



ISSUE #50

<http://www.charlestoncountybar.org>

SPRING 2020

PRESIDENT

David W. Wolf
P.O. Box 1736
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 853-9000

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Christy Allen
P.O. Box 859
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 727-1144

EDITOR

Alexis W. McCumber
32 Ann Street
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 614-8888

FROM THE PRESIDENT

PARADIGM SHIFT FOR COVID-19



Dear Colleagues,

Since our Annual Meeting, just over two months ago, the world has been forced to face a paradigm shift like none we have ever experienced before. During the past half a century, I remember singular events which have captured and held the attention of our nation (and others) for extended

periods of time: The Oil Embargo in the early 1980s, which led to long lines at the gas pumps and vast shortages; the Black Monday stock market crash of 1987, which saw an unprecedented single day decline of 22% in market values and began fears of another Great Depression; the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in 2001, which shook our sense of security; and the Great Recession of 2008, which reminded us that weaknesses in our economy can have significant and long-lasting impacts on each of us. These events, and others to a lesser degree, disrupted our lives and created fear and anxiety further impairing the resumption of normal activities.

For most of us, it has been our experience with difficult tasks or challenges, that with strong effort to study the problem and develop a responsive strategy we can successfully resolve or deal with the matter. However, significant events, tend to impact our lives more broadly and extend the horizon for resolution. Despite this, our nation and the world has weathered the storm of fear and uncertainty stemming from these unique and unnerving events through analysis of the underlying causes and by developing strategies to

address the issues and prevent similar situations thereafter.

The global spread of Covid-19 presents a complex scenario which shakes our collective confidence and forces us to grapple with the uncertainty of what the future holds. Of course, there is the fear of contracting the virus or having a family member suffer with it. In the short-term and possibly moderate-term, our economy is also suffering and with it our hopes and investments for the future. One common step towards the solution has been an effort to return to 'normalcy.' Returning to work, school, houses of worship and other social settings bring comfort in knowing we are not alone in responding to this adversity and affords us the opportunity to learn how we can assist in the recovery effort. However, our efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19 by social distancing has prevented any return to normal.

Our court systems, which have always served as a constant in past tragedies, has had to alter its processes more than ever before. Of course, security has increased over the years, but this is the first time that jury trials and other hearings have had to be cancelled or delayed for extended periods of time with the potential for further delays until the spread of Covid-19 can be kept in check. Our Clerk of Court and Judges have been working hard to adopt procedures consistent with the orders of the South Carolina Supreme Court that expand parties' access to the courts after having to restrict access to essential and emergency services by way of email filings and virtual hearings. As everyone becomes more comfortable with these transitional procedures, the more normal they will feel. In an effort to speed up that process, your bar association has worked to organize virtual town hall meetings with our Clerk of Court and the Chief Administrative Judges to familiarize our members with these new procedures and their implementation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

Although our in person gatherings at CLEs, socials, and community outreach activities will have to wait until guidance permits resumption, our Wellness Committee has offered and will continue to offer virtual activities in support of our members. With the recent success of the Law Day 2020 program on Female Equality and the Nineteenth Amendment presented by Justice Kaye G. Hearn, our Diversity & Inclusion and CLE committees hosted our first ever virtual CLE program via a Zoom Webinar. Additionally the CLE Committee has developed a slate of additional seminars, which we hope to offer in the same virtual format if the restriction on gatherings has not been lifted by their event date. Finally, please continue to monitor the dedicated Covid-19 page on our website for continually updated information related to the virus' impact on the practice of law in Charleston. Until we can see one another again in person, stay safe.

Very truly yours,
David Wolf

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ellis Roberts announces the launch of **Ellis Roberts Law** located at 602 Rutledge Avenue in downtown Charleston. This firm is the culmination of ten years representing clients and fighting for those who have been injured and needed a voice. The dedication to this cause will continue steadfast under the law firm's new moniker.

Barnwell Whaley Patterson & Helms, LLC, is pleased to announce the addition of **Andreas J. Mosby** as an associate attorney and **Scott Wallinger** as a member of the firm. **Andreas J. Mosby** will concentrate his law practice in the areas of business law, civil litigation, and commercial litigation in both North and South Carolina through the firm's offices in Wilmington and Charleston. **Scott Wallinger** brings more than 25 years of experience to Barnwell Whaley's Charleston office where he will lead the firm's trucking and transportation defense practice, as well as, professional liability defense, complex personal injury defense, and commercial litigation.

K&L Gates' Charleston office is pleased to welcome two associates who have recently joined the firm. **Mr. Beau Daen** joined the Charleston office as an associate in the firm's Corporate/M&A practice group. Mr. Daen previously worked as an associate in the financial institutions group of an international law firm in New York. He counseled both public and private M&A clients across a diverse range of industries. Mr. Daen received his MA from the University of St. Andrews and his JD from University of Virginia School of Law. **Ms. Kitt Ritter** joined the Charleston office as an associate in the firm's Banking and Asset Finance practice group. Prior to joining K&L Gates, Ms. Ritter

was an associate in the banking and finance group of a global law firm in New York. She represented private companies and private equity funds in industries including health care, manufacturing and technology. Ms. Ritter received her BA from the University of Georgia and her JD from Emory University School of Law.

YCRLAW welcomes two new associates, **Christian E.W. Fober** will practice primarily in the firm's Trucking and Transportation practice group. Prior to joining YCRLAW, Christian clerked for the Honorable C. Weston Houck, U.S. District Court of the District of South Carolina. **Matthew K. Harrison** will practice primarily in the firm's Trucking and Transportation practice group. Prior to joining YCRLAW, Matt worked for a local civil defense law firm.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd attorney **David Caughran**, an associate in the firm's Charleston office, has been selected to join the 2020 Class of the Roper St. Francis Foundation Fellows Program. Fellows are nominated by the outgoing class and then selected based on their active leadership in the community and ability to embrace the values and mission of Roper St. Francis. Through the seven-month Fellows Program, participants will meet leading staff and physicians and take an in-depth look into the Roper St. Francis healthcare system and Foundation. David is a member of the firm's public finance team, where he serves cities, counties, state entities, special purpose districts and other political subdivisions across South Carolina as counsel on bond issues and other financing structures.

JURY VERDICTS

CHARLESTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

(Information supplied by Clerk of Court's Office)

2016-CP-10-3555: Charles Rees Simonds, as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Josephine Miller Simonds v. Robert R. Oliverio, Jr. M.D., Roper St. Francis Physicians Network a/k/a Roper St. Francis Practice Partners

Attorneys: Plaintiff: Lionel S. Lofton and William H. Waring, III
Defendant: Hugh W. Buyck and Lucius Laffitte, III

Cause of Action: Medical Malpractice

Verdict: For the Defendant

2017-CP-10-05824: John Mayers v. Konan Henthorn

Attorneys: Plaintiff: Roy T. Wiley and Alexis McCumber
Defendant: Michael T. Coulter

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Defendant

2018-CP-10-02583: Melissa Glenney v. Lebby Robertson

Attorneys: Plaintiff: G. Rutledge Durant and Frederick W. Riesen III
Defendant: Stephanie Anthony and Joseph R. Weston

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Plaintiff in the amount of \$1,500,000 in actual damages. The verdict for actual damages was reduced by \$50,000 to a verdict of \$1,450,000 in actual damages. The jury also returned a verdict of \$300,000 in punitive damages.

COURT ROSTERS

Simply click the links below to be taken to the respective roster. Please note that court schedules are changing constantly; please verify current information through S.C. Court Administration or by checking the South Carolina Judicial Department website at https://www.sccourts.org/clerks/roster_map.cfm.

CIRCUIT COURT ROSTERS

[CHARLESTON](#)

[BERKELEY](#)

[DORCHESTER](#)

FAMILY COURT ROSTERS

[CHARLESTON](#)

[BERKELEY](#)

[DORCHESTER](#)



Elonda Fair O'Neill

O'Neill and Fair, LLC

She doesn't like to blow her own horn, so we do it for her. Meet the local attorney with decades of experience in local courtrooms and thousands of hours in local community service, which just happens to be what she loves to do.

What drew you to lawyering?

I went to college thinking I would be a teacher. I graduated from high school in '88; and back then a lot of the guidance counselors would tell young black people who did better than average, 'Oh, you'd make a good teacher.' They never told you, 'Oh, you'd be a great doctor or great lawyer.'

I went to USC, majored in early childhood education, and did well—Dean's list student and membership in other honor fraternities. Then, I immediately got married and moved to California where I was not

licensed to teach because California required an additional year for licensing. I was accepted to the University of California for the additional year,

but I got the surprise of being pregnant with my daughter and decided not to attend the University of California. Instead, I worked as a substitute teacher from first grade to twelfth grade. I did not like it; I learned that I could not deal with other people's children all day long. It was not for me.

I had an aunt who graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law. She was a lawyer, and I just became interested in attending law school. My first husband was in the Air Force and deployed to a hardship duty in Korea. His year over there was my first year of law school with a 20-month-old. Her first day of daycare was my first day of law school.

Did your daughter inspire you to pursue that goal?

I don't know if she inspired me. She had to watch me go through law school. She watched me go through a whole bunch of thick books, and she learned how to read at the age of 2-and-a-half. While I was reading my books, she would be reading her books. Unfortunately, she would highlight her books because she saw me highlighting my books. She was just imitating me.

What was it like for you applying? You did LSAT while you were pregnant and living in California?

I took a three-year break between undergrad and going to law school, so just getting back in the studying mode was a lot. I did it myself. I didn't take a course. I just picked up the LSAT book and started studying. It's hard to remember. I did go straight through law school, taking classes in the summers. I graduated a semester early. I immediately took the February bar. Two days after the bar exam I moved back to California

because my husband at the time had a job with the US Department of State. I did some work for a domestic violence clinic in Santa Monica, but I was mainly a stay at home mom with my daughter Brianna until I moved back to South Carolina again.

What brought you back to South Carolina?

I was offered a job with the Honorable Daniel E. Martin, Sr., Ninth Judicial Circuit Court Judge, as a judicial law clerk. I did that until he retired. After he retired, I became a juvenile solicitor for Charleston County.

What was the best part of that experience as a clerk?

I think the best part was probably seeing what happens behind the bench, working with a judge and not just my judge. It was interesting getting to know other circuit court judges and their processes. Also, that was a time where I was able to meet a lot of lawyers. With Judge Martin we were either here in Charleston or in the 14th Judicial Circuit, which is Beaufort, Colleton, and Jasper Counties. It was nice meeting the different lawyers and judges in the different circuits.

And then you became a prosecutor?

Right. An Assistant Solicitor in Family Court for Charleston County for about a year and a half. I prosecuted juvenile cases, children from the age of 12 to 17, at the time. I interviewed witnesses and victims. I was a part of the truancy court that was started there. Also, I acted as a liaison between juvenile drug court and the solicitor's office. That was back in 2001, 2002.

It's funny how time goes by so quickly. You live in the moment, and it flies.

Yes! I don't remember a lot of

that, too. Now I do represent juveniles from time to time; but the bulk of my work now is divorce, child custody, basically all matters in the family court.

Seeing what you see in family law how does that affect you?

Early on when I began practicing family law I would take a lot home with me, totally worry about my clients, and worry what's going to happen. It would affect my home life. As I became more seasoned, I had to learn to leave it in the office.

How did you do it?

I think it was a gradual process, knowing that it's a must. You must leave that at the office and learning when to cut it off because clients will call you nonstop all night if you let them. That's not healthy for me or my family.

You're in private practice now. Tell me about leaving the Solicitor's office. How did that decision come about?

There was another job opportunity to work for a private attorney. I worked for Ed Brown for about a year and a half.

Managing business as a private attorney is an additional responsibility. Did you get experience in office management there?

I didn't get the business management side until I started working at my law firm with my now-husband. You learn as you go, but it was helpful having him. He had been practicing for over 30 years at that time.

You started working with your husband right after working for the first private attorney. How did you meet? Did law bring you together?

I met him when I was a solicitor on a case, and he was defending a juvenile. It led to a friendship,

we started dating, we had a baby—our son who is now 17 years old, and we got married in between there somewhere.

Your son just turned 17-year-old and is going into his senior year during the coronavirus pandemic. How has the coronavirus changed your lives?

It has changed it. We own our building and still come into the office. My husband goes in way more than I do. I work more from home, but we don't see as many clients as we were. We conduct more business by telephone and use e-mail when we can, instead of having in-office meetings.

Our son attends Palmetto Scholars Academy. He's taking four Advanced Placement (AP) Classes; he just has AP Exams left. We leave him at home. He's still in bed when we're leaving. He'll get up for his classes, then probably go back to bed.

At that age a lot of parents are realizing their kids have their own lives. It's unique for parents to spend or be able to spend so much time with your child. How do you feel about it as a parent?

As a parent, I am enjoying the time that I have with him because I know next year he will be out of the house, but I do think it is a little stifling for him because he is 17.

Let's talk about you, not your husband, not your kids, not any judges you've worked for. Who are you? Are you from Charleston?

I am from Charleston, West Ashley. I attended Cathedral School, Orange Grove Elementary, Wallace Middle School, and I graduated from Middleton High School in 1988.

You're very involved in our community. Do you think that's a Charleston thing, like if you grow up here you just know you have to give back? Is that what it is or

do you think there's more to it?

No, I pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha in college, so I've been a member of the sorority for 31 years. Community service is a big part of what I do. I do feel like people should give back to their communities. An easy way to do that is to be part of an organization. With the YWCA of Greater Charleston, I was a board member for 9 years. I held offices and met so many people through the Y.

The YWCA went through a transition during my tenure. We sold our Coming Street building back in 2014. That's when I was in charge of the building committee and took on that project. When I started with that, we had just offers. People just make offers to purchase property on the peninsula. Offers began around a million, million and a half dollars. When I took over the committee, I was able to negotiate \$5 million for the property. I'm not in real estate law, don't have any expertise in that. It just became overwhelming. That's when we obtained a commercial real estate broker to do it. Eventually, it sold for \$8.25 million. It was a big deal. A lot of people didn't want us to sell, but our clientele had moved off the peninsula. It just made sense.

Were you a part of the Y growing up at all?

No, I actually was not. I wasn't one of those people who grew up with the Y. My husband grew up going to the Y. He said he learned how to square dance and all kinds of things there at the YWCA, which is interesting. My work with the Y is something that I treasure. I rolled off the Board last year, and I still volunteer with their fundraiser.

So what keeps you busy besides work?

My social and community

service organizations keep me busy. At the 'Y,' I was the board chair from 2017 to 2019. I'm a member of Jack and Jill of American, and we do various projects and activities with our kids. I'm definitely very busy with The Links, Incorporated which is another community service organization. I've made so many close friends in these organizations. One of my best friends is Tiffany Spann Wilder. We went to law school together. We're in Jack and Jill and The Links together. When we do go away to conferences and things like that, Tiffany is usually my roommate.

Another recent endeavor on my plate is revitalizing the Thurgood Marshall Law Society (Charleston Black Lawyers) with the assistance of my husband. This organization has been in existence off and on. The organization's purpose is to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one's standard of justice, decency, and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, nationality, or gender.

The Links is very important and a strong network of women.

We have a lot of accomplished women in The Links to accomplish the work that is done. That's a very, very busy organization with many initiatives such as voter registration, our Future Leaders' Roundtable, work with heirs' property, human trafficking awareness, volunteering at the Teachers' Supply Closet and many other community service-based projects.

You took off your 'Y' hat and put on your Links hat.

I'm no longer a 'Y' board member because you can only do that for a certain amount of time before you roll off of the board. I have been active in Jack and Jill, The Links, Inc., and the 'Y' all at the same time. I had no free time.

You could sit back and do nothing, but that's not you?

I've always been a person who likes to help other people. These organizations all have a community service component to them. Jack and Jill and The Links, those two organizations founded the Teachers' Supply Closet. Teachers in Title 1 schools from three local counties get to 'shop' there. They come into this huge warehouse at Garrett Academy where they shop for supplies, they would otherwise spend money out of their own pockets to get for their classrooms and students. Since Jack and Jill and The Links founded that organization, both still participate. That's one way to help the community. It helps students and teachers in Charleston County as a whole.

Did you have people help you when you were growing up in Charleston?

My mother is a retired schoolteacher. If she needed that kind of help, I wouldn't have known it. I've always had a sense of wanting to do things for other people, always. I just felt it was my duty, my responsibility. I still do. I hope my children are picking that up and understand that. I think everybody has to do something for somebody else. You just have to help other people.

There has to be something just for you that you do. What is it?

I think I hang out with my friends

on a regular basis. I have a chat group of girlfriends. We chat every day, especially during this pandemic. We send different news articles; we solve every woe of the world. I like to travel. I have a couple of favorite spots, Saint Martin and Sedona, Arizona. I have another group of girlfriends, and we do a girlfriend's weekend on the vineyard. We try to do that every year. I lead a pretty boring life.

How do you want to inspire others?

Anyone, especially a young African American girl, who needs help or wants to become a lawyer, my doors are always open. I've allowed high schoolers to come shadow me and see what we do in our office. I have an office full of African American lawyers so I introduce them to each one who's in here. Those lawyers explain what type of law they practice. If they need any help with applications or proofread their personal statements, I'm open to doing that. I've done that many times in the past.

Do you see yourself living here for the rest of your life? Are you retiring here?

Yes, I don't think I'm going anywhere.

What do you see yourself doing here? Will you practice until you turn 67? What's the magic number?

There's no magic number for when I'll retire. I just turned 50 a couple weeks ago, and I don't see myself retiring in 15 years. That seems far away. It may not be, but it does. I'll probably be doing the same thing I'm doing, practicing law in my firm and being an active member of my organizations.



Shirene Hansotia

**Criminal Justice Policy Counsel
American Civil Liberties Union of
South Carolina**

She traveled the world while working for some of the most respected federal government agencies, but here in the Palmetto State she found the work she really wants to do for the rest of her life. Find out what it is and why she's so sure about it.

It used to be that people had one job and spent their careers there. Teachers said that would change, and it's true for both us.

Yes! I had different lives before finding law. After college, I worked as a journalist and later for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a community and economic development representative, helping those who could not afford housing in urban areas. Later, I worked for the Central Intelligence Agency as a covert intelligence analyst for many years, specializing in Africa and the Middle East.

I was always looking for something that combined my love of policy and the need for big, structural changes in society. I finally realized that law was the next step,

to provide the tools to try to bring about systemic changes.

What made you so interested in the well-being of society? That probably seems like something with an obvious answer, but a lot of people are content in their own bubble.

I attribute that largely to my family. I grew up with a father who was born in and grew up in India. We traveled there every few years to visit family, and as a young child I saw deep, grinding poverty from a young age. It gave me perspective on how much we have as Americans. It instilled in me gratitude for all that we have, especially compared to so much of the rest of the world.

As an individual, I am grateful that I came from a family that welcomed debate and discussion on whatever was going on in the world. My parents also instilled in me that you give back. When you have enough, it is your responsibility to help those who do not. They have always volunteered for a number of organizations and still do. They taught me that giving back to others also makes you feel better when you are down.

You have an attitude of gratitude. You made a pretty sharp transition professionally. Tell me more about your former life there.

I went to college at University of Wisconsin-Madison and majored in journalism and political science. I worked in journalism for a little over a year and thought that the longer-term goal was to combine writing and policy. I got a Master's in Public Policy

from Michigan State. I thought I would eventually work overseas for the State Department in a USAID (United States Agency for International Development) type position working with refugees or something like that.

I worked at HUD for a while to get domestic experience on housing

and economic issues. Then, I applied at the State Department (United States Department of State). A friend also suggested I apply at the CIA. Both jobs were offered. I just decided to take the exciting option because the CIA allowed you to travel the world and also have access to all the information on a certain region or country. You would really become the area expert. I had lived before in Africa, so I was placed in the Africa division. I worked for the CIA in intelligence issues: counterterrorism, counter-narcotics, and so forth for about ten years. I worked both for CIA directly and then as a contractor for the CIA.

I loved the work. It was fascinating, but I knew I wanted to get back into some kind of helping field. That's when I decided to come back to the states, go to law school, and go from there.

That's awesome! I know so many fascinating women, and they're so modest. Do you think it's a cultural thing that we downplay those awesome accomplishments?

I totally do. It's also just hard. You do your work overtime, and you think it's just not a big deal that you did x or y.

Fine. We still have to talk about you, though. Seeing needy people firsthand changed you or shaped you, right?

I do think that had a big impact, and my parents volunteer a lot. They care a lot about issues, and they give back all the time, so I had that as an example. I feel things deeply, so I really do tend to feel other people's pain. I want to help people when they're in pain because I know that people have helped me when I was in pain.

We hardly ever talk about that. What would you say is something that you've struggled with in your life? With all of your success, you've had failure. That's part of

the path. What was the hardest to overcome?

Professionally, it's changing careers. I often wonder if I had stuck to one career path be it journalism or housing or intelligence, I probably would have been much further along. I sometime kick myself because starting over every time puts you at the bottom of the rung again. It's been a challenge figuring out how do you start over at age 38. I also look at that as a gift because it's led to a very interesting life. My goal has never been to be at the top of an organization or to be a partner at a top tier law firm. It's been to have meaningful job experiences, help people, and live an interesting life, as well. It's been a challenge but also a gift.

Why did you change gears?

Early on starting in my 20s, I saw people at one job or another who were not happy. They hated their jobs, but they stayed there. You spend a lot of time in life at your job. I felt that even if it costs you something personally and monetarily to switch, you only live once. I knew that if I wasn't happy in what I was doing that I needed to switch. I needed to do something that I felt was more meaningful because life is short. I have to be grateful also that I had the ability to switch careers. I don't want to overlook that it's not always easy for people to do that when they have kids and other commitments.

Finally, you get into law, and you still have to figure out your path. Sometime what you love in the class isn't what you love in the real world. How did you navigate that?

That's a good thing for people graduating from law school to know. When you think one major means leaning toward a certain career, you sometime find out that the job is not what you thought it would be. When I was right of law school, I thought I really wanted to do environmental law. I really tried hard for a position at an

environmental law firm. It didn't come to be, and I was down and sad. The next day I got a call from a person who ended up becoming a dear friend Rhett Dunaway. He just said, 'We have an opening for a public defender. If you can come in today, we'll get you an interview.' I had already applied for the job, but I didn't think it was something I necessarily wanted to do.

It ended up being probably the most meaningful job I've ever had; other than the current work I am doing. I have utmost respect for public defenders who are probably the most underappreciated people. They work tirelessly on behalf of others. They tend to get this reputation in movies and tv shows of being sort of hapless and bottom of the barrel people who couldn't get a job somewhere else. In my opinion nothing could be further from the truth.

A lot of very qualified people become public defenders because they truly believe in the mission, in helping people, and that everybody deserves a good defense. The office I worked in was exceptional. All the attorneys really, truly cared about their clients and gave everything to it. That is a job that if someone coming out of law school doesn't know what they want to do, being a public defender- even if not your dream goal-- gives you a lot of experience in a short amount of time. It's also one of the most rewarding things a person could do.

How long did you do that?

I was a public defender for about five years. I clerked for a year after law school for Judge G. Thomas Cooper who's based out of Camden, Kershaw area. Then, I was a public defender. I loved being a PD, but I was beginning to get frustrated with the lack of options. I had clients who were getting sentenced for far too long. It was, in general, far too harsh of a

sentencing structure.

I wanted to look at alternatives and look at trying to change the options for people at a state level. Searching for that type of work I was connected with Stuart Andrews who is a former partner at Nelson Mullins, a mentor and the most influential person in this state when it comes to reforming our prisons. He spearheaded the monumental lawsuit against the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) on behalf of mentally ill incarcerated people and won. He and his wife Arlene have spent their entire careers pushing for a better society in one way or another. He worked hard to get a grant for me to work for two years on prisons, jail, and sentencing reform issues at the state level. It was a combination of lobbying, advocacy, and hands-on prison work. We did a lot prison work, going to prison, and directly working with groups and individuals in prison. That was the two years before I came to where I am now at the ACLU (the American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina).

Do you feel like you're making significant progress toward that goal?

I'm making small steps forward, but there's a lot to do. There's enough work for several lifetimes in our jails, prisons, and criminal justice system. There are extreme racial disparities with over-sentencing and inhumane treatment of the people that we put into our prisons. We owe them a duty of care. There's a lot of secrecy behind how people are treated in prison, meaning that those in charge of the department of corrections are able to hide the true, awful conditions in which incarcerated people live. If people understood how bad conditions are in our state prisons, many more people would be upset.

Is that idealistic?

It's a tough issue to get people behind, but part of that is because

we haven't been able to really unlock the door and show people what's happening. It's not easy to explain because from afar it's easy to write off people in prison and say, 'they deserve what they get because they did something wrong.' That's a failure on our part as advocates. We need to help others see that these are humans who have made mistakes, as we all make mistakes. There are also a lot of innocent people in prison. The Innocence Project and others like it have shown that. Even those who are guilty and have admitted it are owed a duty of care. Our job as advocates is to make people see

what they can't so easily see on their own.

Your work makes a difference in this entire state. Speaking of this state, how did you even get here to South Carolina? You graduated from Charleston School of Law. Did that bring you here?

When I was at the CIA, I met the person who would eventually become my husband. He had land and knew he eventually wanted to retire here. When I left to the CIA, I came here. We got married. I had never been here, but now I've been here longer than any other place. I've been here since 2002,

so 18 years now.

What's your favorite part of the place where we live?

I really love the spaces that have been protected by environmentalists and conservation groups like the ACE Basin (the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers estuary). We kayak a lot and bike. All the open spaces that have been protected are great. They allow people to get out in nature. I think that is my favorite part. The lowcountry is so naturally beautiful.

ACCOLADES

Barnwell Whaley Patterson & Helms, LLC member attorneys **M. Dawes Cooke, Jr.** and **David S. Cox** have been ranked in the Chambers USA 2020 Guide for their work in litigation: general commercial matters. *Chambers USA* ranks the top lawyers and law firms across all the United States of America, with only 18,135 attorneys ranked in the 2020 guide. **M. Dawes Coke, Jr., B.C. Killough, Randell C. Stoney, Jr., David S. Cox, and Marvin D. Infinger** have been chosen for inclusion in the 2020 *South Carolina Super Lawyers*, and **Jeffrey Bogdan** has been listed as a 2020 *South Carolina Super Lawyers Rising Star*. Member attorney **Dawes Cooke** has been named to the top ten list for attorneys in South Carolina.

Moore & Van Allen PLLC (MVA) is pleased to announce that environmental attorney and litigator **Lesley A. Firestone** has been selected as one of *Charleston Regional Business Journal's* 2020 Forty Under 40 winners.

Butler Snow is pleased to announce that *Super Lawyers* has recognized two of their attorneys in its 2020 edition of *South Carolina Super Lawyers*. **Robert E. Sumner IV** and **Bradish J. Waring** were named to the list for business litigation. *Chamber USA, 2020*, the prestigious, independent legal industry referral guide has also ranked Charleston attorney, **Bradish J. Waring**. In addition, **Stephen P. Groves, Sr.** has been elected as a Fellow in the American College of Coverage Counsel.

Gallivan White & Boyd is pleased to announce **Paige Chamberlain Ornduff** has been recognized as a 2020 Rising Stars by *Super Lawyers*.

Charleston K&L Gates Partners Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA - Three partners from the Charleston, S.C., office of the global law firm K&L Gates LLP have been recognized in the 2020 edition of *Chambers USA*. In addition, lawyer-partner **Matthew Norton** -- authored the 'Law and Practice South Carolina' section of the Chambers USA Regional Real Estate 2020 Guide, part of the Chambers Global Practice Guides. The Law and Practice Section provides clients with legal insight needed to make practical business decisions in

certain jurisdictions. The Charleston lawyers and the categories in which *Chambers USA* recognized them are as follows:

James S. Bruce (South Carolina Corporate/M&A) is a founding partner of the firm's Charleston office and represents clients in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and other business transactions. He advises Fortune 500 companies, as well as middle-market and emerging-growth companies, in a broad range of industries, including aerospace, paper and packaging, technology, distribution, renewable energy, resort development, hospitality and leisure, retail, transportation and logistics, health care and media. Mr. Bruce also represents private equity and venture capital firms, strategic investors and distressed company investors.

J. Walker Coleman IV (South Carolina Labor and Employment) is a founding partner and the Managing Partner of the firm's Charleston office, as well as a member of the firm's Advisory Council. He is an experienced labor and employment litigator who handles discrimination, harassment, wage and hour, wrongful termination, and retaliation cases for regional, national, and international companies in virtually every industry. He also prosecutes and defends restrictive covenant and trade secret claims, represents employers before state and federal employment and labor boards and departments, counsels employers on myriad labor and employment issues, and counsels companies on the sale and acquisition of domestic and foreign businesses.

Matthew J. Norton (South Carolina Real Estate) is a founding partner of the firm's Charleston office and serves on the firm's Advisory Council in his capacity as a leader of the firmwide Real Estate practice area. He also spearheads the firm's global Resort, Hospitality and Leisure practice and is the chair for the firm's Caribbean Practice Affinity Group. His practice focuses on commercial real estate and resort, hospitality and leisure, and he regularly represents clients in connection with resort planned communities, hotels, private clubs, golf courses, condominiums and strata title projects, condo hotels, branded residences, timeshares, and marinas.



In the midst of COVID-19 and adapting to this new normal, the SC Bar Foundation and the SC Supreme Court Historical Society thought it was the perfect time to share our collection of oral histories that are filled with stories of courage, grit, perseverance, and determination in the face of adversity.

We have had the distinct pleasure of recording hundreds of hours of interviews and conversations detailing early life experiences that served as catalysts for legal educations, epic legal battles, the civil rights movement, or running for political office, as well as reflections on landmark cases from the attorneys who litigated them, the judges who presided over them, and the fortunate lawyers who found a seat in those crowded courthouses. In addition to these milestones, we've had the rare opportunity to capture history you've likely never heard.

In listening to these stories, we are reminded that seemingly insurmountable hurdles were conquered with style and grace by our friends and mentors. Even more so, these stories demonstrate how connected we are in the South Carolina Bar and the ability each of us has to make a difference. We hope you enjoy.

[LINK TO PODCASTS](#)

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PRO BONO MOMENTS

By: Alissa C. Lietzow, Esq.
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services

Since the start of the pandemic, there isn't an office or organization that hasn't been affected. As of March 16, our office transitioned to working remotely. Our previous planning for hurricane-related disasters enabled us to implement remote work seamlessly. Thanks to a combination of modern technology and dedicated staff, we've been able to continue serving our clients without interruption.

Although in-person outreach programs had been postponed, we've adjusted our methods and started hosting them virtually. Throughout the past few months, our office conducted numerous virtual programs that have reached hundreds of viewers covering topics including housing law, family law, estate planning, and several sessions of Frequently Asked Questions related to Covid-19 and the various Orders issued from the South Carolina Supreme Court. And, thanks to the efforts of one of our volunteer attorneys, Nina Cano-Richards, we were able to conduct a program in Spanish, expanding our reach in the community.

So, what are we expecting over the next several months? While some sectors of the economy have all but shut down, we find ourselves gearing up for skyrocketing demand and we will need the help and support of the community to meet that demand. There is no doubt that requests for legal aid, especially in the areas of housing, employment and consumer law will far outpace anything in recent memory. There is also the added reality that as a non-profit organization that relies on fundraising events to generate revenue, we are going to face a few challenges. But, we are most certainly up for the challenge and we are stepping up to serve our community.

To respond to this demand, our office is considering multiple options, and we believe it will take a multi-prong approach to best address the need. We are exploring ways for our office to expand by bringing on additional staff to specifically address pandemic-related cases. Additionally, we are growing our network of volunteer attorneys in the areas of practice in which there's been an increase demand. We'd like to recognize and thank the Charleston County Bar Association's Executive Committee for supporting this initiative.

If you are looking to get involved, there are several options. First, you can sign up to serve as a pro bono attorney. The [link is here](#) and should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Second, you can join the dozens of volunteer attorneys engaged with the Housing Court Pilot Program. As of May 2020, this initiative expanded to three days a week in three magistrate courts, so there is ample opportunity to get engaged. Finally, should you find yourself with more money than free time, please consider donating. Our office is planning on moving forward with a Covid Response Team and your donation would directly impact low-income families in our community needing access to justice.



Law Firm: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is our gift of \$_____.

Please cut out and return to: Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, Inc.
Post Office Box 1116
Charleston, SC 29402

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

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HAVE A SUGGESTION?

If you have an idea on how to make the newsletter more valuable to CCBA members, please send your suggestion to Alexis McCumber at alexis@akimlawfirm.com

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 Kim Steele either by Tel. (843) 881-6666 or Email: secretary@charlestoncountybar.org

USEFUL LINKS

[Charleston Bar Website](#)

[CLE Calendar](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Attorney Resources](#)

[SC Bar Website](#)

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