



G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

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Living our Lives by Debra J. Gammons

This time of year is an ideal time for us to evaluate our health programs. We spend so much time taking care of our clients, our firms, our staff, and our families, that we spend too little time taking care of ourselves.

The weather is warm; we have more daylight. If you have not started an exercise and nutrition program, see your doctor and begin one today. Begin by writing down your goals - how often do you want to exercise; any equipment or clothing that is needed to begin, number of inches you want to lose; number of pounds you want to lose. Write it down; start today.

I love to run! And running is a simple activity that requires little gear - a great pair of shoes, shorts, tee shirt, and - go! I would love to run every day if life were not so pressing. Running is freeing. After being in the office most of the day, to get outside and run is like when you were a little child - carefree and happy. Running releases stress. It builds and strengthens our muscles. It produces more capillaries that aid in the flow of blood in our bodies. Running clears our heads. Issues that were menacing become small and workable. Being out in the fresh air is liberating. What is the best way for you to live your life? By walking or biking? By climbing, swimming, or lifting weights?

We have been blessed by these magnificent specimens we call our bodies. By exercising, we say, "Thank you." By putting premium food and drink - fuel - in our bodies, we say, "Thank you." I am proud of people I know who have turned their lives around by exercising, eating nutritious foods, and losing weight. They have taken control of their lives by taking control of their health.

And along with our eating nutritious foods, drinking water, and exercising regularly, positive thinking is a necessary part of our health program. I am dismayed by the number of people who are negative thinkers. The pessimists. In meetings, in Court, no matter the setting - their pessimism is almost stifling. What does it take to think positively? One has to believe that life is full of possibilities; that we have the power to change our lives or our surroundings in some way if we are dissatisfied with current conditions; that optimism brings about more changes than pessimism.

Let this be the time in your life that you re-charge your life - get outside

201st edition
June 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 25: Summer Associate Luncheon
- July 25: Greenville Drive Baseball Game

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and exercise. Let that child in you breathe fresh air and play. Smile. Think good thoughts. Be courteous. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. Throw away the junk food and sodas. Salads, vegetables, fruits, water are calling your name.

Exercise every day. Forget the elevator - take the stairs. Walk or bike instead of driving the car. Rake the yard.

When we take care of ourselves we are better able to take care of others and our law professions. We become our best selves. We have to "sharpen the saw." When we exercise, eat nutritious foods, drink water, and think positively, we are sharpening the saw. We are honing our bodies and minds to meet the demands of our daily lives. Our bodies, our minds, our spirits are sharpened when we take care of ourselves. Start living your life today. Do not wait. We are not guaranteed tomorrow.

**We have several new features this year.
Please submit your favorite quotes and memories to
gbarnews@charter.net**

DID YOU KNOW??

Before the restructuring of the South Carolina Criminal Code in 1994, the crime of Forgery was divided into two levels. Forgery in an amount greater than \$20.00 was a felony, punishable with a maximum term of imprisonment of 7 years. Forgery in an amount less than \$20.00 was a misdemeanor . . . punishable with a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years

Submitted by Warren Mowry, Attorney at Law

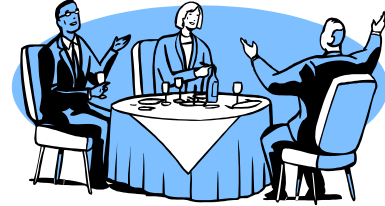
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July 25

Summer Associate Luncheon

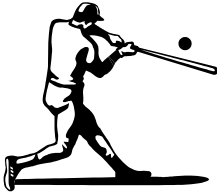
12 noon
 Poinsett Club
 \$25 per person
 Speaker: Judge Deborah Faulkner
 RSVP by July 20



The Young Lawyers and the Greenville County Bar invite you to a Greenville Drive Baseball Game

Game begins at 7:00 pm
FREE!!!!

Game ticket, beer and food are included
 Right Field Patio of West End Field
 Families Welcome
 RSVP no later than July 10



RSVP for both events to Melinda at gbarnews@charter.net or 297-1599
 Send checks for the Luncheon to GCBA, PO Box 10145, Greenville, SC 29603

QUOTATIONS THAT INSPIRE

The Road to happiness lies in two simple principles: find what it is that interests you and that you can do well, and when you find it, put your whole soul into it – every bit of energy and ambition and natural ability you have.

—John D. Rockefeller, III

Submitted by Christine Gantt-Sorenson, Attorney at Law

Job Opportunities

McAngus Goudelock & Courie, LLC, a regional law firm with five locations across the Carolinas, seeks full-time Workers' Compensation Associates with 2-5 years of workers' compensation or similar litigation experience for our Columbia, Greenville and Charleston, SC offices. Our firm offers a dynamic work environment, competitive compensation, 100% paid family health and other lucrative fringe benefits. Potential signing bonus and allowances for moving expenses. Salary considerations consistent with experience. Contact Mundi George at PO Box 12519, Columbia, SC 29211 or email her at mgeorge@mgclaw.com.

Bradford Neal Martin & Associates, PA in Greenville, SC is seeking a full-time litigation associate with 3 - 5 years of experience. The firm has a diverse litigation practice including business litigation, construction litigation, employment law and commercial insurance defense. Strong courtroom skills are required and applicants must have excellent academic credentials. Salary and benefits will be based on experience. All inquires will be kept confidential. Please send resume and cover letter to Bradford N. Martin at bmartin@bnmlaw.com.

LIFE IN THE LAW

“The Electronic Age”

I believed society was totally modernized in the late 1970s. We had calculators, VCR's and cable television. In undergraduate school in 1979 I created a computer program with IBM punch-cards. By the end of Law School we were able to do a keyword search at the computer terminal in the Law Library.

When I started work as a public defender in Aiken County we still had to go down the street to Charles E. Simons, Jr., Federal Courthouse to do research. We dictated motions on a Dictaphone and handwrote others. We drew diagrams for the jury on a chalkboard. By the time I was Public Defender for Aiken County I was typing my own letters and pleadings on a word processor and the prosecution was trying to introduce videotaped testimony of child victims.

When I came back to Greenville as an Assistant Solicitor cases were beginning to be computer managed and e-mail was starting. Pagers were becoming prevalent and I had one. I quickly learned how bothersome these devices were when during opening statements in front of Judge Pyle my pager vigorously vibrated. I promptly looked at the audience as if it wasn't me and fortunately Judge Pyle simply said "Make sure your pagers are off." Greenville County Forensics took photographs that took weeks to develop and were in black and white to not show blood.

Pagers were rabid when I became the Greenville County Attorney and County Council meetings chirped, clicked and buzzed for a while. When I became Deputy Solicitor cases were extensively managed by computer but we had twice the paperwork to make sure the "puters" didn't mess up. I tried the first DNA case in the Up-state. SLED was still working on its database. I got my first cell phone which was in this huge bag, had a huge antenna and probably fried my brain with electro-magnetic radiation. Courtrooms vibrated like a cheap bed in a motel.

When I went into private practice I was determined to take advantage of all this technology. Cell phones starting vibrating, singing and wailing in court. I had a laptop and could access the office documents and e-mails anywhere in the world. The Supreme Court issued orders of contempt for having electronic devices on in court.

I defended a case against a man for using the Internet to sell his urine. The Internet was opened and presented to the Jury by PowerPoint projectors. I defended a Murder case and all the pictures were electronic. We presented a videotape through PowerPoint of the route the witnesses took before calling the police and displayed detailed electronic aerial photographs of the crime scene. All types of modern forensics poured into evidence. Everybody was "lapped" in the courtroom.

I had to take classes to file cases electronically in Federal Court. All research is Internet based. All the Judges have laptops. Everybody has a website and e-mail. Aerial photographs are essential to automobile accident cases involving an intersection. If there's no DNA in a criminal case the jurors roll their eyes. If there's no video show the jurors go to sleep.

Now I have a cell phone that accesses the internet for research. It records dictation, it receives e-mail, pages and calls me, it takes pictures and videos. I can't turn it off - it will only go into "flight mode." I leave it in the car when I go to court and when I get home. I never touch a computer except at the office.

Instead of downloading all my e-mails and phone messages while on vacation, I now leave my laptop at home. I try to lose my phone and hope its battery dies. But most of all I wish I'd never seen that IBM punch card in 1979.

Submitted by Robbie Childs, Attorney at Law.

AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

Made by Some Friends of Preston Reid

The Premise: Detected early, colon cancer is almost always curable. Detected late, it is not. Earlier this year that point was made personally to many of us when we lost our friend and colleague Preston Reid. In all likelihood Preston would still be with us if he had gotten a colonoscopy. As a tribute to Preston, and in hopes of encouraging members of the Greenville County Bar to get colonoscopies when they should, some friends of Preston are making members of the Greenville Bar an offer that cannot be refused.

The Offer: The first twenty-five Greenville County lawyers who gets his or her first colonoscopy this year will receive a \$75 dinner certificate for dinner at one of Greenville's finest restaurants.

The Details: The dinner certificates have been delivered to the Greenville County Bar office. Email the Bar at GBarNews@charter.net and confirm you have gotten your first colonoscopy and the Executive Secretary will send you your certificate.

CLE Credit: This program qualifies for 0 hours of CLE credit, however, it will improve your chances of reaching age 60 when you become exempt from the mandatory CLE requirement.



Greenville County Bar Association's Group Photograph is on display in the Lawyer's Room at the Courthouse.

To order a copy, call Ernest Rawlins Photography
at 271-0002 or go to

www.ernestrawlins.com

Click on Clients: view your order

Click Weddings/Events

Click Bar Association

(actual picture is much clearer than it appears on website)

Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville

LSPG's July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at the Poinsett Club.

For reservations or membership inquiries contact: Myra Culbertson at 239-5959 or mculbertson@wcsr.com.

Please visit our website, www.lspg.org for updates and additional information.

LSPG celebrates 49 years of service in July.

LSPG is the local one stop source dedicated to the training and development of legal staff.

Office space for Lease

**643 Academy Street
Across from BI-LO Center**

**Approximately 1700 SF
2 baths and break room
Plenty of parking
Convenient to everything**

\$1500 per month

Contact: 864-593-6378

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH THE GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM:

CLE Credit Offered

Westlaw and the Friends of the Greenville County Library System invite area attorneys and paralegals to **Lunch and Learn** at the Hughes Main Library located at 25 Heritage Green Place on July 24 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Jennifer Bruce, Westlaw Account Manager, will present a training session on the use of the Westlaw database. Jennifer can offer 1.0 hour of CLE credit to attorneys who attend. Library staff will present information about access to print and online legal research resources provided by the Greenville County Library System. Lunch will be available. Please call 242-5000 x2256 or x2257 on or before July 20 to reserve a space. Please contact Jennifer Bruce at 621-7230 or jennifer.bruce@thomson.com for information about the CLE credit.

Announcements

Shonna Felkel has taken a position as General Counsel for TIC Properties, LLC.

Rodney Pillsbury and Jack Read are proud to announce the merger of their law practices and the opening of their new office. Pillsbury & Read, P.A. is located at 1204-A East Washington St., Greenville, SC

29601. Their phone number is (864) 241-9828, and their fax number is (864) 241-9818. Rodney and Jack have combined to expand their emphasis in civil trial litigation; including personal injury, products liability, commercial, and consumer issues. Jack Read also has a developed criminal trial practice, focusing on federal criminal defense work.

Available Office Space

4,100 square feet. Available on Cleveland Street across from the Chamber of Commerce. Will consider subdividing. Call John Devlin at 242-4050 or Lora Johnson at 236-8670.

For rent- Office space in the historic Davenport Apartments, corner of Church and Washington Streets and across from Federal Courthouse. This space is ideal for attorneys and is the only office space allowed within the Davenport. Convenient parking is available. Contact Bud Babb at 242-6360 to discuss your space needs, rate, to view the office space, etc.

Office space available for rent. 406 Pettigru Steet. Good location. Off street parking available. Basement file storage. Utilities included. Good spot for sole practitioner. Call 232-9700 for more information.

WALK TO COURTHOUSE. 2 OFFICES FOR RENT. Approx. 200 sq. ft each. Access to reception area, conf. room/library, kitchen, etc. Other amenities including ample parking. 408 N. Church St. Call 242-3271.

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE, 512 East North Street, Greenville, South Carolina 29601, Across from Bi-Lo Center, \$600.00 per month, All utilities paid, Copier and Fax available, Attractive for sole practitioner and secretary, Call 233-6224 or 233-0663.

Tommy Thomason Award Nominations Requested

The Tommy Thomason Award was established by the Greenville County Bar Association in 1993 to honor a Greenville lawyer whom best exemplifies the wonderful qualities of Tommy Thomason:

- compassionate and sensitive to all people regardless of their station in life;
- friendly, unassuming, humble with a warm, genuine and abiding faith in all people;
- strong personal values, optimism and faith;
- positive diplomacy that works to minimize conflict and resolve disputes in the least hostile manner;
- unshakable integrity, coupled with an instinct for fairness;
- dedicated to community interest, public service and improvement of the community;
- loves the practice of law and pursues the practice as a service to people;
- dedicated to the improvement of the legal system and justice for all people;
- widely respected and admired by peers for personal and professional achievement.

There is no requirement that a recipient be selected each year; however, if you have someone to nominate please send a written nomination by Friday, August 31, to GCBA, PO Box 10145, Greenville, SC 29603 or gbarnews@charter.net. The Tommy Thomason Award, if awarded this year, will be presented at a luncheon in November.



Verdicts

Caption: Carolyn Moore vs. Roger Hughes
Case No. 2006-CP-23-0860
Attorney for the Plaintiff: Jeff Ezell
Attorney for the Defendant: Wilson Sheldon
Cause of Action: Auto Accident
Verdict for the Defendant

Caption: Sharon Richey vs. Kristy Harwell
Case No. 2006-CP-23-0442
Attorney for the Plaintiff: Tom Ervin & Chad Bacon
Attorney for the Defendant: Marcus McGarr
Cause of Action: Auto Accident
Verdict for the Plaintiff: \$33,599.90 actual damages
and \$1,400.20 as the guardian and natural parent of
Tatayana Richey

Caption: Towana Johnson vs. Shirley Garnett dba ASK–
Shirley Garnett
Case No. 2006-CP-23-1720
Attorney for Plaintiff: Theo Mitchell
Attorney for Defendant: Charles Howard
Cause of Action: Contract Dispute
Verdict for the Defendant

Caption: Chad Hinson v. John Finger Motors, Inc., and
Mazda North American Operations
Case No.06-CP-23-01468
Attorney for Plaintiff - David Alford
Attorney for Defendants - Sandi R. Wilson
Cause of Action - Breach of Warranty
Verdict for Defendants

Verdicts provided by the office of
Paul Wickensimer, Clerk of Court
and counsel

RUMINATIONS

by Debra J. Gammons

G. ROSS ANDERSON, Jr. **United States District Court Judge**



PART II

Judge Anderson, Why have you stayed in Anderson?

I love the people. The people have been very, very good to me.

How has the town changed since you began practicing law?

When I started we had about 36 attorneys and everybody had a general practice. Today, there are about 180.

Did you ever want to go back to D.C.?

No, I never wanted to go back.

Did you do anything controversial while you were in the Legislature?

We had the jail in Anderson that was built in the 1890s; it was in horrible shape. We built a new jail. This was not popular with the voters. The voters were upset about the stainless steel kitchen at the jail; most of them did not have a stainless steel kitchen in their homes. At stump meetings, the opposition would yell, "How many of you have stainless steel kitchens?!" Everyone lived in the Mill village, and, of course, we had primitive fixtures.

What were stump meetings like?

They were exciting. We would stand on a flatbed trailer that was attached to a tractor trailer. I spoke at 52 stump meetings throughout the county.

Why did you not continue as an elected official?

I wasn't elected.

What happened?

The voters elected five people from Anderson County. I came in sixth.

Were you angry?

Was I angry? I was furious. I could not figure out why the people did not want my services any longer.

While you were in office, what was your salary?

We made \$1,000 per year. The session ran from January through June.

When did you get married?

I got married in 1951 before getting out of the Air Force. I have been married 55 years.

What type of work did your wife do?

She worked for the Highway Department. After one year working, she hasn't worked since. I have a loyal, faithful wife.

How many children do you have?

One child - G. Ross Anderson, III; he practices law here in Anderson. I also have a grandson; he's fourteen years old. I'm thrilled about him. He is a Junior Scholar and will be at Clemson this summer.

Is he interested in practicing law?

I'm trying to steer him in the legal field. He told me, "I don't want to be a lawyer but I want to be a Judge." I said, "Let me explain things to you, son."

Do you do a great deal with him?

I have taken him to Europe. He enjoyed the architecture.

What disturbs you most about our profession?

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Lawyers who are unethical to the core; who will do anything to win. It is directly opposite to how I was raised and taught.

Do you think the media plays a role in the image of attorneys?

Most lawyers are honorable and truthful; they are upright and dedicated to the profession. But the media gives attention to the most rotten lawyers and paints with a broad brush - giving all attorneys a bad name. It keeps us on the defensive.

How would you compare practicing law now versus when you first started?

It's getting to be more difficult to be a lawyer. I got to blame this on the judiciary. Rules have become so tight and so strict. They have taken the fun out of practicing law. We have overdone the Rules of Procedure, Filing Rules, Deposition Rules. A big firm with a lot of lawyers and a lot of employees can overwhelm the other party. The Discovery Rules have run their course. Rules change so often; it is difficult for me to keep up with them.

Why did you go into practice on your own instead of working with an established firm?

When I got out of Law School, the top offer I got was \$250.00 a month. The going rate was \$200.00 per month. I thought I could do that by myself. My first month out of law school, I made \$637.00. And I bought a new Dodge for \$1320.00.

What do you do for fun?

Being a Judge is a delightful profession. People are amusing. I'm a great people-watcher. I'm in a position where I can really do that.

What do you think needs to happen to rid the world of racial discrimination?

Everyone working together and seeing each other as human beings. It will take time.

What was the racial climate like in Anderson when you were growing up?

In the Mill village, you had Black employees and Black people living together. We played baseball together. We swam together. Living in the Mill village placed all of us at a lower social level. Off the Mill village, I was treated differently. I was the child of a millworker - a "linthead."

How did that make you feel?

Hell, I never let it bother me.

How are you treated now?

They don't call me linthead anymore.

I think it is sad that only 7% of attorneys in South Carolina are Black and only 24% are females. How can we increase the number of attorneys of different colors and female attorneys?

The law knows no color; it knows no gender. We need to give a little more guidance and leniency to bring others to law. I have always worked with people of different colors and nationalities.

What do you think of our system of electing Judges?

I think we have a good system now. It needs some fine-tuning. We can continue with having the Legislature appoint or we can have the Governor appoint. Popular elections in Georgia, Texas do not seem to work; big business can control the judiciary.

What have been your guiding principles?

Be honest and forthright.

Were you taught these principles when you were little?

I wasn't taught them; they were beaten into me. I learned them through my rear end.

Did you have any siblings?

I had two brothers who died early on. I grew up with two sisters. I did not have to wash dishes or sweep the floors but I had to take care of the cows.

Cows? How many?

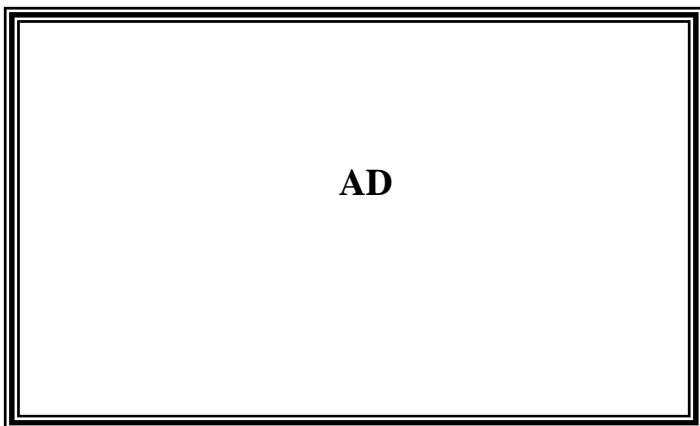
(Continued from page 9)

Two, sometimes three. I had to clean out the cow stalls. But I never made a bed in my life.

What has been your guide in sentencing?

To listen carefully. I want to understand what happened. Why would a young mother with two young children sell methamphetamine? Why rob a bank? You know you will get caught or killed. Money is motivating.

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publication.***