

ADAIR FORD BOROUGHS

1525 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29408 • adairfb@mailbox.sc.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- University of South Carolina, Joseph F. Rice School of Law** Columbia, SC
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law 2025 - present
- Founded and direct Federal Litigation Clinic. Supervise student attorneys in federal litigation before the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
 - Other Courses: Complex Civil Litigation, Civil Rights Litigation

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

When the First Amendment is Fatal: Super Strict Scrutiny & the Right of Access, ____
B.C. L. Rev. ____ (forthcoming Jan. 2027).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- U.S. Department of Justice** Columbia, SC
U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina 2022-2025
- Nominated by President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate
- Oversaw all federal prosecutions and all civil litigation involving the United States in the District of South Carolina as well as all appeals from such matters to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.
 - Supervised 68 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, 72 support staff, and 13 contract staff across four offices in South Carolina.
 - Managed a budget of over \$13 million.
 - Served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee subcommittee for Civil Rights, subcommittee for Violent and Organized Crime, subcommittee for Management & Budget, Hate Crimes Working Group, and Voting Rights Working Group.

- Boroughs Bryant, LLC / Adair Legal, LLC** Columbia, SC
Founding Partner / Owner 2021-2022
- Handled litigation in both federal and state court that involve complex and novel issues, including significant work on *South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP v. Alexander* (in District Court).
 - Served as outside general counsel to small businesses, nonprofits, and political organizations.

- Adair for Congress** Columbia, SC
Candidate for U.S. Congress 2019-2020
- Raised over \$2.5 million in 18 months.
 - Built a consulting team covering media, mail, polling, research, and messaging.
 - Built on-the-ground team of 10 staff, 30 interns, and 330 volunteers.
 - Received 45,000 more votes than 2016 nominee, a 42% increase.

Charleston Legal Access

Charleston, SC

Executive Director

2017-2019

- Responsible for all operations, finances, budget, and compliance matters.
- Responsible for development, communications, and community relations.
- Managed a staff of three attorneys, one administrative staff, multiple volunteer attorneys and interns.
- Represented clients in federal, state, and magistrates court and in administrative proceedings. Handled multiple trials.

U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

Charleston, SC

Law Clerk to the Hon. Richard M. Gergel

2013-2017

- Conducted legal research, drafted orders and bench memos, and advised Judge Gergel on a variety of civil and criminal matters, including *Untied States v. Roof* (defendant convicted of killing nine African Americans during a prayer meeting at historic Charleston Emanuel AME church) and *In re Lipitor* (products liability multi-district litigation with thousands of cases from all 50 states and territories).

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C.

Trial Attorney

2007-2013

- Handled complex civil litigation in federal courts across the country, including lead attorney on two-week jury trial (favorable verdict) and multi-million-dollar cases.
- Served on Assistant Attorney General's Diversity Committee; chaired subcommittee on hiring practices that recommended significant changes, all of which were adopted.
- Served on E-Discovery Committee, conducted trainings for attorneys on E-Discovery issues, and served as subject-matter resource for attorneys.
- Managed student interns; mentored first-year attorneys; reviewed applications and interviewed candidates for Attorney General's Honors Program.
- Served on DAAG Line Attorney Advisory Committee.
- *Awards*: Outstanding Attorney Award (2012); Special Commendation for Trial Work (2010); Outstanding Mentor Award (2011).

Mauldin High School

Mauldin, SC

Mathematics Teacher

2002-2004

- Taught AP Calculus, Algebra II, Algebra I, Geometry, and Math for the Technologies

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**South Carolina Bar** (2013 – present)*Civil Rights Section* (2021-present), Executive Council (2026 – present), Inaugural Member*Diversity Committee* (2017-present), Chair inaugural year (2017-2018)*Young Lawyers Division, Professional Development Committee* (2013-2015)**Association of American Law Schools** (2025 – present)*Clinical Legal Education Section**Federal Courts Section**Civil Rights Section*

Clinical Legal Education Association (2025 – present)

American Bar Association (2025 – present)
Litigation Section

National Association of Former United States Attorneys (2025 – present)

South Carolina Access to Justice Commission
Committee on Limited Scope Representation (2017)

Together SC (statewide association of nonprofit organizations)
Consultant Collaborative (2021-2022)
Non-profit member (2017-2019)

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Liberty Fellowship (Class of 2027), part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network

Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation
Atlanta Interview and Scholar Selection Panel (2017-present)
Finalist Selection Committee (2011-present)
Truman Council, advisory group (2016-2022, 2026-present)
Executive Secretary Search Committee (2011, 2019)
Democracy Fellow (2015)
Senior Scholar at Truman Scholars Leadership Week (2009, 2010)

Friends of the Truman Foundation
Member of the Board of Directors (2016 – 2022, 2026 – present)
Founding Board Chair (2016-2019)

Dreams, Imagination, and Gift Development Program
Member of the Board of Directors (2025 - present)
Treasurer (2025 – present)

NAACP (Columbia, SC Branch)
Lifetime Member (2024-present), *Member* (2019-present)

Charleston Legal Access
Founding Chair, Board of Directors (2015-2016)

The Council for the United States and Italy
Young Leaders Program (Naples, Italy 2016)

The Riley Institute at Furman University
Riley Fellow, Diversity Leaders Initiative (Lowcountry Fall 2015)

Truman Scholars Association
President (2010-2011), *Vice President* (2010-2011), *Treasurer* (2008-2009), and *Board Member* (2008-2012)

AWARDS

2025 Emerge South Carolina Woman of the Year

2024 South Carolina Lawyer Weekly's Influential Women of Law

2023 Joseph E. Stevens Award

Award honoring United States District Judge Joseph E. Stevens, Jr., and awarded by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation to an attorney that has made significant contributions in public service and to the Truman Foundation.

2023 Columbia Regional Business Report Women of Influence Honoree

2008 Sandra Day O'Connor Award

Awarded by Stanford Law School to two recent graduates in public service.

2001 Harry S. Truman Scholar

PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

Academic Presentations

“The First Amendment Right of Access & the Cooperator Problem” (presented under various titles)

- *ABA Criminal Justice Section Academic Workshop* (December 2025)
- *Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference* (October 2025)

Speaking and Trainings

Leadership that Elevates (training), University of South Carolina Division of Access, Civil Rights, and Community Engagement (July 2026)

Keeping the Republic (keynote), South Carolina League of Women Voters Annual Conference (March 2026)

Candid Conversations on Rule of Law (co-presented with U.S. District Judge Sherri Lydon), Wofford College (February 2026)

Civil Rights Investigations, University of South Carolina Office of Civil Rights and Title IX (December 2025)

The Evolving DEI Legal Landscape: Spotlight on Nonprofits, The Riley Institute at Furman University (August 2025)

Labor, Faith & Politics of SC (panel), South Carolina AFL-CIO Annual Convention (July 2025)

Rule of Law and Role of U.S. DOJ in Our Legal System, Haynsworth-Perry American Inn of Court (May 2025)

Mental Health Law Decoded: What Providers Need to Know about Patient Rights, South Carolina Department of Mental Health (May 2025)

Civil Rights in South Carolina (panel), South Carolina Bar (March & April 2025)

Defending the Constitution: U.S. Attorney's Office as Guardian of our Rights, Furman University (September 2022)

Spoken on the U.S. Department of Justice's enforcement of civil rights statutes at CLEs, SC Bar events, Federal Bar Association events, law enforcement trainings, NGO trainings, and community events.

Spoken on the U.S. Attorney's office's False Claim Act work including a presentation to the Anti-Fraud Coalition and an interview on *Taking the Pulse: A Health Care & Life Sciences Podcast*.

Spoken and presented on the focused deterrence model to address gun violence at law enforcement trainings and community events.

Spoken on pathways to law enforcement leadership at multiple undergraduate institutions as a part of the Law Enforcement Leaders of America Program.

Spoken to a variety of student groups at the graduate, undergraduate, and high school level on careers in law and government.

Spoken and presented on access to justice issues at numerous events, including keynoting multiple access to justice events.

Spoken and presented on non-profit compliance with IRS rules and regulations and non-profit governance.

Spoken and guest lectured on public interest law and access to justice at law schools and undergraduate institutions.

Spoken and presented on fundamentals of running for office and building a campaign at educational institutions and trainings for potential candidates.

Presented CLEs on diversity in the legal profession.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS, MENTIONS & OP-EDS

Over a dozen on-camera media interviews and press conferences as U.S. Attorney on cases, hate crime awareness, responsible firearm storage, and civil rights investigations. Profiles by Stanford Lawyer magazine, The State newspaper, The Post & Courier newspaper, and SC Lawyer magazine. (2022 – 2025)

Op-ed *How to talk to our children about the danger of sextortion in our social media age*, The State Newspaper (Feb. 5, 2025).

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School, Juris Doctor, *with distinction* (top 1/3 of class) (2007)

Activities: Stanford Law and Policy Review, Editor-in-Chief; Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation, President; Stanford Community Law Clinic.

Publications: Chapter in Beyond the Big Firm: Profiles of Lawyers Who Want Something More (Aspen, 2007).

Honors: Senior Public Interest Fellow; Foundation of the State Bar of California Public Interest Scholarship; Pro Bono Distinction.

Furman University, B.S. in Mathematics, *summa cum laude* (2002)

Honors: Donaldson-Watkins Medal for General Excellence; President's Award; Herman Lay Scholar (4-year full-tuition, room, & board); Phi Beta Kappa; Winston Babb Memorial Award; Pi Mu Epsilon, President; Senior Order (now Quaternion Senior Order)

BAR ADMISSIONS

South Carolina; U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina; United States Tax Court; Tennessee (inactive since 2013).