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Prof. Simpkins currently serves on the Board of the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, Trident United Way, the South Carolina Aquarium, the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry, and the Lowcountry Housing Trust.

Prof. Simpkins is a native of Lexington, SC, where he graduated from Lexington High School. He received an A.B. in Government from Harvard College and a J.D. and LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Duke University School of Law. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.