

Christian Stegmaier



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BIOGRAPHY

Christian Stegmaier is a voting shareholder of Collins & Lacy, P.C. with a practice focus in retail/hospitality/entertainment liability; appellate advocacy; and complex litigation.

In addition to his law degree (University of South Carolina, 2000), Christian holds a Masters in Public Health Administration (1995) from the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. This education, along with his experience at the Budget & Control Board's Office of Research & Statistics (6 years) and the Department of Health & Environmental Control's Office of General Counsel (2 years) has assisted him in defending the interests of clients involved in administrative disputes. He also holds a bachelor's degree in political science (1994) from the University of South Carolina. While in school, he was a member of the University Student Senate (2 terms) and Sigma Nu Fraternity.

Prior to joining Collins & Lacy, Christian served as a law clerk for The Honorable Ralph King Anderson, Jr., Judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals. During his tenure at the Court, Christian drafted approximately 200 written opinions and attended approximately 120 oral arguments. As a lawyer, he has handled in excess of 30 appeals while at Collins & Lacy.

In addition to his practice, Christian is an adjunct professor in the School of Hotel, Restaurant, & Tourism Management at the University of South Carolina's nationally acclaimed College of Hospitality, Retail & Sport Management. He has taught Hotel & Restaurant Law (HRTM 357) to upperclassman HRTM majors since Spring 2009. An Eagle Scout, Christian maintains his association with the Boy Scouts of America as chairman of the Three Rivers District of the Indian Waters Council (Lexington, Richland, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg Counties). The Three Rivers District is a special division of the council with the dedicated mission of introducing Scouting to Columbia's inner city and other economically disadvantaged areas within the council. A life-long Lutheran, Christian is currently serving a vice president of the Bethel Lutheran Church Council in White Rock.



Christian Stegmaier

PRACTICE FOCUS

- Retail/Hospitality/Entertainment
- Appellate Advocacy
- Complex Litigation

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Adjunct Professor, University of South Carolina, College of Hospitality, Retail & Sport Management,
- Defense Research Institute (Retail & Hospitality Substantive Law Committee, Vice-Chair, Webcast)
- Primerus (Chair, Retail/Hospitality/Entertainment Practice Group)
- Global Alliance of Hospitality Attorneys
- South Carolina Hospitality Association
- South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores
- South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association
- South Carolina Bar
- Richland County Bar Association
- Chairman, Three Rivers District, Indian Waters Counsel – Boy Scouts of America
- Vice President, Bethel Lutheran Church Council, White Rock

RATINGS

- Rated “BV” by Martindale-Hubbell
- Rated “9.0” or “Superb” by Avvo



Christian Stegmaier

Reported Cases & Other Selected Important Decisions/Outcomes Personally Handled by Stegmaier

- *Simmons v. Williams-Sonoma Stores, Inc.*, 2011 WL 2416302 (D.S.C. 2011) (obtained summary judgment for retailer client in premises liability case)
- *Gantt v. JCPenney Corporation, et. al*, 09-CP-10-7975 (Charleston County Common Pleas 2011) (resolved case in high exposure matter at trial for nuisance following impeachment of plaintiff during cross-examination)
- *Lahmann v. Joanne Schoch, Brays Island Plantation, Inc., and Brays Island Plantation Colony, Their Successors or Assigns*, 09-CP-07-3251 (resolved case within authority at trial in high exposure premises liability matter following presentation of the defense)
- *O'Quinn v. JCPenney Corporation, Inc.*, 09-CP-10-3331 (Charleston County Common Pleas 2010) (obtained summary judgment in premises liability matter)
- *O'Shea v. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division*, 390 S.C. 118, 700 S.E.2d 255 (Ct. App. 2010) (Court of Appeals affirmed Administrative Law Court decision concerning regulatory/licensure issue – pro bono appeal)
- *Grinnell Corporation v. Wood*, 389 S.C. 350, 698 S.E.2d 796 (2010) (Supreme Court reversed adverse decision of trial court concerning UIM/UM issue and rejection of meaningful offer by sophisticated entity)
- *Jordan v. Kelly Co., Inc.*, 381 S.C. 483, 674 S.E.2d 166 (2010) (Supreme Court reversed adverse decision of Court of Appeals in workers' compensation issue involving stress-induced injury)
- *Floyd v. C.B. Askins & Co., Contractors*, 382 S.C. 84, 675 S.E.2d 450 (Ct. App. 2009) (Court of Appeals reversed adverse decision of Workers' Compensation Commission)
- *Williams v. Watkins*, 379 S.C. 530, 665 S.E.2d 243 (Ct. App. 2008) (Court of Appeals upheld grant of summary judgment to social worker who had reported suspicion of abuse/neglect of vulnerable adult)
- *Nash v. Marriott Hotel Services, Inc.*, 2007 WL 3125315 (D.S.C. 2007) (grant of summary judgment in premises liability matter)
- *Murray v. Babcock Center*, 04-CP-32-4468 (Lexington County Common Pleas 2007) (grant of motion to dismiss)
- *Buckley v. The Pantry*, 06-CP-26-2920 (Horry County Common Pleas 2007) (grant of motion to dismiss in premises liability matter)
- *Tillery v. The Pantry, Inc.*, 2007 WL 1594380 (D.S.C. 2007) (grant of summary judgment in premises liability matter)
- *Glennie Earl Cox v. The Pantry, Inc. and Gannett Satellite Information Network, Inc.*, 4:05-cv-02760-TLW (D.S.C. 2007) (high exposure premises claim settled for nuisance following Plaintiff's deposition and production of Defendant's expert report)



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- *Simmons v. JCPenney Corporation, Inc.*, 6:07-CV-00184 (D.S.C. 2007) (high exposure premises claim settled for nuisance prior to MSJ)
- *Little River Cottage Site Property Owners Association, Inc. v. T. Lee & Associates, Inc.*, 8:06-CV-00826-GR (D.S.C. 2006) (successfully defended interests of homeowners association in dispute with developer of property on Lake Thurmond – was able to negotiate reduction of construction from 12 townhomes to 4 “estate size” lots)
- *Bonaparte vs. JCPenney Corporation, Inc. and J.C. Penney Properties, Inc.*, 5:05-2620-RBH (D.S.C. 2006) (high exposure premises claim settled for nuisance prior to MSJ)
- *Germeroth vs. Thomasson Brothers et. al.*, 03-CP-46-1313 (York County Common Pleas and Court of Appeals 2005) (successfully defended interests of group of home owners in dispute with hospice over location of facility – forced hospice to relocate to different part of York County)
- *United National v. Austin*, 7:04cv00155 (D.S.C. 2005) (grant of summary judgment in multimillion dollar insurance coverage dispute) (with GTC)
- *Romero v. Rodriguez*, 365 S.C. 80, 610 S.E.2d 488 (2005) (prevailed on appeal) (with SEL)
- *Martin v. JCPenney Corporation* (Charleston County Magistrate’s Court 2005) (negligible verdict – ER bills) (with SCB)
- *Anderson v. Toys R Us* (Richland County Common Pleas 2005) (directed verdict at trial)
- *Hamilton v R& L Transfer*, 361 S.C. 286, 604 S.E.2d 397 (Ct. App. 2004) (prevailed on appeal) (with WAB)
- *Tidwell v. HDS* (Darlington County Common Pleas 2004) (double fatality claim sounding in negligence and products liability – settled for modest amount prior to MSJ) (with JWC)
- *Montgomery v. Allied Waste Services* (Fairfield County Common Pleas 2004) (verdict less than client’s offer to settle and substantially less than Plaintiff’s demand) (with JWC)
- *Charleston Dry Cleaners & Laundry Inc. v. Zurich American Insurance Co.*, 355 S.C. 614, 586 S.E. 2d 586 (2003) (amicus party – position prevailed on appeal) (with GTC)
- *Robinson v. Hops* (Richland County Common Pleas 2002) (defense verdict at trial)



Christian Stegmaier

Papers, Presentations, News Articles and Publications

- Publisher of the South Carolina Retail & Hospitality Law Blog
- Publisher of retail/hospitality/entertainment-related tweets on Twitter at @cstegmaier
- Third Party Assault Case: What You Need to Know About Protecting Your Customers, Employees, and Business, South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores Fall Planning Conference, September 12, 2011, Columbia, South Carolina
- Identified by the University of South Carolina as a "Hurricane Expert" in the areas of retail and hospitality hurricane preparedness and emergency response, 2011
- Current Trends in Loss Prevention and Security, Defense Research Institute-Strictly Retail CLE, May 12, 2011, Chicago, Illinois (presented with Catherine Kays of JCPenney and Robert Vranek of Belk, Inc./Belk Stores Services, Inc.)
- Applying the Rules of Running a Successful Drive-thru to Satisfying Your Law Firm's Clients: The Surprising Connection, The Primerus 180, Spring 2011, at 9
- Understanding the South Carolina Tort Claims Act, March 7, 2011, South Carolina Public Risk Managers Association 2011 Conference, Greenville, South Carolina
- Limiting Liability in Alcohol Sales, The 2011 Southeast Petro-Food Marketing Exposition, March 2, 2011, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- Ripped from the Headlines: Avoiding Liability and Negative Publicity by Taking Lessons from Actual News Stories (with Elizabeth DeConti and David T. Denney), Ninth Annual Hospitality Law Conference, February 9-11, 2011, Houston, Texas
- Celebrating New Year's Eve Safely (quoted in WECT-TV web story), December 31, 2010
- In Defense of Your First Amendment Rights (with Jay Bender and Timothy Silvester), Clemson University, William T. Howell Prelaw Society Lecture, October 13, 2010, Clemson, South Carolina
- Beer & Wine Permit Holders Take Note! South Carolina Supreme Court Issues Important Alcohol Liability Decision Concerning Service of Intoxicated Persons, July 28, 2010
- Supreme Court Ruling Raises Liability on Alcohol Retailers (interview on WIS-TV), July 28, 2010
- Social Media and Claims Investigation: Do You Know About Foursquare?, The Claims SPOT, June 28, 2010
- Report on Midlands Aviation Summit, Midlands Biz, June 30, 2010
- What You Need to Know About Defending Lawsuits in South Carolina, South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores Spring 2010 Symposium, May 4, 2010, Columbia, South Carolina
- Interview with Christian Stegmaier, 22tweets.com, May 28, 2009
- No Way Out: Removal of Cases to Federal Court, Primerus Defense Institute Convocation, April 24, 2009, (with The Honorable Karon O. Bowdre, United States District Court, Northern District of Alabama and Deborah Alley Smith of Christian & Small, LLP), Tucson, Arizona
- The Ins and Outs of Defending Personal Injury Lawsuits, Hospitality World Network, September 15, 2008



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- What's the Verdict: Successfully Defending a Food Liability Claim by Demonstrating a Commitment to Food Safety, Food Safety Solutions, Spring 2008
- Defending the Food Liability Claim, Sixth Annual Hospitality Law Conference, February 11-13, 2008, Houston, Texas
- The Dangers of YouTube to Your Company's Branding Message, Hospitality News, February 2008, at 10
- Don't Be the Hero: Training Team Members to Avoid Confrontation with Robbers, Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association, Hospitality at a Glance Newsletter, January 16, 2008
- Don't Be the Hero: Training Team Members to Avoid Confrontation with Robbers, Primerus Defense Institute – Defensively Speaking (Internet Newsletter), Winter 2008
- Let Civility Ring! Cut Out the Catty Language, Primerus Paradigm, Winter 2008
- California Court of Appeal Outlines Standard for Allergen Claims, Sysco Today, Fall 2007, at 50
- Controlling Claims with Kindness, In The Mix, Fall 2007, at 76
- Food Safety and the Law: Defending and Preventing a Coffee Burn Lawsuit, Food Safety Solutions, Fall 2007, at 52
- Responding to the Dangers of Employee Blogging, Best Western H.E.L.P. Guide, 2007, at 81
- Franchisor Not Responsible for Hotel Guest's Death, Best Western H.E.L.P. Guide, 2007, at 83
- South Carolina Court of Appeals Reviews Landowner Duty of Care to Trespassers Injured on Undeveloped Commercial Property, Hospitality News, May 2007, at 19
- General Assembly Amends Procedures for DHEC Staff Decisions, Hospitality News, April 2007, at 19
- South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores – Spring 2007 Legal Update, March-April-May 2007
- Food Safety and the Law: Getting Tough with Food Claims, Spring 2007, Food Safety Solutions, at 54
- Think Carefully Before Pointing Swords at Your Customers: A Review of the Law of "Dangerous Conditions," Hospitalitylawyer.com Monthly Newsletter, April 2007
- South Carolina Supreme Court Issues Ruling on Social Host Liability, Hospitality News, March 2007, at 19
- Franchisor Not Responsible for Hotel Guest's Death, Hospitality News, February 2007, at 17
- Defending the Food Liability Claim, Fifth Annual Hospitality Law Conference, February 8-9, 2007, Houston, Texas
- Turning Over the Rocks: Getting the Good on Plaintiffs and Learning the "Real" Facts About the People Suing You, South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores website, 2007
- Inside the Judge's Chambers: The Honorable Ralph King Anderson, Jr., The Defense Line, Fall 2006, at 11
- International Bed Bug Symposium Provides Attendees with Difficult Truths About the Growth and Spread of Bed bug Infestation, Collins & Lacy, P.C. Hospitality Liability Report, September 2011



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- Federal District Court Gives Teeth To The “Open And Obvious” Defense in Inclement Weather Slip and Fall Cases, The Defense Line, Summer 2006
- Presentations in 2003, 2004, and 2005 for Lorman Educational Services relating to the Confidentiality of Psychiatric and Drug Treatment Records in Litigation

Representative Clients (Active)-Relationship Shareholder

- Belk
- JCPenney
- Marriott
- Sodexo
- Live Nation/House of Blues
- Republic Services
- Advance Auto Parts
- Tire Kingdom
- Verizon Communications/Verizon South
- Babcock Center
- Toys R Us
- Jack in the Box
- Williams Sonoma

