



The YLD Review

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Young Lawyers Division

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The YLD Says “Viva Las Vegas” for the Spring Meeting

by Shiriki L. Cavitt

On Thursday, March 31, more than 50 members and guests of the YLD descended on The Mirage Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev., for an action-packed and fun-filled Spring Meeting. The meeting kicked off in grand

& Stair, LLP; **Betty Davis**, Law Offices of Betty Nguyen Davis; and **Heidi Fessler**, Merrill Corporation. After a day full of academic and professional enrichment, attendees continued the revelry on Friday evening by channeling their inner John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr with a pre-show reception at the retro chic Revolution Lounge, sponsored by **The Financial Partners**, followed by a viewing of The Beatles™ LOVE™ Cirque du Soleil Show. It was an evening of great music and psychedelic sensory enjoyment for all.



(L-R) Emma Burke, Kelly Campanella, Andreea Neculae, Jennifer Campbell, Nicole Leet and Meredith Wilson enjoy the welcome reception.

fashion with a cocktail welcome reception sponsored by **Bay Mediation** that allowed attendees the opportunity to network, catch up with long-standing friends and make new acquaintances, all while enjoying warm weather and appetizing food and drinks.

Attendees then had the opportunity to spend the rest of Thursday evening sightseeing and exploring the Vegas Strip. Friday was a full day for attendees as the YLD presented two CLE seminars covering topics on: The Importance of Leadership; Building and Growing a Successful Law Practice and Avoiding Legal Malpractice; and, The Power of Depositions in the Digital Age. The Panelists for the CLEs included Hon. **Sara Doyle**, Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Bill Barwick**, Duane Morris LLP; **Bryan M. Cavan**, Miller & Martin PLLC; **Kenneth L. Shigley**, State Bar president-elect, Chambers, Aholt & Rickard, LLP; **Damon Elmore**, NAPA Rayloc; **Scott Masterson**, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP; **Michael Goldberg**, Fried Rogers Goldberg LLC; **Peter Werdesheim**, Carlock, Copeland

Bright and early Saturday morning, YLD members, along with invited State Bar members Kenneth L. Shigley, State Bar president-elect, and Bryan Cavan, State Bar immediate past president, gathered together for brunch and the YLD General Session. During the General Session, YLD executive officers, directors, district representatives and committee chairs reviewed and discussed past events and upcoming activities. After the discussions of YLD happenings, members toasted the good work of the YLD with celebratory mimosas and bloody marys.

Saturday evening’s festivities began with a surprise roast of YLD President **Michael Geoffroy**. Lead by the masters and mistresses of ceremony, **Stephanie**

See Viva Las Vegas on Page 3



(L-R) YLD President Michael Geoffroy, State Bar President-Elect Ken Shigley and Past YLD and State Bar President Bill Barwick attend the YLD Spring Meeting.





From the President

Opportunities in the YLD Come in Threes

by Michael Geoffroy

Finishing my term as president of the YLD, I wanted to look back and share what I learned about young lawyers in Georgia. One thing that kept coming back to me was the great opportunities we as young lawyers have to further our career through the State Bar. Please do not misunderstand me. No lawyer can hone their craft merely by attending CLEs and volunteering for committees. The basis of your practice and your education as a lawyer is the thousands of hours of experience in court, at negotiations, meetings with clients and drafting documents. But, the State Bar offers the best opportunity to speed up that education. Meeting other attorneys and finding out about their practice area, their style and their geographic area gives an amazing perspective that is easily lost sitting behind your desk. The most common question a YLD president is asked is, "how do I get involved?" Young lawyers want to take advantage of these opportunities but are squeezed by work, family and other responsibilities. The answer to the question is simple: show up. Come to a committee meeting, reception, CLE or other program. If you cannot be there, participate by conference call. If you want to know about specific positions or opportunities for leadership, just ask. One of the great things about our State Bar leadership is how accessible everyone is, both in the YLD and State Bar.

In addition to those opportunities, the YLD presents a chance to affect real change in people's lives. Committees such as Community Service Projects, Aspiring Youth, High School Mock Trial and countless others offer a chance for young lawyers to do something that can be elusive in many of our practices; improve the lives of those who need it, without it being at the expense of any other party. High School Mock Trial is one of the easiest and most rewarding programs for a young lawyer. Being an evaluator at your local regional competition requires only one weekend morning or afternoon, travel not far from home and no follow up calls. It is hard

to overstate the difference this program makes in the lives of the participating students. High School Mock Trial gives students a chance to achieve and, I project, makes them more successful students and, hopefully, some of them lawyers. I strongly encourage you to join **Justice Carley** and I at the State Finals one year in Lawrenceville to see some of Georgia's best students who work hard and pour their hearts into this YLD program.

Another opportunity the State Bar presents is camaraderie. We all know what a lonely existence being a lawyer is at times: stuck in your office late at night or standing at a podium with many sets of eyes focused on you. The State Bar is a welcome oasis where you will find other practitioners who suffer as you do, and can help you find a way to laugh about it and through it. This is the most difficult to describe, but also the most simple and true. Ask anyone involved in the State Bar and they will tell you they have made great friends.

So there you have it: the chance to further your career, affect positive change in the community and form friendships with other lawyers. I have personally benefitted so much from these opportunities. Thank you to everyone who helped build these programs and who helped me become a better lawyer. I often tell people that I grew up in and learned to be a lawyer in part, because of the YLD. Special thanks to all my friends in the YLD and the State Bar. I have met so many heroes and role models and made many dear friends. I heard a law school classmate talk about serving on a YLD committee and thought I would give it a try. I showed up at that first Ethics and Professionalism Committee meeting not knowing what to expect. I did not expect to be writing this column seven years later as outgoing YLD president. But then, at that time, I did not know about all the opportunities waiting for me.



(L-R) Michael Geoffroy, Chief Justice Carol Hunstein, YLD President-Elect Stephanie Kirijan and a representative from the USMC and Toys for Tots at the Women in the Profession Committee's Holiday Tea.



The 2010-11 YLD Executive Committee with Sammy Hall, volunteer coordinator at Ocmulgee CASA, Inc., after conducting a book drive prior to its retreat at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Ga.



Michael Geoffroy with friends and colleagues Paul Oeland and David LaMalva at the YLD Spring Meeting.



(L-R) Nick Smith, Meredith Wilson, Darrell Sutton, Stephanie Kirijan, Michael Geoffroy, Elizabeth Fite, Jennifer Blackburn and Tyler Browning. Geoffroy dons a bunny costume for the YLD Committee Chair Orientation to remind attendees "not take yourself too seriously."

Tomeika R. Daniel – Youth Advocate

by Susan Wells, GLSP Public Information Specialist

A teenage girl in Dublin said she had sex in the afternoons after school because “there’s nothing better to do.” Another said she knew of 12-year-old girls whose boyfriends abuse them. One small girl raised her hand and said girls always go around saying they love this guy or that guy. “What does love really mean?” she asked.

“I was floored,” said **Tomieka Daniel**, 35, a supervising attorney in the Macon office of Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP). She had gone to the Dublin school to talk about teen dating violence. She knew it was a problem, but had no idea how widespread.

Using a Department of Justice grant to fund her efforts, Daniel has now talked with more than 1,000 students at middle and high schools in her central Georgia territory. Schools are learning about her work and are clamoring to have her talk with their students about the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships. She speaks to groups ranging from 15 to more than 100 students. In Hancock County, she was the speaker at a joint middle and high school assembly with 700 students.

The first few times she encountered young teenagers speaking so casually about having sex and the abuse that sometimes goes with it, Daniel said she could hardly believe her ears. Now, she said, “I’ve learned to hide my surprise. I don’t want them to think there’s something wrong with them because they are in this situation.”

Daniel sees her work with young people as a natural extension of her legal work. The kids tell her, “I didn’t realize that it was wrong that my boyfriend has done this to me.” “Maybe they’ve grown up around this kind of treatment in their families. My objective is to get them while they are young so they don’t become my clients in the future.”

She said she tries to get teenagers to think about their futures. “I talk with the students about making healthy choices in life and how one wrong decision could change their lives forever. I try to give them enough knowledge to know what to do to get some help.”

Daniel also uses her time in the schools to explain to adults in positions to help these kids, such as teachers, counselors and principals, that there are legal remedies to protect teens and their families, including stalking petitions and family violence protective orders. A lawyer for a teen is much more likely, for example, to get a judge to grant a stalking petition than if the teen just called the police. Guidance counselors and teachers have been very supportive of her work.

Now a nine-year veteran of GLSP’s work with low-income Georgians in need of civil legal help, Daniel sees it as her

life’s work. Will she stay in public interest law? “Absolutely. This is what I’m passionate about. Some of my friends from law school say, ‘Oh you could be making so much more money.’ I say, yes, you make more money, but I’m happy. I get to provide the tools that can help change lives.”

Daniel is a graduate of the founding class of the YLD’s Leadership Academy, which she views as a seminal experience in her career. “I was mentored by the likes of former Gov. **Roy Barnes** and Justice **Robert Benham**. Most lawyers don’t get to sit at the feet of such great legal minds and ask questions and get candid answers.”

With GLSP, she is working in her home territory. A self-described military brat, Daniel’s family moved to Warner Robins when she was in the seventh grade. She went to Atlanta for college (Clark Atlanta University, Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*), but went back to Mercer University in Macon for law school.



Tomeika R. Daniel, supervising attorney in the GLSP Macon office.

Daniel put her roots down deep in middle Georgia. Married for five years, she has a two year-old daughter who she calls her “great motivator. I want her to grow up strong and know her rights. She’s going to know she doesn’t have to be a doormat or a punching bag.”

But Daniel knows many of the children in the poverty-stricken rural counties where she works may not have seen many healthy relationships. “Often the kids will come to me and say their mother is in an abusive relationship and ask me how I can help. By empowering the kids, we are also empowering their parents. They go home and say, ‘Mom, you don’t have to take this. There are shelters and lawyers who will help you.’”

“We try to take a holistic approach to clients,” Daniel said. “We ask what we can do beyond the band-aid of a temporary protective order.” GLSP’s mission to “provide access to justice and opportunities out of poverty” for low-income Georgians is dear to Daniel’s heart, and she expresses it outside the office as well. She serves as president of the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia and is deeply involved with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, which often sponsors joint programs on domestic violence or teen dating violence.

“I’m passionate about kids, especially underserved kids,” she said. But she’s also trying to reach their parents with information about legal help available to their children in abusive relationships and to urge them to talk with their teens about sexuality and violence. She’s now advocating with local school boards to issue proclamations acknowledging February as “Teen Dating Violence Month” to raise awareness of the issue in all parts of the community.

Still carrying a full caseload at GLSP and juggling her home life and community work, Daniel says she wouldn’t have it any other way. “If it weren’t for us, our clients would have nowhere to go.”



(L-R) Allie Fennell, Jennifer Blackburn and Shiriki Cavitt at the welcome reception.

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Kirijan, Whitney Mauk, Tyler Browning, Tara Geoffroy and Elizabeth Fite, friends, colleagues and family toasted the good work achieved during Geoffroy’s tenure under the motto of “Wisdom, Justice, Moderation” by sharing anecdotes, lessons learned, stories and the occasional embarrassing photo. The evening continued with a group dinner sponsored by **Merrill Corporation** at STACK Restaurant and Bar, one of the Mirage’s premiere eateries, and concluded with attendees dancing the night away at Jet Nightclub. It was a night not to be missed nor forgotten!

The 2011 YLD Spring Meeting was a huge success and evidence that the end of the 2010-11 State Bar year was just as great as the beginning. By virtue of this article, it is obvious that not everything that happens in Vegas during YLD meetings stays in Vegas! Viva the YLD!

E-Filing with the Supreme Court of Georgia

by **Lindsay Rehberg, Docket Clerk, Supreme Court of Georgia Clerk's Office**

The Supreme Court of Georgia launched its e-filing system on Aug. 1, 2010. To be eligible to e-file, you must have a State Bar membership number, and you must be an attorney in good standing with both the State Bar and the Supreme Court of Georgia. Registering is simple. Just go to www.gasupreme.us and click on e-file. You will find detailed instructions, short instructional videos and the link to SCED (Supreme Court E-Filing/Docket) where you can register. Soon after registering you will receive an e-mail welcoming you to SCED. You can e-file almost everything, except for documents pertaining to a habeas corpus case or an application for interim review in a death penalty matter. Think you are ready to become an e-filer but are not quite ready to commit? Here are the top five reasons why you should register today:

- 1. Save money.** E-filing your brief, motion, application or petition will save your client a myriad of incidental expenses. No more postage fees from mailing in those eight copies by certified mail or overnight from a delivery service. No more courier fees (sorry, couriers!). You will also save money on paper and copying costs.
- 2. Save time.** E-filing saves lots of time! For example, no more stapling the hard cover and back to the eight briefs, no more driving all the way downtown and trying to find a parking space at the clerk's office and no more running to the post office at 4:59 p.m. to get it mailed in time. The beauty of e-filing is you can file your motion the day it is due at 11:59 p.m. and it will be considered on time. However, it is not recommended to wait until the last minute just in case you have a computer glitch.

You will also gain time to write your brief since you'll receive the docketing notice in your e-mail the moment your case is docketed, as opposed to waiting for the notice in the "snail" mail.

- 3. It's easy.** The Supreme Court website has instructions for e-filing, as well as a few short e-filing instructional videos. If you are confused or have a question, feel free to call the clerk's office for help.

Worry you will file something incorrectly? If something is missing from your e-filing or it is done incorrectly, the docket clerk will "reject" the filing. You will immediately receive an e-mail stating why it was rejected, and you can re-file your document. If there is a major problem, one of the docket clerks will also call your office. There is a handy "help" link on the SCED page, which enables you to send a help e-mail to the clerk's office to be answered by our staff.

After your e-filing has been successfully transmitted, a screen will appear displaying a confirmation number. After your filing is processed by the docketing clerk, you will receive

an e-mail that states that your e-filing was successfully docketed. The e-mail will also contain the confirmation number, case number, the date and time of the filing, as well as a link where you can view the filing. Do not worry if you have not gotten an e-mail in five minutes. It takes time for the docket clerks to review the document and process it. If you have not received an e-mail within 24 hours, please call the clerk's office (with your confirmation page handy).

- 4. Pay costs online.** No more cutting checks and paying postage to send documents to the clerk's office. You can e-file your application, petition or appellant's brief and pay the cost with your Visa, MasterCard or American Express at that time.

- 5. Instant access.** If you are registered to e-file, you will receive an e-mail the moment opposing counsel files a brief, motion or response. You will also receive a docketing notice by e-mail the moment your case is docketed. The e-mail will contain a link to the e-filed document, allowing you to view it immediately. No more waiting for opposing counsel's brief to come through the mail; you can see it the moment they file! You will also be notified by e-mail the moment an order is issued in your case, as well as when a decision is rendered. As long as you are registered to e-file and listed as counsel in a case, you can view all the filings and orders associated with that case through SCED. E-filers now receive the oral argument calendar by e-mail the moment it is finalized by the clerk.

E-Filing Tips

Below are some e-filing tips from the clerk's office.

- First, once you register to e-file, you should e-file all your filings from that point forward.
- Second, try to get every attorney in your office to e-file. If there are five attorneys from an office who are counsel on a case and only two are registered to e-file, the clerk's office still has to mail docketing notices and orders to those attorneys not registered. It is much easier for everyone if all attorneys on a case are registered to e-file. Do not forget that you still have to include a certificate of service and serve a paper copy on opposing counsel, in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 14. Do not forget to include an electronic "signature," which can consist of s:/firstname lastname. And remember, if there is something fatally wrong with your e-filed document, the clerk's office will call you. Only call if you have a question, or if a day has gone by and you do not receive an e-mail that your filing was processed.
- Third, if you are e-filing a petition for certiorari, a discretionary application or an interlocutory application, you should e-file your petition or application and exhibits as one document. This is preferable not only because it is all in one document, but because there is no case number assigned at the time of e-filing, there is no way to immediately e-file the exhibits separately.

What's Next?

The Supreme Court of Georgia has plans to make e-filing mandatory for all Georgia attorneys this summer.

Log on to www.gasupreme.us and click on "E-file" to get registered, and remember to check back frequently for updates to the e-filing system.

Save the Date!

YLD Summer Meeting

General Session – Aug. 18

Bar Center, Atlanta, Ga.

Optional trip – Aug. 18-21

Omni Berkshire Place

New York, N.Y.

Local YLDs

Savannah

by *Nick Bruce*



YLD President-Elect Stephanie Joy Kirijan joins the Savannah young lawyers for the Savannah Boat Ride.

The Savannah Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is continuing old traditions and starting new ones as it continues to provide social, philanthropic and networking opportunities for Savannah's young lawyers.

The Savannah Bar Association, along with the Savannah YLD, took to the high seas for the annual Boat Ride in April, a "legal holiday" in Savannah that allows judges and lawyers to enjoy food and drink aboard a river boat that takes attendees to a local island to spend the afternoon talking, playing games and enjoying the beautiful spring weather.

On May 3, the Savannah YLD and the Savannah Young Accountants held a trivia competition in conjunction with a clothing drive. Teams of lawyers and accountants were all stumped by **Jacob Masee** and **Thomas Gore**, two area attorneys, and their questions. The winner of the evening was the City Mission of Savannah, a local shelter that assists with reintegration of its residents. The clothing drive, designed to provide clothes the residents can wear to interviews and work, was a huge success and resulted in truckloads of clothes for the City Mission.

As the State Bar year is winding down, Savannah is gearing up for its annual golf tournament to benefit the Chatham County Guardian Ad Litem Program. This year's tournament will be held this summer at The Club at Savannah Harbor, home of the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament.

For more information on the Savannah YLD or to get involved, please contact **Blake Greco** at bgreco@olivermaner.com.

Macon

by *Ivy Cadle*

The Macon YLD kicked off spring with a panel discussion for students at the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law. The Student Bar Association co-hosted the panel and the discussion focused on opportunities with the State Bar YLD and the Macon YLD. Panelists also entertained a broad assortment of questions from the students concerning job searches, interviews and panelists' personal experiences. Panelists included **Ivy Cadle**, president of the Macon YLD; **Sarah White**, past president of the Macon YLD; **Blake Sharpton**, middle district representative; **Scott Anderson**, James Bates Pope & Spivey; and **Jana Edmondson**, Macon Regional Office of Georgia Legal Services Program. The panel discussion was followed by a happy hour at the Downtown Grill, where law students in attendance had the opportunity to mingle with members of the Macon YLD.

The Macon YLD is looking forward to a busy summer with various happy hours and its annual Summer Associates Social. For more information about the Macon YLD and upcoming events, please e-mail icadle@bakerdonelson.com or look for us on Facebook.

Augusta

by *John R. B. Long*

On May 12, the Young Lawyers of Augusta (YLA) hosted a night watching Greenjackets baseball at Lake Olmstead Stadium. The event was well-attended and provided a great opportunity for local young lawyers to network and get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. Future planned events include monthly happy hours at local restaurants as well as a YLA-sponsored CLE in the fall. Membership in YLA is open to all YLD members who live or practice in the Augusta area. Anyone interested in joining the YLA or any member of the YLD interested in attending one of YLA's monthly happy hours should direct inquiries to **Jack Long** at yla.augusta@yahoo.com.

Committee Updates

Women in the Profession Committee

by *Mary Woodson Felker*

On April 5, the YLD's Women in the Profession Committee (WiP), co-chaired by **Jen Blackburn**, Troutman Sanders LLP, and **Mary Woodson Felker**, M.W. Felker, P.C., hosted a Wine & Cheese event at the Commerce Club. This event was well-attended and included a CLE featuring Chief Justice **Carol Hunstein**, Supreme Court of Georgia, and Presiding Judge **Anne Barnes** and Hon. **Sara Doyle**, Court of Appeals of Georgia. **Chloe Dallaire**, a partner at Weinburg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial, moderated the panel discussion. Prior to the event, the committee asked YLD members to submit questions, which provided an opportunity to frame the discussion and learn more about the judiciary. It was a unique occasion to gain perspective from these distinguished women regarding matters of professionalism, professional achievement, their inspiration for becoming members of the judiciary and the ability to balance the pressures of a demanding career and home life.

The committee looks forward to an exciting fall. Visit www.gabar.org to sign up for the committee online and learn more about upcoming events.



(L-R) Chloe Dallaire, Hon. Sara Doyle, Chief Justice Carol Hunstein, YLD President Michael Geoffroy, Presiding Judge Anne Barnes and YLD President-Elect Stephanie Joy Kirijan.

Litigation Committee

by *John Perry*

It has been a busy spring for the YLD Litigation Committee. On Feb. 24, the Litigation Committee held its spring Happy Hour at Marlow's Tavern in Midtown Atlanta. The committee invited third year law students from Emory, Georgia State University, University of Georgia, Mercer University and John Marshall law schools to attend the event to mix and mingle with committee members. The event was sponsored by **Bay Mediation & Arbitration Services, LLC**, **Wheeler Reporting** and **Global Discovery**.

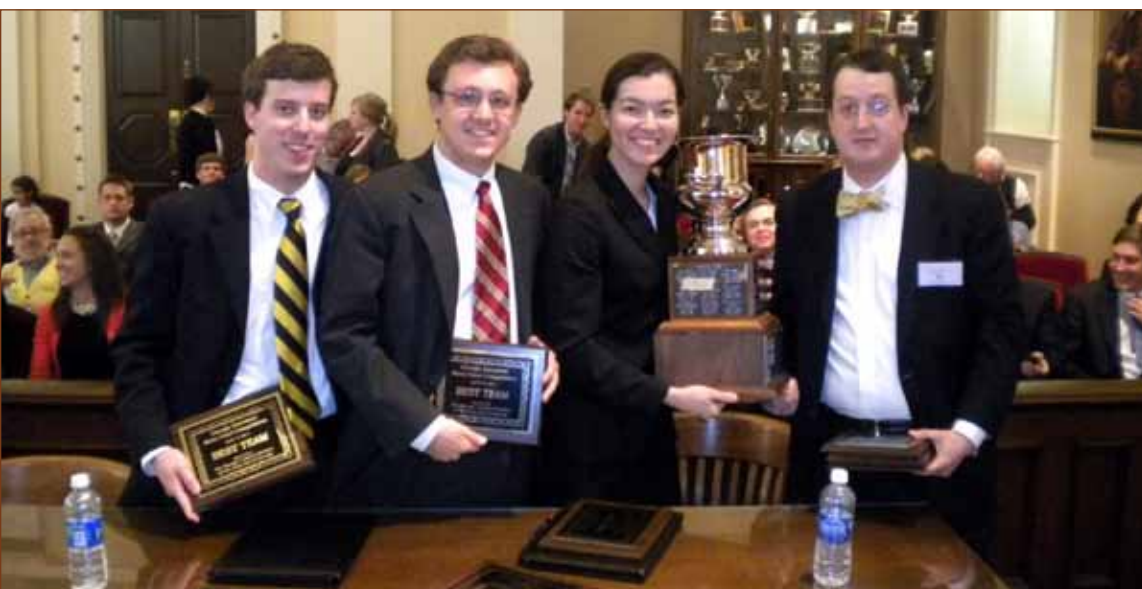
On March 18, the committee sponsored its annual Trial and Error CLE, an all-day CLE geared toward young litigators, at the Bar Center. The committee lined up great speakers to talk on topics such as: procedural differences between state and federal court, discovery, mediation and trial techniques. The CLE also included a panel discussion and question and answer session with Hon. **Randy Rich**, Hon. **Diane E. Bessen** and former judge **J. Antonio DelCampo**.

on. **Christopher J. McFadden**, Court of Appeals of Georgia, spoke on appellate issues. The day ended with a fascinating presentation on the current status of Georgia's "water wars" with its neighboring states. The CLE was a huge success and attracted more than 100 attendees.

With spring also came the committee's annual War Stories speaker series, where veteran litigators speak about their experiences to committee members. The first installment of the series occurred on March 30, when **Adam Malone** and **Jonathan Peters** discussed the Supreme Court of Georgia's landmark decision in *Atlanta Oculoplastic Surgery, P.C. v. Nestlehutt*. In *Nestlehutt*, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional that portion of the 2005 Tort Reform Act that placed caps on non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases. Malone and Peters were opposing counsel in that case and provided perspective from both sides. This luncheon was sponsored by **Lyon Reporting, Inc.** On April 27, in the second installment in the series, **Lin Wood** spoke to the committee about his 30-plus years of experience as a trial lawyer and in handling the media in high profile cases. Wood talked about his representation of Richard Jewell in connection with the 1996 Olympic Park bombing investigation and representing the parents of murdered child beauty pageant star JonBenet Ramsey. This luncheon was sponsored by the court reporting firm **Huseby, Inc.**

To get involved with the Litigation Committee, or for more information, please e-mail **John Hadden** at jhadden@haddenfirm.com.

Intrastate Moot Court Committee



(L-R) Members of the University of Georgia School of Law Moot Court team Sam Sabulis, Andrew Bagley and Rachael Ivey with Jamie Woodard, committee co-chair. The annual Intrastate Moot Court Competition took place in April at the University of Georgia School of Law. Judges included Hon. Keith R. Blackwell, Court of Appeals of Georgia; Sherry Boston, DeKalb County Solicitor-General; and Hon. Reuben M. Green, Cobb County Superior Court. Congratulations to the University of Georgia School of Law for winning best team overall and best brief.

Thanks to the State Bar Corporate Sponsors

5 Gavel



3 Gavel



2 Gavel



1 Gavel



Community Service Projects Committee

by Ana Maria Martinez



(L-R) Sarah Statz, Jessica Sabbath, Lauren King and Skyler McDonald prepare meals for the homeless at Crossroads Community Ministries Kitchen.

The YLD Community Service Projects Committee had a very busy spring.

In April, volunteers helped by preparing sandwiches at Crossroads Community Ministries Kitchen. Each year, the Crossroads Kitchen serves more than 74,000 meals for homeless men, women and children in Midtown Atlanta. Thanks to our event sponsor, **King & Spalding**, volunteers prepared and bagged more than 1,000 sandwiches. Later that month, volunteers hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for children and families living at Nicholas House, a local non-profit organization that assists homeless families in transitioning from homelessness to self-sufficiency. The children enjoyed hunting for more than 125 eggs filled with candy, arts and crafts and eating festive sugary snacks.

In May, committee members, their guests and four-legged companions, walking as the "YLD Young Lawyers Pawsee," joined thousands of other paws at the Atlanta Humane Society Pet Parade in Piedmont Park. To raise money for this event, the committee co-hosted a fundraising happy hour at Six Feet Under with the Multi-Bar Leadership Council and the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers. Because of the generous support of the happy hour attendees and **Esquire Solutions**, the event sponsor, more than \$400 was raised for the Atlanta Humane Society. May ended with volunteers assisting with the Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games at Emory University. Volunteers were stationed at the aquatic center and helped keep time for swimming heats as well as ushering athletes to and from the races and to the podium to receive their medals.

The committee's final event of the Bar year was a trip to the Georgia Aquarium with children from the Fulton County Department of Family and Children's Services. Each participating volunteer paired up with one child and toured the aquarium, had lunch and attended the new dolphin show, Dolphin Tales. Aquarium admission tickets were provided by the Georgia Aquarium. Lunch and a screening of Dolphin Tales would not have been possible without the help of **Wellborn & Wallace, LLC**; **Ray & Sherman, LLC**; **Griffin Bell III, P.C.**; and members of the **McKesson Technology Legal Group**. As always, the committee is very grateful for the generosity of our sponsors!

If you are interested in participating in committee events or have a project you would like the committee to support, please contact **Ana Maria Martinez** at amartinez@og-law.com or **Meredith Wilson** at meredith.wilson@oldcastlelaw.com.

Before You Hit “Send”

The Responsibility to Act Professionally

by *Justan Bounds*

“Ah yes, the joys of working with a lying, dilatory, mentally handicapped person.”

Last December, the Florida Bar suspended a third-year attorney for e-mailing this statement and others to opposing counsel. What if that attorney practiced in Georgia? While the Rules of Professional Conduct do not expressly regulate professionalism and civility, incivility can nonetheless have real and adverse consequences for the unprofessional lawyer.

The State Bar of Georgia Handbook (the Handbook) distinguishes between mandatory ethics rules and advisory guidelines governing professionalism. Georgia’s Rules of Professional Conduct are mandatory ethics rules, whereas the Handbook’s instructions on professionalism, e.g., to “avoid rudeness and other acts of disrespect” and to “be courteous and civil in all communications,” are “Specific Aspirational Ideals” not expressly required. The Supreme Court of Georgia recognizes this distinction. According to the Court, “ethics is that which is required and professionalism is that which is expected.” *Green v. Green*, 263 Ga. 551, 553-554 (1993). But if professional conduct is not expressly mandated and is only “expected,” what happens when a young lawyer fails to live up to those expectations? The truth is that professional conduct should be a personal mandate, as important as conduct required by the ethics rules.

Professional civility “is an essential ingredient in an effective adversarial legal system” and must be embraced by Georgia attorneys “to avoid incivility’s evil consequences of discord, disrespect, unresponsiveness, irresponsibility, and blind advocacy.” *Butts v. State*, 273 Ga. 760, 772 (2001) (Benham, C.J., concurring). And, Georgia courts have on occasion punished professional incivility. In *Green v. Green*, the Supreme Court of Georgia found that, in a divorce action, opposing counsel’s failure to give the wife a courtesy notice of the trial date, although not a violation of any specific Rule of Professional Conduct, was such a violation of the aspirational goals of the State Bar that the trial court abused its discretion by refusing to set aside the default judgment. The Court concluded that attorneys “must be willing to conduct [their] business in a manner consistent with higher standards embodied in the Ethical Considerations and aspirational goals embodied in the professionalism movement.” The attorney violated no civil procedural, court, or express conduct rules; it was the failure to act professionally that caused the adverse result.

It does not take long for most young lawyers to experience, first-hand, lapses in civility—ranging from the petty refusal to extend a deadline to less than civil comments. Certainly, many displays of incivility go unpunished. But *Green v. Green* teaches that attorneys ignore the aspirational goals of the State Bar at their peril. Civility in the Georgia legal profession is therefore more than good practice; it is expected of members of the State Bar. And as a reminder, new lawyers sign and pledge to adhere to the Lawyer’s Creed:

“To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.”

Launching a Successful In-House Job Search

by *Lisa Lemke and Anne H. Whitaker, Counsel on Call*

Finding an in-house position can be especially daunting in this legal market. The competition is stiff, and the market is flooded with more attorneys than legal positions. With diligence, realistic expectations and patience, you can find the in-house job of your dreams.

Are you Qualified? Before launching an in-house search, assess your qualifications. Attorneys typically must have five or more years of experience to be marketable for an in-house position. Some specialized roles, like IP, may require even more. There are some exceptions at larger corporations. They may have programs to hire recent law school graduates with no experience.

Networking is a Must. Networking is to a job search like the golden rule to the Ten Commandments. It is the most important component of your job search. Consider this: a large percentage of in-house jobs never make it to the classifieds, Internet job boards or a recruiter’s website. They are part of the “hidden job market,” which can be accessed only by networking. Have lunch, breakfast and drinks after work with people you would like to know or know better who are in a position to recommend, hire or forward your résumé on. Always approach it as a give and take, and express a genuine interest in what you can do for them as well as what they can do for you. Talk to lawyers who have the type of job you would like and find out the path they took to get to that position. Attend State Bar and networking events, meet recruiters and let people in your network know you are open to your next opportunity.

Develop a Networking Plan. Networking can seem onerous when juggling the demands of your current job and other responsibilities. Staying focused on a specific and concrete goal will make the process easier. Your goal should not be to find an in-house legal position. It should be more specific like “meet one to two lawyers per month in in-house legal departments where I would like to work.” Doesn’t that seem more manageable? To arrive at this goal, pick five companies where you’d like to work, and think that you could realistically market your skill set. Network your way through those five companies until you have met those people and then stay in touch!

Staying in touch with your new contacts is critical to the process. Chances are, if something opens up, they may just pick up the phone and contact you, especially if you have impressed them in the process. It also opens up an avenue to send your résumé to a specific individual at the company versus having your résumé lumped in with the hundreds or thousands of attorneys who may be applying online.

Be Disciplined and Patient. Commit to spending a certain amount of time each day on networking activities. Actually block the time off on your calendar. If something comes up and that time has to be moved, reschedule it right then to another time. Tracking your progress on a spreadsheet can give you a sense of accomplishment. It will also remind you of the details for each person you have contacted, to whom they have referred you and any necessary follow-up.

Develop Your Online Profile. If someone is thinking of hiring you for a position, he or she will probably run a Google search for your name. Your LinkedIn profile will most likely rank in the top five results. Make sure that it is 100 percent complete with a compelling headline and all of your past and current work positions. A hiring manager may like the fact that you once worked for a certain organization, or a company they once worked themselves. Headhunters may also identify qualified candidates on LinkedIn.

Volunteer. A powerful way to enhance your networking efforts is to become active in a group that will expand your professional connections. Professional associations in which you have an interest are excellent, because they not only showcase your abilities, they enable you to develop stronger relationships based on working together on an ongoing basis. Good places to become active in addition to the YLD include other State Bar committees and professional organizations, such as the Association of Corporate Counsel and its Georgia Chapter (if you are already in-house).

Get Published. If you have expertise that you can showcase in an article for a legal publication, business journal or an online blog, write about it. That way, you can show prospective employers your expertise rather than tell them about it. When you do have a published piece, send it to prospective employers, along with your résumé. When looking for something to write about, it’s best to be timely. Perhaps a big decision has just been handed down or there is a crisis in your legal area. If your firm has been in the forefront in a substantive area or tried a novel approach with success, and you don’t divulge anything proprietary by writing about it, perhaps that is the way to go. If legislation is being considered in the local or state legislature or in Congress, that is another opportunity to opine—even online or in a blog. Always clear it with your practice group and law firm before you write, of course.

Remember, when searching for the right in-house position it’s just as important to be a great marketer and strategist as it is to be an excellent lawyer. Patience and persistence will pay off.

A Royal Wedding and the YLD?

by Donna Barwick, past president of the YLD, 1988-89



It is wedding season indeed! As I watched (the recording, because no YLD president, past or present, has ever gotten up that early) “The Wedding” recently, I was reminded in several ways of my YLD experience.

While the Barwick wedding in 1975 was hardly “royal,” it was the beginning of my relationship with the law and lawyers. I grew up one of five daughters of a doctor and had headed to college planning on being the one to follow in his footsteps. Then came organic chemistry and I needed to turn to Plan B. It was not long after that I applied to law school and met **Bill Barwick** from a family full of lawyers. We married after my first year (which he often claimed was his second time through law school) and lived in Conyers so that he could work in Atlanta while I continued school in Athens. Immediately following my last second year law school exam, we hopped in the car and headed to Savannah for the State Bar and Younger Lawyers Section (YLS) festivities at the Savannah Inn and Country Club. The rest is history, as we both later became YLS presidents. We actually have been referred to (by at least one overserved lawyer from Lafayette) as “The Royal Couple.”

Before I was YLS president, I ran in a hotly-contested statewide race for the position of young lawyer representative from Georgia to the ABA House of Delegates. The ABA had decided that the only way to reduce the average age was to require that for every five delegates from any state, at least one had to be under 36. I won, and it was during that term in 1985 that the ABA was offered invitations to one of the Queen’s Garden Parties during the ABA’s annual meeting in London. Politically, there was no way to distribute those invitations other than just to members of the House of Delegates. So, having received the notice that “The Lord Chamberlain had been commanded by the Queen to invite (insert our names),” we boarded a plane for England, me with my hat box in hand. As we were greeted at Buckingham Palace I realized that the Queen actually is a dead ringer for my late mother-in-law, suit, small purse on the wrist and all.

Prof. **Ron Ellington** had taught us about the origins of American law and its English roots and we read cases in torts involving lorries and such, but that trip was truly an education. The Garden Party was exquisite and it was so much fun to embark in a London taxi, silk dress, hat and gloves and all and say, “Buckingham Palace please.” We learned what “Morning Dress, Uniform or Leisure Suit” on the invitation meant. Next time you see Bill Barwick, his description of the men’s facilities is worth asking about.

Watching “The Wedding” (and the weeks of coverage before and after it) brought back many memories of that trip to London. We toured the Inns of Court and watched part of a trial involving Elton John. We visited the shop where the barristers purchase their robes and wigs. Did you know that each white curl is earned? We attended ceremonies in Westminster Abbey and saw the Tower of London where much “justice” was meted out. And, of course, we shopped (the exchange rate was very favorable then), the highlight of which might have been teasing **David Smith** that the shoes he just paid a fortune for

in either currency were really navy blue and not black. I would never have had these experiences had I not been involved in the State Bar.

Less obvious from the royal wedding was the feeling I got that the comparisons of Diana and Kate almost described the changes in women in the legal profession. Diana was young and unprepared for the duties and responsibilities of her princess status. Kate, on the other hand, is confident and comfortable despite her commoner roots. Of course I understand that the pioneer women lawyers were very strong women, but the metaphor I saw is more about the perception of the role of women in the law.

Back in 1975, people were curious about two lawyers married to each other and would often inquire whether we discussed law at home. We did discuss The Rule in Shelley’s case once (Shelley was my college roommate). Now there are many two lawyer couples and it seems perfectly normal. When I suggested to a single male lawyer friend that he go out with a law school classmate of mine, he suggested that he did not want to date a lawyer because that “might indicate what kind of person she was.” I never did quite understand that comment.

In my tiny little microcosm of being the first woman president of the YLS, there were many awkward moments. That position landed me as the first woman on the State Bar Executive Committee and in meetings with Supreme Court of Georgia justices and members of the Court of Appeals who were all male at the time. At the beginning of almost every meeting there were comments about how they would have to curtail their cursing and other behavior in my presence. Now that awkwardness is history thanks to the many women who have since served in our judiciary.

While I am hardly a Diana, I do look at my successor female YLS, now YLD, presidents and am proud of how confident and comfortable and normal they seem. You go girls! Yes ma’am, your Honor. And, God save the Queen!

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