



ISSUE #41

Website: <http://www.charlestoncountybar.org>

SPRING 2018

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues,

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as your President of the Charleston County Bar Association (CCBA) for the 2018-2019 term. As I stated in my address at the Annual meeting in February, the mission of the CCBA is service to our profession and to the community. We have an honored association with a

rich history of promoting the goals of our mission statement.

Under the tutelage of our Immediate Past President, Scott Moise and those who preceded her, we have provided services to the members in the form of continuing legal education seminars, recognition of outstanding achievements by our members in the presentation of the Petrigu Award, memorializing deceased members during our annual meetings, and providing opportunities to socialize with the judiciary and our colleagues. In 2017-18 the CCBA sponsored over 35 hours of free legal seminars. These CLEs include our ever popular "What Works" which affords attorneys the ability to satisfy their end of the year mandatory requirements. These CLEs are free to our members and are organized by a committee of CCBA volunteers and presenters.

We have reached out to our community with the very exciting Cocky's Reading Express™, and with CCBA volunteers serving lunch at One 80 Place and at the Neighborhood House, preparing 900 meals at Meals on Wheels during the holidays.

I intend to continue promoting these programs and to institute other initiatives to achieve the goals of our association. We are an association of more than 2,000 members, however only 30 newly admitted lawyers registered as members this year with the CCBA. We must do a better job attracting all recently admitted lawyers

living and working in the Charleston County area to be a member of our Association.

Since our February Annual meeting, Past Association President Jim Myrick facilitated a retreat of the executive committee members. I have met with the members of the Family Court and Circuit Court judiciary and have engaged in several meetings with our CLE committee and Engagement Committee.

It is my intent for our CLE Committee to sponsor more seminars tailored towards the needs of young lawyers and for our Engagement Committee to plan social activities for both our young lawyers and senior members of the Association. Other social events may include luncheons with judges and county officials. I will invite the recently admitted lawyers to a special reception in November to welcome them to the profession and encourage their participation in our Association.

In fulfilling our mission responsibilities to the community I have met with representatives of the Center for Heirs Property to coordinate with them conducting free legal clinics. In my role as a member of City Council and the West Ashley Revitalization Commission, I have become increasingly concerned with landowners not having a simple real estate succession plan. It is my hope we can provide informational and educational seminars to folks who may not otherwise have the means for legal advice and may be in need of simple wills.

Please review our Tuesday Talks for information regarding upcoming events. Learn how you may become more involved with our Association. Please send me an [e-mail: peter@shahidlawoffice.com](mailto:peter@shahidlawoffice.com) or call me (843.853.4500) with any ideas, suggestions or complaints.

Very truly yours,

Peter Shahid

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sara A. Turner is pleased to announce the opening of her new firm, **The Law Office of Sara A. Turner, LLC**, located at 105 1A Wappoo Creek Drive, Charleston, SC 29412. The firm's telephone number is 843-277-2431 and the website is saraturnerlaw.com.

Motley Rice LLC is proud to announce that the University of South Carolina (USC) School of Law Alumni Council named member attorney **Anne McGinness Kears** as a 2018 Compleat Lawyer.

Gallivan White Boyd is pleased to announce that attorney **Frank K. Staiano** has joined the firm as a partner in the firm's Charleston office. Frank has been defending corporations, businesses, and individuals for over 4 years in matters related to construction, professional liability, insurance coverage, and premises liability matters.

Perry MacLennan, an attorney in **Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd's** Charleston office, has been elected to the 2018 Palmetto Society for Human Resource Management (PSHRM) Board of Directors as General Counsel and to the South Carolina Young Lawyers Division as Secretary-Treasurer for 2018-2019. MacLennan is a workforce and business lawyer focusing on economic development, employment, and general corporate matters. He often acts as outside general counsel to private companies, local governments, and non-profit entities.

Motley Rice LLC is proud to announce that co-founding member **Joseph F. Rice** is the 2018 recipient of the South Carolina Association for Justice (SCAJ) "Founders' Award." The Founders' Award, SCAJ's highest and most prestigious honor, is reserved for South Carolina lawyers who have demonstrated great skill and dedication to professional service over the course of their legal career, a period of at least 30 years. Joe will be recognized and presented with the award in August, during SCAJ's annual convention in Hilton Head, S.C.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd congratulates two of its shareholders on being named to *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly's* 2018 Leadership in Law Honoree list. **John Tiller** and **Jay Matthews** are among 30 attorneys from across the state to be recognized for achieving success in their practice and making a positive impact on the legal community as well as the community at large. In addition, Tiller has been recognized as a 2018 Gold Compleat Lawyer by the USC School of Law.

K&L Gates' Charleston office is pleased to welcome **Jennifer "Jenny" A. Urban** as an associate in the firm's banking & asset finance practice group. Jenny's practice is focused in the aviation industry, including: aviation finance and leasing; corporate aircraft transactions; and aviation regulatory compliance with laws, policies, and regulations administered by the DOT, FAA, TSA, and PHMSA. Jenny also advises clients on legal issues relating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)/drones. Jenny has her Remote Pilot - Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems license, making **K&L Gates** one of the few firms with a drone attorney who holds this license.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDGE JOHN E. WAITES

The Charleston County Bar Association wishes to add its congratulations to Judge John E. Waites, as a result of his induction as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, to those provided in the below release from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina.



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT District of South Carolina

Honorable David R. Duncan, Chief Judge • Laura A. Austin, Clerk of Court

[Congratulations to Judge John E. Waites, Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy](#)

The judges and staff of the United States Bankruptcy Court extend congratulations and best wishes to Judge John E. Waites on his induction as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy in a ceremony held today. Judge Waites is the first Bankruptcy Judge in South Carolina to be awarded this honor. The American College of Bankruptcy is an honorary association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals whose fellows include bankruptcy judges, attorneys, and other practitioners in the bankruptcy and insolvency community. Those selected as Fellows demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, character, integrity, professional expertise, leadership, and scholarship contributing to the enhancement of the insolvency field.

CHARLESTON

145 King Street, Room 225
Charleston, SC 29401

COLUMBIA

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
District of South Carolina
J. Bratton Davis
U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse
1100 Laurel Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-2423
(803) 765-5436

SPARTANBURG

Donald S. Russell Courthouse
& U.S. Courthouse
201 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306

Please take a few minutes to log in to the Charleston County Bar website (www.Charlestoncountybar.org) and check to be sure that all of your contact information is correct. We are finding that the information on the South Carolina Bar website and the Charleston County Bar website is not always identical. It is very important that we have correct information from each of you in order to have accurate records. This will only take a few minutes of your time and we would very much appreciate each of you doing this.

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Longtime Charlestonian, Donald Bailey, has written *Your Legacy of Care* for the those involved in assisting families of special needs children and their futures. The book can assist Trust & Estate and other lawyers with valuable information as they work with clients planning their special needs children's futures. The book includes a template that makes the planning easier and more efficient. For more information go to www.legacyofcareadvisors.com or call Bailey directly, (843) 814-4498. The book is free on the web.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Monday June 18 - Tuesday June 19, 2018
Volunteer Opportunity with Camp Rise Above
James Island County Park
See information in the 4/10 Tuesday Talk

Thursday June 28 - Friday June 29, 2018
Volunteer Opportunity with Camp Rise Above
James Island County Park
See information in the 4/10 Tuesday Talk

SPOTLIGHT: TURNING LEAF

In furtherance of its mission to assist the community, the Charleston County Bar Association (CCBA) continues to support Non-Profit Organizations with an allied legal focus that are working to make a difference in our community. This column will periodically provide specific information on the activities and efforts of those organizations which the CCBA's Executive Committee has selected to receive support in the organization's efforts.



Turning Leaf is a Charleston based non-profit organization providing reentry and rehabilitation services to former inmates. Our mission is to serve those who are at the highest risk of re-arrest to change their attitude, thinking and behavior so they can complete probation and stay out of prison.

CLASSROOM TRAINING

Students attend daily skill building classes at our reentry center in N. Charleston for a minimum of 10 weeks. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is proven to reduce recidivism. Skills are not just taught, but practiced and role-played. This takes time and repetition. Individuals likely to re-offend need 150+ hours of CBT to adopt new thinking habits.



TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Our students who have the biggest barriers to success are hired to work in our screen printing business. This temporary job extends the length of program involvement and gives the person additional job training and support. Men who complete their temporary job in the screen printing shop are transitioned into employment within the private sector.



JOB PLACEMENT

After completing 10 weeks of skill building classes, students not hired in our screen printing shop are transitioned into temporary employment with one of our government work partners: City of Charleston, City of North Charleston and Charleston County. Men who are successful on their job placement are hired on permanently by that agency.





TURNING LEAF

CHANGING LIVES RESTORING HOPE

5 AMAZING THINGS

Donors Made Possible This Year

500

Facilitated 500 skill building classes to men recently released from prison and at high risk for re-arrest.

45

Enrolled 45 men and graduated 15. No graduates have been re-arrested.

27

Placed 27 men on jobs with our work partners.

8

Launched a screen printing business and provided transitional employment to 8 men.

1

Hired 1 new staff member. We now have a professional screen printer on the team supervising our print shop.

Looking forward...

Here's a few of our goals for next year:

- Enroll **60** men at a high risk of rearrest.
- Provide employment to **16** men in our print shop.
- Have a **75%** retention rate with all job placements.

2018

Goals

VISIT US

Email us to schedule a visit:
abarch@turningleafproject.com

DONATE

Support our 2018 goals by making a donation by mail or online.

SCREEN PRINTING

Place an order and spread the word:
jevans@turningleafproject.com

3765 Leeds Avenue, North Charleston SC 29405 | www.turningleafproject.org | 843-297-4980

SPONSOR

Make an immediate impact on our bottom line with a gift of any size.

- \$50 helps us keep the lights on and puts gas in the van.
- \$100 buys classroom supplies and incentives.
- \$250 buys job training supplies for a month so our screen printing business can grow.
- \$500 funds more staff hours to building relationships with new job partners.
- \$1,000 sponsors a student through 10 weeks of classes.

VOLUNTEER

- Hold a supply drive at your office or school. Grab a bin and give your coworkers a challenge!
- Donate your talent. Experts in any field are welcome. Bonus points for video, social media, and web design aficionados.

PARTICIPATE

- Sit in on a class at the center. See what the guys are learning.
- Share your story. We're always looking for inspiring professionals for our speaker series.

SCREEN PRINTING

We offer custom screen printing services for your business, school or group. No job is too large or small. We offer competitive pricing. Need help designing a logo? We can do that too. For a free quote give us a call or email.

843-202-5002
jevans@turningleafproject.com

CONTACT

843-297-4980
www.turningleafproject.org

The Charleston County Bar newsletter is now accepting classified ads for just \$1 per word. For information on placing your ad in our next newsletter, please contact Karen Fetter at Tel. (843) 881-6666 or by E-mail: secretary@charlestoncountybar.org

COURT SCHEDULES

(Court schedules are changing constantly; please verify current information through S.C. Court Administration or by checking the South Carolina Judicial Department website at <http://www.sccourts.org/calendar/scmapping.cfm>.)

CIRCUIT COURT - NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

April 2		April 9		April 16		April 23	
9 th GSNJ	- Dennis	AW	- Harrington	9 th CPNJ	- Young, R.	9 th GSNJ	- Dennis
9 th CPNJ	- Nicholson	9 th CPNJ	- Nicholson	Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas CP/NJ	- Harrington
9 th GSNJ/PCR	- Toal	Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas GS	- Hughston	Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.
Chas CP/NJ	- Mullen	Chas GS	- Hughston	Chas GS	- Jefferson	Chas CP/NJ	- Lee
Berk CP/NJ	- Hyman	Chas GS	- Young, R.	Chas CP/NJ	- Curtis	Berk CP/NJ	- Hughston
		Berk CP/NJ	- Jefferson	Berk GS	- Harrington	Berk GS	- Jefferson

April 30		May 7		May 14		May 21	
		9 th GSNJ	- Dennis	9 th CPNJ	- Early	9 th CPNJ/PCR	- Young, R.
		Chas CP/NJ	- Goldsmith	Chas CP/NJ	- Goldsmith	9 th CPNJ	- Nicholson
		Chas CP/NJ	- Harrington	Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas GS	- Dennis
		Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.	Chas GS	- Jefferson	Chas GS	- Harrington
		Berk CP/NJ	- Jefferson	Chas GS	- Young, R.	Chas GS	- Curtis
				Berk GS	- Harrington	Berk GS/SGJ	- Jefferson

May 28		June 4		June 11		June 18	
9 th GSNJ	- Dennis	9 th GSNJ	- Dennis	9 th CPNJ	- Nicholson	9 th CPNJ	- McCoy (18-20)
Chas CP/NJ	- Harrington	Chas CP/NJ	- Cothran	Chas CP/NJ	- McCoy	Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.
Chas CP/NJ	- Nicholson	Chas CP/NJ	- Harrington	Chas	- Dennis	Chas GS	- Dennis
Chas CP/NJ	- Curtis	Chas CP/NJ	- Buckner	Chas GS	- Harrington	Chas GS	- Harrington
Berk CP/NJ	- Murphy			Chas GS	- Young, R.	Chas GS	- Hyman
Berk GS	- Young, R.			Berk GS	- Jefferson	Berk CP/NJ	- Jefferson

June 25	
AW	- Harrington
9 th GSNJ	- Dennis
Chas CP/NJ	- McCoy
Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.
Chas CP/NJ	- Maddox
Berk CP/NJ	- Russo
Berk GS	- Jefferson

CIRCUIT COURT - FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

April 2		April 9		April 16		April 23	
Dor CP/NJ	- Goodstein	Dor GS	- Murphy	Dor GS	- Murphy	1st CPNJ/PCR	- Dickson
						1st CPNJ	- Goodstein

April 30		May 7		May 14		May 21	
		Dor CP/NJ	- Murphy	Dor GS	- Goodstein	Dor GS	- Murphy

May 28		June 4		June 11		June 18	
Dor CP/NJ	- Sprouse	Dor CP/NJ	- Murphy	Dor GS	- Goodstein	Dor GS	- Murphy

June 25	
Dor CP/NJ	- Dickson

FAMILY COURT - NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

April 2		April 9		April 16		April 23	
Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Martin (23)
Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Richter (27)
Chas	- Richter	Chas	- McGee	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Forsythe (27)
Chas	- Crouch (2-4)	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Forsythe		
Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Zimmerman		
Berk	- Creech (3-6)	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Creech		
Berk	- McLin (6)	Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Landis		
		Berk	- Wylie (11)				

April 30		May 7		May 14		May 21	
Chas	- Wylie	AW	- Richter	Chas	- Long	Chas	- McLin
Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Morehead	Chas	- McGee	Chas	- Cate
Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Jenkinson-	Richter	- Brigman	Chas	- Holt
Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Richter
Berk	- Creech	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe
Berk	- Landis	Chas	- Ballenger	Chas	- Cate (16-18)	Berk	- Creech
		Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Martin	Berk	- Landis
		Berk	- Landis				

May 28		June 4		June 11		June 18	
Chas	- Creech	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate
Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Bromell Holmes
Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- McGee	Chas	- Long
Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Martin
Chas	- Bultman	Berk	- Creech	Chas	- Crouch	Chas	- McGee
Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Creech
Berk	- Matthews					Berk	- Landis

June 25	
Chas	- Landis
Chas	- Cate
Chas	- Martin
Chas	- Richter
Chas	- Forsythe
Berk	- Creech

FAMILY COURT - FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

April 2		April 9		April 16		April 23	
Dor	- Wylie	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin		
		Dor	- Jones	Dor	- Wylie		
		Dor	- Creech (11)				

April 30		May 7		May 14		May 21	
Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- Smoak
		Dor	- Jones	Dor	- Wylie		

May 28		June 4		June 11		June 18	
Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin
Dor	- Wylie	Dor	- Wylie	AW	- Wylie	Dor	- Wylie

June 25	
Dor	- Wylie
Dor	- Jones

By: Blake A. McKie

Recently, a question was certified by United States District Judge Richard Gergel to the South Carolina Supreme Court. The question relates to S.C. CODE ANN. § 15-3-640 in which clarification is requested as to what triggers "substantial completion of the improvement to new construction real property" for purposes of determining the Statute of Repose cut-off date. This request for clarification comes as a result of the South Carolina General Assembly amending the language of the law in 2005, subsequent to the decision *Ocean Winds Corp. of Johns Island v. Lane*, 347 S.C. 416, 556 S.E.2d 377 (2001).

"Substantial completion" was defined in S.C. CODE ANN. § 15-3-630 (Supp. 2000) as "that degree of completion of a project, improvement, or a specified area or portion thereof . . . upon attainment of which the owner can use the same for the purpose for which it was intended" See S.C. CODE ANN. §15-3-630 (Supp. 2000). Questions soon followed about how to determine the date of "substantial completion" of a construction project under the language of the statute. See *Ocean Winds Corp. of Johns Island v. Lane*, 347 S.C. 416, 556 S.E.2d 377 (2001). Opposing parties interpreted the old version of the statute of repose differently. Owners argued that "substantial completion" occurred when the county issued a certificate of occupancy. Vendors, subcontractors, and building trades argued that "substantial completion" occurred when they finished their specific work. In 2001, the South Carolina Supreme Court issued *Ocean Winds* to resolve the conflict.

Ocean Winds was a construction defect case that included products liability claims against Andersen Windows. The Plaintiff was the developer of a condominium complex on Seabrook Island. The facts pertaining to the statute of repose were not disputed. All of Andersen's windows were fully installed in the condominiums on or before December 2, 1986. Charleston County issued certificates of occupancy for the condominiums between June 9, 1987 and May 6, 1991. The developer filed suit against Andersen Windows in February of 2000 – more than 13 years after the completion of the installation of the windows, but less than 13 years after the county had issued the certificates of occupancy.

At that time, South Carolina's statute of repose for new construction was 13 years. See S.C. CODE ANN. § 15-3-640 (Supp. 2000). On those facts, the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the 13-year statute of repose for new construction was triggered at the time of completion of the windows. The Court analyzed the statute of repose and the policies behind it. The Court reasoned that the certificates of occupancy for the project as a whole were irrelevant to the analysis. Specifically, the Court held that "under the facts of this case "substantial completion of such improvement" occurred upon substantial completion of the installation

of the windows and not upon substantial completion of the project as a whole, nor on the date of issuance of certificates of occupancy." *Ocean Winds Corp. of Johns Island v. Lane*, 347 S.C. 416, 422, 556 S.E.2d 377, 380 (2001). *Ocean Winds* presented a novel set of facts at the time, and the Court expressly limited its holding in *Ocean Winds* to the facts of that case. *Id.*

In the wake of *Ocean Winds*, the General Assembly amended the statute of repose in 2005 to specifically provide that certificates of occupancy would be *prima facie* evidence of "substantial completion," under the statute. Unlike the old version of statute of repose, the revised, 2005 version of the statute of repose, contained in S.C. CODE ANN. § 15-3-640(9), provides that:

For any improvement to real property, a certificate of occupancy issued by a county or municipality, in the case of new construction or completion of a final inspection by the responsible building official in the case of improvements to existing improvements, shall constitute proof of substantial completion of the improvement under the provisions of S.C Code Ann. § Section 15-3-630, unless the contractor and owner, by written agreement, establish a different date of substantial completion.

By adding certificates of occupancy to the plain language of the statute, the General Assembly appears to have changed the law as interpreted by the Court in *Ocean Winds*. The new language included in the 2005 amendment clarified that the certificate of occupancy would ordinarily be *prima facie* evidence of "substantial completion" as that term is used in the statute of repose. The General Assembly's addition of specific language referencing certificates of occupancy appears to be compelling evidence that the General Assembly intended for a certificate of occupancy to be *prima facie* evidence of "substantial completion" as that term is used in the statute of repose for new construction. See e.g., *Collins v. Doe*, 352 S.C. 462, 574 S.E.2d 739 (2002) (the use of "shall" in a statute reflects mandatory intent).

As the certified question makes its way through the South Carolina Supreme Court, lawyers can expect to gain a fresh understanding of how to prove that a construction project is "substantially complete" for purposes of the statute of repose. The decision will have a significant impact on those owners, builders, vendors, subcontractors, and building trades who have not contracted for a defined date for substantial completion.

Blake A. McKie is an attorney with the law firm of Duffy and Young, LLC. Blake graduated from Furman University in 2006 and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2010. Blake enjoys helping his clients obtain favorable results in a wide range of civil matters, including, construction defects, products liability, commercial disputes, and personal injury. Blake has valuable litigation experience in both state and federal courts and has tried a variety of civil cases to verdict.

JURY VERDICTS

CHARLESTON COUNTY COMMON PLEAS

(Information supplied by Clerk of Court's Office)

2013-CP-10-7107 Sea Island Food Group, LLC d/b/a Squeeze; et al. v. Yaschik Development Company, Inc. d/b/a Yaschik Enterprises; et al.

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Lindsey W. Cooper, Jr., Margarete L. Allio; (3rd Party) John T. Lay, Jr., Jessica Waller, W. Tracy Brown, and William K. Swope
Defendants: Robert E. Sumner, IV, and Brandon Gaskins

Cause of Action: Breach of Contract

Verdict: For the Plaintiff in the amount of \$738,371.64 actual damages and \$469,393.10 punitive damages, for Third Party Plaintiff Michael J. Quillen Family Limited Partnership in the amount of \$1,112,857.10 actual damages, and for Third Party Plaintiff Top of the Bay, Inc. d/b/a Club Light in the amount of \$1.00 nominal damages and \$133,333.33 punitive damages.

2016-CP-10-1113 Delano Varnadoe Halter v. Sam's West, Inc. d/b/a Sam's Club

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Austin H. Crosby
Defendants: Amy L. Gaffney and Kelly T. Evans

Cause of Action: False Imprisonment

Verdict: For the Defendant.

2016-CP-10-3516 Crystal Hopkins v. Margaret MacBride

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Ayesha T. Washington
Defendant: Michael J. Ferri

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Defendant.

2016-CP-10-4371 Cathy W. Hyatt v. Charles W. Weatherford, Jr. and Jill J. Weatherford

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Stephen F. DeAntonio
Defendant: Nickisha M. Woodward

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For the Defendant.

2016-CP-10-5160 Temekia Townes v. Adelaide Crouch

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Matthew Yelverton and William Tinkler
Defendant: Michael T. Loftis

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Plaintiff in the amount of \$16,000.00 actual damages.

2016-CP-10-6861 Everett Simmons v. Heather D. Walpole

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: R. Michael Ethridge and Suzanne E. Deters
Defendant: Andrew S. Halio

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Defendant.

2016-CP-10-6869 Benjamin Faircloth et al. v. Tabitha Snelgrove

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Jacqueline J. Drescher
Defendant: Michael J. Ferri

Cause of Action: Personal Injury

Verdict: For the Plaintiffs in the amount of \$11,875.00 actual damages.

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT - CHARLESTON DIVISION

(There were no Federal Court Verdicts for this period)

ADVERTISE WITH US!

The Charleston County Bar newsletter is a quarterly must-read for over 2,100 of the area's legal professionals. Can you think of a better advertising venue for your business? For information on placing your ad in our next newsletter, please contact Karen Fetter at (843) 881-6666 or by email at secretary@charlestoncountybar.org

2018-2019 Rates	SIZE	COST
	1/4 Page	\$200 per issue
	1/2 Page	\$400 per issue
	Business Card	\$100 per issue

Please note that the Bar newsletter accepts ads from businesses serving the legal community but does not run ads for legal services.

By: Alissa C. Lietzow, Esquire

Executive Director of (Charleston) Pro Bono Legal Services, Inc.

I was recently working on Charleston Pro Bono's Annual Report for 2017. Around the same time, I was preparing for presentations to various funding entities regarding pending grant applications. Both required me to delve into recent case statistics such as the types of cases opened and how many were assisted by a pro bono attorney, in addition to economic, geographic, and demographic information for those we serve. While I certainly understand the need for such figures, especially when trying to determine if a grant award will have the desired impact, it is often easy to get lost in the numbers. It is easy to forget that each of those numbers represents a person, a story, a life changed.

Time and space limit my ability to share the stories of each of the hundreds of clients served annually by this organization. But, I will take this opportunity to highlight just a handful of stories which I hope will illustrate the importance of seeing past the numbers, and appreciate the person each of those numbers represents.

Ms. G is a single working mother with young children. She sought help from our office when her landlord demanded she cover the expenses of a habitability repair and attempted to have her evicted when she disputed the cost. As a recipient of housing choice voucher benefits, an eviction would jeopardize her subsidy and potentially render her family homeless. With direct representation service from our office, Ms. G was successful in litigating her claim against the landlord, receiving a judgment of money damages related to the pest issue and dismissal of landlord's action for eviction.

Ms. C came to CPBLS when she had received threats of eviction from her property manager regarding her continued residence in a project-based housing unit. Ms. C had been the victim of domestic violence and the property management attempted to use the incidence of domestic violence as cause for her eviction along with no-cause grounds of continued tenancy being the initial lease term. On re-hearing, Ms. C prevailed on all issues.

Mr. B, an elderly gentleman with a nominal fixed income, needed our assistance in getting his name changed. Although he went by his adoptive name his entire life, his

official birth certificate was never changed. We helped collect all necessary legal forms from government entities and prepared his court pleadings. He was elated following his court hearing knowing that his life-long dream of officially changing his name to honor his adoptive family was complete.

Mr. K contacted Charleston Pro Bono concerned about losing his family's long-term residence to foreclosure. Thanks to the exceptional work and tireless advocacy of his pro bono attorney, Mr. K was able to avoid foreclosure, make necessary home repairs, sell his property, and walk away with enough resources for his family to have a very happy holiday season.

Mr. R applied for services with CPBLS following serious concerns for his children's well-being while in their mother's custody. With the help of one of our volunteer attorneys, the Court involved DSS which opened an investigation. After the mother's repeated positive drug tests, DSS recently closed the case and recommended permanent placement with our client. Mr. R now has full custody of his children, who are now in a safe and healthy environment thanks to the tireless advocacy of his pro bono attorney.

Ms. O came to us for a simple will. Upon meeting with Ms. O, we learned that she had advanced stage cancer and very limited time left. Ms. O's main concern was for her children. We helped her preserve her estate for the children and to ensure that guardianship of the minor daughter was placed with her adult brother, instead of reverting to her estranged father. Ms. O passed away shortly after we prepared her will; we then helped her son with the custody case to grant him legal custody of his sister.

Hopefully, these case summaries serve as a reminder of the lasting impact having access to justice and the legal system can have on someone's life. There are many members of the Charleston County Bar Association who work closely with our organization and understand the importance of what we do for our community. I know we can count on you to continue that support. For those members who have not yet had an opportunity to build up the good karma that comes with donating your time, talent, or treasure, I sincerely hope to hear from you soon!



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