

2018 SCWLA Board Elections – Cast your ballot today

ATTENTION ALL SCWLA MEMBERS

There are **ten** openings on the SCWLA Board of Directors for two year terms beginning in January, 2018. Candidates for these positions are listed below and on the ballot available via the link. Members may also write in a candidate should they choose to do so. Ballots may be sent to Mikki Lindler, the Executive Director of SCWLA, by mail or email. However, to be considered, a ballot must be received no later than 5 pm on Monday, November 13, 2017.”

[CLICK HERE FOR YOUR 2018 SCWLA BOARD ELECTION BALLOT](#)

Candidates

Allyce Bailey (Columbia): Reflecting over my involvement with SCWLA, I realized that I have actually been a member longer than I have been a lawyer! I was privileged to serve as the first Executive Director of this great organization that embraced me before I even obtained my bar roll number. In my role as Chairperson of the Community Outreach Committee, I have found immeasurable gratification over the last three years planning statewide service projects to better the communities in which we live. During my tenure as Chairperson, the Committee has assisted with refurbishment efforts of women’s shelters, coordinated a toy drive that enabled every single child involved with Court Appointed Special Advocates to receive their personal Christmas wish, and even organized a flood relief effort that in part garnered SCWLA national recognition as we were awarded the National Conference of Women’s Bar Association’s Outstanding Member Award for our “Resilience Project.” I have a unique perspective regarding the issues facing the organization and believe that I would be an asset to the Board. I would greatly appreciate your vote and look forward to being able to bring a fresh set of eyes, a different perspective, and new ideas to the Board of Directors’ table.

Emily Boatwright (Hilton Head): My story...In January 2017, I returned to my entrepreneurial roots and opened the Boatwright Law Firm, LLC on Hilton Head Island. Working on the Island for the last 6 years has afforded me the opportunity to develop and maintain relationships with real estate agents, lenders and peers. Those ties and our Firm's commitment to quality provide the foundation for my business. My goal is to provide a level of legal service and counsel that earns the trust and lifelong representation of each client we work with. She currently serves a one year term on SCWLA's board, as well as serving as regional representative for the Sea Islands chapter, consisting of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties.

Stephanie Burton (Spartanburg): Stephanie Burton has provided legal advice to clients regarding construction and design, corporate matters, employment law, and for claims involving professional negligence for over twenty years. Stephanie has experience drafting and negotiating contracts and providing legal advice to assist clients with issues that may impact their business. When disputes arise, Stephanie has the trial experience needed to represent clients in state and federal courts and in arbitration proceedings. Stephanie is a frequent speaker on legal topics, particularly issues involving design and construction.

Ashley Cuttino (Greenville): Ashley concentrates her practice in management-side employment litigation, including defending claims against wage and hour, discrimination, wrongful discharge, and breach of contract. She also has a broader general litigation practice that has allowed her to defend clients in complex toxic tort actions, class actions, asbestos personal injury defense, construction defect cases, and FELA claims for railroad clients. Ashley's specialty is complex litigation, class actions and multi-plaintiff litigation. She also advises clients in the area of traditional labor law and has defended both small businesses and national companies in their effort to be union-free. Ashley is experienced in e-discovery, the use of emerging technologies in the workplace, and developing records retention policies. She is a member of the Steering Committee for the Records Retention and E-Discovery Practice Group of Ogletree Deakins. Ashley regularly conducts in-house training and speaks to legal and human resource professionals on such relevant topics as E-Discovery Issues in Employment for clients, human resource professional groups, and fellow attorneys.

Carrie Fox (Florence): Carrie Fox works for Aiken Bridges Law Firm of Florence, where she is the sole female practitioner of twelve litigation attorneys. She is a certified Circuit Court Mediator and currently defends cases on behalf of multiple insurance carriers (government, commercial, and personal lines). Carrie began her legal career working with a small family practice in Florence while attending Francis Marion University. Her passion for the law grew as she transitioned through multiple positions in a small family practice and a large defense firm in Columbia. After graduating from law school at the University of South Carolina, Carrie returned to Florence with her husband (a career public servant in fire rescue, emergency medical services, and law enforcement) to enter private practice with Aiken Bridges. Carrie has become more active in SCWLA over the last two years as her two young sons have become more independent. She is interested in promoting gender diversity in the profession and in addressing work life balance issues for women entering the profession.

Alex Joseph (Bluffton): Alex Joseph works for the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office in Beaufort County, South Carolina. Prior to joining the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Alex worked as a prosecutor in Georgia. In total, Alex has tried eight cases as first chair. She has also assisted in the successful prosecution of a murder in Allendale County, South Carolina. Since moving to Hilton Head Island in 2016, she has become active in SCWLA, Junior League, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of the Lowcountry, where she serves as vice-president of its board. She also tutors students in reading at the Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton, South Carolina. She graduated from Wellesley College (2010) and University of Georgia School of Law (2013). I am running for this SCWLA Board position because I am passionate about advocating for women in our profession!

Lynsey Kmetz (Charlotte): Lynsey Kmetz has been an active member of SCWLA since she was sworn into the SC Bar in 2006. She is currently an associate with Young Mayden Legal Search Consulting in Charlotte, NC and works with law firms, corporations and non profit law related organizations on strategic growth and hiring. Lynsey also assists associate attorneys with lateral moves. Prior to relocating to Charlotte in 2014, Lynsey worked in civil litigation with Foster Law Firm in Greenville, SC. She is past president of the SC Bar Young Lawyers Division and spent years in leadership with the local and state bars as well as the ABA YLD. Lynsey is in her second term on the SCWLA Board and served as co-chair of the 2013 conference in Greenville, SC and as a committee member assisting with the recent conference in Greenville. She enjoys serving SCWLA and interacting with members of the Board as well as the membership.

Mary D. LaFave (Columbia): Mary is a partner at Crowe LaFave, LLC where she practices in tort litigation primarily focusing on personal injury, premises liability, insurance litigation, bad faith litigation and contract disputes. Since joining SCWLA in 2012, she has become increasingly active in SCWLA and has recently taken on more responsibilities for the SCWLA board and the Membership Committee. She is the current Chair of the Membership Committee and is in her second year of service in that role. Mary is actively involved in strategic planning as requested by the SCWLA Executive Committee to lend her ideas and energy to assist in the future development of SCWLA. Mary began her career as a criminal defense attorney and is now in her tenth year of civil practice. She served on the SC Bar Judicial Selection Committee for two years, participated in the USC School of Law's Pro Bono Program, and has fundraised for a variety of charities in the area largely focusing on abused or disadvantaged children. She is originally from Kentucky but South Carolina has been home for over 11 years. Mary moved here following her graduation from Michigan State Law School where she served as the elected President of her class.

Julie Jeffords Moose (Florence): Julie is a partner with Turner Padgett and has an active business, commercial, and litigation practice focusing on accounting, financial, and business issues. Julie graduated from Clemson University in 1984 and from the USC School of Law in 1989. Julie served on the Board of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association from 2006 to 2016, and she has served as SCWLA's treasurer, secretary, and president-elect. Julie has served on SCWLA's Bylaws Committee, the Bissell Awards Committee, and the Awards Reception Committee. Julie is active in the South Carolina Bar, serving as a 12th Judicial Representative to the House of Delegates since 2005 and as a member of the Board of Governors, Pro Bono Board, Future of the Profession Committee, Nominating Committee, and Paralegal Task Force. She is the chair of the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection Committee, and served on the Supreme Court Commission on CLE and Specialization from 2002 to 2008. She has served as mentor through the South Carolina Mentoring program as well as mentoring associates in her firm. In addition to her work in the South Carolina Bar and professional associations, Julie was a Commissioner on the State Ethics Commission from 2014 to 2017, and she is active in many community organizations.

Nancy Olah (Fort Mill): Nancy Olah is a transactional attorney focusing on commercial real estate, sustainable development, construction law, and business transactions at Nancy Olah Law. She is a LEED® AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional), credentialed by the Green Building Certification Institute and uses her knowledge about green building practices to help developers find ways to minimize the carbon footprint of their projects. Nancy is active with CREW Charlotte, and is a past president of CREW Charlotte and past chair of the local North Carolina chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Prior to opening her own firm, Nancy worked at Parker Poe for many years. She counseled developers in their creation of mixed-use developments, business and industrial parks, townhomes, condominium projects, resorts, hotels, and golf course communities. Nancy is licensed in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Ohio (inactive). She received a B.A. in Government from Oberlin College in 1976 and got her law degree at University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1978. She moved to Charlotte from Cleveland in 1981, and is proud to say that she has had the good sense to live south of the Mason Dixon line ever since. She and her husband, Bill Pace, have lived in Fort Mill since 1998, and their 24 year old son, Nick, recently moved to Tampa. Nancy was recognized by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly as a Leader in Law in 2014 and by South Carolina Lawyers Weekly in 2016. In 2014, she was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women by the Mecklenburg Times and she received the ATHENA Award (Corporate) in 2013. She currently serves a one year term on SCWLA's board, as well as serving as regional representative for the Old English chapter, consisting of York, Lancaster, and Chester counties.

Bhumi Patel (Myrtle Beach): Bhumi assists companies large and small in navigating various aspects of real estate transactions, both commercial and residential. Her experience includes real estate closings, mechanics' liens and foreclosure litigation. Bhumi regularly represents lenders, and has served as counsel for several area banks, where she reviewed real estate title work, supervised real estate closings and drafted loan documents. In addition to her real estate work, Bhumi has also assisted with the formation of special tax districts in Horry County. She currently serves a one year term on SCWLA's board, as well as serving as regional representative for the Grand Strand chapter, consisting of Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg counties.

Sima Patel (Greenville): Sima Bhakta Patel is a litigator and employment attorney. Sima is experienced in representing clients in a variety of commercial disputes, compliance issues, government investigations, employment litigation, and complex civil litigation. She has assisted companies in internal investigations, government investigations and litigation matters in state and federal courts. Sima also guides employers through a broad array of employment and labor matters, including navigating FLSA, FMLA, ADA, ADEA, and other regulatory issues. She currently serves a one year term on SCWLA's board and the Media/Communications Committee.

Laura Paton (Charleston): Laura is Of Counsel in the Charleston office of Carlock, Copeland & Stair, LLP where she co-chairs the firm's Construction Practice Group, litigates in defense of construction and general liability claims, and serves as a mediator. Laura is an active SCWLA member and has prepared and presented multiple panels for the membership including, most recently, "The State of Women in South Carolina Politics" at the SCWLA annual convention in Greenville. She also chairs SCWLA's Public Service Committee working to provide members with information on running for public office and to monitor and advocate legislation impacting women in South Carolina. Laura is a graduate of Georgia State University and St. Johns University School of Law. She is a member of Good Friends of the Lowcountry and the Elliotborough-Cannonborough Community Garden. Laura lives in Charleston with her husband Chris, two beautiful daughters Louisa and Rebecca, and their miniature pinscher, June and can often be seen cycling through town with the latter three in her cargo bike.

Margie Pizzaro (Summerville): Margie founded her own firm in September 2008 in historic downtown Summerville. She assists individuals with a variety of legal issues including Family Law, Criminal Defense, Personal Injury, Estate Law, and Medical Malpractice. Though she has been recognized for her leadership in various past publications, she most recently was acknowledged by the Post and Courier newspaper for her thrifty style. The April 19, 2017, issue featured Margie and her "elegant business" style. Check out the article where she gives thrifty fashion tips and talks about her SCWLA trip to be sworn in to the U.S. Supreme Court to which Margie chose to wear a non-traditional beige BCBG pantsuit with wide pants and a blue lapel.

Richele Taylor (Columbia): Richele Taylor is Director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. She was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley on December 8, 2014, and confirmed by the Senate on February 12, 2015. At the time of her appointment, Taylor was serving as LLR's Deputy Director of Administration, a position she had held since March of 2014. In that role, she oversaw the Human Resources, Procurement and Financial Offices. Taylor came to LLR from Fisher & Phillips LLP, a national employment and labor law firm with more than 30 offices throughout the United States. Richele represented employers and management exclusively on employment and labor issues. She provided advice to clients on employment policies and procedures aimed at improving employee relations and reducing risk. She represented clients in state and federal courts, as well as agency proceedings.