

MELISSA F. BROWN, ESQ.
Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

EDUCATION

University of South Carolina, Juris Doctor, 1991
University of Virginia, Bachelor of Arts, History, 1987

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Buckley School of Public Speaking, Camden, SC, 2008, Graduate
ABA Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute, Houston, TX, 2001, Graduate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder, Melissa F. Brown, LLC, Charleston, SC, 1999 - Present
Associate, Andrews & Shull, PA, Mt. Pleasant, SC, 1998-1999
Associate, Nexsen, Pruet, Jacobs, Pollard and Robinson, Charleston, SC, 1996-1998
Associate, Lee Robinson, PA, Charleston, SC, 1993-1996
Assistant Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office, Charleston, SC, 1992-1993
Law Clerk, The Honorable William L. Howard, Charleston, SC, 1991-1992

BAR ADMISSIONS

United States of America, District of South Carolina, 2006
State Bar of South Carolina, 1992

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Family Court Mediator, 1998 - Present

OFFICES HELD IN LEGAL/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Bar Association

Co-Chair of Sponsorship Committee for Family Law Section (FLS), 2008 – 2009
Judge, National Schwab Family Law Legal Writing Contest, Summers 2007 & 2008
Co-Editor, Family Law CLE Newsletters, Spring 2008 & 2009; Fall 2008
Co-Vice Chair, FLS Law Practice Management Committee, 2003 – 2004
Advisory Panel, Inaugural Member, 2003 – Present

South Carolina Bar Association

Delegate Representing Family Law Section, House of Delegates, 2005 – 2006
Past Chair, Family Law Section, 2003 – 2004
Chair, Family Law Section, 2002 – 2003
Chair-Elect, Family Law Section, 2001 – 2002
Vice-Chair Family Law Section, 2000 – 2001
Secretary, Family Law Section, 1999 – 2000

Charleston County Bar Association

Vice Chair, William L. Howard Portrait Committee, 2007
Judge, National Moot Court Competition, Charleston School of Law, Spring 2005
Secretary/ Treasurer, Family Law Section, 1996 – 1998



HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Order of the Barristers, University of South Carolina School of Law, 1990
National Moot Court Team, Member, 1990

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES/AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

Member, 2009 - Present

American Bar Association

Member, 1996 – Present

Member Family Law Section (“FLS”), 2001 - Present

Member, FLS Law Practice Management Committee, 2008 – Present

Member, Law Practice Management Section, 2009 - Present

Member, GP & Solo Section, 2009 – Present

Member, Alimony and Spousal Support Committee, 2003 – 2005

Member, Family Law Case Update Committee, 2003 – 2005

South Carolina Bar Association

Member, 1992 – Present

Member, FLS, 1995 – Present

Member, Women’s Lawyer Association, 1996 - Present

Certified Family Court Mediator, 1998 - Present

Charleston County Bar Association

Member, 1992 – Present

Member, Family Court Section, 1995 - Present

PROFESSIONAL NON-LEGAL ACTIVITIES/AFFILIATIONS

Ashley Hall School Alumni Board

Member, 2008 - Present

Chair: Senior Liaison Committee, 2008 – 2009

SC Episcopal Diocese

Member of Ecclesiastical Court, 2007 – Present

St. Michael’s Church

Leader of subgroup, Alpha course, 2008

Sunday School Teacher, 2003

Member, Capital Campaign Committee, 2003 – 2005

Participant, Alpha course, 2002

Member, Building and Grounds Committee, 1999 – 2002

Member, Coffee Hostess, 1999 – Present

Member, 1982 to date

Center for Women

Member, 1998 - Present

Board Member, 2003 – 2004



Junior League of Charleston

Member 1992 – 1997 (Resigned in good standing)

Trident United Way

Sub-Committee Board Member, 1993

Charleston Day School

Alumni Fundraising Committee, 1999 – Present

Chair, 2008 – 2009.

Large Gift Committee, 2003

Delta Delta Delta Sorority

Member at UVA, 1984- 1987 (Alumnus)

House President, 1986 – 1987

ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY MELISSA F. BROWN

Maintaining Clients' Safety and Security in a Digital Age, Published Winter 2010, *The Family Law Review: A Publication of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia*.

ABA Family Law CLE Daily Newsletter, Published at following events:

- April 2009, *Baltimore Bullet*, Baltimore, MD, Co-Editor with Mark Sullivan
- October 2008, *Great Scott*, Scottsdale, AZ, Co-Editor with Mark Sullivan
- April 2008, *Chicago Bull*, Chicago, IL, Daily Editor

COBRA: Do Not Let It Bite You Or Your Client, Published in following journals:

- November 2005, *The Family Law Review: A Publication of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia*.
- Summer 2005, *South Carolina Trial Lawyers Bulletin*
- Spring 2005, *American Journal of Family Law*, Volume 19, No. 2

Files in Family Court: A Treasure Trove for Identity Thieves, Published August 5, 2004, *Charleston Mercury*

Family Court Files, A Treasure Trove for Identity Thieves, Published Summer 2004, *South Carolina Law Review*, Volume 55, Number 4

South Carolina Family Lawyers' Tool Kit, 2003 Edition, Published by SC Bar: While Chair of the SC FLS, the Council published the first edition of this valuable book. Mrs. Brown is again serving on this council, working to publish the second edition.

Understanding the New Child Support Guidelines, Published in SC Lawyer Magazine: Spring/October 1999, *The South Carolina Lawyer*



Estate Planning in the Midst of a Divorce: How to Protect Your Heirs, Published in Law Journal: Spring 1997, *The Law Journal – An Executive's Guide to the Law*, Co-Author with James Duggan

PAST SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Roasted & Toasted: How to Introduce Information Posted on Internet Sites to 'Burn' the Opposing Party or Witness, SC Bar, It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Evidence, Columbia, SC, February 2010

Safety & Security in a Digital Age, SC Bar Annual Convention, Family Law Section Update for Lawyers & Judges, Kiawah Island, SC, January 2010

To Tweet or Not to Tweet: Social Networking- Help or Hindrance to the Family Law Practice?, LEI National CLE Conference, Vail, Colorado, January 2010

Twitter for Lawyers, National Constitution Center Audio Conference, November 2009

South Carolina Family Law Case Update, Dixon Hughes Litigation Conference for Forensic Financial Experts, Charleston, SC, October 2009

How Becoming An Atticus Client Positively Impacted My Law Practice, Atticus Practice Builder Program for Attorney's: How to Run Your Law Firm Efficiently, Orlando, Florida, October 2009

Effective Legal Tweets to Avoid Sounding Like a Twit!, ABA, Family Law Section Fall Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, October 2009

How to Be Prepared When You Least Expect It!, Women @ Work Group, Charleston, SC, September 2009

Social Media Marketing PhoneCast- Twitter, Atticus Group Social Media Marketing Graduate Network Call, August 2009

How to Be Prepared When You Least Expect It!, East Cooper Women's Entrepreneurial Group, Mt. Pleasant, SC, June 2009

To Tweet or Not to Tweet: How Social Networking Services can Benefit Your Family Law Practice, ABA PhoneCast to the FLS Law Practice Management Committee, May 2009

When "Be Quiet" is Not the Response You Want to Hear: Getting a Child's Out-of-Court Statement Into Evidence, SC Bar, It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Evidence, Columbia, SC, February 2009



South Carolina Supreme Court Broadens Excited Utterance Exception: How to Utilize Ruling in Family Court Cases, SC Bar, Hot Tips From the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, September 2007

How to Convince Your Judge to Allow the Introduction of a Child's Out-of-Court Statement in Private Custody/Visitation Disputes, LEI, Colorado FLS, Snowmass, CO, January 2007

Time Maps: How to Effectively Use This Software in Court, LEI, Colorado FLS, Snowmass, CO, January 2007

Intrinsic and Extrinsic Fraud: How Does the Difference Affect your Family Court Case, SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, September 2006

Using TimeMap Software to Successfully Gather Information From Clients & When Presenting Evidence in Court, SC Bar, Annual Meeting Technology Committee, Charleston, SC, January 2006

An Update of 2005's Family Law Cases, SC Bar, Sidebar SC Online CLE Video Series, Columbia, SC, October 2005

Homeland Security Act's Impact on Family Law Cases, SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, September 2005

Using TimeMap Software to Successfully Meet with Clients and While Trying Complex Cases, SC Bar, Cool Tips from the Hottest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, April 2005

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Family Law Websites, SC Bar, Seminars Direct Videotape Program, Charleston, SC, August 2004

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Family Law Websites, SC Bar, Advanced Family Law Seminar, Hilton Head, SC, Spring 2004

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Family Law Website, ABA, FLS Spring Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Spring 2004

Judicial Estoppel: You Can't Have It Both Ways, SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, Fall 2003

Secret Settlements in the Family Law Practice, SC Bar & USC School of Law, Columbia, SC, October 2003

Sealing the Record, SC Bar, Cool Tips from the Hottest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, Spring 2003



UIFSA Refresher, SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, Fall 2002

COBRA: Do Not Let it Bite Your Client or You, SC Bar, Cool Tips from the Hottest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, Spring 2002

Basic Business Valuation Overview for Domestic Attorneys, SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, Fall 2001

Mindmaps: Great Software for the Family Law Practitioner, SC Bar, Cool Tips from the Hottest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, April 2001

Using the Child Support Guidelines to Your Advantage, SC Bar, Cool Tips from the Hottest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, May 2000

Devising Creative Visitation Schedules, Charleston County FLS, Family Law CLE, Charleston, SC, January 1999

The Ethics of Representing More Than One Person: Conflicts of Interest Under Rules of Professional Conduct, SC Bar, Ethics for the Family Law Practitioner, Columbia, SC, November 1998

Understanding the South Carolina Court System, Explorers Club, Charleston, SC, March 1997

The Interplay of Statutes on Parental Rights, Responsibilities & Parent/Child Contact, NBI, Child Custody and Visitation in SC, Charleston, SC October 1997

Ethical Considerations, NBI, Child Custody and Visitation in SC, Charleston, SC, October 1997

Trial Issues, NBI, Child Custody and Visitation in SC, Charleston, SC October 1997

Initial Considerations in a Family Law Case, NBI, Family Law in South Carolina, Charleston, SC, September 1996

PUBLICATIONS THAT HAVE QUOTED MELISSA F. BROWN

LawyersUSA, "Using Twitter Effectively," by Sylvia Hsieh, July 9, 2009

LawyersUSA, "Family law attorneys are missing evidence on social networking websites," by Sylvia Hsieh, June 25, 2009

The Charleston Mercury, "Tomboy to Lawyer to Jewelry Designer," by C.W. Childress, May 25, 2006



PUBLICATIONS THAT HAVE CITED MELISSA F. BROWN'S ARTICLES

Superior Court Law Library Court Informer, Maricopa County, Arizona, January 2008

Am. Jur. Proof of Facts 3d, "Proof of Liability for Violation of Privacy of Internet User, by Cookies or Other Means," 2008 [67 Am. Jur. Proof of Facts 3d 249]

Am. Jur. Proof of Facts 3d, "Identity Theft and Other Misuses of Credit and Debit Cards," 2008 [81 Am. Jur. Proof of Facts 3d 113]

Am. Jur. Trials, "Judicial Technology in the Courts," 2008 [44 Am. Jur. Trials 1]

Am. Jur. Trials, "Liability for Mishandled Computer Information," 2008 [49 Am. Jur. Trials 281]

Superior Court Law Library Court Informer, Maricopa County, Arizona, July 2004

CLE'S ORGANIZED & MODERATED BY MELISSA F. BROWN

SC Bar, Hot Tips From the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Co-Chair, Columbia, SC, September 2009

SC Bar, Advanced Family Law Seminar, How to Run Your Family Law Practice & Make Money, Co-Chair, Asheville, NC, December 2008

SC Bar, Hot Tips From the Coolest Family Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, September 2008

SC Bar, Advanced Family Law Seminar, Hilton Head, SC, Spring 2004

SC Bar, Annual Bar Meeting, Family Law Section, Charleston, SC, January 2003

SC Bar, Family Court Bar, Columbia, SC, December 2000

Charleston County Family Law Section, Family Law CLE, Charleston, SC
January 1999

SC Bar, Ethics for the Family Law Practitioner, Columbia, SC, November 1998

