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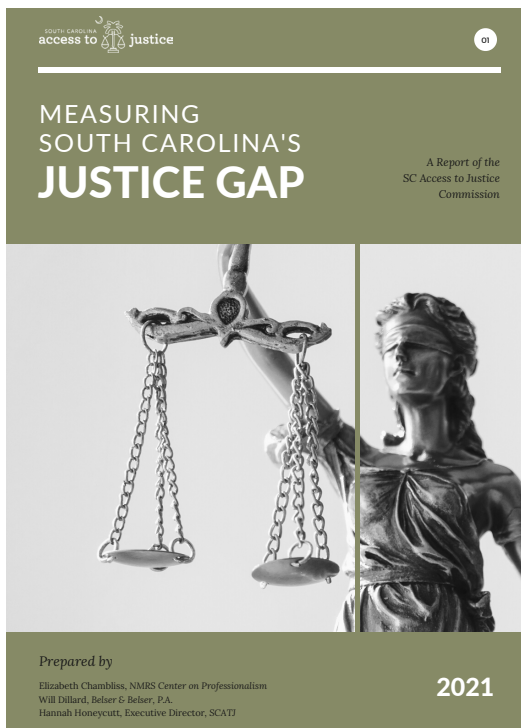
Accessing Justice: Closing the Gap

By Tiffney Love

The COVID-19 pandemic left many of our fellow residents in vulnerable positions. It has shown us just how essential the need for attorneys is, including for those who would not otherwise have encountered the legal system. For instance, before 2020, there were individuals who never had to discuss wills, those who did not believe they would ever be evicted, and even those who had been employed for years at the same place and could not fathom that they would be terminated or laid off. These occurrences, which did not just begin but have been more prevalent post COVID-19, are proving that while the need for attorneys has steadily increased, the access to help has not.

The South Carolina Access to Justice Commission in their 2021 [“Measuring South Carolina’s Justice Gap” Report](#) executive summary detailed just how dire the lack of access to legal assistance is for South Carolinians. The report provides a plethora of data on the number of unrepresented parties in the state. The lack of representation occurs in what could be life altering matters such as evictions, consumer debt cases, and foreclosure.

We currently have attorneys who work tirelessly via South Carolina Legal Services, pro bono work, clinics, committees, and volunteer organizations to fill these gaps, however, as the summary states, “According to the 2016, Justice Index, prepared by the National Center for Access to Justice, South Carolina ranks last out of all states on the ‘Attorney Access’ index, which analyzes the ‘civil legal aid attorney ratio,’ or number of attorneys available to represent people



living in poverty.”

We can all work to help close this gap and provide assistance to those who need it. The South Carolina Bar along and the Young Lawyers Division has a multitude of opportunities for you to get involved. In addition, South Carolina Legal Services provides the opportunity for private attorney involvement where attorneys may assist with cases at a fixed or reduced rate.

Read the [South Carolina Access to Justice Report](#).

For more information on Private Attorney Involvement visit, <https://sclegal.org/pai>.

Tiffney Love is a staff attorney with SC Legal Services.

A REPORT TO MEMBERS OF
THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Stars of the Quarter

Erin McArthur
John Carroll De Mattei
Sam T. Kernodle
Caitlin Raquel Lee

Katherine Anne Orville
Allison Truitt Burch
Chelsea Rikard

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YLD honors two lawyers for giving back



Two young lawyers were recently recognized for their dedication and service to the profession and the SC Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD).

Paul “Mike” Burch, assistant solicitor in Lancaster’s Sixth Circuit Solicitor’s Office was named 2022 Young Lawyer of the Year. **Leslie McIntosh**, partner at McIntosh, Sherard, Sullivan

& Brousseau in Anderson; received the Grady B. Anthony Public Service Award. Both were honored during the Leadership Retreat in Asheville.

Burch works in a small circuit, regarding the number of young lawyers. As part of his role as a YLD Circuit Representative, he plans various activities that keep young lawyers engaged in his circuit while promoting wellness and well-being among his co-workers and throughout his profession.

According to a longtime acquaintance, **Chelsea R. Rikard**, Burch has become known for building a sense of community.

“I am fortunate to serve with other impressive young attorneys who have helped make the South Carolina Bar YLD what it is today,” Burch said. “The reason I enjoy working with the YLD is it gives us an opportunity to network with fellow attorneys and judges and to give back to the community. One of my goals for the YLD is to expand our presence to more rural parts of South Carolina, who have not always had opportunities for involvement. I look forward to continuing to serve the YLD as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2022-2023 Bar year!”

Burch is looking forward to getting

started as the Secretary-Treasurer in the 2022-2023 Bar year.

“He has built a strong sense of community amongst lawyers in the 6th circuit and has devoted much of his time to providing opportunities for others to grow in their career and give back to their community,” says **Jeanmarie Tankersley**, president of the YLD.

McIntosh, who serves as 10th circuit representative on the SC Bar House of Delegates, is this year’s recipient of the **Grady B. Anthony Public Service Award**, which is named in honor of a young lawyer who passed away this past year. The award honors a member of the Young Lawyers Division who gave time and energy to helping colleagues and others through the YLD public service initiatives. The award is given at the discretion of the YLD president each year, with the assistance of the executive committee.

“I am truly honored to receive an award named in honor of my friend and fellow colleague, Grady Anthony,” McIntosh said. “Grady was devoted to public service and was always willing to lend a hand. He was an inspiration. To receive the inaugural award means so much. Give back. Be involved. Lend a hand. Be like Grady. If you get a chance to volunteer, do it. It will change your life.”

Tankersley praised McIntosh’s achievements, including but not limited to, serving as the 10th Circuit Representative, providing wellness activities and information to young lawyers, and spending years helping young women feel confident and included through the Cinderella project.

“She is a wonderful example of how we can all do better to serve those around us, despite the busyness of the practice of law,” Tankersley added. “I am so grateful for her service.”

McIntosh’s involvement in her community and the Bar is extensive; she is the current president of the Rotary Club of Greater Anderson, chair of the Board of Directors for the Anderson Free Clinic, serves on the board of directors for Meals on Wheels-Anderson, president of the Anderson County Historical Society and a member of the American Bar Association and SC Women Lawyers’ Association.

Leadership Retreat in Asheville



The YLD Leadership board gathered in Asheville, North Carolina to plan for the upcoming Bar Year. It was a weekend filled with working, planning, comedy touring, networking, and getting to know YLD leaders across the state.

YLD President **Paige Chamberlain Ornduff** organized the weekend and led committee co-chairs, circuit

representatives, and executive committee members in their efforts to organize events and initiatives to engage young lawyers across the state.

Hagood Tighe, president of the South Carolina Bar, spoke at the event and shared updates on the Bar’s [“Raising the Bar” campaign](#) featuring how members give back to the profession and the state.

The weekend ended with the young lawyers gathering together for the annual awards banquet.



What's Been Happening?



Feeding Frenzy tops \$25K

The SC Bar Young Lawyers Division raised \$25,548 for food banks across the state as part of its virtual fundraising event, the [SC Legal Feeding Frenzy](#), which was held in late May.

"Thanks to the generosity and good-natured competitive spirit of SC Bar members, our partner food banks will be able to provide approximately 102,192 meals to South Carolinians in need," said **Paige Ornduff**, who co-chaired this year's event with **Ashley Johnson**. "This is an especially critical time as food banks often see an

increased need while school is out so we are truly appreciative of how our colleagues embraced this challenge to help others."

The SC Legal Feeding Frenzy encouraged law firms and legal organizations to form teams and compete to see who could raise the most money via an online portal during the last week of May. The team with the highest average individual donation and the winner of the 2022 SCLFF President's Cup was **Clawson & Staubes, LLC**, with an average individual donation of \$143.12. The following teams earned the most points in their respective divisions:

- Small Firm: **Hall Booth Smith, LLC**
- Medium Firm: **Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte**
- Large Firm: **McAngus Goudelock & Courie, LLC**
- Public Interest/Government: **6th Circuit Solicitor's Office - Lancaster Office**

Teams earned points for each dollar donated and were also able to earn bonus points throughout the competition. Donations also were received from number of individuals who were not associated with teams.

The year's event marks the SC Bar YLD's third Legal Feeding Frenzy and a continued partnership with Harvest Hope Food Bank, Lowcountry Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, Golden Harvest Food Bank, and Feeding the Carolinas.



2022 iCivics Day

Attorneys in Charleston visited local middle schools for iCivics day. Attorneys engaged with middle school students and taught lessons in meaningful civic learning. iCivics champions equitable, non-partisan civil education so that the practice of democracy is learned by each new generation.

Attorneys **Albert Glen Bilbrey, Jr.** and **Amanda Monaco** teaching sixth grade class.

Lucius Laffitte and **Denver Smith** with students from Moultrie Middle School.

Letter from the President



Dear Young Lawyers:

We are halfway through 2022 and have come to the end of the 2021-2022 Bar year! I have loved serving as your president this year. We have had our ups and downs with COVID, but despite that, young lawyers across the state have still devoted their time and talents to the people in South Carolina. Year after year, I am convinced there is no greater place to be a lawyer than South Carolina. I cannot wait to see all that President **Paige Ornduff**, along with **Taylor Gilliam** and **Mike Burch**, will do this year in the YLD. Paige's leadership retreat was held in May in Asheville. I was so excited to see all our YLD leaders coming to-

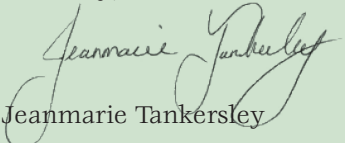
gether to plan for this upcoming year. There are some incredible events and opportunities on the horizon!

The beginning of the Bar year is the best time to get involved in the YLD. Check out the list of this year's committees on the [YLD website](#). Sign up [here!](#) Reach out to us if you have any questions or ideas about the YLD or the committees. We look forward to seeing y'all at our summer events!

On a much more personal note, I want to say that I know many attorneys, especially female attorneys, in South Carolina are feeling an ever-changing array of emotions, but most prominently sadness and fear as a result of recent Court rulings. I know that because I feel that way. A few years ago, **Sheila Willis** talked about our state motto Dum Spiro Spero, while

I breathe I hope, in her President's letter as it related to our new pandemic world. I'm reminded of our motto now. I'll tell all of you who may be feeling down, broken, or alone, what I have been telling myself these past few days. You are more powerful than you feel. You are more powerful than some people may want you to feel. We are an amazing group of lawyers that have served and will continue to serve those around us in need. We will support each other. This will not break us. Because, as always, while we breathe, we hope.

Sincerely,


Jeanmarie Tankersley