

Torts & Insurance Practices Section

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

John D. Clark

*Clark Law Firm, LLC
Sumter, SC*

John D. Clark is a graduate of Presbyterian College and the University of South Carolina School of Law. John distinguished himself in law school by winning the J. Woodrow Lewis Appellate Advocacy Award and completed summer studies through the Tulane University Study Abroad Program at the prestigious Fitzwilliam College at Cambridge University, Cambridge England. Upon graduation from law school, John had the unique experience of serving as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Justice Ernest A. Finney, Jr. at the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

For more than twenty years, John has concentrated his practice on Personal Injury, Automobile Accidents, Workers' Compensation and Criminal Defense. He has earned a reputation among his peers as a skilled trial attorney and has received the highest possible rating of AV Preeminent in law and ethics by Martindale Hubbard. He was also selected for induction to the invitation only American Board of Trial Advocates and serves on the National Board. He is a member of American Association for Justice, South Carolina Association for Justice, and South Carolina Injured Workers' Advocates.

John is married to Sharon Baker Clark, his law partner at Clark Law Firm, LLC, they have three children.

Andrea La'Verne Edney

*Butler Snow LLP
Ridgeland, MS*

A. La'Verne Edney graduated from Mississippi College School of Law in 1996 and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1996. Ms. Edney has significant trial experience in state and federal courts and has tried numerous cases to verdict. In addition to her trial practice, Ms. Edney serves on the board of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and has presented in several Masters in Trial programs, including Iowa, South Carolina, and Kentucky. She has participated as a faculty member in the ABA/TIPS American Bar Association and American Board of Trial Advocates Trial Academy in Reno, Nevada. She has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America in Mass Torts/Class Actions for the past three years and has recently been chosen as Lawyer of the Year by Mississippi College School of Law. La'Verne is licensed to practice law in Mississippi and Tennessee.

La'Verne serves on numerous boards and committees including the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College; the Mississippi Center for Justice board (Chair); the Mississippi Bar Foundation board (President Elect); the Magnolia Speech School board; and the Greater Jackson Chamber board. She has served as a Supreme Court appointee to the Access to Justice Commission, and was elected by the Mississippi Bar to serve as a Bar Commissioner. She has also served in several capacities with the State Bar Association and continues to be actively involved.

La'Verne was chosen as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year by the Mississippi Women Lawyers' Association in 2011 and Mississippi College School of Law's Young Lawyer of the Year for 2005-2006. She was also chosen as one of the top African American "Movers and Shakers" in 2005 by the Mississippi Business Chronicle. In 2007, La'Verne received recognition as One of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women by the Mississippi Business Journal. In 2010, she received the Outstanding Service Awards from the Capital Area Bar Association, the Magnolia Bar Association, and the Black Law Student Association. She is a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation. In July 2012, she received the Mississippi Bar Association's Distinguished Service Award. In November 2012, she was selected as one of Mississippi's Fifty Leaders in the Law by the Mississippi Business Journal.

La'Verne is the daughter of the late Rev. Theodore & Essie Ford. She is the youngest of 14 children born to those parents and the proud mother of 2 sons, Jaylon (21) and EJ (29); and 2 grandchildren, Rocky (6) and Nora (3).

Kathy L. McArthur

The McArthur Law Firm

Macon, GA

Kathy McArthur is a personal injury attorney who has served the greater Macon, Georgia, community for more than three decades. During that time, Kathy has dedicated her legal practice to ensuring injury victims, no matter their backgrounds or ability to pay an attorney, have a voice in the courtroom. Kathy is board certified in civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and is also a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Kathy and her legal team have secured over \$250 million in recoveries for her clients over the years. She focuses her practice on truck wrecks, automobile wrecks, and medical malpractice.

Personal injury lawyers in Georgia typically charge the same rate for attorney's fees across the board. Because of this, a new attorney with little to no experience in court will cost the same as Kathy. She encourages potential clients to review any lawyer's history of verdicts and settlements, as well as past client testimonials, before hiring an attorney. Kathy is a fighter who prides herself on fully investigating every case and preparing for trial in every situation. This preparation then lets the defendants know she's serious about proving the case in court if a full and fair settlement offer is not made. When the cases go to trial, her record-breaking verdicts are a testament to her litigation skills.

Education:

University of North Carolina School of Law, J.D. 1979

University of North Carolina, B.S. 1976

Randy J. Cox

Boone Karlberg, P.C.

Missoula, MT

Randy Cox was raised on a cattle ranch in west central Montana and graduated from Montana State University. A 1979 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Randy returned to Montana and served two years as law clerk to Senior U.S. District Judge W. D. Murray. In the fall of 1981, he joined the firm now known as Boone Karlberg P.C.

Randy's practice is principally on the defense side of civil litigation and concentrates on complex commercial disputes, serious accident and injury cases as well as toxic exposure and environmental litigation. He defended a railroad in all litigation arising from a catastrophic 1996 train derailment and chlorine release near Alberton, Montana, including a federal court case tried to defense verdict. That case was chosen by *The National Law Journal* as one of the top twenty defense verdicts in the United States in 2001.

Randy is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) having served three years as president of the Montana Chapter and as National Board representative. He has been participating counsel in ABOTA Masters in Trial programs on several occasions and was awarded the national Professional Education Award by the ABOTA Foundation in 2018. He is listed in Best Lawyers in America and was identified as one of the top 75 lawyers in the Mountain West by *SuperLawyers* magazine. Randy teaches trial advocacy skills to young lawyers at the Advanced Trial Advocacy School held at the University of Montana law school and at the NARTC Trial College in Dallas, Texas. He was a long-time member of the Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Rules of Civil and Appellate Procedure and served as chair of the Montana Board of Bar Examiners for twelve years. In addition, he is a Fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

Julie L. Moore

Duffy & Young, LLC

Charleston, SC

Course Planner

Julie is a trial attorney who thrives on the opportunity to advocate for her clients in the courtroom. Her practice is dedicated to advocating for people who have been harmed by a product or professional negligence, helping families who've lost a loved one pursue wrongful death claims, and representing people and companies who have been the victims of fraud, insurance bad faith and breaches of fiduciary duty.

Julie has been consistently selected by her peers as a South Carolina Super Lawyers' Rising Star, a distinction reserved for 2.5% of attorneys practicing across the state. In 2016, she was selected to participate in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) National Trial College at Harvard University. In 2018, she was asked to join the ABOTA faculty as a Teaching Fellow at the National Trial College at Yale University.

Frequently recognized for her service to the South Carolina Bar and her community, Julie has been honored with the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division President's Award each year since 2015. Julie was named Young Lawyer of the Year by the South Carolina Bar in 2017 for her contributions to her profession and community.

Julie is passionate about civics education and frequently visits classrooms around the state to engage students in critical thinking about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. She worked to create the *Your Big Idea* Instagram Scholarship which is sponsored annually by the Young Lawyers Division's iCivics Committee and is open to all high school juniors and seniors. *Your Big Idea* was selected as the 2018 LexisNexis Community & Education Outreach Award by the National Association of Bar Executives.

She is the incoming chair of the Torts and Insurance Practice Section Council of the South Carolina Bar and chairs the Charleston County Bar's Public Outreach Committee. She has previously served as a member of the editorial board of the *SC Lawyer* magazine and as an adjunct faculty member at the Charleston School of Law.

Julie is married to Thomas Rode, a fellow Charleston attorney, and they live in West Ashley with their young son.