

SPEED, SETA, MARTIN, TRIVETT & STUBLEY, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

REPLY TO

WALLACE SPEED (1940-2020)
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ERIC L. TRIVETT (GA)
M. STEPHEN STUBLEY (SC)
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GEORGE D. GALLAGHER (SC), of counsel

SPEED & SETA, LLC was formed in 2001 by Wallace Speed and Lesli Seta. The firm has expanded to become **SPEED, SETA, MARTIN, TRIVETT & STUBLEY, LLC**, a regional firm serving all of the Southeast, with offices in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The attorneys practicing at the firm dedicate their practice to the defense of businesses in civil litigation, including workers' compensation, subrogation, general liability, and federal Longshore & Harbor Workers' Compensation. The firm proudly represents some of the largest insurance companies, employers, and third-party administrators in the country, in addition to local boards of education, local governments, and self-insured employers in our communities. Martindale-Hubble rates the firm as an AV firm, the highest possible rating under the Martindale-Hubbell law firm rating system, and the firm's attorneys have been named to Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

PARTNERS

WALLACE SPEED (1941-2020) graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, and he subsequently served seven years on active duty in the Army (Infantry) prior to entering law school. He graduated from the Emory University School of Law and then spent several years as a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Atlanta. There he prosecuted numerous major felony cases, including the "Atlanta Missing and Murdered Children" case which attracted international attention. While at the DA's office he attended Georgia State University at night and obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration. He was later appointed to the position of Administrative Law Judge with the State Board of Workers' Compensation. He subsequently entered private practice and has devoted his practice to insurance defense litigation. He was a member of both the Georgia and Tennessee Bars, and he was an arbitrator for the National Arbitration Forum. He was a Colonel (retired) in the U S Army Reserve.

LESLI R. SETA obtained a degree in International Relations from Georgetown University, where she graduated *cum laude*. She graduated with honors from Georgia State University College of Law, where she was Student Bar Association President, SBA Delegate to the American Bar Association, a member of the Moot Court Regional and National Competition Teams, Appellate Advocacy Finalist, recipient of the ABA Bronze Key Award, and was chosen as the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers' Outstanding Student of the Year. After graduation she accepted a position as Staff Attorney with the State Board of Workers' Compensation, where she assisted with appellate review of litigated claims. She then joined Speed's former firm as an associate and was rapidly elevated to partner. She has served as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University College of Law, teaching Workers' Compensation. Additionally, she has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Council to the Chairman of the State Board of Workers' Compensation. She served nine years in the U S Army Reserve, attaining the rank of Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps. She is a member of both the Georgia and Florida Bars. She is multi-lingual with fluency in Italian and Spanish.

SETH C. MARTIN attended North Georgia College (now University of North Georgia) for his undergraduate work and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army, and subsequently served a tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Thereafter, he attended Georgia State University College of Law where he earned honors in Litigation and Workers' Compensation. He is licensed to practice in both Georgia and Florida, and focuses his practice in the areas of workers' compensation and general liability. Seth is an approved continuing education provider for Georgia and is available for seminars on a variety of workers' compensation topics resulting in one to three hours CEU credit with the State of Georgia. He holds an AV-Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell for the highest level of professional excellence and ethical standing, and he was selected to the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Georgia Rising Stars Super Lawyers list. Seth is a member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance and the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association. Seth works with the Gwinnett Pro Bono Project providing legal service to indigent residents of Gwinnett County.

ERIC L. TRIVETT attended Mercer University as a Plunkett Scholar, where he graduated *summa cum laude* and obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. During his third year, he studied abroad at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. He then attended Mercer Law School as a Woodruff Scholar. In law school, he was a member of the national moot court team; won second place in the Lawson Moot Court Competition; and was named best advocate in the preliminary and final rounds at the regional level of the National Moot Court Competition, where the team captured the regional championship. He graduated Order of the Barristers from Mercer Law School with the degree of Juris Doctor and was named the James C. Estes Outstanding Graduate. Eric exclusively represents insurance companies, closely held and publicly traded corporations, and governmental organizations. He has served as lead counsel at over 75 trials or hearings and has represented clients before all Georgia courts, including the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Eric is a member of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance and the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, and he is a frequent speaker on the subjects of strategies for claim defense and developments in Georgia law.

M. STEPHEN STUBLEY obtained a Bachelor's degree from The Citadel where he was on the Dean's List and served as a member of the Honor Committee and Summerall Guards. He earned his Juris Doctor at Mississippi College School of Law and authored the "Revised Law School Honor Code." Stephen practices in the areas of workers' compensation defense, civil litigation, subrogation and workers' compensation appeals. Before practicing law, Stephen was a Law Clerk for the Honorable Paul E. Short, Jr., South Carolina Circuit Court Judge. Stephen has achieved an AV-Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell and was one of six attorneys selected as a member of the Midlands Legal Elite in the field of Workers' Compensation Defense. Since 2014 Stephen has been named to "The Best Lawyers in America" in the field of Workers' Compensation Law – Employers. Stephen is the Managing Partner of the Firm's South Carolina office and has oversight of both South Carolina and North Carolina jurisdictions. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association, and the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance.

STEPHANIE A. ROCKWELL graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies, Management and International Business from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Georgia State University College of Law. While at Georgia State University, Stephanie concentrated on Employment and Sports law. Stephanie joined the firm as a first-year associate. She is licensed to practice law in Georgia and Tennessee including all State and Superior Courts in Georgia, the Northern District of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, and all courts in Tennessee. Stephanie has been appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court as a Mentor for the State Bar's "Transition into Law Practice Program." She is also a member of the Workers' Compensation and Employment sections of the State Bar of Georgia and the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance.

ANDREA S. OWEN graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's degree in History and a minor in Sociology. After graduation, she traveled through Europe for a year before moving to Korea to teach English. She then returned stateside to attend law school at the University of Georgia. While in law school, Andrea was the ABA representative for the University of Georgia. Andrea is a member of the State Bar of Georgia as well as a certified mediator.

HUNTER CHANDLER graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and a minor in Spanish in 2004. While at the University of Georgia, Hunter was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and participated in the UGA en España study abroad program in the summer of 2003. Hunter then attended the University of Mississippi School of Law, graduating *summa cum laude* in 2008. While in law school, Hunter served as the Executive Notes & Comments Editor for the Mississippi Law Journal, a teaching assistant for constitutional law and civil procedure, the 3L representative on the law school's honor council, and a research assistant for the founding of the Mississippi Innocence Project. Hunter has practiced in a variety of areas, including venture capital, private equity, outsourcing, workers' compensation defense, and general liability defense. He is licensed to practice law in Georgia and Tennessee.

JAMES E. L. FICKLING graduated *magna cum laude* from the Citadel with a degree in history. As an undergraduate, Eddie was named to the Dean's List, the President's List and the Honor Council. He went on to earn his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law where he was part of the Mock Trial Bar. He is licensed to practice law in South Carolina and North Carolina, and focuses his practice on workers' compensation defense, subrogation, civil litigation, and utilities law. Eddie is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, and the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Education Association.

OF COUNSEL

GEORGE D. GALLAGHER graduated *cum laude* from The Citadel and earned his Juris Doctor at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, George worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Paul E. Short, Jr., Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of South Carolina. Thereafter, he was partner for several years with a large multi-state insurance defense firm before joining the firm as *of counsel*. George is licensed to practice law in South Carolina and has over 20 years of experience handling complex worker's compensation matters. He is a frequent speaker before various industry groups on worker's compensation topics. He has completed the South Carolina Bar Civil Mediation certification program and is eligible to mediate South Carolina Worker's Compensation claims, which continues to be a focal point of his practice. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association and the South Carolina Workers Compensation Educational Association.

SENIOR ATTORNEYS

ALEX ADKINS graduated with a Bachelor's degree *cum laude* in Broadcast News Journalism from the University of Georgia after three years of study. While at Georgia, he spent two years producing a daily news broadcast that aired on university television. After graduation, Alex worked for Turner Broadcasting and Fox Sports South before attending law school. He graduated from the Georgia State University College of Law; while there Alex was involved in the Criminal Law Association, the Public Interest Law Association, and the Oglethorpe Society. After graduation, he joined the firm and specializes in the defense of workers' compensation claims in Georgia. Alex is licensed to practice law in Georgia & Tennessee. He is a member of the Workers' Compensation section of the State Bar of Georgia.

JEREMY T. ENGLAND received his B.A. Degree in Political Science at Mississippi State University where he served as Vice President of the Student Association and graduated *magna cum laude* in 2005. Jeremy went on to receive his J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2008. While in law school, Jeremy served on the Moot Court Board and the Law School Student Government Association. He was named the Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year for the State of Mississippi for 2014-2015, and he has been named a Mid-South Rising Star by Super Lawyer Magazine each year from 2012-2016. Jeremy is an active member of the Mississippi Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division, and in recognition of his work as a Young Lawyer, Jeremy was nominated as a Fellow to the American Bar Foundation. Jeremy is a Member of all State Courts in Mississippi and Alabama, and all Federal Courts in Mississippi and the 5th Circuit. Jeremy primarily practices in the area of workers' compensation defense,

but he also has experience in civil litigation defense, wills and estates, family law and DUI defense.

BENTON HILBURN graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in History. While at the University of Georgia, Benton held several leadership positions in Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He also volunteered with Chase Street Elementary School, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, and HERO, and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Benton then attended the University of Georgia School of Law where he graduated *cum laude*. Benton began working for the firm in 2007 as a clerk. He was then hired as an attorney and began handling workers' compensation cases immediately upon graduation from law school in 2012. In 2016, he was promoted to Senior Attorney. Benton is an active member of the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance and is licensed to practice law in Georgia. He is a member of the Workers' Compensation and Tort & Insurance Practice sections of the State Bar.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEYS

SCOTT ANDREWS graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science in 2016. While at Alabama, Scott traveled abroad in Belize, performing research about coral reef ecology, and he presented his findings at the University of Alabama Research Conference. Scott earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2019. While in law school, Scott was a member of the Prosecutorial Justice Program, where he was sworn in under the Third Year Practice Act. Through this Program, he argued pretrial motions and participated in criminal court proceedings with the District Attorney's Office of the Western Judicial Circuit in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Scott also served as an Articles and Notes Editor of the Journal of Intellectual Property Law. Scott was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2019 and joined Speed Seta's workers' compensation defense practice.

MELISSA J. CRUZ received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Emory University Goizueta School of Business. After graduation, she worked at an Atlanta-based law firm specializing in workers' compensation. Melissa earned her Juris Doctor from Georgia State University College of Law. While attending law school, she served as an Associate Research Editor for the Editorial Board of the Georgia State University Law Review. As a member of the Moot Court Board, she competed in the Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition. She also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Kimberly E. Adams in Fulton County Superior Court. Melissa is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

CHARLES A. KINNEY graduated from undergraduate (2004) and law school (2008) from the University of South Carolina, where he was on the dean's list at each. Charles clerked for a South Carolina Circuit Court Judge his first year out of law school, and then went into private practice. Charles has practiced law as both a plaintiff's lawyer and defense attorney, which can give him a different viewpoint in evaluating and recommending early resolution strategies. Charles' practice areas include trucking and transportation, premises and products liability, and professional liability (including representing registered investment advisors, insurance brokers, and broker-dealers in state and federal court, as well as before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority

(FINRA). Charles is licensed in all state courts of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. He is also licensed in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, and the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Charles is a member of CLM (where he is a Certified Claims Professional (CCP) and Certified Litigation Management Professional (CLMP)), DRI, the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorney Association, and he is actively involved in the South Carolina Bar's Ethics Advisory Committee, Professional Responsibility Committee, Professional Liability Committee, and Resolution of Fee Disputes Board. Charles lives in Columbia with his wife, Elizabeth, and two children.

Sara P. Morris is a 2018 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law. Sara previously worked for a small education and employment law firm where her practice was primarily focused on civil litigation and special education law. While in law school, Sara was on the Executive Board for the Moot Court Bar and a member of the Order of Barristers. As an active member of the Moot Court Bar, she was selected to compete in the 2018 American Bar Association Moot Court Regional Competition in Boston. For her service to the Moot Court Bar, Sara received the 2018 Robert T. Bockman Award, an award rooted in service and commitment. Sara attended the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, South Carolina, where she graduated with honors in 2010. From there, Sara attended Anderson University, where she graduated cum laude with a degree of Bachelor of Art in Music in 2014. Sara is an active member of the South Carolina Bar Association and the Richland County Bar Association.

CALEY A. PITTS graduated magna cum laude from Mercer University with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and minors in English and Media Studies. After graduation, she worked at a product liability firm in Athens, Georgia for a year. She then attended law school at the University of Georgia. While in law school, Caley was a member of the Student Bar Association and an intern at the Solicitor General's office of Athens-Clarke County. Caley is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

KELSIE L. QUEEN graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of South Carolina Upstate where she obtained the degree of Bachelor of Science in Experimental Psychology and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi and Psi Chi honor societies. While at Upstate, she was a four-year starter for the university's volleyball program and served as captain of the team for three of her four years. Kelsie was named to the Atlantic Sun Academic All-Conference Team and received the Atlantic Sun President's Award her senior year. Kelsie earned her Juris Doctor at the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2018. While in law school, she served as President of the Labor and Employment Law Society, Staff Development Editor for the Journal of Law and Education, and a peer mentor. Kelsie joined the firm as a first-year associate and is licensed to practice law in South Carolina and North Carolina. She is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Bar Association, Richland County Bar Association, and the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association.

JENNIFER RAY has an extensive legal background in both criminal and civil litigation. As a former prosecutor and in her current general liability and workers' compensation practices, Jennifer spends the majority of her time litigating cases and advocating for her clients in the courtroom. Jennifer graduated with highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, from Emory University with a Bachelor of Arts. While studying as an

undergraduate student, Jennifer took many Masters-level courses and completed an honors thesis that was later published through the Emory University Robert E. Woodruff Library. Jennifer attended the University of Georgia School of Law and successfully handled cases through the school's esteemed student clinics. Jennifer is licensed to practice law in Georgia, including all State and Superior Courts, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, and the Northern District of Georgia. She is a member of the Workers' Compensation section of the State Bar of Georgia and the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association.

SARAH V. SNIPES graduated with honors from South Georgia State College with an Associate of Arts in Sociology in 2012. She graduated magna cum laude from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in 2014. While at South Georgia State College, Sarah ran NJCAA cross-country and received an award from NJCAA for academic excellence in collegiate sports.

Sarah joined Speed Seta as a law clerk in her second year of law school and in 2019 earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law. While at Georgia Law, she worked as a full-time extern for the Litigation Division of the State of Georgia Attorney General's Office. The Litigation Division includes workers compensation, civil rights and torts defense. She also served as a part-time extern for Georgia's House of Representatives' 2018 Legislative Session with House Speaker David Ralston and Majority Leader Jon Burns. Sarah's graduation research focused on tax repercussions for settlements that include non-disclosure agreements after the 2017 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act. Sarah has concentrated her practice in the area of workers' compensation defense and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

MARK M. STUBLEY JR. received his B.A in Economics with a minor in business from Sewanee: The University of the South in 2016. He then went on to received his J.D. from Cumberland Law in 2019. He is licensed to practice law in Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Briggs P. Tucker Briggs P. Tucker graduated from The Citadel in 2010 with a B.A. in History and a Minor in Law and Legal Studies. While at The Citadel, Briggs was a three-time recipient of the Gold Star academic award and was named to the Dean's List on five occasions. Briggs was an active member in student affairs at The Citadel where he was the Editor-in-Chief of the campus newspaper, *The Brigadier*, and was a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society. Following his undergraduate education, Briggs spent two years working for the University of South Carolina Athletic Department where he helped manage game-day operations for all athletic teams. Briggs attended law school at the University of South Carolina School of Law where he was a member of the Dean's List. Briggs was an active participant in academic and student organizations, including the Student Bar Association, serving first as a class representative and then as Parliamentarian, and the Moot Court Bar, where he was a member of the Moot Court National Team and was a finalist in the law school's Spring 2014 Moot Court Competition. After completing his legal education, Briggs worked for the South Carolina Court of Appeals as a Staff Attorney where he assisted the court with case management. After a year in the Staff Attorneys' Office, Briggs was appointed law clerk to the Honorable Paula H. Thomas of the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Briggs left the Court of Appeals in the Summer of 2017 to begin working for a civil defense litigation firm in Columbia, South Carolina, where he gained extensive

experience in all aspects of defense practice. He is a leading member of the local Young Lawyers Division.

BRITTANY BELL TURNER graduated *magna cum laude* from Valdosta State University in 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. While attending undergraduate school, she competed and won two NCAA National Championships as a competitive cheerleader. After graduation, she worked as a legal assistant at a law firm specializing in family law in her hometown of Fayetteville, Georgia. Brittany joined the firm as a second-year law student, and in 2015 she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and the State Bar of Florida.

LILY WILKERSON BURKHART graduated *summa cum laude* from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and minor in English. While at Kennesaw State, Lily was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi and Psi Chi honor societies. She served as an undergraduate research and teaching assistant and was named the 2012 University Scholar outstanding graduating student from the Psychology department. Lily joined Speed Seta as a law clerk in her second year of law school, and in 2016 earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law, *cum laude*. There she served as a Notes Editor for the Journal of Intellectual Property Law. She also competed on the Business Negotiation Team, earning regional Best Draft honors in the 2015 and 2016 Transactional Law Meet competitions. She has concentrated her practice in the area of workers' compensation defense and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and the State Bar of Florida.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

Advance Auto Parts; Alabama Truckers Association; Arch Insurance Company; Areas USA; Argo Group; Aspen Square Management; Beaulieu Group of America; Bed, Bath, & Beyond; Berkley Specialty Underwriting Managers; Brentwood Services; Brightview Landscape; Broadspire; Burger King Corporation; C & S Wholesale Grocers; CCMSI; Charter Communications; Coleman American Moving Services; Core Risk Management; Corvel Corporation; Cracker Barrel Country Stores; Dean Foods; Drug Transport; Eco-Clean; Elixir Industries; Emory Eastside Medical Center; ESIS; ETCO Staffing; Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance; Gallagher Bassett Services; Guard Insurance Group; Guide One Insurance; Hall County Board of Education; Key Risk; Houston County Board of Education; Labor Staffing; Lifetouch Studios; Liberty Mutual Insurance; Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance; Marathon Petroleum Company; Mayfield Dairy; McDonald's Corporation; McKesson Corporation; MEMIC; National Dairy; Next Level Administrators; One Beacon Insurance Group; OfficeMax; O'Reilly's Auto Parts; The Pantry; Patriot Risk Services; Piggly Wiggly; Prologix; ProSight Specialty Insurance; Pro Temps; Pulte Homes; Reddy Ice; Randstad US; Regions Bank; Republic Services; ResCare, Inc.; Risk Reduction; Sedgwick Claims Management Services; SkilStaf; Speedway; Staffmark; Starbucks; Summit Group Holdings; TransForce; The GEO Group; The TLC Companies; The Salvation Army; Transdev Transportation; The Travelers Insurance Companies; Tri-Star Risk Management; United Airlines; Walton County Board of Education; Wendy's; York Risk Services; Yum! Brands; and Zurich North American Insurance.

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