

# Workers' Compensation Section

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

*by order of presentation*

### **Reginald "Reggie" W. Belcher**

*Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, PA  
Columbia, SC*

Reggie Belcher represents businesses and employers throughout the Southeast. The South Carolina Supreme Court has certified Reggie as a specialist in Employment and Labor Law. He is also Certified Mediator and Circuit Court Arbitrator.

He exclusively defends businesses and employers in state and federal courts and before governmental agencies including the EEOC, DOL, OFCCP, SCHAC, and the NLRB. Reggie writes employee handbooks, affirmative action plans, employment contracts, severance agreements, and non-compete and restrictive covenants. He trains supervisors and managers nationwide on compliance issues involving wage and hour laws, workplace harassment, and union avoidance.

Reggie frequently contributes to state and national discussions on legal and business issues at conferences and in publications such as *HR Magazine*, *Inside Counsel*, *Industry Week*, Law360, and *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly*.

*Human Resource Executive Magazine* and Lawdragon.com recognized Reggie as one of the "40 Up and Comers" among the national most powerful employment lawyers in 2012-2017. Reggie has been the only attorney selected in either North Carolina or South Carolina on the entire lawdragon 200 list, which included the 100 most powerful employment lawyers in the nation, 60 of the most powerful immigration and labor specialists, and the top 40 up-and-coming most powerful employment lawyers.

Reggie is actively involved in the community, and he formerly chaired the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross South Carolina Blood Services Division. He also serves on the board of directors for Work-in-Progress, a local non-profit that provides job training for individuals suffering from mental illness. Reggie also currently serves on SC Bar's CLE Specialization Committee.

**Amy L. Gaffney**  
*Gaffney Lewis & Edwards, LLC*  
*Columbia, SC*

Amy Lohr Gaffney is one of the founding members of Gaffney Lewis & Edwards, one of South Carolina's only women-owned, ethnically diverse law firms, based in Columbia. Amy has an active civil practice that focuses on employment rights and tort litigation. She is also a certified mediator.

In the employment arena, Amy has represented groups of workers in overtime and other compensation class actions and she has represented individual victims of workplace harassment and discrimination. She also represents injured clients in personal injury and civil rights cases. Amy and her partners defend retailers and other businesses in premises and products cases across the state.

When she's not practicing law, Amy is working toward her 300-hour yoga instructor certificate. Her greatest avocation is enjoying time with her precocious 10-year old daughter, Elyse, a fifth grader at Ashley Hall in Charleston.

**J. Brandon Hylton**  
*McAngus Goudelock & Courie, LLC*  
*Florence, SC*

Brandon Hylton's practice has focused on workers' compensation defense since 2002. He works closely with insurance companies, self-insured and uninsured clients to defend their workers' compensation claims. Brandon strives to serve his clients in the best manner possible, and provides in-house seminars to supervisors and managers on issues regarding the South Carolina Workers' Compensation system.

Brandon has been recognized by the Supreme Court of South Carolina as a certified mediator, and mediates workers' compensation claims throughout the state.

A native of the Pee Dee region, Brandon enjoys hunting and fishing. He also enjoys cheering for the South Carolina Gamecocks. Brandon and his wife, Ashley, have three children, with the youngest being twins.

**Stephen B. Samuels**  
*Samuels Law Firm, LLC*  
*Columbia, SC*

Attorney Stephen B. Samuels founded the Samuels Law Firm on the principles of hard work, dedication and service to families dealing with serious personal injuries. The mission statement – We work for the people who work – reflects his respect for the people who do the difficult, sometimes dangerous work that keeps our families together and communities thriving.

Stephen graduated from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington in 1983 with a degree in business management. For the next ten years he worked real jobs, including restaurants and HVAC, where he learned the reality of physical labor and the value of hard work.

Inspired by his younger sister who became a lawyer at age 30, he enrolled in the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1994. He received his JD in 1997 from USC Law when he was 38 years old. As a law student, he was a member of the Order of Wig and Robe, and Associate Symposium Editor for the South Carolina Law Review. Stephen was research assistant for Professor David G. Owen, coauthor of Prosser and Keeton on Torts.

After law school, Stephen worked as an attorney for a larger law firm in the midlands. In August 2008, he left that firm and opened the Samuels Law Firm. He decided to keep the firm small to ensure personal service and allow enough time to give individual attention to his clients.

Stephen has tried hundreds of workers' compensation cases, concentrating on legally complex issues. He speaks several times a year at workers' compensation seminars and conferences. Stephen also handles personal injury cases, including trying cases before juries. He is an active appellate lawyer who has appeared before the South Carolina Supreme Court and South Carolina Court of Appeals.

Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, Stephen lives in Columbia with his wife Angi, their three dogs (Fergus, Ping Pong, and Tristan), and one cat (Natalie). He loves paragliding, travel, reading, Gamecock sports, art, music and food. When not working in the law firm, Stephen and Angi travel together to such far flung destinations as South Africa, Costa Rica and Iceland.

**Lee L. Gremillion, IV**  
*Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, P.A.*  
*Myrtle Beach, SC*

Lee Gremillion is the managing partner of the Myrtle Beach office of Willson Jones Carter and Baxley, P.A. He received his undergraduate degree from The Citadel in 1999 and his J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002. After law school, Lee served for a year as law clerk to Judge Paul E. Short, Jr., in the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court. For the past 15 years since then, Lee's practice has focused exclusively in the area of workers' compensation defense. In the past, Lee has served as an adjunct professor in the political science department at the College of Charleston, where he taught a Mock Trial class. He currently serves as Secretary for the Workers' Compensation Section of the South Carolina Bar.

**The Honorable T. Scott Beck**  
*SC Workers' Compensation Commission*  
*Columbia, SC*

Commissioner Beck was appointed to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission on June 30, 2008 by Governor Mark Sanford. In 2010, he was elected by the Commission as

Interim Chairman and subsequently nominated by Governor Nikki Haley for reappointment in 2012, 2014, and 2016 as Chairman. In 2018, he was re-appointed as Chairman by Governor Henry McMaster. He graduated with a BS Degree from Penn State University in 1981 and from the University of South Carolina School Of Law in 1999. Prior to joining the Commission, he served in various positions in law enforcement from 1979-1996 and most recently as an Assistant Attorney General from 2000-2008 prosecuting healthcare fraud cases. Commissioner Beck served as a City Councilman in North Augusta, South Carolina from 1993-1996, and was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, serving from 1996-2000. Commissioner Beck currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary and President-Elect of the Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators.

**Vince C. Northcutt**  
*Lueder, Larkin & Hunter, LLC*  
*Mt. Pleasant, SC*

**Course Planner**

Mr. Northcutt is a Partner in the Charleston office of Lueder, Larkin & Hunter. His practice is concentrated on representing employers, insurance carriers, third-party administrators, mutual indemnity associations, self-insured funds, captive insurance programs, and uninsured employers on workers' compensation claims arising under the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Act and/or the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. Mr. Northcutt is also a Certified Mediator.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, South Carolina, he is a 1999 graduate of Clemson University (B.A. History, *magna cum laude*). While at Clemson University, Mr. Northcutt was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Nu. He received his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law (J.D. 2003). Vince served as a law clerk for the Judiciary Committee of the South Carolina House of Representatives during law school. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar, the Charleston County Bar Association, the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Education Association, the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association, the Propeller Club of Charleston, and the Palmetto Professional Society of Charleston.