

Fall 2017

SOUTH CAROLINA BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

*South Carolina Bar
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Professionalism Tip of the Month:

"Do not impute bad motive to the opposing lawyer."



The Council's goals include monitoring pending legislation, sponsoring CLEs, and providing members with information pertaining to all other issues affecting or relating to family law. The Council recently has been working to revise the alimony statutes, and to address issues with lay Guardian *ad Litem*.

We appreciate any input from the members of the Family Law Section. Our email addresses are listed above. Please feel free to contact any member to find out what Council can do for you or to give us feedback.

Family Law Seminars



Council members J. Benjamin Stevens and C. Vance Stricklin, Jr. at 2017 Hot Tips.

2017 Hot Tips for the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners

This seminar recently took place in Columbia on September 22, 2017. As always, it was well attended, both in person and across the state by video feed.

Family Court Mediation Training

This fully interactive, hands-on workshop is scheduled to run from Thursday, November 2 at 8:30 AM, until Monday, November 6, 2017, at 6:00 PM. The course is a requirement to becoming certified as a family court mediator. For more information and to sign up online, go to the Bar website at: <https://www.scbare.org/shop-cle/livecourse/family-court-mediation-s7/>

2017 Family Court Bench Bar

This seminar is scheduled to take place in Columbia on Friday, December 1, 2017, beginning at 8:55 AM. Course Planner Judge Anne Gue Jones has gathered a distinguished and entertaining faculty, cutting edge topics and practical insights for this annual seminar. If you practice in family court you don't want to miss this powerful and practical CLE program. As always, this seminar is mandatory for South Carolina's Family Court judges. For more information and to sign up online, go to the Bar website at: <https://www.scbare.org/shop-cle/livecourse/2017-family-court-bench-bar/>

2018 Bar Convention

The annual Bar Convention is scheduled to take place January 18-21, 2018, at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. As in past years, the family law CLE will take place Friday afternoon. For more information and to sign up online, go to the Bar website at: <http://discussions.scbar.org/public/convention18/splash.html>

In the Best Interests of the Child: 2018 Annual Guardian *ad Litem* Training and Update

This seminar is scheduled to take place in Columbia on Friday, January 26, 2018. This year's edition includes advice from renowned psychologists Allison Foster and Marc Harari, and from Helen Wheeler; a child-related case law update from James Fletcher Thompson; a panel discussion with distinguished family court judges; and insight on: how domestic abuse impacts children from Leslie Fisk of SC Legal Services, handling child and parent meetings from Katherine Ferguson, reflections on helping the mediator from Sean Keefer, balancing expectations between the lawyer and guardian from Greg Forman, and autism-related issues from Meredith Manley and Lorri Unumb of Autism Speaks. For more information and to sign up online, go to the Bar website at: <https://www.scbar.org/shop-cle/livecourse/in-the-best-interests-of-the-child-2018-annual-guardian-ad-litem-training-and-update/>



In Ashburn v. Rogers, the Court of Appeals reversed a family court ruling denying relief to a party who had incorrectly acknowledged paternity some 16 years before. In doing so, the Court made clear that, in appropriate circumstances, the family court has the equitable authority to overcome the doctrines of res judicata and collateral estoppel. Opinion No. 5505, at *8 (Ct. App. Aug. 2, 2017).

**SOUTH CAROLINA
FAMILY LAWYERS' TOOLKIT**

The **SC Family Lawyers' Toolkit** Third Edition is now available! Council has updated the previous version and it includes new sections, such as: How to Introduce Electronic Evidence, an Alimony Case Spreadsheet, an Adoption checklist and UCCJEA and UIFSA Flow Charts. The Toolkit is designed to provide a practical, user-friendly resource for new and experienced family law attorneys.

[Order online here](#)

or

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**FEEDBACK
REQUESTED**

Do you have an opinion about the Supreme Court Order concerning affidavit page limits at temporary hearings, or the family courts' application of the Order? If so, please email it, or any other comments about or suggestions for the newsletter, to chris@chrispatonllc.com.