



# SCBLA

South Carolina Black Lawyers Association

## Newsletter

January 2021

Dear SCBLA Family,

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that your 2021 has gotten off to a safe and healthy start. I am hopeful about what this new year will bring and what we have already witnessed as a nation. I am sure most of you were just as inspired as I was watching our first African-American female vice-president take the oath of office this week. As Vice-President Harris—and the media—have mentioned repeatedly, she did not reach this accomplishment alone. I am delighted with the increased attention this historical moment has brought to HBCUs, the Divine Nine and other African-American organizations like the SCBLA. Regardless of your affiliation, the goal is the same; working to advance Our community as a whole through professional networking and civic engagement. I am optimistic that the SCBLA will keep the momentum going as we get to work this calendar year!

Speaking of momentum, I encourage each of you to pay special attention to the “Announcements” section of this month’s newsletter, highlighting the upcoming judicial elections. We have several members who are candidates in contested judicial races and—as we all know—representation matters! Please support our members and ask your elected officials to do the same!

I would also like to thank our members for the support and feedback we have received regarding the monthly newsletter. We encourage you all to keep the submissions and information coming so we can stay in touch as much as possible during this time of continued social distancing. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Yours in Solidarity,  
Breon



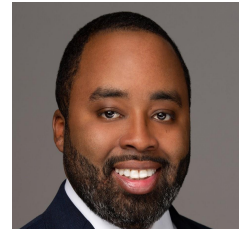
Breon  
Walker  
**President**



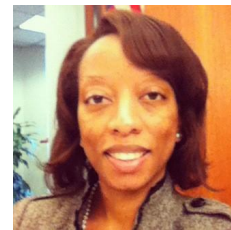
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**Parliamentarian**

# Announcements

## JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

Several of our members/persons of color are running for judicial seats across the State. The election is currently scheduled for noon on **Wednesday, February 3, 2021**. We encourage you to reach out to your elected officials on behalf of the candidate(s) you wish to support and ask them to do the same! As of January 14th, the **contested races** are as follows:\*\*

### Court of Appeals:

*Seat 8*

The Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin (Columbia)  
 The Honorable Deborah Brooks Durden (Columbia)  
 The Honorable Jerry Deese Vinson, Jr. (Florence)

### Circuit Court:

*13th Circuit, Seat 3*

A. Lance Crick (Greenville)  
 Patrick C. Fant, II (Greenville)  
 G.D. Morgan, Jr. (Greenville)

*14th Circuit, Seat 1*

Robert Bonds (Walterboro)  
 Tameaka A. Legette (Ruffin)

*At-Large, Seat 12*

H. Steven DeBerry, IV (Pamplico)  
 B. Alex Hyman (Conway)  
 The Honorable Dale E. Van Slambrook (Goosecreek)

### Family Court:

*7th Circuit, Seat 1*

Jonathan W. Lounsberry (Spartanburg)  
 The Honorable Erika L. McJimpsey (Boiling Springs)  
 Angela J. Moss (Inman)

### Administrative Law Court:

*Seat 3*

Stephanie N. Lawrence (Columbia)  
 Robert L. Reibold (Columbia)  
 Debra Sherman Tedeschi (Columbia)

### Master-in-Equity:

*Spartanburg County*

The Honorable Whitner S. Bishop (Spartanburg)  
 Shannon M. Phillips (Inman)  
 Shane W. Rogers (Moore)  
 The Honorable Tommy Wall (Spartanburg)

## SCBLA CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

There are still vacancies for the Circuit Representative position in the **3rd** and **6th** circuits. If you or someone you know are interested and wish to be considered to fill any of these vacancies, please email [Jasmine](mailto:Jasmine@scbla.org). Keep in mind, you must live within the circuit for which you wish to serve.

# Announcements

The **Riley Institute** is preparing for its 13th annual Law & Society symposium on February 5th, in partnership with the Charleston Law Review. Though typically held in Charleston, the event will be hosted virtually this year and it has been approved for 7.33 hours of CLE credit.

This year's event will explore the nuances of sex trafficking and sexual abuse law and feature two dozen speakers. Speakers will include Kristen Gibbons, who served as a special prosecutor in the Bill Cosby trial; Bridie Farrell, an Olympic speedskater turned survivor advocate; and Kathryn Moorehead, Director of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. Registration is now open [here!](#)



## CELEBRATING A LIFE WELL LIVED



We are deeply saddened by the news of the passing of **Mr. Albert V. Smith** on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 following his battle with COVID-19. Mr. Smith was a practicing attorney for over 40 years and as a dean of this organization, we owe him a great deal of gratitude.

Mrs. Helen B. Smith is still recovering from the virus and the family requests no visits or phone calls at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date. An online obituary can be found [here](#).

**\*\*Submissions for the e-Newsletter are to be made by midnight on the last Sunday of each month!\*\***

## **Contact Us**



**P.O. Box 1092 Columbia, SC 29202**