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WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT – WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Dear Colleagues,

It has now been five months since the world's normal routines were upended by COVID-19. After a period of spreading the word about the most immediate impacts to our profession in the Lowcountry, the Charleston County Bar Association (CCBA) has been working to renew those activities which can be performed safely pursuant to the guidance provided by the CDC and DHEC. We began by analyzing and securing virtual meeting capacity while hosting in person events is either prohibited or severely restricted.

Initial efforts in partnership with the Courts led to four Web-Ex information sessions regarding the impacts COVID-19 is having on the judicial system. Based upon our experience from these information sessions, we concluded that continuing legal education programming delivered in a virtual meeting format was the most effective service that the CCBA could provide to members while complying with the instructions from the Governor and applicable guidelines.

Since March, the CCBA has presented 3 hours of virtual CLE programs. The first, on May 8th, was a "Law Day CLE" with Justice Kaye G. Hearn speaking on the topic of "Female Equality and the Nineteenth Amendment" in celebration of the amendment's 100th Anniversary. More recently, a 2 hour Employment Law Lunch & Learn was hosted on August 6th with Christy Allen, Nancy Bloodgood, and Allan Holmes as presenters. These programs were made possible with the support of the South Carolina Supreme Court and the assistance of the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, who agreed to allow CLE programming via a Zoom Webinar virtual platform. Despite never



offering programming in a remote manner before and requiring a little time to sort out the functionality necessary to comply with the regulations on remote participation, the CCBA has been intent on delivering relevant services to members and the public in a safe manner during these challenging times. With this limited experience, we are ready to resume our traditionally abundant continuing legal education programming for our members.

Over the next two months, we have over 14 hours of programming scheduled, with more being developed. Please see the upcoming calendar of CLE programming in this Newsletter or on the CCBA website's calendar for specifics and registration information. Each Zoom Webinar event is limited to 100 attendees, but we expect to expand that restriction for the annual "What Works" CLE in January or February if it must be presented as a virtual event.

In addition to the efforts to offer continuing legal education opportunities to our members, the CCBA has continued to make discretionary donations to 501(c)(3) organizations with an allied legal purpose, such as the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, the Charleston Forum, Charleston Legal Access, and the Turning Leaf Project. Other efforts to give back to our community continue through our financial and volunteer support of Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services and programs for which they advocate (along with other non-profit groups including some of those I referenced above). I recently had the opportunity to volunteer with the Housing Court Pilot Program and enjoyed the opportunity to interact with clients who were vulnerable to the prospect of losing their housing accommodations. We were not able to avoid an eviction in every case, but we were able to

express the tenant's concerns and objections and in some cases create the time they needed to move out without the need for a writ of ejectment. If you have an opportunity to volunteer for this worthwhile cause, I would encourage you to do so.

Our Wellness Committee has sponsored a book club during the pandemic and provided "Wellness Tips" in our weekly e-blast. Other activities for the Fall are in the works.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barnwell Whaley is pleased to announce the promotion of attorneys **D. Summers Clarke, II** and **Jeffrey Bogdan** to the position of Member in the firm's Charleston office.

K&L Gates' Charleston office is pleased to welcome a new associate that has recently joined the firm. **Kristina DiPano** joined the Charleston office as an associate in the firm's Health Care practice group.

Paige Chamberlain Ornduff of **Gallivan White Boyd** was elected secretary and treasurer of the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division. Ornduff is the co-chair of the SC Bar Community Law Week Committee and co-chair of the Courthouse Keys Committee.

Experienced tax trusts and estates attorney **Anne Kelley Russell** has joined **Womble Bond Dickinson's** Charleston office. She guides business owners, individuals and families throughout South Carolina in a wide range of tax and estate planning/management/gifting strategies.

Katie Fowler Monoc is pleased to announce the opening of **Monoc Law, LLC**, located at 77 Grove Street in Charleston. Katie's practice focuses on personal injury and other civil litigation as well as providing general counsel for businesses and political campaigns. Please visit www.monoclaw.com or call 843-790-8910 for more information.

The biggest loss thus far this year has been the prohibition to large gatherings. We enjoy our annual socials and had been working on other opportunities to invite members to interact and will continue to plan for such events once gatherings can be renewed. Until then, please stay safe.

Very truly yours,

David Wolf

ACCOLADES

Barnwell Whaley member and registered patent attorney **B.C. Killough** has been named to two of the newly created South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) Business and Science Advisory Boards - Biomedical Sciences and Industry 4.0 - the latter of which he will serve as Chair. He also serves on SCRA's Medical Device Commercialization Advisory Panel (MDCAP).

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd is pleased to announce that **Perry MacLennan** was selected as a 2020 American Bar Association (ABA) On the Rise – Top 40 Young Lawyer. The ABA On The Rise program recognizes young lawyers who lead by example in all aspects of their professional and community service.

Butler Snow attorney **Stephen P. Groves, Sr.** has been elected as a Fellow in the American College of Coverage Counsel.

Nineteen **Womble Bond Dickinson** attorneys in Charleston have been honored as members of the 2020 South Carolina Legal Elite by the publishers of *Charleston Business Magazine*:

David Crawford—Residential Real Estate; **Will Dawson**—Commercial Real Estate, Banking & Finance; **Morris Ellison**—Commercial Real Estate, Residential Real Estate; **Stephanie Few**—Government; **Alissa Fleming**—Healthcare; **Cordes Ford**—Construction; **Allen Gibson**—Construction; **Henry Grimbball**—Insurance; **John Hawk**—Business Litigation; **Greg Horton**—Labor & Employment; **Ashley Kutz Kelley**—Labor & Employment, Business Litigation; **Dana Lang**—Construction; **Cynthia Morton**—Commercial Real Estate; **Matt Orville**—Business Litigation; **Dan Orvin**—Commercial Real Estate; **Ken Smith**—Tax & Estate; **Matthew Tillman**—Business Litigation; **Bill Warnock**—Construction; and **James Wilson**—Hospitality & Tourism, Commercial Real Estate, Banking & Finance.



By Ben Pogue, Esq. (and former meteorologist)

Ben Pogue Law

In case your mind has been occupied by more immediately pressing issues—such as sustaining a law practice and getting kids ready to go back to school in the midst of a pandemic—you may want to budget a bit of time and energy to prepare for our annual tropical weather threat, which happens to be right around the corner, and happens to be looking particularly nasty this season.

If you're not a well-heeled veteran of the coastal Carolinas, this year is fit to give you a wealth of experience. Here's a quick primer before we dive into the surlier details that have developed of late. Although "hurricane season" is thought of as the time between June 1st and November 30th, the most prominent time for tropical weather to affect South Carolina is between August 15th and October 15th. When a storm's maximum winds reach 39mph, it is named and becomes a "tropical storm." These storms can deliver soaking rains, especially when they are moving slowly, but don't create widespread wind damage. Once a storm has maximum sustained winds of 74mph, it is a hurricane. The size (generically meaning the areal extent of its impact) of the hurricane is typically around the size of our state, but the area of damaging winds is smaller—within 50-150 miles from the center, or "eye" of the storm. If you draw a line to track the forward motion of the storm, the maximum winds are on the right side of the eyewall, where the forward motion combines with the internal winds. Category 1 and 2 hurricanes (up to maximum winds of 110mph) are termed "minor" but are frequently still very damaging when they make direct impact to our shores. Category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes

are "major", and are extremely damaging in the Carolinas, without exception. When a storm's eye reaches the coast, it is said to make "landfall." South Carolina has not had a major hurricane make landfall since Hugo in 1989.

That last little tidbit should be a bit disconcerting. Our state has been slammed by very significant storms and deadly flooding rains over the last five years. But none of the storms impacting us has been a major hurricane at the time of landfall. Because the force of winds increases as the square of the velocity (thank goodness we didn't have calculus and physics in law school) a Category 3 is much stronger than a Category 2; and a Category 4 (like Hugo) is much stronger than a Category 3. Hugo's full force was delivered to the Awendaw and McClellanville area, not to downtown Charleston directly, so even if you were here for it, you may not have felt the full brunt of the storm.

Why is this year a big deal, and why have the last couple weeks made it more concerning? All the ingredients for a very active season were shaping up even this spring, which led forecasters to predict an above-average season. The "ingredients" are unusually warm sea surface temperatures (SST's) in the southern Atlantic, wind patterns that suggested low wind shear where the storms usually form (think of wind shear as a bully that pushes storms over as they're organizing), and a confluence of global weather cycles that facilitate storm growth.

There is evidence of a few other wrinkles that give us pause. Tropical Storm Bertha strengthened within a matter of hours, just off our coast in May—before the season usually starts, and in an area atypical for storm development at that time. Now we have Tropical Storm Josephine, the 10th named storm, forming much earlier than any 10th storm in recorded history; and Tropical Storm Kyle, the earliest forming 11th storm. Hurricane Isaias was a Category 1 hurricane, but its maximum winds stayed offshore when it neared our coast. Of note though, is the fact that it intensified just to our southeast—an indication of the unusual warmth of the water off our shores that could be added fuel for any storm that comes close.

In recent seasons, storms have weakened as they've approached, diminishing from deadly major hurricanes to still-dangerous-but-more-manageable minor hurricanes. The warm water off our coast may suggest that an approaching storm won't weaken this year. Every storm is different and surprising, but we should at least be aware of the possibility that the next storm that strikes our coast could be worse than we've seen in a long time. This awareness is the first step to

preparation—simply knowing that this year seems a bit different.

It also behooves us to realize that our current environment is not the same as it was in the past, so computer models based on past data may not be as accurate as we'd like. FEMA is coming out with new flood maps, but not until 2021. The proliferation of development and non-permeable surfaces like concrete may add to runoff and exacerbate flooding, but it's difficult to know how or whether this will affect any particular area. We don't have enough current data to know. When it comes to tropical weather this year, we have some significant "unknown unknowns," and that's simply looking at the weather in isolation, not combined with Covid and a return to school.

If there's a year to overprepare and be more cautious when it comes to storms, the past few weeks seem to be demonstrating that this is it. Please have a plan to evacuate the area and secure your home. Please look into information on sea level rise, and your location. NOAA's Sea Level Rise Viewer is a good resource.

Please have a plan to check on loved ones. Please connect with your clients—especially indigent clients—who may not have access to broadband and may not understand the impact of the cumulative effects of a pandemic, resources and employment situations that are already under stress, and the disruptions that approaching hurricanes may bring.

Some great sites to keep an eye on weather data are:

Mike's Weather page: <https://spaghettimodels.com/>

NOAA's National Hurricane Center: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

SC's Emergency Management Division: <https://www.scemd.org/>

NOAA's Sea Level Rise Viewer: <https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/>

Be prepared and stay safe.

COLLOQUY - NEIL ROBINSON



Neil Robinson

Senior Counsel and Member at Nexsen Pruet, LLC

By Bryn Wall

Neil Robinson wanted to get into law school so badly that he literally brought his own seat. Now, decades

later, his seat is one of the most coveted among attorneys everywhere. What he says you should do today to end up in a similar position.

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I'd like to learn a little bit more about who you are as a person. Do you have any family here in Charleston?

Just my immediate family. I was born in Columbia and grew up there. I went to Greer High School and then to Clemson undergraduate. After that I actually went to work for one of the major chemical companies Allied Chemical for about five years. I then went to University of South Carolina Law School, which was an interesting story in and of itself.

I'd love to hear more about it.

When I was working for Allied Chemical, I was traveling the whole east coast. I would often stop in Washington, D.C. and stay with one of my former fraternity brothers from Clemson. He kept saying, 'You need to go to law school!' We got on the phone and called the director of admissions down at the University of South Carolina. She said, 'Oh we're just out of space. Besides, you haven't taken the LSAT.' I said, 'What's that?'

She told me what it was, and I found out they were offering it one more time at Chapel Hill. I took the LSAT at the end of June. The results came back good, and I kept calling. She kept saying, 'We got the results. They're very good, but we don't have room.'

I got on the phone and started calling a couple of state senators, people I'd never met. I said, 'Look, I want to go to law school. This is my only chance. Would you write a letter supporting it?' I got handwritten letters from senators in Orangeburg, Columbia, and Greenville. Ms. Benton in Admissions said, 'We just don't have room.' I said, 'Would you make me an appointment with the dean? I'd just like to come chat with him.' She said, 'Well sure! I can do that.' It was Dean Robert Foster. They called him Tiny because he was kind of short, real smart guy.

I went down to the law school, and I walked into his office carrying a folding chair. I said, 'Dean, I'll bring my own seat. Even though you're full, I've got a place to sit if you'll just let me into law school.' Well, he thought that was the funniest thing he had ever heard of so I became the dean's discretionary admittee.

After the first year, I ended up working for the dean as his assistant, went to law school through the summers, graduated in two-and-a-half years, and was actually at our graduation in December of '73 in the law school auditorium. I stayed on as Assistant Dean for six months to move the law school into the new facility. That's when Vice President Gerald Ford came and did the speech, christening the new law school. Quite an event.

You didn't lie when you said it was a fascinating story!

It was a stressful thing. I found out I was admitted two days before classes started. I walked into the law school, and there was a bulletin board right in front of the front door. There was an envelope with a pin holding it to the cork board with my name on it. I opened it up, and there was my acceptance and a bill for tuition. I believe it was about \$225 for the semester.

That was an excellent tuition rate.

Well, it was 47 years ago!

I know, but I would still love that kind of a law school tuition bill. I also noticed you are a Marine Corps Reserve Veteran.

I decided to join the reserves. I did my six months in Parris Island. I got called up in '62 or '63 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We gathered around the radio and listened to John Kennedy's speech. Of course, we were young and invincible back then, and we were disappointed that we weren't going to go down to make a beach landing in Cuba. I had to go back to Clemson. My Marine Corps experience after that was pretty much attending the meetings and summer camps until I completed that service.

Thank you for your service. That is a job that not many want to do, and not many are suited for it.

I came up during World War II. I was a child, and my dad was teaching people how to fly airplanes. There was a lot of patriotism that I grew up with, and it instills a different sense of duty than the kids of today probably have simply because of the environment we were living through.

Before we leave this topic of the Marine Corps, has that had an effect on your personal or professional life?

I don't think there's any question about it. You learn discipline. You learn to make hard decisions. You learn to obey superiors and not question why they ask you to do something. You do it. You do it the best you can, and then you move onto the next thing. That has followed me through my personal and business life. I hope that it's served me well, particularly in running a law firm.

How did you get here? Walk me through those early stages of your career.

My first move was working with Dean Foster. He was a great mentor. He was tasked by U.S. District Judge Charles Simons to find a good law clerk for him. Dean Foster asked, 'Would you be interested in a clerkship with Judge Simons?' I said, 'Dean, I'm flattered that you would think of me, but I've been out of undergraduate school for five years. I feel like I need to go ahead and start practicing law right away, get my feet into it, and play catch-up.'

He counseled me with the best advice I had received at that point and said, 'You will learn more by clerking for a federal judge doing actual trials with the best lawyers of the state than you'll ever learn just going down to the courthouse and doing mundane things a freshman lawyer usually ends up doing.' I took his advice, took the clerkship, and moved to Aiken at the end of June in '74.

If I'm not mistaken, you were also a public defender at one point in Richland County, correct?

I did that as one of my law school senior courses. I didn't actually do the trials, but I got people prepared for trial and did the jury charges and things like that. It served me well working for Judge Simons because I never even prepared a resume. I had lawyers coming to me and asking me if I'd be interested in a position.

I decided Charleston was where I wanted to practice law. As you know from being here, there are a lot more activities and things about Charleston that are

appealing than you will find in Columbia. I tell my partner in Columbia, "If you want a good meal in Columbia, go to the airport."

As time passed, I really became interested in the business side of things in the practice of law. When you're trying cases, you get to know the people involved in the lawsuit. When the case is over, they're gone. I wanted to get involved with the movers and the shakers of what was going on in the city that I have come to love.

There became a point where I made the decision to just go ahead and open up my own office and focus on transactional matters. We grew to about 17 lawyers, one of the biggest firms in this state at the time. All of that happened over about a seven-year period.

In '91 things started happening. I was approached within a week by both Nexsen Pruet and Mullins, Greer & Scarborough. I felt like one of these high school quarterbacks being recruited by Clemson and South Carolina or Georgia and Georgia Tech. They were making offers, and I was going back and forth. Everybody wanted a Charleston office. I ended up going with Nexsen Pruet because I knew more of the people there.

I became their second office in '91. I then opened up satellite offices in Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head primarily to do large real estate development projects, which were really booming along the coast back then. Our last office was opened about ten years ago in Raleigh. We have about eight offices and around 200 lawyers. It's been a lot of fun to go along with the ride.

That's what it sounds like. How did you become the guy for entities like Volvo, PGA of America, and Boeing?

Your success depends on how well you treat the people you know right now. The person I'm dealing with today is going to talk to the guy tomorrow when he asks, 'Who should I talk to?' They'll say, 'Well, I had a good experience with so-and-so.' That's really the way I've been able to pivot in my practice at the right times.

I started in litigation, but I got tired of it. It's like filling the bathtub, and then you empty it. I want long-term relationships with people, so I started the business firm. My first big client was Halliburton Company out of Dallas, Texas. They wanted to buy an island for corporate retreats, and I had a mutual friend in the real estate business who was trying to sell this island. My friend told me about these guys, so we flew out to Texas and made a presentation. They liked me, and the rest is history.

That reputation spun off, and then I spend 15 years doing resort projects up and down the coast as far as Florida and Alabama. There comes a point where all of the waterfront properties are pretty much built up so I pivoted to do master plan communities, taking a lot of the skillset I developed doing the resort properties. I did those for a number of years and still do some.

I pivoted to start focusing less on the dirt side of the real estate and more on the economic development side. That's when we heard that Boeing might be looking for a second location. That led to our representation of Boeing to negotiate the incentive package with the state of South Carolina, which led to Boeing building the assembly plant at the North Charleston Airport.

When other people started coming, they would ask Boeing, 'Who do y'all use as a lawyer?' I raised my hand. That's a long way of getting back to the point of, it's what you do for someone today that will determine your success tomorrow. That's the best advice I can give a young lawyer. You should really pay attention to what you're doing today, and don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will come. If you do a really good job today, it will come faster than you think and be better than you hope for. Return your phone calls. Let people know I'm doing something for you. You're my client. I'm taking care of you.

It's more about the hands you shake and the relationships you foster long-term.

That's right! You have to get out into the public. You have to engage yourself in something besides just the practice of law, because that's how you meet other people and have the relationships. That's why I'm still practicing law today. I have great clients, and they still call.

I seriously couldn't count how many boards and foundations you're involved with. Was it a goal of yours to serve the community in this way, or was the communal benefit merely ancillary to the overarching goal of securing a nice paycheck?

It starts as the latter. It starts as you're trying to grow your business, grow your practice, assure your future. The things I was involved with early on were directly related to my practice. Then, you start spreading out because you want to meet more people. You want to be more involved in the community.

I got involved with things like the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition early. I've been chair for the past 20, 25 years. It's the largest outdoor cultural event in the state, and it generates a lot of tax revenue when hotels and restaurants wouldn't normally be very full in the middle of February. With the MUSC Children's Hospital we

started out trying to raise \$50 million in philanthropy, and we thought that was going to be really difficult. We ended up raising \$150 million. You give back to the community that has done so well for you. I see people who don't do it, and it worries me a little bit. I think they're missing out on a great aspect of living a full life by not giving back to their community whatever form they choose.

To wrap things up, let me spin a hypothetical at you. After a long day at work, what's your go-to activity to decompress?

Red wine.

What else do you do?

My wife and I are blessed to have a special needs daughter, and she's with us and will always be with us. I spend time with her. That's really rewarding to me, and it takes me away from business issues and all of that. I just get to spend time with her. Whether it's feeding her or reading a book to her, that's relaxing to me... along with a glass of red wine.

Honestly, I think that is a highpoint to end this interview on. Your relaxing activity is being a good dad.

I have another older daughter that I have two grandchildren by, and I have a son. Neil III is a practicing attorney and an NFL agent in the sports division that he runs. He is someone you may want to interview in 10 to 15 years.

COLLOQUY – ARIS HANCHARD FERGUSON



Aris Hanchard Ferguson

General Counsel/Housing Authority of the City of Charleston by Haley Valente

Four years out of law school she is already being called a rock star by the local attorneys who mentored her, but one of Aris Hanchard Ferguson's own personal rock stars is the law professor who, just months before dying, gave her six words to live by. She shares them here.

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Have you always wanted to be a lawyer?

Yes, probably. My mom was a paralegal growing up, and so that kind of played a large role in it. I grew up in law firms, so I saw a lot of the things that she did and the knowledge and resources that it gave her.

You went to Charleston School of Law and Duke before that. Why did you decide to come to South Carolina?

I grew up in Summerville, went to Pinewood Preparatory School, and I wanted something different.

I'm an only child, and my mom wanted me to have a four-hour radius of distance. The only places she talked about me going outside of those four hours were Ivy Leagues, and I really wasn't into that. Sports, student life, and all the activities I did in high school really mattered to me. I was looking for four hours, great athletics, great academics and some name recognition. Duke checked the boxes and was the best four years of my life.

After that, I needed to take a year off because I lost my dad during my first semester of college. My grades took a hit. I had to really work the rest of those three years to get my grades back up. I knew that if I took some time off and got some experience, it would help my law school application and give me time to get a good LSAT score.

A friend recommended that if I wanted to be in South Carolina, I should go to a South Carolina law school. I got into Charleston and got a scholarship. I got waitlisted at USC at first, and then I found out they were going to let me in. By then, I had gone to an open house at Charleston School of Law.

That must have been some open house.

It's probably one of my favorite Charleston Law stories. Professor Virginia "Ginny" Meeks was there, and the name tags listed our names and our undergraduate schools. We see her, she has a great smile, and then it automatically turns into this sour face. I said, 'You must have gone to UNC.' That was it. She was a huge UNC Tarheel fan and alumni. We got to talking. My friend said, 'If that's any indication of the experience you're

going to have at Charleston, that's the place you should go.' I went, and I didn't look back.

Professor Meeks ended up being one of my best friends at the law school. When I was studying for the bar, she was such an encouragement because I did not pass the first time. The day I found out I didn't pass, my husband and classmate, who had taken the bar at the same time, found out he did pass. I was happy for him, but I needed to have my own moment. I was sitting there by myself, and I get this email. The subject says, 'I love you.' In the body it says, 'I'd get back up on that horse any time. It ain't nothing but a thing.' That's all it said.

Sometime the things you're working for aren't going to happen in the way you'd like. It doesn't mean they're not for you, and it doesn't mean you can't achieve them. You just have to get right back up on the horse. I passed the bar the next time. The only bittersweet thing about that was losing Professor Meeks. The day I finished the bar was the day that I found out she had passed away. She's a testament to a lot of the professors at Charleston.

There couldn't have been a better place for me. It was the atmosphere and the relationships I made, plus I got a husband out of the deal.

Will you share more about your transition from legal student to legal professional?

After I took the bar the second time, I told people I didn't feel bad anymore about not having passed the first time. The person that I was at first and the person I was that next February were two different people. I didn't need to be a lawyer back in July.

As an attorney, you don't know everything. You should never act like you know everything. You have to feel comfortable and confident in your skills and analysis.

What I didn't have the first time was that ability to say, 'I feel solid.' I ran out of time the first time. I think it was because of a lot of second guessing. I wasn't sure in myself; it wasn't the law.

After you passed the bar, what was your first job as a licensed attorney?

My first job was an unpaid volunteer position with Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services. I started doing client intake, advice, and counsels.

I knew that family law wasn't going to be my thing, but I didn't know how much until I worked at Charleston Pro Bono. There was a client who lost custody of her children. She needed to go through the Department of Social Services and a drug rehab program. For the last

four years she had been sober. Her kids were all quite young and had spent a huge chunk of their lives without her. The staff attorney at that time told me the mom's options were not great. I tried to explain that to her, and she just starts crying. The next thing I know, I'm crying.

After that, I told people, 'I will never, ever, ever work in family law.' How do you tell a mother that there's this law that somebody somewhere created, and it is the reason that she cannot have her children again? You can never really, truly explain that to someone in a way that makes them feel warm and fuzzy once they've swallowed it.

Is that the greatest legal challenge for you?

My biggest headache with the law is rules that don't make sense for the behavior they're trying to address. Often we make laws so broad they capture things that never needed to be included.

Quite frankly, we have not always had the best representation at the table. It makes you wonder if the person who sat down to craft this particular law was the type of person who this rule would end up affecting. Oftentimes, they're not.

You ended up leaving Charleston Pro Bono. What came next?

I started working at Motley Rice in Securities and Consumer Fraud. I liked that because it was fraud, and it was a paying job. That's the only reason I left Charleston Pro Bono. I was engaged, trying to plan a wedding, and living off of only one income with my husband. I had to make some changes.

Over that time, I was able to grow more as an attorney. I realized I want to be the attorney who takes care of the things clients generally are not thinking about. I want to help you with your business plan, business operations, lease agreement, all that kind of stuff, and more of the complex things you don't really find a lot of African American attorneys in.

Did you only do new things at that time?

I still did a lot of landlord-tenant stuff during that time. I took on the case of a young woman who started a nail business. She called right before I started at Motley Rice. She had a lease and wanted to know what her rights and obligations were. Her landlord was trying to evict her for a nuisance because of the smell of the chemicals she used in her nail salon business.

We argued the case right before my wedding. A couple weeks later, I found out that we won. She was

able to stay in the unit, continue operating, and she was just so elated. That was the feeling I was going for. I helped her keep her business. She still thanks me to this day, and that was two years ago.

Looking back at the path of your legal career, is there anything you would have done differently?

I genuinely like to be a person who feels like everything happens for a reason. I don't remember where I even heard this now, but maybe I heard it at church because it sounds spiritual. It's this idea that maybe God is working on someone else to do what they have to do to get you to where you need to be.

One of the things I wish I knew early on is just to keep things in perspective. Otherwise, you think everything's so detrimental when it's happening. My grandmother would always say to me, 'You can live in hell for six months if you know you're going to get out. It's not the prettiest saying, but it's true.

What would you say has been the proudest moment of your career?

It probably would have to be when I won that landlord tenant case. I can really remember feeling like I didn't know what the hell to do. I knew the facts, I knew that the law was on her side, and I just needed to breathe and communicate that.

The joy really came from the fact that I was almost about to let my fear debilitate me. The client does not always expect to win, but they do want you to show up for them and give them the best representation possible. There's no better feeling than doing your best and helping someone.

How do you like to spend your time outside of law?

I like socializing with friends in any way possible or involvement in organizations that can help make the world a better place.

I've been in the Junior League since I was in law school. This year I'm the vice president of fundraising. I also help Big Brothers, Big Sisters with some fundraising events. I coach junior varsity cheerleading at Pinewood Prep because cheerleading is still in me, and I cannot give it up. I am going into my second year of being on the board of trustees at Pinewood, as well. I'm heavily involved in the American Bar Association. Going into this next year, I will be the Young Lawyer Division Liaison to the Forum Committee on Affordable Housing and Community Development, as well as getting on the Student Loan Debt and Financial Wellness Committee. Although it's business, technically, I still consider that to be fun.

You seem like an open book. Is there anything people would be surprised to learn?

As strong of a personality as I have, I can also be so self-conscious. It causes me to want to be super cautious because I always want to make the right impression. Sometime that leads me to be a little more reserved than I would like.

I'm appreciative for people in my life who are encouraging, who see the person I am, and who see the way that I look at the world. I really think it will make the world a better place if everyone is valued.

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.

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PRO BONO MOMENTS

By: Alissa C. Lietzow, Esq.
Morgan S. Lloyd, Charleston School of Law
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services



Charleston's "socially distant" summer looks a little different this year. As with most of 2020, navigating challenges and uncertainty have become part of the new normal. It is no different here at Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services as we strive to implement new programs, onboard new staff, and create a new version of the annual Ackerman Fellowship.

Following several weeks of working from home, we transitioned back into the office setting. We are seeing an increased need for our services for two reasons: (1) as a result of the economic shutdown and subsequent layoffs, we have more residents qualifying for our services, and (2) the pandemic created an influx of legal issues including housing and consumer law. Thankfully, Charleston County recognized the critical importance of legal services during these unprecedented times and provided HUD grant funding to create a COVID-19 Response Team. This team, comprised of an attorney and paralegal, helps combat the

expanding needs of those in our community disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In addition to serving as a quick response to legal requests, this team has coordinated a wills clinic for school personnel, and educational webinars about unemployment, housing, and consumer issues.

Also joining our staff this summer are eight rising second- and third-year law students for our annual Ackerman Fellowship Program. This year, we hosted students from Charleston School of Law, Wake Forest, and the University of North Carolina. Although this year's program has been administered differently due to the safety restrictions in place, we were committed to providing a quality experience. We extend a special thank you for the generosity and willingness of the 20 attorneys who took the time to educate and mentor our Fellows on a variety of legal topics and lessons. As the program is designed as an opportunity to recommit ourselves to providing education to the next generation of lawyers, our Fellows have learned about family law, housing issues, civil litigation, drug court, animal welfare, work life balance and so much more. In addition to networking, our students had the opportunity to participate in intense clinical practice, experience client intake process, conduct legal research, and draft pleadings for our clients. This Program is made possible through annual grant funding provided by the Ackerman Foundation.

As we move into Fall 2020, the concern surrounding COVID-19 and the need to be socially distant continues. Out of respect for homeowners and our commitment to the health of our supporters, we announced that the 21st Annual Art on the Beach will be a virtual event for 2020. We are excited for you to join in this dynamic event from the comfort of your home. We will be offering this free streaming event series as our opportunity to give back to the communities that have supported us for so many years. We know the pandemic has negatively impacted our culinary and artistic friends, and we want to use our platform to help. Just like our previous Art on the Beach events, our series will include virtual home tours, chef demonstrations, and of course...art! While the event will be accessible to all for free, this is ultimately a fundraiser to support our mission during a time when we find ourselves at the crossroads of an increased demand for legal services and a decrease in fundraising revenue. We would greatly appreciate having sponsors for the event and donations for our program. Now more than ever, it is important for us to come together and support our community. We hope you will join us! Please follow **@ArtonTheBeachCHS** for future updates on the event.

As always, our programs would not be made possible without the support of attorneys like you! If you are looking for an opportunity to assist us in our mission to serve Charleston's low-income communities, there are many ways to get involved. Please consider volunteering with us for a clinic, teaching seminar, accepting a referral or simply donating. We look forward to connecting with more attorneys in the lowcountry, as any act of kindness goes a long way! **Please don't forget to tune into our live Art on the Beach-Chefs in the Kitchen mini-series beginning at 7pm on Instagram live. Also, be sure to text LEGALAID2020 to 44-321 to donate!**



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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

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