Corporate, Banking & Securities Law Section

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

GEORGE E. MORRISON

George Morrison advises corporate clients on formation, succession, and transactional Issues, and general business matters. George also advises individuals and businesses on Section 1031 tax deferred real estate exchanges, Partnership and S-Corporation taxation, mergers and acquisitions, tax structuring for real estate transactions, and other tax aspects of doing business. George is a member of our Firm's Economic Development practice group and has assisted with economic development transactions involving multi-county industrial parks and fee-in-lieu-of-tax arrangements; he has also worked on commercial property tax appeals at the administrative level.

Representative Engagements - Advises individuals and businesses on the following: estate planning and trusts, probate administration, charitable planning, business succession planning, non-profit corporation, and tax-exempt organizations; Extensive work with exempt organizations; Obtained IRS tax exemption recognition determination letters, including one for a tax-exempt entity formed to serve as conduit borrower of tax-exempt financing; Assisted with $30,000,000 PILOT with award of infrastructure improvement credit, and Multi-County Park inclusion; Represented client in transfer of two FILOT arrangements (one $450,000,000 and the other $100,000,000) in connection with multi-slate $190,000,000 sale of composite facilities; Representation of borrowers and lenders In commercial loan transactions.

Professional and Community Involvement - Contributing Author, LexisNexls "South Carolina State Tax Practice Insights"; Member, South Carolina Economic Developers' Association; Member, Charleston Tax Council; Member, Charleston County Bar Association; Member, American Bar Association, Tax Section, numerous committees and subcommittees, Including on partnership taxation and tax-exempt organizations; Member, American Bar Association, Business Law Section, numerous committees and subcommittees, Including on LLPs, LLCs, legal opinions, and secured transactions under the UCC; Member, South Carolina Bar Association, Tax Section, Corporate, Banking and Securities Law Section, Legal Opinion Ad Hoc Committee; Extensive Involvement with assisting nonprofit organizations with startup and other Issues; Leadership Charleston Class of 2008.

JENNIFER C. BLUMENTHAL

Principle Areas of Practice – Corporate, business, commercial lending and secured transactions, and third party opinions practice.

Special Experiences – A large part of her practice involves third party opinions, including local counsel opinions under state law and internal review of opinions.

Education – University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, B.A. 1985; Wake Forest University Law School, J.D. 1991.

S.C. Bar Activities – Corporate, Banking & Securities Law Section (Section Delegate); Chair of Legal Opinion Ad Hoc Committee; Member of Real Estate Practice Section.

Other Legal Affiliations – ABA Section of Business Law; ABA Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law.

SHARON C. BRAMLETT

Sharon Bramlett is Special Counsel at McNair Law Firm, P.A. She graduated magna cum laude from Furman University in 1980 and earned her J.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1985. She was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004. Sharon's practice primarily involves the representation of financial institutions and other financial services companies, both in commercial and consumer matters. In connection with her consumer financial services practice, she serves as the South Carolina editor for Houselaw and Carlaw, national publications dealing with the consumer finance industry. Sharon also serves as the Chairman of the Council of Advisors on Consumer Credit, a council of sixteen individuals selected by the Governor to advise the Administrator of the Department of Consumer Affairs on matters relevant to consumer credit.

In connection with Sharon's commercial practice, she assists clients with all types of real estate and personal property sale and financing transactions and has an extensive opinion practice. She currently serves as a member of the Legal Opinion Ad-Hoc Committee of the Corporate, Banking and Securities Law Section of the South Carolina Bar drafting the State Report on Opinion Practice in South Carolina. Sharon also practices in the areas of corporate and contract law and represents corporate trustees in public finance transactions.

Sharon is the Vice Chairman of the Corporate, Banking and Securities Section of the SC Bar, a member of the Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law in Commercial Transactions and the Judicial Qualifications Committee for the South Carolina Bar. She is a also a member of the Consumer Financial Services Committee of the American Bar Association and a Charter Member of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. She serves her community as the President of the Palmetto Center for Women.

SCOTT Y. BARNES

Scott Barnes is a partner in the Charleston, South Carolina law firm of Warren & Sinkler, LLP. His practice revolves around federal and state income tax issues as they relate primarily to real estate transactions, partnership taxation, limited liability companies, conservation easements and corporate formation and operations. He is an adjunct professor at the Charleston School of Law and was formerly an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

MICHAEL F. JOHNSON

Mike Johnson is an attorney in the Corporate, Securities and Tax group of Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough's Greenville, South Carolina office. His practice focuses on public and private securities offerings, SEC public company compliance and general corporate governance matters. Prior to joining Nelson Mullins, Mike was with the US Securities and Exchange Commission in their Division of Corporation Finance, where we was responsible for the review of initial public offerings, secondary offerings, annual reports, proxy statements and merger transactions.

Before joining the Commission, Mike completed a judicial clerkship for the Honorable Richard J. Thorpe of the Washington State Superior Court and worked in the corporate group of a West Coast law firm.

While in law school, Mike was a law clerk for the state securities regulator for the State of Oregon, the Division of Finance and Corporate Securities and served on law review.

MARK S. SHARPE

Mr. Sharpe received a B.A. from Yale University in 1976 and an MBA from New York University in 1978. He received his law degree in 1981 from the University of South Carolina, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and Notes and Comments Editor of the South Carolina Law Review. He was formerly a CPA licensed in New York State, where he practiced with a major accounting firm.

Mr. Sharpe is a past-chairperson of the Corporation, Banking and Securities Law Section of the South Carolina Bar. His practice areas include Banking; Creditor Rights; Bankruptcy; Commercial Real Estate.

MICHAEL D. BRYAN

Mike Bryan is a partner and practices in the Firm's Charleston and Atlanta offices in the areas of corporate and securities law, mergers and acquisitions, and finance. He is the Chair of the Firm's Sustainable Energy Group.
Experience - Advises clients on matters related to corporate governance, securities compliance and reporting requirements, exchange listing standards, joint ventures, licensing, acquisitions, divestitures, other corporate transactions, and debt and equity offerings; Has experience in corporate governance matters, securities compliance for public companies, corporate transactions, and corporate finance as well as municipal finance.
Previous Professional Experience - Associate General Counsel, Corporate Governance, Monsanto Company (1997 – 2003) ; Responsible for legal matters relating to corporate law, the board of directors, securities law compliance, mergers and acquisitions, treasury management and executive compensation; Involved in numerous transactions for Monsanto, including the spin-off of Solutia, Inc., the acquisition of the international seed business of Cargill, Monsanto's merger with Pharmacia & Upjohn, Inc., and the initial public offering of the new Monsanto Company following that merger.

M. EDWIN HINDS, JR. (COURSE PLANNER)

Practice Areas – Banking and Commerce, Commercial Real Estate, Development Planning, Easement and Real Property Litigation, Leases, Permitting, Real Estate Litigation, Residential Real Estate, and Zoning.
Education - University of South Carolina, B.S. (1979); University of South Carolina, J.D. (1982)
Admitted - South Carolina (1982)
Memberships - Horry County Bar Association, South Carolina Bar Association
Edwin was born in Salina, Kansas in 1957 while his father was serving in the military. Edwin graduated from the University of South Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Insurance and Economic Securities. Edwin graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1982.

After clerking for the Bellamy Law Firm in 1980 and 1981, Edwin joined the firm in 1982. He primarily practices commercial and residential real estate law. Edwin has worked with developers on numerous oceanfront high-rise resort developments, mixed-use developments, single-family residential subdivisions, and commercial developments. Edwin is a member of the Horry County and South Carolina Bar Associations.

Edwin is very active in the Myrtle Beach community. He is an active member of the Dunes Golf and Beach Club and has recently served as the Club's President. He is an active member and elder at the First Presbyterian Church, where he has chaired various committees. Edwin is the President/Chairman of the Board of the Horry County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, a member of the Board of United Way of Horry County, Treasurer of the Community Assistance Center Board, and serves on the Board of Advisors of the Chapin Foundation. He was a prior member of the Board of Visitors of Presbyterian College, and was a past president of Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach.

When not practicing law, Edwin enjoys spending time with his wife, Rebecca, playing golf, fishing, hunting, and relaxing at the beach.

JAMES W. SHEEDY

Managing Shareholder – Driscoll Sheedy, Rockhill, SC

Born – Knoxville, Tennessee. June 1, 1956
Education - Davidson College (B.A., 1978); University College, Oxford University, Oxford, England; University of South Carolina (J.D., 1982)
Admitted - 1982, South Carolina; 1983, U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina and U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit; 2009, United States Supreme Court; 2011, North Carolina; and 2011, U.S. District Court, Western, Middle and Eastern Districts of North Carolina
Practice Areas - Antitrust and Trade Regulation; Bankruptcy; Banks and Banking; Corporate Law; Government; Insurance; Litigation; Real Estate; Securities; Utility Law; Zoning, Planning and Land Use
Memberships and Presentations – York County Bar; Phi Delta Phi; North Carolina Bar Association Foundation; Member, Appellate Rules Committee, 2012; As a member of the SC Bar, he has been very active serving as Chair of the SC Bar Corporation, Banking and Securities Section; sat as a member of the SC Bar House of Delegates; member of the Ethics Advisory Committee; served on the SC Bar Board of Governors; Secretary of the Corporation, Banking and Securities Section; in addition he has been a guest speaker at several SC Bar Convention seminars, the SC Bankruptcy Lawyers Association, the SC Municipal Association annual meeting as well as at the 2011 ABA Water Rights Conference.