

Our mission is to fund the advancement of justice by improving access, education and accountability.

South Carolina Bar Foundation Launches Ambassador Program

Are you a young attorney looking for a leadership role? Do you have a diversity of expertise, skills and/or experience? Do you demonstrate a commitment to access to justice issues, particularly with experience supporting the public interest and legal services community in South Carolina? Do you have an interest and ability to raise awareness about legal services programs and law-related education initiatives?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then you should consider becoming a SCBF Ambassador!

The Foundation will launch the SCBF Ambassadors in January 2015. The opportunity will allow young lawyers to further the goal of access to justice by working with the Bar Foundation and its grantees.

Ambassadors will promote the Bar Foundation's mission and help generate additional resources to support legal services programs and other grantees of the Bar Foundation. Ambassadors will also have the opportunity to assist the Foundation with events, fundraising and other functions.

As part of its planned growth, the Bar Foundation will add up to 12 new ambassadors for a two-year term beginning January 2015. Over the next three years, the Foundation will add a total of 35 ambassadors.

Qualifications for the program are listed at www.scbfoundation.org. Interested applicants should send a résumé, letter of interest and up to two letters of support, along with a completed application form to Shannon Willis Scruggs at shannon.scruggs@scbar.org. **Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27, 2014.**

Share Your Voice Through Voices For Civil Justice

Q: What is growing each day, but largely invisible?

A: The need for civil legal aid in the US.

Fortunately, this lack of visibility is being viewed as an opportunity by a newly formed communications hub, **Voices for Civil Justice**. This nonpartisan communications nucleus seeks to turn the tide of civil legal aid's invisibility by using media channels to help people understand the value of protecting livelihoods, health and families through legal aid.

To be successful, Voices for Civil Justice is seeking involvement of impassioned, knowledgeable and well-connected advocates for civil justice nationwide. Sign up for JusticeVoice, a growing network of "connectors," experts and media spokespeople who serve as the "go-to" group for story ideas. Let's make sure that South Carolina is well represented! More information (including the form to sign up) is at <http://voicesforciviljustice.org/sign-up/>.

So what do lawyers think of legal aid?

- Unlike voters, who are largely unaware of civil legal aid, lawyers are nearly universally familiar with the term and have solidly positive impressions.
- A strong majority of lawyers - 59 percent - indicate a previous or current involvement with civil legal aid as donors or volunteers. By a margin of two to one, they are more likely to volunteer their services than to make a monetary donation.
- By a margin of 65 percent to 25 percent (with just 10 percent undecided), lawyers express initial support for increasing government funding for civil legal aid. With 29 percent expressing strong support, the intensity in support outweighs all opposition among lawyers.
- The new, broader definition of civil legal aid is well received by lawyers, especially by those who previously or currently volunteer or donate. In fact, it increases support and intensity from already robust initial levels.
- Lawyers are less receptive than voters to delivery innovations like self-help centers and forms.

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Opinion research by Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group



Charleston Gathering Brings Great Support for Lowcountry Grantees

Spectacular views, delicious food, inspiring stories and generous giving – these are the things used to describe our Charleston Grantee Gathering, held on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Harbour Club in Charleston.

The gathering allowed four of our grantees – the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, One-80 Place (formerly Crisis Ministries) and South Carolina Legal Services' Charleston office – to share information about their work and efforts to help individuals in the Lowcountry.

The event would not have been possible without the help of our presenting sponsor, Regions Bank, as well as the table sponsors and host committee. Gifts from the event are still coming in so even if you could not be with us in Charleston, you can still join those who attended and become a supporter of these four great programs.

Since the Foundation first initiated these regional events, \$75,000 in support has been provided to our grantees. Didn't get to attend in Charleston? Make a donation by visiting <http://www.razoo.com/story/Charleston-Grantee-Gathering>.



Supporters enjoy a delicious breakfast and inspiring stories at the SCBF Charleston Grantee Gathering.

Thank you to our sponsors.

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DuRant Distinguished Public Service Award

Giving. Passionate. Public Servant. Long-standing career. Do these words describe one of your colleagues? Nominate them for the DuRant Award!

Recipients are nominated and selected by their professional peers, establishing this recognition as one of the most prestigious statewide award members of the Bar can bestow on a fellow attorney. Selection criteria include meritorious service to the law and the community. Eligibility is limited to living members of the South Carolina Bar. Sitting judges and current public office holders are not eligible however, past service in such positions will be considered. The award recipient will be honored at the Bar Convention's plenary luncheon in January.

The Foundation established the award in 1980 to honor the memory of Charlton DuRant, a well-known Manning attorney who served as state senator and special associate justice of the SC Supreme Court.

The nomination form for the DuRant award is available at www.sctbarfoundation.org/durant.asp. Nominations are due **Nov. 6** and should be sent via email to foundation@sctbar.org. If you have further questions about the DuRant Award, please contact the Foundation at 803-765-0517.

THE DURANT LEGACY –

David W. Robinson, 1980	A. Lee Chandler, 1998
Walton J. McLeod Jr., 1981	I.S. Leevy Johnson, 1999
Robert M. Figg Jr., 1982	William L. Pope, 2000
Thomas H. Pope, 1983	H. Simmons Tate Jr., 2001
J.D. Todd Jr., 1984	Joseph H. McGee, 2002
Hugh L. Willcox, 1985	Alex M. Sanders Jr., 2003
C. Bruce Littlejohn, 1986	Eugene N. "Nick" Zeigler Jr., 2004
Heyward E. McDonald, 1987	Ernest A. Finney Jr., 2005
Charles W. Knowlton, 1988	Leo H. Hill, 2005
E.P. "Ted" Riley, 1989	Julian J. Nexsen, 2006
Augustine T. Smythe, 1990	B. Henderson Johnson Jr., 2007
Harry M. Lightsey, 1991	David L. Freeman, 2008
Terrell L. Glenn, 1992	G. Dewey Oxner Jr., 2009
A. Frank Lever, 1993	Richard W. Riley, 2010
Morris D. Rosen, 1994	David A. Merline, 2011
Ellen Hines Smith, 1995	Harold W. Jacobs, 2012
Claude M. Scarborough Jr., 1996	Mark W. Buyck Jr., 2013
Julius W. McKay, 1997	

GALA 2015

Mark your calendars.
It's almost time to dress to the nines and
join us for the ninth-annual

SOUTH CAROLINA BAR FOUNDATION GALA

on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015, during the
South Carolina Bar Convention.

In gala tradition we will honor
the Nifty Fifty Class of 1965,
the Ellen Hines Smith Legal Services
Lawyer of the Year and the South Carolina
Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year.

But we can't do all of this without
YOUR help. Please consider becoming
a sponsor for Gala 2015.

The support form can be found at
www.sctbarfoundation.org/gala.asp.

Individual tickets will be on sale through
the Bar Convention registration form
or may be purchased directly from the
Foundation beginning in October.

Call 803-765-0517 or
visit www.sctbarfoundation.org.

The Foundation is seeking contributions for the silent auction which, this year, will run throughout the SC Bar Convention. Popular items include vacation homes, jewelry, artwork and rounds of golf. New to this year's auction will be a section showcasing the work of lawyers who are also artists. Want to show off your work for a good cause? Contact us at 803-765-0517!

GRANTEE CORNER

This year marks the 13th anniversary of a day in our nation's history that changed the way we view those who protect our privilege of safety within the borders of the United States. After returning from protecting that privilege for us overseas, "Andy" needed help protecting his family.

As he stepped back onto U.S. soil after serving in Afghanistan, "Andy" was entering another battle - the fight for his daughter's future. Discharged due to a traumatic brain injury, Andy returned home to start a family with his girlfriend. The best day of Andy's life quickly turned into his worst nightmare as the mother of his child abandoned them. Andy raised their daughter alone, making a living as a consultant for the armed services.

With time, Andy's brain trauma led to seizures. He found himself unable to work and moved back to his hometown to be closer to family. As the new school year drew closer, Andy went to enroll his daughter in school only to be faced with

more trouble. He had not been listed as the father on his child's birth certificate. Stunned and overwhelmed, the veteran found the number for Lowcountry Legal Volunteers (LLV) and quickly called the staff for help. Since his first call, LLV has filed an action to have Andy declared as the parent. The mother has been served by publication since she cannot be located.

In addition to LLV, the Foundation supported 18 other grantees in 2014. Our civil legal aid grantees closed upwards of 11,100 cases. Of those, roughly 46 percent involved family law issues including custody, visitation and domestic abuse. Another 26 percent focused on helping families with housing issues including avoiding foreclosure. Our law related education grantees continued to touch the lives of thousands - teaching students to become responsible citizens under the law. Other grantees assisted mothers, fathers and families in need by providing mediation, training and lending a helping hand or a listening ear.

The Bar Foundation is pleased to announce its grantees for the FY 15 grant cycle.

CIVIL LEGAL AID

Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services
Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (CODA)
One-80 Place - Homeless Justice Project
Lowcountry Legal Volunteers
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
SC Bar Pro Bono Program
SC Legal Services
SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN)
Sistercare

LAW RELATED EDUCATION

SC Bar Law Related Education Division
USC Pro Bono Program ~ Public Interest Fellows
YMCA Youth in Government

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Midlands Mediation Center
The National Judicial College
Richland County CASA
SC Access to Justice Commission
SC Bar Ask-A-Lawyer & Clinics Program
SC Center for Fathers & Families
Alternatives to Incarceration
Upstate Mediation Center

Since 1987, the Foundation had distributed \$47.6 million to legal-related organizations.

Meet Your New Bar Foundation Staff

There are two new faces at the South Carolina Bar Foundation - Kristin Horzen, Financial/Office Manager, and Megan Moore, Marketing/Communications Coordinator. Kristin, a CPA, comes to famously hot Columbia from Wisconsin where she served as the Director of Finance for Moraine Park Technical College. Megan began her career at Lexington County School District One. A graduate of USC, Megan's expertise includes developing communication strategies for social media.

Remember, to stay up-to-date on things happening at the Bar Foundation, log on to our updated website at www.sctbarfoundation.org or follow our blog at sctbarfoundation.wordpress.com. And, don't forget to like the Foundation on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



Kristin Horzen



Megan Moore

Meet Your Bar Foundation Board of Directors



Elaine H. Fowler, President

Fowler is an attorney with Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, PA where she has spent her entire legal career. Named to the list of Best Lawyers in America in the area of Real Estate for the last six years, Fowler currently serves on the board of directors of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. She received the American Judicature Society Special Merit Citation for her contributions to the justice system while serving as the first female president of the South Carolina Bar and the Platinum Compleat Lawyer Award by the South Carolina School of Law Alumni Association.



Marie-Louise Ramsdale, President-Elect

Ramsdale is the principal lawyer of the Ramsdale Law Firm, LLC, in Mount Pleasant. With her BA from the University of South Carolina and her JD from Harvard Law School, she practices family law. Ramsdale has a wide range of experience in serving nonprofits including past leadership of City Year Columbia and South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness. She is a member of the House of Delegates and serves as a volunteer for fee dispute resolution issues. In the community, Ramsdale is on the board of the Charleston Stage.



Sidney J. Evering II, Secretary/Treasurer

Evering is director of diversity and senior counsel at Parker Poe Adams and Bernstein. He earned his BS in business administration from the University of South Carolina and his Juris Doctor at the USC School of Law. In 2013, he was named one of The State's 20 under 40 and recognized by the USC Black Law Students Association with the Jonathan Jasper Wright Award, which is given to an outstanding member of the legal community. He currently serves as a member of the South Carolina State University board of trustees.

New faces to the Foundation Board include:



Byron R. Gipson

Gipson is a shareholder at Johnson Toal & Battiste, PA where he practices in the areas of criminal defense and personal injury. He received his BA in both English and political science from the College of Charleston and his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. In 2000, Gipson was appointed to the South Carolina Humanities Council and was elected chair in 2004.



Mary E. Sharp

Sharp is a partner at Griffith Sadler & Sharp, PA and serves as a municipal judge for the City of Beaufort. Sharp received her BA from North Carolina State University and her JD from the Wake Forest University School of Law. Sharp has held state and national leadership roles, serving as president of the Lowcountry Legal Volunteers, the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association and the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.



Christopher R. Koon

Koon is senior vice president and general counsel at The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. He received his undergraduate from Clemson University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Koon serves on the board of directors for the SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Clemson University Humanities Advancement, Richland Library Friends and City Year Columbia.



Elizabeth H. Warner

Warner is vice president of legal services and corporate secretary for Santee Cooper. She earned her BA in political science from the University of South Carolina and her Juris Doctor from the USC School of Law. Warner was recently named secretary of the SC Bar Board of Governors. She is past chair of the Coastal Community Foundation and past chair of the Trident United Way Women's Leadership Council.



J. René Josey

Josey began his private practice with Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, PA in 2001. He received his undergraduate from Clemson University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. After his first decade in practice, Josey was chosen by then-President Bill Clinton to serve as the U.S. attorney for the District of South Carolina, a position Josey held from 1996 through 2001.



William K. Witherspoon

Witherspoon is an assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbia. He earned his undergraduate degree from University of South Carolina and his Juris Doctor from the USC School of Law, where he served as student body president during his final year. Witherspoon has served as president of the Richland County Bar and the Columbia Lawyers Association. He is the treasurer of the SC Bar Board of Governors.

The officers and new Directors are joined by their colleagues who are continuing their service:



Beverly A. Carroll

Immediate Past President



J. Boone Aiken III



Robin A. Braithwaite



Chet Chea



Jocelyn Newman



James W. Sheedy

Tribute Gifts

The Bar Foundation gratefully acknowledges those who have made gifts in tribute of a colleague or friend of the Bar for the period June 1, 2014 - August 31, 2014. Names in bold denote the honoree.

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When "thank you" just isn't enough...recognize your mentor with a tribute gift.

*Let everyone know just how much your mentor has impacted your career by honoring them today or memorializing them tomorrow.
The Bar Foundation also lists tribute gifts online at www.scbfoundation.org.*



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Three ways to remit payment

1. Credit card - complete form above
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SC Bar Foundation, Attn: Ms. Shannon W. Scruggs, PO Box 608, Columbia, SC 29202

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- Disabled Lawyers Fund
- Brewer Professionalism Fund

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City _____ State _____

Tribute gifts are applied to the General Fund.

- I have included the Bar Foundation in my will.

Fall 2014