

SOUTH CAROLINA younglawyer

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Judicial Spotlight: Hon. Deadra L. Jefferson, Resident Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit

Born: Charleston, SC

Education: B.A., Converse College, 1985;
J.D., USC School of Law, 1989

Career: Judge Jefferson began her career as a law clerk to the Hon. Richard E. Fields. After completing her tenure with Judge Fields, she began private practice for the law firm of McFarland and Jenkins, and continued with the law firm McFarland and Associates until her election. In 1996, Judge Jefferson was elected to the post of Resident Family Court Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. Judge Jefferson served in this seat until 2001. On May 30, 2001, Judge Jefferson was elected to the position of Resident Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, where she continues to serve to this day.

Personal life away from the bench:
Simply put: Faith, Family & Community

What would the bar would be surprised to learn about you?

I watch sports with my dad.

What inspired you to pursue a legal career?

It was the career path that embodied the elements of life that inspired me.

What is the best advice you were given as a young lawyer?

Get a MENTOR! Everyone needs a “confessor.” Eleanor Roosevelt said it best: “Learn from the mistakes of others. You cannot live long enough to make them all yourself.”

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a judge, and the hardest part about being a judge?

The most rewarding aspect of being



a judge is dealing with the public, especially jurors—seeing the public educated about the law through their actual participation in the process and the system. The hardest aspect is criminal sentencing.

What experience best prepared you for the bench?

The values instilled by my parents and my judicial clerkship with retired Circuit Judge Richard E. Fields.

If you could choose one legal scholar to have dinner with, who would it be and why?

Justice Jonathan Jasper Wright—to hear about his journey would be fascinating.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the South Carolina legal system?

Access to our system of justice by the working poor.



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

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How to Be a Cupcake with Friends

By Ashleigh Wilson

This year, I am lucky to serve as president-elect for the South Carolina Bar YLD. I consider myself very blessed to lead such a great group of young professionals (that's you!). When meeting other lawyers across the state, I am often asked about my involvement with the YLD. People often want to know why I got involved in the YLD and what keeps me active. While this list is not exhaustive, I have identified the top five reasons why I believe involvement with the YLD is important. I hope that this list will encourage you to get active in the YLD this year.

5. The practice of law is a business. No matter how early you are into your practice or what type of lawyer you are, eventually you will have to start thinking about developing business for yourself or your firm. There is no secret sauce to business development. It is all personal and professional relationship driven. Involvement in the YLD will not only help you build relationships with your peers, but it will also give you a platform to be noticed by local judges, business owners and other members of the community. The relationships that develop with these people can lead to client referrals or even new job opportunities. Lawyers are happiest when they have great clients to service.

4. Bar service is the icing on the cake. One of my mentors once compared the perfect lawyer to a cupcake. (Really advanced, right?) He described a lawyer's ability to think critically, be persuasive, manage client relationships and be an effective oral advocate as "the cake." Just like there is no cupcake without the "the cake." Without these key skills, a lawyer cannot be successful. Most lawyers have "the cake," but it is the icing that sets good lawyers apart from great lawyers. The "icing" is the set of skills that you develop outside of the workplace like emotional intelligence, civic leadership and resilience. Involvement with the YLD is



the icing that young lawyers need to stand out. I have never met a well-respected South Carolina lawyer who was not impressed or supportive of YLD involvement. Be a YLD cupcake.

3. Bar service is important to the profession. Involvement with the YLD is your opportunity to shout to the masses "The practice of law is a noble profession and the issues surrounding the legal profession are important to me." At a time when lawyers are often the subject of bad jokes, it is our responsibility as young lawyers to represent to the public the honorable, honest and service oriented nature of our profession—the good side. As the public service arm of the South Carolina Bar, the YLD is the face of South Carolina lawyers to the communities we serve across the state. Many members of our community would never meet a lawyer in their lifetime but for the YLD's outreach and service projects. Let's reflect the best of our profession through our bar service.

2. Getting involved in the YLD is easy. Whether you are currently plugged into the YLD or not, you are a YLD member! Make the most of your membership. Sign up for a YLD committee that sounds interesting.

Reach out to the committee chair and get to work! Got a new idea? Not sure where you might fit? Introduce yourself to YLD leadership (Lindsay Joyner—ljoyner@gwblawfirm.com, Sheila Bias—sbias@fisherphillips.com and myself—ashleigh.wilson@bowmanandbrooke.com) and let us know you want to get involved!

1. Lawyers make good friends. Beyond all the wonderful opportunities for leadership and professional development that the YLD offers its members, I first got involved with the YLD for one purpose—to make new friends. The personal relationships that I have developed through YLD involvement are invaluable. While we all wish we had a roster of friends that included doctors, professional athletes and reality television stars, lawyers aren't too shabby. I have had the opportunity to serve aside many wonderful lawyers who I hope to count as friends for a lifetime. They share my love for service, won't roll their eyes when I need to vent about the challenges of the practice of law, and will share a glass of champagne with me after a big win in court. They just "get it." If you are still trying to round out your friend roster, I encourage you to meet someone new at the next YLD event.

What's Been Happening



Wills Clinics

The Wills Clinic Committee hosted a clinic for the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity affiliate on Johns Island on July 22.

The purpose of a wills clinic is to serve people of South Carolina who may be vulnerable to the circumstances that would arise if they were to pass away without a will. Habitat for Humanity homeowners are for the most part first-time homeowners and would not be able to purchase a house of their own without the Habitat program that provides homeowners with a no interest mortgage and a support system that helps them succeed in all aspects of home ownership. Before the YLD partnered with Habitat affiliates statewide a little over seven years ago, there was a troubling trend of Habitat families losing their home in the probate process after the death of the original Habitat homeowner due to the lack of proper estate planning. The simple act of choosing which beneficiary would receive the home in a will goes a long way to ensure that future generations will have a home to call their own. There have already been multiple occasions in which a YLD-prepared will from a past clinic has been used to make the process easier for the family of a deceased Habitat homeowner.

The latest clinic at Sea Island Habitat was the third event in four years at the affiliate as it is one of the most active in the state. Volunteer young lawyers gave their time to draft and execute a last will and testament along with health documents for 24 homeowners, who left the

same day with completed documents. Volunteers for clinics are offered training and forms beforehand so that even lawyers who do not practice estate planning can participate. After a clinic is finished homeowners and Habitat for Humanity staff are extremely grateful for the help that YLD is able to provide that literally saves homes and transforms lives.

The Wills Clinic Committee has many future events planned throughout the state. In addition to Habitat for Humanity, the committee also holds events for first responders and other groups or organizations that may be in need. Please check the YLD announcements for dates of upcoming clinics and consider joining the committee or volunteering for an event.



Professional Development

On August 22, the Fifth Circuit of the Young Lawyers Division hosted a joint professional development event with the Young Bankers Division of the South Carolina Bankers Association in Columbia at the law offices of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA. Just as the college students roll into

town and get ready for another year, University of South Carolina Men's Basketball Head Coach Frank Martin spoke to the group on his reflections from the 2016-17 season and his goals for program development.

For nearly an hour, Coach Martin shared his thoughts on memorable moments from the Gamecocks' 2016-17 season, including its 26 wins and the school's first appearance in the NCAA Final Four. Indeed, it was the Gamecocks' first appearance in the NCAA tournament since 2004 and the 26 wins are the most in the program's 109 seasons. Coach Martin is the recipient of the 2017 Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year award, presented annually to the top coach in Division I men's basketball.

However, Coach Martin's message wasn't all about sports. In fact, the primary emphasis of the discussion was on team building, encouragement of others and involvement in the community—pillars of both the South Carolina Bankers Association and South Carolina Bar. Coach Martin said that his program is not about "player development" but about "people development." He remarked that one of his most important missions is to develop players into good people with whom he hopes to have a lifelong relationship, regardless of how long they stay on the team. In addition, he shared his motivation for setting roots in the Columbia community, which include making strong friendships and giving back to others with his time and resources. Coach Martin stated, "Without roots, my family and I will be judged only on Gamecock wins and losses, rather than the people we are."

Over 75 members of the Young Bankers Division and Young Lawyers Division were in attendance. It was more akin to a reunion for all who attended, especially those who heard Coach Martin speak at the same collaborative event nearly four years ago. Special thanks to Carolyn Lafitte Bradley with the South Carolina Bankers Association and Foster Girard with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA for their assistance with planning this highly successful event.

Letter from the President



Dear Young Lawyers,

I hope this issue of *SC Young Lawyer* finds you doing well, spending some time enjoying the last of the long days of summer and early fall and gearing up to support your favorite sports teams. As you likely already know, the South Carolina Bar's fiscal year began on July 1, 2017. That means that I have the honor and pleasure of serving as your President until June 30, 2018. So thank you in advance for your volunteer time and your many wonderful ideas over the next year! As those before me have said and I truly believe, I promise to do my best to continue to improve upon the incredible history of serving both the public and the membership that this organization has created. I am so very lucky to follow Immediate Past President Irish "Ryan" Neville—the big brother I never had as the oldest of three girls. As you all know, Ryan led this organization with tremendous enthusiasm and charm. He listened to every idea or complaint with an open mind and consistently included Ashleigh Wilson and me in his decisions. The team atmosphere he created prepared me for this role. And I am so excited to have President-Elect Ashleigh Wilson and Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Bias, two outstanding leaders not only in the YLD but in the profession and community generally, to bounce ideas around and share experiences with this year. Also, if you have not introduced yourself to our Bar Liaison extraordinaire, Kimberly Snipes,

please do so, as she is the go-to person for SC Bar knowledge, and we are incredibly lucky to have her as part of our team.

Although I have some exciting new plans to share with you for this Bar year, I would be remiss not to brag on the 2016-17 Bar year a little more. Recently, your officers and I attended the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting in New York. I am thrilled to report that the YLD won multiple awards from both the ABA and the ABA YLD. The YLD's Color of Justice Program won the ABA's Partnership Award. The ABA Partnership Awards Program recognizes bar association projects that increase the participation and advancement of lawyers of color as well as other underrepresented constituents. In addition to the Partnership Award, each year the YLD applies for the ABA Awards of Achievement. The projects chosen for submission were determined by Ryan Neville and Ashleigh Wilson, and Ashleigh spent a number of hours finalizing and submitting the application. This year, I am ecstatic to announce that we won **four First Place awards**: Comprehensive Programming, Newsletter, Diversity and Service to the Bar. This is a direct result of Ryan's leadership, Ashleigh's remarkable application skills and all of your hard work creating and implementing programming that serves the Bar and the public in so many different and useful ways. A special kudos also goes to Ryan as he was honored personally as a member of the ABA YLD's class of "On the Rise—Top 40 Young Lawyers."

As for the exciting things you are going to accomplish this year, thank you for hitting the ground running already! Many committees have already held or have scheduled their first committee meetings. If you have not had a chance to sign up, please do so. It is a great way to get to know fellow lawyers and to help the community at large. This year the Publications Committee will be taking on an additional role—it has started a monthly blog that will also maintain a YLD events calendar. Look out for fun themes and more spotlighting of

young lawyers throughout the state. If you are interested in drafting a post, please contact Meggie Baker or La'Jessica Stringfellow. Also this year, the YLD will be expanding its social media footprint with the help of our new Social Media Committee. As you likely know, the YLD has Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. We are hoping to hit 1,500 followers on Facebook, 1,000 followers on Instagram and 500 followers on Twitter. Given there are over 3000 of us, we can do it! Please follow us, like and/or repost our posts, and share them with your friends! Finally, I would like to offer special thanks to our Wills Clinic Committee that, within the first couple of weeks of the new Bar year, helped 24 Habitat for Humanity homeowners on John's Island draft and execute wills and health care documents. Our Backpack Drives in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville were also a great success, such that we were able to provide school supplies to hundreds of children in South Carolina, so a special thank you to that committee's chairs and to all of you and your offices for donating.

This year I challenge each of you to attend at least one YLD event or participate in a service project that you have never done before. Enjoy your time with your fellow young lawyers whether your goal is to make friends or build your professional network. There is something for everyone, but if you disagree, I would love for you to bring your ideas to Ashleigh, Sheila and me. A personal goal for this year is to make it to at least one event in each circuit, so if you know of a great YLD event being set up by your Circuit Representative or if you would like to take the lead in planning an event, please let me know. I hope to be there to share in your success!

Sincerely yours,

Lindsay A. Joyner
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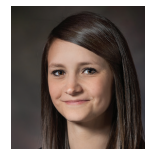
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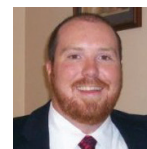
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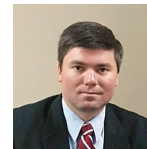
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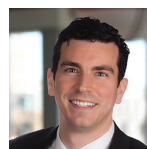
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Member Spotlight: Thomas J.G. Scott

The YLD recognizes Thomas Scott for his selection to participate in the 39th annual Atlantik-Brücke German-American Young Leaders Conference, hosted in Santa Cruz & Silicon Valley, California from August 5-11, 2017. Each year, this highly selective international leadership program accepts only 25 American and 25 German young professionals who demonstrate leadership in their professional life and have a proven interest in transatlantic topics. Participants in this program have the opportunity to intensively discuss current transatlantic topics during a week of plenary sessions and working groups.

Thomas is Counsel at Cruise Automation, Inc., the San Francisco-based autonomous vehicle



start-up owned by General Motors. In that role, he is a generalist, handling everything from transactions to litigation preparedness to IP to

Arizona traffic law. Prior to joining Cruise in January 2017, Thomas was a litigation and investigations associate in the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. He clerked for Judge Richard Gergel in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, as well as the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and South Africa's Constitutional Court. Thomas graduated from Stanford Law School and Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs. Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, he attended the South Carolina Honors College, where he graduated *summa cum laude* and was a

Truman Scholar, and he continues to serve on the South Carolina Honors College's Partnership Board.