

Construction Litigation from the Inside Out

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

Caleb M. Riser

*Richardson Plowden & Robinson, PA
Columbia, SC
(Course Planner)*

Caleb M. Riser is a shareholder with the law firm of Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A., where he focuses his practice on construction law although he also practices in general litigation, professional liability and utility litigation. Mr. Riser is admitted to practice in South Carolina; and before the U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina; U.S. Court of Federal Claims; and U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar (Construction Law Section, including its Section Council), American Institute of Architects, Richland County Bar Association, South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association, Defense Research Institute, American Bar Association, and The Jefferson Society, Inc. Mr. Riser earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree, cum laude, from the University of Tennessee; his J.D. degree from Regent University School of Law; and studied abroad at Crakow University of Technology, Crakow, Poland (including award for most outstanding design). He is also a certified document technician (CDT).

Christy E. Mahon

*Sweeny Wingate & Barrow, P.A.
Columbia, SC
(Course Planner)*

Christy Mahon is a member at Sweeny, Wingate & Barrow. She is past Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the South Carolina Bar Construction Law Section. Her practice areas include construction law, products liability, general insurance defense, premises liability, insurance coverage litigation, and appellate advocacy. Prior to joining the firm, she was a staff attorney for the Supreme Court of South Carolina. She is a summa cum laude graduate from both undergraduate and law school. She was external editor and articles editor for the Law Review, recipient of the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award, and recipient of the Corpus Juris Secundum Awards in Contracts, Property, Civil Procedure, and Torts. She is a member of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association, and the Defense Research Institute. Christy has been named a Super Lawyers Rising Star. Christy has recently been accepted into membership of the FDCC.

Derek A. Hodgkin, PE

*Construction Science and Engineering, Inc.
Westminster SC*

Derek A. Hodgkin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University. Mr. Hodgkin has over twenty-five (25) years of experience as an engineering consultant and expert witness related to a wide variety of construction issues, Mr. Hodgkin is licensed as a Professional Engineer in twenty-three (23) states; registered as a Building Envelope Consultant with the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants (IIBEC); and is certified as a Construction Document Technologist and Construction Contract Administrator with the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI). A large part of Mr. Hodgkin's projects includes an analysis of deficient construction including roofs, exterior wall assemblies, windows, doors, structural framing, civil site work and building code review, as well as the repair of deficient structures post litigation. Mr. Hodgkin also performs engineering assessments of hurricane, flood, tornado, hail, wind, ice and fire-related damages for a wide variety of commercial and residential structures in the United States and Caribbean.

The Honorable Bentley D. Price

*S.C. Circuit Court
Charleston, SC*

Judge Bentley D. Price was raised in Conway, South Carolina in 1976. He is the son of Jimmy and Judy Price of Conway, South Carolina. His father is a retired OBGYN and his mother is a retired nurse.

Judge Price attended the public schools of Conway, South Carolina. Upon graduation from high school, he attended Wofford College, where he graduated in 1999 with a B.A. in English. While at Wofford College, he lettered in soccer all four years.

After Wofford College, he attended the Stetson University School of Law and received his Juris Doctor in 2002. After graduating from law school, he worked as an Assistant Solicitor for the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office. Following leaving the Solicitor's Office he was a partner at Query, Sautter, Price, and Forsythe, LLC. He then started his own private practice, The Bentley Price Law Firm, until being elected to the Bench in 2019. He was also a part-time municipal judge for the City of Folly Beach for twelve years.

Judge Price is a member of the South Carolina Bar and admitted to practice in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, and all South Carolina State Courts. He is also a member of the Charleston County Bar Association.

Judge Price was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly on February 6th, 2019.

Judge Price resides in Charleston and is married with two children.

Sarah E. Butler

*Copeland, Stair, Valz & Lovell, LLP
Charleston, SC*

Sarah Elizabeth (Wetmore) Butler has been practicing law in Charleston, South Carolina for twenty three years. She is a 1996 graduate of Wake Forest University and a 1999 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law. Sarah focuses her practice in the areas of construction litigation, professional liability, premises liability, personal injury defense, and general insurance defense and coverage. Sarah is a Past President of the Charleston Lawyers Club, an organization with more than sixty years of focus on community service and events designed to promote the camaraderie of the local bar. She is also Past President of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association (SCDTAA). Sarah was awarded the South Carolina Leadership in Law Award in 2016, awarded to legal professionals in the Palmetto State who have achieved success in their law practice, made contributions to society and have had an impact on the legal industry. She is a member of the Defense Research Institute, the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association and is a fellow with the Litigation Counsel of America. Sarah is the South Carolina Chair of the Southeastern Women Litigators Annual Conference, which will hold its third event in 2024 in Nashville, TN. She is AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

Over the years, Sarah has enjoyed expanding what began as a general liability and insurance defense background to include construction litigation. She enjoys defending general contractors, subcontractors, architects and engineers, and has also had experience assisting insurance carriers with a variety of construction claims issues. A frequent speaker at seminars and events, Sarah has presented on topics such as: Jury Bias, Biomechanical Evidence, Civility in the Practice of Law, Jury Charges, Verdict Forms & Special Interrogatories, Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith, AIA Contracts, Demonstrative Evidence, Reservations of Rights, Common Construction Coverage Issues, Settlement Agreements, Diversity and Inclusion, Work Life Balance, The Working Woman's Toolkit, Additional Insurance Coverage, A Candid Look At Women in Law, Risk Transfer in Construction Defect Cases. She is looking forward to being part of a panel discussion on Mental Health and Wellness at the upcoming SCDTAA Annual Meeting.

Sarah lives on Folly Beach with her husband, Drew, and their four children. She enjoys live music, travel, reading, boating and just about anything their kids are doing. She is engaged in a Life Coach Certification Program with an accredited institution and is on her way to adding Life Coach to her resume. Sarah recently took up surfing and volunteers with Waves For Women and Surfer's Healing.

Glynn L. Capell

*Capell Thomson, LLC
Bluffton, SC*

Glynn L. Capell was raised in Greenville, South Carolina and obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Financial Management from Clemson University in 1994. He received his Juris Doctorate from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1999 and is licensed to practice law in South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida. After working with law firms in Greenville, Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head Island, Mr. Capell established The Capell Law Firm, LLC in April, 2010 and has offices in Bluffton and Charleston, South Carolina. Mr. Capell focuses his practice on construction defect litigation primarily representing building owners.

Bryan P. Kelley

*Elmore Goldsmith Kelley & deHoll, P.A.
Greenville, SC*

Bryan represents a wide range of general contractors, subcontractors, developers, and surety companies in North and South Carolina. He primarily practices in the areas of construction law and surety claims and disputes. Bryan's experience includes assisting clients with claim avoidance strategies, mechanic's liens, bond claims, payment claims, defect litigation, insurance coverage, scheduling and delay issues, and change order disputes. He is a former Chairman of the Construction Section Council of the South Carolina Bar and has served as a lecturer on a variety of construction topics for legal and industry groups including Carolinas Associated General Contractors. He is a co-author of the South Carolina Construction Law Deskbook, published by the Construction Law Section of the South Carolina Bar, and regularly presents the South Carolina Construction Law Update at the Construction Section's annual meeting.

Bryan is rated "AV" preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. He has been named to "The Best Lawyers in America" for Construction Law and Construction Litigation in South Carolina and Lawyer of the Year for Construction Litigation (Greenville) by Best Lawyers. He has also been recognized among the "Legal Elite" by Greenville Business Magazine for Construction Law. Bryan holds an undergraduate degree from Wofford College and attended law school at the University of South Carolina.