

W I N D O W S



MORTON & GETTYS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

WINTER 2014

New Attorney Joins Firm & Helps Launch Healthcare Practice

Morton & Gettys is pleased to announce the launch of our new healthcare practice. While the firm has offered legal services in the healthcare field for some time, our new practice will offer more specialized and comprehensive representation now addressing administrative (including disciplinary) and regulatory matters.



In association with this launch, we recently welcomed a new attorney, Melissa Gurney Cassell, to the firm to oversee the practice. Melissa and our other attorneys will work with healthcare clients to develop innovative ways to increase profitability and protect assets while ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations.

“The healthcare industry is constantly changing, which brings new challenges to healthcare professionals and providers almost daily,” said Jim Morton, founding partner of Morton & Gettys. “This new emphasis allows us to better serve our clients in the tri-county area by providing local, cost-efficient and thorough counsel specific to their needs.”

Melissa is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina where she earned her bachelor’s and law degrees and served on the editorial board of the *Real Property, Trust & Estate Journal*. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, Melissa worked as a law clerk for Morton & Gettys.

An Atlanta-area native, Melissa just married this past fall and is excited to now call York County her home. She is based in the firm’s Rock Hill office and will focus on employment and transactional matters in addition to healthcare.

High-Profile Cope Case Denied Retrial; Other Options Mulled

In previous Windows newsletters, we’ve provided ongoing updates about the Billy Wayne Cope case appeal and attorneys Jim Morton and Michael Smith’s roles as Cope’s defense counsel. In March 2012, the SC Supreme Court agreed to review the case, which could have ultimately granted Cope a new trial, the outcome Morton and Smith have worked tirelessly on for nearly a decade.

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High-Profile Cope Case *Continued from previous page*

This past August, the state Supreme Court ruled to uphold Cope's conviction and denied a retrial. The decision was not unanimous with two of the five justices desenting, suggesting Cope was entitled to a new trial because he was prohibited from presenting a full defense due to the court's exclusion of his evidence.

Although this recent verdict is unfortunate, Morton and Smith are continuing to pursue legal options to prove Cope's innocence and are seeking review by appealing to the United States Supreme Court.

New Rock Hill Office Update: Construction Has Begun

Construction is currently under way for Fountain Park Place, the new Morton & Gettys location in downtown Rock Hill. The office building is being constructed on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue and Main Street for Comporium and will overlook the planned urban park in "Old Town East."

This move will mark a major milestone for Morton & Gettys as it will double square footage, add efficiency, and provide a venue for further growth and expansion. Additionally, the space will have technologically-advanced conference rooms for consultations, meetings, and mediation so we can better serve our clients.



Expected completion for the building is next summer or fall.

Notable Acts and Milestones

Richards McCrae was elected to the Executive Committee for the SC Association for Justice's Board of Governors ... *Morton & Gettys* sponsored the 4th Annual Running of the Turkeys 5K Road Race on Thanksgiving day to benefit PATH (People Attempting to Help) ... *Walter Dusky* coached the Fort Mill High School Mock Trial Team to a second place finish in the State High School Mock Trial Competition ... Martindale-Hubbell peer review ratings for North America have ranked *Michael Smith* for his work in family law and *John Gettys* for his work in real estate law, both receiving "AV Preeminent" designation for being at the highest level of professional excellence ... *Walter Dusky* was admitted and sworn in to practice before the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

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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 and York, South Carolina. Founded in 2001, the firm today has nine attorneys and 13 support staff and paralegals.

Practice areas

- Business & Corporate
- Civil Litigation
- Commercial Real Estate
- Creditor's Rights
- Criminal Defense
- Education Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Finance & Lending
- Guardianships & Conservatorships
- Healthcare Law
- Homeowners' Association Representation
- Land Use & Zoning
- Mediation: Family & Civil
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