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MUW OFFICE

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LAW OFFICE

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EDUCATION:

- Bachelor of Arts in Biology, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, 1971
- Juris Doctorate, University of Mississippi School of Law, Oxford, Mississippi, 1974
- Millsaps College

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

- January 1975 to August 1986: Adjunct Professor of Business and Paralegal Studies (ABA Approved 4 Year Program), Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
- August 1986 to August 1992: Assistant Professor of Paralegal Studies and Assistant Director, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
- August 1992 to August 1993: Associate Professor of Paralegal Studies, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
- August 1993 to August 1996: Tenured Associate Professor of Paralegal Studies, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
- August 1996 until July 1998: Full Professor of Paralegal Studies and Assistant Director, Mississippi University for Women,

- July 1998 until Present: Columbus, Mississippi
Full Professor of Paralegal Studies and Director
Paralegal Studies Program, Mississippi University for
Women, Columbus, Mississippi

COURSES TAUGHT:

- PLG 241 Legal Environment of Business
- PLG 301 Contracts
- PLG 325 Corporations
- PLG 327 Wills Trust and Estate Administration for the Paralegal
- PLG 410 Legal Readings
- PLG 428 Introduction to Real Estate Law
- PLG 429 Introduction to Civil Litigation
- PLG 431 Criminal Law
- PLG 432 Family Law
- PLG 434 Bankruptcy Law
- PLG 440 Practical Legal Lab

I have also taught a course entitled The Trust Business for the local chapter of the American Bankers Association and have been a guest lecturer in Business Law at George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

- June 1974 until Present: Full-time practicing attorney with the Firm of Carter & Davidson, Columbus, Mississippi
- January 1975: Began my association with Mississippi University for Women on an adjunct basis primarily teaching business law
- August 1986: Became a full time assistant professor in Paralegal Studies at Mississippi University for Women and continued law practice
- December 1989: Obtained a Real estate broker's license and began emphasizing real estate in my law practice
- August 1992: Associate Professor of Paralegal Studies, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
- August 1993: Granted Tenure, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi

- January 1994: Appointed as an Arbitrator with United States Arbitration and Mediation Corporation
- August 1996: Full Professor in Paralegal Studies, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
- July 1998: Full Professor in Paralegal Studies and Director of Paralegal Studies Program, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi;
- July 1998: Mediator approved and listed with the Mississippi Bar Association to provide ADR services to all state courts
- January 2001: Approved Neutral to offer Mediation and Arbitration in United State District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY: COMMITTEE WORK, INVOLVEMENT WITH STUDENT ACTIVITIES, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE STATE OR LOCAL COMMUNITY:

- 1988: Served as Chair of the Paralegal Faculty Search Committee of MUW
- 1993: Served as a member of the Search Committee to hire the Vice President for Academic Affairs
- 1995-1996: Served as the Chairman of the Search Committee for the Division Head of the Division of Business and Communications
- 1995: Requested by the University to conduct an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint which was brought to a conclusion pursuant to the policy of the University
- 1998: Served as a member of the Search Committee for the Head of the Division of Business and Economics
- 1992-Present: Served on the Scholar's Day Committee

I served on the SACS Committee for the years 1991-92 and 2001-2001, and I have been the Chairman of the Committee on Use of Human Subjects in Experimentation since 1991.

Since assuming the duties of Director of the Paralegal Studies Program, I have coordinated an American Bar Association site team visit for re-approval and the program was reapproved in February, 1999 and should be re-approved in Fall, 2002.

I have been very active in my profession, professional organizations, and in the community:

- Licensed and admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, Mississippi Supreme Court and all lower courts of the State of Mississippi
- Delegate to the American Bar Association Mid-Winter Meeting in New Orleans, LA, 1987
- Speaker, Lowndes County Association of Cost Accountants, 1991
- Speaker, American Society of Women Accountants, 1992
- Magnolia Kiwanis Club, Environmental Law, 1992
- Environmental Law, Eka Nobel Seminar Panelist, 1991
- Member of American Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, Lowndes County Bar Association Secretary, 1974, and President, 1991-92
- Chairman, Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, 1992
- Board of Directors, Columbus-Lowndes Economic Development Association, 1993
- President, Lowndes Community Foundation, Inc., 1993 to Present
- Board of Directors, Lowndes Economic Development Corporation, 1995 to Present
- Chairman, Advisory Board, Salvation Army of Lowndes County, 1992
- Board of Directors, Salvation Army of Lowndes County, 1988 to Present
- Board of Directors, Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society, 1980-1985
- Board of Directors, Emergency Medicine Associates, Inc., 1985 to 1995
- Board of Directors, Emergency Physician Services, Inc., 1985 to 1995
- Member, Mississippi State Bar Committee on Complaints, 1984
- Chairman, Mississippi State Bar Committee on Complaints, 1987
- Board of Directors, Young Lawyers Division of Mississippi State Bar, 1976 to 1983
- Administrative Board, First United Methodist Church
- Board of Trustees, First United Methodist Church, 2002
- Board of Directors, Safe Haven, 1988
- President, Columbus Exchange Club and Mississippi District Director, 1981-1982
- Participant, Program of Instruction for Lawyers, Harvard University Law School, 1988
- Participant, Toxic Torts and Environmental Litigation Conference, Washington, D.C., 1990
- Participant, Hazardous Waste and Environmental Law Conference, Washington, D.C., 1992
- Participant, Hazardous Waste and Environmental Law Conference, Washington, D.C., 1994
- Board of Directors, Columbus Air Force Base 2000
- Member of Executive Committee, Columbus Air Force Base 2000
- Board of Directors, Tower Keepers, MUW, 1992, 1993
- Participant and Speaker since 1985 at approximately 20 different seminars for continuing legal education and continuing real estate education
- Licensed as a Real Estate Broker by the Mississippi Real Estate Commission, 1989 to Present
- Incorporator of the MUW Alumnae Association, 1994, a nonprofit Foundation
- Served at the request of Mississippi State Superintendent of Education, Tom Burnham, on the statewide search Committee to choose the new head of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, 1992
- President of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Foundation, 2001-2002
- Vice President of Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Foundation, 1999-2000
- Board of Directors of Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Foundation, 1997 to Present

- Sponsor of Nu Epsilon Delta and LEX - Paralegal Honorary
- Board of Directors for Mississippi Foundation for Homecare and Hospice, Inc., 1995 to Present

SCHOLARSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS, CREATIVE WORKS, SERVICE IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

During the past several years I have written numerous legal memoranda, briefs to a variety of courts, and articles on various points of law. These memoranda and points of law have been used by many individuals and corporations as guides for their legal affairs, as well as by all courts currently sitting in Lowndes County. I have been involved in numerous appeals to the Mississippi State Supreme Court as well as appeals to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth District located in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the United States Supreme Court. These appeals have necessitated the writing of numerous lengthy briefs and the arguing of numerous points of law. In the practice of law, it becomes necessary on many occasions to prepare trial briefs, pretrial orders, and a number of other research papers which are necessary to either a full settlement of the issues or a court's final resolution of the issues.

I have previously written an article entitled "The Proper Hiring and Use of the Paralegal," which was published in the *Mississippi Lawyer*, the official publication of the Mississippi Bar Association, in 1993. I have also written a legal column for *The Commercial Dispatch* newspaper and several articles for the Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce newsletter. I have been the author of numerous resolutions of honor for the Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, and the Columbus Exchange Club. I further have assisted the faculty council at Mississippi University for Women in preparation of its resolution in support of Dr. Clyda Rent.

In 1992, as President of the Lowndes County Bar Association and Chairman of the Columbus Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, I had the distinct opportunity to prepare resolutions in support of MUW and against its closure as well as in support of preserving the Federal Courthouse in Aberdeen, Mississippi, and not allowing the transfer of powers to Tupelo, Mississippi. I was very fortunate, also in 1993, to be invited to a meeting with the Executive Director of the American Association of Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C. to discuss the *Ayers* case. Present were several staff representatives of Senator Lott, Senator Cochran, and Representative Montgomery, along with the Executive Director of the American Association of Dental Schools.

During my law practice, I have served on the Board of Directors of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar for approximately eight years. I have also served on the Committee on Professional Responsibility and was Chairman of that committee in 1987. In 1993, I served as Co-Chairman of the Paralegal Qualification and Certification Committee of the Mississippi Bar, and I formerly served as a member of the Fee Arbitration and Dispute Committee of the Mississippi Bar Association. I also serve as an arbitrator for the United States Arbitration and Mediation Association beginning in 1994 and have, to date, arbitrated approximately 20 cases to conclusion. I am a licensed Mediator registered with the Mississippi Bar Association and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi and have handled approximately 10 mediation cases to date.

During my legal career I have been involved in several prominent cases which establish or define legal precedence. I was the lead attorney in the case of *Borden v. Eskridge*, 604 So. 2d 1071 (Miss. 1991), which establishes the proposition that a person will be entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits for mental injuries incurred in the work place as an untoward aspect of employment. I was also attorney for the plaintiff in the case of *Thomas v. Hoffman LaRoche*, 949 F. 2d 806 (5th Cir. 1992), a case which was appealed to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which established a standard for toxic tort cases. I was defense attorney in the Mississippi case of *Jethrow v. Jethrow*, 571 So. 2d 270 (Miss. 1990), which was appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court, and which established the right of a person to put forth a witness who was eight years old and the competency of that witness to testify. I was also involved as plaintiff's attorney in the case of *Ellis v. Ellis*, 651 So. 2d 1068 (Miss. 1995), which has established the standards for termination of alimony. I am presently involved in an ongoing case styled *Dodson v. General Motors et al*, Lowndes Circuit #95-070-CV, which is a products liability case and which potentially may be landmark litigation concerning the responsibility of auto makers to provide latch devices in trunks of automobiles.