

Real Estate Practices Section

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Alex G. Shissias

Mr. Shissias graduated from Auburn University in 1991 with a BA in Political Science and Philosophy. From there he went to graduate school at the University of Kent in the United Kingdom, graduating with a MA in Political Thought in 1993. He then attended law school at the University of South Carolina. While at USC, his interest in environmental law started when he took the only class then available on the subject, taught by Professor Steve Spitz. After graduating in 1996 Mr. Shissias immediately started work at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, where he represented the Department in such varied areas as stormwater, wastewater, 401 Water Quality Certification, Air Quality, UST, solid and hazardous waste, infectious waste, laboratory certification, health regulation, food service establishments, environmental health, radiological health, and criminal investigations. In his six years at DHEC he took some 27 contested cases to final adjudication. In 2003 Mr. Shissias started work at Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, where his practice concentrated more on transactional and regulatory issues, including due diligence, risk management, site remediation, and brownfields. While at HSB, Mr. Shissias also added other regulatory areas to his practice, including CERCLA matters, EPCRA, RCRA, FDA compliance, California Proposition 65, FIFRA, procurement, alcohol licensing, Certificate of Need, and OSHA. In January of 2012 Mr. Shissias left HSB to found his own law firm, a solo practice concentrating on environmental, administrative, and regulatory law. Mr. Shissias has been the chair of the SC Bar's Administrative and Regulatory Law Committee since 2011 and is a member of the Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association, the ABA Section of Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources, the South Carolina Association of Environmental Professionals, and the SC Chamber of Commerce Environmental and Technical Committee. He is rated "AV" by Martindale-Hubbell in the areas of Environmental Law, Administrative Law and Litigation.

Anne L. Anastasi

One of only a few people who hold the coveted National Title Professional (NTP) and the Certified Land Title Professional (CLTP) designations showing her excellence in title knowledge, educating others and serving the industry, Anne L. Anastasi has been in the title insurance business for over 30 years. Anne owned and ran the successful Genesis Abstract group of companies prior to becoming the Director of Agent and Lender Education for Old Republic National Title.

In 2010 she became the President of the **American Land Title Association**, the title industry's national association. In 1999 Anne served as President of the **Pennsylvania Land Title Association** for which she was the first female President in Association's 80-year history.

In her first few months of her tenure as ALTA president Anne testified before Congress, appeared on Cspan, held congressional briefings, met with Obama cabinet members and spoke to press outlets on the issues facing the real estate transfer system. She was referenced in the Washington Post as "someone to watch".

In 2012 Anne was featured during a segment of the Lifetime Television series Designing Spaces where she described the importance of the Owner's Title Insurance Policy and walked the viewers through the closing.

Anne is a renowned national speaker covering topics such as title insurance, customer service, sales and motivation. Anne has been the keynote speaker at more than 40 title industry state conventions and has addressed audiences at ALTA and RESPRO.

Anne has recently published a book on the art of public speaking entitled, "Fearless Public Speaking" which has been reviewed as a "must-read" for all business people by Rick Wolff, Editorial Director for Warner Business Book.

Anne graduated with honors from Colgate University with a major in Japanese.

Benton D. Williamson

Benton D. Williamson a native of Darlington, South Carolina is shareholder with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA in Columbia, South Carolina where he concentrates his practice in the area of commercial and industrial financing, leasing, acquisitions and dispositions. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of the South (Sewanee) in 1976, a B.A. in Jurisprudence from Oxford University in 1978 and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1980. Mr. Williamson is a member of American College of Real Estate Lawyers and is a former chair of the South Carolina Bar's Real Estate Practices Section. In addition, he is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® - Real Estate Law and *South Carolina Super Lawyers*™ magazine for Real Estate and has been named *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2011 Columbia, SC Real Estate Lawyer of the Year. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at USC School of Law.

Scott E. Lawrence (Course Planner)

Scott E. Lawrence practices law in Greenville, SC as the owner of Lawrence Law Firm, LLC, handling residential and commercial real estate transactions.

Mr. Lawrence attended the University of Kansas (1986) (*Rock Chalk, Jayhawk, KU!*) and Wake Forest University School of Law (1989). He practiced law at Lake Norman, NC for many years, before relocating to Greenville, opening his practice in 2004.

He currently serves as the Chairman of the Real Estate Practices Section Council of the SC Bar. Mr. Lawrence has been a vocal advocate for real estate attorneys, including the filing of an Amicus Curiae Brief in *Doe Law Firm v. Richardson*, 636 S.E.2d 866 (SC 2006), supporting the attorney's role in real estate closings.

Mr. Lawrence is an active Boy Scout leader with Troop 776 in Simpsonville, S.C., and has in the past served as Chairman of the Board of the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce, Legal Counsel for the Our Towns Habitat for Humanity (Davidson, NC), Chairman of the Board of the Exchange Club – Child Abuse Prevention Center of Iredell County, Board Member of the Kansas University Athletic Corporation, and as a member of various civic clubs.