

# Robert E. Stepp

RETIRED MEMBER

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**BOBBY RETIRED FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, CONCLUDING A DISTINGUISHED CAREER DEFINED BY EXCEPTIONAL ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION.**

Over decades of practice, he earned a reputation as one of South Carolina's most respected litigators, known for handling complex commercial disputes at both the trial and appellate levels. As a named partner of Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, Bobby played an integral role in shaping the firm's reputation and advancing a culture rooted in integrity, civility, and excellence.

His practice spanned professional liability defense, corporate governance and shareholder disputes, constitutional and voting rights litigation, product liability, and other high-stakes business matters. He regularly represented lawyers, law firms, businesses, developers, and public entities in significant state and federal proceedings, including matters before the South Carolina appellate courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Bobby's career was defined not only by results, but by professionalism and civility. A Fellow of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates, he received numerous honors recognizing his legal skill and leadership, including the South Carolina Bar's Trial and Appellate Advocacy Award, Best Lawyers' "Lawyer of the Year," and the Richland County Bar Association's Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award. He was consistently recognized by Chambers USA, Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers, and Benchmark Litigation.

In addition to his courtroom accomplishments, Bobby was a sought-after author and speaker on appellate advocacy and legal malpractice, and he remained deeply engaged in professional and community leadership throughout his career—leaving a lasting legacy at Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte and within the broader South Carolina legal community.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented lawyers and law firms in multiple legal malpractice suits arising from real estate, probate, business, family law, litigation, and corporate matters.
- Represented majority shareholder of closely held businesses in corporate oppression and dissolution actions.
- Represented S.C. House and Senate in various matters challenging the constitutionality of legislation and legislative actions.
- Represented S.C. Public Benefits authority in statutory and constitutional challenges to funding and contribution requirements.
- Represented multiple developers, sellers and purchasers in matters relating to commercial real estate sales and development.
- Represented clients in state and federal appellate courts in high profile cases.

## RANKINGS AND RECOGNITION

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Richland County Bar Association Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award (2022)
- *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly* Leadership in Law Honoree (2019)
- South Carolina Bar Trial and Appellate Advocacy Award (2014)
- Best Lawyers in America
  - Bet-the-Company Litigation (2017-2026)
    - Lawyer of the Year (2017)
  - Commercial Litigation (2005-2026)
- Chambers U.S.A. America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2007-2018) (Tier 1, 2012-present)
- South Carolina Super Lawyers
  - Top Ten List (2022-2023)
  - Top 25 List (2009- 2011, 2014-2015)
  - Business Litigation (2008-2019, 2024, 2025)
- *Columbia Business Monthly* Legal Elite of the Midlands (2018)
- *Benchmark Litigation* Local Litigation Star (2009-2016)
- *Benchmark Appellate* Local Star (2012)
- *Litigation Special Report* Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Litigation (2012)
- USC Law School Alumni Association Compleat Lawyer Award Gold Medallion (2004)

## PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, "National Trends in Legal Malpractice Claims," What's Next?: Emerging Issues in Legal Malpractice Law, South Carolina Bar CLE (2025)

- Contributing Author, [\*Practicing before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit: A Guide from Start to Finish\*](#), South Carolina Bar CLE Division (2021)
- Speaker, “The Winner Takes It All: Real Estate Case Law Update Including Gooldy,” South Carolina Bar CLE, Dave Whitener Real Estate Workshop, Kiawah Island, South Carolina (July 2018)
- Panelist, “One Issue, Two Perspectives: Legal Malpractice in South Carolina,” [\*Current Issues in Legal Malpractice\*](#), South Carolina Bar CLE, Columbia, South Carolina (December 2017)
- Co-Author, [\*The Law of Legal Malpractice in South Carolina\*](#), First and Second Editions, South Carolina Bar CLE Division
- “Don’t Raise Your Voice. Improve Your Argument.” Preparing for and Delivering an Excellent Oral Argument, South Carolina Lawyer (July 2013)

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Professional

- Richland County Bar Association
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Federal Bar Association
- South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association
- John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court
  - Litigation Counsel of America
  - Barrister, Order of Veritas
  - Advocate, Order of Certus
  - Trial Law Institute
  - Diversity Law Institute

### Community

- Robinson Gray 20 Years Strong Service Project
- South Carolina Philharmonic
  - Former President, Board of Directors

## CREDENTIALS

### Bar Admissions

- South Carolina Bar



#### **Court Admissions**

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

#### **Education**

- University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., 1977
  - Order of Wig and Robe
  - South Carolina Law Review
- University of South Carolina, B.A., 1972