

State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division

# THE YLD REVIEW

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Working for the Profession and the Public



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## From the President

# How Not to Burn Out



**Ronald Edward**  
**"Ron" Daniels**

**This past Labor Day, I had the pleasure** of moderating a panel at Dragon\*Con in Atlanta as part of the Electronic Frontiers Forum track titled Advocacy for the Long Term (How Not to Burn Out). While neither of the panelists, Hayley Tsukayama and Andrew Greenberg, were lawyers, advocacy is a huge part of what they do and who they are. As I began questioning them and following up on their responses, I realized a lot of what they were saying is applicable to our profession. After all, we are advocates for our clients.

Obviously, I cannot distill an hour-long panel into one article in one edition of *The YLD Review*. Instead, here are the major takeaways I gleaned from the panel:

## 1 Celebrate the Victories, No Matter How Small

You are going to lose. Sometimes you lose big. Sometimes you lose small. Sometimes you do not lose, but you never know when you will lose. Celebrating the victories is important, even when they are small, because you may be fighting a battle of attrition.

## 2 You Have Friends

I was the kind of person in school who did the group project by myself. But in this profession, I do not have to do everything alone. I have friends I can talk to about cases and get their feedback. I have colleagues I can call on to help try (and win) a jury trial

in my home county when I feel like I have too much on my plate. Do not be afraid to talk about what you are feeling and ask for help when you are treading water.

Having a network will make you a better lawyer. Even if it means you have to give up something fun (like closing arguments) and step outside of your comfort zone by giving up some control.

## 3 Make Time

It does not matter if you are advocating for a client or pushing for a change in legislation with the legislature, you can not be an effective advocate if you do not occasionally make time for yourself. Self-care is something most of us struggle with finding time to do. But how good of an attorney can you be if you are not here? Block out time for self-care, even if it is just a .1 somewhere in your daily schedule.

## 4 Say No

"No" is not a word I say often enough. It is okay to not do all the things. Even when you really want to say "yes." You do not have to take on every case, every client, every cause or do every event. It is hard to say "no." I get it. I have gotten better about it. But it does not always have to be a hard "no." You always can politely decline and recommend someone else. Set boundaries for yourself and stick to them.

## 5 Be Creative

Find something completely unrelated to the profession and do it. Take a night and

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The YLD Review seeks to provide a forum for the discussion of subjects pertaining to the regulation of the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services, as well as other matters of general interest to Georgia lawyers. The statements, views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of State Bar of Georgia, its officers, Board of Governors, sections, committees or staff.



From the Editors

## YLD Living Well



Jena  
Emory



Virginia  
Josey



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**We have all received an email with this familiar start:** I hope this email finds you well. On a particularly stressful day, it is tempting to respond with how exactly the email found you. Not well. For this reason, we thought it would be important to focus this issue on wellness.

Over the past few years, our profession has seen an uptick and much needed emphasis on mental and physical health. The conversation surrounding this vital topic heightened during the global pandemic. Since that time, all professionals, including young lawyers, have explored the benefits of taking care of ourselves and each other.

I have seen jokes online about how firms and companies brag about wellness initiatives while simultaneously forcing their employees to get behind at work to attend these initiatives. Please enjoy this mandatory wellness seminar that will keep you behind on the deadlines that are amplifying

your need for genuine wellness initiatives. For some young lawyers, wellness is celebrated at their office. For most young lawyers, wellness is a job benefit that is not always offered.

In this issue, we take a look into various realistic wellness opportunities. Several YLD contributors touch on what wellness means to them. For some, the passion to perform excellently for clients can create burnout. Other young lawyers point to traditional methods of physical wellness to enhance their well-being. Whatever wellness means to you, take a moment to consider how the connectivity of our community can help you truly live well. <sup>YLD</sup>

Jena Emory is an associate at Copeland Stair Valz & Lovell LLP in Atlanta and is co-editor of The YLD Review.

Virginia Josey is a trial attorney who manages Virginia Josey Law in Macon and is co-editor of The YLD Review.

Committee Spotlight

## Wellness Committee



Cameron  
Roberts

**On Sept. 17, 2022, the YLD Wellness Committee** co-hosted a class at Orangetheory Fitness. We often hear the words “fitness” or “exercise” and our immediate, gut reaction is “ugh.” We actively search for any possible reason why we do not have the time—how inconvenient it would be to incorporate it into our busy lives—and often our reasoning is that we are just too stressed out or busy to add one more thing to our schedule.

The irony of it all is the thing we claim adds more stress to our lives, in fact does just the opposite. Finding even just a few minutes to move your body, whether it is a quick walk during lunch, standing and stretching in between response briefs, or closing the door and silencing the phone for five minutes of meditation, can have a lasting effect not only on your physical health, but your mental health, too.

When we take just a few minutes each day to dedicate to our physical health, science has proven that it helps clear the mind, decrease the stress hormone cortisol (which is well-known for causing weight gain), and provide us the strength to keep going. Sometimes that is all we need. When we take that time for ourselves, it shows us that we are valued and important. The day-to-day tasks will still be there, but we have to ask ourselves—how much can I really contribute to my clients if I am not the best version of myself? This year, the Wellness Committee is focused on reminding ourselves that we deserve time each day, dedicated to us, in order to be the best versions of ourselves. By taking the time at Orangetheory to sweat a little, laugh a little and catch up with old friends, we reminded ourselves of just that. <sup>YLD</sup>

Cameron Roberts is a magistrate judge in Tift County, attorney at The Pendergrass Law Firm in Peachtree Corners, a certified personal trainer, cycling and kickboxing instructor, and committee chair for the YLD's Wellness Committee.

Parenting in the Profession

# Young Lawyers and the Stay-at-Home Parent Conundrum: Considerations Before Deciding to Leave



**Megan  
Wyss**

New parents today are faced with a multitude of challenges—from the sky-high cost of childcare to an internet full of conflicting parenting advice. One of the hardest choices facing young lawyers with a new baby is whether to go back to work after parental leave or take a step back from a career to stay at home with your child. No matter how strong of a support system one has, the dynamics of young parenthood often require one spouse's career to take the forefront while the other spouse's career is secondary to caring for the young children. Should you as a young lawyer be the one to give up the career you've worked so hard to develop? Balancing the best interests of your child with a parent's own long term professional goals, or even simple long term financial stability, is a tricky task. A task that young lawyers, and all young parents, must approach with care and a critical eye.

As highly educated and capable individuals, young lawyers should analyze the risks and rewards of the choice to leave or step back from their careers in the law. While few people want to consider their marriage would end in divorce, the possibility should be a serious factor in that analysis. While courts in Georgia consider the non-monetary contributions of each spouse when determining the outcome of a divorce, the potency of that consideration has waned over time. Modern Georgia courts appear to be more closely scrutinizing each spouse's educational history, employment history and ability to work when awarding alimony and child support.

Many family law practitioners are observing the decrease in awards of spousal support—both in amount and in time. This



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is particularly relevant to young lawyers who are highly educated and have high earning potential. A young lawyer could give up 15 years of their career in the law to raise children and support the career of their spouse, only for the court to tell them they could get a job tomorrow making what they were making 15 years ago. Such a finding would greatly impact spousal support and could lessen the ultimate calculation of child support. At the end of the divorce, that spouse could be left to find a job in a short span of time, with minimal short term spousal support and minimal child support, while also continuing to raise their children.

Should you, as a young lawyer, choose the path of a stay-at-home parent, there are some things you can do to prepare for the future or protect yourself. The most tangible step you could take would be for

you and your spouse to enter into a postnuptial agreement. Your postnuptial agreement could acknowledge your new role and career change and set out a financial plan in the event your marriage was to end in divorce. While the postnuptial agreement could not deal with the custody aspects of a divorce, it can address spousal support, the division of assets and attorneys' fees in the event of a divorce.

Other than a postnuptial agreement, there are also several practical steps you can take during your marriage to make sure you are in a strong position should the unexpected happen in your marriage. First, keep your eyes open and always stay tuned in to the marital finances. Make sure you know what money is coming in and what money is going out. Second, maintain a bank account in your own name with your own money.

Officers' Block

# What's Your Favorite Disney Character?

This money could be your security fund not only in the event of divorce, but also in the event of any other emergency or tragedy that could strike a marriage.

If you make the decision to leave your career in the law, consider that you may not be gone forever. In the event you needed to, or simply wanted to, reenter the workforce, young lawyers can put themselves in strong positions to transition back into their legal careers. Consider keeping your Bar license active, even if you aren't using it.<sup>1</sup> You can use your required CLE credits to keep up with the law in your desired area. Stay educated about the law by reading legal periodicals or recent legal decisions. Last stay connected. By the time you've made the decision to leave or step back from your legal career, hopefully you've taken full advantage of all the YLD has to offer. The connections you make in the YLD last forever, and transitioning back into a legal career is no exception. By staying connected to your YLD friends and colleagues, you stay connected to a wealth of knowledge from lawyers in hundreds of areas of the law all over the state. This connection, and all the YLD provides, not only helps now, but would be invaluable to developing a new career. YLD

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*Megan Wyss is a senior associate at Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenbery, LLC and serves on the YLD Board of Directors and the Family Law Section Executive Committee.*

1. For more information about the benefits of keeping your Bar license active, contact the State Bar of Georgia at [www.gabar.org](http://www.gabar.org). There are different membership options available with varying CLE obligations and fees. Instead of going inactive, consider finding the membership option that works for you.



**RONALD EDWARD "RON" DANIELS** | YLD PRESIDENT | EASTMAN  
Donald Duck is #1.



**BRITTANIE BROWNING** | YLD President-Elect | Atlanta  
My favorite Disney character is Belle from "Beauty and the Beast."



**KENNETH MITCHELL** | YLD Treasurer | Decatur  
"The Lion King" is one of my favorite movies, so I would have to say Simba is my favorite character.



**VERONICA COX** | YLD Secretary | Atlanta  
Moana is my favorite!



**ELISSA HAYNES** | YLD Immediate Past President | Atlanta  
This is a tough one, but I will go with Elsa. A strong female who, despite concealing who she was at first, learned to accept and love herself and most importantly, learned to LET. IT. GO. Preach, girl.



**JENA EMORY** | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor | Atlanta  
Hands-down: Mulan!



**VIRGINIA JOSEY** | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor | Macon  
I love Carl from Up and Remi from "Ratatouille."



## Judicial Spotlight

# A Conversation With Hon. Deah B. Warren



**Essie  
Lazarus**

**Hon. Deah B. Warren** was appointed to the Douglas Superior Court bench on March 16, 2022, by Gov. Brian Kemp. Prior to ascending to the bench, Warren was a career prosecutor most recently serving as the chief assistant district attorney in Douglas County under District Attorney E. Dalia Racine. Previously Warren served as the deputy chief district attorney in both Douglas and Clayton counties as well as a senior assistant district attorney in the major case unit of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2007, Warren graduated from Spelman College and Georgia State University College of Law. This Memphis, Tennessee, native and HBCU graduate attributes her success to her parents who instilled a lifelong love of learning and strong work ethic.

Warren knew early in her career that she wanted to be a judge, but understood that she needed to have a lot of trial experience to become the judge she envisioned because "if are going to be a judge and make tough calls on hard cases, you need a foundation where you've actually been in the ring with those cases." Warren gained this skill set in her nearly 15-year career as prosecutor.

Warren, through her appointment, aspires to be a judge who brings knowledge and experience to the role and aims to be fair with the understanding that she has a duty to ensure that justice is done in all cases. In her courtroom, people will be heard, treated fairly and she will uphold the law.

*As a former practitioner, what surprised you the most about joining the judiciary?*

As a practitioner you have so much information at your disposal. As a prosecutor, I had an entire case file and could also talk to witnesses, investigators and even the defense to make decisions in a case, whether



Hon. Deah B. Warren, Judge, Superior Court of Douglas County

that was deciding whether to go forward, how to fashion an appropriate plea agreement, or what recommendation to request after trial. As a judge, I have had to accept that I do not have as much information about the minute details of the case as I am used to having and getting comfortable with that has been an adjustment.

*The Judicial Council of Georgia has issued guidelines for the judiciary to follow on wellness. Are there any particular wellness activities that you incorporate into your life?*

Over the years, I have become very deliberate about stress management. In addition to my foundation in my faith, I practice mindfulness, and I am very beholden to my workout schedule every morning. I find starting my day having invested in myself and my health makes me feel good. I am an

avid Peloton user and will talk about it with anyone who will willingly listen—and also those who won't. I believe everyone has to find something they will commit to because the stress of this profession will get to you if you don't have a healthy outlet.

*What advice would you have for a young lawyer who is about to try their first case?*

First, preparation beats talent any day of the week. If you think you can wing it, you're wrong. You want to make sure that you know the most about your case, and also all the things your opponent is going to say about your case whether valid or invalid. You've got to do your homework and don't be afraid to talk to "regular" people about your case. You are not trying to convince 12 attorneys of your case, you are trying to convince 12 regular citizens from all walks



**Thanks to the many sponsors of the YLD's 2023 Signature Fundraiser**

of life—so you have to get out of the office and talk to regular people. That's when you truly learn how to argue, and that, plus preparation, is the winning combination.

*What advice would you have for young lawyers who realized that they messed up a case?*

Every trial lawyer worth their salt should have a postmortem after trial—win or lose. You can always learn something from a trial irrespective of the outcome because each trial will bring new challenges and new experiences. In a case where something doesn't go according to plan, you especially want to be honest with yourself about what you did, what you didn't do, and what you could've done differently to impact the outcome. Don't be afraid to talk to people who witnessed it to get their feedback, including the judge, the jurors and the courtroom staff.

*What advice do you have for young lawyers on getting the most out of their profession?*

Remember that relationships are extremely important and that you can do your job, appropriately advocate for your side, but still maintain an appropriate attitude such that people respect you and enjoy working with you.

*What do you believe has been one of the most rewarding aspects of your career?*

After a trial, when a family gives you that heartfelt thank you, there is just nothing like it. There have been times where I've won and gotten that thank you, and there have been times I've lost and gotten that thank you. When the family knows that I have given my all on their behalf in pursuit of justice, their recognition means more than any other form of recognition could. Those moments always made the exhaustion and personal tax worth it. YLD

Essie Lazarus is staff attorney to Hon. Deah B. Warren.

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# 2023 YLD Leadership Academy Kicks Off 17th Year



As part of the first session of the cohort, the 2023 YLD Leadership Academy Class partnered with St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and prepared snack bags for unhoused members of the community.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF YLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Ron Daniels, Brittanie Browning, Ashley O'Neil, Kelsey Kickligher and Frank Gaddy.



Kier Prince, Ianna Morrison-Richardson, Laura Walsh, Deitra Jones, Chelsea Dease and Ashley Horton.



Brittanie Browning, Brittain Hunt, Frank Gaddy, Siena Gaddy and Lina Khan.



A Day in the Life

# A Rural, Visually Impaired Attorney



**Dan  
Nix**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” Dang it must be 5 a.m.,** and time to get up. Nope. I look at the phone, and it is just 3:30 a.m. It is a Monday, and I need to get up soon. I stumble through the pitch-dark hall to find Zina, our 9-month-old silver sable German shepherd, pleading her case to be let outside. Why does she not understand that I have several motions to draft today? I let her out to avoid hearing her constantly whine for what is left of the night.

As she and I go outside, she clears the steps of the porch as if they do not exist. I am reminded that, although she is well-behaved in some respects, she needs additional training before the baby arrives in April. It is a typical night in a rural county. I can hear coyotes, owls and who knows what other wildlife passing nearby. I gaze at the night sky as Zina explores the tranquil setting—and by that, I mean hunting for the two barn cats. Although I am visually impaired, I am awestruck by the sky. I can see just well enough to observe the contents of its distant, bright burning shapes. Zina is interested in the cats as much as I am in the sky.

As I gaze up, I wonder: am I really looking “up?” Isn’t direction simply relative to one’s position? I imagine, as I am standing up looking at the sky, that I am actually lying down on the ground, swirling through space at several thousand miles an hour, looking down at the stars. Unfortunately, there is no one with whom I can share this beautiful moment at 3:35 in the morning.

Earth comes back to me with the pungent smell of chicken trucks coming down the dirt road, causing my thoughts to jump between the law of nuisance and my love for eating chicken. Zina then bolts past me up the stairs and back into the house. Zina plays a couple minutes before I cajole her back to her den—a kennel that seems smaller as the days go by. Back to bed I go.



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I finally wake up to the sound of the alarm. I know it is truly 5 a.m. because the local news is on the TV that remains on through the night. I am more tired than ever.

After my wife and I finally get up, she feeds Bella, Charlie and Zina. Bella and Charlie are both miniature dachshunds who think they are much larger than their German shepherd counterpart. We rush to get ready, and as we are leaving, we remember we need breakfast too.

It takes about 45 minutes to get from June Bug Lane on the north side of Berrien County to my office in Valdosta. Due to my low vision, I am unable to drive. Having a disability, of course, is a disadvantage, but it allows my wife and me to spend a great deal of time together, which is invaluable given the stress and pressures of the legal profession. Sometimes we ride in silence, listen to the radio, or get captivated by an audiobook, such as “Where the Crawdads Sing.”

I arrive at the office anywhere from 6:30-6:45 a.m., the only time of the day when I get to work without interruptions. I work as an associate attorney at a small personal injury law firm. I first check my inbox—as if I have not checked my emails enough over the weekend. I particularly enjoy reading listserv messages from the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and staying updated on current law in my practice area.

Before I know it, others arrive in the office and the Keurig machine is in constant use. We meet in the kitchen and discuss what is happening that day, throughout the week and how our weekends went.

The remainder of the typical workday is generally the same: speak with clients, draft pleadings and motions, or attend depositions, mediations, hearings or trials. Intermittently, I find some time to eat lunch, or at least snack, and enjoy the south Georgia weather, at least when the heat is not too intolerable.

I leave the office around 5 p.m. because my wife has her Monday evening volunteer firefighter meetings. We have another uninterrupted 45 minutes on the way home, to enjoy one another’s company and share our workday experiences.

After getting home, we find ourselves taking care of all the animals again, which includes geckos, a bearded dragon, two cats, goats, sheep, cows, miniature horses and the dogs—and any other animal she may keep hidden from me. And now we are welcoming a baby soon. YLD

*Dan Nix is an associate attorney at the Valdosta location of the Studstill Firm. Nix practices personal injury law and is devoted to helping those who have been seriously injured due to no fault of their own.*

# Tips and Tricks for the Successful Law Clerk



**Siena  
Gaddy**

**Lawyers are writers. Plain and simple.** Words are the tools of our vocation, and writing is the most important practical skill within the profession. This is especially true for law clerks, who bear the responsibility of writing on behalf of the judiciary. In the second installment of our three-part series, we discuss legal writing.

## Non-Writing Writing Tips

Reading is the aim and end of writing. It follows that voracious readers are often competent writers. To achieve competence, and eventual excellence, you must become a member of your audience. Our first best practice: read. Reading will teach you to distinguish exceptional writing from poor writing. Identifying errors is an important step on the path to competent writing. Eventually, you may become proficient in not only identifying weakness, but also correcting and elevating such errors.

Beyond following along with the text, participate in the experience by reading critically. As you read, examine how a piece makes you feel. Check in with yourself. Are you bored? Did a particular word choice interest or surprise you? Do you notice yourself turning the pages or scrolling?

You may find a piece in which you feel more engaged or even encouraged to continue reading. Pay attention to this style and structure. This page-turning magic is empathy. Empathy is the secret sauce to outstanding writing. Competent writers anticipate the reader's needs and emotions—by understanding the point of view of the reader, a writer may intentionally style his or her writing as to lead and direct the reader to continue. It is nearly impossible to write with empathy if you spend little to no time reading the work of others.

This is not to say that reading alone will transform you into an expert; however,



**Mallory  
Fleming**

beyond empathy, critical reading offers exposure to various styles and tones. Reading may also widen vocabulary and introduce fresh perspectives. Most importantly though, understanding the demands of the audience is much easier if you are regularly a member of the audience.

Surely any type of reading will support your growth as a writer—but if you are serious about honing your craft, we suggest reading about writing. In our opinion, the best place to start is “The Elements of Style” by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. In approximately 100 pages, “The Elements of Style” explains rules connected to usage and structure, addresses common pitfalls, and delves into style and composition. This quick-reference guide will give you the low-down on competent writing. As a law clerk, you need “The Elements of Style” in your arsenal. We also suggest “Point Taken: How to Write Like the World’s Best Judges” by Ross Guberman and “Opinion Writing” by Ruggero J. Aldisert. While both titles focus on judicial writing, the presentation and substance vary greatly. Both are worthy investments.

Finally, spend ample time familiarizing yourself with your judge’s work. Obtain copies of recent opinions and orders as well as any articles or periodicals to which they contributed and dive in. Pay special attention to word choice, syntax and tone. Understanding your judge’s voice should alleviate some growing pains as you begin drafting and editing documents together.

Before you begin outlining your draft, identify your audience. Are you writing a memo to your judge? Are you drafting an order for the parties? Outside of your intended audience, who else may read this? Keep your intended audience (and unintended audiences) in mind as you begin developing the structure of your draft. As you begin generating text, recall how it felt to read the work of another. Write with empathy.

## Substantive Writing Tips

Great legal writers are not born. Rather, they are built through years of practice and self-examination. Competent legal writing requires a strong grasp of grammatical rules and the discipline to hone your craft. Our best advice? Treat writing as you would any hobby or sport—practice, practice, practice.

As far as advice goes, “practice” is a little bit of a cop out. Practicing with poor form is wasteful. Before practicing and fine tuning, you should possess a solid foundation of basic writing skills. Chances are, you were asked to build upon this foundation while in law school. One such foundational skill is mastering active voice. Active voice follows the pattern “subject – verb – object.” Sentences should begin with the subject. To identify the subject first determine who or what is acting—the subject is the actor. For example, “Suzy won the race.” Compare this with “The race was won by Suzy.” By moving the actor to the front of the sentence, we not only shift the focus of the sentence but also remove the unnecessary words “was” and “by.” Active voice is concise and easy to read. Passive voice, in contrast to active voice, makes the object the actor. To that end, passive voice reads backwards. Many legal writers struggle to identify passive voice in their own writing.

If you are just becoming familiar with active and passive voice, we suggest diagramming sentences. Pull a previous order or memo and, in different colors, highlight the subject or actor, the verb and the object. While this may sound tedious, your future self (and future employers) will thank you. We also suggest closing your office door (or finding a private, quiet space) and reading your sentences out loud. We speak in active voice. Thus, you will find passive voice only in written communication. Verbal communication automatically defaults to active voice. It follows that reading your work



## Affiliate Spotlight

## Glynn County YLD



**Chas  
Whitehead**

The YLD of Glynn County includes members from Brunswick, Saint Simons Island and the surrounding areas. They often host happy hours sponsored by law firms, court reporting services and other legal groups. Additionally, the group hosts an annual Christmas party benefitting CASA Glynn, whose mission includes advocating for the best interest of abused and neglected children. The Glynn County YLD also hosts an annual golf tournament. Put on hold during the pandemic, the golf tournament is set to begin again this year.

Recently, the Glynn County YLD hosted a happy hour sponsored by the late Page Pate of Pate, Johnson & Church. The members of the YLD who were fortunate enough to meet Pate remember him as a personable and kind man who was generous enough to sponsor an event and make the five hour

drive down from Atlanta to attend. Pate shared stories and laughs with the group and was also eager to share his knowledge and insight gained from his renowned legal career. The Glynn County YLD shares in the loss of Pate felt by the legal community and joins in the expression of condolences to Pate's family, friends and colleagues. YLD

Michael Chas Whitehead is an associate in Hall Booth Smith's Brunswick office. He focuses his practice on a wide range of health care and general liability matters including defending physicians and other providers in medical malpractice claims.

Chas earned a juris doctorate from Mercer University and completed a bachelor of science degree in justice studies from Georgia Southern University. He serves as treasurer of the Glynn County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division.

aloud should help you identify sentences written in passive voice.

As you read, make note of any sentences that sound awkward or bulky. This should cue you to passive voice. Be mindful of how you feel and check in with yourself as you read. We suggest highlighting long sentences, which require you to catch your breath as you read aloud. Additionally, mark any multisyllabic words (outside of terms of art) that could be substituted with more concise language. This process will allow you to step into the shoes of your audience, and these notes will eventually direct your editing and revision process.

### Conclusion

We could devote an entire issue of *The YLD Review* to legal writing—but we will stop there for now. As your YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee co-chairs, we are happy to provide advice and support however we can. YLD

Siena Gady is a judicial law clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts and an adjunct law professor at the Mercer University Walter F. Georgia College of Law.

Mallory Fleming is a clerk for the State Court of Bibb County.



Glynn County YLD donations to CASA Glynn.

# The Dual Agent



**Carlos  
Fernández**

**Only a fool would represent himself in court, cross examine with a question they do not know the answer to, or ... sell their home on Zillow without an agent.** In the Summer of 2020, I studied and sat for the real estate exam, earned my license and became the only attorney I knew with two jobs. As an attorney, we help people through tough times. As a Realtor®, we also help people through tough times. The hats may be different, but making sure you are protected from the sun's glare is the same.

You should use a professional to sell, buy or manage your home or investment property. Listing or buying a home is a stressful process that can drain your energy. Having an agent keeps you grounded and away from emotional decisions, especially if you are selling a home built on memories. You may feel like the deal “isn't quite right” or your home “shouldn't be sitting on the market.” Just like in court, you need an agent to bounce your ideas off, someone who does not ignore the facts or flaws, and can help you achieve your goals. A good agent should help set your expectations to



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avoid future disappointments when reality comes knocking—just like a good attorney.

Managing risk and protecting your home's value is far more important than a waterfall island in your kitchen. As a buyer, you do not pay your agent because the seller does. As a seller, if you do not use an agent then you will eventually pay for one 10 times over in lost time and your home's market value. Similar to an attorney, you should use an agent to mitigate your costs and maximize your profits. An accepted offer is not the end of the process; the due diligence process is full of disclosures, in-

spections and negotiations. While you may have a handy-dandy app and camera to buy and sell homes, you will not have a professional in your corner to make sure you are crossing your Ts and dotting your Is, even if your firm pays for BriefCatch.

A lawyer's calling is similar to that of an agent's calling: to help others. If you are looking to buy, sell or manage a home, then weigh the risks and rewards of using a Realtor®. YLD

*Hailing from UF Law, former prosecutor, Freeman Mathis defense counsel, standing at a mighty 6 foot 1 inch, your partner's favorite associate—Carlos Fernández.*

## JOIN A YLD COMMITTEE

*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.*

Advocates for Students  
with Disabilities  
Business Law  
Community Service  
Projects  
Corporate Counsel  
Criminal Law  
Disaster Legal  
Assistance  
Estate and Elder Law  
Ethics and

Professionalism  
Family Law  
Government Law  
Health Law  
High School Mock Trial  
Competition  
Inclusion in the  
Profession  
Intellectual Property Law  
Intrastate Moot Court  
Competition

Judicial Law Clerk  
Labor and Employment  
Law  
Law School Outreach  
Program  
Leadership Academy  
Alumni  
Legal Food Frenzy  
Legislative Affairs  
Litigation

National Moot Court  
Competition  
Public Interest Internship  
Program  
Real Estate Law  
Solo Practice/Small Firm  
William W. Daniel  
National Invitational Mock  
Trial Competition  
Women in the Profession  
Workers' Compensation



## Podcasts and Criminal Law CLE Held at Midyear Meeting



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY STOLLAR

The YLD Criminal Law Committee hosted a two-hour CLE at the State Bar of Georgia's Midyear meeting doing an in-depth dive on how podcasts have changed criminal law featuring. The first hour of the program featured Stoney Birt (top, l to r, with YLD President Ron Daniels and panel moderator Courtney Turk, bottom, l to r). Birt is the son of Billy "Sunday" Birt, reputed Dixie Mafia boss, from the podcast "In the Red Clay." The second hour featured a panel discussion with local prosecutors, defense attorneys and members of the media on how podcasts have changed criminal law and specifically, how it has affected the office or firms.

### ► BURN OUT, FROM PAGE 2

go to a DIY craft place. Read a book. Cook a meal. Go on a hike and enjoy nature. Play a video game. Buy and listen to a bunch of old records. Take up photography. Just do something stimulating for your brain not involving work. Something low pressure where you just let your mind work. I promise it is refreshing.

Here is the shameless plug I did not get from the panel: You can find a lot of these things in the YLD. I, like many others, struggle with burnout. The YLD is one of the things that has kept me going, and I hope it can do the same for you. [YLD](#)

*Ron Daniels is a partner at Daniels Taylor Law LLC and also serves as Special Assistant Attorney General representing the Division of Child Support Services*

1. The other thing was remembering my Driver's Education instructor yelling to our class at 7:00 a.m. "You have got to be on fire to be burned out!"



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# 2023 GEORGIA LEGAL FOOD FRENZY

**APRIL 17-28**

Fight hunger by going head-to-head with Georgia's lawyers outside the courtroom.

Register your law firm, legal organization or department at [www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org/sign-up](http://www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org/sign-up)

## WHO

Open to EVERYONE in the legal community. All law firms (solos, small, medium and large), legal organizations (bar associations, vendors, etc.), corporate/in-house counsel, and clerks and judges can compete with special awards for each.

## RULES & AWARDS

Between April 17-28, every \$1 raised earns your team four points in the competition. Awards are given in different categories based on the most points earned per employee and most points overall. The Attorney General's Cup and the Bar President's Award are given to the grand prize winners.

## THE NEED

One in eight children in Georgia are at risk for hunger, and food banks are working around the clock to meet an overall 30% increase in need. The Legal Food Frenzy helps keep the food banks stocked so they can feed more families. With every \$1 you donate, food banks can distribute more than four meals to our neighbors in need.



State Bar  
of Georgia

