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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues,

This is my final letter to members of the Charleston County Bar as your president for the 2018-2019 term. Sensing the end of a term as the chief executive officer of any organization is always met with a mixed bag of emotions ranging from "where did the time go" to "thank gawd, its almost over!"

Our Annual Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m., on February 21st, at the Francis Marion Hotel. I hope that you will join your fellow members of the County Bar to help commemorate this past year in offering your support for our new officers and board members, welcoming our newly admitted members of the bar and reflecting on the distinguished careers of our departed colleagues and friends.

The annual meeting included a review of the past year's accomplishments and events of our association, with a parallel to local, state and national government executives providing their "state of city, state or union" addresses. However, unlike our federal government, there was no partial shutdown as we budgeted, collected and expended revenue and expenses; and unlike our federal leaders I was not invited, dis-invited and re-invited to provide the association with our state of affairs.

So, here is my State of the Association address:

Following the 2018 Annual Meeting, Past President Jim Myrick moderated a retreat for all current and newly elected executive committee members. We met at my family beach house on the Isle of Palms, reflecting on our mission to serve our profession and community. We enjoyed an excellent turnout; participants were engaged in the process and walked away with a refreshed enthusiasm of service.

Over the course of this year, I met with the local circuit and family court judges over lunch. They expressed to me their collective concerns with our local practitioners.

Following the retreat and encompassing the concerns of our judges, I set about organizing events for both our young and older members of the bar. Perry MacLennan and his band of fellow younger lawyers, under the direction of executive committee member Britt Kelly, arranged a series of luncheons involving lawyers with less than 5 years of practice to meet with our local judges and with Clerk of Court personnel. These sessions provided practical tools for these newly admitted lawyers to absorb tips and common sense advice from both judges and those who run the court house. Likewise, executive committee members Emmanuel Ferguson and Mark Joye organized two luncheons for lawyers with 50 plus years of experience. Both of these events captured 50 local attorneys - some retired, some active - to share fond memories and engage in some light hearted story telling.

I participated in the investiture of Judge Jennifer Blanchard McCoy which coincided with our Spring Social held at the Hibernian Hall. This event was particularly personal to me in that Judge McCoy, as law student Jennifer Blanchard, worked after law school classes as a sitter for our then three elementary age children and then at my office as a law clerk. Speaking on behalf of the County Bar in acknowledging Judge McCoy's many talents was both a gratifying and humbling experience.

On the other end of this judicial spectrum I also participated as the Bar's representative during the retirement ceremony for U.S. District Judge Michael Duffy. The event was held in the Sol Blatt courtroom filled with members of the local federal judiciary including members of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, District Court Judges and Magistrate Judges. Also in attendance was several members of Judge Duffy's family and friends and distinguished guest speakers such as former Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal.

Aside from the Spring Social mentioned above we sponsored, in lieu of our Fall Social, a reception for our newly admitted members of the S.C. Bar. Our Holiday Social was held in early December at the S.C. Aquarium. Our own in residence social professional, Natalie Bluestein, again organized and planned a spectacular event.

Our service to the community featured bar members volunteering at One80 Place and Neighborhood House, organizing a wills clinic in conjunction with our Pro Bono Program and the Center for Heirs Property. These groups provided an educational seminar for the Ashleyville / Maryville areas coordinated by Neighborhood President Diane Hamilton. Volunteers prepared wills for 100 local residents of these West Ashley neighborhoods. In addition, we participated in the United Way Day of Caring; and several members, including me, participated in Cocky's Reading Express at Memminger Elementary School. Third grade students were treated with book readings by lawyer participants, followed by a special visit by USC mascot Cocky, and then given free books. The purpose of this program is to encourage young students to get into the habit of reading early in their academic experience. We witnessed immediate success as we departed the school watching many of those students in the school courtyard reading their new books.

In January, we co-hosted, with the Charleston Branch of the NAACP and the South Carolina Historical Society, a forum for Judge Richard Gergel's new book, *Unexampled Courage*. Judge Gergel's book highlighted the life of U.S. District Judge J. Waites Waring and his presiding over the criminal trial of a white chief of police charged with violating the civil rights of a black WWII veteran who was blinded following a brutal beating by Chief Lynwood Shull. Chief Shull was acquitted by an all white male jury in a trial which lasted under 24 hours. Outraged by the government's inept and callous attitude at this trial, Judge Waring became an unlikely partner with then President Harry Truman in promoting the civil rights movement. Judge Waring wrote the dissenting opinion from the three judge panel's decision in the South Carolina school desegregation lawsuit *Briggs vs Elliott*. The appeal from the denial to desegregate South Carolina public schools made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and an unanimous court reversed the separate but equal doctrine decided in *Plessey vs Ferguson*. In its decision, *Brown vs Board of Education*, the Court adopted Judge Waring's dissent issued in the *Briggs* matter.

Finally, we sponsored and launched the first of its kind mobile device app. The Charleston County Bar App is a ground breaking development as neither the State Bar, nor any other county bar have this available to its members. The benefits of this App will allow members to access the Bar directory, calendar of events, including social gatherings and CLEs.

And speaking of CLEs, a huge shout out to Nosizi Ralephata, the chairperson of our CLE committee. Nosizi and her committee of volunteers coordinated, organized, or helped sponsor over 20 continuing legal education courses, all accredited by the S.C. Bar. These courses ranged from a one hour session to those consisting of six and a half hours, with several of them including mandatory ethics hours. In all, over 80 hours of

free continuing legal education seminars were made available to our members. Imagine the amount of time and energy this required by Nosizi and her team to prepare a menu of course subjects, recruit volunteer speakers, locate and secure venues and obtain S.C. Bar accreditation. Job well done indeed! Thank you.

Thank you, my fellow colleagues for providing me with this opportunity to serve you and our community. It has been an honor. In the late fall of 2021 I will embark on the fifth decade of my legal career. A quarter of this span of my practice has been serving on the Executive Committee, including my 5 years as an officer.

As we move on towards another administration, join me in welcoming and offering our support to Debra Gammons, the incoming officers and the executive committee members.

Peter

COLLOQUY

The Charleston County Bar Newsletter is starting a new column to spotlight a few members of the Association so that we all will have the benefit of knowing more about the individuals than their names and, in the event you have the opportunity to interact with one of our participants, you will have some pertinent information to begin a "conversation." The column is designed to provide introductions to members in various stages of their careers and the column coordinators felt it was only fitting that the first few columns focus on a seasoned member of our association, as well as, a member more recently entering the practice of law. We hope you enjoy this column and learning a little more about your colleagues as much as we have enjoyed creating it.

IN THIS ISSUE - He's not sure if he's really 98 or 99-years-old, but he is sure that he has no regrets. Richard E. Fields was born in a house on Meeting Street and grew up in a house off of an alley in downtown Charleston. His mother had no more than a third grade education. His father had none at all but developed a dutiful and diligent work ethic, despite never learning to read. Long before he became Judge Richard Fields, he was just Richard: the kid who ran his own business, found a way to collect tuition instead of paying it, followed pretty girls to better opportunity, and got the kick in the butt he needed to go to law school from an unlikely source. Now, almost a hundred years after his journey started, Judge Fields still works every day, plus he maintains the job of church treasurer he started 50 years ago. Here, the retired judge shares his thoughts on reputation, mentors, the surprising thing one South Carolina mother told him moments after he sentenced her son to die in the electric chair, why you shouldn't seek judgeship, and why none of this may be true. Also, meet Roy Willey, IV, author, advocate and altruist who played international competitive polo in college, does not let anything get between him and his shoes, and enjoys the solitude of his own thoughts when the opportunity presents itself during his busy schedule.

THE HONORABLE RICHARD FIELDS

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
(RETIRED)

Interview by Shantel
Middleton

You talk a lot about how mentors throughout your life shaped you. Is the need for mentorship just as great now?



I think mentorship is very important and delightful for young persons, but I don't think you can weigh the importance of mentorship until after it has occurred. You don't know that a relationship is developing. I had many mentors now that I understand. They weren't mentors at the time. I didn't know they were mentors. I just looked back on why I think I became who I became and who I think shaped my life, and I decided they were. They had to be because what I became I couldn't possibly have gotten from my mother or father. What I got from my mother and father was being a good and decent person, having good manners and work ethic.

Do you consider it part of an attorney's duties to be a mentor?

You don't mentor. You don't take an individual and say, "I'm going to mentor this individual." First, you develop relationships. Through relationships life experiences occur which benefit one person or another. Let me give you an illustration. I finished college in 1944. That summer I went to work on the railroad, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. I worked on what they called the five-car loop. We started in New York, and we went to Washington and then back to New York. Then we left New York, came to Washington, picked up some people, and we went to Pittsburgh. Then we left Pittsburgh, and we went to Chicago. Then we left Chicago. We would get into Pittsburgh about 7 or 8 o'clock. After we broke the train car down and cleaned up, then you went across the bridge because the train station was on one side of the river and quarters were on the other side of the bridge. You'd walk across the bridge at night, and then in the early morning about five o'clock you'd have to go and get the car started for breakfast.

I became very friendly with an elderly man named Mr. James, and we would talk. I said to him one night as we were going to the quarters, "Mr. James?" He said, "Yea boy." I said, "I've got this application to go to law school, but I'm not going to law school right now. I'm going to work for about a year, save some money, and then I will go to law school."

I'm making all this money just out of college. I had seen all of my friends who I went to college with in all of

these towns that I would go to. If I'm there overnight, I'd call my friends. We'd party a little bit. I'm having a good time in the summer.

The next morning about 4:30 we get up to go back across the bridge to get the car ready for breakfast. Mr. James said, "Boy, it's really nice out here this morning." I say, "Yes, sir Mr. James." Breeze was blowing across the bridge. He said, "Really nice out here, isn't it?" I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Boy!" He was about 80-years-old. He said, "I've been walking across this bridge about 60 years. If you ever have to walk across this bridge on a January morning, you'll wish many days you'd taken your black a-- to law school." I sent the application in that day! When I left the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, I don't know whatever happened to him. He was just like a storm passing through the night, and what effect did it have on my life? So many things like that.

A lot of mentoring for you happened at Avery Normal Institute (now the Avery Research Center and a part of the College of Charleston) which was the first accredited secondary school for black students in Charleston.

The two most significant institutions in my life were Avery Institute and Centenary United Methodist Church. My mother was a Baptist and belonged to St. Matthew Baptist Church, but I don't recall one person at St. Matthew Baptist Church who was a college graduate—from the preacher on down. I had no contact growing up with people who had gone to college until maybe about 14-years-old when through some friends of mine and some pretty girls, I started going to Centenary United Methodist Church. They had the prettiest girls in town (laughing uncontrollably) so I started going to Sunday school. The Methodist Church was very instrumental in black education; and at Centenary you had high school principals, you had teachers, you had one or two doctors. You had the professional black people that I became close to, and Avery Institute is how it all began. No one in my family ever went to college.

How did you get into Avery? That came with a cost. Did you all have money for tuition?

Oh, I had a business when I was about 12, 13-years-old. I was a shoe shine boy. That was my business so I always had money—some money. I would shine shoes on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning in midtown Charleston on Spring Street, Cannon Street, and King Street. When I got to be around 15-years-old, I started working at the barber shop after school as a shop boy. I also shined shoes, cleaned the barber shop, took care of the shop, had keys to the shop, and in the winter started the fire before I went to school. It (tuition) was only three dollars and a half. I only paid tuition one year because after my first year, I had a job at Avery. I collected the tuition every morning. The teachers collected tuition from the students. I was the principal's agent who went in the morning and picked up from the teachers, so I paid no tuition at Avery. I didn't know I was poor. No one ever told me I was poor.

You were told there was more money to be earned in Greenville than in Charleston. You chose home anyway, and you stayed here. Why?

A judge told me that. He wanted to take me to Greenville. I never went. My mother and father were here. That's what I told him. It was early in my practice. He took a liking to me. He was presiding there. He was a very famous judge. I don't have any regrets. I don't have any regrets about anything. I didn't know what Greenville would have been. I love Charleston. I grew up here. I had a good time here.

When did you know you were ready to be a judge?

I didn't reach out. The mayor reached out to me. Mayor Gaillard called me up and said he wanted to talk with me. I came down to see him, Palmer Gaillard. He was mayor of Charleston. He said to me, "Richard I want to nominate you for municipal judgeship for the city of Charleston. Would you accept associate municipal judge here?" I said, "Well, Mr. Mayor let me think about it. I would want to discuss it with my wife and some people, and I had no idea you had something like that in mind."

I wanted to talk to my mentor Gedney Howe. I went right across the street to his office, and I was in shock because I had no idea that I would ever be a judge in South Carolina. This was in 1969. I had been practicing law at that time 20 years. I said to him, "Do you think I can do that?" Then he, as he usually did, started his long discussion of the pros and cons. Then he said, "I think you can do that. I think you can do a good job at it. If you decide to do it, let me tell you this. You never had any power. Being municipal judge is not a whole lot of power, but it's more than you ever had." He said, "I'll tell you how to handle power." I said, "Yes, sir." And I leaned over. He said, "Don't use it." I said, "Huh?" He said, "Don't use it. Everybody knows you got it. Only a fool would contest it. Boy, don't get into no squabble with a fool because he will mess you up." (laughs)

After I talked with him, I went and talked to Morris Rosen who was corporate counsel and a very distinguished lawyer. He was a good friend of mine. That gave me some courage, and I had one more person I wanted to talk with, William H. Grimball, Jr. His father was a circuit judge, and he knew something about judging. His brother was a judge, and his father was a judge. You see, I had no idea of being black and a judge in South Carolina. Nobody ever thought of nothing like that. They said they thought I could do it. I began to think I could do it, too. And I did do it. I moved from the municipal judge to the family court judge, and then I moved from the family court judge to the circuit court judge, and I guess I did it. (Laughs)

What's your advice to attorneys who wonder if they can do what you have? Would you encourage a young attorney to take that leap despite the challenges?

I don't think that in the truest sense one should seek a judgeship. The judgeship should seek the man. I didn't seek the judgeship. I never sought either one. Someone

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., please join our federal judges and the Committee to Erect a Statue of The Honorable Sol Blatt, Jr. for a ceremony honoring Judge Blatt and for the unveiling of the statue of Judge Blatt in the courtyard of the J. Waties Waring Judicial Center on Meeting Street. If you would like to support the effort to honor the longest serving federal judge in South Carolina history with a donation, your tax-deductible donation may be made to the South Carolina Bar Foundation.

Cash donations should be sent to: The South Carolina Bar Foundation, P. O. Box 608, Columbia, SC 29202, designated for the Sol Blatt, Jr. Statue Fund. Donations can also be in the form of stock and should be sent to: Charles Schwab and Company, OTC Clearing 0164, Code 40, Client name - South Carolina Bar Foundation, Account Number 7526-9562, designated for the Sol Blatt, Jr. Statue Fund.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

The Community Outreach Committee had a fantastic time participating in Trident United Way's Day of Caring on November 16, 2018. We paired up with the Department of Natural Resource's South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program (SCORE) on James Island for an afternoon of hard work! We filled thousands of mesh bags with recycled oyster shells. These newly bagged shells will ultimately be used to construct a living reef and will provide homes for more than one million oysters!



Team CCBA included Christy Allen, Ryan Andrews, Katie Dahlheim, Joe Good, Nick Green, Kara Kennedy, Peter Lehman, Leslie Lenhardt, Cody Lenhardt, Johnny Linton, Andrew McCumber, Amanda McKendrick, Julie Moore, Matt Orville, Mary Vosburgh, Susan White, Patrick Wooten, Rutledge Young and Jeff Yungman. Thank you to everyone for your time and enthusiasm!

The goal of the Community Outreach Committee is to provide CCBA members with opportunities to work together in the service of our community. We want interested members to learn more about the great work that our local nonprofit organizations are doing, and we want those organizations to know that they have our support! To get involved with the Community Outreach Committee, please contact committee chair Julie Moore at jmoore@duffyandyoung.com or 720-2044. We look forward to more meaningful, fun projects in 2019.

asked me to do it. Everybody is different. Every judge is to some degree different. You can't clone a judge. No one is ready for a judgeship. You grow into that responsibility. You can't predict it. You don't know. You do the best. When you look down upon your fellow man with the responsibility of judging him or her, the first thing I always tried to do as a judge was to help if I could. You can't help everybody, but your first effort is to try to help even if it's not for today. It might be for his life tomorrow.

I was in Beaufort County one morning, and my telephone rang. I picked it up. The caller said, "Do you remember the Tommy Hartnett case? I worked for Tommy Hartnett (then United States Representative from South Carolina), and I was charged with embezzlement. You sentenced me, but you said some things to me that I've been thinking about ever since. I'm going to be released tomorrow, and I just want you to know that I thank you for what you said to me." That's being a judge.

I tried a murder case with a young white lad who killed a black policeman. He had been tried and sentenced before, and his sentence was overturned. I was giving him the second trial. His mother and his sister were sitting in the court room. After the trial, the clerk of court came up to me and handed me a note (from the defendant's mother). I had just sentenced her son to the electric chair. I opened the note. She said to me, "Thank you for giving my son a fair trial. The first trial was like a circus, and I want to thank you for giving my son a fair trial." I had just sentenced her son to die in the electric chair.

This is something we all struggle with—taking care of work and not neglecting home. You had a career and a family. How did you make it work? Was there ever a time when your home life struggled because of your work?

I don't know. I don't know if it worked. What is the criteria for worked? What is life? It's broad. You can't put that in a box because the answer to those (types of questions) is usually after the fact. You can't answer those things before the fact. If I'm trying to be a little bit correct, it's only after the fact. What's success? What is success? Money? Is that success? There are a lot of people with money who have all kinds of problems. You can't put it all in a box. It has to be about you to work.

What do you think now of this City you love?

This is not the Charleston I grew up in, but there's no reason why it should be. New York is not the place that it was 25 years ago. Nothing is the same. Is it better or is it worse? I think it's better. I think so. I don't go for all of these broad things. Trying to make all of these broad statements about what is or what isn't. I've got just a little narrow life.

Let's talk about the hardest loss for you as an attorney. What did it teach you?

I'm sure I had some that didn't turn out the way I wanted, but I didn't dwell on it. I wasn't a workaholic. I had a real good time. (laughs) You know? I had a good life. It wasn't all work. I had a good life.

You're from Charleston, raised in church, and brought up with an idea of representing yourself and your family through your actions. Do you think the high standard for a good reputation is lost in the modern era?

Reputation always matters, particularly for professional people. Reputation is reputation. Reputation hadn't changed. Reputation is the same as it was 50 years ago. Reputation is what people say about you, and sometimes it isn't what you are. It's what people say about you, what society believes about you.

In bridging the gap with others, do you think it's important to sit down with people you may not agree with?

Through talking you might see that you do see eye-to-eye. Through talking you might see that you agree on more things than you disagree. If you just stay on your side and I'm on my side, then you don't talk. That's what you have in the Congress today. We don't talk. Yes, meet. That's what politics is about.

When people look back on you, what do you want your legacy to be?

Whatever it is they think. I did the best I could with what I had.

At this point you've done so many interviews. What's one thing about you we couldn't learn from those interviews or from your impressive resume?

Whether I'm telling the truth or not. (laughs) Isn't that true?

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.

ROY T. WILLEY, IV

TRIAL LAWYER

ANASTOPOULO LAW FIRM

Interview by Johnathan D. Rice

In your article "'Condescending, rude, arrogant' judge? Try, 'judge who refused to coddle lawyers'" you said, "legislators electing judges is a strange thing, and it seems that this situation is an excellent argument against it." I guess most people would want to know what's strange about the process, and why is it strange in your opinion?

The process of selecting judges is interesting. There are different models, such as public election and gubernatorial appointment with Senate oversight, similar



to where the president appoints and the Senate advises and consents on the Federal level. Then there is South Carolina's model, which is a total legislative election. I do not know what system is best; but in that particular case, I felt Judge Harrington received a bad deal.

I think if somebody had stepped up to put his or her name on the line to run against her as a sitting judge, and the legislature decided that the other person was better, then it would have been a different scenario, I think based on what I saw and read about the way that the hearings were conducted, and the type of questions they asked her, she ended up withdrawing because it was clear to her that she may not get the votes even though she was unopposed. For example, she was asked, 'How is a single mother with student loans not corruptible?' I think those kinds of questions are sexist and classist and should be out of bounds, particularly when she ran unopposed. I do not like anything that disadvantages the process.

In the article I said I did not particularly know her well at that time, nor did I have any personal affection for her necessarily. I had appeared before her, but I thought the process was not good, particularly with the ongoing corruption in the State House. Essentially, every judge is elected by an electorate of a couple of hundred folks all in the legislature, and those folks have outsized influence. I think judges know their career depends on that vote obviously. I am not saying that it necessarily guides all of their decision making; but I do think there is the appearance that it could, which is the problem from my perspective.

I am in Professional Responsibility now and learned about the rules that apply to judges. The appearance of impartiality is crucial. So that is an excellent point. Also, in the article, it seemed the theme was civility. Do you find that is an essential aspect of practicing as a trial lawyer?

Yes, I think the idiosyncrasies of individual judges are the things that trial lawyers have to be aware of as advocates for their client, but that is not to say that a judge has the right to be unfair or uncivil to litigants or attorneys appearing before them.

You were recognized as a Rising Star in 2018-2019, which recognizes 2.5 percent of attorneys in each state, for "Personal Injury General: Plaintiff." How did that recognition from your peers feel? After all, Rising Stars are the crème de la crème of top-rated attorneys practicing in the Charleston area.

Well, I think the recognition always feels good of course, but more than that it is a reflection on the level of service that I have been able to provide for my clients. Most of my clients, when they come to see me, they are at the worst part of their lives. As a catastrophic injury and wrongful death attorney, my clients have lost a limb or multiple limbs, lost a loved one, and in most cases their injuries impact their ability to work and earn a living for them or their family, or in some cases their breadwinner is dead. People are trying to figure out how

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to go forward with life so the recognition obviously is appreciated and nice, but I think the more rewarding thing is that it reflects what other people have seen regarding what I do for our clients here at the firm.

Would you say that is the highlight achievement of your rising career? If so, why? If not, what is that moment?

So, I do not think that is the highlight. I think that when I think back on the highlight of my career so far, I am 31, I think about the reason that I decided to practice this type of law. I want to have an impact on the lives of real people, and when I say real people I do not mean corporations and insurance companies, but people who, so often when they come to the firm, it is their last option. Despite some of the popular perception, most of the people that I deal with have never been inside a lawyer's office until they come to mine.

So when I think about why I do what I do, I think the highlight is a series of small moments comprised of the satisfaction at the end of a trial when a client breaks down because they feel for the first time in a long time everything is going to be okay. And when we are sitting at the settlement table, and have been able to resolve the case, and the client is grateful. It is a type of gratitude that is not transactional because they do not have anything else to gain. It is gratitude that recognizes I went to bat for them, and a lot of the people that I work for live in small rural communities where society underfunds education and industry is leaving.

In most cases, they never had anyone outside of their family circle go to bat for them in any meaningful way. So for me, the highlight is really those moments kind of strung together; and there's not necessarily one that stands out more than the others. They are all vivid.

Similarly, your LinkedIn page states, "I have chosen to devote my life to fighting for those who have been seriously injured and are searching for closure and desire to have their basic life needs to be met." Can you explain the origins of that sentence from a trial lawyer's perspective?

I think that one of the important things for anyone to do, which I did many years ago, is to figure out their "why." So, the way I put it to aspiring lawyers that I mentor and new lawyers and paralegals in our firm is why do we do what we do? Obviously, we practice civil litigation as a career and so there's money to be made, but money is a result. Money is not the driving force, and it's not a mission statement. There has to be something more, passion and a zeal to do the type of work we are doing. Otherwise, you will burn out. So when I think about my why and I continuously reevaluate, it is to find ways to improve our collective human condition.

When we look at the ways to do that, there are micro and macro ways. I view politics as a macro way to make a small difference or a big difference in many people's lives, and what I do in my professional career is trying to make a big difference in one person's life or one family's life; or maybe a community's in a class action suit. So, that is my driving force of why I do what I do,

and I try to - I am an imperfect person but I try to make sure that is reflected in everything that I dedicate my time to.

So, from a professional perspective, it makes sense, and I'm still excited to come into the office or go to court every day. Today, I was in federal court, and state court, and back to back hearings. I still enjoy it and have a passion for it because I know why I'm doing it.

Your why is bringing everyone, not any specific person, but bringing us all to a certain level, a collective group of people, right?

The way that I generally say it is 'Whatever it takes to improve our collective human condition; It is evident from a professional side that it is primarily economic, helping people get compensated for the harms they have suffered.'

There is also an emotional component in what we do, helping them bring closure. So many times the harm is economic, but it is the emotion that spirals off because most people believe that their dignity is in their work and when they cannot work, they are always thinking about that; which takes an emotional toll over and above the harms and losses they have suffered. I always tell new lawyers at the firm that 95 percent of the people who walk through the door are not looking for an attorney. They are looking for an audience. It is our job to be there for them.

How do you remain focused on your purpose? What are some good habits that help? Any bad habits that do not help? Why?

I think writing it down is the key. There was a professor at the Charleston School of Law who posted something while I was in school, which is a little crass, but it said, 'Figure out what it is you want, write that %&* down, and work on it every effing day.' That is a little vulgar to be sure, but I liked the message so I printed that out and I put it inside my desk drawer when I came to work as an attorney. No matter the size of the goal, writing it down is key because it makes you accountable. I re-evaluate every year because people change, and we have to be self-aware to know that we change. Our priorities may change as well.

The other thing is, and this goes to your next question, what the tricky part is, as lawyers and people involved in the community there is a constant request for your time. People want you to be on every nonprofit board, people want you to be involved in every philanthropic community organization that exists, and people want your advice on strategic policy and decision-making. You have to know what your values are, what your vision is, why you're waking up every morning, and make sure that all of those opportunities are filtered through that lens. If they are not and you have a problem saying no - which is something that I struggled with, your time expenditure begins to get out of whack with your "why." That is not good because you become demotivated, feel like you are wasting your time, and you are not getting anywhere on the things that you

value. At the same time you are spending a lot of time, so you do not have any time to focus on it or correct the trajectory.

I thought it impressive, after reading the methodology for selecting recipients, you were recognized by America's top 100 High Stake Litigators after a rigorous multi-phase selection process, that included algorithms to assess an attorney's lifetime legal achievement, professional experience, significant case results and/or verdicts, peer reputation, client satisfaction, other notable honors, media notoriety, and community impact. You have talked about your lifetime commitment and how you've managed to bring that into your "why," but what does it mean to you to get through that process to be top 100 in the country?

The recognition is appreciated, but when you get recognition at a very young age, what instantly comes to mind is how am I going to keep this up? I do not want to reach the pinnacle of my career at 30, but I do not judge myself and what I'm doing by the recognition. I think that gives you the best opportunity to excel ultimately. A lot of that is the result of my figuring out my "why."

Your bio on America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators says, "Trust in God, and do the next thing." Is this the core of who you are? Moreover, why?

So, that is a maxim I have lived by since high school. It means simply what it says - trust in God, and do the next thing. I think that when you are doing so many things, which at that point in my life I was and still am, there come times when you ask, 'how am I going to get all this done? How am I going to be involved in all these extracurriculars? How am I going to do on that trial advocacy trip? How am I going to go to the courtroom and still get all this done with family obligations and everything else?' As a Christian, I believe wholeheartedly in giving it to God and not worrying over it. It is just doing your best on the task at hand, and then trusting God and moving on to do the next thing. It is just that simple; don't be overwhelmed by the volume or the distractions. Just do what you're doing right now, put it down, and do the next thing. I think this was just a very succinct way to sum up that thought.

It also says this maxim strengthens your "lifelong commitment to doing all that [you] can do to help others, give back to [your] community and nation, and ensure that momentary failures do not give rise to long-term defeat." With regard to giving back to your community, have you been a part of any philanthropic work to give back to local members of the community?

My wife and I are involved in a variety of philanthropic and nonprofit boards, we volunteer regularly. My wife is on the boards of the YMCA and the Center for Women. I serve on several boards as well, including Vice Chairing an organization called Thrive SC, a nonprofit that provides transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, their children, and their pets. This is important because domestic violence housing,

specifically emergency housing, typically does not allow those women, most of whom were abused, to bring their pets. Some people think of that as not a big deal, but for many women that is why they stay; which is one of the reasons that we have the highest murder rate for women by their significant others or spouses in the country. Given the gravity of what is at stake, I thought it was important to be involved. I'm also the Chair of the Board of SC Equality, which is the largest LGBTQ advocacy organization in the state, as an ally. I think that it is essential for those of us who share the value that equal means everyone to get involved outside of our circle where we usually have operated to effect change, and so we do those things. We are also involved in many initiatives around our environment and education. I think education is another huge issue in South Carolina and all over the country, so those are a few things I am doing right now. I am looking forward to whatever comes next.

I have some questions to make the interview a little fun. What do you think about during your commute to and from work, like what's going through Mr. Willey's mind?

I generally walk to work because it gives me an opportunity to process and think. I think about a variety of things; it is just kind of a quieting of the mind before the day.

If you could be any animal, what animal would you be and why?

I call that a spirit animal. I generally say a killer whale because they are tenacious when they need to be but generally very docile and calm. I think of myself in that way. Obviously, my last name is also Willey. As a kid there was a movie Free Willey. That was mentioned more than one time during my childhood, and I always embraced it.

So, this is a good question for you because you use your email as a checklist. If you woke up and had 500 unread emails and could only answer 20, how would you choose which ones to answer?

I get like 600 to 800 emails a day, but I do it much the same way as you described. So, I have folders set up for different types of messages. I'm a planner. At the beginning of the week I block 15-minute increments on precisely what I am going to do during that period. I have periods where I return messages, where I return email messages that require a response and where I read emails. Generally, I read emails three times a day. I read them from a 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., I read them at noon, and I read them at the end of the day. Then I classify them into folders: ones that need action if it's not something I can do quickly. Of course, if it is I just respond.

What is the most interesting thing about you that we can learn from your CV alone?

Generally, what people think is the most interesting is that I played polo in college, but it is not what I think is the most interesting.

Just for clarity, that is polo on a horse?

Yes, I played competitively in college, including internationally in Europe and across the country.

What do you think is most interesting about you?

I think what is the most interesting, based on how people perceive me, is that I value alone time because I'm a very active person. I'm a very social person. I love to go to social events and to interact with people. I love to talk to people. However, I put a high value on time sitting alone by myself with my thoughts. For that reason, I do not watch much TV because I would rather spend that time sitting by myself. I think that's interesting and would surprise most people.

If you were not a lawyer, what would you be? What profession would you have pursued if not law?

I believe I would be a teacher because that is the next thing, in my opinion, that mostly fits my "why."

I recently read an article about the education system in Finland where the teachers are paid at a rate comparable with doctors.

It should be that way. The most formative years of life are primary and secondary education, and that is where we are forming our lawyers, our doctors, our judges, our cops, and everybody in society. Yet, we pay teachers like paupers, and it's rarely discussed, but it should be. We put more value on skills of prolonging life than getting people's lives started on the right trajectory with a quality education.

You said teaching might have been your alternate career path, but do you ever envision yourself teaching at the law school?

I have taught portions of classes as a guest lecturer so I am not opposed to continue doing that. I enjoy it. I also teach a lot of CLEs for lawyers, mostly on ethics and trial practice. I give back in teaching that way, but I do not know that I would ever necessarily be a full-time professor. I enjoy what I do as a trial lawyer.

Final question, what is the funniest thing that has happened to you in court (ironic or humor)?

The one I think about is actually with Judge Harrington. I do not ever wear socks; and in the middle of a jury trial, she scolded me for not wearing socks in her courtroom. As a trial lawyer, you are your client's conduit and the jury's teacher. At that moment as a young lawyer, I had to figure out very quickly what my response was going to be. It was a strong response. However, the next time I appeared before her, I wore a pair of cowboy boots because as an advocate you never want the attention to be on you. I still was not wearing socks, but she could not tell the difference with boots. If you know that judge has a problem with you not wearing socks, or anything else, you make accommodations for that because it's their courtroom to run.

Thank you to Shantel Middleton and Johnathan Rice for conducting these "Colloquy" interviews and preparing these articles. Look out for further interviews in future editions of the Newsletter.

Margie Pizarro and the **Pizarro Law Firm** have relocated to 712 North Cedar Street, Summerville, SC 29483.

Butler & College, LLC announces the creation of its commercial real estate division, **B&C Commercial**, and the opening of a new Charleston office. Attorney **William R. Stroud** will move from the firm's Mount Pleasant location to head the new division and office located at 116 Church Street, 1st Floor, Charleston, SC 29401. Tel. (843) 277-6220.

Kuhn and Kuhn Law Firm is pleased to announce the grand opening of their new West Ashley office at 473 Savannah Highway in Charleston.

YCRLAW is pleased to announce that **Leslie M. Whitten** has earned the ANSI-accredited Certified Information Privacy Professional/United States (CIPP/US) credential through the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). She is certified to provide counsel to clients in various industries in the area of information privacy and cybersecurity including incident investigation and breach response management, regulatory compliance, privacy and security policy review and drafting, and cyber risk management. Ms. Whitten received her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2001 and practices primarily in YCRLAW's Workers' Compensation group. The firm is also pleased to announce that **Gaillard "Gilly" T. Dotterer, III** has joined the firm as their newest Associate. Gilly will practice primarily in the firm's Professional Liability practice group. Gilly obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Prior to joining YCRLAW, Gilly served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Doyet A. Early, III, Circuit Court Judge in the Second Judicial Circuit.

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP is pleased to welcome two new partners, **Elizabeth "Lisa" Thomas** and **Callie Campbell Stratos**, to the Charleston office, as well as to the office's all-female Health Care team. For nearly two decades, Lisa has been advising physician groups, regional and national hospitals, long-term care facilities, diagnostic testing facilities, surgery centers, and medical equipment suppliers on such diverse matters as fraud and abuse laws, physician recruitment, medical staff matters, enrollment, provider certification, physician self-referral laws, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, physician and managed care contracts, hospital-physician alignment strategies, joint ventures, HIPAA privacy laws, and state laws applicable to the operations of health care providers. Callie advises health care providers and health care IT companies with respect to numerous corporate and regulatory matters, including employment, physician recruitment, corporate transactions (joint ventures, acquisitions, and other affiliations), state licensure, fraud/abuse laws, and HIPAA compliance, as well as, data privacy/security, development and implementation of privacy and information security policies, and data breach incident response and mitigation.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COMMON PLEAS

(Information supplied by Clerk of Court's Office)

2017-CP-10-2831 Wendel D. Melton, Sr. and Connie H. Melton v. Robert Becker and Aaron's, Inc.

Attorneys:

Plaintiffs: Keith Edward Robinson
 Defendant: Carrie Hailman O'Brien

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For Plaintiff Wendell D. Melton in the amount of \$22,404.00 actual damages; for Plaintiff Connie H. Melton in the amount of \$7,597.75 actual damages; and for the Defendant as to the Loss of Consortium Cause of Action.

2016-CP-10-4970 Matthew Treanor dba Southern Drawl Yacht Charters v. Striped Pig Distillery

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: C. Brandon Belger & William Mark Koontz
 Defendant: Julie A. Craig

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Defendant.

2016-CP-10-6345 Wade Beinbrink v. Richard Huffman

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: Stephen Anthony Butaitis
 Defendant: Christopher William Nickels & Michael J. Ferri

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Defendant.

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT - CHARLESTON DIVISION

(There were no Federal Court Verdicts for this period)

Barnwell Whaley attorneys **M. Dawes Cooke, Jr., B.C. Killough, David S. Cox, Barbara J. Wagner** and **Jeffrey Bogdan** have been named to the 2018 "Legal Elite" list as published by Charleston Business Magazine. This is the second year Charleston Business Magazine has recognized Lowcountry area attorneys with a peer nominated Legal Elite list of leading attorneys in 20 practice areas. Additionally, the firm's attorney **D. Summers Clarke, II** has received an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings. Ms. Clarke has eleven years of experience in the areas of business and civil litigation, insurance coverage and defense, personal injury, construction law, appellate practice, and restaurant and hospitality law.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd attorney **Perry MacLennan** has been named as a "Star of the Year" by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD). Perry was recognized for his work as Committees Director for the 2017-2018 year. As a workforce and business lawyer, Perry focuses on employment, economic development and general corporate matters. Also, **Tyler Gilliam**, an associate with the firm, recently graduated from Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Discovery. Tyler focuses his practice on business and real estate tax planning, with an emphasis on limited liability companies and partnerships.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, March 8, 2019

Charleston County Probate Court Seminar:
 Guardianship/Conservatorship Under the New Law
 Charleston County Public Service Building (4045 Bridgeview Dr.)
 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday, March 14, 2019

American Board of Trial Advocates - Charleston Chapter:
 Selected Trial/Litigation Topics
 Federal Courthouse - Judge Norton's Courtroom
 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

One80 Place - Volunteer for Breakfast Service
 One80 Place Community Kitchen (35 Walnut St.)
 6:30 am - 8:30 am

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

One80 Place - Volunteer for Lunch Service
 One80 Place Community Kitchen (35 Walnut St.)
 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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 by Tel. (843) 881-6666 or Email: 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

January 7		January 14		January 21		January 28	
AW	- Young, R.	9 th CPNJ	- McCoy	9 th CPNJ/PCR	- Maddox	AW	- Dennis
9 th CPNJ	- Jefferson	9 th CPNJ	- Newman ⁽¹⁶⁾	Chas CP/NJ	- Jefferson	Chas CP/NJ	- Newman
9 th CPNJ	- McCoy	Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas CP/NJ	- Newman	Chas CP/NJ	- Young
Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas GS	- Young	Chas CP/NJ	- Keesley	Berk CP/NJ	- McCoy
Chas GS	- Brown	Berk GS	- Jefferson	Berk GS	- Dennis		
				Berk CPNJ	- Van Slambrook		

February 4		February 11		February 18		February 25	
9 th CPNJ	- Jefferson	9 th CPNJ	- Buckner	Chas CP/NJ	- McCoy	9 th GSNJ	- Dennis ⁽¹⁹⁾
Chas GS	- Goodstein	Chas GS	- Jefferson	Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.	Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.
Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas GS	- Nettles	Chas CP/NJ	- Addy	Chas CP/NJ	- Kinlaw
Chas GS	- McCoy	Berk GS	- Dennis	Berk GS	- Jefferson	Berk CP/NJ	- McCoy
Berk CP/NJ	- Young, R.						

March 4		March 11		March 18		March 25	
9 th CPNJ	- Jefferson	9 th CPNJ	- Seals	9 th CPNJ/PCR	- McCoy	9 th GSNJ	- Dennis
Chas GS	- McCoy	Chas GS	- Dennis	Chas CP/NJ	- Young, R.	Chas CP/NJ	- Russo
Chas GS	- Young, R.	Chas GS	- McCoy	Chas CP/NJ	- Jefferson	Chas CP/NJ	- Kinlaw
Chas GS	- Brown	Chas GS	- Young, R.	Berk GS	- Dennis	Berk GS	- Jefferson
Berk GS	- Dennis	Berk GS/SGJ	- Jefferson			Berk CP/NJ	- Young, R.
		Berk CP/NJ	- Cothran				

CIRCUIT COURT - FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

January 7		January 14		January 21		January 28	
1 st CP/NJ	- Murphy	Dor CP/NJ	- Goodstein	Dor CP/NJ	- Goodstein	AW	- Dickson
Dor GS	- Murphy	Dor GS	- Murphy			1 st CPNJ	- Goodstein

February 4		February 11		February 18		February 25	
Dor CP/NJ	- Murphy	1 st CPNJ	- Dickson	AW	- Dickson	1 st CPNJ	- Murphy
		Dor GS	- Goodstein	Dor GS	- Murphy	Dor CP/NJ	- Goodstein

March 4		March 11		March 18		March 15	
1 st CPNJ	- Murphy	Dor GS	- Dickson	Dor GS	- Goodstein		
				Dor CP/NJ	- Murphy		

FAMILY COURT - NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

January 7		January 14		January 21		January 28	
AW	- Creech	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate
Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Pogue
Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Martin
Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Richter
Chas	- Cate (8-11)	Chas	- Smithdeal	Chas	- McEachin	Berk	- Creech
Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Landis
Berk	- Wylie	Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Landis		
February 4		February 11		February 18		February 25	
Chas	- McLin	Chas	- Cate	AW	- Forsythe	Chas	- Long
Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Holt	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Martin
Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Richter
Chas	- Dunbar	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Forsythe
Berk	- Creech	Chas	- Matthews	Berk	- McGee	Berk	- Pincus
Berk	- Cate	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Landis
		Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Landis		
March 4		March 11		March 18		March 25	
Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Landis	Chas	- Cate (17-20)
Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Martin	Chas	- Cate	Chas	- Morris
Chas	- Smithdeal	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Holt	Chas	- Long
Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Richter	Chas	- Martin
Chas	- Forsythe	Berk	- Creech	Chas	- Forsythe	Chas	- Forsythe
Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Landis	Berk	- Creech	Berk	- Creech
Berk	- Landis			Berk	- McGee	Berk	- McEachin

FAMILY COURT - FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

January 7		January 14		January 21		January 28	
Dor	- McLin	Dor	- Wylie	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin
Dor	- McGee			Dor	- Wylie (25)	Dor	- Wylie
				AW	- McGee	Dor	- Jones
February 4		February 11		February 18		February 25	
Dor	- Wylie	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- Wylie
Dor	- McGee	Dor	- Wylie	Dor	- McGee	Dor	- Jones
March 4		March 11		March 18		March 25	
Dor	- McGee	Dor	- Vinson	Dor	- McLin	Dor	- McLin
		Dor	- McGee	Dor	- Wylie	Dor	- Wylie

By: Alissa C. Lietzow, Esquire

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

We thought we had already set the bar high, but 2018 will go down as one of our best years yet! Early in 2018, we committed to expanding our impact and have accomplished that goal through additional staffing, countless outreach and educational seminars, increasing the number of Ackerman Fellows, and record-breaking fundraisers. Here’s a brief look back at Charleston Pro Bono’s 2018 highlights.

This past year was the first full year that we have operated with two full-time attorneys dedicated to providing direct legal aid. We are grateful for being awarded a grant in the fall of 2017 from Bank of America through the South Carolina Bar Foundation that made this change possible. Now, in addition to the work of our Staff Attorney, who oversees hundreds of cases throughout the year, we are most proud of our new initiative on housing. In 2018, 134 Charleston County residents received housing-related legal aid through CPBLS as a result of this newly-created position. That included 37 successful eviction defense cases. Another 205 area residents attended outreach programs where the Housing Attorney presented information on landlord-tenant issues. As a direct result of her efforts, nearly \$50,000 in funds were preserved for our clients and almost \$40,000 in compensatory damages were awarded. Having a housing attorney has translated into evictions being prevented, homes being saved, assets being preserved, and housing being located for the homeless. We have provided help and hope to the most vulnerable in the Charleston community, including both the elderly and our disabled veterans.

This past year also saw expanded collaborations with our fellow nonprofit partners. With the help of private attorneys, we provided almost 50 educational and clinical programs on an array of legal topics including consumer, immigration, family, estate planning, and housing. As proof of the impact made by these partnerships, we received several outstanding and significant awards in 2018. Charleston Pro Bono was recognized as the City of Charleston’s Nonprofit of the Month in July 2018. We also received the 2018 Impact Partner Award from the Palmetto Community Action Partnership. And finally, at their annual gala, Father to Father honored us with an award for our dedication and service to their work in the Charleston community.

Each year our Ackerman Fellowship Program provides us with an opportunity to recommit ourselves to providing education and experience to the upcoming generation of

lawyers. This was the 12th year that we were able to provide this opportunity to law students from across the United States. Additionally, we grew in size this year from 8 to 10 law students. These students participated in an intense clinical practice experience targeting Charleston’s low-income communities. The Fellows gained experience in our client intake process, including eligibility determination, in research opportunities to support our in-house and volunteer attorneys. They also gained experience in preparation of pro-se pleadings, affidavits and other legal documents. Additionally, we proudly partnered with the Charleston School of Law to host three clinical externs who participated under the Student Practice Rule, allowing them to appear and argue in magistrate and family court under our attorneys’ supervision. In all, volunteers donated more than 2,200 hours of their time at our office, meeting with clients, conducting research, and preparing case files!

Finally, we also saw increased giving through our various fundraising events in 2018. This past year, thanks to the support of the Charleston County Bar Association, we hosted our annual auction at the reception following the Annual Meeting at the Francis Marion. It was such a success. Be on the lookout for a repeat event this year on Thursday, February 21, 2019. Then in September, we hosted our inaugural CLE fundraiser covering updates to Immigration Law. We will definitely continue hosting low-cost CLE fundraisers as a way to garner support and also provide education in areas of law relevant to our clientele. Finally, in November, we hosted the 19th annual Art on the Beach – Chefs in the Kitchen home tour/art walk/food tasting on Sullivan’s Island. This was the fourth year the event benefited our organization, and we were thrilled to have another sold out event with record-breaking figures! A special thank you to the Charleston County Bar Association members who supported us – you served as sponsors, volunteers, and patrons!

Looking ahead, we are striving to strengthen our efforts to make a lasting impact, but we simply cannot do it without you! Volunteer opportunities are listed in our monthly newsletter, so please be sure to let us know if you would like to be added to our email list. We need volunteer attorneys to accept one of the dozen cases currently waiting for a pro bono attorney. Alternatively, consider assisting with a clinic, teaching a seminar, or simply donating. No matter your area of practice or level of experience, we have an opportunity for you. How about just one more 2019 New Year’s Resolution? Find a way to be of service to your local community through Charleston Pro Bono!



Law Firm: _____

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Enclosed is our gift of \$_____.

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Charleston, SC 29402

CPB is a 501(c)3 organization; your donation is tax deductible as provided by law.

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