



A closer look

summer 2015
mortongettys.com





Rock Hill Knowledge Park development project moving along



Rock Hill's Knowledge Park, an ambitious redevelopment project of a portion of the City's downtown textile corridor, is one step closer to reality. Morton & Gettys has been engaged by the project's developer to represent them in preparing and negotiating a master development agreement with the City of Rock Hill and in dealing with other development, financing, and entitlement related issues bearing on the project. As evidenced by our firm's move to Fountain Park Place, Morton & Gettys, LLC is committed to the success of the redevelopment of Rock Hill's downtown.

In addition to Knowledge Park, the firm is currently working with clients on several other projects that involve the construction of new buildings downtown. For more information about Knowledge Park, visit mortongettys.com/knowledge-park.

Business: make sure social media is a tool, not a weapon



The law surrounding social media in the workplace is evolving quickly and issues that didn't even exist a few years ago are leading to lawsuits today. Despite the rapid changes, employers can take steps to protect themselves and use social media as a tool instead of a weapon.

Employers must first remember that long-established laws are not obsolete and still apply in the modern workplace. For example, employers cannot circumvent discrimination laws by using social media to research job applicants and make hiring decisions based on religion, disability or any other category covered under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Likewise, although employers can use an employee's telling social media post as a tool in defending a workers' compensation claim, they must tread carefully in gathering such research. Practically, this is a task best left to the insurance company.

Lastly, while employers can ask employees to help their businesses with promotional campaigns on social media or otherwise opt to show support online for the business, they cannot require employees or applicants to turn over social media passwords. In fact, legislation pending before congress could make this illegal.

Employers cannot avoid social media. Rather, employers should seek advice in understanding how legislation applies to social media usage in the workplace to ensure that social media is helpful, not harmful.



LEARN MORE

To learn more about law surrounding social media in the workplace, read Morton & Gettys employment attorney [Melissa G. Cassell's article at \[mortongettys.com/social-media\]\(http://mortongettys.com/social-media\)](#)

Making Rock Hill a better place

Morton & Gettys believes in supporting a variety of causes that help make our community a great place to live and work.

Here are the organizations we've supported in the past year.

- Relay for Life
- Early Learning Partnership of York County
- Isabel Jurado Foundation
- ALS Association
- Running of the Turkeys for the benefit of PATH
- Harold C. Johnson Elementary
- Come See Me Festival
- York County Disabilities Foundation
- The Children's Attention Home
- Historic Rock Hill
- Fort Mill Community Playhouse
- Palmetto Council/Boy Scouts of America
- The Haven
- MUSC
- Chrysalis Autism Center
- Special Olympics
- Yorkville Artists Guild
- Death Penalty Resource and Defense Center
- ACLU of SC Foundation
- Roar Sports League
- Foundation for Abused and Neglected Children of York County
- Arts Council of York County
- The Children's School at Sylvia Circle
- Catawba Care Coalition
- South Carolina Bar Foundation
- Nation Ford Land Trust
- Richmond Drive Elementary School
- Rock Hill Parks Foundation
- Boys and Girls Club of York County
- York County Ballet
- South Pointe High School Athletic Booster Club
- Rock Hill High School Athletic Booster Club
- Northwestern High School Athletic Booster Club
- Fort Mill High School Athletic Booster Club
- York Comprehensive High School Athletic Booster Club
- Rock Hill Citizens for Children

Having a will is the best way

Not having a will does not mean the State of South Carolina is going to take your property after you die. Your assets, by law, will pass to your family even if you don't have a will.

However, writing a will usually makes the probate process easier and less expensive for your family.

The process can be complicated by family issues including second marriages and sibling rivalries among children. Though it's impossible to foresee every potential hitch, there are steps you can take to help make things go more smoothly for your heirs.

Will or no will, estates with more than \$25,000 in probate assets will need to be administered through the South Carolina Probate Court. This process can be relatively easy and inexpensive.

We've created a helpful Q&A below and online to help guide you.



Will Q & A

JOHN GETTYS

What do I need to do after my spouse, parent, child, sibling or other loved one passes away? After you receive the death certificate, call the Probate Court in the county where your loved one lived and make an appointment to open the estate. South Carolina has top-notch Probate Court judges with professional staff to help throughout this difficult time.

What do I need to take to my appointment? An original death certificate, an original will (if there is one), and names and addresses of all family members—even those not named in the will.

For more questions and answers about what to expect and how to avoid probate, read Morton & Gettys founding partner John P. Gettys, Jr.'s article online at: mortongettys.com/probate

McCrae becomes newest partner at Morton & Gettys



We are pleased to announce that **J. Richards McCrae III**, a native of Fort Mill who joined us nearly six years ago, is our firm's newest partner.

Richards is an experienced litigator who focuses his practice on personal injury. He's represented clients in wrongful death suits and in cases stemming from trucking accidents.

He's a talented attorney who combines legal knowledge with compassion, skills that are crucial when representing people and families who have gone through tragedies.

We are fortunate to have him with our firm, and we are proud to now call him a partner.

Traditional Standards
with a Progressive Attitude.

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We're excited to be in our new location at Fountain Park Place office building in Old Town Rock Hill on the corner of Elizabeth Lane and East Main Street.

OUR NEW LOCATION

Fountain Park Place
331 E Main St Suite 300
Rock Hill, SC 29731



About the firm

Established in 2001 in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Morton & Gettys is a growing firm of 10 attorneys providing legal counsel in areas of business and corporate law, commercial and residential real estate, estate planning and probate law, family law, criminal defense and more. Representing corporations, businesses of all sizes and individuals with a wide range of interests and needs, the firm is dedicated to its clients and the communities it serves.

Practice Areas

- Business and Corporate
- Civil Litigation
- Commercial Leasing
- Commercial and Residential Real Estate
- Condemnation Actions / Eminent Domain
- Creditors' Rights
- Criminal Defense
- Education Law
- Employment Law
- Estate Planning and Probate
- Family Law
- Fiduciary Services
- Finance and Lending
- Guardianship and Conservatorship
- Healthcare Law
- Homeowner's Association Representation
- Land Use and Zoning
- Mediation: Family and Civil
- Separation and Divorce
- Personal Injury
- Probate Administration and Litigation
- Residential Real Estate
- Title Insurance

Attorneys

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To learn more about our attorneys and their areas of practice, visit mortongettys.com.