

# **BERKELEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

The Berkeley County Bar Association held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009, at Gilligan's Restaurant in Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

President John S. West presided over the meeting. John West reported that the initial free seminar sponsored by the Bar for the community was well attended and had positive feedback by the attendees. President West stated that the Bar should continue sponsoring the free seminars and will try to schedule another seminar during the first quarter of 2010.

John S. West next reported that the website committee for the Berkeley County Bar Association is nearing completion on its site. He urged every member to review the website and supply their biographical information to the webmaster.

The Berkeley County Bar Association is sponsoring a continuing legal education for its members. This will be a half-day seminar scheduled for February 17, 2010. Sally Rhoad was recognized for organizing the presenters and applying to the South Carolina Supreme Court for approval of continuing legal education credits.

Jean Toal, Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court is scheduled to address Berkeley County Council on January 11, 2010, to make a presentation on the new case management system being implemented statewide. John S. West urged all members to attend the County Council meeting to show support for the case management system.

The golf tournament sponsored by the Berkeley County Bar Association held on September 28, 2009, resulted in net proceeds of \$6,358.04. These net proceeds will be equally divided between the Berkeley Education Foundation and Callen-Lacy Center.

Resolutions were prepared to Jack Williams, George Bishop, and D. Mark Stokes to recognize their dedicated and long term service as officers of the Berkeley County Bar Association.

Judge R. Markley Dennis, Jr. of the Ninth Judicial Circuit addressed the members to announce that he would be the administrative Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit beginning January 1, 2010 and that he would be holding meetings for the Bar in both Berkeley and Charleston counties to receive suggestions and feedback on docket management.

Grover "Beau" Seaton, IV, next addressed the members to express concern about the recent actions of the Legislative Judicial Merit Selection Committee with regard to Judge Frances P. Segars-Andrews. After discussion, the members resolved to prepare a resolution for the Legislative delegation to address concerns regarding the authority of the

Judicial Merit Selection Committee in approving or disapproving judicial candidates. It was the member's position that the role of the Judicial Merit Selection Committee should be that of advisory and recommendation to the legislators and not have the authority to disqualify candidates.

There being no further business before the Bar the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris J. Loudon, Esquire  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Berkeley County Bar Association