



SOUTH CAROLINA BAR
FOUNDATION
promoting *justice* by *funding* legal access & education
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC BAR FOUNDATION NAMES JONES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Aug. 24, 2023) — The SC Bar Foundation welcomes Olivia S. Jones as its new Executive Director, effective Sept. 11, 2023. Jones will work with the SC Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors in promoting justice by funding legal access and education in South Carolina through the programs and services offered by the nonprofit’s 40 grantee organizations.

“The SC Bar Foundation interviewed several highly experienced candidates from a wide range of backgrounds. Ms. Jones represented the best of a strong field. She has the unique experience in working for past grantees and has shown a dedication to the kind of pro bono legal work that is a key element of the SC Bar Foundation’s mission,” remarked John DeLoache, president of the SC Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors. “As the new Executive Director, Ms. Jones will know firsthand the needs and goals of our grantees and can help lead the SC Bar Foundation to a stronger future.”

Jones stated, “I have spent the majority of my legal career working for or with SC Bar Foundation grantees doing the ‘on-the-ground’ representation that has allowed me to be part of the legal experience of so many low-income and marginalized residents of our state. I have seen first-hand their anguish, surprise, and fear about the legal process and learned how a caring, supportive advocate can make all the difference. It is this work that has prompted me to look beyond individual representation to a ‘big picture’ approach in helping the underserved and ignored. I am committed to continuing the transformative work the SC Bar Foundation has done in our community, working closely with our dedicated and diligent grantees to create impactful and necessary change.”

Jones has been a solo practicing attorney in Columbia since September 2015. While serving her clients in family law, immigration, and probate matters, she continued to dedicate her time and talent to pro bono cases and was recognized as the SC Bar Pro Bono Attorney of the year in 2020. Before opening her practice, Jones employed her fluency in Spanish by working as an immigration attorney for *Digna Ochoa* Center for Immigration Legal Assistance and SC Legal Services for the six years prior to that.

Jones received her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law and a supplementary degree in Public Management from Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso in Chile after receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at the University of South Carolina Honors College.

In the community, Jones not only commits time to work pro bono cases, but also has served for two years as a board member on the SC Access to Justice Commission, currently serves as a board member and director for Palmetto Center for Children's Legal Access, and recently completed her service as president of the Rotary Club of Five Points as well as her duties as secretary for the Columbia City Ballet's Board of Directors. She co-created and volunteers twice monthly at a pro se divorce help desk available in Richland County, and is an instructor of pro se divorce clinics hosted by SC Legal Services. Her passion to share her own legal knowledge with those in need will guide her leadership decisions for the coming chapter of the SC Bar Foundation and how it can best serve its grantees and the services they provide to South Carolina citizens.

Since 1971, the SC Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$50 million to various law-related organizations throughout South Carolina. The SC Bar Foundation provides funding for three primary categories of law-related nonprofits: Administration of Justice, Civil Legal Aid, and Law-Related Education. Those categories are satisfied by 40 grantee partners who provide needed assistance to victims of domestic violence, homeless families, persons denied access to necessary health care services, victims of discrimination, children in need of special education, targets of consumer fraud and the elderly. They also provide opportunities for students throughout the state from elementary school and up to learn about the legal system and provide students the opportunity to give back to their communities through public service.

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