



Newsletter

Winter 2021

<http://www.charlestoncountybar.org>

Volume 53



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Words From The President - Finding Our Way



Dear Colleagues,
Wow, what a year. Within weeks of the conclusion of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Charleston County Bar Association, our way of life changed dramatically. Courthouse operations were severely limited and the resumption of jury trials remains an anticipation,

but not yet a reality. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic our community has had to adapt in order to carry on. Court hearings are now being held virtually, including non-jury trials. Organizational meetings have also turned to virtual meeting platforms in order to carry on their missions. Some industries have been able to maintain operations largely unaffected by the pandemic, while others have been devastated. These industries and the workforce supporting them need our help in order to recover from this ordeal. Whether it is volunteering to provide legal assistance with Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, the Housing Court Project, performing private pro bono work, or supporting those industries more severely impacted through additional patronage, our members can provide service and support to our community which will assist in the recovery it needs. If you can't give your time to such worthy causes, please consider providing financial support to these efforts or Charleston Legal Access, the Center for Heirs Property Preservation or the Charleston Mediation Center, all of which provide important advocacy or neutral services to citizens of Charleston County who cannot afford private legal counsel or mediators.

The pandemic has also impacted the events our association typically hosts for its members. The only social event we have had since the Annual Meeting was a small "Drop-In and Drop-Off" in early December to support the Lowcountry Blessing Box, which provides food and other necessities to needy families in Charleston and surrounding counties. The CLE Committee adapted to a webinar format as soon as the Supreme Court and Commission on Continuing Legal Education modified its requirements for distance learning events and we have completed 36 hours of CLE programming and have 15 more hours set prior to the reporting deadline. The Wellness Committee has also remained active in its offerings through wellness tips in the Tuesday Talk, CLE events, mindfulness and meditation programs, and the periodic Book Club programs. The Inclusion and Diversity Committee has been active in advocating for racial justice in the wake of the unnecessary deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery (along with many others before them). Although the Engagement Committee's plans to host social functions which

alternated locations throughout Charleston County had to be suspended due to the pandemic, their efforts to connect members and allow for networking included several virtual networking events. In addition to these committee efforts, the association has also engaged in an internal review/assessment of its operations in an effort to improve the performance of its operations, communications and services to members and the community. This will likely include changes to the association's website, improvements to its membership database and communications, and the redevelopment of its Member Benefit Program to name a few. It is my fervent hope that the Charleston County Bar Association will be able to return to the full array of services it has traditionally provided in 2021, particularly its seasonal socials!

The Charleston County Bar Association has made a lot of progress in the more than twenty years since my tenure as a member began, but there is still more for it to achieve. Over this period, our membership has expanded and become more diverse. Just last year, the association achieved a wonderful milestone by electing its first president of color in Immediate Past President Debra Gammons. However, that diversity must be engaged and encouraged in the efforts of our various committees, including the Executive Committee, and executive offices. As I mentioned in my introductory address at last year's Annual Meeting, I recall when the efforts and participants of the Nominating Committee were undisclosed beyond its Chair and there was no nomination period. The transition to a formal nomination process has been beneficial and I hope that it will continue to expand the opportunities available to all of our members. Over the last several years we have had strong interest in the available positions on the Executive Committee and offices from highly qualified candidates. This year is no exception with more than fourteen nominees for the four available Executive Committee seats, three of which are current members eligible for a second term. Although diversity continues to lag behind, it is my hope that through further engagement measures our committee volunteers, committee chairs, Executive Committee members and officers will more closely reflect our membership very soon.

It has been a great honor to serve as the President of the Charleston County Bar Association over the past ten months. We would not have accomplished all that we have without the hard work of the officers; the Executive Committee; our committee chairs and each committee's members; our Executive Secretary, Kim Steele; our Public Relations Consultant, Maria Aselage; and our Law Student Division volunteers. I thank each of you for your contributions.

Very truly yours,

David Wolf

Colloquy

conversations with CCBA members

Martha Kent Runey Assistant Public Defender

By Haley Marie Valente, Charleston School of Law J.D. Candidate 2021

Martha has always wanted to be a public defender and although the job is not always easy, she feels it is her purpose in life. She discusses the ups and downs of her position and the ways in which the Charleston legal community can better itself as a whole.

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How has COVID-19 changed or impacted your work on a day-to-day basis?

A lot. My 9-year-old son goes to school on upper King. I drop him off, go to work, and my 2-year-old twins are here with me. I've tried to function mostly at home. My father just finished some cancer treatment and with all these kiddos, I've tried to be very, very careful. I think I've been pretty productive. I mean, it's a pretty big mess here. There are files and things everywhere, but I think it's gone pretty well under the circumstances.

Court has been interesting. I had a client who lives in his car. He was trying to hook up five videos for court, and he somehow did it. A lot of people don't think about how much of a challenge that is for people who are hard on their luck and not in the best circumstances right now.

Many people do not tend to think of the clients who are a part of our low-income community. Those clients do not have access to things we assume everybody has readily available to them.

The fact that we can jump on the computer and order something, apply for something, attend court meetings, and anything like that is often forgotten. It's so much harder for these clients to do the same things. A legal services organization is a great place to get some real life experience.

Can you tell me about where you went to law school?

I went to the University of South Carolina for law school after I went to the College of Charleston, which I loved.

I grew up in a small town called Kingstree. My dad was a part-time public defender. When I was in middle



school, I would go to court with him and I loved it so much. Our house was like one block from his office. The courthouse was across the street from his office. My mom would just send me down there to keep me entertained.

I was so intrigued by it. I think that was when I had first thought of being a public defender. When I was in law school, I clerked during the summers at our public defender's office here in Charleston. During the school year, I clerked with the Richland County Public Defender's Office, and I just loved it. Now I've been doing it for 18 years. It's hard, and it's rewarding sometimes.

Sometimes it's just heartbreaking, but I think this is where I'm supposed to be. I can't imagine doing anything else.

When it comes to those heartbreaking and hard moments, how do you deal with them and try to keep a healthy work-life balance?

That's one of the hardest things because you see things that really weigh on you and meet so many people who are in a really bad place. Most of the people we deal with just need some help getting back on their feet. In our office we're dealing with people who have charges, but they're usually the result, especially some of the smaller charges, of having financial hardships, health issues, or mental health issues.

It's hard to forget those things. More recently I've been so busy when I get home that I have to turn my focus to my family. I've really had to tell myself that I need to put work aside for a bit and vice versa. Since I've been home doing work, it's like you never really cut off either one of them.

Can you talk more about the stigmas you may face in your job? When I expressed interest in criminal defense, the people in my family who are correctional officers were not fans.

I think there will always be that stigma that we're trying to get people off. We definitely handle legal issues and legal representation, but I think there are a lot of people out there who don't realize all we do. If they could go along with us one day and see what we really do, I think that it would change a lot of people's minds. I think we'll always deal with those perceptions and

attitudes, but I think some people can be changed if they talk to us.

What has been the proudest moment of your legal career?

My son would say this one case that involved a search and seizure issue. He says I talk about it all the time, but what I find more important and am most proud of are some of the relationships that I've formed with clients. I had one murder client who was skeptical of anybody involved in the legal system, and over the course of representation he really changed. He still writes to me. Even though he went to prison, he never turned back towards that attitude that we were working for the state or were working to put him away.

How would you describe or define what a public defender is?

I think that we are a protector of rights. We assure that every person gets the legal representation they deserve. There are so many different things our office does. There are always times when the case is very serious, but at least we can provide support to them in the jail. We have moved towards helping our clients get a plan together for when they are released. We help them with plans to tackle substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, homelessness, etc. If we can help them with those things when they're released, they may not be back in the same situation again. That not only helps them; that helps everybody.

What are some things that you think as a legal community we could maybe improve on or work on together in the future?

I think supporting programs like legal aids or homeless shelters. Any of those support groups can help us as a legal community and our clients. We have so many good programs that just do not have the funding. If we could help those programs, I think that would be the best thing we could do.

When you think about the future of your career, what do you hope to achieve?

I honestly hope that I'll still be right where I am at the public defender's office. I hope that I will continue to improve on how I represent my clients. I think being a mother has really changed the way that I treat my clients and their families. I don't think that I've treated them badly before, but I feel so concerned about their mothers or just pay more attention to what people are feeling. It's made me a more sympathetic lawyer.

How do you hope other people describe you?

I hope that people see me as a compassionate person. That's the number one thing. You always want somebody to think that you're a good lawyer, but work is not everything.

Please continue reading the Colloquy on Page 6 with an interview of Kierra Brown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mason Law Firm, P.A. with offices in Mount Pleasant and Edisto Island, SC is very proud to announce that Delaney J. Mason, Charleston School of Law 2020, SC Bar 2020, has joined the firm as an associate attorney.

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP is pleased to announce that Senior Attorney **Raymond "Ray" Burroughs** has joined their Taxation and Corporate Law practice groups.

Hall Booth Smith, P.C. welcomes attorneys **Kevin J. Anderson** and **Thomas A. D. Barrow** as associates to its office in Charleston, South Carolina.

Global law firm **K&L Gates LLP** welcomes **Paul M. Eckles** as a partner in the litigation and dispute resolution practice.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd is pleased to announce that **Marshall Allen** has joined as Special Counsel, based in the firm's Charleston office; **Todd Hess** has joined the firm's Intellectual Property team as a Shareholder; and that **Jane Bouch Stoney** has been elected a Shareholder in the firm.

Joel (Jay) Anderson Berly, IV has joined the Charleston Office of **Butler Snow**. He will practice with the firm's commercial litigation group, focusing on a wide variety of complex civil litigation matters.

Bleecker Law Firm LLC has announced several changes to its practice including a rebrand, new office and a new attorney to the firm's roster of legal counsel. The firm changed its name to **Bleecker Family Law** after undergoing a rebrand, the first since opening its doors in 1997. To accommodate its expanding team, the firm expects to be operating in its new office located at 519 Savannah Hwy in Charleston, SC, in early January 2021. **Sue Chang** joined the firm as an associate attorney in October.



ACCOLADES

[Brian Duffy](#) has been named the Honorary Consul of Ireland in Charleston.

The [International Association of Defense Counsel](#) (IADC) has announced that [Melissa Fried Spence](#), a member at Nexsen Pruet in Charleston, South Carolina, has accepted an invitation to join the IADC, the preeminent invitation-only global legal organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests.

[Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd](#) is pleased to announce that [Carter Deupree](#) is serving as Secretary of Leadership South Carolina's Board of Trustees; [Elliot Condon](#), an associate in the firm's Charleston office, has graduated from the Charleston Metro Chamber's Spring 2020 Leadership Discovery Program; and that [Bryan Kitz](#) has been selected to participate in the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Charleston Class of 2021; and that Best Lawyers®, a legal peer-review guide, has selected 15 attorneys for inclusion in The 2021 Best Lawyers in America®.

[Moore & Van Allen PLLC](#) is pleased to announce that member [Paul M. Lynch](#) has been recognized as a "Go to Lawyer" for business law by South Carolina Lawyers Weekly and that *U.S. News and World Report* and *Best Lawyers* have ranked the firm nationally and regionally on the 2021 "Best Law Firms" list.

The Charleston office of global law firm [K&L Gates](#) has been recognized in seven categories in the U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" 2021 edition.

[Gallivan White Boyd](#) is pleased to announce that the firm and seven of its attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2021 Edition of Benchmark Litigation – United States; the firm has been listed in 2021 Best Law Firms by U.S. News and World Report – Best Lawyers®; and [Grayson Smith](#) has been recognized as a Future Star.

The Princeton Review has ranked [Charleston School of Law](#) a top 10 law school in the nation with the greatest resources for women. The number 8 ranking was based on student answers to a survey question on whether all students are afforded equal treatment by students and faculty regardless of their gender. It also took into account the school's demographics. Charleston School of Law is 57 percent female and 44 percent male.

Photographic images used in this Newsletter were taken for the benefit of the Charleston County Bar Association by Raymond Colin Murray of R C Murray Photography with permission from the Charleston County Clerk of Court's Office. R C Murray Photography can be contacted at (843) 442-4614 or rcmurrayphotography@gmail.com. Other images by R C Murray Photography can be viewed at www.rcmurrayphotography.com.



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Colloquy Continues

Kierra Brown, Esq. **Associate Attorney with** **Copeland, Stair, Kingma &** **Lovell**

By **Anthony Roccograndi,**
Charleston School of Law J.D.
Candidate 2021

She's a Charleston native who truly believes there is no place like home. Attorney Kierra Brown shares the goal she set to make her home life better in 2021.

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What do you enjoy most about being an attorney?

I love being a part of the litigation team. I enjoy the complexity of each and every case that I work on. One of my favorite parts is writing and responding to dispositive motions in the case. It never ceases to amaze me when I realize how opposing counsel is interpreting and attempting to apply the law to the facts at hand.

When did you know that you had a passion for the law and want to become an attorney?

When I was 6-years-old, I knew I wanted to be an attorney. Ever since a young age I have always had a sense of fairness and the difference between right and wrong. As I became older, I knew that people deserved to be treated fairly. From then on I knew this was a career I wanted to pursue, and I have been on that path since.

Medical Malpractice and General Liability is an exciting practice. How did you decide to pursue this area of the law?

This area of the law just happened to be a great fit for me. I took an insurance law class in law school. It taught me about the tripartite relationship between assigned counsel, the client, and the insurance company. I was definitely fascinated by it and now this happens to be the dynamic of all of my cases. Once I graduated, I started working with a defense firm where I resolved lawsuits wholly through motions, practice, and mediation. Now I am working with Copeland, Stair, Kingma & Lovell and have enjoyed every second of it.

Why has your experience at Copeland, Stair, Kingma & Lovell been so great?



Copeland, Stair, Kingma & Lovell is a law firm that prioritizes the client's best interest. I love working here because their mission connects with why I wanted to become an attorney in making sure that matters are resolved fairly, equitably, and within the confines of the law. In addition, this law firm has so many great lawyers with tons of trial experience who are always willing and available to help.

When you think about your legal career, what has been a moment or legal event that you still remember to this day?

One of my favorite moments was my first argument in the United States District Court for the District of South

Carolina, Columbia Division. I was a first-year associate arguing for a motion to dismiss on four claims. This moment is special to me because it was before the Honorable Paige J. Gossett. When I heard the bailiff say 'All Rise,' Judge Gossett entered wearing her black robes and sparkling silver heels. It was such a surreal experience to have this presiding judge who embraced and displayed her femininity and individuality in court. That's not to mention, she asked the most insightful questions during the hearing to understand the issues at hand. Judge Gossett definitely reminded me that my only limitations will be the ones I set for myself. Judge Gossett ultimately dismissed two of the four claims in my client's favor.

In your opinion, what makes a successful attorney?

The greatest attribute to a successful attorney is accountability. An attorney must be accountable for their legal work. Whether that be procedurally, in following the various court rules, or substantively, in understanding how the law applies to your case.

What is the best advice you have received about your career?

The best advice I have received was from Chief Justice Beatty during the November 2017 swearing-in ceremony. Chief Justice Beatty discussed civility and that the legal field is generally adversarial in nature, but at the end of the day we are all peers. It is important to be kindhearted and understanding.

What advice do you have for future attorneys?

My greatest piece of advice for future attorneys is to challenge yourself and make the most out of your law school experience. I would say learning how to be

comfortable, thinking independently, and being able to market yourself is a close second.

Everyone has a hobby, when you are not working how do you spend your free time?

First and foremost, I love seeing my family and friends. In addition, I enjoy hosting and participating in community events. In the past my friends and I have held community events during which speakers discuss women's empowerment, the importance of goal setting, and entrepreneurship. Lastly, I enjoy shopping for new suits.

With 2021 right around the corner, do you have a personal and or professional new year's resolution?

Of course, I do. Professionally speaking, I would like to take at least two cases to trial in 2021. Personally, I'd like to complete my home gym.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Networking Social @ 5:00 pm

Speed Networking Zoom Event - presented by the CCBA Engagement Committee in an effort to get lawyers together to network and socialize. Participants will have about 2 minutes to talk about their law practice and the types of referrals in which they would be interested.

Click [Here](#) for More Info and to Register.

Access to Justice

1.5 hours credit (including 1 Hr of ethics)
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Click [Here](#) to Register.

25th Annual Probate Court Seminar

6 hours (including 1 Hr of SA/MAH & ethics)
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Click [Here](#) to Register.

Friday, February 5, 2021

What Works for Me CLE

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
6.0 Hours CLE Credit (including 1 Hr of SA/MH & ethics)

Click [Here](#) to Register.

Thursday, February 18, 2021

CCBA Annual Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

More details to come. Register at <http://bit.ly/3qrSTAY>.

Friday, February 19, 2021

Lawyer Wellness in 2021

2 hours of CLE credit (including 1 Hr of SA/MH & ethics)
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

For more information and to view the agenda, click [here](#).

Click [Here](#) to Register.



I became the Dean of Charleston School of Law on June 30, 2020, just as cases of COVID-19 were spiking in South Carolina. Taking the helm of a law school in the middle of a pandemic has been a whirlwind of an experience. Through the Summer, the Law School upgraded all of its classroom technology to facilitate a “hybrid” mode of instruction where some students and classes are online while others are in-person. Faculty participated in training in online teaching, and we learned to adapt all of our operations—from Student Services to the Library—to our new, socially distanced world. I am proud of all of our faculty, staff, and students for their hard work during this difficult semester.

Had the pandemic not occurred, I had hoped to be spending my initial months as Dean getting to know members of the local bar and bench. Charleston School of Law plays an integral role in the local legal community. Our students have performed over a half million hours of pro bono work since our founding. Members of the bar teach as members of our faculty. Graduates have run for elected office, served in government, and become associates and partners at Charleston’s leading firms. Unfortunately, I have had to put on hold visiting with all of you, but I hope that I will be able to do so soon. In the meantime, I am grateful to the Charleston Bar Association for this opportunity to introduce myself to you in writing.

I became a professor and, later, an administrator after having practiced law. I tried cases and handled appeals as a prosecutor, first in Virginia and later in my home state of New York. (Although I was born in New York, I have a personal connection to the Lowcountry—my mother has lived in Summerville for many years now.) Like my other faculty colleagues, I bring my real-world experience as a lawyer to the classroom. In fact, I am teaching Evidence this semester to 60 eager 2Ls. I have been impressed by their intelligence, writing ability, and commonsense—all critical skills for new lawyers.

While professors produce scholarship and serve important roles in their schools and communities, we are teachers at heart. I am especially proud of the faculty of my new school. They have deep practice experience and consistently receive positive reviews about their teaching and student-centered approach. The *Princeton Review* rated our faculty second in the country for accessibility in 2020 and among the top of the *Princeton Review*’s Best Professors in the nation from 2016-18.

As Dean, I am relentlessly focused on student success: ensuring that students learn the law, pass the bar, get a job, and become successful members of our profession. There is no doubt that our bar passage rate requires improvement. Addressing it is my most immediate priority. Many of the things we have done—such as significantly improving our admissions profile—will not bear fruit until those highly credentialed students graduate and sit for the bar exam. To give readers an idea of just how far we have come, our median LSAT score a few years ago was 145. This year, it is 150. What was our 75th percentile recently (148) is now our 25th percentile. We have also seen increases in the undergraduate GPAs of enrolled students.

As I said recently to students, faculty, and staff, we must do everything we can in the meantime to ensure that every student has the tools necessary to pass the bar exam. Our curriculum is now heavy with required, bar-tested subjects. Unlike many of us whose law school classes had a single final exam, students at Charleston School of Law have multiple assessments in each of their required courses. This ensures they receive regular feedback throughout the semester. We now partner with BarBri, the leading bar review company, and a BarBri review course is provided to every single student. We supplement BarBri with a host of bar review programs and workshops by our Office of Academic and Bar Success. We are launching a mentorship program for the February bar exam to insure that graduates have all the support they need during the critical bar study period. In the long-term, I hope to expand experiential learning opportunities for

students so that they graduate having learned not only the theory and foundation of the law but also how it applies in real-world situations. I have also pledged to increase the diversity of our faculty, staff, and student body, and communicate all the wonderful things going on at the Law School to the bench, bar, and broader community. You can read more about the accomplishments of the Law School's constituents by following us on the usual social media channels or by going to charlestonlaw.edu and clicking on News. Recent stories include how our students are helping with Charleston County's new Housing Court initiative and providing adult guardianship and monitoring through the Probate Court; a recent (virtual) visit from Justice Clarence Thomas to our innovative Supreme Court course; and our "Barrister Breaks" series featuring our talented faculty.

I would like to close with a word of thanks to all of the members of the local bar and judiciary who mentor

students through our Externship Program, Professionalism Series, Moot Court and Mock Trial programs, or the "Law Links" mentorship program, a pilot initiative with the Charleston County Bar Association. I am also grateful to those who have hired students or alumni as law clerks, interns, and associates. In the short time I have been Dean, I have seen first-hand how the local legal community plays an important role in helping shape the next generation of lawyers.

I look forward to the opportunity to get to know the legal community in Charleston. I wish all of you continued good health during this difficult time.

Larry Cunningham is the Dean and a Professor of Law at Charleston School of Law. He was previously a professor and administrator at St. John's University School of Law in New York, where he led that school's in increasing its employment and bar passage rates. He is married to Jonnathan Kessler; they live in Charleston with their puggle, Lexi. Dean Cunningham can be reached at lcunningham@charlestonlaw.edu.



The CCBA wishes to thank Palmetto Payment Solutions for partnering with the association to facilitate credit card processing for our members to conveniently pay their dues or other transactions fees related to our activities. Feel free to contact them about your firm's processing needs.

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Pro Bono Moments

By: Cody A. Tetteimer, Esq.

COVID-19 posed a serious public health threat during its emergence in South Carolina in the spring of 2020, and it was readily apparent that the spread of the virus would have legal repercussions for residents of the state. As Charleston County is one of the top five most populated counties in the state, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services ("CPBLS") recognized that the low-income community it served would suffer the lion's share of the legal issues resulting from the pandemic. As a result of the increased demand for legal aid in Charleston

County, CPBLS in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Charleston County Government and Community Development created a new grant-funded COVID-19 Legal Response Team dedicated exclusively to representing low-income residents of Charleston County whose legal issues are a direct result or have been exacerbated by the pandemic. In June 2020, I was brought on as the Legal Response Team Attorney along with Laura Lima who serves as the Legal Response Team Paralegal, and together we are working to assist with identifying and addressing the various legal issues resulting from the pandemic.

For most of 2020, the increased demand for legal aid resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has primarily been tenants facing evictions due to non-payment of rent as a result of lost wages, reduced hours, or separation from employment. As North Charleston had already led the United States in eviction filing rates before the pandemic, the exacerbation by the pandemic made this area the majority of the demand for my services. Due to the same employment and income issues, there has been an unprecedented increased demand for assistance with obtaining unemployment benefits, housing, and employment. Additionally, due to the nature of the pandemic, there has been an increase in front-line workers and individuals seeking assistance to complete estate planning documents.

I provide advice, brief services, and direct representation in civil legal areas impacted by COVID-19, including but not limited to housing law, estate planning, consumer law, public benefits, family law, and other legal areas resulting from the pandemic. As long as the legal matter is a direct result of the pandemic, and the applicant meets income and residency eligibility, it eligible for my services through CPBLS. Thanks to partnerships in the community with social service organizations and municipal agencies, I have been able to serve my client's legal needs and assist them in stabilizing their lives. This multi-disciplinary approach means that I can address any legal issues, and our community partners can assist our clients with their financial in an effort to support them and prevent additional legal issues in the future. This collaborative approach has led to sustained support for clients throughout the duration of the pandemic. In addition to working with legal services partners, volunteer attorneys, and community organizations,

I participate in the Charleston County Housing Court Pilot Project which provides representation to low-income residents of Charleston County facing eviction. Throughout these unprecedented times where the Charleston County Magistrate Courts have faced record eviction filings, the Housing Court Pilot Project participants and volunteers have stepped up to meet the challenge and provide tenants on the brink of eviction with *pro bono* representation in an effort to prevent unlawful evictions and keep residents housed during the pandemic.

One of my clients was the primary caregiver for his wife and had lost his job due to the pandemic. Through my services, we were able to avoid foreclosure on his mobile home and get him caught up on his rent in arrears on his lot, therefore preventing the eviction filed by his landlord. Additionally, through a community partnership, we were able to get him a case manager who assisted him in applying for SNAP benefits and planning financially for the year ahead so he would not find himself at risk of losing housing again. This is just one story of the nearly 100 clients our team has helped over the past six months.

If you would like to learn more about the legal issues our team is addressing in relation to COVID-19 or provide information about how you or your organization can get involved, please feel free to contact me for more information. Additionally, if you'd like to learn more about Housing Court Pilot Project, regardless of your experience or area of practice, I encourage you to contact me at CTettemer@charlestonprobono.org, **843-853-6456** for more information on getting involved and donating your time to those in need during this housing crisis.



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Many thanks to Shantel Middleton for laying out this edition of the Charleston County Bar Association Newsletter on behalf Alexis McCumber and all of her assistance on past editions. We appreciate her dedication to our bar. *David Wolf*

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

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