



# G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

David W. Edwards  
President

James I. Warren, III  
President-Elect

Christine Gantt-Sorenson  
Secretary

Jack Griffith  
Treasurer

Jason Elliott  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE By David W. Edwards

As the days grow slightly shorter and ever so slightly cooler, and the political season swings in to a higher gear, one's thoughts drift to, what else...**BARBEQUE!**

Barbeque is a three hundred year tradition in North and South Carolina. Most lawyers love to talk about barbeque almost as much as they enjoy eating it. Opinions vary as to which barbeque is best – from the vinegary, peppery barbeque of Eastern North Carolina to the tomato added vinegar based version of the Piedmont, from the mustard base sauce of the Low Country and Midlands to the ketchup-based version that predominates in the Upstate. We are fortunate, from a barbeque-perspective, to have a wide variety of types and styles in and around the Greenville area.

But, where did barbeque originate? Some historians trace it from a Caribbean West Indies word, "barbacoa", which means " a framework of sticks", or, as we call it today, a grill. It can also be traced to a French word, "barb e que" meaning "head to tail", i.e., the whole pig. Scholars ridicule the notion, but hardliners think it fits – to have true barbeque, you must use " from the head to the tail", the whole pig.

Roasting meat over a bed of live coals did, in fact, come to this country from the West Indies and our early settlers took to it readily. In 1830, the first commercial sale of barbeque took place from the back of a wagon in, or near, Ayden, N.C. But, until the dawn of the transportation age after World War II, barbeque remained primarily a private enterprise. Only after the expanded use of the automobile did barbeque restaurants, or "joints" as we know them today, begin to flourish.

Why does it seem that the best barbeque comes from sometimes hard-to-find, out of the way, off the beaten path, restaurants in small towns. Let me tell you a short story about discovering one of my favorites – Jimmy's BBQ on Highway 8 outside Lexington, NC. I was returning from a high school class reunion a number of years ago. I needed gas and pulled off I-85 to refuel. I called my wife from a pay phone (before the age of cell phones) and while talking to her; the most enticing, wonderful aroma hit me and I said to her, "There is a really good barbeque restaurant nearby". Sure enough, across the highway stood a non-descript, concrete block building – Jimmy's! I purchased several pounds to take home and on to the beach for vacation. That was in 1987 and I can truly say, I cannot count the number of times I have visited Jimmy's since then, for a meal or to pick up a few pounds to bring back to share with friends.

Jimmy's is just one of hundreds of barbeque restaurants/joints around us. We have Henry's, Bucky's, Mutt's and Brushy Creek in Greenville, Duke's in Orangeburg, Wise's in

(Continued on page 2)

211th edition  
September 2008

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 23: Fall Luncheon
- October 15: Fall BBQ
- December 5: Christmas Party
- December 18: Memorial Service
- February 13: CLE

### Inside this issue:

Announcements	2
Fall Luncheon Information	3
Tommy Thomason Award Nominations	3
Verdicts	5
Available Office Space	5
Job Opportunities	5
Guest Article- Memorial Service	7

(Continued from page 1)

or near Jalapa, Circle M in Slabtown (find it!), D& H and McCabe's in Manning, Moree's in or near Andrews, Brown's in Kingstree, Allen and Sons in Chapel Hill (still cooked over hickory coals) and what I grew up on, Stamey's in Greensboro.

Barbeque joints are a break from the homogeneity of fast food restaurants. No food reflects the character of a community like barbeque. There remains a need to define who we are as individuals in a map culture. Seeking out the best barbeque may be a step toward determining our individuality.

What does all this mean? Barbeque comes down to this – having a good meal with friends. Simple things like our Annual Barbeque makes for some of the fondest memories we have as members of the GCBA. Fellowship is a key element of our organization. Our collegiality is second to none in our state. I hope to see you at The Blind Horse Saloon on October 15<sup>th</sup>. If not, I'll add a little more to my plate in your honor.

## Announcements

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. announced that **Thomas M. Christina**, a shareholder in the firm's Greenville office, has been reappointed as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Employee Benefits Committee for the 2008-2009 year. The committee—comprised of health care providers, benefits executives, and attorneys who specialize in employee benefits law—develops policy recommendations on employee benefits issues, including health care, pension and retirement plans, public programs, and other employer-provided benefits. In addition, it supervises the Chamber's response to employee benefit legislation pending before all congressional committees of jurisdiction, as well as regulatory initiatives before administrative agencies. Mr. Christina has served on the Committee since 2005.

The law firm of **Gallivan, White & Boyd, and P.A.** announced the acceptance of **Thomas E. Vanderbloemen** as a member of *Greenville Magazine's Class of 2008 Best & Brightest Under 35*. *Best & Brightest Under 35* is a program that recognizes local men and women who are making strides in our business community and in our city. Selected class members are fully involved in making Greenville better in each endeavor they pursue. Vanderbloemen is Of Counsel with Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., where he practices in the areas of intellectual property litigation involving patents, trademarks and copyrights. He also represents clients with all manner of appeals in federal and state courts.

**Anderson & Herlong, LLC** is pleased to announce the Million Dollar Advocates Forum has named **Scott Anderson** as a certified member. Recognized as the most prestigious group of trial lawyers in the United States, the Million Dollar Advocates Forum has a membership limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements. Membership in the organization acknowledges excellence in advocacy and provides a na-

tional network of experienced colleagues for professional referral and information exchange in major cases.

**The Federal Public Defender is now located** at Two Liberty Square, 75 Beattie Place, Suite 950, Greenville, SC 29601. Telephone and fax numbers remain the same.

**David W. Ball, Esq.** of **Dobson, Jones, Ball, Phillips & Bridges, P.A.** was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in South Carolina Super Lawyers 2008, representing the top 5% of attorneys in South Carolina. Mr. Ball is a co-founder of the firm, Dobson, Jones, Ball, Phillips & Bridges, P.A. and practices from its Greenville office. His practice areas are healthcare law and business formations and maintenance.

**ATTORNEYS: Don't forget about Room 116 at the courthouse available for use by attorneys. The room has wireless internet service, a telephone and television and is private. Please stop by the next time you are in the courthouse if you have never seen it. The code for entry is 321.**

## 2008 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Please call toll free  
**1-800-693-2306 ext 1**  
to make an appointment as soon as  
possible.

## FALL LUNCHEON

Tuesday, September 23  
Noon at the Poinsett Club  
\$20 per person

Speaker: Andy Abrams,  
Dean of the Charleston Law School

RSVP to [gbarnews@charter.net](mailto:gbarnews@charter.net) or 297-1599  
no later than September 19.



Mark your calendars to join The Greenville County Legal Auxiliary Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30- 9:00 pm on the patio at Smoke on the Water for a Fall Supper, Tailgate-Style! Come enjoy great food, fun door prizes, raffles and entertainment by talented, fellow attorney, Will McKibbon. \$25 per person/\$45 per couple includes, barbecue, ribs, sides, beer, wine & desert.

Reservations are Required. Please RSVP by September 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Contact Alison Wike at 864-201-5472 or at [aliwike@yahoo.com](mailto:aliwike@yahoo.com)  
We hope to see you there!

## TOMMY THOMASON AWARD NOMINATIONS

Tommy Thomason was an amazing lawyer. During his lifetime, he inspired many people. And after his death, the Greenville Bar Association commemorates his life with the Award in his name. The qualities emulated by Tommy Thomason are the qualities sought by the Award Committee.

If you know a lawyer who is

- ★ compassionate and sensitive to all people regardless of their station in life
- ★ friendly, unassuming, humble with a warm, genuine, and abiding faith in people
- ★ dedicated to community interest, public service, and improvement of the community
- ★ dedicated to the improvement of the legal system and justice for all people
- ★ widely respected and admired by peers for personal and professional achievement

If you know a lawyer who has

- ★ strong personal values, optimism, and faith
- ★ positive diplomacy that works to minimize conflict and to resolve disputes in the least hostile manner
- ★ unshakeable integrity, coupled with an instinct for fairness

If you know a lawyer who

- ★ loves the practice of law and pursues the practice as a service to people

Please submit your nominations with a description of ways your nominee exemplifies these ideals of the late Tommy Thomason. Please submit your information to [gbarnews@charter.net](mailto:gbarnews@charter.net) or Greenville County Bar Association, Post Office Box 10145, Greenville, South Carolina 29603.

**Deadline for submissions: October 17, 2008.**





## Verdicts

**Caption:** Lavanda Clay Sweeny vs. SC Dept. of Education  
**Case No.** 2007-CP-23-2005  
**Cause of Action:** Wreck  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** Trey Mills  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** Kip Darwin  
**Verdict for the Defendant**

**Caption:** Theresa Aldrich vs. James E. Carroll and Florence L. Jackson  
**Case No.** 2006-CP-23-7269  
**Cause of Action:** Wreck  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** Ken Porter  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** David Moore & Jack Riordon  
**Verdict:** \$3,000 Actual Damages

**Caption:** Maxine T. Collins, Doyle J. Collins and Mindy Collins vs. Sylvia H. King  
**Case No.** 2007-CP-23-2651  
**Cause of Action:** Wreck  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** Gene Covington  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** Wilson Sheldon  
**Verdict for Maxine T. Collins:** \$2,103 actual damages  
**Verdict for Mindy Collins:** \$947 actual damages

**Caption:** Maggie R. Malone vs. Herbert Varn, DDS  
**Case No.** 2006-CP-23-1529  
**Cause of Action:** Medical Malpractice  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** King Smith  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** Rusty Harter  
**Verdict for the Defendant**

**Caption:** Ricky Laughter vs. June Elma Valdez  
**Case No.** 2007-CP-23-4169  
**Cause of Action:** Contract  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** Frank Eppes  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** June Elma Valdez, pro se  
**Verdict for the Defendant**

**Caption:** Julie A. Waltz vs. James A. Robbins MD, Greenville Colon and Rectal Associates, PA  
**Case No.** 2007-CP-23-3901  
**Cause of Action:** Medical Malpractice  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** Jamie Demint, Blake Smith  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** James B. Hood, Molly Craig  
**Verdict for the Defendant**

**Caption:** North American Rescue Products, Inc. vs. P.J. Richardson  
**Case No.** 2007-CP-23-3206  
**Attorney for the Plaintiff:** Bernie Ellis  
**Attorney for the Defendant:** Rivers Stilwell, Lane Davis  
**Judgment for the defendant under specific performance doctrine.**

**Caption:** Kenneth B. Jenkins v. Benjamine Scott Few and Few Farms, Inc.  
**Case No.** 2007-CP-23-0779  
**Cause of action:** conspiracy, trespass to personal property, conversion  
**Attorney for Plaintiff:** Fred W. "Trey" Suggs III  
**Attorney for Defendants:** Robert C. Childs III  
**Verdict for the Plaintiff:** \$28,000 actual damages; \$100,000 punitive damages

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

**Want to make sure your verdict appears here?  
 Send info to [gbarnews@charter.net](mailto:gbarnews@charter.net) or fax to 297-1599**

## Available Office Space

**For rent**—Office space located at 812 East North Street. Excellent location at the entrance of downtown Greenville includes on-site parking/ 4 offices, a common area and rest-room (approximately 1,200 square feet). Basic utilities, maintenance and janitorial services included. Call Mary Rose at 242-4080.

**27 Cleveland Street.** 1,600-1,700 sq. feet available. Perfect for a small law office. Contact Lora at 232-8670.

**OFFICE SUITE- 900 East North Street.** Four room suite. Three large offices and a reception area. Ideal for one or two person firm. Ample parking, easy access to I-385. Convenient to Law Enforcement Center and County Courthouse. \$850 per month plus electricity. Contact Jeff Merriam or Tom Traxler at 242-3566.

## Job Opportunities

Leading South Carolina litigation firm seeks attorneys with 3-7 years of litigation experience. Qualified candidates must have excellent research, writing, and communication skills and an outstanding academic record. Candidates should have sufficient experience to assume both primary and secondary roles in a complex litigation practice. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits including a Profit Sharing/401k plan, flexible spending/cafeteria plan, life insurance, long & short term disability insurance, health insurance, and optional dental insurance. Send resumes to: Recruiting Coordinator, PO Box 1448, Greenville, SC 29602.



## **THE MEMORIAL SERVICE GREENVILLE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**JACK D. GRIFFETH  
COLLINS & LACY, P.C.  
CHAIRMAN, MEMORIAL SERVICE**

This year the Memorial Service will be held on December 18, 2008, in Courtroom 8 at the Greenville County Courthouse at 4 pm. So far we only have four of our colleagues who have passed away this year. They are:

**Harry LaFoy Edwards  
Wade Humphrey (Greer)  
Jeanette McFee Kellerman  
Lynne McLees Ray**

Last year remembered the lives of eleven different Greenville County lawyers and frankly the spillover into Courtroom No. 7 was not a satisfactory experience. Consequently if we have to move the service due to the number of honorees then we will do so.

We have chosen to leave the ceremony in its traditional place during the week of Christmas for a number of reasons not the least of which is that we have now discovered the date on which the Memorial Service was reinstated by the late B.O. Tommy Thomason, Jr.

The Memorial Service was an annual event until sometime in the 1960s when it was discontinued for unknown reasons. In cleaning out some files at Love, Thornton, Arnold & Thomason we came across two old, musty moldy notebooks. They were Tommy's notebooks from 1984, the year that he was President of the Greenville Bar Association. We discovered the mystery of when the service was started again. In those we found that the Memorial Service was begun again by Tommy on December 20, 1984.

The Chairman of the 1984 Memorial Service Committee was Al Burgess of the Wyche firm. Other members were E. P. Riley, Sr., F Dean Rainey and Ray R. Williams Jr.

In that file, there were a number of thank you notes from grateful families who wrote to Tommy expressing their sincere appreciation for the service. It has been my honor and privilege to chair this committee since Tommy got sick in 1992 and every year I get lots of thank you notes, cards and letters from family members and Greenville County lawyers and sometimes folks from the general public thanking the Bar Association for having the service.

As most of you know, I covet the job of chairing this Committee. In fact, I agreed for Jeff Merriam to nominate me to be your Treasurer ONLY if he could secure the promise of Dave Edwards, Jim Warren and Chris Gantt-Sorenson that I could continue to chair this Committee during their respective tenures as President.

I invite you all to plan now to attend. Several years ago, Past President Gene Covington remarked in his welcome that this was a "great opportunity for great lawyers to speak about other great lawyers, as we pause to remember those who have gone before us." And our Committee Vice Chairperson, Jeff Weston, summed it up best of all by saying "Today is a day when I'm really proud to be a lawyer." This Service held during a special session of court is always uplifting and heartwarming.

**Come join us.**

Likewise, if any of you know of any Greenville County lawyers other than the four who are listed above who have passed away this year, I would like to get their names and a family contact person from you as soon as possible. Please write to me at:

**Jack D. Griffeth, Esquire  
Collins & Lacy, P.C.  
Post Office Box 5819  
Greenville, South Carolina 29606**

**A Publication of the Greenville  
County Bar Association**

P. O. Box 10145  
Greenville, SC 29603

Phone: 864-297-1599  
Fax: 864-297-1599  
Email: [gbarnews@charter.net](mailto:gbarnews@charter.net)  
Website: [www.greenvillecountybar.org](http://www.greenvillecountybar.org)

***Deadline for articles or  
advertisements is the 1st of  
each month for the next  
publication.***