

# SC Bar Foundation Seminar

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

*by order of presentation*

### **Olivia Jones**

*South Carolina Bar Foundation  
Columbia, SC  
(Course Planner)*

Olivia Stafford Jones is a native of Columbia, South Carolina. She graduated from the South Carolina Honors College in 2001 with a B.A. in Spanish. After graduation, Olivia lived in Chile for a year on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, where she obtained an Associate's Degree in Public Administration in 2002 from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Valparaiso and became fluent in Spanish. Olivia graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2007, having served as president of the Pro Bono Program.

Licensed to practice law in South Carolina and in federal court, her legal career has included roles as a staff attorney at the SC Administrative Law Court and South Carolina Legal Services, as well as an associate at a nonprofit immigration law firm. From 2015 to 2023, she ran her own solo practice, focusing on family law, immigration, and probate matters. In 2023, Olivia began serving as the Executive Director for the South Carolina Bar Foundation.

Olivia has served on the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission since 2021 and is a longtime member (and past chair) of the Richland County Bar's Public Service Committee. She is also a past president of the Rotary Club of Five Points in Columbia, where she has been a member since 2009. Olivia co-founded and volunteers at the Richland County Divorce Help Desk, which connects volunteer attorneys with people navigating divorce on their own. Olivia is a member of the Richland, Greenville, and Charleston County Bars, as well as the S.C. Women Lawyers' Association.

In 2020, Olivia was honored to be named the S.C. Bar's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, and in 2024 she was presented with the Civic Star Award by the Richland County Bar Association.

**Ginny Waller**  
*Waller Consulting*  
*Springfield, VA*

Ginny Waller is a licensed South Carolina attorney and the Founder & Principal Advisor of Waller Consulting, LLC, a boutique firm based out of northern Virginia specializing in leadership transitions, strategic planning, and governance for nonprofit organizations. Drawing on more than twenty years of experience as both a lawyer and executive leader, she helps boards and executive teams navigate moments of change with clarity, confidence, and ethical integrity.

In addition to her advisory work, Ginny regularly serves as an interim CEO for organizations across the Southeast, helping stabilize leadership, strengthen operations, and position nonprofits for long-term success. Through her firm's signature frameworks—UpShift™ for leadership transitions and PivotPoint Strategy™ for strategic planning—she equips boards and executives to act decisively, align ethically, and deliver results that last.

After earning her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law, Ginny served as a law clerk for the Honorable Steven H. John in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit and the South Carolina Court of Appeals, and later practiced construction litigation with Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims, P.A. Her legal training and public-interest focus led her to nonprofit leadership, where she served nine years as Executive Director of Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, guiding the organization through transformative growth and statewide advocacy efforts.

Ginny has been an active member of the South Carolina Bar since 2003 and has served in numerous leadership capacities within the Bar's Young Lawyers Division, earning the Young Lawyer of the Year Award, the President's Award, and multiple ABA Star of the Quarter recognitions. Her contributions to the legal and nonprofit sectors have been recognized with the SC Association of Nonprofit Organizations' Award for Leadership and the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Midlands Chapter's Fundraising Professional of the Year.

Ginny is an active **member of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association, Together SC, the Center for Nonprofit Advancement (DC), North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, and the Interim Executive Network (DC).**

**Kharimah Dessow**  
*The Paraclete Law Center, LLC*  
*Columbia, SC*

Kharimah Roacher Dessow graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law with a concentration in Children's Law. Upon admission to the South Carolina Bar, she began her legal career at the South Carolina Legal Services Corporation, representing indigent citizens in housing disputes, access to education and special education hearings, consumer debt and abuse cases, denial of public benefits appeals, wills, trusts, estates, and family law matters.

She later joined the Brunson Law Firm, LLC in Sumter, South Carolina as a general practitioner. Kharimah also served as an Assistant Prosecutor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, prosecuting domestic violence crimes, and as Staff Attorney for the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), where she provided legal technical assistance and support to attorneys and legal professionals throughout the state. In this role, she responded to calls from survivors of domestic and sexual violence, providing legal information and referrals to SCCADVSA's 22 Member Organizations, legal services partners, and pro bono/low bono attorneys.

Kharimah has previously presented at several seminars, including:

- "Navigating Ethical Challenges in Nonprofit Practice" (January 2025)
- "Navigating Safety Options for Interpersonal Violence Victims in Civil & Criminal Proceedings" (August 2024)
- "Advanced Safety Planning" (March 2022)
- "The Ins and Outs of Civil Stalking or Harassment Restraining Orders in South Carolina" (August 2021)
- "Understanding Victim Advocacy in South Carolina" (April 2021)
- "Improving Access for Survivors with Disabilities Conference, Widening Pathways" (September 2021)

She is a licensed member of the South Carolina Bar, the American Bar Association, and the Richland and Sumter County Bars. Kharimah is a graduate of the National Family Law Trial Institute and the South Carolina Bar's Leadership Academy. She was recognized as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers and is a member of the South Carolina Family Law American Inn of Court. She has served on the South Carolina Bar's Voices Against Violence Committee and is a former board member of The Hive, a survivor-driven, culturally specific peer advocacy organization dedicated to helping women and girls in South Carolina overcome the trauma of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking.

In recognition of her service to survivors, Kharimah was awarded the 2019 Judiciary Award by the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands.

In 2018, Kharimah founded The Paraclete Law Center, LLC, a boutique law firm focusing on family law, probate, and personal injury. She is a VA Accredited attorney, authorized to assist claimants in pursuit of benefits before the Department of Veterans Affairs. She also serves as a Guardian Ad Litem in highly contested domestic matters. Her firm's goal is to help families navigate and prevent crises so they can move forward with confidence.

Outside of her professional life, Kharimah is a mother of three and enjoys cooking, thrifting, and traveling to state and national parks.

## **Lesley “Lee” Coggiola**

*Columbia, SC*

Lee Coggiola is a 1967 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. Before her retirement in 2018, Lee was Disciplinary Counsel for the South Carolina Supreme Court, and prior to that Chief Staff Attorney for the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Before coming to the Court of Appeals she served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Carol Connor, assistant public defender, staff attorney for the Office of Appellate Defense and the Chief Public Defender of Richland County.

In leadership, she served on the Board of the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, was former President of the South Carolina Public Defender Association, former member of the American Council of Chief Defenders, and a member of the Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession. She serves as a mentor for incoming law students at the University of South Carolina School of Law and since 2003 has been an adjunct instructor at the Law School. She is co-editor of the Fifth and Sixth Edition of The Criminal Law of South Carolina. She serves the South Carolina Supreme Court as a committee member on the Committee on Character and Fitness.

## **Barabar Seymour**

*Clawson and Staubes, LLC*

*Columbia, SC*

**Barbara Seymour** represents lawyers, law firms, judges, and law students in matters related to ethics, professional discipline, and Bar admissions at Clawson & Staubes, LLC in Columbia. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Management and Marketing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1990 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia in 1993. Barbara worked as a trial lawyer until 2000 when she joined the staff of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. She served as the Deputy Disciplinary Counsel from 2007 until 2017. Barbara is a member of the South Carolina Bar, the State Bar of Georgia, the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, and the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. She currently serves on the Law Related Education, Professional Responsibility, Unauthorized Practice of Law, and Diversity Committees at the South Carolina Bar. She was a 2006 and 2011 Fellow of the National Institute for the Teaching of Ethics and Professionalism. She is the author of *Trust Accounting for South Carolina Lawyers: An Annotated Practice Manual*, published by the SC Bar. She has also taught a variety of Paralegal Studies courses for the past twenty-five years.

**Patricia Ravenhorst**  
*SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault*  
*Greenville, SC*

**Patricia S. Ravenhorst** is the **General Counsel and Director of Systems Advocacy for the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)** where she provides legal support for the organization; legal technical assistance and education to SCCADVASA's 22 member organizations and other professional partners and management of SCCADVASA's contract and pro bono attorney program. Ms. Ravenhorst has been training attorneys, criminal justice professionals and the community on the unique legal needs of survivors of crime; immigration and human trafficking for over 20 years. Prior to joining SCCADVASA, Tricia served as the Director and Attorney of the SC Victim Assistance Network's (SCVAN) Immigrant Victim Program, where she established the organization's specialized legal and supportive services to immigrant survivors of crime and the SC Immigrant Victim Coalition, which brings together professionals throughout the state working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and human trafficking. Prior to joining SCVAN, Ms. Ravenhorst practiced employment and immigration law at the Wyche Law Firm in Greenville, South Carolina. Her prior work experience also includes internships with the South African Secretariat for Safety and Security in Pretoria, South Africa. Tricia earned her Juris Doctor and Master of Arts in Political Science/Certification in Latin American Studies from Duke University and her Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from Florida State University. Ms. Ravenhorst is licensed to practice before both federal and state courts in South Carolina and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Association for Victim's Rights Attorneys.

**Jada Charley**  
*Crittenton of North Carolina*  
*Simpsonville, SC*

Jada B. Charley serves as the CEO of Crittenton of North Carolina, bringing a distinguished background in law, advocacy, and nonprofit leadership. Before joining Crittenton, Jada was Assistant General Counsel at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. Earlier, she led two organizations in Upstate South Carolina—Project R.E.S.T. and Safe Passage—as Executive Director, providing critical services to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse.

Jada's career also includes her time at South Carolina Legal Services, where she developed and managed the Language Access program to ensure accessibility for individuals with Limited English Proficiency, as well as those who are deaf or blind. Additionally, she clerked for the Honorable J. Mark Hayes in circuit court and worked as a special education attorney at Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities.

Jada holds a BA in Political Science and Spanish from Emory University and a JD from Georgetown University. She is fluent in Spanish and has studied American Sign Language. Her accolades include the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award and Furman University's Riley Center Diversity Leadership Institute, where she received the Outstanding Individual Award. Jada has been recognized for her contributions to increasing shelter access and services in York County by the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless. Additionally, she has published professional trade articles and co-authored a book on serving diverse clients.

Jada's extensive expertise spans law, public policy, education, business, victim advocacy, and nonprofit management, making her a dynamic leader and advocate.

**Sara Barber**

*SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault  
Columbia, SC*

**No Bio Submitted**