

**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 (Firm then merged with Nexsen Pruet)  
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**

AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating, Martindale Hubbell, 2011  
Order of the Barristers, University of South Carolina School of Law, 1990  
National Moot Court Team, University of South Carolina School of Law, Member, 1990  
Recipient of Strom Thurmond Legal Scholarship, USC School of Law

## **PROFESSIONAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES/AFFILIATIONS**

### **American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers**

Fellow, 2009 - Present

### **International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers**

Fellow, 2011 - 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 – 2011

### **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 – 2008  
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**

***Safety and Security in a Digital Age***, Published July 2010, *South Carolina Lawyer*.  
Mrs. Brown's article was featured on the cover of this edition of the magazine.

***South Carolina Family Lawyers' Tool Kit, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, and contributed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. She is currently serving as the editor of the supplement to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

***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.

***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**

***Understanding the Jurisdictional Complexities & Differences When Handling Multi-State Custody, Child Support and Parental Kidnapping Cases Under the UCCJEA, UIFSA & PKPA***, South Carolina Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners, Columbia, SC, September 2011

***How to Try Your First Family Court Trial***, Charleston County Family Law Section, How to Handle Your First Family Court Matter, Charleston, SC, June 2011

***Using Technology in the Courtroom to Simplify the Facts for the Court***, Houston Family Law Trial Institute, South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX, May 2011

***Finding and Admitting or Objecting to Electronic Evidence***, Houston Family Law Trial Institute, South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX, May 2011

***Houston Family Law Trial Institute***, Faculty Member at South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX, May 2011

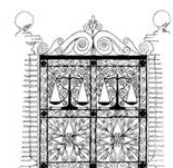
***How to Define, Identify and Find Your "A" Client***, South Carolina Bar, Hot Tips for the Solo or Small Firm Practitioner, September 2010

***Separation & Divorce: How to Be Prepared When You Least Expect It!***, Center for Women, Brown Bag Lunch Series, Charleston, SC, June 2010

***Houston Family Law Trial Institute***, Faculty Member at South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX, May 2010 – To Date

***The Role of the Mental Health Professional in South Carolina Family Law***, (Guest Lecturer for Dr. Chip Taylor's Ethics & Mental Health Law graduate studies course), The Citadel, Charleston, SC, April 2010

***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**

***South Carolina Lawyers Weekly***, “Bill to raise court fees clears House, Senate,” by Paul Tharp, May 10, 2010

***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 Domestic Law Practitioners***, Co-Chair, Columbia, SC, September 2011

***SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners***, Co-Chair, Columbia, SC, October 2010

***SC Bar, Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic 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

