



Come-See-Me Festival 2019

Festival Chair Biography

The Come-See-Me Festival is pleased to have Chad Echols as the 2019 **year's Festival Chair**. A Rock Hill native, Chad graduated in 1998 from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management. He received his law degree in 2002 from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he was a member of the South Carolina Environmental Law Journal. Following law school, Chad was a law clerk for the Honorable John C. Hayes III in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of South Carolina.



Before forming The Echols Firm, LLC, Chad served as Vice President and General Counsel for Williams & Fudge, Inc., a national student loan collection agency located in Rock Hill, and was an attorney with the law firm Hamilton, Martens & Ballou, LLC. He continues to serve as outside general counsel to Williams & Fudge, Inc.

The firm's practice focuses on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, compliance for collection agencies and debt purchasers, business law, litigation, and commercial collections. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association.

Along with his Come-See-Me duties, Chad currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Upper Palmetto YMCA Camp Cherokee and York County Clemson Club Board. Chad previously served in **leadership positions with the Good Folks of York County, The Palmetto School at the Children's Attention Home, Family Promise of York County, the York County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, and as an Elder at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church.** Chad, along with other camp supporters, worked to form the Cherokee Conservation Corps which assists in supporting and improving the capital needs at YMCA Camp Cherokee.

As part of representing the credit and collection industry, Chad is an active member of ACA International, the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals. His contributions include:

- Professional Collections Specialist Certificate since 2005
- 2006-2008 **Members' Attorney Program (MAP) Committee**

- 2008-2009 MAP Committee Chairperson
- 2009-2011 ACA Board of Directors
- 2011-present South Carolina State Legislative Chair
- 2011-present South Carolina MAP State Chair
- 2012-2013 ACA Industry Defense Task Force Committee
- 2013 ACA Scholar Designation
- Collection Notice Review (CNR) Panel
- 2014-present ACA Judicial Committee
- Unit Secretary/Treasurer for the South Carolina Collectors Association

Bar and Court Admissions

- South Carolina
- United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
- The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

Chad is married to Anna Echols who is a teacher in the Rock Hill School District. Anna and Chad have two children (Guy (10) and Liza (8)). Chad will be a second generation chairperson for Come-See-Me. His father, Doug, served as festival chairperson in 1985.

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