



## **William N. Nettles:**

### **United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina**



Bill Nettles was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina on May 3, 2010. Immediately prior to becoming the U.S. Attorney, Mr. Nettles was a member of Sanders & Nettles, LLC in Columbia, South Carolina where he practiced since 2005. Mr. Nettles was a sole practitioner from November 1997 to October 2005. From September 1995 to May 1997, he was a member of Banks & Nettles, LLC in Camden, South Carolina. Mr. Nettles worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Columbia, South Carolina from August 1992 through September 1995.

While in private practice, Mr. Nettles concentrated his practice in criminal defense, including the defense of “white-collar” crime, “street” crimes, as well as several court-appointed capital cases. He has also handled medical malpractice and other civil tort litigation. He has tried over fifty cases in state and federal court, the majority of which were criminal.

Mr. Nettles is a member of the American Bar Association, the South Carolina Bar, and the Pennsylvania Bar (inactive). He has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court (11/27/00), the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Judicial Circuit (2/24/98), the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina (5/1/96), and the South Carolina Supreme Court (11/18/92). Since becoming a member of the Bar, he has received the President’s Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the President’s Award from the South Carolina Criminal

Defense Lawyers, the NAACP Foot Soldier in the Sand Award, and the NAACP Outstanding Legal Service Award.

Mr. Nettles graduated from Widener University School of Law in 1995, where he was President of the Student Bar Association, on the Widener University Law Review, and a member of the Widener University Moot Court Honor Society. Mr. Nettles attended the Citadel for his undergraduate degree. Since graduation, he has published and lectured extensively.

## **ABOUT THE OFFICE OF U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina is one of 93 such offices in the United States. The United States Attorney is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the President of the United States. The United States Attorney is the chief federal law enforcement officer of the United States within his or her jurisdiction. Bill Nettles currently serves as the United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina has offices in Columbia, Greenville, Florence and Charleston. The U.S. Attorney's Office represents the interests of the United States in civil, criminal and appellate litigation. The U.S. Attorney's Office receives civil and criminal referrals from federal agencies and law enforcement, which the U.S. Attorney reviews in deciding whether to bring or defend an action.

The U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the United States conduct the majority of the litigation handled by the Department of Justice. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina prosecutes a wide range of criminal activities, including violent crime, complex financial and bank fraud, counterfeiting, computer fraud, environmental crime, immigration violations, public corruption, organized crime, and complex drug and money laundering activities.

The Civil Division defends the interests of the United States in cases where federal agencies are sued for alleged conduct by their officers or employees. These defensive matters include actions seeking monetary damages for personal injury, medical malpractice, employment discrimination, bankruptcy, prisoner litigation, judicial review of agency decisions, Social Security, and actions for injunctive relief, which challenge a federal agency's compliance with federal law or the Constitution. Attorneys in the Civil Division also pursue affirmative civil actions to recover damages for fraud and other offenses against the United States and its agencies, and impose civil penalties for violations of the nation's health, safety and economic welfare laws. Typical cases involve

claims for payment submitted to Medicare by health care providers, claims for payment submitted by contractors for government contracts, and claims by individuals for certain federal benefits such as food stamps. The Civil Division also works with the Department of Justice in enforcing the Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights statutes.

The U.S. Attorney's Office has a third litigating division, the Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Financial Litigation Division. This division represents the United States' interests before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in criminal appeals, and litigates claims on behalf of victims of federal crime and by the United States to the proceeds from crime and property involved in crime.

(Source: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/sc>)