

# SOUTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY

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## Christopher R. Hart

### Hart Law

**C**hristopher R. Hart is the managing partner at Hart Law in Columbia, where he practices personal injury, workers' compensation and medical malpractice.

Christopher has served in the South Carolina House of Representatives since 2007, representing District 73, and is active in several bar and trial lawyers associations.

He attended Midlands Technical College and received a bachelor's degree in political science from Howard University, graduating cum laude, and a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

#### Who was an important non-family mentor in your life and how did this person impact your career?

Dr. Louis Wright, professor at Howard University. He taught me the importance of critical thinking and listening with a third ear. When students would comment on thinking outside the box, he would reply, "Why do you need a box to think?" Those lessons have been invaluable in my practice of law and helping me identify complex legal issues and evaluate complex civil cases.

#### What do you consider your biggest personal accomplishment and why?

I live my biggest accomplishment every day at Hart Law. I opened my law firm immediately after graduating from law school. Eighteen years ago I took a leap of faith, and it was the best decision ever.

#### What is the most surprising bit of good advice you ever received?

The most surprising good advice I received was to "run your own race." While training to run a marathon, my coach would stress to "run your own race" and don't get distracted by other runners. I apply that same philosophy to practicing law and not allow myself to become distracted.

#### What has been your biggest career challenge?

My biggest challenge has been practicing law and serving in the South Carolina Legislature at the same time.

#### Please share your best tip for balancing your professional life and your personal life.

The best way for me to balance is to do something completely unrelated to the legal profession and disconnect electronically from computer, cell phone and email and spend quality time with my family and friends.

#### If you hadn't become a lawyer, what field would you have entered?

College professor. I love teaching.

#### Everyone has a "guilty pleasure." What is yours?

My guilty pleasure would be eating peanut butter out of the jar. I love peanut butter.

#### If you had a month off, what would you do?

Sail the Carribean Sea.

#### What are two facts about you that most people may not know?

That I served in the Gulf War. I was deployed six months after graduating high school at the tender age of 18 years old to King Khalid Military City.

That I was a barber before going to college. When I was at Howard University I earned money by cutting hair in the dorm.



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