ROBINSON GRAY
Litigation + Business

Beth Burke Richardson

MEMBER

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BETH HAS BEEN PRACTICING LAW FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. HER PRACTICE FOCUSES ON BUSINESS DISPUTES, IN COURTROOM AND ARBITRATION SETTINGS, INCLUDING FINRA.

Beth's clients include publicly traded and private companies and their officers and employees operating in a wide array of industries such as real estate, insurance, energy and utility, restaurant and retail, financial investing, and health care. Beth also represents clients with trust and estate issues, and on appeals, particularly in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She has handled successful appeals of cases involving issues of first impression and divided authorities. Beth also regularly assists other lawyers in ethics matters.

Before joining the firm in 2013, Beth served as an adjunct professor in Advanced Legal Writing at the University of South Carolina School of Law and was an associate for five years at a BigLaw firm. Beth completed judicial clerkships in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. She received her law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where she served as Editor in Chief of the Law Review and was the National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Graduate. Her undergraduate degree is from Duke University.

Most recently, she began teaching Legal and Equitable Remedies at the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Securities and FINRA
- Probate and Estate Litigation
- Appellate
- Legal Liability and Ethics

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented plaintiffs moving on behalf of the United States to recover for violations of the False Claims Act, as well as represented defendant companies and executive officers being investigated or sued by the United States for alleged violations of the False Claims Act.
- Represented developers in disputes involving the sale or development of commercial real estate, including successfully winning specific performance of a contract on summary judgment.
- Represented restaurants and other big box corporations in commercial contract and business tort disputes involving claims for breach of contract/breach of the implied covenant of good faith, the South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act, intentional interference with contractual relations, negligent misrepresentation, fraud, fraud in the inducement, and conversion.
- Represented Personal Administrators and heirs before the probate court in estate disputes involving, among other matters, the removal of personal administrator for lack of diligence or conflict of interest/self-dealing and the interpretation of Wills or intestate laws and the distribution of estate assets.
- Represented Trustees and Trusts or trust beneficiaries in trust disputes involving, among other matters, an alleged breach of fiduciary duty by the Trustee in the management or distribution of Trust assets or the interpretation of trust terms related to the administration of or distribution of trust assets among beneficiaries.
- Represented clients in appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, the South Carolina Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and assisted lawyers in preparing briefs and for oral argument on appeal.
- Represented lawyers before the Office of Disciplinary Counsel for a wide variety of alleged violations of South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, obtaining dismissal of cases as well as negotiating consent agreements accepted by the South Carolina Supreme Court.
- Represented members of limited liability companies or shareholders in corporations in disputes involving shareholder oppression, judicial dissolution, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, and self-dealing.
- Represented financial advisers and financial investment companies as well as financial consumers in disputes before FINRA.
- Represented insurance companies and insured businesses in various commercial coverage disputes and defended insurance companies in life and workers' compensation insurance coverage disputes.

RANKINGS AND RECOGNITION

- Chambers U.S.A. America's Leading Lawyers for Business
  - Litigation: General Commercial (2024-2026)
- South Carolina Super Lawyers
  - Business Litigation (2017-2026)
- Best Lawyers in America
  - Commercial Litigation (2021-2026)
  - Litigation-Securities (2022-2027)

    - Lawyer of the Year (2024)
  - Appellate Practice (2024, 2026, 2027)
  - Legal Malpractice Law- Defendants (2026, 2027)
  - Qui Tam Law (2026, 2027)
  - Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law (2027)
- *Columbia Business Monthly* Legal Elite of the Midlands
  - Business Litigation (2026)
  - Appellate (2023)
  - Estate & Trust – Litigation (2023)
- *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly* Diversity & Inclusion Award Recipient (2019)
- *Columbia Regional Business Report* Women of Influence Award Recipient (2019)
- *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly* Leadership in Law Honoree (2017)
- National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Graduate (2001)

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- CLE Presenter, South Carolina Legal Ethics and Practice Program Trust School (2026)
- Presenter, "Analysis: District of SC Decisions (Last 5 Years)," South Carolina Bar CLE (February 2026)
- CLE Presenter, South Carolina Legal Ethics and Practice Program Trust School (2025)
- Panelist, "From Courtroom to Boardroom: Community Leadership, Influence, and Impact," South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division and United Way of the Midlands Young Leaders Society (2025)
- CLE Presenter, South Carolina Legal Ethics and Practice Program Trust School (September 2023)
- Speaker, "Appellate Advocacy – Importance of Oral Argument: View from Appellate Lawyers who Previously Served as Appellate Court Law Clerks," South Carolina Bar Appellate Advocacy Workshop (November 2022)
- Panelist, "Women in Business Law," Panel for the University of South Carolina School of Law student groups: Business Law Association and Women in Law (September 2022)
- Presenter, "Legal Ethics and Practice Program," Trust Account School Presentation on Rule 417 (September 2022)
- Presenter, "Legal Ethics and Practice Program," Trust Account School Presentation on Rule 412 & Rule 417 (March 2022)
- Speaker, 2021 Federal Practice in South Carolina, "Practicing Before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit" and "Do I Really Want to Serve as Local Counsel?" (November 2021)
- Panelist, Business Torts in South Carolina "ADR/Mediation – Is There a Better Option?" (October 2021)
- Presenter, "Legal Ethics and Practice Program," Trust Account School Presentation on Rule 417 (April 2021)
- Presenter, "Legal Ethics and Practice Program," Trust Account School Presentation Live Webcast (March 2021)
- Panelist, "Build a Culture of Inclusion to Retain High Potential Diverse Talent at Midsize Law Firms," Thomas Reuters' virtual Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable (February 2021)

- Co-Editor and Author, United States Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit Appellate Practice Book published by the South Carolina Bar (2021)
- Co-Author, “Two Law Firms Paving the Way in South Carolina and Beyond” article in The Federal Lawyer , The Magazine of the Federal Bar Association (July/August 2020)
- Presenter, “FCA Defenses: Public Disclosure Bar,” South Carolina Bar CLE (May 2017)
- Presenter with Deborah Barbier, “Individual Liability Under the False Claims Act,” South Carolina Medical Association Health Law Symposium (February 2017)
- Presenter with Deborah Barbier, “Parallel Proceedings – False Claims Act,” South Carolina Bar Convention, Greenville, South Carolina (January 2017)
- Presenter with Deborah Barbier, “Parallel Proceedings in False Claims Act Cases,” False Claims Act/Qui Tam Whistleblower Litigation Involving Health Care Providers, South Carolina Bar CLE (May 2016)
- “The Road to Richmond: A First Timer’s Trip to the U.S. Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit,“ South Carolina Bar CLE (2016)
- “The Road to Richmond: Tips for a First-Timer’s Trip to the Fourth Circuit,” South Carolina Lawyer magazine (January 2016)
- South Carolina is Huge Beneficiary of South Carolina Presidential Primaries, ELECT Blog (2016)
- Sowell Gray’s Appellate Advocacy Group Devotes Significant Time to Pro Bono Appellate Matters, The Advocate’s Journal (2015)
- Significant Sovereign Immunity Questions Now Answered, The Advocate’s Journal (2014)
- A Conversation with Judith Lichtman a/k/a “The 101st Senator”, published in The Briefcase, South Carolina Women Lawyers Association, Summer 2005 and in the Women in the Profession Newsletter for the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (Spring 2005)
- Secret Settlements: Power point discussion regarding confidentiality provisions in settlement agreements, presented firm wide to Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough, LLC (April 2004)
- To Preclude or Not to Preclude: Section 1983 Claims Surviving Title IX’s Onslaught, 78 WASH. U.L.Q. 148 (2000).
- First Author and Editor, Preventing Neural Tube Defects: A Prevention Model and Resource Guide (1998)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Professor, Joseph F. Rice School of Law, University of South Carolina
  - Legal and Equitable Remedies (2023-Present)
  - Advanced Legal Writing (2013-2014)
- Judicial Clerk, The Honorable Henry Michael Herlong, Jr., U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina (June-August 2005)
- Judicial Clerk, The Honorable William B. Traxler, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (2004-2005)
- Judicial Clerk, The Honorable Cameron McGowan Currie, U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina (2001-2003)

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Professional

- Federal Bar Association
  - President, South Carolina Chapter (2019-2020)
- Member, Judicial Conference of the Fourth Circuit
- South Carolina Bar
- Richland County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
  - Former Chair, Young Lawyers Division Women in the Profession Committee (2004-2005)
- South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
- U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina
  - District Court Local Rules Advisory Committee (2017-2019)
- Riley Institute, Diversity Leaders Initiative
  - Midlands Spring 2019 Class
- Women's White Collar Defense Association, South Carolina Chapter

Community

- Columbia Museum of Art
  - Board of Directors (2022-Present)
- Heathwood Hall Board of Trustees (2018-Present)
- Central Carolina Community Foundation
  - Board of Trustees (2016-2022)
  - Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
- Women's Right and Empowerment Network (WREN)
  - Board of Directors (2016-2023)
  - Chair (2019-2022)
- New Morning Foundation (2009-2017)
  - Chair, Board of Directors (2014-2017)
- East Point Academy
  - Vice Chair, Board of Directors (2013-2016)
  - Homeroom Parent (2013-2014)
- Robinson Gray 20 Years Strong Service Project
- FBA, Schoolhouse to Courthouse Keys Program (2016-2018)
- University Hill Neighborhood Association
  - Secretary (2014-2016)
- Historic Columbia
  - Historic Real Estate Committee (2017-2019)

- Junior League of Columbia (2004-Present)
- Montessori School of Columbia 30th Anniversary Celebration and Auction
  - Former Chair (2014)
- One Columbia for Arts and History Volunteer (2011-2012, 2013-2014)
- South Carolina Attorney General's Office Criminal Domestic Violence Prosecution Program (2007-2008)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Legislative Ad Hoc Oversight (2008)
- USMC Mud Run (April 2012)

CREDENTIALS

Bar Admissions

- South Carolina Bar

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina
- U.S. Supreme Court

Education

- Washington University Law School in St. Louis, J.D. (2001)
  - Editor in Chief, Washington University Law Quarterly (May 2000-2001)
  - Law Merit Scholarship (1999-2001)
  - Honors Scholar Award (1999-2000)
- Duke University, B.A. in Women's Studies (1997)
  - President, Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity

RELATED INDUSTRIES

- Corporate and Business
- Healthcare and Professional Services
- Lawyers and the Legal Profession
- Wealth Transfer Planning