



State Bar
of Georgia

BOG BOARD BOOK

**2024 Midyear Meeting
Atlanta, GA**

*This book serves as the agenda and
materials for the State Bar of Georgia's
2024 Midyear Meeting.*



300th BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Westin Buckhead

Atlanta, Georgia

[Zoom Webinar Link](#)

Webinar ID: 846 4359 9955

Passcode: 637874

Dress: Business

AGENDA

Topics

Presenter

1) ADMINISTRATION

- a) Welcome and Call to Order J. Antonio “Tony” DelCampo .. 1
President
- a) Pledge of Allegiance Jonathan B. Pannell
Eastern Circuit, Post 3
- b) Invocation Hon. Stacey K. Hydrick
Stone Mountain Circuit, Post 1
- c) Recognition of Special Guests..... Tony DelCampo
- d) Roll Call Bill Gentry 9
Secretary
- e) Future Meetings Schedule..... Tony DelCampo..... 14

2) ACTION

- a) Minutes of the 299th Meeting of the Bill Gentry 16
Board of Governors on October 28, 2023
- b) Proposed Rules and Bylaws Changes..... Bill NeSmith 21
(1) Rule 1.8 Conflict of Interest: Prohibited Transactions

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
(2) Article VIII, Committees – Generally, Sections 1 and 2		
c) White Collar Section Proposal	Bill NeSmith	44
d) Standing Board Policy 1000	Damon Elmore	57
e) Member Benefits Committee	Sarah Coole	58
Recommendation: Docket Alarm		
f) Appointment to the Commission on	Tony DelCampo	
Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC)		
g) Nominations of ABA Delegates.....	Robert Rothman	
2-year terms August 2024 – August 2026		
(1) Post 1 (currently held by Alvin T. Wong, Decatur)		
(2) Post 3 (currently held by C. Elisia Frazier, Pooler)		
(3) Post 7 (currently held by Vera S. Edenfield, Statesboro)		
1-year term August 2024 – August 2025		
(1) Post 2 (vacant)		
h) Nominations of State Bar Officers	Tony DelCampo	
(nominations = 5 minutes, seconds = 2 minutes)		
(1) Office of Secretary		
(2) Office of Treasurer		
(3) Office of President-Elect		

3) LEGISLATION

- a) Advisory Committee on Legislation.....Brandon Peak, Chair59
- New Legislative Proposals (action)**
- (1) *Professionalism Committee* – Support for a Resolution of the General Assembly Recognizing April 2024 as Legal Professionalism Month
 - (2) *Indigent Defense Committee* – Support for the Judicial Council’s Budget Request for FY 2025 - Increased Funding for the Georgia Resource Center
 - (3) *Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession* – Support for the Judicial Council’s Budget Request for FY 2025 - Funding for Civil Legal Services Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence
 - (4) *Access to Justice Committee* – Support for the Judicial Council’s Budget Request for FY 2025 - Increased Appropriations for Medical Legal Partnerships
 - (5) *Advisory Committee on Legislation* – Support for Judicial Council’s Judicial Compensation Reform Proposal
- b) Legislative Update
- Brandon Peak

4) INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

a) President’s Report.....	Tony DelCampo	
b) Treasurer’s Report.....	Chris Twyman.....	85
	Treasurer	
c) Executive Director’s Report.....	Damon Elmore	
d) Young Lawyers Division Report	Brittanie Browning	99
	YLD President	
e) Chief Justice’s Committee on	Karlise Grier	104
Professionalism Report	Executive Director	

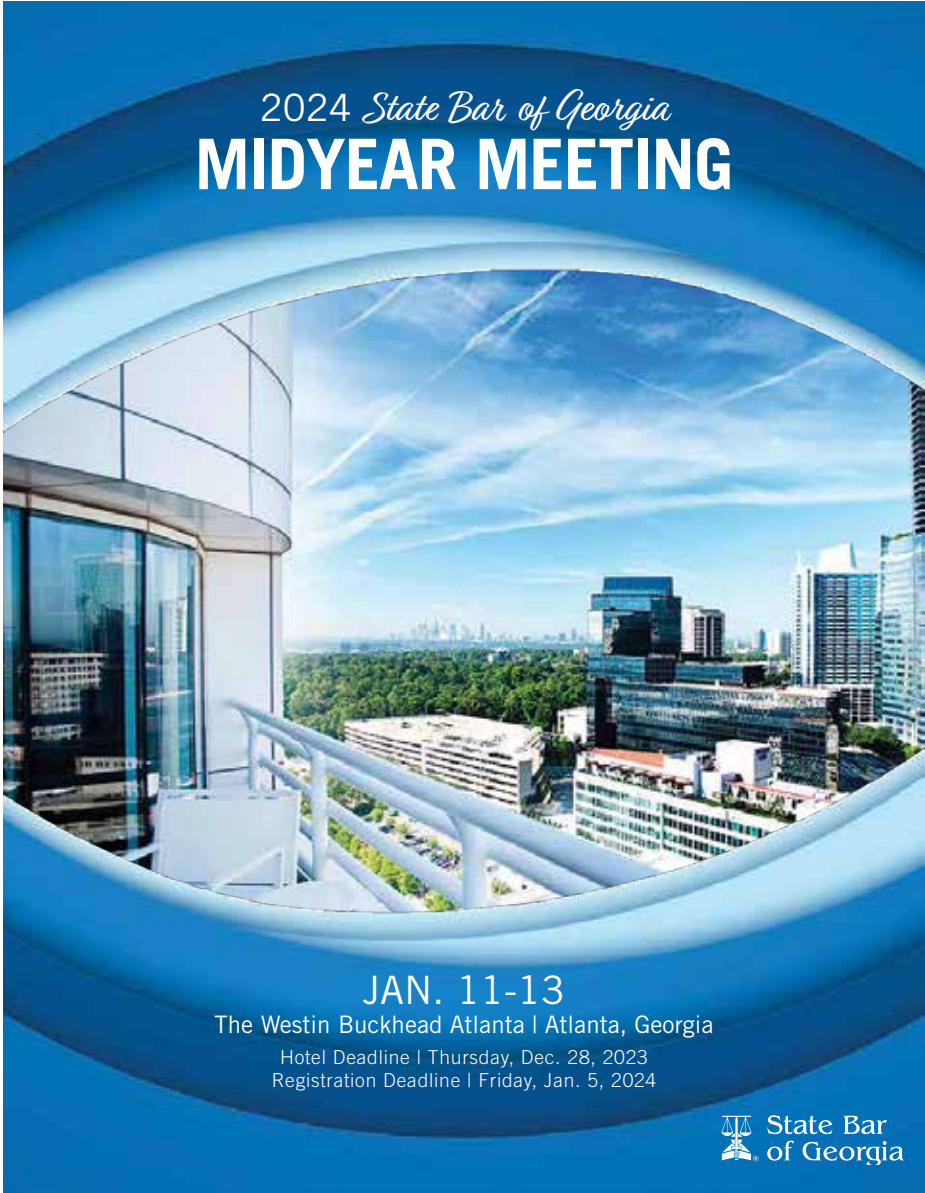
5) WRITTEN REPORTS

a) Executive Committee Minutes		114
(1) August 24, 2023		
b) Office of the General Counsel Report.....		121
c) Law Practice Management Report		124
d) ICLE Report.....		127
e) Media Report		129

6) CLOSING

a) Old Business.....	Tony DelCampo
b) New Business	Tony DelCampo
c) Announcements	Tony DelCampo
d) Executive Session	Tony DelCampo
e) Remarks / Q&A / Comments / Suggestions	
f) Adjournment	

2024 *State Bar of Georgia*
MIDYEAR MEETING



JAN. 11-13

The Westin Buckhead Atlanta | Atlanta, Georgia

Hotel Deadline | Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023

Registration Deadline | Friday, Jan. 5, 2024





Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, JAN. 11

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Registration

10 - 11 a.m.

Elections Committee Meeting

12 - 1:30 p.m.

Class Action Section Lunch and CLE

3 - 4 p.m.

Family Law Section Executive Committee Meeting
(By invitation only)

4 - 5 p.m.

Family Law Section CLE

5 - 6 p.m.

Family Law Section Reception

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Past Presidents' Dinner (By invitation only)

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Registration

10 - 11 a.m.

Senior Lawyers Committee Meeting

10 - 11:30 a.m.

ICLE Board Meeting (By invitation only)

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Arc of Justice Ideas Exchange Meeting
(By invitation only)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

State Disciplinary Board Meeting
(By invitation only)

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Does Diversity Still Matter?

12 - 1 p.m.

Law Practice Management Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
(By invitation only. Virtual only.)

12 - 1:15 p.m.

General Practice & Trial Law Section
"Meet the Judges" Luncheon

12 - 1:30 p.m.

YLD Leadership Academy Session 1 (By invitation only)

12 - 2 p.m.

State Disciplinary Review Board Meeting
(By invitation only)

2 - 2:30 p.m.

YLD Nominating Committee
(By invitation only. Virtual only.)

2 - 3 p.m.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee and Real Property Law
Section Joint CLE: Foreclosures, Workouts, Bankruptcies
... Don't Worry, We've Been Through This Before!

2 - 4 p.m.

Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee Meeting

3 - 5 p.m.

Member Benefits Committee Meeting

3:30 - 5 p.m.

YLD General Session

4 - 5 p.m.

Past Presidents' Meeting (By invitation only)

4 - 6 p.m.

CLE for Special Masters (By invitation only)

6 - 7 p.m.

Georgia State University College of Law Presidents'
Reception Honoring Alumni Hon. J. Antonio "Tony"
DelCampo and Brittanie Browning

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Board of Governors Dinner

8:30 - 11 p.m.

YLD Signature Fundraiser

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration

8 - 8:45 a.m.

SOLACE Committee Meeting

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Board of Governors Meeting



Hotel Accommodations

The Westin Buckhead Atlanta
3391 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-365-0065

Cut-off date is Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023.

The Westin Buckhead Atlanta is our host hotel for the Midyear Meeting, offering a discounted room rate of \$150 single/double per night plus applicable taxes and a \$5 hotel/motel fee.

To make reservations and receive our special rate, visit <https://bit.ly/MY2024hotel>. Reservations must be made by Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, as rooms will be on a space and rate availability basis after this date. There are many citywide events taking place in Atlanta during this time, so please be aware that you should make your hotel reservations as early as possible.

Hotel Check-in/Check-out Time

Check-in | 3 p.m.

Check-out | 12 p.m.

ATTIRE

Business attire is appropriate for all meetings and events.

PARKING RATES

The State Bar has secured the following reduced parking rates:

Self-Parking | \$35 (flat rate per vehicle/night)

Valet Parking | \$45 (flat rate per vehicle/night)

The hotel's prevailing Daily Hourly Rates, as presented at the time of departure, shall be applicable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTIN BUCKHEAD ATLANTA



GETTYIMAGES.COM/GREENSB7

Young Lawyers Division

YLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | SESSION 1

Friday, Jan. 12 | 12 - 1:30 p.m.

The 2024 class of the YLD Leadership Academy will meet for the first session. Participants will spend time getting to know one another and all about the YLD. YLD past presidents will discuss why participation in the organization is vital to the success of young attorneys. Limited to current participants of the YLD Leadership Academy.

YLD REAL ESTATE LAW COMMITTEE AND REAL PROPERTY LAW SECTION JOINT CLE: FORECLOSURES, WORKOUTS, BANKRUPTCIES ... DON'T WORRY, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE!

Friday, Jan. 12 | 2 - 3 p.m.

Join the YLD Real Estate Law Section and the Real Property Law Section for a joint CLE featuring a one-hour panel discussion touching on current issues in real estate practice as well as valuable practice pointers.

During this panel discussion, seasoned real estate attorneys talk about the ins and outs of practicing during an economic slowdown. Panelists will cover various financing structures and their interplay with real estate assets including foreclosures, deed in lieu transactions, loan modifications and bankruptcy, as well as share practice pointers and some interesting “war stories” from past experiences. If your practice includes real property, you should not miss this opportunity to hear from some top Georgia attorneys who have been through this before.

YLD GENERAL SESSION

Friday, Jan. 12 | 3:30 - 5 p.m.

The General Session is open to all members. YLD officers will give reports and members of the council will provide updates on projects and events.



We are excited to announce the return of the YLD Signature Fundraiser to the Midyear Meeting schedule. Join us on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, from 8:30–11 p.m. at The Westin Buckhead Atlanta for an evening full of fun and laughter. This event will take place immediately following the Board of Governors dinner and will feature a DJ, dance floor and more.

The 2024 YLD Signature Fundraiser will benefit the YLD's Public Interest Internship Program supporting law students and recent law school graduates with funding for unpaid full-time summer internships in public interest law. Last year, the YLD had an overwhelming number of applicants for a limited number of scholarships. We hope to continue our support of the public interest sector by awarding grants for law students to seek out unpaid internship opportunities. Together, we can make a meaningful difference statewide.

To learn more about sponsoring 2024 YLD Signature Fundraiser, please visit www.gabar.org/signaturefundraiser.

Other Events

CLASS ACTION SECTION LUNCH AND CLE

Thursday, Jan. 11 | 12 - 1:30 p.m.

The Class Action Section of the State Bar of Georgia will meet for lunch and a one-hour CLE on recent developments in class action litigation in Georgia and across the country. Section Chair Bob Alpert from Morris, Manning & Martin LLP will moderate a panel discussion regarding developing issues in class action litigation, including issues involving product liability, consumer fraud and privacy class actions. The panel will include experienced class action attorneys from both the plaintiffs' and defense bar as well as in-house counsel.

FAMILY LAW SECTION CLE AND RECEPTION

Thursday, Jan. 11 | 4 - 6 p.m.

Join the Family Law Section for a one-hour CLE focused on family law. Reception follows.

THE ARC OF JUSTICE IDEAS EX+CHANGE™ MEETING

Friday, Jan. 12 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Arc of Justice Project is holding a planning meeting for a new signature initiative it calls The Arc of Justice Ideas Ex+Change.™ In two years, the nation will mark its founding with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This inaugural symposium will feature interdisciplinary scholars and notable figures who will offer their proposed solutions to the challenge of what the nation might look like in that moment. This invitation only meeting will lay the groundwork for the symposium. Parties interested in attending should contact Derrick Alexander Pope at dalexanderpope@att.net to learn more.

The Arc of Justice Project is a 501(c)(3) entity established to foster a greater understanding of the rule of law where governance, economics and rights intersect. Its first initiative is Hidden Legal Figures, the podcast that highlights the heroic and vital contribution that lawyers and judges made to the civil rights movement.

DOES DIVERSITY STILL MATTER?

Friday, Jan. 12 | 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession for a town hall meeting that will be an in-depth conversation about the future of DEI initiatives within today's climate and how these efforts can continue. Additionally, we will explore the barriers that may exist that prevent legal communities from addressing gender and racial equality that build a stronger, more inclusive workforce. This will be an engaging conversation about Diversity Initiatives or DEI "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" efforts within the legal community in light of the recent decision in the Students for *Fair Admissions v. Harvard* case in higher education.

This town hall has been approved for 1.5 hours of CLE credit.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTIN BUCKHEAD ATLANTA



**GENERAL PRACTICE & TRIAL LAW SECTION
“MEET THE JUDGES” LUNCHEON**

Friday, Jan. 12 | 12 - 1:15 p.m.

Come meet your local judges for a lively conversation on legal issues.

SPECIAL MASTERS CLE

Friday, Jan. 12 | 4 - 6 p.m.

This CLE is limited to special masters appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia for disciplinary cases.

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF
LAW PRESIDENTS’ RECEPTION HONORING
ALUMNI HON. J. ANTONIO “TONY”
DELCAMPO AND BRITTANIE BROWNING**

Friday, Jan. 12 | 6 - 7 p.m.

Join Georgia State University College of Law for their special Presidents’ Reception honoring their alumni: President J. Antonio “Tony” DelCampo and YLD President Brittanie Browning.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS DINNER

Friday, Jan. 12 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Please join us for Friday night’s Board of Governors Dinner as you network with fellow Bar members. Everyone is welcome.

YLD SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER

Friday, Jan. 12 | 8:30 - 11 p.m.

Make plans to attend the 17th Annual YLD Signature Fundraiser immediately following the Board of Governor’s dinner.

Join us for an evening full of fun and laughter featuring a DJ, dance floor and more to benefit the YLD’s Public Interest Internship Program.

SOLACE COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, Jan. 13 | 8 - 8:45 a.m.

The SOLACE committee will meet for a midyear check in and discuss current requests.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WESTIN BUCKHEAD ATLANTA

2024 Midyear Registration Form

Please use this form to register by checking all events you plan to attend. Registration is required for all events, including "no charge" functions. You may also register online at www.gabar.org. Final registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

Attendee Information

Bar Number _____

Name _____

Nickname _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Special Needs / Dietary Restrictions _____

ADA

If you qualify for assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please email meetings@gabar.org.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

Registration cancellations must be received in writing no later than Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, and will receive a full refund. Absolutely, no refunds will be made after Friday, Jan. 5, 2024. Requests should be mailed to the State Bar of Georgia, Attn: Meetings Department, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303; faxed to 404-527-8717 or emailed to meetings@gabar.org.

Payment Information

Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted. Please make checks payable to State Bar of Georgia and mail to Meetings Department, 2024 Midyear Meeting, State Bar of Georgia, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303. "No charge" and credit card orders may be faxed to 404-527-8717. Please do not email credit card payment information. Verbal registrations will not be accepted.

In-Person Qty. Virtual Qty.

Board Functions

- BOG Dinner (Fri.) \$120 ___
- BOG Meeting (Sat.) N/C ___ N/C ___

Committee Functions

- Disciplinary Rules and Procedures..... N/C ___
- SOLACE N/C ___
- Senior Lawyers N/C ___

Section Events

- Class Action Lunch and CLE \$20 ___
- Family Law CLE only \$30 ___
- Family Law Reception only \$36 ___
- Family Law CLE and Reception \$61 ___
- GP&T "Meet the Judges" Luncheon .. \$60 ___

YLD Events

- YLD Real Estate Section and Real Property Law Section Joint CLE N/C ___
- YLD General Session N/C ___
- YLD Signature Fundraiser* ___

*Pricing varies. Visit www.gabar.org/signaturefundraiser for details.

Other

- Does Diversity Still Matter? (member) \$40 ___
- Does Diversity Still Matter? (non-member) \$45 ___
- Does Diversity Still Matter? (student) N/C ___
- Georgia State University College of Law Presidents' Reception N/C ___

Total Fees Enclosed: _____

*Credit Card Information

Please bill my: Visa MasterCard AMEX

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on the card (Please print) _____

Signature _____

*Please do not email credit card information. Fax only.

Register online at www.gabar.org.





State Bar of Georgia

2024 MIDYEAR MEETING
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743

PRST First-Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 1447
Atlanta, GA

SPONSORS & REGISTRATION

Special thanks to the following corporate sponsor
for their support of the State Bar of Georgia.



REGISTRATION

The final registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 5, 2024.
All participants must pre-register using the registration
form or online at www.gabar.org.

Registrations will not be processed without payment.
Verbal registrations will not be accepted. Faxes will
only be accepted for "no charge" functions or payment
by credit cards.

Registrations, along with payments, must be received
at the State Bar on or before Thursday, Jan. 5, 2024,
at which time pre-registration will close. Onsite
registration will open at The Westin Buckhead Atlanta
on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

Note: All pre-registrations and onsite registrations are
subject to availability on a first-come, first-served basis.

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	10-22	1-23	3-23	6-23	6-23	10-23
	Zoom Webinar	Buckhead/Zoom	Pine Mtn/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Jekyll Island/Zoom
Sarah Brown Akins	•	•	•	•	•	e
Jonathan Lang Adams	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•
Keith E. Adams	•	•	u	•	•	•
Mark W. Alexander	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kent Edward Altom	•	•	•	•	•	•
Anthony B. Askew	•	•	•	u	e	•
JaDawnya Cintelle Baker	•	•	e	•	•	e
Nina M. Baker	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eric A. Ballinger	•	•	•	•	•	•
Donna G. Barwick	•	•	•	u	•	u
John C. Bell Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Tracee Ready Benzo	•	•	•	•	•	u
N. John Bey	u	•	•	•	•	u
James D. Blitch IV	•	•	•	u	•	u
Sherry Boston	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ashley Mackin Brodie	u	•	•	•	•	•
Brittanie Browning	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stephanie D. Burton	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ivy Neal Cadle	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jerry Neal Cadle	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stacey McSwine Cameron	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Richard D. Campbell	•	•	•	u	•	u
David L. Cannon	•	•	•	u	•	u
Carl S. Cansino	•	•	•	u	•	u
Chris M. Carr	u	•	e	u	•	u
Vernon L. Chambliss	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	e
Kimberly A. Childs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•
Amanda Rourk Clark Palmer	•	•	•	•	u	•
Edward R. Collier	•	•	e	•	•	u
Daniel Jackson Connell III	u	•	•	u	u	•
Susan P. Coppedge	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
John Craig Cotton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	e
Martin L. Cowen III	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kenneth B. Crawford	•	u	u	u	•	u

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Bill Gentry (bill@gentrylawfirm.law).

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	10-22	1-23	3-23	6-23	6-23	10-23
	Zoom Webinar	Buckhead/Zoom	Pine Mtn/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Jekyll Island/Zoom
Ronald E. Daniels	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gerald Davidson Jr.	•	•	•	•	•	•
J. Anderson Davis	•	•	u	•	•	•
Randall H. Davis	•	•	u	•	•	•
William T. Davis	•	•	u	•	•	•
Howard Mark Delashmit	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
J. Antonio DelCampo	•	•	•	•	•	•
Joseph W. Dent	•	•	•	u	u	u
Daniel S. Digby	•	•	•	•	•	•
George P. Donaldson, III	•	•	•	•	•	•
Danny L. Durham	•	•	•	•	•	•
Susan E. Edlein	•	•	•	•	•	•
Otobong Ukpong "Oto" Ekpo	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Archibald A. Farrar	•	•	•	•	•	•
Amanda Renee Flora	•	•	•	•	u	•
Harold Eugene Franklin Jr.	u	•	•	u	u	•
Keith E. Gammage	•	•	•	•	•	•
William C. Gentry	•	•	•	•	•	•
Michael G. Geoffroy	•	•	•	u	•	u
Patricia A. Gorham	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist	•	•	•	•	•	u
Paul William Hamilton	•	•	•	•	u	•
Thomas B. "Britt" Hammond	•	•	•	•	•	•
Roger Brent Hatcher Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
John Haubenreich	•	•	•	•	•	•
Patrick H. Head	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lawton C. Heard, Jr.	u	•	•	u	•	•
Render M. Heard Jr.	•	•	•	•	•	•
Amanda Nichole Heath	•	•	•	•	•	•
Matthew J. Hennessy	•	•	•	•	•	•
Thomas W. Herman	•	u	•	u	u	u
R. Javoyne Hicks	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kimberly Wilkerson Higginbotham	•	•	•	•	•	•
Donna S. Hix	•	•	•	•	•	•

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Bill Gentry (bill@gentrylawfirm.law).

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	10-22	1-23	3-23	6-23	6-23	10-23
	Zoom Webinar	Buckhead/Zoom	Pine Mtn/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Jekyll Island/Zoom
Michael D. Hobbs	u	u	u	u	u	u
Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	u	•
Christopher Huskins	•	•	u	u	u	•
Stacey K. Hydrick	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shukura L. Ingram	•	•	•	•	•	•
James T. Irvin	•	•	e	•	•	•
Christopher Ross Jackson	•	•	•	•	•	•
Charles Michael Johnson	•	•	•	u	•	u
Lester B. Johnson, III	•	•	e	•	•	•
Shiriki L. Cavitt Jones	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jennifer A. Jordan	u	u	•	u	u	•
Zahra S. Karinshak	•	•	•	•	•	•
John F. Kennedy	•	u	•	u	u	u
Barry E. King	•	•	•	•	•	•
Judy C. King	•	•	•	•	•	•
Catherine Koura	•	•	e	•	•	•
Rachel R. Krause	•	•	•	u	•	•
Rhonda Bender Kreuziger	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Edward B. Krugman	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jeffrey R. Kuester	•	•	•	•	•	e
Anne Templeton LaMalva	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rosten Dara Diya "Chimmy" Law	u	•	•	•	•	•
Allegra Lawrence-Hardy	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nicole C. Leet	•	•	•	•	•	•
Katie K. Leonard	•	•	•	e	e	•
Dawn Renee Levine	•	u	•	•	•	•
Joyce Gist Lewis	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lisa Katsuko Liang	•	•	•	•	•	•
David S. Lipscomb	•	•	•	•	•	•
John R. B. Long	u	•	•	u	•	•
Dax Eric Lopez	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ronald A. Lowry	•	•	•	e	e	•
John Bell Manly	•	•	•	•	•	•
Troy Windel Marsh Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Bill Gentry (bill@gentrylawfirm.law).

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	10-22	1-23	3-23	6-23	6-23	10-23
	Zoom Webinar	Buckhead/Zoom	Pine Mtn/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Savannah/Zoom	Jekyll Island/Zoom
Hugh J. McCullough	•	•	•	•	•	u
Graham Elliott McDonald	•	•	•	•	•	•
Letitia A. McDonald	•	•	•	•	u	•
Brad J. McFall	u	•	•	•	•	•
Michael D. McRae	•	•	•	•	•	•
Terry L. Miller	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kenneth Mitchell Jr.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
William J. Monahan	•	e	•	•	•	•
Shondeana Crews Morris	•	•	•	•	•	•
Katrell Nash	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•
Laura J. Murphree	•	•	•	•	•	•
Paul Wain Painter III	•	u	•	•	•	u
Jonathan B. Pannell	•	•	•	•	•	•
Joy Renea Parks	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kathryn Drew Parrish Bennett	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Tabitha Edwina Payne	u	•	•	•	•	•
Brandon Lee Peak	•	•	•	•	•	u
Edward Piasta	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kathryn Lauranne Powers	•	•	u	•	•	u
Michael Prieto	•	•	•	u	u	•
Jill Pryor	•	•	•	•	•	•
William M. Ragland	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tina S. Roddenberry	e	•	•	•	•	•
Kevin W. Roper	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•
Joseph Roseborough	u	•	u	•	u	•
Wesley Charles Ross	•	•	•	•	•	•
Claudia S. Saari	•	•	•	•	•	•
Alex Musole Shalishali	u	u	•	u	u	•
H. Burke Sherwood	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mitchell McKinley Shook	•	•	•	•	•	u
Robert H. Smalley, III	u	•	•	•	•	•
Philip C. Smith	•	•	•	•	•	•
R. Rucker Smith	•	•	•	•	•	•
Daniel B. Snipes	•	•	•	•	•	e

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Bill Gentry (bill@gentrylawfirm.law).



State Bar of Georgia

Future Meetings Schedule

Executive Committee

December 15, 2023	Executive Committee Meeting Bar Center, Atlanta, GA
February 9, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting Bar Center, Atlanta, GA
April 26, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting Dalton, GA (<i>Hotel/Venue TBD</i>)
October 3, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting Virtual
December 5-6, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting Swainsboro, GA (<i>Hotel TBD</i>)

Board of Governors

Midyear 2024	January 11-14, 2024	Westin Buckhead Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA
Spring 2024	April 19-21, 2024	Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa Young Harris, GA
Annual 2024	June 6-9, 2024	Omni Amelia Island Resort Amelia Island, FL
Fall 2024	November 1 - 3, 2024	Jekyll Island Club Resort Jekyll Island, GA (<i>Contract Pending</i>)
Midyear 2025	January 9 – 11, 2025	JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District Savannah, GA (<i>Contract Pending</i>)
Spring 2025	March 20 – 21, 2025	Hyatt Place Athens & Classic Center Athens, GA (<i>Contract Pending</i>)

(Updated 12.11.23)



State Bar of Georgia

Future Meetings Schedule

Annual 2025	June 5-8, 2025	Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Annual 2026	June 11-14, 2026	Omni Amelia Island Resort Amelia Island, FL

Young Lawyers Division

Midyear 2024	January 11-14, 2024	Westin Buckhead Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA
Spring 2024	April 19-21, 2024	Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa Young Harris, GA
Annual 2024	June 6-9, 2024	Omni Amelia Island Resort Amelia Island, FL
Annual 2025	June 5-8, 2025	Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Annual 2026	June 11-14, 2026	Omni Amelia Island Resort Amelia Island, FL

American Bar Association Meetings

Midyear 2024	January 31-February 5, 2024	Louisville, KY
Annual 2024	July 31 – August 6, 2024	Chicago, IL
Annual 2025	August 6 – 12, 2025	Toronto, ON

Southern Conference of Bar Presidents Meetings

2024	October 24 – 26, 2024	Jackson, Mississippi
2025	October 5 – 7, 2025	Charleston, South Carolina
2026	Alabama	
2027	Maryland	

(Updated 12.11.23)

DRAFT
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, October 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
The Westin Jekyll Island
Hybrid Meeting

The 299th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. President J. Antonio “Tony” DelCampo presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Governors Member Joseph W. Dent, Dougherty Circuit, Post 1, led the pledge of allegiance.

Invocation

Board of Governors Member Hon. Rhonda B. Kreuziger, Griffin Circuit, Post 2, gave the invocation.

Special Recognition

President Tony DelCampo recognized the members of the judiciary, the past presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

Roll Call

Secretary Bill Gentry circulated the roll for signature for in-person attendees. Those attending virtually were marked present through a Zoom report. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Tony DelCampo reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule.

Minutes of the 297th and 298th Meeting of the Board of Governors

The minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held June 9-10, 2023, were approved by majority vote.

Proposed Rules and Bylaws Changes

1. *Rule 4.2. Communication With Person Represented by Counsel.*

The proposed rule change clarifies that the “anti-contact” rule, which prohibits a lawyer from communicating with a represented adverse party, applies to a lawyer who is self-representing. The proposed change states that a lawyer who is proceeding pro se is prohibited from communicating about the subject of the representation with represented adverse parties. Comment [8] explains that a lawyer who is proceeding pro se but who also has co-counsel is included within the meaning of this rule.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to Rule 4.2.

2. *Rule 4-201. State Disciplinary Board.*

This proposed change increases the State Disciplinary Board from twelve to fourteen investigating members (the Board also has four lay members and two ex-officio members who do not investigate cases). The proposed change adds two members-at-large, one to be selected by the Court and one by the President of the State Bar.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to Rule 4-201.

3. *Rule 4-203.1. Uniform Service Rule.*

The proposed changes introduce a new requirement that a member inform the Bar of their email address part of their “official address” for purposes of Bar business, including service in disciplinary matters. An amendment to subsection (b)(3)(i) will allow the Chair of the State Disciplinary Board to authorize individuals to serve process in disciplinary matters. The provisions at subsection (b)(3)(ii) regarding service by publication will include a requirement that the service documents be emailed to the respondent’s official email address. Subsection (b)(5) creates service procedures for members with an address outside of the United States.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to Rule 4-203.1.

4. *Rule 4-209.1. Coordinating Special Master.*

The current rule suggests that it is preferable for a lawyer to serve as a Special Master for no more than five years. The amendment would delete that language.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to Rule 4-209.1.

5. *Rule 4-221.1. Confidentiality of Investigations and Proceedings.*

The proposed changes expand and provide clarity on the entities or individuals with whom the State Disciplinary Board and the State Bar can share information regarding a disciplinary matter. The change specifically defines the members of the State Disciplinary Board who have the authority to approve the release of information pertaining to a disciplinary matter.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to Rule 4-221.1.

Proposed Energy Law Section

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented the proposed Energy Law Section. He reported that the proposed section and application are complete and accurate per the rules of creating a section. From the application, they said, “The Energy Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia will provide a place for lawyers working on this important aspect of our lives to interact and network. The Section will promote the practice of energy law, help establish camaraderie and support among energy law practitioners, and provide education and training on energy law topics.” The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed Energy Law Section.

Appointment to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency

The Board of Governors approved the two-year appointment (2024-2026) of Shiriki Jones to the Commission on Lawyer Competency by majority vote.

Appointment to the Formal Advisory Opinion Board

The Board of Governors approved the appointment of R. Gary Spencer to the Formal Advisory Opinion Board as the Executive Committee representative for 2023-2024 by majority vote.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL)/Legislative Proposals

Following a report by Legislative Consultant Rusty Sewell, the Board of Governors took the following action on proposed legislation:

Legislative Proposal

Germane to Purposes
of the Bar

Support on Merits
2/3 Majority

Fiduciary Law Section

- 1) Amendments to Title 53 and
Related Code Sections

Passed by majority
vote

Passed by 2/3 vote

Business Law Section

- 2) Amendments to O.C.G.A.
Title 11

Passed by majority
vote

Passed by 2/3 vote

Legislative Update

Legislative Consultant Mark Middleton discussed the upcoming legislative session. He said this is the second year of a two-year cycle. Bills that did not pass last year will be carried over to this year. From the Bar's standpoint, both judiciary committees are represented well by lawyers. He said in addition to the normal items of interest each year, there are a few unusual things. U.S. District Court Judge Steve Jones recently ruled that Georgia's congressional and state legislative districts must be redrawn before the 2024 election. The Legislature will have a special session on Nov. 29 to take up the issue. He said while it is hard to predict other things that will come up during the session, they will keep the Bar informed of any legal-related legislation.

President's Report

President Tony DelCampo reported that he has had a great first three months as Bar president. He said he receives numerous emails from across the United States regarding various legal issues. President DelCampo went on to provide an update about the unallocated cash year one plan. He said all parts are on order for the replacement of our front-end building management system and controls; the Wi-fi capabilities have been expanded, particularly in places around the first floor, and conference capabilities on the conference center floor; the first-floor doors have been updated to improve access for people with disabilities, as well as continue our focus on safety and security; and the Bar's website redesign is on schedule and continues to be a priority. He said that some of the unallocated cash has been used for unplanned events as well: repairs due to major flooding to our 3rd floor conference center; some expenses associated with the unauthorized access event and legal fees.

President DelCampo reported that the Wellness Retreat was a success, and he urged board members to share the #UseYourSix campaign at every opportunity and to help spread the word on the importance of mental health in order to remove the stigma around seeking help for mental health. He said to contact him if there were any local or voluntary bars or groups that would like him to attend events to share the Bar's work and member resources.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that the State Bar's Annual Report is complete for the 2022-2023 Bar year, and that it is an analysis of the effectiveness of the work done and a good reminder of the work the Bar does. He said that ICLE has been analyzing their prices and have decreased some of the pricing in order to bring better value to Bar members that choose to utilize ICLE programming, reducing the rate for most programs by 10%.

He updated the Board of Governors on Bar staff changes that have happened over the last few months: Emily Rodriguez, CLE administrator; Christie Johnson, South Georgia Office administrative assistant; Tatyana Hunt, Consumer Assistance Program administrative assistant; and Lesly Lopez, receptionist/administrative support assistant. He also reported that Jenny Mittelman will be retiring in

early 2024, and Andreea Morrison has been named the next Deputy General Counsel. He said her familiarity with our processes will allow her to make an instant impact. He also reported that budget planning has begun and that he remains focused on increasing tenants and marketing the Bar Center.

Treasurer's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported on the Bar's finances, saying that the Bar is fiscally sound. The Board of Governors received a copy of the June 2023 Financial Statements, including Bar operations and Bar Center. The Executive Summary is as follows:

In total, the Bar (excluding ICLE) budgeted a loss of \$151,233 for the year ended June 30, 2023. This total budgeted loss for the Bar was calculated as a budgeted loss for Bar operations of \$282,201 and a budgeted gain for the Bar Center of \$130,968. The Bar Center realized an actual gain of \$371,623 for the year. Bar operations realized a gain of \$209,689 instead of the budgeted loss of \$282,201. This difference of \$491,890 is comprised of the following components: (1) savings in salaries and related personnel costs of \$561,578, (2) savings in officer expenses of \$53,273, (3) savings in bond premium amortization and investment service fees of \$76,726 and (4) savings in YLD Committees expenses of \$44,439. The savings were offset by the following components: (5) overage on credit card fees and discounts of \$61,947, (6) additional costs for the special contract master of \$84,628 and (7) additional costs associated with the Bar Journal of \$83,040. These seven items total \$506,401.

Executive Director Elmore stated that the September 2023 financials are complete and that there was nothing of note to report from those. He said that the 2022-2023 audit is underway.

Young Lawyers Division Report

YLD President Brittanie Browning reported that the YLD Fall Meeting will be held in Charleston on Nov. 9-12. She said Justice Verda Colvin will be attending for a fireside chat, and the YLD will participate in a service project at the Holy Smokes Festival benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. She reported that the YLD Signature Fundraiser will be held at the Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, on Jan. 12, at the Westin, benefiting the YLD's Public Interest Internship Program. She invited the Board of Governors to attend and asked for their support. YLD President Browning reported that the new leadership academy class has been selected, and there will be a Leadership Academy luncheon on Dec. 1 at the Piedmont Driving Club with Justice Sarah Warren as the keynote speaker.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness Report

Hon. Shondeana Morris, chair of the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Committee, encouraged members of the board to participate in the Out of the Darkness Walk on Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. at Piedmont Park. The committee received donations that allowed the State Bar to be a sponsor of all seven walks across the state. Judge Morris said she continues to speak across the state to bring awareness to suicide and shared stories of those whose lives were saved due to the program.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Report

CJCP Executive Director Karlise Grier reported on the commission. She thanked Chief Justice Michael Boggs for his leadership of the commission. She said the 24th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards nominations have been opened with a deadline of November 10, 2023. She reminded everyone that serving the community is what makes a nomination eligible, not service to the Bar. She asked the board to consider submitting a nomination. She said the Law School Orientation evaluations are on the website and thanked those who participated.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on August 24, 2023.

Combined State Bar of Georgia and Office of the General Counsel Annual Report

The Board of Governors received a copy of the 2023 Combined State Bar of Georgia and Office of the General Counsel Annual Report.

ICLE Report

The Board of Governors received a written report from ICLE.

Law Practice Management Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Law Practice Management Program.

Communications Update

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

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Remarks / Q&A / Comments / Suggestions

There were no remarks, Q&A, comments, or suggestions.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

William C. Gentry, Secretary

Approved:

J. Antonio DelCampo, President



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors

From: Bill NeSmith

Date: January 11-13, 2024

Re: Proposed changes to the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and By-laws of the State Bar of Georgia

Below is a summary of the proposed rule and by-law changes on the agenda for the January 11-13 2024 Board of Governors Meeting:

1. **Rule 1.8 Conflict of Interest: Prohibited Transactions.** The proposed change to this rule would adopt a recent amendment to the American Bar Association Model Rules. It would allow lawyers who represent a client pro bono, an indigent client through a nonprofit legal service or public interest organization pro bono, or an indigent client pro bono through a law school clinical or pro bono program to provide modest gifts to the client for food, rent, transportation, medicine, and other basic living expenses. However, the proposed amendment prohibits lawyers from making any promises or assurances to clients before or after they have been retained. The comments section has been revised to provide a clearer explanation of the rule. It emphasizes that lawyers still are not allowed to financially support a lawsuit or administrative proceeding on behalf of their clients.

2. **Article VIII, Committees – Generally, Sections 1 and 2**

The purpose of the proposed change to this bylaw is to provide clarity regarding voting and quorum requirements for committees. The amendment specifically states that a member serving ex officio retains the right to vote and their presence contributes to meeting the quorum requirements for voting in both standing and special committees. Also, the proposed change clearly states that liaisons and advisory members are not granted voting rights, and their presence does not contribute to establishing a quorum for conducting business in a standing or special committee.

1 **RULE 1.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS**

2 ...

3 e. A lawyer shall not provide financial assistance to a client in connection
4 with pending or contemplated litigation, except that:

5 1. a lawyer may advance court costs and expenses of litigation, the
6 repayment of which may be contingent on the outcome of the matter;

7 ~~or~~

8 2. a lawyer representing a client unable to pay court costs and expenses
9 of litigation may pay those costs and expenses on behalf of the client;

10 or

11 3. a lawyer representing an indigent client pro bono, a lawyer
12 representing an indigent client pro bono through a nonprofit legal
13 services or public interest organization pro bono or a lawyer representing
14 an indigent client pro bono through a law school clinical or pro bono
15 program may provide modest gifts to the client for basic living expenses.

16 The lawyer:

17 i. may not promise, assure or imply the availability of such
18 gifts prior to retention or as an inducement to continue the
19 client-lawyer relationship or any other client-lawyer
20 relationship after retention;

- 21 ii. may not seek or accept reimbursement from the client, a
22 relative of the client or anyone affiliated with the client; and
23 iii. may not publicize or advertise a willingness to provide such
24 gifts to prospective clients.

25 Financial assistance under this Rule may be provided even if the
26 representation is eligible for fees under a fee shifting statute.

27 ...

28 COMMENTS

29 ...

30 Financial Assistance to Clients

31 [4] Paragraph (e) eliminates the former requirement that the client remain
32 ultimately liable for financial assistance provided by the lawyer. ~~It further limits~~
33 ~~permitted assistance to court costs and expenses directly related to litigation.~~
34 ~~Accordingly, permitted expenses would include expenses of investigation, medical~~
35 ~~diagnostic work connected with the matter under litigation and treatment necessary~~
36 ~~for the diagnosis, and the costs of obtaining and presenting evidence. Permitted~~
37 ~~expenses would not include living expenses or medical expenses other than those~~
38 ~~listed above.~~

39 [5] Lawyers may not subsidize lawsuits or administrative proceedings brought on
40 behalf of their clients, including making or guaranteeing loans to their clients for

41 living expenses, because to do so would encourage clients to pursue lawsuits that
42 might not otherwise be brought and because such assistance gives lawyers too
43 great a financial stake in the litigation. These dangers do not warrant a prohibition
44 on a lawyer lending a client court costs and litigation expenses, including the
45 expenses of medical examination and the costs of obtaining and presenting
46 evidence, because these advances are virtually indistinguishable from contingent
47 fees and help ensure access to the courts. Similarly, an exception allowing lawyers
48 representing indigent clients to pay court costs and litigation expenses regardless of
49 whether these funds will be repaid is warranted.

50 [6] Paragraph (e) (3) provides another exception. A lawyer representing an
51 indigent client without fee, a lawyer representing an indigent client ~~pro bono~~
52 through a nonprofit legal services or public interest organization, and a lawyer
53 representing an indigent client ~~pro bono~~ through a law school clinical or pro bono
54 program may give the client modest gifts. Gifts permitted under paragraph (e) (3)
55 include modest contributions for food, rent, transportation, medicine and similar
56 basic necessities of life. If the gift may have consequences for the client, including,
57 e.g., for receipt of government benefits, social services, or tax liability, the lawyer
58 should consult with the client about these. See Rule 1.4.

59 [7] The paragraph (e) (3) exception is narrow. Modest gifts are allowed in specific
60 circumstances where it is unlikely to create conflicts of interest or invite abuse.

61 Paragraph (e) (3) prohibits the lawyer from (i) promising, assuring or implying the
62 availability of financial assistance prior to retention or as an inducement to
63 continue the client-lawyer relationship after retention; (ii) seeking or accepting
64 reimbursement from the client, a relative of the client or anyone affiliated with the
65 client; and (iii) publicizing or advertising a willingness to provide gifts to
66 prospective to clients beyond court costs and expenses of litigation in connection
67 with contemplated or pending litigation or administrative proceedings.
68 [8] Financial assistance, including modest gifts pursuant to paragraph (e) (3), may
69 be provided even if the representation is eligible for fees under a fee-shifting
70 statute. However, paragraph (e) (3) does not permit lawyers to provide assistance
71 in other contemplated or pending litigation in which the lawyer may eventually
72 recover a fee, such as contingent-fee personal injury cases or cases in which fees
73 may be available under a contractual fee-shifting provision, even if the lawyer does
74 not eventually receive a fee.
75 . . .

1 **RULE 1.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS**

2 ...

3 e. A lawyer shall not provide financial assistance to a client in
4 connection with pending or contemplated litigation, except that:

5 1. a lawyer may advance court costs and expenses of litigation, the
6 repayment of which may be contingent on the outcome of the matter;

7 2. a lawyer representing a client unable to pay court costs and
8 expenses of litigation may pay those costs and expenses on behalf of
9 the client; or

10 3. a lawyer representing an indigent client pro bono, a lawyer
11 representing an indigent client through a nonprofit legal services or
12 public interest organization pro bono or a lawyer representing an
13 indigent client through a law school clinical or pro bono program may
14 provide modest gifts to the client for basic living expenses. The
15 lawyer:

16 i. may not promise, assure or imply the availability of such
17 gifts prior to retention or as an inducement to continue the
18 client-lawyer relationship **or any other client-lawyer**
19 **relationship** after retention;

- 20 ii. may not seek or accept reimbursement from the client, a
21 relative of the client or anyone affiliated with the client; and
22 iii. may not publicize or advertise a willingness to provide such
23 gifts to prospective clients.

24 Financial assistance under this Rule may be provided even if the
25 representation is eligible for fees under a fee shifting statute.

26 . . .

27 COMMENTS

28 . . .

29 Financial Assistance to Clients

30 [4] Paragraph (e) eliminates the former requirement that the client remain
31 ultimately liable for financial assistance provided by the lawyer.

32 [5] Lawyers may not subsidize lawsuits or administrative proceedings brought on
33 behalf of their clients, including making or guaranteeing loans to their clients for
34 living expenses, because to do so would encourage clients to pursue lawsuits that
35 might not otherwise be brought and because such assistance gives lawyers too
36 great a financial stake in the litigation. These dangers do not warrant a prohibition
37 on a lawyer lending a client court costs and litigation expenses, including the
38 expenses of medical examination and the costs of obtaining and presenting
39 evidence, because these advances are virtually indistinguishable from contingent

40 fees and help ensure access to the courts. Similarly, an exception allowing lawyers
41 representing indigent clients to pay court costs and litigation expenses regardless of
42 whether these funds will be repaid is warranted.

43 [6] Paragraph (e) (3) provides another exception. A lawyer representing an
44 indigent client without fee, a lawyer representing an indigent client through a
45 nonprofit legal services or public interest organization, and a lawyer representing
46 an indigent client through a law school clinical or pro bono program may give the
47 client modest gifts. Gifts permitted under paragraph (e) (3) include modest
48 contributions for food, rent, transportation, medicine and similar basic necessities
49 of life. If the gift may have consequences for the client, including, e.g., for receipt
50 of government benefits, social services, or tax liability, the lawyer should consult
51 with the client about these. See Rule 1.4.

52 [7] The paragraph (e) (3) exception is narrow. Modest gifts are allowed in specific
53 circumstances where it is unlikely to create conflicts of interest or invite abuse.
54 Paragraph (e) (3) prohibits the lawyer from (i) promising, assuring or implying the
55 availability of financial assistance prior to retention or as an inducement to
56 continue the client-lawyer relationship after retention; (ii) seeking or accepting
57 reimbursement from the client, a relative of the client or anyone affiliated with the
58 client; and (iii) publicizing or advertising a willingness to provide gifts to

59 prospective to clients beyond court costs and expenses of litigation in connection
60 with contemplated or pending litigation or administrative proceedings.

61 [8] Financial assistance, including modest gifts pursuant to paragraph (e) (3), may
62 be provided even if the representation is eligible for fees under a fee-shifting
63 statute. However, paragraph (e) (3) does not permit lawyers to provide assistance
64 in other contemplated or pending litigation in which the lawyer may eventually
65 recover a fee, such as contingent-fee personal injury cases or cases in which fees
66 may be available under a contractual fee-shifting provision, even if the lawyer does
67 not eventually receive a fee.

68 . . .

1 **Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2**

2 **Section 1. Standing Committees.**

3 (a) Creation of Standing Committees; Statement of Purpose. The Board
4 of Governors may create standing committees for such purposes as it deems
5 appropriate. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed
6 by the President. Any request for the creation of a standing committee shall
7 be accompanied by a statement of purpose. A listing of the standing
8 committees of the State Bar of Georgia shall be published annually on the
9 official State Bar website. The publication shall include a description of
10 each committee's purpose, the names of current committee members and
11 their respective terms.

12 (b) Appointment of Members.

13 (1) Three-year Terms. There shall be a minimum of nine
14 members of each standing committee appointed for three-year terms.
15 Regardless of when the appointment is made, such term shall begin
16 on July 1 of the year the appointing President took office, and expire
17 on June 30 three years later, except for the Finance Committee, which
18 term shall begin on January 1 of the Bar year the appointing President
19 took office and expire on December 31 three years later, whose
20 members shall be appointed by the President-elect. The term of all

21 such appointments shall be staggered so that one-third of all
22 committee members appointed for three-year terms shall retire at the
23 end of each year.

24 (2) One-year Terms. The President may appoint additional
25 members of each standing committee as the President deems
26 appropriate. Regardless of when such additional committee members
27 are appointed, the term of such appointees shall begin on July 1 of the
28 year the appointing President took office and shall expire on the
29 following June 30, except for the Finance Committee, which term
30 shall begin on January 1 and expire on the following December 31.

31 (3) Non-voting Advisory and Liaison Members. The President
32 may appoint non-voting advisory and liaison members to each
33 standing committee as the President deems appropriate. Regardless of
34 when appointed, such term shall begin on July 1 of the year the
35 appointing President took office and shall expire on the following
36 June 30, except for the Finance Committee, which term shall begin
37 on January 1 and expire on the following December 31. The presence
38 of non-voting advisory and liaison Members at a committee meeting
39 will not be considered when determining a quorum for the
40 committee, nor may they vote in any committee meeting.

41 (4) Appointments to Fulfill Quorum Requirements. In the event
42 of any appointee's resignation, incapacitation, or persistent inability
43 to perform committee business, the President shall have the authority
44 to appoint a replacement to serve for the duration of the original
45 appointee's term. The President shall exercise all foregoing
46 discretionary powers of appointment to advance the objective of
47 enabling committees to obtain quorums and conduct regular
48 committee business.

49 (5) Notice of Three-year Term Appointments. Incoming
50 Presidents shall inform the Board of appointments to fill expiring or
51 vacant three-year terms on standing committees at the State Bar of
52 Georgia's Annual Meeting.

53 (6) Notice of Other Appointments. Appointments to one-year
54 terms or to non-voting advisory or liaison capacity on any standing
55 committee shall be published on the official State Bar of Georgia
56 website.

57 (7) Executive Committee Liaison Members. No later than the
58 second Board of Governors meeting during the President's term in
59 office, the President may appoint an Executive Committee liaison
60 member to such standing committees as the President chooses. Such

61 Executive Committee liaison members shall serve for a one-year term
62 that expires on the first June 30 after such appointment, except for the
63 Finance Committee, which term shall begin on January 1 and expire
64 on the following December 31. Such members shall have full voting
65 privileges and count toward a quorum at any meeting of a standing
66 committee.

67 (8) Ex-Officio Members. Ex-officio members shall have voting
68 privileges and count toward a quorum at any meeting of the standing
69 committee.

70 (c) Chairperson, Co-chairs, and Vice Chairperson or Vice Co-chairs.

71 Each year the President shall appoint a chairperson or co-chairs, and a vice
72 chairperson or vice co-chairs of each standing committee. A chairperson or,
73 in the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson may act on behalf of
74 the committee when it is not practical or possible to confer with the
75 committee.

76 (d) Abolition of Standing Committees. Standing committees may be
77 abolished by the Board of Governors following written notice to the
78 chairperson and members of the committee.

79 **Section 2. Special Committees.**

80 (a) Creation of Special Committees; Statement of Purpose. The

81 President may create special committees for such purposes as deemed
82 appropriate. A list of the special committees of the State Bar of Georgia
83 shall be published annually on the official State Bar website. The
84 publication shall include a description of each committee's purpose and
85 the names of current committee members. The President shall designate
86 a specific term, not to exceed the President's term in office, for the work
87 of the committee. The incoming President shall review the special
88 committees whose terms are expiring to determine whether such
89 committee or committees should continue. The incoming President may
90 extend the term of such special committees for a specific term, not to
91 exceed the incoming President's term in office.

92 (b) Non-voting Advisory and Liaison Members. There may
93 be non-voting advisory and liaison appointments to special
94 committees appointed by the President at his or her discretion. The
95 presence of non-voting advisory and liaison members at a committee
96 meeting shall not be considered when determining a quorum for the
97 committee, not may they vote in any committee meeting.

98 (c) Ex-Officio Members. Ex-officio members shall have voting
99 privileges and count toward a quorum at any meeting of a special
100 committee.

101 (d) Terms of Members. All appointments shall be for the term of the
102 committee as established by the appointing President. Should an
103 incoming President extend the term of the committee for a specific
104 term, the incoming President may reappoint any current members he or
105 she may choose, appoint new members to replace the original members
106 or appoint additional members to the special committee. The terms of
107 the new or additional members shall be for the extended term as
108 established by the incoming President.

109 (de) Chairperson, Co-chairs, Vice Chairperson and Vice Co-chairs. The
110 President shall appoint a chairperson or co-chairs, and vice-chairperson
111 or vice co-chairs of each special committee. The chairperson or, in the
112 absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson may act on behalf of
113 the committee when it is not practical or possible to confer with the
114 committee.

115 (ef) Executive Committee Liaison Members. Not later than the second
116 Board of Governors meeting during the President's term in office, the
117 President may appoint an Executive Committee Liaison member to such
118 special committees as the President chooses. Such Executive Committee
119 Liaison members shall serve for a term of one year, with such term
120 expiring on the first June 30 after such appointment. Executive Committee

121

Liaison ~~Such~~ members shall have full voting privileges and count toward a

122

quorum at any meeting of a special committee.

1 **Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2**

2 **Section 1. Standing Committees.**

3 (a) Creation of Standing Committees; Statement of Purpose. The Board
4 of Governors may create standing committees for such purposes as it deems
5 appropriate. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed
6 by the President. Any request for the creation of a standing committee shall
7 be accompanied by a statement of purpose. A listing of the standing
8 committees of the State Bar of Georgia shall be published annually on the
9 official State Bar website. The publication shall include a description of
10 each committee's purpose, the names of current committee members and
11 their respective terms.

12 (b) Appointment of Members.

13 (1) Three-year Terms. There shall be a minimum of nine
14 members of each standing committee appointed for three-year terms.
15 Regardless of when the appointment is made, such term shall begin
16 on July 1 of the year the appointing President took office, and expire
17 on June 30 three years later, except for the Finance Committee, which
18 term shall begin on January 1 of the Bar year the appointing President
19 took office and expire on December 31 three years later, whose
20 members shall be appointed by the President-elect. The term of all

21 such appointments shall be staggered so that one-third of all
22 committee members appointed for three-year terms shall retire at the
23 end of each year.

24 (2) One-year Terms. The President may appoint additional
25 members of each standing committee as the President deems
26 appropriate. Regardless of when such additional committee members
27 are appointed, the term of such appointees shall begin on July 1 of the
28 year the appointing President took office and shall expire on the
29 following June 30, except for the Finance Committee, which term
30 shall begin on January 1 and expire on the following December 31.

31 (3) Non-voting Advisory and Liaison Members. The President
32 may appoint non-voting advisory and liaison members to each
33 standing committee as the President deems appropriate. Regardless of
34 when appointed, such term shall begin on July 1 of the year the
35 appointing President took office and shall expire on the following
36 June 30, except for the Finance Committee, which term shall begin
37 on January 1 and expire on the following December 31. The presence
38 of non-voting advisory and liaison Members at a committee meeting
39 will not be considered when determining a quorum for the
40 committee, nor may they vote in any committee meeting.

41 (4) Appointments to Fulfill Quorum Requirements. In the event
42 of any appointee's resignation, incapacitation, or persistent inability
43 to perform committee business, the President shall have the authority
44 to appoint a replacement to serve for the duration of the original
45 appointee's term. The President shall exercise all foregoing
46 discretionary powers of appointment to advance the objective of
47 enabling committees to obtain quorums and conduct regular
48 committee business.

49 (5) Notice of Three-year Term Appointments. Incoming
50 Presidents shall inform the Board of appointments to fill expiring or
51 vacant three-year terms on standing committees at the State Bar of
52 Georgia's Annual Meeting.

53 (6) Notice of Other Appointments. Appointments to one-year
54 terms or to non-voting advisory or liaison capacity on any standing
55 committee shall be published on the official State Bar of Georgia
56 website.

57 (7) Executive Committee Liaison Members. No later than the
58 second Board of Governors meeting during the President's term in
59 office, the President may appoint an Executive Committee liaison
60 member to such standing committees as the President chooses. Such

61 Executive Committee liaison members shall serve for a one-year term
62 that expires on the first June 30 after such appointment, except for the
63 Finance Committee, which term shall begin on January 1 and expire
64 on the following December 31. Such members shall have full voting
65 privileges and count toward a quorum at any meeting of a standing
66 committee.

67 (8) Ex-Officio Members. Ex-officio members shall have voting
68 privileges and count toward a quorum at any meeting of the standing
69 committee.

70 (c) Chairperson, Co-chairs, and Vice Chairperson or Vice Co-chairs.

71 Each year the President shall appoint a chairperson or co-chairs, and a vice
72 chairperson or vice co-chairs of each standing committee. A chairperson or,
73 in the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson may act on behalf of
74 the committee when it is not practical or possible to confer with the
75 committee.

76 (d) Abolition of Standing Committees. Standing committees may be
77 abolished by the Board of Governors following written notice to the
78 chairperson and members of the committee.

79 **Section 2. Special Committees.**

80 (a) Creation of Special Committees; Statement of Purpose. The

81 President may create special committees for such purposes as deemed
82 appropriate. A list of the special committees of the State Bar of Georgia
83 shall be published annually on the official State Bar website. The
84 publication shall include a description of each committee's purpose and
85 the names of current committee members. The President shall designate
86 a specific term, not to exceed the President's term in office, for the work
87 of the committee. The incoming President shall review the special
88 committees whose terms are expiring to determine whether such
89 committee or committees should continue. The incoming President may
90 extend the term of such special committees for a specific term, not to
91 exceed the incoming President's term in office.

92 (b) Non-voting Advisory and Liaison Members. There may be non-
93 voting advisory and liaison appointments to special committees
94 appointed by the President at his or her discretion. The presence of
95 non-voting advisory and liaison members at a committee meeting
96 shall not be considered when determining a quorum for the
97 committee, not may they vote in any committee meeting.

98 (c) Ex-Officio Members. Ex-officio members shall have voting
99 privileges and count toward a quorum at any meeting of a special
100 committee.

101 (d) Terms of Members. All appointments shall be for the term of the
102 committee as established by the appointing President. Should an
103 incoming President extend the term of the committee for a specific
104 term, the incoming President may reappoint any current members he or
105 she may choose, appoint new members to replace the original members
106 or appoint additional members to the special committee. The terms of
107 the new or additional members shall be for the extended term as
108 established by the incoming President.

109 (e) Chairperson, Co-chairs, Vice Chairperson and Vice Co-chairs. The
110 President shall appoint a chairperson or co-chairs, and vice-chairperson
111 or vice co-chairs of each special committee. The chairperson or, in the
112 absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson may act on behalf of
113 the committee when it is not practical or possible to confer with the
114 committee.

115 (f) Executive Committee Liaison Members. Not later than the second
116 Board of Governors meeting during the President's term in office, the
117 President may appoint an Executive Committee Liaison member to such
118 special committees as the President chooses. Such Executive Committee
119 Liaison members shall serve for a term of one year, with such term
120 expiring on the first June 30 after such appointment. Executive Committee

121 Liaison members shall have full voting privileges and count toward a
122 quorum at any meeting of a special committee.

Application to the Board of Governors for the establishment of a new section called the:
White Collar Section



NEW SECTION PROPOSAL

Prepared for: The Board of Governors
October 18, 2023

- EXHIBIT A – AREA OF LAW OR PRACTICE
- EXHIBIT B – STATEMENT OF NEED
- EXHIBIT C – PROPOSED BYLAWS
- EXHIBIT D – SUPPORTING MEMBERS

EXHIBIT A
AREA OF LAW OR PRACTICE

This proposed new section will be known as the “White Collar Section.”

For reference, white collar law practice is an amalgamation of several practice areas, including business litigation, criminal law, technology law, civil litigation, securities litigation, compliance, and corporate governance.

Instead of duplicating any of the above-mentioned sections, the White Collar Section would uniquely fuse a few specific, applicable aspects from each of them to create a common ground for professionals working on criminal, civil, parallel, or internal white-collar matters or investigations, compliance, and any resulting litigation.

EXHIBIT B
STATEMENT OF NEED

POTENTIAL SECTION MEMBERS: Section members would represent individual and corporate clients across the spectrum of civil, criminal, and parallel investigatory actions—state and federal—and internal investigations. The Section members would be corporate, criminal, civil, and compliance lawyers—including state and federal prosecutors and regulatory agency attorneys—focused on the intersection between individual citizens, corporations, governmental regulatory agencies, and courts.

PURPOSE: There is a heightened need for attorneys in the white collar sphere due to a rising number of governmental audit, enforcement, and prosecutorial actions, seeking both individual and corporate accountability. For example, False Claims Act (“FCA”) investigations and case filings continued to rise in 2021, and the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) collected more than \$5.6 billion in FCA settlements and judgments in 2021 alone—the second-largest annual total in FCA history.¹ The statistics also reflect that more new qui tam and non-qui tam matters were initiated in 2022 than in the previous year. The 296 non-qui tam and 652 qui tam new cases reported in 2022 reflect an increase over fiscal year 2021’s new case numbers of 212 and 595, respectively.² Given the government’s ongoing commitment to using in-house analytics to detect and investigate fraud, particularly involving health care and procurement fraud, the DOJ will undoubtedly continue increasing FCA cases and recoveries in 2023 and beyond.³

Similarly, in 2022, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filed 760 enforcement actions—including 462 new ones—a 6.5% increase over the prior year.⁴ In 2022, the Commission recovered a record \$6.4 billion in penalties and disgorgement on behalf of the investing public.⁵ The Department of Justice (“DOJ”) investigations and enforcement actions are also expected to rise in 2023.⁶ In light of the various drug-related problems facing our communities today, the DEA has also notably taken an increasingly aggressive approach toward regulation, particularly of health care providers and pharmacies involved in prescribing and dispensing controlled substances.⁷ Regulated professionals and

¹ See Michael K. Loucks et al., *DOJ-Initiated False Claims Act Activity on the Rise*, SKADDEN INSIGHTS – APRIL 2022 (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/2p9354wm>.

² See Heather M. O’Shea et al., *2022 False Claims Act Statistics Reveal More New Cases and More Settlements (But Lower Total Recoveries)*, JONES DAY INSIGHTS – February 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/2p8yuxpj>.

³ See John H. Lawrence et al., *The False Claims Act and Health Care: 2022 Recoveries and 2023 Outlook*, K&L GATES HUB (April 28, 2023), <https://tinyurl.com/4n4eaj3z>.

⁴ See Press Release 2022-206, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Announces Enforcement Results for FY22 (Nov. 15, 2022), <https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2022-206>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Phillip Bantz, *5 White Collar Enforcement Trends to Watch in 2023*, LAW360 (January 2, 2023), <https://tinyurl.com/2s4xr3xt>.

⁷ See Joshua Oyster et al., *Expect Aggressive Life Sciences Enforcement In 2022*, LAW360 (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/3a3c6fm7>.

White Collar Section Proposal

corporations will need Georgia attorneys' in-depth guidance and best practices on all facets of a criminal, civil, or parallel investigation, as well as help in navigating any resulting litigation. Similarly, attorneys practicing in this unique, multifaceted area need support and educational resources to help guide them through implications of their strategic decisions at various stages of a white collar matter.

This Section, among other things, would directly benefit Georgia lawyers who have handled criminal matters but desire to expand their practice to cover civil matters and investigations (and vice versa); lawyers who have not yet worked on a case involving parallel investigations (a civil and criminal investigation taking place at the same time); and lawyers unsure of how to best handle an internal investigation and properly advise a corporate client. Due to the multifaceted nature of white collar practice, young lawyers in particular face a steep learning curve when they first enter the field. A supplemental advantage of this Section would be making the Young Lawyer Section members more welcome and comfortable in networking with more experienced members of white collar community and in their developing white collar practice. Additionally, small(er) law firms and solo practitioners engaged in the white collar practice space would benefit from increased visibility, networking, and business development opportunities because, as most in the white collar community know, large firms tend to dominate this space. This Section would be completely inclusive of all types and sizes of law practices and all areas of focus within the white collar space.

For more seasoned attorneys, this Section is crucial for bringing them together with like-minded colleagues who face similar stresses and strategic questions in their white collar practice every day. Connecting on such common ground and building ongoing, long-term professional relationships would ensure Georgia has not only competent, confident white collar lawyers but happy, confident clients who may face or are facing white collar issues.

While there is currently only one local white collar association in the United States that the drafters of this proposal were able to locate (the White-Collar Crime section of the Boston Bar Association), no state bar has a section dedicated to white collar practice. Currently, none of the Georgia Bar sections properly serve the needs of white collar practitioners in Georgia. For example, on the State Bar of Georgia website:

- (1) The Business Law section is described as “[h]ost[ing] standing committees on the Corporate Code, the UCC, Securities, Partnerships, Legal Opinions and Publications and continu[ing] to consider legislative proposals and monitor[ing] legislative developments in their respective areas.” While collar practitioners’ practices typically do not involve the formation, capitalization, and maintenance of businesses, but might intersect with these general legal principles in the context of dispute resolution and compliance.
- (2) The Corporate Counsel section is comprised of “Bar members engaged in corporate law practice with corporations, associations and law firms.” Again, this section is targeted toward law firm and in-house transactional corporate law practice.

White Collar Section Proposal

- (3) The Criminal Law section, which many white collar practitioners might currently be members of, limits itself to the criminal aspect the practice. As mentioned above, white collar practice is a multifaceted, involving criminal and civil enforcement and/or litigation, internal investigations, securities, compliance, and other matters. Thus, the Criminal Law section is simply not inclusive enough to meet the unique needs of white collar practitioners in Georgia.
- (4) The General Practice and Trial Law section, another section of which many white collars practitioners might currently be members, “proclaims itself ‘Georgia’s Largest Law Firm.’ It is one of the largest sections of the State Bar of Georgia.” As the name suggests, this section is broadly focused on trial and advocacy skills. While membership at this section is undoubtedly beneficial to most, if not all, practicing lawyers, as discussed above, much of white collar practitioners’ work involves out-of-court activities: interviewing clients in internal investigations, gathering confidential data, responding to government subpoenas and civil investigative demands, presenting to boards of directors, drafting compliance plans, and the like. The broad focus of the General Practice and Trial Law section is therefore not tailored to the unique needs of white collar practitioners.

EXHIBIT C
PROPOSED BYLAWS

Attached are the proposed Bylaws for the government of the Section.

BYLAWS FOR THE WHITE COLLAR SECTION
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this Section shall be the “White Collar Section,” and shall be hereinafter designated as the “Section.”

Section 2: The purpose of this Section shall be to form an association of licensed lawyers in the State of Georgia who desire to develop their knowledge and professional abilities within the field of white collar practice and to render better services to their clients and to the public.

ARTICLE II

Membership and Dues

Section 1: Each member of this Section shall be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia. Upon enrollment and payment of annual Section dues, any member of the State Bar shall be enrolled as a member of this Section. Thereafter, dues shall be paid in advance annually at the time of the payment of dues to the State Bar of Georgia. Section members who are enrolled and whose dues are paid shall constitute the membership of this Section. Any member whose annual dues are unpaid and past due shall cease to be a member and shall be dropped from the rolls of the Section, subject to reinstatement at any time upon the payment of dues on the current year. Annual dues shall be set by the Section leadership and approved by the Board of Governors.

Section 2: Student Law Members: Any student law member, pursuant to Rule 1-206.1, shall be eligible and may become a law student member of this Section upon application and payment of the required dues. Law student members shall be entitled to all of the privileges of this Section, except that of voting or holding office.

Section 3: The amount of annual dues for Section members and law student members may be changed in an amount determined by a majority vote of the members of the Section, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1: The Officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson-Criminal, a Vice Co-Chairperson-Civil, a Secretary, a Programs Director, and a Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) Liaison, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Section and who shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices and the duties hereafter specified. These officers shall be members of the Section Executive Committee and shall have general charge of the affairs of the Section.

White Collar Section Proposal

Section 2: All newly elected Officers shall hold office for a term of one (1) year beginning at the commencement of the fiscal year of the State Bar of Georgia following the election at which they are elected and ending at the close of the same fiscal year of the State Bar of Georgia or until their successor has been elected. If a vacancy arises in the office of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons shall perform, in equal capacity, the duties of the Chairperson for the remainder of the Chairperson's term. If a vacancy arises in the office of the Chairperson and there is also a vacancy in one of the offices of the Vice-Chairpersons, the other Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson for the remainder of the Chairperson's term. If vacancies arise in the offices of both Vice-Chairpersons, the President of the State Bar of Georgia shall appoint a successor Chairperson for the unexpired term. The Section Executive Committee may, by majority vote, fill any other vacancy in any other elected office for the balance of the unexpired term of such office.

Section 3: The Chairperson shall provide notice of the Section Executive Committee meetings and Section meetings. The Chairperson will preside over all meetings of the Section Executive Committee and of the Section, appoint appropriate committees to serve during their term as Chairperson, and plan and supervise the annual meeting of the Section. The Chairperson shall perform all executive and administrative duties necessary to the organization and functioning of the Section, including any responsibility as may be prescribed by the Section or by the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 4: The two Vice-Chairpersons shall assist the Chairperson and, in the absence or disability of the Chairperson, shall perform, in equal capacity, the duties of the Chairperson.

Section 5: The Secretary shall record and keep minutes of all meetings of the Section, present minutes to the Section members for approval, maintain permanent records until such time that the permanent records are transferred to the elected or appointed successor of the Secretary, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairperson. The Secretary shall also keep an accurate record of all dues collected and expenses of the Section, assist in the preparation of an annual budget for the Section, report upon the budget at meetings of the Section, and shall perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairperson. The Secretary shall provide an accounting to the Section at its annual meeting or upon the Chairperson's request.

Section 6: The Programs Director shall plan, promote, and superintend the programs of the Section during the term of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall superintend the Programs Director's activities as needed.

Section 7: The YLD Liaison shall serve as the point of contact between the State Bar's YLD lawyers and the Section. The YLD Liaison shall be responsible for helping YLD lawyers develop and foster professional relationships within the Section. The YLD Liaison shall also aid the Programs Director in planning and promoting Section events as needed.

ARTICLE IV
Meetings of the Section

Section 1: A Section shall meet a minimum of twice per Bar year. Other meetings of the Section may be held from time to time on the call of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairpersons or any four members of the Section Executive Committee or any ten active members of the Section. An annual meeting of the Section shall be held each Bar year at a location of the Section's choosing.

Section 2: The Chairperson may call a Special Meeting of the Section to be convened at such time and place and with such program and order of business as may be fixed by the Chairperson.

Section 3: At any meeting of the Section, ten (10) members present and eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum. Presence at a meeting can be in-person or by any electronic means of communication other than text messaging or e-mail as set forth in Art. IV, Section 7 of these Bylaws.

Section 4: Except for administrative decisions made by the Officers or Section Executive Committee, all actions of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and eligible to vote at any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 5: Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the Section shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and by these Bylaws.

Section 6: Notice of Section meetings shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the time and place of the meeting of the Section. Notice of a Section meeting shall be given by e-mail or mailing a notice to each member of the Section. Notice shall be sent to the member's e-mail address or office address as the same appears in the membership rolls of the Section maintained by the State Bar of Georgia. Notice of this Section's meetings may be included in other written or printed materials as distributed by the State Bar by e-mail, U.S. mail, or posted on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 7: If deemed prudent or necessary, the Section may conduct any meeting by any electronic means that allows for discussion, debate, and voting other than by text messaging or e-mail. A Section may adopt internal rules to allow for e-mail voting on noncontroversial matters, provided that the rule allows for any member to request verbal debate or discussion, which would stop all e-mail voting. All internal rules must be approved by the Office of the General Counsel.

ARTICLE V

Section Executive Committee

Section 1: The Section Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, the two Vice Co-Chairpersons, and three other members of the Section appointed by the Chairperson, whose terms shall coexist with that of the Chairperson.

Section 2: Except for actions requiring a vote from the entire membership of the Section, the Section Executive Committee shall have full authority to act for the Section in any way the Section itself would be authorized to act. Any such action taken by the Executive Committee under this provision shall be reported to the members of the Section at its next meeting and by e-mail or by the publication of a newsletter that is mailed or e-mailed to the members of the Section.

ARTICLE VI

Elections

Section 1: Annual elections for new officers shall occur between the mid-year meeting of the State Bar of Georgia and the annual meeting of the State Bar of Georgia. Prior to each election, the Chairperson shall appoint three or more members of the Section to be a nominating committee which shall nominate one or more members of the Section as qualified to hold each of the offices of the Section for the ensuing terms of office. The nominating committee's report shall be made to the Secretary thereafter, who shall present the report to the Section at its next meeting, or by e-mail or publication of a newsletter. Thereafter, and before the election of Officers, any member of the Section may nominate any other member of the Section for election to fill any of the vacant offices by transmitting said nomination to the Secretary. Nominations shall be closed ten (10) days after the presentation of the report of the nominating committee.

Section 2: The Officers of the Section shall be elected by written or electronic ballot. Before each election, voting instructions will be provided to all voting members. Ballots providing selections of the duly nominated candidates for each office shall be delivered in person at a regular or called meeting, by U.S. mail, or by other Section approved electronic voting methods. Voting shall take place no later than ten (10) days after the close of nominations. Each member of the Section wishing to participate in the election shall complete their ballot by casting a vote for at least one candidate for each vacant office. Ballots shall be cast per the voting instructions for each election. Votes cast contrary to the prescribed voting instructions shall not be counted. Within five (5) days of the due date for return of completed ballots, votes of Section members shall be tallied, and elected candidates shall be informed of their election. An election to any office requires a majority of the votes cast. If more than two candidates are nominated for any office and no candidate so nominated receives a majority of the votes cast upon the first ballot, then the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast upon such first ballot shall be voted upon again in a second ballot, and the candidate receiving a majority of the votes

White Collar Section Proposal

cast upon such second ballot shall be declared to be elected to the particular office. A Special Meeting of the Section may be called by the Officers to otherwise modify the procedure governing any election.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

Section 1: Funds of the Section shall be deposited in the treasury of the State Bar of Georgia. All expenses and accounts payable of the Section shall be approved by a member of the Section Executive Committee and paid by the Chief Financial Officer of the State Bar of Georgia. The Secretary of the Section shall communicate with the Sections Director to obtain financial information necessary to create financial reports to be delivered to the members of the Section.

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

Section 3: Officers and members of the Section shall not be compensated for services to the Section but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenditures incurred on behalf of the Section. Reimbursement of expenditure will require a receipt of the expense incurred on behalf of the Section and submitted to the Sections Director. The Sections Director will report the expense to the Executive Committee, which will approve or deny the reimbursement.

Section 4: A financial report of the funds of the Section shall be reported by the Secretary at each meeting of the Section upon request by any member of the Section. The Sections Director will assist the Secretary in preparing a financial report for the Section. This Section shall have the same fiscal year as the State Bar of Georgia.

ARTICLE VIII

Miscellaneous

Section 1: The Section shall conduct continuing education programs at least once each Bar year. Continuing education programs that are six hours or more in credit hours shall be conducted through the Institute of Continuing Legal Education of the State Bar of Georgia in the area of law and field of practice of this Section. Any continuing legal education program that is less than six hours may be conducted by the Section without the Institute of Continuing Legal Education of the State Bar of Georgia. All continuing education programs must be approved by the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency. The Section may coordinate its continuing legal education efforts with the other sections of the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 2: The Section, subject to the rules, bylaws, and Standing Board Policies of the State Bar of Georgia, may study or review proposed legislation. The Section may submit any proposed legislation to the Advisory Committee on Legislation for consideration by the

White Collar Section Proposal

Committee. The Section shall report or submit a report in writing of any legislative activities to the State Bar of Georgia at or prior to the Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia. Written reports shall be submitted at least six weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting for publication in the Annual Meeting Board Book.

Section 3: The Section will not engage in actions and activities or promote positions that are not germane to the scope and purpose of the State Bar of Georgia. A section shall not do any act or take any action contrary to the rules, bylaws and standing policies of the State Bar of Georgia.

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, provided the proposed amendment has first been approved by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: No amendment to these Bylaws shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

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

_____, 20 ____.

CHAIRPERSON

SECTION SECRETARY

EXHIBIT D
SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Please see in the chart below the names and addresses of at least ten (10) members applying for creation of the Section.

Name	Address	Georgia Bar Number
Tiffany N. Bracewell	600 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 3000, Atlanta GA 30308	377084
Charles E. Peeler	600 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 3000, Atlanta GA 30308	570399
Chief Justice Harold D. Melton	600 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 3000, Atlanta GA 30308	501570
Dominyka Plukaite	600 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 3000, Atlanta GA 30308	241132
Emily C. Ward	5605 Glenridge Drive, Suite 600, Atlanta GA 30342	500999
Byung J. "BJay" Pak	1201 West Peachtree St., Suite 4900, Atlanta GA 30309	559457
Ellen H. Persons	1201 West Peachtree St., Suite 1100, Atlanta GA 30309	930133
Carl Lietz	229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2500, Atlanta GA 30303	452080
David Bouchard	229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2500, Atlanta GA 30303	712859
Meredith Jones Kingsley	1201 West Peachtree St., Suite 4900, Atlanta GA 30309	793726
Paul Monnin	1201 West Peachtree St., Suite 4900, Atlanta GA 30309	516612

Standing Board Policy 1000 (Positions, Articles, Programs, Meetings, Activities of Committees and Sections. Guidelines for the State Bar of Georgia)

Purpose: The State Bar of Georgia maintains a specific stance on various matters, including the publication of articles, planning of programs, design, and execution of meetings, activities of committees and sections, and other issues that may not align with or exceed the mission and purposes of the State Bar of Georgia. This policy outlines the guidelines and boundaries for such activities, as per Rule 1-103 Purposes.

1. **Mandatory Bar Regulation.** As a mandatory Bar regulated by the Supreme Court of Georgia, our organization operates differently from bar associations with voluntary membership. Our primary focus is on lawyer regulation, discipline, and serving the public, while also supporting our members and volunteers. Therefore, all programs and activities must aim to enhance the administration of justice, advance the practice of law, and improve the quality of legal services provided to the citizens of Georgia.
2. **Guiding Principles.** Our principles are derived from Rule 1-103, which is referred to in Standing Board Policy 100 and further explained in the landmark case *Keller vs. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990), and related cases. It is essential to note that political or ideological activities are strictly prohibited under our rules, and all programs and events must always have a clear connection to the practice of law.
3. **Evaluation and Review.** As a mandatory Bar, we will continue to evaluate and review all submitted articles for potential publication carefully, considering these guidelines. Recommendations will be provided on the design of programs, activities, and other plans, with strict adherence to these rules. There may be instances where certain materials or activities need to be modified or rejected based on their compliance with our policies.
4. **Adherence to Position.** All planned communications or activities must align with the position outlined in this policy. The ultimate decision regarding the appropriate design rests with the offices of the Executive Director and the General Counsel. However, certain matters may require consideration and approval by the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee, or the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Docket Alarm Proposal

What is Docket Alarm?

- Fastcase now offers the tools to find, track, and analyze the briefs, motions, complaints, and other docket items that are valuable to legal research by the addition of Docket Alarm in January of 2018.
- It is a docket research database that lives alongside Fastcase, enhancing your research experience. Created by and for litigators in 2013, it is the nation's largest docket research repository.
- It has more than 700 million court records and counting on a single platform. Coverage includes Federal District Courts, Appellate Courts, the Supreme Court, Bankruptcy Courts, the ITC, the TTAB, and the PTAB.

Why Docket Alarm data should be added to the Georgia Bar's Fastcase Subscription?

- It gives our solo and small attorneys access to what the larger bars already have within their Lexis (Lexis Courtlinks) and Westlaw (Westlaw Dockets) Plans.
- It's streamlined within the Fastcase platform and accessed via the member benefits portal for quick and easy retrieval.
- The cost is reasonable at \$2.72 per member for the duration of the Bar's Fastcase agreement with no annual increases even as the database increases. The total cost to the bar with 53,715 qualifying members is \$146,104.08 total.
- Individual subscriptions cost \$99 a person.

How is Docket Alarm Useful?

- See how a particular issue was argued in a brief.
- Find an example complaint in a case like yours to see the calculation of damages alleged.
- Find documents drafted by a particular attorney, or rulings by a particular judge, to get the lay of the land in an upcoming case.
- Track any case to receive updates.
- Set up alerts to be notified of new litigation meeting any parameter you specify.
- Find information such as the names of the parties, dates of appearances before the court.
- Read a brief summary of the claims or charges.
- Identify court filings—the underlying documents (pleadings, motions, briefs, etc.) filed in a case.
- Although dockets and court filings are not considered "case law" and do not have precedential value, the information contained in these resources can sometimes help researchers better understand why a court issued a particular decision or opinion.

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
2023-2024
MINUTES OF MEETING 2
December 7, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

In-person at the State Bar Conference Center (Room 5) & via Zoom

The second meeting of the 2023-2024 State Bar of Georgia Advisory Committee on Legislation ("ACL") was held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 in a hybrid format. In-person participants attended the meeting at the State Bar Conference Center and virtual participants joined via Zoom video conferencing.

ATTENDANCE

The following members and liaisons attended in-person: Brandon Peak (Chair), Cesar Mitchell Jr. (Vice Chair), J. Antonio DelCampo (President), Patricia Gorham, Javoyne Hicks, Curtis Jenkins, Joyce Gist Lewis, Frank Strickland, Nancy Whaley, and Judge Paige Reese Whitaker.

The following members and liaisons attended via Zoom: Mark Alexander, Thua Barlay, Tracee Benzo, Joshua Bosin, Amanda Clark Palmer, Edward Collier, J. Anderson Davis, Joseph Dent, Norbert Hummel IV, Lisa Liang, Edward Lindsey, Graham McDonald, Jonathan Pannell, Alex Shalishali, R. Kyle Williams, Cynthia Clanton (Liaison), Jason Esteves (Liaison), Justice Shawn LaGrua (Georgia Supreme Court Liaison), Judge E. Trenton Brown (Court of Appeals Liaison), Judge John E. Morse, Jr. (Council of Superior Court Judges Liaison), Judge Danielle McRae (Council of Probate Court Judges Liaison), and Judge Brandon Bryson (Council of Magistrate Court Judges Liaison).

Other stakeholders present and participating in-person and via Zoom included: Ivy Cadle (President-Elect), Anna Arceneaux, LaQuaria Barton, Bob Bray, Susan Coppedge, Philippa Ellis, Jessica Farah, Paula Frederick (General Counsel), Cathy Hampton, Eric John, Megan Jones, Tracy Mason, Lashawn Murphy, Debra Nesbit, Bill NeSmith (Deputy General Counsel), Wanda Segars, Carlos Vilela, Shannon Weathers, Andrew Zoll, Mark Middleton (Legislative Consultant), Roy Robinson (Legislative Consultant), Rusty Sewell (Legislative Consultant), and Damon Elmore (Executive Director and Staff Liaison).

CALL TO ORDER

ACL Chair Brandon Peak called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Attendance was taken via sign-in sheet for those in-person and via Zoom's meeting participant report for those attending virtually.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

KELLER REVIEW

Paula Frederick, General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia, presented a brief review of *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990). As a mandatory bar association, the State Bar of Georgia is subject to First Amendment free speech and free association scrutiny by its membership. Under *Keller*, mandatory bar dues may only be used towards activities germane to the scope and purposes of the mandatory bar. The purposes of the State Bar of Georgia are covered in Rule 1-103 and include: (1) fostering the principles of duty and service to the public among the members of the bar, (2) improving the administration of justice, and (3) advancing the science of law.

Paula explained that the steps the State Bar of Georgia has taken to be *Keller* compliant include creating a separate legislative fund, so that bar dues are not being spent on any legislative activity, and ensuring that positions are only taken on matters that are germane to the practice of the Bar. Before the State Bar's Advisory Committee on Legislation, Board of Governors, or Executive Committee take a position on any legislative matter, they must do a *Keller* vote.

NEW LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The ACL reviewed the following new proposals. All proposals presented at the meeting were approved by the committee and will be considered by the Board of Governors at its Midyear Meeting in Atlanta on January 13, 2024.

a. Support for a Resolution of the Governor Recognizing April 2024 as Legal Professionalism Month.

Carlos Vilela and Cathy Hampton presented on behalf of the State Bar's Professionalism Committee. This proposed resolution calls attention to the role of professionalism among members of the bar and seeks to maintain the confidence of Georgians in the legal profession as a whole. Accordingly, this recognition by the legislative branch calls attention to the importance of the legal profession in Georgia society.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on January 13, 2024.

b. Support for FY 2025 Judicial Council Budget Request - \$900,000 to Fund the Georgia Resource Center.

Anna Arceneaux, Executive Director of the Georgia Resource Center, presented this proposal on behalf of the Indigent Defense Committee. The proposal requests the long-standing baseline budget of \$800,000 as well as an enhancement of \$100,000 to fund the Georgia

Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center. The Georgia Resource Center was initially started by bar members, law schools, and other stakeholders. Georgia is presently the only state that does not provide a statutory procedure or constitutional right to the appointment and compensation of counsel in state habeas corpus proceedings; the Resource Center seeks to provide free representation to indigent death row prisoners. The requested enhancement will support a junior staff attorney's salary, benefits, travel, and training. The State Bar has supported the Resource Center's appropriations request for 33 years.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on January 13, 2024.

c. Support for FY 2025 Judicial Council Budget Request - \$3 million to fund civil legal services grants for victims of domestic violence.

LaQuaria Barton presented the proposal on behalf of the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession. The State Bar has voted to support this annual funding request for over 20 years. The proposal asks for renewed funding of \$3 million for grants to legal services providers for representation of victims of domestic violence. The funding for these grants 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 January 13, 2024.

d. Support for FY 2025 Judicial Council Budget Request - \$619,000 to Provide Civil Legal Services Grants for Medical Legal Partnerships.

Susan Coppedge, Executive Director of the Georgia Legal Services Program, presented the proposal. The Access to Justice Committee has asked the State Bar to support the Judicial Council's budget request for a \$419,000 amendment to the FY24 appropriation of \$200,000, making a total appropriation of \$619,000 for FY25 to provide grant funding for medical legal collaboratives throughout the state. Medical legal partnerships provide legal services to families of children and adult patients in hospitals using attorneys embedded in those hospitals. The State Bar supported this appropriation for FY24.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on January 13, 2024.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Election and Political Update

Rusty Sewell reported that the two proposals approved by the committee at the September meeting are being prepared by the legislative council. Rob Leverett will introduce the

fiduciary bill to the House and BOG member John Kennedy will introduce the UCC bill to the Senate. Mark Middleton and Roy Robinson provided the committee with an update about the special session on the redrawing of congressional and legislative voting district maps that was set to end on the day of this meeting. They also reported that there will soon be some staffing changes at the Governor's office.

b. Update from the Judiciary

Tracy Mason with the Administrative Office of the Courts reported on the Judicial Council's proposal for judicial compensation reform for Georgia's state-paid judges. The proposed model will create a base rate salary structure for state-paid judges related to US district court judge compensation, establish a "maximum authorized" salary concept which would allow for the possibility of annual salary adjustments at the legislature's budgetary discretion, provide opt-in and grandfathering provisions for sitting judges at time of enactment, freeze for one year the linkage for local officials whose salary is linked to superior court judge pay, and create a permanent Judicial Compensation Commission for consistent and long-term recommendations. Following some questions and discussion, a motion was made by Mark Alexander and seconded by Andy Davis to support the proposal of the Judicial Council, as it promotes the administration of justice.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on January 13, 2024.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair Brandon Peak stated that the committee will meet again virtually on February 7, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the committee, Chair Brandon Peak adjourned the meeting at 11:21 AM.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL) Legislative Proposal Form

FORM A

For proposed legislation drafted by a State Bar committee or section and
lobbied by the State Bar's legislative team.

*****PROPOSALS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS FORM MUST ATTACH A DRAFT OF THE
PROPOSED LEGISLATION AS IT WOULD APPEAR IN THE GEORGIA CODE*****

Name of Proposal: Legal Professionalism Month

Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: Professionalism Committee

- 1. Provide a statement of the issues to be addressed by the proposed bill, including why this proposed revision is needed in Georgia.**

What this proposed gubernatorial proclamation provides is that April 2024 be recognized as "Legal Professionalism Month" for the legal profession and reminds members of the bar of their professionalism aspirations.

- 2. Is this a model bill from the Uniform Law Commission, American Law Institute, or another entity that drafts model legislation?** No.

- 3. Give a brief summary of the existing law on this issue, including citations to applicable case law addressed in the proposed legislation.**

This proclamation is not intended nor is it designed to amend, substitute, or otherwise modify existing state law. There is no existing state law on this issue.

- 4. Does this proposal seek to codify current case law or seek to modify a statute based on a recent appellate decision?** No, it is intended to be a proclamation by the Governor.

Should the Governor decline to adopt the proclamation, it will be converted to a privileged resolution for adoption by the General Assembly.

5. Will this proposed legislation have a fiscal impact on the state? The adoption of the proclamation will have no fiscal impact on the state.

6. Describe how the pending or proposed legislation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.¹

This proclamation calls attention to the role that professionalism among members of the bar lower costs and helps maintain the confidence of Georgians in the legal profession as a whole. Accordingly, this recognition by the Governor of the importance of legal professionalism calls attention to the importance of the legal profession in Georgia society.

7. Has another group attempted to pass similar legislation in the past? Is there another interest group that may be suited to lobby this bill?

The Professionalism Committee presented this to the Advisory Committee/Board of Governors in 2022 for presentation to the General Assembly. Governor Brian Kemp adopted this as a gubernatorial proclamation declaring April 2023 as “Professionalism Month”.

8. Why should the State Bar use its resources to lobby this proposal on behalf of the legal profession?

The State Bar should use its resources to lobby for this proclamation for four reasons: First, it will call attention to the role that professionalism plays in the legal community of Georgia. Second, it will underscore that the State Bar is aware of the role professionalism plays within its membership. Third, by recognizing for the second year in a row a “first-of-its-kind”, State-level “legal professionalism month” nationwide, Georgia will highlight that professionalism in the legal community continues to be taken seriously by the State Bar of Georgia. Fourth, the Governor’s office previously adopted this proclamation for the 2022-2023 bar year, and we anticipate it being adopted again for the 2023-2024 bar year.

9. Are there any potential proponents or opponents of the proposal or pending

¹ The State Bar reviews all proposals for compliance with the standard set out by the United States Supreme Court in *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

legislation, including, but not limited to, other State Bar sections, specialty bar associations (ie- the trial lawyers or real estate closing attorneys), governmental entities, and outside interest groups? If so, please list them below.

There are no anticipated opponents in the form of Specialty Bar Associations, State Bar Sections, or outside interest groups.

10. Have you circulated this legislative proposal to all of the members of your own section or committee? If so, have they provided any comments?

Yes. The entire Professionalism Committee has been presented with this proposed resolution. The Committee has not expressed any opposition to this proposed resolution.

11. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in the legislation or proposal?

- a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this proposal? If so, have they provided any comments?** Yes, the leadership of the Family Law, General Practice, Corporate Law, and Real Estate Law sections have been provided with a copy of the resolution to share with their respective memberships. To date, we have not received messages in opposition.

12. What is the recommendation that your section or committee wishes to be adopted by the State Bar?

It is the recommendation of the Professionalism Committee that this proclamation be advanced to the Governor's office for adoption.

A PROCLAMATION

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

Recognizing April 2024, as Legal Professionalism Month; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State Bar of Georgia advocates for all members of the Georgia Bar to be civil with one another during their representation of clients; and

WHEREAS, collegiality among counsel is critical to the effective and efficient adjudication of cases and controversies before Georgia Courts; and

WHEREAS, decreased collegiality and lack of professionalism between opposing counsel leads to increased hostility between litigants in Georgia’s court system; and

WHEREAS, such hostility and lack of professionalism may lead to increased stress and increased mental health concerns for legal practitioners, potentially resulting in less desirable outcomes for litigants; and

WHEREAS, greater collegiality and increased legal professionalism between counsel and litigants may result in more expeditious disposition of cases, lower costs to parties of a lawsuit, and better outcomes for litigants; and

WHEREAS, increased collegiality and legal professionalism and decreased hostility between counsel and litigants may also result in lower costs for Georgia’s Courts to administer justice; and

WHEREAS, more professionalism among attorneys will instill greater public trust and confidence in the legal system; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of collegiality and encouraging adversaries to join in the spirit of connecting with one another to foster greater legal professionalism and positive professional relationships, the State Bar of Georgia’s Committee on Professionalism has created an event to encourage collegiality and legal professionalism among members of the bar.

THEREFORE, I, Brian P. Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as Legal Professionalism Month in Georgia.

In witness, thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this __ day of _____, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL)
Funding Proposal Form

FORM B

For proposals seeking State Bar support for appropriations and state funding.

Name of Proposal: Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center, Inc.

Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: Indigent Defense

- 1. Please provide (a) the purpose of the funding, (b) the requested amount, and (b) the name of the state agency that received and administers this funding from the legislature.**

This proposal seeks continued State Bar support for adequate state funding for the Resource Center, specifically that continuation funding of \$800,000 and enhancement funding of \$100,000 be included in the budget of the Judicial Council for the next session of the General Assembly. The \$800,000 baseline funding comprises the majority of the funding for the Resource Center – an amount which has not increased in more than 20 years. The Resource Center is also seeking an enhancement from its longtime baseline funding this year in order to hire a junior staff attorney. State Bar support for the Resource Center remains critical, and, as always, deeply appreciated.

- 2. Please provide a brief background on this appropriations request, including whether the request seeks an increase from the previous fiscal year.**

The Resource Center respectfully requests support for its long-standing baseline budget of \$800,000 as well as an enhancement of \$100,000. The requested enhancement will support a junior staff attorney's salary, benefits, travel, and training.

Historically, in the last two decades, the Resource Center has only ever sought enhancements in order to restore previously-cut funding. The Resource Center first received \$800,000 from the legislature starting in FY 2002 through FY 2008, from FY 2013 through FY 2020, and from FY 2023 to the present. From FY 2009 to FY 2012,

the Resource Center faced a significant reduction in state funding due to the financial crisis, which was ultimately restored. In FY 2021 and 2022, the Resource Center saw a small reduction in its funding due to the pandemic cuts experienced across all state agencies and organizations that receive state funding. In those two years, the Resource Center received \$775,000 from the State. The \$800,000 baseline funding was restored in FY 2023.

The \$100,000 enhancement request is thus the first time in over 20 years in which the Resource Center has sought to increase its baseline legislative funding above \$800,000. It is making such a request at this time due to rising costs and decreases in other funding sources, in order to restore a junior level staff attorney position, which would ensure that the Resource Center can fulfill its mandate of ensuring that every person under a sentence of death in Georgia receives high-quality representation in their state and federal habeas corpus proceedings, and in clemency proceedings before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.

3. Has the State Bar supported this appropriation in the past?

For the past thirty-five (35) years, the State Bar of Georgia has actively supported the Resource Center's legislative proposal. The formal and active support for this legislative proposal by the State Bar is crucial to obtain continued and enhancement funding from the General Assembly, so that the important work of the Resource Center can continue.

4. Provide a statement of the issues to be addressed by this appropriation.

Georgia is the only state in the country that does not provide a statutory procedure or constitutional right to the appointment and compensation of counsel in state habeas corpus proceedings.¹ This poses an especially acute problem in capital cases where

¹ See *Gibson v. Turpin*, 270 Ga. 855 (1999). By the slimmest of margins, the Supreme Court of Georgia held that people under death sentence in Georgia had no constitutional right to counsel in state habeas corpus proceedings. The court noted that a statute providing for state-funded counsel might be a good policy, but that absent legislative enactment of such a provision, state-funded counsel was not constitutionally compelled.

post-conviction review has been recognized to be a critical stage in the death penalty appellate process.² The Resource Center is mandated to oversee *all* capital post-conviction cases in Georgia, either through direct representation or through support of pro bono counsel.³ As the Supreme Court has recognized, capital habeas corpus proceedings are among the most complex in the legal field and require intensive investigation and litigation by experienced attorneys and investigators.⁴ The responsibilities of Resource Center staff also extend to advocating for clemency after people under death sentence have exhausted their habeas appeals and face execution. At all of the stages of proceedings, the Resource Center’s workload continues to be voluminous and labor-intensive. While clemency hearings and state habeas proceedings are very different, both entail complex investigations that place enormous demands on the Resource Center’s staff and budget. *See* Guideline 10.7, ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases (counsel at every stage, including clemency, “have an obligation to conduct thorough and independent investigations relating to the issues of both guilt and penalty”).

The Resource Center is experiencing a significant decrease in its funding, the lowest in 20 years, from sources other than the state legislature, particularly in compensation from vouchers under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) for our work in federal court. Simultaneously, the Resource Center is dealing with rising costs, including staff salaries in order to remain competitive in the Atlanta public service market. In this climate of declining funding sources and rising costs, the Resource Center has reduced its staffing, as employees have moved on to other opportunities. In March 2022, the Resource Center had a staff of eleven: six attorneys (including the Executive Director), four investigators, and an office manager. The Resource Center currently has a staff of eight working on capital cases: four attorneys (including the Executive Director and two attorneys who recently passed the Georgia Bar), two investigators, a law graduate who must still pass the Georgia Bar, and an office manager. The enhancement funding

² *See, e.g., Murray v. Giarratano*, 492 U.S. 1, 24, 26 (1989).

³ The Resource Center is currently responsible for overseeing 40 cases from 25 counties across the state.

⁴ *See Martinez v. Ryan*, 132 S. Ct. 1309, 1317 (2012) (effective counsel is necessary in order to vindicate constitutional rights in post-conviction proceedings).

will allow the Resource Center to restore one of its staff attorney positions. Given the complexity and volume of the Resource Center’s work, and its demanding caseload, this position is critical in order to continue to provide high-quality legal representation consistent with the ABA Guidelines.

5. Why should the State Bar take an official position to support or oppose this funding?

Endorsement of this proposal is consistent with the purposes of the State Bar of Georgia. Members of the Bar are uniquely qualified to analyze the technical and public policy issues inherent in this proposal and can fulfill a duty of public service by examining these issues and making a statement to the General Assembly. Endorsement of this proposal will also improve the administration of justice in appellate and post-conviction capital proceedings in Georgia. Improving the administration of justice is one of the three foundational purposes of the State Bar. *See* Rule 1-103.

6. Describe how support for this appropriation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.⁵

The Resource Center has been found to be the most efficient and cost-effective means of moving capital cases to final adjudication and is a necessary safeguard against wrongful execution.⁶ By providing representation at this stage, moreover, the Resource Center allows Georgia’s capital punishment system to function expeditiously (in

⁵ The State Bar reviews all proposals for compliance with the standard set out by the United States Supreme Court in *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

⁶ A performance audit requested by the Georgia Senate Appropriations Committee and conducted by the Department of Audits in 2005 found that Resource Center attorneys handled more cases and expended less money per case than similar organizations providing post-conviction representation to people on death row in other states. This remains true today. For example, the State of Mississippi, which has slightly fewer people on death row (35 people) as Georgia (40 people), funds the Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel, a state agency, with a staff of nine full-time employees, at more than double the state budget of the Resource Center (\$1,985,529 in FY 2024, which does not even include operating expenses). *See* Mississippi Legislative Budget Office, FY 2024 Miss. Legislative Budget Recommendation Report, Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel, available at <https://www.lbo.ms.gov/PublicReports/GetBudgetRequestDetailReport/6129?report=Detail&fiscalYear=2024>.

particular by streamlining federal habeas review) in bringing these cases to final resolution. The Resource Center is not an anti-death penalty organization. Rather, the Resource Center seeks to promote the core principle of providing equal access to justice. This is reflected in the Lawyer’s Creed: to “strive to improve the law and our legal system [and] to make the laws and our legal system available to all.”

The Resource Center’s representation on behalf of its clients has also improved the quality of legal services for all indigent people on death row. For example, the Resource Center’s litigation in *Wilson v. Sellers*, decided in 2018 by the United States Supreme Court, made an important clarification in how federal courts review state court decisions in habeas corpus proceedings. Another example is the Resource Center’s litigation in *Nance v. Ward*, decided in 2021 by the United States Supreme Court, which made an important clarification in the appropriate vehicle, section 1983 or federal habeas, for method-of-execution claims.

The work of the Resource Center has not gone unnoticed. The Resource Center’s efforts on behalf of its clients earned it the 2012 Indigent Defense Award by the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In addition, the Resource Center received the 2013 Legal Legends Award by the American Constitution Society in recognition of its integral role in protecting the rights of indigent people on death row and ensuring fairness in the administration of capital punishment in Georgia. In August of 2013, the Resource Center was honored with the Deirdre O’Brien Award for Outstanding Advocacy on Behalf of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities from the ARC of Georgia.

7. Are there any potential proponents or opponents of this appropriation, including, but not limited to, other State Bar sections, specialty bar associations, governmental entities, and outside interest groups? If so, please list them here.

The State Bar of Georgia has supported full funding for the Resource Center since its inception in 1988. Indeed, the State Bar of Georgia was one of three recipients in the United States of the 1988 Harrison Tweed Award from the American Bar Association for its work in establishing the Resource Center. The Georgia Supreme Court has also

supported funding for the Resource Center, as has the Board of Governors and the Judicial Council of Georgia.

There are no known opponents of this proposal

8. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in this appropriation?

The following other committees or sections which may have an interest in the legislation: the Advisory Committee on Legislation; the Criminal Law Section; the Access to Justice Committee; and the Individual Rights Section of the State Bar. These committees and sections have previously supported funding for the Resource Center.

a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this request? If so, have they provided any comments?

Yes, we have provided a copy of this request to the Indigent Defense Committee. We will provide any comments from this committee if we receive them.

9. What is the recommendation that your section/committee wishes to be adopted by the State Bar?

The baseline funding of \$800,000 and the enhancement of \$100,000 will allow the Resource Center to maintain the minimum staff necessary to fulfill its mandate to provide high-quality legal representation to the people in Georgia who are currently under a sentence of death, all of whom are indigent. The effectiveness, efficiency, and credibility of Georgia's death penalty system depend on an adequately-staffed and sufficiently-funded Resource Center. Without adequate staffing, the quality of representation we provide our clients will be negatively impacted. Without the enhancement the Resource Center would be unable to maintain sufficient staffing levels in line with the ABA's Guidelines for the Appointment of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty cases, which

require at least two attorneys per capital case.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Resource Center petition the State Bar of Georgia for endorsement of continuation funding of \$800,000 for the Resource Center, and for an enhancement of \$100,000 to support the hiring of a junior attorney, and that such funding be placed in the budget of the Judicial Council for the next session of the General Assembly.

10. Please attach any additional information that the committee may find helpful in assessing this request.

Over the years, beyond the critical baseline funding of the Georgia legislature, the Resource Center had received monies from two additional primary sources: 1) the Georgia State Bar and/or the Georgia Bar Foundation and 2) vouchers from federal court representation. The Georgia State Bar, a founding partner and strong supporter of the Resource Center since its inception in 1988, has provided direct financial assistance of approximately \$110,000 per year to the Resource Center from FY 2009 to FY 2021. In FY 2022, FY 2023, and the current FY 2024, funding was cut in half to approximately \$55,000. In the past, the Georgia Bar Foundation had provided grants to the Resource Center, but these grants were discontinued in FY 2012 when the economic downturn devastated its IOLTA revenues. Since FY 2019, the Georgia Bar Foundation has again awarded the Center a grant. In FY 2024 the Center was awarded a grant of \$140,000.

Federal court compensation is received in periodic amounts that vary substantially according to the number of federal habeas cases which are approaching resolution at any given time, the discretion of the court, and the time it takes the courts to fulfill payment vouchers. In FY 2023 the Resource Center received only \$156,867.70 in federal court compensation, the lowest amount in 20 years. In comparison, in the previous three fiscal years, the average annual federal compensation was \$362,871.89. As the number of cases in federal court continues to decrease, the Resource Center expects the amount of CJA compensation to continue to decrease even further.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL) Funding Proposal Form

FORM B

For proposals seeking State Bar support for appropriations and state funding.

Name of Proposal: Domestic Violence Funding:

Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession (CPIP)

- 1. Please provide (a) the purpose of the funding, (b) the requested amount, and (c) the name of the state agency that received and administers this funding from the legislature.**

(a) The proposal for the Domestic Violence Funding is to use the funds to provide civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic violence.

(b) The requested amount is \$3 Million.

(c) The names of the state agencies that would receive and administer the funding would be Georgia Legal Services and Atlanta Legal Aid. The names of the state agencies that would receive and administer the funding would be Georgia Legal Services and Atlanta Legal Aid.

- 2. Please provide a brief background on this appropriations request, including whether the request seeks an increase from the previous fiscal year.**

In 1998, the General Assembly appropriated \$2 million as part of the Administrative Office of the Court's budget. The funds were appropriated for use in providing civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic violence. That year, the General Assembly recognized the importance of providing legal services to victims of domestic violence and has provided funding to do so every year since that time. 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 survivors of domestic violence.

As a result, this committee is proposing that the funding for this fiscal year be

increased in order to meet the needs of low-income victims of domestic violence.

3. Has the State Bar supported this appropriation in the past?

It is my understanding that the State Bar of Georgia has supported this proposal to appropriate the funds for this special purpose in the past.

4. Provide a statement of the issues to be addressed by this appropriation.

This funding helps to provide the legal representation that will serve the needs of many low-income survivors of domestic violence. There are many rural areas in Georgia that have been referred to as legal deserts because of the lack of lawyers to represent survivors, 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 survivors without cost.

5. Why should the State Bar take an official position to support or oppose this funding?

The State Bar of Georgia has been charged with serving both the public and the justice system needs in the State of Georgia. As a result, this proposal allows our unified Bar to fulfill that mission by providing low-income survivors of domestic violence with legal assistance in an effort to be protected and safe. Additionally, this proposal is cost-effective for the state of Georgia because studies show that for each \$1 spent on temporary protective orders, states save \$30.75 in avoided costs for law enforcement, hospital, incarceration, and other public costs.

6. Describe how support for this appropriation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.¹

(1) This appropriation regulates the legal profession by allowing and ensuring that low-income parties receive access to justice and legal resources that are considered to be legal deserts or areas that do not have a sufficient amount of legal representation.

(2) This appropriation improves the quality of legal services by allowing legal

¹ The State Bar reviews all proposals for compliance with the standard set out by the United States Supreme Court in *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

resources to be readily available for individuals throughout the entire State of Georgia.

- 7. Are there any potential proponents or opponents of this appropriation, including, but not limited to, other State Bar sections, specialty bar associations, governmental entities, and outside interest groups? If so, please list them here.**

Please review the response above regarding any other proponents of this appropriation. However, other organizations such as GABWA “Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, “GAWL” Georgia Association of Woman Lawyers, Gate City Bar, DeKalb Bar Association, Stonewall Bar Association, Georgia Hispanic Bar and Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

- 8. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in this appropriation?**

This committee would recommend that all Diversity Bar organizations receive this request along with the Indigent Defense, Access to Justice, and Children and Courts committees.

- a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this request? If so, have they provided any comments?**

This committee has not provided or forwarded this proposal with a copy of this request.

- 9. What is the recommendation that your section/committee wishes to be adopted by the State Bar?**

The committee proposes that the State Bar supports an increase in the funding from last year due to the reduction or budget cuts the previous fiscal year.

- 10. Please attach any additional information that the committee may find helpful in assessing this request.**

This committee does not have anymore or additional information to provide at this time.

September 20, 2023

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

RE: Legislative Proposal – Domestic Violence Funding

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession (“CPIP”) to request the State Bar of Georgia’s endorsement of legislation that would provide an appropriation for civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic violence. Each year, the CPIP seeks the endorsement of the State Bar of Georgia for this legislation, which provides for an appropriation to non-profit organizations that provide civil legal services to low-income Georgians. Our Committee hopes that the State Bar of Georgia agrees to endorse this legislation for the upcoming fiscal year, as the proposal must be renewed before the advisory Committee on Legislation. As a result, our Committee proposes an appropriation of \$3 Million for the Domestic Violence grant award. In addition, we understand that the Judicial Council is also making this request in their budget, and we ask that the State Bar Advisory Committee on Legislation supports the request.

In 1998, the General Assembly appropriated \$2 million as part of the Administrative Office of the Court’s budget. The appropriation of those funds provided civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic violence. That year, the General Assembly recognized the importance of providing legal services to victims of domestic violence and has provided funding to do so every year since that time. However, last year’s grant appropriations were reduced by 40% based on budget constraints. That reduction will substantially impact Georgia Legal Services and Atlanta Legal Aid’s ability to provide legal representation for survivors of domestic violence.

This funding helps to provide the legal representation that serves a need that would otherwise go unmet. Many rural areas in Georgia have been referred to as legal deserts because of the lack of lawyers to represent survivors, including 59 rural counties with less than ten (10) lawyers. Even in urban areas where lawyers are present, it is nearly impossible to find lawyers to represent low-income survivors without cost. <https://www.law.com/dailyreportonline/2020/07/28/rural-georgias-legal-deserts-are-further-stressed-by-pandemic/?sreturn=20200726112651>

Not only is representation important for survivors, but studies show that for each \$1 spent on temporary protective orders, states save \$30.75 in avoided costs for law enforcement, hospital, incarceration, and other public expenses. (*Hawkins, N. Perspectives on Civil Protective Orders in Domestic Violence Cases, NIJ Journal, No. 266, p.8*).

The Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession is not aware of opposition to this proposal for the appropriation for this fiscal year; however, we are aware of the competing needs for funding, and we ask that the Bar fully fund the Family Violence grant and prioritize this legislation.

September 18, 2023

Page 2

Our Committee understands 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 people experiencing poverty. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us for further information.

Thank you for considering our request.

Very truly yours,



LaQuaria S. Barton, Co-Chair
Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL) Funding Proposal Form

FORM B

For proposals seeking State Bar support for appropriations and state funding.

Name of Proposal: Appropriations for Medical Legal Partnerships

Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: Access to Justice Committee

- 1. Please provide (a) the purpose of the funding, (b) the requested amount, and (b) the name of the state agency that received and administers this funding from the legislature.**

The funding will support the creation and expansion of medical legal partnerships (MLPs) around the State. The Judicial Council of Georgia is requesting a \$419,000 amendment to the FY24 appropriation of \$200,000, and a total appropriation for FY25 of \$619,000.

- 2. Please provide a brief background on this appropriations request, including whether the request seeks an increase from the previous fiscal year.**

The Legislature appropriated \$200,000 for MLPs for FY24. The Judicial Council Budget Committee has recommended to the Judicial Council that the appropriation be enhanced by \$419,000 for FY24 and also FY25, for a total each year of \$619,000, the initial requested amount for FY24.

- 3. Has the State Bar supported this appropriation in the past?**

Yes, for FY24.

- 4. Provide a statement of the issues to be addressed by this appropriation.**

MLPs provide legal services to families of children and adult patients in hospitals using attorneys embedded in those hospitals. The attorneys can address the social determinants of health. For example, lawyers can address housing conditions which are detrimental to the health of children, including mold in apartments in

which children with asthma live. Or they can formalize custody of children with grandparents to allow them to authorize medical treatment.

5. Why should the State Bar take an official position to support or oppose this funding?

Funding for MLP's increases access to justice for a particularly vulnerable populations whose members would not otherwise have access to legal services.

6. Describe how support for this appropriation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.¹

Support for the appropriations facilitates patients and their families receiving legal services by serving them where they are, in the hospital. When a patient or family is dealing with serious health issues as they must when in a hospital, they are not likely to think about or focus on potential legal issues that could be contributing to their medical issues. Addressing the legal issues promptly can help identify contributing factors that often can be addressed. It also can help the patients access benefits which not only benefit the patient and their family, but also the hospital. Prompt attention to legal issues also can help reduce the likelihood of recurrence of certain medical issues.

7. Are there any potential proponents or opponents of this appropriation, including, but not limited to, other State Bar sections, specialty bar associations, governmental entities, and outside interest groups? If so, please list them here.

We are also seeking support of the Health Law Section, which supported this request for FY24.

8. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in this appropriation?

The Health Law Section

¹ The State Bar reviews all proposals for compliance with the standard set out by the United States Supreme Court in *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

- a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this request? If so, have they provided any comments?**

We are doing so and anticipate their support as they supported the request for FY24.

- 9. What is the recommendation that your section/committee wishes to be adopted by the State Bar?**

The Committee requests that the State Bar support the appropriations for MLP's expected to be contained in the Judicial Council of Georgia budget request.

- 10. Please attach any additional information that the committee may find helpful in assessing this request.**

September 18, 2023

Damon Elmore
Executive Director
State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Legislative Proposal – Funding for Medical-Legal Partnerships

Dear Mr. Elmore:

I am writing on behalf of the State Bar's Access to Justice Committee to request the State Bar's endorsement of legislation that would provide an appropriation of funding to support the creation and expansion of additional Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs) across the state. This request has the full support of the ATJ Committee through a motion and vote at its September 6, 2023 meeting.

MLP's integrate the expertise of lawyers with health care providers to address the social determinants of health which are at the root of many health inequities. Lawyers can address legal problems that patients have which exacerbate their health conditions. A classic example is the need for a lawyer's intervention to address unhealthy housing conditions, such as apartments with mold, which affect children with asthma. Patients also can better access to much needed resources like SNAP and TANF benefits.

MLP's have proven to provide benefits as well to hospitals and healthcare providers. A recent study done by the Cincinnati Children's Medical Center found that readmission rates decreased by 38% for children who had gotten legal assistance from the MLP in that hospital. In addition, an MLP can help a provider gain Medicaid compensation for services that would otherwise not be reimbursed.

Our committee is aware of the proliferation of MLPs across the country and their proven health benefits to both patients and providers.

Currently, there are established MLP's in the State, one in Atlanta between Atlanta Legal Aid Society, three Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Hospitals, and GSU College of Law, one in Macon between Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) and Navicent Atrium Hospital, and one in Waycross between GLSP and McKinney Medical Center. For the current budget year, the Judicial Council of Georgia recommended that the State of Georgia appropriate \$616,000 of legislative funding. The Legislature approved \$200,000. With that funding, Legal Aid and GLSP are beginning to create additional MLPs. For example, Legal Aid is partnering with Grady Hospital with a part-time lawyer. It is our understanding that the Judicial Council will recommend amending the FY 2024 budget to add \$419,000 and also requesting a similar amount for FY 2025, so the annual funding for FY 2024 and FY 2025 will each total \$619,000. We also understand that we do not need to submit specific language for this legislation because it is already a budget item. Further, we understand that his proposal satisfies the Keller criteria

HEADQUARTERS

14 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743
04-527-8700 · 800-334-6865
Fax 404-527-8717
www.gabar.org

COASTAL GEORGIA OFFICE

7402 Hodgson Memorial Drive, Suite 105
Savannah, GA 31406-2562
912-239-9910 · 877-239-9910
Fax 912-239-9970

SOUTH GEORGIA OFFICE

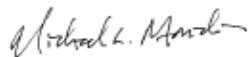
244 E. 2nd St. (31794)
P.O. Box 1390
Tifton, GA 31793-1390
229-387-0446 · 800-330-0446
Fax 229-387-7435

Damon Elmore
ACL Support Request
September 18, 2023
Page two

because it is within the scope and purposes of the State Bar of Georgia to advance the administration of justice.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Monahan
Liaison
Access to Justice Committee

Attachment: ACL Funding Proposal Form B

Cc: Hon. Catherine Salinas, ATJ Chair
Laura Myler, ATJ Vice Chair
Rita Sheffey
Susan Coppedge

Judicial Compensation Reform Model

The Judicial Council of Georgia proposes a model for judicial compensation reform for Georgia's state-paid judges.



A 2016 Report found that Georgia's judicial compensation system was "riddled with anomalies and inconsistencies," and a December 2022 Report found that many of the inconsistencies and disparity noted in the 2016 Report persist.

The Judicial Council, at its August 18, 2023, General Session, unanimously accepted its Committee's Final Report and adopted the recommendations made therein as official positions of the Judicial Council, and adopted the proposal as a legislative priority.

What the Proposal Does

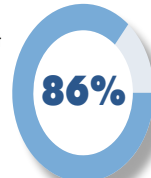
- Creates a base rate salary structure for state-paid judges related to U.S. district court judge compensation
- Establishes a "maximum authorized" salary concept which would allow for the possibility of annual salary adjustments at the legislature's budgetary discretion
- Replaces the current local county-paid supplement system in Superior Court with an optional locality pay, limited to a maximum of 10 percent of the state salary
- Provides opt-in and grandfathering provisions for sitting judges at time of enactment
- For local officials whose salary is linked to superior court judge pay, that linkage is frozen for one year, to allow the General Assembly and local governments time to assess any changes they may choose to make to local compensation plans
- Creates a permanent Judicial Compensation Commission for consistent and long-term recommendations

Key Features of the Proposal

- Addresses the substantial and long-standing disparity in the compensation of superior court judges
- Provides stability and predictability to the compensation structure of state-paid judges
- Addresses the stagnation in judicial pay
- Accounts for differences in cost-of-living

Broad Judicial Support

86 percent of active Superior Court Judges have voted to support this plan (including a majority of the judges who would not be guaranteed a positive pay increase by the implementation of this plan).



The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals also voted to support this plan and, together with the Superior Courts, have included a request for funding in their budget submissions.

Where Georgia's Judicial Compensation Ranks Compared to other States

Georgia Supreme Court salaries rank



Georgia Court of Appeals salaries rank



Some superior court salaries rank as low as



(others as high as 5th)

State-funded portion of superior court judge compensation ranks



(only ahead of West Virginia)

As Implemented, Where Georgia Would Rank Compared to Other States

Georgia Supreme Court



Georgia Court of Appeals



Superior courts would rank



and as high as 5th with locality pay

Share of FY24 State budget allocated to the judiciary





State Bar of Georgia

To: Bar Officers
Finance Committee

From: Ron Turner *RT*

Date: November 30, 2023

Re: October 2023 Financial Statements-Bar Operations and Bar Center

Attached please find the October 2023 financial statements. These financial statements are presented at a summary level for clarity and to convey overall trends. Full departmental detail is attached at year-end (6/30) and upon request.

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 < \$1,000 are not explained to conserve your time.

New and revised items are highlighted in bold.

Savings will be realized in each department to offset these overages.

Communications

The Bar has incurred \$17,769 in charges associated with the redesign of the Bar's website. A budgeted amount was intentionally not included in the operating budget of the Bar as monies from unallocated cash will be used to fund this expenditure. Currently, it is anticipated that the new website will be operational in the summer of 2024.

Supreme Court Meetings

Costs associated with the Supreme Court meetings line item have exceeded the budget by approximately \$8,400 primarily due to following unanticipated costs: (1) the hotel room costs were significantly more expensive per night in the current fiscal year as compared to prior fiscal years and what was anticipated when the budget was prepared; (2) two nights per person for the hotel were incurred in the current year where in the budget and in prior year's normally one night per person was incurred and (3) because two nights were incurred, there were also two group dinners incurred instead of one group dinner.

Membership Database Project

Similar to the Bar's website project, the Bar elected to update the membership database which was originally installed approximately 14 years ago. With this update, it is the intention to strengthen security to have this database in the cloud. A budget was not established intentionally as monies from unallocated cash will also be used to fund this expenditure. This project is anticipated to be completed in either spring or summer 2024.

Other Bar Center Operations

The Bar incurred unbudgeted building rehab costs of \$4,100. The majority of these costs were incurred as a result of the initial payment associated with work being performed on the doors to the front lobby. This work will improve handicap access to the building and the resources in unallocated cash are being used to fund these costs.

Rental

Repairs and maintenance costs associated with plumbing have exceeded the budget by \$2,323 due to costs incurred of \$9,923 associated with the replacement of cast iron pipes in a part of the building. These pipes rusted and broke. The cost of this repair was not budgeted.

Shared Office Overhead

Shared office allocations exceed actual shared office expense by approximately \$32,300. 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: Damon Elmore
Paula Frederick
Sarah Coole

State Bar of Georgia
Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures
Operations and Bar Center Combined
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	Year Ending	Year To Date	Year Ending
	06/30/2023	October 31, 2023	06/30/2024
	Actual	Actual	Annual Budget
Membership Numbers			
Active Members	41,628	41,553	41,940
Inactive Members	8,169	7,862	7,940
Provisional Members	26	34	225
Associates/Affiliates	11	9	12
Foreign Legal Consultants	9	9	7
Students	453	456	410
Emeritus	4,189	4,291	4,300
Total Membership Numbers	54,485	54,214	54,834
Revenue			
Dues Active	10,798,285	10,791,427	10,904,400
Dues Inactive	1,085,384	1,037,345	1,032,200
Dues Provisional	18,524	13,130	29,250
Dues Associates	1,050	900	1,200
Dues Foreign Legal Consultant	1,429	2,340	1,820
Dues Late Fees	252,825	212,900	250,000
Dues NSF Check Fee	220	80	300
Dues Prior Years	5,655	2,347	5,000
Total License and Dues	12,163,372	12,060,469	12,224,170
Program Registration Income	4,882,064	940,558	19,800
Section Expense Reimbursement	301,403	301,039	300,973
CSF Expense Reimbursement	73,000	24,333	73,000
Advertising and Sales	48,045	14,992	27,150
Membership Income	174,181	52,946	163,900
Credit Card Processing Fees	119,502	36,624	105,000
Interest Income	(33,332)	4,688	140,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	186,223	96	6,000
Total Bar Revenue	17,914,458	13,435,745	17,790,193
Total Bar Expenses	16,229,190	5,593,243	18,354,301
SBG Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,685,268	\$ 7,842,502	\$ (564,108)
			(1,390.25) %

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expenses are excluded from this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures
Operations and Bar Center Combined
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	Year Ending	Year To Date	% of Budget	Year Ending
	06/30/2023	October 31, 2023		06/30/2024
	Actual	Actual		Annual Budget
Total Bar Center Operations Revenue	2,972,797	1,022,425	38.75 %	2,638,200
Total Bar Center Operations Expenses	2,601,174	890,817	33.18 %	2,684,753
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 371,623 \$	131,608	(282.70) % \$	(46,553)
Combined Revenue	20,887,255	14,458,170	70.77 %	20,428,393
Combined Expenses	18,830,364	6,484,060	30.82 %	21,039,054
Total Combined Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,056,891 \$	7,974,110	(1,305.82) % \$	(610,661)



Note: Non-Cash depreciation expenses are excluded from this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Total Bar Center Operations
Revenues and Expenditures - Executive Summary
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	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							
Bar Center Assessments	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	200	200	165
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	0	0.00 %	(16,304)	0.00 %	0	16,304	55,035
CCLC Contributions to Bar Center	0	0.00 %	500,000	38.46 %	1,300,000	800,000	1,400,630
Interest and Dividend Income	0	0.00 %	27,230	27.79 %	98,000	70,770	115,247
Bar Center Income and Cash Receipts	0	0.00 %	\$ 510,926	36.54 %	\$ 1,398,200	\$ 887,274	\$ 1,571,077
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements							
Bond Premium Amortization	0	0.00 %	5,974	18.67 %	32,000	26,026	15,712
Investment Service Fees	0	0.00 %	5,208	23.67 %	22,000	16,792	26,697
Parking Deck Construction	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	850
Museum and 1st Floor Exhibit	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	5,000	5,000	0
Audio Video, Furniture and Equipment	3,780	0.00 %	761	21.75 %	3,500	2,739	18,990
Building Rehabilitation	0	0.00 %	4,100	0.00 %	0	(4,100)	47,347
2nd Floor Buildout	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	30,025
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements	3,780	6.05 %	16,043	25.67 %	62,500	46,457	139,621
Bar Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (3,780)	(0.28) %	\$ 494,883	37.05 %	\$ 1,335,700	\$ 840,817	\$ 1,431,456
Conference Center Income and Expenses							
Room Rentals and Various Charges	1,278	12.78 %	4,717	47.17 %	10,000	5,283	12,683
Conference Center Operating Expenses	36,645	7.50 %	151,053	30.93 %	488,316	337,263	444,934
Conference Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (35,367)	7.39 %	\$ (146,336)	30.59 %	\$ (478,316)	\$ (331,980)	\$ (432,251)
Rental Income and Expenses							
Rental Income	77,193	8.39 %	308,771	33.56 %	920,000	611,229	919,520
Building Operating Expenses	143,207	7.85 %	632,630	34.68 %	1,824,302	1,191,672	1,683,844
Rental Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (66,014)	7.30 %	\$ (323,858)	35.81 %	\$ (904,302)	\$ (580,444)	\$ (764,324)
Parking Income and Expenses							
Parking Income	63,945	20.63 %	198,011	63.87 %	310,000	111,989	469,518
Parking Deck Operating Expenses	29,277	9.46 %	91,092	29.42 %	309,635	218,543	332,775
Parking Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ 34,668	9,498.02 %	\$ 106,918	29,292.66 %	\$ 365	\$ (106,553)	\$ 136,743
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (70,494)	151.43 %	\$ 131,608	(282.70) %	\$ (46,553)	\$ (178,161)	\$ 371,623

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



State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Revenues				
Dues - Active	\$ 10,791,427	\$ 10,904,400	98.96 %	\$ 10,798,285
Dues - Inactive	1,037,345	1,032,200	100.50 %	1,085,384
Dues - Provisional	13,130	29,250	44.89 %	18,524
Dues - Misc. Types	3,240	3,020	107.28 %	2,479
Dues - Late Fees	215,327	255,300	84.34 %	258,700
Total Dues & Licenses	12,060,469	12,224,170	98.66 %	12,163,372
Program Registration Income	940,558	4,750,000	19.80 %	4,882,064
Section Expense Reimbursement	301,039	300,973	100.02 %	301,403
CSF Expense Reimbursement	24,333	73,000	33.33 %	73,000
Advertising and Sales	14,992	27,150	55.22 %	48,045
Membership Income	27,646	71,500	38.67 %	82,506
Pro Hac Vice	68,100	420,000	16.21 %	429,175
Pro Hac Vice Contra	(42,800)	(327,600)	13.06 %	(337,500)
Credit Card Processing Fees	36,624	105,000	34.88 %	119,502
Interest Income	4,688	140,000	3.35 %	(33,332)
Miscellaneous Revenues	96	6,000	1.59 %	186,223
Total Revenues	13,435,745	17,790,193	75.52 %	17,914,458
Expenses				
Administration	940,050	2,778,073	33.84 %	2,600,791
General Counsel	1,529,790	4,864,802	31.45 %	4,484,235
Communications	296,639	979,185	30.29 %	946,247
Lawyer's Assistance Program	62,500	125,000	50.00 %	125,000
Fee Arbitration	201,711	597,465	33.76 %	531,755
Law Practice Management	145,460	501,979	28.98 %	447,850
Sections	99,654	301,039	33.10 %	249,355
Savannah Office	97,584	293,152	33.29 %	309,323
Tifton Office	52,068	169,011	30.81 %	146,352
Young Lawyers	140,591	446,807	31.47 %	360,884
Unauthorized Practice of Law	308,649	943,024	32.73 %	878,889
Law Related Education	442,118	139,214	31.49 %	386,937
High School Mock Trial	21,278	192,392	11.06 %	161,081
ICLE	1,147,375	4,150,477	27.64 %	3,493,090

Note: For Total Other Expenses, the details can be found on the next page.

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Pro Bono	70,739	212,216	33.33 %	212,216
Fastcase	144,673	297,000	48.71 %	281,419
Officers' Expenses	23,583	101,470	23.24 %	43,726
Resource Center Contribution	55,166	55,166	100.00 %	55,166
Total Other Expenses	148,868	903,925	16.47 %	648,423
Unallocated Services	(32,349)	0	0.00 %	(133,549)
Total Expenses	5,593,243	18,354,301	30.47 %	16,229,190
Net Income	\$ 7,842,502	\$ (564,108)	(1,390.25) %	\$ 1,685,268

Note: For Total Other Expenses, the details can be found on the next page.
 Created on 11/26/2023
 State Bar of Georgia

State Bar of Georgia
Supporting Schedule of Other Expenses - YTD
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Other Expenses				
BOG and Member Meetings	\$ 28,901	\$ 556,000	5.20 %	\$ 400,237
Supreme Court Meetings	48,391	40,000	120.98 %	46,661
Executive Committee Meetings	619	50,000	1.24 %	33,891
State Disciplinary Board Lawyers	10,000	34,000	29.41 %	30,000
Electronic Ballots	0	19,000	0.00 %	23,411
Dues Notice	9,807	42,825	22.90 %	34,806
Letters of Good Standing	526	2,300	22.90 %	2,210
Bar Membership Cards	2,216	8,800	25.18 %	10,671
50 Year Certificates	5	6,500	0.08 %	3,823
Membership Database Project	2,151	0	0.00 %	0
State Bar Committees	2,115	25,000	8.46 %	18,705
Georgia Diversity Program	0	10,000	0.00 %	10,000
ABA Delegate Breakfast	1,091	2,500	43.63 %	2,134
1st Floor Painting	0	5,500	0.00 %	2,600
Commitment to Equality Awards	2,500	2,500	100.00 %	2,500
Bond Premium Amortization	13,150	67,500	19.48 %	9,749
Investment Service Fees	27,396	29,000	94.47 %	14,525
Access to Justice/Pro Bono	0	2,500	0.00 %	2,500
Total Other Expenses	\$ 148,868	\$ 903,925	16.47 %	\$ 648,423

State Bar of Georgia
Status and Use of Cash and Investments
For the Current Period Ending October 31, 2023

Cash and Investments - Bar	\$ 40,068,873
Less:	
Georgia Bar Foundation Cash Included in Above Amount	(22,000)
CCLC Cash and Investments Included in Above Amount	<u>(5,032,443)</u>
Net Cash Available for State Bar	<u>35,014,430</u>
Use of Cash:	
Less:	
Board Designated - See Separate Schedule Attached	(9,101,725)
Donor Temporarily Restricted - See Separate Schedule Attached	<u>(3,099,130)</u>
Total Board Designated and Temporarily Restricted	<u>(12,200,855)</u>
Other - Cash Allocated:	
Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable	106,318
Payment of Accounts Payable	(284,414)
Payment of Accrued Vacation	(575,166)
Deferred Income	(156,216)
Payment of Credit Card Bill	(140,122)
Payment of Accrued Salary	(582,962)
Payment of Accrued Taxes	(44,597)
Payment of Other Accrued Expenses (primarily pension)	(182,175)
Payment to Client Security Fund	(2,910,724)
Operational Expenses for Remaining Bar Year	(12,302,200)
Additional Revenue for Bar Operations (Excluding Bar Center)	4,354,448
Net Amount to be paid to Related Entities	<u>(60,770)</u>
Total Other - Cash Allocated	<u>(12,778,580)</u>
Estimated Cash and Investments - June 30, 2024 - Bar	<u>10,034,994</u>
Cash and Investments - Bar Center	114,475
Other Cash Allocated - Bar Center:	
Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable	41,549
Payment of Accounts Payable	(1,405)
Deferred Income	(24,064)
Payment of Other Accrued Expenses	(69,382)
Additional Expenses for Bar Center Operations	<u>(178,161)</u>
Total Other - Cash Allocated - Bar Center	<u>(231,463)</u>
Estimated Cash and Investments June 30, 2024 - Bar Center	<u>(116,988)</u>
Total Estimated Cash Balance at June 30, 2024	\$ 9,918,007

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. Also included in the above are the following assumptions: (1) Actual expenses for 2023 - 2024 would be 97.5% of budget. This is for Bar operations only and not Bar Center. (2) Additional revenue for Bar operations is based upon the assumption of achieving additional revenue through June 30, 2024 to equal 100% of the total budgeted revenue. (3) Bar Center would contribute additional cash flow or pay additional expenses through June 30, 2024 to equal their budget.

State Bar of Georgia
Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	October 31, 2023
Board Designated				
Board Designated - General Operations - Bar	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,750,000
Board Designated - General Operations - Bar Center	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Litigation	300,000	300,000	300,000	233,313
Board Designated - Sections	3,431,439	3,677,156	3,664,312	4,025,901
YL Meetings	116,852	88,929	77,999	92,511
Total Board-Designated excludes ICLE	\$ 8,598,291	\$ 8,816,085	\$ 8,792,311	\$ 9,101,725
Donor Temporarily Restricted				
Legislative	\$ 1,350,873	\$ 1,503,629	\$ 1,806,483	\$ 2,547,841
Law Related Education/Marshall fund	231,160	212,684	207,599	200,792
High School Mock Trial	15,482	18,617	15,299	16,926
Basics Program	119,460	115,094	116,951	116,947
Younger Lawyers	115,020	87,006	87,199	113,042
Lawyers Assistance	34,650	33,188	31,863	31,862
Georgia Diversity Program	55,807	46,528	13,555	10,515
Bar Media Conference	21,834	13,037	3,115	3,116
Justice Hunstein's Portrait	25,651	0	0	0
Law Day	6,516	6,266	6,212	6,211
Access to Justice	1,492	1,435	3,175	25,175
Promote Inclusion	13,285	8,842	8,701	11,201
State Bar of Georgia Foundation	3,134	0	0	0
Military Vet Pro Bono	14,807	14,240	14,481	14,480
Justice Portraits	0	1,006	1,022	1,023
Total Donor Temporarily Restricted	\$ 2,009,171	\$ 2,061,572	\$ 2,315,655	\$ 3,099,131
Net Board Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted	\$ 10,607,462	\$ 10,877,657	\$ 11,107,967	\$ 12,200,855

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions
With Contributions Paid Through October 31, 2023

Dues	2023-24 Dues Season	2022-23 Dues Season	2021-22 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	49,695	49,400	48,965
Active - Number Paid	41,801	42,018	41,572
Inactive - Number Paid	8,042	8,341	8,558
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	49,843	50,359	50,130
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	100.3%	101.9%	102.4%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	8,904	8,482	8,148
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	17.9%	16.8%	16.3%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 846,008	\$ 803,415	\$ 760,350
Average Amount Paid	\$ 95	\$ 95	\$ 93

Legislative Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2023 - 2024	\$ 846,008
2022 - 2023	\$ 803,415
2021 - 2022	\$ 760,350
2020 - 2021	\$ 766,123
2019 - 2020	\$ 322,708
2018 - 2019	\$ 494,906
2017 - 2018	\$ 546,905
2016 - 2017	\$ 557,991
2015 - 2016	\$ 565,004
2014 - 2015	\$ 640,505

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 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 October 31, 2023

Dues	2023-24 Dues Season	2022-23 Dues Season	2021-22 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	49,695	49,400	48,965
Active - Number Paid	41,801	42,018	41,572
Inactive - Number Paid	8,042	8,341	8,558
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	49,843	50,359	50,130
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	100.3%	101.9%	102.4%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	3,506	3,539	3,647
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	7.0%	7.0%	7.3%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 484,758	\$ 483,850	\$ 478,287
Average Contribution Amount	\$ 138	\$ 137	\$ 131

GLSP Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2023 - 2024	\$ 484,758
2022 - 2023	\$ 483,850
2021 - 2022	\$ 478,287
2020 - 2021	\$ 436,815
2019 - 2020	\$ 366,674
2018 - 2019	\$ 295,454
2017 - 2018	\$ 312,251
2016 - 2017	\$ 276,487
2015 - 2016	\$ 264,492
2014 - 2015	\$ 255,713

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
Income Statement
From July 1, 2023 Through October 31, 2023**

July 1, 2023 Beginning Balance	\$ 1,806,483
Income:	
Interest and Dividend Income	7,100
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	(4,251)
Miscellaneous Income	843,688
Total Income	846,537
Expenditures:	
Staff and Contract Lobbyists	93,616
Travel	1,144
Shared Office Allocation	6,853
Miscellaneous	3,566
Total Expenditures	105,179
Net Donor Temporarily Restricted Balance	\$ 2,547,841

**State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Client Security Fund Activity
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2023**

	2021 June 30	2022 June 30	2023 June 30	October 31, 2023
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,009,586	\$ 1,798,187	\$ 1,634,260	\$ 2,212,202
Income:				
Interest and Dividend Income	17,568	26,218	33,117	8,324
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	(9,942)	(79,620)	19,577	(4,984)
Client Security Fund Assessments	78,279	77,590	751,680	742,875
Restitution Income	23,095	85,621	18,445	170
Total Income	\$ 109,000	\$ 109,809	\$ 822,819	\$ 746,384
Transfer from Others				
Operating Transfer In	1,000,000	0	0	0
Total Transfer from Others	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Expenses:				
Restricted Expenses	73,000	73,000	73,000	24,333
Client Security Fund Claims Payments	238,713	186,737	159,879	20,112
Bond Premium Amortization	5,630	8,444	4,288	1,826
Investment Service Fees	3,056	5,555	7,710	1,592
Total Expenses	\$ 320,399	\$ 273,736	\$ 244,877	\$ 47,863
Net Income	\$ 788,601	\$ (163,927)	\$ 577,942	\$ 698,522
Fund Balance, End of Period	\$ 1,798,187	\$ 1,634,260	\$ 2,212,202	\$ 2,910,724



January 12, 2024

Dear Board of Governors,

I am excited to share the happenings of the YLD as the organization's now 77th president. The YLD is building on the successes of our predecessors to continually increase the awareness of and involvement of our members. The YLD has over 10,000 members—which is a staggering number, but we continue to promote the YLD so that our members take advantage of the benefits of the State Bar of Georgia.

The YLD is in full swing and hosting events for our members. Intentionally, we have encouraged new member involvement with “new” faces added to leadership of some of the YLD committees—which we have more than 30 different committees including a few new ones this year based on areas of interest. We continue to reach out to leaders to join our committees across the state of Georgia. I am excited to announce that the YLD now has a Sports Law Committee that is actively planning engaging programming for our members. Some of the ideas include a kickball tournament in spirit of the Olympic Games next summer. I encourage the Board to read the below committee reports on upcoming and past events and share those with young lawyers that you may know whether professionally or personally.

This year's priorities: As I mentioned during my first address to this esteemed body, my goal for this Bar year is to reach new YLD members—or those not previously engaged—to promote the organization and how it is a support for younger lawyers. This year, we also strive to connect with solo/small firm lawyers and to build a community for support and engagement. As early as its creation in 1947, the purpose of the Younger Lawyers Section was furthering the goals of the State Bar, increasing interest and participation of young lawyers, and fostering the principles of duty and service to the public. We are heavily focusing this year on “service to the public” and aim to have a service project and/or service component at each of the YLD's meetings.

The 2024 YLD Signature Fundraiser will be held at the Midyear Meeting in conjunction with the Board of Governors meeting. The 2024 Signature Fundraiser beneficiary will be the Public Interest Internship Program, which had more than 70 applicants last year for only four scholarships. The event will be more convenient than ever as it will be held at the Midyear Meeting at the same venue.

The YLD Fall Meeting was held in Charleston, South Carolina, in November 2023. This meeting is our standalone session and in beautiful, historic Charleston. We had a good showing of first-time attendees which we love to see as new faces get involved in the Bar. Justice Verda M. Colvin joined our members for an intimate fireside chat. Following that program, we had a fun murder mystery dinner for our YLD members. We also offered a CLE focusing on disaster-relief programs and pro bono service opportunities for lawyers to participated in while helping local Georgians.

I wanted to give a special shoutout to YLD members: Carlos Fernández, Virginia Josey, Kelsey Kicklighter and LaToya Williams who will be spearheading our Signature Fundraiser planning; and Leadership Academy Co-Chairs James Banter, Kindall Browning-Rickle and Samantha Mullis who are hard are welcoming our 2024 Leadership Academy Class at this Midyear Meeting.

YLD COMMITTEES

The YLD has more than 30 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 of our YLD committees this year:

YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee

Krysta Grymes and Megan Glimmerveen, Co-Chairs

The YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee hosted a virtual Lunch & Learn CLE on November 17. Speaker, April Kelly Neal, Esq., reviewed Georgia Special Education Law as it pertains to Unsafe School Choice Option, HB-251, SB10-Special Needs Scholarship. The program provided 1 hour of general CLE credit.

YLD Community Service Projects Committee

Meredith Layman and Mary Lynn Paulson, Co-Chairs

The YLD Community Service Projects Committee hosted a litter pick up event on October 28. We had four participants in Savannah and four participants in Chamblee pick up litter in connection with the Keep Georgia Beautiful organization.

YLD Criminal Law Committee

Adrienne Browning and Brandi Holland, Co-Chairs

The YLD Criminal Law Committee has talked about hosting a joint event with the YLD Wellness Committee to spread awareness on health-related topics for practicing attorneys. We also talked about proposing a CLE. More details to come.

YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee

Ronald Daniels and Katie Rose Martin, Co-Chairs

The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee is planning a Zoom meeting with the entire committee to discuss our plans and see who is going to attend/volunteer to take part in upcoming events. We plan to attend a tour of the Supreme Court by Justice Ellington with a swearing-in to take place in February/march including a light reception. We will encourage/challenge attorneys to have coffee/lunch with another attorney. Participants will use a hashtag created for social media posts and the best photos will win a gift card. We would also like to have weekly social media posts that are a super brief description of a rule, with a link to the full rule, as prepared by committee members.

YLD High School Mock Trial Committee

Virginia Josey, Chair

The Georgia High School Mock Trial Regional Competitions will take place February 4-10. Most competitions are on Saturday, February 10th, except as noted, in these locations: Athens, Atlanta (also on Feb. 4 & 6), Cartersville, Columbus, Cumming (Feb. 9 & 10), Dahlonega (Feb. 9 & 10), Dalton, Decatur, Jonesboro (Feb. 9 & 10), Lawrenceville (Feb. 9 & 10), Macon, Marietta, McDonough, Newnan, Savannah and Valdosta. Dozens of volunteers are needed in each location to judge and score.

You may sign up for your preferred location at this link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/HighSchoolMockTrial/JudgingPanelVolunteerRegistration2024Season>
Receive one hour of CLE credit for serving on a judging panel. No previous mock trial experience is necessary, as you will receive training on how to evaluate teams. Contact Rich Harris (404-527-8779 or

richardh@gabar.org) for more information.

YLD Inclusion in the Profession Committee

Meaghan Aubry, Ashley Horton and Ashley O'Neil, Co-Chairs

The YLD Inclusion in the Profession Committee is looking to host a hybrid panel discussion on Company DEI Efforts Since 2020. We will be asking the panelists to speak on what their firms do in terms of DEI efforts, training, programming, etc. Additionally, asking the panelists to speak on leadership's support of the DEI efforts. The goal is to get the perspectives of a range of firm sizes. We intend to try and follow up the meeting with a networking event. CLE credits may be offered.

YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition

Hannah Couch and Megan Howerter, Co-Chairs

The YLD hosts the annual Intrastate Moot Court Competition where teams from only Georgia law schools compete. Each team presents an oral argument on an issue currently before the U.S. Supreme Court or the Supreme Court of Georgia. Members of the State Bar of Georgia serve as justices, and each member receives 2 hours of CLE credits. The competition will take place at the Bar Center in Atlanta on March 15-16, 2024. More information on how to volunteer as a judge will be available in the coming months.

YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee

Elizabeth Crymes, Mallory Fleming and Essie Lazarus, Co-Chairs

The YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee hosted our "Welcome to Chambers" CLE on Friday, December 8, at bar Headquarters in Atlanta. This CLE was geared toward newer judicial law clerks and staff attorneys, but we encouraged people who are at any point in their careers to attend. This program offered four credit hours, including one professionalism hour. The program consisted of a presentation about how to deal with pro se filings and general etiquette tips for speaking to pro se parties in person or on the phone; a panel of law clerks; a panel of judges, including Justice Verda Colvin from the Supreme Court of Georgia, Judge Sara Doyle from the Georgia Court of Appeals, and Judge Paige Whitaker from the Fulton County Superior Court; and a presentation about professionalism for law clerks, which presented professionalism hypotheticals and discussed proposed solutions. We also offered a Zoom option for those who were not able to attend in person.

YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee

Ashley Akins and Caroline Scaf, Co-Chairs

The Legal Food Frenzy Committee was excited to honor the winners of the 12th Annual Legal Food Frenzy on October 20 at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. We are now planning for the 2024 competition. The 13th Annual Georgia Legal Food Frenzy will run April 15-26, 2024. We are presently searching for regional representatives to serve as liaisons between the committee and their local legal communities. If anyone knows a young lawyer who would be interested in serving in a regional representative role, please contact the committee chairs. To generate interest in and connect participants with the mission of the fundraiser this year, we are partnering with the YLD Community Service Projects Committee to plan statewide service opportunities at the regional food banks. Our goal for the year is increased statewide participation, and we are hopeful that 2024 will be the year Georgia lawyers raise \$1 million dollars for Georgia's food banks!

YLD Litigation Committee

Franklin Gaddy, Nolan Hendricks and Lindsey Macon, Co-Chairs

The YLD Litigation Committee is hosting the Litigation 101: Virtual Lunch and Learn Series. This will include five dates ranging from November 2023 to April 2024. Meeting topics include professionalism,

trial preparation workshop, attorney wellness, legal writing and advanced oral advocacy. Each individual presentation will consist of a YLD Litigation Committee moderator, an attorney-speaker presentation, and a Q&A towards the end of the hour. CLE credit is approved.

YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee

Arthur Bailin and Aimee Sobhani, Co-Chairs

PIIP will be the 2024 Signature Fundraiser beneficiary. The fundraiser is scheduled to take place on Jan. 12, 2024, at the Midyear Meeting. We are hoping to generate significant interest in the fundraiser as there were 70 applicants last year (largest number since the program was created). As the event gets closer, we will work with committee members, other committees, and the “big Bar” to get the word out and make the event a success so that we can help upcoming lawyers achieve their goals.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee

Morgan Boulineau and Elizabeth Harps, Co-Chairs

The YLD Real Estate Law Committee is co-sponsoring with the Real Property Section of the State Bar of Georgia a CLE at the State Bar of Georgia Midyear meeting. There will be a panel discussion covering foreclosures, workouts, and bankruptcies. Seasoned real estate attorneys will talk about the ins and outs of practicing law during an economic slowdown. Panelists will cover various financing structures and their interplay with real estate assets including foreclosures, deed in lieu transactions, loan modifications, and bankruptcy, as well as share practice pointers and some interesting “war stories” from past experience.

YLD Solo Practice/Small Firm Committee

Bethany Bennett, Milinda Brown, MaryBeth Handt and Courtney Kramer, Co-Chairs

The YLD Solo Practice/Small Firm Committee is working on planning a rooftop networking night in Atlanta/Buckhead with hors d’oeuvres in early 2024. If the event takes place in January-February, it will be held somewhere with fire pits. We will get sponsors for this event as well to try to get more people to join the committee and increase attendance overall.

YLD Sports Law Committee

Noël Couch and Caleb Ratliff, Co-Chairs

The YLD Sports Law Committee is planning a panel discussion with Scott Wilkinson with the Atlanta Hawks concerning his day-to-day duties and how he came into the profession. We are also hoping to bring in other individuals in similar roles with sports teams from the Atlanta area. Tickets will be sold for the event, and we are still working through those details. The panel is scheduled for Feb. 27, 2024. CLE credit may be offered. We have also discussed the possibility of hosting a kickball game at the YLD Spring Meeting on April 20, 2024. More details to come.

YLD Wellness Committee

Cameron Roberts and Allyson Yates, Co-Chairs

The YLD Wellness Committee is planning on hosting a book club. The goal would be to meet via Zoom and in-person to discuss one book that an attorney wrote about mental wellness in a stressful job. In-person locations would change for each meeting. The author has agreed to provide a discount for those that purchase books. Meetings would begin in January 2024 and continue on a regular basis until the book is complete.

YLD Women in the Profession Committee

Cayton Chrisman, Farheen Khan and Olivia Mercer, Co-Chairs

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee rented out a movie theatre at Atlantic Station in Atlanta

in October for a private showing of the Barbie movie. This movie was recognized for promoting women's empowerment issues. Prior to the movie, we conducted a networking social event. In November, the YLD Women in the Profession Committee co-sponsored a networking event with the YLD Law School Outreach Committee and the Mercer Law Association of Women Lawyers (AWLS) at Mercer. This was a networking social between Middle Georgia Female attorneys and current Mercer law students. Thirty-two attorneys attended, including five judges, and one elected official. About twenty Mercer law students attended. After the initial networking with students, the attorneys moved to Kudzu and networked with each other. This event was special because it brought Bibb County and Houston County attorneys together.

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 expressed an interest in reorganizing.

MEETINGS

Midyear Meeting | Jan. 11-13

The Westin Buckhead Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

Spring Meeting | April 19-21

Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa
Young Harris, Georgia

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

Annual Meeting | June 6-9

Omni Amelia Island Resort
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

The YLD continues to thrive due to the efforts of our young leaders. We continue to move forward with innovative and engaging programs that come from the ideas of our members. I hope all of our young lawyer members can attend our YLD meetings and other programs to see the connections available to them. As you can see, the YLD committees are hard at work planning for young lawyers around the state. If you are looking for a way to build connections or join a committee, please reach out!

Sincerely,



Brittanie D. Browning
2023-24 YLD President



CHIEF JUSTICE’S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Members

The Honorable Michael P. Boggs (Chair)
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. M. Lamar Barnett, Jr.
AFLAC
Columbus, Georgia

Associate Dean Michael Scott Boone
Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Brittanie Browning
Akerman LLP
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Christopher J. Chan
Christopher J. Chan IP Law
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. J. Antonio DelCampo
DelCampo Grayson Lopez LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Anissa D. Floyd
WestRock Company
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Molly Barrett Gillis
The Gillis Law Firm, LLC
Marietta, Georgia

The Honorable Elizabeth D. Gobeil
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

The Honorable Steven D. Grimberg
U.S. District Court, Northern District of
Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Tonja Jacobi
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Francis Johnson
Davis Bozeman Johnson Law
Statesboro, GA

Mrs. Nekia Hackworth Jones
Federal Government
Atlanta, GA

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

The Honorable T. Russell McClelland III
State Court of Forsyth County
Cumming, Georgia

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

Ms. Lauren Shubow
Atlanta Circuit Public Defender’s Office
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Cathy Clark Tyler
Atkins Global North America, Inc
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. LaToya Simone Williams
Georgia Public Defender Council
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Sandy Wisenbaker
Coweta County Solicitor General’s Office
Newman, Georgia

Supreme Court of Georgia Advisor
The Honorable Andrew A. Pinson
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Staff
Ms. 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: January 13, 2024

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. The Commission’s primary charge is to enhance professionalism among Georgia’s lawyers and judges. **Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs** serves as the current Chair of the Commission. **Justice Andrew A. Pinson** serves as the Supreme Court Advisor to the Commission. You may find a complete list of Commission members, advisors, and liaisons at the Commission’s web site at <http://cjcpga.org/commission-members-2023-2024/>. A brief update regarding the Commission’s work as of November 30, 2023, is as follows.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 24TH ANNUAL JUSTICE ROBERT BENHAM AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, in partnership with the [Georgia Legal History Foundation](#) (GLHF), will host the 24th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA24) on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. **Please save these dates.** The awards ceremony will be a free ticketed event for which registration will be required since space is limited. Information regarding registration for the awards ceremony will be available on the Commission’s website as shown below.

For more information regarding the 24th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA24), including award recipients and registration for a free ticket, visit: <https://cjcpga.org/benhamcsa24/>.



CSA24 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Commission is pleased to announce the recipients for the 24th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service as follows.

Judicial District 2

Mr. Michael Reza Tabarrok

Judicial District 8

Hon. Kathy S. Palmer

Judicial District 4

Ms. Vicky Ogawa Kimbrell

Judicial District 10

Hon. Cheveda D. McCamy

Judicial District 7

Mr. Samuel S. Olens

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Jeffrey M. Smith

(Judicial District 5)

VOLUNTEERS ARE WANTED FOR LAW DAY 2024

The Commission staffs the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (Committee), currently chaired by **Mr. Michael Herskowitz**. In that role, the Commission supports the Committee's work on many of the State Bar's Law Day initiatives, which are a joint project of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism and the State Bar's Local and Voluntary Bars Committee. The leaders for the State Bar's 2024 Law Day initiatives are **Judge Ashley Palmer and Attorney Denise Warner**. Each year, the State Bar, along with many other bar associations and legal organizations, partner with the American Bar Association to promote Law Day. The American Bar Association's Law Day theme for 2024 is "Voices of Democracy." As you may know, Law Day is May 1, 2024, but can be celebrated the entire month of May! We invite judges and lawyers across Georgia to participate in the Committee's Law Day initiatives during May 2024. For more information on how you can participate in the Committee's Law Day initiatives, please see "Exhibit A."

THE SIGNIFICANT LAWYER CLE WITH JUDGE WILLIAM S. DUFFEY, JR. IS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

The State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism Speakers and Writers Bureau Sub-Committee is co-chaired by **Mr. Kevin Patrick and Mr. Michael Perez**. The Speakers and Writers Bureau Sub-Committee, with staff support from the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, will present a CLE conversation with **retired federal Judge William S. Duffey, Jr.** regarding insights he has learned throughout his career as a litigation partner at a large firm, a United States Attorney, and a U.S. District Judge. Judge Duffey will also

discuss a book he wrote, *The Significant Lawyer: The Pursuit of Purpose and Professionalism*, in which he shared many of these insights. The CLE will be held in-person at the State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta and via a live webcast on Zoom on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.** The cost for the CLE is \$25.00, which includes the cost of the CLE credits in Georgia for Georgia attorneys. The Commission will submit the cost for the CLE credits for Georgia attorneys to the State Bar’s CCLC Department. For in-person attendees, the CLE fee will also include lunch.

For more information regarding *The Significant Lawyer* CLE, including a link to register, visit the Commission’s website at:

https://cjcpga.org/sbg_cop_significant_lawyer_01-23-24/



ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM DURING CAREER TRANSITIONS

The State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, with staff support from the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, will also present a second virtual only CLE on **Thursday, March 28, 2024**, entitled *Ethics and Professionalism During Career Transitions* under the leadership of a planning team that includes the Speakers and Writers Bureau Sub-Committee co-chairs, along with **Judge Kimberly Ann Alexander** and **Judge Rhonda Bender Kreuziger**. Planning is still in the early stages; therefore the Commission will provide additional details regarding the CLE on its website as they become available.

For more information regarding the CLE entitled *Ethics and Professionalism During Career Transitions*, visit the Commission’s website at: https://cjcpga.org/sbg-cop_transitions_cle_03-28-24/



CONNECT WITH A COLLEAGUE CONTEST

The State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee is co-chaired by **Mr. Carlos Vilela** and **Ms. Cathy Hampton**. The Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee, with staff support from the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, will host a Connect With A Colleague Contest from April 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024, which is Professionalism Month for the American Inns of Court. During the contest, Georgia attorneys may submit up to five entries; one for each separate lunch, dinner or coffee connection with a colleague outside your office or firm that occurs between April 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024. Only one entry per NEW connection is eligible. A “Colleague” is a member in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia whom you have not yet shared a meal, coffee, or other social interaction.

Look for updates about the contest on the Commission’s website!

For more information regarding the Connect With A Colleague Contest, visit the Commission’s website at:
https://cjcpga.org/connect_with_a_colleague_2024/.



PROFESSIONALISM PAGE ARTICLES

The Commission communicates with lawyers and judges through the Professionalism Page that appears in each issue of the Georgia Bar Journal, which is published six times per year. The October 2023 Georgia Bar Journal Professionalism Page entitled *2023 Law School Orientations on Professionalism* is attached as “Exhibit B.”

COMMISSION ASSISTANCE WITH BAR ASSOCIATION AND SECTION PROFESSIONALISM CLE PROGRAMS

The Commission’s Executive Director is available to assist State Bar of Georgia sections, local and voluntary Bar associations, and other law-related organizations with their professionalism CLE programming. Please contact the Commission’s Executive Director if you would like assistance in planning a professionalism CLE program or if you would like to have the Commission’s Executive Director to make a professionalism presentation to your organization. Please contact the Commission’s Executive Director, Karlise Y. Grier, via e-mail at kygrier@cjcpga.org for information or assistance.

COMMISSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Commission enjoys communicating with lawyers and judges about professionalism on the Commission’s social media platforms and via its website. Tell us what #professionalism means to you and why it matters. Connect with us!

Professionalism 2U: <http://cjcpga.org/2u/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CJCPGA>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cjcpga/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cjcpga/videos>



January 13, 2024

Board of Governors, State Bar of Georgia

RE: *Law Day 2024*

Dear Members, of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia:

We hope this letter finds you well. This year we have the pleasure of serving on the Law Day subcommittee, which is a joint project of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism and Local and Voluntary Bar Committee. The leaders for the State Bar's 2024 Law Day initiatives are Attorney Denise Warner and Judge Ashley Palmer. Each year, the State Bar, along with many other bar associations, partner with the American Bar Association to promote Law Day.

The American Bar Association's Law Day theme for 2024 is "Voices of Democracy." As you may know, Law Day is May 1, 2024, but can be celebrated the entire month of May! As we are in a critical time in our democracy, it is imperative that we as legal professionals uplift the voices of our democracy and encourage confidence in our judicial system.

We would like to encourage you to officially recognize Law Day by participating in an activity that promotes the Professionalism Committee's talking points about this year's theme. For example, we are encouraging members of the Bar to speak to students at their local middle/high schools, recreation centers, or adults at their Rotary or Kiwanis clubs (or similar organizations), sororities, fraternities, civic organizations, places of worship, or other similar groups. You can plan/host a formal event or celebration, oratorical contest, social media contest, roundtable discussion or whatever creative measure you conceive to help celebrate the role of law and importance of the legal profession in our society.

Members of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism will develop and provide you with talking points for your Law Day presentation, so all you need to do is:

- 1) Pick a group to whom you want to speak about Law Day during the month of May 2024, and make arrangements to speak to the group;
- 2) Let us know the date and the name of the group to whom you will present; and
- 3) Send us a photo of you making your presentation regarding Law Day (if you are speaking to minors, please ensure your photos do NOT show their faces).
- 4) Share this information with your legal colleagues and encourage them to participate.

For more information regarding the State Bar's Law Day initiatives or to confirm your participation, please visit <https://www.gabar.org/newsandpublications/lawday.cfm>

Warmest regards,



Judge Ashley Palmer
State Court of Cobb County

Denise Warner

Ms. Denise Warner
Staff Attorney
Hon. Brian E. Lake, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit

HEADQUARTERS

104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743
404-527-8700 · 800-334-6865
Fax 404-527-8717
www.gabar.org

COASTAL GEORGIA OFFICE

7402 Hodgson Memorial Dr., Suite 105
Savannah, GA 31406-2562
912-239-9910 · 877-239-9910
Fax 912-239-9970

SOUTH GEORGIA OFFICE

244 E. 2nd St. (31794)
P.O. Box 1390
Tifton, GA 31793-1390
229-387-0446 · 800-330-0446
Fax 229-382-7435



VOICES OF DEMOCRACY

CELEBRATE LAW DAY
DURING THE
MONTH OF MAY

Volunteer to speak in
your local community.

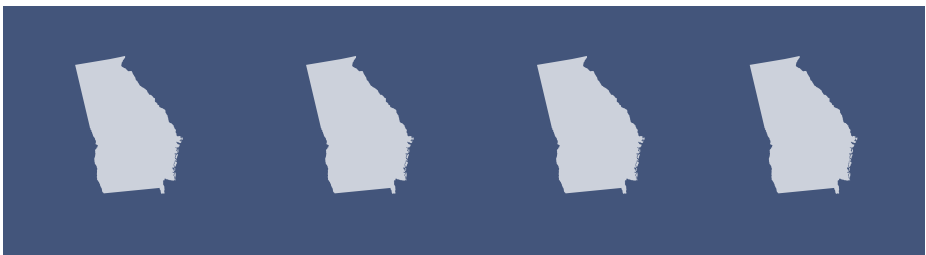
Law Day is recognized on May 1
every year to celebrate the role of
law in our society and to cultivate
a deeper understanding of the
legal profession.



For more information, please scan the
QR code or visit, <https://www.gabar.org/newsandpublications/lawday.cfm>.



Contact Denise Warner or Karlise Grier for more information:
dmwarner@dekalbcountyga.gov or kygrier@cjcpga.org



2023 Law School Orientations on Professionalism

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism thanks all the lawyers and judges for helping to make the 2023 Law School Orientations on Professionalism a success.

BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

When the Supreme Court of Georgia adopted A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism in 1992, it wrote, "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. The Court feels that enhancement of professionalism can be best brought about by the cooperative

efforts of the organized bar, the courts and the law schools with each group working independently, but also jointly in that effort."¹ For the past 31 years, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, along with the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism, have partnered to bring the Court's vision to life during the Law School Orientations on Professionalism. In August 2023, the Commission, along with the Bar's 2022-23 Committee on Professionalism, under the leadership of Committee Chair Joshua Bosin and Committee Vice Chair Michael Herskowitz organized the 31st Annual Law School Orientations on Professionalism, which were held at all five of Georgia's ABA-accredited law schools. The orientations are designed to provide incoming first year law students with their first introduction to professionalism. Georgia lawyers and judges apply to serve as group leaders during small-group breakout sessions at the orientations to help students learn the meaning of professionalism and why it is important for them as law students. The 130 lawyers and judges who volunteered to serve as group leaders in 2023 ensured the contin-



Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs giving remarks at the Georgia State University College of Law Orientation on Professionalism.

PHOTO BY JENNI GIRTMAN

ued success of the orientations. Several of the group leaders participated in orientations at more than one school. In addition, several other judges and one lawyer served as plenary speakers during the professionalism orientations. Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, for example, made brief remarks regarding professionalism and administered the Professionalism Oath and Honor Code Pledge at Georgia State University College of Law. Chief Justice Boggs also shared his thoughts on professionalism in a letter provided to the law students at all of the schools. He shared in his letter, “You are now a member of your law school community, and you will eventually become a member of the Bar. You will often interact with one another in stressful, chaotic environments that are designed to be adversarial. But you should never put aside the moral compass you brought with you to law school or forget that we are all colleagues in a noble profession. For our profession to thrive, we must remember that the way in which we resolve disputes defines part of the character of our society and we should act accordingly.”

Hon. J. Antonio “Tony” DelCampo, the 61st president of the State Bar of Georgia also provided a letter to the law students at each of the law schools that emphasized the importance of relationships and service. He wrote: “Beginning with your first moments as a law student, it is important that you establish solid professional and social relationships with your classmates because this is one of the foundational elements of professionalism. While you may not realize it yet, the relationships that you establish with your peers will benefit you throughout your entire professional life. ... I also encourage you to get involved in your law school, your community and in civic organizations—even as a law student. Getting involved is not only good for your soul, it is not only good for doing what is right, but it is also good for your legal career.”

Group leaders for the orientations at (1) Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School; (2) Emory University School of Law; and (3) Georgia State University College of Law.



PHOTO BY A. J. DOUCETT



PHOTO BY TAYO FAYEMI



PHOTO BY JENNI GIRTMAN



PHOTO BY MAGGIE REINER

Group leaders for the orientation at Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law.



PHOTO BY AMANDA FOX

Group leaders for the orientation at University of Georgia School of Law.

The subcommittee that planned the 2023 law school orientation programs was chaired by J. Maria Waters and Kacey Baine. The members of the Law School Orientation on Professionalism Subcommittee, which planned the orientations, included several lawyers, law students and one judge. The subcommittee members were: Associate Dean Kent Barnett, Assistant Director Leron Burge, Professor Nathan S. Chapman, Andrew Ligon Fant, Professor Derrick Howard, Hon. Shukura L. Ingram, Ashley S. Lewis, Associate Dean Tameka Lester, Professor Patrick Longan, Travis Lynes, C. Brad Marsh and Kevin C. Patrick. The Commission and Committee also wish to acknowledge the support staff of our law school partners: Leron Burge, Atlanta's John Marshall

Law School; Franklin B. Lebo, Emory University School of Law; Shreeca S. Lott, Emory University School of Law; Jeanie Zipperer, Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law; Cody Teague, Georgia State University College of Law; Amanda Jean Fox, University of Georgia School of Law; Casey Anne Graham, University of Georgia School of Law; and Chantelle Tickle, University of Georgia School of Law.²

On a personal note, I have discovered that by participating in the orientations, I “get back” as much as I give by my participation. This was also true in 2023 and in one particularly unexpected way. During one of the breaks at an orientation session, a student shared with me that he had actually read an article I

wrote, “The Necessity of Unparalleled Unity,”³ which had been included in written materials for the orientation. It made my day! If you are looking for a fun and meaningful way to advance the profession, please consider applying to participate as a group leader at the next orientation on professionalism orientations.⁴

The Commission and the Committee thank our partners (including faculty members, law students and support staff) for each of Georgia's five ABA-accredited law schools for their dedication to the success of the program. Moreover, the Commission and the Committee could not have accomplished the orientation without the help of many lawyers and judges who have served each year to serve as plenary speakers to lead the small-group breakout sessions. It is because of each of these individuals that the Commission and the Committee can continue to make the Law School Orientations on Professionalism an outstanding success! ☺



Karlise Y. Grier

Executive Director
 UNCIBARCOVOLUME
 on Professionalism
 kygrier@cjcpga.org

Endnotes

1. See Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, Lawyer's Creed Statement on Professionalism, <https://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-1-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> (last visited 2023).
2. For more information regarding the 2023 Law School Orientation on Professionalism, visit <https://cjcpga.org/law-school-orientations-on-professionalism-2023/>.
3. See Karlise Y. Grier, *The Necessity of Unparalleled Unity*, Ga. Bar. J. No. 1, p. 70-72 (August 2020).
4. To add your name to the list to participate in the 2024 group leader application, visit <https://cjcpga.org/law-school-orientations-on-professionalism-2024/>.

2023 Law School Orientations on Professionalism Group Leader Volunteers

Michael B. Abramson
Crighton T. Allen
Denise L. Allen
Mecca S. Anderson
Anna Marie Arceneaux
Amber N. Arnette
Eleanor Mixon Attwood
Sarah T. Babcock
Hon. Eric Alvin Ballinger
Roy Amit Banerjee
Stewart M. Banner
Meredith M. Barnes
Hon. Shakara M. Barnes
Samantha M. Beskin-Schemer
William J. Black III
Thomas Charles Blaska II
Lauren L. Boffill
Anna G. Bolden
Emily R. Bramer
Robyn D. Brown
Courtney M. Brubaker
Brian D. Burgoon
Mark G. Burnette
Hon. Stephanie D. Burton
Scott D. Cahalan
James E. Carlson
Raymond P. Carpenter
James Wickliffe Cauthorn
Hon. Edwina M. Charles
Natalie Chavis Fisher
David Gan-wing Cheng
Darryl B. Cohen
Ramona A. Condell

Lisa R. Coody
Lawrence A. Cooper
Hon. Linda S. Cowen
Charles E. Cox Jr.
Elizabeth T. Crymes
Charles W. Cullen
Hon. Clarence Cuthbert Jr.
Theodore Harris Davis Jr.
Isaiah D. Delemar
Alisha Ann Dickie
Hon. Sterling P. Eaves
James D. Elliot
David H. Emadi
Barry Lane Fitzpatrick
Angela N. Frazier
Adrianne C. Freeman
Megan A. Glimmerveen
Hon. Elizabeth Gobeil
Jennifer B. Gore-Cuthbert
Hon. Maureen M. Gottfried
Karlise Y. Grier
Blake Dexter Halberg
James W. Hays
Adam L. Hebbard
Lisa Robinson Hernandez
Wade W. Herring
Michael V. Herskowitz
J.B. Hilliard
Thomas Tucker Hobgood
Stephen J. Hodges
Nicole S. Holcomb
Sheila S. Huddleston
Julie E. Hunter-Anderson

Hon. Phillip Jackson
Hon. Gary E. Jackson
Lauren E. Jirak
Bryce A. Johnson
Eric T. Johnson
Bethany Nicole Johnston
Shiriki C. Jones
Hon. Paula Elaine Kapiloff
Marcus G. Keegan
Professor Kendall Kerew
Joi Siler King
Hon. Rhonda Bender Kreuziger
Jeanney Kutner
Kevin V. Kwashnak
Paige Laine
Eric C. Lang
Hon. Heather H. Lanier
Hon. John K. Larkins
Shana N.M. Laster
Ashley S. Lewis
April S. Lipscomb
Professor Patrick E. Longan
Alexander S. Lurey
Kenneth W. Mauldin
Kevin A. Maxim
David H. McCain
Jason McCarter
Hon. Christopher J. McFadden
Lynita M. Mitchell-Blackwell
Jennifer Campbell Mock
Hon. Shondeana Crews Morris
Samantha M. Mullis
Hon. David E. Nahmias

William D. NeSmith III
Robert E. Norman
Samuel S. O lens
Hon. Samuel Dwight Ozburn
Ashley N. Payne
Benjamin A. Pearlman
Kristen Charrise Quinton
David A. Rapaport
Hon. Sharon H. Reeves
Maria M. Rodriguez
Mark Alan Rogers
Kathryn Ann Rookes
Timothy J. Santelli
Margaret R. Schweizer
Lauren B. Shubow
Hon. Ethelyn N. Simpson
Robert Wright Smith
Christian J. Steinmetz III
Matthew Britt Stoddard
Deidre J. Stokes
Henry C. Tharpe
Professor John P. Thielman
Georgette M.C. Thinn
James R. Thompson
Torin D. Togut
Uchenna Mary-Anne Uzoka
Professor Rande J. Waldman
Thomas Leland Walker
Julayaun Maria Waters
Jill Thrasher Young

2023 Plenary Speakers and/or Administration of Professionalism Oath or Student Honor Code Pledge

Aug. 5	Hon. Eric Richardson	Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
Aug. 8	Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs	Georgia State University College of Law
Aug. 10	Hon. Glenda Hatchett	Emory University School of Law
Aug. 11	Hon. Connie Williford	Mercer University School of Law
Aug. 11	Naveen Ramachandrapa	University of Georgia School of Law

Are you interested in serving as a group leader for the 2024 Law School Orientations on Professionalism? Complete the contact form found at bit.ly/groupleader2024.



D-R-A-F-T
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
August 24, 2023, 9 a.m.
Barnsley Resort/Hybrid
Adairsville, GA

Members Participating

J. Antonio “Tony” DelCampo, President; Ivy N. Cadle, President-Elect; Christopher P. Twyman, Treasurer; William C. “Bill” Gentry, Secretary; Sally B. Akins, Immediate Past President; Brittanie D. Browning, YLD President; Kenneth Mitchell Jr., YLD President-Elect; Ronald E. Daniels, YLD Immediate Past President; R. Javoyne Hicks; Shiriki Jones; David S. Lipscomb; Jonathan B. Pannell; R. Gary Spencer; and Martin Valbuena.

Members Absent

None.

Staff Participating

Sarah Coole, Chief Operating Officer; Damon Elmore, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Tony DelCampo called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Tony DelCampo reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule.

Executive Committee Orientation/Start of the Year

Executive Director Damon Elmore, General Counsel Paula Frederick, Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner, and Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith reviewed the following policies and topics: Officer and Non-Officer Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy; Standing Board Policy 600: Disclosure of Conflicts; Standing Board Policy 800: Confidentiality; Keller Considerations; Standing Executive Committee Policy 1200: Statements to the Press/Endorsements; and Responding to Communication Regarding the Disciplinary Process.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Bill Gentry presented for approval the minutes of the April 20, 2023, and May 3, 2023, Executive Committee meetings. The April 20, 2023, minutes were passed as presented by unanimous vote. The May 3, 2023, minutes were passed as amended by unanimous vote.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous vote: Joseph F. Pelusi-253838; Jeffrey George Fletcher-263967; Amanda Marie Davis-227122; Mary Virginia Shasteen-142503; Susan Joan Doty-227268; Thomas Peter Ryan-262781; Thomas R. Berka-054690; Marcy Alice Greene-306567; Galen A. Mirate-023319; Sarah Ellen Tollison-714319; Scott Gerard Wolfe Jr.-554557; Gregory John Spicer-672013; Scott Thomas Peterson-101103; Lawrence A. D'Orazio Jr.-202981; Tory Shanholtzer Vornholt-637625; Anthony Joseph Zingales-730793; Edward Gary Spitko-672265; Lora Dean Curtis-779486; Kiran Arjandas Ahuja-005801; Lucy W. Kerman-415815; Mark Terrell Hurst-379773; Helen Shishkevish-643490; Anna Grace Plyler-333485; G. Phillip Bramlett-075775; Rick

Monte Reznicek-558228; Omar Saleem Jr.-720172; Teresa Brickman Finer-260860; Margaret Ann Shannon-637742; Alisa Maslia Austin-475515; Hugh Costigan Carlin-109505; Gina Caya-375478; Jeffrey Raphael Richardson-076959; Grant Cape-108413; Carole Adele Loftin-455714; Benjamin J. Bogos-853291; Sherryl Mason Marsh-471432; Carol Brittain Allums-083243; Danielle M. Ryea-621729; Robert Howard Lutz-461565; Robert Evan Wilder-758655; Helen K. Hopkins-366375; Jill Ripans Greaney-606476; Kenneth A. Grant-305420; Harry McKinley Lightsey-452360; Monique Deborah Moyse-527693; Stephanie Nicole Wald-707508; Ronald Giles Peresich-557165; Byron Randall Dong-225668; Nancy Lynn Weiss-746487; Anne Armitage Rogers-747008; Stephanie Baldauff Hope-034040; Erin Kathleen Jansen-970244; Kerry Elizabeth McGrath-493113; Katherine Anne Brokaw-084268; Noor Shekh Najeeb-391423; Richard Oliver Brown-750825; Mary Pappas-561187; Matthew S. Cornick-188576; Rachel Leeann Bisbort Stevens-389057; Kelly Michelle Corredor-477004; Emily G. Johnston-352840; Monica Jayne Brasington-078391; Virginia Boyd Peterson-072850; James Houston Thompson-708533; Denise Hall Dickinson-221134; Thelma Yvette Hawkins-339092; Charles H. Ogburn-550175; Alban Emerson Brooke II-394036; Lamar Kirkland Mitchell-136806; Stacy Fred Sauls-627067; Steven Paul O'Connor-549305; Kathryn M. Carpenter-470935; Michael Gary Leveille-447928; Julie Ann Baenziger-030780; Jennifer Adair Comfort-001935; David M. Yokel-780948; David Felton Smith-763624; Peggy Jo Caldwell-002770; Richard Henry Poulson II-585718; Luther J. Carroll III-112712; Jan Farmer Gadow-281738; Jeanne M. Faust-256465; Eli Jeremy Richardson-233872; Robert Mark Haire-317240; Carmen Suarez Mills-509513; Schaune C. Griffin-311437; Keith T. Ott-555337; Helma Deloris Clark-126927; Christopher Brian Keim-168889; Stephen Christopher Vogt-769107; Kenneth Steven Barr-039467; Paul Howard Schwartz-631060; Daniel Michael Brennan-271142; Marlin R. Escoe-250220; Joseph William Ballard-151234; Grace Palmer Liu-870529; Angela M. Lavori-439519; Jenny Lu McLeroy-497567; Thomas Burns Bacon-226750.

Members Requesting Disability Status

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

Proposed Rules and Bylaw Changes

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented the following proposed rules and bylaw changes:

1. Rule 4.2. Communication With Person Represented by Counsel.

The proposed rule change clarifies that the “anti-contact” rule, which prohibits a lawyer from communicating with a represented adverse party, applies to a lawyer who is self-representing. The proposed change states that a lawyer who is proceeding pro se is prohibited from communicating about the subject of the representation with represented adverse parties. Comment [8] explains that a lawyer who is proceeding pro se but who also has co-counsel is included within the meaning of this rule.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

2. Rule 4-201. State Disciplinary Board.

This proposed change increases the State Disciplinary Board from twelve to fourteen investigating members (the Board also has four lay members and two ex-officio members who do not investigate cases). The proposed change adds two members-at-large, one to be selected by the Court and one by the President of the State Bar.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

3. Rule 4-203.1. Uniform Service Rule.

The proposed changes introduce a new requirement that a member inform the Bar of their email address as part of their “official address” for purposes of Bar business, including service in disciplinary matters. An amendment to subsection (b)(3)(i) will allow the Chair of the State Disciplinary Board to authorize individuals to serve process in disciplinary matters. The provisions at subsection (b)(3)(ii) regarding service by publication will include a requirement that the service documents be emailed to the respondent’s official email address. Subsection (b)(5) creates service procedures for members with an address outside of the United States.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

4. Rule 4-209.1. Coordinating Special Master

The current rule suggests that it is preferable for a lawyer to serve as a Special Master for no more than five years. The amendment would delete that language.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

5. Rule 4-221.1. Confidentiality of Investigations and Proceedings.

The proposed changes expand and provide clarity on the entities or individuals with whom the State Disciplinary Board and the State Bar can share information regarding a disciplinary matter. The change specifically defines the members of the State Disciplinary Board who have the authority to approve the release of information pertaining to a disciplinary matter.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as amended.

6. Article VIII. COMMITTEES – GENERALLY. Sections 1 and 2.

The purpose of this proposed amendment to the bylaws is to provide clarity regarding voting and quorum requirements for committees. The amendment specifically states that a member serving ex officio retains the right to vote and their presence contributes to meeting the quorum requirements for voting in both standing and special committees. Also, the proposed change clearly states that liaisons and advisory members are not granted voting rights, and their presence does not contribute to establishing a quorum for conducting business in a standing or special committee.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee voted to approve the proposed bylaw as amended.

Legislative Consultants Agreements

Executive Director Damon Elmore presented the 2023-2024 legislative consultant agreements of Rusty Sewell and Mark Middleton. The Executive Committee approved the agreements unanimously.

Request to Remove Discipline from the Website

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that a member has requested their discipline history be removed from the website because of its age (a public reprimand from 1998) and because the lawyer has no additional discipline. After discussion, the Executive Committee asked General Counsel Frederick to review how other jurisdictions handle disciplinary reporting. She will provide additional information for the next

meeting. President Tony DelCampo will also discuss with the Supreme Court of Georgia their thoughts on the issue.

Judicial Legal Fund List

The Judicial Legal Defense Fund and Commission, OCGA § 45-15-71, provides that the State Bar of Georgia will assist the commission in maintaining “a list of attorneys who are members in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia and who have agreed to provide legal representation for judges through the fund; provided, however, that no attorney shall be included on such list of attorneys without the approval of the Governor and each attorney on such list shall be maintained on such list only at the pleasure of the Governor.”

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that the Governor’s Office requested assistance under the statute in late July. Since the Bar had not created a list as described in the statute, and since the statute requires that the lawyers on the list “have agreed to provide legal representation for judges through the fund,” the list of past presidents of the Bar was used as “the list” for purposes of this request. Executive Director Damon Elmore sent an email to the group. He received four responses from past presidents interested in serving, which were passed on to the Office of the Governor.

After discussion, a motion and second were made to ask the Judicial Qualification Committee Nominating Committee to create a permanent list for the Judicial Legal Defense Fund, which passed unanimously.

President’s Report

President Tony DelCampo updated the Executive Committee on the progress of matters identified to be completed with the aid of unallocated cash in the 2023-2024 Bar year, which are all being completed and overseen by Bar staff: new lobby doors; outdoor heater for the parking deck attendant; website redesign; courtroom audio and video upgrades; speakers and microphones added to multiple conference rooms; kitchen tables and chairs; and membership database upgrade. President DelCampo reported that there will be a second round of interviews over the next two weeks for the Deputy General Counsel position and initial interviews for the Director of Governmental Affairs position. He mentioned his recent visits and speaking engagements with the Gwinnett County Bar Association and GSU law school orientation.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that the following orientations have been completed: committee chair, section chair and ICLE programs chair, and each orientation included a reminder about the Bar’s purpose, stance on positions, applicable policies and other necessary information. He updated the Executive Committee on Membership Department staff changes and specifically mentioned staff members who have gone above and beyond in the last few months. Executive Director Elmore shared ideas for possible uses for the unused space on the 5th floor of the Bar Center. He also mentioned that an issue was recently raised about solo and small firm member health insurance, the possibility of a MEWA or private insurance marketplace, and the request that the Bar look into the issue again. (The Executive Committee recommended that the Member Benefits Committee research the topic.)

Legislative Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that the Advisory Committee on Legislation will meet on Sept. 14, Dec. 7, and Feb. 7. A reminder has been sent to committees and sections announcing the deadline of Sept. 5 for all proposals and materials. He thanked Megan Jones, Rusty Sewell, Mark Middleton and Brandon Peak for their help during this transition period.

Proposed Standing Board Policy 1000 (Positions, Articles, Programs, Meetings, Activities of Committees and Sections. Guidelines for the State Bar of Georgia)

Executive Director Damon Elmore presented proposed Standing Board Policy 1000 (Positions, Articles, Programs, Meetings, Activities of Committees and Sections. Guidelines for the State Bar of Georgia). He said that staff and committees have reviewed the Bar's publications and programming over the last year and recommended that a policy be created to ensure everyone keeps the Bar's purpose and the essence of a mandatory Bar in mind when creating publications or programming and that there is a clear connection to the practice of law. Standing Board Policy 1000 was drafted with that in mind. Executive Director Elmore will share the draft policy with the Supreme Court of Georgia to get their feedback as well. This will be an action item at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Chris Twyman reviewed the finances of the Bar for the year-to-date period ending May 31, 2023. He pointed out that the voluntary Legislative Contributions were at an all-time high for the 2022-2023 Bar year, along with the contributions to GLSP. He said that the Bar is on track to come in under budget for 2022-2023 and is fiscally sound. The final report for the year will be available at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Office of the General Counsel Report

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that the Office of General Counsel will have a detailed OGC report available at the Fall Meeting as a supplement to the Bar's overall Annual Report. Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the status of lawsuits involving the Bar.

Committee Updates

The following committee updates were provided:

- Executive Committee Member Shiriki Jones reported that the *Georgia Bar Journal* Editorial Board is working on an effort to build a repository of legal articles by utilizing social media, among other ways, to encourage individuals to submit legal articles, highlighting that up to 6 hours of CLE credit is available for published articles.
- Shiriki Jones reported the Georgia Diversity Program's summer associates and judiciary reception went well. They also just completed their High School Pipeline Program with 14 students, which gives them exposure to the practice of law and general life skills. They are working on their 30th-anniversary dinner and awards program, which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Bar Center.
- Shiriki Jones reported that the Law Practice Management Committee has been holding and planning numerous informative CLEs for solo and small practitioners.
- Shiriki Jones reported that the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee recently held a talk about the Latinx experience in the legal profession, planned by committee member Miguel Dominguez, featuring President Tony DelCampo.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported that the new Fee Arbitration Program director, Donna Davis, has been doing a great job learning her new position and supporting the committee.
- Secretary Bill Gentry reported on the Senior Lawyers Committee. He said their current project is planning a Senior Lawyer seminar on Cognitive Impairment – diagnosing and intervening to help lawyers facing this problem.
- Bill Gentry reported that the Judicial Procedure and Administration/Uniform Rules Committee is reviewing Uniform Rule 8.3. Trial Calendar, which says, "The trial calendar shall be distributed or published a sufficient period of time, but not less than 20 days, prior to the session of court at which the actions listed thereon are to be tried."

- Bill Gentry reported that the Military Legal Assistance Program is hosting a seminar in November to assist veterans in handling VA appeals.
- Executive Committee Member Javoyné Hicks reported that the Attorney Wellness Committee is hosting a Wellness Institute, Sept. 21-24, at Wild Dunes in South Carolina, that will focus on the state of wellness and well-being in the practice of law.
- Javoyné Hicks reported that the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Committee will be an official sponsor of the Out of the Darkness walk on Nov. 5. Pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Policy, she disclosed that she is on their board.
- Javoyné Hicks reported that the Lawyer Assistance Program Committee has focused their efforts on advertising the Lawyers Helping Lawyers initiative and is working on a new website for the program.

Young Lawyers Division Report

Young Lawyers Division President Brittanee Browning reported the YLD is off to a good start this year. They held a successful committee chair orientation and YLD Board of Directors and Representatives retreat. They will be in Charleston for their Fall Meeting, with Justice Verda Colvin leading a fireside chat. They will also hold a CLE on disaster relief. YLD President Browning said the Leadership Academy applications are online, and she asked that the Executive Committee encourage young lawyers to apply and also write recommendations for them. She mentioned the upcoming CLE in Puerto Rico, with YLD officers moderating many CLE panels.

Institute of Continuing Legal Education Report

ICLE Director Julia Neighbors reported on the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. She said in the last year, ICLE has hosted 69 programs, 12 of which were institutes, 467 hours of programs, and they have had 765 program chairs and speakers. She said ICLE has the largest market share of CLE programming in Georgia, accounting for a large portion of all CLE providers. She and her team are looking to increase productivity and efficiency, update and review CLE pricing, and work with program chairs to ensure they incorporate innovative programming.

Member Benefits vLex Agreement (Fastcase)

Law Practice Management Director Nkoyo Effiong and Member Benefits Coordinator Sheila Baldwin, staff liaisons to the Member Benefits Committee, along with Fastcase's Joe Patz Vineyard, vice president, Alliances and Business Development, presented on behalf of the committee. The Member Benefits Committee recommends extending the Bar's Fastcase subscription to include Docket Alarm, a collection of court briefs, motions, and complaints for our members. "Docket Alarm Briefs, Pleadings and Motions Library" means the searchable collection of millions of state briefs, pleadings, and motions, including but not limited to those of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Georgia, that are part of the Docket Alarm database and available for searching by Members on the vLex Fastcase System. The Executive Committee asked the Member Benefits Committee for additional information, which will be presented at the next meeting.

Topics of Discussion with the Supreme Court

The Executive Committee discussed topics for the joint meeting with the Supreme Court of Georgia which follows this meeting.

Board of Governors Minutes

The Annual Meeting minutes were provided as informational material.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the Georgia Bar Journal editorial process.

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented an application to create the Energy Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia for consideration. The purpose of this section shall be to form an association of licensed lawyers in the State of Georgia who desire to develop their knowledge and professional abilities in energy law and to render better services to their clients and to the public.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee recommended that the creation of the Energy Law Section go before the Board of Governors for approval at the Fall Meeting.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

William C. Gentry, Secretary

Approved:

Hon. J. Antonio DelCampo, President



To: Members, Board of Governors

From: Paula J. Frederick, General Counsel

Date: January 2024

Re: Quarterly Report of the Office of the General Counsel

I am pleased to report on the activity of the Office of the General Counsel during the 2023-2024 Bar Year.

Client Assistance. The Client Assistance Program continues to receive between 35-40 calls every workday, with lack of communication as the most common issue.

Discipline. The Year-to-Date Report on Lawyer Regulation appears at the end of this report. Between July 1 and November 30, 2023 the Office of the General Counsel received 943 grievances and referred 99 to the State Disciplinary Board. The Board imposed confidential discipline in 19 cases and the Supreme Court entered orders in 22 matters during the same period.

Rule Changes: On September 25, 2023 the Supreme Court of Georgia adopted amendments to the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. They include:

- Rule 1.2(d). Rule 1.2 prohibits a lawyer from **knowingly** assisting a client to commit a crime or fraud. The amendment adds the words “willful blindness” so that a lawyer may not avoid culpability by sticking his/her head in the sand. As amended, the relevant portion of the rule reads “a lawyer shall not either knowingly or with willful blindness counsel a client to engage in criminal or fraudulent conduct, nor knowingly or with willful blindness assist a client in such conduct...”. The change is an attempt to reduce lawyer involvement in money laundering and other criminal conduct.
- Rules 1.5 and 1.8. The amendments will allow a lawyer to enter an agreement with a client requiring arbitration of fee disputes and malpractice claims. The client must give informed consent in writing after the lawyer has provided specific disclosures.

By separate order on September 25 the Court requested briefing on the proposed amendments to Part VII of the Bar Rules, *Information about Legal Services*. The Board of Governors approved

the proposed changes at the 2023 Midyear Meeting and they were filed with the Court for its approval. The Court invited those interested in the regulation of attorney advertising to submit amicus briefs on the modifications proposed in the motion. The proposal will be on the February 2024 oral argument calendar. The proposed amendments are available at <https://www.gasupreme.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Amend-Motion-2023.pdf>.

Formal Advisory Opinion Board: The Board has two requests under consideration: 1) whether a lawyer may fulfill the requirement of physical presence at a real estate closing through the use of communication technology; and 2) whether an out-of-state lawyer may work remotely from a location inside Georgia.

Receiverships: So far this Bar year the Office of the General Counsel has filed three Petitions for Appointment of Receiver to return the files of a lawyer who has died or become incapacitated. In two of the cases Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith will serve as receiver. We continue to encourage lawyers to designate another lawyer to serve as successor counsel in the event of sudden death or disability.

**Year-to-Date Report on Lawyer Regulation
July 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023**

Grievance forms sent back to Office of General Counsel for screening..... 943
 Grievances pending as October 31, 2023 2,167

TOTAL 3,010

Grievances referred to State Disciplinary Board members 99
 Grievances being screened by Grievance Counsel (GC) 2,103
 Grievances closed by Grievance Counsel..... 801
 Grievances moved to moot status by OGC after attorney was disbarred..... 7

TOTAL 3,010

Regulatory Action July 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023

ACTION	ATTORNEYS	CASES
Letters of Admonition Accepted	12	12
Confidential Reprimands Administered	5	7
Review Board Reprimands	0	0
Public Reprimands	1	1
Suspensions	11	13
Disbarments/Voluntary Surrenders	4	8
TOTAL	33	41
Reinstatements Granted	4	4
Reinstatements Denied	0	0

Law Practice Management Program

(Abbreviated report for the 2023-2024 Bar Year)

Total Number of Members Served – 314

July 1, 2023 – November 24, 2023

The program has served a grand total of **314** members and their staff from July 1, 2023-November 24, 2023. Our program has made contact with **115** existing members, **190** new members, and **9** law firm staff during this period.

Resource Requests

Members have contacted our program to discuss or request the following:

- **Starting a Law Practice** - A total of **58** [Starting a Georgia Law Practice](#) guides were distributed to our members by request via email (9), web store order (42), and during their visit to the Bar Center (7).
- **Software Recommendation/Technology Advice** – A total of **10** members contacted our program for a law office software recommendation by phone.
- **LPM Resources Assistance** – The program has responded to **356** phone calls and emails requesting resources such as sample practice management forms, closing a law practice/succession planning resources, trust accounting resources, opening a law practice resources, program events, and member benefit services. In addition, the program's resource advisor advised and responded to **49** practice management inquiries on various practice management topics.

Consultations

A total of **14** virtual consultation appointments were completed during this period. Our program scheduled and completed **11** general law firm assessments and **3** corrective action virtual consultations to discuss law firm practice management matters.

Resource Library

The [LPM lending library](#) has a grand total of **1,427** books, CDs, and DVDs for checkout to members and their staff with the option to pick up materials at the Bar Center or to be mailed. A total of **27** members registered to get access to the [lending library](#). During this period, **9** patrons visited the resource library, **17** patrons checked out a total of **51** books, and we responded to **41** emails and **2** phone call inquiries about the resource library.

Social Media Outreach

Members can follow LPM's [GA Law Practice Advisor](#) on [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our newsletter the [LPM Insider](#) for practice tips and the latest on LPM events and programming. Since our social media channels were created, we have **150** Instagram followers, **59** LinkedIn followers, and **211** people who have subscribed to the [LPM Insider](#) newsletter with a grand total of **351** followers and growing.

Speaking Engagements and LPM Seminars

A total of **4** completed and scheduled programs during this period. The Program's staff has given **3** continuing legal education and special presentations to Georgia lawyers and other related groups nationally and locally. **1** program is scheduled for a future date.

Date	Event Name	Presentation(s)
August 16, 2023	Technology Threats and Best Practices for Your Office: What Every Small Law Firm Lawyer Should Know Webinar	Sponsored by the Law Practice Management Program Advisory Committee
September 22, 2023	Take Charge: Solo and Small Firm Summit CLE--The Profitability Blueprint: Building a Strong Law Firm Business Model (In Person)	Sponsored by the Law Practice Management Program

November 9, 2023	Convos & Cocktails: AI Meets the Law CLE (In Person)	Sponsored by the Founders Legal and the Law Practice Management Program
September 26-27, 2024	Take Charge: Solo & Small Firm Conference	Sponsored by the Law Practice Management Program

Fastcase Report

Fastcase Support and Added Content

Fastcase is ranked as one of the best member benefits the Bar offers, with over 50% of our 50,000+ members logging into their Fastcase account each year. The State Bar of Georgia members utilize their Fastcase member benefit to enhance their practice and firm resources.

During 2023, bar members can expect a significant improvement to the Fastcase search and the new citator, Cert within the platform. A tutorial is now available to members when they log into their accounts.

Docket Alarm is being considered as an additional library for our members.

Fastcase Usage Report (July 2023-October 2023)

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
First Time Logins	65	65	58	73	261
Total Logins	9,114	10,869	9,271	9,918	39,172
Total Users Who Logged In	2,559	2,750	2,600	2,661	10,570
Searches Conducted	34,746	40,265	35,779	37,808	148,598
Documents Viewed	117,878	146,016	129,920	138,426	532,240
Documents Printed	29,918	27,380	25,916	34,704	117,918
Total Transactions	194,280	227,345	203,544	223,590	848,759

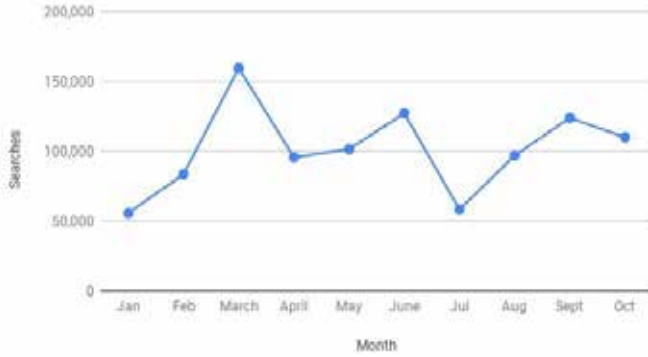
Fastcase Reported Issues/Problems

<i>Fastcase Reported Issues / Problems</i>	
Issue Reported to Member Benefits Coordinator (MBC)	Response
SBOG Member Benefits Coordinator-8/20/2023 A member reported the Fastcase sponsored webinar was very poorly done. Noise in background, not professional, advanced session with little advanced features shown.	Fastcase Response-8/21/2023: FC Apologized for the poor quality and will address the issue with the employee.
MBC 8/02/22 Several members had password issues.	Fastcase Response-9/15/2023 Reached out with trial account information while member worked on getting into their account.

CloudLawyer/ReliaGuide Report

The **directory** facilitated **1,010,833** lawyer searches from January to October. In the past two months, the top practice areas searched are family law, divorce, civil litigation, probate and estate planning, labor & employment. Thursday was the most searched day of the week. Most of the searches occurred between 12 p.m.-2 p.m. **94.1%** of searches occurred on a desktop computer. From January to October, there have been **445,934** interactions with member profiles (views, clicks and contact requests) including **6,953** completed contact form requests, **9,410** clicks on lawyer email and **11,903** phone numbers. Since the beginning of the year, there have been 4,040 member sign-ins, and 1,038 members have edited their profiles. Currently, there are **263** members signed up for Profile Plus (the enhanced profile). **2** lawyers have signed up for the new website product launched earlier this fall.

State Bar of Georgia 2023 Searches



State Bar of Georgia
Private Health Insurance Exchange
November 2023

WEBSITE ANALYTICS	
Total Users	76,728
Total Sessions	103,488
Total Pageviews	265,865
INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENTS	
Total Enrollments	7,416
• Medical	2,288
• Medicare	40
• Dental	1,097
• Vision	537
• Telehealth	572
• ID Theft Protection	46
• Life / AD&D	2,477
• Disability	289
• Long-term Care Enrollments	70
EMPLOYER ENROLLMENTS	
Total Enrollments	2,241
• Medical	1,033
• Ancillary	908
• Professional Liability	298
• Cyber Security	2

M E M O R A N D U M

To: ICLE Advisory Board Members
From: Julia Neighbors, ICLE Director
Date: December 1, 2023
Re: Institute of Continuing Legal Education

I am pleased to present the following report for your review of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's activities.

ICLE is not able to do its work without the support of volunteers who serve as Program Chairs and speakers, and we are indebted to them and to every Georgia lawyer who volunteers his or her time in service to the legal profession.

ICLE Programs (July 1 – December 31, 2023)

- 8 Institutes (Fiduciary, Wellness, Workers Compensation, Insurance Law, Defense of Drinking Drivers, Consumer and Business Bankruptcy, City and County Attorneys, Corporate Counsel)
- 19 Bar Center Programs
- 1 Live Webinar (Constitutional Law: A Review of the 2022-23 Term of SCOTUS -- and a Preview of the 2023-24 Term)
- 2,221 on demand programs purchased by 1,654 customers/members July 1 – November 30, 2023)
 - December 1, 2022 -November 30, 2023: 14,329 on demand products purchased by 9,681 customers/members

Upcoming Off-Site Programs and Institutes

- Update on Georgia Law (Ski LE)- January 22-25, 2024- Avon, CO
- Estate Planning – February 1 - 2, 2024 – Athens, GA
- General Practice and Trial – March 14- 16, 2024 – New Orleans, LA
- Real Property - May 16-18, 2024 – Charleston, SC
- Family Law – May 31- June 2, 2024 – Hilton Head Island, SC

HEADQUARTERS

104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743
404-527-8700 · 800-334-6865
Fax 404-527-8717
www.gabar.org

COASTAL GEORGIA OFFICE

18 E. Bay St.
Savannah, GA 31401-9910
912-239-9910 · 877-239-9910
Fax 912-239-9970

SOUTH GEORGIA OFFICE

244 E. 2nd St. (31794)
P.O. Box 1390
Tifton, GA 31793-1390
229-387-0446 · 800-330-0446
Fax 229-382-7435

Programming Updates

In this past year, ICLE encouraged and supported innovative programming by incorporating into the traditional lecture and panel discussion format live polling, break-out sessions, interactive skits, and sessions with a game show format. ICLE will continue to encourage these formats and explore new ways to enhance the delivery of educational content.

Program Planning

In recent months, ICLE has updated its production process to ensure more efficient planning. This includes updating program production timelines for Bar Center, alternate venue, and destination programs; confirming program dates earlier (and for some programs, 1-2 years out); and increased collaboration and communication with Sections, Committees, and unaffiliated program sponsors.

Pricing Update

Effective July 1, 2023, ICLE updated the pricing of most programs. Most six (6) hour Bar Center and on-demand programs are now \$225 (previously \$250). Other on-demand programs were discounted by approximately 10%. Alternate venue and off-site programs are not discounted because these programs are priced at cost. The expenses associated with these programs include meeting room rental, food/beverage plus service charge and taxes, audio/visual, MCLE fees, staff travel, signage, and production cost. ICLE along with the Bar's leadership team will continue to monitor program sales and expenses and revisit the pricing structure mid-year.

Media Report

PUBLISHED ARTICLES 2023-2024		Headline	Circulation
Date	Newspaper		
6/21/2023	Morgan County Citizen, Madison	Tony DelCampo installed as 61st president of State Bar of Georgia	2,500
6/21/2023	Albany Herald	Tony DelCampo installed as 61st president of State Bar of Georgia	5,271
6/21/2023	Rockdale Citizen, Conyers	Tony DelCampo installed as 61st president of State Bar of Georgia	1,420
6/21/2023	Rome News-Tribune	Chris Twyman installed as treasurer of State Bar of Georgia	9,556
6/21/2023	Griffin Daily News	Tony DelCampo installed as 61st president of State Bar of Georgia	3,331
6/23/2023	Daily Report	DelCampo, Browning Sworn in as State Bar of Georgia's New Presidents	2,012
6/23/2023	DeKalb Champion, Decatur	Chamblee High alum named president of State Bar of Georgia	494
6/24/2023	Covington News	Michael Geoffroy re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	2,814
6/24/2023	Cordele Dispatch	Craig Cotton Elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	1,481
6/24/2023	Madison County Journal, Danielsville	Higginbotham re-elected to Bar board	1,988
6/25/2023	Valdosta Daily Times	Parrish-Bennett elected to State Bar board	4,894
6/27/2023	Griffin Daily News	State Bar of Georgia: Griffin Circuit Judge elected to Board of Governors	3,331
6/28/2023	Effingham Herald, Rincon	Troy Marsh Elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	3,200
6/29/2023	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Gwinnett's John C. Sammon Receives 2023 State Bar Distinguished Service A	50,011
6/29/2023	Rome News-Tribune	Jackson's term extended on State Bar of Georgia governing board	9,556
6/30/2023	Polk County Standard Journal, Cedartown	McRae re-elected to State Bar of Georgia governing board	2,887
7/4/2023	Daily Citizen-News, Dalton	Smalley re-elected to Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia	4,896
7/4/2023	Daily Citizen-News, Dalton	Dalton attorney honored by State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division	4,896
7/4/2023	Valdosta Daily Times	Valdosta attorney joins State Bar's governing board	4,894
7/5/2023	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Gwinnett Bar Association Honored by State Bar of Georgia	50,011
7/6/2023	McDuffie Progress, Thomson	Judge Britt Hammond re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	2,580
7/7/2023	Daily Report	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Loss of George Lawson Jr.	2,012
7/11/2023	Daily Report	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Loss of Judge Marvin Arrington Sr.	2,012
7/12/2023	Albany Herald	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Loss of Judge Marvin Arrington Sr.	2,012
7/12/2023	Cherokee Tribune, Canton	Tabitha Payne re-elected to serve on State Bar Board of Governors	5,271
7/12/2023	Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth	Eric Ballinger re-elected to State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors	3,929
7/13/2023	Daily Citizen-News, Dalton	DA's Holland receives Award of Achievement	3,773
8/2/2023	Jeff Davis Ledger, Hazlehurst	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Alfred Mullins Jr.	2,012
8/9/2023	Covington News	Tillman re-elected	3,060
8/11/2023	Newnan Times-Herald	Congratulations to Judge John Ott on state appointment	2,814
10/28/2023	Daily Report	Congratulations to DA Cranford on state appointment	4,176
10/28/2023	Barrow News-Journal, Winder	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Loss of Sonny Seifer	2,012
10/29/2023	Morgan County Citizen, Madison	Congratulations to Assistant District Attorney James Chafin on appointment	2,342
11/3/2023	Daily Report	Congratulations to Judge Bradley on state appointment	2,500
11/3/2023	Statesboro Herald	Congratulations to U.S. Attorney Ryan Buchanan on GRACE Commission App	2,012
11/12/2023	Rockdale Citizen, Conyers	Legal Community mourns loss of Reba Neville	5,300
		Congratulations to David LaMaiva	1,420
		TOTAL CIRCULATION	216,668

