

# SOUTH CAROLINA younglawyer

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## ADR Continues to Grow in SC

By Brian E. Sopp • Barnes Alford Stork & Johnson

The South Carolina Court-Annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Rules explain that they should be “construed to secure the just, speedy, inexpensive and collaborative resolution in every action to which they apply.” Rule 1, SCADRR. And with the advent of mandatory mediation in South Carolina, there is little doubt that they have had that effect in many cases. Although these rules do not apply in all state court litigation, three recent developments in South Carolina suggest that the pursuit of “speedy, inexpensive and collaborative resolution” is on the rise.

First, on March 14, 2013, the S.C. Supreme Court increased the number of counties subject to mandatory mediation. Order RE: Circuit Court Arbitration and Mediation and Family Court Mediation, No. 2013-03-14-01 (S.C. Sup. Ct. Mar. 14, 2013), *available at* [www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2013-03-14-01](http://www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2013-03-14-01). Until recently, mediation was mandatory in circuit court in just 17 counties and family court in 19 counties. *See* Order RE: Circuit Court Arbitration and Mediation and Family Court Mediation, No. 2011-04-07-02 (S.C. Sup. Ct. Apr. 7, 2011), *available at* [www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2011-04-07-02](http://www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2011-04-07-02). However, as of June 1, 2013, mediation is mandatory in circuit and family court in



33 counties. *See* Order RE: Circuit Court Arbitration and Mediation and Family Court Mediation, No. 2013-03-14-01 (S.C. Sup. Ct. Mar. 14, 2013), *available at* [www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2013-03-14-01](http://www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2013-03-14-01). The practical effect of this change is that most actions filed in state court will now be subject to mandatory mediation. As a result, an increase in out-of-court settlements is likely.

The second development for alternative resolutions in South Carolina, however, could have the opposite effect. Chief Justice Toal’s March 7, 2013, Administrative Order creates a uniform statewide

**DID YOU FIND YOUR BAR NUMBER?** Hidden inside this issue are 2 SC Bar member numbers. Is one yours? Be sure to take a look and read closely. If you spot your number, email Morgan Crouch ([mcrouch@sbar.org](mailto:mcrouch@sbar.org)) to claim your prize. Good Luck!

*\*Prizes must be claimed prior to the receipt of the winter newsletter.*

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A REPORT TO MEMBERS OF  
THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR  
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

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system for Fast Track jury trials, a litigation method that has been used in the First and Ninth Circuits for about 10 years in which the parties pay an attorney to act as a judge in an expedited trial before a six-person jury. Administrative Order RE: Fast Track Jury Trials, No. 2013-000389 (S.C. Sup. Ct. Mar. 7, 2013), available at [www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2013-03-07-01](http://www.judicial.state.sc.us/courtOrders/displayOrder.cfm?orderNo=2013-03-07-01). The rules further allow parties to agree to relax the evidence rules and to a date-certain trial. Where parties consent to a Fast Track jury trial, the case is exempt from mandatory mediation. Although the process has mainly been used in personal injury cases, Fast Track jury trials could lead to an increase in jury verdicts, while at the same time relieving some of the circuit court's trial load. For a thorough explanation of the new Fast Track system, see Matthew J. Story & Brittany F. Boykin, *Fast Track Jury Trials: The Abbreviation of the Traditional Jury Trial*, S.C. Law., July 2013, at 38.

The third recent development in ADR in South Carolina is the adoption of mandated mediation in workers' compensation cases. The new Workers' Compensation Mediation Regulations, which were published in the *South Carolina State Register* on June 28, 2013, mandate mediation in certain workers' compensation matters for the first time in South Carolina. 37 S.C. State Reg. (No. 6) 260-63 (2013). The stated purpose of the new mediation regulations is "to

resolve disputes without the necessity of a hearing" and to "afford a meaningful opportunity to the parties to achieve an efficient and a just resolution of their disputes in a timely and a cost-effective manner." S.C. Regs. § 67-1801(A).

The new regulations, published at S.C. Regs. § 67-1801 *et seq.*, require mediation for claims

arising under Section 42-9-10, or claiming permanent and total disability pursuant to Section 42-9-30(21), occupational disease cases, third-party lien reduction claims, contested death claims, mental/mental injury claims, and cases of concurrent jurisdiction under the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Act and the Federal Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act . . . .

S.C. Regs. § 67-1802(A). In other words, mediation will be mandatory in what could be considered serious workers' compensation cases. However, S.C. Regs. § 67-1802(A)(2) provides that "[e]xcept for contested death claims, all claims listed in this section would apply only to claims where compensability of the accident is admitted by the employer/carrier." This provision will reduce the number of cases subject to mandatory mediation because claims that are denied by the insurance carrier will be allowed to proceed to a hearing without first being mediated. In cases not falling under S.C. Regs. § 67-1802,

a hearing Commissioner will have the discretion to order mediation. S.C. Regs. § 67-1801(B). Furthermore, parties may request mediation in any case. S.C. Regs. § 67-1803.

According to the S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission's Annual Report for FY 2011-12, 61,788 new cases were filed with the Commission during that reporting period; 11,121 were docketed for hearings; and 1,738 hearings were conducted by a single Commissioner. S.C. Workers' Comp. Comm'n, *Annual Report FY 2011-2012*, available at [www.wcc.sc.gov/Documents/Agency%20Reports/Annual%20Report%202011-2012.pdf](http://www.wcc.sc.gov/Documents/Agency%20Reports/Annual%20Report%202011-2012.pdf). Although the new Workers' Compensation Mediation Regulations do not mandate mediation in every case, the new system is likely to cut down on the number of hearings that are necessary and will offer parties an opportunity to resolve disputes outside of a trial setting.

The rise of mandatory mediation in new jurisdictions and the advent of a statewide Fast Track jury process are two ways that state tribunals are dealing with large caseloads. In the process of addressing the judiciary's needs, these changes are also providing litigants with more tools to resolve disputes, suggesting that alternative dispute resolution in South Carolina will continue to keep pace with the evolving needs of courts and litigants.

## Nominees Sought

The **Young Lawyers Division** of the South Carolina Bar invites nominations for its positions of President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Out-of-State Representative, and Even-Numbered Judicial Circuit Representatives. These positions will become available June 30, 2014.

For nomination criteria and instructions, please visit [www.sctbar.org/yld](http://www.sctbar.org/yld).

**The deadline to submit nominations is October 25, 2013.**

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**To submit items for the next issue of the *South Carolina Young Lawyer*, please contact:**

Brandon Smith, Co-Chair  
[brandon.smith@nelsonmullins.com](mailto:brandon.smith@nelsonmullins.com)  
 or

Marshall Coleman Newton, Co-Chair  
[mnewton@robinsonlaw.com](mailto:mnewton@robinsonlaw.com)  
 or

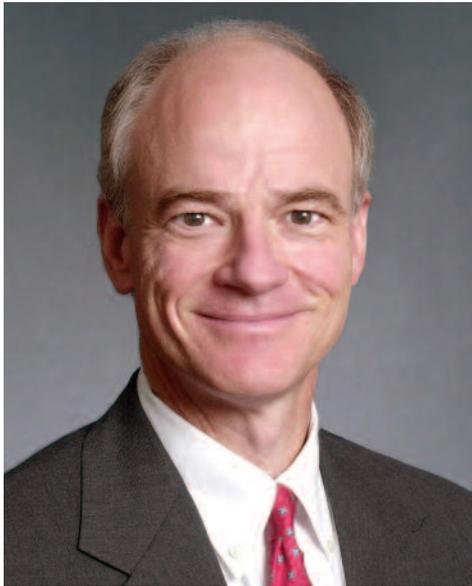
Thomas A. Limehouse Jr., Co-Chair  
[thomas\\_limehouse@scd.uscourts.gov](mailto:thomas_limehouse@scd.uscourts.gov)

For a list of the YLD Executive Council, circuit representatives and upcoming events, please visit [www.sctbar.org/yld](http://www.sctbar.org/yld).

# Professional Spotlight

## Next ABA President William Hubbard: Great for the ABA, South Carolina and Young Lawyers

By Brandon Smith and Tommy Preston



At the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, William Hubbard accepted the appointment as president-elect of the ABA. Mr. Hubbard, a business litigation attorney at Nelson Mullins in Columbia, will be the first South Carolina attorney to hold the office of ABA President when he assumes that role next year. In his acceptance address, Mr. Hubbard discussed the profound importance of ensuring the vibrancy of the rule of law as “our burden and privilege” in this nation and around the world through promoting the access to courts to “make justice real and not ephemeral.” In addition, Mr. Hubbard specifically addressed the ABA’s deep commitment to young lawyers, stating that “the success of young lawyers strengthens the profession” and promotes the vitality of the Constitution. YLD members Brandon Smith of Nelson Mullins in Columbia and Tommy Preston of Nexsen Pruet in Columbia had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Hubbard at his office to discuss his recent appointment as president-elect.

### How did your involvement with the ABA first begin?

It began in the late 70s when Claude Scarborough was the manag-

ing partner of Nelson Mullins. He had been involved in something called the Junior Bar Conference. We had another partner at this firm, Bob Currin, who had made it to the leadership council of ABA Young Lawyers Division. Claude came up to me and said we would like to support the American Bar Association, why don’t you go out to Dallas with Bob and let him introduce you around and we will support you as long as you prove that you are getting actively involved and continue to show leadership potential. So, I went to my first meeting in Dallas, the Annual Meeting in 1979. I managed to meet a couple of key people: Jane Barrett, who was the first woman chair of the YLD; Carolyn Lamm; and Barbara Maiden, and we developed a friendship. They appointed me to some positions, fairly low level positions, but positions nonetheless, where I had a chance to show my commitment and prove myself. One thing led to another, and I was soon elected to the YLD council representing North Carolina and South Carolina. From there, I was a director of the YLD, and then I ran for secretary. It was a contested race, three of us total, and I was elected secretary of the YLD and eventually YLD Chair.

### So you were nominated to be president-elect of the ABA in Dallas, which was also the location of your first ABA meeting. Did you think about that at all there?

I did, and actually made reference to that in my speech to the ABA House of Delegates this year. I made known the fact that I was returning to my first meeting and there was a certain symmetry that I was accepting the nomination in Dallas, and I recall vividly being in that same hotel for my very first meeting. As I told the House, [the Hilton Anatole] was the biggest hotel I’ve ever seen and is still the biggest hotel I’ve ever seen. It’s a massive facility. There is a lot of

meaningful symmetry, full circle.

### How has being a part of the ABA impacted your career both professionally and personally?

Personally, it has broadened my perspective so much. I grew up in Florence, went to public schools, came to the University of South Carolina for undergraduate and law school. I was generally aware of things going on in the country but had never really gotten involved extensively with people from other parts of the country, and so it was very much a broadening experience professionally. I have learned different perspectives. I came to understand that there were bigger issues out there, issues that I hadn’t necessarily focused on. I gained a lot of context for the practice of law. Primarily at the beginning of my career, I was doing a lot of legal work trying wreck cases and workers’ compensation claims and I was a busy young lawyer taking a lot of depositions and arguing motions. I had a full trial schedule, but involvement in the ABA helped put all of my work into a bigger context that gave me a better feel for the justice system. It helped me develop judgment and wisdom about what it means to be a lawyer.

### How did you balance being a busy young lawyer while trying to be involved with the ABA during that period in your life?

Worked really hard. I remember a lot of nights I’d stay at the office until 2 a.m. on the night before I’d have to leave for an ABA meeting. We didn’t have the technology then that we do now, so if you didn’t finish something before you left, you couldn’t finish it on the road. You couldn’t edit with an iPad or a laptop. So you had to stay up here and make sure you had covered every base before you left town. Now the good part of that was, when you left town, you’d left town, and you could concentrate

on what you were doing. It took a lot of organization and a lot of commitment. It required me to commit myself a little bit more, get out of my comfort zone, and give up some of the more frivolous things that I was spending time on.

### **What prompted you to run for president of the ABA?**

It's not something I ever thought about as I got involved in the ABA, but being chair of the Young Lawyers Division really catapults one to a different level in the American Bar Association. It gives you a certain credibility at a young age that is hard to get otherwise. People want young lawyers to be active in their organizations in a section or on governance committees because the senior leaders of the ABA care about its future. They want the next generation to be developed and, by being chair of the Young Lawyers Division, I was naturally the person who would get called when there was a need for a young lawyer on a certain seat. One of the primary positions that led to great opportunities was being named the YLD liaison to the American Bar Endowment. That led to a position called assistant secretary, where I took the minutes at all the endowment meetings for about a decade and then I was "deemed worthy" to be of sufficient age and wisdom to be a member of the Board of American Bar Endowment (ABE). Later, I went on to be president of the ABE. In addition to being chair of the YLD, I went on to serve as the YLD delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. There was a big issue then about testing for AIDS at that time. I carried the ball for the YLD to the full House of Delegates on a provision that would promote confidentiality and testing, and testified before a commission that President Reagan had put together on the AIDS/HIV crisis, which at that time was an immense crisis in the late 80s. We were able to get the entire House of Delegates to endorse a resolution that there should be confidentiality in testing. There was a lot of fear in the country. It was a sensitive issue, but testing was important to get people to find out if they needed treatment. This was some-

thing that required a lot of effort. Because of the hysteria around AIDS at that time, our position was an enlightened one, and we were able to get it through the House of Delegates.

### **What is your vision for the ABA during your year as president?**

The ABA has four main goals, which touch everything from diversity in the profession and the justice system, to rule of law and helping lawyers be better lawyers through continuing education and ethics. One thing that concerns me is that we haven't seemed to be able to make a lot of progress on the "justice gap." The poor and the lower middle class, in this country, have a lack of access to the courts. There's about an 80 percent unmet need for legal service in our country. So I have had many conversations with Jim Silkenat [current ABA President] over the years, and this year, Jim is kicking off the *Legal Access Job Corp.* He has my commitment that it is not going to be a one-year deal. I want to make sure that we continue to look for best practices to combine the need with younger lawyers who are unemployed or underemployed. Young lawyers can get the experience, and the legal needs of others can be met. That's a program that Jim and I are committed to.

In addition, there's a lot of inequity in incarceration, and there's a lot of over-incarceration in this country. I want to address the election laws of this country. The right to vote is the most fundamental right in the country and we have to be vigilant that we protect that right.

I've now been a member of the Bar since November of 1977 and I don't believe I've ever seen law firms and lawyers and the justice system under as much stress as they are now. There are pockets of success out there, but overall, it's a real challenge for most lawyers to be both successful and happy in their work. The forces of technology, globalization and outsourcing of what traditionally was legal work to non-lawyers have all put tremendous strains on the legal profession. There are pockets of people talking among themselves in their own silos about what the future holds. What I hope to do as president

is bring all of those affected by this pressure—general counsel, legal services providers, criminal lawyers, minority lawyers, law firm managing partners, sole practitioners, judges, court administrators—I'd like to try to bring all of those persons together to talk about the future of the legal profession in a more forward looking way to ultimately present to the judiciary and the legal profession a blue print for how lawyers and judges can best adapt and navigate these uncharted waters. How they can be more successful and how they can represent their clients better and have judges better administer justice.

Just to give you one subpart of that now in the criminal justice side, the funding crisis for public defenders is terrible. They're overstaffed and underpaid, and the sequester is having a big impact on them. The whole administration of justice is at risk, and it's very important that we look at that issue, that stress holistically and with the best thinkers in the country to come up with a blueprint on what we think the future is going to look like and what we can do to adapt to that future in a smart way.

Finally, there will be a big emphasis on the Magna Carta. It will be the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. We have events scheduled starting now through August 2015 to emphasize the importance of the Magna Carta on our American justice system. Magna Carta was the basis of our due process as we know it, and to an extent, equal protection as we know it. We can never let the commercial side of law take us from our roots that go back to the Magna Carta, and actually before the Magna Carta. But if we are going to be a profession, we need to be anchored to the fundamental principles that guide the legal profession today.

### **What would you say to South Carolina young lawyers interested in getting involved in the ABA?**

First, I want the ABA to be the place where young lawyers can go to get the kind of mentoring they need, the skills development they need, to be successful lawyers. Second, I want the ABA to provide that kind of value

*Continued on page 6*

# iCivics Increases its Influence on Students Across the State

By Blaire Camp • Clerk to Justice Kittredge, Supreme Court of S.C.

The Young Lawyers Division iCivics Committee has sponsored several initiatives designed to promote the mission of revitalizing civics education and preparing every child in South Carolina for intelligent, active citizenship. The iCivics Committee was nationally recognized for these efforts by the American Bar Association with a second-place award for Service to the Public.

On May 20, 2013, the Committee sponsored its second annual iCivics Day, during which 70 young lawyers spoke to more than 5,800 students at 44 schools across the state about various civics-related topics. In addition to noting the increased number of visitors from South Carolina to [www.iCivics.org](http://www.iCivics.org), Jeff Curley, Deputy Director of iCivics in Washington, D.C., recognized the Committee's iCivics Day as "the first of its kind in the nation" and "a model program that we'd like to bring to our other state teams."

Additionally, in the spring of 2013, the iCivics Committee created a grant award process modeled after the national iCivics Impact Project Competition. The Committee envisioned that this project, which was dubbed "iImpact," would encourage students and teachers to create projects in their schools and local communities allowing students to take action and perform concrete tasks as a part of their civic responsibility. The Committee forged a relationship between the Young Lawyers Division and the S.C. Commission on Higher Education's SC GEAR UP Project, which is a federally-funded program designed to increase the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Currently, 3,626 students in 24 middle schools located primarily along the Interstate 95 Corridor participate in the SC GEAR UP Program. The Committee directed its efforts in this area of intense need knowing these schools would benefit most from young lawyers' efforts.

The Committee awarded grants



Grayson Smith and Lindsay Joyner, both of Gullivan, White & Boyd, Columbia, speak to the students of Palmetto Middle School during their "Folding for the Future" workshop.

totaling \$3,500 to five different schools to implement their iImpact projects. Because of the Committee's hard work, students at Carver Edisto Middle School launched a program to increase awareness about local legislative issues and initiated a letter-writing campaign geared towards local legislators. Students at Creek Bridge Middle School and Haut Gap Middle School implemented service projects in partnership with local nursing homes designed to foster a sense of pride and community involvement among residents of all ages. Additionally, students at Williams Middle School created an "Edible Landscapes" project designed to promote public health and inquiry-based learning through growing fresh fruits and vegetables in a community garden.

One iImpact project was particularly successful. Students at Palmetto Middle School, which is located in Mullins, an area of very high unemployment, created a program to assist struggling families by providing school uniforms and laundry access. The Bulldog Uniform Closet was meant to ensure each student, regardless of socio-economic circumstances, had a uniform that was clean and in good condition, promoting these students' self-confidence so that they can focus on learning each day.

In addition, Committee members Blaire Camp and Lindsay Joyner enlisted the help of local retailers to host a "Folding for the Future" vocational skills workshop for students and teachers from Palmetto Middle School. The workshop focused on customer-service and leadership skills and allowed students to tour the LOFT retail store at Columbiana Centre and receive a lesson from store managers in retail basics, including folding, sizing and merchandising. Guest speakers from Chick-fil-A and Banana Republic also spoke to students about the importance of leadership and good customer service.

Additionally, YLD member and Mullins native Grayson Smith of Gullivan, White & Boyd, P.A. in Columbia spoke to the students about the good things that lawyers are able to do for communities across the state and the importance of setting goals and relying on yourself to achieve those goals. Notably, Smith was able to get 30 eighth graders to chant *out loud*—which if you have come into contact with an eighth grader recently, you know this is no small feat—that they must believe in themselves and treat others as they would treat themselves. Following lunch from Chick-fil-A, the workshop culminated with an activity that allowed students to create an in-store display

to showcase their newly acquired retail skills.

Makiesha Green, SC GEAR UP Graduation Coach for Palmetto Middle School, described the experience as “truly amazing” for her students and declared that “taking part in the iCivics iImpact community project has allowed us to accomplish our overall goal beyond measure. We are truly thankful for being able to bless others with a great iIMPACT!”

iCivics is an education initiative founded by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor based upon her belief that fostering a deeper understanding of American government through public education is the only long-term solution to preserving a robust constitutional democracy. In furtherance of this mission, the YLD iCivics Committee advocates the importance of civics education in South Carolina and works to increase awareness of the free online resources iCivics offers teachers and students. The Committee’s first meeting will be held via teleconference in September. For more information about how you can participate in activities sponsored by the iCivics Committee, e-mail [iCivics@scbar.org](mailto:iCivics@scbar.org).

#### SPOTLIGHT: WILLIAM HUBBARD

(continued from page 4)

and service and training in an economical way to give young lawyers a chance to compete in a very complex and challenging environment. We will be looking at ways that we can take better advantage of technology to deliver programs and content to young lawyers that they can use to enhance their practice and make sure that they have the sort of guidance and mentoring that they need. There is a big emphasis on getting young lawyers involved in the ABA, helping them to understand that the small investment they make in dues can have an enormous return. There can be an enormous return on that investment if they take advantage of the programs and the content that the ABA can provide. We can deliver those programs and that content on their smart phones and desk tops and iPads. So if travel is an issue—that



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Ninth Circuit Rep. Patrick Wooten of Nelson Mullins, Annual Bar Convention Co-Chair-Beth Palmer of Rosen Hagood, President-Elect Lynsey Kmetz of Foster Law Firm, and President Will Johnson of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd.

#### S.C. Bar YLD Receives Awards of Achievement at ABA Annual Meeting

YLD won four Awards of Achievement at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco on August 10. The awards included first place for Newsletter, *S.C. Young Lawyer*, chaired by Marshall Coleman Newton and Rebecca Roser, both of Robinson, McFadden & Moore, PC; second place for Service to the Public, iCivics, chaired by Allison P. Sullivan of Bluestein Nichols Thompson and Delgado, LLC; second place for Service to the Bar, Courthouse Keys, chaired by Chad N. Johnson of Willoughby and Hoefer, PA; and special recognition for Minority Projects, BLSA Symposium and Career Fair, chaired by Nichole Davis of Rinehart Law Firm and Tigerron “Tiger” A. Wells of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA. Trey Mills of Trammell & Mills Law Firm, LLC served as the 2012-13 YLD President.

“These awards recognize the great work of S.C. young lawyers under the leadership of Trey Mills,” said Will Johnson of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA, 2013-14 YLD president. “Our YLD members spent countless hours working on projects that facilitate professional development opportunities for S.C. Bar members, offer pro bono legal services to South Carolinians in need, and provide public service opportunities that make a real impact in communities statewide. Thanks to the hard work of so many of our members, YLD has earned a strong reputation at the national level as a leader in the American Bar Association.”

can be overcome. The content is there and we are going to deliver it.

**South Carolina has such a tremendous presence in the ABA, and that’s one of the things I’d tell young lawyers and law students about joining the ABA is that there’s such a great pride in our state and many have succeeded so well in ABA over the years. What do you think is so different about South Carolina?**

We have great lawyers. We have a small Bar, so we know each other and hold ourselves to a high standard. We are very proud of our peers when somebody from South Carolina can go the next level, and we support that. We are not too big for our britches. We recognize that we don’t know everything. There’s a certain

humility among South Carolinians and so we try to be better but we don’t think we know it all. When we go national, we go with a curiosity, we go with a determination, and to prove that we are not like some people think we are down here.

*Mr. Hubbard will be installed as president at the ABA Annual meeting in Boston next August. Never before has there been a better time to get involved with the ABA, especially for South Carolinians. Mr. Hubbard actively seeks to connect young lawyers within the ABA according to their interests and practice development. If you are interested in getting more involved in the ABA, please contact Tommy Preston ([tpreston@nexsexpruet.com](mailto:tpreston@nexsexpruet.com)) or Brandon Smith ([brandon.smith@nelsonmullins.com](mailto:brandon.smith@nelsonmullins.com)).*

# Recent Events

## Summer Law Clerk Events

Young lawyers in Greenville welcomed area summer clerks with the annual Pub Olympics at Corner Pocket Tavern. More than 25 law clerks and 20 young lawyers attended the 13th Circuit event on July 23, which was sponsored in conjunction with the Greenville County Bar Association YLD. Pub Olympics is a competition among the summer law clerks, who are divided into teams to not include more than one clerk from each represented firm or employer. The teams compete in various games, which this year included darts, pool, foosball and skee-ball. YLD members served as scorekeepers.



Chris Bryant, Justin Woodard, Piper and Matt Byzet

About 60 area clerks and young lawyers came to Columbia's second annual Pub Olympics at Jake's Bar and Grill on July 30. The law clerks participated in games of pool, putt putt, corn hole and shuffleboard, with the winning team receiving a gift certificate to Jake's.

The Ninth Circuit welcomed area law clerks in Charleston with a happy hour on August 8. The group of young lawyers and clerks gathered at Midtown Bar & Grill on King Street.

The YLD will sponsor a law student outreach event this fall and will also host welcome receptions around the state for new members who are sworn in to the Bar. Be on the lookout for these events, and contact your circuit representative for more information. The list and contact information for those representatives is online at [www.scbar.org/YoungLawyersDivision/OfficersRepresentatives.aspx](http://www.scbar.org/YoungLawyersDivision/OfficersRepresentatives.aspx)



Jim Sanyi, Melissa Barbour, Jennifer Thiem, Mandi Dudgeon, Taylor Stair and Ryan Neville

## Professional Development

Ninth Circuit YLD members organized a professional development event in conjunction with area CPAs. Approximately 60 members from both groups met for a networking happy hour on August 1 at The Alley in Charleston. The event was co-sponsored with SCACPA Coastal Chapter, Webster Rogers and Carlock Copeland & Stair.



Judge Edward Cottingham, Will Whetstone, Jessica Goodwin, Harvey Watson, Kate Usry, John McLeod, Judge Julius Baggett, Mardi Fair and Sutania Radlein

## Courthouse Keys

Eleventh Circuit Rep. Will Whetstone of the Kennedy Law Firm in Batesburg-Leesville organized a Courthouse Keys event which was co-sponsored with the Lexington County Bar. YLD members gathered with Judge Edward Cottingham, Judge Julius Baggett and Judge Knox McMahon at the Lexington County Courthouse and heard remarks from the judges about practicing law and serving on the bench.



Jay Babb, Jill Kunkle, Jamye Shy, Sandra Vriesinga, Marshall Tinsley, Marshall Coleman Newton, and Paul Hoefer

## Backpack Drive

The statewide Backpack Drive had an-

other successful year as it expanded its reach and included Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Greenville and Rock Hill this year. Law firms and agencies volunteered to serve as collection sites, and young lawyers helped to stuff the backpacks for delivery to area schools.

In Horry County, backpacks and supplies were collected and donated to "Help 4 Kids," a non-profit organization serving underprivileged children. In York County, donations were doubled from last year, and young lawyers delivered 40 backpacks to children who needed them to get ready for the new school year. Charleston young lawyers coordinated with the City of Charleston's First Day Festival to deliver the supplies to children who needed them.

In Columbia, Backpack Committee co-chair Paul Hoefer of Robinson McFadden & Moore organized supplies and volunteers to stuff approximately 100 backpacks. The backpacks were delivered to two elementary schools and one middle school, and extra supplies were donated to The Cooperative Ministry. In the Second Circuit, 20 backpacks were stuffed and many school supplies donated to Barnwell Elementary and Bamberg's Richard Carroll Elementary. The backpacks were well received, especially by three children who had just moved to Aiken to live with their grandmother following the death of their mother.

In its initial year, Greenville County had two collection sites and helped stuff 15 backpacks for delivery to A Child's Haven and Miracle Hill. The backpacks were filled with the collected supplies, which included 70 file folders, 130 spiral bound notebooks and many other items. Many attorneys helped make the initial year a success, especially the Greenville County Solicitor's Office, whose generosity accounted for almost half of the total donations received.

The Backpack Drive has grown larger every year in both donations and locations. It enables students across the state to be prepared with the necessary supplies to start a new school year.



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## Letter From the President



Dear Young Lawyers,

As the summer comes to a close, I am encouraged that the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division has opened the 2013-

14 year on a strong note. Over the last two months, South Carolina young lawyers hosted events across the state to meet and interact with law clerks as part of a continuing effort to strengthen ties with law school students. We gathered school supplies at donation centers in Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Greenville and Rock Hill as part of our Backpack Drive. Courthouse Keys kicked off a new year at a luncheon in Lexington with Judge Cottingham, and more events where young lawyers can interact with members of the judiciary are in the works. The Professional Develop-

ment Committee is preparing a brand new program to provide free training for trial work to our members. Many other events are being planned that will provide ample opportunities for business and professional development as well as public service at no cost to our members.

We were pleased to continue our run of success at the American Bar Association's annual meeting, where the division won four prestigious awards of achievement. These awards recognized the iCivics, Courthouse Keys and BLSA Symposium/Career Fair projects, as well as our newsletter, as national benchmarks. Lynsey Kmetz, the division's president-elect, is already hard at work soliciting input and new ideas for 2014-15 so that we maintain our position as a leader within the ABA. I encourage you to contact us with your suggestions any time.

While the new year is already underway, you still have time to sign up for one of our many working committees. Please visit our website,

[www.scbare.org/yld](http://www.scbare.org/yld), where you will find a full committee sign-up brochure that provides a comprehensive listing of ongoing committees. We would love to have you select an area of interest so that you can get involved in the work of the division. In addition, I encourage you to check the calendar on the website regularly to learn about upcoming events that will enable you to maximize the value of your membership.

I hope to see you at one of the new admittee receptions, professional development events, Special Olympics Fall Games or one of the many other great events that are in the pipeline over the next few months. I am encouraged by the strong start to the year, and with your help, I am looking forward to an exciting fall for the division.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Will Johnson