

Elder Law: Medicaid Planning, The SECURE Act, and More

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

Andrew J. Atkins

*Millender Elder Law LLC
Columbia, SC
(Course Planner)*

Andrew Atkins is an attorney-at-law with Millender Elder Law LLC. He is admitted to practice in South Carolina. He is a member of the Richland County Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), and the South Carolina Chapter of NAELA (SC NAELA). Mr. Atkins is the former Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the South Carolina Bar and is the current President of SC NAELA. In 2013, he was selected as Outstanding Chapter Member of SC NAELA. Mr. Atkins earned his B.A. degree from Furman University and his J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Barbara E. Brunson

*Law Offices of Barbara E. Brunson
Columbia, SC
(Course Planner)*

Ms. Brunson is the owner/principal of the Law Office of Barbara E. Brunson. She is a graduate of the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina School of Law. Ms. Brunson has experience as an attorney with a large law firm and as in-house counsel to two national mortgage companies. Her practice now consists of elder law, estate planning, and consumer bankruptcy.

David A. Maxfield

*Dave Maxfield, Attorney, LLC
Columbia, SC*

Dave Maxfield runs a boutique consumer protection practice in Columbia, South Carolina. He's the three-time Chairman of the Consumer Law section of the South Carolina Bar and the Past President of the Richland County Bar Association, South Carolina's largest with over 1900 members. He has represented thousands of individual consumers in cases against banks, credit reporting agencies, and insurance companies, obtaining a verdict of over \$480,000 in a furnisher credit reporting case exclusive of fees, numerous six-figure settlements, and in 2019 concluded a vehicle churning class action with total settlement value exceeding \$21 million.

A self-described “Systems Geek,” Dave became obsessed years ago with how law firms might use Lean methods and technologies pioneered by the manufacturing world to run more profitable practices. In 2018, with co-author Larry Port, Dave wrote the ABA top-selling book, The Lean Law Firm, a manual for translating lean and agile methods into a simple, month-by-month template that law firms can use to become more profitable. Besides co-hosting The Lean Law Firm podcast, Dave consults with other law firms to help them transform their practices through Lean methods. Dave also consults with tech providers to make products more useful for lawyers, particularly in data visualization.

As an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law, Dave teaches both Consumer Protection Law and “The Lean Law Firm Lab” classes. Dave has also taught over 100 Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs to other lawyers and speaks in the media and to law students on issues affecting consumers both locally and nationally, and frequently trains other lawyers on technology, and was a speaker at the ABA Techshow in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2017. Articles by and about him have appeared in South Carolina Lawyer Magazine, ABA Magazine, and Lawyer’s Weekly newspaper.

Jonathan W. Lounsberry

*Killoren, Kissinger, Dantin, Denton & Dunham, P.C.
Spartanburg, SC*

Jonathan W. Lounsberry joined KD Trial Lawyers in 2021 and is a member of the firm’s family law team. As a Fellow in the International Academy of Family Lawyers and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, his has extensive experience in complex family court litigation and international family law issues, with a particular focus on international child abduction and cross-border custody issues pursuant to the 1980 Hague Convention.

Jonathan received a B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of South Carolina (2006) and his J.D. from the Charleston School of Law (2009). He is admitted to practice in South Carolina, the District of South Carolina, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He has authored and co-authored articles regarding the practice of family law and the use of technology in litigation for the South Carolina Lawyer, the ABA Section of Family Law’s Family Advocate, the ABA Section of Litigation’s Family Law Litigation Newsletter, and the International Academy of Family Lawyers’ Online News. Jonathan is also the Principal Editor of the South Carolina Children’s Law Resource Manual (2014) and Co-Author of Family Law Essentials: A Primer for Private Practice Before the Family Court in South Carolina (2018), both publications of the SC Bar CLE Division.

Ryan F. McCarty

*Killoren, Kissinger, Dantin, Denton & Dunham, P.C.
Spartanburg, SC*

Ryan joined the law firm in 2015 where his trial practice has focused on personal injury, eminent domain, and probate related cases. Ryan represents individuals in personal injury claims resulting from automobile, motorcycle, and truck wrecks, as well as premises liability and other types of injuries caused by the negligence of others.

Ryan routinely handles real estate and property litigation cases, including eminent domain and condemnation, land use and zoning issues. Ryan has represented Landowners and condemning authorities in eminent domain cases. Ryan has handled complex motions practices, mediation, and dispute resolutions, and has tried cases to verdict before both judges and juries. Ryan has litigated cases involving easements, access rights, and damages caused to property by acquisitions in eminent domain.

Prior to joining KD Trial Lawyers, formerly known as Harrison White, P.C., Ryan worked at another law firm in Spartanburg where he had a general law practice representing clients in civil, criminal, domestic, and probate matters. Ryan started his legal career at the Seventh Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office where he worked for then Solicitor Trey Gowdy and current Solicitor Barry Barnette. During his time as an Assistant Solicitor, Ryan prosecuted hundreds of cases, including: DUI; forgery; burglary; larceny; financial transaction card fraud and theft; drug trafficking, distribution and possession; assault and battery; and murder.

"I often see people at the hardest and sometimes scariest point in their lives," he says. "My job is to help our clients through difficult times—to provide them with personal attention and effective advice and representation."

In his free time, Ryan and his wife are busy raising their three children. Ryan is a South Carolina High School League and Swim Association Invitational League (SAIL) Swimming Official and has served as the Starter for the Byrnes High School Swim Team for the past two seasons. Ryan is also a member and officer in the Spartanburg Area Citadel Alumni Club and serves on the Government Relations Committee for the Citadel Alumni Association. In 2018, Ryan was appointed by Governor Henry D. McMaster to serve as a Commissioner on the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education. Ryan is also a member of Spartan 70 AFM in Spartanburg.

Brenda Stalzer Marchant, LMSW, CPM

*SC Department on Aging
Columbia, SC*

Brenda Stalzer Marchant is the Director of the SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian ad Litem Program at the SC Department on Aging. She has been with the program since 2013 and is responsible for managing the program, working with the program's contract attorneys, and advocating for South Carolina's vulnerable adults. Brenda received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the State University of New York College at Geneseo and her Master's degree in Social Work from Adelphi University. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker in South Carolina and a Certified Public Manager. Brenda is an Ex-Officio member of the SC Bar Elder Law Committee.

James Bouknight

Charleston, SC

James G. Bouknight, MD, PhD is a geriatric and adult psychiatrist who current lives in Charleston, SC. Prior to his semiretirement, he was the head of Geriatric Psychiatry and Director of the Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Program at Palmetto Health/ USC School of Medicine. He served as Chief of the Medical Staff at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital. He holds a BA from Wofford College, an MA from Duke University, a PhD from the University of South Carolina and an MD

from the Medical University of South Carolina. He is the past president of the South Carolina Psychiatric Association and past president of the Southern Psychiatric Association.

Kimberly Kruse, PHD

Charleston, SC

Dr. Kimberly Kruse is a Licensed Clinical Neuropsychologist. Dr. Kruse specializes in diagnostic assessment of neurocognitive impairment and degenerative brain diseases, which has led to her being called as expert witness in high-profile trials. She functions as Chief Executive Officer over Neurobehavioral Diagnostics, thru which she performs forensic, cognitive, and psychological evaluations. She serves as Chief Neuropsychologist for Prisma Health - Midlands, where she has been a hospitalist for 15 years, while concurrently holding the role of Assistant Professor in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. She provides geriatric consultative services for the Department of Neurology at MUSC. In her free time, which she does not have, she enjoys rock climbing, tennis, and exploring historical sites throughout Europe.

The Honorable Jacqueline D. Belton

Retired, Assoc. Probate Judge

Columbia, SC

Jacqueline D. Belton Recently Retired As An Associate Probate Judge For The Richland County Probate Court, After Serving In That Role For Over 24 ½ Years. The Majority Of The Cases Judge Belton Heard During That Time Were Guardianship And Conservatorship Cases And Civil Commitment Cases. Judge Belton Was The First Judge For The Richland County Mental Health Court, And She Was Either The Primary Or Back Up Judge For That Court Since It Began Hearing Cases In August Of 2003.

Before Coming To The Probate Court, Judge Belton Was Staff Counsel In The Office Of General Counsel, At The S.C. Department Of Mental Health (Scdmh), Where Her Areas Of Practice Were Primarily In Employment Law, Probate Law, And Administrative Law. Judge Belton Also Rotated With Other Scdmh Attorneys As A Clinical Instructor For A University Of S.C. School Of Medicine Seminar For Fellows In The Medical School's Forensic Psychiatry Program. Prior To Her Employment At Scdmh, Judge Belton Was An Assistant Clinical Professor At The University Of S.C. School Of Law, And Prior To That She Was A Legal Services Attorney.

Judge Belton And Her Husband, David E. Belton, Were Honored As The S.C. Bar Young Lawyers Of The Year In 1991, The Only Husband And Wife To Have Jointly Received That Honor. She Is A Past Board Member, Board Chair, And Volunteer Of The Year Of Mental Health America In Mid-Carolina, And A Past Member Of The Board Of Mental Health America Of South Carolina. Judge Belton Has Made Approximately 30 Cle And Bridge The Gap Presentations, Has Presented Several Times At The School For New Probate Judges, And Was A Member Of The Faculty Of The National Judicial College From 2005 To 2008, Where She Co-Taught The Course "Managing Cases Involving Persons With Mental Disabilities." Judge Belton Has Been A Member Of The S.C. Bar's Elder Law Committee Since 2008. She Was A Member Of The S.C. Bar's Article 5 Task Force And The S.C. Association Of Probate Judges' (Scapj) Article 5 Workgroup, Regarding The 2017 Guardianship And Conservatorship Amendments To Article 5 Of The S.C. Probate Code. Judge Belton Worked With Other Judges And Attorneys On Revisions To The Statutory Law, Reporter's Comments, And The Applicable Forms, Serving On The Drafting Committee,

Comments Committee, And The Forms Committee. In Retirement, She Is Still A Member Of The S.C. Association Of Probate Judges And The National College Of Probate Judges, And Remains A Member Of The S.C. Bar's Elder Law Committee.

Judge Belton Has Taught A Segment On Civil Commitment For The Crisis Intervention Training (Cit) Offered To Local Law Enforcement Officers By S.C. Nami For Over Ten Years. She Was Also Part Of The S.C. Judicial Department's S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative Workgroup, Created By Chief Justice Donald Beatty To Address The Need For The State's Court System To Address Issues Concerning Individuals Experiencing Mental Illness Who Appear In South Carolina Courts. Judge Belton Is From A Military Family, And Proudly Describes Herself As An "Army Brat." She Graduated From Würzburg American High School, In Würzburg, Germany, And Received Her A.B. Degree In Sociology From Duke University And Her J.D. From Antioch School Of Law, In Washington, D.C.