

Children's Law Committee

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

REP. BRUCE W. BANNISTER

Bruce Wyche Bannister is a Managing Partner of Bannister and Wyatt, LLC and is a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Mr. Bannister graduated from Davidson College in 1995 and went on to earn his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1998.

Mr. Bannister focuses on Family Law, Eminent Domain, and Real Estate Law. He has tried cases involving Personal Injury, Premises Liability, Eminent Domain, Education Law, Residential Real Estate, Commercial Real Estate, Government, Zoning, Planning and Land Use.

Admitted to the practice of law in South Carolina in 1998, Mr. Bannister was elected as the S.C. House District 24 Representative, 2005-2014 where he serves on the Judiciary Committee and is Chairman of the Constitutional Laws Subcommittee. Mr. Bannister was elected by his peers to serve as the Assistant Majority leader for the SC House Republican Caucus from 2008-2012. He also currently serves as Chairman of the South Carolina Bar Lawyer Legislator task force.

Mr. Bannister is a lifelong resident of Greenville, where he serves as a member of the Wig and Robe, Greenville County Young Lawyers, South Carolina Bar and the Better Business Bureau. He is a LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated lawyer, and has also taught as an adjunct professor at Greenville Technical College. He also holds previous experience as a law clerk to the Honorable Larry R. Patterson, circuit Court Judge.

As an active member within the community, Mr. Bannister is a graduate of Leadership Greenville Class XXVI and a member of Liberty Fellowship's Class of 2014. He currently serves as a Board Member for the Children's Museum of the Upstate as well as the Andrews Society of Greenville. He is a past Board Member for the Greenville Peace Center and A Child's Haven. In 2011, Mr. Bannister received the Children's Hospital Legislative Advocacy Award for his efforts on behalf of the SC Institute for Child Success.

DEIRDRE (DEE) APPLEBY

Dr. Appleby is the former Director of the South Carolina Office of eLearning in the Division of School Effectiveness (formerly the Division of Standards and Learning). She managed all statewide instructional technology programs, Instructional Television (eMedia), SC Online Professional Development, the South Carolina Virtual School Program (SCVSP), and the Enhancing Education through Technology federal program. Her primary focus is providing high- touch, high-quality, high-energy programs that are well researched and delivered through an online or blended learning environment. Dr. Appleby currently is working with Lexington Richland School District 5 where she manages, directs, supervises, and promulgates procedures for the administration, utilization, implementation, and integration of technology within all facets of the academic and administrative systems. Dr. Appleby also is responsible for digital learning and instructional technology, as well as information technology leadership in the development of strategic plans and operating policies that enable the agency to achieve its strategic business objectives.

DANA COOPER-REED

Dana C. Reed, J.D., M.A.T., received her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her Master's degree in the area of special education from the University of South Carolina. Ms. Reed is currently the Director of Compliance for the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD). As SCPCSD's Director of Compliance, Ms. Reed monitors and supports the district's schools to ensure their compliance with charters and applicable federal and state regulations. She also assists with the evaluation of each school's practices in the areas of academics, compliance, finance, and governance. Prior to working for the SCPCSD, Ms. Reed served for eight years as the Ombudsman for the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) where she also served as the complaint investigator for special education written complaints for two years. She has served as the Director of Family Support Services for the Continuum of Care and as the education consultant for the Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services (formerly Managed Treatment Services) Division of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS). In addition, Ms. Reed has served as a state attorney for the SCDSS in the area of child support enforcement.

KATHRYN L. MAHONEY

Kathy Mahoney is a partner with the Columbia law firm of Childs & Halligan where she has practiced law since her graduation from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1992. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Philosophy from Emory University in 1989. Ms. Mahoney was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1992 and is admitted to practice before the State and federal courts in South Carolina and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Kathy is a member of the South Carolina Council of School Attorneys and the John Belton O'Neill Inn of Court. She has spent her entire legal career representing public school districts. Her primary areas of practice include employment law, special education matters, student matters, policy development, and related litigation.

ROBIN KOWALSKI

Dr. Robin Kowalski is a professor of psychology at Clemson University. She obtained her Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her research interests focus primarily on aversive interpersonal behaviors, most notably complaining, teasing and bullying, with a particular focus on cyber bullying. She is the author or co-author of several books including *Complaining, Teasing, and Other Annoying Behaviors*, *Social Anxiety*, *Aversive Interpersonal Behaviors*, *Behaving Badly*, *The Social Psychology of Emotional and Behavioral Problems*, *Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the Digital Age*. Her research on complaining brought her international attention, including an appearance on NBC's "Today Show." Dr. Kowalski has received several awards including Clemson University's Award of Distinction, Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Science Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Phil Prince Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Classroom, Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Science Senior Research Award, and the Clemson Board of Trustees Award for Faculty Excellence. She was also recently named by Princeton Review as one of the best 300 professors in the nation.

LESLEY M. (LEE) COGGIOLA

Lee Coggiola is currently Disciplinary Counsel for the South Carolina Supreme Court, formerly Chief Staff Attorney for the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Before coming to the Court of Appeals she served as the Chief Public Defender of Richland County. Her Bar memberships include the South Carolina Supreme Court, United States District Court, District of South Carolina, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. She is a graduate of the University of Miami and received her JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1988. Prior to attending law school she spent eleven years with IBM in systems and marketing. Since admission to the Bar she

served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Carol Connor, Assistant Public Defender, Assistant Appellate Defender, and Of Counsel at Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough. As chair of the Criminal Law Section, she served on the House of Delegates for the South Carolina Bar. Additionally, she served on the board of the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, was former President of the South Carolina Public Defender Association, a former member of the American Council of Chief Defenders, the Commission of the Office of Indigent Defense, and the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys. Currently she serves as a member of the National Organization of Bar Counsel and the Ethics Advisory Committee of the Bar, the John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court and the Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession. She is co-editor of the Fifth Edition of The Criminal Law of South Carolina and is an adjunct instructor at USC School of Law.

J. JAY BENDER

University of South Carolina, B.A. in Journalism (1970)

University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D. (1975)

Jay Bender has built a national reputation as a lawyer for newspapers and broadcasters, and is regarded as South Carolina's foremost authority on the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Bender represents the South Carolina Press Association, the South Carolina Broadcasters Association, and many of the members of those associations. Since beginning his media law practice in 1975 Bender has appeared in a multitude of trial and appellate courts, both federal and state, to advocate press-related cases. As a lobbyist for the South Carolina Press Association, Bender was instrumental in the adoption of amendments to strengthen the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the adoption of a reporter's shield law. Bender has also published two books on South Carolina media law.

Bender holds the Reid H. Montgomery Freedom of Information Chair at the University of South Carolina where he is a visiting professor in the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies and a lecturer in the School of Law. Bender teaches courses in the law and ethics of mass communication in both schools and a course on constitutional limitations on commercial speech regulation in the law school. Bender's students include undergraduates, law students and doctoral candidates.

In addition to his media law practice and his teaching Bender is a frequent speaker to press groups, lawyer organizations, judges and academic assemblies on access to courts, public records and meetings, and free speech issues. Bender is quoted regularly by reporters commenting on free speech and access controversies ranging from a police department's refusal to provide a crime report to the arrest of protesters on the state capitol grounds.

Bender has prepared summaries of South Carolina media-related law for the Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press and the Libel Defense Resource Center. He has also written on media law issues for the South Carolina Bar magazine, his most recent publication being "An Outbreak of Prior Restraint in the Palmetto State" in the March 2012 issue of South Carolina Lawyer. Bender's provocative speech on free speech at the inaugural Columbia TEDx talks received a standing ovation. Between 1975 and 2006 Bender was an attorney for the Catawba Indian Nation and participated in litigation and negotiations leading to the settlement of a land claim that arose in 1840.

Away from his professional career Bender has been active in community service having been a "radio reader" on the South Carolina Radio Network for the Blind for 30 years and a frequent platelet donor for the Red Cross. In 2010 Bender received an award for service to journalism and the community from the University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and previously was honored as an outstanding alumnus of that school.