

# Jebaily Law Firm, P.A.

Ronald J. Jebaily • George D. Jebaily • Cely Anne B. Brigman  
Rangeley B. Chewning • Suzanne H. Jebaily  
(843) 667-0400 • (800) 868-0400

# MY LAWYERS<sup>SM</sup>

## *Introducing...*

### Suzanne H. Jebaily

**Suzanne H. Jebaily** joined Jebaily Law Firm as an Associate in January 2008. Suzanne earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology. In addition, she pursued a career as a visual artist and fine arts curator before returning to school to study law.

After graduating from law school, Suzanne clerked for the Honorable Ralph King Anderson, Jr., South Carolina Court of Appeals. She will be practicing in the areas of Workers' Compensation and Appellate Advocacy.



### Cely Anne Baker Brigman

**Cely Anne Baker Brigman** joined Jebaily Law Firm as an Associate in November 2008. Cely Anne graduated from Columbia College in 1983 and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1985. She is a past member of the South Carolina Bar House of Delegates, Board of Governors, Judicial Qualifications Committee, and is a past chair of the Family Law Section of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers. She is currently a member of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers, the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association, the Florence and Darlington County Bar Associations, and the Summary Court Judges Association.

Cely Anne has been admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. She is also the Chief Magistrate for Darlington County. Cely Anne's practice focuses on family and matrimonial law.

**SPRING  
2009**  
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**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Friday  
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

- Home and hospital appointments available
- 24-hour emergency services

# Child-custody criteria

Our practice can help referral clients resolve family-law disputes.

Courts may consider many factors in determining child custody in divorces:

**Abuse**—From court and medical records.

**Alienation**—Parents turning a child against the other.

**Children's wishes**—Who does the child prefer?

**Consideration**—Which parent seems less selfish about custody?

**Domestic violence**—From police or court orders.

**Duration of parental contact**—Who spends more time with the children?

**Employment**—Promotes stability.

**Home ownership and children's quarters**—For a safe and secure home.

**Nurturance**—Who provides the best environment for a child?

**Parental cooperation**—Do parents agree about the child's welfare?

**Parental health**—Serious physical or mental issues can play a role.

**Relocation of parents**—Judges try to keep families close geographically.

**Romantic relationships**—Can complicate custody.

**Statutory guidelines**—In some cases, state law guides judges' actions.

**Where child is lodged**—Moving children can be traumatic.

# PREMISES LIABILITY

Employees injured through the negligence of business owners who fail to protect them from physical harm can call on attorneys for help.

Businesses have a legal duty to provide sensibly safe passage for employees and all others who enter their grounds.

## Jewelry employee injury

A woman who managed jewelry sales and repaired watches fractured her wrist and patella when she tripped over a steel cart while entering a darkened stockroom. A light sensor had malfunctioned, leaving her in unsafe darkness. She required several pin insertion and removal surgeries and lost strength in her hand. As a result, she had difficulty working on computers, attaching clasps to necklaces, and repairing jewelry and timepieces.

Her attorney sued the shop's owner, alleging failure to maintain or repair the light, which had not worked properly for several years. A jury found her partially responsible, but awarded her significant damages.

# Rangeley Bailey Chewning

**Rangeley Bailey Chewning** joined Jebaily Law Firm as an Associate in 2003. Prior to coming to Jebaily Law Firm, Rangeley clerked for the Honorable John M. Milling and also practiced with a civil defense firm.

Rangeley is a Commissioner for the Access to Justice Commission established by Chief Justice Toal. She has been asked to speak at the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Convention in August 2009 on the topic "What The Entire Internet Knows About Your Case." Rangeley works with the Personal Injury Team and is the lead attorney for the Social Security Practice.

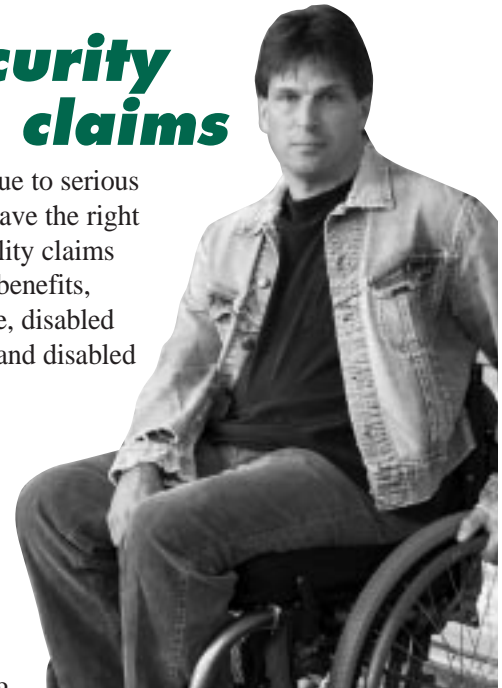


# Social Security Disability claims

Those who cannot work due to serious medical or mental illnesses have the right to file Social Security Disability claims for cash disability insurance benefits, supplemental security income, disabled widow or widower benefits, and disabled adult/child benefits.

*Anyone applying for disability benefits or appealing a benefits denial can ask an attorney these important questions:*

- What's your firm's experience with Social Security Disability claims?
- Can you outline a claim similar to mine that you handled recently?
- Will you make the time necessary to explain to me everything I should know about my claim?
- What are the claims process steps I should understand?
- Will you establish a strategy to succeed in my claim?
- What evidence will you need to support my claim?
- Are you available to me on an emergency basis?
- What will you recommend if my claim is denied?



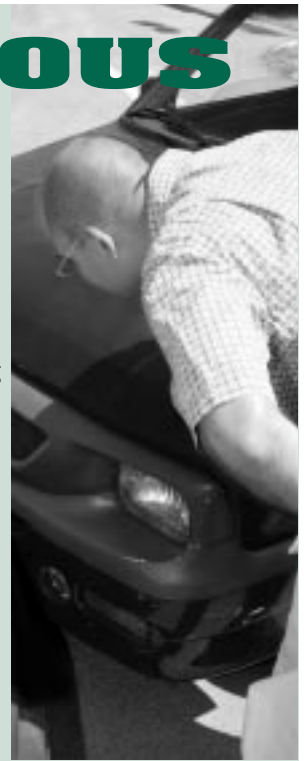
# George D. Jebaily



**George D. Jebaily** has been a Florence resident since age seven. A 1974 graduate of West Florence High School, where he served as president of the student body, George continued his education at the University of South Carolina, where he got his undergraduate and law degrees.

After working in Columbia for a civil defense law firm for a couple of years, George decided to move back to his hometown of Florence, join Jebaily Law Firm, and help the people in his community. Since returning to Florence, George is actively involved with community organizations and activities. He is a past chairman of the Florence Downtown Development Corporation, where he has served on the Board of Directors since 2002, and was twice the president of the Florence Little Theatre, Board of Directors. He also served on the board of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce. George is the lead attorney for the Personal Injury Team.

## DANGEROUS automobile accident myths



### Myth #1

**If you didn't cause the accident, you have no obligation to do anything.** You still need to protect your rights by checking for injuries, calling the police, notifying your insurance agent, making notes about the accident, and never admitting fault or signing anything.

### Myth #2

**If the accident was the other driver's fault, someone should compensate you for damage and injuries.** It's more likely if the driver at fault has insurance or assets and you have uninsured driver insurance.

### Myth #3

**A fast settlement is always in your best interests.** By signing off on a settlement too quickly, you may give up important rights, particularly if medical conditions appear weeks or months later.

### Myth #4

**If the accident is really minor, you can probably negotiate a settlement on your own, without an attorney.** The other driver's insurance company will assign legal representation to protect its interests. Who will protect your legal rights?

## AS WE SEE IT

Some politicians or media commentators complain one-sidedly about our civil justice system and trial attorneys. Often, they phrase the issues as they appear in the left-hand box of the chart below.

We have had the benefit of helping people who have been harmed by others' carelessness, such as people injured by drunk and reckless drivers, negligent property owners, or by the actions of uncaring corporations.

We think the way we view our civil justice system and trial attorneys is more accurately stated in the right-hand box.



### HOW SOME PEOPLE SEE IT.

Insurance companies vs. trial lawyers  
 Pharmaceutical manufacturers vs. trial lawyers  
 Car makers vs. trial lawyers  
 Doctors vs. trial lawyers  
 Nursing homes vs. trial lawyers  
 Manufacturers vs. trial lawyers  
 Railroads vs. trial lawyers  
 Corporations vs. trial lawyers  
 Small businesses vs. trial lawyers

### HOW WE SEE IT.

HMOs vs. patients needing care  
 Drug makers vs. patients requiring safe medications  
 Car makers vs. driver and passenger safety  
 Physicians vs. health insurers  
 Nursing homes vs. elderly residents and their families  
 Manufacturers vs. injured consumers  
 Railroads vs. drivers injured at crossings  
 Unsafe products vs. harmed consumers  
 Small businesses vs. injured employees





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## Workers' compensation *When insurers refuse to pay*

Our practice can help referral clients resolve workers' compensation disputes.

Workers' compensation regulations are state-based insurance programs that effectively cover claims by employees injured on the job or who suffer work-related diseases or illnesses. Insurers regularly handle claims with understanding and efficiency.

On occasion, an insurer may deny claims benefits, so workers should consult an attorney experienced in workers' compensation law for counsel.

### ***Fall from a ladder***

When a retail store employee fell from a ladder and severely injured her back, her physician recommended surgery. When she filed a workers' compensation claim, the insurer denied her petitions and an independent Industrial Commission's confirming orders for several years. The employee's attorney sued the insurer, demonstrating it had not acted in good faith. A jury held for the plaintiff, stipulating a significant award, and held the insurer liable for lifetime medical care and disability benefits for the underlying injury under the state's Workers' Compensation Act.



## Ronald J. Jebaily

**Ronald J. Jebaily** began practicing law in

Florence, South Carolina, in 1969. Prior to moving to Florence, Ron was employed with Levine & Broder in New York City. One of the partners that Ron trained under was the great Moe Levine.

Ron later moved to Florence and opened a law firm that is now known as the Jebaily Law Firm, P.A. Ron has devoted himself to helping injured workers. He is a past president of the Injured Workers' Advocates of South Carolina and a member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Education Association. Ron is very involved in fighting for the legal rights of injured workers and is the lead attorney for the Workers' Compensation Team.

*"Lawyers Helping Injured People" SM*