

Practice Makes Perfect: Effective Tips for a Successful Workers' Compensation

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

Kristian Cross

Morgan & Morgan

Hilton Head, SC

(Course Planner)

Kristian M. Cross is a Columbia, South Carolina native. She graduated cum laude with departmental honors from Clemson University Honors College in 2004. She earned her Juris Doctor Degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2007.

Ms. Cross practices in the area of worker's compensation. She joins Morgan & Morgan following 15 years of practice as an insurance defense attorney. While defending corporations and insurance companies, she gained valuable insight and experience, which she now uses to fight for her clients who have been injured.

Ms. Cross serves the community through her membership in the Columbia (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, which is a not-for-profit service oriented organization of women linked in service and friendship to promote and engage in educational, civic and intercultural activities in order to enrich the lives of members and the larger community. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of the South Carolina Bar's Worker's Compensation Section. She has also served the South Carolina Bar and the State for four years as a member of the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission, which is the panel responsible for evaluating the qualifications and fitness of candidates for all judicial positions on the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, and other state courts that are filled by election of the South Carolina General Assembly.

In her spare time, Ms. Cross enjoys spending time with her husband, playing with her dog Ladybelle, traveling and cheering on the Clemson Tigers.

Commissioner R. Michael Campbell, II

S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission

Columbia, SC

R. Michael Campbell, II (Mike) was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley as a Commissioner to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission in July 2014. Prior to being appointed to the commission, Mr. Campbell was a candidate for Lt. Governor of South Carolina and in June of 2014, advanced for the second time in eight years to a two-way Republican runoff for the office. He has an extensive background as a small business man, having owned and operated businesses with varying interest in the state, national and international markets. These include businesses involved with business development, the technology and energy sectors, the stone industry, the

hospitality industry, reconstruction efforts in Iraq, as well as, a fast-food chain of 19 Wendy's restaurants located throughout South Carolina. In addition, Mr. Campbell has served on various corporate, charitable and community oriented boards, including PositiveID Corp., IBSS Inc., RDS Solutions Inc., The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Committee, the Boy Scouts of America-Indian Waters Chapter and the South Carolina Alzheimer's Association. Governor Mark Sanford appointed Mr. Campbell in 2003 as Vice-Chairman of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Board (DNR) where he served for eight years. During his eight year tenure at DNR, he also served as Chairman of the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, where he headed the department's law enforcement division on behalf of the board.

Commissioner Cynthia C. Dooley
S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission
Columbia, SC

Governor McMaster appointed Cynthia C. Dooley, Esq to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. Subsequently, she was confirmed by the SC Senate and her term began on 7/1/22. She is the first new SC workers' compensation commissioner in 10 years.

Prior to her service at the SCWCC, Cynthia graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree from the University of South Carolina in 1978. She worked for Aetna Casualty & Surety as a senior multi-line claims representative for 13 years.

She then graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1997 and joined the insurance defense firm of Turner Padgett where she worked for 25 years specializing in Workers' Compensation Defense. While at Turner Padgett, she served as the team leader of the Workers' Compensation Group and on the firm's Executive Committee. She also became a certified mediator in 2007 and was inducted into the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals in 2022. Cindy also served as the Chair of the WC Section of the Bar 2021 - 2022.

Commissioner Aisha Grant Taylor
S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission
Columbia, SC

Commissioner Taylor was appointed to the SC Workers' Compensation Commission on January 31, 2013. Before serving on the Commission, Commissioner Taylor was a shareholder at Collins & Lacy, P.C., practicing primarily in workers' compensation and employment law defense.

Commissioner Taylor graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2002 where she was a team captain of the 2002 Women's Track & Field National Championship Team and a four-year SEC Scholar Athlete. Commissioner Taylor went on to graduate from the USC School of Law. Following graduation from law school, Commissioner Taylor clerked for the Honorable Brooks P. Goldsmith of South Carolina's Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Commissioner Taylor currently lives in Blythewood, South Carolina with her husband and two daughters.

Derrick L. Williams
Williams & Roche
Columbia, SC

Former Commissioner Derrick L. Williams is one of the youngest-ever to be appointed to the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. He was appointed in March 2007, and he served until January 31, 2013, when he decided to return to private practice. He is responsible for spear-heading the effort to make mediation of workers' compensation available for complex injury by accident cases in South Carolina.

Prior to joining the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission, he was an associate at a national law firm based in South Carolina. He practiced in the areas of business litigation, franchise and distribution litigation, and labor and employment.

He began his legal career at a mid-size insurance defense firm, where his litigation background included defending workers' compensation claims for insurance companies, and insurance defense litigation.

As a founding partner with Williams & Roche, Derrick's practice is devoted to representing injured workers and serving as a mediator for all civil litigation matters. Derrick is a member of the National Academy Distinguished Neutrals.

Derrick earned a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002, where he was a member of the South Carolina Environmental Law Journal. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in the Honors Program at the College of Charleston in 1999. He ran Cross Country and Track for the College of Charleston, and he was the team captain of both his senior season.

Born in Florence, South Carolina he and his family moved later to Columbia, South Carolina, where he graduated from Dreher High School. He is the Past President of the Riverbanks Zoo Society Board. He is the first black President of the College of Charleston Alumni Association (now the Immediate Past President) and also serves on the College of Charleston Honors College Advisory Board and the College of Charleston English Department Alumni Advisory Board. He has previously been a member in the American Bar Association, where he was involved in the T.I.P.S. Workers' Compensation Section. He is a member of the John Belton O'Neill American Inn of Court. Derrick also previously served on the South Carolina Board of Law Examiners. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Richland County Bar Association. He also serves on the Central Carolina Community Foundation Board, where he is the Secretary/Treasurer. He was named in the 2024 Edition of the Best Lawyers rankings as a "Lawyer of the Year," for his work in Claimants Workers' Compensation Law.

Andrea C. Roche

*Williams & Roche
Columbia, SC*

Andrea C. Roche is a founding partner of Williams & Roche. She is a former member of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission, serving from 2006 until 2014. She was named Chairman of the Commission by Governor Sanford and served in that role from 2008-2010. Before serving on the Commission, Andrea was a partner at an insurance defense firm where her practice consisted primarily of defending employers and insurance companies in workers' compensation claims.

Andrea is a graduate of the Yale Law School, widely considered the top law school in the country, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following graduation from Yale, she clerked for the Honorable Robert F. Chapman on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Andrea also clerked for the Honorable Carol Connor of the South Carolina Court of Appeals and served as a staff attorney for the Court.

She is Past President and past Board Member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association. She has spoken at numerous conferences on Workers' Compensation issues. She taught Legal Writing at USC School of Law and various courses in the Legal Studies Department of South University.

Andrea is a member of the Basilica of St. Peter in Columbia. She is President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Peter's Conference and teaches in the RCIA program. She is a former Board Member of Kids' Chance of South Carolina and Katrina's Kids. She and her husband enjoy following college sports.

Senator Gerald Malloy

*Malloy Law Firm
Hartsville, SC*

Senator Gerald Malloy was born on October 26, 1961 and reared in Chesterfield County. After graduating from the University of South Carolina in 1984, he received his law degree from the University School of Law in 1988, and was admitted to practice law in the South Carolina Courts and the Federal Court. He moved to Hartsville to practice law, eventually establishing his own successful firm. In 2002, Malloy was elected to the South Carolina Senate, serving on the Senate Judiciary, Banking and Insurance, Education, Invitations, Rules, Transportation and Legislative Oversight Committees. He has served as the Chairman of the Sentencing Reform Oversight Study Committee since 2010 and is the co-chairman of the NCSL Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

He quickly established a reputation as a hard-working legislator who was willing to work across party lines to benefit his district and his state. He helped to establish the Butler Heritage Foundation, and received awards for his work in establishing and funding rural libraries. He is a past President of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association, past Chairman of the South Carolina Bar Association, and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. He is a life member of the University of South Carolina Letterman Association and also on the University of South Carolina Alumni Board. The South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense presented him with the Distinguished Service Award in 2008 and has since renamed the honor the "Gerald Malloy Distinguished Service Award." His vocal support of law enforcement led to him being honored by the Fraternal Order of Police with the Legislator of the Year Award in 2010.

In 2016, Senator Malloy was the first legislator to receive the NACDL's Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award, recognizing individuals whose efforts have led to progressive reform of a state criminal justice system. The SC firefighters' Association inducted Senator Gerald Malloy into the Maltese Cross, a world-wide fellowship organization representing courage and loyalty

to

duty.

He is married to Davita McFarland Malloy and they have four children: Donovan, Jonathan, Jordan and Morgan. The Malloy Family attends Jerusalem Baptist Church in Hartsville, South Carolina. Senator Malloy serves on the Board of Trustees and is chairman of the Finance Committee.

Senator Luke A. Rankin

*Rankin & Rankin P.A.
Conway, SC*

Luke Rankin received his Juris Doctor in 1987 from University of South Carolina School of Law and his B.A. in Political Science in 1984 at University of South Carolina. He graduated Conway High School in 1980.

Luke is a member of the South Carolina Bar, American Bar Association, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

He has served SC Senate District 33, Horry County since 1992.

Rep. John R. McCravy, III

*McCravy Newlon & Sturkie Law
Greenwood, SC*

John grew up in Greenwood SC and is a graduate of Greenwood High School. He received a Bachelor's degree from Clemson, and a Juris Doctor from USC School of Law in 1982 and is Board Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

He served the SC Supreme Court as a staff attorney before settling down in Greenwood to practice law where he has tried cases and argued appeals at every level of state court, federal district court, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. His law practice has expanded from two employees and one office to 41 employees and 8 offices in SC with a nationwide Social Security Disability practice.

John is a seventh-generation South Carolinian, with two ancestors previously serving in the General Assembly.

John has been married to Dana Shaw of Greenwood for 43 years and they have two children and four grandchildren. They attend church at Calvary Chapel of Greenwood where John serves as an elder.

John is active in the community. He was the founding president of Greater Greenwood United Ministry and served as a Board Member for Greenwood Christian School. He currently serves as a board member and past Chair of Crossroads Women's Center in Greenwood.

He was elected to the House in 2016 and serves on the Judiciary where he is a subcommittee chairman of Special Laws. He also serves on the House Legislative Oversight Committee and is Moderator of the Family Caucus which has grown to 46 legislative members.

Notably, John authored the SC Heartbeat Bill, the Human Life Protection Act, and Dylan's Law. Through his subcommittee in the Judiciary, he has been active in efforts to allow WC for first responders with PTSD.

He has received legislative awards from the Baptist Convention, Palmetto Family, South Carolina Citizens for Life, and most recently the SC Association of Pregnancy Centers.

Rep. Beth E. Bernstein

Columbia, SC

Beth Bernstein graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1991 and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1994. After graduating from law school, she and her brother, Lowell Bernstein, joined their father, the late Isadore Bernstein, in his law firm, and formed what is now known as Bernstein and Bernstein, Attorneys at Law. Her husband, Rip Sanders, joined the firm in 2010.