

# Consumer Law Section

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Susan B. Berkowitz**

Sue Berkowitz is an attorney and director of the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center. South Carolina Appleseed fights for low income South Carolinians to overcome social, economic and legal injustice.

She is a graduate of USC and Western New England School of Law, cum laude. Sue has focused her practice in the areas of health, welfare, hunger and consumer issues. She has worked on the passage of numerous pieces of legislation including, the Small Loan Act of 1995, the Family Independence Act of 1995, the High Cost and Consumer Home Loan Act of 2003, the eligibility increase for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (2007), SC Identity Theft Act (2008), Payday Lending Act (2009) and Unemployment Modernization(2010).

Sue works with a number of state agencies on policy issues that impact the low income community including changes to consumer and mortgage lending laws, the Family Independence Program, Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, Food Stamp rules. She has authored defenses to foreclosure chapter for a manual produced by the South Carolina Bar as well as numerous manuals for SC Appleseed. Sue was awarded the Order of Palmetto, the SC Commission on Women's Woman of Achievement Award, USC School of Law Order of the Coif and the NAACP President's Award for her work on predatory lending and poverty issues. Prior to working with SC Appleseed she was a staff attorney with Palmetto Legal Services and the Department of Social Services. She is married to Harrison Palmer and has two sons.

### **Gerald S. (Gerry) Sachs**

Senior Council for Enforcement Strategy, Southeast Region  
Supervision, Enforcement and Fair Lending

Prior to joining the Bureau, Gerry served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Georgia where he prosecuted both civil and criminal cases relating to economic crimes, computer crimes, narcotics trafficking, money laundering and asset forfeiture, and the False Claims Act. Gerry also lectured and taught in Mexico as part of the Justice Department's high-profile Merida initiative to assist the Mexican Government with its transitioning legal system.

Before joining the United States Attorney's Office, Gerry served as an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission's Southeast Region Office where he prosecuted consumer fraud cases relating to, among other things, unfair and deceptive acts and practices. Prior to joining the Commission, Gerry litigated in private practice in Washington, D.C.

In his non-legal career, Gerry served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, Central America, where he built potable drinking water systems and taught English, environmental education, and basic healthcare. As a St. Louis native, Gerry is still an avid Cardinals fan,