



THE LAW OFFICE OF *Defending You*

“Everything we tell somebody we do, we do,” says James R. Snell, Jr., the founder of The Law Office of James R. Snell, Jr., LLC. This successful, thirteen-year-old practice, located at 123 Harmon Street, is motivated by a “sense of urgency” that is appreciated by those they serve. “We measure success in satisfied clients,” Mr. Snell asserts, “and we do very well.”

During his youth, the Snell family owned and operated grocery stores in Spartanburg, and that’s where a young James developed a strong work ethic and a “sense of urgency” when dealing with the public.

After high school, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Limestone College in 18 months, while working full-

time, and then enrolled in the University of South Carolina’s School of Law. “I wanted something that would allow me to be entrepreneurial, but also intellectually stimulating,” he explains. “Law has that, in addition to allowing me to really make a difference for clients.”

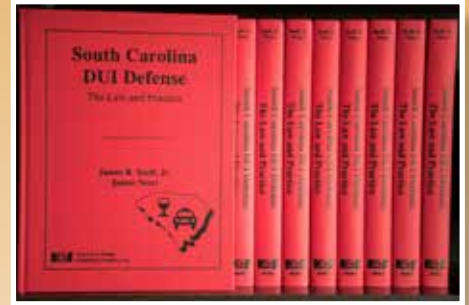
While still in law school, he was offered a position as a part-time law clerk with local legal legend and former mayor of the Town of Lexington, H. Hugh Rogers. His late aunt had worked for Mr. Rogers, who has been practicing law since 1965. “After being sworn in as a lawyer on November 15, 2004,” Mr. Snell recalls, “Mr. Rogers offered me two weeks of free rent.”

Because of its lower-than-average num-

by Marilyn Thomas

ber of lawyers per capita and plentiful litigation opportunities, Mr. Snell decided to stay in Lexington. Although technically a transplant, he has deep ancestral roots within the area and is a descendant

lems with a “sense of urgency,” says Mr. Snell. “I encourage same-day appointments, and we try to get started right away. It’s not unusual for us to begin filing legal motions and working with an



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of Barbara “Granny” Corley, a founder of the town whose name is engraved on the historical marker at the old courthouse.

His first clients were referred to him by other local lawyers when they were not interested in taking their cases. Thus, he became involved in “all types of lawsuits” relating to loan closings, bankruptcies, disability hearings, contested farm permits, and family court. “I was fortunate to be able to begin signing clients immediately,” he says, “and that’s continued.”

Mr. Snell estimates that the firm is currently handling matters in about 20 counties throughout South Carolina, but in 2007, they began to focus more on pursuing criminal cases. Today, “We are best known for the criminal defense side of the practice,” explains Mr. Snell. “There is

investigator the same day we are hired.”

“We still, however, do a very steady stream of personal injury,” he adds. “I’ve obtained millions of dollars in compensation for clients in automobile accidents, workers’ compensation, medical, and premises liability cases.”

Additionally, the firm works in certain “niche areas” including uncontested adoptions, appeals, name changes, and judgment collection. “I’m also very interested about becoming more involved with mass torts,” says Mr. Snell. “That is a really exciting practice area for us; there is a big need to help local residents with injuries caused by prescription drugs.”

Since those early days, Mr. Snell has grown his practice from a one-man show to a staff of seven, which includes a sec-

best results possible. I couldn’t practice at the level I am currently able to without their help.”

Collectively and individually, the firm has embraced their place in the Lexington community. They have hosted a booth at Kid’s Day that featured a balloon artist to entertain the children. Additionally, they have been platinum sponsors for the 2018 Heartworm Project, a local charity that helps shelter animals receive needed medical care; sponsored the Tribe baseball team in Gilbert; and given regular donations to causes such as the Shriner’s Hospital.

Mr. Snell also serves on the Town of Lexington’s Board of Building Code Appeals and is on the eleventh Circuit Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee. He belongs to a number of other law-related entities and was a previous president of the Lexington County Bar Association. In his spare time, he has completed additional college courses, presented at national conferences about technical legal issues, and authored books including Challenging CDV, a publication about the defense of domestic violence cases, and South Carolina DUI Defense, The Law and Practice.

For more information, the firm can be reached by calling 888.301.6004, and other details about the practice and the litigation they handle are described on their website at www.snelllaw.com.

“Call now!” says Mr. Snell. “People feel better when they know their situation is handled or being addressed.” ■

JAMES R. SNELL, JR., LLC:

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a heavy emphasis on DUI (driving under the influence), domestic violence, and felony defense in General Sessions.”

“I enjoy situations where we can make a difference, and really feel good about the service we are providing,” says Mr. Snell. “A lot of people feel like they have been treated unfairly by the police or the system before, and I like to be able to provide them with a better experience.”

Most of the time, Mr. Snell’s clients “are involuntarily thrust into this world,” he explains. “A lot of our clients are people who didn’t choose to be anybody’s client. They found themselves in a situation, and they are really looking for help.”

Harkening back to those grocery-store days, the firm approaches all legal prob-

lem and his own wife, Lee, who is the firm’s business manager. They have a satellite office in Columbia, and Mr. Snell recently relocated his main practice to a newly constructed building at 123 Harmon Street, across from the Old Mill in the heart of Lexington,

“It really is a great environment for our staff and our clients,” says Mr. Snell, who personally designed the facility so the staff can work behind the scenes uninterrupted, while the clients privately meet with their representation in calm and classy surroundings such as the Louvre and Orsay conference rooms.

“I’ve got a really great staff,” says Mr. Snell. “They are smart, dedicated, and really want to see our clients get the