



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 1

July 2025

## In Person Training Opportunity Prosecuting the Impaired Driver – SLED Toxicology Evidence in DUI Cases

Thursday, August 7, 2025, at the SLED  
Forensic Services Lab located at  
4700 Broad River Rd, Columbia, S.C.

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This free training is for DUI Prosecutors who need to know about alcohol and drug testing, and how to use and introduce SLED Toxicology evidence at trial. Lt. Dustin Smith and his staff will explain their testing process, chain of custody, how to read and understand the SLED toxicology lab reports, and more. Training will include a tour of the lab testing area, and time has been allocated for answering your questions. The TSRP is coordinating this free training, and funds from NHTSA and the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs of the SC Department of Public Safety support it. The training is open to DUI grant prosecutors and prosecutors who are employed by Solicitor's offices, municipalities, law enforcement agencies, the Attorney General's Office, DPS, the DMV, or other government agencies.

**REGISTER HERE**

**Need technical assistance with DUI  
prosecution and enforcement questions?**

**Please reach out to our  
Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor**

**Sara Lee Drawdy**  
**sldrawdy@cpc.sc.gov**  
**803-832-8278**



## DUI Law Reform to be taken up in Senate Judiciary Committee at the start of the 2026 Legislative Session

Senate Bill S.52, introduced by Senator Tom Davis is expected to be debated during the 2026 legislative session. Following extensive hearings by a Senate Judiciary subcommittee, the bill was referred back to the full Senate Judiciary Committee for further action near the conclusion of the 2025 legislative year.

The bill creates stronger and smarter penalties for DUI convictions to reflect the seriousness of the crime and reduce repeat offenses, reduces loopholes and unnecessary barriers to DUI investigations and prosecutions, and aligns the DUI laws with the established science around intoxication. Most importantly, Senate Bill S.52 strengthens DUI investigations and prosecutions while protecting the rights of defendants.

Highlights of the bill can be found here on Page 2 . The full text of the bill may be accessed at: [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126\\_2025-2026/bills/52.htm](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/52.htm) .

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATE BILL S.52

## HOW S.52 STRENGTHENS DUI INVESTIGATIONS & PROSECUTIONS WHILE PROTECTING DEFENDANTS RIGHTS

### Video Recording Requirements Reform (§56-5-2953)

- Eliminates dismissal of DUI charges as a remedy for problems with compliance. This permits a significant number of DUI charges that would likely have been dismissed in the past to proceed to court, increasing accountability, deterrence, and public safety.
- Defendant's rights are protected through the preferred remedy of suppression of any evidence that is not properly recorded or documented.
- Miranda warnings will need to be reasonably documented, if given.
- Defendant's rights are protected by suppression of statements given in response to questioning while in custody when Miranda warnings are not given or are not reasonably documented by the video recording.

### Updates for Drug and Alcohol Testing to Better Conform with Scientific Advances (§56-5-2950)

- Replaces urine drug screen testing with blood testing for drugs, as blood testing provides the most complete, accurate and relevant information regarding intoxication

### Simple Changes to the Implied Consent Statute (§56-5-2950) for More Timely Collection of Samples

- Authorizes officers to request blood samples without first offering a breath test when they have a reasonable suspicion that the person is under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. This enables the timely collection of samples.
- The prerequisite of reasonable suspicion for asking for the sample has not changed.
- The Defendant's right to refuse the request remains unchanged.
- Expands the authorization to obtain blood samples to any person who has been medically trained to take samples.
- Permits blood samples to be drawn in any safe and reasonable location.
- Under the current law, blood samples must be obtained only by physicians or registered nurses, and only in a medically licensed facility. Practically speaking, this means that samples must be drawn exclusively in the ER of a hospital (requiring ER doctors and nurses who are busy with patients to pause patient care to collect a blood sample). This results in long waits that frequently extend beyond the statutory time limits for obtaining the samples.
- Authorizing other qualified medically trained people to collect blood samples in accordance with SLED regulations in safe locations as designated by SLED will continue to protect Defendants.
- The burden and costs placed on hospitals will be eased.

### Increasing the length of the suspension periods for refusal to provide samples (§56-5-2951) will encourage more compliance

- Implied Consent Laws that impose an administrative license suspension for individuals who refuse to provide the requested samples have been consistently deemed to be constitutional.
- Jurors want and expect scientific evidence of the impairing substances that are in a person's system.

# 2024 DUI ENFORCEMENT & LAW ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGE AWARDS

The Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, a division of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety held its annual Highway Safety Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony on April 2, 2025. Individual officers, Agencies, and law Enforcement Networks were recognized for their achievements in DUI enforcement.

## Officers of the Year

### Rookie of the Year

Officer Natalie Thompson  
(Clemson University Police Department)

### Officers of the Year

Sr. Patrol Officer Zachariah Azari  
(Charleston Police Department)

Officer Austin Jones  
(Clover Police Department)

First Sergeant Kyle Plattenburg  
(Pageland Police Department)

Pub. Safety Officer Doug Ruben  
(Augusta Department of Public Safety)

Patrl. 1st Class Russell Simmons  
(Port Royal Police Department)

### SCHP Trooper of the Year

Lance Corporal Michael Burgess  
(SCHP Troop 7)

## Agencies of the Year

Charleston Police Department  
Clemson University Police Dept.  
North Myrtle Beach Police Dept.  
Pageland Police Department  
Port Royal Police Department

## SCHP Troop of the Year

SCHP Troop Five  
(Darlington, Dillon, Florence,  
Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro,  
and Williamsburg counties)

## State Transport Region of the Year

STP Region 7  
(DRIVE Team)

## S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination launches new training database

Earlier this year the S.C. Commission on Prosecution launched their new training database, Glue Up. The new database is user friendly and even provides a mobile app for convenience. If you are interested in signing up to receive training notifications, please click on the link below.

[Law enforcement & non- Solicitor/AG office employees please sign up here](#)

[Solicitor & AG office staff please sign up here](#)

## Law Enforcement Network of the Year – 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit



(Greenville and Pickens counties) Lt. Jeff Dalton, Coordinator, and Officer Jeremy Jones, Assistant Coordinator.



## MADD South Carolina Recognizes Outstanding DUI Enforcement, Prosecution, and Community Service and Involvement

On Friday, March 7, 2025, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) held its fourth annual South Carolina law enforcement recognition dinner, presenting “MADDY” awards to officers, prosecutors, and community partners across the state for excellence in their field.



### Barry Barnette DUI Prosecutor of the Year

10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor  
Micah Black



Steven Burritt, Regional Executive Director for MADD with Sergeant Sharon Baldrick of the Isle of Palms Police Department.

### Lifetime Achievement in Enforcement

Sergeant  
Sharon Baldrick  
Isle of Palms P.D.



### Compassionate Hero Award

Patrol Officer  
Tayquon Johnson  
Greenwood, P.D.



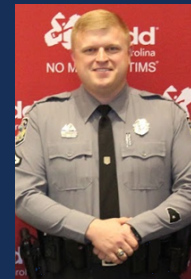
### DUI Enforcement Hero of the Year

Senior Patrol Officer  
Zacharia Azari  
Charleston, P.D.



### 2024 Millennium Achiever Award

Police Officer  
Shon McClusky  
Myrtle Beach, P.D.



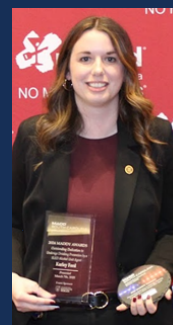
### Rick Moore Drug Recognition Expert of the Year

Lance Corporal  
Sidney A. Brock  
State Transport Police



### Outstanding Dedication to BUI Enforcement

Conservation Officer  
Cameron Smith  
SC Dept. of Natural  
Resources



### Outstanding Dedication to Underage Drinking Prevention by a SLED Agent

Agent  
Karly Ford  
SLED

**DUI Enforcement Hero Agency of the Year**  
Charleston Police Department

**Power of (You)th Award**  
Mallory Stokes

**Outstanding Alcohol Enforcement Team**  
13th Judicial Circuit

**Outstanding Dedication to Underage Drinking**  
Emma Forrester

**Volunteer of the Year**  
Kim Dennis

**Outstanding DUI Prevention Communications  
Initiative**  
WRHI Radio



## 2024 MADD AWARDS (CONTINUED)

### 2024 DUI Enforcers of the Year

#### 869 Total DUI Arrests Made

Senior Trooper Steven Salerno - (SC Highway Patrol) 56 DUI arrests  
Trooper Trent Colley - (SC Highway Patrol) 58 DUI arrests  
Senior Trooper Samuel Lawson - (SC Highway Patrol) 59 DUI arrests  
Officer Tayquan Johnson - (Greenwood City PD) 64 DUI arrests  
Senior Trooper Daniel Coon - (SC Highway Patrol) 68 DUI arrests  
Lance Corporal Michael Burgess - (SC Highway Patrol) 80 DUI arrests  
Officer Jeremy Jones - (Easley Police Dept.) 101 DUI arrests  
Officer Doug Ruben - (North Augusta Dept. of Public Safety) 122 DUI arrests  
Patrolman 1st Class Timothy Larson - (Myrtle Beach PD) 129 DUI arrests  
Officer Zachariah Azari - (Charleston PD) 132 DUI arrests



2024

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITY ANNUAL DUI ROUNDTABLE



#### Monday, October 6th, 2025

Lunch and Learn Live at the Solicitors' Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC . (Open to all DUI Prosecutors, Attorney General's Office or other government agency attorneys and their staffs, Law Enforcement Officers, and SLED or Criminal Justice Academy personnel via Zoom™ ) Be sure to register online to the SCCPC database prior to this training. If you have any questions on how to compete registration, please send an email to [training@cpc.sc.gov](mailto:training@cpc.sc.gov).

