



PRESS RELEASE

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Charleston County Bar Association installs new officers

CHARLESTON, SC (Feb. 25, 2019) – Debra J. Gammons – Distinguished Visiting Professor and Director of the Office of Diversity, Charleston School of Law – is the new president of the Charleston County Bar Association. She is the first black person to hold the position. “Upon learning that I am the first black person and only the sixth female to serve as president, I am immediately grateful for my upbringing as well as my mom, family, friends and teachers who have helped me achieve this goal.”

Ms. Gammons, who grew up in the Lowcountry, graduated from the College of Charleston and then from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Her first job as an attorney was in the Solicitor’s Office for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. In her current role at the Charleston School of Law, she teaches Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Sex and Gender Issues and the Law, and Trial Advocacy. She also serves as the Director of the Office of Diversity Initiatives.

“My focus throughout my life has been on education, equality, and participation. I will continue that focus as president of the bar,” said Ms. Gammons. “The theme of this year will be ‘Education, Equality, Engagement.’ Getting people involved and enthusiastic about the legal profession and improving the community are crucial. Moreover, the Charleston County Bar Association is committed to promoting ethics and education within the legal community, providing legal pro bono assistance and serving our community. I am grateful for all of those who have served before me.”

Ms. Gammons, other officers and the new members of the executive committee were installed at the Charleston County Bar Association’s annual meeting, which was held on Feb. 21 at the Francis Marion hotel. The incoming officers and members of the executive committee for 2018-2019 are:

2019 – 2020 Officers

President – Debra J. Gammons, Distinguished Visiting Professor and Director of the Office of Diversity, Charleston School of Law
President-Elect – David Wolf, Wolf & Wolf, LLC
Secretary/Treasurer – Christy Ford Allen, Wills Massalon & Allen, LLC
Immediate Past President – A. Peter Shahid Jr., Shahid Law Office, LLC

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2019 – 2020 Executive Committee

Andrew M. Connor, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
Rhett DeHart, U.S. Attorney's Office
J. Matthew Dillon, General Counsel at MVP Group International, Inc
Emmanuel J. Ferguson, Cleveland and Conley, LLC
Elizabeth Hamilton, Charleston School of Law
Mark Joye, Joye Law Firm
Joseph Mendelsohn, Mendelsohn Law Firm
Margie A. Pizarro, Pizarro Law Firm, LLC
A. Grayson Smith, Gallivan White & Boyd
Mary A. Vosburgh, Staff Attorney at One80 Place

In addition to installing the upcoming year's leadership team at the meeting, the CCBA recognized those attorneys who have served in the legal profession for more than 50 years and eulogized those members of the Bar who died during the past year.

About the Charleston County Bar Association

The Charleston County Bar Association is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting ethics and education within Charleston County's legal community as well as assisting the public through outreach programs and service projects. It consists of more than 2,000 members.

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