



G-Bar News

A Publication of the Greenville County Bar

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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

By Jim Warren

On the walls of our firm there are many strange and interesting works of art and history: a pen and ink sketch of the Old Record Building in Greenville, six black and white photos of a nearly unrecognizable and now historic Main Street, a map of Greenville County from more than a century ago, four color illustrations of the main buildings of Columbia College, Harvard, Princeton, and William & Mary, and an oil landscape of "the Reedy River massacre." We've never been a corporate-styled law firm, with matching sets of decorator-bought artwork for the walls. In one more private area of the Wyche firm [okay, okay, it's one of the men's restrooms!], there is a print with a dead man being carried out on a stretcher and the stark words accompanying it . . . "This Man Was Talked To Death."

Last month I wrote about a second characteristic that makes a great lawyer – hard work – and in a sense this article, on the art of listening, seems almost the opposite of "work." What can be so hard about sitting still and listening [other than that it is so rare, and so challenging for us to do]?

Yet if you have ever been nervous or

anxious, and in need of help from another "expert" you'll understand the power that another person listening to you has on your heart, your racing mind, and perhaps even your sweating palms. There is something that puts a person at ease when another person sits quietly, waits for you to articulate your thoughts, and listens carefully, without interrupting or hurrying you. A physician listens quietly to a concerned patient. A spouse listens patiently to a husband or wife. A judge listens to a lawyer. A counselor listens to a client. A parent listens carefully to a child. All of those acts of listening by an authority, a fellow professional, or a loved one are incredible acts of respect, of confidence, and of calm . . . and they serve to ease the mind in a sometimes miraculous way. My bet is that if each of us could depend on 20 minutes of listening a day from someone we respect or love, our day would be calmer and more peaceful, even in the midst of uncertainty and stress. A listening ear is the great "high blood pressure medicine" of the day.

Of course, listening does not yield benefits merely for the speaker. It was Oliver Wendell Holmes, the great Supreme Court Justice, who said "It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen." And sometimes, it's best not to share all we know – or all we *think* we know, anyway.

Though the act of listening to another human being can be a simple act of willpower, I believe that there is also something mysterious and almost supernatural about giving someone the gift of listening. Along with listening comes, inevitably, pa-

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 11: Annual Meeting**
- **December 11: Christmas Party**
- **December 17: Memorial Service**
- **February 12, 2010: "Year-End" CLE**

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tience, stillness, attentiveness, and wisdom. You cannot have one, without a host of other qualities trailing along.

Ben Robertson, in the great Southern classic *Red Hills and Cotton*, which served to “memorialize” the South Carolina Upstate, captured the stillness and patience of listening in his descriptions of interactions with the outdoors.

“I learned too that stillness often was rewarded and that many things came to you by chance. By sitting still on a bank and looking up into an oak, I once discovered a hummingbird’s nest – a nest I could never have found if I had said to myself I would find a hummingbird’s nest. I learned there were many things that could never be revealed unless you sat still and looked and listened . . .

I learned contemplation when I was growing up. In the solitude of the long Southern afternoons I found how to retire within and retreat and how to hear in the great orchestra of the wind the high note. I learned to lie fallow, like the fields in winter, and to live beyond the world and some of its loneliness. That is a quieting habit to acquire; it helps to overcome restlessness. Like most Southerners, I learned early to wait.”

Though Robertson is speaking specifically of living within nature, his descriptions are of something far deeper and more encompassing. He’s talking about a way of living and being that has been somewhat lost in the 21st century of Blackberries [not the fruit], email, Interstates, and the “mass customization” and immediacy that Americans now demand. He’s talking about stillness, contemplation, quieting, waiting. I believe that if we could recover some part of that way of being we would become far better lawyers, and of course, far better human beings.

Just as Robertson discovered hummingbird’s nests by simply sitting still and watching, so I suspect that we would discover many unexpected things in our clients, peers, and loved ones by doing the same things: sitting still, watching, waiting, and listening.

I’ll be seeing you soon, I hope – in and around Greenville.

PS: I love the outdoors and visiting new outdoor places – so if you have a favorite outdoor haunt in or near the Upstate, drop me a line and I promise to listen, even if simply via cyberspace!

The Greenville Bar is strongly considering emailing rather than mailing its Newsletters beginning January 2010.

So many of you have already asked us about this and, for those of you who like to read the newsletter on paper, we will format it so that you can easily print it out and read it in that manner. We welcome any comments or thoughts you may have on this issue: please call Chris Gantt-Sorenson at 864.240.3282 or you can email at csorenson@hsblawfirm.com.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**GCBA
CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

**December 11
Greenville Country Club
6:30 p.m.**

Memorial Service

The Memorial Service Committee is making preparations for this year's Memorial Service which will be on December 17, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom #8. The lawyers who have passed away this past year and will be remembered are:

Orville Gilbert Calhoun, Jr.
Fran E. Duarte
Grover S. (Buddy) Parnell
Robert P. Stirm

If you know of any others, please contact Jack Griffeth at 282-9104 as soon as possible.

Proposed Revisions to the Greenville County Bar Association's By-Laws

At the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Greenville County Bar Association on December 11 at 6 p.m. at the Greenville Country Club, the Association will vote on revisions to the By-Laws as recommended by the By-Laws Committee. To read a draft of the revised By-Laws, please visit our website at www.greenvillecountybar.org

Thanks to the By-Laws Committee for all their hard work:
Dave Edwards, Chairperson
Adam Fisher
Jo Watson Hackl
Jeff Merriam

REQUEST FOR GCBA OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the officers of the Greenville County Bar Association may be submitted by November 16, 2009 to gbarnews@charter.net, by fax to 757-1550 or by mail to P.O. Box 10145, Greenville, SC 29603. Offices include President, President Elect/Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held prior to the Christmas Party on December 11 at the Greenville Country Club.

Announcements

Womble Carlyle has been named the 2009 winner of the Law Firm Diversity Award by [DRI](#) (formerly the Defense Research Institute), the Voice of the Defense Bar. [The DRI Awards](#) are national in scope and only one law firm in the country is honored annually for its commitment to diversity. The firm received the award on Oct. 8th at DRI's Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Gaston & Allison, LLC announces the retirement of **W. Clark Gaston, Jr.** from the practice of law. **James M. Allison** will continue his practice under the name of **James M. Allison, PA** with his offices still located at 109 East North Street, Greenville, SC 29601. 864-271-2656.

The law offices of **Richard N. Tapp, P.A.** announces that **Richard N. Tapp** is retiring from the practice of law as of the end of November 2009.

Kennison, Dudley & Crawford, LLC is pleased to announce that **F. Lee Prickett III** will join the firm as an associate. Mr. Prickett was formerly with the Beaufort County Solicitor and is the former law clerk to the Honorable Brooks P. Goldsmith in Lancaster, SC. He will concentrate his practice in construction and commercial litigation.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund honored **Womble Carlyle's Brent Clinkscale** with the Founder's Award, the highest volunteer award given by the Fund. Clinkscale is a long-time member of the Fund's Board of Directors and also serves as its General Counsel, providing his expertise on a *pro bono* basis. Clinkscale received the Founder's Award at the Fund's 22nd Anniversary Dinner, held Monday at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers in New York City. The star-studded gala was hosted by acclaimed actor Danny Glover.

Turner Padgett is pleased to announce that **Eric K. Englehardt** was recently elected to the Board of Directors for The Wings of Hope Foundation in Greenville, S.C. Mr. Englehardt, a shareholder in the Greenville office, is a member of the Litigation Practice Group and is a certified court mediator. The Wings of Hope Foundation works to transform families and children struggling with alcohol or drugs.

The **Guest & Brady Law Firm** would like to announce the addition of **Richard Kingsley Allen, III** to the expanding legal team. Richard has joined the firm as an Associate attorney and plans to add diversity to the

firm's current service areas with his practice of family law, divorce, criminal defense, construction litigation and general litigation.

Compass of Carolina

Children Cope with Divorce/Transparenting for Professionals: Assisting Families in Transition

A Presentation for Guardians *ad litem*, lawyers, judges, and therapists

Approved co-parenting program by the Family Court Judges of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

4.0 CLE

4.0 social work CEUs

Compass of Carolina, 1100 Rutherford Road

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:00-1:15 p.m.

Cost: \$75 includes all materials

Please call 467-3434 Ext. 3328 to register.

Registration deadline: [November 25, 2009](#)

Presenters:

Kathy Greene, M.S.W., LISW-CP
Charles W. Marchbanks, J.D., M.S.W.



Verdicts

Caption: Daniel L. Shively and Georgia L.

Shively vs. Jennifer Leigh Ragin

Case No. 2008-CP-23-3957

Cause of Action: Wreck

Attorney for Plaintiff: John A. Jackson

Attorney for Defendant: Mark McGarr

Verdict for the Defendant

Caption: Stanley Osowicki vs. City of Greenville

Case No. 2008-CP-23-5007

Cause of Action: Premises Liability

Attorney for Plaintiff: David Price

Attorneys for Defendant: Matt Whitehead & Howard Boyd

Verdict for the Defendant

GREENVILLE COUNTY BAR PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!!!!

If you did not pick up your pictorial directory at the Judicial Reception, you may pick up a copy at one of three convenient locations:

- 1. The Clerk of Court's Office located in the Greenville County Courthouse**
- 2. Wyche, Burgess, Freeman & Parham, P.A. located at 44 E. Camperdown Way**
- 3. Roe Cassidy Coates & Price, P.A. located at 1052 N. Church Street**

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.

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 bath-

rooms, 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.

707 East North Street (between LEC and the Bi-Lo Center) - several size offices available with option to access conference rooms, break room and work room. Contact Manning Culbertson for additional information 233-8282.

SAVE THE DATE

GREENVILLE COUNTY BAR'S

“YEAR-END” CLE

FEBRUARY 12

CAROLINA FIRST CENTER

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

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