

Ethics Lawyer | Former Disciplinary Prosecutor

+1-803-404-0429

mjv@virzilaw.com

MICHAEL VIRZI

www.linkedin.com/in/michaelvirzi/

www.imdb.com/name/nm13334487/

LAW PRACTICE

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| Virzi Law Firm
Solo practitioner | 2006-present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethics Consultation Law Firm Risk Management• Attorney Discipline Defense• Standard-of-care Testimony in Malpractice & Attorney Disqualification | |
| Office of Disciplinary Counsel, Supreme Court of South Carolina
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Commissioned Investigator | 2003-2006 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawyer Misconduct Prosecution Discipline-related Civil Litigation | |
| Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, L.L.C.
Associate | 2001-2003 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Litigation Creditors' Rights Bankruptcy | |
| Gallivan White & Boyd, P.A.
Associate | 2000-2001 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Litigation General Litigation Bankruptcy | |

ADMISSIONS

South Carolina	United States District Courts:
North Carolina (inactive)	District of South Carolina
United States Court of Appeals:	Western District of North Carolina
Fourth Circuit	Middle District of North Carolina
	Eastern District of North Carolina

NATIONAL MEDIA

Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan (Court TV broadcast August 17, 2022).

Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan (Court TV broadcast August 8, 2022).

Murdaugh Murders: Deadly Dynasty (Investigation Discovery broadcast June 19, 2022) (3 episodes).

Alex Murdaugh: Death. Deception. Power. (Oxygen True Crime broadcast Dec. 12, 2021).

Stephanie Francis Ward, *Coupon, You're On: 3 Opinions Say Lawyers May Participate in Daily-Deal Websites*, ABA Journal, May 2012, at 24.

Stephanie Francis Ward, *Grade Anxiety*, ABA Journal, Feb. 2010, at 52.

TEACHING

- University of South Carolina School of Law** 2006-present
Legal Writing Instructor
- Various courses in Legal Writing, Professional Responsibility, and Professionalism
 - Guest lectures in lawyer ethics, discipline, and professionalism
- Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing 2005-2006
- Midlands Technical College** 2003-2005
Adjunct Instructor, Paralegal Degree Program
- Business Law I & II

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Bar Association:
Center for Professional Responsibility
- Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers
- South Carolina Association of Ethics Counsel
- South Carolina Association for Justice
(Ethics Chair 2017-2021)
- Phi Delta Phi
- South Carolina Bar:
House of Delegates
Judicial Qualifications Committee
PR Committee
(Chair 2018-2020)
Ethics Advisory Committee
(Chair 2007-2010)
Member Benefits Task Force
- Richland County Bar Association

PAST ASSOCIATIONS

- National White Collar Crime Center
- FBI Lending Fraud Task Force
- National Institute for Teachers of Ethics and Professionalism
- South Carolina Bar Technology Committee

EDUCATION

- University of South Carolina School of Law** J.D., *cum laude*, 2000
- Order of the Coif
 - Order of Wig & Robe
 - Roy Webster Scholar
 - Dean's List
 - CALI Award, Business Corporations
 - *ABA Real Property, Probate and Trust Journal*, Articles Editor
- University of South Carolina** B.A., Political Science, 1991

PUBLICATIONS

Clients Are Not Property: ABA Formal Opinion 489 & Phantom Rule 5.8, S.C. Lawyer, May 2020, at 39.

Copy That: The Pitfalls of CC'ing Clients in Email, S.C. Lawyer, May 2019, at 38.

Breaking the Tie: Court Declares One-Client Model for Insurance Defense, The Justice Bulletin, Summer 2018, at 21.

Quality Control: In re Wells and the Regulation of Adverbs and Adjectives in Lawyer Advertising, S.C. Lawyer, July 2011, at 27.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: CASES AND MATERIALS (2d ed. 2010) (with Stephen A. Spitz).

Who Can You Trust? How the TLGP, CDARS, FDIC and NCUSIF Affect the Safekeeping of Client Funds, S.C. Lawyer, May 2009, at 14.

If It Walks Like a Duck...: Ethics Advisory Opinion 06-11 & the Attorney-Client Relationship in Real Estate Transactions, S.C. Lawyer, Mar. 2007, at 30.

RECENT LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Great Debates: Points & Counterpoints on Recent Legal Ethics Issues (panelist), APRL Annual Meeting, Aug. 6, 2022

FRED Talk: The Case for Tighter Regulation of Client Funds, APRL Annual Meeting, Aug. 5, 2022

Ethics 2021: A Year in Review, Hilton Head Island Bar CLE, Feb. 7, 2022

Practicing Lawyer Ethics & Grievance Defense (guest lecturer), USC School of Law, Jan. 5, 2022

Confidentiality and Privilege, SC Bar Ethics Essentials CLE, Oct. 29, 2021

Ethics 2021: A Year in Review, Richland County Bar CLE, Oct. 22, 2021

Advertising School, S.C. Bar & Supreme Court LEAPP Program, Sep. 14, 2021

Professionalism & Ethics for Aspiring Lawyers (guest lecturer), USC Honors College, Apr. 6, 2021

Practicing Lawyer Ethics & Grievance Defense (guest lecturer), USC School of Law, Jan. 11, 2021

Ethics 2020: A Year in Review, Richland County Bar CLE, Nov. 20, 2020

Confidentiality and Privilege, SC Bar Ethics Essentials CLE, Oct. 30, 2020

Advertising School, S.C. Bar & Supreme Court LEAPP Program, Sep. 28, 2020

Ethics 2020: A Year in Review, SCAJ Convention, Aug. 7, 2020

Advertising School, S.C. Bar & Supreme Court LEAPP Program, Jul. 29, 2020

Top 5 Misunderstood Rules of Professional Conduct, SCAJ YLD Seminar, Feb. 27, 2020

Practicing Lawyer Ethics & Grievance Defense (guest lecturer), USC School of Law, Jan. 8, 2020

Ethics 2019: A Year in Review, S.C. Assoc. of Counties CLE, Nov. 22, 2019

Ethics 2019: A Year in Review, Richland County Bar CLE, Oct. 25, 2019

LOCAL MEDIA

Avery Wilks, *SC Supreme Court moves to disbar disgraced attorney Alex Murdaugh*, Post & Courier, June 16, 2022.

Liz Farrell, *Mallory Beach Case: Private Detective, 'Knife Fighter' Ordered To Hand Over Work They Did For Greg Parker*, Fits News, Mar. 29, 2022.

Liz Farrell, *Parker's Hired Investigator to Follow Paul Murdaugh; She Bought Alcohol for Minors, Attorney Alleges*, Fits News, Mar. 21, 2022.

John Monk, *Was Bank of America an accomplice in Murdaugh's schemes?*, The State, Dec. 7, 2021.

Joseph Cranny & Avery G. Wilkes, *Uncovered: SC Judges Remain on the Bench for Years Despite Alleged Crimes, Ethical Lapses*, Post & Courier, July 1, 2021.

Warren Hughes, *Ask Us at The Star – Lawyer Advertising*, Columbia Star, Mar. 10, 2017.

Paul Tharp, *Lawyers: Ruling Muddied Proper Handling of Flat Fees*, S.C. Law. Weekly, Mar. 14, 2011, at 1.

Diana Smith, *E-mail Marketing Presents Opportunities for Firms but Perils if Done Wrong*, S.C. Law. Weekly, Oct. 4, 2010.

Tim Smith, *High Court Puts Lawyers on Notice about Relationships*, Greenville News, Sep. 15, 2010.

Adam Parker, *Complaint Filed in Diocese Settlement Case*, Post & Courier, Feb. 26, 2009.

Sandy Hodson, *After Mortgage Fraud Cases, Federal Leaders Urge Caution*, Augusta Chronicle, Dec. 28, 2008.

Bess Battle, *Battle Zone*, S.C. Law. Weekly, Sep. 1, 2008, at 6.

Gregory Froom, *Attorneys May Threaten Criminal Action While Trying to Collect on Bad Checks*, S.C. Law. Weekly, Sep. 24, 2007, at 1.

Kristy Eppley Rupon, *Lawyers Required to Oversee Refinancing*, The State, Nov. 6, 2006, at H23.

Michael Dayton, *Disbursement of Closing Funds Requires Attorney Supervision*, S.C. Law. Weekly, Oct. 30, 2006, at 1.

Gregory Froom, *Must Lawyers Disburse?*, S.C. Law. Weekly, Oct. 16, 2006, at 1.