



G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

By Jim Warren

In my first article for *G-Bar News*, I mentioned that I enjoy a good biography. Let me mention the details of the life of one of my favorite historical figures – without naming names, for now.

He was born barely on the side of “legitimacy” – his parents married just soon enough. But neither one of his parents was attentive; he was largely ignored by them. He did poorly in school, and had an awful speech impediment. In order to establish some sort of paying career, he tried to join a military school. He failed the entrance exam twice before he succeeded on the third try and elected to join the cavalry, because its grade requirements were low.

In order to supplement his income, he began writing about battles for newspapers, and in order to gain writing assignments, asked to be posted to “hot” territories. For a number of years, he lived a roving military life, writing and participating in military engagements. He was eventually captured and imprisoned in a POW camp, before escaping and travelling 300 miles to safety.

When he retired from the army, he turned his eye to politics, where he had mixed success. He bounced between the primary political parties, eventually settling on one, although he was estranged and isolated from it for almost a decade. It was only in his early 60s that his political vocation came alive – and that was largely because he had exercised wisdom and leadership in advocating resisting the expanding German Reich, back when that policy was deeply unpopular in England.

By now you know that I am speaking of Winston Churchill, a man who put his stamp on the history of the 20th century as very few others did. He was an incredibly unlikely “hero,” yet precisely the leader that England and the rest of the Western alliance needed. His unique mix of eloquence, bull-headedness, doggedness, and courage were precisely the diverse blend of characteristics needed at that moment of history.

On March 6, the G-Bar will host its first luncheon of the year at the Poinsett Club. We will have the privilege of hearing Judge Margaret Seymour speak on the topic of diversity in the legal profession. Prior to becoming a federal judge, Judge Seymour served ably in the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, with the Department of Education, and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

You may be wondering what Judge Seymour and Winston Churchill have in common. At a superficial level, the answer is, not much. They are of different generations, races, professions, genders, and nationalities. But the important point to recognize is that none of those differences prevent the conclusion that both are outstanding leaders.

What we believe about diversity is that those with the right skills for the job or the vocation or the leadership opportunity are the ones who should rise to the top. Diversity allows organizations, families, and even countries to take advantage of leadership skills wherever we may find them – even from “unlikely” sources like Churchill. A diverse and free society leaves those channels open and clear, so that character, experience and talent will, eventually, travel to where they are needed, no matter the labels under which a person falls.

I hope that you will join me for a stimulating lunch on March 6 where it will be a privilege to hear from Judge Seymour about this topic.

And I'll see you around Greenville!

215th edition

March 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 6: Bar Luncheon**
- **April 24: Family Court Meeting**
- **April 29: Law Week Luncheon**
- **April 30: Law Week Golf Tournament**
- **April 30: Cook-out at Furman**
- **May 1: Blood Drive**
- **December 11: Christmas Party**

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Announcements

Elizabeth Mann has been named Associate Dean for Public Service at **Greenville Tech**. She remains Department Head for the college's Paralegal program, adding responsibility for overseeing the Criminal Justice and Human Services programs.

The Upstate Community Mediation Center is pleased to announce that **Diane Smock** has joined the staff as Executive Director. Smock, a graduate of the University of Georgia and the University of Virginia School of Law, who served as Greenville County Probate Judge from 1991 through 1999, is also a trained mediator and arbitrator and attended the Negotiation Institute at Harvard Law School. She has been an at large member of Greenville City Council since 2001 and has served on over twenty-five boards, including the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, the Greenville Housing Fund, Clemson University Board of Visitors, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the Peace Center for the Performing Arts, the United Way Campaign Cabinet, the Greenville YMCA and the Greenville Urban League. In addition, Smock has received numerous awards in recognition of her service to the community.

Roe Cassidy Coates & Price, P.A., a general practice law firm in Greenville, is pleased to announce that **Fred W. "Trey" Suggs III** has become a partner with the firm. Suggs focuses his practice on general defense litigation, medical malpractice defense, commercial litigation, and personal injury litigation. He is active in the South Carolina and

American Bar Associations, and will serve as the President of the Young Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Bar Association in 2009-2010. A native of Greenville, Suggs received a bachelor's degree in English from Washington & Lee University in 1999, and a juris doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002.

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. is pleased to announce that **Jeffrey P. Dunlaevy** has been elected a shareholder. Mr. Dunlaevy represents management clients in litigation before state and federal agencies and courts. In addition, he provides counsel and assistance to clients on a variety of employment and labor law matters. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Dunlaevy served as law clerk to the Honorable James C. Williams, Jr., South Carolina Circuit Court Judge for the First Judicial Circuit. He earned his B.A. from Bowdoin College in 1995, and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1999.

Nexsen Pruet has moved into new office space in Greenville. The firm now occupies the 4th floor in what was formerly known as the Bowater Building. For the past several months, crews have been renovating Nexsen Pruet's 27,000+ square feet of space. In all, there are more than three dozen offices for 17 attorneys, one patent agent and their staff. The firm outgrew its old offices on W. McBee Avenue and moved into the new space on East Camperdown Way, in part, because it offers the potential for more growth.

LAW WEEK SNEAK PEAK April 29-May 1

April 29: Law Week Luncheon. 12 noon. Poinsett Club. Speaking will be the Honorable John K. Few. Luncheon will honor attorneys who have been practicing for 45 years and the Liberty Bell Award recipient. More details on luncheon to follow.

April 30: Judge Eppes Golf Tournament at Furman University. Boxed lunch at 12. Shot-gun start at 1:00. Registration form is on page 7 of this newsletter. Call Seth Swan with questions or if you want to sponsor a hole (\$100). Seth can be reached at 240-3200.

April 30: Cookout at Furman. NEW EVENT. 6pm. Ellison Pavilion at Furman University. More details to follow, but mark your calendar!

May 1: Blood Drive. 11:00-3:00. Leatherwood Parking Lot (Across from Greenville County Courthouse)

**Greenville County Bar Association
MARCH LUNCHEON**

**March 6, 2009
Poinsett Club
12 noon
\$22**

**Speaking:
U.S. District Court Judge Margaret Seymour
on
Diversity in the Legal Profession**

**Make reservations by March 3 to gbarnews@charter.net or 297-1599
and send payment to GCBA, PO Box 10145, Greenville, SC 29603**

LIBERTY BELL AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the Greenville Bar recognizes a non-attorney for outstanding community service during Law Week.

Criteria: The Nominee has (1) promoted a better understanding of the rule of law, (2) encouraged greater respect for the law and Courts; or (3) contributed to good government in the community.

Submissions: Submit in writing no later than April 3rd to Courtney Atkinson, PO Box 2048, Greenville, SC, 29602 or by email to catkinson@hsblawfirm.com

**THANKS TO ADAM FISHER FOR
A SUCCESSFUL CLE**

The Annual CLE was held on February 13 at the Carolina First Center and was planned by CLE Chairperson Adam Fisher and Vice-Chairperson Zandra Johnson. The CLE was attended by 303 attorneys– a new Greenville County Bar Association record!!

Hole Sponsors Needed for the Judge Eppes Memorial Golf Tournament

**\$100 per hole
Proceeds to benefit United Ministries**



**Contact Seth Swan
or Courtney Atkinson
at 240-3200**

JUDGES NEEDED!!!!

On March 27 & 28, 2009, Furman University will host the 2009 National Mock Trial Championship Series-Southeast Tournament. Attorneys are needed to serve as judges and non-attorneys are needed to serve as jurors. To register for this event please visit www.furmanmocktrial.org

Available Office Space

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

Office space for lease. 1306 South Church Street, Greenville, SC. Ideal for small firm or business. 5,000 sq. ft. available; will subdivide. Large furnished Conference room available. Ample on-site parking; 2 restrooms, large break room. One mile from downtown, approximately ½ mile from County Square. \$7.50 per sq. ft. plus share of utilities Call 271-8171 ext 206.

For Lease. 119 Manly Street across from Bilo Center, in Pettigru Historic District. 3198 square feet, 9 rooms, library conference room on totally renovated 1925 traditional residence ideal for a law office. Careful historic restoration. In excellent condition and up to date. Adjoining parking for nine cars. Kitchen area. Contact owner John M. Dillard 834-4415.

Office Space for Rent at 310 The Parkway, Greer, SC. Three Administrative offices approximately 8 x 10 feet furnished and 2 executive corner offices approximately 13 x 18 feet furnished. Use of conference room. Call 848-9370.

Office Space for Rent at 1527 Wade Hampton Blvd, Greenville, SC. Corner office approximately 12 x 14, furnished with secretarial space. \$750 monthly rent includes utilities, use of conference room, kitchen. Contact

Becky at 241-2883.

For Rent: 522 N. Church St., DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE. One story building with ample office space and parking conveniently located behind Bi-Lo Center. \$1300 /month. Includes cleaning, utilities, telephone system with receptionist and conference rooms. Frontage on Church Street. Contact John Abdalla at 864-232-5444 or abdalla-law@yahoo.com for additional information.

For Rent: New suites \$1,000-1,200 monthly or singles \$450/225 ft up. Reception, kitchenette, bath, covered and front porch, parking, ground level or main. Location: W. Stone Avenue at Wilton Street near to Downtown Greenville. 864-303-4378 or 864-906-8366.



Verdicts

Caption: Ashley Barksdale, a minor, vs. Billy Holcombe
Case No. 2007-CP-23-5722
Cause of Action: Wreck
Attorney for the Plaintiff: La'Keabian Shaw
Attorney for the Defendant: Ike Johnson
Verdict for the defendant

Caption: Edward J. Egan and Anne Marie Egan vs. William L. Devault, MD, Orthopaedic Center of the Carolina, PA
Case No. 2007-CP-23-6465
Cause of Action: Medical Malpractice
Attorney for the Plaintiff: Mike Parham, Jamie DeMint
Attorney for the Defendant: Pat Paschal
Verdict for the defendant

Caption: Ricky C. Williams vs. Joseph Hinson & The Master's Mark Construction
Case No. 2007-CP-23-5311
Cause of Action: Possession
Attorney for the Plaintiff: Chris Roberts
Attorney for the Defendant: Steve Farrar, Zandra Johnson
Verdict for the defendant in the amount of \$152,623.50

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

Golf Tournament Registration Form

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***Deadline for articles or
advertisements is the 15th of
each month for the next
publication.***