



G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

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Why Be President? by Debra J. Gammons

Serving as an Officer of the Greenville County Bar Association requires one to volunteer her services - it is not a paid position. Many of the Officers not only volunteer for the Greenville County Bar but also for other organizations. The Greenville Bar's procedure follows South Carolina Bar's in the selection of the President. Persons who are elected as Treasurer usually move up the ladder and eventually become President. This process helps maintain consistency and uniformity in the organization.

But why be President? As President, I have a desire to serve the attorneys of Greenville County and members in general.* This duty to serve means accomplishing tasks that will benefit our members. We typically organize luncheons that feature outstanding speakers; we offer opportunities during Law Week to participate in activities that celebrate our Constitution and laws; we provide information in the *G-Bar News* and via electronic mail notices; we organize Continuing Legal Education seminars; we plan social events; and we have our website.*

As I prepared to become President, I set goals. First, I want to introduce new features in the *G-Bar News* - interviews of lawyers in the Greenville area who have made a difference; memories of those days in Law School; interesting tales from the Courtroom; inspirational quotations. Second, to increase our members' participation in events. Third, to increase diversity on the Executive Committee. I also want to provide our members with useful information, a variety of activities, and support in the practice of law.

Why be President? To make our organization better. To bring about satisfaction for our members. To give our members the opportunity to make a positive difference (submitting Law School memories, quotations, and Courtroom experiences for publication; judging High School Mock Trial competitions; participating in Youth Court; playing golf in the Judge Frank Eppes Law Week Tournament; running in the Law Week Run for Freedom;* drafting wills for those who are unable to pay in the Law Week Wills Clinic; donating blood; working on a Committee).

Why be President? To be a role model; to provide positive leadership; to

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203rd edition
October 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 2:
Family Court
Liaison
Meeting
- November 8:
Tommy Thomason Award
Luncheon
- December 6:
Christmas
Party & Annual
Meeting
- December 20:
Memorial
Service

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welcome all to the table with open arms; to maintain the credibility and reliability of our Bar. The job is not easy and making changes is not always greeted with enthusiasm but I will continue to work for the good of the Bar.

1. **Our By-laws allow any licensed attorney to become a member upon payment of dues; but if the attorney is outside South Carolina that member is a non-voting member.**
2. **Paul Wickensimer, Clerk of Court, made the website possible.**
3. **Playing golf and running not only benefits our health but the participants and sponsors help non-profit organizations.**

Announcements

Trout Unlimited (TU) has awarded its top volunteer honor to **David Armstrong**. TU President Charles Gauvin presented the award at the organization's 2007 annual meeting in Boise, Idaho, earlier this month. The Ray Mortensen Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership is granted annually to an exceptional individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to local coldwater fisheries conservation efforts at the local level.

Nexsen Pruet's Leighton Lord and **Neil Robinson** have been nominated as founding class members of the Urban Land Institute South Carolina Center for Sustainable Leadership.

At the annual meeting of the National Association of Bond Lawyers **Kathleen C. (Kathy) McKinney** was elected treasurer and will serve also on the executive committee. McKinney previously served as chair of the National Association of Bond Lawyers 2003 Workshop and a faculty member of the NABL Fundamentals of Municipal Bond Law program.

The law firm of **Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.**, announced today that eight attorneys have been named to the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers In America*. They are **W. Howard Boyd, Jr.**, in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Product Liability Litigation; **H. Mills Gallivan** in Workers' Compensation Law; **Arthur L. Howson, Jr.**, in Real Estate Law; **C. Stuart Mauney** in Alternative Dispute Resolution; **William McGee** in Product Liability Litigation; **Phillip E. Reeves** in Personal Injury Litigation; **Daniel B. White** in Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation, Product Liability Litigation and Railroad Law; and **Ronald K. Wray II** in Commercial Litigation.

The law firm of **Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.**, announced the acceptance of **K. Scott Katrosh** as a member of the Leader-

ship Spartanburg Class of 2008.

Twelve attorneys at **Leatherwood Walker Todd & Mann, P.C.**, have been named "Best Lawyers in America" and will be listed in the 2008 Directory. Leatherwood attorneys **William L. Dennis, Steven E. Farrar, Michael J. Giese, Mark R. Holmes, F. Marion Hughes, J. Tod Hyché, John E. Johnston, Natalma M. McKnew, Robert D. Moseley, A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Kurt M. Rozelsky** and **J. Kurt Schumacher, Jr.** were each recognized with this distinction.

The **Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office** is pleased to announce the following appointments of assistant solicitors in its Greenville office. **Charles A. Bondurant** began work on August 13, 2007. He is a 2007 graduate of the University of South Carolina School Of Law and received his undergraduate degree in 2001 from John Cabot American University in Rome, Italy. **Katryna D. Bevis** became an assistant solicitor on August 20, 2007. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina and graduated from the USC School of Law in 2006. For the past year she has served as law clerk for Circuit Judge John C. Few.

McNair Law Firm, P.A., is pleased to announce that five attorneys from its Greenville office have been selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*: **Ronald E. Cardwell** in Administrative Law and Environmental Law, **Weyman C. Carter** in Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law, **Phillip L. Conner** in Environmental Law, **Cort R. Flint** in Intellectual Property Law and **Rita M. McKinney** in Labor and Employment Law.

The law firm of **Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.**, announced the acceptance of **C. William (Billy) McGee** as a member of Leadership Greenville Class 34.

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

OXNER TO RECEIVE THOMASON AWARD

By Jeffery Merriam, Tommy Thomason Award Committee Chairperson

G. Dewey Oxner, Jr., has been selected to receive the Greenville County Bar Association's Tommy Thomason Award. The award is the highest honor that the Bar Association can bestow and it is given to a lawyer who exemplifies the wonderful qualities of Tommy Thomason, as a lawyer and as a person. These qualities include compassion and sensitivity to all people; a friendly and unassuming nature; unshakable integrity, coupled with an instinct for fairness; a love of the practice of law; and a dedication to the improvement of the legal system and justice for all people. Oxner, who has practiced law with the Haynsworth firm for 48 years embodies all of these qualities.

Oxner's practice has concentrated on the defense of professional liability claims and he has distinguished himself as a preeminent defense lawyer. He has held leadership positions in numerous local, state, and national legal organizations. He served as President of the Greenville County Bar Association and the South Carolina State Bar. His personal qualities as a lawyer have been described as representing his clients "the right way: with vigor, but civility; with tenacity but with decency; and understanding which battles are worth fighting and which are better left alone."

Dewey Oxner will receive the Tommy Thomason Award at a luncheon in his honor on November the 8th at the Hilton Hotel.

TOMMY THOMASON AWARD LUNCHEON Honoring Dewey Oxner

**Thursday, November 8
12:15 pm
Hilton Hotel
\$23 per person**

**RSVP to Melinda at gbarnews@charter.net or 297-1599
by Monday, November 5**

DID YOU KNOW??

Before Independence, John Jay, the Nation's first Chief Justice, stated that "very few . . . doubted the propriety and rectitude" of slavery even though many had come to view slavery as morally wrong or economically inefficient, the relic of a barbarous past. During the Revolutionary era, slavery for the first time became a focus of public debate in America. In 1774 John Allen, a clergyperson from Massachusetts, stated that Americans were making a mockery of their professed love of liberty "by trampling on the sacred rights and privileges of Africans." The Revolution inspired widespread hopes that slavery would be removed from American life.

- The Story of American Freedom, Eric Foner

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.

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Greenville County Bar Christmas Party

December 6, 2007

Westin Poinsett

Band – The Swinging Medallions

Mark your calendar!

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.

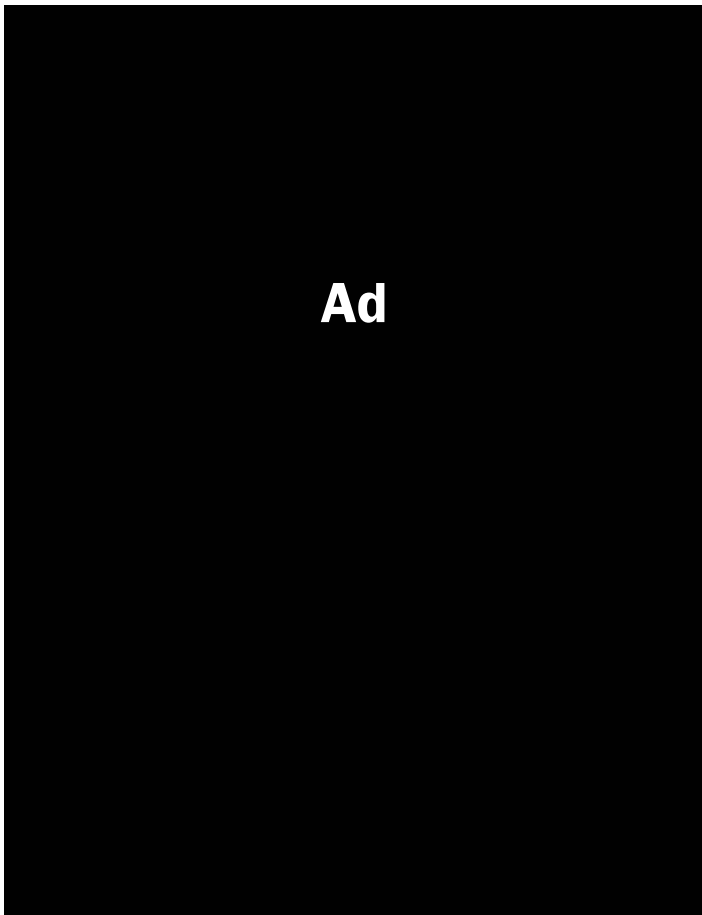
Please call Marie Horton (241-1802) by November 5, if you will attend the reception for all judges and all Greenville County lawyers on Tuesday, November 13.

Job Opportunities

Bradford Neal Martin & Associates, PA, in Greenville 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.

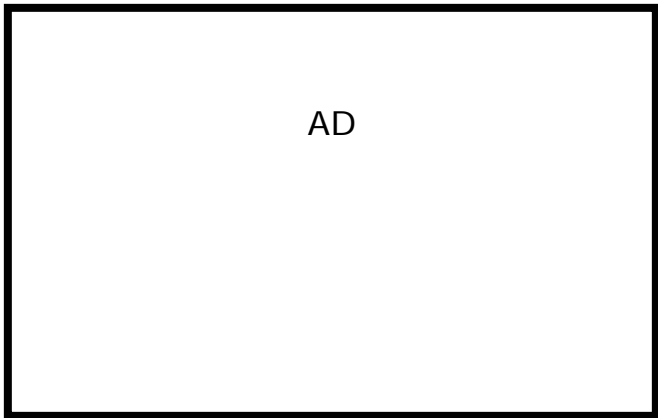
Assistant County Attorney, \$58,180.82 - \$101,795.66. This position represents Greenville County, Greenville County Council members, various committees, County department heads and County employees in matters of policies, laws, and regulations. The Assistant County Attorney will provide legal advice and opinions; prose-

cute cases; draft pleadings, motions, briefs and memoranda; draft ordinances and resolutions; and assist in development of various County policies and goals. The successful candidate should have extensive knowledge of laws and ordinances affecting the planning, development and implementation of legal programs; general knowledge of general case, statutory, common law, and other related subjects as applied to County legal operations; the ability to interpret and apply laws; and, be a member in good standing of the South Carolina Bar. A Doctorate of Law degree from an accredited school and considerable professional legal experience in government, administrative, property, contract, environmental and labor law, or any equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Complete Application Online: www.greenvillecounty.org.



Verdicts

Caption: Alexander Butterfield vs. Underground Construction Company Inc.
Case No. 2006-CP-23-2663
Cause of Action: Wreck
Attorneys for the Plaintiff: Richard Stewart and Jason Kellett
Attorney for the Defendant: Langdon Cheves
Verdict for the Defendant



QUOTATIONS THAT INSPIRE

We allow our ignorance to prevail upon and make us think we can survive alone, alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in races, even alone in genders.
- Maya Angelou

Submitted by Debra J. 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 the 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

Leo H. Hill Attorney at Law



Mr. Leo, when did you first begin practicing law?

Officially in 1952.

What do you mean, "officially"?

I could not practice law until I passed the Bar. We were in the middle of a campaign when I finished Law School and

put off starting practice until after the election.

What campaign?

My friend Rex Carter was running for the S. C. House.

Did you grow up in Greenville?

I'm a native. Some people ask me if I have lived here all my life; I say, "Not yet."

Did you have any questions about returning to Greenville after Law School?

No. My Father was still living. My Mom died when I was young. I grew up around the Brandon mill; then, we moved to the big City - West Greenville. This was home.

How did you get involved in the campaign so early?

We were from the same area and both went to Parker High. Rex was President of the Student Body at Parker, one year ahead of me. I followed as the next President of the Student Body. Parker High School had great influence on me and others. Five former student body presidents became Greenville lawyers: Hubert Nolin, Frank Eppes, Carl Thackston, Rex Carter and myself.

Did you go to undergraduate school right after High School?

No, I went into the Navy at 17 years old. I served less than two years because the war was over. Some of that time was in the Philippines.

Where did you first practice law?

We had an office on Coffee Street over the W. O. Groce Rental Agency; it was next to where Charlie's Steak House is now. It was up a steep set of stairs, and we had no air conditioning. Then, we moved to a suite of offices in the Lawyers' Building. Then, we built our own building on Broadus Avenue.

What was your main area of practice?

Anything that came in the door. When we were young we were experts in everything. Of course, we were starving to death.

How did you get business?

Slowly, but our old friends came to see us and sent others. There was a good bit of camaraderie among the Bar back then. Older attorneys helped you. We had a lot of mentors.

What did you like the most about practicing law in the early years?

Getting a case; building an upside down pyramid of clients. I enjoyed criminal practice. I used to do a fair amount of that. The personal injury cases were the most interesting.

Any cases that made the news, that stood out?

None that made the national news. But they all stood out to me and were important to my clients.

Any death penalty cases?

Yes. Not my favorites.

Any other interesting criminal cases?

I represented a lot of bank robbers.

What was the typical defense: "I didn't do it; you got the wrong guy"?

Generally, those cases were very hard to defend. The FBI was involved and knew how to work up a case. Most were resolved by Guilty Pleas. One time, my client cleared up twenty-seven bank robberies from Houston, Texas, to Bethesda, Maryland, when he admitted to them.

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You've had a wide variety of clients.

Yes, I was thought of as somewhat of a maverick in some sense. I took on everything. I also had a business-type practice; I helped my clients set up businesses or get out of problems related to a business. Today with all the specialties I'm a bit unusual because I have such broad experience in so many fields.

You represented governmental entities?

Yes, over 100 scattered all over the State.

What were some of the areas of your practice today?

Construction law, utility law, constitutional law, governmental law.

What drew you to that type of work?

It sort of chose me; I started representing a municipality.

What did you like about that practice?

The people who work in government are great people and dedicate their time with little financial reward. Most are sincere in what they do. I'm interested in local government. I like that because it is at the grass roots level.

Did you ever run for political office?

I ran for Congress. Jim Mann, Nick Theodore and E. C. Burnett also ran. Jim Mann cleaned our slates.

This was the Primary Election?

Yes, but it was the election. Everyone was a Democrat back then. Jim did a good job as a Congressman.

How did you feel about not winning?

It took a few days for me to get over it - being turned down after offering the country the best solution I had.

Did you run again?

Not for Congress. I concentrated on being a lawyer. At that time I had three children. It was time to get serious about earning a living.

How was your first year's practice back in 1952?

Let me give you an example. Ms. Margaret Marshbanks was working for us as Secretary. At the end of that first year we offered her a one-third

interest in the partnership. She declined because she would not take the cut in salary.

Where does Judge Gary Hill fit in the birth order?

He's the youngest. Lillian is the oldest. She is a lawyer with Womble Carlyle in Greensborough. Howard is a successful commercial realtor in Greenville.

When did Lillian and Gary decide to practice law?

I'm not sure. I tried not to influence them. I told them I would support whatever choice they made. I am proud of all three and of their choices.

Did you take your children with you to Court?

Yes, Judge Frank Eppes and I on Saturdays would take our children to Court.

Did they sit in the audience and watch you guys?

No, both of us would have to keep an eye on them as they roamed around.

Where did you meet your wife?

At Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina. She graduated there and she also has a Ph.D. and a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Furman. She is a remarkable educator; she taught at every level from 6th grade to graduate level at Furman. She was the first Director and an organizer of Camperdown Academy; she also worked as a school psychologist in the Greenville school system.

What other interesting things have you done?

The best thing I've done is marry Grace Lucile Garrison, by far and help her raise three wonderful children and try to spoil six grandchildren.

What have been the toughest things you have ever done?

Well, I helped organize the first legal service system that is now statewide. I was the County Chairman for Jack Kennedy's campaign. When he had the idea of Peace Corps federal funds became available to provide legal services for the poor. The President of the Greenville Bar Association at that time was a member of the John Birch Society. The John Birch Society's mission was to fight communism with the same methods the Communists fought us. Our local bar President did not want any federal money - he thought this was associated with Commu-

(Continued from page 8)

nism. But we were able to persuade him to endorse the Bar sponsorship to bring those funds here before some "liberal" crowd got the money. Thus, we were able to organize the legal service agency which has since served thousands of people over the state.

Any other issues for which you received resistance?

Ted Kennedy was proposing a national health-care bill. Nixon and the Republicans wanted to oppose it. They came up with an HMO program - Health Maintenance Organization. HMOs were alternatives to the Kennedy plan. Before HMOs, employees had no access to other than Employee-sponsored plans. HMOs were given access to companies to present a choice. Strom Thurmond and all the republicans voted for HMOs. The medical society was incensed that one would be started in Greenville and passed a resolution saying any doctor who did business with an HMO would be thrown out of the Medical Association. Soon, insurance companies saw the benefits and started their own HMOs. I helped bring one of the first in the Southeast to fruition.

Also, when I was President-Elect of the South Carolina Bar, South Carolina was not too far from racial strife. Black lawyers were not members of the South Carolina Bar. I was asked by an old lawyer what would I do if a lawsuit comes from one of the Black lawyers demanding to join the South Carolina Bar; I said, "I would join in the Complaint." He didn't like that. Eventually, the old voluntary bar became the new State bar with full participation by Blacks.

You were busy.

This was a time for change. When I first started practicing law, criminal cases were manipulated by bondsmen who charged big fees and who had ties with certain lawyers.

Congress passed the Bail Bond Relief Act that allowed Defendants to get out on their own recognition. I got Dean Figg, Dean of the Law School, interested in getting a similar statewide provision passed. We worked together on some of the legislators to get it done.

Your work was varied.

Very much so. That variety has sustained my interest. I've done everything from getting water treatment plants organized and set up, working

on environmental issues to fighting traffic tickets. I have gotten a great sense of satisfaction and fulfillment out of the law practice and it has been good to me.

What do you think is the greatest change in the legal profession since you started practicing law?

Access to information. When I began practicing law, the South Carolina Code consisted of only six volumes; now there is an unbelievable mass of knowledge. With modern technology, the sole practitioner has access and can practice as effectively as the biggest firm on Wall Street.

Did anyone motivate you to work with the Bar?

My great friend Ted Riley got me interested in being involved in the Bar activities. I was and still am, I think, the youngest lawyer ever elected President to the South Carolina Bar. Now, I'm the oldest living youngest Bar President. Today the South Carolina Bar Association is a great public institution serving the public's interest. I like to think I made some contribution to that.

Besides practicing law, what do you like to do for fun?

Go to the beach, read, spend time with family; that is more and more precious. I have always been interested in political activities and active in various campaigns. I told Gary when he was considering a judgeship, "Your Daddy has a reputation of being a yellow dog Democrat; that may not help you." But he worked hard and was elected to the bench with wide support.

What are your favorite types of books?

I collect books about the Federal Constitutional Convention in 1787. I hope to gain an understanding of the personalities that attended the Convention as well as the rationale behind its origins.

Which Convention member interests you most?

Oddly enough the one I believe that has been slighted a bit is George Washington at the Convention. My feeling is that he had more influence on the Convention than he is given credit for during that time.

I am reading *His Excellency* that my husband gave me.

I've read that; it gives a good and different slant on Washington. I am a history nut and a book nut and so is my wife. It is an illness. But you have to

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limit the area you like because you can't know everything about every history. We have 7,000 to 8,000 books in our house – we've collected about our various interests and I still migrate to history volumes.

Do you read any fiction?

Yes, I like spy mysteries. I like John LeCarre. He is an excellent writer and always has a good story line.

You have won a few awards.

Yes. There are three from my peers I especially was humbled to receive. The Compleat Lawyer Award was awarded by the Law School, the Tommy Thomason Award by the County Bar, and the Durrant Award by the South Carolina Bar. For some reason I got all three. But the best award I receive is when people come to me believing I can help them.

Memorial Service December 20, 2007

The 2007 Greenville County Bar Association Memorial Service will be held on December 20, 2007, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom #8 of the Greenville County Courthouse. Those whose memory we will honor this year are Julius B. Aiken, Sr., Paul M. Carruthers, Donald A. Harper, Judge Joe R. Hooper, Fred N. McDonald, John B. McLeod, T. Preston Reid, David R. Wylie, and Steven M. Wynkoop. Judge Gary Hill will preside with Judge Aphrodite K. Konduros and Judge Bruce H. Hendricks joining him at the Bench. All Greenville attorneys are invited to attend.

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