

Family Law Section

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ashby L. Jones

Ashby Lawton Jones is a 1995 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Presbyterian College and a 1998 graduate of the University of South Carolina. She is a founding member of Kinard and Jones, LLC, located in Lexington, South Carolina. Her practice is concentrated in the areas family law, plaintiff's personal injury, product's liability and wrongful death. Ashby's law partner, Murry Kinard, concentrates his practice in the areas of family law, criminal defense, plaintiff's personal injury, products liability, wrongful death, and eminent domain. Prior to forming Kinard and Jones, LLC in 2004, Ashby was employed as a civil insurance defense attorney at Howser, Newman and Besley, LLC in Columbia, South Carolina. Ashby is a member of the Lexington County Bar Association, the South Carolina Association for Justice and the South Carolina Women Lawyer's Association. She is a regular contributor to *Lexington Woman Magazine*, with a column called The Ashby Chronicle. Ashby resides in Lexington, South Carolina with her husband Bret and her children Maggie (13) and Houston (9). In addition to the above, Ashby Jones is an emphatic, loyal, and unapologetic Britney Spears fan.

C. Vance Stricklin (Course Planner)

C. Vance Stricklin, Jr., is a partner in the West Columbia law firm of Moore, Taylor & Thomas, P.A. Vance is a graduate of Winthrop College (May 1991). He graduated with his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina, School of Law in May of 1994, and first practiced as a Public Defender in the Richland County Family Court.

He is a past-President of the Lexington County Bar, Current President of the Family Law Section of the South Carolina Bar, instructor at the New Family Court Judges School and is a speaker on Family Law Continuing Legal Education Programs (including JCLEs).

He is married to Carolyn and has three beautiful children, Alex, Grace and Lauren.

Dr. Linda Nielsen

Dr. Linda Nielsen is a professor of Adolescent and Educational Psychology at Wake Forest University in Winston Salem North Carolina. Her areas of research are shared parenting after divorce and father-daughter relationships - with a special emphasis on divorced fathers. For the past 22 years she has been teaching the only college course in the country devoted exclusively to the study of father-daughter relationships. She also teaches courses for pre-law students on child custody and courses on children of divorce. Her research on shared physical custody has been published in several academic journals, including the American Journal of Family Law and the Journal of Psychology, Law & Public Policy. A member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, National Council on Family Relations and American Psychological Association, she has presented her research on shared residential custody and divorced fathers at many national conferences and has served as an expert witness in a number of custody cases. Her articles on shared parenting research appear regularly in magazines and newsletter for family lawyers and judges. She is frequently called upon to provide her reviews of the research to legislators in the U.S. and abroad. She has also presented seminars on shared parenting for judges and lawyers at the Midwestern Family Law Conference and the South Carolina Bar Association. She has written three books on father-daughter relationships and a college textbook on adolescent psychology - and is presently writing a book for family law and mental health professionals on shared parenting after divorce

Rep. Bruce Bannister

Bannister, Bruce Wyche [R] - (Dist. No. 24, *Greenville Co.*) – Atty.; residing at 4 Montrose Dr., Greenville; b. July 21, 1972 in Greenville; s. Oscar W. and Kate Wofford Bannister; g. Davidson Coll., B.A. 1995; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 1998; June 14, 1997 m. Mary Margaret Adams, 4 children, Bruce W., Jr., Benjamin A., Margaret Kate “Molly Kate”, and Caroline Helene; managing partner, Bannister and Wyatt, LLC; Greenville Co. Bar; mem.: Greenville’s Best and Brightest Under 35, 2007; Leadership Greenville Class XXVI; Order of Wig and Robe, Univ. of S.C., 1998; mem., Christ Church of Greenville; Lander Univ. Board of Visitors; prev. serv. In House Oct. 4, 2005-2010

Bruce Wyche Bannister, Sr.

Attorney (Managing Partner) of Bannister & Wyatt, LLC, Greenville, South Carolina.

Majority Leader of the SC House Republican Caucus District 24 (Republican)

Residence: 4 Montrose Drive, Greenville, South Carolina.

Son of: O. William Bannister & Kate (Kerry) Wofford Bannister

Married: Mary Margaret Adams

Children: Bruce Wyche, Jr.
Benjamin Adams
Margaret Kate (Molly Kate)
Caroline Helene

Member of: Greenville County Bar,
Greenville’s Best and Brightest Under 35, 2007
Leadership Greenville Class XXVI
Chairman Lawyer Legislator Task Force
Lander University Board of Visitors
A Child’s Haven Board
Peace Center Board
The Children’s Museum Fundraising Committee
Christ Church of Greenville

Education: Order of Wig and Robe; 1998
University of South Carolina; 1998
Davidson College; 1998

Ryan A. McLeod

Ryan A. McLeod is a partner with the law firm of McDougall and Self, LLP. His practice is limited exclusively to family law matters and he has a South Carolina statewide practice with offices in Sumter and Columbia. Ryan received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in May of 1995 and his Juris Doctor degree from Mercer University Law School in May of 1998.

Ryan is a member of the Richland, Sumter and American Bar Associations as well as a member of the Family Law Section of the American Association for Justice. Ryan is a Fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a member of the Board of Governors for the South Carolina Association for Justice and he currently serves on the Family Law Section Council of the South Carolina Bar Association. Ryan is a Certified Family Court Mediator and is also admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. Ryan serves his community on numerous community boards and as a committee member for the South Carolina Bar Association's Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) Program. Ryan and his wife, Wendy, have been happily married for sixteen years and have three sons, Alex and Will, nine year old twins, and Parker, who is six years old.

Tanya A. Gee

Tanya Gee is the firm's authority on Supreme Court and Court of Appeals practice, and while she no longer serves in the judicial system, she is still the caretaker of a sacred trust.

The American legal system recognizes that no court is perfect, and it carefully safeguards its Integrity through the hallowed right of appeal. Tanya cares deeply about honor of the court system, and she works very hard to ensure that the interests of her clients are protected at the appellate level. She is also passionate about Judicial integrity, and she is a constant advocate for a strong and Independent court system.

As an attorney, Tanya was raised in the state's appellate courts. She served as Chief Staff Attorney and Clerk of Court for the South Carolina Court of Appeals. In those roles, she supervised and trained attorneys and administered the state's intermediate appellate court. In the words of the South Carolina legislature, "Tanya quickly became known at the court for her steadfast loyalty and dependability, earnest compassion, brilliant legal skills, and unmatched leadership talents, which led to her elevation from law clerk to chief staff attorney and, ultimately, clerk of court, where she masterfully orchestrated the operations of the state's intermediate appellate court of nine active Judges, one retired judge, and their staff, the central staff attorneys' office, the docketing office, and all support personnel.

She began her career as law clerk to Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn, now of the South Carolina Supreme Court. Tanya also served as a temporary law clerk, for Judge C. Tolbert Goolsby while he sat on the trial bench as a special circuit court judge. Over the years, she has received special commendations from South Carolina's appellate courts for her efforts to safeguard the integrity of the court system.

Recognitions:

In May of 2013, both houses of the South Carolina legislature recognized Tanya for her exceptional and outstanding contributions to the state and legal profession and for making a profoundly positive Impact on her community.

Tanya Is one of only two attorneys who have been awarded both the Bronze and Silver Compleat Lawyer Awards from the U.S.C. Law School Alumni Association. She was also named to The State newspaper's "20 Under 40" class in 2010. The prestigious Liberty Fellowship, an incubator for exemplary leadership in South Carolina, named Tanya as a fellow for Its Class of 2012.

Tanya was part of the 2009 inaugural class of the "Leaders in the Law Award" recipients by SC Lawyers Weekly. She is also a member of the John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court and Ebenezer Lutheran Church. She has served as event chair for Richland County Young Lawyer Division's Book Drive and Kids' ID Project.

