

Volume 22, Number 1

# RICHBARNEWS

*Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association*

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2022 RCBA Officers and Executive Committee Leadership

2020 & 2021 Annual Award Honorees

Bar Bites: Devine Street

***and more!***



# **RICHBARNEWS**

*Newsletter of the Richland County Bar Association*



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### ***Executive Committee***

Walter "Walt" H. Cartin - President  
S. Harrison Saunders VI - President-Elect  
Ashley C. Story - Immediate Past President  
Michael "Mike" J. Polk - Member  
Derrick L. Williams - Member  
Shannon F. Bobertz - Member  
Claude T. Prevost III - Treasurer

### ***Executive Director***

Mandy Wren

### ***Newsletter Editors***

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### ***On the Cover***

Photo by Matt Riley of Riles Images



# From the Editors

by Chris Boguski & Jescelyn Spitz



We are so excited for this year with the Richland County Bar Association and to welcome in the organization's new leadership. In 2022, we hope you will take advantage of the many exciting events and opportunities that the RCBA has to offer. The RCBA strives to ensure all members feel truly welcome and to ensure your voice is heard! These last few years have given me such an appreciation for spending time together, and I look forward to serving, mingling, and collaborating with our RCBA colleagues even more this year.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the dedicated and esteemed members who were recognized this past year at the annual meeting and that you will extend a word of gratitude to our outgoing leadership, including 2021 RCBA President Ashley Story.

As always, Chris and I would love to hear from you, and we welcome your comments, thoughts, and ideas.

Cheers to you and 2022!



## 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 local attorneys, 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 the President

by Walt Cartin



The past two years have been unusual, to say the least. While South Carolina's COVID-19 restrictions were comparatively brief and unrestrictive, social and professional distancing has taken, and continues to take, its toll. Some members of our profession have thrived during this period, enjoying the relative quiet and peace that comes from working from home, a pause in business development events, and in the rise of remote depositions and hearings. Still others have missed the social and professional interactions, hoping daily for a return to pre-COVID-19 normalcy.

The pandemic has also impacted the RCBA. Many of the in-person events that formed the backbone of our RCBA event schedule have been postponed, modified or outright canceled. Some of our important public outreach activities, like the HELP clinic, which aims to provide free legal advice to the homeless community, have fallen by the wayside, as in-person activities became disfavored or impractical. That said, it appears that the storm is, indeed, breaking.

Over the next year, the RCBA will be renewing its focus on providing our members with opportunities for in-person fellowship, networking, service and education. Although these may seem like activities that are only an ancillary benefit (or obligation) of being a lawyer in Richland County, I think they are far more important than most people think.

Civility and professionalism are incredibly important to the healthy functioning of our legal system. While it is usually not possible to have a personal relationship with each and every lawyer you encounter, it is certainly possible to establish personal and professional relationships with many of the lawyers you will encounter. Indeed, establishing and fostering personal and professional relationships within the legal profession is one way that lawyers ensure the continued function of our legal system and achieve resolutions/results that are favorable to their clients.

Participating in RCBA activities is a fantastic way to build these personal and professional relationships. Throughout 2022, you will have opportunities to participate in receptions, happy hours, continuing education programs, and ceremonies organized and sponsored by the RCBA. Further, the RCBA is in the process of reinvigorating the HELP clinic, which provides an opportunity to work side by side with other local members of the profession to assist a vulnerable and often forgotten population.

I encourage each of you to find ways to get involved. Read the RCBA E-blasts so you know about upcoming events, and actually take the time to attend our events. Take the time to build relationships with your fellow lawyers and invest in your profession. Your individual participation and investment, while seemingly small, will have a great impact on our profession and community. So, again, get involved!



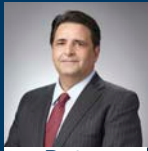


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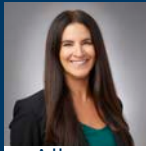
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# Bar Bites

## Local Recommendations from your Richland County Bar colleagues featuring Devine Street

*Compiled By Chris Boguski and Jescelyn Spitz*

To contribute, please email [jspitz@rplegalgroup.com](mailto:jspitz@rplegalgroup.com) and [cboguski@robinsongray.com](mailto:cboguski@robinsongray.com).

### Azalea Coffee Bar

Azalea Coffee Bar recently opened at 2700 Devine Street and is quickly becoming a Devine Street staple. Brittany Koester, the founder of Azalea, originally owned 72 Company, a mobile coffee and cocktail bar that served weddings and events, but she has now shifted a large part of her focus to the brick and mortar location. (72 Company still offers its coffee bar services to businesses and schools.) Brittany and Azalea proudly serve coffee from female producers, and they partner with many women and minority-owned businesses in the Midlands.

**Pro tip:** Grab a grassroots and stroll around Devine Street.







## Craft and Draft

Craft and Draft (C&D), a family friendly beer market and taproom, is located at 2706 Devine Street, and has twelve rotating taps, coolers filled with cans and bottles, and wine available by the glass. C&D carries not only local favorites such as River Rat, Columbia Craft, and Steel Hands, but it also stocks beverages from around the country. If you are not familiar with the craft beer scene, do not fret. C&D's friendly bartenders will help you find the perfect beverage. Come grab a spot at the bar, on the window seats overlooking Devine Street, or on the newly renovated back patio.

**Pro tip:** Craft and Draft is dog friendly for well-behaved dogs, so bring your favorite pup along for one of their dog beers. Additionally, if you happen to be out in Irmo, stop by C&D's sister store at 7583 St. Andrews Road.

## Strictly Running

Strictly Running is located at 2515 Devine Street. Beyond selling the top of the line running brands, including Hoka One One, Asics, and Brooks, Strictly Running hosts and assists in organizing many of the races in Columbia. For a list of upcoming races, checkout [www.strictlyrunning.com](http://www.strictlyrunning.com).

**Pro tip:** If you are new to running or are stepping back into it, Strictly Running offers educational sessions and tips.



# 2022 Leadership

## Richland County Bar Association

### Walter H. Cartin

#### *President*

Walt Cartin is the 2022 President of the Richland County Bar Association. Walt is a partner at Parker Poe and leads the firm's Health Care Industry Team. He represents a diverse range of health care providers, including health systems, nursing homes, multispecialty physician groups, direct primary care practices, pharmaceutical companies, management services organizations, insurance companies, and 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 transactions, with a particular focus on mergers and acquisitions in the health care sector. He also represents clients in state and local tax litigation. Walt has represented local governments and companies before South Carolina's Administrative Law Court and Circuit Court and has particular experience with property tax litigation, including all levels of appeal.

Walt received his undergraduate degree from The Citadel and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2009, cum laude. 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 School of Law Alumni Association. 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. Walt received his MBA from the University of North Carolina in 2017.

#### **How did you get involved in the RCBA? Who or what led to your initial involvement?**

My firm has a long history of involvement with the RCBA. When my partner Will Thomas served as RCBA President, I was asked to serve as the Co-Chair of the RCBA's Young Lawyers' Division. I served as Co-Chair for approximately 3 years, and had a wonderful time getting to know my fellow RCBA members.



## **S. Harrison Saunders VI**

### *President-Elect*

Harrison Saunders is serving as the President-Elect for the Richland County Bar. Harrison was born in Columbia, South Carolina and has lived in Columbia for most of his life. Harrison received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre from the University of South Carolina in 1996. After working as an actor in New York City, he returned to Columbia to pursue his legal education at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

After graduating from law school, Harrison worked for the Law Office of Jack B. Swerling, then with the firm of Reeves and Saunders. Harrison is now a sole practitioner focusing in the areas of criminal defense, personal injury, and professional licensing. Harrison is a member of the South Carolina Bar, South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the South Carolina Association for Justice. He served as the Richland County Bar's General Sessions Liaison prior to his election to the Executive Committee. He also serves as the Mentor Coordinator of the USDC Bridge Program, the federal version of "drug court."

Harrison is a frequent participant in continuing legal education seminars with the SC Bar, presenting on topics of criminal law. He was the co-creator of Sidebar SC, a unique format of presenting legal education produced by the SC Bar. He is a Past President of the Trustus Theatre



Board of Directors and has served on the Trustus Board for numerous years. In his free time, he enjoys doing theatre, spending time at Litchfield Beach with his family, and hunting and fishing with his three sons.

### **What is one of your goals for the Richland County Bar in 2022?**

One goal of the Richland County Bar is to educate the public about the work of lawyers. The legal profession has taken some hits in the past year or so due to the acts of a few lawyers. I think it is very important to regain the trust of society. I believe a way to do that is through education and awareness focusing on the many positive contributions lawyers make to our society.

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## **Shannon F. Bobertz**

### ***New Executive Committee Member***

Shannon Bobertz was elected to serve as the Executive Committee's newest Member. Shannon is General Counsel for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and has been an attorney with the agency since 2013. Shannon graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002, *cum laude*. While in law school, Shannon was an Associate Articles Editor on the South Carolina Law Review and a member of the Wig and Robe. After graduation, she clerked for Justice Costa Pleicones on the South Carolina Supreme Court. After her clerkship, she went into private practice focusing on civil litigation and municipal law with a private firm, where she was a partner.

Shannon is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and was chosen as a Rising Super Lawyer in 2013. She was awarded the Silver Compleat Lawyer Award by the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2014 and selected by The State Newspaper as a recipient of the "20 Under 40" award in 2015. Shannon was also awarded the Meritorious Service Award in 2018 by the Director and Chairman of the DNR Board for her work at the Department of Natural Resources. She served as a SCDNR Deputy Law Enforcement Officer from 2013-2019 and completed the National



Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) in 2019. Shannon has also served as a Bar Examiner and an Adjunct Professor at the UofSC School of Law. She serves on the Richland County Bar Wellness Committee, and is a regular practitioner of yoga.

### **What is your hope for the Richland County Bar in 2022?**

I would like to see the Richland County Bar attract more state and federal agency attorneys, as well as in-house counsel. There are a lot of agency counsel in Richland County who do not understand the value of an RCBA membership. My hope is to recruit some new agency members and demonstrate what a great value membership is to them as well.





## Claude T. Prevost III

### *Treasurer*

Claude Prevost was elected to serve a second term as Treasurer of the Richland County Bar. Claude is a shareholder at Collins & Lacy focusing his practice in the areas of construction defect litigation; professional liability; products liability; premises liability; trucking defense; and 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, as well as in Columbia Business Monthly’s “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 2013-14.

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

Relationships are important. The RCBA is a fantastic community to develop and maintain professional relationships with bar members. These connections may assist clients and lawyers with their cases. The collegial legal environment we enjoy in South Carolina is exemplified in the Richland County Bar. Lawyers should get involved in the RCBA to strengthen professional development that will benefit their clients and law practices.

# 2020 & 2021 Annual Award Honorees



## 2020 Matthew J. Perry Civility Award - Judge:

*The Honorable Mary Geiger Lewis*

Judge Mary Geiger Lewis has an outstanding reputation for being courteous and civil to all who appear before her. She treats every person who enters her courtroom – whether lawyer, witness, criminal defendant, or drug court participant – with respect and gives their case careful and patient consideration, always maintaining an open mind while having a firm understanding of the established legal principles at issue. Judge Lewis has dedicated her professional career to the legal profession and has contributed to the bar in South Carolina and beyond, both as a skilled lawyer and a thoughtful, fair judge.



## 2020 Matthew J. Perry Civility Award - Judge:

*The Honorable Shiva V. Hodges*

Judge Shiva Hodges is known for the unfailing respect she shows to all members of the Bar, whether they be new or experienced, prominent or pedestrian. Furthermore, few judges have been as active in the legal community as Judge Hodges – she shows up to events; she regularly speaks at CLEs; she is open, approachable and engaging. Judge Hodges was one of the youngest federal judges in the country when she was appointed to the bench in 2010 and has been recognized for her judicial temperament and character.



## 2020 Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award - Attorney:

*Byron Gipson*

Byron Gipson is in his position for the right reasons. It is critical that someone as powerful as a prosecutor not think that they are above the defendants whose names are on the files. There is a delicate balance between possessing humanity in the prosecution of individuals and having a sense that there must be justice when there are victims. An effective leader must be ethical, civic minded, have good communication skills and possess a willingness to develop others. As Solicitor, Byron Gipson has proven he has all of these qualities and he exemplifies them with intelligence, humility and respect.





## 2020 Civic Star Award:

*E. Meredith Manning*

Quiet leadership is often overlooked; however, Meredith Manning's dedication and service to our community – outside of the legal field – has not gone unnoticed. Her commitment to the Girl Scout mission and longtime support of the organization have been unwavering. This support has been particularly critical during the challenging times we have recently experienced. Meredith's excitement is contagious when she talks about the Girl Scouts and the valuable opportunities these programs provide young women. Her steady leadership as a Board Member and Board Chair exemplifies her commitment and passion both to the Girl Scouts organization and to our community at large.



## 2020 John W. "Tootie" Williams Distinguished Service Award:

*Lanneau "Lanny" Wm. Lambert, Jr.*

Lanny Lambert has been practicing law for over forty years. During that time, he has rendered distinguished and meritorious service, both to the legal profession and to his community. Lanny served as President of the Young Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Bar, then later as Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect and President of the SC Bar. He went on to serve as the President of the National Conference of Bar Presidents and has been recognized for excellence in the profession by numerous publications and awards. Lanny has served as Board Chair of Central Carolinas Junior Achievement and Elder and Chair of Session at First Presbyterian Church. Lanny has excelled and served with distinction in every task he has undertaken, always bringing honor to the legal profession.

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## 2020 John W. “Tootie” Williams Distinguished Service Award:

*D. Michael Kelly*

Mike Kelly has dedicated his life to service, both within the legal profession and to South Carolina. He cares deeply about his clients, his colleagues, his profession, and his community. A past President of the RCBA, Mike also served as Secretary, Treasurer and President of the SC Bar. He was Chair of the SC Bar House of Delegates, President of ABOTA and on the boards of the SC Center for Equal Justice, Palmetto Legal Services, the SC Bar Foundation, and the SC Judicial Independence Commission. In addition, Mike has supported the University of South Carolina School of Law in countless ways and served on numerous non-profit boards. Mike has served this profession by building a practice on a foundation of professionalism, civility, and advocacy, always placing emphasis on the importance of helping others and ensuring that clients receive exceptional service.



## 2021 Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award - Judge

*The Honorable Shirley Canty Robinson*

Judge Shirley Robinson has served on the SC Administrative Law Court since 2009. She conducts herself elegantly when presiding in Court and her kind and dignified demeanor on the bench exemplifies the very meaning of civility. Throughout her career, Judge Robinson has closely followed her parents’ guiding principles — to treat every person you encounter with respect and dignity. She models these attributes each day and it is an honor to recognize her quiet, yet thoughtful and dedicated service to our state.



## 2021 Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award - Judge:

*The Honorable Robert E. Hood*

Judge Robert Hood is known for his remarkable ability to encourage civility and maintain a calm demeanor in the courtroom, particularly during challenging and complicated trials. In times when litigation – particularly civil litigation – is often resolved before trial, it speaks volumes that Judge Hood exercises patience and diligence, while handling complex issues and ruling from the bench. Known not only for his legal acumen, Judge Hood is highly respected for his civility, great sense of humor and service in the legal community.





## **2021 Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award - Attorney:**

*Barry B. George*

Barry George exemplifies everything that our civility oath asks of us as lawyers. A plaintiff's attorney, Barry has a unique reputation for training many of Columbia's best defense lawyers. He has done this over the years by demonstrating grace when you made a mistake, correcting you when you were getting out of line, and generously sharing his legendary sense of humor. There is no courtesy he will not extend and he will always do all he can to make sure another attorney's position in a case is not compromised. Through Barry, many Midlands lawyers have learned that it is indeed possible to be gracious and civil to one another, while at the same time doing the best for our clients. Barry George is an outstanding attorney, worthy adversary, and most deserving of this recognition.



## **2021 Civic Star Award:**

*Jack E. Cohoon*

Jack Cohoon works diligently to make the legal system better for everyone, regardless of whether it benefits him, and he unfailingly demonstrates civility and kindness in all that he does. Year after year, he works to introduce Scouts to the positive aspects of the legal system and what it means to be an attorney. His involvement (and recruitment of others) with the ABA's Free Legal Answers program is another way that he serves the citizens of our state. Jack is an excellent and compassionate litigator who never hesitates to jump in to help with needs in his community and encourages others to do the same.

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# Noteworthy News & Announcements

**Luther J. Battiste, III**, founding shareholder of **Johnson, Toal & Battiste** has been inducted into the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) Warren E. Burger Society.

**Robert Bolchoz** has been nominated by **Governor Henry McMaster** as the next chairman of the **SC Board of Health and Environmental Control**.

Bolchoz has public and private sector experience in environmental law. He served in the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office as both an Assistant and Deputy Solicitor and also served as Chief Deputy Attorney General from 1995 to 1998 and again in 2017. During his time as Chief Deputy Attorney General, he supervised DHEC's legal counsel on a number of issues. A graduate of The Citadel, Bolchoz received his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

**Bruner, Powell, Wall & Mullins, LLC** is pleased to announce the addition of **J. Keane Mossman** as Associate Attorney. Keane received his BA from Indiana University and attended the UofSC School of Law where he earned his JD. While in law school, Keane worked as a Research Assistant, Law Clerk for the State Grand Jury Division of the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, and practiced as a Student Attorney for the Carolina Health and Medico-Legal Partnership Clinic. He also served as President of the SC Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Vice-President of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, and Ambassador to SBA Presidents and ABA Representatives of the ABA Law Student Division Fourth Circuit. Keane served previously as Associate General Counsel for Genesis Health Care, Inc.

**Burnette Shutt & McDaniel** announces that **Katherine Myers** has joined the firm. Myers is a former prosecutor who worked in the First Circuit Court Solicitor's Office. She represents clients at all phases of criminal cases, from charges to trials to appeals if necessary. She also worked as a whistleblower investigator in the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Myers served as a clerk for South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald Beatty after she graduated from the UofSC School of Law. She earned her BA in political science at Furman University.

**Burr & Forman, LLP** announces that **Assatta Herbert Williams** has joined the firm's Columbia office, as an Associate in the Public Finance practice group. Assatta graduated from Clemson University, receiving a BA in Financial Management and a minor in Accounting. She also earned her J.D. and M.B.A. from the University of South Carolina, where she served on the Editorial Board of the South Carolina Journal of International Law and Business and as vice-chair of the Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association. Prior to joining Burr & Forman, she served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. DeAndrea Gist Benjamin of the Fifth Circuit.

**Cavanaugh & Thickens, LLC** announces that **Stephen F. Krzyston** and **William H. Yarborough, Jr.** have been named partners in the firm.

**Chappell Smith & Arden, P.A.** is proud to announce the addition of two new partners, **Mark Chappell, Jr.** and **George Taylor**. Mark has achieved successful results in cases involving tractor trailer collisions, train derailments, dog



bites, motor vehicle collisions, wrongful death lawsuits, consumer law utilities violations, and premises liability claims. Mark is a graduate of Wofford College with a B.A. in Business Economics, and a minor in Government. Mark was a banker in Charleston for several years before returning to Columbia and attending the UofSC School of Law. George's practice is concentrated exclusively in workers' compensation, representing injured workers, including those with brain and spinal injuries, to maximize their rights to benefits under the law. He received his bachelor's degree from The Citadel. After graduating, he accepted a Commission into the U.S. Air Force and deployed multiple times during his service as an intelligence officer. After leaving the Air Force, George attended the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he graduated with honors.

**Clawson and Staubes, LLC** announces that **Steven E. Price** has joined the firm and practices with the firm's litigation group. Steven earned a BA in History with a Minor in Political Science from Newberry College, as well as his JD from Charleston School of Law. While in law school, Steven was a member of the Honor Council. He is a guest lecturer at Newberry College, speaking to incoming freshmen about the practice of law and also serves as a judge for the SC Bar Middle and High School Mock Trial Competitions. Prior to joining Clawson and Staubes, Steven represented plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

**Jack E. Cohoon** is now a partner at **Burnette Shutt & McDaniel**. Cohoon joined the firm two years ago as a special counsel. In addition to employment law, his practice includes civil rights. He also represents clients in criminal records expungements, pardons, occupational licensing, and other matters that can act as barriers to

employment. He received the RCBA's Civic Star Award recognizing outstanding community service and has been recognized in 2021 "Best Lawyers in America" and "Legal Elite of the Midlands" for his work in employment law. Cohoon previously served as an attorney with SC Legal Services, rising to the position of senior litigation attorney and head of the Employment Law Unit.

**Collins & Lacy, P.C.** announces that **Jennifer Newman** and **Robert Peele** have been named shareholders of the firm. **Jenny Newman** represents employers and their carriers against claims and disputes throughout SC. Prior to working at Collins & Lacy, Jenny focused primarily in bankruptcy matters and frequently argued cases in front of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina, and earned her JD from the Charleston School of Law, *cum laude*. **Rob Peele** focuses his practice in construction litigation, professional liability and trucking defense. He has more than seven years of experience defending civil litigation claims and has tried cases in state court involving premises liability, construction defects, and negligence claims. Rob previously served as a Deputy General Counsel for the SC Department of Corrections. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina, and he earned his JD from the Charleston School of Law.

**Crowe LaFave, LLC** is pleased to announce the addition of **Jonathan M. Riddle** as an associate attorney to the firm. The firm announces the relocation of its office to 2019 Park St., Columbia, 29201.

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**Jane H. Downey**, Partner at **Moore Bradley Myers (MBM)**, has been named by Lawdragon as one of 2022's 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. Jane has also been recently named to the Board of Directors for Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) by the American Bankruptcy Institute. She is a certified specialist in bankruptcy and debtor/creditor law, as well as a mediator and arbitrator by the South Carolina Supreme Court and as a mediator by the South Carolina District Court. Jane also serves as a Board Member of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and serves as the Past-Chair of the IWIRC's Carolina Network. She is a graduate of Furman University and the Emory University School of Law.

**Finkel Law Firm, LLC** is pleased to announce that **Dylan R. Glick** and **Dylan S. Crowley** have joined the firm as associates. **Dylan Glick** practices civil litigation focusing on construction litigation and property disputes. He graduated from Clemson University with a BA in Political Science, *cum laude* and attended the UofSC School of Law, earning his JD, *cum laude*. He was inducted into the Order of the Wig and Robe, a member of the Real Property Trusts & Estates Journal and served as a student attorney in the Nonprofit Organizations Clinic. While in law school, Dylan clerked with the Department of Justice and at the Finkel Law Firm. **Dylan Crowley** practices in the areas of commercial and residential real estate. He graduated from Clemson University with a BA in History, and then earned his JD from the Charleston School of Law. In law school, Dylan served on the editorial board of Federal Courts Law Review and volunteered with Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services.

**Fisher Phillips LLP** announces that **Andreas Mosby** has joined the firm as an associate. Andreas advises and represents employers with respect to various employment law matters, including those involving discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination, labor relations, litigation, pay equity, and wage and hour violations. While in law school, Andreas clerked for the Hon. Lucy Inman at the NC Court of Appeals. He received a BA from Greensboro College, a JD from Elon University School of Law and an MBA from Elon University.

**Fisher Phillips LLP** is proudly announces that **Sheila Willis** has been elected a partner of the firm. Willis is one of 20 new attorneys elected across 15 offices with over 75% representing a diverse cross-section of the firm, reinforcing Fisher Phillips' commitment to creating diverse legal teams. She represents companies as they navigate employment issues related to hiring, discipline, investigations, employment discrimination, unemployment, and other related issues. She is a past president of both the South Carolina Women Lawyers' Association (SCWLA) and the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers (SCYLD) Division. Sheila is a 2019 recipient of the Silver Compleat Lawyer Award from the UofSC School of Law Alumni Association.

**Gallivan White Boyd** announces that **Jordan Crapps** has been elected a partner of the firm. Crapps focuses his practice on the representation of clients in the business and commercial litigation, corporate and commercial transactions, and appellate practice areas. Jordan's experience also allows him to provide a wide range of services to securities issuers and financial firms such as broker-dealers and investment advisers. Before





joining Gallivan White Boyd, Jordan served as an assistant attorney general for the South Carolina Attorney General. He received his BS from Clemson University and earned his JD from the UofSC School of Law.

**Ben Gooding**, a member of **Robinson Gray**, has been elected to the John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court, an organization dedicated to fostering excellence in the legal profession and mentoring young attorneys. Formed in 1986, it is modeled on London’s Inns of Court, and its purpose is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills. Ben’s 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 joins a strong group of Robinson Gray attorneys who are proud John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court members, including: **Michael Montgomery** (immediate past president), **Betsy Gray**, **Paul Hoefer**, **Becky Laffitte**, **Bobby Stepp** and **Cal Watson**.

**Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.** is pleased to announce that **Kathleen M. Muthig** has been elected as Shareholder. Kathleen focuses her

practice on commercial real estate, including development, financing, commercial leases and related real estate transactions. She also has experience representing financial institutions and commercial landlords in state court and bankruptcy court litigation. Kathleen has been recognized as a 2022 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch for Administrative/Regulatory Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and Litigation – Banking Finance. She is a 2020 graduate of Leadership Columbia.

**Becky Laffitte**, a member of **Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte**, has been inducted into the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (NADN). Formed in 2008, NADN is a professional association whose membership consists of mediators and arbitrators distinguished by their hands-on experience in the field of civil/commercial conflict resolution and by their commitment to the practice of alternative dispute resolution. Becky is one of only 38 attorneys who belong to the SC chapter. Membership is by invitation only, based on nominations made by both peers and litigation firms, and is limited to those found to meet stringent practice criteria who are well established

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## **Noteworthy News & Announcements** (...continued from page 18)

as trusted neutrals within their state of practice.

**Daniel C. Leonardi** announces his new role as partner with **Polales Horton & Leonardi, LLP** located at 1502 Blanding St., Columbia, 29201.

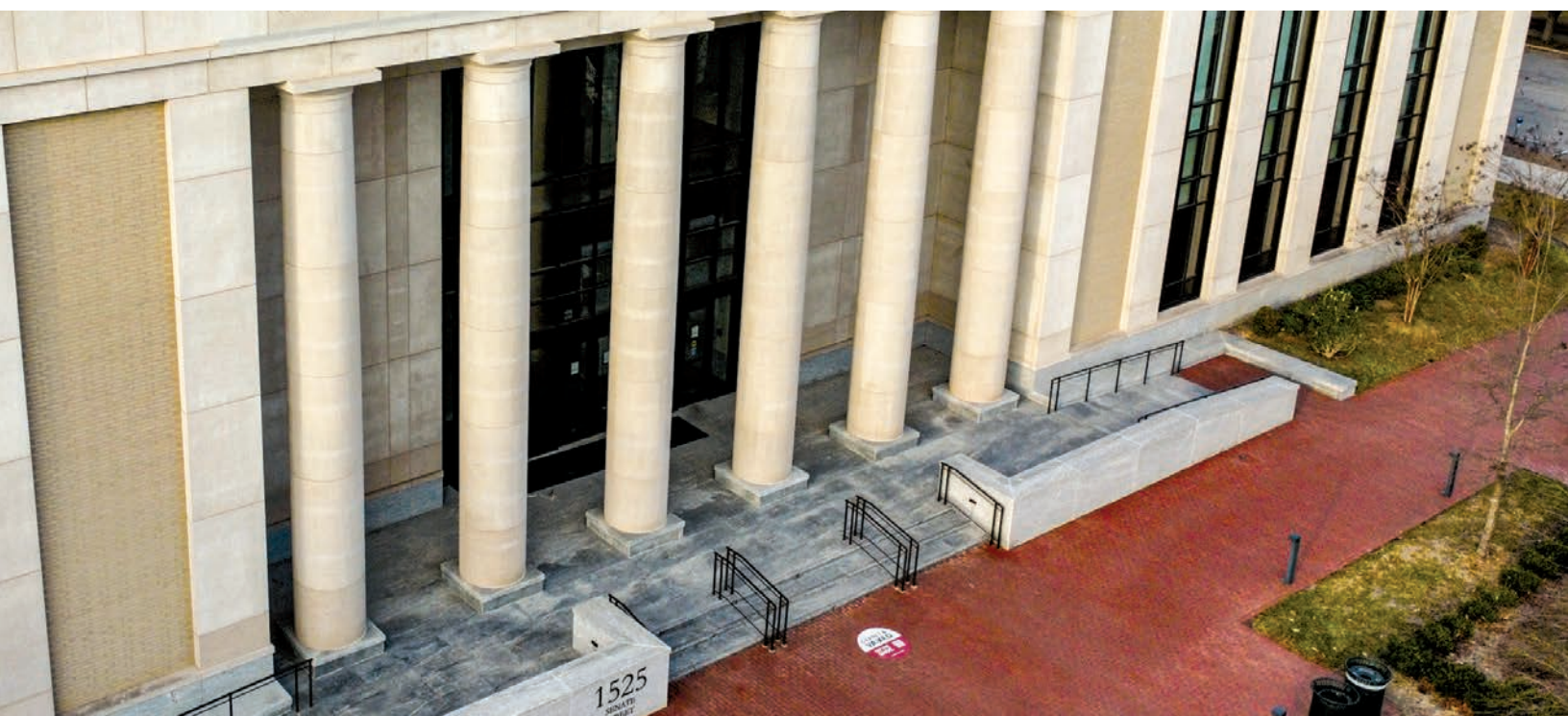
**McGowan Hood & Felder, LLC** announces it will be changing its name to **McGowan Hood Felder & Phillips, LLC** in recognition of **Robert Phillips'** achievements for his clients and contributions to the firm. In existence for 20 years, the law firm has locations in Columbia, Rock Hill, Pawleys Island, Greenville, and Charleston.

**McWhirter Bellinger & Associates P.A.** announces that **Emma Taylor** was sworn into the Florida Bar.

**Merline & Meacham, P.A.** announces that **W. Verne McGough, Jr.** has been named a shareholder in the firm. Verne represents individuals and businesses in tax controversy and tax collection matters, assists professionals and small businesses in tax efficient corporate planning and transactions and provides

personalized estate planning. Verne received his BA from Appalachian State, his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law and his L.L.M. in Taxation from Boston University.

**Nelson Mullins** Retired Partner **Edward W. Mullins Jr.** was presented the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, for his years of service to the local and legal communities. Mullins, who retired from Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in 2019, received the award during the law firm's annual partners meeting. Mullins joined the firm in 1959 as its fifth lawyer in its sole office in Columbia. The Order of the Palmetto is South Carolina's highest civilian honor bestowed by the governor in recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service, and contributions on a national or statewide scale. The partners of **Nelson Mullins** have elected **Nick Charles** and **Donna Tillis** to the partnership. Charles and Tillis are 2014 graduates of the UofSC School of Law and among 18 attorneys elected to the partnership firmwide. **Nick Charles** practices in appellate advocacy, including the formulation and coordination of litigation and appellate





strategies. He also practices in commercial litigation with an emphasis on toxic tort and consumer financial services litigation. In 2020, Charles was named to the S.C. Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Roll and has been noted as a 2022 Best Lawyers in America Ones to Watch in the area of commercial litigation. **Donna Tillis** focuses her practice on complex business litigation. In 2020, she was named to the S.C. Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Roll, and in 2019, she was a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Pathfinder. She has also served in leadership roles in the ABA and DRI. Tillis was recognized in The State's 20 Under 40 Class of 2021 and was the first Black Editor in Chief of the ABA Real Property, Trust & Estate Law Journal. Tillis was the recipient of the Bronze Compleat Lawyer Award in 2014.

**Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP** is pleased to announce the firm is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Columbia. In November 1996, Parker Poe opened its Columbia office with two attorneys and one legal professional. Today, the Columbia office has 22 attorneys, 17 legal professionals, and nine consultants who have deep relationships across South Carolina's business, health care, and government sectors. Parker Poe was among the first law firms in the city to create a consulting arm to help clients with a wider range of their needs. Sixteen years later, Parker Poe Consulting has grown to provide state and local government relations, site selection and economic development, and local government management and consulting services.

**Adair Patterson**, attorney at **Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.**, was recently selected to serve on the Board of Advisors for YMCA Camp Greenville. Adair focuses her practice on corporate law and is a member of the South Carolina Women

Lawyers Association, CREW Midlands and Upstate Forever. She earned her JD, *magna cum laude*, from the UofSC School of Law. She received a Master of Education and Educational Specialist degree in Counseling from Clemson University and a BA from the University of Virginia.

**Jason Peavy** announces the opening of the **Law Office of Jason P. Peavy, LLC** located at 1529 Laurel Street. Jason recently left the US Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina where he served as the Chief of White-Collar Crime. In that capacity, he supervised all white-collar and public corruption investigations in the District as well as the Assistant U.S. Attorneys assigned to prosecute those cases. He recently reopened his law firm at 1529 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC and he will focus his practice on the defense of white-collar criminal investigations and cases.

**Price Benowitz LLP** announces that **Jael Gilreath** has joined the firm. She received her undergraduate degree from Lee University and her JD, *magna cum laude*, from the UofSC School of Law, where she was a member of the Moot Court Bar and the South Carolina Journal of International Law & Business. She is also a graduate of the National Criminal Defense College. Prior to joining Price Benowitz, Jael worked as a private investigator and at the Eleventh Circuit Public Defender's Office. **Brandon Rattray** has joined **Robinson Gray** as an associate. His practice will focus on workers' compensation. Brandon received his JD from the UofSC School of Law. He previously earned his BA from the University of South Carolina, graduating *magna cum laude*. While in law school Brandon clerked for the U.S. Attorney's office, as well as for private firms in Columbia and Greenville. He was the senior articles editor for the ABA's Real Property, Trust &

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

Estate Law Journal, and was also a CALI award recipient for Trial Advocacy and Accounting for Attorneys.

**Richardson, Thomas, Haliwanger, Moore & Lewis**, which has represented many burn victims treated by the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, has made a gift of \$100,000 to the foundation that supports patients and their families. The donation is intended to support the foundation's Jeffrey Vaden Chavis House and other vital services provided to burn victims and their families. The law firm made the presentation to the Burn Foundation of America at the foundation's office in January.

**Nekki Shutt**, a founding partner of **Burnette Shutt & McDaniel**, is among the 2021 Women of Influence honorees. Sponsored by the Columbia Regional Business Report, the awards recognize women who demonstrate professional success and have made significant contributions to the community. **Kathleen McDaniel**, another Burnette Shutt & McDaniel founder, was honored in 2019. Candidates are nominated by community members, with a panel of judges making the final selection. **La'Jessica Stringfellow**, an associate with **Robinson Gray**, has been named to the Leadership Columbia class of 2022. She is one of 65 rising community leaders named to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce program, marking the largest Leadership Columbia class to date. La'Jessica's participation continues a Robinson Gray tradition of attorney involvement in the program including recent graduates **Lisle Traywick** (class of 2020), **Rachel Hutchens** (class of 2019), and **Nick Haigler** (class of 2010), who is also former chairman of the Leadership Columbia Advisory Board (class of 2015.) Before joining

Robinson Gray, La'Jessica was an assistant solicitor in the 11th Circuit Solicitor's office and 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 JD from the UofSC School of Law.

**The South Carolina Bar** Leadership Academy has selected the following RCBA members to participate in the 2022 class: **Joseph Bias**, **Midlands Technical College**; **Lamar Fyall**, **City of Columbia**; **Scott MacLatchie**, **Nelson Mullins**; **DeShawn Mitchell**, **Clawson & Staubes, LLC**, and **Joseph Spate**, **Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA**.

The Leadership Academy is a selective program for Bar members who have been practicing three to 15 years. It offers participants networking opportunities, professionalism training, community awareness and other skills necessary to give back to the profession and position themselves as leaders in our communities. **Jasmine D. Smith** of **Robinson Gray** is Co-Chair of the 2022 Leadership Academy.

**The South Carolina Bar** announces the following RCBA members have been elected to the Board of Governors: **Christopher R. Koon** for Secretary and **Lindsay A. Joyner** for House of Delegates Chair, and **Sheila M. Willis** for Region 2 board representative. **John D. Elliott** and **La'Jessica Stringfellow** were elected for ABA State Bar Delegates. The board members will be sworn in during the Annual Assembly in May. The Nominating Committee was chaired by **Roy Laney**.

The **South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association (SCWCEA)** is pleased



to announce the elected 2022 officers and board members. **Grady L. Beard**, founding Member with **Robinson Gray** will serve as President. Grady attended Louisiana State University and received his BS 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. He has previously served as co-chair for the Workers' Compensation Section of the SC Defense Trial Attorneys Association. **Dewana F. Looper** practices at the **Atkins Law Firm** and will serve as Vice President. She earned her BA from the University of South Carolina Honors College, *magna cum laude*, and her JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she graduated *cum laude*. 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 dually licensed in both NC and SC and speaks frequently at seminars on workers' compensation topics.

**Thornwell F. "Biff" Sowell, III** was recently recognized for his superior work by his peers when he was named winner of the SC Bar Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section Award. Sowell has maintained the same level of persistence, gratitude and commitment to the profession for over 45 years. Sowell's love for his work, colleagues and clients remind him why he appreciates the profession each day. The Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section Award is given to a lawyer who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to furthering the art and techniques of trial and appellate advocacy in the legal profession while also devoting substantial time

and effort to the education and training of attorneys in the areas of trial and appellate advocacy.

**Richardson Plowden** announces that **Brandon Adams** has joined the firm. Adams earned his JD from the UofSC School of Law, where he was president of the Matthew J. Perry Chapter of the National Black Law Student Association, and also was a Mock Trial Bar and Moot Court Bar participant. He was a member of the Law Students of Color Collective, the James L. Petigru Public Interest Law Society, Student Bar Association Peer Mentor, and AVID Mentor at Summit Parkway Middle School. While in law school, Adams worked as a law clerk at Richardson Plowden and at the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. He earned a BA in Elementary Education from UofSC and prior to earning his law degree, Mr. Adams worked as a 4th grade teacher in South Carolina.

**Sweeny, Wingate & Barrow, P.A.** announces that **Daniel Q. Atkinson** and **Grace G. Brown** have joined the firm. **Daniel Atkinson** practices in the areas of insurance coverage and complex litigation. He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he served as a Senior Editor of the Alabama Law Review, participated as a Member of the Moot Court Board, and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Prior to law school, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Columbia International University and received an MA from Clemson University. **Grace Brown** practices in the areas of retail and premises liability, trucking litigation, and medical malpractice. She graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Tennessee and joined the firm upon graduating *cum laude* from the UofSC School of Law. While in law school, Grace served

*continued on page 23...*

# 2022 Executive Committee



**1st row:** Ashley C. Story, 2021 President; Shannon Bobertz, newly elected Member | **2nd row:** Michael J. Polk, Member; Walter H. Cartin, newly elected President for 2022; Charles F. "Charlie" Moore, Immediate Past President | **3rd row:** Claude T. Prevost III, Treasurer; S. Harrison Saunders VI, newly elected President-Elect; Derrick L. Williams, Member

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

as Associate Managing Editor of the South Carolina Law Review and as Vice President of the Student Bar Association. She also participated in the Law School's Academic Success Program and received the John R. Holland Scholarship for her leadership and commitment in extracurricular activities.

**Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, P.A.** announces that **Hannah Stetson** has been elected shareholder of the firm, where she is a member of the Workplace Litigation Team. Her practice

focuses on representing employers and management in various litigation, administrative and counseling matters. She is also a member of the firm's statewide professional license defense team. Hannah received a BA from the University of South Carolina and earned her JD from Wake Forest University School of Law. Following law school, Hannah served as a judicial law clerk for the Hon. James A. Beaty, Jr. in the US District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina and the Hon. Margaret B. Seymour in the US District Court for the District of South Carolina.



## **2021 John W. “Tootie” Williams Distinguished Service Award:**

*John Kassel*

John Kassel is an accomplished trial lawyer, serving in numerous local, state and national organizations. He has tried many cases to verdict and has also argued numerous cases to the appellate courts. And, while John’s career is something he should certainly be proud of, his commitment to the community started long before he even became a lawyer. Prior to attending law school, John worked for the Brown Lung Association, a group of retired textile workers who had spent years of their lives working in textile mills, and who were suffering from debilitating lung disease due to the prolonged cotton dust exposure as a result. It was this work that inspired him to go to law school to help the folks he got to know in those cotton mills. John Kassel has continued this commitment over the last 30 plus years in his law practice and through his generous and distinguished



## **2021 John W. “Tootie” Williams Distinguished Service Award:**

*Professor John P. Freeman (posthumously)*

Professor John Freeman was a critical part of the soul of the University of South Carolina School of Law for more than 30 years. Few could match his enthusiasm and energy in the classroom, and there was a reason that he frequently was considered the best teacher in the law school. He demanded excellence and embodied faculty leadership and governance. He cared for staff and mentored students throughout their careers. Many of the best habits of the law school exist because of his example of how we should treat one another. In every one of those experiences, Professor Freeman modeled civility and diligence as a lawyer. Presented posthumously, the Distinguished Service Award was accepted on behalf of Professor Freeman and his family by former Law School Dean Rob Wilcox.





# RCBA Member Events - Together Again!

Your Richland County Bar has remained active, engaging our members in new and different formats. These events include the 2021 Annual Meeting/Holiday Party and from a February 2022 Diversity Committee Drop-in. Below are some of the moments captured at these events.

## Diversity Committee Drop-in



## Annual Meeting/Holiday Party











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