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**Charleston County Bar Association Presents Attorney Ruth Cupp
with the Prestigious James Louis Petigru Award**

CHARLESTON, SC (Nov. 20, 2015) – The Charleston County Bar Association acknowledged attorney Ruth W. Cupp last evening with the prestigious James Louis Petigru medal. The award is the highest honor that is bestowed by the Charleston County Bar Association. It is not an annual award; it is only given at the discretion of a standing committee of the organization to formally recognize an individual who has exemplified the highest principles of the legal profession.

Cupp was unable to attend the ceremony due to a health issue. Her sister, Patsy Williams Mizell, accepted the award in her absence. Although she was not able to be present, Cupp said she was honored to receive the Petigru medal. “I am extremely grateful to the Charleston County Bar Association for bestowing this award to me,” said Cupp. “I would say that the comradery at this Bar is superior to any other Bar group anywhere. When I graduated from law school in 1954, my class was the last new group that had to stand before the South Carolina Supreme Court and swear we would not settle any disputes by dueling. During my 61 years practicing law, I am pleased to say I have never settled one dispute against a fellow attorney by dueling.”

The same year Ruth Cupp graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law, she made history when she became the first female attorney voted into the membership of the Charleston County Bar Association. She obtained her undergraduate degree in social work from Winthrop College in Rock Hill. During her more than 60 years as an attorney, she has served on the Executive Committee of the Charleston County Bar; as historian to, and as a member of the Executive Committee, of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association; and on the Executive Committee of the Senior Lawyers

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Division of the South Carolina Bar. Cupp is a former state legislator and a former associate probate judge. “The Petigru Award has never been given and is not intended to recognize a single case or event in a legal career. Instead, the award honors a lawyer for a field of work, often a lifetime of work, dedicated to the values we place highest - integrity, the persistent push for justice, grit, and a willingness to take it on the chin for those who come after,” said James D. Myrick, 2015-2016 President of the Charleston County Bar Association. “Ruth Cupp is a shining example.”

In addition to being an attorney, Cupp is a non-fiction writer. She is the author of *Portia Steps up to the Bar*, a book that details the early women lawyers in South Carolina; *Attorneys from Charles Town to Charleston*, a history of the local legal profession; and *Miracles on St. Margaret Street*, an inside look at the Florence Crittenton House and how it has helped thousands of pregnant unmarried women and their babies. Frank McCann, a member of the Petigru Award Committee for the Charleston County Bar Association, said, “The Committee has bestowed this honor on behalf of the Charleston County Bar, recognizing that the medal is only given to those members that ‘stand up’ for what they believe is right, true and just often in the face of the opposition, or negative public opinion, or criticism, or a client or group of individuals without a public voice. Some lawyers stand up occasionally while others spend their entire professional life ‘standing up’ often and routinely, as a matter of nature and resolve, for what they know is right and just. Ruth Cupp has routinely stood up, when others have not. For that she deserves our recognition.”

Ruth Cupp is the fourth person to receive the James Louis Petigru award. The other three recipients are: The Honorable Richard Fields, a former circuit court judge; Coming Ball Gibbs, a prominent criminal defense attorney; and Morris D. Rosen, founder of Rosen, Rosen & Hagood Law Firm.

About the Charleston County Bar Association

The Charleston County Bar Association is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting ethics and education within Charleston County's legal community as well as assisting the public through outreach programs and service projects. It consists of more than 2,200 members.