

W I N D O W S



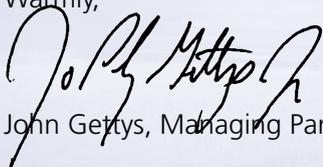
MORTON & GETTYS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FALL/WINTER 2011

Dear Clients, Colleagues and Friends:

The attorneys and staff of Morton & Gettys proudly present the second edition of *Windows*, and we hope you enjoy taking a closer look into our practice. With 2012 just around the corner, there is no better time to say thank you and to wish you a happy holiday season and a new year of health, happiness and prosperity.

Warmly,



John Gettys, Managing Partner



Certified Mediators

As of January 2010, mediation became mandatory for all civil and family law cases in York County, SC. Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution conducted in a private and confidential manner. A mediator assists in negotiating a settlement between adversarial parties and can offer impartial guidance as to what is fair and reasonable. Morton & Gettys is proud to have two certified mediators on our team: John Gettys for civil matters and Michael Smith for family law.

Mediations can be both challenging and stressful as parties attempt to resolve their differences and settle a matter. We offer mediation services in a comfortable setting, and our mediators have the skills and training necessary to ensure a successful settlement for you. Please contact us if we may serve you or your clients in this area.

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Windows, an inside look at the people and accomplishments of Morton & Gettys

Serving North Carolina

Michael Hatch, who joined the firm in 2010 and is based in the York office, passed the North Carolina Bar Exam this summer. Hatch is also licensed in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. He is the second Morton & Gettys attorney to become a member of the North Carolina State Bar, joining Walter Dusky.

With two attorneys licensed in the state, we have expanded our legal services for NC clients in the following areas: residential real estate; probate, wills and estates; business and corporate; civil litigation; finance and lending; and creditor's rights.



Michael Hatch

Spotlight on Commercial Real Estate Practice

Our commercial real estate team has been hard at work representing local projects – both big and small – that are redefining Rock Hill and York County for years to come. Currently, our team is involved with the development of Academy Sports + Outdoors on Dave Lyle Boulevard, as well as Riverwalk, a 1,000-acre, master planned, mixed-use development on the Catawba River. Specifically, we have provided legal counsel to the developer of Riverwalk regarding a number of matters including residential/commercial real estate sales, utilities extension, homeowners' associations, etc.

In addition to these two monumental projects, Morton & Gettys has recently provided representation in connection with the following projects: sale of Kohl's and Hobby Lobby anchored shopping center; sales and/or acquisitions of national fast food restaurant franchise locations; and refinance of a medical practice and its real estate assets.

Notable Acts and Milestones

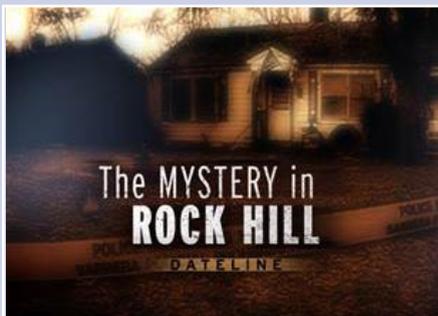
Walter Dusky helped the South Carolina Bar unveil its new "Law for Young Adults" program, which is designed to educate children of their rights and responsibilities under the law once they turn 18 years old ... Jim Morton has represented two individuals charged with mortgage fraud in federal court ... Michael Hatch presented a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program entitled *The Second Wave of Foreclosures: A Tsunami or a Ripple*, which was hosted by LawReviewCLE ... Elizabeth Owen gave birth to her second child, Lettie, in August.

Fighting For Justice: Billy Wayne Cope Trial

In Rock Hill, the Billy Wayne Cope case is one that will not be forgotten. Cope has been behind bars for more than ten years for the 2001 rape and murder of Amanda, his own daughter. Clients and colleagues may not be aware that our attorneys, James Morton and Michael Smith, are Cope's defense counsel.

Billy Wayne Cope awoke on November 29, 2001, to find his 12-year-old daughter Amanda beaten and strangled to death. It was later determined that she had been raped. Accused by police, Cope told them more than 700 times that he had nothing to do with the death or rape and volunteered to submit to DNA testing and a polygraph. Erroneously informed that he failed the polygraph, Cope told police that he "must have done it." He immediately recanted, but the police had their confession. Case closed.

Several months later, testing of DNA found on Amanda's body confirmed Cope's original denials. It belonged to a serial burglar and rapist James Edward Sanders who had recently moved into Cope's neighborhood after being released from prison.



Dateline NBC aired a two-hour special on the Cope case in summer 2010.

Armed with Cope's confession and Sanders DNA – and without hearing about similar attacks committed by Sanders in the neighborhood – Cope and Sanders were tried together and convicted. They were given sentences of life without parole.

Still asserting his innocence, Cope's case is under appeal to the South Carolina Supreme Court. This high profile case gained national attention in July 2010 when *Dateline NBC* aired a two-hour special (see below). This fall Jim Morton and Michael Smith gave a presentation at the University of South Carolina Law School regarding the Cope trial to current law students. The law school, in conjunction with South Carolina Bar, will host a symposium in February 2012 on this case and other wrongful conviction cases.

Morton and Smith have devoted thousands of hours to this case and will continue to do so until justice is obtained for an innocent Billy Cope.

To get a DVD of the *Dateline NBC* special, please call our office 803.366.3388. Also, a transcript is available online at msnbc.msn.com.

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James M. Morton, 334 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC, is responsible for the content of this publication.

Traditional standards with a progressive attitude

Morton & Gettys is uncompromising in our drive to deliver outstanding legal counsel that is thorough, responsive and effective. We're a diversified general legal practice with offices in Rock Hill, Indian Land and York, SC. Founded in 2001, the firm today has eight attorneys and 12 support staff and paralegals.

Practice areas

- Business & Corporate
- Civil Litigation
- Commercial Real Estate
- Creditor's Rights
- Criminal Defense
- Family Law
- Finance & Lending
- Homeowners' Association Representation
- Land Use & Zoning
- Mediation: Family & Civil
- Personal Injury/Worker's Compensation
- Probate, Wills & Estates
- Residential Real Estate
- Title Insurance

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