

From Pro bono to Pickleball Senior Lawyers Get Active at 2019 Convention



The Division hosted two events in conjunction with the 2019 Bar Convention held in Myrtle Beach.

On Friday night, all senior lawyers and their guests were invited to a reception where good food and drinks were imbibed, new friends were made, and old friends were reacquainted. Around 100 members and guests attended. SLD President Darra Cothran greeted the group and encouraged participation in SLD activities. She spoke about the advantages of being an active member of the Division, the many pro bono and travel opportunities available, and the pleasures of gaining knowledge and enjoying fellow-

ship when time is not always “of the essence.”

On Saturday morning the Division presented its annual symposium, entitled this year as “Rocking! Not Rocking Chairs.” The emphasis was on the empowerment of having free time and focused on activities lawyers might do as they enter retirement. Ms. Cothran showed and discussed art classes and paintings; Nancy S. Layman, the SLD travel coordinator, discussed the advantages of travel, the many excursions the Division has provided, and what is planned for the near future. Bobby Kilgo spoke on returning to college both as a student and as an adjunct

professor. He advised any potential students that South Carolina provides free tuition to adults over the age of 60 for classes in public colleges and universities. Michael LeFever discussed his rewarding efforts with young elementary school students through his tutoring, and by helping them learn to read more proficiently.

A group of Pickleball players from the Pee Dee and Myrtle Beach explained and demonstrated the sport of Pickleball for members to consider as a fun and healthy activity. Pickleball is a mixture of tennis, table tennis and badminton, with a smaller court than a tennis court. A paddle and whiffle ball are used, and it is usually played as a doubles game. After watching for a few minutes, many of the senior lawyers in attendance joined in the fun! Feel free to [check out pictures from both events](#).

Next year the Division will participate at the 2020 Bar Convention in Columbia. The Friday reception is always free and opened to any senior lawyer, whether registered for the Convention or not. Come and join us.



Inside Social Media

David D. Cantrell, Jr.
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The Division’s Membership Committee hosted a lunch and learn program on March 7 in Greenville. Members enjoyed a presentation by guest speaker, Amanda Moore with the [Social Media Listening Center](#) at Clemson University. As a lecturer in the Department of Communication, Amanda instructs over 80 students each semester, providing them with an overview of theoretical approaches to the study of communication and digital analytics. In her role, she implements practical instruction in digital analytics and social media, assists students in developing and understanding the process of communication and provides students with one-on-one instruction. Additionally, she serves as the Associate Director of the [Social Media Listening Center](#), on the Department of Communication Basic Courses Committee, on the Southern Margins Film Festival Committee and as a member of the Faculty Friends program.

Is Alaska on Your Bucket List?

Charles E. Hill
COLUMBIA

Alaska seems to be on everyone’s bucket list. When folks found out that my wife Frances and I were planning to go, they either said, “Wow! We’ve been there! It was great!” or “Wow! We’ve been wanting to go there too!”

People have varied conceptions about Alaska. Some think of the magnificent scenery. Others envision wildlife encounters. Frankly, I was concerned that our expectations exceeded the potential. Not to worry.

After our two-week trip—one by land and the other by sea—my primary impressions were these: vast and lonely.

Vast. Everyone knows Alaska is the largest state in size, followed by Texas. But to illustrate the vastness, if Alaska was divided in half and made into two states, Texas would come in third. Our land tour took us from Anchorage north to Denali National Park, east to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and south to Valdez. Then we boarded a ferry across Prince William Sound to Whittier, where we got on the Star Princess for the “inland passage” and a voyage of 1,612 nautical miles southeast to Vancouver. Still we saw only a minute fraction of Alaska’s land mass. We didn’t go as far north as Fairbanks, nor anywhere near the territory above the Arctic Circle. We didn’t go south to Katmai or Kodiak Island. We didn’t see any of the Aleutian Islands.

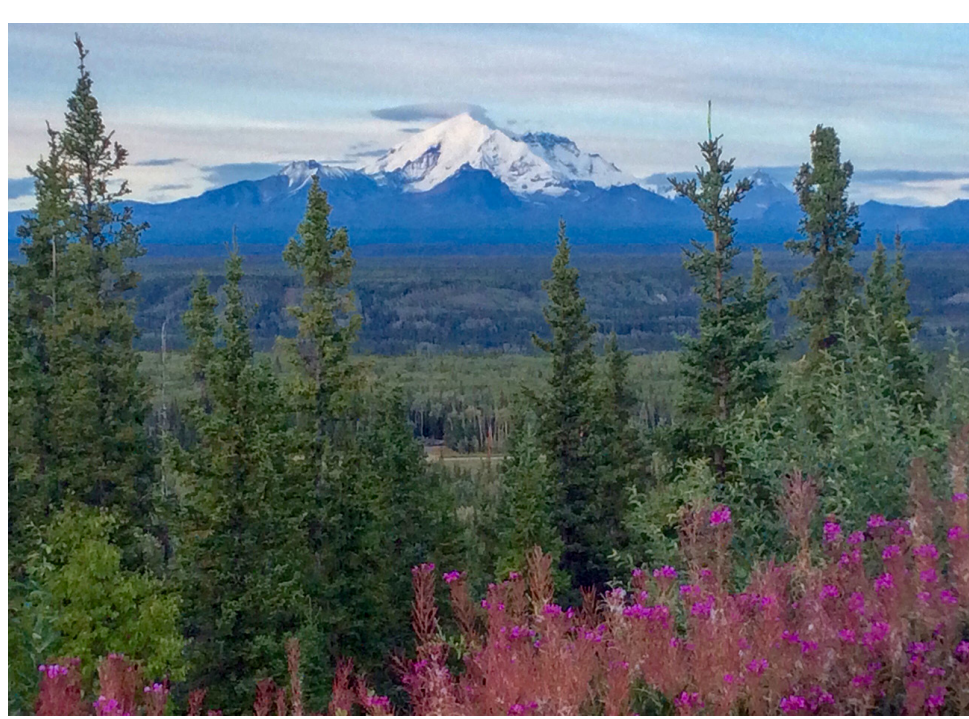
Lonely. By bus or by ship, we passed miles and miles of territory without seeing any sign of human occupation. Why aren’t there more people here? Part of it may be availability. Only one percent of the territory is privately owned; 60 percent is controlled by the federal government, 28 percent by the state, and 11 percent by native Alaskans.

More likely, the problem is habitability. While some of what we saw seemed lush and green in August, it would be buried in snow for much of the year. Other landscapes were barren; nothing could grow in the permafrost just beneath the surface. When I asked someone why there weren’t more people, the reply was, “Would you want to be here when it’s 30 degrees below?”

The great majority of the inhabitants live in the cities. More than 40 percent of the state’s entire population lives in Anchorage. The towns we visited—Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan—were similar in that they were positioned on narrow aprons of land between the water in the front and high mountains in the back. The paradox is that while there are huge tracts of unoccupied land in the hinterlands, real estate in the towns is at a premium because there is so little of it.

A trip into Denali National Park tops most visitors’ must-do list. There is only one road into this six-million acre park, and it is 92 miles long. Only the first 15 miles is open to private vehicular traffic. To go the distance, you need to pay for and take a bus tour. The narrated tour, which takes about eight hours, is well worth the cost. We saw moose, grizzlies, caribou, Dall sheep, and ptarmigan (the state bird, it looked like a chicken trying to cross the road).

These busses are sometimes



ridiculed as being nothing more than school busses, but they aren’t that bad. They are equipped with video cameras, with monitors situated throughout the bus. Our driver/guide, who happened to be from Charlotte, spotted Dall sheep, tiny white dots near the top of a mountain. With the camera he was able to zoom in and show them to us; otherwise we would never have recognized these specks as animals.

Along the way we saw a lone grizzly bear running through the tundra, several hundred yards away and parallel to the bus. He or she didn’t appear to be chasing anything, and certainly was not running away from anything. Rather, this bear just seemed to be enjoying an afternoon romp through the park. We watched him run a very long way. This is not a scene that could be duplicated even in the best of zoos; it was sheer nature being natural. Thanks to the folks at Denali for preserving the park in such a way that this kind of action could occur and be seen.

The mountain Denali, former known as Mount McKinley, is the centerpiece of the park, but its peak, at 20,237 feet, is often hidden in the clouds. Our best view of it came, not while in the park, but on the banks of the Talkeetna River some 50 miles away.

We got to Denali National Park via a four-hour ride train on the Alaska Railroad. Through glass-domed cars we saw dense forests, the braided Susitna and Chulitna Rivers cream-colored from glacial runoff, and snow-capped mountains. The train crossed a narrow bridge 300 feet above Hurricane Gulch. I saw no evidence of human habitation on this glorious ride.

Another worthwhile trip is the Denali Highway, which leads from the Denali area in the west to the Wrangell Mountains in the east. This road is 135 miles long; only the first 21 and the last three are paved. Wikipedia describes it as “little used and poorly maintained... wash-boarded and extreme dust are common.” Amen to the wash-boarding. A summit of 4,086 makes it the second highest road in Alaska. Facilities are scarce. We stopped for lunch at the Maclaren River Lodge, which our tour director assured us was the “best eating place on this road.” (Of course, it is the only one.) The low-slung log structure looked like a set for a spaghetti western. The menu was not gourmet.

The scenery along this road is spectacular—glaciers, creeks, mountains (and rocks. Much of it is above the tree line and barren. To emphasize the remoteness, our guide stopped the bus at a pullout and we

walked a few hundred feet into a desert-like area. He asked us all to be quiet for a minute. The silence, except for the occasional chirping of some birds, was absolute.

At the end of this road, and then 80 miles south on the Richardson Highway, there is the Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. At 13.2 million acres, this is the largest national park you’ve never heard of. You could throw in Yellowstone and Yosemite parks and still have room for Switzerland. Nine of the 16 highest peaks in the United States are in this park. From the lodge’s back deck we had great views of snow-covered Mount Drum, which looked immense because of its proximity. But at 12,000 feet, it’s only the 43rd highest mountain in Alaska.

A few more facts of interest:

- We ate lunch one day in Wasilla. But we didn’t meet Sarah Palin, and we couldn’t see Russia from the front porch.
- The state capital building in Juneau was previously a generic federal office building. In an ill-conceived effort to make it appear more dignified after Alaska became a state, they stuck four marble columns on the front. They look completely out of place.
- The airplane, particularly the float plane, is the essential mode of transportation. Whereas in South Carolina we see motorboats tied up to docks on the lake, in Alaska they tie up floatplanes. The tour guide in Anchorage told us you can get a pilot’s license at a younger age than a driver’s license. In Juneau and Ketchikan, the waterfronts are shared by ocean liners, floatplanes, and boats of all sizes, all at the same time. Somehow, they avoid running into each other.
- They eat salmon in Alaska like we eat chicken. We ate salmon every day. In a shop in Juneau, we bought some canned sockeye to ship home. We told the proprietor we usually couldn’t get wild salmon in South Carolina and we had to eat the farm-raised variety. He somberly assured us it would kill us.
- What they tell you to take that you truly need: umbrellas, rain hats, and rain suits with hoods. What they tell you to take that you don’t need: mosquito repellent (never saw a mosquito), sun block (didn’t see much sun), shorts, bathing suit.

Our tour guide told us at the beginning of the trip that this was not a vacation, it was an adventure. And so it was.

Pro Bono Culture: Not Easy but Worthwhile

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Creating a law firm culture that includes pro bono service is easier than curing cholera. Turns out that in 1971 it was discovered that the right mix of sugar and salt in water could almost cure cholera, but it took over 10 years for this simple home remedy to catch on. Simply advertising the solution was not the answer, it took one person talking to another person. This is pretty much how you change the culture of an organization or law firm.

The first step is to honestly assess your existing firm or organization culture. The key is honesty, not wishful thinking or just assumptions. It also takes talking to all the stakeholders not just a few at the top or the bottom.

You thought honest assessment was brutal, the next step is often the most difficult - defining your objective! What do you want to accomplish? Is incorporating the ethic of pro bono service simply a marketing ploy? Is it a business decision? Better client relations? Excellent way to reduce turnover? Is the need for change coming from within or being driven by outside forces? Who will benefit the most? Why pro bono? Is there a professional reason?

Take a deep breath! The answer as to why you are incorporating pro bono service into your firm culture is much harder than implementation. It is now time to take action. You can’t just mandate the change and walk away. You need policies, process, you need buy-in on all levels. You need flexibility! Changing a culture can’t be just a top down decision nor a bottom up idea-it needs across-the-entire-spectrum buy-in not just lip service. It takes leading by example! There is a myriad of questions to answer and processes to put in place. Get help, no sense

reinventing the wheel. Talk to your SC Bar Pro Bono Program and your local Bar. There is great help out there! Once a process is in place and being implemented you are not quite done!

Finally, the last step! Constantly reassessing! Ongoing assessment of the impact is not just a total number of hours or clients served but it is a check to determine if the change is addressing your objective. This is not just a once every few years checkup but and continuing attention to detail, keeping up with the needs of the community, the clients you are going to serve, the technology that might improve access, the impact on your firm, your employees and a myriad of other metrics. Some outcomes are easily measure; other intangibles are more subjective. Are the right pro bono opportunities in place that address your objective? What else could we do? Are our employees properly recognized? Is there a safety net of training, mentoring and back up for all who are engaged? Is this firmwide or just a few stars? When others talk about your firm or organization do, they mention pro bono?

Sounds like a huge undertaking but many have found that by building a pro bono ethic into one’s

practice serves not only the professional obligations of lawyers but also feeds their soul and heart. Often it has been said that the pro bono work a lawyer does reminds them of why they wanted to be a lawyer in the first place!

The goal is to get to these words! Congratulations! You have created a pro bono culture!

Former GE CEO Jack Welch once famously said, “The soft stuff is the hard stuff.”

Need more information on how to change a firm or organizations culture? Here are a few tried and true resources:

- [Why changing law firm culture is like treating cholera](#)
- [Making the Business Case for Pro Bono](#)
- [Set Up a Pro Bono Infrastructure That Fits Your Firm](#)
- [You Can Consciously Change Your Corporate Culture](#)
- [10 Tips for Changing your Company’s Culture and Making it Stick](#)
- [Changing Culture Requires a Movement Not a Mandate](#)
- [3 Practical Ways you Can Improve your Law Firm Culture](#)
- [Improving Law Firm Culture: The beginning of the discussion](#)

WELLNESS CORNER

Jack Muench
WILLCOX BUYSCK & WILLIAMS, PA, FLORENCE

Strength and Flexibility—From Your Office Chair!

We all know that the time expenditure, at least, of having to get out of our offices or lodging places can be a real detriment to exercising. Clicking on the link below will introduce you to Chair Yoga. Don’t be concerned that it will feature a series of impossible poses with improbable names. Chair Yoga is a proven method for seniors who seek strength and flexibility while retaining privacy and time efficiency. Once properly initiated, you could find that Chair Yoga routines enhance your life. Read more about [seven Yoga poses you can do in a chair](#).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Send us your submissions

If you are expanding your interests beyond the practice of law or know someone else who is doing something really interesting please contact Tara Caine at tcaine@sbar.org so we can update our membership about our movers and shakers!

We Want to Hear From You

If you are interested in submitting an article, book recommendation or other materials for the next issue of *The Boomer Times*, please forward your submission to Mills Gallivan at mgallivan@gwblawfirm.com or to Tara Caine at tcaine@sbar.org.