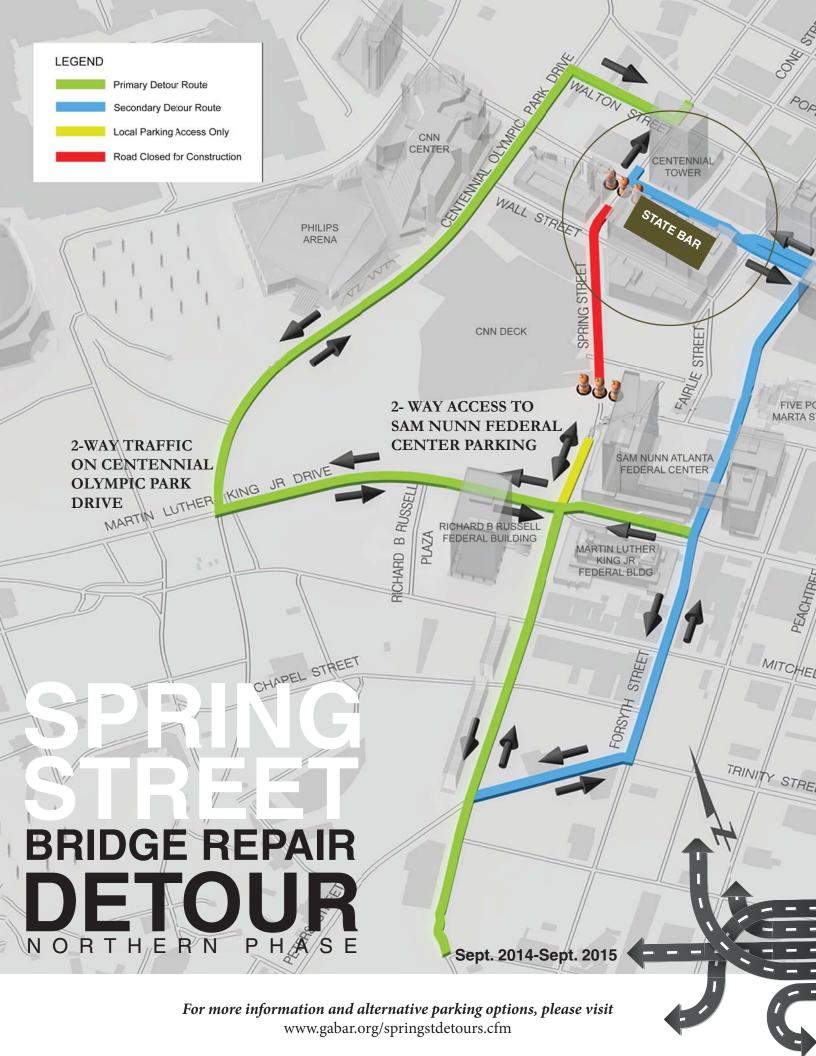


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We salute our attorneys who have demonstrated their commitment to equal access to justice by volunteering their time to represent low-income Georgians in civil probono programs during 2014.



by Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker

Celebrating 50 Years of Civil Rights Milestones

his year the State Bar of Georgia is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Civil Rights

Milestones. Our celebration was held June

3, at the Bar Center and, like most celebrations, recognized the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the March on Selma, the Alabama movement and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, whose sponsors found a new sense of urgency when events in Alabama were televised. The celebration afforded an excellent opportunity to reflect on where we have been

and what we need to do to continue to move forward.

Things have certainly changed significantly since 1964, but in some ways things remain the same. Too

often, we continue to find ourselves being held hostage to racial biases in our society and the influence of those biases upon fundamental institutions like our system of justice. Perhaps during this period of celebration, we need to step into a page of history and explore

> the foundations of the Civil Rights Movement and the role of lawyers of all persuasions in seeking equality for all citizens. We could benefit from studying the motivations that drove the protestors in the '50s and '60s to risk everything-including their lives - to seek fairness and equality. There are lessons for us in the formation of the alliance forged between African-Americans and members of the Jewish community to challenge the dissatisfaction with governing bodies that made claims of equality in education, socioeconomic independence, political progress, voting and human rights, but with limited results.

We often hear about a preacher from Atlanta named Martin Luther King Jr. who spoke elo-

quent words woven in hope and courage for a better day for all people—white, black, brown and yellow, but too often we fail to lift the voices of less visible supporters who carried the message, advocated for new laws, catalyzed new practices and generally committed themselves to working together for a stronger Atlanta community.

"We recognize the many
Georgia lawyers who
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and we applaud them
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commitment to these
important historic events."

The mid-'40s and '50s witnessed an influx of silent supporters to Atlanta – Jewish immigrants. A decade afterward, the city began to attract people from other cities who wanted to be catalysts for change. National Black leaders were persuaded that the acceptance of the Jewish immigrants into their struggle for justice would improve conditions for everyone. They intentionally adopted a strategy of joining forces with Jewish citizens in their struggle against discrimination.

Jewish attorneys, particularly from the northern states, traveled south and fully supported civil rights protests, demonstrations, marches, etc. They were active in supporting black voter registration and integration of public accommodations, private clubs and bar associations such as the Lawyers Club, the Piedmont Driving Club and the Commerce Club, as well as being outspoken supporters for the movement.

Blacks and Jews were brought together by a commonality—discrimination—and hung on to a political agenda which they believed would ensure their success and their children's success in America. Simply put, they believed that there should not be distinctions based on race or religion. In addition to Black attorneys like Donald Lee Hollowell who represented Rev. King, A. T. Walden, C. B. King and Sen. Leroy Johnson, who fought to allow Muhammad

Ali to fight in Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium, and Judge Elbert P. Tuttle, who presided over most of the appeals of the civil rights cases, there were Georgia lawyers like Hamilton "Ham" Lokey, a Jewish attorney and politician in Atlanta who joined with Black lawyers and legislators in pursuing their civil rights issues. Attorney Lokey was a graduate from the University of Georgia and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1933. He understood the importance of education as well as equality of the law. He established the Atlanta law firm of Lokey and Bowden with Henry Bowden in 1939 and was later elected to the Georgia General Assembly as a representative of Fulton County, serving from 1953-56. He was the only legislator in the Georgia House of Representatives that voted against efforts by Governors Talmadge, Griffin and Vandiver to close public schools, public universities and state parks just to avoid desegregation.

Noteworthy is the fact that during the civil rights movement, Jewish attorneys were fundraisers and key speechwriters. They also made up more than half of the white lawyers who came south to defend the civil rights marchers and protesters. Several of the national Black leaders' legal advisers were Jewish lawyers on whom Black leaders confidentially relied to handle finances

and give counsel during some of the most crucial crises facing the movement. Further, it was Jewish businessmen along with their affluent friends that backed the movement by giving hundreds of thousands of dollars over a period of time. They made up half to three-quarters of the contributors to civil rights organizations, even to the more radical organizations, like the Southern Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Attorneys Lokey and Hollowell are but two examples of more than 100 Georgia lawyers who were actively involved in the civil rights movement. Some of these lawyers stood on the front line and some assisted in changing the minds of others behind the scenes. Others handled the thousands of legal cases associated with arrests for peaceful protests. This was a difficult time in our state's history and speaking up for the civil rights of citizens was a dangerous pastime and a potentially deadly activity.

We recognize the many Georgia lawyers who were involved in the struggle for civil rights in their communities from the late 1950s to 1970s, and we applaud them for their dedication and commitment to these important historic events.

Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker is the president of the State Bar of Georgia and can be reached at president@gabar.org.



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by Sharri Edenfield

Civil Rights and Professional Obligations

19-22 at the Hyatt French Quarter in New Orleans, was historic and memorable for several reasons, but the most prodigious reason was the two-hour Continuing Legal Education session, "Plessy v. Ferguson Revisited: Civil Rights and

he YLD's 2015 Spring Meeting, held March

Thanks to YLD Minorities in the Profession Committee Co-Chair Morgan Clemons and Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Executive Director Avarita Hanson, this CLE served as the highlight of our meeting and perhaps, one of the biggest highlights of the YLD's year as a whole.

Professional Obligations" that

took place during the meeting.

Last fall, Morgan approached me with an offer for her committee to take a leadership role in the programming for the Spring Meeting. After some discussion, we agreed the best option would be a CLE, which could also serve as the third session of the year for the YLD Leadership Academy. Having arisen from an incident

New

". . . the discussion of the decision in Plessy v. Ferguson, dealing with racial segregation professional obligations of during Reconstruction, was a natural subject, given our localawyers to promote equal tion, to explore in historical and contemporary contexts. application of the laws, our role in championing access to justice and the rights of citizens, and our professional interactions with opposing parties and their

Homer Plessy was an African-American shoemaker who, as an act of civil disobedience, rode in a "whites only" railway car and was subsequently arrested on charges of violating the Separate Car Act of Louisiana, which mandated separate accommodations for black and white railroad passengers. In the criminal trial, Judge John Ferguson ruled against a motion made by attorneys for Plessy. The ruling was later affirmed by the

Louisiana Supreme Court, and

the case was ultimately heard

that occurred in New Orleans, the U.S. Supreme Court's 1896

Orleans resident

by the U.S. Supreme Court. Plessy established the "separate but equal" doctrine as constitutional and became the foundation for Jim Crow laws throughout the country for the

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counsel, the courts and our

colleagues is one we need to

have on a regular basis."

majority of the 20th century. It was not until 1954, when *Plessy* was overturned by *Brown v*. *Board of Education*, that the courts declared separate could not be equal. The 60th anniversary of *Brown* was observed last year, and we marked the 50th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery a few weeks before our meeting in New Orleans.

In planning the CLE program, we realized this would be a good opportunity to include a professionalism component on the responsibilities of lawyers to "do the right thing" in the face of injustice. I asked Avarita Hanson, executive director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, to work with Morgan on developing the CLE curriculum.

The resulting two-hour CLE was a combination of historical perspective, constitutional law and professionalism. Morgan secured Prof. Lawrence Powell of Tulane University to speak on the historical backdrop of *Plessy*. Powell painted a grim picture of the reality of rampant racism and violence in Louisiana before the Civil War and, especially, during Reconstruction, when Homer Plessy made his consequential appearance on that train.

Tulane University School of Law Prof. Robert St. Martin Westley gave an eloquent presentation on the constitutional justification and ramifications of the *Plessy* decision. He reminded CLE participants that treating everyone equally is not necessarily the same as treating everyone fairly. As an example, Westley used his giving a written exam to each law student in his class—including a blind student. His treatment of the blind student was equal, but that doesn't mean it was fair

Hanson gave a rousing presentation on the professional obligations of lawyers. She asked the group to consider whether they were lawyers 24 hours a day or only during office hours, as well as what should be expected of lawyers when we are confronted with injustice. She blended in a discussion of the march from Selma to Montgomery, the 50th anniversary of which had just taken place. She quoted President Barack Obama as saying at the event, "Selma is about the courage of ordinary people doing extraordinary things because they believe they can change the country, that they can shape our nation's destiny. Selma is about each of us asking ourselves what we can do to make America better."

This led to Hanson asking what can we as lawyers do to make America better. She reminded us that lawyers are not just "ordinary people." Our special training and skills mean that we have the keys to the law and to the courthouse. Lawyers are seen and work as community leaders, lawmakers and defenders of rights. Are we?

"Lawyers are entrusted with the privilege of practicing law and in Georgia of being self-regulating through the Supreme Court and the State Bar of Georgia," Hanson stated. "We take a firm oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States and the state of Georgia. Lawyers enjoy a distinct position of trust and confidence and an obligation to be caretakers of the system of justice that is essential for the continued existence of a civilized society."

The Rules of Professional Conduct are rules of reason, she said, and they presuppose a larger legal context shaping the lawyer's role. "The Rules do not, however, exhaust the moral and ethical considerations that should inform a lawyer, for no worthwhile human activity can be completely defined by legal rules," she added. "The Rules simply provide a framework for the ethical practice of law."

Hanson noted there is a good deal of thought in the legal community on the notion that a lawyer is a lawyer 24 hours a day, seven days a week and in all contexts. Writing for the ABA e-news in March of this year, Susan J. Michmerhuizen and

Peter Garaghty, counsel and director, respectively, for ETHICSearch, speak to the issue by citing a 1974 ABA Ethics Committee opinion, which states in part:

. . . The answer is that a lawyer must comply at all times with all applicable disciplinary rules of the Code of Professional Responsibility whether or not he is acting in his professional capacity.

Many, if not most, disciplinary rules by their nature relate only to the conduct of a lawyer acting in his professional capacity. For example, DR 7-106, which regulates the trial conduct of a lawyer, obviously is concerned with the conduct of a lawyer in his professional capacity of a trial lawyer. However, other disciplinary rules are equally clearly designed to be applicable to a lawyer without regard to whether he is acting individually or as a lawyer...

The provisions of DR 1-102(A)(3) and (4) (which reads as follows: "(A) A lawyer shall not: . . . (3) Engage in illegal conduct involving moral turpitude. (4) Engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.") are not limited to a lawyer's conduct while he is acting in his professional capacity as a lawyer. They are applicable to all conduct of the nature specified in those provisions without regard to the capacity the lawyer may be acting.

"While there is no specific Georgia opinion to this effect," Hanson said, "it is certainly a useful aspirational standard to consider oneself and hold oneself out as a lawyer—with all that entails ethically, professionally and even morally—on a 24/7 basis in whatever context."

From there, Hanson segued into professionalism, which she called "the combination of core values

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of competence, civility, public and community service, and ensuring access to justice that distinguishes lawyers as the caretakers of the rule of law." For Georgia lawyers, two documents - A Lawyer's Creed and Aspirational Statements—represent higher standards of lawyer behavior than the minimal standards set forth in the Code of Professional Conduct. They acknowledge that lawyers have relationships with clients, opposing parties and their counsel, the courts, colleagues, the profession and the public. The aspirational goals bind us together as a community.

"But," she asked, "what about the individual lawyer's own sense of professional responsibility, conscience, moral responsibility? The Rules, the Creed and Aspirational Ideals are all better understood and heeded within one's own professional identity. Some of that can be rooted in one's religion or personal creed. A simple rule is the Golden Rule: 'Treat others as you would have them treat you.' Or the Integrity Rule I learned from a former general, 'Do what you say you will do.'"

Hanson acknowledged, however, "... we are all human and, I believe we have a sense of moral conscience—a basic sense of right and wrong—even if that is clouded by political expediency, personal ambition or 'legal judgment.' Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in his speech in Montgomery, Ala., after the last Selma March on March 25, 1965, articulated that the time for change was 'How long? Not long.' His message to us lawyers: 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Additionally, the YLD was honored to have two descendants of the litigants in *Plessy v. Ferguson* join us and talk about the Plessy & Ferguson Foundation that they started. Both Keith Plessy and Phoebe Ferguson are residents of New Orleans, and it was incredibly compelling to hear them talk about growing up there and the

changes that they had witnessed in their lifetimes. The foundation's mission is to create new and innovative ways to teach the history of civil rights through understanding this historic case and its effect on the American conscience. You can find out more at www.plessyandferguson.org.

Another reason that the YLD's Spring Meeting was historic and memorable was because it also set an attendance record for a standalone YLD meeting (as opposed to joint meetings with the State Bar Board of Governors). The meeting drew 104 registrants and 84 attendees for the Plessy CLE session, which also set a record for YLD-sponsored CLE programs. It is gratifying to me to know that not only did the Plessy CLE provide outstanding presentations and raise thought-provoking questions, it also reached a larger audience of YLD members than ever before, thus inspiring more young lawyers to consider a lawyer's professional obligations in the context of civil rights.

Finally, as I finish my term as YLD president, I note that the 2015 Spring Meeting marked the YLD's return to the City of New Orleans for the first time since 2007 and brought my time in the YLD full-circle. In April 2007, I attended my very first YLD meeting, which was held in New Orleans when Jon Pope served as YLD president.

In thinking back on that 2007 Spring Meeting, I recall how inspired I was to make a difference and how proud I was to be involved with the YLD.¹

On this 50th anniversary of the signing into law of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the March on Selma, it is my hope that the record number of YLD members who attended will also be inspired to make a difference and to consider a lawyer's professional obligations in the context of civil rights. Especially in the midst of such a meaningful historical backdrop, the discussion of the professional obligations of lawyers to promote

equal application of the laws, our role in championing access to justice and the rights of citizens, and our professional interactions with opposing parties and their counsel, the courts and our colleagues is one we need to have on a regular basis. Thank you very much to Morgan Clemons and Avarita Hanson for organizing this outstanding program.

Sharri Edenfield is the president of the young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and can be reached at sharri@ecbcpc.com.

Endnote

1. Under Jon Pope's leadership, the YLD held its first-ever Signature Fundraiser in February 2007 and raised \$10,000 for Tipitina's Foundation, a New Orleans-based nonprofit that promotes childhood music education, a charity in great need after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Jon presented the check to Tiptina's the day after the 2007 meeting ended. Additionally, 2007 Spring Meeting attendees volunteered at the SecondHarvest Food Bank (SHFB) of Greater New Orleans and Acadia and also took a tour of the devastation left by Katrina, led by the Louisiana YLD President, Mark Morice. In honor of the catalyst for the Signature Fundraiser and the YLD's return to the Crescent City, the YLD was pleased to again make a donation to Tipitina's Foundation in honor of the winners of our team-building activity, a scavenger hunt in the French Quarter.



June 2015



Navigating Maritime Torts in Georgia:

Steering Through the International Choice of Law Analysis

by David William Bobo Mullens III

eorgia's deepwater ports are its gateway to the world.¹ Combined, the Port of Savannah and Port of Brunswick rank second highest in the country in export tonnage.² The Port of Savannah, alone, is the fourth largest container port in the United States.³ In 2014, it handled 11 percent of all U.S. containerized exports, ⁴ raised \$66.9 billion dollars in sales and supported 352,000 jobs across the state of Georgia.⁵ The container ships that pass through Savannah and Brunswick reach a size of more than 1,000 feet long, 100 feet wide and 40 feet deep, and are generally operated by a crew of 20 or so crewmen.⁶ Each year, nearly 3,000 of these vessels visit Savannah,7 and more than 600 of them visit Brunswick.8

International shipping has played a large role in fueling Georgia's deepwater port growth. Last fiscal year, in Savannah alone, imports and exports

increased 5.8 percent to push total cargo volume at the port to 2.9 million containers. The head of the Georgia Ports Authority, Chief Executive Curtis Foltz, largely credits recent growth to international trade with Asia. Moreover, foreign trade should continue to rise as "[i]mprovements in transportation linkages, technology, new service, strategic marketing and — most significant — the green light to deepen the Savannah Harbor, will play a role in maintaining [the Georgia Ports Authority]'s position as a premier East Coast hub for containerized cargo." 11

Processing a growing level of foreign trade, particularly through Savannah, means Georgia runs an increased risk of bearing maritime industrial accidents. On any given ship, personnel risk injury from improperly maintained equipment, inadequate training, unsafe work methods, oil spills, negligence or assault by co-workers, ship collision and general vessel unseaworthiness. Studies show that the notified accident rate in merchant shipping is 3.1 accidents per 100 seafarers a year.¹² Moreover, the notified accident rate for injuries that cause permanent disability is estimated to be .34 incidents per 100 seafarers a year. 13 Applying these accident rates to the increased amount of international shipping in Georgia, it seems likely that Georgia will witness a rise in personnel injuries on foreign vessels.

A rise in injuries should lead to a corresponding surge in maritime tort litigation. Under the relevant American statute for maritime tort, the Jones Act, plaintiffs enjoy one of the most liberal theories of recovery for maritime personal injury in the world. Thus, seamen injured on ships

trading with either Savannah or Brunswick will have a tantalizing financial incentive to have their cases handled in Georgia's federal and state courts. Conversely, foreign companies will want to move litigation to their home country and try cases under their own law rather than being subject to American discovery and any ensuing settlement pressures, as well as potentially large jury awards.¹⁴ Therefore, the key in a maritime tort dispute involving a foreign company is to determine whether American or foreign law governs.

Fortunately, sufficient case law exists to provide a lodestar from which interested parties may confidently steer their litigation in Georgia's courts. Lawsuits proceeding under the Jones Act require an international choice of law analysis when the defendant claims foreign law controls. The international choice of law analysis has developed into an eight-factor test that either party can win. Ultimately, foreign companies can limit exposure to American maritime tort law by implementing four guidelines, recommended infra, as company policies. The implementation of these policies will allow companies to focus on strengthening a mutually beneficial trade relationship with Savannah and Brunswick, rather than losing millions of dollars in litigation.

Background

Mapping Maritime Tort Law

American maritime personal injury law is relatively new. The Jones Act is the governing statute for this area of law, and was passed in 1920 to recognize the legal rights of seamen who had suffered personal injury or death in the course of their maritime service. ¹⁵ Initially found at 46 U.S.C. § 688 (2012), the Jones Act was recodified in 2006 at 46 U.S.C. §§ 30104 and 30105. ¹⁶ The relevant portion of § 30104 reads:

"A seaman injured in the course of employment or, if the seaman dies from the injury, the personal representative of the seaman may elect to bring a civil action at law, with the right of trial by jury, against the employer."

The goal is to give seamen injured by a shipowner's negligence the right to recover damages for injuries, so as to make themselves whole.¹⁷ The Jones Act is unusual in that it represents an exception to the usual idea that an injured employee can only pursue a workers' compensation claim against his or her employer. 18 Instead, the Jones Act formally gives each seaman the right to a jury trial, as well as the "right to recover damages against his employer for negligence resulting in injury or death."19 As an added bonus to plaintiffs, punitive damages are also recoverable in maritime tort litigation, as the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in 2009 when it held that the Jones Act does not preempt punitive damages recoverable under general maritime law.²⁰

Assuming a plaintiff meets the requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 30104 and files within the three-year statute of limitation,²¹ the plaintiff must then meet three hurdles before getting to the merits of his or her Jones Act claim: file in the correct court, establish personal jurisdiction and, lastly, survive an international choice of law defense. Assuming the plaintiff establishes subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction, the foreign company is left defending the case on choice of law grounds.

Raising the Issue of International Choice of Law

To raise the international choice of law issue, a foreign defendant must raise the defense that foreign law governs the dispute. The proper way to raise this defense is to assert so in the answer to a complaint, or in a subsequent rule 12(b) or equivalent motion to dismiss, arguing that the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.²² If the court decides that American state or federal law is not applicable and that the plaintiff has not plead-

ed any other source of law for relief, then summary judgment would be proper, and the defendant would win.²³ Alternatively, if the plaintiff asserts another cause of action dependent on foreign law, then it is likely the defense will move for the case to be removed to a foreign court, under the forum non conveniens doctrine.²⁴ The Eleventh Circuit specifically requires an international choice of law analysis before entertaining removal of the case on the basis of forum non conveniens.²⁵

Helping Defendants Navigate Choice of Law (Sand) Bars in Georgia

In Georgia, foreign defendants have a valuable opportunity to remove or dismiss cases pending against them under the international choice of law doctrine. To act on this opportunity and determine whether foreign law applies, foreign defendants should realize that the Eleventh Circuit follows the eight-factor choice of international law test outlined by the U.S. Supreme Court in Hellenic Lines Limited v. Rhoditis,²⁶ which considered: 1) the place of the wrongful act, 2) the law of the flag, 3) the allegiance or domicile of the injured seaman, 4) the allegiance of the defendant shipowner, 5) the place where the contract of employment was made, 6) the inaccessibility of a foreign forum, 7) the law of the forum and 8) the shipowner's base of operations.²⁷

Eleventh Circuit Law

The Eleventh Circuit places a great deal of emphasis on the base of operations factor, going so far as to hold in Membreno v. Costa Crociere *S.p.A.* that the "significant question is whether the defendants have a base of operations in the United States."28 Thus, foreign defendants seeking to move maritime tort litigation away from the United States should focus on establishing that they do not have a base of operations in the United States. To do so, foreign companies should compare their contacts with Georgia to those of defendants in past cases

who were found not to have an American base of operations.

In Membreno, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit held that there was no applicable base of operations despite the fact that the Italian company that owned the ship was a subsidiary of a U.S. corporation. Instead, the Court found that the relevant base of operations was in Italy because contracts with the parent company were done at arm's length, day-today operations of the Italian company were conducted in an office in Genoa, the defendant's fleet spent only 3.4 percent of its sailing days in American ports and approximately 80 percent of the defendant's business came from Europe.²⁹

Conversely, in *Szumlicz v. Norwegian America Line, Inc.*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit applied the Jones Act in a claim against a foreign flag vessel traveling between Puerto Rico and Fort Lauderdale.³⁰ There, the Court reasoned that the follow-

ing contacts justified characterizing the defendant as having a substantial base of operations in Florida: calling into Port Everglades nine times in a four-month period, advertising cruise trips that ended in Fort Lauderdale, placing shipping agents in Florida, having a permanent physician in Florida to treat defendant's crewmen and receiving significant financial backing from the United States.³¹ Likewise, in the persuasive *Mattes* v. National Hellenic American Line. S.A. decision, the District Court for the Southern District of New York found a U.S. base of operations from 17 trips to New York, 85 percent of the ship's passengers being American citizens, a majority of earnings stemming from American clients and 40 percent of all voyages were to or from American ports.³²

Four Guidelines for Foreign Companies

As established *supra*, the base of operations factor is critical in

an Eleventh Circuit international choice of law analysis. Current law indicates that defendants might fall outside of the scope of the base of operations analysis if they follow certain guidelines. Therefore, foreign companies that wish to avoid being subject to a finding that they have a base of operations within the United States should implement the four following recommendations as part of company policy. Then, if ever sued under the Jones Act, these foreign companies may invoke Membreno to insist the base of operations prong is the determinative factor of a choice of analysis, and then argue their company falls outside of that prong's reach.

First, foreign companies involved in shipping should diversify their business so that they make less than half of their revenue in the United States. In *Szumlicz*, having "significant financial backing" in the United States was an important reason for the Court's finding of a base of operations in Florida.



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70027, 70028, 70029, 70030, 70031, 70032 Copyright 2015 Mercer LLC. All rights reserved. Likewise, in persuasive cases like New York's Mattes, courts have held that discovering that 85 percent or more of a defendant's earnings come from the United States can be an important factor in evaluating whether a defendant had a base of operations in the United States. Conversely, being unable to show how much money was derived from U.S. clientele was considered one reason to not be able to find an American base of operations in Cooper v. Meridian Yachts, Ltd.33 And in Membreno, the Court thought it significant that more than 80 percent of the company's business came from abroad when deciding foreign law applied.³⁴ Acknowledging this spectrum of case law, foreign defendants should make half of their business, but no more, from the United States.

Second, foreign companies should limit the percentage of trips their ships make to Georgia ports to significantly under half of total voyages. In *Mattes*, the Court found a base of operations in the United States partly because 40 percent of the company's voyages were to American ports.³⁵ Likewise, in Szumlicz, a cruise ship was found to have a base of operations in Florida because it had docked in American ports nine times in a four-month period and ended most of its cruise trips at a Florida port.36 Conversely, in Membreno, no base of operations was found partially because less than 4 percent of all sailing days were spent in American ports.³⁷ Given those parameters, a foreign company should limit its Georgia port trips to less than half of total voyages if possible. This could be done by opening up regular routes between non-American ports and having each vessel rotate its shipping assignment. It could also be done by heeding Membreno, and making sure that time-intensive activities like ship repairs are done abroad so that less time is spent docked in Georgia's ports.

Third, foreign companies should position their main office abroad,

and minimize opening offices in the United States. Szumlicz, Cooper and Membreno emphasized that defendants without a U.S. office, or at least a main U.S. office, were less likely to be considered to have a base of operations in the United States. Therefore, each foreign defendant should carefully weigh whether exposure to maritime litigation is worth opening offices in the United States for other business reasons. Particularly with modern technology, it is likely that foreign companies can serve all communication and advertising needs at their foreign offices, by making cell phone calls, using online interface and taking a quick plane ride when business deals need to be executed in person.

Fourth, foreign companies should strictly observe a formal corporate structure if they are owned by or own American corporations. Per Membreno, foreign companies need not fear being owned or owning an American corporation, insofar as it inherently affects their vulnerability in a maritime tort suit. However, foreign companies should be sure to observe corporate formalities, lest decisions made by the U.S. company not be considered at "arms-length" and resulting business be attributed to the foreign company, which would hurt the defendant's position on the first recommendation. To observe corporate formalities, foreign companies should have an American law firm evaluate the American subsidiary or owner's relationship with the foreign firm and offer recommendations on any needed follow up. Foreign business should also ensure they make all shipping and trade business decisions completely autonomously of any American parent or subsidiary.

Conclusion

Georgia's growing ports are enjoying a rise in cargo volume, wealth and importance. In particular, foreign shipping has propelled Savannah into an international player and the state of Georgia into a "combined economic engine, with Atlanta as the headquarters, Savannah as the port and Interstates 16/75 as the artery of commerce that joins them." 38 Unfortunately, the many merchant ships that are processed by Savannah and Brunswick risk industrial accidents. The maritime tort litigation that emerges from those accidents will become very important to the long-term success of foreign companies doing business with Georgia's ports, and the long-term success of Savannah, Brunswick, and moreover, Georgia.

The resulting maritime tort litigation can be won or lost depending on whether American law governs the particular case at issue. Employing the international choice of law analysis required by the Eleventh Circuit means litigants should focus on whether the defendant has a base of operations in Georgia. For defendants to convince a Georgia court that there is not a relevant base of operations in Georgia, they will need to show that they make less than half of their profits from the United States, make less than half of their trips to American ports, have their main office located abroad and observe a strict corporate structure with an American corporation tied to their ownership structure. Should they fail to convince a court that they satisfy the points above, then they will risk being exposed to one of the most plaintiff-friendly tort recovery laws in the world.



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2015 Legislative Review

by W. Thomas Worthy and Russell N. "Rusty" Sewell

General Assembly adjourned *sine die* shortly after midnight on Thursday, April 2. In what is being called one of the most productive legislative sessions in recent memory, the General Assembly took bold action and passed key legislation in the areas of transportation and infrastructure funding (HB 170), K-12 education (SB 133 and SR 287), solar power (HB 57), insurance coverage for children with autism (HB 429) and medical marijuana for children with specific health disorders (HB 1).

This was a very successful session for the State Bar of Georgia and once again demonstrated the effectiveness of the Bar's Legislative Program. In a session that was primarily focused on transportation and infrastructure funding, the Bar's lobbying team effectively advocated for our agenda while also successfully responding to issues that arose during the frenzied 40 legislative days.

Most notable of the Bar's accomplishments was the successful passage of HB 279. HB 279, for which the State Bar strongly advocated due to our commitment to adequately fund the judiciary, provides a 5 percent pay raise for Supreme Court justices, judges of the Court of Appeals, superior court judges, district attorneys and circuit public defenders. In addition, the bill provides a \$6,000 annual supplement to the superior court judges, district attorneys and circuit public defenders in circuits where at least one accountability court operates. As the key stakeholder in negotiations with House and Senate appropriators on this issue, the

State Bar is proud to see such a crucial step in ensuring the appropriate compensation of these public servants. Gov. Deal signed HB 279 on May 6.

Another big victory for the State Bar of Georgia was the successful passage of HB 153, a proposal by the Real Property Law Section. After five years of tireless effort to protect the public by the State Bar, HB 153 finally allows consumers harmed by the unauthorized practice of law in residential real estate transactions an avenue to seek redress by pursuing a private cause of action for damages against the perpetrator. Gov. Deal signed HB 153 on May 5.

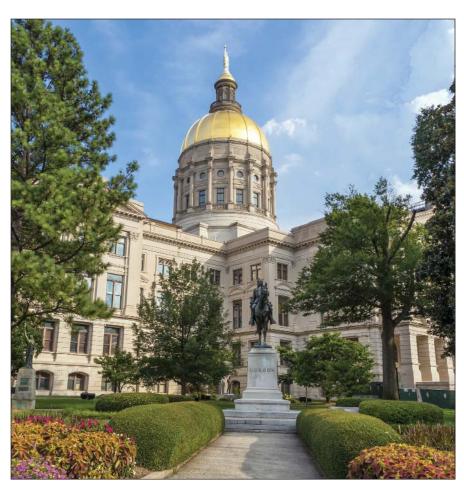
HB 310 (sponsored by Rep. Alan Powell, R-Hartwell), HB 328 (sponsored by Rep. Chuck Efstration, R-Dacula) and HB 361 (sponsored by Rep. Andy Welch, R-McDonough) all contained recommendations from the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform, representing the fourth year of justice reform and reinvestment initiatives. HB 310 streamlines offender supervision and creates new transparency and fairness provisions in the misdemeanor probation system. HB 328 contains adult sentencing reform while HB 361 includes continued reforms of the juvenile justice system. All three bills have been signed by the governor.

Also part of the State Bar's 2015 legislative agenda recommended by the Advisory Committee on Legislation and approved by the Board of Governors were two important funding requests. First, the State Bar supported increased funding to the Judicial Council for legal representation of victims of domestic violence after that program received three years of cuts. The FY15 budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor includes an appropriation of \$2.31 million, which is approximately \$193,000 more than its FY14 level of \$2.12 million. Second, the State Bar supported maintaining the funding of the Georgia Appellate Resource Center at \$800,000, to which the General Assembly also agreed.

Other initiatives proposed by the State Bar were introduced but did not secure final passage. Because this was the first of a two-year session, all of these bills

remain active and we will continue to pursue them next year. The first, supported by the Business Law Section, would revise important sections of the corporate code. This proposal was introduced this year as SB 128 by Sen. John Kennedy (R-Macon). Rep. Alex Atwood (R-St. Simons Island) introduced HB 236, which is the State Bar's Attorneys for Rural Areas Assistance Program—a novel approach to deal with access to justice issues in our state's most underserved areas. HB 531, introduced by Rep. Ronnie Mabra (D-Fayetteville), was a proposal by the General Practice and Trial Law Section. The bill codifies the longarm jurisdiction standard from the *International Shoe* case and expands Georgia's extraterritorial jurisdiction to the maximum amount allowable by the Due Process Clause. The Family Law Section promulgated a proposal that clarifies the requirements for the attestation of antenuptial agreements. That proposal was introduced by Rep. Regina Quick (R-Athens), as HB 405. A proposal by the Real Property Law Section that requires the appropriate filing of water liens was introduced as SB 206 by Sen. William Ligon (R-Brunswick). Finally, the Bar will continue to work with the International Trade in Legal Services Committee to pursue various pieces of legislation that will help make Georgia the premier venue of the arbitration of international claims.

There was a host of other important pieces of legislation that, while the Bar did not have an official position on them, were of great interest to lawyers and the legal profession. HB 98, sponsored by Rep. Christian Coomer (R-Cartersville) repeals the Georgia Code of Military Justice and enacts the Model Code of Military Justice, allowing for certain direct appeals. It passed both chambers unanimously and was signed by the governor on May 6. Sen. Kennedy introduced SB 99, which changes the provisions relating to reversal



on appeal when a judge expresses an opinion in a case. SB 99 passed both chambers overwhelmingly and was signed by the governor on May 6.

State Bar President Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker occasionally visited the Capitol during the session and did a fine job representing the Bar. The entire Executive Committee as well as section leaders who graciously volunteered their time to testify before committees are to be commended for their legislative efforts. This was a successful session for the State Bar's lobbying team, which also includes Roy Robinson and Meredith Weaver.

The State Bar's Grassroots Program continues to grow with great success. Nearly 700 members signed up for the State Bar Action Network, an online portal that allows you to monitor legislative developments and contact your legislators in near real time. We encourage all of you to sign up for this exciting service over the summer from the Legislative

Program page at www.gabar.org. We once again organized "lobby days" for local and voluntary bar associations from around the state. These were well-attended, successful events, and we encourage you to attend one of them next year. In the meantime, look for us in your area soon as we seek to expand the Bar's Grassroots Program and provide you with more political and legislative updates. [6]



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Eighth Annual Business Development Symposium

by Marian Cover Dockery

he State Bar Diversity Program's eighth annual Business Development Symposium invited experienced law firm partners and in-house counsels to share their expertise with attorneys on best practices to develop their books of business. This two-part program offered one CLE hour, including one professionalism, self-reporting, for each session.

As the world of business changes and the work of companies and law firms continue to expand internationally, the need for different perspectives are critical and those of diverse attorneys are needed. The presence of diverse attorneys in the courtroom where defendants and jurors are diverse underscores why corporate clients need their outside counsel to mirror the composition of our society. Corporations want their outside counsel to also reflect the makeup of their inside counsel. A female attorney who is interviewing outside counsel is not interested in an all-male team. Nor is the company interested in a diverse team making the pitch, but an all white male team billing the hours. Companies now seek the data disclosing who is doing the work to guarantee that the attorneys at the beauty pageant are the same who are billing the hours.

Although there are many attorneys who are natural business developers, it is a skill that can be taught. The



Samuel Woodhouse III, The Woodhouse Law Firm, speaks to attendees during Part I of the Business Development Symposium.

Georgia Diversity Program held its annual two-part symposium at the Bar Center featuring experienced attorneys who provided their most successful tips landing clients.

Samuel Woodhouse III, managing member, The Woodhouse Law Firm, led Part I—"Law Firm Partners

Photos by Don Morgan, Don Morgan Photography and Video

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Speak Out," on Jan. 29. Panelists included Bobbi Accord Nolan, Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP; Michael Coleman, Thompson Hine; and Audra Dial, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. The panelists each discussed the strategies that have proven effective in building their books of business and encouraged attendees to think "outside the box" to successfully land clients. Networking at business receptions is only part of the process. A recurring theme in developing business was following up a lead and being patient and persistent as landing a client may not happen overnight. It may take vears before a lawyer will secure certain clients. Early in one's law firm career, it was emphasized that learning one's craft is the priority, but it is never too early to begin nurturing relationships with fellow alumni, college classmates and those with whom you practice who may later move to in-house positions. Attending business events that aren't targeting lawyers is also a great way of meeting individuals who may need attorneys in the future.

Clyde Mize, partner, Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP, vice-chair, Georgia Diversity Program, led Part II—"In-House Counsel Speak Out," held on March 12. Thomas E. Best, senior counsel, Home Depot; Angela Frazier, litigation counsel, Cox Communications, Inc; Jon-Peter F. Kelly, senior counsel, Delta Airlines; Ashoo Sharma, corporate general counsel, HomeServices of Georgia; and David Ware, Fulton County attorney, served on the panel, sharing their expectations when law firm partners make the pitch to secure business with corporations. They also discussed how their companies select their outside counsel and measure their success in diversifying their panels.

These corporate counsel expressed their desire to hire talented, diverse attorneys in addition to explaining their reliance on attorneys they have practiced with in the past prior to going in-house



(Left to right) Panelists for "Law Firm Partners Speak Out" included Bobbi Accord Nolan, Samuel Woodhouse III, Audra Dial and Michael Coleman.



The Business Development in-house panel: (left to right) Thomas E. Best; Ashoo Sharma; Clyde Mize, moderator; David Ware; Angela Frazier; and Jon-Peter F. Kelley.

and getting referrals from attorneys who they trust. Corporations with multi-million dollar lawsuits are naturally gravitating to the larger law firms, but companies use smaller firms for cases that are more manageable.

The experts gave the attendees an abundance of fresh ideas to develop business that if implemented will contribute to the success of their law practices in the future.



Marian Cover
Dockery is an attorney
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the State Bar of Georgia Diversity Program. For more information on the Diversity Program, go to www.gabar.org.

Pro Bono Incentives for You

by Michael Monahan

awyers like you who handle cases on a probono basis aren't doing the work for the glamour. We do have ways to show our appreciation for your efforts, though.

Georgia lawyers who provide civil pro bono services through a recognized structured civil program can receive a CLE voucher worth \$150 toward any CLE program offered by ICLE in Georgia. To be eligible to receive a CLE voucher, handle three or more civil pro bono cases in a calendar year for a recognized pro bono

or legal aid program.

We also publish an annual Pro Bono All-Star Honor Roll in the June edition of the *Georgia Bar Journal*. The Honor Roll lists lawyers who handled one or more civil pro bono cases in the preceding calendar year. The pro bono or legal aid program that refers the cases to you sends us your name for inclusion in the Honor Roll. If your name is not on this year's Honor Roll, which can be found on page 44 of this issue of the *Journal*, we hope to see it next year.

We look to recognize outstanding volunteer lawyers and organized pro bono efforts through our annual Pro Bono Awards. The State Bar of Georgia Access to Justice Committee and the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Project solicit nominations for the State Bar's Pro Bono Awards in March of each year. The prestigious H. Sol Clark Award honors an individual lawyer who has excelled in one or more of a variety of activities that extend civil legal services to the poor. The William B. Spann Jr. Award honors organizational or law firm pro bono achievements. We recognize the pro bono contributions of lawyers who use their business skills to help nonprofits that serve the low-income community in Georgia through the A Business Commitment Pro Bono Award. You can learn more about the pro bono awards by visiting the State Bar of Georgia website and clicking on Public Service Opportunities.

If you are not currently volunteering, you can find a structured pro bono program by visiting our



volunteer lawyer support website: http://www.georgiaadvocates.org/oppsguide/. You can search for opportunities by program, interest area and location.

I'm always available to answer questions you may have about pro bono in Georgia. Contact me at probono@gabar.org.

Thank you for your service and commitment to professionalism. [®]



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ETHICS DILEMMA?

Lawyers who would like to discuss an ethics dilemma with a member of the Office of the General Counsel staff should contact the Ethics Helpline at 404-527-8741, 800-682-9806 or log in to www.gabar.org and submit your question by email.







by Kimberly C. Harris

24th Annual Fiction Writing Competition

The Editorial Board of the *Georgia Bar Journal* is proud to present "A Window by the River," by Kimberly C. Harris of LaGrange, as the winner of the *Journal's* 24th annual Fiction Writing Competition.

The purposes of the competition are to enhance interest in the Journal, to encourage excellence in writing by members of the Bar and to provide an innovative vehicle for the illustration of the life and work of lawyers. As in years past, this year's entries reflected a wide range of topics and literary styles. In accordance with the competition's rules, the Editorial Board selected the winning story through a process of reading each story without knowledge of the author's identity and then ranking each entry. The story with the highest cumulative ranking was selected as the winner. The Editorial Board congratulates Harris and all of the other entrants for their participation and excellent writing.

Tuesday morning in hopes of getting a prescription renewed. The doctor isn't there. Apparently Samantha has the days mixed up again. She thinks it's Tuesday when it is Monday. See, this is the very thing she wanted to talk to Dr. Marty about, in addition to renewing the prescription. She has wondered why she has been so forgetful lately; and of the simplest things. She can recall clearly the vacation she took with her parents when she was 10. She just can't seem to remember whether today is Monday or Tuesday. Of course, she knows what Dr. Marty will say: "What a laugh! Forgetful? You of all people. Aren't you still working six days a week?"

It isn't that Dr. Marty actually knows her all that well, but she is the primary care physician for many of Samantha's older clients, and it's a fairly small town.

Instead, Dr. Marty's PA, Katherine, phones the next day to tell Samantha that the prescription

is ready and that Dr. Marty has referred her to a neurologist to see about her "mind problem." The PA has made an appointment for her. Samantha is annoyed that the PA has referred to her forgetfulness as a "mind problem." It isn't a *mind* problem. It's just a memory problem. And being an elder law attorney, Samantha is certainly familiar with the issue. Perhaps she has been working a bit too much and not getting enough rest. She has interviewed several younger attorneys about taking over her practice, but none of them seemed to find the world of Medicare and Social Security particularly interesting. She smiles as she recalls that one of the interviewees actually made the unfortunate comment that he couldn't imagine spending his days talking primarily to "old people." Oh well, whatever. Truth be known, Samantha wasn't quite ready to slow down anyway. She loved her practice. And she wasn't yet comfortable with the thought of turning it over to a "youngster."

"Ms. Stevens are you still on the line?" Had she been speaking with someone Samantha suddenly wondered?

"Yes, I'm here," she says.

"Ms. Stevens, I was saying that this particular neurologist specializes in dealing with elderly patients."

"Well," says Samantha, "hopefully it is with elderly patients who are off their rocker." Dr. Marty's PA laughs. Well, at least someone laughed.

The PA says that the neurologist's office is located about 25 miles away in the town of Boring. "Great," says Samantha. "That's probably what the entire visit will be." The PA doesn't get it, begs her pardon. "Never mind, I'll be there." Things have changed so much over the past few years. She used to be able to visit one doctor there in town for any problem. Now everyone is a specialist and specialists never seem to be conveniently located. Your primary care physician is on one side of town, your dentist is

on another side of town and now the neurologist is in another town altogether. She chuckles to herself. The same can be said about lawyers she supposes.

Another thing, it seems to take her so long these days to get from place to place and now she'll have to ferret out where this new doctor is altogether. Suppose she is late. Samantha hates being late, though she can't imagine why in the case of doctor visits since you have to wait forever once you get there. But, traveling somewhere new like this seems to make Samantha more anxious lately, so she decides to drive to Boring to locate the office of the "crazy specialist" - as she decides to call him-on the evening before the day of her appointment. That should give her plenty of time to find out where he is, so there will be no danger of her possibly arriving late and creating a bad impression right off the bat.

She could get her partner Winnie to go with her, but Winnie volunteers at the Red Cross and has a meeting tonight. Samantha doesn't want her to miss it. And besides, she can find the place herself. Dr. Marty's PA gave her directions. It's a beautiful evening for a drive; early fall, the worst of the summer heat is over and the evenings are cooling off. She'll still have daylight until around 8 p.m.

When Samantha turns onto the interstate, headed west, she finds that the sun is just low enough to shine into her face, but if she sits up really straight and lifts her chin, she can get her eyes into the shade provided by the visor. She spots the sign which tells her that she has 10 miles until the Boring exit. When she reaches the exit and turns south, she notices the town limits sign: Boring. Population 2,703. Really? Why do they bother to put the three there? Doesn't it just keep changing?

Samantha thinks about the habit she and Winnie have always had of checking out small towns just for fun to see if they could live there. This one seems to be about the size they might like. In the past few years, so many of their friends have moved to large retirement communities in one of the warmer states. She and Winnie have visited them on occasion and joked that the atmosphere was like a Disney World for seniors. You can participate in some sort of activity literally 24/7. Oh well, maybe when we get older, she thinks. But at least for now they are agreed that a smaller, quieter place still appeals to them both.

As she turns onto the main street through town, she notes a decent-sized grocery store where you could probably get fairly fresh vegetables, and perhaps good meats. Winnie loves to cook, so that is a plus. There is also a small coffee shop and bakery, which they would both enjoy. Further down the street she sees a sign that reads "Laundromat," though Samantha can't think what that sort of establishment is right off. She notices that the pharmacy is an adequate size, and wonders if they stock good magazines. That reminds her of a magazine article she had recently read. Odd, she didn't recall the article being on paper. She thinks perhaps it had been on some sort of device with a tiny television screen, but she must be wrong. That seems silly. She forgets the article and thinks instead that she must remember to share all of this with Winnie. Maybe they would drive back here on the weekend to explore further.

Of course, there are also signs that the town has seen better days in some respects. Right off the town square is a neon sign in a store window that promises Fine Jewelry, but the light is missing several bulbs. And the store doesn't appear to be a jewelry store at all. It and several stores on either side of it appear to be full of old china, furniture and assorted junk. There are a couple of vacant stores along the main street, and one restaurant with a sign in the window announcing that it is closing on Dec. 31,

2014. Odd, Samantha thinks, that they would be announcing a closing 10 years from now. Maybe it was a misprint. Should she stop in and mention it? Well, maybe she should just stop and park anyway, she decides. It's probably better to search out this doctor's office on foot rather than continue driving around the square. Surely it's in the downtown area. In her momentary distraction she missed the parallel parking spot in front of one of the vacant stores and had to circle the square again. This time the first vacant space she comes upon is one she can pull straight into. She decides to park there since there is plenty of room and she's not the best at parallel parking anyway. Winnie always teases her about that and insists on doing all the parking when they travel.

Almost immediately after exiting the car, she spots a three-story glass building a couple of blocks away and she is ready to bet that is it. Doctors used to have their offices in small homey buildings, but then they began affiliating themselves with hospitals and other groups of doctors and before you knew it these big, modern, sterile professional buildings began appearing everywhere. Sure enough, the sign on the front of the building reads "Medical Professional Building."

She pulls the scrap of paper on which she has written the doctor's name out of her pocket to check it. There are 15 names on the directory to the right of the door, but none are the name on Samantha's piece of paper. And no wonder, because nothing is written on her piece of paper but a number. The number is E 7 ½. It is the shoe size of her niece, Emily. It takes her a while to figure that out, the E standing for Emily, but scribbled in a hasty way. She faintly recalls something about buying slippers for Emily last Christmas, or was it the Christmas before last?

She's not sure what she should do now. It could be that the doctor she is supposed to see has just moved into this building and his name has not yet been put on the directory. She thinks she should ask somebody. First, she should knock on the off chance that somebody is in there working late. She does this, and it is a good thing in a way that nobody comes, because the doctor's name that she is after still has not come to mind. She has another idea. Isn't it quite possible that this person—the crazy specialist-has a smaller office here in town? It would make sense and be cheaper. You probably don't need a lot of medical equipment for crazy doctoring.

With that thought in mind, Samantha continues her walk away from the medical professional building and off the main street surrounding the square. The doctor's name that she is after has come back to her as such things are apt to do when there is no longer a crisis. The buildings she walks by were mostly built in the 20th century. Some of wood, but mostly brick and glass. The glass ones are mostly two or more stories high, the brick ones somewhat more modest, a story and a half with slanting ceilings and upstairs rooms, lofts they call them now. Some front doors open just a few feet from the sidewalk. When she was a little girl, people would have had the doors open and would have been sitting outside enjoying an evening like this. No one was sitting outside now, just empty benches and steps. No conversations to be overheard about the weather or the Bulldogs or the Braves or some friend who had taken ill and was not expected to recover. No speculation to be overheard about herself, once they thought she was out of earshot.

But had there been people sitting outside, she would have conversed with them to put their minds at ease that she wasn't some crazy person wandering the streets. She would have asked if they knew where the



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doctor's office was. This would have given them a new item of conversation. What does she want a doctor for? And which doctor? (This of course, after she had moved out of earshot.) But no one is on the street; they must all be in their lofts. There are numbers on all the buildings, but no names, and no sign that there is a doctor in any of the buildings.

She arrives at the end of the block and just across the street, adjacent to her, is a large brick building with gables and some sort of clock tower. Perhaps the building is a church, or an old school. The hands have stopped at 12, for noon or midnight, which certainly is not the right time in either case. There is a large flower garden that seems professionally arranged – some flowers spilling out of a wheelbarrow and more spilling out of a milk pail on its side. There's a sign near the flower garden that Samantha can't read because the sun is shining straight onto it. She walks across the lawn to see it at another angle. Higgins Funeral Chapel. Now she sees the portico where the hearse probably parks. Strange. For a moment she has the feeling that she has been there with Winnie. But, that can't be. They don't know anyone from Boring, so she is sure they have never attended a funeral here. Well, never mind. She had better get on with things.

She continues down the street past the chapel and turns onto a side street where there are very large, well-kept homes. They are each slightly different, yet somehow look all the same. Gently colored stone or pale brick; peaked or rounded windows. Ah, she thinks, one of these might be the doctor's office. At least there are people out and about on this street. They haven't all managed to shut themselves up inside. A boy is skateboarding on the sidewalk, taking diagonal routes across the pavement. Something about his riding is odd, and she cannot figure it out at first. He seems to be riding backward. That's what it is.

A woman who might be too old to be his mother—but who is

very trim and lively looking all the same—is standing in a driveway watching him. She is talking to a man who could not be her husband—both of them are being too cordial. Samantha looks ahead and sees that the street is a dead end. No going farther. Interrupting the woman and man, she excuses herself. She says that she is looking for a doctor. "No, no," she says. "Don't be alarmed. It's not an emergency. You see, I just need his address for an appointment. I thought you might know it." They inquire as to the doctor's name and then comes the problem of realizing that she has again forgotten the name. They are too polite to show any surprise at this and apologize for not being able to help her. She turns to leave and the boy on the skateboard comes flying by, barely missing all three of them. Laughter from the woman and man. No reprimand. A perfect little jerk and they seem to positively admire him. They all remark on the beauty of the evening, and Samantha begins her walk back the way that she has come. Except that she does not go all the way, not quite as far as the chapel. There is another side street just before the chapel. She ignored it before, perhaps because there is no street sign there and she had not thought of a doctor having an office on such a street. She turns onto the side street, more of a gravel drive really. The sidewalk ends abruptly and there are no houses. Two men are busy erecting some sort of canopy over freshly dug ground. She doesn't think she should interrupt them. Besides, she still can't recall the name of the doctor and she certainly doesn't want to make a fool of herself. They are probably already whispering about her.

Looking beyond the two men and the canopy she sees something interesting ahead. There is a hedge that comes right out to the gravel drive. It's high enough that she does not expect to be able to see over it, but thinks she might be able to peek through. But she doesn't have to. When she gets past the hedge she

finds that the area is open to the drive she is walking on. It appears to be some sort of park, with flagstone paths diagonally crossing the freshly mown grass. In between the paths, and bursting from the grass, there are flowers interspersed among slabs of marble. She knows the name of some of the flowers the dark gold and light yellow daisies for instance, yellow and red iris—but she is no great gardener herself and there are wide displays of all colors and varieties that she can't name. All of them are in such perfect rows for quite a distance in each direction. Everything is so pretty, even the fountain that shoots up seven feet or so before falling down into its rock-lined pool. She walked in off the drive to get a little of its cool spray, and there she finds a wrought-iron bench where she can sit down.

A man has come along one of the paths carrying a pair of grass clippers. Gardeners are evidently expected to work late here. Though to tell the truth, he does not look like a hired workman. He is tall and very thin and dressed in black pants and a black shirt with a white collar. It has not occurred to her that this property could be anything but a town park.

"This is really beautiful," Samantha calls to him in her most approving voice. "You keep it up so well."

"Thank you," he says. "You're welcome to sit there a while."

She knows by his tone he is informing her that this is not a park. It's probably private property, and he himself is probably the owner. "I'm sorry. I should have asked your permission."

"That's okay." Preoccupied, he is bending and snipping at some grass that is encroaching on a slab of marble nearby.

"This is yours, is it? All of it?" After a few more snips with the shears, he stops. "Well, yes, in a manner of speaking, it's mine to care for," he responds.

"I should have known. It's too imaginative to be public; too

unusual." He doesn't answer. She is going to ask him whether he likes to sit here himself in the evenings. But she better not bother. He doesn't seem an easy person to be around. One of those who probably prides themselves on that very fact. After a moment she will just thank him and get up and leave. But instead, after a moment he comes and sits down beside her. He speaks just as if a question has been put to him. "Actually, I feel more comfortable when I'm tending to the grounds," he says. "If I sit down I have to keep my eyes off everything, or I'll just see something else that needs doing."

Samantha thought she should let him get back to work, but still she was curious. She asked what was there before he made the garden.

"Oh, I didn't make this garden. It's been here quite a while. I think many years ago there may have been a mill here. All smaller towns on rivers likely had mills. But in time that went under and the lovely old building was preserved and it became a church. And eventually the parishioners decided the church needed this garden."

Samantha knows from his accent that he's not from around here. As if reading her thoughts he says: "I'm not from around here, so I don't know the precise history. I had a friend who lived here though. In fact he used to tend this garden. When he died I came up just to say goodbye. Then the church asked me to stay. My friend had been sick and the place had become somewhat of an eyesore."

"I'm sorry if I seem inquisitive," Samantha said. "It's just that I know I haven't been here before, but it feels as if I have, as if someone were waiting on me to come back," she says. "Of course, I can't have been here before, or I'd have seen this spot. I've just now been walking around looking for something. I thought I could find it better if I parked my car and walked. I'm looking for a doctor's office, actually." She quickly explains that



she is not sick, only that she has an appointment tomorrow, and doesn't want to be running around in the morning looking for the place. Then she tells him about parking her car and being surprised that the name of the doctor she wanted was not listed anywhere. "I couldn't look in a phone book either because you know how the phone books and the phone booths have all disappeared now. Oh, now I'm beginning to sound quite silly."

She suddenly remembers the name of the doctor, but the gardener says it doesn't ring a bell. "But I don't know all of the doctors in town," he added.

"You're very fortunate then. That means you must be healthy. At any rate, I'd better get back to my car." When she stands up he says he will walk with her. "So I won't get lost?"

"No," he says. "I always like to have a walk this time of the evening. Gardening can leave your legs cramped."

As they walk Samantha says, "I'm sure there's some sensible explanation about this doctor. Do you ever think that there used to be more sensible explanations about things than there are now?" He does not answer. Maybe he's thinking of the friend who died. Instead of being embarrassed now when she has spoken and he has not answered, she feels a freshness, a peace in the conversation. They walk along for quite a while without meeting a soul.

Soon they are back at the square facing the main street with the medical professional building she



What is the Consumer Assistance Program?

The State Bar's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) helps people with questions or problems with Georgia lawyers. When someone contacts the State Bar with a problem or complaint, a member of the Consumer Assistance Program staff responds to the inquiry and attempts to identify the problem. Most problems can be resolved by providing information or referrals, calling the lawyer, or suggesting various ways of dealing with the dispute. A grievance form is sent out when serious unethical conduct may be involved.

Does CAP assist attorneys as well as consumers?

Yes. CAP helps lawyers by providing courtesy calls, faxes or letters when dissatisfied clients contact the program.

Most problems with clients can be prevented by returning calls promptly, keeping clients informed about the status of their cases, explaining billing practices, meeting deadlines, and managing a caseload efficiently.

What doesn't CAP do?

CAP deals with problems that can be solved without resorting to the disciplinary procedures of the State Bar, that is, filing a grievance. CAP does not get involved when someone alleges serious unethical conduct. CAP cannot give legal advice, but can provide referrals that meet the consumer's need utilizing its extensive lists of government agencies, referral services and nonprofit organizations.

Are CAP calls confidential?

Everything CAP deals with is confidential, except:

- 1. Where the information clearly shows that the lawyer has misappropriated funds, engaged in criminal conduct, or intends to engage in criminal conduct in the future;
- Where the caller files a grievance and the lawyer involved wants CAP to share some information with the Office of the General Counsel; or
- 3. A court compels the production of the information.

The purpose of the confidentiality rule is to encourage open communication and resolve conflicts informally.

Call the State Bar's Consumer Assistance Program at 404-527-8759 or 800-334-6865 or visit www.gabar.org/cap.

first saw just a block away. The sight of it makes her feel somewhat uneasy, and she's not sure why. Then, after a moment, she is. She has an absurd notion when she sees the building that the name she said she could not find has been waiting there all along. She moves more quickly, finds that she is shaky and then, when she reaches the front doors, reads the 15 useless names, just as before. She sees the gardener looking at her and she pretends to have been hurrying because she thinks she saw someone inside. But the gardener is not really paying attention to her movement. He says that he has just thought of something.

"This doctor," he says. "I wonder if he might be connected with the assisted living home."

They are walking again now. They have arrived at the coffee shop where a couple of boys are sitting on a bench out front, playing with what looks to be a phone of some sort. As she and the gardener pass the boys, Samantha is certain that one of them stretches his legs out deliberately so that they have to move around him. Young people are so rude she thinks. The gardener doesn't appear to have seen any of this.

"Assisted living home?" Samantha asks.

"Yes. You wouldn't have noticed if you came in from the interstate," the gardener says, as they continue toward her car. "But, if you keep going out past the church and the garden towards the river you will pass it. Not more than half a mile out. You go past the shopping plaza on the south side of the road and it's just a little farther on, on the other side. I don't know if they have a live-in doctor there or not, but it stands to reason they might have."

"Yes, they might have," Samantha says. "It stands to reason." Then she hopes he doesn't think she is mocking him. She doesn't want to offend him. She wants to go on talking to him longer. But, now comes another of her problems—she has to think

about the whereabouts of her keys, as she often does before getting into the car. She is regularly worried about whether she's locked the keys inside or dropped them somewhere. She can feel the approach of familiar, tiresome panic. But then she finds them, in her pocket.

"It's worth a try," he says, and she agrees. "There's plenty of room to turn off the road and take a look. If there's a doctor out there regularly there's no need for him to have an office here in town."

The gardener holds the car door while she gets in, closes it and waits there until she is turned to go in the right direction, then waves goodbye. When she is on her way out of the town she catches sight of him again in the rearview mirror. He has stopped to talk to the two boys who were sitting on the bench in front of the coffee shop. He had ignored them previously in such a way that she is surprised to see him talking to them now. Maybe they are making remarks about her, some joke about her vagueness or silliness. Or just about her age. She's sure she now has a mark against her, and with the nicest man. She had thought that she would come back by the garden to thank him again and tell him if it was the right doctor. She could just slow down and laugh and call out the window. But now she thinks that she will just stay out of his way. Forget him.

She sees the shopping plaza coming up. She has to pay attention to where she is going. Then there it is, just as he has said. A sign across the street read "Riverside Assisted Living & Memory Care." And there really is, from here, a view of the river, a thread of dark blue and green water along the horizon. A spacious parking lot. Two long wings off the main building with what looks like separate apartments or good-sized rooms at least, with their own little gardens or places to sit. A latticed fence quite high in front of every one of them for privacy or safety. What a nice place she thinks. She and Winnie talk so often of living by the water somewhere. Yes, they must drive back this weekend. Perhaps there is a nice house for sale in this part of town, something where they can look out their windows and see the river. People who live here must love to sit outside. Though nobody is sitting out there now that she can see. Well of course not. Bedtime comes early in these establishments. She likes the lattice work. These sorts of places have been changing in the past few years. The hard, institutional look has disappeared.

Once in the driveway Samantha parks under the brightly colored portico that has a look of welcome, of cheerful excess. Some people would find it too colorful she supposes, but isn't it the very thing you would want? All those bright colors must cheer the spirits of the old people, or even, perhaps, of some people not so old but just off kilter. She looks for a button to push or a bell to ring as she walks up to the door. But that is not necessary – the door opens on its own. And once she gets inside there is an even greater expression of space, of loftiness, a blue tinge to the glass mirrors on the walls. The floor is shiny tile, the kind she used to love to slide across as a child, and for a moment she thinks of the residents sliding and slipping for pleasure and the idea makes her lighthearted. Of course, it cannot be as slippery as it looks, you wouldn't want people breaking their necks.

"I wouldn't dare try it myself," she says in a charming voice to somebody in her head, perhaps Winnie. "It wouldn't do, would it? I could find myself in front of the doctor, the very one who is getting ready to test my mental stability. And then what would he have to say?" At the moment though there is no doctor to be seen. Well, there wouldn't be, would there? Doctors don't sit behind desks here waiting for patients to show up. And she isn't even here for an appointment. She will have to explain again that she is just making sure of the time and place of an appointment for

tomorrow. Suddenly all this has made her feel rather tired.

There is a rounded desk, waist high, whose panels of dark wood look like mahogany, though they probably are not. Nobody is behind it at the moment. It is after hours of course. She looks for a bell on the desk, but does not see one. Then she looks to see if there is a list of doctors' names or the name of the doctor in charge. She doesn't see that either. You would think there would be a way of getting hold of somebody, no matter what the hour. Somebody must be on call in a place like this. There is no important clutter behind the desk either. No computer or telephone or papers.

Of course, she has not been able to get right behind the desk, so there may well be some compartments she can't see. There are surely buttons a receptionist could reach that a visitor of course can't. She gives up on the desk for the moment and takes a closer look at the space she has found herself in. It was hexagon shaped, with doors at intervals. There are four doors in all-one is the large door that lets in the light and any visitors, another is an official and privatelooking door behind the desk and the other two doors (exactly alike and facing each other), would obviously take you into the long wings, to the corridors and rooms where the inmates are housed.

Each of these doors has an upper window, and the window glass looks clear enough to see through. Samantha goes up to one of these possibly accessible doors and knocks, then tries the knob. It won't turn. It's obviously locked. She cannot see through the window properly, either. Close up the glass is all wavy and distorted. In the door directly opposite there is the same problem with the glass and the same problem with the knob. The click of her shoes on the floor, the trick of the glass, the uselessness of the knobs have made her feel more discouraged than she would care to admit. She decides to not give up, however.

She tries the doors again in the same order, and this time she shakes both knobs as hard as she can and also calls out "Hello?" in a voice that sounds at first trivial and silly, then aggrieved, but not more hopeful. She squeezes herself in behind the desk and bangs on that door with practically no hope. It doesn't even have a knob, just a keyhole. There is nothing to do but get out of this place and go home. This is all very cheerful and elegant, she thinks, but there is no pretense of accommodating a public visitor here.

Of course, they shove the residents or patients or whatever they call them into bed early. It's the same old story everywhere, however glamorous the surroundings. Still thinking about this, she goes back to the door from which she is sure she entered, and gives it a push. It is too heavy. She pushes again and again. Still, it does not budge.

She can see the pots of flowers outside in the open air. She sees a car going by on the road. She sees the last mild evening's light fading. She has to stop and think. There are no artificial lights on in here. The place will get dark. Already, in spite of the lingering light outside, it seems to be getting dark. She realizes no one is going to come. They have all completed their duties, or at least the duties that brought them through this part of the building. Wherever they have settled down now is where they will stay. She opens her mouth to yell, but it seems that no yell is forthcoming. She begins shaking and no matter how she tries she cannot get her breath down into her lungs. It is as if she has a blotter in her throat. Now she is suffocating.

She knows that she has to behave differently before someone comes along and notices. More than that, she has to believe differently. Be calm. Be calm. Breathe. Breathe. She doesn't know if the panic has taken a long time or a short time. Her heart is pounding, but she is nearly safe. There is a woman here

now whose name is Hannah. It says so on the name badge she is wearing, and besides, Samantha realizes she knows her anyway.

"I've been looking everywhere for you Ms. Stevens," says Hannah. "I came by to check on you. I expected to see you in your chair by the window reading. But the door to your room was open and I couldn't find you anywhere. Why are you out here in the lobby? Did you fall asleep and have a dream? You must have had a dream. What were you dreaming about?"

"Nothing in particular," says Samantha, more calmly now, as Hannah guides her back through one of the doors with the wavy glass. "It was just back when Winnie was alive and when I was still driving my car."

"That sounds like a nice dream. What kind of car did you have?" Hannah asks.

"It was a red Volvo wagon," Samantha replies, "older, but comfortable and familiar."

"See there," says Hannah, as they continue down the hall arm in arm, "You're still sharp as a tack."



Kimberly C. Harris is the principal in the Law Offices of Kimberly C. Harris, LLC. She has practiced for 26 years in the areas

of elder law, special needs planning and asset protection planning. Harris earned her MBA from Georgia State University in 1976 and her law degree from Emory University in 1989. She is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, ElderCounsel and the Academy of Special Needs Planners. Harris is an active member of the Georgia Chapter of the American Alzheimer's Association for whom she conducts programs for family and professional caregivers throughout mid and South Georgia. Her offices are in LaGrange, Newnan and Columbus.



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Kudos











Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP announced that managing partner Michael Hollingsworth was elected to the board of directors of The Empty Stocking Fund. The organization provides parents and guardians of children living in poverty an opportunity to give their children gifts at Christmas. The organization provides 50,000-plus children more than 200,000 gifts each year.

Partner Holly Hempel received the firm's Sara Turnipseed "Women on the Go" Award. The award was established to recognize contributions by attorneys and policy advisors within the firm who actively promote the success of women in the legal profession.

Partner Glenn Brock received the firm's Sheryl Ortmann Diversity Award, given annually to a firm attorney who has significantly promoted diversity.

Associate Brad Burman received the 2014 Renaissance Associate Award. The award is presented to the associate who best demonstrates overall achievement in client service, training/mentoring, marketing, recruiting, firm involvement/ commitment, pro bono work and productivity.





Anderson

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton announced that partner Yendelela Neely **Anderson** was appointed by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed a two-vear term on to Local Workforce the

Investment Board for the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA). The AWDA provides human capital solutions through creative funding strategies and partnerships that keep Atlanta globally and economically strong. Anderson was also awarded the 2015 Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Young Lawyer Award during the 18th annual Jurisprudence Luncheon. The Award is presented to an attorney, age 36 or younger, practicing in metro-Atlanta, who has gone above and beyond his or her legal practice in furtherance of ADL's mission: "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all."

Partner Jamie Graham was named chair of the board of advisors of the Georgia BioEd Institute (GaBioEd). GaBioEd is a charitable nonprofit organization committed to science, technology, engineering, arts and math education with a focus in biotechnology and medtech in Georgia through school programs, workforce training and lifelong learning. Graham was also selected as a **member** of the **2015** Class of Fellows to participate in a landmark program created by the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity to identify, train and advance the next generation of leaders in the legal profession.



Tiffany Jones Ellenberg, of Tiffany Jones Ellenberg Attorney at Law, PC, in Madison, was sworn in by Gov. Deal to serve on the Governor's Indigent Advisory Panel. She joins fellow attorneys Roy R. Kelly III, of Monticello,

and Frank H. Childs Jr. of Macon, who also serve on the committee for the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. The committee provides advice, expertise and advocacy on behalf of systemic reform designed to satisfy Georgia's constitutional obligation to provide adequate counsel for indigent persons accused of a crime.







Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell Berkowitz, PC, announced that managing partner Linda Klein

was selected as the American Bar Association's **president-elect nominee** for **2015-16**. The American Bar Association works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

Shareholder Linda Finley was elected to a threeyear term as a member of the board of directors. Finley concentrates her practice in business litigation involving the mortgage lending and servicing industries and litigation regarding real estate issues.

Shareholder Damany F. Ransom was selected for the 2015 Fellows Program of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, a national organization made up of the legal profession's top general counsels and managing partners.

> Jeffrey Bashuk, Bashuk & Glickman LLP, received the Special Recognition to a Volunteer Award from the DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. This award is given to those volunteers who have

been panel members for fewer than 10 years, yet have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to achieving the goals of the Foundation. The award is also in recognition of his dedication and service in pro bono legal representation as a guardian ad litem since 1987.



Robins Kaplan LLP announced that partner William H. Stanhope was appointed president of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society Board of Directors. The Atlanta Legal Aid Society represents Atlanta's underprivileged citizens

in civil legal cases. The organization provides advocacy that changes laws and empowers clients in Georgia's Fulton, Clayton, DeKalb, Gwinnett and Cobb counties.



Hunton & Williams LLP announced that partner David R. Yates received an International Law Office Client Choice Award for excellent client service in the mergers and acquisitions category. Established in 2005, the Client Choice

Awards recognize law firms and partners around the world who focus on the ability to add real value to clients' business above and beyond other players in the market.



Richardson Bloom & Lines LLC announced that managing member Melody Z. Richardson was the recipient of the Atlanta Bar Association's 2015 Professionalism Award. The award is presented to an attorney who

has made an outstanding contribution to a program or activity that advances or promotes excellence, professionalism and public responsibility within the legal profession.



Butler Wooten Cheeley & Peak LLP announced that managing partner Joel O. Wooten was reappointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to the Georgia Ports Authority Board. Georgia Ports Authority is dedicated to providing

customers with the most efficient, productive port facilities in the nation and to creating jobs and business opportunities to benefit more than 9.7 million Georgians.

On the Move In Atlanta



Hoffman & Associates announced the addition of Kim Hoipkemier as a partner. Hoipkemier specializes in the areas of wills, trusts, estate administration and probate. The firm is located at 6100 Lake Forrest Drive, Suite 300,

Atlanta, GA 30328; 404-255-7400; Fax 404-255-7480; hoffmanestatelaw.com.









Turner

aree

Moeller

Zeldin

Littler Mendelson announced the addition of Daniel E. Turner, Tracey T. Barbaree, Beth A. Moeller and Lauren H. Zeldin as shareholders. Turner has significant experience handling complex litigation including discrimination and harassment claims, wage and hour disputes, retaliation lawsuits and restrictive covenant cases. Barbaree's practice focuses on defending employers in class and collective actions across the country, as well as litigating single and multi-plaintiff cases under federal and state civil rights, employment discrimination, and wage and hour laws. Moeller represents employers in all aspects of employment, wage and hour, and civil rights matters before administrative agencies and in federal and state court litigation. Zeldin has extensive experience in employment discrimination and wage and hour litigation. The firm is located at 3344 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1500, Atlanta, GA 30326; 404-233-0330; Fax 404-233-2361; www.littler.com.



Adam M. Gleklen announced the opening of his law firm, The Gleklen Law Firm. Gleklen continues his domestic litigation practice in all metro-Atlanta counties involving divorce, custody and modification proceedings. The firm

is located at 6400 Powers Ferry Road, Suite 220, Atlanta, GA 30339; 678-236-0444; Fax 678-236-0445; www.gleklenlaw.com.





announced the promotion of **Lea Dearing** and **Kiyoaki** "**Kiyo" Kojima** to **principal**. Dearing specializes in labor and employment, privacy, general commercial litiga-

Berman Fink Van Horn P.C.

Dearing

tion, products liability, construction disputes and e-discovery management. Kojima specializes in corporate formation and governance, mergers and acquisitions, secured transactions, commercial real estate, leasing and licensing, and distribution and franchise agreements. The firm is located at 3475 Piedmont Road, Suite 1100, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404-261-7711; Fax 404-233-1943; www.bfvlaw.com.





Taylor English Duma LLP announced the addition of Daniel B. Brown as a partner and Sarah K. Browning as an associate. Brown is an experienced corporate and health care lawyer repre-

senting a wide range of health industry clients in regulatory, corporate, franchising and financing matters. Browning represents physician groups, ambulatory centers, independent diagnostic testing facilities, medical device suppliers and other health care entities on corporate and transactional issues. The firm is located at 1600 Parkwood Circle, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA 30339; 770-434-6868; Fax 770-434-7376; www.taylorenglish.com.





Oginsky

Greenberg Traurig, LLP, announced the promotion of Sean A. Gordon and Stephanie L. Oginsky to of counsel. Gordon focuses his practice on bankruptcy, commercial loan workouts,

creditors' rights and general commercial litigation. Oginsky focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation and business disputes, including class action, white collar crime, construction litigation, products liability and cybersecurity. The firm is located at 3333 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 2500, Atlanta, GA 30305; 678-553-2100; Fax 678-553-2212; www.gtlaw.com.





Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP announced the addition of **L'Erin Barnes** as a partner and Yasmin Mohammad as an associ-Barnes represents municipalities, governmen-

tal agencies, boards and authorities. Mohammad's practice focuses on employment law and general civil litigation. The firm is located at 1180 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2900, Atlanta, GA 30309-3521; 404-348-8585; Fax 404-467-8845; lewisbrisbois.com.



Stites & Harbison, PLLC, announced the elevation of partner Lou Allen as office executive member. Allen leads the creditors' rights and bankruptcy service group, assisting the firm's chair in executing strategic plan and policies.

The firm is located at 303 Peachtree St. NE, 2800 SunTrust Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30308; 404-739-8800; Fax 404-739-8870; www.stites.com.





Polsinelli announced the addition of Ross Burris and Jonathan Kendall as shareholders. Burris represents regional and national health care providers, including hospitals, health care sys-

tems, skilled nursing facilities and ancillary providers. Kendall represents a wide variety of health care entities, including but not limited to, for-profit hospital systems, reorganized 501(c)(3) hospital systems, health care joint ventures, multi-specialty ambulatory surgery centers, compound pharmacies, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities in regulatory and transactional matters. The firm is located at 1355 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30309; 404-253-6000; www.polsinelli.com.

> **Simmons Law** announced the **relocation** of its office from Marietta Square to midtown Atlanta. The firm specializes in business, criminal defense and entertainment law. The firm is located at 400 Colony Square, 1201 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 1100, Atlanta GA, 3036; 404-461-8422; www.slfirmllc.com.



Levine Smith Snider & Wilson, LLC, announced the addition of David A. Garfinkel as of counsel. Garfinkel brings more than 30 years of family law experience to the firm and specializes in complex divorces, high-asset property divi-

sion, alimony, and child-custody and support issues. The firm is located at One Securities Centre, 3490 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 1150, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404-237-5700; Fax 404-237-5757; www.lsswlaw.com.



Butler Wooten Cheeley & Peak LLP announced the addition of Rob Snyder as an associate. Snyder's practice areas include business torts, products liability and personal injury. The firm is located at 2719 Buford Highway,

Atlanta, GA 30324; 404-321-1700; Fax 404-321-1713; www.butlerwooten.com.

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Schiff Hardin LLP announced the elevation of **Ronald B. Gaither** to partner. Gaither handles matters in all aspects of general litigation ranging from complex commercial disputes to sophisticated construction matters as well as prod-

ucts liability claims. The firm is located at One Atlantic Center, 1201 W. Peachtree St. NW, Suite 2300, Atlanta, GA 30309; 404-437-7000; Fax 404-437-7100; www.schiffhardin.com.



Barnes & Thornburg LLP announced the addition of Shawn Rafferty as a partner. Rafferty joins the firm's corporate department with a focus on aviation law, aircraft finance and leasing, equipment finance and leasing, and

related restructuring and dispute resolution. The firm is located at 3475 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 1700, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404-846-1693; Fax 404-264-4033; www.btlaw.com.



Kessler & Solomiany, LLC, announced the addition of Wayne Morrison as of counsel. Morrison is experienced in handling complex divorce cases, child custody matters, support and alimony claims, modification and contempt

actions, prenuptial agreements and all other domestic relations issues. The firm is located at Centennial Tower, 101 Marietta St., Suite 3500, Atlanta, GA 30303; 404-688-8810; Fax 404-681-2205; www.ksfamilylaw.com.



Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, announced the addition of Ron C. Bingham II as a shareholder to its financial institutions advocacy group. Bingham advises clients regarding commercial workouts, receiv-

erships, bankruptcy and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts. The Atlanta office is located at 3414 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30326; 404-577-6000; Fax 404-221-6501; www.bakerdonelson.com.



Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP announced the addition of Scott N. Sherman as partner. Sherman specializes in complex business and securities litigation. The firm is located at 201 17th St. NW, Suite 1700, Atlanta, GA 30363; 404-

322-6000; Fax 404-322-6050; www.nelsonmullins.com.



Rogers & Hardin announced the addition of **Joshua P. Gunnemann** as a partner. Gunnemann represents businesses and individuals involved in complex business disputes, difficult litigation and governmental investigations. The

firm is located at 2700 International Tower, 229 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303; 404-522-4700; Fax 404-525-2224; www.rh-law.com.

> Pachman Richardson, LLC, announced that it changed its name to Richardson Bloom & Lines LLC. The attorneys continue to practice exclusively in family law, including divorce, prenuptial agreements, custody, modification and contempt. The firm is located at 75 14th St. NE, Suite 2840, Atlanta, GA 30309; 404-888-3730; Fax 404-888-3731; www.rblfamilylaw.com.





Gomez

FordHarrison LLP nounced the addition of Katherine Suita O'Shea as an associate and Wendy L. Gomez as director of attornev talent. O'Shea's responsibilities include drafting

motions for summary judgment, legislation, county ordinances and conducting legal research. Gomez is directly responsible for the recruitment and professional development of associates and other non-partner attorneys throughout the firm. She also serves as the administrative member of the firm's lateral partner recruitment committee. The firm is located at 271 17th St. NW, Suite 1900, Atlanta, GA 30363; 404-888-3800; Fax 404-888-3863; www.fordharrison.com.



Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP announced the addition of D. Clayton "Clay" Howell as partner. Howell represents sponsors, equity and institutional investors in the investment in real estate assets, programmatic joint ventures and

platforms, as well as developers in complex urban development transactions. The firm is located at 999 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2300, Atlanta, GA 30309; 404-853-8000; Fax 404-853-8806; www.sutherland.com.



Butler Tobin LLC announced the addition of Mike Rafi as of counsel. Rafi has experience in negligent security as well as personal injury cases. The firm is located at 1932 North Druid Hills Road, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30319; 404-

587-8423; Fax 404-581-5877; www.butlertobin.com.

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Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin, LLC, announced the addition of Kim M. Jackson as partner. Jackson specializes in defending attorneys and other professionals in malpractice claims, handling coverage and bad faith disputes and

defending catastrophic injury cases, typically focusing on premises liability. The firm is located at 200 Ashford Center North, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30338; 770-391-9100; Fax 770-668-0878; www.boviskyle.com.





Drew Eckl & Farnham announced the additions of Eric R. Mull and Matthew A. Nanninga as partners. Mull practices insurance defense litigation with a focus in the areas of con-

struction defect, professional malpractice and first party property insurance matters. Nanninga focuses his practice on general liability defense and workers' compensation matters. The firm is located at 880 W. Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30309; 404-885-1400; Fax 404-876-0992; www.deflaw.com.

In Carrollton

> Swindle Law Group announced the addition of Dane M. Garland as an associate. Garland focuses on criminal and domestic law. The firm is located at 310 Tanner St., Carrollton, GA 30117; 770-836-8332; Fax 770-836-8388; www.swindlelaw.com.

In Columbus

> The Law Offices of Mark Jones announced the addition of Bentley C. Adams IV as an associate. Adams specializes in representation in criminal and family law issues, with experience in pre-trial litigation, discovery and criminal appellate practice. The firm is located at 233 13th St., Suite 600, Columbus, GA 31902; 706-225-2555; Fax 706-225-2555; www. lawyermarkjones.com.



Hatcher, Stubbs, Land, Hollis & Rothschild, LLP, announced the addition of Elizabeth F. Wise as an associate. Wise specializes in employment law and litigation, corporate and municipal litigation, and general civil litiga-

tion. The firm is located at 233 12th St., Suite 500, Columbus, GA 31901; 706-324-0201; Fax 706-322-7747; www.hatcherstubbs.com.

In Dallas



Michael L. Mason announced the opening of Mason Law Group LLC. Mason specializes in wills, trusts, probate, estate litigation and business law. The firm is located at 201 W. Memorial Drive, Dallas, GA 30132; 678-674-6050;

www.masonlawgroupga.com.

In Decatur



Neal & Wright LLC announced the addition of Jodi L. Greenberg as an associate. Greenberg handles primarily adoption, probate and estate matters for the firm. The firm also announced that it relocated to Decatur and continues to

specialize in the areas of adoption, estate planning, commercial real estate, trademarks, corporate and LLC formation, and other business transactional matters. The firm is located at 125 E. Trinity Place, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30030; 678-399-3076; Fax 678-302-9628; www.nealandwright.com.

In Lawrenceville



Robert W. Hughes Jr. announced the relocation of his law practice, Robert W. Hughes & Associates, P.C., from Stone Mountain to Lawrenceville. The firm specializes in probate and trust litigation, estate planning, civil litigation and cor-

porate planning. The firm is located at 390 W. Crogan St., Suite 230, Lawrenceville, GA 30046; 770-469-8887; Fax 678-680-6095 www.hughespclaw.com.

In Loganville



Oberman Law Firm announced the addition of Emily J. Anderson as an associate. She practices in the areas of health care and employment law. The firm is located at 147 Lee Byrd Road, Loganville, GA 30052; 770-554-1400; Fax

770-554-3534; www.obermanlaw.com.

In Peachtree Corners



Rubin Lublin, LLC, announced the addition of Amy Bray as senior counsel. Bray specializes in drafting and interpreting the governing documents for homeowners associations, condominium associations and commercial

associations. The firm is located at 3740 Davinci Court, Suite 150, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092; 770-246-3300; Fax 404-601-5846; www.rubinlublin.com.

In Savannah





Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP, announced the addition of **Stuart Halpern** as an **associate**. The firm is located at 14 E. State St., Savannah, GA 31401; 912-233-2251; Fax 912-235-5464; www.wswgs.com.

In Suwanee



ARRIS Group Inc. announced the appointment of Patrick Macken as senior vice president and general counsel. Macken, formerly with Troutman Sanders LLP, oversees all aspects of the company's global legal functions. ARRIS

Group Inc. is a telecommunications equipment manufacturing company that provides cable operators with high-speed data, video and telephony systems for homes and businesses. The office is located at 3871 Lakefield Drive, Suwanee, GA 30024; 678-473-2907; Fax 678-473-8470; www.arrisi.com.

In Tifton

> Reinhardt, Whitley, Summerlin & Pittman, P.C., announced the addition of Hon. Larry B. Mims, former Tift County State Court judge, as an associate. Mims specializes in education law, alternative dispute resolution, civil litigation, commercial litigation, personal injury and insurance defense. The firm is located at 1001 N. Central Ave., Tifton, GA 31793; 229-382-6135; Fax 229-386-5949.

In Washington, D.C.



Sarah Moore Johnson announced the launch of Birchstone Moore LLC. The firm specializes in estate planning and administration. Johnson has more than 12 years of experience in sophisticated estate planning for high net worth cli-

ents. The firm is located at 5335 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suite 640, Washington, DC 20015; 202-686-4842; www.birchstonemoore.com.

WANT TO

How to Place an Announcement in the Bench & Bar column

If you are a member of the State Bar of Georgia and you have moved, been promoted, hired an associate, taken on a partner or received a promotion or award, we would like to hear from you. Talks, speeches (unless they are of national stature), CLE presentations and political announcements are not accepted. In addition, the Georgia Bar Journal will not print notices of honors determined by other publications (e.g., Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers, Chambers USA, Who's Who, etc.). Notices are printed at no cost, must be submitted in writing and are subject to editing. Items are printed as space is available. News releases regarding lawyers who are not members in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia will not be printed. For more information, please contact Lauren Foster, 404-527-8736 or laurenf@gabar.org.

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What Have I Done to Deserve This?

by Paula Frederick

om—have you been trolling the internet for websites where you can say nice things about me and my

law firm?" you ask.

"What gave me away, dear?" your mother asks.

"I am looking at a client review on *AllLawyersRated.com* from someone who just happens to have your maiden name," you respond. "That can't be a coincidence. Ma, you've gotta stop doing this!"

"I'm proud of you and I want everyone to know what a good lawyer you are!" your mother protests. "Besides, you need the business!"

"But Mom—you gave me an A+ for expertise in litigation, and *I don't litigate!*"

"Well dear, I'm sure you'd be great at it if you tried," your mother responds.

Does a lawyer who is the recipient of a well-intended but inaccurate review on a lawyer rating site have any obligations under the Rules of Professional Conduct?

The answer hinges on whether information on the site constitutes lawyer advertising. If so, the information must comply with the first rule of lawyer advertising—that it be "true and not misleading." Reviews or endorsements that give you credit for expertise that you don't actually have can be misleading to potential clients.

In addition, Georgia's Rule 7.1(c) makes a lawyer responsible for ensuring that "all communications



concerning the lawyer or the lawyer's services" comply with the rules. So even if you haven't actually solicited the endorsement or approved its content, you are "responsible" for it.

Of course, you can't be responsible for misleading content if you don't know about it. Even the strictest lawyer discipline authority cannot hold a lawyer responsible for information on a site where the lawyer does not maintain a presence or have control over content. That said, when a lawyer becomes aware of inaccurate endorsements on a site where the lawyer does maintain a presence, she should take corrective action. That might include asking the "endorser" to revise their statement, or even asking the web host to remove the information from the site.

The New York County Lawyers Association Professional Ethics Committee recently issued a Formal Opinion that tackles several issues related to attorney profiles on LinkedIn.¹ They found that a profile with anything more than basic biographical information is in fact attorney advertising, with all the attendant requirements. For purposes of our dis-

cussion, they found that lawyers have an affirmative duty to periodically review their LinkedIn profiles and to ask that inaccurate endorsements be removed.

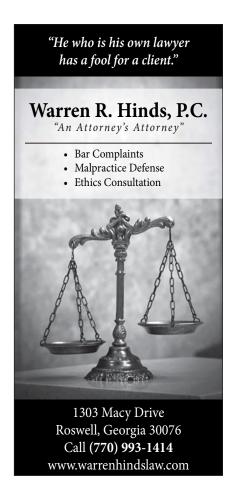
Rest easy, Georgia lawyers. Matters like this usually come to the attention of the Office of the General Counsel informally and not as a written grievance. We typically handle them with a simple request of the lawyer to review the content for accuracy and to correct any misstatements. Most lawyers comply, and we are able to resolve the situation.



Paula Frederick is the general counsel for the State Bar of Georgia and can be reached at paulaf@gabar.org.

Endnote

1. New York County Lawyers Association Professional Ethics Committee Formal Opinion 748 issued March 10, 2015.





Attorney Discipline Summaries

(March 19, 2015 through April 24, 2015)

by Connie P. Henry

Disbarments/Voluntary Surrenders

Tracey Dawn Gibson

Atlanta, Ga.

Admitted to Bar 1998

On April 20, 2015, the Supreme Court of Georgia disbarred attorney Tracey Dawn Gibson (State Bar No. 297339). The Court entered an order of interim suspension on Oct. 7, 2013, for Gibson's failure to respond to a Notice of Investigation in State Disciplinary Board Docket No. 6622. That suspension was lifted on Jan. 2, 2014, after she filed an adequate response. Gibson was suspended again on Feb. 3, 2014, for failing to respond to a Notice of Investigation in a grievance unrelated to the four matters listed below. Gibson was also under suspension for failure to pay State Bar dues. The following facts are deemed admitted by default:

Docket 6622—Gibson had an overdraft in her IOLTA account in December 2013. She said the overdraft was caused while she was on maternity leave; however, she failed to provide all the relevant trust account records and the records she did provide revealed payments of personal expenses and that she did not correct the overdraft.

Docket 6623 – Although Gibson was suspended on Feb. 3, 2014, she represented a client on Feb. 11, and failed to disclose to the court that she was suspended.

Docket 6624—A client paid Gibson \$1,457 to file a divorce action. Gibson did no work on the case, failed to respond to the client's emails and telephone calls, and failed to respond to the client's letter discharging her and requesting a return of the fee.

Docket 6625—In 2012, Gibson agreed to represent a client in a criminal matter in exchange for the client performing work for Gibson. After filing a notice of appearance and representing the client at an arraignment hearing, Gibson failed to respond to the client's inquiries about the status of the case and failed to attend a court hearing in 2014, at which time the trial

court entered an order relieving her of representing the client.

In aggravation of discipline, the Investigative Panel noted Gibson's prior discipline and found that Gibson's responses regarding her failure to timely and adequately respond lacked credibility and that there were four separate disciplinary matters.

Suspensions

Wilson R. Smith

Vidalia, Ga.

Admitted to Bar 1976

On April 20, 2015, the Supreme Court of Georgia accepted the Petition for Indefinite Suspension Pending the Outcome of Criminal Charges filed by attorney Wilson R. Smith (State Bar No. 665025). Smith was arrested in Toombs County for theft by conversion and first and third degree forgery based on allegations clients made in a civil case they filed against him. The district attorney for the Middle Judicial Circuit will proceed by indictment or accusation in that case, as well as in two other cases of alleged theft, one in Toombs County and one in Emanuel County. Smith is currently incarcerated.

Interim Suspensions

Under State Bar Disciplinary Rule 4-204.3(d), a lawyer who receives a Notice of Investigation and fails to file an adequate response with the Investigative Panel may be suspended from the practice of law until an adequate response is filed. Since March 19, 2015, two lawyers have been suspended for violating this Rule and one has been reinstated.



Connie P. Henry is the clerk of the State Disciplinary Board and can be reached at connieh@gabar.org.

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Power Up: 2015 Solo and Small Firm Institute and Technology Showcase

A Little Something for Everyone

by Natalie R. Kelly

[he "solo and small firm" label can mean a lot more than it suggests. For lawyers in large law firms divided into practice groups or divisions; for lawyer committee members in what may be deemed by most a mid-sized firm; for in-house lawyers in legal departments of larger organizations; for the two- or four-lawyer outfit down on Main Street; or for a true sole practitioner working alone from her home or virtual office, being a "solo or small firm"-like lawyer may often create situations where solutions needed lie in practice management, technology or even substantive law resources from the solo or small firm setting. These answers may be found at CLE and showcase programs designed specifically for "solos and small firms." Such a program is this year's Solo and Small Firm Conference – Power Up: 2015 Solo and Small Firm Institute and Technology Showcase.



By the numbers, here's what you can expect at Power Up:

Two days of learning and networking with other showcase attendees on July 17-18 at the Bar Center in Atlanta. The event will not be broadcast to the Savannah and Tifton office locations, but if you attend from out of town, you can take advantage of discounted rates at hotels in close proximity to the Bar Center. See the latest discounts available at *Member Benefits/Discounts* on the Bar's website under the *Attorney Resources* drop-down menu.

Social activities are also planned so you can truly take advantage of getting to know all the new legal professionals you are sure to meet.

- 12 hours of CLE will be offered to attendees based on which sessions are selected. With a low rate for registration, this will hopefully be one of the better CLE deals you can find. Credit for ethics and professionalism are built into the program, too! Getting the entire year completed is a great reason to sign up as soon as you can. Go to the conference website, http://bit.ly/1yDNTLk, or www.iclega.org, to register for your year's worth of CLE credit.
- Three tracks of programming are planned to cover current events in practice management, technology and substantive law areas. The educational tracks will run simultaneously throughout the conference, and attendees can choose from sessions that suit their practice needs. Newly-barred lawyers will even have guideposts for selecting sessions that meet the requirement for CLE as a part of the Transition into Law Practice Program. Plenary sessions will gather all of the attendees for a fast-paced "60 in 60" formatted program and the Eggs and Professionalism breakfast.
- Three national speakers will present on advanced practice management and technology topics. Charity Anastasio, Patricia Yevics and Reid Trautz will headline Power Up, and will talk about office startup, social media marketing, using Macs in the law office and more. They will even join together to present a grand tips session for all attendees. With several years of practice management consulting among them, these speakers will be a treat to hear and learn from. Sponsorship for the headlining presenters is courtesy of the Legal Economics Law Section of the State Bar and LawPay.
- More than 15 conference exhibitors will be on display sharing their latest products and services. These exhibitors will be in place to tell attendees how their solutions can help them. The full list includes nationally-known technology providers to local companies looking to develop relationships right here in Georgia. Special times have been arranged for attendees to visit with all of the conference exhibitors and special grand prize drawings have been arranged for presentation on Saturday morning.
- 35 leading speakers will be presenting topics from security and software selection to the latest in cloud computing to firm succession planning. The topics are broad enough to answer general questions and deal with interesting and timely topics, and specific enough to provide practical solutions you can take home and implement in your practice when the conference is over. Visit the conference website, http://bit.ly/1yDNTLk, to download a copy of the full agenda.
- More than seven vendor showcase presentations will be presented by leading vendors of legal-specif-

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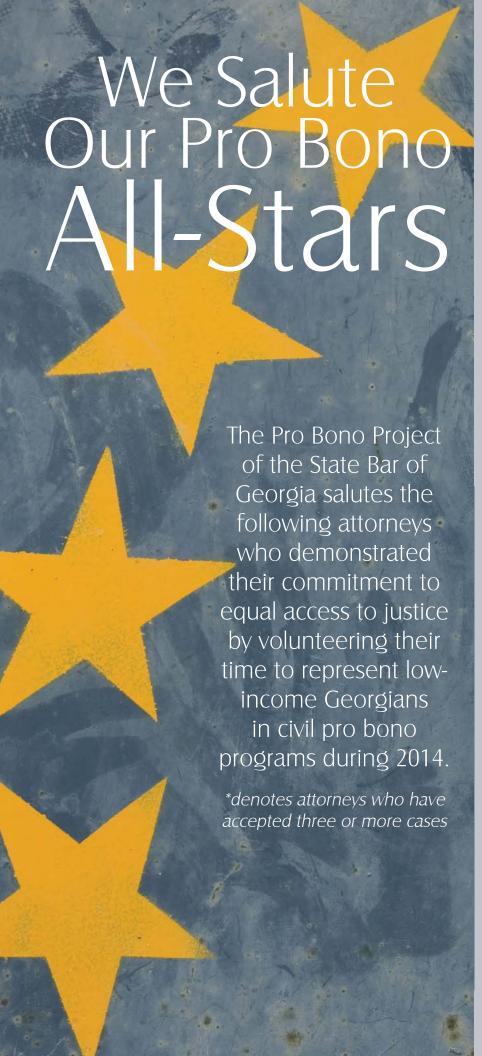
ic products and services. A few of the key vendors are inviting their companies' best minds to share in topics that relate to their product and service. CLE credit is available for these hour-long showcase programs and will be offered alongside the main track programming. The showcase presentations give you even more to choose from at the conference.

for what is sure to be touted as one of the best CLEs you have ever attended! The contents are based on the past Solo and Small Firm Quarterly CLE programs presented by the Law Practice Management Program; and this year's Power Up conference programming is being co-sponsored by the State Bar's Transition into Law Practice Program, the State Bar's Legal Economics Law Section and the State Bar's General Practice and Trial Law Section.

Visit the conference website at http://bit.ly/1yDNTLk for all of the details including a link to registration. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in July to "Power Up" your practice!



Natalie R. Kelly is the director of the State Bar of Georgia's Law Practice Management Program and can be reached at nataliek@gabar.org.



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It's Time to Renew Your Section Membership:

There's a Section for Everyone

by Derrick W. Stanley

tate Bar of Georgia dues notices were mailed to the membership on May 8. The notices contain a multitude of information,

from dues to donations to section affiliations.

Any sections you are currently a member of are pre-checked for your convenience. You can add or delete sections by indicating your choice on the notice. The important thing to remember is that even though the sections have been pre-selected for you, they have not been added into the total at the bottom of the page. You will need to include the amount of section dues on Line C in the Summary Box. This will ensure your section memberships are renewed. It is important to double-check your math. If there is a variance in the amount, it may delay your sections renewal.

Also, if you are in a medium to large firm and your dues are paid through an accounting department, please make sure your section dues are submitted in addition to your Bar dues. Many times, people are removed from or never added to sections due to this reason.

To determine if your section dues have been paid, follow these steps:

- Log in to your account at gabar.org.
- Select "Section Membership" on the left navigation bar (see fig. 1).

- A list of your sections will be displayed (see fig. 2).
- Click on the "Join Sections" link.
- You are now on the "Pay Dues Online" page.
- If there is a greyed check mark next to the section, then your dues have been renewed. If the check mark is black or missing, then the dues have not been renewed (see fig. 3).
- If your dues have not been renewed, or you want to join more sections, all you need to do is check the section(s), click the "Add to Cart" button at the bottom of the page and follow the prompts to pay.

Hopefully these tips will keep your section memberships up-to-date. And remember, you can always join a section at any time by following the steps above.

What Do You Practice? There's a Section for That!

Whatever your practice area, you can find a section that can provide you with a built-in support system of contacts, mentors and advisors. By joining a section of the State Bar of Georgia, you can expand your reach, better your practice and create opportunity that will enhance your ability to practice law. Check one out today. There *is* a section for everyone!

Administrative Law

Provides a forum for attorneys to become better acquainted with the Georgia Administrative Pro-

cedures Act and the numerous administrative agencies of the state government.

Agriculture Law

Seeks to increase the awareness and further the knowledge of members of the State Bar and general public in agricultural law issues.

Animal Law

Provides networking and educational opportunities to its members in addition to providing a forum for members to exchange ideas, study and understand laws, regulations and case law pertaining to all areas of animal law.

Antitrust Law

Facilitates awareness and compliance with federal antitrust laws primarily through meetings and programs that alert section members to recent antitrust developments and allows them to get together with other antitrust practitioners in the private bar and government enforcement agencies.

Appellate Practice

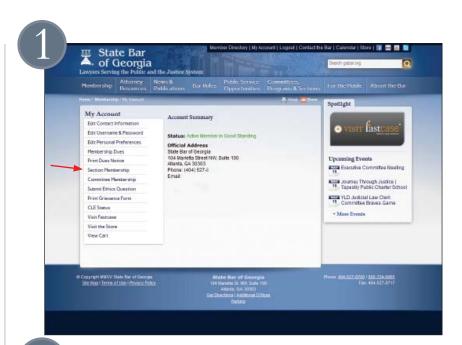
Its purpose is "to foster professionalism and excellence in appellate advocacy and to encourage improvements in the appellate process." The work of the section involves sponsoring programs and seminars, encouraging appellate pro bono representation, providing a forum for dialogue between the appellate bench and bar of this state and, when appropriate, advocating improvements in appellate practice and procedure through legislation.

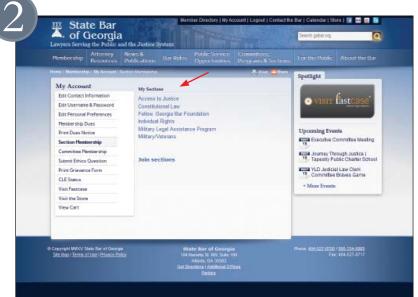
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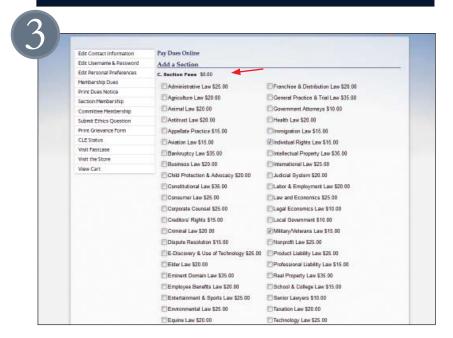
Offers opportunities to members of the Bar to acquire and share knowledge of aviation-related topics in order to foster a better understanding of the issues that are unique to aviation law.

Bankruptcy Law

Serves all members of the Bar whose practice involves debt or







creditor issues in the consumer or commercial law areas by its sponsorship of seminars, publications and networking opportunities throughout the state.

Business Law

Hosts standing committees on the Corporate Code, the UCC, Securities, Partnerships, Legal Opinions and Publications and continues to consider legislative proposals and monitor legislative developments in their respective areas.

Child Protection & Advocacy

Provides a forum for dissemination of information on aspects of juvenile law practice related to children: prosecution and agency representation, parent representation, child representation, and guardian ad litem work in deprivation or dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in Juvenile and Probate Courts; defense and prosecution of delinquency and status offender or CHINS (Children in Need of Services) cases; miscellaneous Juvenile Court advocacy regarding competency, emancipation and parental notification issues; and handling of adoption proceedings.

Constitutional Law

Its purpose it to promote the objectives of the State Bar of Georgia within the field of constitutional law (state and federal); to actively sponsor the continuing education of the members of the State Bar in this field; and to make appropriate recommendations in this field to the State Bar.

Consumer Law

Fosters professionalism and excellence in consumer law advocacy, both through individual and class actions, and to promote improvements in laws governing consumer transactions and fair or deceptive business practices.

Corporate Counsel Law

Comprised of Bar members engaged in corporate law practice

with corporations, associations and law firms, the section annually sponsors a two-day Corporate Counsel Institute.

Creditors' Rights

Seeks to provide learning opportunities for its members and to serve the needs of attorneys practicing in the area of collections and commercial litigation.

Criminal Law

Conducts activities to help keep members updated on the finer points of criminal law and disseminates information on matters affecting criminal practice.

Dispute Resolution

Facilitates the methods for resolving legal disputes other than through litigation and plans continuing education seminars.

E-Discovery & the Use of Technology

Provides education and training to lawyers across practice areas about all facets of legal technology and e-discovery, including the tools and applications; best practices and procedures; applicable rules and laws; and ethical considerations.

Elder Law

Promotes the development of substantive skills of attorneys working with older clients by offering continuing education programs.

Eminent Domain

Organized to promote education relating to the law of eminent domain in the state of Georgia.

Employee Benefits Law

Seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of laws regulating employer sponsored benefit plans through continuing legal education opportunities in the field of executive compensation, pensions, health and welfare and ERISA litigation and develops collegiality among practitioners within the employee benefits area of practice.

Entertainment & Sports Law

Section goals are to educate and promote networking among section members and guests. Varied programs include a monthly luncheon lecture series with CLE credits as well as local and international seminars.

Environmental Law

Provides its members with a unique opportunity to get to know other lawyers from industry, federal and state government, public interest organizations and private law firms who practice environmental law on a day-to-day basis. Membership in the section also enables members to stay informed on current environmental subjects, including legislative and regulatory developments.

Equine Law

Provides opportunities for members to develop their knowledge and professional abilities in equine matters of law in order to render better service to their clients and the general public.

Family Law

Promotes continuing legal education by co-sponsoring an annual Family Law Institute in May, and Nuts and Bolts of Family Law in the fall; monitors legislation and assists in drafting legislation in the area of family law; and publishes a quarterly newsletter which includes articles on emerging areas of the practice, interviews with members of the judiciary, summaries of new appellate cases, and updates on the latest legislation and changes to Superior Court Rules.

Fiduciary Law

Has as its primary goal the improvement of skills of lawyers who practice in the fiduciary area by sponsoring seminars such as the Fiduciary Law Seminar, the Estate Planning Institute in Athens, the Basic Estate Planning Seminar and other programs. It also monitors legislation in the

fiduciary area and helps in drafting fiduciary legislation.

Franchise & Distribution Law

Promotes the education and best practices of franchise and distribution law among section members.

General Practice & Trial Law

Benefits of membership include *Calendar Call*, luncheons, liaison to other sections and the American Bar Association and a web presence. Section seminars focus on trial practice, law staff training, office technology, mediation and basic corporate practice.

Government Attorneys

Provides a forum for government attorneys and promotes their interests before and participation in the Bar.

Health Law

Deals with a variety of health care law issues relevant to attorneys for hospitals, physicians, insurers, employers, patients and government agencies. The section publishes a newsletter for its members and conducts educational seminars during the year. The section also sponsors health law projects among the Georgia law schools.

Immigration Law

Provides education and advice and disseminates information regarding current conditions relating to the practice before various government agencies including Department of Homeland Security, U.S. and state Department of Labor, etc., to its members in the area of U.S. immigration law.

Individual Rights Law

Serves the Bar through educational activities intended to protect and promote the rights of individuals. During the legislative session it monitors legislation likely to have a significant impact on members. The section sponsors community service projects, hosts informal gatherings for its members and guests, and publishes a newsletter.

Intellectual Property Law

Provides networking and educational opportunities to its members. The section also fosters networking and education for intellectual property attorneys and professionals nationwide, including co-sponsoring the annual IP Institute.

International Law

Provides a forum for members to exchange ideas and experiences related to representation of domestic or foreign clients in connection with matters involving more than one national jurisdiction. The section keeps its members informed of the latest developments in the areas of international law and practice through an annual continuing legal education seminar, luncheon study groups and periodic presentations by experts in their field.

Judicial

Fosters professionalism and excellence in the judiciary, encourages improvements in judicial process and court operations, solicits input from non-judicial Bar members upon judicial procedures and court operations and encourages interaction between bench and bar.

Labor & Employment Law

Focuses attention on all areas of labor/management-employee/employer relationships through continuing legal education.

Law & Economics

The purpose of this section shall be to increase awareness of the economic impact of statutes, regulations and case-law decisions by bringing together lawyers and scholars to discuss and study such issues.

Legal Economics Law

Provides information and assistance on the administrative, business and practical aspects of the practice of law. The section produces a newsletter with the Law Practice Management Program of the State Bar of Georgia and cosponsors seminars.

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Local Government Law

Provides a forum for attorneys representing local governments to exchange ideas and experience and hosts the annual Local Government Institute for city and county attorneys in Athens.

Military/Veterans Law

Sponsors two continuing legal education programs each year promoting awareness and training among Bar members of legal issues particular to military service. The section annually conducts training for attorneys seeking approval to practice before the VA.

Nonprofit Law

Establishes and maintains, as an integrated group, members of the Bar who are legal advisors in the field of nonprofit law; to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas; to improve the professional responsibility with respect to the practice of nonprofit law; to provide, serve and act as a central association and forum for the study, discussion, resolution, collection and dissemination

Section Membership

Section Dues

Name			
Bar Number			
Firm/Organization			
Credit Card Number			
Expiration Date	CSV Code	Amount to Bill \$	
Email			

Administrative Law	\$25
Agriculture Law	\$20
Animal Law	\$20
Antitrust Law	\$20
Appellate Practice	\$15
Aviation Law	\$15
Bankruptcy Law	\$35
Business Law	\$20
Child Protection & Advocacy	\$20
Constitutional Law	\$35
Consumer Law	\$25
Corporate Counsel Law	\$25
Creditors' Rights	\$15
Criminal Law	\$20
Dispute Resolution	\$15
E-Discovery/Use of Technology	\$25
Elder Law	\$20
Eminent Domain	\$35
Employee Benefits Law	\$20
Entertainment & Sports Law	\$25
Environmental Law	\$25
Equine Law	\$20
Family Law	\$35
Fiduciary Law	\$30

Franchise & Distribution Law	\$20
General Practice & Trial Law	\$35
Government Attorneys	\$10
Health Law	\$20
Immigration Law	\$15
Individual Rights Law	\$15
Intellectual Property Law	\$35
International Law	\$25
Judicial	\$20
Labor & Employment Law	\$20
Law & Economics	\$25
Legal Economics Law	\$10
Local Government Law	\$10
Military / Veterans Law	\$15
Nonprofit Law	\$25
Product Liability Law	\$25
Professional Liability	\$15
Real Property Law	\$35
School & College Law	\$15
Senior Lawyers	\$10
Taxation Law	\$20
Technology Law	\$25
Tort & Insurance Practice	\$15
Workers' Compensation Law	\$25

Please complete this form and e-mail to derricks@gabar.org or mail a check to: State Bar of Georgia Section Liaison 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100 Atlanta, GA 30303



of ideas, information, data, conclusions and solutions with respect to, and common problems created by, the field of nonprofit law.

Product Liability Law

Co-sponsors two annual seminars. Members receive a quarterly newsletter featuring case summaries, articles, section member profiles and a calendar of section events, which includes meetings in Rome, Savannah and Macon.

Professional Liability

Promotes the objectives of the Bar within the fields of professional liability and malpractice. The emphasis shall be upon liability in fields other than medical or veterinary professions, including but not limited to: architects; attorneys; certified public accountants; land surveyors; and professional engineers. The purposes shall be to provide a medium through which practitioners in the fields of professional liability can organize, concentrate, and coordinate their activities to enhance the practice and understanding of professional liability law.

Real Property Law

Promotes continuing legal education by co-sponsoring a commercial real property law seminar in the fall, a basic real estate practice seminar in the winter and a Real Property Law Institute in May with ICLE. The section monitors legislation at the state and

federal level that impacts its members, publishes a newsletter and maintains a section website. It also maintains a Listserv for members to post questions and receive real time responses, with helpful guidance from other practitioners.

School & College Law

Provides members with opportunities to interact with those actively engaged in practicing school and college law. The section annually co-sponsors a seminar on school and college law issues with ICLE.

Senior Lawyers

Informs lawyers of retirement opportunities, options and benefits, support and assistance to senior lawyers in continuing their careers, improved representation for the disadvantaged, increased pro bono work, encouraging the development of alternate provisions of dispute resolution, advancement of substantive elderly law and professional collegiality.

Taxation Law

Pursues the continuing education of the members of the Bar in the field of federal and state taxation; maintains liaison with the Internal Revenue Service, the State Department of Revenue and the Georgia State University Tax Clinic; monitors state legislation affecting taxation; and makes recommendations concerning legislative and administrative rules.

Technology Law

Provides a forum for lawyers to discuss legal issues related to technology.

Tort & Insurance Practice

Has five main functions: (1) to further the education of its members by providing seminars on insurancerelated legal topics; (2) to keep its members abreast of current developments in insurance law, such as case law, legislation or regulations; (3) to provide a forum for the exchange of views on the insurance-related aspects of the practice of law; (4) to influence for the better, when appropriate, those activities which relate to insurance and affect lawyers; (5) to develop a relationship with the State Insurance Commissioner's Office that will enhance the interests of the members of the section.

Workers' Compensation Law

Seeks to keep its members fully informed in the area of workers' compensation. The section works closely with the State Board of Workers' Compensation to convey information regarding new rules changes and statutes to its members. It actively participates in and supports workers' compensation seminars and continuing legal education.



Derrick W. Stanley is the section liaison for the State Bar of Georgia and can be reached at derricks@gabar.org.



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Fastcase Statute Searching

by Sheila Baldwin

tatutes can sometimes be tricky to find, especially if you do not have an exact citation. Fastcase has several ways you can access statutes, depending on how much information you know at the beginning of your search. One can Browse, Find by Citation or utilize the Search View to input key words, specific citations or a combination of both.

Find by Browse Mode

If you are not sure where to start and just want to browse through the various titles and chapters of a code, there is an easy way to do that in Fastcase. Just go to the toolbar, hover over the Search menu and click Search Statutes. Two tabs will appear above the search bar on the Search Statutes page; select the second tab—Browse.

From here you will see a list of jurisdictions and the U.S. Code. If you want to browse Georgia law, just scroll down to Georgia and click the plus sign to the left. If you click the plus sign next to Georgia Code you will see archived editions going back to 2009, our first year with Fastcase. You can decide to expand various titles and chapters by clicking on the plus sign.

If you see something that interests you, just click the name of the section to read it. Fastcase will pull up any cases that cite your section below the statute's text. You can also see an outline view of the code to the left (see fig. 1). This allows you to view your section in the overall context of the code and click on other sections to read further.

Find a Citation

The easiest way to find a particular statute section is to just type in a citation for that section using Fastcase's Citation Lookup feature. But what if you only have an act name? Or, maybe you have a general idea that a statute exists, but do not know where to look in browse mode. You could try a keyword search on the Search Statutes page, but predicting the exact language of a section is very difficult. You might also try searching for a case that cited your statute on the Search Cases page, but that can be time-consuming.

At this point, you should perform a Google search to gather more information. You may want to view the history of a bill or act possibly located on the General Assembly website or even an attorney blog. In my experience, this is a great way to find out where certain areas of the law have been codified when you do not have enough information to search the Fastcase databases effectively using keywords. And if you know how to search using Fastcase you know how to run a Google search since both use Boolean operators.

How to Directly Look Up a Citation

Once you have found the specific citation you are looking for, you need to enter it in Fastcase and proceed directly to the statute section. From the Search Statutes page, make sure the Citation Lookup mode is selected

above the search bar. Select where you want to search in the Select Statutes pane by checking off the boxes. You can click the plus signs for each jurisdiction to show different codes. If you click the blue "info>>" link you can see examples of how to cite those particular laws so the computer can find them (see fig. 2). For example, Georgia Statutes are cited with the abbreviation "GA. Code [Title Number]-[Chapter Number]-[Section Number]." Use that syntax with your citation in the search bar and press enter to quickly pull up a section.

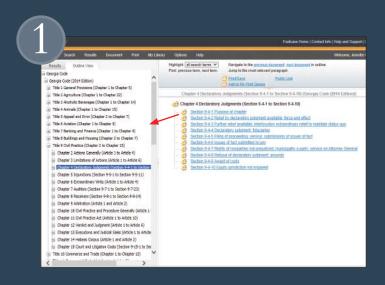
Annotations

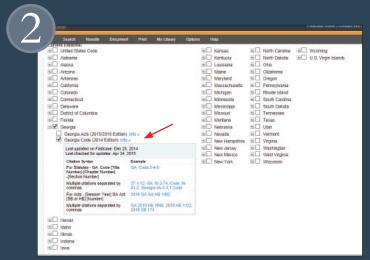
Once you open the statute, you can view citing cases in a list view below the text of the statute. A quick overview of this list will give you an idea of how often the statute has been directly cited within case law as well as putting you into the text of each listed case at the point that the statute is cited in order to understand the context in which it is used. There is an added benefit of a direct link to the case directly from statutes back to the case law side of Fastcase (see fig. 3). Once you have the statute basics down, you can save a lot of time and frustration in your research.

Fastcase is a great member benefit. If you are not getting the most out of it when performing your research, you may want to schedule a training to learn how to maximize the program. Fastcase trainings can be found on the calendar on the Bar's website. You can sign up for a webinar by Fastcase experts or choose to attend a live training at the Bar; CLE credit is available for either option. If you have any questions about Fastcase, please feel free to contact me at sheilab@gabar.org or 404-526-8618.



Sheila Baldwin is the member benefits coordinator of the State Bar of Georgia and can be reached at sheilab@gabar.org.







Fastcase training classes are offered three times a month at the State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta for Bar members and their staff. Training is available at other locations and in various formats and will be listed on the calendar at www.gabar.org. Please call 404-526-8618 to request onsite classes for local and specialty bar associations.

Beyond the Comma: Semicolons and Colons

by Karen J. Sneddon and David Hricik

emicolons and colons are more than retro typographical emoticons. ;) Semicolons and colons add sophistication to the text. They convey how clauses are connected and vary the rhythm of the text to promote reader engagement. But sometimes they can confuse the reader. That confusion can be traced to the sometimes interchangeable nature of semicolons, colons, commas and dashes. This installment of "Writing Matters" teaches how to effectively use semicolons and colons.

Semicolons

A semicolon has the combined power of a comma and a period. Semicolons link ideas and avoid reader confusion.

To link ideas, writers can use semicolons to connect two independent clauses. A semicolon can join two independent clauses (think complete sentences) on a related matter, with no other punctuation or word needed. *Mark is eight years old; Bridget is six years old.* The two sentences could be separated by a period. *Mark is eight years old. Bridget is six years old.* The two clauses could also be joined with a comma and coordi-



nating conjunction. *Mark is eight years old, and Bridget is six years old.* Each sentence is properly punctuated. The semicolon links the clauses more directly and emphasizes the relatedness of the clauses.

But the independent clauses must be related. It is inappropriate to use just a semicolon to join two

clauses that don't have a common connection. Mark is eight years old; Francis goes to college. These two independent clauses can't be combined with a semicolon because the connection between the sentences is unclear. In some circumstances, a semicolon may be used to connect two independent clauses with a conjunctive adverb. Mark is eight years old; however, Bridget is six years old. This use of the semicolon emphasizes the link and conveys the relationship to the reader through the inclusion of the conjunctive adverb.

To avoid confusion, writers can use semicolons as "super commas." Semicolons can separate listed items where the listed items already contain commas. To conduct the depositions, we traveled to Atlanta, Ga.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Jacksonville, Fla. Using only commas in that list would make it difficult to read. Similarly, a semicolon helps avoid confusion by linking lengthy clauses and clauses that contain commas. Some attorneys write the initial draft using a computer, typewriter or voice dictation app; but other attorneys, based on personal preferences and previous experiences, write the initial draft using a pen and paper.

Thus, semicolons can be used to link separate sentences together as independent clauses and to avoid reader confusion. Their purpose is distinct from colons.

Colons

Colons are like heraldic bugles announcing what will follow. A colon announces, introduces and draws attention to a clause, example, list or quotation that follows the colon. In other words, the colon conveys a sense of forward momentum to the text.

The most common use of a colon is to introduce a list. The letter of intent outlined the following terms: purchase price, use of signage and closing date. However, it is often misused (or overused) in this form. Specifically, when the list uses the verbs am, is, are, was or were, a

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colon should not be used. The basic components of a valid contract are offer, acceptance and consideration.

Colons aren't limited to announcing lists. Writers can use colons to express a sense of anticipation. The associate collected her working draft from the partner: no revisions. Because of the announcing quality of the colon, the colon is usually preceded by an independent clause. The text following the colon does not need to be an independent clause. But what follows the colon needs to be an explanation, clarification or summary. Thus, one difference between a semicolon and a colon is whether the two joined clauses are complementary (in which case a semicolon should be used) or are sequenced to lead to a point (in which case a colon should be used). Of course, colons also follow salutations in a business letter, separate units of time and join titles to subtitles.

Writers can use semicolons and colons to enhance the meaning of the text and promote the reader's engagement. A few well-placed semicolons and colons also can add sophistication to the text. Their potential can be summarized in one word: invaluable. Try them!:)

Two Writing Tips

In future columns, we're going to include some tidbits that we've not been able to work into a theme of a longer column. Sometimes these are pet peeves; at other times, they will be fundamental errors that we see in legal writing. This installment discusses two examples of words often incorrectly used interchangeably.

- A. Think that the word "because" and the word "since" are interchangeable? Some writers use the words interchangeably, but they have distinct meanings. "Since" relates to time. "Because" relates to causation. I have been admitted to the bar since 2002. Because I have been practicing law for 13 years, I have written a variety of legal documents.
- B. Know the difference between "i.e." and "e.g." "I.e." is an abbreviation of "id est" and means "that is." In contrast, "e.g." is an abbreviation of "exampli gratia" and means "for the sake of an example." They are *not* interchangeable.



Karen J. Sneddon is a professor of law at Mercer University School of Law.



David Hricik is a professor at Mercer University School of Law who has written several books and more than a dozen

articles. The Legal Writing Program at Mercer continues to be recognized as one of the nation's top legal writing programs.

Professionalism and In-House Counsel:

Giving Back and Gaining More

by Wanda M. Morris

Would you like to know what in-house attorneys are doing to support our legal professional ideals of community and public service? Do you want to know how in-house attorneys support pro bono work, ensuring access to justice and increasing the pipeline of diverse students entering the legal profession? What do corporate lawyers do to maintain competence and enhance civility in their ranks? I asked Wanda Morris, one of the newest members of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, to tell us what in-house counsel in Georgia are doing to promote professionalism. She recently completed her term as president and chairwoman of the Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter Board of Directors. I hope you enjoy her commentary about her leadership role and this organization's activities and awards. — Avarita L. Hanson, executive director, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

hen was the last time you were called upon to lead an activity or project that moves you outside your comfort zone and into a stratospheric experience that literally changes how you see yourself and your colleagues? For me, that experience occurred last year when I had the incredible privilege of serving as the president and chairwoman of the ACC Georgia Chapter Board of Directors.

When I use the term "privilege" I do not do so lightly. The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) is the world's largest community of in-house counsel with a vast array of programs and resources specifically geared to in-house attorneys. The Georgia Chapter of this organization currently serves more than 1,000 members across the state. With the exception of child-birth and parenting, the challenge to reach and deliver leadership and service to so many was as colossal a task as I've ever assumed.

I began the year by challenging members to actively participate to make our chapter's programs strong and lasting. I can proudly say that they did so with enthusi-



asm and hard work. In 2014, our chapter accomplished the following:

■ CLEs and Special Programs. ACC Georgia offered nearly 30 luncheon and special CLE programs totaling more than 1,300 hours of CLE hours for members. Each month, our chapter offers an informative CLE luncheon, often free of charge to our

members, on many legal topics. We also coordinate special all-day and evening programs throughout the year to provide our members additional educational and networking opportunities. Last year, we extended our panoply of programming efforts by adding the "Summer Happy Hour Series." This networking series offered members an opportunity to gather in a relaxed atmosphere at some of Atlanta's coolest and hippest restaurants and to enjoy each other's company.

- Women's Initiative. The chapter successfully launched our Women's Initiative, a series of programs to help female in-house counsel define and achieve success. Last year we offered such programs as a General Counsel's Roundtable and a workshop on how to actively create your own successful career. The enlightening speakers and networking opportunities led to extending this initiative for 2015. The Women's Initiative was recognized and featured as a "Program of Excellence" by ACC headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. We continued our long-standing relationship with the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. Many chapter members volunteered their time and talent to the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta's Legal Check-Up Clinic. Working with several law firm and vendor sponsors, we hosted the Annual ACC Value Challenge Program and ACC Georgia contributed \$30,000 to the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. As lawyers, we sometimes take for granted how intimidating the legal process can be for individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of others through service. I believe we, as lawyers, have an obligation to support individuals in our community who are talented, benevolent and wish to do work that

- directly benefits less fortunate and disenfranchised people. Over the past eight years, ACC Georgia, along with its various co-sponsors, has raised more than \$300,000 to support the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta.
- Paid Law Student Internships. ACC Georgia provided \$30,000 in paid internships to three deserving law students from disadvantaged backgrounds through the Lori Ann Haydu Memorial Internship Program. Each year, ACC Georgia Chapter awards three fully paid summer internships to rising second year law school students from diverse and challenging backgrounds. These students work in several corporate legal departments in the greater Atlanta area over the summer.
- Street Law Program. ACC Georgia continued our commitment to increase the pipeline of lawyers into the profession through our Street Law Program, designed to teach people about law, democracy and human rights worldwide. ACC Georgia partnered with the nonprofit Street Law organization in 2013 to begin teaching students at Drew Charter Senior Academy about law in an engaging, accessible and relatable way using the Street Law curriculum. The program empowers students to become active, legally astute contributors to society and supports the pipeline of future lawyers in our legal community.
- Community Service. ACC Georgia contributed to the Atlanta community through its Joint Day of Service with the Atlanta Bar Association, support of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Association and our Toys for Tots drive.
- Membership. ACC Georgia increased its membership by 10.4 percent across the state.

Because of the generosity, dedication and hard work of our sponsors,

chapter officers and members, ACC Georgia was recognized as a finalist for 2014 Chapter of the Year in 2014!

My ACC Georgia Board service was a tremendous experience that taught me that by giving back, I gained so much more. I met outstanding attorneys and professionals who stepped up to challenges I thought would have sent them running for the hills. I now consider many of these people personal friends. I ventured into waters that many said lawyers shouldn't tread, and I did so because of the support and determination of others who, like me, wanted to make a difference in the lives of other people.

The rewards of giving back to the community through your legal skills and knowledge are incomparable. If you are a practicing in-house attorney, I encourage you to consider joining ACC Georgia Chapter. We are always looking for new members to continue our tradition of giving back and gaining more. For more information on ACC Georgia contact Connie Swindell-Harding at accgeorgiachapter@gmail.com, or visit our website at http://www.acc.com/chapters/georgia.



Wanda M. Morris is an assistant general counsel in the employment and labor group of Home Depot's legal department. She

oversees and manages the company's western division employment litigation and team of attorneys in its West Coast office. Morris is immediate past president and chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Corporate Counsel—Georgia Chapter. She was appointed to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism in 2014. Morris holds a B.S. in accounting and a J.D., both from Case Western Reserve University. She speaks across the country on issues of employment law, diversity and ethics in the legal profession.

n Memoriam honors those members of the State Bar of Georgia who have passed away. As we reflect upon the memory of these members, we are mindful of the contributions they made to the Bar. Each generation of lawyers is indebted to the one that precedes it. Each of us is the recipient of the benefits of the learning, dedication, zeal and standard of professional responsibility that those who have gone before us have contributed to the practice of law. We are saddened that they are no longer in our midst, but privileged to have known them and to have shared their friendship over the years.

G. Alan Blackburn

Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (1968) Admitted 1968 Died May 2015

John H. Boone

Oakley, Calif. Columbia University (1963) Admitted 1963 Died October 2014

Hon. Edward T. Brock

Auburn, Ga. Woodrow Wilson College of Law (1948) Admitted 1950 Died August 2014

Carol Buscail-Smith

Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (1976) Admitted 1976 Died January 2015

Horace E. Campbell

Cornelia, Ga. University of Georgia School of Law (1957) Admitted 1958 Died February 2015

Samuel A. Cann

Savannah, Ga. University of Georgia School of Law (1954) Admitted 1954 Died December 2014

B. Avant Edenfield

Savannah, Ga. University of Georgia School of Law (1958) Admitted 1958 Died May 2015

Eugene Edward Evans

Rome, Ga. Woodrow Wilson College of Law (1978) Admitted 1978 Died September 2014

Leon Farmer

Athens, Ga.
University of Georgia School
of Law (1966)
Admitted 1966
Died December 2014

Gladys Holland Gunter

Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta Law School (1950) Admitted 1951 Died January 2015

James P. Hamilton

Lithonia, Ga. University of Florida Levin College of Law (1951) Admitted 1955 Died February 2015

Willis G. Haugen

Newnan, Ga. Harvard Law School (1959) Admitted 1959 Died November 2014

Bobby F. Herndon

Savannah, Ga. Admitted 1968 Died March 2015

John Elvis James

Macon, Ga. Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law (1964) Admitted 1963 Died April 2015

Isaac S. Jolles

Bogart, Ga. University of Georgia School of Law (1953) Admitted 1952 Died April 2015

Soyang Kristina Kim

Atlanta, Ga. Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (2008) Admitted 2008 Died March 2015

Ben Kingree

Hilton Head, S.C. Vanderbilt University Law School (1962) Admitted 1972 Died March 2015

Deborah S. Kitay

Atlanta, Ga.
Emory University School of Law (1975)
Admitted 1975
Died April 2015

Curry Julian May

Atlanta, Ga. Harvard Law School (1993) Admitted 1993 Died March 2015

Walter L. McVey

Olathe, Kan. University of Kansas School of Law (1948) Admitted 1965 Died September 2014

Delman L. Minchew

Waycross, Ga. Emory University School of Law (1953) Admitted 1953 Died December 2014

John Thomas Minor

Dalton, Ga. Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law (1951) Admitted 1952 Died January 2015

Lucille Snowden Mitchell

Wayne, Ohio University of Miami School of Law (1947) Admitted 1958 Died October 2014

Herman Joseph Morris

Atlanta, Ga. North Carolina Central University School of Law (1910) Admitted 2010 Died March 2015

Francis Edward Naughton

Norcross, Ga. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (1977) Admitted 1978 Died February 2015

Ray C. Norvell

Canton, Ga. Roger Williams University School of Law (1952) Admitted 1952 Died March 2015

Eugene O'Brien

Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (1960) Admitted 1960 Died March 2015

Stephen Pace

Perry, Ga. University of Georgia School of Law (1952) Admitted 1951 Died January 2015

Miriam S. Peace

Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (1972) Admitted 1973 Died August 2014

Guy Owen Pittman

Commerce, Ga. Emory University School of Law (1950) Admitted 1951 Died December 2014

George Donald Pulliam

Flowery Branch, Ga. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (1981) Admitted 1982 Died March 2015

James B. Rhoads

Sandy Springs, Ga. University of Pennsylvania Law School (1965) Admitted 1970 Died March 2015

William Paul Rodgers

McLean, Va. Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law (1957) Admitted 1956 Died October 2014

Charles C. Shaw

Rome, Ga.
University of Georgia School
of Law (1952)
Admitted 1952
Died September 2014

Douglas E. Smith

Gainesville, Ga.
University of Georgia School
of Law (1961)
Admitted 1960
Died March 2015

Benjamin Smith

Waycross, Ga. Samford University Cumberland School of Law (1947) Admitted 1947 Died October 2014

Hugh D. Sosebee

Forsyth, Ga. University of Georgia School of Law (1941) Admitted 1940 Died March 2015

Charles H. Thompson

Forest Park, Ga. Atlanta Law School (1947) Admitted 1947 Died January 2015

Lee M. Weinstein

Atlanta, Ga.
Emory University School of Law (1964)
Admitted 1963
Died March 2015

Herbert Buel White

Lawrenceville, Ga. Woodrow Wilson College of Law (1951) Admitted 1952 Died February 2015



Hon. G. Alan Blackburn was born May 6, 1939, in East Bend, N.C. He attended the public schools of Atlanta, Ga., Yadkin County, N.C.

and Washington, D.C.

After serving four years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, Blackburn returned to Atlanta and entered John Marshall Law School. He received his LL.B. in 1968. He received his Master of Law Degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2001.

Upon admission to the State Bar of Georgia in 1972, Blackburn

June 2015

opened his law office in Decatur, Ga., and later maintained offices in Fulton County before moving to Cobb County in 1985. He engaged in the private practice of civil and criminal law for 20 years and served as an administrative law judge for the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance before being elected to a six-year term on the Court of Appeals in 1992. He was re-elected to another six-year term without opposition in 1998 and 2004. He was elected by his peers to the office of chief judge of the Court of Appeals in January 2001 where he served through December 2002.

Blackburn served as chairman of the Cobb County Salvation Army Advisory Board; chairman of the Board of Directors of New Horizons Ministries (Mountain Top Boys' Home) in Walker County; and served on the Board of Directors of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse—Georgia Chapter.

Blackburn was a charter member of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He was a former member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and the Georgia Association of Administrative Law Judges. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia and the Cobb County Bar Association.

In the August 1997 issue of Georgia Trend Magazine, Blackburn was selected as one of the top 40 fastest-rising public servants in Georgia. He was also selected as the statesman of the year by American Legion Post 51 in 1998 and 2001. Blackburn formerly served as a master of the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law Inn of Court (American Inn of Court 302). He served as a member of the Georgia Courts Automation Commission. Blackburn served on the Chief Iustice's Commission on Professionalism, and was a member of the Judicial Council of Georgia from 1999-2002.



Hon. B. Avant Edenfield, a native of Bulloch County, Ga., and the community of Stilson, died in May 2015 at Candler

Hospital of metastatic lung cancer. Born the son of Perry Edenfield and Vera Berry Edenfield, he was a descendent of David Edenfield who was captured by the British in the Battle of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

Edenfield was a graduate of Stilson High School, the University of Georgia and the University of Georgia School of Law. His love of learning began early, and he always gave credit to the Bulloch County Regional Library's traveling bookmobile for giving him a love of reading and learning. Indeed, he later became chairman of the Statesboro-Bulloch County Regional Library, and many of the older employees remembered that little boy at Stilson who always checked out books by the dozens. He stated on occasion that he "was in a lifetime struggle with ignorance, and that ignorance seemed to be gaining the advantage."

Edenfield was particularly proud of the Stilson community and the pursuit of excellence that he learned there. He captained its State Basketball Championship Team in 1952, and was Georgia's vice president of the Future Farmers of America.

He enrolled at the University of Georgia, earning many scholastic honors. Beginning as a freshman, he was an unpaid tutor of history for the football team. Without ever having played golf, or knowing anything about golf, he convinced the Athletic Department to hire him as a beginning golf instructor. Asked why, he said, "I needed the money, and I did not reveal my absence of knowledge about the game of golf. The \$60 a quarter paid my tuition."

He graduated from UGA School of Law and was on the dean's list throughout law school, a member of the Gridiron Secret Society, president of Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, associate justice of the Honor Court, president of the Demosthenian Literary Society and a member of the Blue Key honor society. He and later-Prof. Perry Sentell became study mates and lifelong friends. In 2008 he was awarded the Law School Alumni Distinguished Service Scroll Award.

After graduating from law school in 1958, he was inducted into the U.S. Army, and for the next six years was an enlisted member of the U.S. Army and the Georgia National Guard.

He began practicing law in Statesboro with Francis W. Allen, and the firm later became Allen, Edenfield, Brown and Wright. He practiced for 20 years in all aspects of the law as a trial lawyer before he was appointed to the bench. He was named the Outstanding Young Man of Bulloch County in 1965. He was a founder and charter member of the Statesboro Kiwanis Club, a guarantor of the land purchased by the Kiwanis Club for the Ogeechee Fair. He was selected by the Statesboro Rotary Club in 1978 as Bulloch County Man of the Year. He served as a deputy assistant attorney general of Georgia.

In 1964, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate. He served as chairman of the Capital Punishment Study Committee, authoring the majority report that changed dramatically the laws regarding death penalty statutes for Georgia. He also served as secretary of the Higher Education Committee and co-sponsored legislation improving Georgia's higher education and vocational education. He was a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the co-author of legislation creating state-sponsored scholarships for medical, nursing and dental students who committed themselves to practice in under-served areas. While in the legislature he helped create the Statesboro-Bulloch County Developmental Authority. He returned home and later served with the Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce com-

mittee soliciting industries that met with significant success.

He was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia in 1978, and became a proud resident of Savannah. Chief judge for seven years (from 1990-97), he assumed senior status in 2006. He was invited to serve in many different federal courts and traveled extensively trying cases, including in the Panama Canal Zone before the United States ceded its sovereignty. He served on the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Council, was president of the District Judge Association for the Eleventh Circuit, was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist to serve on the Iudicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, served on the Pattern Jury Charge Committee for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits for approximately 27 years, was a member of the Archives Committee of the Fifth Circuit, the Federal and State Liaison Committee, and numerous other committees for the judiciary and bar.

Edenfield credited his mother and father for creating a strong worth ethic. He had a strong love of quality education and lamented the decline of academic standards of excellence in American education.

His greatest accomplishment, however, was marrying Melvis Bryant Edenfield in 1963.

He was a member of Independent Presbyterian Church, and particularly enjoyed his study of the Bible with the Chatham Bible Studies group. He and Melvis traveled throughout the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Their love of architecture and history continued to motivate their travel. Although they remained childless, he considered his law clerks-who have been a source of pride and joy — as part of his family. His nieces and nephews and their accomplishments, as well as the accomplishments of many young people who were children of friends and neighbors, were a source of pride. Next to his wife, his brother, Gerald M. Edenfield (State Bar of Georgia president 2007-08), was his confidant, advisor and friend.



Hon. Hugh Dorsey Sosebee of Forsyth passed away in March 2015. Sosebee was born Oct. 9, 1916, in Forsyth County to the late

Thomas Watson Sosebee and Ollie Worley Sosebee. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1938, where he was a member of the Demosthenian Literary Society. He earned his J.D. from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law.

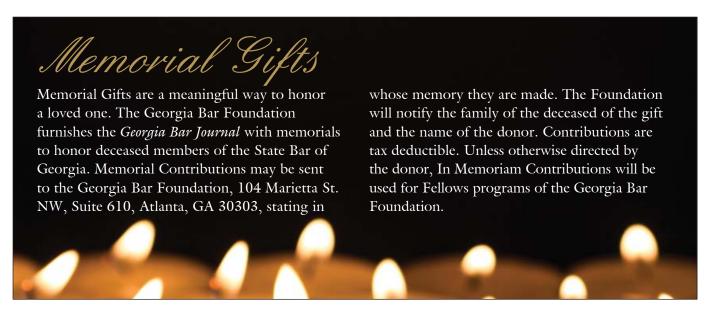
Sosebee served Monroe County and the Flint Judicial Circuit for decades including eight years as the elected solicitor-general. In 1964, he was appointed sole superior court judge of the Flint Judicial Circuit by Gov. Carl Sanders and served for nearly 15 years before becoming a senior judge in 1978.

Sosebee also served as a justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia and was a charter member of the Georgia Code Revision Committee. He was the longest serving member of the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors, a 32nd Degree Mason and member of the Strict Observance Lodge No. 18 of Forsyth.

Sosebee had a profound and lasting impact on Monroe County. He envisioned and helped to build the county's first and only hospital, serving on the first board of Monroe County Hospital. He was also a charter member of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and served as Monroe County's attorney as well as the city of Forsyth's attorney.

The bridge over Interstate 75 on Tift College Drive was named after Sosebee in 2011. In 2012, Forsyth's historic courthouse grounds were dedicated to Sosebee.

Sosebee devoted his life to his family, community, state and God. His tireless work, personal honesty and integrity, and dedication to the courts have inspired confidence in the judicial system as a whole.



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Trial By Jury: What's the Big Deal?





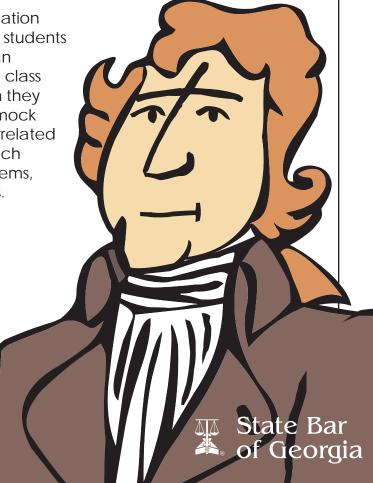


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