

# Back to the Basics: What They Didn't Teach You in Law School

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

*by order of presentation*

### **Jennifer C. Blumenthal**

*Burr Forman, LLP*

*Charleston, SC*

*(Course Planner)*

Jennifer Blumenthal is the Charleston Office Managing Partner of Burr & Forman LLP. She practices business transactional law, with a concentration on commercial lending, real estate finance and secured transactions. She received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law. Jennifer serves as Chair-Elect of the Corporate, Banking and Securities Law Section Council of the South Carolina Bar. She is currently the Chair of the Legal Opinion Ad Hoc Committee of the Section. She is also a member of the Real Estate Practice Section of the South Carolina Bar and is the state representative on behalf of the Bar to the Association Advisory Board of the Working Group on Legal Opinions. Jennifer is named in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Commercial Finance Law, Corporate Law and Real Estate Law, is named Legal Elite of the Lowcountry in Banking and Finance, *Charleston Business Magazine*, and is named in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Corporate/M&A: Banking & Finance.

### **George Morrison**

*Burr Forman, LLP*

*Charleston, SC*

George Morrison serves as the Managing Partner of the Charleston Office. George advises corporate clients on formation, succession, and transactional issues, and general business matters. He is involved in all areas of corporate practice, including entity formation, mergers and acquisitions, liquidations, reorganizations and corporate governance.

George has extensive experience advising borrowers and lenders in commercial lending transactions and in the preparation of third-party closing opinions, whether as local or lead counsel.

George also advises individuals and businesses on Section 1031 tax deferred real estate exchanges, Partnership and S-Corporation taxation, mergers and acquisitions, tax structuring for real estate transactions, and other tax aspects of doing business, including handling commercial and manufacturing property tax appeals at all administrative levels.

**Benjamin A. Barnhill**  
*Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP*  
*Greenville, SC*

Ben focuses his practice on corporate, securities, mergers and acquisitions, bank regulatory, and executive compensation matters, with an emphasis on community banks. He represents bank and nonbank financial institutions and their affiliated companies during the organizational, capital raising, and business combination processes. Ben advises these entities on SEC registration, deregistration, and public reporting obligations. He also has significant experience advising financial institutions as well as other companies on matters involving the interlocking spheres of executive compensation and corporate governance. Ben serves as primary outside counsel for many of his financial institution clients.

Education

New York University, LLM, Taxation (2002)

University of South Carolina School of Law, JD (2001)

Articles Editor, ABA Real Property, Probate and Trust Journal

Carolina Legal Scholar

Furman University, BA, History, cum laude (1998)

Recipient, Alfred S. Reid Award

Admissions

South Carolina, District of Columbia

Professional Activities

American Bar Association

South Carolina Bar Association

Corporate, Banking & Securities Law Section Council (2020–present)

District of Columbia Bar Association

**James H. Slaughter**

*Law Firm Carolinas*

*Greensboro, NC*

Jim Slaughter is an attorney and President of Law Firm Carolinas, which has six offices in North and South Carolina. In addition, he is a Certified Professional Parliamentarian, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, and past President of the American College of Parliamentary Lawyers. Jim is author of four books on association meeting procedure, including Robert's Rules of Order Fast-Track (2022) and Notes and Comments on Robert's Rules, Fifth Edition (2022), both updated for the new Robert's. He has served as Parliamentarian to many of the largest associations in the U.S. Jim was recently recognized by Lawyers Weekly in its first class of eleven "NC/SC Legal Icons." For more information and other meeting resources, visit [www.jimslaughter.com](http://www.jimslaughter.com).

**James T. Buxton**

*Buxton & Collie, LLC*

*Mt. Pleasant, SC*

Jim is a partner at Buxton & Collie, LLC in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. He leads the firm's corporate and transactional practice. Jim works regularly with corporate entities on a multitude of matters such as corporate governance, shareholder buy-outs and succession issues, private securities offerings, and business purchase and sale agreements.

Jim holds an A.B. in History from Princeton University in 1995 and received his J.D. from the University of South Carolina in 2002 where he was awarded the James L. Petigru Award upon graduation. Jim is admitted to practice in Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. He served on the South Carolina Bar's Judicial Qualification Commission and currently serves as Vice Chair of the South Carolina Bar's Corporate, Banking and Securities Law Section. Mr. Buxton also serves on the Governing Council of the South Carolina Law Initiative housed at the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is a co-author of the 2018 SC Bar publication, South Carolina Business Law Handbook: A Practical Guide for Business Owners, Entrepreneurs and Their Counsel.

Jim is active in the Charleston community, volunteering his time on several boards and foundations. He lives in Mount Pleasant with his wife, Courtney, and their two sons.

**Hal E. Cobb**

*Cobb, Dill & Hammett Law Firm, LLC  
Mt. Pleasant, SC*

Hal Cobb is the Senior Partner at CHSA Law and practices in the Corporate & Banking Division. He studied Accounting at The Citadel, graduating in 1992, and received his M.B.A. in finance from the University of South Carolina. After spending several years in the banking industry, Hal obtained his Graduate Degree in Banking from Louisiana State University and his J.D. from the Charleston School of Law.

Hal maintains a banking and corporate practice and has vast experience in federal and state banking regulatory matters, mergers and acquisitions and commercial transactions, having successfully represented a wide variety of clients in state and federal court. While the majority of Hal's practice is located in the Lowcountry, he has active cases throughout South Carolina and in Colorado, where he is also licensed. Outside of corporate and banking work, Hal has experience and works on large commercial real estate transactions and is active in litigation across the board.

Hal serves on the South Carolina Bar's Corporate, Banking & Securities Council and is an active member of the South Carolina Bar and Colorado Bar. He also volunteers for multiple organizations in the Lowcountry.

When not practicing law, Hal enjoys spending time with his three sons, Tyler, Alex, and Theo.