

# CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2011



## YEARS IN REVIEW: 2009-2011

Under the leadership of Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, the Georgia bench and bar continue our esteemed tradition of focusing attention on professionalism through leadership, signature programs and strategic liaisons with judicial, legal, academic and community organizations. The past two bar years (2009-2010, 2010-2011) were active and productive ones for the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, as we actively addressed important challenges of the legal profession. At the same time, we found new opportunities for professionalism initiatives.

As former Chief Justice Robert Benham so often reminds us, Georgia's brand of professionalism is based on four pillars: competence, civility, pro bono service and community and public service. In many ways, our endeavors in these past two years allowed us to circle back to the origins of Georgia's professionalism movement of the mid-1980's. For example, the new forms of communications, including the use of social media by the legal profession, have returned us to and reminded us of the importance of civility.

We keep Georgia's bar informed of all of our activities through the Professionalism Page in the *Georgia Bar Journal*. There is also current information about Commission activities through communications on the Georgia Bar website, [www.gabar.org](http://www.gabar.org) and through written and e-mail messages and regular reports to the Board of Governors and local and circuit bar leaders. The two public members of the Commission receive copies of the *Georgia Bar Journal* and additional information to support them in supporting us.

We thank all judges, lawyers and lay leaders of Georgia who supported our professionalism programs. All Georgia lawyers are connected to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism in some way through their annual continuing legal education requirement. Others participate through presenting at a CLE or preparing a paper on an aspect of professionalism. This year many judges and lawyers went beyond minimum contact by attending and participating in Commission events.

Many thanks to Commission members who have completed their terms, State Bar



Carol W. Hunstein, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia

Presidents Bryan Cavan (2010) and S. Lester Tate, III (2011), YLD Presidents Amy Howell (2010) and Michael Geoffroy (2011), Professor Clark D. Cunningham, Associate Dean A. James Elliott, Catherine Hilton, Seth D. Kirschenbaum, Jeff L. Milstein, John Howard Moore, Daniel J. Porter, Mel Westmoreland, Ken Wynn—resigned due to appointment to Superior Court of Alcovy Circuit and Sally Quillian Yates. Commission members bring their leadership expertise, and the ideas that support and enrich the cause of professionalism. We also extend our appreciation to the members the Selection Committee for the Justice Robert Benham Community Service Awards, members of the Board of Governors, Mentors, Mentees and staff of the Transition Into Law

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

YEAR IN REVIEW	2
CONVOCATION ON PROFESSIONALISM	3
TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE HAROLD G. CLARKE	4
SIGNATURE PROGRAMS	5
SIGNATURE PROGRAMS	6
COOPERATIVE & COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS	7
COOPERATIVE & COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS	8
DID YOU KNOW?	9
DID YOU KNOW?	10
SELECTED CLES	11
STAFF CORNER	12
PICTURES	13
MEMBERS & MISSION STATEMENT	14



Avarita L. Hanson, Convocation on Professionalism

"MOVING FORWARD, WE DO NOT INTEND TO REST ON OUR LAURELS."  
*AVARITA L. HANSON,  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*



Avarita L. Hanson, Tribute to Chief Justice Harold G. Clarke

Practice Program, the State Bar Committee on Professionalism, and State Bar staff.

On November 30, 2010, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism revived its tradition of holding professionalism convocations when it presented the Convocation on Professionalism: "Law Practice 2010 and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities." This extraordinary program brought together national and local experts on some of the most important issues of the legal profession for a full-day CLE program. The attorneys who attended found it an excellent opportunity to learn more about these issues. It is our plan to take this convocation's topics on the road during the 2011-2012 bar year with the assistance of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. You can read more about the Convocation elsewhere in this report.

Over the years, the Commission has supported professionalism initiatives that continue to thrive and spread nationally and internationally. One such endeavor, the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism (NIFTEP), was the brainchild of Georgia State Professor and Commission member Clark Cunningham. At the core of this program is a weekend workshop bringing together practitioners and scholars to address both the teaching and topics of ethics and professionalism. NIFTEP has now enjoyed such excellence it has attracted the financial support it needs to

continue to thrive independently, beyond the seed funds provided by the Commission for its start-up and first few years. Georgia attorneys can participate in future NIFTEP workshops by applying to the Fellows Program through the website hosted by Georgia State College of Law. Visit the website at <http://law.gsu.edu/NIFTEP/>

This summer we will enter the third year under the leadership of Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, an outstanding jurist and leader with whom we look forward to continuing to work. Moving forward, we do not intend to rest on our laurels. The Commission meets three times each year in the fall, winter and spring and has committees to guide its major concerns (Finance and Personnel, Educational Video Projects, Professionalism Curriculum, and Access to Justice).

The Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism takes seriously not only its position as the first such entity in the world, but its leadership in the professionalism movement that has spawned excellent programs and opportunities replicated around the world. Each and every year colleagues in other cities, states and countries turn to us for program ideas and assistance. Notably, our law school orientations on professionalism have been replicated in more than forty law schools and our mentoring program (Transition into Law Practice Program) is a model of how to gracefully transition newly-admitted

attorneys into the practice of law.

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism is always open to new ideas to foster professionalism in Georgia's legal community and to address new avenues of promoting access to justice, public and community service and, of course, civility in all that lawyers do. Our staff is here to help, so do call upon Ms. Terie Latala (Assistant Director), Nneka Harris-Daniel (Administrative Assistant) and me when you need assistance. Please feel free to share your concerns and ideas.

Sincerely,

Avarita L. Hanson  
 Executive Director



Avarita L. Hanson, Executive Director, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

## 2010 CONVOCATION ON PROFESSIONALISM

This extraordinary program was co-sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, through the auspices of its Executive Director Larry Jones. His contribution to its success cannot be overstated. Convocation business sponsors included the Schiff Hardin LLP law firm and the Daily Report. Lead by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears (Retired), Schiff Hardin LLP hosted the Speakers Dinner at the French American Brasserie on the evening prior to the Convocation, which proved an excellent opportunity for presenters to meet and network before the full-day seminar. Following the CLE, participants were treated to a reception where they continued to discuss the events of the day and networked while noshing and listening to the jazzy sounds of Eric Thomas.

This program covered a breadth of important issues facing the profession. Presenters and participants reviewed such issues as: increased competition, fee structure changes, inter-generational practice, the economic climate for lawyering today and tomorrow, the use and ethics of technology, and future trends for the practice of law. With this Convocation, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism revived its tradition of engaging the bench and bar in timely and important professionalism issues. National and local experts addressed

the most timely and universal topics affecting Georgia lawyers. The current state of our profession and client expectations, locally and nationally, were examined. Participants had the unique opportunity to provide their input and suggestions for activities and programs that the State Bar of Georgia, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, courts and other entities can consider to meet current and future needs and concerns. Presented in three locations – live in Atlanta at the Georgia Bar Center and video-conferenced to Tifton and Savannah – Georgia lawyers attended from near and far.

We extend our appreciation to the very special people who made this Convocation happen. First, to Sally Evans Lockwood, former Executive Director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, who inspired us to revive the tradition of Convocations on Professionalism. The Convocation Committee provided ideas and encouragement – Chief Judge Yvette Miller, Avarita L. Hanson, Larry Jones, Damon E. Elmore, and Judge Melvin Westmoreland. Our "worker bees," executed the plans so well – Terie Latala, Nneka Harris-Daniel, Sharon Obialo (Intern) and Aimee Pickett (Coordinator).

The Speakers and Moderators for the Convocation included: Douglas G. Ashworth, Justice Robert Benham, Prof. Clark D. Cunningham, Prof. Susan Daicoff, Dean A. James Elli-

ott, Damon E. Elmore, Paula J. Frederick, Michael G. Geoffroy, Stephanie L. Kimbro, Linda A. Klein, Steven K. Leibel, Sally Evans Lockwood, Prof. Patrick E. Longan, Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Avarita L. Hanson, John T. Marshall, J. Thomas Morgan, III, Robert Obst, PsyD, Catherine Sanders Reach, Gregory L. Riggs, Allan J. Tanenbaum, S. Lester Tate, III and Michael B. Terry.

In sum, the theme – Law Practice 2010 and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities – so adequately captured the concepts of the 2010 Convocation on Professionalism. The speakers were all excellent. The topics were all timely. The presentations were informative, innovative and even enjoyable. The materials were extensive and useful as the printed program booklet included a CD with more than nine hundred pages of reference materials. One participant said he would not step outside the conference room to answer his cell phone for fear of missing some valuable information. Another said, "That was, by the way, one of the best CLE's (most engaging, interesting) I have attended – and lots of folks were saying that." The feedback and after buzz confirmed that the Convocation was much more than a CLE; it was an enlightening and informative event.



"THAT WAS, BY THE WAY, ONE OF THE BEST CLE'S (MOST ENGAGING, INTERESTING) I HAVE ATTENDED – AND LOTS OF FOLKS WERE SAYING THAT."  
CONVOCATION PARTICIPANT







Chief Justice Harold G. Clarke (Retired)

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSION FOUNDER CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD G. CLARKE (RETIRED)

During the Convocation on Professionalism, a special tribute luncheon was held in honor of Chief Justice Harold G. Clarke (retired), a founder of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. A video tribute chronicled Justice Clarke's career through photos and a dialogue presented by Professor Patrick E. Longan of Mercer University Law School. Spe-

cial personalized tributes were given by Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears (retired), John T. Marshall, Dean A. James Elliott and Sally Evans Lockwood. Justice Clarke was accompanied by several family members, including Mrs. Nora Clarke, his wife. Commission Executive Director, Avarita L. Hanson presented Justice Clarke

with a crystal Founders Award.

"PROFESSIONALISM DIFFERS FROM ETHICS IN THE SENSE THAT ETHICS IS A MINIMUM STANDARD ... WHILE PROFESSIONALISM IS A HIGHER STANDARD EXPECTED OF ALL LAWYERS." CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD G. CLARKE



## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The Commission continues to provide and support its Signature Programs:

- *Professionalism CLEs.* More than 600 CLEs on professionalism are reviewed and approved annually. Staff assists the bench and bar locally, nationally and internationally with professionalism CLE development.
- *Resource Library.* Resources are collected, catalogued and maintained in the Commission's Resource Library to support professionalism programming. We are an integral hub of Professionalism resources and information for many Commissions on Professionalism across the country.
- *Professionalism Page in the Georgia Bar Journal.* The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism maintains the Professionalism Page published regularly in the *Georgia Bar Journal*. Executive Director Avarita Hanson pens some articles on professionalism topics and enlists other authors to write about topics that are relevant to the advancement of professionalism in the practice. Recent articles include: Professionalism and Collaborative Law in Family Practice; A Conversation and a Scorecard: The Impact of the Economy on Diversity in the Profession; Now That's Progress! What'll You Do Next?; Law Day 2010: Lawyers in Service to Their Communities; and Justice Robert Benham Community Service Awards.
- *Professionalism Materials.* The Commission produces, develops, shares, and markets professionalism materials, including articles, Law Day guidelines, speeches, and videos. Its Educational Video Projects Committee provides oversight to production of videos. The Commission co-sponsored and worked in partnership with the Atlanta Bar Association on an innovative CLE program that be premiered during the Fall of 2009, "Lincoln on Professionalism." This CLE video and educational materials have since been used by various entities across Georgia and in other states.
- *Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service.* Since 1998, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the State Bar of Georgia have presented awards to lawyers and judges in Georgia who have made significant contributions to their communities. Awards are given to selected attorneys throughout Geor-

gia's judicial districts. With an ever-increasing number of nominations of attorneys from throughout Georgia, the Selections Committee has been chaired by Patrice Perkins-Hooker. Past recipients and members of the Young Lawyers Division Community Service Committee serve as volunteer hosts for the Awards Program. With this Academy Awards-type event that is free and open to the public and attracts nearly two hundred attendees each year, the Commission and State Bar of Georgia focus on the public's attention on attorneys' good deeds outside of their law practice or judicial duties. The 11th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service were presented on February 16, 2010. The ten honorees included: Mr. Charles W. Lamb, Albany (Judicial District 2); Mr. Jonathan Alderman, Macon (Judicial District 3); The Honorable Nancy Nash Bills, Conyers (Judicial District 4); Mr. William Barwick, Mr. Michael Hobbs, Jr., Ms. Amy Kolczak, and Ms. Nancy Whaley, all of Atlanta (Judicial District 5); Ms. Angela Hinton, Fayetteville (Judicial District 6); Mr. Justin O'Dell, Marietta (Judicial District 7); and

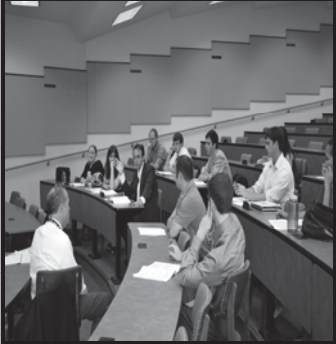
The 12th Annual  
Justice Robert Benham  
Awards for Community Service



Georgia Bar Center Auditorium  
Atlanta, Georgia February 16, 2011







Law School Orientations on Professionalism

Mr. Mark O. Shriver, IV (Judicial District 9). The 12th Annual Awards were presented on February 15, 2011 to attorneys from the 10 judicial districts and to one lifetime achievement award recipient. The 2011 honors were covered by WXIA newsman, Bill Liss, on the station's evening news and website. Coverage of the awards reached local media throughout Georgia and the recipients' alumni offices around the country, further spreading the news. The worthy Lifetime Achievement Awardee was Mr. George T. Brown, Jr. of Brown & Brown Attorneys at Law, Jonesboro, Georgia. Community Service Awards went to Mr. Howard E. Spiva, Savannah (Judicial District 1); Mr. D. Bradley Folsom, Valdosta (Judicial District 2); Prof. Sarah Gerwig-Moore, Macon and Mr. Clarence Williams, III, Warner Robins (Judicial District 3); Ms. Vivica M. Brown, Stone Mountain (Judicial District 4); Ms. Anne W. Lewis, Atlanta (Judicial District 5); The Honorable M. Anthony Baker and Mr. Eric A. Ballinger, Canton (Judicial District 9); and The Honorable Samuel D. Ozburn, Covington (Judicial District 10).

- *Transition Into Law Practice Program.* Nationally and

internationally known as the first mandatory program for mentoring for newly-admitted attorneys, our own Transition Into Law Practice Program (TILPP) is a permanent bar program. Its Director, Doug Ashworth is a national resource for judges, bar leaders and others who contemplate initiating lawyer mentoring programs.

- *Law School Orientations on Professionalism.* For nearly 20 years, the Commission on Professionalism in partnership with the State Bar's Committee on Professionalism and all Georgia law schools, provides this innovative program to more than 1200 entering law students. The Committee on Professionalism, chaired by Dick Donovan for five years, solicits over 200 bench and bar members to support these programs at Emory, Georgia, Georgia State, Atlanta's John Marshall and Mercer Law Schools. This program continues to garner glowing reviews from all involved – law students, school administrations, faculty members and alumni participants. Georgia lawyers lead the pack, creating this program that has spread to now more than forty law schools throughout the country, getting students off to the right start in

their thinking about ethics and professionalism and acting accordingly.

- *Law Day.* Working with the Committee on Professionalism, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism promotes and assists with Law Day planning and activities throughout Georgia. Beginning in 2002, Attorney's Oath Renewal Ceremonies have been held around the state. Atlanta ceremonies have been officiated by Georgia Supreme Court Justices Harris Hines (2002), Carol Hunstein (2003), Leah Ward Sears (2004), and Fulton County Superior Court Judge T. Jackson Bedford, Jr. (2005). Participants in these ceremonies find them deeply meaningful. The Professionalism Committee of the State Bar encourages bar associations to make the Attorney's Oath part of Law Day programs because a public display on the courthouse steps of local lawyers' rededication to the rule of law shows citizens that lawyers are truly committed to protecting their interests honorably, ethically and professionally. The ABA's Law Day theme in 2010 was "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges." The ABA's 2011 Law Day Theme is: "The Legacy of John Adams - From Boston to

Guantanamo.” Materials to support Law Day activities are placed on the State Bar website every year by the Committee on Professionalism and are also available from the American Bar Association at [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org) including a map listing Law Day activities around Georgia.



Law Day Activities across Georgia

## COOPERATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism assists the State Bar of Georgia and entities of the courts promoting professionalism in many ways, including:

- *Cornerstones of Freedom Program* - Public information and outreach has been an important priority to the State Bar leadership for the last few years. Thus, Chief Justice Hunstein and the Commission have been well-informed and provided support to the Cornerstones of Freedom (formerly known as Foundations of Freedom) Program. Regular reports from bar presidents and others have been well received. Videos and accompanying materials have been distributed, reviewed and used by Commission members and staff, not only for CLEs, but for community programs.
- *Supreme Court Commission on Equality Court Conduct Handbook*. The Commission assisted with updating the Supreme Court's Commission on Equality's *Court Conduct Handbook*. With instructional examples of language and use of appropriate language, this Handbook offers lessons that help foster the types of nondiscriminatory relations and relationships that meet the high standards and ideals of professionalism. The Commission encourages all involved in the judicial system to use this Handbook as a handy guide to address appropriate ways to show respect for race, gender, ethnicity differences among all involved in the administration of justice in Georgia courts.
- *Judicial District Professionalism Program*. The Commission continues to promote the Judicial District Professionalism Program, a measure designed by the State Bar's Bench and Bar Committee to address lawyer and judicial conduct primarily in litigation and discovery interactions.
- *State Bar Diversity Program*. A prototype program for engaging Georgia attorneys in a continuing dialogue geared to business and professional cultural competency, under the leadership of Marian Dockery, the Diversity Program produced several innovative programs promoted by the Commission.
- *Professional Enhancement Program*. - Commission Staff regularly participates in the State Bar Office of General Counsel's diversion program for attorneys required to brush up on ethical and professionalism issues.
- *State Bar Committee on Professionalism*. The Commission provides administrative support for the State Bar's Committee on Professionalism, with which it partners in presenting annual Law School Orientations on Professionalism at all Georgia law schools. The Commission also assists the Committee on Professionalism with its "Take Your Adversary to Lunch" (based upon the Atlanta Bar's program) and "Creative Connections" pro-





Cobb Bar Association Law Day Activities



YLD Members

grams, both designed to promote professionalism between individual attorneys.

- *Young Lawyers Division.* The President of the YLD sits on the Commission. The Georgia Bar's YLD was named the top YLD in the nation for 2009-2010 by the American Bar Association and took two other top honors for its programs. The Commission supports the work of the YLD and works with its leaders and members of its Ethics and Professionalism Committee to support its programs including its CLEs and its Signature Fundraiser.

- *Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency & Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Georgia.* The Commission maintains a close relationship with the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC) and Georgia's official CLE provider, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) to insure that the highest standards are met for professionalism continuing legal education programs. The Executive Director of the Commission is an ex-officio member of the CCLC, attends its biannual meetings and makes reports to this organization that governs continuing legal education for Georgia attorneys. The Supreme Court des-

ignates an attorney to sit on the CCLC, a seat currently filled by Eric Barnum, partner at Schiff Hardin LLP who is completing his third term.

- *ABA Center for Professional Responsibility.* As a member organization of this national entity, the Commission gets support in its provision of resources for attorneys and judges who want to create or improve a similar entity or institute additional programming. The Center holds an annual Conference on Professional Responsibility to inform and educate the bench and bar about contemporary ethics and professionalism issues.
- *ABA Consortium on Professionalism Initiatives.* The ABA supports the Consortium on Professionalism Initiatives, a loosely-associated grass-roots think-tank of practitioners, judges and scholars who share concepts and network around professionalism initiatives. In 2010, Commission Executive Director Avarita L. Hanson was named Chair of the Consortium and presided over its meeting during the Mid-year Meeting of the ABA held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 12, 2011. The Consortium meets during the Annual and Midyear meetings of the ABA and sometimes during the Conference on Professional Responsibility.
- *Local Bar Activities Committee.* The Commission works with this committee to support excellence in bar programming, including Law Day programs, and promotes the Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award and Thomas R. Burnside Jr. Excellence in Bar Leadership Award.
- *Other Programs.* The Commission maintains a close and ongoing relationship with State Bar offices, including the Consumer Assistance Program, Fee Arbitration Program, Law Practice Management Program, and the Pro Bono Project. The Commission also regularly interacts with and supports the Standards of the Profession Committee, Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession (fka Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee), Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution, and the Supreme Court Committee on Civil Justice.





## DID YOU KNOW?

### Annual Legal Ethics and Professionalism Symposia Are Held at Georgia Law Schools:

For now more than a decade, with an annual rotation, a legal ethics and professionalism symposium is held at Emory, Georgia Law, Georgia State, or Mercer Law Schools. The 10th Annual Legal Ethics and Professionalism Symposium was hosted in 2009 by Georgia Law School. Titled "Drawing the Ethical Line: Controversial Cases, Zealous Advocacy and the Public Good", this day-long event examined the difficult ethical issues encountered by attorneys in defending and prosecuting controversial or high-profile cases. The program featured keynote addresses by former U.S. Attorney General W. Ramsey Clark and former U.S. Attorney David C. Iglesias in addition to three panel discussions involving noted judges, practitioners and academics. A DVD of the entire event is available through the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia.

The 11th Annual Symposium was sponsored by Emory University School of Law on October 15, 2010. It was titled, "The Overlap of Legal and Medical Ethics", and moderated by A. James Elliott, Program Chair and Associate Dean. Using the Schiavo case as a backdrop, this CLE addressed end of life issues and included perspectives from the medical, nursing, hospital administration, religious communities, as well as the legal community.

### Georgia Lawyers and Programs Historically Garner E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards:

The annual E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards recognize projects contributing to the understanding of professionalism among lawyers. The awards are presented annually by the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism in the amount of \$3,500 each. Law schools, bar associations, law firms

and other law-related organizations are eligible for the awards. The Gambrell Awards were established in 1991 and are named for E. Smythe Gambrell, ABA and American Bar Foundation president from 1955 to 1956. Gambrell founded the Legal Aid Society in Atlanta, where he practiced law from 1922 until his death in 1986

- *State Bar of Georgia (2010)*. The State Bar of Georgia received the 2010 Gambrell Award during the ABA Annual Meeting in August of 2010 for our Transition Into Law Practice Program ("TILPP"), a comprehensive and proactive response by the State Bar of Georgia to the challenges outlined in the 1986 ABA Stanley Report; the 1992 ABA McCrate Report; and, the 1996 ABA Haynsworth Report. In the aftermath of the release of the Haynsworth Report in 1996, the State



E. Smythe Gambrell



Doug Ashworth, Executive Director, Transition Into Law Practice Program ("TILPP")

Bar of Georgia created the Standards of the Profession Committee, charged with the responsibility to investigate and report to the Board of Governors as to whether Beginning Lawyers should complete a period of internship or other supervised work prior to admission.

#### Other Georgia Recipients of the Gambrell Award and projects:

- *The Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (Town Hall Meetings) (1993)*, was recognized for a series of ten Town Hall Meetings held around the state to assist and encourage lawyers, judges and legal academicians to come to a shared vision of the profession. The meetings attracted 673 lawyers and judges. Information from questionnaires from each meeting has been collated and compiled and will be used to focus breakout group discussions at the Fifth Annual Convocation on Professionalism in 1993.
- *The Mercer University School of Law (Woodruff Curriculum) (1996)*, was honored for its Woodruff Curriculum, a three year curriculum for law schools designed and implemented by Mercer University School of Law. The primary objective of this curriculum is the instilling of a sense of professionalism in the students. The program took five years to design and implement, culminating in its introduction to the law school in 1990. While each course offers opportunities to teach professionalism, the following courses are designed specifically for the curriculum: a first year course in Legal Writing, Research and Advice, second and third year introductory workshops, Perspective on Lawyering, and the Advanced Skills courses. At the beginning of each year, students take one week workshops that have as a central objective, the communicating of an understanding of the role of the lawyer in society. In these courses, students see that good lawyering is a service to clients and a service to the community and that the ethics of practice come from these obligations of service.
- *The Emory University Law School – Law School Professionalism Project (1999)*, was an outgrowth of informal discussions about the level of professionalism within the law school community. During the 1998/1999 academic year, Emory University undertook to redesign and expand the program on "professionalism" offered at orientation for first year students. Concurrently with this redesign, Emory began a rethinking of the Student Honor Code with the object of basing the Code of Conduct upon the standards of ethics and professionalism required of members of the Bar. At orientation, first year students met in small groups with volunteer members of the Bar and members of the law school faculty to discuss hypotheticals highlighting the kind of ethical dilemmas that they might face in law school. Materials were designed in collaboration with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. The Commission also recruited lawyer participants. The lawyers received CLE professionalism credit for participating. These sessions were repeated with the same small groups using new materials in October and February. As a part of the discussion, they introduced a statement of values of their community to be included in our revised Code of Pre-Professional Conduct. The purposes of these sessions were to: (a) Demonstrate to the students, the common understanding between practitioners and legal academics of these issues; (b) to encourage the stu-

dents to think in terms of their own values and standards of professionalism as pre-professionals and of their responsibility to uphold those values within their community. This program will be repeated for first year students. Emory also planned a program for second year students, building on the first year experience. In three years, all three law school classes should be actively involved in ongoing discussions of pro-

fessionalism and ethics throughout the year.



EMORY  
LAW



SELECTED CLES AND PRESENTATIONS 2009-2011, AVARITA L. HANSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**April 20, 2009:**

- College Class, Georgia State University, Professor Mel Mobley, *Justice, Social Change & Cyberspace*.

**June 16, 2009:**

- Gate City Bar Association, Justice Benham Law Camp, Keynote Speaker.

**September 9, 2009:**

- ICLE, CLE, *Current Issues in Professionalism for the Judges*, State Board of Workers Compensation Educational Conference, Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA.

**September 30, 2009:**

- 17th Annual State Bar of Georgia Diversity Program CLE & Luncheon, *A Report: Corporations and Law Firms Challenged in A Tough Economy – A Scorecard on the Diversity Performance of Corporations and Law Firms*, Bar Association Roundtable, Georgia Bar Center, Atlanta, GA, Introductions: Marian Cover Dockery, Moderator: Avarita L. Hanson; Speakers: Jeremy Burnette, Linda Klein, Sonjui Kumar,

Esq., Rodney Moore, Esq., Erik S. Rodriguez

**October 21, 2009:**

- Law School Class, *The Ethics of Collaborative Law*, Contemporary Issues in Family Law, University of Georgia Law School, Athens, GA, Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears (Retired), Instructor. Seminar with Paula Frederick.

**November 4, 2009:**

- CLE, *Current Issues in Professionalism for Government Attorneys*, ICLE, Government Lawyers Section, State Bar Conference Center, Atlanta, GA.

**November 6, 2009:**

- Remarks, *Meeting My Clients At Their Place*, National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism, Fall Workshop, Redtop Mountain, GA.

**November 10, 2009:**

- ICLE, *Mentor Orientation Program*, Georgia Bar Center, Atlanta, GA

**December 2, 2009:**

- *Professionalism: A Refreshers Course*, State Bar of Georgia Professionalism Enhancement Program, Georgia Bar Center, Atlanta, GA

**February 13, 2010:**

- *New Focus on Professionalism*, Presentation to Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, at Commission Meeting and Retreat, Emory Conference Center, Atlanta, GA.

**March 9, 2010:**

- ICLE, CLE, Group Mentoring Program, Transition Into Law Practice Program, *Practicing with Professionalism*, Georgia Bar Center, Atlanta, GA

**August 21, 2010:**

- Remarks, *I Am Going to Be A Lawyer, Striving for Excellence ... From Day One!* Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Multicultural Workshop, Atlanta, GA



**November 5, 2010:**

- CLE, *Sexual Harassment: Alive or Dead Alive? Myth or Reality?*, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, Atlanta, GA, with Joshua Bosin, Gwendolyn Fortson Waring, B.J. Bernstein.

**February 11, 2010:**

- ICLE: Mentor CLE, Welcome and History of the Transition Into Law Practice Program, *Real Lawyers; Real Mentors*, Georgia Bar Center, Atlanta, GA

**April 30, 2010:**

- YLD CLE: Spring 2010 Meeting, *The Bar's Journey to Diversity and Inclusion*, Key West, FL.

**December 9, 2010:**

- ICLE, 40th Annual Labor & Employment Institute, *Professionalism Is Always In Season: A Dialogue on Hot Topics*,

*Trends and Opportunities*, State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, Atlanta, GA, with Damon Elmore

**March 11, 2011:**

- ICLE, Professionalism and Ethics Update, *A Dialogue on Hot Topics, Trends and Opportunities*, GPB Studio (Live) and Statewide Satellite Program, 260 14th Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA, with > J. Randolph Evans and Jenny K. Mittelman

**April 21, 2011:**

- CLE, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, General Body Meeting and CLE, *The Practice: Hot Topics From the Bench and Bar*, with Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane, Judge Gail Tusan, Shymeka Hunter, Kellyn McGee, Ruth Woodling, Fulton County Courthouse, Atlanta GA.



## STAFF CORNER

The Commission staff are committed to excellence in supporting professionalism and are involved in many activities that shine a positive light in the legal and greater communities.

**Avarita L. Hanson**, has served as Executive Director since May of 2006. An Atlanta attorney, she has served as Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Law at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, was a private practitioner in Houston, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia and as a public servant as Clerk to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and Executive Director of several licensing boards under the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. She also served as the Pro Bono Director for the State Bar of Georgia and Georgia Legal Services Program. An involved bar leader, she is a past president of the Gate City Bar Association and Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys. In February of 2011, she was honored by the State Bar of Georgia as a

recipient of the Randolph Thrower Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to Equality.

**Terie Latala**, joined the Commission in 1991 and has served as Assistant Director since 2006. Ms. Latala has a strong commitment to legal professionalism and uplifting the image of the members of the bar. She has volunteered with the High School Mock Trial Program for many years and was honored by the Young Lawyers Division in 2008 for catering the State Finals for 15 years



Terie Latala, Assistant Director (r)

**Nneka Harris-Daniel**, Administrative Assistant, joined the Commission staff full-time in 2008, after serving part time since 2006. Ms. Harris-Daniel has been a paralegal since 2003, is currently completing her college degree in English Literature at Georgia State University and was recently recognized by their English Department for her literary work. She works closely with the Justice Benham Community Service Awards and the Law School Orientation Program. This year, she helped enhance Commission efficiency, economy and communications through expanded use of social media and email.



Nneka Harris-Daniel, Administrative Assistant



CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM MEMBERS, ADVISORS AND LIAISONS  
(2010-2011)

**Members**

- The Honorable Carol W. Hunstein,  
Chief Justice (Chair)
- Professor Clark D. Cunningham
- *Ms. Jennifer M. Davis*
- Mr. Michael G. Geoffroy
- The Honorable Janis C. Gordon
- The Honorable Kathlene Faye Gosselin
- Associate Dean A. James Elliott
- Professor Matthew I. Hall
- Ms. Catherine M. Hilton
- *Ms. Vivian Rippy Ingersoll*
- Ms. Dawn M. Jones
- Mr. Seth D. Kirschenbaum
- Professor Patrick E. Longan
- Dean Richardson R. Lynn
- The Honorable M. Yvette Miller
- Mr. Jeff L. Milsteen
- Mr. John Howard Moore
- The Honorable William C. O'Kelley
- Mr. Daniel J. Porter
- Mr. Thomas G. Sampson

- Mr. S. Lester Tate, III

- Ms. Sally Quillian Yates

**Advisors**

- The Honorable Robert Benham
- The Honorable George H. Carley
- The Honorable Brenda S. Hill Cole
- Mr. Baxter L. Davis
- The Honorable Norman Fletcher
- Ms. Sally E. Lockwood
- Associate Dean Roy Sobelson

**Liaisons**

- Mr. Douglas G. Ashworth
- Mr. Cliff Brashier
- Mr. Donald R. Donovan
- Mr. Larry Jones
- Mr. W. Seaborn Jones
- Mr. Allan J. Tanenbaum

*Italics denotes public member/non-lawyer*

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
104 Marietta Street, N.W.  
Suite 620  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Phone: 404-225-5040  
Email: [professionalism@cjcpga.org](mailto:professionalism@cjcpga.org)  
Web: [http://www.gabar.org/  
related\\_organizations/  
chief\\_justices\\_commission\\_on\\_professionalism/](http://www.gabar.org/related_organizations/chief_justices_commission_on_professionalism/)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism is to support and encourage lawyers to exercise the highest levels of professional integrity in their relationships with their clients, other lawyers, the courts, and the public and to fulfill their obligations to improve the law and the legal system and to ensure access to that system.

Work of the Commission

The Commission's work centers around: (1) educational programming, (2) periodic recommendations to the State Bar, judiciary and law schools in Georgia, and (3) coordination of professionalism activities of the organized bar, courts, law schools, and law firms.

Annual Report Editor, Nneka Harris-Daniel