



G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

By Jim Warren

If all of us learned about the professions through great literature, we might have a very unfortunate impression of the clergy, physicians, business leaders, and yes, lawyers of Greenville. From Jane Austen's notorious clergyman Mr. Collins, to the physicians of murderous or incompetent fame, from Mr. Scrooge to Dickens's incompetent and mocking *Bleak House* lawyers, the professionals of art often play the villain or fool. Indeed one of the most famous lines in Shakespeare is about lawyers, and I am certain one with which we are all familiar. In Jack Cade's soliloquy to his fellow ruffians and roustabouts in *Henry VI*, he imagines an absurd world, one where "in England seven half-penny loaves sold for a penny . . . I will make it felony to drink small beer: . . . there shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on my score; and I will apparel them all in one livery, that they may agree like brothers, and worship me their lord." His cohort says the punch line: "*The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.*"

Over the next three months I want to offer a few reflections on "The Character of a Lawyer" – although I suppose you'll soon see that the "character" I'm talking about applies to human beings in general, not merely lawyers, and certainly Jack Cade and his friends were unfamiliar with it. The remarks of Judge Verdin in her recent presentation to summer associates and new attorneys are my launching pad this month, for she made the fascinating case for *kindness as the one common trait that all the great attorneys she has known have*. It is quite a striking claim, isn't it?

Of course, she distinguished between "good" and "great." Merely good attorneys already have the knowledge and practical

skills to practice law to the benefit of his or her clients. That goes without saying. But the extra ingredient that makes the truly special sauce, so to speak, in producing a great lawyer is kindness.

Judge Verdin articulated the five arenas in which she believes that great lawyers practice kindness: to oneself, to the community, to the profession, to non-lawyers and to fellow attorneys. She offered practical ways for this work of kindness – for work it is – to take place in those five arenas, and I commend the entire speech to our Greenville Bar. It's posted on the G-Bar website.

I simply want to note three points about the practice of kindness. *First*, kindness does not have to be soft or weak. Sometimes, it is an act of kindness to tell the truth or to seek justice. Truth-telling and justice-seeking are a foundation for a kind society, for without truth and justice, the world becomes far more chaotic – and less able, then – to offer kindness.

Second, kindness is the one true, best way to lead, influence, and develop others. The Hebrew scriptures speak of a higher power that leads "with cords of human kindness, with ties of love." All of us know, as we have seen the effects of violence and abuse in communities, families, and countries, that harshness does not ultimately lead to health and wholeness. Only the long and patient path of kindness will grow fellow human beings and societies well.

Finally I note that kindness spreads and grows, transmitted from one person to another, in an expanding and lengthening chain. Simply put, kindness spreads like wildfire.

(Continued on page 2)

220th edition
September 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 24: Judges Reception**
- **December 11: Christmas Party**
- **February 12, 2010: "Year-End" CLE**

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One of the most classic examples of kindness is found in the Bible and illustrates this principle. King David of Israel seeks out someone to be kind to for the sake of his friend Jonathan, who had been kind to him when David had been nothing but a young shepherd boy. After David's authority and power are established – after he has climbed the corporate ladder, so to speak -- he asks a question that each one of us might ask ourselves in the practice of kindness: “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?” As you may recall, there was such a person – a man who was lame who ate at the king's table for the rest of his life. From Jonathan's kindness decades earlier sprang work for an entire family [David commissioned some farmers to work the land] and the support of another family.

There's a word – a more professional-sounding and perhaps less scary word than kindness – which we use a lot in the Greenville Bar and that's “collegiality.” It goes along with a word that is now included, as Judge Verdin notes, in our oath, and that is “civility.” Those

are both good words. But I'll submit that kindness is a somewhat larger concept and practice that encompasses both collegiality and civility. If we are kind, we will practice both collegiality and civility. I hope to see you at one of our collegial traditions, the Judges Reception on September 24. It's a nice once-a-year opportunity to honor our judges. But kindness is a daily opportunity.

Since I started with Shakespeare, I'll end with a better line, from a character who, though she was pretending to be a lawyer, still makes an excellent case for kindness.

“The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes . . .”

What would Greenville, our families, our vocation, and the Greenville Bar look like were we all to become the great lawyers that Judge Verdin describes? Maybe we'll find out.

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The Greenville County Bar Association
invites you and a guest to our

2009 Judges Reception

Honoring our local, state and federal judges
And honoring Larry R. "Choppy" Patterson
for his years of service as a Family Court Judge and Circuit Court Judge

Thursday, September 24
Greenville Country Club
5:30 pm
\$45 per person

Please RSVP by Monday September 21 to
gbarnews@charter.net or 757-1550

**** the Greenville County Bar Pictorial Directory will be handed out at this event!!****

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Announcements

"A Celebration of 10 Years of Peace," a party and silent auction commemorating the tenth anniversary of the **Upstate Community Mediation Center**, will be held on September 17 from 6:30 PM till 8:30 PM at Wachovia Place, 15 S. Main St, Greenville, SC. Admission is \$40 per individual and \$75 per couple. To order tickets, call 864.370.9771, email info@upstatedmediation.com, or send a check to UCMC, 27 Cleveland St, Suite 204, Greenville, S.C. 29601.

Michael B. Bridges, Esq. of Dobson, Jones, Ball, Phillips & Bridges, P.A. was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2010 in the specialty of Elder Law, Tax Law and Trusts and Estates.

Nexsen Pruet is proud to announce that **E. Grantland Burns, David W. Gosset, John Hardaway, Leon C. Harmon, Russell T. Infinger, Michael S. Pitts, Thomas L. Stephenson, B. Joel Stoudenmire, and William Wilkins** will be included in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Ogletree Deakins announced that 18 of the firm's Greenville attorneys have been named in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. **Lewis T. Smoak, J. Hamilton Stewart, III, Fred W. Suggs, Jr., Thomas M. Christina, Donald A. Cockrill, John G. Creech, J. Howard Daniel, L. Gray Geddie, Jr., Thomas G. Greaves, III, Knox L. Haynsworth, Jr., William R. McKibbon, Jr., Joel A. Daniel, Robert O. King, Phillip A. Kilgore, R. Allison Phinney, and M. Baker Wyche, III** were renamed to the list. **Mark M. Stublely and Stephen R. Woods** were named to the list for the first time.

McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A. is pleased to announce that six of its Greenville attorneys have been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®2010. Those selected are **Ronald E. Cardwell, Weyman C. Carter, Phillip L. Conner, Cort R. Flint, Rita M. McKinney, and Daniel R. McLeod, Jr.**

McAngus Goudelock & Courie attorney **G.D. "Doc" Morgan, Jr.**, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2010 edition.

Dobson, Jones, Ball, Phillips & Bridges, P.A. is pleased to announce that all of its partners, **David W. Ball, Esq., Michael B. Bridges, Esq., Richard A. Jones, Jr., Esq., and Virginia M. Phillips, Esq.** have recently been selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2010.

The law firm of **Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.** announced today that ten Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. attorneys have been named to the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers In Americ*: **H. Mills Gallivan, Daniel B. White, W. Howard Boyd, Jr., James D. Brice, Arthur L. Howson, Jr., C. Stuart Mauney, C. William McGee, Phillip E. Reeves, T. David Rheney, and Ronald K. Wray II.**

Ogletree Deakins is pleased to announce that two of its

attorneys, **Mark M. Stublely and William R. McKibbon, Jr.**, have been named among The Labor Relations Institute's "Top 100 Labor Attorneys" in the U.S. for 2009.

Patrick C. Fant, III is pleased to announce the formation of **Fant Law, P.A.** Patrick will continue to focus on Workers' Compensation defense for employers. Patrick is also a certified mediator.

Eight attorneys in **Womble Carlyle's** Greenville office have ranked highly on Woodward/White Inc.'s *The Best Lawyers in America* rankings for 2010: **Larry D. Estridge, R. Howard Grubbs, D. Allen Grumbine, Sandra Louise Wikel Miller, Samuel W. Outten, W. Lindsay Smith, Elizabeth O. Temple, and Rory D. Whelehan.**

The Greenville office of **Ogletree Deakins** is pleased to announce that **Matthew K. Johnson** was recently appointed by the Greenville City Council to serve as a member of the Planning Commission. Mr. Johnson's term begins immediately and will expire on March 31, 2013.

E. Brown Parkinson, Jr. of Devlin & Parkinson, P.A. has been selected for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of Medical Malpractice Law.

Merline & Meacham, P.A. is pleased to announce that four of its attorneys have been selected by their peers to be included in "*The Best Lawyers in America*" 2010 edition: **David A. Merline, David A. Merline, Jr., Keith G. Meacham, and Robert E. August.**

The law firm of **Devlin & Parkinson** is pleased to announce that **John R. Devlin, Jr.** has been selected for inclusion in the 2009-10 edition of the Best Lawyers in America. Mr. Devlin has also been selected for inclusion in the South Carolina Super Lawyers for 2009 and 2010.



Verdicts

Caption: Joseph J. Dougherty vs. Special Services Freight of the Carolinas, Special Service Transportation Services, Inc. and Steve Miller.

Case No. 2008-CP-23-1825

Cause of Action: Contact

Attorney for Plaintiff: Rob Sneed

Attorney for Defendant: Andrew Arnold

Verdict for the Defendant

Caption: Helen Biggerstaff vs. James R. Cisson d/b/a Construction Maintenance

Case No. 2008-CP-23-2889

Cause of Action: Wreck

Attorney for Plaintiff: George Eugene LaFaye IV

Attorney for Defendant: Gerald Thomas Chase

Verdict for the Plaintiff in the amount of \$8,675 actual damages

Caption: Jerry D. Carter vs. James D. Sizemore

Case No. 2008-CP-23-2356

Cause of Action: Assault/Slander

Attorney for Plaintiff: Nathan Earle

Attorney for Defendant: Peter Farr

Verdict for the Plaintiff in the amount of \$1,000, verdict for the defendant in the amount of \$210

Caption: Tarsha Bowman vs. Larry Hodgens

Case No. 2008-CP-23-3249

Cause of Action: Wreck

Attorney for Plaintiff: Hank Ehiles

Attorney for Defendant: Matt Staab

Verdict for the Plaintiff in the amount of \$2,178.30

Caption: John P. Evans vs. Ernest S. Phelps and Linda K. Phelps

Case No. 2008-CP-23-3675

Cause of Action: Breach of Contract

Attorney for Plaintiff: Kyle Thompson

Attorney for Defendant: pro se

Verdict for the Plaintiff in the amount of \$2,908.86 plus \$144.92 costs and \$500.00 attorney fees.

Available Office Space

1619 East North Street: Large office space with private bathroom. All other amenities are shared, i.e., furnished conference room, waiting area, kitchen, public bathroom, parking. Other amenities may include shared phone system and high speed internet if leasee so chooses. Rent is negotiable. This space is perfect for a solo practitioner. For more information please contact Tesa at 242.0282.

Office Space Available in Fully Renovated House at 114 Whitsett Street. Large Office and Secretarial Office with use of two conference rooms. Also included: Waiting and reception services, Avaya Phone System, Networked High Speed Copier/Fax/Scanner, Networked Encrypted Server, High Speed Internet, Stocked Refrigerator and parking. Please call 467-9595 for more details.

Office space for lease. 1306 S. Church Street 5,000 sq. ft. available; will subdivide. Large furnished conference room available. On-site parking; 2 restrooms, large break room. One mile from downtown, approx. ½ mile from County Square. \$7/SF plus share of utilities for upstairs space; \$6/SF plus share of utilities for downstairs space. Call 864-271-8171 ext. 206.

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

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. Contact John Abdalla at 864-232-5444 or abdallalaw@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.

Second Floor Suite located at 204 Lavina Ave. Space includes 4 rooms and a bathroom. Call 787-2824 for more information.

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Office Space for rent: 310 The Parkway, Greer, SC 29650 call: 848-9370, 3 administrative offices (8 X 12) for \$300 each and 2 executive offices (13 X 20) for \$500 each. Monthly rent includes utilities, use of conference room, kitchen/break room, internet and ample parking.

Office Space for Rent at 1425 Augusta Street. First floor. Approximately 2,000-sq. ft. Space includes 5 rooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen area and use of conference room. Ample parking. Contact Gina at 235-0019.

3 administrative offices (8 x 12) for \$300 each and 2 executive offices (13 x 20) for \$500 each. Monthly rent includes utilities, use of conference room, kitchen/break room, internet and ample parking.

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