



State Bar
of Georgia

BOG BOARD BOOK

2020 Fall Meeting

This book serves as the agenda and materials for the State Bar of Georgia's 2020 Fall Board of Governors Meeting, being held virtually via Zoom.



State Bar of Georgia

285th BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

Saturday, October 24, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar:

<https://gabar.zoom.us/j/98913372750?pwd=RFFtcVpYbC83Si9HdVNTM2N3bUswQT09>

Meeting ID: 989 1337 2750

Passcode: 518063

Dress: Camera-Ready Business Casual

AGENDA

Topics

Presenter

1) ADMINISTRATION

- a) Welcome and Call to OrderDawn M. Jones 1-5
President
- b) Invocation.....Gary Spencer
- c) Recognition of Special Guests.....Alexia Davis
Augusta Bar President
- d) Roll Call.....Tony DelCampo..... 6-12
Secretary
- e) Future Meetings Schedule.....Dawn M. Jones 13-14

2) ACTION

- a) Minutes of the 283rd Meeting.....Tony DelCampo..... 15-24
of the Board of Governors on June 13, 2020

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
b) Proposed Rules Changes.....	Bill NeSmith.....	25-37
(1) Rule 1-303. Meetings		
(2) Rule 1-601 (Bylaws)		
(3) Rule 1-801. Annual Meeting		
(4) Rule 1-801.1. Midyear Meeting		
(5) Rule 1-802. Special Meetings		
(6) Rule 1-803. Notice		
c) Approval of New Section.....	Paula Frederick.....	38-54
(1) Religious Liberty Law Section		
d) Appointments to Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC)	Dawn M. Jones	
(1) Reappointment of Shondeana Morris, 2021-2023		
(2) Appointment of Shiriki Cavitt Jones, 2021-2023		
e) Appointments to Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism	Dawn M. Jones	
(1) Appointment of LaToya Simone Bell, 2020-2023		
(2) Appointment of Francys Johnson Jr., 2020-2023		
f) Appointments to Formal Advisory..... Opinion Board	Dawn M. Jones	
(1) Appointment of Christian J. Steinmetz, III State Disciplinary Board, 2020-2021		
(2) Appointment of Alfreda Lynette Sheppard, 2020-2021 State Disciplinary Review Board, 2020-2021		
(3) Appointment of Bert D. Hummel, 2020-2021 Executive Committee Liaison		
g) Officer Reimbursement Policy Revisions.....	Dawn M. Jones.....	55-58
h) Election of Executive Director.....	Dawn M. Jones	
i) Survey.....	Dawn M. Jones	

3) LEGISLATION

a) Advisory Committee on Legislation.....	R. Javoyne Hicks, Chair.....	59-73
New Legislative Proposals (action)		
(1) Support for FY 2022 Judicial Council Budget Request - \$325,326 to Fund Civil Legal Services Grants for Kinship Care Families		

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
b) Legislative Update and Funding.....	Christine Butcher Hayes/ Rusty Sewell	

4) LEGAL SERVICES

a) Georgia Legal Services Update and Funding.....	Rick Ruffalo	74-75
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5) INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

a) President’s Report.....	Dawn M. Jones	
b) Treasurer’s Report.....	Sally Akins, Treasurer	76-97
c) Young Lawyers Division	Bert D. Hummel	98-104 YLD President
d) Professional Liability Insurance.....	Chris Twyman, Chair....	105-117 Committee Report
e) Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism.....	Anita Wallace Thomas, Chair and Racial Bias Committee	
f) COVID Taskforce Updates.....	Elizabeth Fite, President-Elect	
g) ABA Model Rule 8.4(g)	Professor Tanya Washington	
h) Chief Justice’s Committee on Professionalism.....	Karlise Grier	118-131 Committee Report

6) WRITTEN REPORTS

a) Executive Committee Minutes.....		132-152
(1) May 18, 2020		
(2) June 5-6, 2020		
(3) June 19, 2020		
(4) July 17, 2020		
(5) August 14-15, 2020		
b) Law Practice Management.....		153-158

Topics

Presenter

Page No.

- c) Military Legal Assistance Program.....159-163
- d) Media Report.....164-165

7) CLOSING

- a) Old Business Dawn M. Jones
- b) New Business Dawn M. Jones
- c) Announcements Dawn M. Jones
- d) Executive Session Dawn M. Jones
- e) Remarks / Q&A / Comments / Suggestions
- f) Adjournment

TIPS FOR USING ZOOM

for State Bar of Georgia virtual meetings



JOINING

- Click on the link you were emailed to join the meeting.
- Enter your name so we will have an accurate report of your attendance and voting.
- For audio, it will ask if you want to join via a phone call (and it gives you a number) or with computer audio. Only choose computer audio if you are certain your computer/laptop has a microphone in addition to sound. (Otherwise if you want to talk, we won't be able to hear you.)



SPEAKING

- We won't be able to see or hear you, unless you click the icon of the hand in your menu bar to "raise your hand" and are then unmuted by the host.
- Once the meeting's leader asks for discussion or comments, the host will unmute you, one at a time, to speak.
- Once the host unmutes you, everyone will be able to hear you, and you can turn on your camera if you would like.



VOTING

- If you ONLY participate by calling in, and you do not use your computer or smart device for visuals, you will NOT be able to vote.
- Otherwise, a poll will pop up on your screen, and you should click on your answer.



ASKING QUESTIONS

- The host will leave the Q&A open and try to answer questions, or ask one of the panelists to answer.
- You can wait and "raise your hand," and the host will call on you.
- Even if the chat feature is enabled during the meeting, questions will not be answered via the chat feature.

Subject to the meeting leader's request, the Q&A and chat feature may be disabled during meetings.




ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- If you would like more specific details, check out the following resources:
Getting Started with Zoom:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>
Joining and participating in a webinar:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115004954946-Joining-and-participating-in-a-webinar-attendee->

If you have any issues or questions, please reach out to Sarah Coole, State Bar of Georgia Director of Communications, at sarahc@gabar.org.





STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
2020 FALL MEETING
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

VIRTUAL

OCT. 22-24
Registration cut-off date:
TUESDAY, OCT. 20

 State Bar
of Georgia

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCT. 22

3 – 5 p.m. Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee

FRIDAY, OCT. 23

9 – 10:30 a.m. CLE—What Judges May Do to Improve the Law and the Legal System: What Lawyers Need to Know About Judicial Professionalism

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. State Disciplinary Board

10 – 11 a.m. Elections Committee

10 – 11 a.m. Senior Lawyers Committee

10 – 11 a.m. Town Hall Meeting—Attorney-Client Solicitation

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. BASICS Committee

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. ICLE Board Meeting

12 – 2 p.m. ICJE Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting

1 – 4 p.m. ICLE Rebroadcast—Drum Majors for Justice: The Legacy of and Lessons from Georgia's Iconic Civil Rights Lawyers

2 – 3 p.m. SOLACE Committee

2 – 4 p.m. Disciplinary Rules & Procedures Committee

3 – 6 p.m. Member Benefits Committee

5 – 6:30 p.m. Board of Governors Virtual Connections | Breakout Rooms

SATURDAY, OCT. 24

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Board of Governors Meeting

Zoom links and information will be sent to registered attendees closer to the scheduled events.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSOR!

5-GAVEL

MB | MemberBenefits

ATTIRE
Camera-ready
casual for
all meetings.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

Friday, Oct. 23, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Please join us Friday evening for a unique spin on our usual Board of Governors Dinner and jump on Zoom for our Board of Governors Virtual Connections. We will begin with a welcome from President Dawn M. Jones and then you will have the opportunity to join one or more breakout rooms (see below) to check-in, chat and touch base with fellow board members that you haven't seen, literally, in quite some time. Feel free to grab your favorite beverage or snack and interact with your friends and colleagues virtually.

"Songs You Know by Heart and their Fair Use" Jam Session | Pop in this room with your favorite instrument and join in an organic jam session.

Barrister Bartending 101 | Bring your favorite recipes and prepare to share in this cocktail instructional room.

Football Is Back and So Is Tailgating | College football fans everywhere rejoice because the game is back. This room is your go-to to talk up your team, the game and the food you love to serve. Virtual tailgating at its best! Sharing secret recipes is encouraged.

My Lawyer Is Smarter Than Your Lawyer Trivia | If you've been missing your weekly trivia nights, this room is for you. Come in and show us how much you know about anything and everything.

Whine & Cheese Room | You've been at home sharing space with your spouse, partner, kids and pets 24/7, and privacy is in short supply. Get together with your friends and colleagues and let it all out. Have some wine with your whine!

COVID-19 Hacks | Jump in this room and share something you have learned over the past seven months to help you cope and/or manage, like grocery delivery or a new hobby. You could even pick up a few new ideas.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

What Judges May Do to Improve the Law and the Legal System: What Lawyers Need to Know About Judicial Professionalism

Friday, Oct. 23, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

During this current climate, lawyers may wonder what judges are allowed to say and do. The Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct provides guardrails and guidelines for the activities in which judges may engage concerning the law, the legal system and the administration of justice, provided that doing so will not interfere with the performance of their official duties or cast doubt on their capacity to impartially decide any issue. Join us as we seek to provide lawyers with a better understanding of how judges may engage in activities concerning the law, the legal system and the administration of justice.

Moderator: Adwoa Ghartey-Tagoe Seymour, Assistant General Counsel, Cox Enterprises, Inc.

Speakers: Hon. Michael P. Boggs, Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia; Charles P. "Chuck" Boring, Director, Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission

To register for this CLE, obtain information about CLE credit, submit questions, review written materials and more, visit <http://cjcpga.org/102320-cjcp-cle/>.

Sponsor: Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

Approved for 1.5 hours general CLE credit, including 1 hour of professionalism. (Attendees are responsible for paying for CLE credit directly to the State Bar of Georgia's CLE Department after the Commission has verified attendance via Zoom records and submitted it to the State Bar's CLE Department. You will receive a Zoom link from Karlise Yvette Grier approximately one hour prior to the CLE with instructions on how to join. For more information, visit the link above.)

Drum Majors for Justice: The Legacy of and Lessons from Georgia's Iconic Civil Rights Lawyers

Friday, Oct. 23, 1 – 4 p.m. (Rebroadcast) | \$165

Join ICLE as it rebroadcasts this historical-legal CLE, which provides perspectives on the lives and legacies of two iconic Georgia civil rights lawyers, Donald Lee Hollowell of Atlanta and C. B. King of Albany. This program explores the impact of their landmark cases and ends with a discussion on a call for action. Take this opportunity to be inspired by the work of these Georgia civil rights lawyers. ICLE looks forward to your attendance.

Moderator: M. Alexis Scott, Media Consultant, Journalist; Avarita L. Hanson, Coordinator, Attorney at Law

Lives and Legacies of Donald Lee Hollowell and C.B. King Panelists: Prof. Maurice C. Daniels, Ed.D. (Emeritus), University of Georgia; Hon. Warren P. Davis, Gwinnett County Superior Court; Stanley E. Foster, Hollowell Foster & Herring PC; Gregory W. Edwards, District Attorney, Dougherty Judicial Circuit; Chevene B. King Jr., The C. B. King Law Firm; Hon. Herbert E. Phipps, Court of Appeals of Georgia (Ret.)

Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities for Action Panelists: Christopher L. Johnson, The Hatchett Firm; Francys Johnson Jr., The Johnson Firm, PC; Clyde E. Mize Jr., President, Gate City Bar Association, Morris Manning & Martin LLP; Derrick Alexander Pope, President and Managing Director, The Arc of Justice Institute; Tiffany Williams Roberts, Community Outreach & Movement Building Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights

To learn more about the panelists and to register, please visit www.gabar.org/drum-majors-justice.

Approved for 3 hours general CLE credit, including 1 hour of professionalism. (Attendees are responsible for paying for CLE through ICLE program registration.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and remit the registration form by Tuesday, Oct. 20, checking all events you plan to attend. Zoom links and information will be sent to registered attendees closer to the scheduled events.

Online registration is available at www.gabar.org.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Bar Number _____

Name _____

Nickname _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

SPECIAL NEEDS

ADA: If you qualify for assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please email melisa@gabar.org or call 404-526-8627 for assistance.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Board of Governors Functions Qty.

- Board of Governors Virtual Connections
- Breakout Rooms: *Choose one to start; you may switch once breakout rooms open.*
 - "Songs You Know by Heart and their Fair Use" Jam Session N/C _____
 - Barrister Bartending 101 N/C _____
 - Football Is Back and So Is Tailgating N/C _____
 - My Lawyer Is Smarter Than Your Lawyer Trivia N/C _____
 - Whine & Cheese Room N/C _____
 - COVID-19 Hacks N/C _____
- Board of Governors Meeting N/C _____

Committee Functions

- BASICS Committee N/C _____
- Elections Committee N/C _____
- ICLE Board Meeting N/C _____
- Member Benefits Committee N/C _____
- Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee N/C _____
- Senior Lawyers Committee N/C _____
- SOLACE Committee N/C _____

CLE

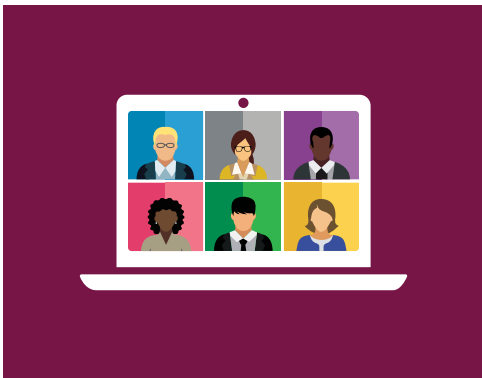
- What Judges May Do to Improve the Law and the Legal System
Register for this CLE at <http://cjcpga.org/102320-cjcp-cle/>.
- Drum Majors for Justice:
The Legacy of and Lessons from Georgia's Iconic Civil Rights Lawyers
Register for this CLE at www.gabar.org/drum-majors-justice.

Related Organizations/Other Functions

- ICJE Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting N/C _____
- Town Hall Meeting—Attorney-Client Solicitation N/C _____

Total Quantity: _____

Please email completed forms to gakiik@gabar.org.



Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-18	1-19	3-19	6-19	6-19	10-19	1-20	4-20	6-20
	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Orlando Fri.	Orlando Sat.	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
Sarah Brown Akins	•	•	e	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mark W. Alexander	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kent Edward Altom	•	•	e	•	•	e	•	•	•
Anthony B. Askew	•	•	•	•	•	u	•	•	•
Philip Augustine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	e	•	e
JaDawnya Cintelle Baker	•	•	•	•	•	e	u	•	•
Nina M. Baker	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eric A. Ballinger	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Donna G. Barwick	•	•	•	u	u	u	•	•	•
Tracee R. Benzo	e	•	•	e	e	•	•	•	•
James D. Blitch IV	•	•	u	e	e	•	•	•	u
Joshua I. Bosin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•
Sherry Boston	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ashley Mackin Brodie	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	e	•	•	•
Thomas R. Burnside	•	u	u	•	•	•	u	•	u
Stephanie D. Burton	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ivy Neal Cadle	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Richard D. Campbell	e	•	•	u	u	•	•	•	•
David L. Cannon	u	u	•	u	•	•	u	•	•
Carl S. Cansino	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Chris M. Carr	u	•	•	u	u	u	•	•	•
Carol V. Clark	•	•	•	e	e	•	•	•	•
Edward R. Collier	•	•	•	u	u	e	•	•	•
Christopher S. Connelly	•	•	•	•	•	e	e	u	u
Martin L. Cowen III	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Susan W. Cox	•	•	e	•	•	•	e	•	•

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Tony DelCampo (tony@dcglawfirm.com)

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	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Orlando	Orlando	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
Kenneth B. Crawford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	
Terrence Lee Croft	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Gerald Davidson Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e	e
C. Lee Davis	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
J. Anderson Davis	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Randall H. Davis	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
William T. Davis	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
J. Antonio Delcampo	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Scott Dewitt Delius	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Joseph W. Dent	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Foy R. Devine	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Daniel S. Digby	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e
Danny L. Durham	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Susan E. Edlein	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e
Christopher Edwards	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Archibald A. Farrar	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Elizabeth L. Fite	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e
Ira L. Foster	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e
Harold Eugene Franklin Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e
Gregory A. Futch	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Keigh E. Gammage	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
William C. Gentry	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Michael G. Geoffroy	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Walter J. Gordon Sr.	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Patricia A. Gorham	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
John Haubenreich	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e

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	11-18	1-19	3-19	6-19	6-19	10-19	1-20	4-20	6-20
	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Orlando	Orlando	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
Elissa B. Haynes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	
Patrick H. Head	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	e	•
Lawton C. Heard, Jr.	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Render M. Heard Jr.	•	•	u	u	u	•	•	•	e
Matthew J. Hennessy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	•
Thomas W. Herman	•	•	•	•	•	e	e	•	•
R. Javoynne Hicks	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Donna S. Hix	•	•	•	e	e	•	•	u	•
Michael D. Hobbs	u	•	•	u	u	u	•	•	•
Amy V. Howell	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bert Hummel IV	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	•	•
James W. Hurt	u	•	u	u	•	e	•	u	u
Christopher Huskins	u	•	•	•	•	u	•	u	u
Stacey K. Hydrick	•	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	•
James T. Irvin	e	•	u	u	•	•	•	•	•
William Dixon James	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Curtis S. Jenkins	u	•	•	u	u	u	u	•	•
Francys Johnson Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	•	•
Charles Michael Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	•	•
Larry Michael Johnson	•	•	u	u	u	•	e	•	u
Lester B. Johnson, III	e	•	e	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shiriki L. Cavitt Jones	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dawn M. Jones	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Austin O. Jones	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	•
Jennifer A. Jordan	e	•	e	u	u	•	•	u	•
Zahra S. Karinshak	e	e	•	e	e	e	•	•	•

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	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Orlando	Orlando	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
John F. Kennedy	u	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	u
Barry E. King	•	•	•	•	•	u	•	•	•
Judy C. King	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Seth Kirschenbaum	•	•	u	•	•	•	•	•	•
Catherine Koura	e	•	•	•	•	e	•	u	•
Edward B. Krugman	•	•	e	e	e	•	e	•	•
Jeffrey R. Kuester	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Allegra Lawrence-Hardy	e	•	•	•	e	•	•	•	•
Nicole C. Leet	•	•	e	•	•	•	•	•	•
Katie K. Leonard	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Dawn Renee Levine	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Joyce Gist Lewis	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lisa Katsuko Liang	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	u	•	•
David S. Lipscomb	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
John R. B. Long	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dax Eric Lopez	e	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Ronald A. Lowry	•	e	•	u	u	u	•	u	u
John Bell Manly	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	e	•
Hugh J. McCullough	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	•
Graham Elliott McDonald	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Letitia A. McDonald	u	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Brad J. McFall	e	•	e	u	u	e	•	•	•
Michael D. McRae	•	•	•	e	e	e	•	u	u
Terry L. Miller	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
William J. Monahan	•	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shondeana Crews Morris	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•

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	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Fri. Orlando	Sat. Orlando	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
John T. Mroczko	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
Laura J. Murphree	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Sam G. Nicholson	e	•	•	e	e	•	•	•	e
Paul Wain Painter III	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	u	•	•	•	•
Amanda Rourk Clark Palmer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	u	•	•	•
Jonathan B. Pannell	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Joy Renea Parks	•	u	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tabitha Edwina Payne	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e	•	•	•	•
Brandon Lee Peak	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	e	•	e	•	•
Thomas A. Peterson, IV	•	e	•	u	u	u	•	u	u
Will H. Pickett, Jr.	u	•	u	u	u	e	u	u	u
Robert Allen Plumb Jr.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kathryn Lauranne Powers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	•
Jill Pryor	e	•	e	e	e	•	e	•	•
William M. Ragland	e	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
James L. Roberts, IV	•	e	•	•	u	e	•	•	•
Tina S. Roddenbery	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Joseph Roseborough	u	•	•	•	•	•	u	•	u
Wesley Charles Ross	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	•	•	•	•
Claudia S. Saari	•	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Dennis C. Sanders	e	•	•	•	•	e	•	•	•
Alex Musole Shalishali	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•
H. Burke Sherwood	e	•	•	u	•	•	•	•	•
Mitchell McKinley Shook	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•
Robert H. Smalley, III	•	•	•	•	•	u	•	•	•
Philip C. Smith	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	u	•

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Tony DelCampo (tony@dcglawfirm.com)

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-18	1-19	3-19	6-19	6-19	10-19	1-20	4-20	6-20
	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Orlando	Orlando	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
R. Rucker Smith	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Daniel B. Snipes	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
R. Gary Spencer	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
H. Craig Stafford	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Lawton E. Stephens	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Donna Coleman Stribling	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
C. Deen Strickland	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Frank B. Strickland	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Joseph C. Sumner, Jr.	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Darrell L. Sutton	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Jason W. Swindle	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Michael B. Terry	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Anita W. Thomas	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Edward D. Tolley	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Clayton Tomlinson	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Chris P. Twyman	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
William Underwood III	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Martin E. Valbuena	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Nicki N. Vaughan	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Carl A. Veline, Jr.	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
J. Henry Walker	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Janice M. Wallace	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Amy Carol Walters	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Harold B. Watts	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
John P. Webb	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
Christopher F. West	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e

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Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-18	1-19	3-19	6-19	6-19	10-19	1-20	4-20	6-20
	Pine Mtn	ATL	Greensboro	Fri. Orlando	Sat. Orlando	Savannah	ATL	Zoom Webinar	Zoom Webinar
Nancy J. Whaley	•	e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Paige Reese Whitaker	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Martha Wilson Williams	n/a	n/a	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Douglas Woodruff	•	e	•	e	e	e	•	•	•
• - attended meeting									
				u - unexcused absence					

Future Meetings Schedule 9/22/2020



Executive Committee

December 4, 2020	Virtual – 1 p.m.
February 26, 2021	Bar Center – 1 p.m.
April 15-16, 2021	Supreme Court/Executive Committee Joint Meeting, Bar Center
May 14, 2021	Bar Center – 1 p.m.

Board of Governors

Midyear 2021	Jan. 7-9, 2021	Georgia State University College of Law & Candler Hotel Atlanta, GA
Spring 2021	March 19-21, 2021	Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa Young Harris, GA (Joint with the YLD)
Annual 2021	June 10-13, 2021	Wild Dunes Resort Isle of Palms, SC
Annual 2022	June 2-5, 2022	Omni Amelia Island Resort Amelia Island, FL

Young Lawyers Division

Fall 2020	Oct. 30-31, 2020	Virtual YLD Meeting
Midyear 2021	Jan. 7-9, 2021	Georgia State University College of Law & Candler Hotel Atlanta, GA

Spring 2021	March 19-21, 2021	Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa Young Harris, GA (Joint with the BOG)
Annual 2021	June 10-13, 2021	Wild Dunes Resort Isle of Palm, SC
Annual 2022	June 2-5, 2022	Omni Amelia Island Resort Amelia Island, FL

American Bar Association Meetings

Midyear 2021	Feb. 10-16, 2021	Chicago, IL
Annual 2021	Aug. 5-10, 2021	Toronto, ONT

Savannah Boat Ride

Southern Conference Meetings

2020	October 15-18	Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa Austin, TX – cancelled due to Pandemic
2021	Florida	
2022	Texas	
2023	West Virginia (White Sulphur Springs, The Greenbrier Hotel)	
2024	Mississippi	
2025	South Carolina	
2026	Alabama	
2027	Maryland	

D-R-A-F-T
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, June 13, 2020/9:00 a.m.
(Zoom Webinar)

The 283rd meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and time and in the format shown. President Dawn M. Jones (2020-2021), presided.

Welcome and Call to Order

Outgoing President Darrell Sutton called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. After announcing some housekeeping items, he reminded everyone that only the Board of Governors members are allowed to vote when the polls come up. To ensure that only Board of Governors members are voting we will run a report to verify that at the end of the meeting.

Invocation

Past President Patrise Perkins-Hooker delivered the invocation.

Recognition of Special Guests

Past President Robin Frazer Clark recognized the members of the judiciary, the past-presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

President's Address

President Darrell Sutton delivered the outgoing President's Address (Exhibit A).

State of the Supreme Court of Georgia

The Honorable Harold Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, delivered the State of the Supreme Court of Georgia address (Exhibit B).

Secretary, Treasurer & President-elect Swearing-in Ceremony

The following new 2020-2021 State Bar Officers were sworn in to office by Chief Justice Harold Melton: President-elect Elizabeth Louise Fite, Treasurer Sarah B. (Sally) Akins, and Secretary J. Antonio (Tony) DeCampo.

President's Swearing-in Ceremony

Dawn M. Jones was sworn-in as the 2020-2021 State Bar President by the Honorable Patsy Y. Porter, Fulton County State Court Judge.

Introduction of President Dawn M. Jones

Past President Linda Klein introduced State Bar President Dawn Jones.

President's Remarks

Dawn delivered the President's Remarks outlining her 2020-2021 proposed program of activities. (Exhibit C).

Presiding

Dawn presided over the Board of Governors meeting.

Welcome to New Officers & Board of Governors Members

Dawn recognized the new Officers and Board of Governors members.

Roll Call

Secretary Tony DelCampo said he looks forward to serving this year. He told the Board members they will be counted as absent or present based on the sign-in report generated from their Zoom sign-in. Tony provided his email address for anyone that needs to contact him for changes in their attendance record or if they need an excused absence approval.

The list of Board of Governors members in attendance is attached as Exhibit D.

Future Meetings Schedule

Dawn reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. As of today, she plans to meet as scheduled at the selected venues. She reported that at the appropriate time, the Executive Committee and staff will review the terms of the contracts and look to ensure each venue's safety plan makes us comfortable. Dawn told the Board members that they will have to decide whether or not to attend in person if and when we start meeting together.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins reported on the Bar's finances and investments. She thanked everyone for their support and said she is looking forward to working with this fine group under Dawn's leadership. Sally reported the overall budget has a combined net income of \$215,000, which is a result of Bar Center profits offsetting Bar Operations losses. She reported that as discussed previously, the CCLC will provide a grant of up to \$300,000 to help cover Bar Operations expenses. The budget reflects efforts by the Programs and Personnel Committees and the Executive Committee to cut expenses where possible. There were no increases in license fees or staff salaries, and there was belt tightening by Bar programs. Sally also reported it was assumed that all meetings would be held as scheduled so the meetings budget was not decreased.

Sally reported the Bar was recently notified by the Georgia Public Defenders Council (GPDC) that due to state budget cuts, it will be moving from the Bar building into state offices. That will result in a non-renewal of the GPDC lease in October, and the above mentioned profit does not include the loss of that rental income. If the vacated space is

not occupied by a new tenant, the total loss of revenue for the 2020-2021 Bar year will be \$366,000, which will translate into a \$550,000 loss on an annual basis. Sally said she can assure everyone that Executive Director Jeff Davis and staff have begun efforts to replace the tenant.

The Board of Governors received copies of the combined Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures Report as of April 30, 2019; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Nine Months Ended April 30, 2019; Status and Use of Cash Investments as of April 30, 2019; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of April 30, 2019; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through April 30, 2019; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid through April 30, 2019; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019 through April 30, 2019; and Cornerstones of Freedom Activity Report from July 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019.

2020-2021 State Bar Budget

Treasurer Sally Akins presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Proposed Consolidated (Operating and Bar Center) Budget. She said she would be remiss if she did not mention the enormous amount of time and energy that goes into developing the budget by the Finance Committee, chaired by Past President Patrise Perkins-Hooker, and the work of Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner.

By a poll vote, the Board of Governors unanimously approved the proposed 2020-2021 Consolidated Budget. The proposed Consolidated Budget reflects the following:

- 1) License fees at \$254 for active members and \$127 for inactive members, which represents no changes in license fees from the previous year;
- 2) Section dues to be reflected on the license fee statement ranging from \$10-\$40; and
- 3) Continuation of the assessment required by Bar Rules regarding the Clients' Security Fund (\$100 @ \$25/year, beginning with the second full fiscal year following a member's year of admission); and
- 4) Professionalism Fee of \$11 (mandated by the Supreme Court); and
- 5) Continuation of a \$100 voluntary contribution for the Legislative and Public Education Fund; and
- 6) A suggested \$350 individual contribution (\$100 for young lawyers) for the Georgia Legal Services Program.

Financial Resolutions

As required by Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws, the Board of Governors unanimously approved the following financial resolutions by a poll vote:

- 1) That the President be authorized to secure a blanket fidelity bond to cover all officers, employees and other persons handling State Bar funds as is required by Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws.
- 2) That the State Bar of Georgia and related entities open appropriate accounts with such banks in Georgia, but excluding any bank that does not participate in the IOLTA Program, and other such depositories as may be recommended by the Finance Committee and/or Investment Committee, and designated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia, and that the persons whose titles are listed below are authorized to sign an agreement to be provided by such banks and customary signature cards, and that the said banks are hereby authorized to pay or otherwise honor any check drafts, or other orders issued from time to time for debit to said accounts when signed by two of the following: the Treasurer, the President, the Immediate Past President, the Executive Director, the Office Manager and the General Counsel, provided either the President or the Treasurer shall sign all checks or vouchers and that said accounts can be reconciled from time to time by said persons or their designees. The authority herein given is to remain irrevocable so as said banks are concerned until they are notified in writing of such revocation of authority and in writing, acknowledge receipt thereof.
- 3) That Mauldin & Jenkins be designated as the independent auditing firm to audit the financial records of the State Bar of Georgia for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Minutes of the 281st and 282nd Meetings of the Board of Governors

By unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the minutes of Board of Governors meetings held January 11, 2020, in Atlanta at the Fox Theater, and April 3, 2020 via a Zoom webinar.

Approval of President's Appointments to the State Disciplinary Boards

By unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the following presidential appointments to the State Disciplinary Board:

State Disciplinary Board

Member: Jennifer Elizabeth Dunlap, Columbus (2023)

Member: Tomieka Ra'Shone Daniel, Macon (2023)

Lay Member: Connie S. Cooper, Pooler (2023)

By a unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the following presidential appointments to the Formal Advisory Opinion Board:

Formal Advisory Opinion Board

Member-at-Large: Letitia A. McDonald, Atlanta (2022)

Member: Mary A. Prebula, Atlanta (2022)

Member: Jeffrey Hobart Schneider (2022)

District Attorney Association of Georgia: Sherry Boston, Decatur (2022)

Emory University School of Law: Jennifer Murphy Romig, Atlanta (2022)

Approval of the ICLE Board of Trustees Appointments

By a unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Anna Maria Martinez for a three-year term to the ICLE Board of Trustees:

Approval of the Georgia Legal Services Program Appointments

By a unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the following appointments for two-year terms to the Georgia Legal Service Board of Trustees: Seth Bruckner, Marquette Bryan, Keishan Davis, Lavern Lewis Gaskins, Matthew Howell, and Meghan Magruder.

Approval of 2020-2021 Standing, Special & Program Committees and Boards

Dawn reported at the top of the list of the 2020-21 State Bar Committees there is a new proposed Standing Committee on Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias that she referenced earlier in her remarks. She asked the Board of Governors for a Keller vote before voting on the inclusion of the new committee. The results were as follows:

- 1) By a majority poll vote, the Board of Governors found the new Standing Committee on Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias to be germane to the legitimate purposes of the State Bar, and
- 2) By a majority poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the new Standing Committee on Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias as proposed.

Thereafter, by unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the proposed 2020-2021 Standing, Special, Program Committees and Boards.

Executive Director Election

By majority poll vote, the Board of Governors elected Jeff Davis as Executive Director for the 2020-2021 Bar year until such time that his replacement is approved.

Sutton reported the Senior Staff Search Committee met three times and ultimately decided that a search firm be retained to ensure objectivity and conduct a search with the most efficiency and effectiveness. After reviewing several proposals, the committee decided to engage the firm of Young Maiden LLC based on cost benefits and having by far the most experience in vetting bar executives across the country. The committee is meeting next week to develop the timeline and approve the job announcement to post for the Executive Director position.

Elections Schedule 2020-2021

By a unanimous poll vote, the Board of Governors approved the proposed 2020-2021 Elections Schedule (Exhibit E).

Executive Committee Election

Dawn reported there are three open positions on the Executive Committee. She asked if there was anyone else offering for the positions other than the three Board members who told us in advance that they were seeking those positions: Ivy Cadle, Nicki Vaughan, and Martin Valbuena. Hearing none, and recognizing there was no need for nominations from the floor, the Board of Governors elected Ivy Cadle, Nicki Vaughan, and Martin Valbuena for two-year terms on the Executive Committee by a unanimous poll vote.

Memorials Report

Sutton presented the Memorials report.

Young Lawyers Division

YLD Immediate Past President Will Davis said he was honored to have served as YLD President. He reported the YLD swearing-in ceremony and awards presentation was held yesterday by Zoom and is available for viewing on Facebook, as are his remarks. He congratulated President-elect Elizabeth Fite and new Board member Josh Bosin on receiving the YLD Award of Achievement for their dedication to the YLD. He reported that Tina Rodenberry received the Ross Adams Award, and Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Sara Doyle and Presiding Judge Stephen Dillard received the Outstanding Judicial Services Award. Will also recognized the law firm of Goodman McAfee that allows and supports its young lawyers to run for office and serve as committee chairs.

Will reported the YLD was able to achieve many of its goals. Attendance at meetings was increased. The Build a Better Georgia Day, typically a Habitat for Humanity build, became a blood and plasma drive. The Legal Food Frenzy raised \$852,000, which is a 102% increase from last year, and generated 3.3 million meals. Will reported that another of his goals was to increase diversity in the YLD and he thanked everyone who helped with that. As the first openly gay YLD officer, he believes the YLD has already been at the forefront of diversity, and thinks right now it is well suited to create open spaces and welcome needed conversations.

YLD President Bert Hummel thanked Will for his leadership, and said he looks forward to serving as President for the 2020-2021 Bar year. He reported the YLD stands in a unique position now and it can change the way future generations can look back on 2020. Bert said we as a Bar have responded when confronted with justice inequality and racism in our society. We have taken an oath to administer justice and serve the public, and can advocate for equality.

Bert reported he has four initiatives this year. The first initiative is to address systemic racism. He will work with the new standing committee and challenged the YLD yesterday to stand up and lead our communities. He has identified and expanded the number of YLD Directors who can help promote these real and hard discussions in order to address these injustices where they surface. The second initiative is to work with the public we serve by increasing public service efforts across the state and expanding on clinics that help the public. The third initiative is to further wellness initiatives for young lawyers and remove the stigma around mental health issues. The fourth initiative will be to create a database where lawyers can sign up to serve as mentors to young lawyer. Bert said he benefited greatly from having a mentor through the Transition into Law Practice Program, and who continues to act as his mentor, and believes other lawyers should have the same. Bert invited everyone to attend the YLD meetings which are scheduled as follows: 1) Fall: October 30-November 1, 2020 at Jekyll Island Club, 2) Midyear: January 7-9, 2021 at Georgia State University College of Law, 3) Spring: March 19-21, 2021 a Brasstown Valley Resort, and 4) Annual: June 10-13, 2021 at Wild Dunes Resort.

Bert commended Sutton for his leadership, and said he looks forward to Dawn's leadership and serving as needed.

Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes thanked Darrell for his leadership this past year. She said the Bar has to work with many different stakeholders, governmental entities, and legal organizations, and many don't realize how closely the President is involved in that. She reported the legislature will be back in session on June 15 and the budget will be the one issue at the forefront of everyone's mind.

In terms of the Bar's legislative priorities, Christine reported she is not sure how or what bills will be going to the floor because of social distancing rules that will need to be followed, but hopes HB 865 (changes to Title 52) will be one. SB 464 (Uniform Mediation Act) passed the Senate and made its way over to the House. HB 785 (online notarizations) did not pass in the House on crossover day, but a lot of the research that went into the bill helped the Governor formulate his Executive Order regarding notarizations and witnessing. Christine also reported that remote notarization in real estate transactions and remote notarization in general will continue so long as there is a

public health emergency issued by the Governor. Christine stated that money for Kinship Care, Victims of Domestic Violence, and for The Resource Center will more than likely be cut, although we will continue to advocate for the same monies appropriated last year

Christine reported the Bar's three contract legislative lobbyists, Rusty Sewell, Mark Middleton and Roy Robinson, are integral parts of what the Bar does due to their relationships with many of the legislators at the Capital and a great help to her.

Professional Liability Insurance Committee

Committee chair Chris Twyman reported the Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) Committee developed 4 options for consideration as to whether Bar members should carry PLI, and those options can be accessed at the Bar's website. They range from polling members to determine if they carry insurance to requiring all members to carry some form of insurance. The committee had a few more meetings set up around the state before COVID-19, but he believes the committee has crafted viable options. His intention is to have the committee vote on those options to see if any can garner committee support, which will then be recommended to the Board. He would like to allow time for Board members to take the committee's recommendation to their constituents for feedback. He said he hopes to be ready to present a recommendation at the Fall Board meeting.

Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Committee chair Paul Painter reported the Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic was asked to identify issues resulting from the pandemic that were impacting the legal system, the legal profession, and the delivery of legal services, to coordinate solutions to those issues, and identify resources to carry out those solutions. The committee is also serving as the State Bar's representative to the joint task force on the delivery of legal services in response to the pandemic and to carry out the mission of that task force. The task force consists of Immediate Past President Sutton Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) Director Rick Rufolo, Atlanta Legal Aid (ALA) Director Steve Gottlieb, and himself.

Paul reported that the committee's first phase was to deal with impediments for providing legal services. With help from Law Practice Management Director Natalie Kelly a form was sent out for identifying the issues, which the task force triaged. There were about 50 issues reported, but eventually those died down as the issues were being dealt with and when states began reopening. Now in the second phase, the committee is looking at what issues will be flooding the courts when the courts are fully reopened. The underserved population will be dealing with a number of issues and the committee is looking at ways to help GLSP and ALA with the volume of work they will have. Paul further reported that committee's work will be changing as issues change.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received a copy of the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on April 2, 2020, and April 20, 2020.

Office of General Counsel

The Board of Governors received a memorandum from the Office of the General Counsel stating the office will provide the annual report at the Fall Board of Governors meeting.

Office of Attorney General

The Board of Governors received a report from the Office of the Attorney General.

State Bar of Georgia Coastal Georgia Office

The Board of Governors received a report from the Coastal Georgia Office.

State Bar of Georgia South Georgia Office Statistics

The Board of Governors received a report from the South Georgia Office.

Fee Arbitration Program

The Board of Governors received a report from the Fee Arbitration Program.

Law Practice Management Program

The Board of Governors received a report from the Law Practice Management Program.

Communications Media Report

The Board of Governors received a report from the Communications Department.

Military Legal Assistance Program

The Board of Governors received a report from the Military Legal Assistance Program.

Sections Reports

The Board of Governors received annual reports from the following sections: Administrative Law, Animal Law, Aviation Law, Child Protection & Advocacy Law, Construction Law, Family Law, Franchise & Distribution Law, General Practice & Trial Section, Intellectual Property Law, Military Law, and Nonprofit Law.

Unlicensed Practice of Law Program

The Board of Governors received a report on the Formal Investigations undertaken by the Unlicensed Practice of Law Program.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

The Board of Governors received a report from the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Georgia Legal Services Program Report

The Board of Governors received a report from Georgia Legal Services.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Dawn reported in the future, should there be a need for an Executive Session during a Board of Governors meeting, the only way to do so would be to close out of the Board meeting and open up another Zoom meeting.

Dawn reported she is excited about working with the Officers and Executive Committee during these challenging times and issues. She stated that her father was not able to be here due to being 75 years old and COVID-19 vulnerable, and that she herself is also medically fragile. So instead, she was given her father's and stepmother's bible to use today at her swearing-in. She thanked her brother, Elwood, her sister, Tiffany, her Uncle Warren and Uncle Robert (known as Buzz), her aunt Barbara and all of her extended family. She said she knows under the circumstances they could not be here, but are here in spirit.

Dawn thanked her GABWA family, who she says made her who she is today, and thanked fellow GABWA member, Judge Patsy Porter, for swearing her in as President. Dawn also thanked the Gate City Bar Association that has equally supported her, and the Atlanta Bar Association who welcomed her at a time when its membership was not as diverse as it is today.

Dawn said she looks forward to the next Bar year with everyone's help, support and leadership. She said what we did today was not insignificant, and thank you.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 a.m.

J. Antonio (Tony) DelCampo

Dawn M. Jones, President



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors
From: Bill NeSmith
Date: October 24, 2020
Re: Rule and bylaw proposed changes

Below is a short explanation of the proposed rules and bylaws changes on the agenda for the October 24, 2020, Board of Governors Meeting:

1. **Rule 1-303. Meetings.** This proposed change to Rule 1-303 makes this rule consistent with the bylaws and rules. This change also adds additional language about conducting electronic meetings.
2. **Rule 1-601 (bylaws).** This change simplifies the current rule.
3. **Rule 1-801. Annual Meeting.** This proposed change to Rule 1-801 adds language about conducting meetings electronically.
4. **Rule 1-801.1. Midyear Meeting.** This proposed change to Rule 1-801.1 adds language about conducting meetings electronically.
5. **Rule 1-802. Special Meetings.** This proposed change to Rule 1-802 adds language about conducting meetings electronically, adds the President as an officer that can call a Special Meeting, and adds the wording "in good standing" as a qualification of active members that can request a Special Meeting.
6. **Rule 1-803. Notice.** This proposed change to Rule 1-803 has some housekeeping changes, removes the requirement of using U.S. Mail to provide notice, adds the use of email, and posting on the Bar website as sufficient notice, saving significant money in postage. Publishing in the Bar Journal remains as adequate notice of a Members Meeting.

1 Rule 1-303. Meetings

2 (a) The Board of Governors may hold four or more regular meetings per Bar
3 year, but shall hold at least ~~three regular meetings~~ an Annual and Midyear
4 meeting in each within each Bar year at such times and places as may be
5 determined in accordance with the bylaws and upon such call and notice as
6 may be set forth in the bylaws.

7 (b) If deemed prudent or necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct any
8 meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and
9 voting.

10

1 **Rule 1-303. Meetings**

- 2 (a) The Board of Governors may hold four or more regular meetings per Bar
3 year, but shall hold at least an Annual and Midyear meeting within each
4 Bar year at such times and places as may be determined in accordance with
5 the bylaws and upon such call and notice as may be set forth in the bylaws.
6 (b) If deemed prudent or necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct any
7 meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and
8 voting.

9

1 Rule 1-601

2 The State Bar of Georgia, at ~~its first annual~~any regular or called Board of
3 Governors meeting, ~~shall~~ may adopt bylaws as directed herein, ~~and at such~~
4 ~~meeting and any subsequent annual, annual midyear, or special meeting. The~~
5 Board of Governors shall may adopt such other bylaws not inconsistent herewith
6 as it may deem necessary and proper and may amend its bylaws from time to time.

7

1 Rule 1-601

2 The State Bar of Georgia, at any regular or called Board of Governors meeting,
3 may adopt bylaws as directed herein. The Board of Governors may adopt such
4 other bylaws not inconsistent herewith as it may deem necessary and proper and
5 may amend its bylaws from time to time.

6

1 CHAPTER 8 MEETINGS

2 Rule 1-801. Annual Meeting

3 An annual meeting of the State Bar of Georgia shall be held each year at such time
4 and place as may be designated by the Board of Governors. If deemed prudent or
5 necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct an Annual Meeting by any
6 electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and voting.

7

1 CHAPTER 8 MEETINGS

2 Rule 1-801. Annual Meeting

3 An annual meeting of the State Bar of Georgia shall be held each year at such time
4 and place as may be designated by the Board of Governors. If deemed prudent or
5 necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct an Annual Meeting by any
6 electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and voting.

7

1 Rule 1-801.1. Annual Midyear Meeting

2 An annual midyear meeting of the State Bar of Georgia may be held each year at
3 such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Governors. If deemed
4 prudent or necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct an Annual Midyear
5 Meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and voting.

6

1 **Rule 1-801.1. Annual Midyear Meeting**

2 An annual midyear meeting of the State Bar of Georgia may be held each year at
3 such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Governors. If deemed
4 prudent or necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct an Annual Meeting by
5 any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and voting.

6

1 Rule 1-802. Special Meetings

2 (a) Special meetings of the State Bar of Georgia may be held at such times and
3 places as may be determined by the Board of Governors or the President.

4 (b) The Secretary shall call a special meeting of the State Bar of Georgia upon
5 petition signed by not less than ten percent of the active members in good
6 standing, and such special meetings shall be held within 60 days after the
7 petition is filed with the Secretary. The business to be transacted at special
8 meetings shall be specified in the call.

9 (c) If deemed prudent or necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct a
10 Special Meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate,
11 and voting.

12

1 Rule 1-802. Special Meetings

2 (a) Special meetings of the State Bar of Georgia may be held at such times and
3 places as may be determined by the Board of Governors or the President.

4 (b) The Secretary shall call a special meeting of the State Bar of Georgia upon
5 petition signed by not less than ten percent of the active members in good
6 standing, and such special meetings shall be held within 60 days after the
7 petition is filed with the Secretary. The business to be transacted at special
8 meetings shall be specified in the call.

9 (c) If deemed prudent or necessary, the Board of Governors may conduct a
10 Special Meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate,
11 and voting.

12

1 Rule 1-803. Notice of Members Meetings.

2 At least 30 days notice of the time and place of each annual meeting, or annual
3 midyear meeting, and any special members meeting shall be ~~given in writing~~
4 provided by email to each member ~~at his address shown on~~ according to the
5 membership records of the State Bar of Georgia. ~~The n~~ Notice by mail herein
6 ~~required~~ may also be provided by or through any ~~one or more of the~~ official
7 publications of the State Bar of Georgia and by posting the notice on the official
8 State Bar of Georgia website.

9

1 **Rule 1-803. Notice of Members Meetings.**

2 At least 30 days notice of the time and place of each annual meeting, or annual
3 midyear meeting, and any special members meeting shall be provided by email to
4 each member according to the membership records of the State Bar of Georgia.
5 Notice may also be provided through any official publication of the State Bar of
6 Georgia and by posting the notice on the official State Bar of Georgia website.

7

**APPLICATION TO CREATE A RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW SECTION OF THE
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**

APPLICATION

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 4 of the State Bar Handbook of the State Bar of Georgia, the 104 undersigned members in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia respectfully request the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia to approve the creation of a new Section of the State Bar of Georgia to be known as the *Religious Liberty Law Section*.

**THE AREA OF LAW OR PRACTICE TO WHICH THE SECTION IS TO BE
DEDICATED**

The area of law and practice to which the Section is to be dedicated is Religious Liberty Law.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW SECTION

A. Religious Liberty Law is an Important and Specialized Area of Practice.

Religious liberty is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Georgia Constitution (Ga. Const. Art. I, Sec. I, Para. III; Ga. Const. Art. I, Sec. I, Para. IV).

Religious liberty is often referred to as our “first liberty” (see, for example, *The First Liberty*, William Lee Miller, Georgetown University Press, 2003 and the 2015 *Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*, page 2, stating “religious freedom is our nation’s first freedom”).

Given the fact that, in 2017, nearly 80% of Americans identified themselves with a specific religion (<https://news.gallup.com/poll/224642/2017-update-americans-religion.aspx>), it is not surprising that religion intersects with the law at a great many levels. Indeed, legal issues involving religious liberty are becoming more and more common, in both the public and private sectors.

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently addressed religious issues on numerous occasions. See, for example, *Town of Greece, N.Y. v. Galloway*, 134 S.Ct. 1811 (2014)(legislative prayer); *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, 134 S. Ct. 2751 (2014)(religious liberty rights of closely held for-profit corporations); *Holt v. Hobbs*, 135 S.Ct. 853 (2015)(religious rights of prisoners); *EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch*, 135 S.Ct. 2028 (2015)(religious accommodation in employment); *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Ariz.*, 135 S.Ct. 2218 (2015)(free speech rights of a church); *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 138

S.Ct. 1719 (2018)(religious beliefs as a defense to public accommodation discrimination claims); *American Humanist Association v. American Legion*, 139 S.Ct. 2067 (2019)(Establishment Clause implications of cross-shaped war memorial on public property).

Due to the fact that the law relating to religious liberty is both complicated and fluid, attorneys in many different fields of practice will be faced with an ever-increasing number of religious liberty law-related issues and, without adequate education and resources, will not be armed with the professional knowledge necessary to competently address and handle these issues. Among the practice areas affected are:

(a) **Employment/Labor Law.** Religion-based EEOC complaints have more than doubled over the past 15 years (*Religious-Discrimination Claims on the Rise: Complaints Include Dress Codes, Working on the Sabbath, Handling Alcohol*,” Melanie Trotman, *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 27, 2013). And different rules apply to religious and non-religious employers (*Conlon v. Intersity Christian Fellowship*, 777 F.3d 829 (6th Cir. 2015)(right of faith-based groups to make employment decisions consistent with their beliefs).

(b) **Family Law.** Religious liberty issues arise often in the family law and parental rights contexts, including such issues as a parent’s right to determine the religious upbringing of his or her children (*Religion as Factor in Child Custody Cases*, 124 A.L.R.5th 203

(Originally published in 2004)). Such issues are not uncommon, especially given the fact that interfaith marriages are on the rise and that marriages between spouses of different faiths dissolve at a much higher rate than marriages between spouses of the same faith. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2010/06/04/AR2010060402011.html>. Religious liberty issues also arise in contexts where parental rights are pitted against government interference with those rights, including with respect to a child’s education and medical treatment. Religious law issues are also becoming more common in foster care and adoption contexts.

(c) **Business Law.** There are many recent and pending cases around the country addressing the controversial legal issue of whether a commercial establishment may decline business for religious reasons. See, for example, *Masterpiece Cake Shop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 138 S.Ct. 1719 ; *Elane Photography, LLC v. Willock* (New Mexico); *State of Washington v. Arlene’s Flowers* (Washington); *Hands On Originals v. Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission* (Kentucky); *Brush & Nib Studio v. City of Phoenix* (Arizona); *Stormans, Inc. v. Wiesman* (Washington); *Telescope Media Group v. Lindsey* (Minnesota); *Country Mill Farms v. City of East Lansing* (Michigan). Attorneys in increasing numbers will undoubtedly be called upon to represent business owners in this and other religion-related contexts.

(d) **Real Estate and Land Use Law.** Local governments and religious organizations are often faced with land use and zoning issues related to religion, including actions brought pursuant to the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), which was enacted in order to protect religious liberty.

(e) **Government and Public Law.** Governmental bodies, public schools, and public employers are often confronted with both Establishment and Free Exercise of religion issues, including what sorts of religious activities and displays are allowed on public property; whether and what sorts of religious accommodations must be made for public employees; and what sorts of religious exercise rights public school students, faculty, and administrative employees have.

(f) **Tax Law.** Many provisions of federal, state, and local income and property tax laws relate specifically to religion, premised upon respect for religious liberty.

(g) **International Law.** The 193 member states of the United Nations – including the United States – have agreed to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. These rights and freedoms include the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, which is protected and affirmed in numerous international instruments, including the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. In 1988 the United States Congress unanimously enacted the International Religious Freedom Act, which seeks to make religious freedom a higher priority in U.S. foreign policy.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

B. Religious Liberty Law Sections Have Been Created in Other State Bar Associations.

The increasing importance of, and growing interest in, religious liberty law is evidenced by the activities of other bar associations around the country. For example:

- the State Bar of Arizona has created a Religious Liberty Law Section;
- the Michigan Bar Association has created a Religious Liberty Law Section;
- the Civil Rights and Social Justice Section of the American Bar Association has established a Religious Freedom Committee which “*addresses the liberty interest that was a founding purpose of our nation – the ‘First Freedom,’ freedom of religion.*”

Many state and local bar associations and other legal organizations have sponsored an everincreasing number of CLEs addressing religious liberty law topics. For example:

- the Arizona Bar Association Religious Liberty Law Section has sponsored multiple CLEs on a variety of religious liberty law topics, including: “*In Search of a More Perfect Union*:

When Rights of Religious Liberty and Anti-Discrimination Collide” (June 16, 2017); “*Who Prays: Unsettled Questions for Legislative Prayer*” (October 20, 2017); “*Religious Speech in Public Schools*” (February 27, 2018); “*Religion and the Workplace: Navigating the Issues for Employers and Employees*” (June 29, 2018); “*In God We Trust?: Government Endorsement of Religion*” (September 14, 2018); “*Inclusion: The Legal Landscape Affecting Religion and People of Faith*” (June 28, 2019); “*Representing Churches, Synagogues, Gurdwaras, Mosques & Temples: Tips and Practical Takeaways for Outside Counsel*” (November 20, 2019); and *Trinity Lutheran, Espinoza and Beyond: Establishment of Religion or Discrimination Against Religion?* (March 16, 2020).

- the Religious Liberty Section of the Michigan Bar Association has sponsored several CLEs on religious liberty law topics, including “*Religious Liberty Issues in Public Schools*” (2018), “*When Legal Protections to Religious Freedom and Sexual Freedom Collide*” (2019), and “*Religious Liberty Issues in Michigan: Where Do We Go From Here?*”(2019).
- the Chicago Bar Association has sponsored several CLEs on religion and the law, including “*When Church and State Collide: Defending Religious Freedom*” (June 22, 2012), “*Religious Expression in the Public Square*” (December 19, 2012), and “*End of Life: Ethical Concerns, Religious Perspectives and Civil Law*” (October 6, 2014);
- the Colorado Bar Association sponsored a three-part series of CLEs entitled: “*Religious Liberty – Our First Freedom*”, covering the topics “*Religious Expression in Public Schools During the Holidays*” (December 3, 2012), “*Hercules Meets Obamacare: Does the Affordable Care Act Violate a Company’s Religious Liberty?*” (February 19, 2013), and “*School Vouchers: Student Choice or Establishment of Religion?*” (April 16, 2013);
- the Law School at the University of Missouri, Kansas City has sponsored three Annual Law and Religious Freedom Conferences, in 2017, 2018, and 2019;
- the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation presented “*Hobby Lobby, Town of Greece and Hosanna Tabor: The U.S. Supreme Court’s Recent Religion Cases*” (January 29, 2015);
- the Pennsylvania Bar Institute presented “*Legal Concerns For People And Entities of Faith*” (July 7, 9, and 10, 2015).

- In July of 2015, the ABA presented a CLE titled “*Religious Freedom: Rising Threats to a Fundamental Human Right*”; on January 22, 2016, the ABA presented a CLE titled: “*Start the Morning with a Prayer – Religion in Schools*” and in February, 2016, the ABA presented a CLE titled “*Accommodating Religious Attire: The Ethical Implications of EEOC v. Abercrombie’s ‘Notice’ Requirements.*”

C. A New Section Dedicated to Religious Liberty Law Would Not Duplicate Any Other Section of the State Bar and Would Provide Georgia Attorneys With Legal Education and Support Not Provided by Any Other Section.

The State Bar of Georgia has no Section dedicated to addressing the law of religious liberty. In fact, it appears that no other Section of the State Bar of Georgia has addressed religious liberty law topics at all, presumably because such Sections do not consider religious liberty law within their purview, are not interested in religious liberty law topics, or do not deem themselves qualified to address such topics

As noted above, religious liberty law issues cut across a wide spectrum of legal practice areas, and there is no Section of the State Bar of Georgia dedicated to comprehensively addressing the issues of religious liberty law and treating religious liberty law as a specialized area of practice.

Therefore, a Religious Liberty Law Section would not be dedicated to an area of law or practice duplicated by any other Section of the State Bar. A Religious Liberty Law Section would provide currently unavailable education and support to attorneys faced with religious liberty law issues across a wide spectrum of practice areas.

D. The Purposes of the Proposed Religious Liberty Law Section are Within the Purposes of the State Bar of Georgia.

The State Bar of Georgia exists to foster among the members of the Georgia Bar the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of law. <https://gabar.org/aboutthebar/index.cfm>. And Article IX, Section 4 of the State Bar Handbook provides that, in addition to a Young Lawyers Division and a Senior Lawyers Section, “[o]ther sections may be created for members of the bar interested in a specialized area of law or practice.”

The Religious Liberty Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia is formed to educate, to discuss, and to disseminate information regarding, as well as to advance and to protect, the basic human and constitutional right of religious liberty through law. To those ends, the mission of the Religious Liberty Law Section will be:

To further the interest of the State Bar of Georgia and of the legal profession as a whole in all ways related to religious liberty law;

- To advance and protect the basic human and constitutional right of religious liberty through law;
- To promote throughout the State of Georgia the education of members of the State Bar and the public about issues related to religious liberty law by organizing presentations on various topics relating to religious liberty law; sponsoring and presenting lectures, workshops, and publications, such as newsletters, on religious liberty topics; and presenting continuing legal education programs on topics related to religious liberty law;
- To promote religious liberty law among Georgia attorneys as a specialized field of practice;
- To provide a forum for developing relations and exchanges of viewpoints with persons and organizations having related interests in the field of religious liberty law;
- To encourage and facilitate debate within the legal profession on religious liberty issues;
- To cooperate with other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia in matters concerning religious liberty law;
- To encourage and to support mutual respect for, and understanding of, differing religious belief systems and practices and how they relate to religious liberty law; and
- To inform the Board of Governors on matters appropriate for Board action.

Representative topics of interest to the Section would include, but not be limited to: the legal and philosophical foundations of religious liberty; the history of religious liberty and religious liberty law; the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, including religion and public schools, religious expression on government property, and religious exercise by government officials and bodies in public venues; the Free Exercise Clause of the U.S. Constitution, including religious practice and conscience claims in the public and private sectors and the intersection of religious liberty claims and anti-discrimination laws; religious liberty protections in the Georgia Constitution; statutory religious liberty protections, including Religious Freedom Restoration acts, federal and state Equal Access acts, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act; religious discrimination under Title VII, Title IX and other federal and state laws; international religious liberty protections; and current religious liberty violations at both the domestic and international levels.

Therefore, the purposes of the proposed Religious Liberty Law Section are within the purposes of the State Bar of Georgia.

E. There is Widespread Support for the Creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section.

The high level of interest in religious liberty law among Georgia attorneys is evidenced by the fact that 104 Georgia-licensed attorneys are supporting this application to establish a State Bar of Georgia Religious Liberty Law Section. That is more attorneys than belong to eight already existing Sections, including Animal Law (96 members), Bike Law (47 members), Class Action (4 members), Construction Law (56 members), Equine Law (52 members), Individual Rights (84 members), Law and Economics (19 members), and Legal Economics (52 members).

Thus, there is more than sufficient support among Georgia attorneys to justify the creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section in the State Bar of Georgia.

PROPOSED BYLAWS

The proposed Bylaws for the Religious Liberty Law Section are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

APPLICANTS

The names and addresses of 10 State Bar of Georgia members applying for creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section are set forth below. The names and bar numbers of 92 additional State Bar of Georgia members who support creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section are also set forth.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

It is respectfully requested that the Board approve the creation of a new State Bar of Georgia Section to be known as the “Religious Liberty Law Section.”

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney S. Alexander (#142690), 271 17th Street, NW, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30363

David N. Baker (#033075) 914 Collier Road NW, #2205, Atlanta, GA 30318

R. Wayne Bond (#066759), 1600 Parkwood Circle, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30339

Vernadette R. Broyles (#593026) 5425 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 110, Norcross, GA 30092

David D. Dennison (#218105) 24 Pinewood Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406

Esther Slater McDonald (#649005) 1075 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2500, Atlanta, GA 30309

Blake W. Meadows (#569729) 115 Kylemore Court, Tyrone, GA 30290

D. Kent Shelton (#640545) 305 Lawrence Street, Marietta, GA 30060

Mathew K. Titus (#479107) 5755 North Point Parkway, Suite 69, Alpharetta, GA 30022

Mark L. Wells (#747822) 4245 Amberglade Court, Norcross, GA 30092

In addition to the foregoing 10 members of the State Bar of Georgia, the following additional 94 members of the State Bar of Georgia also support the creation of a State Bar of Georgia Religious Liberty Law Section:

Drew Ashby #455020

Dale S. Austin #940626

Daniel H. Baquerizo #563664

Travis C. Barham #753251

Robert Barker #037651 Deanna L. Baxam #902508

Timothy Belz #049787

Craig E. Bertschi #055739

Wendell R. Bird #057875

Bryan W. Bockhop #065127

Benjamin J. Bogos #853291

Tyler Bridgers #160740 Richard L. Brittain #083275

Kevin Broyles #090259

Birney Bull #094180

Bruce N. Cameron #105357

Scott Campbell #142384

Dan Castro #116157

Rebecca D. Clements #411059 Eric

D. Cochling #172420

Chris Conway #823011

David Cortman	#188810
Casey C. Crumbley	#741428
Matthew Drew DeMott	#217655
Antionette Nichole Duck	#193261
Anne Elizabeth Goodgame	#931337
C. Edward Goodgame	#300543
Rory T. Gray	#880715
Michael Gumprecht	#903081
Alan Hamilton	#320698
Ben C. Hand	#322660
Denise Harle	#176758
Brett B. Harvey	#335170 Jerry
Hester	#349850
J. B. Hilliard	#235051
W. Hunter Holliday	#362520
Chad A. Hunt	#378492
Robyn W. Iler	#382050(Inactive) Jennifer
L. Jack	#385858
Lindsey Kesler	#454747(Inactive)
Steve Kyle	#430700
John Legg	#218035
S. Fenn Little, Jr.	#454360

Terry L. Lloyd	#455349 Kevin J.
Loechl	#755710
Harris G. Martin	#940358
Keri M. Martin	#679803
Terry N. Massey	#476140
Emily Joy Matson	#639447
Jonathan Terry McCants	#480485
Aaron K. McCullough	#398116
Josh McKoon	#495878
McLaine Merrick	#791458
J. Philip Milam	#505150
Mark P. Miller	#435146
Chae Mims	#936767
Daniel Murray	#443852
Heidi G. Neal	#784194
Henry L. Perry	#573216
Jennifer Peterson	#601355
Kort D. Peterson	#225108
Victoria Cuneo Powell	#353975 John
E. Price	#142012
Scott Pryor	#589155
Ryan P. Reavis	#585240
Morgan M. Robertson	#609750

Jane W. Robbins	#738415
Rebecca D. Ross	#615122
Stuart Roth	#615650(Inactive)
Adam Sanders	#126280
Sherlyn Selassie	#933858
John Matthew Sharp	#607842
Jeffrey A. Shaw	#557870
Jeff Shiver	#001303
Ben Shoemaker	#958395
Timothy T. Silvester	#109544
Kathleen C. Simon	#142410(Inactive)
Brandon Smith	#732793
Travis W. Smith	#153045
Charles C. Stebbins	#667350
Christopher R. Stovall	#621780
R. Scott Tewes	#702677
G. William Thackston, Jr.	#703100
Maxwell K. Thelen	#311404
Kevin H. Theriot	#373095
Benjamin R. Thomsen	#783046
Joel Thornton	#643040
Kory Verdonck	#452640
Kristen K. Waggoner	#127116
William Thomas Watts, Jr.	#742310

George M. Weaver #743150
Anna Wetzel #905359
Juli Wisotsky #246135
Troy G. Woollen #567866

Approved by the Board of Governors this
__ day of _____, 20__

EXHIBIT A

PROPOSED BYLAWS

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW SECTION
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this Section shall be the “Religious Liberty Law Section.”

Section 2: The purpose of this Section is to increase the awareness, further the knowledge, and foster professionalism and excellence, of members of the State Bar of Georgia and the general public in the field of religious liberty law. To that end, the Section’s purposes are set forth in its Mission Statement and include, among others:

- To further the interest of the State Bar of Georgia and of the legal profession as a whole in all ways related to religious liberty law;
- To promote throughout the State of Georgia the education of members of the State Bar and the public about issues related to religious liberty law, by organizing presentations on various topics

relating to religious liberty law, by sponsoring and by presenting lectures, workshops, and publications such as newsletters, on religious liberty topics, and by presenting continuing legal education programs on topics related to religious liberty law;

- To promote religious liberty law among Georgia attorneys as a specialized field of practice;
- To provide a forum for developing relations and exchanges of viewpoints with persons and organizations having related interests in the field of religious liberty law;
- To encourage and facilitate debate within the legal profession on religious liberty issues;
- To cooperate with other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia in matters concerning religious liberty law; and
- To encourage and to support mutual respect for, and understanding of, differing religious belief systems and practices and how they relate to religious liberty law.

ARTICLE II

Membership and Dues

Section 1: In order to be a member of this Section one must be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia. Any member of the State Bar of Georgia, upon request and payment of annual Section dues for the current year, shall be enrolled as a member of this Section. Thereafter, such dues shall be paid in advance each year at the time of the payment of dues to the State Bar of Georgia. Members so enrolled and whose dues are so paid shall constitute the membership of this Section. Any member whose annual dues shall be past due shall cease to be a member and shall be removed from the rolls of the Section, subject to reinstatement at any time upon the payment of dues for the current year.

Section 2: The annual Section dues payable by each member of this Section shall be established from time to time by the Section leadership and voted on by a quorum of members.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1: The Officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Section.

Section 2: Each Officer shall hold office for a one (1) year term beginning at the close of the Annual Meeting of the Section at which the Officer is elected and ending at the close of the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the Section and until his or her successor shall have been elected and qualified. If a vacancy shall arise in the office of Vice Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer,

the Chairperson shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term(s). If a vacancy shall arise in the office of Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall become Chairperson for the unexpired term. If a vacancy shall arise in the office of the Chairperson and there shall, at the same time, exist a vacancy in the office of Vice Chairperson, the Executive Committee of the Section shall appoint a successor Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the unexpired terms.

Section 3: The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Section and all meetings of the Executive Committee, appoint appropriate committees of the Section to serve during the Chairperson's term, plan and supervise the program of the Section at its annual meeting, and perform all other executive and administrative duties necessary or proper to the organization and functioning of the Section, including any duty as from time to time may be prescribed by the Section or by the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 4: The Vice Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson and, in the absence or disability of the Chairperson, shall perform the duties of the Chairperson.

Section 5: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Section, maintain the permanent records, give notices of meetings and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairperson.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall maintain the budget of the Section, update the income and expenses of the Section, ensure that the bills of the Section are paid, maintain contact with the Section Liaison of the State Bar of Georgia for purposes of maintaining the budget, and report on the budget at the annual meeting or when otherwise requested by the Chairperson.

Section 7: Upon the organization of the Section, the attorneys filing the application for the creation of the Section shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer to serve until the close of the next annual meeting of the State Bar of Georgia.

ARTICLE IV

Actions and Meetings of the Section

Section 1: An Annual Meeting of the Section shall be held each year at or about the time of the Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia, the date, time, and location to be fixed by the Chairperson. If deemed prudent or necessary, the Section may conduct any meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate and voting.

Section 2: Special Meetings, if any, of the Section may be called by the Chairperson, to be convened at such time and place and with such agenda and order of business as may be fixed by the Chairperson.

Section 3: Ten (10) members of the Section present at any Annual or Special meeting of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Only members physically or electronically present at an Annual or Special meeting of the Section count towards a quorum.

Section 4: All actions of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, except for actions of the Section submitted to members of the Section present at any properly called Annual or Special Meeting of the Section which actions shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting. Only members physically or electronically present may vote on Section business at any Annual or Special meeting of the Section.

Section 5: Notice of the date, time, and place of each Annual or Special meeting of the Section shall be given to each member of the Section on the rolls of the Section in the office of the State Bar of Georgia. In the absence of actual notice sent at least ten (10) days in advance of any meeting, written or printed notice sent by United States Mail or by e-mail no less than ten (10) days in advance of such scheduled meeting sent to the member's address or e-mail address on record in the office of the State Bar of Georgia, shall constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice of such meeting of this Section. Further, any such notice may be included with other written or printed material mailed or e-mailed to all of the members of the State Bar of Georgia or any part thereof which includes all members of the Section and such notice shall also be due, adequate, and sufficient notice of such meeting of this Section.

Section 6: There shall be no voting by proxy at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Section. The Section may discuss matters by email; however, all voting must be done by live conference, videoconference, or teleconference. The Chair may determine when the email discussion period will end and set the time for a live conference, videoconference, or teleconference.

ARTICLE V

Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee of the Section shall consist of the four Officers of the Section and three (3) other members of the Section by the Chairperson, whose terms shall be coexistent with that of the Chairperson.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall have full authority to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself would be authorized to act and any such action taken by the Executive Committee pursuant to this provision shall be reported to the members of the Section at the next Annual Meeting of the Section.

Section 3: The Executive Committee may convene in person, by telephone, or by a combination of both, and may take Section action in person, by telephone, or by email.

Section 4: The Executive Committee may form subcommittees to perform Section business and may appoint members of the Section to serve on those subcommittees, answerable to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

Elections

Section 1: Elections for Officers of the Section shall be held once per Bar year at the Annual Meeting of the Section. The members, including Officers, shall nominate one or more members of the Section qualified to hold each of the Offices of the Section for the ensuing terms of Office.

Section 2: The names of all members of the Section nominated for each Office shall be submitted to the Section at large, by United States mail or email. In the event that more than one candidate is nominated for an Office, ballots shall be cast until there shall be a majority of the members of the Section present and voting at the Annual Meeting favoring the election of a designated member to that Office. In the event there is only one candidate for an Office, voting for that Office at the Annual Meeting may be by voice vote.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

Section 1: Funds of the Section shall be deposited in the treasury of the State Bar of Georgia and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia to pay bills of the Section which have been approved for payment by any Officer of the Section.

Section 2: Funds of the Section shall be expended for such purposes related to the activities of the Section as from time to time shall be authorized by the Section's Executive Committee.

Section 3: Officers and members of the Section shall not be compensated for services thereto.

Section 4: A financial report of the funds of the Section shall be rendered at each annual meeting thereof. This Section shall have the same fiscal year as the State Bar of Georgia.

ARTICLE VIII

Miscellaneous

Section 1: The Section shall from time to time conduct programs for continuing education in the area of religious liberty law, but may coordinate its efforts in this regard with other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 2: Subject to the Rules, Bylaws and Standing Board policies of the State Bar of Georgia, the Section may from time to time sponsor, promote, study or review proposed legislation.

ARTICLE IX

Effective Date and Amendment

Section 1: These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 2: These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Section present at any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present, and subsequent approval thereof by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

Signed, sealed and subscribed before the undersigned this the ___ day of _____, 2020.

Witness

CHAIRPERSON

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

State Bar of Georgia Officer Reimbursement Policy
(as amended July 17, 2020 , by the Executive Committee. . Effective July 1, 2020.)

The President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and Immediate Past-President of the State Bar of Georgia, as well as the President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past-President of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the State Bar of Georgia may be reimbursed for the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred while carrying out official duties, subject to the limitations set forth in this Policy.

The maximum annual amount for officer reimbursement shall be approved by the Board of Governors as part of the budgeting process.

Necessary and reasonable expenses subject to reimbursement pursuant to this Policy specifically include those associated with the following:

Commercial Airfare

- Commercial airfare may be reimbursed at the coach class rate, including associated baggage fees.
- If the flight time is equal to or greater than two hours, then reimbursement at the economy comfort (or equivalent) rate, including associated baggage fees, is permitted.

Lodging

- Lodging cost may be reimbursed at an amount not to exceed the highest rate negotiated by the hosting entity for one accommodation, including resort fees.
- If there is no negotiated rate, then the expense may be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed \$200 per night.

Meeting Registration

- Meeting registration, including the cost of additional ticketed events the officer is expected to attend, may be reimbursed in full.
- The cost of entertainment or recreational activities will not be reimbursed, nor will the cost of any continuing legal education course.

Meals

- The cost of meals including related incidentals (e.g. tips for food servers) will be reimbursed via the payment of a per diem. This per diem shall be paid at two times the federal per diem rate for the relevant locale. Per diem payments for meals shall be made in compliance with the federal per diem rate for the location where the officer spends the night. If the officer does not spend the night while traveling on State Bar business, the per diem payment will be based upon the federal per diem rate for the location where the business was conducted. Federal per diem rates provide a total daily meal rate and also a breakdown for the portion of the total daily rate applicable individually to breakfast, lunch and dinner.

- Any officer covered by this policy who is provided a meal(s) as part of an event covered by an event fee otherwise reimbursable under this policy may not be reimbursed for the corresponding meal.

Transportation

- When a private automobile is used, mileage may be reimbursed according to the IRS standard rate in effect at the time of travel, plus tolls and parking.
- Other ground transportation expenses (for example, taxis, public transportation, ride-share services, and rental cars) may be reimbursed in full upon the officer providing documentation showing the expense incurred.

Other

- Base membership dues to the American Bar Association (not including optional section membership).

Expenses subject to reimbursement pursuant to this Policy are necessary and reasonable expenses incurred while an officer covered by this Policy is attending meetings of the State Bar of Georgia (Annual, Midyear, Board of Governors, Executive Committee and other committees); the American Bar Association; the National Conference of Bar Presidents; the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents; or any other meeting or event where the officer is representing the State Bar of Georgia in an official capacity and is expected to be in attendance. This includes expenses incurred while the officer is conducting a visit to plan any such meeting. Reimbursement will not be made for expenses incurred after an initial visit to a particular site or after the execution of a contract for a meeting at a particular site, unless that visit is necessary and approved in advance by both the State Bar of Georgia Executive Director and Treasurer.

Expenses associated with the following are specifically excluded from reimbursement pursuant to this Policy:

- Entertainment expenses;
- Alcoholic beverages;
- Hotel mini-bar or laundry expenses;
- Movie rentals during overnight lodging or flights;
- Private aircraft, to the extent the expense exceeds the greater of the coach class commercial airfare rate of a flight between the destinations traveled or mileage between the destinations traveled, according to the IRS standard rate in effect at the time of travel;
- Lodging at personally owned residences, vacation homes or timeshares (for example, Airbnb), unless such lodging expense is equal to or less than the highest negotiated rate for an accommodation at the host hotel for the meeting or event at which it is incurred;
- Pet-care services;
- Childcare services or children's programs;

- Spa services;
- Sporting or other recreational activities;
- Charitable or political contributions;
- Expenses related to attendance at any political event;
- Gifts;
- Except as shown in “Other” above, membership fees or dues of business associated with industry associations or clubs;
- Continuing legal education fees.

Any reimbursable expense incurred by the spouse or designated guest of an officer may also be reimbursed pursuant to this Policy; provided the expense is incurred at or in conjunction with a meeting, event, or site visit at which the spouse or designated guest’s attendance is customary or otherwise necessary or expected.

The following procedure shall be used to obtain reimbursement of an expense pursuant to this Policy:

- The reimbursable expense shall be submitted to the Finance Department of the State Bar of Georgia no later than 45 days after the expense is incurred.
- In no event shall an expense incurred during a particular State Bar of Georgia fiscal year (ending June 30) be reimbursed if it is submitted for reimbursement later than August 15 of the following State Bar of Georgia fiscal year.
- Reimbursement requests must be submitted on the official State Bar of Georgia reimbursement form, signed by the officer requesting reimbursement.
- Unless provided by this Policy, supporting documentation of each expense submitted (for example, receipt, ticket or contract) must accompany the reimbursement form. Credit card statements are not sufficient documentation supporting an expense.
- In no event shall an expense be reimbursed prior to approval by the State Bar of Georgia Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer.
- In the event of a dispute about whether an expense is subject to reimbursement pursuant to this Policy, an officer may submit a written request to the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia to determine whether the expense at issue is reimbursable pursuant to this Policy. That determination shall be made by a majority of the non-officer members of the Executive Committee participating and voting. In the event of a tie vote, the reimbursement will be disallowed. A quorum for any such vote shall be at least three non-officer members.

Exceptions to this Policy are permitted, but only upon the unanimous determination by the Executive Director, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the State Bar of Georgia that extenuating circumstances have occurred necessitating the exception.

This Policy is subject to change at any time by action of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

2020-2021

MINUTES OF MEETING 1

September 15, 2020

via Zoom Conference

The first meeting of the 2020-2021 State Bar of Georgia Advisory Committee on Legislation ("ACL") was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 via Zoom Video Conferencing.

ATTENDANCE

The following members and liaisons were present via Zoom: Javoyné Hicks (Chair), Kyle Williams (Vice Chair), Mark Alexander, Kent Altom, Tracee Benzo, Joshua Bosin, Thomas Burnside, Carol Clark, William Clark, J. Anderson Davis, C. Lee Davis, Joe Dent, Miguel Dominguez, Will Fagan, Patricia Gorham, Lawton Heard, Amy Howell, Robert Hughes, Curtis Jenkins, Skiriki Jones, Joyce Gist Lewis, Edward Lindsey, Graham McDonald, Jonathan Pannell, Brandon Peak, Dennis Sanders, Daniel Snipes, Frank Strickland, Jason Swindle, Carl Varnedoe, Henry Walker, Nancy Whaley, Judge Paige Whitaker, Thomas Worthy, Rep. Mary Margret Oliver, Rep. Barry Fleming, Dawn Jones (exec committee liaison), Jourdan Read, David Dove, Judge Christopher McFadden, Judge Wes Tailor, Judge Alicia Jones, Judge Willie Weaver, Mark Middleton, Rusty Sewell, Roy Robinson, and Christine Butcher Hayes (staff liaison).

Other stakeholders present and participating via Zoom included: Paula Frederick, Bill NeSmith, Jeff Davis, Tracy Mason, Cheryl Karounos, Robby Hughes, Evan Meyers, Steve Gotlieb, Rick Ruffalo, Tracy Johnson, Wanda Segars, Cindy Morris, Mary Donovan, Vikcy Kimbrell, Jimonique Rogers, Daron Enns, Eric Johns, Emily Youngo, Rusi Patel, Allison Lerner, Anne Kirkhope, Kristen Wallace, Doug Yarn, Lisa Johnes, Elizabeth Fite, Steve McKinney, Debra Nesbitt, and Emily Hirst.

CALL TO ORDER

ACL Chair Javoyné Hicks called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll call was taken using Zoom's video recording and chat features.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved.

STATUS OF 2020 STATE BAR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Christine Butcher Hayes reported that the State Bar had a successful 2020 legislative session. The legislature took a hiatus on Day 29, following Crossover Day, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It readjusted in late June to complete the 40-day legislative session. HB 865, the Fiduciary Section's Title 53 bill, passed and was signed into law by the governor. SB 464, the Uniform Mediation Act, passed in the Senate but did not ultimately make it out of committee in the House by the conclusion of the session. The kinship care grants for civil legal services and the grants for domestic violence TPOs were both cut back significantly due to the state's budget shortfall in the midst of COVID-19. The State Bar also advocated for nominal decreases to the judiciary budget in the face of proposed budget cuts and lobbied for sustained funding to the appellate division of the Georgia Public Defender Council.

House legislation addressing remote online notarization did not receive a vote in the House and the State Bar will continue to work with relevant stakeholders on a bill that addresses the provisions of the ALTA Model Act.

KELLER REVIEW

Paula Frederick, General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia, presented a review of *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990). Before the State Bar's Board of Governors, Executive Committee, or Advisory Committee on Legislation takes a position on any legislative matter, it must do a *Keller* vote. The legislative proposal must be germane to the purpose of the State Bar, which are (1) regulating the legal profession, and (2) improving the quality of legal services. Paula also briefly discussed the pending lawsuits challenging mandatory bar associations throughout the country, further emphasizing the need to analyze legislative positions under the *Keller* analysis.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The ACL reviewed the following new proposals. The proposals that were approved by the ACL will be considered by the Board of Governors at its fall meeting via Zoom on October 24, 2020.

1. Support for FY 2022 Judicial Council Budget Request - \$325,326 to Fund Civil Legal Services Grants for Kinship Care Families.

Steve Gotlieb presented the proposal on behalf of the Access to Justice Committee. The legislature appropriated \$225,326 for these grants in FY 2021, which was half of what was requested. The Access to Justice Committee is asking that the legislature appropriate \$325,326 in the FY 2022 budget. Georgia currently has thousands of displaced children, which is largely linked to the current opioid crisis. These grants are used for civil legal

services for kinship care, so that family members can get the legal support they need to care for displaced children, including power of attorney, custody arrangements, legal help for special education issues. The funding is appropriated by the General Assembly and administered to civil legal service organizations by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The AOC distributes the funds to each organization based on poverty population throughout the state.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on October 24, 2020.

2. Support for the Uniform Mediation Act

Steve McKinney and Doug Yarn presented this proposal on behalf of the Dispute Resolution Section. The proposal has been approved by the Judicial Council of Georgia and was previously supported by the State Bar ahead of the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. The proposal was filed as SB 464 during the 2020 legislative session and sponsored by Senator John Kennedy.

The proposal would provide a statutory structure for private mediations. The proposal would (1) provide legal consistency and clarity, (2) promote consumer protection through disclosures, and (3) enhance Georgia's reputation as a leader in the mediation space. Similar rules are already in place for court-ordered mediation. Currently, the Georgia ADR rules provide a privilege but it does not extend to private mediations. Parties to a private mediation agreement would be able to waive out of the provisions of the statute if they choose to do so. There were no significant changes between the proposal as submitted and SB 464 as passed in the Georgia Senate in February 2020. The Uniform Mediation Act has been adopted in eleven states and introduced in NY, MA, CT, and MN.

The Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA) had some issues with SB 464 when it was in the House Judiciary Committee and a discussion began about whether those issues had been resolved. A representative of GTLA stated that they had a few policy issues with the bill that they believe should be changed and requested a meeting with the legislative team and a few members of the Dispute Resolution Section to resolve those issues. The committee determined they would wait until the December 1, 2020 ACL meeting to take a vote on the bill so the policy issues with the proposal could be resolved.

POTENTIAL 2021 LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO THE BAR

1. Digital Court Reporting Legislation from the Judicial Council of Georgia

Tracy Mason and Allison Lerner from the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts presented a proposed update to the court reporting laws that would create a blended statute that modernizes Georgia's court reporting laws to recognize digital court reporting. The proposed bill includes small fixes to the eFiling systems so that court reporters can more

easily file transcripts. The proposal also addresses storage of evidence and other topics in the court reporting statute.

Judicial Council has voted to support this proposal and may bring it back to ACL in December for a formal vote asking for State Bar support.

2. Draft Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act

Chief Judge Christopher McFadden of the Court of Appeals and Darron Enns of the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts presented this proposal for review by the committee. The primary goal of the proposed legislation is to clarify the current certiorari review procedure under OCGA 5-4-1 et seq which invokes the appellate jurisdiction of a superior or state court. A subcommittee of the Judicial Council has completed the draft and solicited comment from the State Bar membership, including the Bar's Appellate Section.

COVID-19 AND THE PRACTICE OF LAW

1. Judicial Council COVID-19 Task Force

Elizabeth Fite reported as the State Bar's liaison to the Judicial Council COVID-19 Task Force. The task force has looked at court rules and potential statutory changes that could be changed in the wake of COVID-19. Some of the issues discussed by the task force include remote notarization, remote swearing-in of witnesses, remote court proceedings, access to broadband internet, and statutory speedy trial issues, among others. There is also an interest in pursuing funding to bring back senior judges to address the backlog of cases or implementing a special master program. The task force is also looking at the economic impact of the case backlog in the wake of the pandemic.

2. Discussion of Potential Legislation Affecting the Practice of Law in the Wake of COVID-19

Christine Butcher Hayes briefly discussed the State Bar's work on the remote notary and remote witnessing executive orders that were issues in late March and early April during the beginning of the pandemic. The State Bar plans to work with legislators to come up with statutory framework for remote online notarization and remote witnessing for the 2021 legislative session.

ELECTION AND POLITICAL UPDATE

Rusty Sewell and Mark Middleton gave a brief political update. They discussed the upcoming November 3, 2020 election and the lawyer-legislators that will be retiring from office, in addition to a few lawyers who will be running for seats in the House and Senate during the upcoming general election.

UPDATES FROM THE JUDICIARY

Tracy Mason with the Administrative Office of the Courts discussed the August 14, 2020 Judicial Council meeting. The Judicial Council has recommended 8 new judgeships for the upcoming year based on workload assessment studies: South Georgia Circuit, Blue Ridge Circuit, Mountain Circuit, Coweta Circuit, Clayton Circuit, Atlantic Circuit, Northern Circuit, and Atlanta Circuit. New judgeships must be approved and funded by the legislature in order to come to fruition. Tracy also reported that the Judicial Council is also holding regular emergency sessions via Zoom in order to discuss opening courts throughout the state in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair Javoyne Hicks stated that the committee will meet again on December 1, 2020 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will likely last a bit longer because the chair expects a higher volume of legislative proposals at the meeting. At this time the December 1 meeting will be held via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the committee, Chair Javoyne Hicks adjourned the meeting at 11:41 AM.

September 3, 2020

Christine Butcher Hayes
Director of Governmental Affairs
State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta Street N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: Legislative proposal – Kinship Care Funding

Dear Ms. Hayes:

I write on behalf of the State Bar's Access to Justice Committee to request the State Bar of Georgia's endorsement of legislation that would provide an appropriation for civil legal services for Kinship Care families.

It is our Committee's understanding that for the State Bar of Georgia to endorse this legislation for the upcoming fiscal year, the proposal must be renewed before the Advisory Committee on Legislation. As a result, our Committee wishes to propose an appropriation of \$325,326.00 for the Kinship Care grant award. In addition, we understand that the Judicial Council is also requesting this amount in their budget and we ask that the State Bar Advisory Committee on Legislation support the request.

In 2019, the Georgia General Assembly appropriated \$375,000 as part of the Administrative Office of the Court's budget to fund civil legal services for low income Kinship Care families. Last year, the General Assembly recognized the importance of providing those legal services to keep these families together. However, last year's grant appropriations were reduced by 40% based on budget constraints, and this reduction will have a substantial impact on Georgia Legal Services and Atlanta Legal Aid's ability to provide legal representation for Kinship Care families.

This funding helps to provide the legal representation that serves a need that would

Letter to Christine Butcher Hayes
August 26, 2020
Page 2

otherwise go unmet. Many rural areas in Georgia have been referred to as legal deserts because of the lack of lawyers, including 59 rural counties that have less than 10 lawyers. Even in urban areas where lawyers are present, it is nearly impossible to find lawyers to represent low income families without cost. <https://www.law.com/dailyreportonline/2020/07/28/rural-georgias-legal-deserts-are-further-stressed-by-pandemic/?slreturn=20200726112651>

Kinship Care families include families where grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, other relatives, and sometimes family friends are caring for children. Often these children arrive in their relative's care after trauma or crisis in the child's life and in desperate need of stability and support. As of July 1, 2020, Georgia had approximately 11,916 children in foster care. <http://fostergeorgia.com/demographics-of-children-in-foster-care/>. The goal of the Kinship Care project is to keep children out of the state foster care system by keeping them with family and to save funds for the Georgia foster care system. The program also provides legal services to keep children in school, provide financial supports, healthcare benefits, and safe housing for at risk children.

The State Bar Access to Justice Committee is not aware of any opposition to this proposal, however, we are aware of the competing needs for funding and we ask that the Bar make funding of the Kinship Care grant a legislative priority. It is our Committee's understanding that we do not need to submit the specific language for the legislation because this is a budget item. Furthermore, this proposal satisfies the *Keller* criteria because it is within the scope and purposes of the State Bar of Georgia to advance the administration of justice. It also is consistent with past actions by the Board of Governors in support of access to legal services by the poor. I have been authorized by the Committee's Chair and Vice Chair to sign this letter on behalf of the Committee. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us further.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,



Phil Sandick
State Bar of Georgia Access to Justice Committee



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
 FY 2021 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
 FY 2022 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor:

Civil Legal Services to Kinship Care Families

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
FY 2021	\$225,326	\$0	\$225,326
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2022	\$225,236	\$100,000	\$325,236

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- This funding will provide additional grant funds to organizations for attorneys to provide holistic legal services for kinship caregivers throughout Georgia. Attorneys will be able to secure legal custody for caregivers who step up to care for children at risk of being taken into care by the State.
- Additionally, these attorneys can provide access to financial benefits, healthcare support, educational supports, and safe housing for at risk children by assuring they receive the legal representation they need.
- It is expected over 450 new cases would be opened each year with this new funding.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- Without the civil legal services that this funding would provide, children in kinship care would continue to face increased social, legal, and financial issues. Many kinship families are low-income households and face complex issues, such as access to care benefits, threat of evictions, and education access - issues that are only resolvable through the assistance of an attorney. Without this support, fewer children will be able to remain in kinship care and instead, will be placed in foster care at an increased cost to the state.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors? No

- Salaried staff
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



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Budget Categories	FY 2021 Amended Request	FY 2022 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Costs:		
Postage		
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media		
Supplies and Materials		
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating		
Travel – Employee		
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)		
Professional Services (Expenses)		
Other Contractual Services (Non State)		
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants	\$	\$ 325,236
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	\$	\$ 325,236
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$	\$ 325,236
State Funds		\$ 325,236
Other Budgeted Funds		



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Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

This funding will provide additional support to providers of civil legal services for kinship caregivers and at risk children. Kinship care refers to full-time, non-parental care of children by grandparents, relatives, and sometimes family friends, without the assistance of parents. Relatives and other caregivers often struggle to provide for these new members of the household, who often arrive in their care following trauma or crisis.

Kinship caregiver needs include legal custody. Attorneys can also provide access to financial benefits, educational access, government support, and safe housing for at risk children by assuring they receive the legal representation needed. This funding would provide these kinship caregivers with the much needed legal assistance to ensure the home remains safe, stable, and sustainable for the children in their care.

Certain services would be specifically excluded, including:

- Class action suits;
- Criminal defense;
- Deportation proceedings;
- Juvenile delinquency;
- Indirect legal services – such as training;
- Matters to be adjudicated in courts outside of Georgia; and
- Other proceedings not related to the safety, stability, or economic security of the at risk child or kinship care family.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

Statewide or list counties below:

Rural areas and counties with limited access to legal services

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

Currently, \$225,326 is approved to be granted through this program to providers of civil legal services for kinship caregivers and at risk children.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded? Yes.

3



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4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

As of March 2019, 13,308 children are in state sponsored foster care. A much larger number are informally placed with relatives and other caregivers. In 2015, the Georgia House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care issued a report identifying the special needs of children in kinship care relationships. Census data from the American Community Survey 2016 indicate 40,814 Georgia grandparents are raising grandchildren. An Administration for Children and Families (ACF) report indicates that almost ½ co-residing Georgia grandparents are primary caregivers, nearly ½ are 60 years of age or older, and about 1/3 live in poverty.

During the first grant cycle, Atlanta Legal Aid and Georgia Legal Services opened 771 cases for low-income kinship caregivers. The project has completed 105 cases with quantifiable positive legal outcomes valued at over \$230,000. Financial benefits obtained for kinship families during the reporting period include nearly \$65,000 in Income Maintenance benefits such as food stamps and adoption assistance that increase family income, nearly \$20,000 in affordable housing benefits, over \$30,000 in health insurance benefits, \$54,000 in education access received or retained, and \$110,304 in other lump sum and annualized monthly financial outcomes. Atlanta Legal Aid tracks other non-financial benefits obtained for clients, including: custody, guardianship and adoptions impacting 59 caregivers and children; and preservation of housing and income maintenance benefits impacting 46 caregivers and children; and income maintenance benefits impacting 80 caregivers and children.

- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Atlanta Legal Aid has a Kinship Care Unit consisting of 3 attorneys and 2.75 paralegals. In 2019, the Kinship Care Unit handled 283 kinship cases, impacting 568 children.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?

Providers measure the success of the project by reporting semi-annually to the Judicial Council on the numbers of children and at-risk families served, including the types of legal representation provided. They will also provide reports on the demographics of those served, including geographic location, gender and racial breakdown and the amount of financial benefits secured for the family.

- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?

Studies report that informal kinship caregivers save U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$4 billion annually by



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caring for kin that would otherwise fall into the custody of the state. Providing civil legal services to these households increases the stability and effectiveness of care for children in care, and thereby decreasing the need, and associated costs, for DFCS involvement, including placements in non-kinship foster care homes.

c. What efficiencies will be realized?

This funding reduces the need for intrusion by the state into the family, and reduces the high costs to the state and the devastating impact on children from intervention by: formalizing the relationship between



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the child and the caregiver, helping families access economic support, helping families access supports for children living with disabilities, and helping families with estate planning to protect the child's stability if the caregiver passes away.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Constituents and stakeholders include: Division of Families and Children Services, kinship caregivers, children in kinship care homes, legislators, community leaders, the private bar, juvenile judges, and other child-focused agencies and coalitions in Georgia, especially in rural and remote areas.

- b. Which are likely to support this request?

All stakeholders are likely to support this request because they each see the need to secure more stable and sustainable kinship care homes through legal services.

- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?

The Council is unaware of any opposition to this request.

- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition? None.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.
No.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.
No.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Because the cost of civil legal services is too high for most of the kinship caregivers in Georgia, these families, unfortunately, have no other alternative.

Part 2 - BUDGET



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9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*
- b. Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)
- c. Operational needs:
- d. What are your out-year projections?

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

The \$325,236 will cover services approximately equivalent to 5 lawyers across the state to provide legal services for one year (twelve months).

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?

Based on Atlanta Legal Aid's current budget covering 2 attorneys and 1 paralegal.

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?
Twelve months.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc.).

None

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

Beginning in 1999, the Georgia General Assembly appropriated funds to the Judicial Council of Georgia for grants to provide civil legal services to victims of family violence. The Judicial Council adopted general guidelines to govern the granting of these funds which are filed with the Georgia Secretary of State. It has also delegated to its Judicial Council Standing Committee on Grants (Grants Committee) the duty of accepting and evaluating grant applications and awarding grants.



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The Grants Committee will oversee any new appropriation for civil legal services to aid kinship care and at risk children. The Grants Committee will award these funds starting July 1. Seventy-five percent of the grant money will be awarded pursuant to the poverty population guidelines, which is based on the most current estimates from the U.S. Census, and twenty-five percent of the grant money will be awarded to special needs areas. Special needs categories (such as homelessness or rural counties with fewer than ten attorneys) may also be considered.

Grant proposals will be considered from non-profit providers of civil legal services for kinship caregivers and at risk children in Georgia. Providers may apply for funds from both categories.

Grants will be awarded for a one-year term. Each of Georgia's forty-nine circuits will be included. The amount of funds available for distribution to grantees may change each year based on the amount of funds appropriated to the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts and the cost of the administrative oversight of these funds.

In no event shall a grantee provide free legal services to a client whose income exceeds 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

To: Members, Board of Governors

From: Rick Rufolo, Executive Director, Georgia Legal Services Program

Date: September 2020

Re: Update from Georgia Legal Service Program

On behalf of Georgia Legal Services Program, I want to express my appreciation for the ongoing support of the State Bar of Georgia, its' Board of Governors and members. Your support is critical to the work we do, particularly during a global pandemic and its impact to our clients and the communities in which they live.

Each year, the State Bar of Georgia supports GLSP through the "And Justice for All" Campaign in which members of the State Bar can make voluntary contributions when they return their bar dues invoice. In the 2019-20 Campaign which concluded March 31, 2020, Bar members contributed \$366,674 through this process, a 24% increase over the 2018-19 Campaign! The 2020-21 Campaign began April 1 and I am happy to report that through the first six months of this year's campaign, bar members have contributed over \$407,000, the first time we have topped \$400,000 in years.

While I'm encouraged by the positive trend in contributions, I'm not someone who is easily satisfied. With nearly 50,000 members, only 6% contribute to GLSP through the bar dues invoice. Historically, that number has been between 5-7% so our participation rate has never been stellar. It is clear to me that we can do better—much better!

Like me, many donors give to GLSP because they are moved by our mission: access to justice and opportunities out of poverty. Others give because they want to be part of the experience and make a difference in the lives of those who can't afford legal services. And, quite simply, many give because they were asked, particularly during difficult times.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us, especially our most vulnerable Georgians who are facing unprecedented challenges every day. Many people have lost their jobs and a significant backlog in processing unemployment claims continues. Unable to pay their rent, tenants are facing a "tsunami of evictions."

While court closures and CARES Act legislation initially slowed eviction filings, courts will reopen, and additional legislation remains stalled.

GLSP advocates are answering the call.

Most of us seek protection in the security of our homes, but what happens when those homes are not safe? For family violence survivors, their homes can be the most dangerous place on earth. Since the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, Georgia's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline has had a 15% increase in calls. The coronavirus pandemic has forced some family violence victims to remain in their homes with abusers because they can't afford to leave, they lost their job or housing, or because of the fear of venturing out and getting sick and becoming one of more than 200,000 fatalities.

Kimberly Wilson (not her real name) lived in a small Georgia town with her husband and two children. Kimberly's husband had been violent for years, but his drug addiction was getting worse. He threatened her with a gun, screaming, hitting her, and terrifying the children. In the middle of the night, Kimberly called for help and friends came to help, but the only place she could find to live was a camper in a friend's back yard. Kimberly called Georgia Legal Services for help. A GLSP lawyer represented Kimberly to get a family violence protective order and custody of her children. GLSP helped her get her own housing, helped with the first month's rent payment, utilities, and deposits. With a little peace, Kimberly was able to find a job. Thanks to her courage and GLSP lawyer, Kimberly was able to start a new life during this pandemic.


Kimberly's story is only one of the many compelling stories of our clients' hardships, survival and victories. These are real stories of real people with critical problems that are often made worse because of the lack of income or resources available. In communities across Georgia, our advocates work to make a difference for families who are fighting to keep their homes and whose paychecks are put in jeopardy. GLSP is standing up for children denied an education and we protect victims of domestic violence. Our fellow Georgians need lawyers across the state to help them with these civil legal needs.

Let's work together to close the justice gap in Georgia.



State Bar of Georgia

To: Bar Officers
Finance Committee

From: Ron Turner 

Date: September 21, 2020

Re: June 2020 Financial Statements-Bar Operations and Bar Center

Attached please find the June 2020 financial statements. **As June 30 is the year-end of the Bar, full departmental detail is attached. The amounts provided in the attached financial statements are subject to change due to the receipt of any additional invoices, if significant in nature, related to June 30, 2020 and the audit by the Bar's outside accountants.**

Line item variance explanations follow. Department managers are expected to specify savings elsewhere in their budgets when exceeding a line item, unless there was a budgeting error. Line item variances < \$100 are not explained to conserve your time.

New and revised items are highlighted in bold.

Salaries – In certain cases salaries may have exceeded the budget minimally in certain departments due to a timing issue. Raises are given the first full pay period in the new fiscal year. Sometimes that may result in a slight shifting of the expenses from one year versus another year. In addition, salaries are based upon the actual number of days in a particular reporting period.

Taxes and Benefits – In addition, in certain cases this line item exceeded the budget due to the accrual of vacation pay for the year ended June 30, 2020. Historically, the amount of vacation pay accrual has been minimal. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most staff have not been able to take vacation. Since vacation has not been taken, we are accruing for the amount of earned but untaken vacation.

Unless specifically noted in a comment related to each department, savings were realized in other line items within the department so that the department, in total, was not over budget.

Administration

Bank fees exceeded the budget by \$449 primarily due to the decrease in interest rates on compensating balances that the Bar has on deposit with the financial institution. The Bar receives a credit against charges for amounts held at the financial institution. This credit offsets the amount of balance based charges from the financial institution. Due to the decrease in interest rates the amount of the credit decreased, and thus the amount of bank fees increased.

Credit card discount and fees is over budget by \$23,620 primarily due to the increased use of credit cards for payments. This increased use was the result of the following: (1) more Bar members paid by credit card in the current period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (2) more Bar members used a credit card for payment because of a concern about the United States Postal Service and (3) more than a historically normal amount of Bar members did not receive their dues notice by mail (due to job movement or other reasons) and as such, they went on line and elected to make a payment via their credit card rather than printing the notice and making a payment via regular mail.

Membership Software License was \$1,942 over budget primarily due to an under-budget for this line item.

Office of General Counsel

Telephone is in excess of the budget by **\$280** primarily due to one additional person receiving a cell phone allowance.

Recruitment costs were in excess of the budget by \$2,000. This is due to a placement fee paid to an outside employment agency for the hiring of a person in the department. This overage occurred because this expenditure was not originally included in the budget.

Computer hardware exceeded the budget by **\$1,128** primarily due to the purchase of **one additional computer** and due to the purchase of a scanner. **Both of these purchases were** not originally budgeted for.

Computer software is over budget by \$3,004 due to the following: (1) the purchase of two software licenses which would allow staff to scan and copy at the same time and (2) the purchase of software for clickers for a 15-month period of time. When the budget was prepared, the purchase of both of these software items was not anticipated.

Contract labor exceeded the budget by \$4,937 due to the use of temporary personnel while staff members were not working due to various medical issues.

The budget for Lexis Online is \$18,750 while actual costs incurred were \$20,413. This line item is over budget by \$1,663 primarily due to an invoice for 2018-2019 that was not received from the vendor and was not posted until January 2020. This invoice was received after the prior year was closed. As such, it must be included in the current year.

Client Assistance Program

Supplies exceeded the budget by \$325 primarily due to the purchase of a headset for an employee in the department. That purchase was not anticipated when the budget was originally prepared.

Client Assistance Program (Continued)

The budget for computer hardware was \$1,000 while actual costs incurred are \$2,503. This overage is due to the purchase of three scanners for the department. These scanners were requested after the budget was approved and the budget did not include a provision for this purchase.

Contract programming exceeded the budget by \$219 primarily due to additional programming by contractors required along with additional work needed for the Client Assistance Program to be combined with the Office of General Counsel.

Communications

Miscellaneous exceeds the budget by \$265 due to employee transportation costs that were not originally anticipated when the budget was prepared.

Computer hardware is over budget by \$1,028 due to the purchase of one additional computer for an employee that was new to the department.

Website Server/Redesign exceeds the budget due to the allocation of contract hours with the independent website redesign company. The Bar signed a contract with a total amount of hours, such hours to be allocated to both the Bar and to ICLE. In this case, the Bar used more of the hours than were originally anticipated in the allocation.

Law Practice Management

Printing is over budget by \$332 primarily due to the printing of new brochures in which the cost was greater than originally anticipated. These new brochures were needed due to: (1) the need to have branding consistency and (2) personnel listed in the brochure changed due to a retirement and the contact information in the brochure was no longer correct.

Supplies exceeds the budget by \$410. This overage is primarily due to the purchase of additional supplies for the year rather than purchasing a whiteboard which was included in the budget.

Subscriptions and books were \$8,451 while the budget was \$8,000. This overage of \$451 is due to the need to include additional subscription items not anticipated at the beginning of the Bar's fiscal year in and the unanticipated increased cost for some of the regular department subscriptions.

Young Lawyers (YLD)

Dues and memberships exceeds budget by \$135. This overage is because this expenditure was not originally budgeted.

Savannah

Rent and utilities exceeds the budget by \$1,925 due to a significant increase in the amount of city and county taxes on the rental space.

Furniture and equipment costs were \$1,752 due to the purchase of a new ice machine for the Savannah office. Amounts were not budgeted for this purchase.

Tifton

Telephone exceeded the budget by \$355 due to an increase in costs from the prior year of a minimal amount. It was originally budgeted that there would not be an increase in costs from one year to the next.

High School Mock Trial (HSMT)

Supplies for HSMT were budgeted for \$500, but actual amount incurred was **\$2,753**, thus over budget by **\$2,253**. This budget overage is because the director for the HSMT program knew he was going to be under budget in HSMT events due to the pandemic and wanted to use a portion of the budget for these smaller supplies which will be used for a number of years.

HSMT exceeded the software budget by **\$513** because this account was not budgeted for in the current fiscal year.

High School Mock Trial incurred \$423 in costs in the current fiscal year associated with the national competition in Athens held last fiscal year. None of these costs were included in the current year budget.

Other

Executive Committee meetings exceeded the budget by \$2,533 primarily due to higher costs than anticipated at one of the Executive Committee meetings. This budget overage should be made up within the Supreme Court meetings line item.

The Southern Conference meeting also exceeded the budget by \$359 primarily due to lower than anticipated attendance at the event. Certain State Bars had meetings that conflicted with the Southern Conference and, as such, did not attend the Southern Conference.

Lawyer's Assistance Programs is over budget by \$1,212 due to an increase in the current year which was not known when the budget was originally prepared.

Conference sponsorship was over budget by \$4,000. This is due to the sponsorship of the YLD Annual Signature Fundraiser that was approved by the Executive Committee.

Other (Continued)

Investment fees (including bond premium amortization) for both the Bar and the Bar Center are over budget as a budget was not established for these expenses originally. Originally investments were in overnight funds/cash. As the investment portfolio transitioned to Graystone Consulting investment fees were incurred and will continue to be incurred. However, the additional investment return received will more than offset the fees that are and will be incurred. In addition, the bond premium amortization will continue until the individual bonds reach maturity.

Conference Center

Subscriptions and books is over budget by \$150 due to an increase in the subscription costs for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Miscellaneous costs were over budget by \$140 due to employee transportation costs that were not originally anticipated when the budget was prepared.

Furniture repairs and maintenance exceeded the budget by \$915 primarily due to certain additional repairs and maintenance performed that were not originally budgeted for.

Audio Video has a budget of \$10,200 while actual costs incurred to date are \$11,397. This budget overage is primarily due to a change in vendor. The previous vendor is no longer in business and staff had to search for a vendor to replace them. All other vendor costs were in excess of the amount that the vendor in the prior year charged.

Other Bar Center Operations

Conference Center renovations were over the budget by \$2,824. This budget overage is primarily due to the following: (1) the purchase of surge clamps and (2) the purchase of a digital signage display and related HDMI cabling. These purchases were not originally budgeted.

Rehabilitation costs exceeded the budget by approximately **\$250,700** primarily due to the installation of a new video and security system for the Bar building and related elevators. The Executive Committee approved the security system and video cameras as a necessary upgrade even though it was not anticipated in the budget.

Rental

Personnel management salary has incurred **\$46,771** of actual expenses while the budget is \$35,000. This overage of **\$11,771** is due to under-budgeting by the independent contractor.

Management Fees is over budget by \$1,280 due to under-budgeting by the subcontractor.

Repairs and maintenance for radios is over budget by \$238 primarily due to the costs of a police radio for building security.

Rental (Continued)

Repairs and maintenance for elevators exceeded the budget by **\$3,450** due to the failure of the personal computer for the elevators. A new computer had to be acquired at a cost of approximately \$3,868. This event was not included in the original budget.

Repairs and maintenance general building has a budget of \$5,500 while actual costs incurred to date are **\$12,303**. This budget overage is primarily due to **the following**: (1) the replacement of carpet in front of the elevators as well as inside the elevators and (2) **repairs made to the building due to damages caused during protests**. These costs were not originally budgeted for.

Cleaning exceeded the budget by \$13,947 primarily due to additional time for cleaning and additional cleaning materials associated with COVID-19.

Parking

Payroll processing costs for the parking operation have exceeded the budget by **\$660**. This overage is due to under-budgeting by the subcontractor.

Equipment and supplies is over budget by \$159 due to the purchase of a new door lock cylinder in the amount of approximately \$325 for the door that leads in from the parking deck. That cylinder failed and the replacement was not included in the budget.

Shared Office Overhead

Shared office allocations exceed actual expense by approximately **\$105,100**. This is a positive variance. This number will fluctuate throughout the year.

Please give me a call at (404) 527-8748 or my cell number at 678-761-5889 if you have any questions regarding the attached financial statements.

cc: Jeff Davis
Cassie Hallstrom
Sharon Bryant
Paula Frederick

9/21/2020

State Bar of Georgia
Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures
Operations and Bar Center Combined
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020

Category	Year Ending 06/30/2019	Year To Date 6/30/2020	% of Budget	Year Ending 06/30/2020
	Actual	Actual		Annual Budget
Membership Numbers				
Active Members	39,193	39,892	101.25 %	39,400
Inactive Members	8,838	8,713	97.35 %	8,950
Provisional Members	0	15	0.00 %	0
Associates/Affiliates	13	17	121.43 %	14
Foreign Legal Consultants	6	6	100.00 %	6
Students	274	362	131.64 %	275
Emeritus	2,745	3,127	138.98 %	2,250
Total Membership Numbers	51,069	52,132	102.43 %	50,895
Revenue				
Dues Active	\$ 9,896,539	\$ 10,097,880	100.90 %	\$ 10,007,600
Dues Inactive	1,144,650	1,127,351	99.18 %	1,136,650
Dues Provisional	0	2,159	0.00 %	0
Dues Associates	1,400	1,550	110.71 %	1,400
Dues Foreign Legal Consultant	0	1,524	100.00 %	1,524
Dues Late Fees	197,730	248,175	132.91 %	186,720
Dues NSF Check Fee	320	140	50.00 %	280
Dues Prior Years	5,550	6,615	264.60 %	2,500
Total License & Dues	\$ 11,246,189	\$ 11,485,394	101.31 %	\$ 11,336,674
Section Expense Reimbursement	\$ 191,196	\$ 190,644	100.00 %	\$ 190,644
CSF Expense Reimbursement	\$ 73,000	\$ 73,000	100.00 %	\$ 73,000
Advertising and Sales	\$ 36,716	\$ 49,895	110.39 %	\$ 45,200
Membership Income	\$ 158,266	\$ 129,012	107.96 %	\$ 119,500
Interest Income	\$ 112,826	\$ 462,171	462.17 %	\$ 100,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 18,956	\$ 30,976	688.36 %	\$ 4,500
Total Bar Revenue	\$ 11,837,149	\$ 12,421,092	104.65 %	\$ 11,869,518
Total Bar Expenses	\$ 13,276,196	\$ 12,181,055	90.46 %	\$ 13,466,284
SBG Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (1,439,047)	\$ 240,037	(15.03) %	\$ (1,596,766)
Total Bar Center Operations Revenue	\$ 4,042,903	\$ 3,241,522	101.75 %	\$ 3,185,888
Total Bar Center Operations Expenses	\$ 2,500,070	\$ 2,589,261	98.21 %	\$ 2,636,385
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,542,833	\$ 652,261	118.70 %	\$ 549,503
Combined Revenue	\$ 15,880,052	\$ 15,662,614	104.03 %	\$ 15,055,406
Combined Expenses	\$ 15,776,266	\$ 14,770,316	91.73 %	\$ 16,102,669
Total Combined Net Income (Loss)	\$ 103,786	\$ 892,298	(85.20) %	\$ (1,047,263)

Legend

Bar Operations

Bar Center

Combined Bar Operations and Bar Center

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expense is excluded from this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) Per Budget to Actual Final Net Income (Loss)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Notes

Budgeted Net Income (Loss) for State Bar (Excluding Bar Center)	(1,596,766)	
Adjustments due to COVID-19 - Normal Expenses Not Incurred		
Attorney and Staff Travel	106,594	
Investigator Travel	6,644	
Postage and Freight	19,887	
Seminars and Training	16,125	
Luncheons and State Bar Committees	8,454	
Officer Expenses (SBG and YLD)	139,414	
YLD Committees Expenses	58,539	
High School Mock Trial Events	36,433	
Meetings (Including Sections Special Meeting)	298,462	
Membership Database Project	15,000	
Kitchen Costs and Facilities Maintenance	18,324	
Staff Engagement and Networking	2,715	
Media Consultants	7,869	7
State Disciplinary Board Panel	67,103	
Contract Special Master	47,805	10
Adjustments due to COVID-19 - Additional Revenue		
Fair Market Value Adjustment for Investments	238,413	1
Late Fees	61,455	2
Vendor Directory Income	10,400	
Total Estimated COVID-19 Adjustments	1,159,636	
Adjustments Due to Additional Revenue Received		
Additional Membership Dues Income	83,290	
Interest Income (Net of Related Investment Expenses)	42,039	
Profit on Solo and Small Firm (Law Practice Management)	25,703	
Miscellaneous Revenues	26,476	
Adjustments Due to Less Expenses Incurred From Budget		
Personnel Costs	213,103	3
Contract Special Master	47,805	10
Media Consultants	7,869	7
Bar Journal	36,275	5
Special Publications and Printing	7,500	6
Contract Labor (Fee Arbitration)	28,053	9
Other Shared Office Overhead	39,964	8
YLD Newsletter	41,563	4
Total Non-COVID-19 Adjustments	<u>599,640</u>	
Total Adjustments	<u>1,759,275</u>	
Anticipated Net Income (Loss)	162,509	
Actual Net Income (Loss)	<u>240,037</u>	
Difference	<u><u>77,528</u></u>	

See Notes on Next Page

State Bar of Georgia

**Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) Per Budget to Actual Final Net Income (Loss)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Notes:

1 Accounting rules require adjustment of investment portfolio to fair market value. Since SBG holds investments until maturity, we do not budget for any unrealized gains or losses. Because investments were bought in summer 2019 and interest rates dropped significantly, the investment portfolio had unrealized gains that have been reported. This is a non-cash item.

2 This increase is due to the following: (1) there were more late enrollments that paid the fee as compared to the prior year and (2) there was a policy change to address differences in our Rules and the Office of Bar Admissions rules on late enrollment.

3 This fluctuation is primarily due to the following: (1) retirement of personnel making higher salaries that are replaced by other personnel with less salary (2) changes in types of benefit coverages, for example changing from family coverage (assumed for all new positions) to a coverage less expense (single or another type) and (3) personnel taking time off without pay if enough vacation time is not banked.

4 This fluctuation is that after the annual budget was approved a decision was made by YLD leadership that the YLD Newsletter would no longer be in print but instead would be online.

5 The Bar Journal had the same number of issues as anticipated. However, the department head knew she would be over budget in the website server/redesign line item. Therefore, for the Bar Journal she tried to keep the page counts lower to make up for the overage.

6 Special publications is for anything printed outside of the norm. Most publications and printed materials have their own line item in everyone's budget. This line item is for the president or someone else if they want to print something that isn't budgeted.

7 The media consultants line item is mostly for the person who writes press releases, speeches, resolutions, etc., for us. We have to guess each year as to how much each president will use him. Part of this variance is thought to be related to COVID-19. Therefore, the total variance was divided equally between attributable to COVID-19 and not.

8 Variances in multiple line items related to shared office overhead.

9 Budget was established by a committee. Less amount was spent with the independent contractor than what was originally anticipated.

10 This item first became part of the budget in the 2018 - 2019 Bar year. Special masters cannot apply for compensation until the Court has entered an order in the case. Since cases can take years to resolve we still have not determined an "average" amount for this line item. Although it likely would have been under budget even without the pandemic, the declaration of a statewide judicial emergency stopped hearings in disciplinary cases and created a larger variance. We attribute half of the variance to COVID-19.

9/21/2020

**State Bar of Georgia
Total Bar Center Operations
Revenues and Expenditures - Executive Summary
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020**

Category	Current Month Actual	Month % of Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD % of Budget	Budget	Remaining Balance of Budget	Prior Year
Bar Center Income and Cash Receipts	\$ 962,139	70.85 %	\$ 1,513,686	111.46 %	\$ 1,356,000	\$ (155,686)	\$ 2,280,134
Bar Center Assessments	\$0	0.00 %	\$1,150	0.00 %	\$0	(\$1,150)	\$206,173
Conference Center Copier	0	0.00 %	506	50.60 %	1,000	738	0
Gain/Loss on Investments	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	0
Gain/Loss Investments Interest Allocation	112,608	0.00 %	96,937	0.00 %	0	(96,937)	23,210
CLE Contributions to Bar Center	822,797	62.57 %	1,322,797	100.59 %	1,315,000	(7,797)	1,939,560
Transfer from Operations	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	628,512
Interest Income	26,734	63.65 %	92,296	219.75 %	42,000	(50,296)	51,941
Bar Center Income and Cash Receipts	\$ 962,139	70.85 %	\$ 1,513,686	111.46 %	\$ 1,356,000	\$ (155,686)	\$ 2,280,134
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements							
Bond Premium Amortization	4,511	0.00 %	16,918	0.00 %	0	(16,918)	0
Investment Service Fees	4,088	0.00 %	13,312	0.00 %	0	(13,312)	0
Parking Deck Construction	0	0.00 %	2,510	12.55 %	20,000	17,490	0
Conference Center Contingency	0	0.00 %	37	0.37 %	10,000	9,963	5,780
Conference Center Renovations	0	0.00 %	29,299	110.67 %	26,475	(2,824)	93,304
Museum and Woodrow Wilson Exhibit	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	2,500	2,500	0
Audio Video, Furniture and Equipment	151,218	151.22 %	350,650	350.65 %	100,000	(250,650)	71,666
Rehabilitation	0	0.00 %	610	12.20 %	5,000	4,390	84,504
President's Boardroom	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	2,848
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements	159,817	96.29 %	413,336	249.04 %	165,975	(247,361)	288,102
Bar Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ 802,322	67.31 %	\$ 1,100,350	92.31 %	\$ 1,192,025	\$ 91,675	\$ 1,992,032
Conference Center Income and Expenses	0	0.00 %	12,284	63.32 %	19,400	7,116	16,113
Room Rentals and Various Charges	35,252	7.85 %	428,618	95.49 %	448,865	20,247	429,191
Conference Center Operating Expenses	(35,252)	(8.21 %)	(416,334)	(96.94 %)	(429,465)	(13,131)	(413,078)
Conference Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (35,252)	8.21 %	\$ (416,334)	96.94 %	\$ (429,465)	\$ (13,131)	\$ (413,078)
Rental Income and Expenses							
Rental Income	125,146	8.65 %	1,422,142	98.25 %	1,447,488	25,346	1,365,050
Building Operating Expenses	137,049	8.09 %	1,477,412	87.20 %	1,694,355	216,943	1,493,785
Rental Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (11,903)	4.82 %	\$ (55,270)	22.39 %	\$ (246,867)	\$ (191,597)	\$ (128,735)
Parking Income and Expenses							
Parking Income	296	0.08 %	293,411	81.28 %	361,000	67,589	411,606
Parking Deck Operating Expenses	7,798	2.38 %	269,894	82.49 %	327,190	57,296	318,992
Parking Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (7,502)	(22.19 %)	\$ 23,517	69.56 %	\$ 33,810	\$ 10,293	\$ 92,613
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 747,665	136.06 %	\$ 652,263	118.70 %	\$ 549,503	\$ (102,759)	\$ 1,542,833

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expense and gain/loss on disposal of fixed assets are excluded from this schedule.

9/21/2020

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Revenues				
Dues - Active	\$ 10,097,880	\$ 10,007,600	100.90 %	\$ 9,896,539
Dues - Inactive	1,127,351	1,136,650	99.18 %	1,144,650
Dues - Provisional	2,159	0	0.00 %	0
Dues - Misc. Types	3,074	2,924	105.13 %	1,400
Dues - Late Fees	254,930	189,500	134.53 %	203,600
Total Dues & Licenses	11,485,394	11,336,674	101.31 %	11,246,189
Section Expense Reimbursement	190,644	190,644	100.00 %	191,196
CSF Expense Reimbursement	73,000	73,000	100.00 %	73,000
Advertising and Sales	49,895	45,200	110.39 %	36,716
Membership Income	73,711	69,500	106.06 %	79,241
Pro Hac Vice	310,501	290,000	107.07 %	390,701
Pro Hac Vice Contra	(255,200)	(240,000)	106.33 %	(311,676)
Interest Income	462,171	100,000	462.17 %	112,826
Miscellaneous Revenues	30,976	4,500	688.36 %	18,956
Total Revenues	12,421,092	11,869,518	104.65 %	11,837,149
Expenses				
Administration	2,455,429	2,497,233	98.33 %	2,379,493
Management Info Systems	0	0	0.00 %	647,023
General Counsel	3,665,460	3,911,511	93.71 %	3,584,216
Client Assistance Program	564,578	605,939	93.17 %	575,632
Communications	912,876	1,013,429	90.08 %	805,924
Lawyer's Assistance Program	63,712	62,500	101.94 %	64,582
Fee Arbitration	526,262	593,394	88.69 %	533,450
Law Practice Management	428,555	492,168	87.07 %	429,777
Sections	186,025	190,644	97.58 %	185,181
Savannah Office	251,416	270,047	93.10 %	250,564
Tifton Office	163,851	192,401	85.16 %	178,298
Young Lawyers	334,875	494,049	67.78 %	480,636
Unauthorized Practice of Law	845,741	855,067	98.91 %	812,092
Law Related Education	369,794	387,705	95.38 %	363,659
High School Mock Trial	127,920	154,192	82.96 %	150,683
MLAP	116,755	129,974	89.83 %	117,500
Pro Bono	212,216	212,216	100.00 %	212,216
Fastcase	240,436	244,000	98.54 %	228,522
Officers' Expenses	34,461	129,442	26.62 %	116,633
BASICS Program Contribution	150,000	150,000	100.00 %	150,000
Resource Center Contribution	110,332	110,332	100.00 %	110,332
Other Expenses	525,419	770,041	68.23 %	1,054,863
Unallocated Services	(105,058)	0	0.00 %	(155,077)
Total Expenses	12,181,055	13,466,284	90.46 %	13,276,199
Net Income	\$ 240,037	\$ (1,596,766)	(15.03) %	\$ (1,439,050)

9/21/2020

**State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020**

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Other Expenses				
BOG and Member Meetings	99,990	339,006	29.50 %	487,736
Supreme Court Meetings	33,553	84,000	39.94 %	42,645
Executive Committee Meetings	43,333	40,800	106.21 %	39,019
Court of Appeals Meetings	0	7,500	0.00 %	3,636
Southern Conference	50,359	50,000	100.72 %	374
State Disciplinary Board Lawyers	30,000	30,000	100.00 %	30,000
Elections	34,082	39,685	85.88 %	34,683
Dues Notice	34,724	44,000	78.92 %	36,947
Letters of Good Standing	2,526	3,200	78.94 %	3,249
Bar Membership Cards	9,355	11,100	84.28 %	9,277
50 Year Certificates	2,075	2,750	75.45 %	1,677
Membership Database Project	0	15,000	0.00 %	0
State Bar Committees	27,113	28,000	96.83 %	25,874
Strategic Plan	40,000	40,000	100.00 %	40,000
Georgia Diversity Program	20,000	20,000	100.00 %	20,000
Conference Sponsorship	4,000	0	0.00 %	(186)
ABA Delegate Breakfast	2,591	2,500	103.64 %	2,419
1st Floor Office Furniture Project	0	0	0.00 %	216,567
1st Floor Painting	0	0	0.00 %	49,000
Commitment to Equality Awards	0	2,500	0.00 %	2,500
Organization of Bar Investigators	0	0	0.00 %	6,487
Bond Premium Amortization	45,882	0	0.00 %	2,959
Investment Service Fees	35,836	0	0.00 %	0
Access to Justice/Pro Bono	10,000	10,000	100.00 %	0
Other Expenses	525,419	770,041	68.23 %	1,054,863

State Bar of Georgia
Status and Use of Cash and Investments as of June 30, 2020

Cash and Investments - June 30, 2020 - Bar **30,959,788**

Less:

CCLC Cash Included in Above Amount (7,131,874)

Net Cash Available for State Bar **23,827,914**

Use of Cash:

Less:

Board Designated - See Separate Schedule Attached (8,258,234)

Temporarily Restricted - See Separate Schedule Attached (1,702,701)

Total Board Designated and Temporarily Restricted **(9,960,935)**

Other - Cash Allocated:

Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable 161,531

Payment of Accounts Payable (624,687)

Payment of Accrued Vacation (659,481)

Deferred Income (7,819,035)

Payment of Credit Card Bill (8,161)

Payment of Accrued Salary (569,815)

Payment of Accrued Taxes (43,591)

Other Accrued Expenses (primarily pension) (655,363)

Payment to Client Security Fund (1,009,586)

Operational Expenses for Remaining Bar Year 0

Net Amount to be received from Related Entities 1,160,989

Total Other - Cash Allocated **(10,067,198)**

Estimated Cash and Investments - June 30, 2020 - Bar **3,799,781**

Cash and Investments - June 30, 2020 - Bar Center **239,757**

Other Cash Allocated - Bar Center:

Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable 115,073

Payment of Accounts Payable (98,165)

Deferred Income (13)

Other Accrued Expenses (58,130)

Total Other - Cash Allocated - Bar Center **(41,236)**

Estimated Cash and Investments - June 30, 2020 - Bar Center **198,521**

Total Estimated Cash Balance at June 30, 2020 **3,998,302**

Note: The above schedule reflects the status of cash and investments as of the month end indicated above. There are no other State Bar funds or investments held in any institution that are not included on this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020

	2017 June 30	2018 June 30	2019 June 30	2020 June 30
Board Designated				
General Operations - Bar	2,750,000	2,750,000	2,750,000	2,750,000
General Operations - Bar Center	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Litigation	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Cornerstones of Freedom	600,000	600,000	0	0
Sections	2,445,106	2,660,285	2,793,143	3,120,415
YLD Meetings	11,052	33,481	29,716	87,819
Total Board-Designated excludes ICLE	8,106,158	8,343,766	7,872,859	8,258,234
Donor Temporarily Restricted				
Legislative	1,221,403	1,257,657	1,285,674	1,094,092
Law Related Education/Marshall fund	320,854	312,580	316,570	233,708
High School Mock Trial	13,287	9,018	14,095	15,486
National Mock Trial	20,067	20,161	0	0
Basics Program	74,218	65,414	67,032	69,517
Younger Lawyers	160,992	154,216	125,032	170,213
Lawyers Assistance	24,463	30,454	32,553	34,698
Georgia Diversity Program	9,790	17,588	18,957	13,596
Bar/Media Conference	21,108	21,247	18,697	20,839
Justice Hunstein's Portrait	0	0	7,813	15,152
Law Day	6,247	6,276	6,356	6,517
Access to Justice	1,448	1,437	1,456	1,493
iCivics Program	559	(245)	603	868
Promote Inclusion	15,363	10,235	11,120	11,711
State Bar of Georgia Foundation	1,500	1,280	0	100
Military Vet Pro Bono	13,616	13,680	13,854	14,711
Unauthorized Practice of Law	100,049	100,518	0	0
Total Donor Temporarily Restricted	2,004,964	2,021,516	1,919,812	1,702,701
Net Board Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted	10,111,122	10,365,282	9,792,671	9,960,935

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions
With Contributions Paid Through June 30, 2020

Dues	2020-21 Dues Season	2019-20 Dues Season	2018-19 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	48,538	47,964	47,029
Active - Number Paid	24,432	40,379	36,888
Inactive - Number Paid	4,897	8,929	8,123
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	29,329	49,308	45,011
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	60.4%	102.8%	95.7%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	5,169	3,704	5,339
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	17.6%	7.5%	11.9%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 492,202	\$ 322,708	\$ 494,906
Average Amount Paid	\$ 95	\$ 87	\$ 93

Legislative Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2020 - 2021	\$ 492,202
2019 - 2020	\$ 322,708
2018 - 2019	\$ 494,906
2017 - 2018	\$ 546,905
2016 - 2017	\$ 557,991
2015 - 2016	\$ 565,004
2014 - 2015	\$ 640,505
2013 - 2014	\$ 691,736
2012 - 2013	\$ 685,283
2011 - 2012	\$ 656,254

Purpose: The purpose of the above schedule is to reflect donations to the Legislative Fund for each period shown. The information reflects the total number of members who have made a contribution along with applicable percentages.

The number of members shown above is not the same as the number of members at the end of the month. The number of members above reflect the members who paid during the dues season indicated above. The dues season does not correspond to the fiscal year but starts in advance of the fiscal year. In addition, if members change status (active, inactive, emeritus, etc), this change will be reflected in the membership counts at month end but will not be reflected in the above schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)
With Contributions Paid Through June 30, 2020

Dues	2020-21 Dues Season	2019-20 Dues Season	2018-19 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	48,538	47,964	47,029
Active - Number Paid	24,432	40,379	36,888
Inactive - Number Paid	4,897	8,929	8,123
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	29,329	49,308	45,011
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	60.4%	102.8%	95.7%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	2,083	3,001	3,197
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	7.1%	6.1%	7.1%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 272,019	\$ 366,674	\$ 295,454
Average Contribution Amount	\$ 131	\$ 122	\$ 92

GLSP Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2020 - 2021	\$ 272,019
2019 - 2020	\$ 366,674
2018 - 2019	\$ 295,454
2017 - 2018	\$ 312,251
2016 - 2017	\$ 276,487
2015 - 2016	\$ 264,492
2014 - 2015	\$ 255,713
2013 - 2014	\$ 241,362
2012 - 2013	\$ 244,707
2011 - 2012	\$ 240,678

Purpose: The purpose of the above schedule is to reflect donations to the Georgia Legal Services Program for each period shown. The information reflects the total number of members who have made a contribution along with applicable percentages.

The number of members shown above is not the same as the number of members at the end of the month. The number of members above reflect the members who paid during the dues season indicated above. The dues season does not correspond to the fiscal year but starts in advance of the fiscal year. In addition, if members change status (active, inactive, emeritus, etc), this change will be reflected in the membership counts at month end but will not be reflected in the above schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Legislative Activity Report
From July 1, 2019 Thru June 30, 2020

July 1, 2019 Beginning Balance **\$ 1,285,674**

Income:

Interest Income on Fund	20,133
Gain/Loss on Investments	16,812
Contributions	322,045

Total Income **358,990**

Expenditures:

Staff and Contract Lobbyists	511,150
Grassroots Efforts	9,747
Travel	3,094
Shared Office Allocation	15,983
Computer Hardware	929
Miscellaneous	9,669

Total Expenditures **550,572**

Net Donor Temporarily Restricted Balance at June 30, 2020 **\$ 1,094,092**

Client Security Fund
Summary of Client Security Fund Activity
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020

	2015 June 30	2016 June 30	2017 June 30	2018 June 30	2019 June 30	2020 June 30
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	2,141,984	2,432,608	2,035,238	1,836,994	1,450,249	1,031,012
Income:						
Interest Income	9,409	10,482	8,007	8,028	11,922	13,214
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	3,793	(155)	(142)	0	4,544	13,064
Client Security Fund Assessments	164,877	150,897	153,863	144,628	102,884	85,896
Restitution Income	14,532	9,744	5,386	25,250	30,451	30,027
Total Income:	192,611	170,968	167,114	177,906	149,801	142,201
Transfer from Others:						
Transfer from State Bar of Georgia	500,000	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency	0	0	0	0	0	388,000
Total Transfer from Others:	500,000	0	0	0	0	388,000
Expenses:						
Restricted Expenses	(73,000)	(73,000)	(73,000)	(73,000)	(73,000)	(73,000)
Client Security Fund Claims Payments	(328,986)	(495,338)	(292,358)	(491,619)	(496,038)	(474,387)
Bond Premium Amortization	0	0	0	0	0	(2,341)
Investment Service Fees	0	0	0	0	0	(1,899)
Total Expenses:	(401,986)	(568,338)	(365,358)	(564,651)	(569,038)	(551,627)
Net Income	290,625	(397,370)	(198,244)	(386,745)	(419,237)	(21,426)
Fund Balance, End of Period	2,432,608	2,035,238	1,836,994	1,450,249	1,031,012	1,009,586

***INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
OF THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA, LLC (ICLE)***

**Institute of Continuing Legal Education
of the State Bar of Georgia, LLC**
Income Statement
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020

	Current Month Actual	Month % of Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD % of Budget	Budget	Remaining Balance of Budget	Prior Year
Program Revenue							
Registration Revenue	111,709	2.11 %	5,803,994	109.51 %	5,300,000	(503,994)	6,084,772
Sponsorship	(3,501)	0.00 %	30,078	0.00 %	0	(30,078)	97,718
Affiliate Contribution	(46,033)	0.00 %	18,249	0.00 %	0	(18,249)	198,391
Books	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	1,226
Other	(3,608)	0.00 %	2,776	0.00 %	0	(2,776)	13,235
Exhibitor	500	0.00 %	500	0.00 %	0	(500)	750
Total Program Revenue	59,067	1.11 %	5,855,597	110.48 %	5,300,000	(555,597)	6,396,092
Total Program Expenditures	(43,220)	(1.52) %	1,614,311	56.77 %	2,843,500	1,229,189	3,275,175
Net Margin on Programs	102,288	4.16 %	4,241,286	172.66 %	2,456,500	(1,784,786)	3,120,917
Personnel Services							
Salaries Full Time	78,319	7.33 %	1,087,912	101.76 %	1,069,069	(18,843)	948,084
Salaries Part Time	0	0.00 %	33,477	99.64 %	33,600	123	43,674
Temporary/Part Time	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	30,000	30,000	27,071
Overtime Pay	0	0.00 %	21,167	352.77 %	6,000	(15,167)	21,371
Taxes and Benefits	49,442	14.37 %	358,029	104.04 %	344,137	(13,892)	302,626
Pension	(3,330)	(4.53) %	63,990	87.13 %	73,439	9,449	41,642
Total Personnel Services	124,431	8.00 %	1,564,575	100.54 %	1,556,245	(8,330)	1,384,468
Operating Expenses							
Shared Office Allocation	25,306	8.33 %	303,673	100.00 %	303,673	0	303,103
Board and Committee Meetings	0	0.00 %	873	17.46 %	5,000	4,127	2,079
Dues and Memberships	360	6.67 %	1,175	21.76 %	5,400	4,225	2,097
Licenses and Certification	0	0.00 %	894	89.35 %	1,000	106	731
Seminars and Training	2,936	14.68 %	5,006	25.03 %	20,000	14,994	1,346
Attorney and Staff Travel	0	0.00 %	10,177	56.54 %	18,000	7,823	6,125

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expense and gain/loss on disposal of fixed assets are excluded from this schedule.

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Slate Bar of Georgia

**Institute of Continuing Legal Education
of the State Bar of Georgia, LLC**
Income Statement
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020

	Current Month Actual	Month % of Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD % of Budget	Budget	Remaining Balance of Budget	Prior Year
Supplies	1,190	9.92 %	11,308	94.23 %	12,000	692	11,693
Printing	0	0.00 %	515	25.73 %	2,000	1,485	3,938
Subscriptions and Books	0	0.00 %	942	94.25 %	1,000	58	0
Postage and Freight	63	3.14 %	714	35.70 %	2,000	1,286	1,649
Telephone	375	4.93 %	5,165	67.95 %	7,600	2,435	9,982
Internet Services	181	3.35 %	2,222	41.15 %	5,400	3,178	0
Computer Software	5,448	8.38 %	48,365	74.41 %	65,000	16,635	61,537
Contract Programming	19,804	24.76 %	39,845	49.81 %	80,000	40,155	75,345
Computer Hardware	4,278	22.76 %	6,702	35.65 %	18,800	12,098	2,963
Miscellaneous	0	0.00 %	2,600	52.01 %	5,000	2,400	1,822
Professional Fees	6,811	45.40 %	6,811	45.40 %	15,000	8,189	0
Equipment Maintenance and Rental	78	0.78 %	3,772	37.73 %	10,000	6,228	5,017
Other Business Insurance (Not Group)	2,504	8.35 %	30,051	100.17 %	30,000	(51)	28,140
Credit Card Discount and Fees	3,270	2.18 %	157,477	104.98 %	150,000	(7,477)	165,434
Banking Fees	(10)	0.00 %	14	0.00 %	0	(14)	0
Luncheons	0	0.00 %	754	37.69 %	2,000	1,246	2,445
Contract Labor	7,931	0.00 %	7,931	0.00 %	0	(7,931)	0
Total Operating Expenses	80,525	10.61 %	646,986	85.26 %	758,873	111,887	685,446
Furniture and Equipment							
Furniture and Equipment	21,451	429.02 %	21,451	429.02 %	5,000	(16,451)	0
Total Expenses	226,407	9.76 %	2,233,012	96.25 %	2,320,118	87,106	2,069,914
Net Income Before Other Inc and Exp	(124,119)	(91.01) %	2,008,274	1,472.54 %	136,382	(1,871,892)	1,051,003
Other Income and Expenses							
Investments and Fixed Assets	5,617	0.00 %	82,870	0.00 %	0	(82,870)	110,598
Investment Fees	(764)	7.64 %	(9,200)	92.00 %	(10,000)	(800)	(8,865)
Total Other Income and Expenses	4,853	(48.53) %	73,670	(736.70) %	(10,000)	(83,670)	101,733

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expense and gain/loss on disposal of fixed assets are excluded from this schedule.

**Institute of Continuing Legal Education
of the State Bar of Georgia, LLC
Income Statement
For the Current Period Ending June 30, 2020**

	Current Month Actual	Month % of Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD % of Budget	Budget	Remaining Balance of Budget	Prior Year
Net Income	\$ (119,266)	(94.37) %	\$ 2,081,944	1,647.34 %	\$ 126,382	\$ (1,955,562)	\$ 1,152,736



September 29, 2020

Board of Governors,

I am pleased to give you an update on what we have accomplished in the first few months of the 2020-21 Bar year and also on our future plans. Despite starting my year as YLD president in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the YLD has already kicked off a great year. Our committees have hosted multiple events, we have planned a number of great community service events, panel discussions, CLEs, and held our general session, Committee Chair Orientation and YLD Executive Committee Meeting.

The YLD is committed to continually promoting the mission of our Bar through its younger members, who number nearly 10,000. This year we will work closely with our local affiliates and committee chairs to develop programming that is directed to the various communities the YLD serves. Additionally, we will work to expand the YLD programming of the past year to include programming that is even more diverse and inclusive to reflect all of our members we serve.

Please find my report below that includes my goals for the YLD this Bar year, the work of our Board of Directors, and the work of our Committees and future events.

YLD GOALS

As the service arm of the Bar, this year's theme will focus on purpose through service and reconnecting with the communities we serve. With a focus on service to our communities and profession, the YLD is also committed to promoting diversity within our profession and examining where instruments of inequality exist in an effort to promote change for the betterment of our membership. We will accomplish these goals, and more, by taking the following action.

First, we will address systemic racism in our communities, our justice system and our profession, in order to promote necessary changes to end the instruments of inequality and injustice. Our new State Bar President Dawn Jones is providing a framework for change through the establishment and appointment of a committee on racial bias and injustice. The YLD has similarly made changes to meet these challenges with an expansion of the Board of Directors. The expanded YLD Board of Directors will have a specific focus to bring about discussions on the realism of inequality and the instruments of injustice that present themselves in our local communities. The YLD officers, directors, Representative Council and committee chairs will all participate in implicit bias training to assist in identifying prejudices and bias within our profession. Make no mistake, the goal is to discuss issues our members have with bias and injustice in order to develop solutions to make sure the YLD is doing its part to be more inclusive.

Further, I am issuing a personal challenge to the young lawyers of Georgia to stand up and lead our communities during these difficult times. Several members of the YLD have been identified as directors who will serve to collaborate with our many local affiliates across Georgia and our YLD committees to implement programming geared toward combatting the instruments of inequality that we identify. We will take on the role of facilitating these discussions around the state to push forward real changes to the racial and social injustices in our profession and society.

Second, we will work to expand and strengthen the YLD's already substantial community service activities – including our nationally recognized legal clinics in all corners of our state – for the benefit of our members and the public. We will work with YLD affiliates at the local level, soliciting program applications with proposals on community service projects and identifying grants to encourage maximum young lawyer involvement. These efforts will be promoted under the social media hashtag **#PurposeThroughService**. The YLD has already partnered with schools across our state to assist virtual learning by reading to students of all ages. Additionally, the YLD Women in the Profession Committee will expand on the nationally recognized clinics by offering a Wills Clinic for front line nurse and school teachers.

The YLD's commitment to civic involvement and community service will be at the forefront of our programming. To that end, I am excited to announce the creation of the **State Bar of Georgia Poll Worker Program (PWP)**. I want to thank the hard working members of the CCLC who worked to approve this program in time for Election Day. Each Bar member that volunteers with their local county Board of Elections, completes poll worker training and works at their local polling place for the General Election on Nov. 3, 2020, is eligible to receive up to 6 Hours of CLE credit. Poll workers are also asked to donate their poll worker salary to the YLD's Public Interest Internship Program to help continue to furnish grants to law students who complete an internship with a public interest organization. Due to the amount of interest in the program and the fact that multiple county election boards have indicated a surge in applications for poll workers, please contact YLD Director Stephanie Wilson at stephaniew@gabar.org to have your name added to the database and we will arrange contact with a county election official.

In addition to the work they are already doing in various areas of professional service, every YLD committee will host or co-host at least one community service event in the fall and spring of the 2020-21 Bar year.

Third, the YLD will advance the mission of the State Bar's attorney wellness program among the young lawyers of Georgia. Our goal is to remove the stigma surrounding mental health by addressing it at each of our YLD meetings. This is particularly important amid the increased stress brought on by the tolls of COVID-19 and division over racial inequality and injustice. We will also encourage wellness initiatives to be implemented within each YLD committee and reward our local affiliates who put on wellness programming. Our Summer General Session included a virtual wellness event that was very successful. YLD members across the state were challenged to get out and be active prior to our meeting and we had several members post their activities to social media using the hashtags #YLDGA; #YLDGAWellness; #YLDVirtualWellness; and #YLDPandexercise.

Fourth, I plan to create a database of lawyers who will serve as mentors for the young lawyers in our state. Our goal is to match each young lawyer who requests a mentor with a practicing attorney in his or her area of practice and geographic area. I would encourage all lawyers who have been practicing for more than seven years to volunteer to serve as a mentor to a young lawyer. Our profession will benefit greatly from these efforts of leadership.

Finally, I want every member of the State Bar to know you are invited to attend our YLD meetings and participate in our activities throughout the year whether we proceed virtually or in-person. In order to make our meetings more impactful, I have identified several attorneys who will serve on the YLD Board of Directors with a mission to implement programming that encourages involvement virtually and increases our impact and reach by having the meetings conducted virtually. While we know that in-person meetings provide certain nonreplicable benefits such as lengthy discussions and networking, we can implement virtual programming to meet our members needs. We were able to facilitate this during our YLD Summer General Session to great success. The virtual meeting included interactive polling and member reports, as

well as identification of ways to improve future meetings. Our YLD Executive Committee Meeting utilized similar functions including breakout rooms for virtual discussions on future planning and events.

YLD COMMITTEES

The YLD has more than 25 committees working to support our motto of service to the community and profession. Each committee works diligently to provide substantive programming in their respective focus areas. Below are some of the accomplishments and future plans of our YLD committees this year:

YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee

Sydney Ford, Jack Grote and Amanda Monaco, Co-Chairs

The YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee has scheduled a panel on Student Evaluations During COVID-19 on Oct. 20 from 6-7 p.m. via Zoom.

YLD Community Service Projects Committee

DeVondrel Banks, Andy Navratil and Kayla Winters Strozier, Co-Chairs

The YLD Community Service Projects Committee recruited attorneys to provide their low bono services at the Record Restitution Clinic on Monday, Sept. 28. During the clinic, attorneys assisted clients with criminal records in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit to expunge their records. The clinic is a partnership between Access to Justice, Georgia Justice Project, Georgia Legal Services Program and the State Bar.

On Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 12 p.m., the committee hosted our first event of the year, “Board Service 101 – Learn the Basics of Board Leadership” via Zoom. Chinazo “Chi Chi” Anachebe, Andrew Navratil and Ariel D. Fenster discussed their service on the boards of the Power Suit Project, Woodlands Garden and the Atlanta Volunteers Lawyers Foundation, respectively.

The committee is also helping advertise the YLD’s Poll Worker Program and brainstorming service activities for the YLD’s Fall, Midyear and Spring meetings.

YLD Family Law Committee

Sam Lennon and Amy Saul, Co-Chairs

On Sept. 24 from 1-5 p.m., the committee joined DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (DVLF) for a TPO Bootcamp, a virtual CLE to train volunteers for DVLF’s TPO program. The CLE was a huge success, with more than 20 participants. We will be hosting our first YLD Family Law Committee soon – the date and time is still TBD, but it will most likely be via Zoom.

YLD Leadership Academy

Sara Fish, Taylor Hanks and Nicole McArthur, Co-Chairs

We are finalizing the 2021 Leadership Academy brochure and application, which should be available the first week of October. We will have a combined class this year with 2020 Leadership Academy participants and our new class. Please help spread the word for applicants to apply who have applied previously or are about to age out of YLD. Deadline for applications is tentatively set for Oct. 30.

YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee

Morgan Lyndall and Veronica Rogusky, Co-Chairs

The YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee is looking for regional representatives for the 2021 Legal Food Frenzy. If anyone is interested in becoming a regional representative, or wants more information about it,

please reach out to Veronica Rogusky at veronica.rogusky@eeoc.gov or Morgan Lyndall at morgan@butlerfirm.com.

YLD Legislative Affairs Committee

James Cox, Tyler Mashburn and Philip Pendergrass, Co-Chairs

The YLD Legislative Affairs Committee is excited for another year of promoting education and involvement in the state legislative process! We are still planning and deciding events to come, especially given the pandemic, but will at least have our recurring YLD Day at the Capitol and also be collaborating with the State Bar's Governmental Affairs team. We hope everyone is navigating these difficult times safely and looking forward to a year full of opportunities and growth. Stay tuned!

YLD Litigation Committee

Carlos Fernandez and Kate Reddy, Co-Chairs

On Oct. 6, the YLD Litigation Committee will host an introductory and planning event. Specifically, the committee will host a Zoom meeting to introduce chairs and members and to present the opportunity for members to submit ideas for virtual events and potential speaking opportunities for use by chairs as they plan additional events throughout the year.

YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee

Andy Navratil and Jamie Rush, Co-Chairs

The YLD Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP) Committee held a Zoom webinar on Friday, Sept. 25, with YLD President Bert Hummel to introduce Georgia law students to the YLD and share information about the summer 2021 PIIP grants. Each year, the YLD awards several \$5,000 grants to law students and recent graduates accepting unpaid, full-time public interest internships in Georgia. The webinar was hosted by Emory Law as part of their virtual pro bono fair, but the committee shared the invitation with all Georgia law schools and will share the recording as well.

The committee is currently identifying the best faculty and staff at each Georgia law school with whom to share information about the PIIP grants. Last year we received many applications from GSU and Emory students, but comparatively few from UGA, Mercer and John Marshall students. We want to determine the best way to widely share information about the grants with students from each of these schools.

Finally, the committee is partnering with AVLF to sponsor their Saturday Lawyer Program on Saturday, Dec. 12. The YLD has sponsored one Saturday each year for the past several years. We will share more details and begin recruiting volunteer attorneys for this event later this fall.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee

Gabrielle Espy, Richard Sarrell and Katie Sayne, Co-Chairs

October

Transition into the Practice of Real Estate Law (date TBD): Panelists will speak about their transition into the practice of real estate law, and hope to provide guidance and advice to other young lawyers who may be transitioning or wish to transition into real estate practice.

November

Landlord-Tenant Week, Nov. 10 at 12 p.m., Erin Willoughby of Atlanta Legal Aid: Erin plans to speak about landlord-tenant law, tenant representation and the continuance of evictions in Georgia after the CDC's order.

Landlord-Tenant Week, Nov. 12, Michael Dunham of Dunham Legal: Michael plans to speak about landlord-tenant law, landlord representation and the continuance of evictions in Georgia after the CDC's order.

December

Happy Hour/Holiday Social (date and time TBD, location and time suggestions welcome)

January

Home Buying Law Week (date and time TBD), Tyler Stanley (real estate agent) and Lindsay Smithson (closing attorney): Tyler Stanley and Lindsay Smithson will speak about 101s behind purchasing property from their respective professions.

Also in the works are speaking events for Bankruptcy Law for the Real Estate Attorney, and FIRPTA Federal Tax Withholding. Both events are currently TBD as to time.

YLD Women in the Profession Committee

Jena Emory and Lindsey Macon, Co-Chairs

We are excited to share with you what the YLD Women in the Profession (WIP) Committee is planning for the 2020-21 Bar year!

September Back to School Blues

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee announced our first event of the 2020-21 Bar year—a panel on juggling many of the pressures of the world we're living in today while being a working woman, mother or mother-to-be. Our panelists for this event were Sarah Adle, a plaintiffs' personal injury attorney with Harris Lowry Manton LLP in Atlanta, Georgia; Bethaney Embry, a plaintiffs' personal injury attorney and owner of The Embry Law Firm in Douglasville, Georgia; Samantha Mullis, a civil defense attorney with Goodman McGuffey in Atlanta, Georgia; and Winter Wheeler, a civil litigator and neutral with Miles Mediation & Arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia. This one-hour Zoom panel took place on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, from 12-1 p.m. Thank you Lindsey Macon for planning this event!

Om October

We are currently in the process of planning a virtual yoga session for our members in October. More details to come!

YLD November Virtual Wills Clinic with Atlanta Legal Aid

For the month of November, the YLD will partner with Atlanta Legal Aid to draft wills, powers of attorney and advanced directives for teachers/school staff/first responders/medical staff. This virtual clinic is sponsored by the YLD Women in the Profession Committee. Please sign up by **Friday, Oct. 30, 2020**. A Google form will be sent around once finalized. Atlanta Legal Aid will provide a virtual training from **11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020**, and you will be able to earn 2 Hours of CLE credit. The training will be recorded and available for viewing at a later time. Once you sign up for the clinic and receive training, Atlanta Legal Aid will contact you with a client name and contact information and provide you with an initial questionnaire completed by the client. You will then contact your client to discuss their needs and draft the legal documents. You will also assist them with executing the documents. The virtual clinic will run from Nov. 1-30, 2020, and **all legal documents must be executed by Nov. 30, 2020**. The whole process start-to-finish should take approximately five to 10 hours. No experience required. If you need help, Atlanta Legal Aid will support you.

December

The WIP Committee is currently in the process of planning a virtual lunch and learn for December. More details to come!

2021

The WIP Committee is also working on events in 2021, including lunch and learns and (hopefully) social events!

YLD Workers' Compensation Committee

Liz Phrampus, Chair

The YLD Workers' Compensation Committee will have an initial Coffee and Conversations: Virtual Meet and Greet event via Zoom, to include discussions with committee chair and members about the planning of events for the upcoming year, getting to know your fellow committee members, and with a topical discussion about questions and concerns for the workers' compensation practitioner in the times of COVID. A tentative date is Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10-11 a.m. A virtual Lunch and Learn will be scheduled with a guest speaker before the end of the year, based primarily on questions posed at the initial meeting. Additionally, a mentoring match program is being considered, with a tentative plan for a virtual Mentor Mentee Mixer before the end of 2020, depending on interest.

YLD AFFILIATES

The YLD currently has seven recognized active affiliates around the state: Young Lawyers of Augusta, Cobb County Younger Lawyers Division, Columbus YLD, Glynn County YLD, Houston County YLD, Macon YLD and Savannah YLD. The Western Circuit YLD has been inactive for a few years but has recently expressed an interest in reorganizing.

MEETINGS

Summer Meeting | Sept. 26 | Zoom and Facebook Live

The YLD Summer General Session was held on Saturday, Sept. 26, via Zoom and Facebook Live. Eighty-one people registered for this virtual webinar. More than 30 of the registrants were first-time attendees.

Fall Meeting | Nov. 14 (tentative) | Zoom and Facebook Live

The YLD Fall General Session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Midyear Meeting | Jan. 8-9 | Atlanta, Georgia

The YLD Midyear Meeting will be held in conjunction with the State Bar's Annual Meeting at Georgia State University College of Law and The Candler Hotel. In addition to the YLD General Session, members will be encouraged to attend the Midyear Board of Governors Meeting. The 2021 YLD Leadership Academy will kick off their year with their first session of activities.

Spring Meeting | March 19-21 | Young Harris, Georgia

The YLD Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with the State Bar's Annual Meeting at Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa. The YLD is planning a CLE, a service project, a General Session and a group dinner. The 2021 YLD Leadership Academy will have their third session of activities.

Annual Meeting | June 10-13 | Isle of Palms, South Carolina

The YLD Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the State Bar's Annual Meeting at Wild Dunes Resort. The YLD is planning a CLE, a service project, a General Session and a group dinner. The 2020 and 2021 classes of the YLD Leadership Academy will have their closing session and graduation ceremony.

As always, I want to encourage all of the members of our Bar, including the Board of Governors to take part in the YLD programming initiatives we have planned for this year. The energy and excitement of our membership during such uncertain times is contagious, promising and invigorating. Based on all the YLD members and committees have already demonstrated through programming, it appears that our young lawyers quickly accepted my challenge to be the leaders of tomorrow today.

Please, if you have an idea for the YLD I encourage you to reach out to me. I look forward to continuing to serve as YLD president and build on the accomplishments we have made thus far.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bert Hummel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bert" and last name "Hummel" clearly distinguishable.

Bert Hummel
2020-21 YLD President
bert.hummel@lewisbrisbois.com



Dear Fellow Board Member:

I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Professional Liability Insurance (“PLI”) Committee. This year’s committee has taken a fresh look at the issue of mandatory insurance coverage and has considered the feedback that you and other Bar members have provided. We have modified the draft rule that was presented to the Board last Spring, but we also want to present three other options for discussion and feedback:

OPTION ONE-A would require all lawyers in private practice to disclose on their dues statement whether they are covered by a malpractice insurance policy. The information would be published in the member’s listing in the online Member Directory. Lawyers in private practice who fail to disclose would go out of good standing on September 1 of the Bar year, which is the same date that members who do not pay their dues cease to be in good standing. To return to good standing the member would need to make the disclosure to the Membership Department of the Bar. Lawyers who do have coverage would not be required to provide information about the insurance company, policy number or policy limits.

OPTION ONE-B would require all lawyers in private practice to disclose on their dues statement whether they are covered by a malpractice insurance policy. The information would not be published in the member’s listing in the online Member Directory. Lawyers in private practice who fail to disclose would go out of good standing on September 1 of the Bar year, which is the same date that members who do not pay their dues cease to be in good standing. To return to good standing the member would need to make the disclosure to the Membership Department of the Bar. Lawyers who do have coverage would not be required to provide information about the insurance company, policy number or policy limits.

OPTION TWO would include all of the provisions of Option One-A, with an additional provision encouraging lawyers who are not covered by a PLI policy to take a voluntary self-assessment course provided by the Bar online and designed to evaluate the lawyer’s practice for the risk of malpractice. The assessment would be modeled on one used in Colorado. Members could take the assessment course for free and receive CLE credit upon completion. The results of the test would be confidential and members would receive information about resources to help reduce the risk of a malpractice claim.

OPTION THREE would include all of the provisions of Options One-A and Two, but the self-assessment course would be mandatory for all lawyers who are not covered by a PLI policy. If the lawyer failed to make the disclosure or, if not covered, to either complete the assessment or to obtain coverage within one year of the required disclosure date, he or she would go out of good standing.

HEADQUARTERS

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OPTION FOUR is the proposal that requires lawyers in private practice to be covered by a PLI policy. We have amended the provision that required the coverage to be non-eroding so that it would only apply to policies with minimal limits. This option would require lawyers to obtain or be covered by a PLI policy and to report that fact to the Bar on the dues statement. Members who do not comply would go out of standing as of September 1 of the Bar year.

OPTION FIVE is the option to not take any action on the matter.

The draft language for each of the options is attached to this memo. We look forward to further discussion and hope to take a final vote on this matter during the current Bar year. Committee members have expressed a strong preference for in-person debate, so if the Spring 2021 meeting is virtual the Committee may recommend holding the issue for discussion and a vote at the 2021 Annual meeting.

As always, the committee welcomes your comments as we continue with this important work.

Chris Twyman
Rome Circuit, Post 1
chris.twyman@cbtjlaw.com

OPTION 1A
Mandatory Disclosure Requirement

Rule 1-210. Professional Liability Insurance

- (a) Each active member of the State Bar of Georgia engaged in the private practice of law in Georgia shall disclose on the annual license fee statement whether the member has professional liability insurance.
- (b) The following members shall be exempt from the requirements of this rule:
 - (1) Members who are employed by a governmental entity or other organization and whose practice is limited to matters concerning the entity or organization;
 - (2) Members whose practice consists solely of serving as an arbitrator or mediator; and
 - (3) Members who are not actively engaged in the practice of law or who do not represent clients.
- (c) Each member who has previously reported being covered by professional liability insurance shall notify the State Bar of Georgia in writing in such form and manner as the Board may designate within 30 days if the insurance policy providing coverage lapses, terminates, or is no longer in effect for any reason.
- (d) The information required by this Rule shall be publicly available and included in the member's listing in the Member Directory on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia. Each lawyer's insurance status shall appear in the State Bar Member Directory as "covered," "not covered," or "exempt."

(e) Each member shall provide the State Bar of Georgia with confirmation of coverage upon request.

(f) The information required by this Rule is due on July 1 of each year. A member who does not comply with the requirements of the Rule by September 1 shall cease to be a member in good standing. A member deemed not to be in good standing under this Rule shall be returned to good standing upon making the disclosure required in subpart (a) to the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia.

OPTION 1B

Mandatory Disclosure Requirement (without publication)

Rule 1-210. Professional Liability Insurance

- (a) Each active member of the State Bar of Georgia engaged in the private practice of law in Georgia shall disclose on the annual license fee statement whether the member has professional liability insurance.
- (b) The following members shall be exempt from the requirements of this rule:
 - (1) Members who are employed by a governmental entity or other organization and whose practice is limited to matters concerning the entity or organization;
 - (2) Members whose practice consists solely of serving as an arbitrator or mediator; and
 - (3) Members who are not actively engaged in the practice of law or who do not represent clients.
- (c) Each member who has previously reported being covered by professional liability insurance shall notify the State Bar of Georgia in writing in such form and manner as the Board may designate within 30 days if the insurance policy providing coverage lapses, terminates, or is no longer in effect for any reason.
- (d) Each member shall provide the State Bar of Georgia with confirmation of coverage upon request.
- (e) The information required by this Rule is due on July 1 of each year. A member who does not comply with the requirements of the Rule by September 1 shall cease to be

a member in good standing. A member deemed not to be in good standing under this Rule shall be returned to good standing upon making the disclosure required in subpart (a) to the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia.

OPTION 2
Mandatory Disclosure Requirement with Voluntary Assessment

Rule 1-210. Disclosure of Professional Liability Insurance

- (a) Each year, every member of the State Bar of Georgia shall certify:
- 1) Whether the member is engaged in the private practice of law; and
 - 2) Whether the member is currently covered by a policy of professional liability insurance.
- (b) The following members shall be exempt from the requirements of this rule:
- (1) Members who are employed by a governmental entity or other organization and whose practice is limited to matters concerning the entity or organization;
 - (2) Members whose practice consists solely of serving as an arbitrator or mediator; and
 - (3) Members who are not actively engaged in the practice of law or who do not represent clients.
- (c) Each member who has previously reported being covered by professional liability insurance as set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this Rule shall notify the State Bar of Georgia in writing in such form and manner as the Board may designate within 30 days if the insurance policy providing coverage lapses, terminates, or is no longer in effect for any reason.
- (d) The information required by this Rule shall be publicly available and included in the member's listing in the Member Directory on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia. Each lawyer's insurance status shall appear in the State Bar Member Directory as "covered,"

“not covered,” or “exempt.” Each member shall provide the State Bar of Georgia with confirmation of coverage upon request.

(e) The State Bar of Georgia encourages those members who do not have a policy of professional liability insurance to complete the Bar’s voluntary online self-assessment of the operation of their law practice and to avail themselves of the resources which it recommends to address any deficiencies identified by the self-assessment.

(f) The information required by part (a) of this Rule is due on July 1 of each year. A member who does not comply with the requirements of the Rule by September 1 shall cease to be a member in good standing. A member deemed not to be in good standing under this Rule shall be returned to good standing upon making the disclosure required in subpart (a) to the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia.

OPTION 3

Mandatory Disclosure Requirement with Mandatory CLE for Lawyers Without Insurance

(Proactive Management-Based Assistance)

Rule 1-210 Disclosure of Professional Liability Insurance.

(a) Each active member of the State Bar of Georgia who is engaged in the private practice of law in Georgia shall disclose on the annual license fee statement whether the member is covered by a policy of professional liability insurance.

(b) The following members shall be exempt from the requirements of this rule:

(1) Members who are employed by a governmental entity or other organization and whose practice is limited to matters concerning the entity or organization;

(2) Members whose practice consists solely of serving as an arbitrator or mediator;
and

(3) Members who are not actively engaged in the practice of law or who do not represent clients.

(c) Every other year, beginning with registration for 2020-2021, each lawyer covered by paragraph (a) who discloses that he or she is not covered by a policy of professional liability insurance shall complete a self-assessment of the operation of his or her law practice or shall obtain malpractice insurance and report that fact on the annual license fee statement for the following year.

(d) The Proactive Management-Based Assistance program is a free interactive online educational program provided by the Bar. It requires the lawyer to assess his or her law office and operations based upon the requirements of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and best-

practices for the operation of a law office. Lawyers may earn one hour of Ethics CLE credit for each module of the self-assessment completed. Upon completion of each module in the Proactive Management Based self-assessment program, the lawyer will receive the results of the self-assessment and suggested resources to help the lawyer address any deficiencies identified by the self-assessment. All information related to the self-assessment shall be confidential and not shared with the Office of the General Counsel, except for the fact of completion of the self-assessment. Neither the Bar nor the lawyer may offer this information into evidence in a disciplinary proceeding. The Bar may report self-assessment data publicly in the aggregate.

(e) The information required by this Rule is due on July 1 of each year. A member who discloses that he or she is not covered by a professional liability insurance policy remains in good standing for one year in order to complete the Proactive Management-Based Assistance Program or to obtain insurance. If the member neither completes the self-assessment required at parts (c) and (d) nor obtains insurance, he or she goes out of good standing on July 1 of the following year. A member deemed not to be in good standing under this Rule shall be returned to good standing upon making the disclosure required in subpart (a) to the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia and, if not covered by a policy of malpractice insurance, by completing the self-assessment course.

(f) Each member shall provide the State Bar of Georgia with confirmation of coverage upon request.

(g) The Bar will provide the information required by part (a) of this rule upon request from any person but will not publish it as part of the member's listing in the Member Directory on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

OPTION 4
Mandatory Insurance Requirement

Rule 1-210. Professional Liability Insurance

- (a) All active members of the State Bar of Georgia engaged in the private practice of law in Georgia must be covered by a policy of professional liability insurance, in an amount no less than \$100,000 per claim and \$300,000 in the aggregate (“Minimum Limits”). For any Minimum Limits policy the expenses of defense must be outside the policy limits so that the Minimum Limits stated above are not reduced by payment of attorney’s fees or claims expenses incurred by the insurer for the investigation, adjustment, defense, or appeal of a claim.
- (b) The following members shall be exempt from the requirements of this rule:
- (1) Members who are employed by a governmental entity or other organization and whose practice is limited to matters concerning the entity or organization;
 - (2) Members whose practice consists solely of serving as an arbitrator or mediator; and
 - (3) Members who are not actively engaged in the practice of law or who do not represent clients.
- (c) Each lawyer who is required by this rule to have professional liability insurance shall notify the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia in writing within 30 days if coverage lapses, is no longer in effect, or terminates for any reason. Each lawyer’s insurance status shall appear in the State Bar Member Directory as either “covered,” “not

covered,” or “exempt.” Each member shall provide the State Bar of Georgia with confirmation of coverage upon request.

(d) The information required by this Rule is due on July 1 of each year. A member who does not comply with the requirements of the Rule by September 1 shall cease to be a member in good standing. A member deemed not to be in good standing under this Rule shall be returned to good standing upon providing the Executive Director of the State Bar of Georgia with proof of professional liability insurance coverage.

OPTION 5

Take no action



CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

The Honorable Harold D. Melton (Chair)
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. La Toya Simone Bell
Houston Circuit Public Defenders Office
Warner Robins, GA

Mr. Michael Scott Boone
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Nathan S. Chapman
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens, Georgia

Professor Clark D. Cunningham
Georgia State University College of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Gerald M. Edenfield
Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, PC
Statesboro, Georgia

The Honorable Susan E. Edlein
Fulton County State Court
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Elizabeth L. Fite
Rogers & Fite, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist
Bibb County Solicitor General's Office
Macon, Georgia

Mr. Norbert Daniel Hummel IV
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Francis Johnson
Francys Johnson PC
Statesboro, GA

Ms. Dawn M. Jones
The Firm of Dawn M. Jones LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Patrick E. Longan
Mercer University School of Law
Macon, Georgia

Mrs. Maria F. Mackay
Watkinsville, Georgia

The Honorable Shondrea Crews Morris
Superior Court of DeKalb County
Decatur, Georgia

Mr. Andrew Alan Pinson
Georgia Office of the Attorney General
Atlanta, Georgia

The Honorable William M. Ray, II
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

The Honorable Clyde L. Reese III
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Adwoa Ghartey-Tagoe Seymour
Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

Assistant Dean Rita A. Sheffey
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Nicki Noel Vaughan
Northeastern Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office
Gainesville, Georgia

Dr. Monica Willis-Parker
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia

Supreme Court of Georgia Advisor
The Honorable Sarah Hawkins Warren
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Staff
Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

TO: Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia
FROM: Karlise Yvette Grier
Executive Director, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
DATE: October 24, 2020
RE: Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (Commission), the first body of its kind in the nation, was created in 1989 by the Supreme Court of Georgia with the primary charge to enhance professionalism among Georgia's judges and lawyers. Chief Justice Harold D. Melton serves as the current Chair of the Commission. A brief update regarding the Commission follows.

COMMISSION CLE DURING FALL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

What Judges May Do to Improve the Law and the Legal System: What Lawyers Need to Know About Judicial Professionalism

On October 23, 2020, the Commission scheduled its sixth **FREE** CLE entitled *What Judges May Do to Improve the Law and the Legal System: What Lawyers Need to Know About Judicial Professionalism* as part of the Fall Board of Governors Meeting. The scheduled speakers were the **Honorable Michael P. Boggs**, Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia, and **Mr. Charles "Chuck" P. Boring**, Director, Judicial Qualifications Commission. Commission member, **Ms. Adwoa Ghartey-Tagoe Seymour**, agreed to moderate the program. A flyer about the CLE is attached as "Exhibit A." More information about the CLE is available at <http://cjcpga.org/102320-cjcp-cle/>.

AUGUST 2020 GEORGIA BAR JOURNAL PROFESSIONALISM PAGE

One of the ways the Commission communicates with State Bar members is through its Professionalism Page that appears in each issue of the Georgia Bar Journal, which is published 6 times per year. You are invited to read the Professionalism Page article that appeared in the August 2020 Georgia Bar Journal written by the Commission's Executive Director entitled *The Necessity of Unparalleled Unity*. A copy of the article is attached as "Exhibit B." The article is also available on the Commission's website at <http://cjcpga.org/georgia-bar-journal-articles/>.

COMMISSION GRANTS

The Commission's Grants Committee led by **Judge Susan Edlein** accepted Grant Applications for programs or projects that promote legal professionalism from

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September 28, 2020, through October 19, 2020. The full Commission will make decisions regarding grant awards prior to the end of 2020. If any grants are awarded, the Commission will disburse the grant funds in January 2021. To learn more about the Commission's grants, visit <http://cjcpga.org/grants/>.

FINAL REPORT REGARDING COMMISSION CLE IN AUGUST 2020: PROFESSIONALISM AND THE GEORGIA COURT REOPENING GUIDE

The Commission held its fifth **FREE** online "Professionalism Pop-Up" CLE entitled *Professionalism and the Georgia Court Reopening Guide* on August 7, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Program Co-Chair was the **Honorable Shawn LaGrua**, Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County. Commission members, **Chief Justice Harold D. Melton**, **Ms. Elizabeth Fite**, **Ms. Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist**, **Mr. Bert Hummel**, and **Ms. Dawn Jones**, also participated in the program. The Commission hosted the CLE on the Zoom Webinar platform. According to the Zoom report generated for the CLE, the CLE was attended by 1,407 "Unique Viewers." The Commission reported attendance for 1,370 attorneys to the State Bar of Georgia's Commission on Continuing Legal Education Department. The Agenda for the program is attached as "Exhibit C." Local and voluntary bar associations are encouraged to use the materials from the CLE to continue a discussion of the issues raised in the *Georgia Court Reopening Guide* in the local judicial circuits. To view the complete materials for the CLE, please visit: <http://cjcpga.org/reopening-guide/>.

FINAL REPORT REGARDING COMMISSION CLE IN JUNE 2020: CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PROFESSIONALISM AND CORONAVIRUS

The Commission held its fourth **FREE** online "Professionalism Pop-Up" CLE entitled *Professionalism, Criminal Justice, and Coronavirus* on June 11, 2020, from 12 Noon – 1:00 p.m. The Program Co-Chairs were **Ms. Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist**, Solicitor-General, State Court of Bibb County and **Ms. Claudia S. Saari**, Public Defender, DeKalb County Public Defender's Office. **Ms. Trish McCann Bertram**, Professional Development Director for the Georgia Public Defender Council and **Mr. C. Todd Hayes**, Solicitor General, Cherokee County Solicitor General's Office prepared hypothetical problems for the CLE. The Commission hosted the CLE on the Zoom Webinar platform. According to the Zoom report generated for the CLE, the CLE was attended by 499 "Unique Viewers." The Commission has reported attendance for 494 attorneys to the State Bar of Georgia's Commission on Continuing Legal Education Department. A flyer about the program is attached and incorporated by reference as "Exhibit D." Local and voluntary bar associations are encouraged to use the materials from the CLE to continue a discussion of the issues raised by the hypotheticals in the local judicial circuits. To view the complete materials for the CLE, please visit: <http://cjcpga.org/criminal-justice/>.

LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATIONS ON PROFESSIONALISM

The Commission staffs the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (Committee), and in that role supports the Committee's work on the Law School Orientations on Professionalism. The orientations are designed to provide incoming 1Ls with their first introduction to professionalism. Georgia judges and lawyers are invited to serve as "Group Leaders" during the orientations to help students learn the meaning of professionalism and why it is important for them as law students. The sub-committee that planned the 2020 law school orientation programs was chaired by **Mr. Michael Herskowitz**, U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia. During 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, each of the law schools held the professionalism orientations virtually via Zoom or WebEx. The Student and Group Leader evaluations from the 2020 Orientations are available on the Commission's website at <http://cjcpga.org/law-school-orientations-on-professionalism-2020/>. The Committee and the Commission are grateful to everyone who made the program a great success! A summary of participation in the Law School Orientations on Professionalism is as follows:

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Name of School	# of Students	# Group Leaders	Professionalism Speaker
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School	127	35	Chief Justice Harold D. Melton Supreme Court of Georgia
Emory University Law School	298	45	Justice Michael P. Boggs Supreme Court of Georgia
Georgia State University Law School	255	45	None
Mercer University Law School	142	50	Mr. Kevin B. Hicks, Esq. The Law Offices of Kevin B. Hicks & Associates, LLC
University of Georgia School of Law	180	25	Ms. E. Janyce Dawkins, Esq. Director, Equal Opportunity Office University of Georgia
TOTALS	1,002	200	

NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

Finally, as the Commission begins its 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Commission welcomes new Commission members. To view a complete list of Commission members, advisors, and liaisons visit <http://cjcpga.org/commission-members-2020-2021/>. The new Commission members are as follows:

Ms. LaToya Simone Bell
 Associate Dean **M. Scott Boone**
Mr. Norbert (Bert) Daniel Hummel IV

Mr. Francys Johnson
Ms. Dawn M. Jones
Judge Shondeana Crews Morris
Mr. Andrew Alan Pinson

Commission Website and Social Media

The Commission enjoys communicating with judges and lawyers on its website, www.cjcpga.org and on its social media platforms. Connect with us!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CJCPGA>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CJCPGA>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cjcpga/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cjcpga/videos>



EXHIBIT A

What Judges May Do to Improve The Law and The Legal System: What Lawyers Need to Know About Judicial Professionalism



Speakers: **Honorable Michael P. Boggs**

Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia

Mr. Charles "Chuck" P. Boring,

Director, Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission

Moderator: **Ms. Adwoa Ghartey-Tagoe Seymour, Esq.**

Assistant General Counsel, Cox Enterprises, Inc.

During this current climate, lawyers may wonder what judges are allowed to say and do. The Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct provides guardrails and guidelines for the activities in which judges may engage concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice, provided that doing so will not interfere with the performance of their official duties or cast doubt on their capacity to impartially decide any issue. After the CLE, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism hopes that lawyers will have a better understanding of how judges may engage in activities concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice.

Approved for 1.5 hours of General CLE credit, including 1 hour of Professionalism CLE credit. The Commission will report CLE attendance after confirming participation via Zoom records. The CLE is **FREE** but attorneys are responsible for paying the fee for the CLE credit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT <http://cjcpga.org/102320-cjcp-cle/>

EXHIBIT B

The Necessity of Unparalleled Unity

At this pivotal time in U.S. history, there is the necessity of unparalleled unity by each one of us as legal professionals—because achieving justice for all is the duty of all.

BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

Several years ago, I attended an event at the State Bar of Georgia during which an official from the Republic of Georgia spoke. The official talked of the challenges of luring foreign companies to do business in his country. He said one of the main reasons was because no one had confidence in the integrity of his country's judicial system—not the foreign companies and not the people of the Republic of Georgia. I remembered his words because it was the first time that I had contemplated how much our way of life in the United States rests on the public's confidence in the legitimacy of our legal system. If our system of "justice" fails, our way of life can also easily fail.¹ The foregoing statement is one reason why I believe every lawyer should support efforts to ensure that all people in the United States—regardless of race—have trust and confidence in our legal system.

In a statement released on June 2, 2020, in response to the protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, former U.S. President George W. Bush said:

Many doubt the justice of our country, and with good reason. Black people see

the repeated violation of their rights without an urgent and adequate response from American institutions. We know that lasting justice will only come by peaceful means. Looting is not liberation, and destruction is not progress. But we also know that lasting peace in our communities requires truly equal justice. The rule of law ultimately depends on the fairness and legitimacy of the legal system. *And achieving justice for all is the duty of all.*²

"People who do not believe that we have a racial injustice problem are entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts," Hon. Richard A. Robinson, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, recently wrote.³ Consider, therefore, the facts regarding two distinct police encounters with two disparate outcomes as reported in two news articles.

Police Encounter One

The 21-year-old white man suspected of having gunned down nine people at a historic Black church in South Carolina, was back in Charleston Thursday

after a sweeping manhunt that spanned two states.

Dylann Roof was caught after 11 a.m. following Wednesday night's massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was arrested about 245 miles north in Shelby, North Carolina, during a traffic stop, Charleston Police Chief Gregory Mullen said at a news conference.

Shelby police received a tip about a suspicious car in the area and arrested Roof without incident, Mullen added.^{4,5}

Police Encounter Two

On May 25, Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, after a convenience store employee called 911 and told the police that Mr. Floyd had bought cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Seventeen minutes after the first squad car arrived at the scene, Mr. Floyd was unconscious and pinned beneath three police officers, showing no signs of life.⁶

As you reviewed the facts from the above news articles, did you ask yourself which outcome would you want for yourself, your family and your friends?

GETTYIMAGES.COM/ISTOCKPHOTOS



Would you want the outcome that permits you to have a trial where you have the presumption of innocence, the right to a jury of your peers, the right to representation, and the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against you? Or would you want the outcome that condemns you to death in 17 minutes? Which outcome do you believe inspires the most confidence in the fairness and legitimacy of the legal system?

In "A Lawyer's Creed" and the "Aspirational Statement on Professionalism" adopted by the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1990, the Court at that time stated: "It is the Court's hope that Georgia's lawyers, judges and legal educators will use the following aspirational ideals to reexamine the justifications of the practice of law in our society and to consider the implications of those justifications for their conduct."⁷ Thereafter, in one of the aspirational ideals the Court challenged Georgia lawyers and judges to commit that the "social goals of equality and fairness will be personal goals for me."⁸ The Court also called upon lawyers and judges in the "Aspirational Statement on Professionalism" to "preserve and improve the

law, the legal system and other dispute resolution processes as instruments for the common good."⁹

During these pivotal times, I hope all Georgia lawyers and judges will reflect on the aspirational ideals set forth in "A Lawyer's Creed" and the "Aspirational Statement on Professionalism." I hope all Georgia lawyers and judges will also consider the observations of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, Hon. Harold D. Melton, who has said:

"The prominence and horror of the George Floyd murder does point to continued divisiveness. But, at the same time, it also points to unparal-

During these pivotal times, I hope all Georgia lawyers and judges will reflect on the aspirational ideals set forth in "A Lawyer's Creed" and the "Aspirational Statement on Professionalism."

leed unity as exhibited by unprecedented numbers of people of all ages, races, and walks of life who are: (1) expressing outrage at the continued unnecessary violence by some police officers against African Americans; and (2) asking “What can we do to make things better going forward?”¹⁰

I cannot and do not speak for the Supreme Court of Georgia or for any justice on the Court. I do, however, serve as the current steward of an organization with the stated mission of encouraging “lawyers [and judges] 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.”¹¹ As a steward of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, I believe professionalism should compel each of us to ask: “What can I personally do as a Georgia lawyer or a Georgia judge to make things better going forward?”

At this pivotal time in U.S. history, there is the necessity of unparalleled unity by each one of us as legal professionals—because achieving justice for all is the duty of all. ●



Karlise Y. Grier

Executive Director
Chief Justice’s Commission
on Professionalism
kygrier@cjcpga.org

Endnotes

1. See generally George W. Dougherty, Stefanie A. Lindquist and Mark D. Bradbury, *Evaluating Performance in State Judicial Institutions: Trust and Confidence in the Georgia Judiciary*, 38 St. & Loc. Gov’t Rev., 176-190 (2006), www.jstor.org/stable/4355433 (Last visited June 26, 2020) (the abstract states in part: “Like other governmental institutions, state courts must be concerned with their institutional legitimacy and citizens’ perceptions regarding their efficacy as forums for the fair and efficient resolution of legal disputes. The results of this study of public satisfaction with court performance in Georgia suggest that citizens evaluate the courts in terms of public confidence (i.e., institutional competence) and political trust (i.e., the judiciary’s ability to satisfy its fiduciary responsibilities to promote justice). A significant racial divide exists on the matter of trust but not confidence.”).
2. George W. Bush, *Statement by President George W. Bush*, George W. Bush Presidential Center, <https://www.bushcenter.org/about-the-center/newsroom/press-releases/2020/06/statement-by-president-george-w-bush.html> (emphasis supplied). (Last visited June 26, 2020).
3. Zach Murdock, *Connecticut Supreme Court’s first Black chief justice calls for ‘real and immediate improvements’ to judicial system amid national protests*, Hartford Curant (June 10, 2020, 10:28 AM), <https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-br-chief-justice-robinson-reforms-protests-20200610-k6dwubv7zau5cityiwrwcrm-story.html> (Last visited June 26, 2020).
4. Erik Ortiz and F. Brinley Bruton, *Charleston Church Shooting: Suspect Dylann Roof Captured in North Carolina*, NBC News (June 18, 2015, 8:12 AM EDT / Updated June 18, 2015, 8:25 PM EDT), <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/charleston-church-shooting/charleston-church-shooting-suspect-dylann-roof-captured-north-carolina-n377546> (Last visited June 26, 2020).
5. See Glenn Smith, *Emanuel AME shooter Dylann Roof Claims He Has Been Targeted for Abuse in Federal Prison*, The Post and Courier (April 23, 2020), https://www.postandcourier.com/news/emanuel-ame-shooter-dylann-roof-claims-he-has-been-targeted-for-abuse-in-federal-prison/article_846e04ac-84be-11ea-ac75-dba4446ab87.html (as of April 23, 2020, Roof was still alive in a federal prison and appealing his death sentence) (Last visited June 26, 2020).
6. Evan Hill, et al., *How George Floyd Was Killed in Police Custody*, N.Y. Times (May 31, 2020 / Updated June 22, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html> (Last visited June 26, 2020).
7. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, *A Lawyer’s Creed and Aspirational Statement on Professionalism* at Lines 41-44, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> (Last visited June 26, 2020).
8. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, *A Lawyer’s Creed and Aspirational Statement on Professionalism* at Lines 56-57, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> (Last visited June 26, 2020).
9. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, *A Lawyer’s Creed and Aspirational Statement on Professionalism* at Lines 58-59, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> (Last visited June 26, 2020).
10. Mike Scarcella and Jonathan Ringel, *Georgia Chief Justice Sees Unparalleled Unity’ in Diverse Protesters Expressing ‘Outrage’*, Law.com, Daily Report (June 05, 2020, 08:28 PM), <https://www.law.com/dailyreportonline/2020/06/05/our-moral-imperative-washington-state-justices-issue-open-letter-confronting-racial-injustice-404-47952/> (The original version of this story was published on The National Law Journal) (Last visited June 26, 2020).
11. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, *Mission of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism*, <http://cjcpga.org/mission/> (Last visited June 26, 2020).

EXHIBIT C

CHIEF JUSTICE’S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Honorable Harold D. Melton
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia



Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

AGENDA

Professionalism and the Georgia Court Reopening Guide, August 7, 2020, via Zoom.us

1:55 pm	Pre-CLE Polling Questions Ms. Karlise Y. Grier
2:00 pm	Housekeeping Information and Introduction of Mr. Bert Hummel Ms. Karlise Y. Grier
	Introduction of Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Panel Mr. Bert Hummel
2:03 pm (45 minutes)	Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Panel

Moderator: Ms. Elizabeth Fite, President-Elect State Bar of Georgia
Member COVID-19 Task Force
Member, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism

Panelists:

- **Honorable Shawn LaGrue**, Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County
Chair, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force
- **Honorable Melanie Bell**, Judge, Probate Judge of Newton County,
Chief Magistrate Court Judge, Newton County
Chair, Grand Jury Committee of the COVID-19 Task Force
- **Judge Lindsay Burton**, Chief Judge, Hall County Juvenile Court
Chair, Juvenile Committee of the COVID-19 Task Force
- **Honorable T. Russell McClelland**, Chief Judge, State Court of Forsyth County
Immediate Past President, Council of State Court Judges
Chair, Civil Committee of the COVID-19 Task Force

Panel Discussion Abstract: An update on the work of the COVID-19 Task Force and a discussion of **the role of professionalism** as judges and attorneys seek to implement the best practices developed by the task force.

2:48 pm – 2:51 pm	Well Being and COVID-19 Ms. Karlise Y. Grier/Mr. Bert Hummel
2:51 pm – 2:53 pm	Introduction of Well Being Panel Mr. Bert Hummel

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AGENDA

Professionalism and the Georgia Court Reopening Guide, August 7, 2020, via Zoom.us

Page 2

2:53 pm
(35 minutes)

Well Being Panel

Moderator: **Ms. R. Javoyné Hicks**, Esquire
Clerk, State Court and Magistrate Courts of DeKalb County
Chair, State Bar of Georgia Wellness Committee
Member, State Bar of Georgia Executive Committee

Panelists:

- **Dr. Mark A. Swancutt**, MD, PhD, DTM&H
Staff Physician, Respiratory Clinic, Fulton County Board of Health
Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force
- **Ms. Lynn Garson**, Esquire, Chair, State Bar of Georgia Lawyer Assistance Program

Panel Discussion Abstract: Conducting court safely during a global pandemic. Updates on COVID-19 and physical well-being. Tips for mental well-being as the Courts begin to reopen for more non-essential business.

3:28 pm Introduction of We Are A Community Panel..... Mr. Bert Hummel

3:29 pm
(30 minutes)

We Are A Community
(A Professionalism Discussion)

Moderator: **Ms. Rebecca Grist**, Solicitor-General, State Court of Bibb County
Member, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism

Panelists:

- **Honorable Harold D. Melton**, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Chair, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism
- **Ms. Dawn Jones**, Esquire, President of State Bar of Georgia
Member, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism

Panel Discussion Abstract: Perspectives of judges and lawyers as the Georgia Courts reopen and **the role of professionalism** as the legal profession creates a new paradigm for handling non-essential court business.

3:59 pm – 4:00 pm Closing Remarks Mr. Bert Hummel

4:00 pm Adjourn

EXHIBIT D

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CORONAVIRUS CLE



Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
will make Welcome Remarks



Claudia Saari
Program Co-Chair

June 11, 2020
12pm-1pm
via
Zoom.us
Register at:

https://criminal_justice_professionalism_coronaviruses.eventbrite.com



Rebecca Grist
Program Co-Chair



Mr. Stephen A. Bradley,
District Attorney,
Ocmulgee Judicial
Circuit



Judge Leisa Johnson
Dougherty County Probate Court
Moderator



Mr. Lawrence Zimmerman,
President, Georgia
Association of Criminal
Defense Lawyers



Mrs. Omeeka P. Loggins,
Solicitor General, State
Court of Richmond
County

Hypothetical Problems written by
C. Todd Hayes and Trish McCann Bertram



Ms. Jennifer Leigh Lewis,
Circuit Public Defender, Flint
Judicial Circuit Office of the
Public Defender

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, May 18, 2020/1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating:

Darrell L. Sutton, President; Dawn M. Jones, President-elect; Elizabeth Louise Fite, Treasurer; Sally B. Akins, Secretary; Kenneth B. Hodges, III, Immediate Past President; William T. Davis, YLD President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President-elect; Rizza O'Connor, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; Tony DelCampo; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; and Nicki Vaughan.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Darrell Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings

Sutton reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule

President-elect Dawn Jones reported that she plans to have the Board of Governors Meeting via Zoom on Saturday morning, June 13, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. as was scheduled at the Annual Meeting. The installation of the Officers will also take place that morning. She has started having conversations with Wild Dunes Resort regarding contract options and costs to be ready in case we have to cancel the Executive Committee extended meeting. She is looking into the same with the Augusta Marriott for the Fall Board of Governors meeting in October.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Sally Akins presented the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held February 27-28, 2020, April 2, 2020, and April 20, 2020. The Executive Committee approved the minutes, as revised, by unanimous voice vote.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Matthew Newton Padgett-558705, James Ray Taylor-700246, Thomas Keith Checketts-011965, John Kevin McDonald-489417, Rose Kathleen Wilson-090607, Hannah Alise Rogers-556056, Woods King III-578329, Frank Henry Hupfl III-315701, Kelly J. Aran-021011, Debra Wakefield-730515, James Malone-468875, Douglas Rosinski-614942, Helen Silver-141487, Brian Bennett-050495

Members Requesting Disabled Status

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved six requests for disabled status by unanimous voice vote.

Member Status Appeals

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved a request by Ricardo Polk for a 9-month extension from July 1, 2020 to obtain his Certificate of Fitness.

State Bar of Georgia 2021 Elections Schedule

Following a report by Sutton, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved recommending to the Board of Governors the 2021 Elections Schedule (Exhibit A). Dawn asked about voting only electronically next year if things stand as they are today. Javoyne Hicks asked that we also consider allowing electronic signatures. These matters will be referred to the Elections Committee.

2020-2021 State Bar Budget Recommendation to the Board of Governors and Other Dues Items

Sutton presented the proposed 2020-2021 budget.

Dawn thanked Bar staff, with Darrell's leadership and assistance by Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner, for tightening finances while at the same meeting our governance obligations.

Ron reviewed the budget assumptions that reflect no changes to license fees, a CCLC grant of up \$300,000, and no salary adjustments. Ron further reported there would be additional savings if any meetings are cancelled.

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the proposed 2020-2021 State Bar Budget (Exhibit B). The budget also includes:

- 1) License fees at \$254 for active members and \$127 for inactive members, which represents no increase from the previous Bar year; and
- 2) Section dues to be reflected on the dues statement ranging from \$10-\$40; and
- 3) Continuation of the Clients' Security Fund assessment (\$100 @ \$25/year) required by Bar Rules. Such assessment begins with the second full fiscal year following a member's year of admission; and
- 4) Professionalism Fee (\$11), as mandated by the Supreme Court of Georgia; and
- 5) Continuation of a \$100 opt-out contribution to the Legislative and Public Education Fund; and
- 6) A suggested \$350 opt-in provision for individual contributions (\$100 for young lawyers) to the Georgia Legal Services Program.

Approval of Senior Staff Search Committee Selection of Young Mayden LLC

Sutton reported that the Senior Staff Search Committee recommended the hiring of Young Mayden LLC for the Executive Director's search at a cost of \$65,000 plus expenses.

After several Executive Committee members expressed the benefits for using a search firm, and Immediate Past President Ken Hodges expressed his opposition for doing so, a motion and second to forego using a search firm and have the State Bar conduct the Executive Director search internally failed by a roll call vote of 4 in favor to 9 opposed, with Javoyne Hicks abstaining.

Thereafter, a motion to engage the services of Young Mayden to conduct the Executive Director search was approved by majority voice vote, with Javoyne abstaining, and Ken asking the minutes to reflect that he voted no.

President's Report

Sutton reported that Bar staff has been working to ready the State Bar building and the satellite offices for reopening, and senior staff have developed a reopening plan. The General Counsel's office has taken the lead which includes policies and logistics, and the Bar is now working on gathering the resources necessary to allow the offices to reopen consistent with that plan.

Jeff reported that we have been incredibly productive during this time. When we do reopen, it will be a tiered approach in bringing staff back to adhere to social distancing, particularly in the area of our work stations. Safety is paramount at this point, and we are trying to get the supplies and effective equipment in place before we reopen.

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that we have been determining which staff are able to continue do their jobs from home. Staff coming into the office will only be those that cannot do their jobs remotely.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Elizabeth Fite reported on the Bar's finances. She reminded everyone that the financials provided are through March, and we do not yet know of any losses that might occur from the Bar Center being shut down.

The Executive Committee received the Consolidated (Operational and Bar Center) Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2020; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2020; Income Statement YTD-Operations as of Ended March 31, 2020; Status and Use of Cash and Investment as of March 31, 2020; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of March 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid Through March 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through March 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contribution Paid through March 31, 2020; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019-March 31, 2020; and Clients' Security Fund Activity Report as of March 31, 2020.

YLD Report

YLD President Will Davis reported the Legal Food Frenzy was a tremendous success and raised over \$700,000, which is an incredible number over the goal of raising \$450,000. The Build a Better Georgia Day was converted to a statewide blood drive. The 11th Circuit Judicial Conference was transitioned to a panel discussion on a Saturday morning with five circuit judges participating in a program for the Leadership Academy. Will said he looks forward to his remaining time as YLD President, after which time YLD President-elect Bert Hummel will take over.

Executive Director's Report

Jeff said he had nothing further to report.

Advisory Committee on Legislation/Legislative Report

Governmental Affairs Director Christine Butcher Hayes reported the legislature has not met since March 16 and there were 11 legislative days remaining in the session when it left. She said the state is facing at least a \$1 billion revenue shortfall. Every state agency is looking, at the very least, to a 6-10% cut, but at the high end a 14% cut. The cuts will affect everyone across the board – the university system, the judiciary, and the Judicial Council. Grants for Kinship Care and Victims of Domestic Violence will be affected, and The Resource Center is facing up to a \$96,000 cut in its appropriation. Christine further reported the Bar still had two active bills that have not crossed the finish line and may not. The state budget has to be passed by June 30, and the legislators may not take up any bills while working on the budget. Christine also reported that the Bar's legislative lobbyist contracts expire on June 30.

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss contracts for the legislative lobbyists. Thereafter, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

Office of General Counsel Report

Paula reported that the State Disciplinary Board held its first Zoom meeting on May 8. Every member attended the five-hour meeting and the board dealt with over 30 cases. The State Disciplinary Review Board will meet on May 27.

Paula reported that her office continues to work on the reopening policies, as well as some court orders related to the COVID pandemic.

Paula requested recommendations for appointments to the State Disciplinary Board.

Board of Governors Minutes

The Executive Committee received the draft minutes of the April 3, 2020 Board of Governors meeting.

Retiring and Incoming Board Members

The Executive Committee received a list of the retiring and incoming Officers and Board of Governors members for the 2020-2021 Bar year.

Old Business

Dawn reminded the Executive Committee that in February she asked it to consider adding ABA dues as a reimbursable expense for the Officers, which would actually result in savings to the Bar from the reduction in registration costs for attending ABA meetings. She will place the Officer Reimbursement Policy on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

New Business

Dawn said she has greatly appreciated Darrell's leadership during this most trying time. David Lipscomb recognized Ken and thanked him for his many years of service, and the same was expressed to YLD Immediate Past President Rizza O'Connor. Both will be rolling off the Executive Committee.


Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Approved:



Darrell L. Sutton, President



Sarah B. (Sally) Akins, Secretary

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, June 5-6, 2020/1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating:

Darrell L. Sutton, President; Dawn M. Jones, President-elect; Elizabeth Louise Fite, Treasurer; Sally B. Akins, Secretary; William T. Davis, YLD President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President-elect; Rizza O'Connor, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; Tony DelCampo; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; and Nicki Vaughan.

Members Absent:

Kenneth B. Hodges, III, Immediate Past President.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

After obtaining the required 2/3 vote in favor of holding the specially called Executive Committee meeting, President Darrell Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Op-Ed Addressing Judiciary Budget Cuts

Governmental Affairs Director Christine Butcher Hayes reported she was contacted by the Council of Superior Court Judges concerning the budget cuts being proposed for the entire judicial branch, public defenders, and prosecutors. All have been asked to cut their budgets by 14%.

Christine presented a proposed op-ed column asking lawmakers to thoughtfully consider the constitutional duties of our judiciary and to pass a budget that strategically faces the reality of reduced revenues while enabling the judiciary's fulfillment of the essential functions of our justice system. At Christine's suggestion, the Executive Committee elected to have the information be sent in a letter to the legislators instead of published as an op-ed.

Statement Addressing Social Justice in Action

Following a discussion on how best to address Bar member concerns prior to this meeting, Dawn asked that the Executive Committee consider providing a statement from the Bar related to the racial and social justice concerns being discussed. Darrell agreed and, during this meeting, asked whether the leadership should make such a statement.

Sutton circulated three draft statements for consideration. One was a statement he prepared, which he shared with President-elect Dawn Jones. The second was a statement prepared by Dawn. The third was a statement Sutton prepared melding his and Dawn's statements together.

Following a lengthy discussion and members sharing their own personal perspectives, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that the Bar issue a statement starting with Dawn's language, but with some further articulation. General Counsel Paula Frederick, Executive Director Jeff Davis, Communications Director Sarah Coole, and Chief Operating Officer Sharon Bryant were asked to work on the statement, and forward it to the

Executive Committee for discussion on Saturday morning, June 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Members Requesting Disabled Status

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved one request for disabled status by unanimous voice vote, with David Lipscomb abstaining,

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss legislative lobbyists contracts. Thereafter, a motion and second to move out of Executive Session was approved unanimously.

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, approved the following legislative consultant contracts for the 2020-2021 Bar year: 1) Capitol Partners at \$150,000/year; 2) Mark Middleton at \$70,000/year; and 3) Roy Robinson at \$48,000/session only. The costs will be paid from the voluntary Legislative and Public Advocacy funds.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. and will reconvene on Saturday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Continuation of the Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, June 6, 2020

Members Participating:

Darrell L. Sutton, President; Dawn M. Jones, President-elect; Elizabeth Louise Fite, Treasurer; Sally B. Akins, Secretary; Kenneth B. Hodges, III, Immediate Past President; William T. Davis, YLD President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President-elect; Rizza O'Connor, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; Tony DelCampo; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; and Nicki Vaughan.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Darrell Sutton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above. Immediate Past President Ken Hodges, and YLD Immediate Past President Rizza O'Connor recused themselves from the meeting due to their judicial positions.

Statement Addressing Social Justice in Action (cont'd.)

After a lengthy discussion and input by the Executive Committee, the following statement was approved:

The State Bar of Georgia acknowledges that so many of our members are in pain due to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others. These deaths have highlighted the long-standing and systemic injustices and unfair treatment that African-Americans and other minorities endure.

As advocates, servants and justice-seekers, the State Bar opposes inequality in our justice system, we fight bigotry and racism, and we seek fairness and equity for all. Among its goals, our State Bar exists to improve the administration of justice, working daily to protect the public and support its lawyers.

As lawyers, we are problem solvers and must use our special training and positions of leadership for the betterment of society.

There is much work to be done.

We commit to engaging, listening and learning from the experiences and perspectives of all those willing to share them. We will act upon what we learn to deliver on the promise of equal justice for all people. These conversations are uncomfortable, but silence is unacceptable.

The Executive Committee was in agreement that the statement come from the President, and that it be sent to all Bar members and posted on social media and the Bar's website.

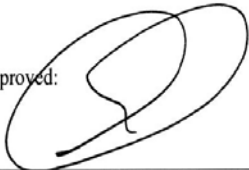
After a request by the Executive Committee, Sarah said she would gather members' responses to the statement daily and email them to the Executive Committee members.

Dawn reported that she wants to be able to discuss some action steps next Saturday during her President's remarks. She asked for continuing discussion of how we collectively move forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved:



Darrell L. Sutton, President



Sarah B. (Sally) Akins, Secretary

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, June 19, 2020/12:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting

Members Participating:

Dawn M. Jones, President; Elizabeth L. Fite, President-elect; Tony DelCampo, Secretary; Darrell L. Sutton, Immediate Past President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President; William T. Davis, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena, and Nicki Vaughan.

Members Absent:

Sally B. Akins, Treasurer; and Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President-elect.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

After obtaining the required 2/3 vote in favor of holding the specially called Executive Committee meeting, President Dawn Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Appointments

By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee approved recommending to the Board of Governors the appointments of LaToya Simone Bell and Francys Johnson, Jr. to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (CJCP) for three-year terms. Dawn reported that at the request of CJCP Executive Director Karlise Grier, these two appointments will be ratified by the Board of Governors in October since they were not included in the appointments approved by the Board of Governors during the Annual meeting in June.

Indigent Defense Committee Letter re Georgia Public Defender Council (GPDC) Budget

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported there are two key areas in the GPDC budget that are facing significant cuts. The first is a \$1 million cut to expert witnesses. The second is a \$1 million cut on appellate issues. The proposed letter from the Indigent Defense Committee specifically addresses constitutional issues in undercutting those two areas, which have been litigated before. She also said the letter would be targeted to the six members in the House and Senate who will serve on the conference committee rehashing the budget.

David Lipscomb reported that the opt-out counties are also experiencing substantial budget cuts and asked if that could be addressed in the letter.

By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee approved the language in the proposed letter from the Indigent Defense Committee, with the revisions discussed by Christine, and Nicki Vaughan.

Senate Bill 405

Christine provided an update of SB 405 that would allow 6-person juries in state and superior courts from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 in the wake of the COVID -19 crisis. The bill's sponsor, Representative Andy Welch, has asked for feedback from the State Bar.

Committee members affirmed their preference for 12-person juries and discussed the need to move cases while observing social distancing requirements, which are easier with a six-person jury. Some members were not comfortable with the judicial discretion in the bill, and wondered whether it would lead to permanent changes to the right to trial by jury. Members observed that the proposal could be abused by litigants who do not want to get to trial, and could lead to venue shopping.

Executive Director Jeff Davis reported that Treasurer Sally Akins asked him to communicate that the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce have concerns about the bill, and she doesn't believe the State Bar should take action on it.

Christine reported the bill will be voted on by the House and if approved will go back to the Senate for approval, possibly at the end of next week.

Dawn asked Christine to also seek feedback back from the two Executive Committee members who could not participate today, and to report to Representative Welch that the Executive Committee had a mix of opinions on the bill.

Hate Crimes Bill

Christine reported hearings were held last night on the hate crimes bill. There is a lot of support for the House version and a heavy push to pass the bill this year, but the Lieutenant Governor is pursuing his own separate bill.

Dawn reported that she has a greater appreciation now of what Christine is doing in her position, and thanked Christine for continuing to keep the Executive Committee updated on legislative matters.

Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee

Dawn reported that five Executive Committee members have asked to serve on the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee and 50+ other people have also asked to serve, but obviously the committee cannot be that large. Dawn said there will be plenty of opportunities for Bar members to take the lead in acting and effectuating some of the plans that will come out of the committee. She expects the committee to meet monthly and to come back with both short-term and long-term goals.

State Bar Office Reopening

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that we have been working for months on plans to gradually reopen. We hope to begin Phase 1 of the plan when the number of people infected with COVID-19 begins leveling off and the numbers show a steady decline for two weeks in a row. Managers have assessed who can work remotely, who have childcare issues, and who is medically fragile. Staff currently teleworking will continue to do so in Phase 1, so fewer than half of the staff would be coming back to the office on a staggered work plan to ensure distancing. We have a screening process in place for all people entering the building, and we are closing all common areas and blocking the elevators for no more than two people.

Jeff reported that all replacement equipment will be laptops with docking stations to be better prepared if this happens again. The State Bar is prepared for any security breaches and has backup at the Savannah office. We have been enhancing capacity as we move to a hybrid model. Jeff also reported that because the judicial emergency was extended through July 12, we may push our reopening out to July 13. He thanked everyone for their support, and stated that we have been adequately serving our members.

New Business

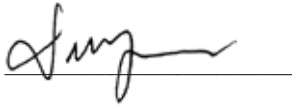
Dawn announced the Executive Committee will meet on July 17 and August 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Depending on what comes up with legislation, we may also have another meeting next week.

Dawn reported we continue to have discussions with the hotels about our upcoming meeting, including any penalties we may incur due to cancellation and force majeure clauses that may apply in our favor. She said Meetings Director Michelle Garner has done a really good job of keeping us abreast of what the hotels are doing concerning cleaning and social distancing for our upcoming meetings. As of right now, the Executive Committee Extended Meeting will be held at the Wild Dunes Resort. Michelle is also gathering information from the Augusta Convention Center to see if it can safely, under current COVID-19 guidelines and physical distancing requirements, accommodate our Fall Board of Governors Meeting. Dawn stated discussions are ongoing and any final decisions made will be discussed with the Executive Committee. For the foreseeable future, the work of the State Bar will continue through Zoom and conference calls.

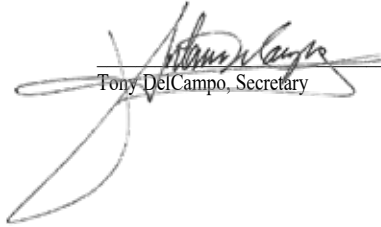
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dawn", written over a horizontal line.

Dawn M. Jones, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tony DeCampo", written over a horizontal line.

Tony DeCampo, Secretary

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, July 17, 2020/1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating:

Dawn M. Jones, President; Elizabeth L. Fite, President-elect; Sally B. Akins, Treasurer; Tony DelCampo, Secretary; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President-elect; William T. Davis, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena, and Nicki Vaughan.

Members Absent:

Darrell L. Sutton, Immediate Past President.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Dawn Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

Dawn reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. The August 14 Executive Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. will be added to the schedule. Dawn reported that Wild Dunes Resort cancelled all meetings through September due to COVID-19, thereby cancelling the on-site Executive Committee extended meeting.

Executive Committee Minutes

By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee tabled the minutes of the May 18, June 5-6, and June 19, 2020 Executive Committee meetings to provide further revisions by the Secretary.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Louisa Ashmead Robinson-101031, Janet Elaine Witt-772377, Terry William Smith-663620, Beverly Meyers Smit -654775, Thomas M. Cerbone-118195, Andrea Goldberg-090184, John R. Long-457237, Elizabeth Rackley-153037, Steven Silverman-646675, Robert Cauthen-117350, David Bruce Martz-475101, Eileen Renteria-001180, Mary Sullivan-691427, Laurie Gorbatkin-301953, Judy Chidester-124401, Thomas Kearns-409960, Ronnie Gabriel-281656, Andrea Guttin-168145, Stasia Ogden-550350, Matthew Youn-952406, Elizabeth Glasgow-242109, Stephanie Miller-508355, Lisa Young-004990, Devereaux McClatchey-483011, Jennifer Moscoso-422144, Karen Meadows-224375, Kathleen Fisher-261875, David Bucey-092092, Frank DeVincent-219840, Jodie English-248885, Sheryl Newberry-202350, John Stephens-679100, Robert Smiles Jr.-653648, William McKinnie -495760, Megan Fisher-185538

Members Requesting Disability Status

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved two requests for disabled status by unanimous voice vote.

Officers Reimbursement Policy Proposed Revisions

Dawn reported one of the proposed revisions adds ABA dues as a reimbursable expense, and Ron reported that the other revisions define the actual reimbursement processes that are currently being followed. After further discussion, the Executive Committee also added expenses of a “designated guest” of an Officer as reimbursable expenses in lieu of a spouse.

By unanimous voice vote, with Dawn abstaining, the Executive Committee approved the proposed revisions to the Officers Reimbursement Policy (Exhibit A). Dawn said she will share the revised policy with the Supreme Court and it will be presented to the Board of Governors at the Fall Board meeting.

Woodrow Wilson Exhibit

Executive Director Jeff Davis reported on the history of the State Bar obtaining the Woodrow Wilson exhibit that is displayed in the State Bar’s lobby. A motion and second to remove the Woodrow Wilson exhibit in the State Bar lobby, the details of which will be handled by Jeff, General Counsel Paula Frederick, and Chief Operating Officer Sharon Bryant, and to use space for additional lobby seating to adhere to current social distancing guidelines, was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Professionalism Page

The Executive Committee reviewed the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism’s upcoming professionalism page in the *Georgia Bar Journal* titled the *Necessity of Unparalleled Unity*.

President’s Report

Dawn reported she will be participating in a number of Zoom-based speaking engagements over the next several months. She routinely responds to questions and concerns from Bar members or forwards them to Bar staff to respond when appropriate. She virtually met with our Supreme Court liaisons, Justices Nels Peterson and Keith Blackwell. She has been relaying members’ experiences in courtrooms that are not requiring masks or observing social distancing to Chief Justice Harold Melton.

Dawn reported we are going to have bias training for Bar staff and she would like the Executive Committee to also participate.

Dawn reported she has been meeting with Paula, Jeff and Sharon on Tuesdays and Fridays to discuss Bar operations. She further reported that the staggered reopening has been postponed and staff have been told that until further notice the Bar offices will not be open, but for a select few who need to go in for various purposes. Staff will be given a two week notice before the office does reopen. Dawn wanted to reassure everyone that the Bar is fully functioning to meet members’ needs.

State Bar Meetings

Dawn reported she sees no reason to hold the Fall Board meeting on-site in Augusta due to social distancing guidelines and members comfort level in traveling right now. Per the hotel contract, the Bar is currently under a 35% cancellation clause, so for monetary purposes it makes sense to cancel now. She said we will work to provide all of the other meetings virtually that would have occurred on-site in conjunction with the meeting. The Executive Committee agreed with Dawn’s decision to cancel the hotel contract.

Dawn reported the August Executive Committee meeting will take the place of the September extended meeting so we will meet from 1:00-5:00 p.m. on August 14. If the business of the agenda and some of the retreat items are not finished by that time, we will meet Saturday morning, August 15, to complete the extended meeting.

Executive Director’s Report

Jeff reported we have continued to monitor the situation concerning the office reopening. The tenants are aware

of our plans and are following our policies. He further reported that GLSP Director Rick Rufolo has asked about possible rent abatement for the time that GLSP has not been able to occupy the office. As an aside, Jeff reported that we have not been charging our tenants any parking fees since the office has been closed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins reported on the Bar's finances.

The Executive Committee received the Consolidated (Operational and Bar Center) Revenues and Expenditures Report as of May 31, 2020; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Report as of May 31, 2020; Income Statement YTD-Operations as of Ended May 31, 2020; Status and Use of Cash and Investment as of May 31, 2020; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid Through May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contribution Paid through May 31, 2020; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019-May 31, 2020; and Clients' Security Fund Activity Report as of May 31, 2020.

Snapshot of State Bar of Georgia Finances

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner reported that while there have been some overages for the month of May, they are very minute amounts. It is a line item budget and from a departmental standpoint, department budgets are not exceeding their bottom line budget. Due to COVID-19, costs have tended to be a little bit lower to operate from home. Thereafter, Ron reviewed some reports in the financial package.

Office of General Counsel Report

This item was tabled.

YLD Report

YLD President Bert Hummel said he would give his report at the next meeting. He did report that in fully embracing virtual settings, he has appointed an ad hoc committee, chaired by ShaMiracle Rankin, to pull and survey what other organizations are doing and will create a summary of ideas that he will share with the Executive Committee.

ACL/Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported that she received a call from State Representative Joseph Gullet who filed the remote online notary bill. If anyone has feedback concerning that legislation, please let her know so she can relay it to Representative Gullet.

Pension Plan Amendments

This item was tabled.

Provisional Membership Update

This item was tabled.

Committee Updates

Dawn announced that the job posting for the Executive Director position will happen in the next few days.

Dawn asked the Executive Committee Liaisons to bring committee updates to future Executive Committee meetings.

Old Business

There was no old business.

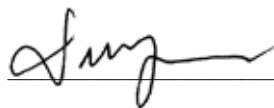
New Business

There was no new business.

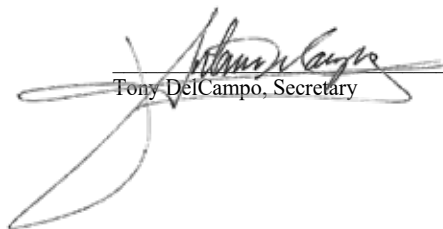
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Approved:



Dawn M. Jones, President



Tony DeCampo, Secretary

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT
MINUTES
Friday & Saturday, August 14-15, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating:

Dawn M. Jones, President; Elizabeth L. Fite, President-elect; Sally B. Akins, Treasurer; Tony DelCampo, Secretary; Darrell L. Sutton, Immediate Past President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President-elect; William T. Davis, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki Vaughan.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Dawn Jones called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

Dawn reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. She announced that there will need to be a special meeting of the Board of Governors in late September so that the Board can elect a new Executive Director. She said she would go into the reasons for this change during her report on the Search Committee. Dawn also reported that, after conferring with the Supreme Court of Georgia about meeting dates and locations, the annual Executive Committee/Supreme Court Joint Meeting will take place on April 15-16 at the Bar Center.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Tony DelCampo presented for approval the minutes of four Executive Committee meetings. By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee approved the minutes of May 18, 2020, the revised minutes of June 5-6, 2020, the revised minutes of June 19, 2020, and the revised minutes of July 17, 2020.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Sarah Wampler-736506, A. Stuart Campbell-105995, Dorian D'Agati-205701, Thomas Farr-255450, Curtis Churchill-125585, Michele Bradley-075098, Katherine Paul-460464, Michelle Bushman-142353, Douglas Cobb-171125, Margaret Crowlie-198750, Janet Franchi-272671, Ronald Harwell-335586, John Luckart-460730, Douglas Lambert-678891, Debra Engel-452023, Christopher Caswell-116217, Michael Kilgore-417555, Adine Waddell-729485, S. Gale Allison-304750.

Request for New Section – Religious Liberty Law Section

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith reported on an application and model bylaws to create a new Religious Liberty Law Section. The Executive Committee discussed the request and will make a decision at the September EC meeting.

Inactive Sections

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported there are a handful of sections with current paid members and fund balances, but with no activities for several years. The Individual Rights Section is one such section. Paula suggested that if it were active the section could support the work of the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing

Racism & Racial Bias Committee. The Section's bylaws state the Bar President, upon notification to the Section membership, can appoint a chair and vice chair if vacancies occur in both of those positions.

After discussion of how to reactivate the Individual Rights Section, the Executive Committee suggested holding any further discussion until development of a policy.

Dawn reported the other inactive sections are Equine Law, Law & Economics, Legal Economics, and Senior Lawyers. Each of those sections have current paid members and fund balances. Paula said her office will draft a policy addressing how to both sunset inactive sections or reactivate them, and Dawn asked that it be presented at the September meeting.

President's Report

Dawn reported that the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents and the National Conference of Bar Presidents had virtual meetings last week that were very informative. She said bar presidents shared similar experiences in dealing with COVID, bar owned buildings having problems leasing space, bars that cancelled their meetings because they didn't know how to conduct them virtually, and other bars who embraced virtual meetings and held robust meetings with breakouts and 12-hour CLEs.

President-elect Elizabeth Fite reported that the president-elects reported similar things, how their plans changed due to COVID, and how they had to shut things down. She said that Alabama is commissioning an economic impact study on how COVID has impacted the legal profession and how that has impacted the economy.

Executive Director Jeff Davis reported that the executive directors discussed similar issues including whether to open gradually, open with limited personnel, and use of their bar center space and leasing.

Dawn referred the Executive Committee to two links she sent them earlier in the day. One was an article on recent COVID statistics in Georgia and the other was a podcast entitled *White Parents*. The COVID statistics make it clear that we will not be able to meet in person for the foreseeable future. Although we have had to pay some penalty fees for canceling meetings, at this time the Fall Board of Governors meeting in October will be virtual. We will have the same committee and section meetings that typically take place around it. We will likely meet virtually for the Midyear Meeting. Dawn said she is more comfortable considering an in-person Executive Committee meeting right now since the group is smaller and it is easier to take precautions like social distancing, compared to a BOG meeting with 200 members and guests in attendance. She is hopeful that the pandemic will be under control in the next calendar year, but noted that if we cancel with Wild Dunes Resort by December 1, 2020, for our June 2021 Annual Meeting, the penalty is approximately \$329K. At this time, due to this heavy penalty, Dawn does not plan to cancel the in-person Annual Meeting and will continue to monitor the pandemic in Georgia and South Carolina.

Dawn reported she is creating a special committee to assist with our virtual meetings. The committee will include staff members Communications Director Sarah Coole, Meetings Director Michelle Garner, and AV Manager Kyle Gause.

Dawn reported that she is still looking for a facilitator for bias training and has asked the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee's help.

Executive Director's Report

Jeff reported we are still working on cancelling hotel contracts. He said that the Georgia Public Defenders will not be able to move out of the building at the end of November and have asked to stay until the end of January. He reported that even though the Bar building is still closed to the public, the Bar is functioning very well. Bar staff and tenants that come into the building have to follow the Bar's guidelines. He had a discussion with GLSP

Executive Director Rick Rufolo to inform him that there would be no rent abatement, and did agree to let GLSP lease space on a month-to-month basis when its lease expires in November. Jeff believes GLSP intends to stay in the building for the foreseeable future.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins reported on the Bar's finances.

The Executive Committee received the Consolidated (Operational and Bar Center) Revenues and Expenditures Report as of May 31, 2020; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Report as of May 31, 2020; Income Statement YTD-Operations as of Ended May 31, 2020; Status and Use of Cash and Investment as of May 31, 2020; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid Through May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contribution Paid through May 31, 2020; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019-May 31, 2020; and Clients' Security Fund Activity Report as of May 31, 2020.

Bar Center Report

Dawn asked Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner to put together financial information on the Bar Center budget as relates to rental income, leasing end dates, and parking revenue information due to COVID's impact on the building to present at this meeting. It reflected the current rental income and how that would be affected if any rent concessions were made, actual budgeted revenue for 2020-2021, the estimated actual revenue for 2020-2021, and an estimated loss of rental and parking income that totaled approximately \$600K. Dawn said it is not our intention to agree to any rent concessions since it is not in the best economic interest of the State Bar to do so at this time, and we also know that people are not looking for office space right now. We will continue to talk about and monitor this situation.

Office of General Counsel Report

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that her office is conducting business as usual. She congratulated Deputy General Counsel Jenny Mittleman who received an award from the National Organization of Bar Counsel for her assistance in planning their programs. Paula said the State Disciplinary Board authorized changing the grievance form to get the complaining party's email address, which will be a big help to staff working on the grievances electronically. She reported she spoke with the judge of the new statewide Business Court about its pro hac vice process. She and Jeff met with the Georgia Bar Journal Editorial Board and asked it to draft a policy on publication of content that could be deemed political or partisan.

Bill referred the Executive Committee to a Supreme Court order he sent out earlier clarifying that, in light of COVID, the Board of Governors can meet electronically/virtually.

YLD Report

YLD President Bert Hummel reported he is working on keeping YLD members engaged while also continuing its service efforts to the public and the profession. They are undertaking a statewide campaign to recruit poll workers for the upcoming general election. They are working to get CLE credit for those volunteers and trying to determine what the appropriate number of hours would be given there is a 6-hour training course involved and a 12-hour day at the polls. The volunteers will be asked to use the compensation they receive as poll workers for CLE fees and to help fund PIPP grants. They are also planning bi-monthly podcasts called *For The Good of The Order* featuring members talking about how COVID has affected their practices and how they are working through things, judges talking about what's happening in the courtrooms and what they are seeing in their local areas, and highlighting local community or legal accomplishments. They are working with GLSP on expanding their legal clinics to provide wills for nurses, medical personnel and teachers. Bert reported that the Georgia Latino Law Foundation has been running a very successful virtual judicial internship

program under the direction of Ana Marie Martinez. The YLD is going to team-up with her to see if it can offer support or potentially take it over under the Judicial Clerks Committee. Bert is working on the virtual formats for the YLD Summer and Fall Meetings.

ACL/Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported that the Fiduciary Law Section's Title 52 bill passed and was signed by the Governor. Work is still ongoing on legislation concerning remote notaries. Christine said there has been some talk about a special session, but it will likely not happen. She announced the Advisory Committee on Legislation will meet by Zoom on September 15 and December 1. Because of the significant cuts made to civil legal aid programs adversely affecting victims of domestic violence and Kinship Care, Christine is talking to the ABA Governmental Affairs office to see if there is anything they can do concerning federal appropriations bills in terms of grants for landlord-tenant and other issues to offset the budget cuts.

Christine reported on lawsuits filed against mandatory bar associations. Most are pending at the federal district court level,

Tony reported that Attorney Zulma Lopez was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and will be the only Latina serving the Georgia General Assembly in the upcoming session. Representative-Elect Lopez is married to Board of Governor Member and DeKalb County State Court Judge Dax Lopez.

Executive Staff Search Committee

Dawn reported that Chief Operating Officer Sharon Bryant recently submitted her resignation effective October 31, 2020. The initial plan to hold the Executive Director election during the Fall BOG meeting scheduled for October would not allow time for Sharon to help transition the incoming Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer. As a result, Dawn, Paula, Elizabeth, and Immediate Past President Darrell Sutton met with search firm consultant Barbara Mayden and drafted a new timeline for selection of a new Executive Director, which was then shared with the Search Committee. The search firm has a good cross section of applicants and the application process will close next week. While the interview process is still being discussed, Dawn plans to hold a specially called Board of Governors meeting tentatively on the last Saturday in September for approval of the new Executive Director. One other item of business at that meeting may include discussing and voting on the final recommendation of the Professional Liability Committee, and a survey to determine how BOG members feel about possibly meeting in-person at a future BOG meeting. No other agenda items will be added to this special called meeting.

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee went into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and the work of the COVID Task Force. Thereafter, a motion and second to move out of Executive Session was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Following a motion, second and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m. It will reconvene the Executive Committee meeting on Saturday morning, August 15, at 9:00 a.m.

Continuation of the Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, August 15

Call to Order

President Dawn Jones called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated on the first page of the minutes.

Staff Participating:

Staff participating are indicated on the first page of the minutes.

Provisional Membership Update

Jeff reported that to date there are 121 provisional members registered with the Bar.

Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias

Dawn reported that the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee recently met. It was a well-attended meeting with a lot of discussion on big picture items, a lot of process questions, reaching out to other entities already doing this work, developing resources the Bar can use, CLE presentations, town halls, and possibly recording generational conversations about race relations and each speaker's experiences. She has a better appreciation of the breadth of what we can accomplish as a bar after hearing from this committee. The committee will meet again in a month/month-and-a-half to start firming up some plans. It will also be working on its own through subcommittees, sections, or in partnership with other committees to peel off some of the work it will do. The committee is also providing Dawn with resources for racial bias training. Dawn is also conferring regularly with other bar presidents to share ideas.

Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) Committee

Paula reported the PLI Committee met last week. They still have not agreed upon a recommendation to present to the Board but they have another meeting scheduled at the end of August.

David Lipscomb reported that the committee agrees its recommendation should be presented to the Board at an in-person meeting. At its most recent meeting the committee did add "do nothing" as a fifth option. Whether the committee needs to come up with one recommendation was questioned. It might come up with two or more, or all four of them, and conduct a weighted vote at the Board meeting. He said the committee will need to defer to the President, but it is at an impasse at this point.

Dawn said she talked to committee chair Chris Twyman before each of the last two PLI Committee meetings and, while she understands wanting to conduct the meeting in-person, reminded everyone that we are doing what needs to be done virtually at this time because of the status of COVID-19 in Georgia. As things currently stand, the most likely timeframe for an in-person meeting would be June 2021, largely due to the penalty we would have to pay to cancel the Annual Meeting. Dawn confirmed that Chris and the PLI Committee's interest in wanting to hold discussions in-person will be respected, and that she wants to give the PLI Committee all the time it needs to conduct the work assigned to it. If the PLI Committee wants to virtually discuss where it currently is with the BOG and obtain feedback that may be helpful to it. Dawn would prefer for that discussion to occur during the specially called September meeting where we would have more time for discussion, compared to the regularly scheduled October BOG meeting, which would have the usual full agenda. Dawn reiterated that she has been and will continue to follow the lead of the PLI Committee and will follow up next week with Chris to discuss what he and the committee plans to do. She will let Chris know what was discussed today.

EC Liaison Reports

Javoyne Hicks reported the Wellness Committee is still working on its retreat CLE. It continues to work on projects with the LAP Committee, and analytics for the *Use Your 6* campaign show usage numbers are slowly increasing. The committee plans to start advertising to members as a check-in on behalf of the Bar just to see how they are doing, and reaching out to the student members through its Law School Focus subcommittee. Elizabeth reported that she has been pushing the Bar's wellness programs when she speaks to groups and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Standing Board Policy 600 Conflict of Interest Policy

Jeff reported on the Conflict of Interest Policy for the benefit of new Executive Committee members, and Paula explained the disclosure requirement. Dawn noted that the policy doesn't prohibit you from voting, it just requires you to disclose a conflict. Amy Howell asked if there was a policy in place to protect Bar staff who serve as whistleblowers, reporting violations of the policy. Paula said she would look at the employee manual to see if there is any mention about reporting conflicts.

Roberts Rules of Order

Bill reported on Roberts Rules of Order procedures and quorums, and provided examples on the correct way to apply them. Dawn said we need to understand the rules governing how we manage meetings in order to do a better job conducting our business.

Bylaw Article II. Section 1. Meetings of Members

Bill reported on proposed changes to Bylaw Article II. Section 1. Meetings of Members for discussion and guidance since the Bylaws do not provide for electronic meetings of members. Traditionally, we have said Bylaws can be approved at meetings of members at either the Midyear or Annual Meetings.

Following discussion on the proposed changes, and discussions regarding meeting formats (in-person only, virtual, or a combination of both), Dawn suggested everyone think about the comments made today and to submit written questions, comments, and potential revisions to Paula and Bill within the next two weeks to give them time to draft revisions.

Strategic Plan

Dawn asked Jeff to provide a brief background on the Strategic Plan. She believes the plan is very relevant today. To that point, some of the plan's goals and priorities are what we are currently working on. The plan provides us with opportunities and helps us focus on our plans for this year. Dawn asked the Executive Committee to review it because we will continue to discuss this.

Committee Membership

Dawn reported that, during the committee appointment process months prior, there were legitimate concerns raised about having judges serve on certain committees that appeared to potentially create conflicts. She shared this info mainly as a heads up to the upcoming officers, and for the EC to possibly discuss at a later date.

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee went into Executive Session to discuss a pending litigation report and Bar employee pension plan proposed amendments. Thereafter, a motion and second to move out of Executive Session was approved unanimously.

Pension Plan Amendments

A motion and second to send the proposed pension plan amendments back to the Bar Employee Pension Plan Committee for a more comprehensive review of all employee benefits was followed by a motion to withdraw. The motion to withdraw was approved unanimously.

A motion and second to table for further consideration the proposed pension plan amendments until a meeting that is on or after January 1, 2020 was followed by a motion to withdraw. The motion to withdraw was approved unanimously.

A motion and second to postpone consideration of the Bar Employee Pension Plan Committee's proposed pension plan amendments until the Midyear Meeting was followed by a motion and second to withdraw. The motion to withdraw was approved unanimously.

A motion and second to postpone Executive Committee discussion on the proposed pension plan amendments until the 2021 Annual Meeting failed by a hand vote of 5 in favor to 7 opposed.

A motion and second that the proposed recommendations go back to the Bar Employee Pension Plan Committee with instructions to hold them until a more comprehensive review of all staff compensation can be performed, and any alterations of the pension plan that are necessary in light of the comprehensive review can be made, was approved by unanimous hand vote.

Old Business

Dawn said several members have expressed concerns about Bar elections in light of COVID. She asked the Executive Committee Liaison to follow up with the Elections Committee prior to the next EC meeting. She also reminded EC members that the Committee Reports portion of EC agendas are provided for EC liaisons to give an update, and to ensure that all committees are meeting and fully functioning.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Christine announced that she is expecting a baby in November.

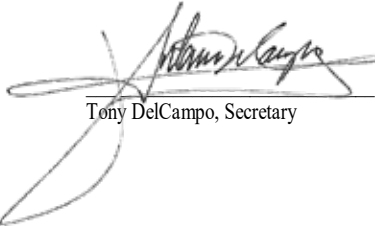
Tony announced that his son, Michael, was admitted to both Emory and Georgia State, and he has chosen wisely to go to Georgia State.

Bert announced that he and his wife are also expecting a baby in about a month's time.

Ivy Cadle announced that the Houston County Bar Association paid off the lunch debt of the Houston County public schools.

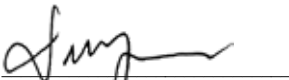
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.



Tony DelCampo, Secretary

Approved:


Dawn M. Jones, President

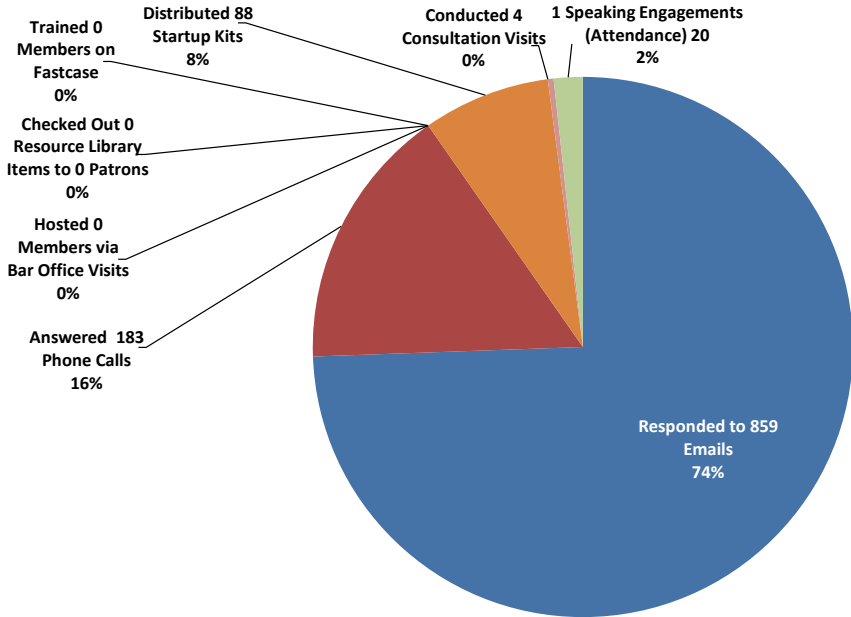
Law Practice Management Program

(Abbreviated report for the 2020-2021 Bar Year)

Members Served by LPMP

Total Number of Members Served – 1,156

July 1, 2020 – September 18, 2020



Office Visits/Phone Calls/Emails

A total of **0** members visited LPMP. There were **4** startup discussions, **0** walk-in visits, and **0** visits to the software library conducted by the Program. In addition, LPM distributed **88** *Starting Your Georgia Law Practice* booklets as requested by attorneys, as well as, answered and responded to **183** phone calls and **859** emails to and from members.

Consultations

There were **4** general consultation visits during this period in Clayton, Chatham, Decatur and Fulton. Firms assisted were in (**4** firms) solo practice (**0** firms); 2-4 attorney firms.

Resource Library

Our lending library has a grand total of **1,618** books, CDs, and DVDs for checkout to members and their staff with an option to pick up materials at the Bar Center or to be mailed. During this period, there were a total of **0** checkouts by **0** patrons.

Speaking Engagements

There were a total of **1** completed and scheduled programs during this period. The Program's staff has given **0** continuing legal education and special presentations to Georgia lawyers and other related groups. These presentations have been held in various local and national venues; and have been made directly to at least **20** Georgia Bar members. **2** programs are scheduled at a future date.

State Bar of Georgia – Private Exchange Report

September 18, 2020

INDIVIDUAL MARKETPLACE		
Individual Visits	26,571	Individuals that have visited the Individual Marketplace Registration page at least once
Individual Registrations	20,321	Individuals that have registered to begin shopping for benefits
Product Enrollments	4,070	Total Individual Product Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical 	1,766	Total Individual Major Medical, Short-Term Medical and Limited Medical Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Supplement 	18	Total Individual Medicare Supplement Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental 	598	Total Individual Dental Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision 	298	Total Individual Vision Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teladoc 	386	Total Individual Teladoc Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LifeLock 	34	Total Individual LifeLock Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life/AD&D 	689	Total Individual Life/AD&D Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability 	214	Total Individual Disability Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-Term Care 	67	Total Individual Long-Term Care Enrollments

EMPLOYER GROUP EXCHANGE		
Employer Visits	2,780	Employers that have visited the Employer Registration page at least once
Employer Registrations	678	Employers that have submitted a quote request to initiate the sales process
Product Enrollments	925	Total Product Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical 	544	Total Medical Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancillary 	268	Total Ancillary Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers' Comp 	14	Total Workers' Comp Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Liability 	97	Total Professional Liability Enrollments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security 	2	Total Cyber Security Enrollments

CloudLawyers Report

The State Bar of Georgia began its partnership with CloudLawyers.com to develop its new Find a Lawyer directory and provide members with an enhanced membership directory listing.

Over **550,339** searches have been performed to find Georgia lawyers utilizing this service. The directory is also maintaining a steady stream of page views and to date **997,938** pages have been viewed in the directory. Over **1,313** messages were sent to Georgia lawyers through contact forms on the lawyers' profiles since January in addition to the potential clients who contact a lawyer directly from the phone number and email address on the lawyers' profile.

Since inception, and as of September 15th, **3,487** (increase of 281 members) logged into their CloudLawyers' profile.



Fastcase Report

July 1, 2020 – September 18, 2020

During this period 257 members have logged into Fastcase for the first time. 11,741 total users have logged in this period.

Since implementation, 2,507 attorneys and 114 staff members have attended Fastcase live training. Others have taken advantage of webinar training.

Since implementation, 28,578 members have logged on at least once with an increase of 257 first time users this period: Over 50% of our members have used Fastcase since it was available as a bar member benefit.

Starting in September 2020, Fastcase released their newest version, Fastcase 7.6 — Mars.

- Newest version displays research results clearly, improved visuals.
- Now more usable: on any device, at any screen size, on any browser.
- New Left-Side Navigation Bar allows you to hide or show the content so you can see what you most want to view.
- History and Bookmarks page re-designed to make it simple to review prior searches and documents, grab a saved document, or re-run your saved searches.

Fastcase managers observed litigation decreasing at the onset of COVID-19 and utilization across the board went down as firms and courts temporarily closed in many parts of the country. They are starting to see a swing back up. At the same time, members taking part in webinars increased exponentially.

Fastcase Partner Usage Report

July 1, 2020 – September 18, 2020

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
First Time Logins	66	65	0	131
Total Logins	11,167	12,069	0	23,236
Total Users Who Logged In	2,994	3,050	0	6,044
Searches Conducted	37,568	42,002	0	79,570
Documents Viewed	116,678	135,059	0	251,737
Documents Printed	10,652	11,649	0	22,301
Total Transactions	179,125	203,894	0	383,019

Fastcase Report

Fastcase Reported Problems	
Member Reported Issue(s)	Fastcase Response / Resolutions
<p>11/1/19 Numerous Members Report: Discrepancies on Authority Check page, number of bad law cases not consistent on the top of page and in the list of cases.</p>	<p>11/1/19 Fastcase Response: They are working to clear this up. The newest data pulled into the report sometimes needs to be refreshed.</p>
<p>11/1/19 Numerous Members Report: The bar site now has a new Fastcase version which is very difficult to maneuver around or not intuitive.</p>	<p>11/1/19 Fastcase Response: Generally, they are working on updates to make various area's clearer.</p>
<p>11/2/19 Member Reported: Authority Check not showing the citation in context.</p>	<p>11/2/19 Fastcase Response: I have not heard a consistent good response on this.</p>
<p>12/11/19 Members Comments: Older members that call or come to training are decidedly averse to FC7. Younger members seem to prefer it.</p>	<p>12/2/19 Fastcase Response: Good generally. I send specific problems to FC support on a regular basis. I see much progress; changes are being made to make it more user friendly. I am most concerned about the citations in Authority Check not showing up in the context of the citing cases. This is a big flaw and defeats the main benefit of being able to check for the status of a case via authority check in terms of finding negative history.</p>
<p>01/10/20 Members Comments: Member expressed desire to have Fastcase training in other bar locations such as Tifton.</p>	<p>1/12/20 Bar Response: I passed this request on and currently we are planning to do a tech roadshow in several parts of Georgia which will include Fastcase training.</p>
<p>01/20/2020 Members Comments: Member was having trouble with printing cases in Fastcase using word or pdf. The downloaded case will not open properly, gives error that file cannot be found.</p>	<p>01/21/2020 Fastcase Response: Erin from Fastcase instructed our member how to update his web browser Firefox. Member tried this but it was not the problem. Finally, the member discovered that he had an old message under details form one of the court filing services and once deleted he was able to open his case to a word or pdf file.</p>
<p>01/22/2020 Members Comments: Member had trouble with printing cases.</p>	<p>01/22/2020 Bar Response: I instructed the member on how to clear their cache.</p>
<p>01/29/2020 My Comments: I have repeatedly noted that the authority check report does not show citing cases in the relevant paragraph making it useless and requires me to redirect the users to the old Fastcase 6. I sent several emails with my research gained by testing the system over the past months to try to be able to give an accurate report to FC on the trouble areas our members experienced.</p>	<p>01/21/2020 Fastcase Response: Fastcase repeatedly reported that they would escalate my problem to the developers but the problem persists. In January and February Erin Page at Fastcase worked with me doing testing that showed that 9 out of 10 times.</p>

<p>2/11/2020 My Comments: I sent several email with my research gained by testing the system over the past months to try to be able to give an accurate report to FC on the trouble areas our members experienced.</p>	<p>2/11/2020 Fastcase Response: In January and February Erin Page at Fastcase worked with me doing testing that showed that 9 out of 10 times pertinent information was not readily seen when using the authority check report.</p>
<p>2/12/2020 My Comments: Just wondering why the stem word suffocat* was not picked up for highlighting within the body of my case below? I re-ran the search using suffocate* and this case doesn't come up. Then I used the full word suffocation and the highlighting took effect.</p>	<p>2/12/2020 Fastcase Response: So the search system and the highlighting system are currently running as two separate programs and the search system is more sophisticated than the highlighting system at the moment. So the highlighting is not currently gracefully handling the wildcards that the search system is. The current plan is to get those to the same point (which I am told will happen in 1-2 months?).</p>
<p>2/20/2020 My Comments: Fewer members are contacting me about their dislike of Fastcase 7 as they either take classes or take advantage of our department resources by phone, email or by using resources offered by Fastcase.</p>	<p>02/20/2020 Fastcase Response: Erin Page has been invaluable in assisting me and our members in the best practices when using Fastcase. She also sends my concerns to the dev team and gets back with me in a timely manner.</p>
<p>2/27/2020 My Comments: I was able to speak to Damien Riehl, director and lead for integration of the Fastcase Legal Research platform at the ABA TECHSHOW. I went over a number of my concerns and concerns of our members. He was able to clearly see the problems and understand my concerns.</p>	<p>02/27/2020 Fastcase Response: Mr. Riehl got his phone out during our conversation on the exhibit floor and send direction to the dev. Team to fix the design problems and unstable areas of the cite. Upon return from the TECHSHOW the changes are not yet in effect.</p>
<p>03/02/2020 Members Comments: To be blunt, I hate the new FastCase. It is the most difficult research tool I have ever used. If we're spending money on benefits to members, let's spend it on something better than FastCase</p>	<p>3/4/2020 My Response: I sent this comment to Fastcase and helped the member one on one by phone. He was appreciative and plans to come to my classes. He was also glad he could return to Fastcase 6 which he preferred.</p>

Memorandum

To: Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia
From: M. Christopher Pitts, Director of the Military Legal Assistance Program (MLAP)

Date: September 25, 2020

Subject: Report on the Military Legal Assistance Program

- (1) **Overview:** This is my first report since MLAP has transitioned to being a joint project under the State Bar and Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP). The transition of MLAP to GLSP has been successful and advantageous in a lot of ways.

First, MLAP and GLSP, along with the University of Georgia School of Law's Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC), was a recipient of a grant from the American Bar Association in the total amount of \$35,000. This grant allowed us to create the Georgia Veterans Outreach Project (GVOP). This is a remote clinic program focused on not only providing virtual legal clinics to veterans, but also providing remote locations so that veterans and service members who do not otherwise have access to technology or the internet can reach an attorney. The structure is simple: The VLC through the use of its students, will be tasked with taking inquiries about the clinics from potential clients and scheduling them for a virtual or remote consultation appointment. GLSP and MLAP will be responsible for recruiting volunteer attorneys who will be able to participate in the clinics from their office or home. MLAP will then have the project attorney (myself) travel to a physical location to set up at most 3 remote consultation rooms. These rooms will be equipped with computers, audio/visual equipment, and wifi hotspots, to allow clients with appointments (or walk-ins as able) to contact an attorney remotely for their consultation. Personal protective equipment will be on hand and sanitation will occur between each appointment. The purposes of having the remote consultation stations are these: (1) in rural areas, many homes lack any access to the internet or speeds are too slow to allow for visual/audio meetings; (2) many in rural areas face economic hardships in purchasing and maintaining the necessary equipment to participate in these virtual consultations from their home; and (3) even if the veteran has internet access and the equipment to participate in consultations from home, they often lack the requisite computer training to make such virtual consultations effective. Having a project attorney with the necessary computer training to set up and maintain these remote consultation stations will allow for as broad of a reach as possible, which will be vital to the success of the project. For those veterans who can access the consultation from home, they will be free to do so.

Second, there were many ways in which MLAP was unable to help service-members and veterans as a result of the type of their legal need or because of eligibility limitations. Now, if MLAP is not able to directly assist a veteran or service-member with their need, GLSP may be able to provide such assistance even if it is not military specific.

Finally, GLSP has benefited from increased awareness of veterans needs. Over the last few months, many attorneys have reached out to me to ask about potential benefits for which veterans or their spouses may qualify. Consequently, many veterans or their spouses have been able to get assistance that they did not know they deserved.

It should be noted that this program is helped by the members of the Committee and the Military/Veterans Law Section who have supported service-members and veterans in a variety of ways. These include:

- **Legal Assistance Clinics staffed by law students and attorney mentors** have been established at three colleges of law: Emory University in February 2013, Georgia State University in November 2014, and the University of Georgia in August 2018.
- **Legal Assistance Clinics at VA medical facilities** have been established at five locations: Augusta, Carrollton, Decatur, Fort McPherson, Rome, and soon-to-be Savannah. Volunteer lawyers staff those legal assistance clinics.
- **VA Accreditation CLE programs** have been conducted at least annually the past eight years for lawyers who desire to become accredited initially or to maintain their accreditation (required biennially) in order to handle VA benefit award cases. The most recent VA CLE program was held on October 10, 2019, in Atlanta.
- **Jeff Bramlett Symposium on Military Legal Assistance Programs** was scheduled to occur in May 2020 in conjunction with the ABA Equal Justice Conference. This is postponed until the pandemic is over.
- **CLE trips** abroad, with self-supporting funds from participating lawyers, were planned and carried out under sponsorship of the Mil/Vets Law Section and with coordinating help from the MLAP Committee: **one to Normandy, France**, in 2014, in part commemorating the **70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings**, and **one to Belgium and France**, in 2017, commemorating the **100th Anniversary of The First World War**.

(2) **MLAP Cases Processed:** Below is a summary of the number and types of requests for legal assistance received and referred to lawyers under the State Bar’s Military Legal Assistance Program. Under the program, **a total of 2,323 cases have been processed**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a complete and accurate reporting of the numbers could not be obtained. A final tally of cases processed by MLAP before the adoption by GLSP will be provided at a later time. A summary of cases processed by the MLAP by category follows:

Family Law		1,181 (including 59 previous)
Divorce	504	
Divorce Enforcement	28	
Child Support	154	
Guardianship/Adoption	127	
Child Custody/Visitation	305	
TPO	1	
Other	4	

Consumer Law	143
Housing/Property	159
Foreclosure	27
Veterans Benefits/Disability	322
Wills/Estates/Probate	129
Employment/USERRA/SCRA	60
Bankruptcy	29
Insurance	22
Property Damage	3
Contract	10
Injury-related	66
Immigration	6
Discharge Upgrade	9
Department of Defense Benefits	1
Non-profit Formation	1
Other	<u>159</u>
	2,327

(4) **Jeff Bramlett Symposium on Military Legal Assistance Programs 2020.** The Jeff Bramlett Symposium on Military Legal Assistance Programs was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When it is determined that the symposium may be held safely, we will intend to do so.

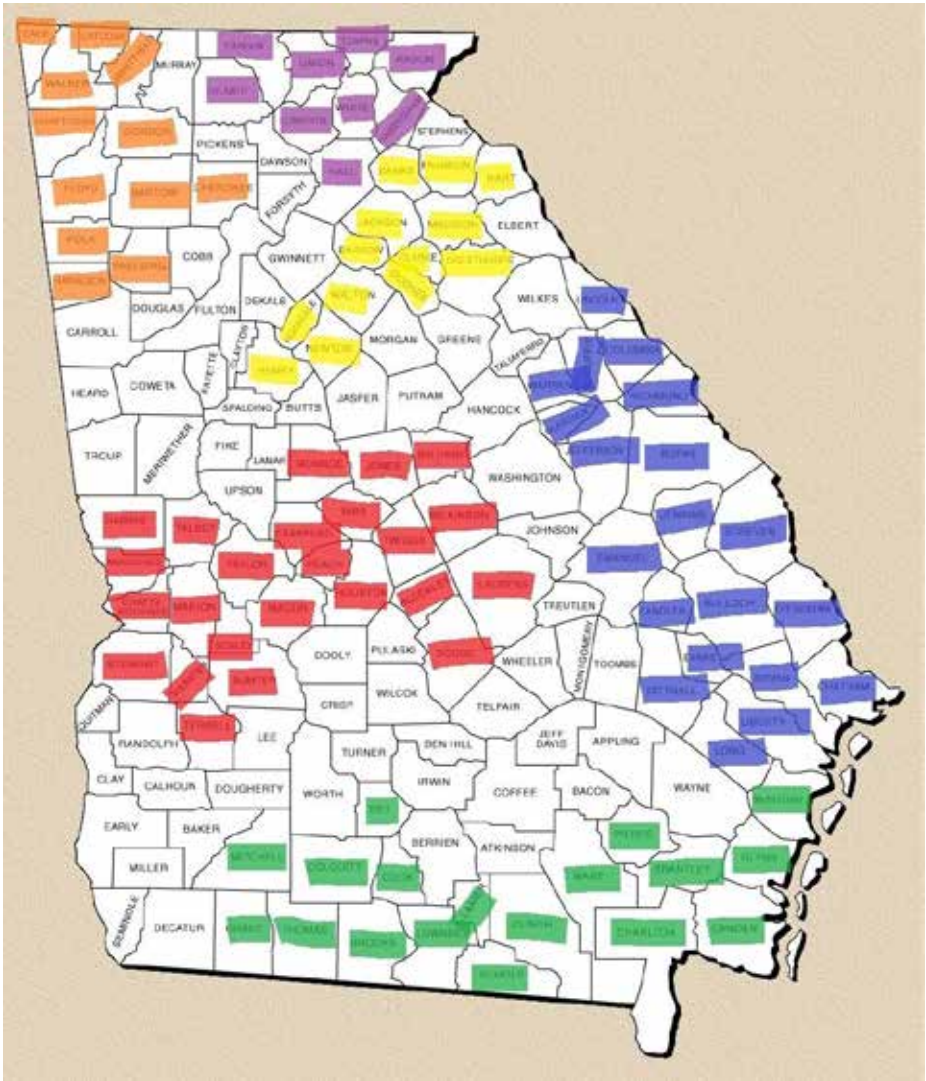
(6) **Joint Project Grant Proposal Between GLSP/MLAP and VLC.** The American Bar Association Awarded GLSP/MLAP along with UGA’S VLC a \$35,000 grant to establish remote clinics across small-city and rural Georgia. The difference between “remote” versus “virtual” clinics is that the latter is entirely online, with no proposed physical location to serve as a base for the clinic. Remote clinics, on the other hand, provide a physical location that potential clients who may not have the technological capability of accessing virtual clinics can use to utilize legal services. GLSP/MLAP will be providing the equipment and volunteer attorney base to help staff the clinics. The VLC, among other things, will be in charge of client intake, appointment scheduling, and assisting in providing a physical location for the remote clinics. The project attorney (myself) will be in charge of transporting, setting up, maintaining, and cleaning any equipment used in the clinic.

Along with this report, I have submitted a color-coded map (Attachment 1) that outlines the geographic areas in which we intend to focus our remote efforts. Please understand that while the color coding is for the remote aspect of the clinic, any service-member or veteran from across the state can join any of the aforementioned clinics. Our clinics are as follows:

- (a) East Atlanta/Athens – Yellow: November 7, 2020
- (b) Columbus/Macon – Red (Tentative): January 23
- (c) Augusta/Savannah – Blue (Tentative): February 27
- (d) Florida Border – Green (Tentative): March 27
- (e) Northwest Georgia – Orange (Tentative): June 5
- (f) Northeast Georgia – Purple (Tentative): July 10

If you would like to volunteer to be an attorney for these clinics from the comfort of your own home or office, please contact me at cpitts@glsp.org.

M. Christopher Pitts
Director
Military Legal Assistance Program



PUBLISHED ARTICLES 2020-2021			Circulation
Date	Newspaper	Headline	
6/15/2020	Daily Citizen-News, Dalton	Miller reelected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	6,409
6/16/2020	Cherokee Tribune, Canton	Cherokee judge re-elected to board of state bar association	3,929
6/16/2020	Marietta Daily Journal	Cobb attorneys re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	10,334
6/17/2020	Adel News Tribune	Judge Tomlinson re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	2,490
6/17/2020	Albany Herald	Joe Dent re-elected to serve on State Bar's board of governors	9,569
6/17/2020	Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland	Tomlinson re-elected to Board of Governors	1,055
6/19/2020	Georgia Star	Dawn M. Jones Installed as 58th President of State Bar of Georgia	5,000
6/19/2020	Rome News-Tribune	Andy Davis re-elected to board of governors of State Bar of Georgia	9,556
6/20/2020	Walton Tribune, Monroe	Jones elected to Bar's governors	4,249
6/21/2020	Albany Herald	Camilla attorney re-elected to State Bar's board of governors	9,569
6/21/2020	Augusta Chronicle	John R.B. "Jack" Long / Danny L. Durham	18,314
6/23/2020	Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville	Crawford elected to Board of Governors	1,918
6/23/2020	Marietta Daily Journal	Around Town: (Dawn Jones / Elissa Haynes)	10,334
6/24/2020	Savannah Tribune	Dawn M. Jones Installed as 58th President of State Bar of Georgia	10,000
6/25/2020	Union-Recorder, Milledgeville	Area attorneys re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	3,592
6/26/2020	Coastal Courier, Hinesville	Craig Stafford Re-Elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	4,000
6/29/2020	Daily Report	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Loss of John Sweet	2,243
7/1/2020	Dodge County News, Eastman	Daniels named treasurer	3,877
7/3/2020	Walton Tribune, Monroe	Letter: Legal community mourns loss of Jones	4,249
7/4/2020	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville attorneys re-elected to State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors	57,342
7/5/2020	Statesboro Herald	Dan Snipes re-elected to Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia	7,200
7/10/2020	Savannah Morning News	Savannah attorneys honored by State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division	16,322
7/15/2020	Northeast Georgian, Cornelia	Congratulations to Judge Caudel	5,228
7/15/2020	Daily Citizen-News, Dalton	Congratulations to area attorneys for Georgia Legal Food Frezy	6,409
7/19/2020	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Gwinnett County attorney honored by State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division	57,342
7/23/2020	Valdosta Daily Times	Davis: S.Ga. Lawyers praised for Food Frezy work	6,933
7/23/2020	Newton Citizen, Covington	Letter: Georgia legal community mourns loss of Judge Horace Johnson Jr.	1,160
8/5/2020	Daily Report	Georgia Legal Community Owes Debt of Gratitude to Rep. John Lewis	2,243
8/9/2020	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Letter: Georgia legal community mourns loss of Judge Ramon Alvarado	57,342
8/9/2020	Augusta Chronicle	Biz Bits for Aug. 9 - Awards, achievements in metro Augusta business community	18,314
8/18/2020	Daily Report	Ga. Legal Community Mourns Loss of Richard Shafritz	2,243
8/19/2020	LaGrange Daily News	Georgia legal community mourns loss of John Taylor	1,692
9/2/2020	Press-Sentinel, Jesup	Happy birthday to Hubert Howard	4,059
9/17/2020	Albany Herald	State Bar Young Lawyers organization offers free legal assistance	9,569
9/17/2020	Rockdale Citizen, Conyers	State Bar Young Lawyers organization offers free legal assistance	1,495

9/17/2020	Henry Herald, McDonough	State Bar Young Lawyers organization offers free legal assistance	1,250
9/24/2020	Moultre Observer	Letter to the Editor: Congratulations to new Judge	3,138
9/29/2020	Daily Report	Congratulations to Chief Justice Melton on Auburn University honor	2,243
9/29/2020	Daily Report	Congratulations to GSU Law's Charity Scott on Retirement	2,243
		TOTAL CIRCULATION	384,454

