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BUSINESS FEATURE

Need a lawyer? Call Troy Knight

by JULIE R. SMITH
Staff Writer

It's a fact of life: Sooner or later, we all need a lawyer — not for criminal defense, but to handle real estate closings, file for worker's comp, resolve property disputes...

When you're looking for an attorney, choose one the right way, with research and recommendations from friends. Select a professional with rock-solid credentials, someone who understands the law inside and out.

In Summerville, Troy Guerdard Knight meets that criteria.

Knight — who was born in the old Summerville Hospital and whose ancestors settled in Summerville more than 200 years ago — is a partner in the law firm of Lanier & Knight, with offices in Summerville at 405 North Magnolia St., in Orangeburg and on John's Island.

He specializes in transactional work and litigation in state and federal courts in the following areas: automobile and other vehicle accidents; premises and product liability; injuries resulting from accidents and/or negligence of others; wrongful death; real estate; contracts and contract disputes; worker's compensation cases; business sales and litigation; corporations and corporate disputes and other areas of civil law.

Knight was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1992 after earning a business degree from the College of Charleston and law degree from the University of

South Carolina.

His interest in the law was sparked by the influence of relatives: His late grandfather, Carl Knight, was sheriff of Dorchester County for 28 years, and his father, L.C. Knight, is a captain with the SLED (the State Law Enforcement Division).

"Mom and Dad wanted to steer

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-Troy Knight

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me towards medicine, but I pretty much always wanted to be an attorney," he recalled, smiling.

"Being a lawyer gives me a forum to fight for what I believe in."

Knight refers criminal law, divorce and other domestic issues to other firms, the better to focus on his areas of specialty.

"I love what I do. Absolutely," he said. "I'm usually up here [in the office] until 9:30 p.m."

Despite his hectic schedule, Knight has another project in the works: Construction of a new, larger office behind the small

house that currently houses the Summerville practice.

The new office is a 2,800-square foot cottage-style building designed to blend harmoniously with surrounding residences and other small businesses. Ground-breaking is expected within 30 days.

"We went to a lot of effort to save as many trees as possible," he said. "The new building will give us so much more room, and we'll keep this cottage for parking."

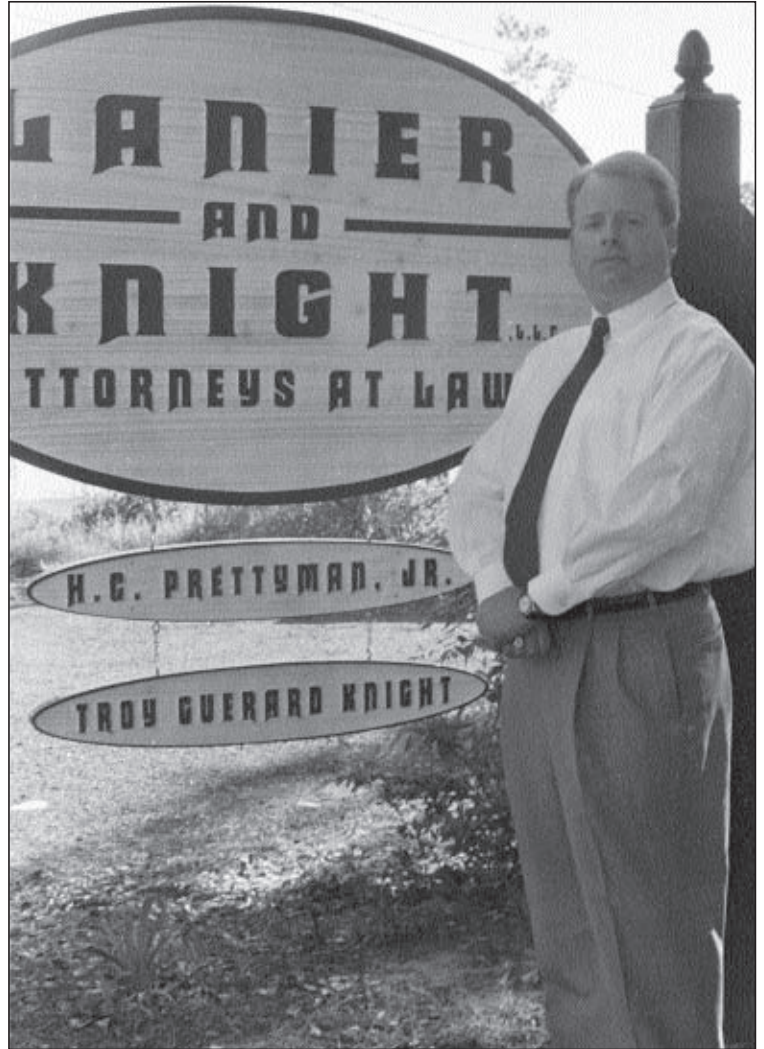
Knight's partner, Lewis Lanier, runs the Orangeburg office. Knight's mother, Rhonda, keeps the Summerville office running smoothly; his sister, Kelly Knight Byrd, is studying at her brother's alma mater, USC's law school.

Knight served as a municipal judge from 1996-1999, and has served as a part-time county magistrate since 1993. He is corporate counsel for the Town of Summerville.

He has served as president of the Summerville-Dorchester Museum, the Dorchester County Bar Association and the Dorchester County Public Defender Corporation.

He acted as attorney for, and served on the board of directors of, Dorchester Habitat for Humanity and the Dorchester branch of the Salvation Army. He is a member of the Exchange Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Masons, the Scottish Rite and the Omar Shrine.

Knight can be reached at his Summerville office by calling 821-9700.



Staff photo by Julie R. Smith

Troy G. Knight's law office is located at 405 North Magnolia St. in Summerville.