

2010 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law. While in law school, he was a member of the National Moot Court team and served as Counsel for the Respondent on the Honor Council.

Byers

John T. Lay Jr., a shareholder with Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims P.A., has been awarded the Fred H. Sievert Award. Presented by DRI - The Voice of the Defense Bar, an international organization of defense attorneys, the award is a national honor given annually to one individual who has made significant contributions to achieving the goals and objectives of the defense bar. Lay is a member of the firm's litigation and dispute resolution practice group. He focuses his practice on complex litigation, commercial litigation and product liability and is active in national and state professional organizations that support the legal profession. He is the immediate past president and board member of the S.C. Defense Trial Attorneys' Association. Lay is a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, American Board of Trial Advocates, Defense Research Institute and Association of Defense Trial Attorneys. He also is a fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America.

M. Malissa Burnette, a specialist in employment and labor law, has joined Calison Tighe & Robinson as a member. Burnette has been a certified specialist in

construction supervision curriculum based on 81 competencies. The process to achieve each of the four levels of recognition within program includes attending five 40-hour courses, competency skill evaluations, additional education and training points as well as a graduated scale of construction supervisory experience.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sagacious Partners has added two new members to its team. **Barry Blitch** has joined the economic development firm as project coordinator. Her expertise includes public relations, communications and marketing research. She worked as a competitive intelligence analyst in the telecommunications industry at Telelogical Systems in Charleston before joining Sagacious Partners. **Dana Voravudhi** has joined the firm as strategic assistant. Her expertise lies in streamlining of frontline business processes, along with accounting databases and conference management. She previously worked in administration at Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak and Stewart.

REAL ESTATE

Ben Brantley, an industrial specialist and principal at CB Richard Ellis Columbia has been honored with the SC Realtor advocate award. The award is presented annually to an S.C. Realtor who demonstrates a constant effort and commitment as an advocate for the real estate industry.

to recognize their significant contributions to the reduction of the incidence of infant mortality in South Carolina. Ethel Adams, Columbia Stork's Nest coordinator; Meg Jewel, regional system developer at Greenville Hospital System; Molly Chappel-McPhail, program director for Birth Matters of Spartanburg County; Dr. Amy Picklesimer, Greenville Hospital System; and Dr. Carol Wagner, Medical University of South Carolina. Darci Strickland was the mistress of ceremonies and Dr. Fred Volkman, chief medical officer of Select Health, was the guest speaker. The Heroes in the Field event was launched by Palmetto Healthy Start as part of the national Healthy Start initiative's campaign to focus on infant mortality awareness.

Networking group for commercial real estate comes to Columbia

Commercial Real Estate Women Network, a business networking organization for commercial real estate, has launched a new chapter in Columbia. Members of the CREW Midlands South Carolina board include V. Nicole Comer, an attorney with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, as president; Boo Moca, a property manager with Grubb & Ellis Wilson Kibler, as president-elect; and Gretchen Lambert, an architect at Studio 2LR, as secretary. Newly formed chapters in Columbia and Wilmington, N.C., bring the CREW Network to a total of 73 chapters across North America. CREW chapters promote business opportunities



Tristus Theatre technical director Brandon McIver sketches his mural plan over the first coat of paint. McIver was the creative director for the project.

Leaders Society members to spruce up Family Shelter facilities

United Way of the Midlands Young Leaders Society volunteered at The Family Shelter on Nov. 12 and 13 in an effort to improve the indoor and outdoor areas of the facility. Participants primed the wall of the dining hall in preparation for a new coat of paint. The primary project involved painting of a mural to replace the existing one. Participants also performed yard work and organizational work. Young Leaders Society volunteer opportunities are coordinated by a volunteer subcommittee, which is led by Mary Dell Hayes. The Student United Way of The University of South Carolina, a new campus organization created to provide students with volunteer and leadership opportunities in the community through United Way, also participated in this event.