

# Dispute Resolution Section

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

*by order of presentation*

### **Kyliene Lee Keesley**

*Howser Newman & Besley, LLC  
Columbia, SC  
(Course Planner)*

Kylie Keesley is a native of South Carolina, attending both college and law school in the state. Before joining Howser, Newman & Besley in 2005, she served as a Circuit Court law clerk for the Honorable James R. Barber, III. Ms. Keesley's practice areas include automobile liability, construction defect defense, contract disputes, homeowners' association matters, premises liability, products liability, professional negligence, and alternative dispute resolution. Her current practice involves representation of both plaintiffs and defendants in civil litigation. Kylie is certified as both a Mediator and an Arbitrator in South Carolina and has served in this capacity in hundreds of cases.

Kylie's wide range of experience allows her to relate to attorneys and parties on both sides of a case. This ability, combined with her skill for effective and candid communication, promotes her successful mediation practice. In all litigation matters, she prides herself on being conscientious and paying close attention to her work product. Whether representing large corporations or a client with little exposure to the judicial system, Kylie is able to communicate effectively and work diligently to uphold the firm's reputation for integrity, honesty, and excellent legal service.

#### **EDUCATION:**

Wofford College, B.A., Summa cum laude, 2001

University of South Carolina, J.D., 2004

### **Henry Deneen**

*Murphy & Grantland, P.A.  
Greer, SC*

Henry L. Deneen joined Murphy & Grantland in July 2016 and founded Blindspot Solutions, LLC in July, 2019. Blindspot Solutions focuses on EI training for professionals and Executive Coaching.

He began his legal career as a litigator in private practice, later being appointed a municipal judge for the city of West Columbia, SC. He served as Chief Legal Counsel for then-South Carolina Governor, David M. Beasley from 1995 through 1997. Beasley and Deneen co-founded The Center for Global Strategies, Ltd. ([www.centerforglobalstrategies.org](http://www.centerforglobalstrategies.org)), a non-profit organization connecting businesspeople to international initiatives. He currently serves as the Executive Director of CGS and as Executive Director of Global Hope Network International ([www.ghni.org](http://www.ghni.org)). Deneen also served as President of Greater Europe Mission, during which time he earned a

Doctorate in Executive Leadership, with a focus on Emotional Intelligence. He now regularly offers CLE-accredited courses on Emotional Intelligence designed specifically for lawyers.

A South Carolina native, he served clients in matters involving the defense of South Carolina businesses and through mediation primarily in the upstate from his home in the Greenville area. He continues to serve as Leadership Development Director for Murphy & Grantland, P.A.

Deneen is certified as a Mediator in South Carolina Circuit, Family, and Probate Courts. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He and his wife, Celia, have been married for over 30 years and have four children: Laura, Lee, Leslie, and Layna, two of whom are married. Henry and Celia have three beautiful grandchildren.

**Natalie P. Bluestein**

*Bluestein & Douglas*

*Mt. Pleasant, SC*

Mrs. Bluestein grew up in Charleston. She graduated with a BA in English from the College of Charleston, received a Master of Public Administration degree from USC, and a JD from the USC School of Law. She is licensed in LA and SC, and worked as an Assistant District Attorney in New Orleans before moving home to Charleston. She has practiced Family Law and mediation in Charleston since 1998. Mrs. Bluestein is the former President of the SC Women Lawyers' Association, the former President of the Charleston County Bar Association, and the current Charleston County Family Court Liaison Chair. She is also the current statewide Chair of the Resolution of Fee Disputes Board through the SC Bar Association. Mrs. Bluestein has been on the Boards of a number of charitable organizations, and is currently a Board member of the Foot Light Players and the Ladies' Benevolent Association; she is a Master of the Family Law Inn of Court and, together with her husband, is an active member of numerous collector car clubs.

**Vernon F. Dunbar**

*McAngus Goudelock & Courie*

*Greenville, SC*

Mr. Vernon F. Dunbar is a partner with the law firm of McAngus Goudelock and Courie, LLC in Greenville. Vernon's legal practice is focused in the areas of workers' compensation, general litigation and mediation. He is a certified mediator. Vernon mediates civil and workers' compensation cases.

Vernon practices in the State Courts of South Carolina, in Federal Court and before State and Federal Appellate Courts. Vernon previously served as Chair of the Business Torts Committee of the American Bar Association and he is a past member of the American Bar Association's Litigation Section.

Vernon graduated from Furman University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in political science. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1986. Vernon served as a law clerk for The Honorable Ernest A. Finney, Jr., of the South Carolina Supreme Court. Vernon was appointed as a Commissioner of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission, and he later served as Chair of the Commission.

Vernon has served on the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and Artisphere Board of Directors and president of the Poinsett Club

### **Sunita Kumar**

*Mediation and Meeting Center of Charleston  
Charleston, SC*

Sunita Kumar is a former energy and environment sector executive with international engineering, business development, and project management experience in the nuclear, renewable, and manufacturing sectors.

Sunita trained civil and family court mediator, completing her mediation training through the SC Bar Association in 2019. Since then, she has successfully mediated over 100 civil and family court cases with over 300 combined hours of mediation in the state of South Carolina. Sunita was inspired to gain a pan state view of mediation, conflict, and conflict resolution across the state of SC, leading her to embark on a journey and eventually lead the strategic plan for transformation of MMCC. She is now set to deliver significant growth and take MMCC to remarkable new heights.

In addition to her affiliation with the Meeting and Mediation Center of Charleston, Sunita is a volunteer mediator with Upstate and Midlands Mediation Centers, an empaneled member of the Indian Institute for Arbitration and Mediation, and US Development representative for CAMP Arbitration and Mediation Practice, Pvt. Ltd. In 2021, she was selected as the first Founder's Fellow for Mediators Beyond Borders International. Sunita knows the power of mediation in helping resolve conflict and enabling parties to reach durable and lasting agreement.

Sunita holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Duke University, a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering from the University of Tennessee, and a certificate in international business from Georgetown University. She has over 25 years of experience, including global sales, marketing, business development, project management, construction management, and engineering management in the energy, environment, and manufacturing sectors. Her business development portfolio totals billions of USD, including a number of complex and challenging, yet mutually beneficial, negotiations with public and private sector entities, an experience she readily applies to her mediations, large and small.

Sunita grew up in the mountains and foothills surrounding Greenville, SC. She welcomes connecting with the SC coastal region and Lowcountry as she works to help parties in the region resolve disputes through mediation. She believes in helping individuals, communities, businesses, organizations, and governments build pathways and bridges to peacefully and sustainably resolve conflict in their lives, no matter the type or size.

### **Tiffany Provence**

*Provence Messervy, LLC  
Summerville, SC*

Tiffany Provence formed Provence Messervy, LLC after more than 10 years as an elected official, serving Dorchester County as the Probate Judge and an additional two as Associate Judge. Provence is a graduate of the University of Florida and University of South Carolina School of

Law. Provence also holds dual certifications as both a Civil and Family Court mediator and is a licensed real estate broker in the state of South Carolina.

Provence currently serves as the Drug Court Judge for Dorchester County. She has also served as President and Legal Counsel for Dorchester Paws (formerly Francis R. Willis SPCA), Secretary for the Dorchester County Bar, Advisory Counsel to the South Carolina Supreme Court, and a member of the Executive Committee for the South Carolina Association of Probate Judges. Provence also enjoys writing for local newspapers and websites on legal, community interest and travel topics. She was formerly a Professor at both the Charleston School of Law and Trident Technical College. Her classes and lecture topics include Probate, Wills & Trusts, Legal Ethics, Fiduciary Administration, and Mediation & Negotiation. Provence has also started an online blog with her associates, David Causey and Virginia Spencer, to help families and other attorneys with issues in the Probate Court.

In her community, Provence currently serves on the Advisory Board for SunTrust Bank and the Endowment Board for Dorchester Paws. She has also offered her time and talents to numerous organizations including the Board of Director's for Palmetto Scholar's Academy Charter School, Board of Directors for Sculpture in the South, Board of Directors for Children's Trust of South Carolina, Habitat for Humanity and local organizations supporting youth athletics.

Tiffany was raised in Summerville, SC but currently lives with her two teenage children in Daniel Island where she runs Provence Messervy's newest location.