

# **Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section (Civil Law Update)**

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

*by order of presentation*

### **The Honorable Roger M. Young, Sr.**

*Chief Judge, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit*

*S.C. Circuit Court*

*Charleston, SC*

Roger M. Young, Sr. the son of the late Rev. James W. Young and Joyce L. Young. He was born in Michigan; however, his family moved to South Carolina when he was two years old, allowing him to maintain that he is truly a Southerner at heart. He grew up in North Charleston, and in 1980 graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Baptist College at Charleston, which is now known as Charleston Southern University. He graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1983 with the degree of Juris Doctor, and with the degree of Master of Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2000.

While in private practice, Judge Young also served as a Municipal Judge for the City of North Charleston from 1988-90. He was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1990 and served two terms. He was Master-in-Equity for Charleston County from 1996 until he replaced Judge Vic Rawl on the Circuit Court bench upon his retirement on July 1, 2003.

Judge Young is married to Tara Amick of Lexington. He was President of the South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Association from 2012-14.

### **The Honorable David C. Norton**

*U.S. District Court*

*Charleston, SC*

Born in Washington, D.C., Norton received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sewanee: The University of the South in 1968 and was in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1972. He then received a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1975, and was in private practice in Charleston, South Carolina until 1977. He was an assistant deputy solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Charleston, South Carolina from 1977 to 1980. He was a city attorney of Isle of Palms, South Carolina from 1980 to 1985. He was in private practice in Charleston from 1981 to 1990 and was a partner at the law firm of Holmes & Thomson.

On April 18, 1990, Norton was nominated by President George H. W. Bush to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina that was vacated by Judge Solomon Blatt, Jr. Norton was confirmed by the United States Senate on June 28, 1990 and received his commission on July 12, 1990. He served as Chief Judge from 2007 to 2012. [1]

Norton is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Charleston School of Law.

**John D. Martin**

*Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP  
Columbia, SC*

John is a litigation partner whose practice focuses on the interplay of high stakes litigation, electronic discovery, information management, and cybersecurity. He is a leader of the Nelson Mullins Electronic Discovery and Information Management practice group, Nelson Mullins Encompass. John's clients routinely face the challenge of having to collect and produce massive volumes of highly sensitive information in response to litigation, government investigations, and other matters. Clients turn to John and the Nelson Mullins Encompass team to manage the scope of these obligations, identify and mitigate risks, minimize business disruption, and to implement creative solutions to challenging and often disruptive discovery burdens.

Many of John's clients engage him as enterprise electronic discovery counsel to serve as an advocate and coordinate discovery strategy and operations in complex matters, often involving numerous concurrent MDL venues and interrelated government investigations. In this role, John communicates a consistent message across numerous matters, ensuring consistent strategy and positioning before a variety of judges, opposing counsel, and regulators. John has deep, hands-on experience litigating evidence spoliation and other unique e-discovery issues – ranging from TAR protocols in MDL litigation to source code production. Delivering accountability, this advocacy dovetails with the full range of large scale electronic discovery data collection, data processing, document review, and production operations of the Nelson Mullins Encompass team. While most clients engage John's team to handle cases from the start, they are often called into ongoing matters to defend sanctions motions, defend discovery processes, litigate overly broad demands, prepare and defend depositions into discovery conduct, and to consult on related issues.

**Education:**

University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D. 2000

University of South Carolina, Honor's College, B.S. 1996

**Jonathan D. Orent**

*Motley Rice  
Rhode Island*

Jonathan Orent litigates for people alleging harm by defective medical devices and pharmaceutical drugs, including all aspects of discovery and expert development. He represents

women suffering from painful side effects associated with pelvic mesh/sling products in thousands of filed cases against multiple corporations, as well as hernia patients harmed by mesh repairs.

Jonathan was appointed lead counsel of hernia mesh litigation In re Atrium Medical Corp. C-QUR Mesh Products Liability Litigation, MDL #2753. He serves as co-liaison counsel in transvaginal mesh litigation In re C.R. Bard Inc. in New Jersey state court and as state court liaison counsel in Massachusetts. He is a member of the litigation team that successfully tried the Barba case to a \$100 million verdict in Delaware (later reduced by appeal to \$10 million). Jonathan also led the successful appeal to the Massachusetts Court of Appeals, which allowed key evidence relating to Boston Scientific's alleged knowledge of the potential harm caused by its products. Jonathan is co-chair of the AAJ Hernia Mesh Litigation Group. Jonathan also represents communities and people facing personal injury, property damage and economic loss as a result of negligence, environmental hazards or groundwater and soil contamination. He represents clients in Pennsylvania's Apollo-Parks area who allege they suffered severe illnesses after being exposed to dangerous levels of toxic or radioactive materials released into the air, water and soil by local nuclear facilities. In 2008, he litigated against a large New England utility company on behalf of more than 100 Tiverton, R.I., residents who claimed they suffered damages resulting from environmental contamination of their residential property. More recently, Jonathan played a role in the settlement of contamination litigation between members of the Tallevast, Fla., community and a major aerospace defense contractor involving property damage and emotional distress claims resulting from the alleged release of trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE) and other chemicals into the groundwater. Jonathan has worked on complex litigation against the lead paint industry on behalf of government entities in California, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, as well as lead poisoning cases for individual children and families against property owners. He also assists with discovery and trial preparation of the firm's asbestos cases.

Prior to joining Motley Rice in 2005, Jonathan served as a law clerk with the Missouri State Public Defender Youth Advocacy Unit and a legal intern for Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois. Recognized as an AV® rated attorney Martindale-Hubbell®, he has made numerous presentations on a variety of legal matters involving medical device litigation and environmental law. He serves on the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, a group whose mission is to address key community issues and discrimination matters, such as foreclosure scams and the disparate treatment of minority youth, through research and initiatives. Jonathan is President of AG Bell Rhode Island, as well as a member of the Rhode Island Early Intervention Work Group, a group that reviews early intervention services provided to deaf or hard of hearing children between the ages of 0-3 in Rhode Island.

**Robert F. Bettler, Jr., Ph.D.**

*DecisionQuest – Senior Consultant  
Atlanta, GA*

Robert F. Bettler, Jr., head of the Atlanta office of DecisionQuest, has 20 years' experience in trial consulting, along with decades of experience in fields spanning the military, engineering,

business, education, medicine and neuropsychology. This rich and diverse background has been of great benefit to a wide variety of clients.

Dr. Bettler has conducted a number of qualitative and quantitative research projects, including: focus groups, mock trials, trial simulations; community attitude surveys; change of venue studies; post-trial juror interviews; reviews of social scientific, medical, and legal research literature on issues of interest in specific cases; assisting attorneys in theme development, case strategy, preparation for mediation, jury selection and with in-trial consultations. His trial consulting engagements have brought him into a wide array of case types, from capital to white collar criminal cases, from intentional tort to contract cases, from product liability to toxic tort cases, from intellectual property to medical malpractice and beyond. Drawing upon his experience as a statistician whose research has been published in the peer-reviewed social psychological literature, he has implemented methodological and analytical innovations in juror profiling that have contributed to the success of numerous cases.

Various state and local Bar Associations have enjoyed Dr. Bettler's continuing legal education seminars on the social psychology of trial advocacy and juror decision making, and he has authored several articles on these subjects, along with articles in the peer-reviewed psychological press on personality research and grant-funded technical reports in program evaluation and criminal justice. In addition, as a former university lecturer and professor, Dr. Bettler has taught graduate-level courses in personality theory and assessment, statistics, and advanced social psychology at the University of Louisville.

**Education:**

University of Louisville, Ph.D., Social and Personality Psychology, 2001.

University of Louisville, M.A., Clinical Psychology, 1997.

University of Louisville, B.A., Psychology, 1994.

University of Louisville, B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1987.

University of Louisville, B.A., English Literature, 1982.

University of Louisville, B.A., Russian, with honors, 1982.

**John S. Nichols**

*Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Columbia, SC*

John S. Nichols has practiced trial and appellate advocacy for 22 years prior to accepting the position as disciplinary counsel. He has prepared law case updates for the South Carolina Bar for over 25 years and is currently working with Professors Joel Samuels and Colin Miller in revising Professor Flanagan's Book, *SC Civil Procedure*, for the SC Bar. He has authored or co-authored numerous other publications for the South Carolina Bar, including *Case Law and Legislative Updates*, *Masters in Equity/Special Referees in SC*, *Service of Process in SC*, and *SC Damages*. He has also co-authored updates on the SC Bar publications *SC Law of Torts* and *SC Jurisprudence* and for *Ervin's Requests to Charge*. He is a member on the SC Commission on Indigent Defense, the Supreme Court of SC's Commission on the Profession, the SC Board of

Law Examiners, Public Sector Member (Past President) of the SCAJ, and the Past President of the SC Chapter of Federal Bar Association.

**Education:**

University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D. 1985

Francis Marion College, B.S. 1978

**Clarence Davis**

*Griffin / Davis*

*Columbia, SC*

**Course Planner**

Clarence Davis focuses his practice on complex business/commercial litigation and trials (defense and plaintiff), products liability, toxic tort and environmental cases, and class-actions, as well as white collar criminal defense (state and federal). Clarence is rated AV Preeminent for the highest level of professional excellence by Martindale Hubbell. He has been recognized since 2011 by Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Personal Injury Litigation. He has been selected by Super Lawyers as Top-Rated Business Litigation Attorney in Columbia, SC, in 2009, 2012-2013 and 2017.

Clarence has experience serving as lead counsel in complex business trials and other complex litigation for national companies throughout the Southeast and elsewhere in the United States. Clarence has been admitted pro hac vice in state and federal courts in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. He has extensive experience in private practice with large, multi-state and international law firms. He has been a partner with Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough, and a shareholder with Greenberg Traurig. From 1989 to 1991, he served as assistant U.S. Attorney, where he was responsible for the jury trial of securities, tax and federal procurement fraud cases, as well as environmental crime work for South Carolina. There, he was trained by the U.S. Department of Justice to work with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has administrative, civil, criminal litigation and jury trial experience with complex business crimes. Clarence has served as a delegate for South Carolina on a southeastern trade mission to Japan and Korea. He has also been awarded the highest public service award issued in the state of South Carolina, the Order of the Palmetto. In the 1980s, he was a captain in the U.S. Air Force. In that role he was one of the 20 Circuit Trial Counsel stationed throughout the world and was responsible for the jury trial prosecution of serious felonies at air bases in eight western states.