

## **Bios of Visiting Professors and Adjunct Professors Spring 2012**

### **Mr. Bert Brannon**

Mr. Wm. Bert Brannon practices with Moses Koon & Brackett. Mr. Brannon received a B.S. degree in Computer Science /Mathematics from Furman University. He received a M.B.A. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Business and a J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He received his Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University School of Law in 1992. He's a past chairman of the Columbia Tax Study Group and a past president of the Columbia Estate Planning Council. He is a firm shareholder. Along with Al Moses, he co-authored the chapter on Wills and Testamentary Trusts in Volume II of Estate Planning in South Carolina. He lectures frequently at the South Carolina Bar's continuing legal education seminars. He is a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and has been certified as a Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate law by the South Carolina Supreme Court. Bert was selected by his peers for inclusion in 25th Anniversary Edition of The Best Lawyers in America 2008 ® in the field of Trusts and Estates and was selected for inclusion in the 2010 edition of South Carolina Super Lawyers Magazine in the fields of Estate Planning & Probate and Closely Held Business.

### **Judge Thomas Cooper**

Judge Thomas W. Cooper, Jr. was born in Sumter, South Carolina. He graduated from USC in May of 1963 with a B.A. degree in history.

He took a job as a English teacher in the public schools of Clarendon county. He entered the USC School of Law in the fall of 1970. Following his graduation from law school in 1973, he joined Billy Coffey in the practice of law in Manning, South Carolina. In 1974 he was made a partner in the firm which eventually expanded to Coffey, Cooper, Chandler & DuRant with offices in Manning and Surfside Beach. He remained as a partner with the firm until his election to the Bench.

He was elected as Circuit Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit in February of 1992 and served in that capacity until his retirement in September of 2006. As a Circuit Judge, he served on the Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Rules Committee, and Commission on Judicial Conduct. In retirement, he continues to remain active, part-time, by holding court one week per month.

### **Judge David Duncan**

David R. Duncan was appointed United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Carolina on May 26, 2006. He previously served as the Regional Assistant

United States Trustee for Region 4 from 1991 to 2006. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina (J.D. 1980, B.A. 1977). David engaged in the private practice of law from 1980 until 1991. He served as the Standing Chapter 12 Trustee in the District of South Carolina from 1986 until 1991, served as a Chapter 7 and a Chapter 11 trustee, was a member and Chairman of the Bankruptcy Local Rules Advisory Committee and served as a member and Chairman of the South Carolina Supreme Court Bankruptcy Specialization Advisory Board.

### **Professor Faith Rivers James**

Faith Rivers James teaches Legislation, Nonprofit Organizations, Property, and Public Law & Leadership at Elon Law. Previously, Rivers James taught at Vermont Law School, where she was a member of the Environmental faculty and fellow of the Land Use Institute. She began her law teaching career as a Visiting Assistant Professor at University of South Carolina School of Law in 2005 and taught in the master's in public administration program from 1999 to 2002.

Rivers James began practicing as a legislative attorney in the Washington, D.C. office of Akin Gump Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP. She entered public service to serve as Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to the Majority Leader of the United States Congress, and later served as Executive Director of the South Carolina Bar Foundation.

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Rivers James has done extensive research on preservation of African American property ownership. She was instrumental in the creation of the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation in Charleston, for which the South Carolina Bar Foundation received the National Conference of Bar Foundations Award for Excellence in Programming in 2004. Rivers James served on the American Bar Association's Property Preservation Task Force from 2006-2007.

Rivers James received a bachelor's degree in government and sociology from Dartmouth College (1987) and a Juris Doctorate from the Harvard Law School (1990). She is a member of the South Carolina Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, and the North Carolina Bar Association, where she serves on the Citizen Lawyer Committee and the Real Property Section's Legislative Committee.

### **Professor Dino Kritsiotis**

Dino Kritsiotis is Professor of Public International Law in the University of Nottingham, where he has taught since October 1994. Professor Kritsiotis completed his law studies at the University of Wales College of Cardiff, and at the University of Cambridge, where he obtained his LL.M. in international law with distinction in June 1992. He also holds a Diploma of International Humanitarian Law, also awarded with distinction, by the International Committee of the Red Cross

in 1993. His teaching and research interests concern international law and the use of force, international humanitarian law, general international law, as well as the history and theory of international law. He is widely published in these fields.

Professor Kritsiotis is a regular member of the visiting faculty at the University of Michigan Law School, where he has held the L. Bates Lea Visiting Professorship in Law (2005-2008), and he has taught at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and at the University of Cape Town. In the summer of 2011, he will be a Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of Melbourne, where he will teach a seminar entitled "Imperial International Law." He sits on the editorial boards for the Journal of Conflict and Security Law (Oxford University Press), the Human Rights Law Review (Oxford University Press), Human Rights & Human Welfare ([www.hrhw.org](http://www.hrhw.org)) and the African Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law (Juta Publishing).

### **Sarah Montgomery**

Sarah Montgomery is Senior Litigation Counsel for E-Discovery at the United States Department of Justice. Prior to working at the Department of Justice, Ms. Montgomery was an Associate with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. Ms. Montgomery received her A.B. from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. from the University of South Carolina. She clerked for the Honorable Joseph F. Anderson, Jr. on the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

### **Judge Dennis W. Shedd**

Judge Dennis Shedd has served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit since 2002. Prior to his service on the Fourth Circuit, Judge Shedd served on the United States District Court, District of South Carolina. Judge Shedd received his B.A. from Wofford College and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Judge Shedd also holds an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Ms. Teri K. Stomski**

Ms. Stomski is Special Counsel at Rogers Townsend & Thomas. Ms. Stomski concentrates her practice in commercial real estate transactions and banking and finance. In addition to her background as a real estate transactions and litigation attorney, she is also the former State Counsel for a national title insurance company, as well as a former commercial lender. Ms. Stomski utilizes her expansive knowledge of banking and title insurance to assist her clients in minimizing risk.

She is a frequent lecturer and contributing author for continuing legal education seminars relating to real estate law and title insurance for the South Carolina Bar and Palmetto Land Title Association, among others.

## **Judge Bruce Williams**

Judge Williams received a bachelor's degree in 1978 from Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C. While at Wofford, he served as President of the student body. He graduated from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1982.

After graduation from law school, he was in private practice in Columbia until 1995. He served as a part-time Associate Town Judge in Irmo, SC from 1992 until 1995. He served two terms on the Board of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association for the Family Law Section.

He was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly to the position of Resident Family Court Judge for the 5th Judicial Circuit in May, 1995. In May, 2004, Judge Williams was elected to the South Carolina Court of Appeals.

During his tenure as a Family Court Judge, Judge Williams has served as President of the South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges in 1999-2000, as well as Secretary-Treasurer in 1998-1999. He has presided over the Richland County Juvenile Drug Court since its inception in January of 1998.

He is a member of the South Carolina Bar. He is admitted to practice in all South Carolina Courts, as well as the U. S. District Court for South Carolina.