Helen Johnson and Jessica Lathren at HLJ Creative. Helen helped us to re-design the newsletter to freshen it up, and both Helen and Jessica put the newsletter together. We would like to thank Mandy Wren who makes the newsletter tick and goes above and beyond for the newsletter and RCBA generally. We would like to thank all of the contributors that have helped us during our tenure. Lastly, we would like to thank anyone who contacted us with an idea for a feature, a word of thanks, or a word of encouragement. It meant more to us than you know.



We would like to leave you with this thought:

*"Of each other, we should be kind*

*While there is still time." - The Mower, Philip Larkin*



# From the Outgoing President

by Charles F. Moore



It has been my great pleasure to serve as the President of the Richland County Bar Association for 2020. Having served on the Executive Committee these last several years and, as President, it makes me realize and appreciate what an excellent organization this is and how active and engaged are so many of our members.

On December 11, 2019, the gavel was passed to me and my remarks to adjourn the Annual Meeting ended with "I now challenge everyone to make it a point to calendar all events and make every effort to attend all that you can. It is a very simple formula. The more people who show up and attend these events, the more fun we will have, and the more benefit we will all derive." On a platform that leaned on social engagement and interaction for the year 2020, almost all social endeavor came to a halt. Or at least it seemed that way. Thanks to the work of our Executive Director Mandy Wren (her ability to react and adapt has been overwhelming), the Ethics CLE that took place in November had one of its highest attendance levels ever. Virtual Lunch and Learns and committee meetings throughout the year enjoyed booming attendance. Where there was a will, there certainly also was a way, and Mandy helped us find our way.

Also, in a year where we experienced significant levels of social injustice and unrest, the Richland County Bar Association created a Diversity and Inclusion Committee that has already done great work and plans to do far more. We all as individuals and as a group need to constantly seek to recognize our own behaviors that may make the way difficult for others.

We all collectively pray that we emerge from this pandemic without further sickness, and that our re-emergence happens very, very soon. To follow my platform of increased social attendance and interaction with which I accepted this position a year ago, I ask all attorneys to look forward to our first in-person event, whenever it may happen to occur, in the year 2021. When you do finally get notice of our first in-person event, please reach out to all friends, all associates, and all partners and colleagues, and en-





courage them to attend and be present as we try to return to some of the parts of our lives that we miss the most.

I now hand the gavel over to Ashley Story. She will do great work for you and has already done so much for the Richland County Bar Association. As a pivotal organizer of the Diversity Committee, she has worked exhaustively to seek social equality within our Bar, and in our society as a whole. Ashley is focused, and you can count on her to put this organization first. She will be great in 2021.

*Charlie Moore served as the 2020 President of the RCBA and is a shareholder at Turner Padgett. He can be reached at [cmoore@turnerpadgett.com](mailto:cmoore@turnerpadgett.com).*



## Supreme Court Beautification Project

*by Jack McKenzie*

On January 22, 2021, the Department of Administration submitted the Phase 2 A-1 form to the Joint Bond Review Committee for approval to proceed with final design and construction. The Joint Bond Review Committee will meet on March 24, 2021, and hopefully at that point it will push the plan forward for final approval. So yet another step behind us. We still have several more steps to go, but each one gets us closer to our 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.

*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).*

# 2021 RCBA Officers & Executive Committee



## Ashley C. Story

### *President*

Ashley Story is a Partner with White & Story, LLC, where she represents school districts, public entities, and nonprofits, and a majority of her practice involves employment law. Before partnering to form White & Story, LLC, in 2017, Ashley began advising local school districts and public agencies during her tenure at Duff, White & Turner, LLC. She provides counsel on a variety of topics ranging from employment and personnel matters to student disciplinary concerns and tort issues.

Ashley previously practiced employment law with J. Lewis Cromer & Associates, LLC gaining experience in both federal and state employment issues by representing employees in both the private and public sectors, giving her a unique perspective on defending potential employment claims and providing legal advice as it concerns personnel matters. She has experience in both state and federal courts and is familiar with various administrative processes, including state employee grievance procedures and teacher dismissals.

Prior to graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2012, Ashley served as a Public Interest Law Fellow and clerked with South Carolina Legal Services and Richland County CASA. Ashley was actively involved with various law school extracurricular activities; she was a competing member of the Mock Trial Bar, served as Vice President of the Pro Bono Board, and was a member of the Black Law Student Association. She lives in Columbia with her husband, Stephen, daughter, Riley, and their three rescue Greyhounds.

### **How did you get involved in the RCBA?**

I initially became involved with the RCBA through the Public Service Committee when I volunteered with Project HELP during my third year of law school. It was rewarding to provide assistance to residents of Transitions, so I continued that after graduating and was even able to successfully help a client become re-employed after resolving an issue with his former employer. If you haven't been involved with Project HELP, I highly recommend it, and it's a great program for new attorneys – helps get your feet wet! I continued to remain involved with the Public Service Committee and chaired it for several years before being asked to serve on the Executive Committee. The RCBA committees are pivotal for providing leadership opportunities for our members, and they are great outlets to get to know the membership on a smaller scale, too.

## **What benefits do you see from your involvement in the Bar? Why should other attorneys consider joining or getting more involved?**

Throughout the years, I have very much enjoyed networking with other bar members and getting to know our local attorneys on a more personal level. We also have excellent programming through our many events, CLEs, Lunch & Learns, etc. If you're already a member, consider becoming involved in a specific committee and/or serve as a Committee Chair to develop your leadership skills. If you're not a member, I encourage you to attend an event – virtually or live (post pandemic) – and see for yourself how our members support one another and our profession.

## **What is your hope for the Richland County Bar in 2021?**

It is my hope that we can continue to lead by example and find the courage to challenge ourselves and our peers with learning new things and discussing difficult issues. I encourage everyone to attend our Diversity Committee meetings to engage in meaningful dialogue about current events and topics. It is also crucial that the Bar lean on its members and friends for support as we continue to fight the pandemic while providing access to our judicial system.



### **Walter H. Cartin**

#### *President-Elect*

Walt Cartin practices in the area of health care law. He represents a diverse range of health care providers, including health systems (for-profit, not-for-profit and governmental), nursing homes, physician groups, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies and a variety of other entities focused on the provision of health care supplies and services. In addition to providing general corporate and operations counsel, he routinely represents clients in both litigation and transactional matters.

Walt earned his BA from the Citadel in 2002 and received his JD, cum laude, from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2009. While in law school, Walt served as the senior articles editor of the South Carolina Law Review and as a member of the Honor Council. He received the Joseph O. Rogers Jr. Scholarship and, upon graduation, was awarded the Compleat Lawyer Award by the University of South Carolina School of Law Alumni Association. He earned an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2017.

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## **Announcing the New RCBA Officers and Executive Committee (...continued from page 6)**

Before joining Parker Poe, Walt served as a captain in the United States Army Infantry. During his time in the military, he spent more than a year in Iraq, leading combat and nation-building operations. He also served as a special assistant to United States Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina's 2nd Congressional District.

### **What benefits do you see from your involvement in the Bar? Why should other attorneys consider joining or getting more involved?**

I think that it is very important to foster healthy social interactions among members of our local bar. Practicing law can often put us at odds with one another. However, it is important to remember that we are all just people representing clients. To ensure this remains a profession, rather than a mere trade, we need to foster collegiality and cooperation. I have also found that having personal relationships with other lawyers is very beneficial to clients, as it facilitates speedy and amicable resolution of disputes and disagreements.



### **Derrick L. Williams**

#### *New Executive Committee Member*

Former Commissioner Derrick L. Williams is one of the youngest-ever to be appointed to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. He was appointed in March 2007, and served until January 31, 2013, when he decided to return to private practice. He is responsible for spearheading the effort to make mediation of workers' compensation available for complex injury by accident cases in South Carolina.

He began his legal career at an insurance defense firm, where his litigation background included defending workers' compensation claims for insurance companies, and insurance defense litigation. Prior to joining the Workers' Compensation Commission, he was an associate at a national law firm in the areas of business litigation, franchise and distribution litigation, and labor and employment. Derrick currently practices with the firm of Mickle & Bass, where he is a partner with the firm. His practice is devoted to representing injured workers, and he is also a certified mediator.

Derrick earned his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002, where he was a member of the South Carolina Environmental Law Journal. He earned a BA from the Honors Program at the College of Charleston in 1999, where he ran Cross Country and Track in college, serving as team captain of both his senior season.



Derrick is the first Black President of the College of Charleston Alumni Association (currently serving) and also serves on the College of Charleston Honors College Advisory Board and the College of Charleston English Department Alumni Advisory Board. He is an active member in the American Bar Association, where he is involved in the T.I.P.S. Workers' Compensation Section. Derrick is a member of the John Belton O'Neall American Inn of Court, and serves on the South Carolina Board of Law Examiners. He is the Past President of the Riverbanks Zoo Society Board.

**What benefits do you see from your involvement in the Bar? Why should other attorneys consider joining or getting more involved?**

Being involved in the Bar certainly leads to networking opportunities, but also camaraderie in areas outside of practice. I find as attorneys when things get stressful, it is good to have other counterparts to lean on and bounce ideas off of as they likely have been through the same issues. Attorneys should join because no matter how successful you think you are individually, if you have knowledge and information to share or impart to the group as a whole, then you have an obligation to do so. I am hopeful the RCBA membership grows even more in 2021, as the RCBA has done an excellent job of virtual programming, even during this pandemic. Now is a great opportunity to re-engage and reconnect with your local Bar.



**Claude T. Prevost III**

*Treasurer*

Claude Prevost is a shareholder at Collins & Lacy. His focus is in the areas of: construction defect litigation; professional liability; products liability; premises liability; trucking defense; catastrophic injury and death. Claude defends professionals within the construction industry, as well as professionals in matters related to licensing and regulatory enforcement, including architects, engineers, real estate agents and lawyers. Claude also defends retail, commercial, and restaurant clients in personal injury actions arising from "slip and fall" and "trip and fall" cases. Motor carriers, owner-operators, highway contractors, and insurers call on him to

defend against litigation arising from commercial vehicle accidents and highway construction.

Claude is a cum laude graduate of Wofford College and received his Juris Doctor from the Charleston School of Law. During law school, Claude served as an intern for The Honorable Sol Blatt, Jr. in Charleston. The following year, he served as an intern for The Honorable Bristow Marchant in Columbia. Claude performed 300 hours of Pro Bono work during law school prior to joining Collins & Lacy. He has been named a Rising Star® by South Carolina Super Lawyers 2016–2020 for his work in construction litigation,

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## **Announcing the New RCBA Officers and Executive Committee (...continued from page 8)**

as well as in Columbia Business Monthly "Best & Brightest - 35 and Under" in September 2016. Claude is a member of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association, serving in an At large position on the Board of Directors until 2020 and previously serving as the Young Lawyers Division President in 2016 and 2017. He was the Community Law Week Co-Chair for the South Carolina Bar's Young Lawyers Division in 2013-2014.

### **What benefits do you see from your involvement in the Bar? Why should other attorneys consider joining or getting more involved?**

Collegiality and inclusiveness. The law is an adversarial animal. Professional respect and courteousness, which are a large component of the RCBA, assist the litigants and lawyers as they navigate the legal process. Joining the RCBA and being involved promotes the collegiality that benefits the entire legal system in Richland County. The health, relevance, and collegiality of the Richland County Bar Association cannot be understated. My goal for the RCBA is to perpetuate and grow an already thriving association.



### **2021 Executive Committee**

*From left to right: Walt Cartin, Kristen Horne, Ashley Story, Harrison Saunders, Derrick Williams, and Claude Prevost. Not Pictured: 2020 President Charlie Moore and Member Mike Polk.*

# From Your New President

by Ashley Story



Today is a remarkable day for several reasons. First, if you are reading this newsletter, you made it well into 2021, and we are still here together. We miss loved ones and friends who are not here to celebrate this New Year with us, but we carry on. We are resilient. But if not—no worries—the RCBA Wellness Committee can help you find your inner strength. Third and most importantly, in February we celebrated Black History Month.

When I attended Long Jr. High School in Cheraw, my English teacher, Ms. Wilma Hillian, spent the entire month of February celebrating Black people. On February 1st, she told us that she taught in our school, before desegregation when Long High was the Black high school. She explained segregation to us and how it influenced her own life and the life of her children. Ms. Hillian dedicated our spelling lists each week in February to Black cultural words; we learned by heart excerpts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" address; and she divided our class into groups to collaborate on class projects about Black Americans.

Wilma Hillian had a profound impact upon me as a student, and, although she is no longer with us, I still carry pieces of her with me every day. I respected her more than any other teacher I ever had because she pushed all of us to our academic limits and loved my classmates and me unconditionally, without regard for our race or background. She told us that what is right is right and what is wrong is wrong and that we should lean on one another and lead by example. Ms. Hillian told us to be honest – with each other and with ourselves; to always do what is right – even if it was not popular; and to treat others the way

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# Microsoft Lists:

## Track and Organize Your Work

By Bill Booth



Microsoft Lists is like a “Swiss Army knife” multi-purpose tool now available for Microsoft 365 subscribers (available with the Microsoft 365 Business Standard or Premium Subscription). Lists have been part of SharePoint for some time, but Microsoft now has made Lists available as a standalone app either on the web or as an add-on tab for a channel in Microsoft Teams. Recently, an iOS app was added for use with an iPhone for viewing and creating Lists.

Setting up a List can best be learned from a video tutorial such as the YouTube video produced by Kevin Stratvert. Kevin is a former employee of Microsoft and now produces videos full-time on many Microsoft 365 applications. His current playlist for Microsoft Lists consists of 3 videos, including a recent video describing the Microsoft Lists iOS app. Kevin provides a step-by-step tutorial video on how to use Microsoft Lists. Another feature is that a new List can be created from an existing Excel spreadsheet, especially if you already have a spreadsheet for keeping track of your files. A similar application is Airtable.

Using Lists creates easy sharing of information and adding items to a List. If you set up a List in a Teams channel, all the members of the channel have permission to view and interact with the List. The List creator can make certain fields read-only or add other granular restrictions. If you want to create alerts and notifications for other people or change information based on information that is changed or submitted, Microsoft Lists lets you add automation smart rules. You can create a rule that emails someone when there is a new item on a List, for example. Using rules, you can also create reminders. Lists can be viewed in four ways and the default is the list view. The grid view makes it easy to move around to different cells or fields to add or edit information.

The gallery view shows a “card” view with each list element displayed in a box. There is also the calendar view if a list includes dates. In each view, a filter can be utilized for locating items that need attention. A filtered view for a list can be saved for a quick filter inquiry. Each column may be sorted, and Lists allows conditional formatting. You can set up a column so that a field color, font color, and icons change based on criteria you set up.

The creation of a List for organizing and maintaining a list of trial exhibits is a good use of Microsoft Teams and Lists. A Teams channel named for the internal file number or case description is first set up. The mandatory first column will be named “Exhibit Description” and the second column would be the exhibit

number and then other columns would include witness name for introduction, Bates number, and status as to using at trial. The status column can be programmed to provide several choices such as “will use,” “may use,” or “likely will not use” so the exhibit status could be changed as additional information about the exhibit is obtained. If the exhibit list will also be used at trial, a column could be added for “marked for identification” or “admitted into evidence” with the response being “yes” or “no.” Here is a screenshot showing a List for trial exhibits:

Exhibit Description	Marked Exhibit	Offering Witness	Bates Numbers	Status for Use
Photo of Car	5	Jones	145	Will Use
Medical Record - Providence Hospital	2	Jones	456	Will Use
Medical Bill - Providence Hosp	3		894	Will Use

Adding a new item makes the exhibit list easy to use as you prepare for trial. For printing purposes, you can easily export the list to an Excel spreadsheet and then the List can be printed or copied and pasted into responses to interrogatories.

The creation of a List for tracking activity for a house closing transaction is another good use of Microsoft Teams and Lists. The list would have columns for tracking the recording of the deed, the recording of the mortgage, the payoff of the mortgage loan, and the recording of the satisfaction of the payoff of the mortgage loan. A column could be added for sign off status and this could be set up to generate an email with an approval request for the attorney or office staff assigned the task of making sure all items have been completed. Here is a screenshot:

Responsible Attorney	Responsible Attorney	Responsible Attorney
William Booth	Eric Enos	Eric Enos
Firm File No. 1234.1234	Firm File No. 6542.2354	Firm File No. 12234
Date of Closing 2/4/2021	Date of Closing 2/5/2021	Date of Closing 1/6/2021
Deed Recorded Yes	Deed Recorded No	Deed Recorded Yes
Mortgage Recorded Yes	Mortgage Recorded No	Mortgage Recorded Yes
Mortgage Payoff Transmitted 2/5/2021	Mortgage Payoff Transmitted -	Mortgage Payoff Transmitted 1/8/2021

Lists can also help with file management such as keeping a closed file List to assure that all the activities regarding closing a file (send documents to the client, close out billing, move the file to cold storage, apply retention date) are accomplished and logged.

In conclusion, Microsoft Lists provides a great opportunity to be creative as an attorney for tracking important matters and organizing your work in a more practical and efficient method. Hopefully, some experimentation with this new application will generate enthusiasm for doing the necessary work to enjoy the benefit of Microsoft Lists.

*William E. Booth III can be reached at [bill@boothlawfirm.com](mailto:bill@boothlawfirm.com) and 803-791-9211.*

# One Step Back, Several Steps Forward

## Wellness Committee Update

When the pandemic arrived in early March 2020, the Wellness Committee did what many people did during that time: we paused. We paused and we waited. We did not know how our committee would function in a virtual world. We did not know how we as individuals would function in a virtual world. We were accustomed to meeting for breakfast at smallSugar for our committee meetings, and planning events that involved bringing people together, such as a walking tour with Historic Columbia, the ropes course at Riverbanks Zoo, and a lunch and learn at a local law firm.

After a few weeks passed, we realized we needed to adjust our thinking, and to learn new ways of being. The mission of our committee is to recognize the importance of attorney health and well-being, both physical and mental, in the practice of law, and to provide support and resources for members through educational programs and events. Our committee aspires to encourage conversations surrounding stress management, anxiety, depression, and addiction, and to convey that it is okay to seek professional help when needed.

So after we paused, we got back to work. We recognized that the committee's mission remained vital, and that taking care of our physical and mental health was more important than ever.

Here's a list of the things we have done since April 2020:

- Celebrated Lawyer Wellbeing Week by sharing wellness tips and resources each day on RCBA social media.
- Compiled a playlist on Spotify of songs submitted by RCBA members. If you missed it or have not listened to it in a while, you can search Spotify for RCBA playlist or find it here: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7pJywbeDBD3G2Fh9F3SS4j?si=50146453504742be>
- Took a virtual tour of "Black is Beautiful," an exhibit at the Columbia Museum of Art, featuring the photography of Kwame Brathwaite. Museum curator Catherine Walworth, Ph.D., led us through the exhibit and provided historical context for the photos. Participants were encouraged to pick up a boxed lunch from smallSugar. Did you know viewing art is good for your health?
- Shared wellness tips in the RCBA e-blasts. Tips come from committee members and members of the RCBA. If you have one to share, please send it to us. A recent tip was: "Support your colleagues. Give one genuine compliment today to one of your co-workers, and notice how it feels. Encouraging and celebrating others is good for you."







- Partnered with the Lunch and Learn committee to host a talk by Beth Padgett, Co-Director of Lawyers Helping Lawyers, entitled “Grief. Normal, Natural, and Necessary.” Beth reminded us of the importance of acknowledging what we have lost over the past several months, and to mourn those losses. She also reminded us of the importance of practicing gratitude for what we have and what we are creating during this time.
- Hosted two virtual office/chair yoga classes with Stacey Millner-Collins from City Yoga. Stacey helped us open up our bodies and our breathing through simple stretches, which helped us settle our minds
- Submitted wellness-related articles to the *RichBar News*.

We hope these offerings have been helpful to you. We would love to hear from you as to events or programming you would like to see offered in 2021. Please reach out to Mandy Wren or a member of the wellness committee with your ideas. Members of the Wellness Committee are Tiffany Butler (co-chair), Tina Cundari (co-chair), Shannon Bobertz, Abigail Carson, Amanda Pittman, Alex Postic, and Ashley Stratton. Also, let us know if you would like to join the committee. We welcome new members and new perspectives.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your family, and do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of assistance to you.

# Introducing the Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project:

## Your next pro bono case in just a few clicks

We know your time is valuable. That's why the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program is pleased to now offer attorneys the ability to go to one easy-to-use webpage and view available pro bono cases across the state. The Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project is a partnership between the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program and certain legal aid providers around the state, including South Carolina Legal Services, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, Root & Rebound SC, and the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition.

"Cases are available across the state and in a variety of practice areas," says Betsy Goodale, director of the SC Bar Pro Bono Program. "Attorneys can search by county, subject matter/legal problem type, or organization. They can also set preferences and receive an email when cases meeting those preferences become available. Our goal with the Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project is to offer yet another option for Palmetto State attorneys in fulfilling their professional responsibility to provide pro bono legal services."

### Pick a card, any card

The Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project webpage features "cards" that offer information about available pro bono cases. Each card provides a brief description of the client's need, the name of the organization seeking assistance for the client, and the county in which assistance is needed. The clients have been vetted by the posting organization to ensure they meet the organization's requirements for pro bono assistance. For instance, in cases posted by the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program, or by the Pro Bono Program on behalf of South Carolina Legal Services, it has been determined that the client's household income is at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines and that the type of legal issue is one that South Carolina Legal Services does not handle and is one for which the Pro Bono Program typically seeks a pro bono attorney.

### No long-term commitment, just interest

There is no need for attorneys to register as a volunteer with the Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project. Instead, if an attorney is interested in a case, they simply click "Interested" on the card and provide their name, email address, telephone number, and Bar number. By expressing interest, the attorney is not committing to accept the case. Instead, the organization that posted the case will send an email with additional information about the case so that the attorney can check for conflicts and make a final determination whether they wish to accept the case. If the attorney determines, after receiving the additional information, that the case is more than they can take on, that there is a conflict, or that they cannot take the case for any other reason, the attorney can simply let the posting organization know.

# Introducing the Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project



If the attorney decides after receiving the additional information that they do want to accept the case, the posting organization will provide additional documentation and information regarding the case, as well as other assistance.

## Resources for you

The South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program provides a variety of assistance to help attorneys with cases. This includes:

- **Malpractice insurance coverage** for cases accepted through its program, as well as cases accepted through other organizations as long as the attorney notifies the South Carolina Bar that they have accepted the pro bono case.
- **Reimbursement for certain costs incurred in a pro bono case**, such as filing fees (if a waiver cannot be obtained pursuant to Rule 3(b)(2), SCRCP), service of process, and retention of a translator.
- **Assistance** in finding a pro bono guardian ad litem, mediator, or mentor. In addition, both the University of South Carolina School of Law Pro Bono Program and the Charleston School of Law have students available to assist attorneys who take a pro bono case.

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## Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project (...continued from page 16)

The Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project also provides an opportunity for attorneys across the state to learn about some of the state's legal aid organizations that are in need of pro bono volunteers to assist the organizations' clients with legal matters. Some of these organizations serve specific areas of the state, such as the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, while others are statewide. They also serve different needs. For instance, Root & Rebound advocates for people with criminal records across the state.

"We hope to expand the number and types of legal aid organizations that post available pro bono cases on the PVLP," Goodale says.

The available cases will also be embedded on other relevant websites attorneys may visit, including local bar websites, legal aid organization websites, and Bar section webpages. For instance, when an attorney visits the Bar's Family Law Section online, they will see family law cases from the Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project. The Palmetto Volunteer Lawyer Project is just the latest effort by the Bar's Pro Bono Program to provide attorneys with a variety of options when it comes to fulfilling the responsibility, set forth in Rule 6.1 of the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, to provide pro bono legal service.

Visit and bookmark [www.scbar.org/pvlp](http://www.scbar.org/pvlp) today. If you have questions, email Betsy Goodale at [bgoodale@scbar.org](mailto:bgoodale@scbar.org) or call (803) 576-3808.



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# Noteworthy News & Announcements

**Barnes Alford** announces that **Creasie M. Parrott** and **Joshua G. Hill** have joined the firm located at 1613 Main St., Columbia 29201.

**Grady L. Beard**, Founding Member with **Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC**, will serve as Vice President of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association (SCWCEA) for 2021. He focuses his practice on Workers' Compensation Defense, Workers' Compensation Mediation, Alternative Dispute Resolution and also practices in the Firm's Appellate Practice Group. He attended Louisiana State University and received his BS degree from Northwestern State University, Summa Cum Laude. He received his JD from Emory University School of Law. Grady is a Fellow in the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers and an Advisory Board Member for Larson's National Workers' Compensation Group. Grady has previously served as co-chair for the Workers' Compensation Section of the SC Defense Trial Attorneys Association.

**Bluestein Thompson Sullivan, LLC** announces the addition of two new attorneys. **Monica Main** will practice in the area of Veterans Disability. She received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she was a member of the Mock Trial Bar, the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and the student division of the SC Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. She earned her bachelor's degree from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. Before working at Bluestein Attorneys, she clerked in the Richland County Public Defender's Office.

**Johnna Menke** will practice in the area of Social Security Disability. She received her Juris Doctor degree from the UofSC School of Law, graduating cum laude. She was the senior articles editor for the Journal of Law and Education and received the CALI Award for Legal Research, Analysis and Writing in spring 2018 and fall 2017. Johnna earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston.

**Branch and Dhillon, PC** announces that **Brett Woron** has been named partner and the firm name is now **Woron and Dhillon, LLC** with offices located at 1328 Richland St., Columbia 29201.

**The Brooker Law Firm, PA.** announces that **Aaron M. Scheuer** has joined the firm located at 508 Hampton St., Ste. 201, Columbia 29201.

**Kelsey Brudvig** has been elected as a shareholder of **Collins & Lacy, PC**. As a member of the Retail & Hospitality Practice Group, she is experienced in all facets of litigation relating to this practice area, including premises liability, third person tort/assault, alcohol liability/Dram Shop, adulterated food claims, asset protection, and regulatory agency sanctions. Brudvig represents leading national and regional companies in the retail, hotel, food service, bar and private club, and entertainment industries focusing on the protection of their brands and assets. She is also involved in matters pertaining to ADA issues, licensure and administrative decisions of state regulatory agencies. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of

*continued on page 19...*

## **Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 22)**

Kentucky and earned her Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, at the Charleston School of Law. Brudvig previously served as a staff attorney at the South Carolina Supreme Court.

**Burr & Forman LLP** announces the addition of new associates **Jasmine Farmer** and **Wade Leach**. Jasmine joins the firm's Public Practice Group. She earned her J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law. While in law school, Jasmine was a judicial intern to the Hon. J. Michelle Childs of the US District Court for the District of South Carolina and to the Honorable Loretta C. Biggs of the US District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Jasmine also participated in the Appellate Advocacy Clinic, was a member of the Black Law Students Association, and served as President of the International Law Society. She received her BA in Politics and International Affairs from Furman University. Wade practices in the firm's General Commercial Litigation group. Wade received his J.D. with honors, from the University of North Carolina School of Law where he served as Executive Editor for the North Carolina Journal of Law and Technology, participated in the Holderness Moot Court and presided as President of the Federalist Society. Wade received his BA cum laude with honors in Political Science from Davidson College. Wade served as a law clerk for the Honorable Frank D. Whitney of the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. Wade's other experience includes serving as a judicial intern for the Honorable Paul M. Newby of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Wade also interned for the Heritage Foundation's Impact Teams & Policy Services section.

**Caskey & Imgrund, LLC** has moved its offices to 1534 Blanding St., Columbia 29201.

**Collins & Lacy, P.C.** is pleased to announce that **Robert Peele III** has been promoted to Special Counsel and leader of the Professional Liability Practice group. Peele is experienced defending civil litigation claims and has tried cases in state court for claims involving liability for personal injuries and death. In his role as Practice Manager for the Professional Liability Practice Group, Peele will oversee defense services to individuals, businesses, and corporations involved in litigation or pre-litigation professional liability claims. Peele and his team will also represent clients before their professional industry boards to defend claims against clients.

**Collins & Lacy, P.C.** announces that **J.C. Nicholson** and **Rebecca Rayner** have joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1330 Lady St., 6th floor, Columbia 29201.

**Gray Culbreath**, partner at **Gallivan White Boyd**, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Fellowship in the College is extended by invitation only to experienced trial lawyers of diverse backgrounds, who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Membership cannot exceed 1% of the total lawyer population of any state/province. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on independence of the judiciary,





trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

**Ian Duggan** is the newest member of **Callison Tighe & Robinson**. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Furman University and received his juris doctorate from the UofSC School of Law. Much of his practice is devoted to complex commercial litigation and white-collar criminal matters. He also practices in the area of Whistleblower & False Claims. Before joining Callison Tighe in 2017, Mr. Duggan was an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Serving tours of duty as a judge advocate in Afghanistan, Turkey and Qatar, he was recognized as one of the top trial advocates in the Air Force and prosecuted and defended some of the service's highest-profile criminal cases. In 2019, he became a member of

the South Carolina Air National Guard, where he presently serves as a judge advocate for the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

**Fisher & Phillips LLP** announces that **Matthew Korn** has been named partner at the firm's Columbia office located at 1320 Main St., Ste. 750, Columbia 29201.

**Lawrence Flynn**, attorney with **Pope Flynn**, has received "Lawyer of the Year" (Public Finance Law) for Columbia from *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021. The designation is given to a single lawyer in each practice area in each community, and "awarded to individual lawyers with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region." Flynn is also the recipient

***continued on page 21...***

## Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 24)

of a 2018 Leadership in Law Award from *SC Lawyers Weekly*, a graduate of Leadership South Carolina, Leadership Columbia, and The Riley Institute on Diversity, and was listed in *Columbia Business Monthly's* "Best & Brightest 35 and under" in 2016. Flynn is Vice-President and board member of SC Thrive, a council member of the SC Bar's Government Law Section and a member of the Duke University Alumni Admissions Advisory Committee. He graduated from Duke University with a BA in history and received his JD from the UofSC School of Law.

**Gallivan White & Boyd** partner **Johnston Cox** has been accepted into the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). Founded in 1958, ABOTA is an invitation only national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. For the past 25 years, Johnston's practice has focused on insurance litigation, business litigation, commercial condemnation and personal injury matters. Dedicated to the advancement of the legal profession, Johnston serves as the national membership chair for the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys and president of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association. Johnston is also a member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) and served on the faculty of the FDCC's Litigation Management College, instructing claims adjusters and managers on practices to avoid bad faith claims handling.

**Eleanor L. Jones** has joined **Gallivan White Boyd** as an associate attorney. Eleanor received her BS from Clemson University in 2017 and earned her

JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2020. Her practice focuses on business and commercial litigation, class action and multidistrict litigation, probate, trusts and estate litigation, and products liability.

**HawkLaw, P.A.** announces that **Nancy Paul** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1835 Gervais St., Columbia 29201.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Kaitlin Beck** has been selected to participate in the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Leadership Columbia Class of 2021. As a member of the 48th Leadership Columbia class, Kaitlin will join other local professionals for a 10-month curriculum, including monthly classes, a retreat, a class project and other activities around the Midlands. Kaitlin focuses her practice on a broad array of healthcare matters and general corporate law. She is active within the American Health Lawyers Association and the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division. Kaitlin also gives back through Junior Achievement South Carolina and City Center Partnership, where she serves on their Long-Range Planning Committee.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Mary Caskey** has been selected to participate in the Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI), an award-winning program of Furman University's Riley Institute now in its 17th year. While DLI classes are typically sorted by state geographic region, the fall 2020 class is the first-ever statewide cohort, being held virtually due to COVID-19. DLI class members are selected through a rigorous application and interview process after being nominated by existing

Riley Fellows. Participants are accepted based on their capacity to create impact within their organizations and communities.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Kathleen Muthig** graduated from the Leadership Columbia program. Leadership Columbia was founded by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce in 1972. Each year, approximately 60 professionals are selected based on their community involvement, capacity for leadership and commitment to improving the Midlands. Kathleen is an experienced bankruptcy and creditors' rights attorney. She represents all types of creditors in litigation, including lenders, financial institutions, banks, credit unions and landlords. In addition to her litigation practice, she has experience assisting businesses facing alcohol beverage licensing issues.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd** is pleased to announce that **Tyra McBride** has been selected for inclusion in The National Black Lawyers "Top 40 Under 40" in South Carolina. The National Black Lawyers organization is invitation-only and is limited to the top 40 attorneys under the age of 40 in each state who have demonstrated excellence in their profession. The organization was established to promote the nation's top black attorneys and is designed to enhance the professional development of its members. Tyra focuses her practice on commercial and financial services litigation working with companies to resolve contractual disputes and real estate litigation. Tyra is a graduate of the UofSC School of Law and Francis Marion University.

**Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo, L.L.P.** announces that **Aaron Wallace** has joined the firm's

Columbia office located at 1230 Main St., Ste. 325, Columbia 29201.

**Law Office of Kenneth E. Berger, LLC** announces that **Joel Hughes** has joined the firm's Columbia office located at 5205 Forest Dr., Columbia 29206.

**Ashley Johnson**, an associate with **Robinson Gray**, has been named to the Special Olympics South Carolina board of directors. The organization's mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Ashley also serves on the City of Columbia's Design Development and Review Commission and is active in the SC Bar's YLD and Junior Achievement. Her practice at Robinson Gray focuses on workers' compensation. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and her Juris Doctor from the UofSC School of Law.

**LawyerLisa, LLC** welcomes **Mackenzie Pearson** to the firm as an associate in their home office. The addition of Mackenzie is an illustration of the firm's regional growth and ongoing commitment to the development of new attorneys. Mackenzie is a graduate of the UofSC School of Law and Clemson University.

**Grant Burnette LeFever**, an attorney with **Burnette Shutt & McDaniel**, has been elected to the Presbyterian College Alumni Board of Directors. LeFever graduated with honors from Presbyterian in 2013 with degrees in English and history. She earned a master's degree in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi, while completing her degree at the UofSC School of Law. LeFever

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## **Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 22)**

is also service chair for the college's Midlands Alumni Chapter. She focuses her legal practice on employment, family and education law, representing clients in a range of civil rights and discrimination issues.

**Lindemann, Davis & Hughes, P.A.** announces that it is now **Lindemann & Davis, P.A.** The firm's office is located at 5 Calendar Ct., Ste. 202, Columbia 29206.

**Andrew Littlejohn Johnson** announces the formation of **Littlejohn Law LLC** located at 1201 Main St., Ste. 1830, Columbia 29201.

**Dewana F. Looper, Esq.**, attorney at the **Atkins Law Firm** will serve as Treasurer of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association (SCWCEA) for 2021. She focuses her practice on helping injured workers. Dewana earned her BA from the University of South Carolina Honors College, magna cum laude, and her JD from the UofSC School of Law, where she graduated cum laude in 2008. Dewana spent the first nine years of her legal career practicing workers' compensation on the defense side before joining the Atkins Law Firm in 2017. She is licensed in both NC and SC and regularly speaks at seminars on workers' compensation topics.

**McAngus Goudelock & Courie** announces that **Keely McCoy** and **Creighton Segars** have joined the firm's Columbia office located at 1320 Main St., 10th Floor, Columbia 29201.

**McCarthy, Reynolds, & Penn, LLC** announces that **G. William ("Bill") McCarthy, Jr.** retired from the firm on

December 31, 2020 and relocated with his wife to Oxford, MS, where he joined Aurora Management Partners overseeing its Gulf Coast and Deep South regions. **Daniel ("D.J.") Reynolds** and **Harrison Penn** thank Bill for his many years of mentoring, leadership, and guidance. D.J. and Harrison will be continuing McCarthy, Reynolds, & Penn, LLC's statewide commercial bankruptcy, corporate debt restructuring, and financial workout practice. The firm's office location will remain at 1517 Laurel Street, Columbia, 29201.

**The McKay Firm** announces the addition of two attorneys to expand the firm's Civil Litigation Practice. **Brian Craven** joins the firm as Senior Counsel and practices in the areas of Premises Liability, Trucking and Transportation Defense and Construction Law. He has extensive experience in Contracts, Compliance, Insurance Coverage, Life and Health Insurance, HIPAA, Privacy and Cybersecurity. He was previously Senior Counsel for a Fortune 500 enterprise. Brian received his law degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago's John Marshall Law School. **Sarah Bailey** joins the firm as an Associate and practices in the areas of Insurance Defense. A graduate of Sewanee: The University of the South, Sarah earned a degree in Environmental Policy and worked for Sustainable Midlands before earning her Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law. While attending law school, Sarah worked for a civil litigation firm, Mayor Benjamin's Clemency Project and at the 11th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

**Michael E. Murray** announces the opening of **The Law Office of Michael E. Murray LLC**, located at

1320 Main St., Ste. 300, Columbia 29201.

**Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP** announces that **Matt Abee, Joseph E. Fornadel III, Graham Mitchell,** and **Patrick Quinn** have been elected to partnership at the firm's Columbia office located at 1320 Main St., 17th Floor.

**Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP** is pleased to announce that **Redgrave LLP** will join the firm's Encompass practice establishing Encompass Redgrave. The combined team will offer clients legal experience along with technological capabilities to address complex litigation, government investigation, and data governance challenges. Encompass Redgrave will be co-led by **John Martin** who has led the Encompass practice at Nelson Mullins since its inception more than a decade ago.

**Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP** partner **John Kuppens** received the Richard H. Krochok Award at the DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar's Annual Meeting. The prestigious annual award honors an individual who has provided exemplary leadership to the DRI Young Lawyers Committee. Kuppens was the 2017-18 president of DRI, the 23,000-member international organization of lawyers and corporate counsel who defend the interests of businesses and individuals in civil litigation. He is also a past chair of DRI's Young Lawyers Committee. Kuppens is a member of the firm's Consumer Product Safety, Risk Prevention and Regulatory Practice Group and its Consumer & Mechanical Products Litigation Group. He practices in the areas of product liability litigation, consumer product regulatory counseling, risk prevention, and commercial litigation.

**Newsome Law, P.A.** announces that **Meagan MacBean** has joined the firm located at 1501 Main St., Ste. 601, Columbia 29201.

The **Nexsen Pruet** law firm has elevated two attorneys to Members of the growing legal team. **John Bruton** is a business lawyer focused on matters involving securities, commercial real estate and renewable energy. **Sara Svedberg** advises businesses on employment law matters — including ADA, ADEA, FLSA, FMLA, and Title VII compliance.

**Bill Padget, Brink Hinson** and **Carl Hiller** announce the formation of HHP Law Group, LLC, located at 924 Gervais St., Columbia 29201.

**Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A.** is pleased to announce attorneys **Carmen V. Ganjehsani** and **R. Wilder Harte** have been named shareholders in the Firm. Mrs. Ganjehsani rejoined Richardson Plowden as Special Counsel in 2015. She focuses her practice on appellate law and insurance coverage issues. She previously worked for Richardson Plowden practicing general tort and business litigation with an emphasis on civil appellate litigation from 2004 to 2007. Mrs. Ganjehsani earned her JD from the UofSC School of Law, cum laude and her BA from Wake Forest University, magna cum laude. Mr. Harte joined Richardson Plowden in 2017 where he focuses on general litigation. He earned his JD from the UofSC School of Law and his BS from Wake Forest University. Prior to joining Richardson Plowden, Mr. Harte served as Assistant Solicitor for the SC Second Circuit Court Solicitor's Office in Aiken.

**Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A.** is pleased

*continued on page 25...*

## **Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 24)**

to announce that **Hunter W. Adams** has joined the Firm as an associate attorney. Mr. Adams will focus his practice in General Litigation and Construction Law. He earned his JD from the American University Washington College in Washington, D.C., cum laude and his BS, cum laude, from the College of Charleston Honors College. During law school, Mr. Adams served as a Dean's Fellow to the Chair of the Business Law Program. He was also a student attorney, where he represented clients related to unemployment benefits appeals before the Washington, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings.

**Rikard & Protopapas, LLC** announces that **Brian M. Barnwell** has joined the firm located at 1329 Blanding St., Columbia 29201.

**Robinson Gray** has named **Ben Gooding** as the law firm's newest member. His practice focuses on professional negligence and commercial litigation. He has experience representing attorneys and law firms in legal malpractice actions in both state and federal courts. 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. Ben received his JD from UofSC School of Law and earned his BS in finance from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, magna cum laude. Ben serves on the board of directors for the S.C. Wildlife Federation and the advisory board for the mentoring program with Ezekiel Ministries. He serves as council member of the SC Bar's Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section, and actively participates in the Young Lawyers Division.

**Haley Saxby** has joined **Robinson Gray** law firm as an associate. Her practice will focus on premises liability, automobile and trucking torts, insurance coverage, and products liability. Haley earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina Honors College and her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law, graduating magna cum laude and finishing in the top five of her class. She served as associate editor in chief for the South Carolina Law Review and has been a clerk at Robinson Gray since 2018.

**Ramie Shalabi** announces the formation of **Dayson & Shalabi Law Firm, LLC**, with **Curtis Dayson**. The firm has offices located at 712 Richland St., Ste. D, Columbia 29201 and 201 Sigma Dr., Ste. 300, Summerville 29486.

**S. Carson Shealy** has joined **Baker, Ravenel & Bender** as an associate. His practice areas include automobile liability, premises liability, insurance coverage and general litigation. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of South Carolina in 2016 and received his Juris Doctor from University of South Carolina School of Law in May, graduating cum laude.

**Nekki Shutt**, a founding partner of **Burnette Shutt & McDaniel**, has been recognized as a "Go To Lawyer" in business law from *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly*. The program identifies top attorneys across the state in select practice areas. Selection criteria include in-depth knowledge of the discipline and of case law, experience, and creative thinking abilities. Shutt is a certified specialist in SC employment law and her practice includes employment law, civil



litigation, and employee benefits under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). She also represents clients in qui tam whistleblower actions and helps resolve business disputes.

**Simmons Law Firm** announces that **Rachel G. Peavy** has joined the firm located at 1711 Pickens St., Columbia 29201.

**Smith Robinson Holler DuBose and Morgan, LLC**, announce the addition of three new attorneys to the firm's Columbia office. **Samuel Key** earned his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2017. Prior to joining the firm, Sam was an Assistant Attorney General for the 5th, 6th and 12th Judicial Circuits and a Clerk for The Honorable George C. James, Jr. Sam will concentrate his work in general litigation. **Austin**

**Reed** earned his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2016. Austin was also a Clerk for The Honorable George C. James, Jr. and an attorney for the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Austin will be working in both general litigation and appellate practice areas. **Samantha Sanders** earned her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2019. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from University of Central Florida.

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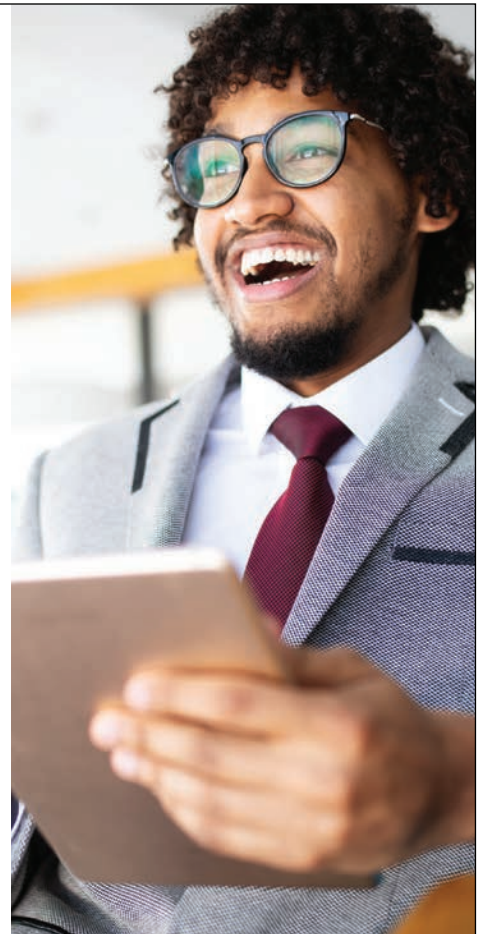
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## **Noteworthy News & Announcements (...continued from page 26)**

Prior to joining the firm, Samantha clerked for The Honorable George M. McFaddin, Jr. She will focus her practice in general litigation.

**Jasmine Smith**, an attorney with **Robinson Gray**, was named to the Fall 2020 class of the Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI). The program's more than 2,300 graduates have included a wide array of business, governmental and community leaders committed to advancing social and economic progress in South Carolina. Jasmine's practice deals with commercial litigation, professional liability and ethics, probate and estate litigation, and appellate advocacy, focusing on family law. She earned a master's degree in counselor education, specializing in marriage and family therapy, before earning her JD from the UofSC School of Law in 2012. She is very active in the South Carolina Bar and her community, serving on numerous committees and boards.

**Strom Family Law** announces that **Michelle Matthews** has been named a managing member of the firm located at 6923 N. Trenholm Rd., Ste. 201 Columbia 29206.

**Sweeny, Wingate & Barrow, P.A.** announces that **Brandon Gottschall** has been named a member of the firm and that **Adam Crain** has joined the firm's Columbia office as an associate. The office is located at 1515 Lady St., Columbia 29201.

**Turner Padgett** announces that **Abigail "Abby" Bray** has joined the firm and that **W. Taylor Stanley** has been elected shareholder of the firm located at 1901 Main St., Ste. 1700, Columbia 29201.

**Whetstone, Perkins & Fulda, LLC** announces that **James E. Brogdon, Jr.** has joined the firm with offices located at 717 West Liberty St., Marion 29571 and 601 Devine St., Columbia 29201.

## **GET INVOLVED IN THE RCBA - WE NEED YOU!**

Did you know the RCBA has eleven active committees and seven court liaisons? If you're interested in growing our membership, educating our member through CLE's, planning member-focused bench & bar events, volunteering legal services at our HELP Clinic, engaging various affinity groups within our bar, and more – we have a place for you! If you have an occasional hour or are interested in a longer term commitment, please consider getting involved in one of our committees. All are excellent opportunities to strengthen leadership skills, connect with other attorneys locally, and give back to our association. Please contact Executive Director Mandy Wren at [mandy.wren@scbar.org](mailto:mandy.wren@scbar.org) to find a place that fits your interests and availability!

## From Your New President (...continued from page 10)

we want to be treated. She was a force to be reckoned with, and I loved her.

After “graduating” from Jr. High and heading to Cheraw High, I got the hare-brained idea that I would make a good teacher and asked Ms. Hillian to supervise my student teaching requirement. I reported to her English class weekly to watch in awe as she taught kids—not just English—but about life, history, and people...Black people, in particular. I know I thanked her because my mama would have skinned me alive if I failed to do so, but I never thanked her for being there for me in ways that I failed to appreciate then. I admire Ms. Hillian for being herself and showing up every day for kids in my hometown and for being herself and no one’s best idea of who she ought to be in our society. I honor her and her memory and cherish my time in her classroom all those years ago.

For the rest of the year, I challenge all of you to take some time to reflect on a Black or Brown person who made a difference in your life – no matter how big or small. Share that story with someone and celebrate Black History Month every day, not just in February. Join our Diversity Committee and visit [richbar.org/diversity-committee](http://richbar.org/diversity-committee) where we share stories from Richland County judges. I hope to see you all soon, to gather together, and share these stories in person. Until then, I wish all of you health, wellness, and a successful 2021.

Ashley C. Story is a partner at White & Story, LLC and can be reached at [astory@sodacitylaw.com](mailto:astory@sodacitylaw.com) or 803-814-0993.

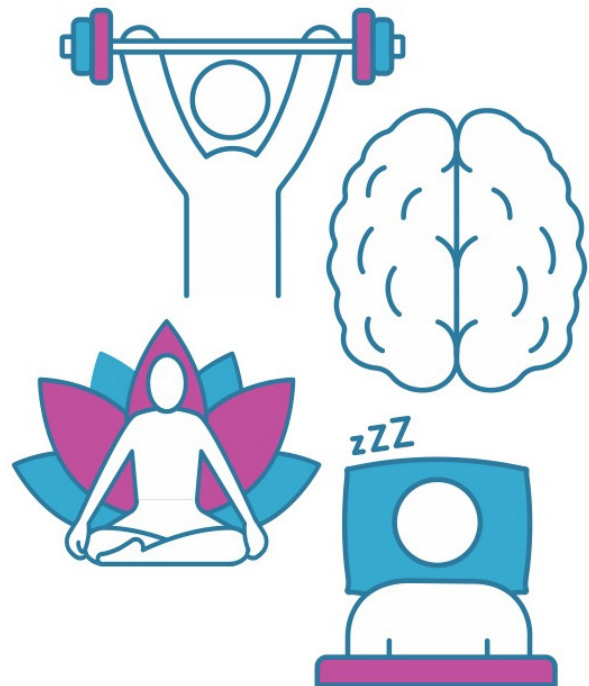
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## SAVE THE DATE

The RCBA's first in-person event (co-hosted by Membership & Wellness Committees) will be on Thursday, May 6th at 7pm. We will have a viewing of My Cousin Vinny on the Lawn at the Hampton-Preston Mansion.

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