



# G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

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## The Power to Change by Debra J. Gammons

Every morning I awaken expecting something awesome to happen. Most days the spectacular events I expect to happen - do not. Then, at the end of the day, I remind myself of the miracles I overlooked. I awoke; I was able to get out of bed and drive to my office. I was able to read cases; talk on the telephone; and answer legal questions. I was able to eat lunch without assistance; then, go for a run. One day when I was running, I stopped at an intersection waiting for the cars to go through and the light to change. I was thinking about the heat and I was frustrated about the light (I did not want to wait any longer). A man in a wheelchair came up next to me and said, "I wish I could run." I looked over at this man and saw that he was in a wheelchair and his legs below his knees had been amputated. I smiled at him; then, I started to run again as the light changed. During the remainder of my run, the heat did not seem as hot; I did not seem as tired. I could run. I could run! And I was running.

The miracles I expect each morning happen all day long but I tend to forget them or I see them without acknowledging them. Besides the miracles we personally experience, we, too, are able to create spectacular events in the lives of others. What would happen if we took the time to see others as fellow human beings - not as female or male, not as Negro or Caucasian, not as Northerner or Southerner, not as heterosexual or homosexual, not as non-English speakers or English speakers? What would happen if we treated each person we encountered (client, employee, friend, spouse, neighbor, cashier, salesperson) the way we wanted to be treated? What would happen if we tried each day to perform some act that would be a catalyst for positive change in South Carolina? What would happen if we used our talents, skills, and intelligence to create this change?

I love being an attorney. Yes, the work is tremendous. The days are long. Sometimes, we receive no thanks, even when we get what our clients wanted. Yet, I can think of no other profession that has created change in this country and the ability to create more change than the legal profession. Am I proud to be an attorney? Yes. Do I view my being an attorney as a duty to our country? Yes. If we did all that we possibly could to make this country better, this country would be better. Each of us would be creating change by our actions.

202nd edition  
September 2007

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 27:  
Fall Social
- October 1:  
Public Defenders Selection Panel Notice
- November 2:  
Family Court Liaison Meeting
- December 6:  
Christmas Party & Annual Meeting
- December 20:  
Memorial Service

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## Announcements

The law firm of **McAngus Goudelock & Courle, LLC** is pleased to announce that member **Doc Morgan** has been selected by his peers as among the best attorneys in his respective field of practice in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Morgan graduated from The Citadel and received his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He practices in the areas of insurance law, personal injury, arson and insurance fraud, bad faith, premises liability, products liability, and health care law.

More than two thirds of the members of **Wyche Burgess Freeman & Parham** law firm have been selected by their peers as among the best attorneys in their respective fields of practice in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers In America*. The Wyche firm is ranked first in Greenville, South Carolina, for the number of lawyers included in the *Best Lawyers* listings, as well as the number of attorneys selected in Commercial Litigation. Wyche also ranked first in Greenville and the entire State for the number of attorneys selected in the Corporate Law practice area. Five Wyche attorneys have been included in *Best Lawyers* for ten years or more, and David Freeman has been listed for over twenty years. The 2008 edition, which is currently on line and will be published in hardback later this fall, includes: **Eric B. Amstutz, Mark W. Bakker, Gregory J. English, David L. Freeman, J. Theodore Gentry, Cary H. Hall, Jr., Frank S. Holleman III, William W. Kehl, Wallace K. Lightsey, Lesley R. Moore, John C. Moylan III, Carl F. Muller, James C. Parham, Jr., Henry L. Parr, Jr., Troy A. Tessler, James I. Warren III, Marshall Winn, and C. Thomas Wyche.**

**John B. Hardaway, III**, a Member (partner) in **Nexsen Pruet's** Greenville office, was one of only two U.S. delegates to attend the Federation Internationale Des Conseils en Propriete Industrielle (FIPCI) Executive Council Meeting in Amsterdam. Topics discussed at the event, which included representatives of more than 24 associations globally, included establishment of a grace period for worldwide harmonization and the European community novelty provisions, which appear to discriminate against non-European inventors.

**McAngus Goudelock & Courle** is pleased to announce that **Isaac "Ike" Johnson** has joined the firm's Greenville office.

**Leatherwood Walker Todd & Mann, P.C.** is pleased to announce that **Matthew M. Staab** has joined the firm as an associate attorney practicing in the areas of Transportation and Insurance Litigation. Mr. Staab is a cum laude graduate of Furman University with a B.A. in History and Political Science. After graduating from the West Virginia University College of Law in 2006, he spent a year as the Law Clerk to the Honorable Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., Chief United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

**Donna and Daly** has changed its name to **Donna and Hurley, A Professional Corporation** and has opened an office in Greer, South Carolina. The firm is also please to announce the additiona of **Sarah Day Hurley**. Hurley will manage the firm's Greer office.

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

## **Greenville County Bar Association**

**Fall Social  
Thursday, September 27  
5:30 pm  
Overlook Grill  
\$15 per person**

**RSVP by Monday, September 24 to  
gbarnews@charter.net or 297-1599**

## **DID YOU KNOW??**

**Charlotte E. Ray was born in 1850 and died in 1911. Even though she was of multi-racial (Black, European, and American Indian) ancestry, she was considered Black and is known as the first Black female lawyer in the United States. She taught at Howard University for two years and earned her Law Degree in 1872. She was the first female to be admitted to the Bar in the District of Columbia; she was admitted in 1872 after the District of Columbia changed its laws to omit “male” from the requirements for the Bar. Ms. Ray opened her own law practice but being perceived as a “colored woman lawyer,” public prejudice worked against her and she was unable to sustain a successful private practice. She moved back to New York and taught in public schools. She attended the Annual Convention of the National Woman’s Suffrage Association and was active in the National Association of Colored Women.**

**- [www.womenshistory.about.com](http://www.womenshistory.about.com)**

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:bmartin@bnmlaw.com).

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## Guest Article by Meliah Bowers, Wyche Burgess Freeman & Parham, P.A.

September 14, 2007

### Supreme Court Implements New Business Court Pilot Program

The South Carolina Supreme Court, by order of the Chief Justice, recently announced the implementation of a new “Business Court” pilot program. Business Court is a specialized docket within the circuit court’s common pleas docket created to manage complex business, corporate, and commercial litigation matters. Accordingly, litigants will not be required to waive their rights to a jury trial to have access to the Business Court.

Many states, including California, New York, and North Carolina, have implemented similar programs in their circuit courts with much success. The successful execution of the Business Court pilot program in South Carolina could provide many advantages to businesses involved in litigation. Those advantages include: (1) enhanced consistency, predictability and accuracy of decisions on business law issues made by judges with a particular interest and level of expertise in complex business litigation; (2) more efficient case management; (3) increased use of business-focused alternative dispute resolution; and (4) publication of court orders which could assist counsel in determining how the court may apply certain business law principles to similar issues in their cases. Some of the states have reported that the existence of a business court has actually impacted companies’ decisions to locate or remain in their states. Successful implementation of our Business Court pilot program could produce similar results in South Carolina.

The Business Court pilot program will launch exclusively in three counties: Charleston, Greenville, and Richland Counties. The Supreme Court has designated one judge from each of the three counties to preside over the Business Court. The Honorable Roger Young is designated as Charleston County’s Business Court judge. The Honorable Edward Miller will preside over Business Court in Greenville County. And the Honorable Michelle Childs will handle the Business Court Docket in Richland County.

Only certain types of cases may be heard in Business Court. Cases eligible for transfer to the Business Court docket include civil matters filed after October 1, 2007 in which the principal claim is made pursuant to: (1) the South Carolina Business Corporation Act of 1988; (2) the South Carolina Uniform Securities Act of 2005; (3) South Carolina Code of Laws Title 36, Chapter 8 concerning the Uniform Commercial Code Investment Securities laws; (4) South Carolina Code of Laws Title 39, Chapter 3 concerning Trusts, Monopolies, and Restraints of Trade; (5) the South Carolina Trade Secrets Act, (6) South Carolina Code of Laws Title 39, Chapter 15 concerning Labels and Trademarks; or (7) other cases as designated by the Chief Justice. Meeting this eligibility requirement does not ensure that your case will be heard in Business Court. Only those cases approved by the Chief Justice will be transferred to the Business Court docket.

There are two ways to get approval for the transfer of your case to Business Court. First, the case may be approved and assigned to the docket, *sua sponte*, by the Chief Justice. Alternatively, counsel may request approval and assignment of the case to the Business Court by completing SCCA BC Form 101 and submit it to the designated Business Court judge no later than 180 days after the commencement of the action. The Business Court judge then makes a recommendation to the Chief Justice for final approval.

The Business Court pilot program will be effective for two years. At that time, the Supreme Court will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and whether the program should be extended to other judicial circuits.

For more information, go to the South Carolina Supreme Court’s website: [www.sccourts.org](http://www.sccourts.org).

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### **RECEPTION FOR JUDGES AND GREENVILLE COUNTY LAWYERS**

**There will be a reception for Greenville county attorneys and judges at The Sawmill At North Main on Tuesday, November 13, from 6 – 8 p.m. In addition to having fun with our fellow attorneys and their spouses, there will be a brief presentation to introduce a local charity which was founded by long-standing members of our legal community.**

**Clement's Kindness Fund for the Children was started in memory of Clement F. Haynsworth, III, who died in 1998. A brief presentation will explain how Clement's Kindness funds are used to help the children whose lives are the most fragile—those who are fighting the battle with cancer and other serious blood disorders.**

**Please call Marie Horton (241-1802) by November 5, if you will attend the reception for all judges and all Greenville county lawyers on Tuesday, November 13.**

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## Verdicts

**Caption: Alex Kiriakides, Jr. vs. Turner Construction, Institutional Resources, LLC, and Greenville Co. School District**

**Case No. 2006-CP-23-1089**

**Cause of Action: Trespass**

**Attorney for the Plaintiff: Robbie Childs**

**Attorney for the Defendants: Scott Bradley**

**Verdict for the Plaintiff: \$3,000 nominal damages and \$625,000 punitive damages**

**Caption: Donald Terry Campbell vs. Clarence Vestor Nelson**

**Case No. 2006-CP-23-1260R**

**Cause of Action: Wreck**

**Attorney for the Plaintiff: Dallas D. Ball**

**Attorney for the Defendant: Rusty Harter**

**Verdict for the Defendant**

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

## QUOTATIONS THAT INSPIRE

I am not judged by the number of times I fail, but by the number of times I succeed; and the number of times I succeed is in direct proportion to the number of times I can fail and keep on trying.

- Tom Hopkins

Submitted by Debra Gammons, Attorney at Law

## 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 Johnstone at 236-8670.

**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 park-

ing. 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.**

**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.

# RUMINATIONS

by Debra J. Gammons

## Amy Sutherland Attorney at Law



Amy, why did you choose the legal profession?

**From the time I was a little girl being a lawyer was something I thought I wanted to do.**

What about the profession made you want to be a part of it?

**Being able to defend yourself or others using your mind and verbal skills. I was one of five children; I had to do a lot of advocating for myself to be recognized.**

Were any of your family members attorneys?

**No. My parents were wonderful post-Depression stories. Neither of them had the financial ability to go to college.**

What did they do?

**My Mom worked at Joe Syracuse Grocery Store on Coffee Street. My Dad delivered produce to the store. Then they got married and opened a competitive produce market at the Farmers' Market. They sold wholesale produce to groceries and restaurants, but their biggest customer was the Winn-Dixie stores.**

How did this affect you?

**I grew up in produce work. Since I was twelve years old, I worked in my parents' business. If I was not in school or participating in a school or church activity, I had to work.**

Did you resent having to work?

**Yes. But it was a shared resentment with my siblings. What I tell my children when I want them to do something they do not want to do is that it builds character. That is what working did for me. I loaded trucks; I operated the forklift; and I worked in the office. Since my Mother worked ALL the time, I even was given a lot of tasks to run our household at a pretty early age. At age 11 or 12, I grocery shopped and went to department stores and bought clothes for other**

**family members. But these tasks were fun, because I was making decisions and exerting a lot of independence.**

Why did you do that and not the older children?

**I don't know. I never thought about that. I guess because my older sister and brother were away at school. Since I could not drive when I became my Mother's "personal assistant," Rob, who lived on my parents' property, would drive me to buy the groceries and run other errands.**

Why did this man live on your parents' property?

**Rob came to work for my parents when he was pretty old. He never married, and he had no children. He had been a caretaker for a widow lady before that, and I guess she died. I don't know exactly how he came to live with us, but my parents had known him through his former employer. Rob would go to the business early and open up. In the winter he would put out the "smudge pots." He was like a member of our family, and my son's first name is Robert in honor of this wonderful man.**

Smudge pots?

**Yes. They were kerosene heaters that were used in farm fields and outdoor worksites. You would put your hands to them to get warm.**

Where did you go to High School?

**Christ School. I was part of the first graduating class. Twenty-five students! The High School was opened in 1969.**

Are any of your graduating class attorneys?

**Nancy Page Bridges and Dalby Chandler are attorneys. Other classmates were Scott Timmons Hipp, Christie Timmons, Rip Parks, Mary Jane Jacques, and Randy Thompson.**

Why Christ Church School?

**My Mother had this idea that she wanted all of her children to go to private schools. It wasn't because she thought anything negative about public schools, because she was a graduate of Greenville High School. But her early education was at Saint Mary's Catholic School. Back in her day, Saint Mary's had scholarships for poor children and my Mother benefited from that and was**

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**grateful. She went through nine grades and did not have to pay for it.**

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities in High School?

**I was the managing editor of the newspaper for three years. I was a cheerleader and I played volleyball and basketball.**

Which sport did you like the best?

**Basketball. I also played church league basketball for St. Mary's. Our rivals were the Baptists. First Baptist Church.**

Where did you go to undergraduate school?

**Emory.**

Why Emory?

**It was in Atlanta – the big city. My Mother allowed me to apply to only three colleges, and one of those had to be Furman which was her choice. I applied to Furman, University of Georgia, and Emory. I was accepted to all three. Naturally, I did not want to attend Furman because it was forced upon me. So I chose Atlanta for the big city.**

How was Emory?

**I did not like it. It was a different school with no athletic programs and there was fierce competition in the sciences due to the high number of pre-med students. This combination of factors did not make Emory a friendly school. My freshman year, students from New Jersey and New York kept telling me, "You talk funny." But Atlanta was fun, when I got a chance to get off campus and experience it.**

What was your most difficult class at Emory?

**I don't know if this course was the hardest, but I almost did not live through it. All students had to take Survival Swimming to graduate. Although I had always been a terrible swimmer as a child, I made it through the course without incident. But the final exam was another matter. For the final exam, the student had to do three tests in the pool: first, swim the length of the pool with ankles bound; then, swim the length of the pool with wrists bound; finally, swim the length of the pool with both ankles and wrists bound. I almost drowned on the last requirement, but I passed.**

What was your major?

**I majored in Nursing. My initial plan was to ma-**

**jor in History then go to Law School but my plan changed.**

Why Nursing?

**I think because I was not living it up in college, I began to think graduate school was going to be too long. Remember, I was 18 years old. I saw nursing as a profession that would always provide me with a means of employment. And my Mother's sister was a nurse in Greenville; and she had always been a role model for me.**

How did you enjoy that major?

**By the time I was a senior I knew nursing was not for me. I loved the body of knowledge that I had learned up to that point, but I could not tolerate the subservience expected of nurses in those days. Doctors could treat nurses any way they wanted to. I do not think it is like that so much these days.**

Did you work while at Emory?

**I worked during the summers. My first summer I worked at "old" Greenville General Hospital as a Ward Secretary in ICU; my second summer I worked at "new" Greenville Memorial Hospital on a medical floor. It was the second summer's experience that made me realize that nursing was not for me as a career. But by then, I had completed my first year of nursing school, so I had too much hard work invested to change majors.**

Where did you go to Law School?

**Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. After graduating from Emory, I took my nursing boards and then went to work in the Emergency Room at Greenville General on Mallard Street. I had a college degree in nursing and I was an RN, but I made \$5.65 per hour, swinging first and third shifts. This was in 1976. I made \$9,000 that year. But I also applied to Law Schools that year, and I started Law School in the fall of 1977.**

How was Law School?

**The first year was hard, and I was fortunate that I did not have to work. But I worked during my second and third years of law school. I fulfilled the residency requirement to become licensed as a Registered Nurse in Alabama, and, thereafter, I worked second shift in different hospitals while attending Law School classes during the day. Birmingham was like Charleston. It was a big medical center with lots of hospitals. There was a nursing shortage at the time, and so I could work whenever I wanted and I could set my own schedule.**

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How did you work so much and complete Law School?

**One month before exams, I would stop working to study. Then I would have to wait a month to receive a paycheck after I resumed working after the exam period. By that time, I was eating peanut butter and my electric bill was seriously past due.**

How was the nursing experience?

**I worked for an agency that placed nurses on temporary assignments, so I went into a lot of different hospitals. And I always went into the critical care areas, like the Intensive Care Unit, because those nurses got paid \$1 more per hour. One summer I was the Head Nurse for six weeks in the newborn nursery at a small hospital in Birmingham. I worked in ERs, ICUs, CCUs, so I saw a lot of serious medical cases.**

How long did you work as a nurse?

**Three years total: one year between college and law school, and then during my last two years of Law School.**

What did you do after Law School?

**I was able to graduate early by going to summer school. I returned to Greenville. I knew I wanted to come back here. It never occurred to me not to come back to Greenville. I looked for a job. I thought what I wanted was to be a Plaintiff's attorney and sue doctors.**

Did you do that?

**No. Only two attorneys were doing that in Greenville – Kendall Few and Mike Parham. I could not even get in the door to interview with Kendall Few; I was told that he used medical transcriptionists or nurses and did not see the need for an attorney associate. I talked to Mike Parham but he was just getting into that area of practice at the time, and he wasn't taking on an associate either.**

Did you go into private practice?

**No. I went to the Solicitor's Office and interviewed with Cecil Nelson.**

Who was the Solicitor?

**Billy Wilkins. Bill Traxler was the Deputy Solicitor.**

Did you get the job?

**Not right away. I interviewed with Cecil while I was studying for the Bar exam which I was scheduled to take in February. Several months**

**later, I was at the Soda Shoppe on North Main Street now owned by Catherine Christophillis. At that time, it was owned by Jimmy DeYoung who was also a volunteer Police Officer for the City of Greenville. One day I was in there buying a Coke, and Jimmy DeYoung told me that Solicitor Wilkins was looking for me. It was a strange way to get a "callback" but this was in a time before answering machines and cell phones, so I was not at home when the Solicitor's secretary was calling! After I interviewed with Solicitor Wilkins, I was offered a position as an Assistant Solicitor. I had no political connections and did not know how I got the job.**

Were you the first female Assistant Solicitor?

**I was the second.**

How long were you in the Solicitor's Office?

**Three years.**

Who did you work with in the Solicitor's Office?

**My investigator was Calvin Sims. He taught me how law enforcement operates and he taught me how to tell a good case from a bad one. Bob Ariail was a great mentor. While I was a full-time prosecutor, Bob was a part-time prosecutor and he would watch me try cases and critique me. John Farnsworth did the same for me. I am grateful for the help they gave me. As docket coordinator, Will Lucius pushed me into Courtroom #1 to have me try my first case, a DUI 2<sup>nd</sup>. I did not think I was ready, but Will needed to keep Court going. I did win the case, but it was probably hard for Judge John Hamilton Smith and the jury to watch. Paul Wilburn taught me how to prepare for a trial. It was fascinating to watch him prep a witness. Of course, there was no better trial lawyer than Billy Wilkins, and I had the great fortune to be able to watch him try several high profile cases. After Judge Wilkins ascended to the Federal bench, Bill Traxler became Solicitor, and I second-chaired Judge Traxler on a death penalty case. It was a great place to start a legal career.**

What did you do after leaving the Solicitor's Office?

**I went into private practice with Sam Stilwell and Randy Hunter for two years. I also worked as part-time Assistant Public Defender under the Public Defender contract. After working with Sam and Randy, I rented office space from Bob Ariail and Jack Mitchell. When I moved in their building, I was six months pregnant and I think they thought I would not return to work after I had my baby, because they didn't charge me**

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rent. Asher was born in 1985 and two weeks after his birth, I went back to the office. Bob and Jack were very good to me as a struggling sole practitioner. Anyway, I handled mainly Domestic Relations cases with some personal injury work and some real estate. I solo practiced until 1990, and then I went into practice with Neil Rabon and Reece Ashmore. We hadn't been together long, and when the judgeship held by Judge Willie T. Smith opened, I threw my hat in the ring.

Were you the first female Judge in the Greenville – Piedmont area?

**No, Diane Smock was. She was Probate Court Judge.**

What about in Family Court, Circuit Court?

**Yes, I was the first female judge in those Courts in the Upstate. But Carol Connor and Kaye Hearn were two female Judges who were on the Bench in other parts of the State.**

What I liked about you as a Judge is that you, like Henry Floyd, expected everyone to be prepared – young attorneys and old attorneys.

**When I was in private practice, Ken Porter would laugh at me about the fact that he could write a three sentence settlement negotiation letter while I wrote three page responses. I am detailed-oriented, and I wanted to cover all the bases for my clients. I brought that trait to the Bench. I did not want a child to be exposed to harm because of something I missed. I wanted attorneys to be prepared to provide me with the information I thought I needed to protect a child and be fair to the litigants.**

Anything scary happened to you while you were a Judge?

**There were several, but the one that stands out is the man who shot himself in his car after a domestic abuse hearing. The man was represented by Julius Aiken and his wife was *pro se*. I could tell in the Courtroom that he was unstable. He was tearful and angry. I found out later that he had attempted to go through the metal detectors three times but he kept sounding the alarm. Finally, he said he was going to go back to his car and unload some of his belongings. After going to his car, the metal detector did not sound and he was able to come into the Courtroom. Following the hearing, he shot himself in the stomach at his car in the Family Court parking lot.**

Do you think he had the gun with him those first three times?

**I do.**

Another thing I admired about you, Amy, is that you took to heart, "What is in the best interest of the child."

**I did. I thought all the grown-ups should make the sacrifices for the child and it was my job to make the grown-ups do what they needed to do to take care of the child.**

Do you see a need to change some of our laws in order to better protect children?

**There are several. One law that I would like to see passed that would place no financial burden on the State is to give Family Court Judges jurisdiction to mandate visitation for children. Currently, the law allows parents to visit their children. That should be a requirement just like paying child support. Of course, the Court would have to be mindful of safeguards for the child early in the process, but it was my experience that most parents, when mandated to visit, did so without harm to the child. I remember one case where Preston Reid represented the father who was the non-custodial parent. The mother brought a paternity action, and she sought child support and she wanted the man to be mandated to visit. After testing proved the man was the father, I ordered therapeutic visitation for a period long enough for a therapist to evaluate if a parent-child bond could be established. After therapeutic visitation, the father bonded with the child and he wanted to continue to visit. However, the father had a wife who was not happy to learn that the man had fathered a child by another woman before their relationship began. As it turned out, this fact was a surprise to the man also. In the end, the father left his wife in order to maintain a relationship with his child. It was a fairly new marriage, and they had no children. Preston said that the demise of that marriage was actually good for his client, and he was happy for his client who had discovered a relationship with a child he did not know he had.**

Have you made your proposal to anyone in Columbia?

**No, I haven't. But we need the law to catch up to the research and statistics concerning what influences best ensure that a child can become a happy, productive adult. All studies show that two parents involved in a child's life creates a child who is more successful. Those parents do not have to live together, as long as the child has sufficient contact with both parents, and that contact is healthy and consistent. So, Debra, I will be calling you about writing a bill**

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when you are elected to the General Assembly.

How long did you serve on the Bench?

Ten years.

Why didn't you seek a seat in Circuit Court, Court of Appeals, or Supreme Court?

It never occurred to me. Joe was on the Circuit Bench, and it would have been crowded on the Judicial Hall of the main courthouse to have a husband and wife there together.

Why didn't you finish your second term?

I was ready to be off the Bench, so, after I became vested at ten years of service, I took the appropriate steps to invest enough money in the State Retirement System to enable me to "retire" from the Bench.

What do you do now?

I don't like to use the term "retired," because I am still working. I do some mediation and arbitration. And I train guardians *ad litem*. I wrote a training manual for guardians *ad litem* with Dottie Ingram and Marcia Barker, and we put on two trainings a year. I also do contract work in Anderson for the Department of Social Services. I prosecute their TPR cases. I have really enjoyed returning to the courtroom as a trial lawyer. And I enjoy being able to leave by the public door as opposed to the judicial hall exit. And I am doing what a lot of us must do in our middle years . . . I am overseeing the care of my Mother.

She is 86 years old; she has dementia. She does not want to go into a nursing home, and we are trying to honor this wish. So we have sitters and I coordinate things. But lately her medical condition changes frequently, and caring for her consumes more and more of my time.

What goal have you accomplished that you think, "Wow, I can't believe I did this!"

Not having to work. Being financially able to do what I want to do. I like to travel. I have been to China, Taiwan, Peru, Machu Picchu, and Costa Rica. I went to Venice with Joe and the children; that was fun. And I am amazed that my children are launched! Asher is at the College of Charleston. Mary Elizabeth is at Sewanee. Joe and I are happy empty nesters.

What goal have you not yet achieved?

Finding out what I want to do when I grow up. There is something else I need to do. Everything is on hold right now because I'm taking care of Mother.

What is your favorite book?

Just one?

Okay, what are your three favorite books?

*The World According to Garp*, *Shantaram*, and the Harry Potter series. I read the Harry Potter books with my daughter. We began when she was eleven years old. We would read them at bedtime. It was a wonderful experience to watch my daughter grow up with those books. Mary Elizabeth and Harry are the same age, you see.

## 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](mailto: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.

## **Uniform Guidelines for the Selection of Circuit Public Defender Selection Panels**

Section 17-3-510 of the 2007 Indigent Defense Act provides that each County must elect its representative(s) from the active licensed attorneys who reside within each County to serve on its Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel for a term of five years. The Commission on Indigent Defense has established and adopted the following procedure for the Election of County Members to a Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel:

Such elections will be conducted by the President of the County's Bar Association, who must be an active licensed attorney residing in the County. Elections shall then be conducted in one of two ways, at the discretion of the individual authorized to conduct the election – by meeting or by mail.

The Greenville County Bar Election shall be conducted by mail.

### **NOTICE TO NOMINATE AND ELECT CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER SELECTION PANEL MEMBERS**

The South Carolina Legislature passed § 17-3-5, South Carolina Code of Laws, that creates a statewide Circuit Public Defender system. The Circuit Public Defender will be selected by a Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel, composed of attorneys residing in the County in the circuit. Our Greenville County Bar must nominate and elect four members for that panel. You must be an attorney residing in Greenville County to be eligible to vote for and nominate members to the Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel.

All nominees, nominators and voters must certify in writing that they meet all eligibility requirements including: actually residing in the county, and being an active licensed attorney in South Carolina. All nominees must further certify that they are not a Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, an employee of a Solicitor's Office, an employee of the South Carolina Prosecution Coordination Commission, a member of the judiciary, or a member of the Commission on Indigent Defense. Each voter shall be entitled to vote for four candidates (the number of seats available to Greenville County).

**The Nomination period will end October 1, 2007 (all nominations must be received by October 1, 2007, 5:00 p.m.); the list of nominations will be opened by me and at least one other attorney October 5, 2007, 5:00 p.m. Elections will be October 19, 2007; you will receive your ballot by mail. You may return your ballot by mail or by facsimile by October 19, 2007, 5:00 p.m.**

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Debra J. Gammons, Attorney at Law  
Greenville County Bar President

## Nomination of Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel Members

This nomination form may be returned by United States Postal Service or by facsimile.

The South Carolina Legislature passed § 17-3-5, South Carolina Code of Laws, that creates a state-wide Circuit Public Defender system. The Circuit Public Defender will be selected by a Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel, composed of members of the County Bars in the Circuit. Greenville County Bar must nominate and elect four members for that panel. You must be an attorney residing in Greenville County to be eligible to nominate and vote for members to the Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel for Greenville County.

All nominees, nominators and voters must certify in writing that they meet the eligibility requirements which are: (1) actually residing in the County and (2) being an active licensed attorney in South Carolina. All nominees must further certify that they are not a Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, an employee of a Solicitor's Office, an employee of the South Carolina Prosecution Coordination Commission, a member of the judiciary, or a member of the Commission on Indigent Defense. All nominees shall be listed on a ballot and after the nomination period has closed the ballot will be sent to all those eligible to vote. Each voter shall be entitled to vote for four candidates (the number of seats available to Greenville County).

**In order to nominate individuals for election, please return this form to Debra J. Gammons, with the name of the individual/s you wish to nominate, not to exceed the number of members that this county can elect to the Panel, within ten days of receiving this form.**

The nomination period will close October 1, 2007; the list of nominations will be opened on October 5, 2007, 5:00 p.m. Anyone eligible to vote can view the opening of the nominations; Debra J. Gammons and at least one other attorney who is eligible to vote will be present to record the nominations.

I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am eligible to nominate the above individual(s) based on the requirements above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Bar Number

**Please return this form by mail to Greenville County Bar Association, Post Office Box 10145, Greenville, South Carolina 29603 or by facsimile to 297-1599 by October 1, 2007, 5:00 p.m.**

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**Certification of Eligibility for Nomination to the Circuit  
Public Defender Selection Panel**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby swear and affirm that, I am an active licensed attorney residing in Greenville County and that I am eligible to be nominated for my Greenville County's Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel. I further swear and affirm that I am not a Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, an employee of a Solicitor's office, an employee of the South Carolina Prosecution Coordination Commission, a member of the judiciary, or a member of the Commission on Indigent Defense.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bar Number

**The Family Court Liaison  
Meeting has been rescheduled  
for November 2.**

**ad**

**ad**

**ad**

**ad**

**A Publication of the Greenville  
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***Deadline for articles or  
advertisements is the 20th of  
each month for the next  
publication.***