



Newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
ACCOLADES	3
COLLOQUY – V. BRIAN BEVON	4
COLLOQUY – IAN WATERSON	5
COLLOQUY – JEFFREY KUYKENDALL	7
PRO BONO MOMENTS	10
JURY VERDICTS	11
YOUR 2021 – 2022 CCBA BOARD	11

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WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

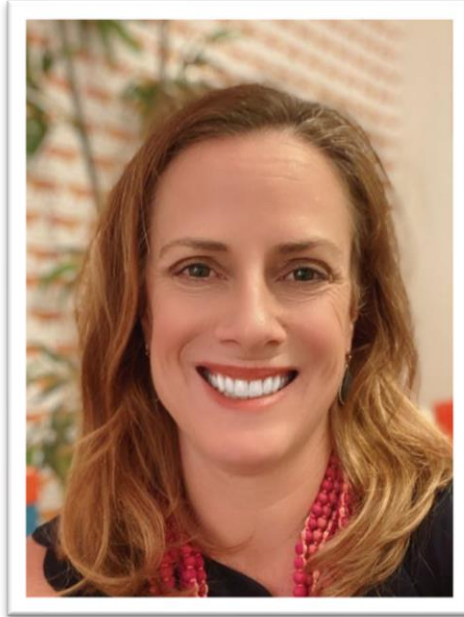
Dear Colleagues:

The CCBA continues to navigate the choppy waters of what seems is a never-ending COVID storm.

In early July, we held the first in-person event since February 2020 at the Historic Rice Mill at the Charleston Marina. I am pleased to report the Holiday in July party was a great success, and best estimates are that over 250 of you dropped by. Thanks to Judge Roger Young and Solicitor Scarlet Wilson's prompting, the CCBA was also able to help put on a Baseball Law CLE at the Riverdogs Segra Club, and continue the tradition of remembering H. Stanley Feldman, a lawyer known for helping others, caring for his clients, and loving baseball. We hope to be able to continue to host events where we can all reconnect.

Be on the lookout for programming from the CCBA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and **please mark your calendars for a reception set for October 27** to be held at the new [Harbour Club WestEdge](#) at which time the association will honor a very special member with only the fifth James L Petigru Award, the highest accolade the association bestows.

As things try to get back to normal, there are still so many in our community whose lives were and continue to be disrupted. As lawyers, we are often called to counsel and help. This issue of the newsletter includes interview articles featuring three (3) members who are dedicating their time and effort to



lessen the local eviction/housing crisis. On July 30, The SCBar awarded them the Pro Bono Lawyer(s) of the Year Award. They assisted persons in need in over 200 housing court eviction hearings. Congratulations! These gentlemen and many others, including One80Place, Charleston Legal Access, and Charleston Pro Bono, have worked arduously to assemble and operate the first in the state Charleston Housing Court – established by the SC Supreme Court as a Pilot Project in 2019. The CHC has been up and running for a while now and has expanded to four different magistrate courts in the area.

How it all works is too much for this letter. However, any one of us can do it; the administrators are there to help, and you do not need to be an expert in housing/evictions. The CHC needs our help as lawyer volunteers. The need for volunteer lawyers and success of the CHC was recently recognized by the SC Supreme Court, which agreed to approve CLE credit hours for participation in order to provide incentive for lawyers to volunteer. And, on August 30, the Attorney General of the United States issued a [letter](#) to all members of the bar nationwide asking all lawyers to assist with the housing and eviction crisis.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[K&L Gate's Charleston](#) office is pleased to welcome [Alexis A. Riordan](#) as a counsel in the firm's Real Estate practice group.

[Hall Booth Smith, P.C.](#) is delighted to welcome [Rene Stuhr Dukes](#) as Of Counsel to its Charleston office.

[Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd](#) is pleased to announce that [Sterling Moose](#) has been selected to participate in the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Charleston Class of 2022.

ACCOLADES

Michelle Mapp, a graduate from the Charleston School of law class of 2021, was selected as one of 77 public interest lawyers from more than 466 applications to be a fellow with Equal Justice Works, a D.C. based nonprofit that seeks to promote a lifelong commitment to public service and equal justice.

Six partners from the Charleston, South Carolina office of global law firm [K&L Gates LLP](#) have been recognized in the 2022 edition of Best Lawyers in America, with one recognized as Charleston's "Lawyer of the Year" – J. Walker Coleman IV for Litigation – Labor and Employment. Three lawyers have also been recognized as 'Ones to Watch' for 2022. The lawyers and the categories in which Best Lawyers recognizes them are: [James S. Bruce](#) (Corporate Law); [Ernie L. Cochran](#) (Corporate Law); [Walker Coleman IV](#) (Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment – Lawyer of the Year); [Laura A. Musselman](#) (Ones to Watch – Commercial Litigation); [Matthew J. Norton](#) (Real Estate Law); [Tara Sullivan](#) (Ones to Watch – Commercial Litigation); [Kitt Ritter](#) (Ones to Watch – Banking and Finance Law, Project Finance Law); [Jennifer Thiem](#) (Insurance Law, Commercial Litigation); and [Bryan L. Walpole III](#) (Banking and Finance Law, Litigation – Banking and Finance).

Three Partners from the Charleston, S.C. office of the global law firm [K&L Gates LLP](#) have been recognized in the 2021 edition of Chambers USA. They include: [James S. Bruce](#) (South Carolina Corporate/M&A); [Walker Coleman IV](#) (South Carolina Labor and Employment); and [Matthew J. Norton](#) (South Carolina Real Estate). Additionally, Norton authored the 'Law and practice South Carolina' section of the Chambers USA Regional Real Estate 2021 Guide, part of the Chambers Global Practice Guides.

[Gallivan White Boyd](#) (GWB) is pleased to announce its inclusion as a ranked law firm in the 2021 edition of Chambers USA. Chambers USA ranks the top lawyers and law firms across the United States, including up to 79 individual practice areas in all 50 states and Washington, DC.

[Haynesworth Sinkler Boyd](#) is pleased to announce that the firm has been recognized in the 2021 edition of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business. Chambers USA has ranked the following HSB practice areas in South Carolina: [Banking & Finance](#); [Corporate/Mergers & Acquisitions](#); [Healthcare](#); [Litigation: General Commercial](#); and [Real Estate](#).



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V. Brian Bevon *Pro Bono Attorney of the Year*

By: Ryan O'Hara
J.D. Candidate 2023
Charleston School of Law
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First off, tell me a bit about yourself, are you from Charleston?

Yes, I am. I was born and raised here, then went away for school and spent a year in Hilton Head. But other than that Charleston has been my home.

Since you're a native to Charleston, do you have any favorite places to visit in the city or hobbies to do while not working?

Well since the pandemic started it has been a bit different, but I am still able to enjoy getting out to the beach and walking my dog.

What's your favorite Beach to go to?

That depends, Sullivan's is nice for walking the dog in the morning, but it's hard to exclude Folly.

Moving on to your work as an attorney, what's your typical practice like, what areas do you focus on?

I do a general plaintiff's practice, lately it has been a lot of landlord/tenant work, some personal injury cases.

What's your favorite part of running your own practice?

I would say getting to have more control over my workload. It helps to facilitate a better work/life balance and it

also allows me to focus on practice areas that I have a real interest in.

When did you know that you wanted to be an attorney? What led you to want to join the legal profession?

When I was in college, at Catholic University in Washington D.C., I worked on Capitol Hill for Senator Fritz Hollings, who represented South Carolina at the time. I started off as an intern and later earned a paid position in his office. The work I did there and being able to observe the legislative process done on Capitol Hill really solidified my interest in the law, both in how it's made and its application.

What's your favorite part of being an attorney?

Being able to help others. I enjoy using the training, education, and abilities that I've obtained over the years to practice law and being able to use that skill set to help others is very rewarding. And that ties into the work I did with the Charleston Housing Court.

Let's discuss more about that. First off, congratulations on your award for Pro Bono Attorney of the year. Can you tell me a bit about your work volunteering with the housing court?

Thank you. I started with the program at its origination in October of 2019. On the days I

would go in to volunteer I would be given four to five cases scheduled for that morning. So, before we go into the hearing, I'd start by reviewing the files and then talk to the tenants and landlords to see if we could find a common ground to be reached. Something I noticed at that time, and what furthered my interest in getting involved, was the burden the number of cases were putting on the court and the access to justice issues that came with it. Being able to give them a voice and help to guide them through the process was something I felt was really important. Even if the results weren't favorable to the individual, they at least were able to have an opportunity to be heard and feel that they didn't just get lost in the system.

Do you feel Pro Bono work is an important foundational part of practicing the law, being able to help those who can't help themselves?

Oh yes, I do feel there is an obligation in this profession to help others pro bono. That's where the work with the Housing Court really opened my eyes to the issues in the community and the problems people face. Once someone gets behind financially there's little opportunity for them to firmly get their feet back on the ground for numerous reasons. This dilemma is only made worse once they get into court without the proper help.

What would you say to new attorneys and law students about stressing the importance of pro bono work once they join the profession?

For the individual attorney it's a way to fulfil a civic obligation to help others and provide access to justice. It's also a good way for new attorneys to get exposure and meet new people and judges. It can get you out of the universe

you're in, especially if you're a new attorney working in a firm where you're going to have to focus on one specific area of the law. By volunteering and doing pro bono cases, it can broaden your own experience. You also get the opportunity to get in front of judges and get experience in the court room and that can help increase your comfort level in litigation. There's just lots of opportunities to advance your skills and knowledge that you might not have otherwise and at the same time you can help others.

I saw you work with the Lawyer Mentoring Program of the South Carolina Supreme Court. Can you tell me a bit about your experience there?

Yes, so I've had five mentees and that's been a very rewarding experience. You help these new attorneys navigate their first year and help them with finding jobs and interviewing while also providing them with a way to ask questions in a no pressure environment. It can be intimidating being a new lawyer and this program is a way to help new attorneys get a solid foundation by giving them someone who has

been there that they can lean on and come to for answers and advice.

Lastly, segueing from that, what advice would you give to new attorneys just joining the profession?

To be yourself, don't try to be someone else. A lot of practicing the law is communication and interpersonal relationships. Everyone has their own way, and each way can be successful. It's all about how your personality works, you've gotten yourself this far and you need to stick with that.

COLLOQUY – IAN WATTERSON

Ian Watterson Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

By: Ryan O'Hara
J.D. Candidate 2023
Charleston School of Law

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Starting off, what drew you to want to be an attorney?

It was something that had always been in the back of my mind and after a short time in tech startups and then government service, I decided to get into the law. My dad was a late-in-life lawyer and an inspiration that it's never too late to learn more or change what you do.

Tell me a bit about your legal career, what type of law do you practice?

I am with a small firm focusing on civil rights and injury cases, and I still do some criminal defense work. I started off at Pro Bono Legal Services which is how I met the people who do public service legal work here in Charleston. When Housing Court was first discussed, I went to the meetings



and got involved from the start. There's still a hard core of us that do quite a lot of the Housing Court mission. I've enjoyed it and I am glad that we were able to get it up and running right before the pandemic came around, because if it hadn't, we would have never gotten it going during the pandemic. So, it was very fortunate that it had already reached critical mass by that time because it has been helpful to quite a few people over the course of COVID.

I'm sure the pandemic has really intensified the need for Housing Court.

The need for Housing Court was great before the pandemic and

became more so during COVID, despite the recently ended eviction moratoriums. People facing housing insecurity have so many more stressors due to the pandemic from job loss, to caring for family, to childcare with closed schools. A two-week quarantine from a job for COVID exposure can be disastrous to a family barely making ends meet, without any cash cushion.

Following up on that, congratulations on your award for pro bono attorney of the year, can you speak about the importance of pro bono work?

I've done volunteer work my whole life, it's good for the soul and it makes me feel good helping people. Even though it's time consuming to help people one at a time as we do in Housing Court, it's helping people in situations most of us can't even imagine: zero money, bills piling up, little kids facing homelessness and leaving school, job loss, domestic violence, COVID issues, many serious medical issues, you name it, these people are dealing with it. You say you're having a bad day; you have no idea. So, if we can negotiate so they can stay in their

house or negotiate to find an agreement for them to stay a little longer until something else works out, it can mean the world to them. They just don't want to see their kids, elderly relatives, belongings, pets, their life, put out on the curb.

I'm fortunate in my practice where I have some down time. I used to do a lot more criminal work where you're constantly in court and it can wear you thin. But now that I'm doing more long-term cases where there can be weeks or months between activity, I have more time to do this. This has been especially true during the pandemic, which has allowed me much more time with Housing Court. I think that lawyers should keep pro bono work in mind. We've gotten it now where Housing Court volunteers can get CLE credit for it. So, you're basically doing trial work and getting CLE credit for it instead of having to take other time to do CLE and probably having to pay for it.

I think a lot more lawyers do pro bono than we think. Just doing it where you can and helping is a good thing to do, especially when you can help the less legally-sophisticated people in the community. A longer than necessary consult, even if it is not leading to any legal work, can help someone get through an ordinary issue, but which feels like a lot of trouble to them. Lawyers are good at figuring out situations that are overwhelming to many people and so simple advice can be a great aid.

By taking just a little bit of time here and there you can make a huge impact on peoples' lives while also helping yourself by gaining valuable experience.

Exactly and I think a lot of lawyers are not in physical situations where that happens. If you're sitting in a courthouse and wearing a tie people will come up and ask you questions, but if you're sitting in an

office, you won't get people just wandering in. Some lawyers, especially those involved in legal services, housing court, or criminal work, it comes to you. But some lawyers may need to go out and find opportunities to help others and I think that's what Housing Court is perfect for.

What would you say is your favorite part about being an attorney?

I like winning, my argument prevailing, coupled with also helping somebody. I guess my whole life I've had an overdeveloped sense of fairness and I hate seeing people getting the short end of the stick and there's a lot of unscrupulous and bad people out there. Sometimes I run across it, and they've been doing it for years. Oftentimes for me it is through a client in one case where I then find out about the abusive slum lord, or the boss doing unlawful and crooked things, or the elder abuse, or whatever it is. If there is anything I can do with the law to stop these kind of things, or maybe even prevent them, that is the part I like. And if I can make the bad actor understand they are wrong, and maybe make them write a check, even better. Criminal work can be particularly rewarding and very human in that someone is depending on your being able to prevail or help them navigate the legal system to a just outcome.

On the flip side, what do you find most challenging about practicing law?

I think every lawyer would complain about some of the frustrations in our system of litigation. You have the paradox, especially in civil litigation, where there are motivations on both sides that sometimes are at cross-purposes to litigating efficiently. Criminal cases can also be protracted for no particular reason. And stretching things out like that

can get a bit demoralizing. But the system is the best despite its faults and I generally like practicing, I like to keep things on the sunny side.

Did you have any mentors that helped you when you first started practicing law?

I did. I had my official mentor, who's also a friend, and she was very helpful. But there were other people who I knew or met, so I had a pretty good network of lawyers around town who had more experience than me and were very helpful when I was starting out. Because I did start out at Pro Bono, I was fortunately at a place like that where you could call any lawyer with an issue and they felt like they should or wanted to help. I still run things past lawyers I know all the time, I think most everyone does.

What would you say is the best piece of advice you've gotten with regards to practicing the law?

Oh boy, I've certainly heard some gems over time. But I think it's just learning how to navigate things. You learn something new all the time. So just to keep your ears open, listen to anybody, people do things different ways and there's just a lot to learn.

What advice would you give to new attorneys and law students?

Most people who want to be lawyers and are able to get into law school and do well and become lawyers are talented and smart. But I think sometimes that can bring an ego to things that is just not helpful. Just because you are going to be a lawyer doesn't mean you can't learn something from everybody, you've got to absorb and take everything in, every profession, office, and even court has its own culture and way of doing things and you're never going to learn it if you're talking

and not listening. You've got to know what the box is before you can think outside of it. Just taking a backseat at first to learn about the new environment you're stepping into can be really beneficial.

So, when you're not working do you have any hobbies or favorite places to go to in Charleston?

Well, the past year and half has been topsy-turvy, but I really enjoy being outside, beach, boat,

garden, mountains. I travel a fair bit and try to keep up with friends and family around the country and world.

COLLOQUY – JEFFREY KUYKENDALL



Jeffrey W. Kuykendall
Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

By: Ryan O'Hara
J.D. Candidate 2023
Charleston School of Law

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First off, congratulations on your award for pro bono attorney of the year, can you tell me a bit about your work volunteering with the Charleston Housing Court?

Thank you. I started volunteering with the Charleston Housing Court when it started back in October 2019 and started doing it much more frequently beginning in 2020. I've been volunteering several times a month since that time. It has been an excellent opportunity to do something that provides a necessary service while utilizing

my legal training. I also get the ancillary benefits of meeting great people and getting practice and experience in the courtroom through the process. The best part, the part that kept me signing up, was the people; I both enjoyed working with or around everyone involved in the program and benefited from the training, support, and wisdom that they provided.

Do you think the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has really emphasized the importance of the housing court?

Oh absolutely. Housing issues are an issue in Charleston, in Charleston County, in the state, and in the country at all times. Particularly these times, however, when we had such a disruption to our economy and our housing market, in the past year and a half. **I believe it is essential to make sure the laws that we have in place are fairly applied to tenants.**

Can you expand upon what were some of the typical things you were seeing while you were volunteering there?

So, housing court has only been in existence for two years now, and for a large chunk of those two years the laws regarding how you can evict someone have been in flux. As I said I really started volunteering in earnest in the beginning of 2020 and the pandemic hits the middle of March 2020. First, we had a complete eviction moratorium in the state of South Carolina and the magistrate courts were closed. Then the

CARES Acts was in place, which prevented eviction for failure to pay rent, and then the CDC moratorium went into effect. The moratorium was going to expire at the end of December, then the end of January, then March, June, July, and then last night it was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The sources and availability of rental assistance have similarly fluctuated. So what laws are in effect, what services can be offered to tenants, and who can be evicted for what reasons are things which have been constantly changing. Working with and around people that know how to navigate that, who know what the laws are, that know what the tenant's rights are and can counsel tenants and landlords in order to make sure the laws are fairly applied has been necessary and rewarding.

What would say to other attorneys, especially new attorneys and law students just joining the profession about the importance and impact pro bono work can have? Why is this such an important part of practicing law?

Pro bono work is a necessary part of our profession for all kinds of reasons that everyone in this profession knows. You can't do your work for free and legal services are expensive to make overhead and pay bills. It's expensive to hire a lawyer. That leaves a lot of people out. The Access to Justice report that just came out this week shows just how lacking in these major areas access to legal advice, services, and representation is, and that it

effectively doesn't exist for a large portion of South Carolina. So, I think it is incumbent upon us as lawyers to do some work and not expect payment in return for that work to provide services to the people who can't afford it.

Specifically, with housing court, it is the best opportunity I've ever seen to regularly utilize the professional skills I've developed and trained for to actually provide a tangible benefit to people. I like being in a court room, I like negotiating solutions for people, I like finding solutions for people and having the opportunity to do that and see a real outcome, a real benefit for those tenants in that short period of time is a really rewarding way to do pro bono service.

You're able to provide something these people would otherwise have no opportunity to get and nowhere to go.

Exactly and it's using the things I like doing. And focusing there, the Young Lawyers Division has wills clinics, Charleston Pro Bono has wills clinics, there are Veterans' clinics, there's other opportunities I've considered or volunteered for prior to working with Housing Court and those are rewarding and utilizing your legal training. But I'm primarily a litigator and I enjoy seeing a tangible outcome.

It's a way of sharpening your own skills and enhancing your own practice while also providing a huge benefit to people who otherwise have no one to help them.

Oh, absolutely, and that's a thing that I tell a lot of people when talking about why people should volunteer with Housing Court is that however many times you volunteer, whether its twice a year, once a month, or a couple of times a month, that's that many extra times you get to be quickly analyzing a case, thinking through

settlement options, and then potentially trial experience; at the very least, you get experience speaking in the courtroom. I've had four trials in a week before, that volume of experience is not often available.

You mentioned you enjoyed the negotiating and litigating part of the experience, so when not doing your pro bono work with the Charleston Housing Court what is your typical practice like? What areas do you focus on?

The short summary is "general practice representing individuals and small businesses, primarily in litigation." I like dealing directly with my clients; I enjoy working for people.

It's being able to put faces to name and seeing that impact the interaction has on people by being able to have that small interaction.

Exactly, and it certainly has its ups and downs; if the outcome is not good for your clients, you experience the negatives just as well as the positives.

How did you decide this was the career for you, that this was the practice area you wanted to focus on?

Two experiences informed my decision – the first was a litigation clinic in my third year of law school, where I worked in a general counsel's office and with the public defender. The experiences were dramatically different, but I identified aspects of both which I incorporated into my practice and I've tried to fashion a practice that incorporate the parts that I liked best about each. The second experience was a one-year program I participated in early in my career, where I represented clients at a reduced rate who had contacted my law school for one reason or the other but did not qualify for free legal

representation. I gained experience in a broad range of practice areas through that program and, out of necessity, had to seek out more experienced mentors to advise me.

When you were going through that did you have a mentor help guide you to get to that result?

I have been blessed with so many excellent mentors throughout my career. As I just said, some of my early experience necessitated connecting with members of the local bar in various practice areas and gleaning as much wisdom from them as I could. I've now practiced in Winston-Salem, NC, Greenville, NC, and Charleston. In each city, I have found the local bar to be supportive and ready to offer assistance and guidance; I've tried to take advantage of that to the greatest extent possible.

It's that local community coming together and helping each other.

Exactly, if you're not asking for help then you're doing something wrong.

Was there another career you were interested in growing up or was the law something that always interested you?

Law was always something that interested me, though I have certainly learned that I did not have any real sense of what a career in the law entailed.

Now on the flip side, what do you enjoy most about what you do?

The most enjoyable part is getting a great outcome for a client who recognizes that it is a great outcome. When you are able to utilize your training and experience to help someone accomplish something, they are not able to themselves it's the best part, just being able to help people and do something for them.

What do you do outside of work? Do you have any hobbies, favorite things to do in Charleston?

Well, I have a two-and-a-half-year-old, so I try to spend as much of my free time with him as possible. My wife and I live downtown and love walking around the neighborhood as much as possible. I try to get out and play golf whenever I can, wherever I can, primarily the Muni, especially since its fantastic renovation was completed. I also just love sitting on my front porch, reading a book or even just people-watching.

Any favorite places to walk around downtown?

I am a big fan of walking around Colonial Lake and Harleston Village, but honestly, there is always something interesting to see wherever you walk around, if you keep your eyes open and pay attention.

Lastly, as a current law student I would be remiss if I didn't ask, what advice would you give to new attorney's or law students just starting out and joining the profession about how to be successful and make an impact, or just general advice for anything?

Get as much experience in as many different types of law, areas of law, types of practice that are available to you to find out what you really like doing. Ask for help, find mentors. And be able to go home at the end of the day and turn it off. I'm not sure I know how to do that, but it is certainly aspirational.

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, October 14

**Engagement Committee and
Diversity/Inclusion Committee
Event**

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Home Team BBQ Downtown

Wednesday, October 27

**Fall Reception/Petigru Award
5:30 p.m.**

Harbour Club

22 WestEdge Street, Suite 700

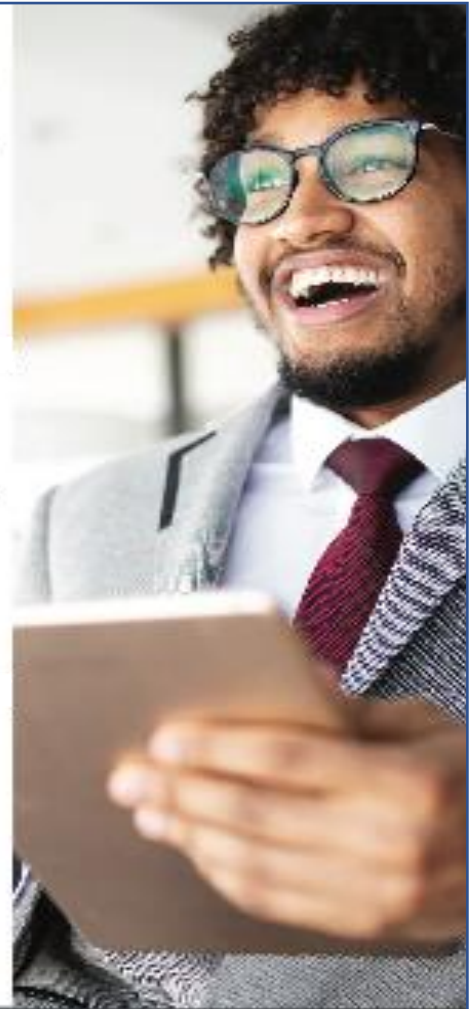
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CHARLESTON PRO BONO

LEGAL SERVICES

PRO BONO MOMENTS

By: Cody A. Tetterer, Esq.
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services

In June 2020, I was brought on as the COVID-19 Legal Response Team Attorney at Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services ("CPBLS") to identify and address the various legal issues resulting from the pandemic early in its emergence. While COVID-19 posed a serious public health threat, it was readily apparent that the spread of the virus would have legal repercussions for residents of Charleston County. As Charleston County is within the top five most populated counties in the state, CPBLS recognized that the low-income community it served was at risk of legal issues resulting from the pandemic and the community would benefit from a team focused only on COVID-19 related cases. As a result and with funding provided U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development administered through the Charleston County Community Development Department, we created a new grant-funded COVID-19 Legal Response Team. The Team was dedicated exclusively to representing low-income residents of Charleston County whose legal issues are a direct result of the pandemic or have been exacerbated by the pandemic. After a year in this role, having served more than 150 low-income clients with their COVID-19 related legal issues, I had time to reflect on what the position and our office was able to accomplish, as well as observe general legal trends resulting from the pandemic.

When the position commenced, I prepared to provide advice, brief services, and direct representation in civil legal areas impacted by COVID-19, primarily focusing on housing law, estate planning, consumer law, public benefits, and family law. There were several factors that led us to prepare to focus on these areas. We knew North Charleston led the United States in eviction filing rates before the pandemic, and we expected an increase in eviction filings due to non-payment of rent as a result of tenants' lost wages, reduced hours, or separation from employment. In a similar vein, we anticipated residents having employment and unemployment complications and legal issues. We also anticipated an increase in request for public benefits and issues obtaining those benefits. Additionally, due to the nature of the pandemic, there would be an increase in front-line workers and individuals seeking assistance to complete estate planning documents.

What we had not predicted, however, was the local, state, and national response to these novel issues and how those responses would impact our clients. Over the past year, we have seen eviction moratoria, notably from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Center for Disease Control Eviction Moratorium which continues to be extended since its implementation in September 2020. These eviction moratoria have prevented numerous tenants from being evicted for non-payment of rent and allowed them time to seek rental assistance from new programs and funding sources available during the pandemic. While many tenants were protected, many sought assistance with the process of executing a hardship declaration and seeking rental assistance. Similarly, many residents who had lost wages sought assistance with obtaining unemployment benefits as a result of the new programs available from federal legislation that were consistently being implemented and expiring as well as having specified eligibility requirements.

As I reflect on our year of COVID-19 related services, I am thankful for the partnerships in the community which we have been able to utilize in assisting our clients. I have better able to serve my client's legal needs during the pandemic and assist them in stabilizing their lives through these community partnerships. While addressing client's legal issues, I work with our community partners to assist clients with their financial needs as well as other non-legal issues resulting from the pandemic in an effort to support them and prevent additional legal issues in the future. This collaborative approach has led to sustained support for client.

In addition to working with legal services partners, volunteer attorneys, and community organizations, I participate in the Charleston County Housing Court Pilot Project which provides representation to low-income residents of Charleston County facing eviction. Throughout these unprecedented times where the Charleston County Magistrate Courts have faced record eviction filings, the Housing Court Pilot Project participants and volunteers have stepped up to meet the moment and provide tenants on the brink of eviction with pro bono representation in an effort to prevent unlawful evictions and keep residents housed during the pandemic.

JURY VERDICTS

CHARLESTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

(Information supplied by Clerk of Court's Office)

2018-CP-10-2030: *Hunter Carter and Carly Carter v. Tranquil 640 LLC and Scott Witte, Individually*

Attorneys: Plaintiff: C. Brandon Belger
Defendant: Bryan Andrew Raymond and Hal Eugene Cobb

Cause of Action: Debt Collection

Verdict: For the Plaintiffs in the amount of \$219,084.79 against Tranquil 640 LLC and in the amount of \$203,000.00 against Scott Witte.

2018-CP-10-03969: *Kenneth Howell v. Reginal D. Baxley*

Attorneys: Plaintiff: Daniel C. Boles
Eric B. Laquiere
Defendant: David S. Cobb

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Plaintiff in the amount of \$17,053.99.

2018-CP-10-03650: *Earl Harney v. Christopher Sechrist*

Attorneys: Plaintiff: Jackson Seth Whipper
Defendant: David S. Cobb

Cause of Action: Motor Vehicle Accident

Verdict: For the Plaintiff in the amount of \$13,000.00.

THERE ARE NO FEDERAL COURT JURY VERDICTS

2021-2022 CHARLESTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

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