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BOB HORNER (SC & NC), 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** 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 is a member of both the Georgia and Tennessee Bars, and he is an arbitrator for the National Arbitration Forum. He is 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 graduated with 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. Seth holds an AV-Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell for the highest level of professional excellence and ethical standing and has been named to Super Lawyers. 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.

**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**

**GRANT LANFORD** graduated from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina with a Bachelor’s degree in English. He earned a paralegal certificate from the National Center for Paralegal Training in Atlanta, and worked as a paralegal in South Carolina for several years. Subsequently, he attended Georgia State University College of Law. After graduation he relocated to Florida and began practicing workers’ compensation defense with the Florida firm of Conroy, Simberg, Ganon, Krevans, & Abel. He returned to Georgia to join the firm. He is a member of both the Georgia and Florida Bars.

**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 nearly 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.

**ROBERT E. HORNER** completed both his Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor at the University of South Carolina. While attending the University of South Carolina School of Law he was a member of the Order of the Wig and Robe. Bob has a diverse litigation practice focusing in the areas of workers' compensation, automobile and commercial transportation, construction defect and design representing contractors, design professionals, material suppliers and owners, insurance coverage disputes, including declaratory judgment actions, and appellate advocacy. Bob also handles product liability actions, premises liability actions, hospitality lawsuits, medical malpractice and nursing home litigation, dram shop actions, defending bad faith lawsuits, and termite/home inspection litigation. Prior to starting in private practice, Bob clerked at the South Carolina Court of Appeals for The Honorable C. Tolbert Goolsby and The Honorable M. Duane Shuler. Bob has practiced before the state and federal trial courts of South Carolina, the appellate courts of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. Bob is a member of the South Carolina Bar and North Carolina Bar, and is also licensed to practice in the state courts of North Carolina.

#### **SENIOR ATTORNEYS**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

#### **ASSOCIATE 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.

**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.

**JASON A. LANAHAN** graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Purdue University in 2006. After graduation, he spent two years in the hospitality industry before beginning work on his second bachelor's degree. Jason graduated from Ball State University *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, Philosophy, and Legal Studies in Business in 2011. At Ball State, Jason was awarded the Presidential Scholarship of Merit and was one of eight to graduate with Academic Honors in Writing. As an undergrad, he was inducted into the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society and Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society. Jason received his Juris Doctor from Mercer Law School, where he was awarded the Faculty Scholarship of Merit and was an active participant in the Phi Alpha Delta Honor Fraternity. Prior to joining this firm, Jason practiced in the area of insurance defense, primarily defending insureds in negligence and premises liability actions. Jason is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is also admitted to the Georgia Supreme Court, Georgia Court of Appeals, and the U S District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

**ERICA LOUDIN** graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. While still an undergraduate, Erica was a legislative intern for the South Carolina Bar Association and Vice President of the legal fraternity Phi Alpha Delta. Erica went on to the University of South Carolina School of Law and served as Managing Editor of the *South Carolina Journal of International Law & Business*. During law school, Erica also worked as a law clerk for a private firm and was a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Mary G. Lewis, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina. After law school, Erica began her legal career in private practice, where she focused primarily in the areas of workers' compensation, subrogation, and insurance defense. Erica is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the South Carolina Women Lawyer Association, the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, and serves as a CASA Guardian Ad Litem in Richland County South Carolina.

**BRITTANY D. SCHWANITZ** graduated *cum laude* from the University of Georgia with Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and a minor in English. As an undergraduate, she was the Director of Public Relations for SuperSibs and an active member of UGA Miracle. During her third year, Brittany studied abroad at Oxford University. She then earned her Juris Doctor from Mercer Law School, where she was a 2014 finalist in the John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition, Co-Editor of the Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition, an ABA Regional Negotiations competitor, and an executive board member of the Mercer Advocacy Council. Brittany was also the Co-Founder and Public Relations Chair for the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF), the Alumni Chair for Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity, and an active member of the Association of Women Law Students. Brittany is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Court of Appeals of Georgia, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

**HANNAH H. STOKES** attended both undergraduate school and law school at The University of Alabama within her home state. She graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor's degree in Communication before going on to earn her Juris Doctor. While in law school, Hannah served as President of the Women's Section, received the Dean's Community Service and Pro Bono Award, and was a certified legal intern in the Elder Law Clinic formed to serve the elderly community in West Alabama. Hannah's

experience throughout law school included interning for the Honorable L. Scott Coogler and the Honorable James C. Guin, III and clerking for an insurance defense firm in downtown Birmingham. In 2013, Hannah was named the Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship recipient by the Alabama Law Foundation in honor of the first female justice named to the Supreme Court of Alabama. Hannah is a member of the Alabama State Bar.

**DANIELLE TAYLOR** graduated *magna cum laude* from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. While at Valdosta State, Danielle served as President of the Golden Key International Honour Society, and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. Danielle earned her Juris Doctor from Mercer Law School, where she was the recipient of the Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in Legal Writing and was an active member of the Association of Women Law Students and Phi Alpha Delta Honor Fraternity. Danielle is a member of the State Bar of Georgia. She has concentrated her practice in the area of workers' compensation defense, representing employers, insurers, self-insurers, and third party administrators across the state of Georgia. She has handled appeals at every level, from the Appellate Division of the State Board of Workers' Compensation to the Supreme Court of Georgia.

**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.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS**

Advance Auto Parts; Alabama Truckers Association; Areas USA; Argo Group; Aspen Square Management; Beaulieu Group of America; Berkley Specialty Underwriting Managers; Best Buy; Broadspire; Burger King Corporation; C & S Wholesale Grocers; CCMSI; Charter Communications; Core Risk Management; Dean Foods; Drug Transport; Eco-Clean; Elixir Industries; Emory Eastside Medical Center; ESIS; ETCOM Staffing; Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance; Gallagher Bassett Services; Guarantee Insurance Company; Guard Insurance Group; Guide One Insurance; Hall County Board of Education; Key Risk; Labor Staffing; Lifetouch Studios; Liberty Mutual Insurance; Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance; Mayfield Dairy; McDonald's Corporation; McKesson Corporation; MEMIC; National Dairy; 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; Risk Reduction; Sedgwick Claims Management Services; SkilStaf; Staffmark; Starbucks; Summit Group Holdings; TransForce; The GEO Group; The TLC Companies; The Salvation Army; The Travelers Insurance Companies; Tri-Star Risk Management; United Airlines; Valleycrest Landscape; Veolia Transportation; Walton County Board of Education; Wendy's; York Risk Services; Yum! Brands; and Zurich North American Insurance.

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