

# THE ATLANTA LAWYER

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2023



*THE ANNUAL MEETING  
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS*

# THE ATLANTA LAWYER

Recipient of the 2021-2022 Georgia State Bar Association Award for Best Publication

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# Reflections & Recognitions



**CHRISTOPHER P. LIGHTNER**  
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O

ne week from today's publication of *The Atlanta Lawyer*, my term as President of the Atlanta Bar Association will end. The past year has flown by; yet the Association has been busy and productive. Although I will miss connecting with each of you through this column, I am confident that you are in good hands with a very strong, determined, and committed incoming leadership team. I look forward to seeing you—and the organization as a whole—continue to set an example for all in our local community.

Looking back as well, what a fantastic year we have shared! You have all done remarkable work, returning in-person for so many events; regaining our ability to associate with one another. I want to personally thank each of you for your efforts in this regard. Much like the Litigation Section and the Estate Planning & Probate Sections—both honored at this week's Annual Meeting for their in-person educational, social, and community service events—it is the tireless dedication of each of you that has made a difference this year. Through leadership-driven efforts, we are already seeing a positive turning of the tide in membership numbers; continuing to provide meaningful and valuable engagement opportunities—at the Bar and Section levels alike—will only amplify this in the coming year. What an exciting time to be a part of this organization!

I want to also recognize and thank those individuals who were specifically recognized at this week's Annual Meeting. Firstly, E. Ty Brown (Hawkins Parnell), for his leadership in the Membership Committee's "Tour de Toni" – re-engaging the Atlanta Bar Association with local law firm, corporate, and non-profit leaders,

conveying the value of our organization to members in the emerging post-pandemic environment. Without the countless hours of service from him, we would not have so quickly developed a cohesive strategy in this regard.

Secondly, Sarah Babcock (Truancy Intervention Project), recipient of this year's Professionalism Award. Through her service most recently as the TIP Deputy Director and as an adjunct professor at Emory School of Law, she has guided attorneys representing students suffering through extreme absenteeism. Via volunteer presentations, she has taught attorneys and law students alike how to juggle the role of advocate, counselor, negotiator, and problem solver. These efforts have instilled in not only the current but the next generation of lawyers the importance of keeping relevant professional principles centerfold in all interactions. For all of these efforts, we thank you!

In honoring Betsy C. Griswold (Intercontinental Hotel Group) with this year's Charles E Watkins, Jr. Award, we recognized her distinctive and sustained service, not only to the Atlanta Bar Association, but also the Atlanta Bar Foundation and multiple charitable and/or non-profit organizations in the community. It is difficult to imagine a world without the service-driven mindset that she brings to the table each and every day. We are forever indebted to her dedication to our organization and the Atlanta legal community.

A very special recognition was reserved this year for Jasmine Moore (Grateful Hands, Inc.), a non-lawyer serving at the Douglas County District Attorney's office. She was born with a bone condition that has caused her to use an electric wheelchair as her main source of mobility. This has led her to make it her personal mission to bring awareness surrounding the disabled community, while also empowering those within it to facilitate change. Through her own non-profit organization, she has prepared and obtained approval for two Proclamations that force local governments to reaffirm their commitment to creating a community that includes and encourages all members, regardless of their personal abilities. In her current professional role, Moore has also spoken to several multidisciplinary teams to address and improve upon accessibility for the disabled in the Criminal Justice System. For all of these amazing efforts and her dedication to this important cause, we honored her with this year's the Atlanta Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

Collectively, the special recognitions and achievements highlighted above could lead some to conclude that the Atlanta Bar Association is at its pinnacle. I challenge each of you otherwise. We have a fantastic Executive Director & CEO, Toni Roberts (Atlanta Bar), who has just completed her first year of service in this role—with flying colors I might add! We have an impressive incoming leadership team that I know is going to continue to evaluate what it means to be a Bar Association and to “serve” you, our members. An updated and long-term strategic plan will facilitate success in that regard, while also enabling all of us to best serve those in our local community. Improvement in that regard is, of course, our collective goal; and I cannot wait to see what we achieve next!

Thank you for the privilege of serving you this past year, as the 115th President of the Atlanta Bar Association. It was an experience that I will cherish forever.



Christopher P. Lightner  
Atlanta Bar Association President

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# Ask the Board

Top takeaways from the 2022-2023 Bar year?



**Lillian N. Caudle**

**Atl Bar Association**  
**Mercedes-Benz USA LLC**

1) It brings me great joy to see the Bar, its sections, and its members back in person and thriving.

2) Congratulations to Toni Roberts on her first Bar year! The Atlanta Bar is so fortunate to have her as its new executive director. It's never easy to start a new leadership role at a new organization, but I want to congratulate Toni on a successful and effective inaugural year. I look forward to many more successes.

3) Member recruitment is a team sport! The Atlanta Bar exists for its members and it's time to gear up for membership renewal season. If you value being a member of the Atlanta Bar, tell your friends and colleagues and ensure they too join or renew their membership with the Atlanta Bar.



**Kevin C. Patrick**

**Atl Bar Association**  
**Kevin Patrick Law**

Looking back on the 2022 – 2023 Bar year, I am especially grateful for three things:

1) It's been ever so meaningful to reconnect with Atlanta Bar colleagues and friends in-person again.

2) I have enjoyed the programming and events this year, like the Litigation Section's breakfast CLEs.

3) I truly appreciate all the hard work the Atlanta Bar staff has done to help grow the organization and reach out to new members.



**Peter H. Strott**

**LRIS Board**  
**Strott & Dillon LLC**

1) Judges want to clear their dockets.

2) There is a strong need for legal services for small claims.

3) The Atlanta Bar Association Lawyer Referral Information Services provides a steady stream of potential clients.



**E. Tyron Brown**

**Atl Bar Association**  
**Hawkins Parnell**

1) Service is everlasting.

2) In-person interaction is indispensable.

3) Teamwork makes the dream work.



**Dr. Megan T. Hodgkiss**

**Atl Bar Foundation**  
**Hdgkiss Cosulting LLC**

As an organization, we collectively learned about the 'new normal' for the Atlanta Bar and how that applies to events, fundraisers, and educational opportunities. I would summarize the past board year in two words: "flexible" and "creative."

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\*Denotes Charter Members

The 100% Club is a distinguished designation given to law firms who support their entire firm of at least five attorneys as members of the Atlanta Bar.

We would like to thank our 100% Club members for their demonstrated commitment and leadership in supporting the legal profession and its work in the community.

For more information on joining the 100% Club, contact Amy Schlossberg at [aschlossberg@atlantabar.org](mailto:aschlossberg@atlantabar.org).

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# Professionalism and Pet Peeves in the Courtroom



**HON. KIMBERLY K. ANDERSON**  
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Every year (often coinciding with the March 30, 2023 deadline for CLE hours) judges across Georgia are often asked to either lead a 1-hour professionalism discussion or sit on a CLE panel for those lawyers who need the ever-elusive 1 hour of ethics and professionalism credit. Fortunate to be tasked with imparting my “wisdom” on a captured audience, I conducted an unofficial and unscientific survey of state court judges across Georgia, asking for

their biggest “pet peeves” both in and out of the courtroom.

Before I reveal my findings, it is important to lay the governing principles lawyers should keep in mind during their day-to-day interaction with clients, opposing counsel, and the judiciary. The State Bar has established not only set rules and regulations, but also guiding principles all lawyers should follow during litigation. The “Lawyer’s Creed”—adopted by the Supreme

Court of Georgia in 1992 and incorporated into the State Bar Rules and Regulations — establishes guiding principles regarding a Georgia lawyer’s obligations to his or her client, opposing counsel, and the judiciary. Among other things, the “Lawyer’s Creed” provides:

To my clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to

be represented and to be worthy of your trust.

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.

To the courts, and other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I offer respect, candor, and courtesy. I will strive to do honor to the search for justice.

To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.

To the profession, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service.

To the public and our systems of justice, I offer service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal system, to make the law and our legal system available to all, and to seek the common good through the representation of my clients.<sup>1</sup>

The State Bar has also issued several “Aspirational Statements” that lawyers should consider during litigation. Among other things, these statements call on litigants:

As to opposing parties and their counsel, I will aspire:

(a) To cooperate with opposing counsel in a manner consistent with the competent representation of all parties. As a professional, I should:

- (1) Notify opposing counsel in a timely fashion of any canceled appearance;
- (2) Grant reasonable requests for extensions or scheduling changes; and
- (3) Consult with opposing counsel in the scheduling of appearances, meetings, and depositions.

(b) To treat opposing counsel in a manner consistent with his or her professional obligations and consistent with the dignity

of the search for justice. As a professional, I should:

- (1) Be courteous and civil in all communications;
- (2) Respond promptly to all requests by opposing counsel;
- (3) Avoid rudeness and other acts of disrespect in all meetings including depositions and negotiations;

As to the courts, other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I will aspire:

(c) To model for others the respect due to our courts. As a professional I should:

- (1) Act with complete honesty;
- (2) Know court rules and procedures;
- (3) Give appropriate deference to court rulings;
- (4) Avoid undue familiarity with members of the judiciary;
- (5) Avoid unfounded, unsubstantiated, or unjustified public criticism of members of the judiciary;
- (6) Show respect by attire and demeanor;
- (7) Assist the judiciary in determining the applicable law; and
- (8) Seek to understand the judiciary’s obligations of informed and impartial decision making.<sup>2</sup>

If lawyers kept these principles in mind during their day-to-day practice, the Georgia judiciary would likely have fewer pet peeves.

**1. Failure to Follow the Rules (Unif. Sup. Ct. R. 4.3 and Unif. Sup. Ct. R. 17.1)**

The number one pet peeve reported across Georgia was the failure of lawyers to follow the rules for basic notifications to the court—usually with conflict notices and withdrawal notices. Failure to comply with these rules may not only result in the denial of your motion or other requested relief, but could also result in contempt proceedings or other sanctions.

**Withdrawals**

Uniform Superior Court Rule 4.3 governs the withdrawal of an attorney from pending litigation. The Rule requires three separate documents: (1) notice to the client providing specific information and notice of a 10-

day window to object to the withdrawal; (2) a motion (or written request) to the Court with specific information; and (3) a notification certificate that is filed and mailed to the client and opposing parties. The Rule requires these documents to be sent to the client by the **most expedient** means available—i.e., e-mail, hand delivery or overnight delivery; standard or certified mail is **not** sufficient. Many of the withdrawals judges receive lack the information specifically required by the rule, e.g. client’s last known phone number, client’s last known e-mail address. Failure to include the items listed in Rule 4.3 will result in a denial of the motion to withdraw and require the lawyer to expend unnecessary time and expense that could have been avoided. Finally, please remember that filing a motion to withdraw does not mean you can halt work on that client’s case, or even worse, fail to appear for a scheduled hearing. You remain counsel of record until the judge signs an order permitting withdrawal.

**Scheduling Conflicts**

Uniform Superior Court Rule 17.1 sets out the rules an attorney must follow when the attorney is scheduled to be in two places at once. The attorney must provide the court the information required by the rule and offer a proposed scheduling resolution. Thankfully, Rule 17.1 sets out the priority to guide lawyers on their proposed resolution:

- Criminal matters prevail over civil matters;
- Jury trials over non-jury matters (including bench trials)<sup>3</sup>;
- Non-Jury matters with the following priority:
  - Hearings with dependency case time limitations and termination of parental rights hearings;
  - Trials (bench or administrative);
  - All other non-jury matters, including appellate arguments, hearings and conferences.
- If conflicting calendars are in the same category, the oldest case takes priority.

Unfortunately, very few lawyers follow the priority rules in their proposed resolutions. What’s worse, lawyers assume that filing a conflict letter **automatically** results in a continuance; it does not. It is also important to keep in mind that judges communicate with each other, and judges will confirm whether you are in the place you said

you would be. Many times, those higher-priority cases resolve or are continued. If that happens, the lawyer is required to report to the next calendar listed on the proposed priority list. Do not presume you are excused from appearing for the next case on the list.

Communication as to conflicts—both with the Court and your client—will resolve most of the complaints raised in my unofficial State Court survey. The solution is simple: inform Court if you have a conflict and where you will be reporting that day **and** tell your client as well. There is nothing more uncomfortable for a judge than when a client is waiting in the courtroom, and does not know where their lawyer is or if that lawyer will appear. Oftentimes, a client's case is the most important thing in their lives at that time—emotionally and financially. Clients do not understand what will happen if their lawyer does not show up. This stress on your client is avoidable.

## 2. Interactions with Court Personnel

Courtroom personnel are an extension of the judge. Thus, lawyers should treat all courtroom staff with respect. The courtroom staff will tell the judge how litigants treat them when the judge is not present, so it is best to be kind and courteous. Also, it is important to recognize that your case is not the only case on the judge's docket. Judges' days are often fast-paced—moving from one proceeding to the next, presiding over trials, and working on orders when they are not on the bench. Thus, if you file a routine motion with the court, do not expect the judge to sign the order the next day or within hours of its submission; it is likely your motion is one of many that were filed that same day.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, it is crucial that all lawyers review who is copied on e-mails between the litigants. While some of these emails make for excellent salacious readings, neither a judge nor her staff should be included unnecessarily on those emails, particularly the more contentious ones.

## 3. Behavior during Zoom Proceedings

Everyone can agree that Zoom proceedings, in one form or another, are here to stay. Many judges—including myself—use

Zoom conferences to handle pretrial proceedings, especially for civil litigation. Zoom saves clients both time and money, and allows lawyers to be more efficient with their time.

Zoom, however, has had several drawbacks when it comes to the professionalism of lawyers and client behavior. While Zoom offers judges and litigants' flexibility, is not an invitation for informality or disrespect to others. Litigants should remain cognizant that a "virtual" courtroom is still a courtroom, and both lawyers and their clients should treat it as such.<sup>5</sup> Lawyers should be mindful of their demeanor, dress, and preparedness when they enter a virtual proceeding, and should instruct their clients about appropriate decorum. Most judges provide explicit instructions on what they expect for virtual proceedings, and while suit jacket and tie may not be required, pants are. Lawyers and their clients should be in a quiet location without unnecessary distractions; this includes a general prohibition of "Zooming" while driving.<sup>6</sup>

It is a good practice to double-check that your (and your client's) mute buttons are working and activated at appropriate times. Be cognizant of your facial expressions and body language during virtual proceedings. Zoom provides a focused view of your face, and a judge can see every eyeroll, every scowl, and every smirk. If you would not make those faces in the courtroom, do not make them on Zoom. The State Bar Rules discourage lawyers from acting in a disrespectful manner. Your demeanor on Zoom is one clear way to demonstrate that you not only respect the court, and the other litigants involved in the proceedings.

Finally, if exhibits or documents are required for the virtual proceeding, send those documents to the court prior to the hearing. Zoom proceedings are meant to be more efficient and assist all parties in moving a case long as expeditiously as possible. Failure to submit documentation or exhibits ahead of the hearing often causes delay in the proceedings.

## 4. Behavior During Discovery

Georgia Bar Rules 3.1 through 3.4 govern attorney behavior with other attorneys

during litigation. These rules have a simple underlying concept: **don't be a jerk**. The discovery process tends to bring out the worst in attorneys. Most discovery disputes can be resolved easily through calm discussion. But, often, attorneys demand judicial intervention after endless Rule 6.4 letters and motions. Then, once everyone comes to court, both sides act reasonably and are able to reach a resolution with very little court assistance. This is an inefficient (and expensive) way to litigate. I, along with many other judges across Georgia, require litigants to **talk—whether via telephone or e-mail**—before filing a discovery motion. The parties should only seek the court's participation if a good faith, in-person or phone, discussion cannot resolve the dispute. Adopting this approach to discovery, even if a judge does not require it, will often save your time and your client's money.

## 5. Behavior in the Physical Courtroom

An unintended consequence of the pandemic and virtual hearings is the lack of overall decorum and lawyers' failure to adequately prepare for in-person proceedings. Do **not** mistake a judge's congeniality for an invitation to be disrespectful of the Court and what it represents. Below are a few general points lawyers sometimes forget during litigation:

- Do not interrupt others—whether the judge or opposing counsel.
- Do not speak in a demeaning manner or roll your eyes when a judge disagrees with you. This is particularly true for trials. Jurors notice, and they often comment on attorney's behavior after the verdict when providing feedback to the judge and litigants.
- Always keep your record in mind. Judges make mistakes, but the Georgia Court of Appeals or Supreme Court cannot review a transcript when you ask for a sidebar every time you want to lodge an objection. Your failure to put the objection on the record or make a proffer outside the presence of the jury could result in your client's loss of an appealable issue.
- Be prepared to handle technology hiccups. You should always test the equipment prior to the start of the trial and always have a backup plan in case

your technology decides to fail that day.

- Be strategic in your use of PowerPoint presentations. No one likes for an individual to simply read information off a slide to them. PowerPoints can be useful guides, but they should not be your script.
- Objections should be directed towards the judge, not opposing counsel. Always remember to state the general basis for the objection.
- Come prepared with hard copies of any last-minute filings. Judges are not automatically notified when you file a pleading or brief in your case (shockingly we have more than one case to handle on any given day). Thus, we may not know that you filed a motion overnight and we certainly are not aware of the contents of the filing. Rather than expressing your annoyance with the judge's lack of knowledge of your pending brief, have a copy of your brief for the judge to review and be prepared to address it in open court.

## Conclusion

Professionalism during litigation demands appropriate communication with your client, opposing counsel, and the judiciary. The Rules of Professional Conduct require prompt communication with a client—especially when a bad result occurs as a product of your (or your firm's) mistake.<sup>7</sup> Many judges now require **actual** conversations (not merely e-mails) with opposing counsel to discuss pretrial issues that may arise. Informing the Court of any scheduling conflicts helps avoid any miscommunication that could arise between you and the assigned judge.

Most Georgia lawyers who appear in my courtroom act in the manner expected by the State Bar—treating opposing counsel, parties, the judge, and everyone in the courtroom—with the utmost respect and civility. Following the rules set out by the uniform rules and by the judge presiding over your case will provide a pleasant experience not only for you and the judge, but your client as well. The flexibility that accompanied the pandemic created a sense of informality and lack of preparedness that has frustrated the judiciary (at least the

state court judiciary) for the past few years.

Be prepared. Follow the rules. Be nice to others. Communicate with your client, opposing counsel, and your judge. If you follow these adages, your client, opposing counsel, and judges will recognize and appreciate the effort. Remember your behavior only reflects poorly on you, and judges (as well as attorneys) talk to one another about behaviors they have seen during litigation.

<sup>1</sup>A Lawyer's Creed, State Bar of Georgia, available at <https://www.gabar.org/Handbook/index.cfm#handbook/rule420>.

<sup>2</sup>Aspirational Statements, State Bar of Georgia, available at <https://www.gabar.org/Handbook/index.cfm#handbook/rule422>.

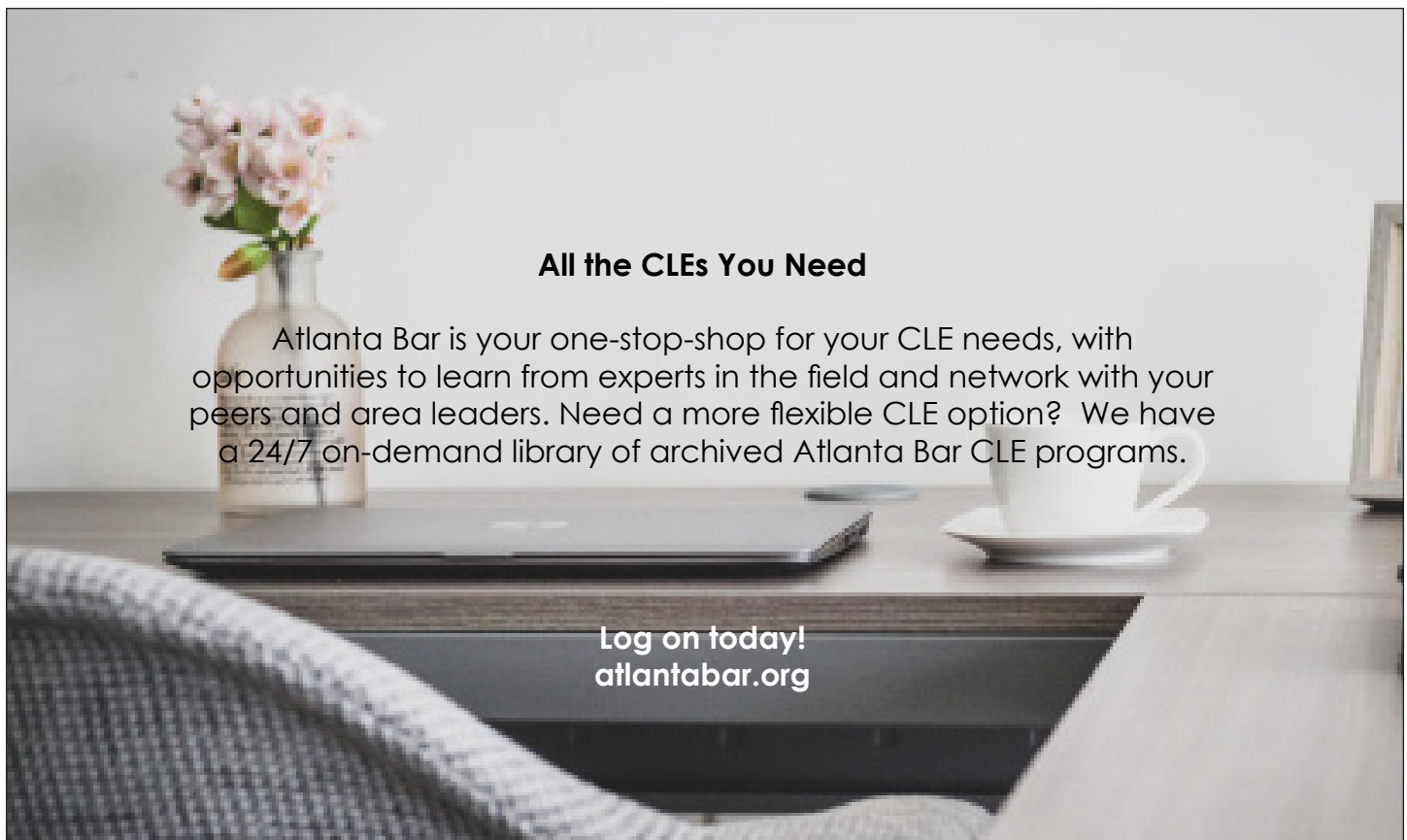
<sup>3</sup>The rule does **not** distinguish between superior court jury trials and state court jury trials.

<sup>4</sup>This is particularly true for those motions that are e-filed. Depending on the e-filing software, there is often a delay from the time of filing until the judge or his or her staff are notified that a motion is filed or even ripe for the judge's consideration. Uniform Superior Court Rule 6.1 attempts to address this delay and **requires** lawyers to notify judge's staff and all parties that a motion has been e-filed.

<sup>5</sup>For further guidance, see Unif. Sup. Ct. R. 9.2.

<sup>6</sup>This is prohibited under Georgia law. O.C.G.A. § 40-6-241.

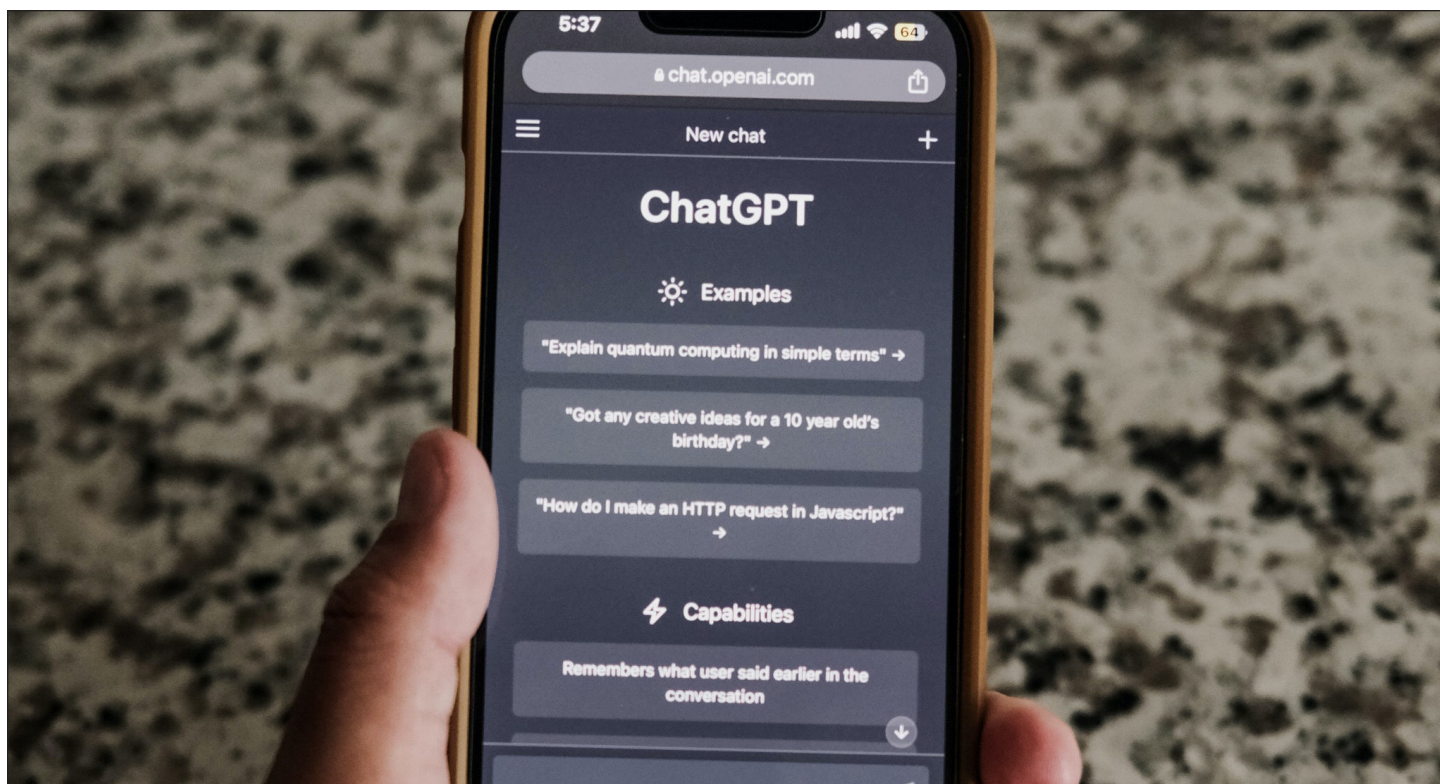
<sup>7</sup>Ga. R. Prof. Conduct 1.4.



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# ChatGPT – What's the Buzz?

*The Atlanta Lawyer Asked Experts What Can Be Expected from the Notorious Chatbot.*

Panelists interviewed for the following article were **Paula J. Frederick** (State Bar of Georgia), **Karla Grossenbacher** (Seyfarth Shaw LLP), **Jon Neiditz** (Kilpatrick Townsend), and **Matt Wetherington** (Wetherington Law Firm).

**C**hatGPT, Open AI's chatbot has disrupted the competitive marketplace – and the legal world.

The newest “adversarial” version (that is not available to the public yet) passed the bar exam, and a legal company called DoNotPay supposedly trained the tool to present oral argument before the Supreme Court. Artificial intelligence (AI), so it seems, has high ambitions and is ready to enter the practice of law. Or is it?

**TAL:** As lawyers, our priority is or should be to deliver reliable results. Previously developed AI tools, such as Harvey, were criticized for not understanding nuance. How accurate is ChatGPT's output? What

does it do when it does not know the answer?

**Frederick:** ChatGPT seems to learn from its mistakes. It can refine its responses based on newer information. Unfortunately, it sometimes gives you an answer that is wrong! And even when it is right, the answer may not be complete.

**Neiditz:** Yes, it will “make things up” and get facts wrong, so its results are at most suggestions that need to be verified. ChatGPT operates on a turn-by-turn basis, meaning it doesn't have a full understanding of the context of a conversation. This can lead to inaccuracies in its responses,

especially when answering questions that require background knowledge.

**TAL:** Which means that a lawyer will still have to review the results.

**Neiditz:** Exactly. Lawyers should bear in mind that the current version 3.5 of ChatGPT can almost never deliver competent counsel in areas in which the laws and concerns are in a constant state of flux, such as privacy and data security, because it was trained on a dataset that existed in 2021. Uses of ChatGPT by lawyers without appropriate supervision and oversight of the technology are likely to spark claims of unauthorized practice of

law.

**Frederick:** Speaking of that, some jurisdictions have claimed that any legal tech that generates forms for use by the public is considered the unauthorized practice of law. However, Georgia is not among them. ChatGPT is not holding itself out as providing legal services. In fact, I have seen disclaimers warning consumers not to rely on it for legal advice.

**Neiditz:** The use of a language model like ChatGPT may be considered a form of non-lawyer assistance. At a minimum, lawyers should establish guidelines and protocols for its use – and, when possible, contracts establishing direction and oversight by the attorney for uses involving separate non-attorney entities associated with the model. Attorneys should always review and approve or modify any decisions, conclusions or inferences made by the model.

**Grossenbacher:** Given the known issues with the accuracy of its responses, ChatGPT would not be well-suited as a proxy for preparing client or customer-facing legal advice. AI cannot replace the exercise of professional judgment when applying the law to the facts and providing legal advice. Using AI in this way would create a risk for malpractice claims if the information is inaccurate or otherwise flawed. AI can be leveraged by lawyers though. For example, using ChatGPT to create an employment policy is not so problematic. In practice, HR professionals often search for and obtain draft policies from the Internet and then revise them and have them reviewed by counsel before implementing them. Conceivably, an employment lawyer could do the same.

**TAL: Another big concern with using ChatGPT in legal practice is confidentiality. Imagine that you are writing a brief in a case, feeding the machine all the necessary facts, and that information shows up when opposing counsel creates his document.**

**Neiditz:** The answer is: Don't do it. Disclosure to ChatGPT as currently configured may violate the duty of confidentiality, and the use of a language model like ChatGPT could lead to further disclosure of sensitive information if the model is not properly trained and secured.

To mitigate these risks, lawyers must ensure that one, the model is trained on a dataset that does not contain confidential client information, two, that any client information used as input to the model is properly anonymized, and three, that appropriate security measures are in place to protect client information.

With an enterprise version – offered by Microsoft and OpenAI – you can stop focusing on getting your people not to enter confidential information into large language models and start focusing on how to get them to enter permissible confidential information into the platforms that are strictly prohibited from sharing it with training data and (if you qualify) content reviewers. In addition, confidentiality-related supervision should drive physical, technical and administrative security enhancements and protection through anonymization and firewalls that not only keep client confidential information out of the model but keep sensitive information in.

**“ChatGPT will make things up.”**

**TAL: Consequently, could disclosing confidential client information by a lawyer to ChatGPT jeopardize the attorney-client privilege?**

**Neiditz:** Yes. Again, the threat that ChatGPT poses to either client confidentiality or the attorney-client privilege depends on how the technology is used and configured.

**TAL: And how well you train your employees.**

**Grossenbacher:** Yes! Allowing employees to use ChatGPT in connection with their jobs definitely impacts the confidentiality and data privacy of company information. As a language learning model, ChatGPT does have the ability to “learn” from every conversation. Currently, when a user logs into ChatGPT, a screen pops up stating that “[c]onversations may be reviewed by our AI trainers to improve our systems” and advising users to “[p]lease [not] share any sensitive information in your conversations.” Thus, if employees are entering confidential employer information into ChatGPT, such information will clearly be used and shared with OpenAI to a certain degree.

**TAL: Which creates a liability for the employer.**

**Grossenbacher:** Yes. You could even make the argument that an employer's failure to prohibit employees from feeding ChatGPT confidential and proprietary information is not consistent with treating such information as a “trade secret,” and consequently, that information could lose its status as a trade secret. On the other hand, employees who use ChatGPT for their duties could unwittingly be exposed to the confidential information of others and use it in connection with their work. ChatGPT was trained on wide swaths of information from the Internet, and it is conceivable that it absorbed information that, while publicly available on the Internet, was trademarked, copyrighted and/or the intellectual property of another person or entity. If employees take possession of or use such information, this could create an additional legal risk for the employer.

**TAL: In view of all these risks, what are safe and beneficial uses for AI in litigation?**

**Neiditz:** One of the main benefits of using ChatGPT is its ability to provide fast responses to routine legal inquiries and frequently asked questions. Private and enterprise versions of ChatGPT and its successors can also be programmed to provide customized responses based on specific client needs and preferences, making it easier for individuals and businesses to find the information they need. Another way that ChatGPT can make legal services more affordable and available is by automating repetitive tasks such as document drafting and data entry. It can help to streamline the process of preparing legal documents, reducing the time and effort required by attorneys and freeing up their time to focus on more complex tasks.

**Wetherington:** 100 percent of current litigation practices will be fundamentally changed by AI. Existing AI tools, like ChatGPT, can already replace large portions of “core” legal, marketing, and operational work for law firms. In the immediate future, the ethical, regulatory, and privacy concerns, now perceived as hurdles, will go away, and firms of all sizes will have access to low-cost AI to enhance document review, streamline legal research, draft documents, predict case outcomes,

simplify e-discovery, analyze contracts, and provide client support.

**TAL: Speaking of document review, it is not a glamorous job. Machine learning, though, can categorize and tag discovery. This seems like a win for the practice.**

**Wetherington:** Machine learning is already used in most document review centers, with tools like Relativity and Everlaw gaining popularity. The true transformative impact of AI on document review lies in its ability to change the very nature of discovery. AI advancements like natural language processing will help streamline and narrow the discovery process by identifying key factual or legal issues earlier in the case. Further, an emerging body of studies are proving that advanced techniques like natural language processing can not only identify, categorize, and tag documents more efficiently, but also reveal patterns, relationships, and key insights that may not be immediately apparent to human reviewers. This reduces the amount of manual labor required for document review and leads to a more proactive and targeted discovery process.

**TAL: ChatGPT can also be used to provide legal research support. How is it different from using a current search engine?**

**Neiditz:** While search engines generally rely on keyword matching and indexing algorithms to find information, ChatGPT uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques and deep learning models to understand the meaning of text and context. To put it simply, search engines generally search for words or variants of words, while ChatGPT can search for concepts and contexts in which there are no relationships between variants of keywords.

**“ChatGPT can make legal services more affordable.”**

**TAL: It seems that the quality of ChatGPT’s output still largely depends on what information it is being fed. That said, is it possible for machine learning to be discriminatory, just by relying on selective information?**

**Wetherington:** Unfortunately, all current generative AI models are trained on datasets that have explicit and implicit biases. The key is to recognize discriminatory behavior and refine models to avoid or disclose bias in their models. We are not there yet.

**Grossenbacher:** From an employment law perspective, this is a concern in connection with employment decisions. Because ChatGPT’s ability to provide responses to users depends on and is limited by the data upon which it was trained, bias can be generated in AI through the information used by the human(s) to train the AI. If ChatGPT is trusted with employment decisions, the employer could be potentially liable.

**Grossenbacher:** Employees could ask ChatGPT to evaluate the qualifications of candidates or the written work product of employees. Or an employee could ask ChatGPT to create the content for a job description and identify the essential duties or experience needed for a given position, and bias could creep in that way. That is why several jurisdictions place restrictions on an employer’s ability to use AI in hiring.

**TAL:** Writing is an art. Even in briefs, lawyers use literary references, humor, and sometimes sarcasm. It has passion and anger and heart. Can AI mimic the art of writing?

**Frederick:** Yes; that is what it does! You can ask it to write a song in the style of Prince, for instance. I would think that means you could ask for a brief in the style of Bryan Garner... But seriously, you can ask it to

give you the arguments in favor and in opposition of an issue, so on a basic fact-driven level it can persuade. But, of course, it does not have a demeanor or emotion that a person would also assess as part of being persuaded by an argument.

**Wetherington:** AI will change the art of writing. As it continues to advance, the emphasis on clear, concise, and focused legal writing will likely increase, meeting the evolving expectations of both courts and clients who prioritize efficiency and effectiveness in communication. We will need to adapt to these changing expectations and strike a balance between maintaining the artistry of writing and leveraging the precision and efficiency offered by AI-generated content. But, even when passion is required, AI is up to the task. For example, here is the previous human answer rewritten by AI with "passion, anger, and heart":

"Fear not, dear reader, for the burning passion that resides within the heart of humanity shall not be extinguished by the icy tendrils of technology. For it is in the crucible of innovation that we shall forge a new era, one in which the power of AI is wielded with the deft hand of a master craftsman, molding the clay of language into a masterpiece of emotive expression. And together, as one unstoppable force, we shall write the next chapter in the epic tale of the human spirit."

**“Some people are just jerks and AI will not change that.”**

**TAL: Impressive! Will ChatGPT make the practice of law better, more professional, maybe even more civil?**

**Wetherington:** The lack of civility in the legal field often stems from fear, insecurity, and miscommunication. AI can help streamline communication and



[DISCLAIMER: I am an AI language model and not a legal professional. This confidentiality agreement is for general informational purposes only and may not be suitable for your specific situation. Consult with a licensed attorney in your jurisdiction to obtain legal advice tailored to your needs.]



promote a more civil atmosphere by reducing misunderstandings and providing instant access to relevant information. For example, if a lawyer is asked to consent to something they do not understand, the AI can explain the issue quickly and allow the lawyer to respond from a position of knowledge, rather than defaulting to aggressive opposition. But some people are just jerks and AI will not change that.

**TAL:** It sounds like while we might not fully trust ChatGPT, we cannot escape it.

**Neiditz:** Absolutely. Lawyers who fail to use ChatGPT or its successors may miss out on the benefits of advanced natural language processing capabilities, such as increased efficiency in drafting legal documents and answering client inquiries. Additionally, not using ChatGPT's successor currently being integrated into Bing or others with full internet connectivity could limit a lawyer's ability to stay current with the latest developments and to access relevant information quickly and easily. This could result in missed opportunities, a decreased ability to provide insightful and

informed advice to clients, and reduced competitiveness in the market.

Moreover, lawyers have a duty to use reasonable skill and care in providing their services, and failure to adopt innovative tools like ChatGPT could be seen as a failure to fulfill this duty. And as technologies such as ChatGPT plays a larger role in legal practice, lawyers will probably need to familiarize themselves with the technology and ensure they are using it competently and diligently; some codes of ethics include use of technology as part of the duty of competence. Using ChatGPT can help lawyers meet their professional obligations, maintain the highest standards of client service, and stay ahead in a rapidly changing legal landscape.



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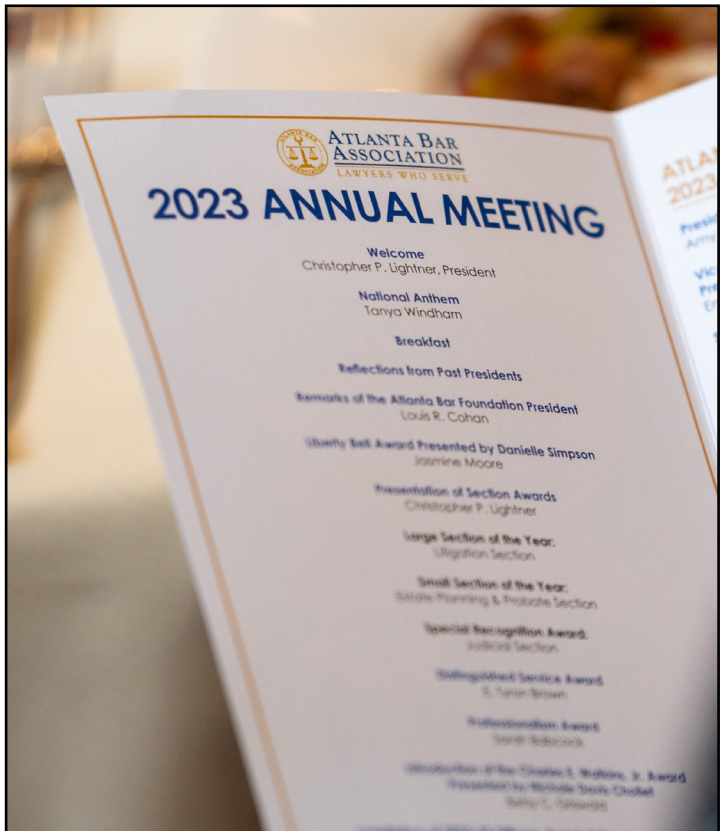
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# Atlanta Bar's Annual Meeting Through History



**1** - L-R: 2023 Liberty Bell Award Recipient, **Jasmine Moore** with **Christopher P. Lightner** (Alston & Bird).

**2** - L-R: Atlanta Bar past Executive Director **Diane O'Steen** and LRIS Director **Lucia Keller** (Atlanta Bar).

**3** - L-R: **Danielle Simpson** (Truancy Intervention Project) with her nominatee and the recipient of the Professionalism Award, **Sarah Babcock** (Truancy Intervention Project).

**4** - L-R: 2015 Past President **Harold E. Franklin** (King & Spalding), 2005 Past President **Elizabeth A. Price** (Alston & Bird), and 2003 Past President **S. Wade Malone** (Nelson Mullins).



**5** - L-R Back Row: 2005 Past President **Elizabeth A. Price** (Alston & Bird), 2015 Past President **Harold E. Franklin** (King & Spalding), Immediate Past President **Christopher P. Lightner** (Alston & Bird), 2019 Past President **Ryan K. Walsh** (Jones Day), 1986 Past President **Robert Wellon** (Wellon Family Law), 2004 Past President **William Ragland** (Womble Bond Dickinson), 2003 Past President **S. Wade Malone** (Nelson Mullins), 2016 Past President **Jim Blitch** (Blitch Law PC), 2014 Past President **Jacquelyn H. Saylor** (The Saylor Law Firm LLP); 2021 Past President **Christina M. Baugh** (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), and 1996 Past President **Hon. E. Clayton Scofield** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia).

**6** - Justice **Carla Wong McMillian** (Georgia Supreme Court).

**7** - L-R: **Hon. Ana Maria Martinez** (DeKalb County State Court), Executive Director & CEO **Toni Roberts** (Atlanta Bar), **Miguel A. Dominguez** (Morgan & Morgan), and 1999 Past President **Paula J. Frederick** (State Bar of Georgia).

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL PHOTO GALLERY  
OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

# Atlanta Bar's Annual Meeting Through History

## 2022 Annual Meeting

Celebrating the Atlanta Bar Association's Members and Accomplishments for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 Bar Years.

The 2022 Annual Meeting and Awards Breakfast was held at the Anley Golf Club in Atlanta, GA on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. This year's event was held in a hybrid/in-person/virtual format for the first time in the history of the Atlanta Bar, to ensure that members could attend in the manner of their choice. The event was full of warm greetings and long-awaited greetings from members, some who have not been in-person for the last two years, due to the pandemic.

1 - We welcomed the 2021-2022 Association Board of Directors President **Christopher P. Lightner** (Alton & Bird LLP), Vice President/President-Elect **Amy B. Cheng** (Nelson Mullins), Secretary **Emily C. Ward** (Smith Gambrell & Russell), Treasurer **Lillian N. Caselle** (Mancoske-Benn USA), Immediate Past President **Christina M. Baugh** (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), ACYL President **Kevin P. Langley** (Morris Manning & Martin LLP), Members-at-Large **Laura M. Bonner** (Elpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP), **R. Tyson Brown** (Haskins Ramey, Thackston & Young LLP), **Kimberly B. Charles** (Atlanta Legal Aid), **Benjamin M. French** (Beryl Lenock LLP & French), **Robby G. Griswood** (Intercontinental Hotel Group), **John D. Hadler** (From Law LLC), **Shenna K. Khawaja** (Scher Denton Reamers Cabbell & Berkowitz PC), **Kenneth T. Mitchell** (Johnson & Freeland), **Kevin C. Patrick** (Kevin Patrick Law LLC), **Jerico J. Phillips** (Graphic Packaging International LLC), **JoAnna J. Smith** (Georgia Family Law Project LLC), and **Rachel L. Spears** (Pro Seno Partnership of Atlanta).

2 - The awards breakfast began with a welcome message from 2021-2022 Atlanta Bar President, **Christina M. Baugh** (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), followed by **Kevin C. Wilson's** performance of the National Anthem. After breakfast, remarks, accolades and laudatory-filled speeches were made by presenters and speakers, including the 2021-2022 Atlanta Bar Foundation President **Robert G. Wilton** (Wilton Family Law); 2021-2022 Atlanta Bar Association President **A. Craig Cleland** (Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, P.C.); the 2019-2020 Atlanta Bar President **Ryan K. Walsh** (Jones Day); and more. **Hon. Cassandra Kirk** (Fulton County Magistrate Court) completed the event with a swearing-in of the 2021-2022 Officers, Board of Directors, and Section Chairs.

## MEMBERSHIP



## Meet the Leadership

In lieu of the Atlanta Bar Association's in-person Annual Meeting, a virtual road was taken for new leadership introduction for the 2020-2021 year.



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To adapt to the changing times, the Atlanta Bar Executive Board held a virtual event via Zoom on May 28, 2020 to introduce the bar to the incoming leadership. Outgoing President **Ryan Walsh** (Jones Day), moderated the event and helped attendees learn about incoming President **Craig Cleland** (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC), incoming President-Elect **Christina Baugh** (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), incoming Secretary **Chris Lightner** (Alton & Bird, LLP), and incoming Treasurer **Amy Cheng** (Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP).

Walsh began the event asking each panelist to discuss a high and low event of the bar year (2019-2020). Walsh mentioned that his high point was the Immigration event in February and the work of the Innovative Study Group while his low was cancelling

the Atlanta Bar's in-person events. Cleland explained that his high had also been the Innovative Study Group. He commented on the remarkable leadership and hard work. Cleland's low was dealing with COVID-19. He commented on how difficult it is to be an association that cannot associate in person. He expressed his excitement about becoming the President of the Association and looking forward to working with everyone, despite the circumstances. For Baugh, the high point of the year was the first litigation section breakfast of the bar year - she confessed that it is her high point of each year for the past decade. She is energized by everyone who shows up and there watching the networking. Similar to Cleland, Baugh's low was the day the litigation section board voted to cancel the in-person meetings. Lightner explained that the high for his bar year was working with SideBar - the small group meeting program.

for him, it was rewarding to see the interest of the participants and their willingness to become engaged. The low for Lightner was the isolation from COVID-19, the cancellation of events from this organization as well as others as it has become a struggle to remain engaged and involved. Cheng declared to give a low as she likes to see things positively. Instead, she chose several highlights such as the collaboration between the sections and the strength of the Atlanta Bar community to stay engaged and dedicated.

Following the highs and lows, each panelist was asked to share something that most people may not know about him or her. Walsh shared that his wife was a two-time Olympian and that they met in college. Cleland revealed that he loves to work out. Additionally, he has studied piano throughout his life and he recently took it up again over the past few years with a retired Ensey professor. Cleland has been working on some Brahms pieces - the ones he wrote at the end of his life. Baugh loves to run and do Orange Theory workouts and has kept it up during COVID-19. She actually met her husband rowing. Lightner shared that he loves playing instruments, sometimes guitar but primarily trumpet. Lightner has played since he was 10 years old and played seriously for last 15 years. He plays in concert and pep bands as well as marching bands. He has played at weddings and at church. Currently, it is now more of a hobby as he plays with his children - he plays with his oldest child who is in middle school and is learning the clarinet. Cheng loves to eat. She created an Instagram food blog to share her love of food with the world and she had great hopes for it. According to Cheng, the blog is a future because she loses followers every time posts something.

Walsh asked the panelists to share a silver lining from COVID-19 and working from home. Walsh began the discussion mentioning that he has slowed down and spent time with his four children. Although it has been difficult for him not to see his parents and not to have his parents interact with their grandchildren, Cleland has enjoyed spending time with his wife, who is a recovered lawyer and teacher, and has realized how much he values his friends and family. He feels apart from colleagues and friends, however, and misses laughing. Baugh revealed that she has two young children aged 7 and 4 so she has spent a lot of time reading with them. They have read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* as well as *Jones and the Girt Peach*. As to Lightner, he has seven children, including a set of triplets. He's struggled to juggle children and work. Prior to the pandemic he never ate dinner with the children and now he does. They also take morning walks together and have met lots of neighbors that way. Cheng disclosed that her fitness level has gone up during this time because her husband is very fit and into staying active and they have spent time together walking their puppy and going on runs together.

The event closed with what each person is looking forward to in the coming bar year. Walsh expressed his gratitude and mentioned what an incredible experience being president has

## MEMBERSHIP

been for him. He thanked the bar staff and believes the best days are ahead. He professed that Cleland is the "most human being" he has ever met, and Walsh is excited for his tenure as president. Cleland acknowledged that although this is a time of loss, it is also a time of excitement to see where our dreaming and reimagining takes us. He believes we bring a lot to one another and to the practice of law such that he cannot wait to see how it manifests itself. Cleland closed his remarks by thanking Walsh for his leadership and vision for which he believes we are all changed for the better. As for the upcoming year, Baugh is excited to see how the section leaders and the bar staff adapt to establish some great programming. Lightner explained he is looking forward to seeing people in person and seeing programs and committees in person. He is also looking forward to seeing people getting together and associating with each other, not just on a zoom call. Cheng echoed Lightner's sentiments and stated she was also looking forward to seeing people in person. She confessed that she is extroverted and high energy and looks forward to getting to know everyone in person.

# 2020

ANNUAL MEETING

# 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating the Atlanta Bar Association's  
Members and Accomplishments



The Atlanta Bar Association hosted its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on May 21, where members and colleagues gathered to swear in new leadership and recognize the achievements of Atlanta Bar individuals and groups. The Annual Meeting was proud to welcome President Ryan K. Walsh, sworn as the 112th Atlanta Bar President.

L-R Top: Kevin Patrick (Kevin Patrick Law), Craig Cleland (Oglethorpe, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC), Erik Frevitt (PWC), Lisa Liang (State Court of Fulton County), Betty Griswold (United Parcel Service), Abbey Morrow (Legality, LLC), Derin Dickerson (Alston & Bird, LLP), Jessica J. Weed (Decker, Ramsey, Andrews, Whinnard & Wildstein, PC), Ellis Liu (Jensen Law)

L-R Bottom: Michael K. Terry (Bondurant, Mison & Zimm, LLP), Laurie Robbins (Robbins Law, PC), Meredith R. Young (King & Spalding, LLP), Nicole G. Tansarone (Georgia State University College of Law), Ryan K. Walsh (Jensen Day), Christina M. Bough (Barnes & Thornburg, LLP), Kimberly D. Charles (Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.)



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# 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating the Atlanta Bar Association's Members and Accomplishments

The Atlanta Bar Association hosted its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on May 22, 2018, where members and colleagues gathered to swear in new leadership and recognize the achievements of individuals and groups. President Nicole G. Tansarone was sworn in by Fulton County Superior Court Chief Judge Robert C. J. McBurney as the 111th Atlanta Bar President.

Front row L-R: Amy I. Cheng (Hicklin Muller Riley & Scarborough), Jessica J. Wood (Decker, Ramsey, Andrews, Whinnard & Wildstein, PC), Michael K. Terry (Bondurant, Mison & Zimm, LLP), Christina M. Bough (Fellow Law Office), Nicole G. Tansarone (Georgia State University College of Law), Margaret H. Walsh (Georgia State University College of Law), A. Craig Cleland (Oglethorpe, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC), Ashley Wilco Clark (Buckley Beal, LLP), Stephen T. LaBella (Fellow LaBella, LLP), Mary Ann Harkin (11th Circuit Court of Appeals), Barkow L-R: Nara Robb (Decker, Ramsey, Andrews, Whinnard & Wildstein, PC), Cassin Cloud (Trustacy Intervention Project), Christopher P. Ughetto (Alston & Bird, LLP), Laurie S. Robbins (Robbins Law, PC), Betty C. Griswold (United Parcel Service), Sachin Varghese (Bondurant, Mison & Zimm, LLP), Kevin Patrick (Kevin Patrick Law).

Atlanta Bar Association 2018-2019 Board of Directors being sworn in



# Atlanta Bar's Annual Meeting Through History



# 2017

## ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating the Atlanta Bar Association's Members and Accomplishments

On May 23, 2017, the Atlanta Bar Association hosted its Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon at the Piedmont Driving Club. Members, colleagues and friends joined the celebration to install new leaders and applaud our members and their accomplishments. The 2017-2018 Atlanta Bar Association President Margaret Hughes Yarb (Georgia State University College of Law) was sworn in.

The Atlanta Bar Association 2017-2018 Board of Directors, Left to Right: Vice President Nicole Iannarone, President Margaret H. Yarb, Past President James D. Birch IV, Secretary Ryan K. Walsh, Standing Left: Ashley Wilson, Shawn Shepherd, Robert Lewis, Jr., Elia A. Shelley, J. Matthew Maguire, Jean C. Grubstein, Jessica J. Wood, Stephen T. LaBella, and Christopher P. Ughetto. Not Pictured: Treasurer A. Craig Cleland, C. Joseph Hoffman, Karen Cloud, Jonathan E. Hawkins, Eric K. King, Marc A. Rowis, Melissa Redman, Michael S. Terry, and Shantell Hebert.



# 2016

## ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating the Atlanta Bar Association's Remarkable Members and Accomplishments





2015 Annual Meeting



2015 Annual Meeting

### Celebrating the Atlanta Bar Association's Remarkable members and Accomplishments



On May 19, 2015, the Atlanta Bar Association hosted its Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon at the Piedmont Driving Club. Members, colleagues and friends joined the celebration to install new leaders and applaud our remarkable members and their accomplishments.

The 2015-2016 Atlanta Bar Association President, Harold E. Franklin, Jr. (King & Spalding LLP), was sworn in and many members received honorable awards including David N. Schaeffer

(David Schaeffer Law Firm, LLC) - Charles Watkins Amadi, Melody Z. Richardson (Richardson Bloom & Lines LLC) - Professionalism Award, Marc Rawls (Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP), Lynn M. Roberson (Swift, Currie, McHae & Hiers, LLP), Atlanta Bar Bankruptcy Section Chair Nancy J. Whaley (Standing Ch.13 Trustee) and Atlanta Bar Labor & Employment Law Section Chair Benjamin L. Fink (Berman Fink Van Horn PC) - Distinguished Service Awards.



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## Atlanta Bar Association 125th Year Anniversary Celebration Luncheon

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014  
11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Piedmont Driving Club**

**Distinguished Speaker William C. Hubbard**  
American Bar Association President-Elect

**2014** Confirm your registration status by contacting Denisha Wise at (404) 537-4932 or [dwise@atlantabar.org](mailto:dwise@atlantabar.org)

### incoming president's message

#### Remarks of Incoming President Rita A. Sheffey at the May 25, 2011 Annual Meeting

By Rita A. Sheffey  
Huntton & Williams LLP

[rsheffey@huntington.com](mailto:rsheffey@huntington.com)



Judge Martin, other members of the judiciary, fellow Atlanta Bar members, sponsors, and guests:

It is a privilege and an honor to speak to you this afternoon as the 104<sup>th</sup> President of the Atlanta Bar Association.

Today feels a little like graduation. My close family and some friends are here, we have just given awards to some very deserving individuals, and of course there are speeches. And, for three nights last week, I attended graduation festivities as part of the Law School Musical. It was a little like the movie Groundhog Day -- we celebrated graduation over and over and over. With apologies to those who were unable to attend one of the performances, I almost started to wonder if Mr. Heiber (played by Jason Poulos) might graduate by Saturday evening, but alas the ending didn't change. If you missed it, watch for the DVD.

Today also is like graduation in that I have worked hard to get here and I will get emotional. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and hopefully ready for the challenges. Before I talk briefly about my vision for the year, I want to recognize some very special people.

First, I am delighted that my parents are both here from Bristol, Virginia, where I grew up.

My Dad, Wayne Sheffey, served proudly in the United States Air Force and then worked in corporate America as a manufacturing supervisor, building missiles and later computers. He now enjoys a well-deserved retirement. From him, I learned the value of being a good sport, always.

My Mom, Jane Sheffey, still works full-time, helping people plan for the future and then, when they can no longer manage their own finances, she does it for them with sensitivity. She also ensures that those who need caregivers are never alone. She has taught me to always be the best I could be, explaining that any time you are having fun, it is worth working hard for. She is a shining example of someone who always gives to others and then gives you a medal. My companion of more than 25 years, Tom Rounds, is here as

well. Many of you know him. He teaches high school chemistry and physics and his students love and respect him. Also, thanks to Jeff Bramlett's insights, Tom serves dutifully as a lay member on the State Bar Review Panel, part of our disciplinary process. Tom is always there to boost my confidence, read and comment on the first draft of a speech, yes, even this one, and do whatever errand or task needs doing so I can spend time on bar work. I am really looking forward to the end of school year this Friday!

Tom's daughters and son-in-law are here from Boston. Ellie Rounds is a special education administrator and next week, she will celebrate her birthday and graduate with a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study to go with her Masters degree. Betsy and Joel Piusler recently moved to Boston from New York. Betsy works in marketing for a major construction company and Joel is studying for a Masters degree in history. I am so proud of all of them and pleased they are here.


Our very dear friends and neighbors -- Harriet and Norman Zoller. Thanks to Norman for today's invocation. Special thanks to Judge Beverly Martin for doing me the honor of administering the oath. And thanks to David, Michael, Stin and Kevin for the National Anthem. It still gives me chills.

I also thank my Hunton & Williams family and I am delighted that so many of them are here, including my partner Robert Grey, former president of the ABA, and the firm pro bono partner George Hettrick. I would like for my Hunton & Williams family to stand and be recognized.

We have some special clients with us as well, two of whom bought tables for today's luncheon. Teri McClure, General Counsel of UPS. Teri is sitting with us and donated the entire UPS table to the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. Kelly Ludwick and others in Chick-fil-A's legal department surprised me by buying a table today. While we did not have Chick-fil-A for lunch, we did have it for dinner several times during Bard Show rehearsals and shows last week. Thank you, and our other guests so very much for being here.

I also want to quickly mention three other groups -- one a longstanding one for me -- public interest lawyers and another

# Atlanta Bar's Annual Meeting Through History



## The Atlanta Lawyer

The Official News Publication of the Atlanta Bar Association


### ANNUAL MEETING MAY 29, 2003

The Atlanta Bar Association's Annual Meeting will be Thursday, May 29, 2003 at noon at the Capital City Club, 7 Harris Street. Outgoing president **William D. deGolian, Johnson & Ward** will turn the gavel over to incoming president **S. Wade Malone, Andre & Blaustein LLP**. Presiding Justice **Leah Ward Sears** of the Georgia Supreme Court will conduct the ceremony. All members of the Board and the nineteen Section Boards will also be installed for the 2003-2004 Bar year.


The president's awards to be presented are: Charles Watkins Award to **Charles M. Shaffer, Jr.**, Professionalism Award to **Ben L. Weinberg**; Committee of the Year Award to the Lawyer Referral & Information Service Committee co-chaired by **William M. Rangland, Jr.** and **Kenneth L. Zirkman** and Section of the Year to the Estate Planning & Probate Section chaired by **Adam R. Gaslowitz**.

Other Awards to be presented are the Law Firm Award, the Liberty Bell Award, the Fulton County Court Employees of the Year Award, and the Therrrell Student of the Year Award. **Marty Elin, Executive Director of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation**, will also present the Phil Heiner Award, the Guardian Ad Litem Award, and the Saturday Lawyer Program Awards.

The cost of the luncheon is \$30 - parking is free. You can register on line at [www.atlantabar.org](http://www.atlantabar.org). To reserve a seat or a table of 10 call Stefanie Faddis at (404) 832-6210. Parking is free at the Capital City Club. ☐




**S. Wade Malone will assume the gavel from William D. deGolian at the May 29th Annual Meeting luncheon.**



**Presiding Justice Leah Ward Sears, Supreme Court of Georgia, will perform the installation of the 2003-2004 Atlanta Bar Association Board of Directors and the Section Boards of Directors.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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**2003**  
Peace Officers of the Year: **Benjamin C. Green**, **Luiza Galvao**, **Presiding Justice Leah Ward Sears**



## THE ATLANTA LAWYER

### 6-0-0-0

**Annual Meeting slated for May 31**

Atlanta History Center to host event

The 1999-2000 Bar year will be history May 31 when the Atlanta Bar Association hosts its Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Reception May 31 at the Atlanta History Center.

The event, scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., will feature a cocktail reception, installation of incoming President **Jeffrey O. Bramlett** and 2000-2001 boards of directors and a presentation of awards, as well as a buffet dinner and cash bar afterwards.

The cost is \$25 per person. Outgoing President **Paul J. Frederick** will present six awards including the Charles Watkins Award, Committee of the Year, Section of the Year, Liberty Bell Award, Law Firm Service Award, and Peace Officer of the Year.

Also to be presented are the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation Awards including the S. Philip Heiner Award, the Guardian Ad Litem Award, and the Saturday Lawyer Awards.

The event is sponsored by Insurance Specialists, Inc. To register, please call (404) 521-0781.

### FREE PHOTOGRAPH

The Atlanta Bar Association wants your photograph in the 2000-2001 Pictorial Directory. Beginning May 2 at the Atlanta Bar offices, PCL Photol Design will be available to photograph any Atlanta Bar member who wishes to have a photo included in the directory or wishes to have a new photo inserted. Members will be able to view the proofs immediately and choose which photo will be included in the directory. This service is free of charge to all Atlanta Bar members. To reserve a time, call (404) 521-0781.

### MEMBER PROFILE

#### Philippa V. Tibbs, Gleaton, Persons, Egan & Jones

**Always active, she never knows the meaning of boredom**

Philippa Victoria Tibbs does not know the meaning of boredom. Ask Tibbs what she's doing on any particular day and she'll be either preparing for a case, working on a bar project, or attending an event. Her Palm Pilot was the best investment she ever made.

She stays busy practicing civil litigation, insurance defense, and serving as general counsel for small to medium sized corporations as a partner with the firm of Gleaton, Persons, Egan & Jones. She also manages to find time to play an active role in local, state and national bar associations and community projects, and maintain a social life.

She always doing something and wouldn't have it any other way.

"I feel as though my involvement makes a difference, whether it's in the community or the bar," she said. "I would not be satisfied with just practicing law and nothing else. You never want to look back in five years and wonder what could have been."

Tibbs - a native Oklahoman - graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1988 and worked for Edmonds, Cole, Hargrave, Givens & Witke in Oklahoma City until 1992 when, as part of a bar-related event, she visited Atlanta and knew that it was the right place for her to be.

"Atlanta is such a great city," she said. "I transitioned here for an American Bar Association bar visiting here for a week and found the Annual Meeting. I was here for a week and found the people to be very friendly. It reminded me of the home where people would say hello to you on the street."

See PROFILE, Page 6



## THE ATLANTA LAWYER

### Atlanta Bar Association Newslette

### Vol. 14, No. 8 April 1970

#### EDWARD L. WRIGHT, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, WILL ADDRESS ANNUAL MEETING

The Atlanta Bar Association's Annual Meeting will be held next month on May 8 in the Phoenix Ball Room of the Regency Hyatt House.

The Association is honored and privileged to have Edward L. Wright as featured speaker for the upcoming meeting. Mr. Wright is the President-Elect of the American Bar Association. He is the senior member of the firm of Wright, Lindsey & Jennings of Little Rock, Arkansas, and is the recipient of many high honors inside and outside the legal profession. Mr. Wright chaired the special committee which drafted the Code of Professional Responsibility adopted by the American Bar Association last year.

There will be a reception with cash bar at 6:30 P.M. Dinner will begin at 7:30 P.M.

Invitations with ticket and reservations information will be mailed to all members this month. Tickets will be \$7.50 per person.

#### STOLZ TO SPEAK AT APRIL LUNCHEON

The April Continuing Legal Education Luncheon of the Atlanta Bar Association will be held at Noon, Friday, April 24, 1970, in the Plantation Room of the Marriott Motor Hotel. The luncheon speaker will be Irwin W. Stolz, Jr., President-Elect of the State Bar of Georgia.

The honored guests will be the Judges of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit.

#### BEN, IN PROFILE

Last summer, members of the Atlanta Bar Association committees received letters confirming their respective appointments. Upon reading the letters, however, most recipients were so overwhelmed by the elegance of the prose, that a second reading was required to determine the committee to which they had been appointed. Many could not help but ask, "What manner of man writes even the simplest letter with eloquence worthy of Churchill?"

Ben Weinberg, newly elected President of the Atlanta Bar Association, will address the

#### ATLANTA OBSERVES LAW DAY

Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell has joined President Nixon and the Congress of the United States in proclaiming May 1, 1970, as Law Day U.S.A. Members of the Atlanta Bar Association will be present in the Mayor's Office when the proclamation is formally signed.

Atlanta Civic Clubs, including The Rotary, Kiwanis, Optimist, Lions and Jaycees, will conduct Law Day programs through the auspices of the Atlanta Bar Association; and the Student Education Committee of the Atlanta Bar Association has arranged for the presentation of Law Day programs throughout the Atlanta School System with program material furnished by the A.B.A.

Emory University will celebrate Law Day on Saturday, April 25, in conjunction with various class reunions at the University. Mr. Leon Jaworski, soon to be President-Elect of the American Bar Association, will address the





**EMORY LAW DAY**  
Leon Jaworski will become President-Elect of the American Bar Association when Edward L. Wright becomes President-Elect of the Association.

## 1977

### Scenes from ANNUAL SUMMER OUTING


#### Stone Mountain







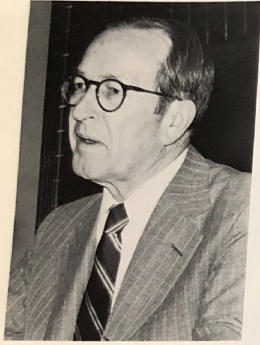








# Scenes from Atlanta Bar's 1977 Annual Meeting, Dinner Dance



Griffin Bell



President Hicks Presents Silver Tea Chest Gift to Mr. & Mrs. Reid



Ron Reid Passes Gavel to Ralph Hicks



J. Paul Cobb and Mrs. Mike White



L.-R.: Lipschutz, Eizenstat, Hicks, Bell, Watson, Franklin, Reid, and Moore



1977

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## THE ATLANTA LAWYER



Publication  
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May 1977

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### 1977-78 Officers Are Installed

Ralph H. Hicks was installed as president of the Atlanta Bar Association for the 1977-78 year, succeeding Ronald L. Reid.

William H. Schroder Jr. was inducted as first vice president/president-elect, and Charles E. Watkins Jr. [Hansell, Post, Branton & Dorsey] as second vice president.

Installed on the Executive Committee were Neal Batson [Alston, Miller & Gaines], Emmet J. Bondurant [Kilpatrick, Cody, Rogers, McClatchey & Regenstein], C. David Butler [Redfern, Butler & Morgan], and Simuel F. Doster Jr. [Harland, Cashin, Chambers, Davis & Doster].

Also, Charles M. Shaffer Jr. [King & Spalding], Sidney Wheeler [Long, Wineberg, Ansel & Wheeler], Immediate Past President Reid [Alston, Miller & Gaines].

John T. Marshall [Powell, Goldstein, Frazier & Murphy] was installed as delegate to the American Bar Association.

Administering the oath of office was

U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin B. Bell who, after recalling that in his Senate confirmation hearing he had to testify under oath in answering witnesses who weren't, quipped that he is now loath to put anyone under oath.

Atty. Gen. Bell added that he was proud to be a member of the Atlanta Bar. "I don't know any finer lawyers than those in Atlanta," he commented. "I don't know any finer Bar than that in Atlanta."

President Hicks told the more than 750 members attending the dinner-dance that the Atlanta Bar's job is to win the battle of delivering legal counsel at a reasonable cost to everyone in the city.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Schroder Heads ACYL  
LeBaron Is June Speaker  
Choosing Telephone System  
Hundreds At Law Day  
Attorneys Liable Too

And he said it will be the goal of the officers and the Executive Committee for the coming year to inform the public that Atlanta attorneys are honest, honorable and competent.

During the dinner, Atlanta Bar members who are serving in the Carter administration made brief remarks about their new jobs and experience in Washington.

DeJong Franklin said his job as Special Assistant to the President is to gauge the political consequences of the various new programs coming out of the White House.

Franklin said he and his colleagues welcomed ideas and suggestions from members of the Atlanta Bar. "Don't hesitate in calling us," he urged. "We want your help. We need your help."

Stuart E. Eizenstat, Presidential Assistant for Domestic Affairs, said he was "honored and humbled" by the recognition from his peers in Atlanta, and said he was looking forward to

Continued on page 2



BAR OFFICIALS—Seated, from left, Executive Committeemen Sidney F. Wheeler and Emmet J. Bondurant, First Vice President/President William H. Schroder Jr., President Ralph H. Hicks, and Executive Committeemen C. David Butler and Charles M. Shaffer Jr. Standing, from left, Executive Committeeman Neal Batson, Immediate Past President Ronald L. Reid, and Executive Committeeman Simuel F. Doster Jr., and Second Vice President Charles E. Watkins Jr.

## THE ATLANTA LAWYER



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Vol. 21 No. 4  
April 1977

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### Annual Meeting-Dance Set April 29

Breaking with tradition, the 1977 annual meeting of the Atlanta Bar Association will take the form of a dinner-dance April 29 at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel.

And while the program will honor Atlanta lawyers serving in prominent positions in the Carter Administration, there will be no long speeches, reported Robert Lee Steed [King & Spalding], committee chairman.

"Each of the guests is asked to give only brief, informal remarks," Steed said.

The honorees are: Griffin B. Bell, formerly with King & Spalding, now U.S. Attorney General.

Michael J. Egan Jr., formerly with Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, now Associate Attorney General.

DeJongh Franklin, formerly with

Smith, Cohen, Ringel, Kohler & Martin, Special Assistant to the President.

Stuart E. Eizenstat, formerly with Powell, Goldstein, Frazier & Murphy, now Presidential Assistant for Domestic Affairs.

Robert J. Lipschutz, formerly with Liptz, Zusmann, Sikes, Pritchard & Cohen, now Counsel to the President.

John L. Moore Jr., formerly with Alston, Miller & Gaines, now Presidential nominee as president of the Export-Import Bank.

Jack H. Watson Jr., formerly with King & Spalding, now Special Assistant and Secretary to the Cabinet.

Atty. Gen. Bell will administer the oath of office to President Ralph H. Hicks [Smith, Cohen, Ringel, Kohler & Martin], First Vice President/Presi-

dent-Elect William H. Schroder Jr., and other members of the Executive Committee.

The evening will open with a reception from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with a 50 per cent increase in the number of cash bars available.

Dinner will be served at 8:30 p.m., and at 9:30 p.m. the bars will reopen and the Brookwood Station band will play music for dancing until midnight.

Dress will be semi-formal. Steed noted that for the first time Atlanta Bar members can reserve tables (which seat 10 persons).

The menu will include lobster bisque with armagnac, heart of lettuce salad, boneless breast of chicken Condon Bleu with two vegetables and branded cherries jubilee flambée with baked Alaska.

Bienvenida a la Federacion Inter-Americana de Abogados!



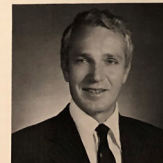
Griffin B. Bell



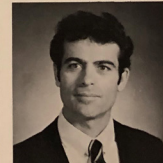
DeJongh Franklin



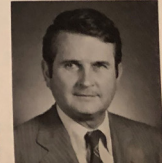
Stuart E. Eizenstat



John L. Moore Jr.



Jack H. Watson Jr.



Michael J. Egan Jr.

# Atlanta Bar's Annual Meeting Through History



## THE ATLANTA LAWYER

### Atlanta Bar Association Newsletter

**Vol. 15, No. 9**  
**September, 1971**

### SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING HELD



The annual meeting of the Atlanta Bar Association was held at the Regency Hyatt House in Atlanta on May 14, 1971, with a good crowd in attendance.

A highlight of the meeting was an address by the Honorable David H. Gambrell, Georgia's newly appointed Senator. Senator Gambrell has been a member and past president of the Atlanta Bar Association.

The Honorable Charles A. Weir, Jr., United States District Court of the Northern District of Georgia, administered the oath of office to the new officers and Executive Committee

#### OLD WAR HORSE ANNUAL OUTING

The annual outing of the Old War Horse Lawyers Club will take place on Friday, September 3, 1971 at 6:00 p.m. at the Waldo M. Slaton Legion Post No. 140, located at 3905 Powers Ferry Road, N.W.

The social committee composed of Judge Thomas L. Camp, Jr., Sam G. Dettelbach, James C. Hill, Hugh Howell, Jr., and Stanley P. Meyerson investigated many different places before deciding on the Waldo M. Slaton Legion Post No. 140 but it was so highly recommended as to the rustic atmosphere, spaciousness, free parking availability, to say nothing of the delicious food, that the committee felt this selection was easily the most desirable.

President Clifford Oxford urges you and your friends to share this delightful occasion with the Old War Horse Lawyers Club. Tickets are only \$5.00 per person which include entertainment, a delicious barbecued dinner with varied assortments and free beer and cokes.

Please contact Mrs. Margaret P. Lindsey at 192-0777 for tickets.

#### ATLANTANS ELECTED

At the recent State Bar meeting, Robert L. Foreman was elected to the new Post 10 of the State Bar, while Frank Love, Jr. and Clifford Oxford were elected to Posts 3 and 7, Pope McIntire, Dan Hodgson and Cullen Ward were elected to Posts 1, 5 and 7 respectively, and Clifford Oxford was one of the three men elected to the Executive Committee.



## THE ATLANTA LAWYER

### Atlanta Bar Association Newsletter

**Vol. 15, No. 1**  
**Summer 1970**

### 1970 ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS



Annual Meeting Scene

The 1970 Annual Meeting of the Atlanta Bar Association was held at the Regency Hyatt House on May 8, and a good crowd was in attendance.

Rev. E. Moss Robertson gave the invocation and President Weinberg then welcomed everyone and introduced the head table.

E. Smythe Gambrell introduced the speaker, who was the Honorable Edward L. Wright, President-Elect of the American Bar Association.

Justice Newell Edenfield then administered the oath to the new officers and Executive Committee of the Atlanta Bar who are:

R. Byron Attridge, First Vice-President and President-Elect; Julie W. Felton, Jr., Second Vice-President; Jack H. Watson, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer; with members of the Executive Committee being Palmer H. Ansley, Harry L. Cashin, Jr., William W. Cowan, John T. Marshall, Henry M. Quillian, Jr., Ronald L. Reid, and Ben Weinberg, Jr. The delegate to the American Bar Association is Herbert Johnson.

President Weinberg then gave his report and turned the gavel over to the new President Paul Cadenhead.

#### ATLANTA LEGAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION

Paul Cadenhead recently installed the officers for 1970-71 of the Atlanta Legal Secretaries Association. They are: President - Polly Dent of Dunaway, Sheller, Haas and Newberry; Vice President - Hazel Lord of Dunaway, Sheller, Haas and Newberry; Recording Secretary - Alice Brecht of Troutman, Sams, Schroder and Lockerman; Treasurer - Virginia Hood of Wilson, Wilcox & Wilson; Corresponding Secretary - Frances Mason of Trust Company of Georgia; NALS Representative - Gladys Plambeck of Wilson, Wilcox & Wilson; Governor - Jessie Turnipseed of Huie and Harland.

The outgoing president, Dolores Alexander, received the NALS pin and President's pin with gavel, and Polly Dent also received the President's pin with gavel as a gift.

Continued on page 3

#### ATLANTA TO HOST 1976 ANNUAL MEETING OF ABA


Atlanta has been selected as the site for the 1976 Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association.

The Atlanta Bar Association and the State Bar of Georgia passed a joint resolution extending the Atlanta invitation for this meeting and then were advised of an opportunity for a personal appearance before the Administration Committee and the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. in May.

Committee Chairman E. Smythe Gambrell and committee members Paul Cadenhead, Herbert Johnson, William B. Spann, Jr. and Ben Weinberg traveled to Washington and made their presentation before the Administration Committee on May 21.

The Administration Committee voted unanimously to have the meeting in Atlanta in 1976 subject only to a review two years hence of the hotels and accommodations available. The committee then met with the Board of Governors of the ABA and after hearing the report of the Administration Committee unanimously accepted the report and moved and agreed to meet in Atlanta in 1976 subject only to the two year review.

The Atlanta Legal Secretaries Association was formed in 1961 and is affiliated with the National Association of Legal Secretaries and the Georgia Association of Legal Secretaries. Its purposes are: To establish good fellowship among the members of this Association; To stimulate a high or



## THE ATLANTA LAWYER

### Atlanta Bar Association Newsletter

**Vol. 13, No. 6**  
**June 1969**

### SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY JOHN CONNALLY TO ADDRESS ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



Secretary Connally to address Atlanta Bar Association.

Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally, Jr. will address the Atlanta Bar Association at its annual meeting May 19 in the Phoenix Ballroom of the Regency Hyatt House.

In addition to the main address by Secretary Connally, the Bar Association will present a special award to Governor Jimmy Carter for outstanding leadership and service in Judicial Administration and Reform in Georgia.

The Association's new officers and 1972-73 Executive Committee will be installed at the meeting by Fulton Superior Court Judge Elmo Holt.

Secretary Connally was sworn in as Secretary of the Treasury February 17, 1969.

He joined Treasury with a background of

#### MINIMUM FEE SCHEDULE

At the meeting of the Atlanta Bar Association Executive Committee on March 23, 1972, the usefulness and propriety of the continuation of the Atlanta Bar minimum fee schedule:

#### LARGEST ATTENDANCE AT AN ANNUAL MEETING

The Atlanta Bar Association was thrust into the national limelight on May 9 because of the presence of its guest of honor and principal speaker, Senator Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy. The occasion was the Association's Annual Meeting which was held at the Regency Hyatt House. Usually this affair is limited to members of the Atlanta Bar Association and their families; however, Senator Kennedy created so much interest that others outside the profession were allowed to attend and, therefore, the huge ballroom of the hotel was filled to a strained capacity.

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. was on hand to introduce Senator Kennedy and the Senator was warmly received by those present.

The speaker, a lawyer himself, said he was always proud to speak to members of the Bar. He emphasized the importance of the legal profession to this nation and went on to say, "As lawyers, we have a special responsibility to the government in stirring up the people to believe in stirring up the people to believe in stirring up the resolution of conflict."



## THE ATLANTA LAWYER

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**Vol. 13, No. 6**  
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Governor Carter to be honored at annual meeting.

In January 1946, he helped to organize radio station KVET in Austin, Texas, which he served as Attorney, President and General Manager, 1946-49.

He was administrative assistant to Senator Lyndon B. Johnson 1949, and a member of the law firm of Powell, Wirtz and Rahat in Austin, 1949-52. From 1952-1961 he was attorney for Sid V. Richardson and Perry R. Bass, Fort Worth, active in the management of broadcasting, real estate, retail sales, oil and ranching, manufacturing and investment interests. In 1959, succeeded Mr. Richardson on the board of the New York Central Railroad.

President John F. Kennedy designated Mr. Connally Secretary of the Navy on December 27, 1961.

#### MINIMUM FEE SCHEDULE

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# ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION

Fulton County Courthouse • Atlanta 30303

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## Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 8

THE ATLANTA LAWYER

April 1968

### PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ABA TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING



Bernard Gerald Segal, President-elect of the ABA, will be the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Atlanta Bar Association which will be held on May 10, 1968, in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Motor Hotel.

Mr. Segal was born in New York City on June 11, 1907, and received his undergraduate and legal education at the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, the Wharton School of Business, and in the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania. He has been an active member and has held many positions in the American Bar Association, the American Bar Endowment, the American Law Institute, the American Judicial Society, the American College of Trial Attorneys, the American Bar Foundation, the Institute of Judicial Administration, the Foundation of

### AMERICAN BAR COMMITTEE MEETS HERE

The American Bar Association's Special Committee on Evaluation of Ethical Standards met at the Regency Hyatt House in Atlanta on March 22 and 23 to continue work on a study of existing Canons of Ethics.

Those distinguished attorneys from various parts of the United States are formulating an improved and enlarged Code of Ethics which will be recommended for adoption by the association within the next year.

E. Smythe Gambrell of Atlanta, former President of the ABA, acted as host to the committee, of which he is a member.

Committee Chairman Edward L. Wright is a former Chairman of the house of delegates of the ABA. Other participants included A. James Casner, acting Dean of Harvard Law School; Glen M. Coulter, former Treasurer of the ABA; Benton E. Gates, Chairman of the ABA's standing committee on legal ethics; William H. Morrison, former President of the Oregon Bar Association; John Ritchie, Dean of Northwestern University Law School; Sylvester C. Smith, Jr., former President of the ABA and a former Chairman of its house of delegates; Sherman Welpton, Jr., trial lawyer and California Bar leader; Charles E. Whitaker, former Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; and John F. Sutton, Jr. professor of law at the University of Texas.

well-known for his work in the American Bar Association as an advocate for improvements in the standards for judicial appointments. He served as Chairman of the ABA Committee on the Federal Judiciary from 1956 to 1962.

He has written several legal publications and law review articles. Mr.

### JUDGE ETHERIDGE INVITED TO SCIENCE SEMINAR



Mr. William F. Walsh, Chairman, Section of Criminal Law, American Bar Association, has announced that Judge Jack Etheridge has been selected as one of the fifty lawyers and Judges throughout the country to attend the first ABA Invitational Seminar to be held at Albrie House, Warrenton, Virginia, May 19 through 25, 1968, on the subject "Behavioral Science Experts: Tactics and Strategy for Utilization by Lawyers."

The University of Michigan Law School and the Cornell University Medical College are assisting in the preparation and presentation of the program. Mr. Walsh has announced that the faculty of six principal lecturers will consist of the leading psychiatrists and penologists in the nation who are involved in the field of psychiatry and the law.

Judge Etheridge, who attended the National College of State Trial

# ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION

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## Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 10

THE ATLANTA LAWYER

April, 1964

### ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED MAY 1ST LOKEY SUCCEEDS WOTTON AS PRESIDENT



The 76th Annual meeting of the Atlanta Bar Association will be held at the Atlanta Americana Motor Hotel on Friday evening, May 1st. A reception will begin at 6:30 P.M., with dinner at 7:30.

A significant event of the evening will be the installation of Charles Lokey as the 76th president of our association for the year 1964-65, succeeding Grigsby H. Wotton. Other officers and members of the Executive Committee will be announced and installed at the meeting.

Our current president is a partner in the law firm of Wotton, Long, Jones and Read. He received his LLB from the University of Georgia and was admitted to practice in Georgia in 1934. He has served as president of the Lawyer's Club of Atlanta. In addition to civic activities, Mr. Wotton is a member of the Atlanta, Georgia and American Bar Associations.

Our new president, who has served as president-elect for the past year, is associated with the firm of Lokey & Bowden. He received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1930. In Atlanta since 1930, he has been in the law firm of Lokey & Bowden. He will be past-president of the Atlanta Bar Association. He is an interesting member of the association and is cordially invited. For your reservation...

### Past President of South Carolina Bar

### PRITCHARD TO HIGHLIGHT ANNUAL MEETING

The Honorable Edward K. Pritchard of Charleston, S. C., will be the guest speaker at our annual meeting. Mr. Pritchard is the immediate past President of the South Carolina Bar Association, and a former president of the Charleston County Bar Association and former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Bar Association and former Chairman of the Law School Committee. He is a member of the American, South Carolina and Charleston County Bar Associations in all of which he takes an active interest. Mr. Pritchard served in the South Carolina Legislature and as Judge of the Municipal Court of Charleston. He has served as Chairman of both the Charleston County and the City of Charleston Democratic Executive Committees.

Mr. Pritchard attended Porter Military Academy in Charleston and was graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He then attended Union College in Schenectady, New York and later the University of South Carolina from which he graduated in 1927 with a B. A. degree, magna cum laude. In 1930 he received his LL.B. degree from the University of South Carolina Law School as first honor graduate. Unfortunately for Southern and Southeastern conference schools, Mr. Pritchard was ineligible for football, track and swimming, having received varsity letters in these sports while at Union College, but he made varsity letters at the University of South Carolina in boxing and basketball, being captain of the basketball team. He coached the Columbia High School track team to three State Championships.

Mr. Pritchard is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, National Scholastic Fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa, honorary fraternity, and Kappa Alpha, social fraternity. He is married to the former Julia Huger Myers, of Charleston.



Pritchard

### REMEMBER SBIC CONFERENCE ON APRIL 16

Mr. Eugene Polley, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and other SBA representatives will conduct the Conference on Small Business Investment Company Financing for Small Businesses on Thursday, April 16, in the Dinkler Plaza's Rainbow Room. The conference will commence with a luncheon at noon and conclude at 4:30 with a question and answer session. President Grigsby Wotton, chairman of the conference, urges all Atlanta Bar members to attend this program especially designed for attorneys. Please register by calling Mrs. Peggy Lindsey at JA 1-0777.

this meeting. www.registration.com



# THANK YOU, ATLANTA LAWYERS!

Since 2012, Legal Food Frenzy has provided over 17 million meals to neighbors in our 29-county service area.

This year your teams raised almost \$650,000, providing enough food for 2.6 Million meals!

Save the date for next year's competition, continue tradition, and join with your team

April 15 - 26, 2024.

More information about event and winners:

[GaLegalFoodFrenzy.org](http://GaLegalFoodFrenzy.org)





# Annual Meeting Recap



# A

full house welcomed **Amy B. Cheng** (Nelson Mullins) as the 116th President of the Atlanta Bar Association. She replaces **Christopher P. Lightner** (Alston & Bird) who completed his term with the ceremonial passing of the gavel at the Annual Meeting, May 23, 2023. The event closed the year and recognized that the

Atlanta Bar Association turns 135 years old on June 1, 2023.

In her acceptance speech, Cheng remarked, “It is only fitting that we first take a look back at the Association’s legacy as we envision its future.” She recapped the origin story; the Association was founded in 1888 when a group of Atlanta lawyers assembled in the Fulton County courthouse and adopted the Constitution of the Atlanta Bar Association. Using this historical reference theme, Cheng discussed that the Atlanta Bar’s Membership

continues with a passion for the law, a commitment to serving their community, and the dedication to carrying out the mission of the Association. The Bar’s service component signals a continuation of outgoing President Lightner’s significant focus on the Association’s tag line, “Lawyers Who Serve.” Cheng made history herself as the first Asian American / AAPI President of the Atlanta Bar Association.

Cheng closed her remarks by recognizing her family, law firm co-workers, the support from Atlanta Bar’s past presidents, and the Bar’s diverse membership, saying, “. . .we are a team, each with an important role to play. So, as we enter this year ahead, it is my personal encouragement to each of you to lean into this great organization. There are so many opportunities to serve, . . .please come talk to me or any of our section leaders - all of whom are amazing.”

A few additional highlights from the Annual Meeting. Several group and individual awards were presented, including:

- Large Section of the Year:       Litigation Section
- Small Section of the Year:     Estate Planning & Probate Section
- Special Recognition:         Judicial Law Section
- Distinguished Service Award:   E. Tyron Brown (Hawkins Parnell)
- Professionalism Award:       Sarah C. Babcock (Truancy Intervention Project)
- Charles E. Watkins, Jr. Award:   Betsy C. Griswold (Intercontinental Hotel Group)

Two extra points, and both related to the Atlanta Bar Association professional staff.

- Executive Director & CEO **Toni Roberts** (Atlanta Bar) took a microphone through the audience and talked to former **U.S. Magistrate Judge E. Clayton Scofield III** (Bar President during Atlanta’s 1996 Olympics) and **Harold Franklin** (Bar President actively involved with the Bar’s voting rights efforts in 2015). They each shared a few key accomplishments from their Bar leadership years.
- CLE Director **Tanya H. Windham** (Atlanta Bar) started the day on a high-note, literally, with an exceptional singing of our National Anthem.



**1** - From Clayton County to Washington DC: "How A Title VII Discrimination in Georgia Made Its Way to the U.S. Supreme Court." L-R: **Craig S. Friedman** (Jones Day) and **Thomas J. Mew, IV** (Buckley Bala Wilson Mew LLP).

**2** - "Trials After the Pandemic." L-R: **Jeffrey J. Costolnick** (Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC), **Hon. Leigh M. May** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia), **Lydia Chastain** (Department of Labor), and **Cameron W. Ellis** (Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC).

**3** - "Everything You Need to Know About The Federal Trade Commission's Proposed Noncompete Ban." L-R: **Adriana R. Midence** (Jackson Lewis PC), **Benjamin I. Fink** (Berman Fink Van Horn PC), and **Neal F. Weinrich** (Berman Fink Van Horn PC).

**4** - "Resurgence of Unions? A Look at the Latest Labor Law Trends." **Cary R. Burke** (Seyfarth Shaw LLP).

**5** - "The Latest and Greatest Tips on Mediating Employment Cases." L-R: **Daniel M. Klein** (Klein Dispute Resolution), **Tanya Tate** (Miles Mediation & Arbitration LLC), **Ellen Malow** (Malow Mediation & Arbitration), and **Amelia A. Ragan** (Legare Attwood & Wolfe LLC).

**5** - "In-House Counsel Perspective: Labor & Employment Trends from Inside the Company." L-R: **Honore Hishamunda** (Carvana), **Nabila Abdulhafiz** (Novelis), **Abigail Larimer** (Mohawk), and **Ariel D. Fenster** (Seyfarth Shaw LLP).



# IP SpringPosium 2023



**KARA A. SPECHT**  
Finnegan  
[kara.specht@finnegan.com](mailto:kara.specht@finnegan.com)

**O**n April 28-29, 2023, the Atlanta Bar IP Section and Georgia IP Alliance (GIPA) hosted the 19th Annual IP SpringPosium at Lanier Islands Resort, Legacy Lodge. Hosted each spring, the IP SpringPosium is an intellectual property CLE retreat designed to provide in-house and junior lawyers, as well as senior private-practice attorneys and Intellectual Property (IP) service providers, with a convenient and affordable educational and networking opportunity. The CLE programming offers presentations from seasoned professionals on a variety of topics and issues impacting the IP industry.

This year's programming featured discussions on hot topics in IP, including AI, NFTs, Web 3, and the Metaverse, patent subject matter eligibility, willful infringement, and copyright fair use, among many others:

"Everything, Everywhere, All at Once: Trademark and Copyright Law Updates on AI, NFT's and the Metaverse." Moderator: **Michael D. Hobbs, Jr.** (Troutman Pepper); with speakers **Amanda Groover Hyland**, (Taylor English); **Brenton E. Hund** (Warner Media); and **Michael B. Landau** (Georgia State University, College of Law).

"Updates on Patent Subject Matter Eligibility." Moderator: **Paul Tanpitukpongse** (Meunier Carlin & Curfman); with speakers **R. Maxwell Mauldin** (Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP); and **Donald M. Prather, Ph.D.** (Munier Carlin & Curfman).

"Professionalism: Working with Outside Counsel." Moderator: **Gordon Wright** (Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunne, LLP); with speakers **David Eramian** (Catalyze Advisors); **Elizabeth Lester** (Equifax); and **Matthew Nesbitt** (The Home Depot).

"Fair Use - Is it Really Fair?" Moderator: **Robin L. Gentry** (Cohan Law Group); with speaker **Gia Compton** (GBC Solutions Group).  
"Damages and Willful Infringement." Moderator: **Preston H. Heard** (Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP); with speakers

**Steve R. Risley** (Kent & Risley LLC) and **Dr. Alan White** (Ballard Spahr LLP).

"IP Impacts of Web3." Moderator: **Jeffrey D. Blake** (Merchant & Gould PC) and speaker **Murrell W. Blackburn** (Southwire Company LLC).

The Atlanta Bar IP Section was honored to welcome keynote speaker Eastern Regional Outreach Director **Elizabeth Dougherty** (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office), for a fireside chat led by **Jennifer Miller** (Scout Motors Inc.). As the Eastern Regional Outreach Director for the USPTO, Dougherty carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO and is responsible for leading the USPTO's East Coast stakeholder engagement. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Dougherty ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders. Dougherty offered the conference insight on the latest Office initiatives, including the opening of a Southeast Regional Office and diversity at the USPTO.

Following the CLE programming, attendees enjoyed networking with a view during a cocktail reception boat cruise on Lake Lanier followed by a lakeside dinner. These social events are the perfect opportunity to bring old colleagues and new friends together and featured a fantastic meal with talks from both the hosting organizations and sponsors.

Additionally, each year, GIPA awards an in-house counsel group the prestigious "Most Innovative Corporate IP Law Department Award." **Jeffrey D. Blake** (Merchant & Gould PC) presented the award this year to **Murrell W. Blackburn** (Southwire Company LLC).



# Atlanta Bar CLE: A Conversation with Probate Judges



**DEBORAH S. EBEL**  
Ebel Family Law LLC  
[debel@ebelfamilylaw.com](mailto:debel@ebelfamilylaw.com)

The Estate Planning and Probate Section (“Probate Section”) of the Atlanta Bar Association (“ABA”) assists attorneys who specialize in estate planning, probate, guardianships, and conservatorships. As part of this effort, on April 27, 2023, the Atlanta Bar hosted a webinar, titled “A Conversation with Probate Judges,” at which six Probate Judges from various Atlanta metropolitan Courts fielded a wide variety of questions, largely from members of the Probate Section. The Judges present were **Hon. Kenya Johnson** (Chief Judge, Fulton County Probate Court); **Hon. Angela Langaard** (Associate Judge, Fayette County Probate Court); **Hon. Daisy Weeks-Marisko** (Forsyth County Probate Court); **Hon. Kelli Wolk** (Cobb County Probate Court); **Hon. Christopher Ballar** (Gwinnett County Probate Court); and **Hon. Keith Wood** (Cherokee County Probate Court).

The moderators for this webinar were **Robert C. Port** (Gaslowitz Frankel LLC) and **Kevin T. O’Sullivan** (Cohen Pollock Merlin Turner PC).

Questions for the panel of Probate Court Judges were prepared and asked largely by members of the Probate Section. A sampling of the questions asked is as follows:

- How do the Probate Judges inform themselves regarding the cases pending?
- How do the Probate Judges deal with the party or client calling the Probate Court directly, as opposed to letting their lawyers make those calls?
- Which of the Probate Courts in the Atlanta metropolitan area require e-filing, or allow e-filing, and what happens with the documents like wills, codicils, and surety bonds, originals of which must be produced when these are probated?

- Is there any effort to have uniform rules on e-filing for all Probate Courts in Georgia?
- How do the various filing fees in the various Courts impact the ability, or lack thereof, to offer e-filing, since often the number of pages affects the fees assessed?
- If a Probate Court does not use e-filing, how does a probate lawyer or pro se client expedite the case if necessary, such as if a foreclosure is imminent or an emergency guardianship is needed?
- When should probate lawyers bring their clients to court with them?
- What are the common errors in pleadings that are filed, such as failing to attach exhibits, having contradictions between the will and the death certificate, use of qualifiers as opposed to definitive statements, etc.?
- What are the practicing probate lawyers doing right?
- Do the Probate Judges need more Guardians ad Litem?
- When do the Probate Judges utilize remote versus in-person proceedings?
- Which Probate Judges require mediation, and what types of matters are best suited to mediation in Probate Court?
- What is each Probate Judge’s favorite part of being a Probate Judge?

The panel of judges was lively, very candid with the lawyers in attendance, and provided encouraging news about technological advances that are on the horizon for probate courts in the Atlanta metropolitan area.



# Pro Bono Frenzy!

New Name, Same Great CLEs.



**KIER A. PRINCE**  
City of Atlanta  
[kier.prince@gmail.com](mailto:kier.prince@gmail.com)

**A**tlanta Bar CLE held its annual Pro Bono Frenzy (formerly known as Pro Bono March Madness) program in March 2023. The program has a two-fold purpose which allows individuals to obtain CLE hours before the March 31, 2023 deadline, while also allowing pro bono organizations the opportunity to train and recruit new volunteers for their programs.

Pro Bono Frenzy kicked off with “Employment Law for Nonprofits” hosted by Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and the Atlanta Bar’s Labor & Employment Law Section. The seminar covered general employment laws that affect nonprofit organizations, specifically nonprofits who normally seek assistance from Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta in general matters such as guidance on proper compensation of employees and volunteers under the Fair Labor Standards Act; the use of other types of workers in the nonprofit work environment, including independent contractors, volunteers, and interns; and the creation or review of employee and volunteer handbooks.

In the second week, Georgia Appleseed presented a CLE on representing students in school disciplinary hearings and manifestation meetings. Those in attendance learned best practices for representing children in foster care in educational matters and how to provide additional support for students with disabilities. The Atlanta Legal Aid Society hosted a “Handling Adoptions in Georgia” CLE that prepared attendees for handling adoptions and other common family cases from start to finish through Atlanta Legal Aid’s Kinship Care Project.

The third week continued in grand fashion with Atlanta Legal Aid once again hosting a CLE on “Hacking IEP Meetings.” The CLE covered special education law that governs the IEP process and helps to demystify the process. The Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network (GAIN) hosted a training on the legal remedies available to those seeking asylum in domestic violence situations, how to prepare and file petitions with USCIS, and how

to work with potential clients in a victim-centered and culturally sensitive manner.

In the fourth week, the Bar hosted another two pro bono CLEs. Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and the Atlanta Bar Tax Law Section presented a CLE that provided an overview of §501(c)(3) organizations, a detailed overview of the unrelated business taxable income rules, an explanation of when various alternate sources of income are taxable under these rules, and suggestions for ways to potentially avoid such tax. Atlanta Legal Aid closed out the week by hosting a training for gender-affirming name changes. Attendees learned how to file a legal name change for an adult, address special provisions for survivors of domestic violence, and legal requirements for changing a gender marker on Georgia identity documents and U.S. passports.

To close out the final week of Pro Bono Frenzy, the Bar featured three pro bono CLE’s. The Truancy Intervention Project hosted a CLE on how to effectively communicate with clients. Attendees were able to learn how effective communication with clients drives attitudes about opposing parties and opposing counsel, influences decisions regarding settlement and affects how clients perceive lawyers and the justice system in general. DeKalb Pro Bono provided training to all those wishing to serve as a Guardian ad Litem in contested custody cases. The training outlined the role of a Guardian ad Litem, reviewed the law and procedure for serving as a GAL, and explored the common and often complex issues Guardians face. On the final day, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) provided a training that equipped attendees with the necessary tools and confidence to provide legal assistance and representation to survivors of intimate partner abuse and stalking in 12-Month Protective Order hearings.

We are thankful to all the participating organizations for their continued partnership.

PHOTO CREDIT: DON MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY



# We Brought Napa to Atlanta

The Atlanta Bar Foundation Ends A Magnificent Year with a Wine Tasting.



**LOUIS R. COHAN**  
Cohan Law Group  
[lcohan@cohanlawgroup.com](mailto:lcohan@cohanlawgroup.com)

I want to express my eternal gratitude to all who attended and helped with the fabulous Bringing Napa to Atlanta Wine Tasting. Truly a special night.

Led by **Brenton E. Hund** (WarnerMedia), and **Hannibal F. Heredia** (Hedgepeth Heredia LLC), we pulled off what I hope will be a core annual #AtlantaBarFoundation event going forward. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Atlanta Bar Association. Judy and **Edward T.M. Garland** (Garland Samuel & Loeb PC) were the most amazing of hosts. Not only did they open their beautiful home to us, but for weeks in advance of the event they worked tirelessly with us to make everything work --- and it did.

The skies cleared, the weather was perfect, and many stars of the Bar arrived. The night started with a champagne party on the patio. We then moved inside for an amazing spread of food from Rumi's Kitchen. Then, the program began. We enjoyed gourmet cheeses from Capella Cheese. Owner, Raymond Hook, himself, introduced the cheeses, which were paired perfectly with the wines. John Caldwell, owner of #CaldwellVineyards, and his partner, Mario, treated us to 90 minutes of stories about wine, and the creation of his amazing private vineyards in Napa. Of course, the wines were all top shelf. After the program, we enjoyed macarons, port, tequila, and bourbon.

A good measure of the success of any party is how long people stay. I'll say this, the program ended around 9:30, and my wife Debbie and I walked into our home at midnight. When we finally left, the Garlands were still entertaining.

Last, but certainly not least, the Atlanta Bar staff, led by our amazing Executive Director & CEO **Toni Roberts** (Atlanta Bar), did what they always do – anything, everything, anywhere, and all at once. It was an “all hands on deck” event. The Bar staff arrived at the Garland home around 4 p.m. and were still cleaning when Debbie and I left around 11:30 p.m.

If you missed it this, year, I am sorry. Start saving now. You will not want to miss it again.

As my year as President of your Foundation winds to an end, I am humbled as I was a year ago. We put on five amazing events, the Summer of Fun series (which was composed of a whiskey tasting, trivia night, and Party under the Stars), The Legal Runaround, and this Wine Tasting. We raised money, and more important, we, with our partner Lawyer Referral & Information Service, were able to make grants totaling \$200,000.00.

The Foundation has now granted \$1.8 million to worthy organizations. Our Bar and the Foundation Board continue to go above and beyond. I am so proud to have been a part of this, and so thankful you all allowed me to do it.

The official passing of the gavel is in May. **Alan G. Poole** (Troutman Pepper) is our next Atlanta Bar Foundation President. Poole is ready, and will undoubtedly lead us to even greater good. I am in for life. I look forward to working with the Foundation for as long as I am able.



PHOTO CREDIT: VISITNAPAVALLEY.COM

PHOTO CREDIT: PEXELS





# If You Build It, They Will Come



**JACQUELINE L. PAYNE**  
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I have always loved that quote from “Field of Dreams.” Serving on the Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) Board of Trustees has certainly been that type of experience. I have now been on the Board for four years and am presently about to end my term as Chair. During my time on the Board, I have focused on growth and recruitment.

We presently have 195 attorneys signed up to take cases. We have worked on beefing up our Family Law area, as that is the biggest need, both on the regular LRIS referrals, and on our Modest Means panel. We still need you! Please sign up if you have not already. We are still building and growing.

For me, as a Legal Aid attorney, I love that there is a resource for those applicants I encounter who are over income for Legal Aid, or otherwise ineligible for Legal Aid. Serving on the Board has given me a better understanding of the case types available for referral, and of the need for attorneys in the areas that receive the most calls. Director **Lucia Keller** (LRIS) has indicated that the office receives more than four thousand calls each month! There is definitely a need for more attorneys to sign up. The sheer volume of calls each month, if able to be placed, could provide a steady revenue stream for your law practice. There is an urgent and a particular need for family law attorneys, but all practice areas are open. This is the time to sign up! The Atlanta Bar Association and LRIS membership enrollment period is just commencing.

Keller and her staff work hard to make sure that placements happen. I thank her for her support and kindness during my tenure as Board Chair.

LRIS continues to provide a yearly grant to non-profits in the Atlanta area through the Atlanta Bar Foundation. This year, we were happy to be able to allocate \$160,000. The non-profit groups granted funds this year were Truancy Intervention Project, Atlanta

Bar M&DCP, Atlanta Bar SLIP, AVLF, Atlanta Legal Aid, GAIN, Georgia Innocence Project, Gideon’s Promise, the Latina American Association, and Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. It would be wonderful to be able to increase the Foundation’s funding of these grants. One of the ways to do that is to of course have more members of the Bar sign up for LRIS. LRIS provides a wonderful opportunity for attorneys building a practice.

I want to thank my entire Board for their excellent service on behalf of LRIS. Thanks to **Hon. Fatima Harris Felton** (The Harris Law Firm LLC), who will be Board Chair for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. I appreciate her support as Vice-Chair.

A big THANKS to departing members **James D. Blicht IV** (Blicht Law PC), **Kana Anne E. Caplan** (Krevolin & Horst LLC), **Stephanie P. Graham** (Graham Estate Planning), and **Kyle H. Jarzmik** (Law Office of Kyle H. Jarzmik LLC).

Also, a HEARTY WELCOME to new Board members **Walter Gabriel Jr.** (Law Firm of Walter Gabriel LLC), **Tristan Morrison** (Morrison & Hughes), **Trevi-Ann Thompson** (City of Atlanta Municipal Court) and **Bomkapr Kanu** (Law Office of B Kanu LLC). **Peter H. Strott** (Strott & Dillon LLC) returns as LRIS Vice-Chair and Board Chair-elect.

As I complete my term as Board Chair, I will continue to work with LRIS to fulfill their goal of building and recruiting more attorneys in the Atlanta area to sign-up and to serve.



# The Minority & Diversity Clerkship Program Thanks You!

The Minority & Diversity Clerkship Program (M&DCP) is off to a very successful thirty-eighth (38th) year. Through the program, we were able to place twenty (20) first year law students in clerkships with firms and corporate legal departments. In addition, thanks to generous grants from the Atlanta Bar Foundation and Lawyer Referral & Information Service, we were able to fund four judicial clerkships. As a result, through the M&DCP, we were able to give twenty-four (24) minority 1L students a summer legal opportunity they may not have otherwise been afforded.

The M&DCP thanks the following firms and legal departments for participating and making our thirty-eighth (38th) year a continued success:

Alston & Bird  
 Arnall Golden Gregory  
 Atrium Health  
 Burr & Forman LLP  
 Cox Enterprises, Inc.  
 Delta Air Lines  
 Goodman McGuffey LLP  
 Hawkins Parnell & Young LLP  
 Meunier Carlin & Curfman, LLC  
 Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough  
 Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs LLP  
 Parker Poe  
 Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
 Squire Patton Boggs  
 Stites & Harbison  
 Taylor English Duma LLP  
 The Home Depot  
 UPS  
 Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial, LLC

The M&DCP would also like to thank the following justices, judges, and organizations for hosting students this Summer:

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs  
 Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren  
 Justice Charles J. Bethel  
 Hon. Sara L. Doyle

*We also extend very special thanks to Burr & Forman for hosting Interview Night.*

# The Mind Behind *Dissection*

Atlanta Bar's BookBar Meet & Greet with Author Cristina LePort.



**DANIELA B. BRITTON**

Law Clerk to the Hon. Wayne M. Purdom, Chief Judge of DeKalb County State Court  
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**O**n March 28, 2023, the Atlanta Bar Association's book club, the "Book Bar," welcomed Cristina LePort, the author of the medical thriller *Dissection* for a virtual Q&A. *Dissection* was chosen for the spring edition of the Atlanta Bar Association's fiction group. According to Amazon, it is a "taut thriller with complex characters that combines cutting-edge medical technology with horrific yet still believable terrorist plots." LePort is an accomplished internist and cardiologist and the Chief Medical Officer and co-founder of Genescient, a biotech company devoted to genetic research on aging and the amelioration of chronic diseases. *Dissection* published in 2022, marks her well-received debut as an author.

**TAL: You are a surgeon and a scientist. How did you become a writer?**

**LePort:** After my medical education and training in Italy I came to Brooklyn for my residency. I did not know much English at the time, so I always carried my dictionary in my pocket. While waiting for my residency to start, I worked as a caregiver to make money and learn the language. Fast-forward 20 years; I am working in internal medicine and having a full-blown midlife crisis. I switch to cardiology and write my first novel. It was never published. But I did not give up! The medical world, dealing with questions of life and death, provides an excellent background for stories. And the qualities of a doctor overlap with those of a writer – for example, both need to be good at reading people and their emotions and put clues together.

**TAL: How did you come up with the idea for this book?**

**LePort:** One day I saw a commercial for Aspirin. Somebody got a card saying, "Your heart attack will arrive tomorrow." I immediately thought this would be a great start for a thriller.

**TAL: When we were discussing the book in the group, someone asked how realistic the plot is, in other words, whether this kind of attack by soundwaves as described in the book could really happen.**

**LePort:** Yes, definitely. The science and technology are there – a mastermind could theoretically program a destructive plot like the one in the book. However, the "fix" is a science fiction solution – once started, there is no possible way to stop or counter such attack.

**TAL: So, no "happy ending" in real life...?**

**LePort:** Unfortunately, no.

**TAL: Besides the scientific and medical world that is your home turf, you tackle big topics that are beyond your expertise, such as terrorism, national security, the FBI. How did you do your research and how long did it take you?**

**LePort:** I did most of my research on Google. I also read a lot of books and other written material and watched many movies and series. It took me months.

**TAL: Do the characters in the book resemble people in your life?**

**LePort:** Like probably every writer, I use friends and family to create the characters in my book. Sometimes I use only their names, sometimes certain character traits.

**TAL: What is the most difficult thing about writing characters from a different sex?**

**LePort:** Interestingly enough, I feel most comfortable with writing from a man's point of view. Growing up, I never saw women do any

interesting things. It was always the men who went on adventures!

**TAL: Did your attitude towards or opinion about certain things change while researching or writing this book?**

**LePort:** I got scared while learning about government security in the face of a terroristic threat or attack. I do not feel safe anymore. They should put more money in it.

**TAL: What was the hardest scene or part to write?**

**LePort:** The political plot because I had to get it right. Writing about the terrorists was also difficult because I had to make sure not to offend anyone or any religion. What I wanted to show is that when extremists think they act in the name of – any – religion, they act against it.

**TAL: Speaking of messages – what is the most important message you want to convey with the book?**

**LePort:** I wanted to show that regular people can be heroes. The protagonists in my book have no superpowers and do not wear capes. They are not always pleasant and far from being perfect. But they are not scared and do the things they know how to do, even in the face of danger.

**TAL: Now for an author's favorite question. If *Dissection* was**

**turned into a movie, who would be your preferred cast?**

**LePort:** I would like to see Lady Gaga, Mila Kunis, or Angelina Jolie in the role of Silvana. Benedict Cumberbatch would make a perfect Dr. Leeds. Mulville could be played by Alan Ritchson, and I can see John Krasinski or Adam Driver in the role of Kirk. And the great Jennifer Lawrence as Aurora.

**TAL: Final question: What will be your next book?**

**LePort:** I will publish a prequel to *Dissection* next. Two sequels are in the making. And I am working on an independent science fiction novel.

**TAL: We cannot wait to read those! Good luck - and thank you for this conversation.**

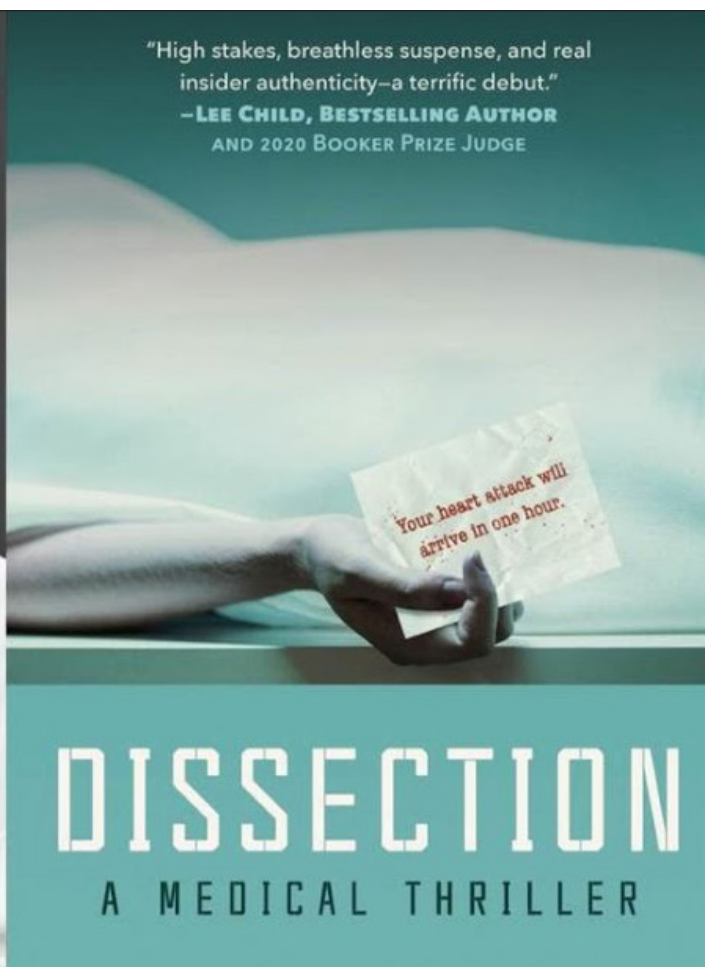


PHOTO CREDIT: YOUTUBE

# UPDATES & HAPPENINGS



**1** - March 2, 2023 - **Lindsey Corbin** (delegate.legal) and **Jason Wiggam** (Wiggam Law).

**2** - March 13, 2023 - Sole Practitioner/Small Firm and Women in the Profession Section Spring happy hour. L-R: **Sara Khaki** (The Khaki Law Firm and Atlanta Divorce Law Group), **Jennifer Gore-Cuthbert** (Atlanta Personal Injury Law Group Gore), **Jacqueline H. Saylor** (The Saylor Law Firm), **Anne Tyler Hall** (Hall Benefits Law), **Jessica J. Wood** (Bodker Ramsey Andrews Winograd & Wildstein PC), **Joyce Gist Lewis** (Krevolin & Horst), and **Jason Wiggam** (Wiggam Law).

**3** - The Atlanta Bar Foundation's "Bringing Napa to Atlanta Wine Tasting." Full article on page 39.

**4** - March 14, 2023 - Joint Sole Practitioner/Small Firm Section and Women in the Profession Section happy hour.

**5** - March 22, 2023 - Construction Law Section and Dispute Resolution Section breakfast, L-R: **Steve Gilhooley** (FTI Consulting), **Paul Carter** (Walsh Group), **Ann Russo** (Dispute Resolution Board Foundation), **Jake Carroll** (Nelson Mullins), **Jim Groton** (Ret. Eversheds Sutherland), and **Scott Zucker** (Weissmann Zucker Euster Morochnik).

**6** - March 23, 2023 - **Nkoyo-Ene Effiong** (State Bar of Georgia) speaks to the Sole Practitioner/Small Firm Section about how to ethically design a lucrative law practice in the post-pandemic world.



**7** - March 30, 2023 - Criminal Law Section breakfast, L-R: **Emily C. Ward** (Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP), **Amy Buice** (Smith Gambrell Russell LLP), **Andrea Dennis** (University of Georgia), **Marissa Goldberg** (Finding Law Firm), and **Devin A. Rafus** (Arora Law Firm).

**10** - L-R: **Ayo Uboh** (Zwicker & Associates PC), **Dina Khismatulina** (The Manely Firm PC), and **Michael E. Manely** (The Manely Firm).

April 12, 2023 - The Atlanta Bar International Law Section enjoyed a fun social at 5Church Midtown and engaged in fruitful conversations around adding an Immigration component to its focus. Exciting developments are in store for this Section! **(8 -12)**

**11** - L-R: **Shannon Pawley** (The Estate & Asset Protection Law Firm), **Bomkapr Kanu** (Law Office of B Kanu LLC), **Keyaire Knox** (The Estate & Asset Protection Law Firm), and **Asiyah Sarwari** (Fox Legal LLC).

**8** - L-R: **Hon. Phinia Aten** (Rockdale County Magistrate Court) and **Yolvondra Martin-Brown** (The Martin Law Group LLC).

**12** - L-R: **John Parkerson** (Hall Booth Smith PC), **Cathy Nash** (Cathy Nash Law), and **Xuting Zhang** (Emory Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans).

**9** - L-R: **Brynne Holt** (Law Office of Kathleen M. Flynn LLC), **Gabrielle Kimche** (1L Georgia State University), and **Jenna G. Emory** (Copeland Stair Valz & Lovell LLP).

# UPDATES & HAPPENINGS



**13** - April 13, 2023 - Sole Practitioner/Small Firm Section breakfast. **Brian Sulka** (EOS Worldwide) presented how to implement the EOS model to run a better law firm and live a better life.

**14** - April 14, 2023 - Estate Planning & Probate Section breakfast, L-R: **Kevin T. O' Sullivan** (Cohen Pollock Merlin & Turner PC) and **Kristen M. Lewis** (The Bowden Law Firm).

**15** - April 14, 2023 - Joint Intellectual Property Section and Litigation Section breakfast, L-R: **E. Tyron Brown** (Hawkins Parnell), **Kimberlynn B. Davis, Ph.D.** (Kilpatrick Townsend), **Cara Regan** (Finnegan), **Lisa N. Collins** (BakerHostetler), **Peter G. Pappas** (Eversheds Sutherland), **Wab Kadaba** (Kilpatrick Townsend), and **James M. Sherman** (Stanley Esrey & Buckley LLP).

**16** - April 14, 2023 - Litigation Section breakfast.

**17** - April 18, 2023 - Labor & Employment Section Nichol's House event.

**18** - April 19, 2023 - Elder Law Section breakfast, L-R: **Keith R. Miles** (Law Office of Keith R. Miles LLC) and **Brian Dowd** (Georgia Department of Community Health).







**19** - April 20, 2023 - Family Law Section breakfast, L-R: **Dawn R. Smith** (Evolve Family Law) and **Kylee Elliot** (Department of Community Supervision).

**20** - April 26, 2023 - Joint Construction Law Section and Real Estate Section CLE breakfast, L-R: **Lindsey Powell** (Anderson Jones PLLC), **Jake Carroll** (Nelson Mullins), and **Caleb Stubbs** (Kimley-Horn).

**21** - April 26, 2023 - Litigation Section hosted its Spring community service event at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton.

**22** - April 29, 2023 - Thanks to all those who attended the 2023 Member Appreciation Month Hike Day! A special thanks to **Minerva A. Steele** (Wellness Committee Chair) and **Mari L. Myer** (hike leader) for leading the charge. The group enjoyed beautiful weather, pretty river views, and several deer sightings. L-R: **Mari L. Myer** (The Myer Law Firm), **Hon. Cassandra Kirk** (Fulton County Magistrate Court), **Minerva A. Steele** (Steele Law Inc.), **Evan W. Elam** (Stites & Harbison), and **Mike Smith**.

# UPDATES & HAPPENINGS



**25** - Construction Law Section Spring Social at Puttshack, L-R: **Chadd Reynolds** (Chamberlain Hrdlicka), **Lindsey Powell** (Anderson Jones), **Carroll Hart** (Nelson Mullins), **Jake Carroll** (Nelson Mullins), **Christy Sanders** (GSFIC), and **Jenna Lasseter** (Nelson Mullins).

**26** - Women in the Profession gathering, L-R: **Lindsey Powell** (Anderson Jones PLLC), **Talis S. Trevino** (Holland & Knight), **Jena G. Emory** (Copeland Stair Valz & Lovell LLP), and **Sarah M. White** (Fulton County Probate Court).

**27** - WIP gathering, L-R: **Lauren J. Miller** (Caldwell Carlson Elliott & DeLoach LLP), **Michelle Urbani Wallace** (Advantage Law Firm), **Kristy R. Barnhart** (Barnhart Family Law), and **Marilyn L. Kapaun** (Bovis Kyle Burch & Medlin LLC).

**28** - WIP gathering, L-R: **Sheena K. Khawaja** (Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC), **Lynn C. Woodward** (Gregory Doyle Calhoun & Rogers LLC), **Lindsey Powell** (Anderson Jones PLLC), and **Marilyn L. Kapaun** (Bovis Kyle Burch & Medlin LLC).

**29** - WIP gathering, L-R: **Kimberly D. Lerman** (Consilio), **Hon. Kimberly D. Charles** (Atlanta Legal Aid), **Jena G. Emory** (Copeland Stair Valz & Lovell LLP), **Alisha Wyatt-Bullman** (Office of General Counsel - SSA), **Audrey B. Bergeson** (Bergeson Family Law LLC).



## Have a Section Update?

Keep Atlanta Bar membership informed of your Section's upcoming events and let us know how your Section has impacted the community!

Please send submissions to [jcoleman@atlantabar.org](mailto:jcoleman@atlantabar.org)

### **Connecting Lawyers Who Share Offices.**

A platform for lawyers renting LawSpace to other lawyers and law firms across the United States. Searching for LawSpace or Subleasing office space to lawyers?

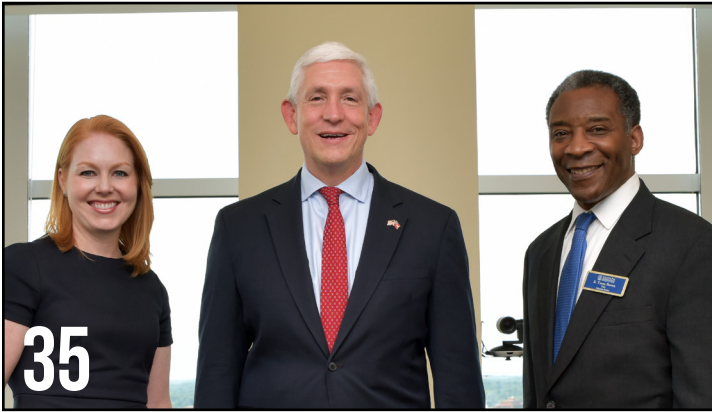
# UPDATES & HAPPENINGS



**30** - The Atlanta Bar Association was thrilled to join the State Bar of Georgia in welcoming incoming American Bar Association President Mary Smith at a Meet and Greet in her honor. L-R: Executive Director **Damon Elmore** (State Bar of Georgia), President **Sally Akins** (State Bar of Georgia), Treasurer **Ivy Cadle** (State Bar of Georgia), ABA President-Elect **Mary Smith**; President **Chris P. Lightner** (Atlanta Bar), President-Elect **Amy B. Cheng** (Atlanta Bar), Executive Director & CEO **Toni Roberts** (Atlanta Bar), and Atlanta Bar Secretary **Emily C. Ward** (Smith Gambrell & Russell).

**31** - Litigation Section Bench & Bar Reception. L-R: **Hannah Sbaity** (Penn Law LLC), **John D. Hadden** (Penn Law LLP), and **Wade Watson** (Watson Bonander LLC).

**32** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Lynn M. Roberson** (ret.) and **Hon. Henry Newkirk** (Fulton County Superior Court).



**33** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Jim Sherman** (Stanley Esrey & Buckley LLP) and **Hon. Jackson T. Bedford** (Fulton County Superior Court).

**34** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Former Chief Justice David Nahmias** (Jones Day) and **E. Tyron Brown** (Hawkins Parnell).

**35** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Justice Sarah Warren** (Georgia Supreme Court), **Former Chief Justice David Nahmias** (Jones Day), and **E. Tyron Brown** (Hawkins Parnell).

**36** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Amy B. Cheng** (Nelson Mullins), **Justice Sarah Warren** (Georgia Supreme Court), Executive Director & CEO **Toni Roberts** (Atlanta Bar), and **Charles Huddleston** (Nelson Mullins).

**37** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Hon. Angela Brown** (Cobb County Superior Court), **Hon. Kimberly Alexander** (DeKalb County State Court), **Hon. Sonja Brown** (Cobb County Superior Court), and **Hon. Greg Poole** (Cobb County Superior Court).

**38** - Bench & Bar. L-R: **Sharnell Simon** (Jones Day), **Ashley Futrell Hinson** (Jones Day), **Emily Cohan** (Cohan Law Group), and **Erin Smith** (Cohan Law Group).

## Bankruptcy Section

The Bankruptcy Section held its annual Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Year in Review CLE on February 9, 2023 at the Capital City Club, and true to form, it provided a complete and succinct summary of the most important bankruptcy and commercial law case developments from the last year. The event was very well attended by over 60 members who enjoyed the opportunity to hear from the distinguished panelists. The morning session focused on recent developments in bankruptcy law and included **Hon. Mary Grace Diehl** (Ret., U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia), **Hon. Paul W. Bonapfel** (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia), and **Hon. Jeffery W. Cavender** (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia), and **Beth Anne Harrill** (law clerk for Hon. Paul W. Bonapfel, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia). The afternoon session focused on developments in commercial law and was presented by **Eric W. Anderson** (Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP) and **Bryan E. Bates** (Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs LLP).

Annual Spring CLE Program and David Pollard Award Luncheon – The Bankruptcy Section’s Spring CLE Program and Luncheon was held on May 11, 2023, at the Capital City Club. This year’s Program featured a two-part panel entitled The Honorable W. Homer Drake Jr. Professionalism & Ethics Panel Discussion and will focus on what Hon. Drake expected of the attorneys appearing before him. Panelists included: **Hon. C. Ray Mullins** (Ret., U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia), **Gus H. Small** (Small Herrin LLP), **Grant T. Stein** (Alston & Bird LLP), **M. Regina Thomas** (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia), and **Jonathan S. Adams** (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Trustee). The program was followed by a luncheon where the Board of Directors of the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association presented the 2023 David W. Pollard Achievement Award to **Hon. Wendy L. Hagenau** (U.S. Bankruptcy Court). The award is presented each year to “a member of the Atlanta Bar Association who best exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in the bankruptcy practice.” More information about the award and past recipients can be found at atlantabar.org.

Summer Soiree and Send-Off Celebration in honor of M. Regina Thomas – The Atlanta Bar Bankruptcy Section will join with other local bar organizations to celebrate M. Regina Thomas’ upcoming retirement as Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. The event is scheduled for June 22, 2023, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Wild Leap Atlanta Brewery, 125 Ted Turner Drive SW, Atlanta, 30313. All Bankruptcy Section Members are invited to attend to honor and recognize Thomas on this momentous occasion. RSVP information to follow.

**KELLY E. WAITS**  
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## Labor & Employment Section

The Labor and Employment Section has had a busy Spring. In March, we hosted our Advanced Employment Law CLE, our annual all-day seminar which we convened in-person at Jones Day for the first time since the pandemic. The program was very well attended and featured excellent presentations, including a panel discussing trial techniques and strategy, featuring **Hon. Leigh Martin May** (U.S. District Court Northern District of Georgia), as well as panels discussing mediation strategy, the Federal Trade Commission’s proposed noncompete ban, a labor law update, perspectives from in-house counsel, and the Supreme Court’s seminal decision in *Bostock*.

After the program concluded, attendees enjoyed a happy hour sponsored by Miles Mediation and beautiful views on Jones Day’s patio. In April, our Section led a service event at the Nicholas House, a homeless shelter for families in transition. Section members served dinner and assisted residents with resume-building. The attendees found the event very rewarding, and the residents were very grateful for our support.

**NEAL F. WEINRICH**  
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## Litigation Section

The Atlanta Bar Association Litigation Section sprung into spring with several great educational, networking, and community service events. On March 10, 2023, the Litigation and Workers’ Compensation Sections hosted a joint breakfast meeting where panelists **Karlise Grier** (Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism), **R. Matthew Martin** (Dentons), **Hon. Emily K. Richardson** (Superior Court of Fulton County) and **Michael Rosetti** (Swift Currie) participated in an interesting and informative discussion on professionalism led by moderators **Seslee Smith** (Morris Manning & Martin) and **Blake Williams** (Lewis Brisbois). For the April breakfast meeting, the Litigation Section co-hosted a discussion on “Trends in Intellectual Property Prosecution & Litigation” with the Intellectual Property Section. The panelists **Lisa N. Collins** (BakerHostetler), **Wab Kadaba** (Kilpatrick Townsend), **Peter G. Pappas** (Eversheds Sutherland), and **Cara Regan** (Finnegan) along with moderators Dr. **Kimberlynn B. Davis** (Kilpatrick Townsend) and **James M. Sherman** (Stanley, Esrey & Buckley LLP) covered a wide array of hot topics including design protection in anti-counterfeiting and the impact of artificial intelligence like ChatGPT.

Finally, the Litigation Section hosted its spring community service event at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton on April 26, 2023 where lawyers from across Atlanta came together to prepare Career Readiness Kits, including interview and resume tips and tricks and personal words of encouragement, with Dress for Success to help recipients in their search for a promising new career.

We look forward to finishing the Bar year strong and concluded the month of May with the May 10, 2023, Litigation Section’s Bench & Bar Reception honoring the 2023 recipient of the Logan E. Bleckley Award for Judicial Excellence, **Hon. David E. Nahmias** (Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia). On May 12, 2023, a joint breakfast was held with the Dispute Resolution Section on “Post COVID-19 Jury Trials, Arbitrations and Mediations: Valuation of Damages & Other Considerations.”

**JAKE CARROLL**  
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## Sole Practitioner/Small Firm Section

The Sole Practitioner Small Firm section celebrated the start of Spring by celebrating Women’s History Month with a Happy Hour and Panel Discussion co-hosted with the Women in the Profession section on March 13, 2023, at 5Church Midtown. The panel of accomplished female attorneys featured **Anne Tyler Hall** (Hall Benefits Law), **Joyce Gist Lewis** (Krevolin & Horst), **Sara Khaki** (The Khaki Law Firm and Atlanta Divorce Law Group), **Jennifer Gore-Cuthbert** (Atlanta Personal Injury Law Group Gore), and **Jessica J. Wood** (Bodker Ramsey Andrews Winograd & Wildstein PC).

The Sole Practitioner Small Firm section also hosted three different presentations that allowed members to come together to learn more about topics to help grow and build their firms.

March’s events started off strong with a breakfast meeting hosted on March 2 at the Buckhead Club that featured **Lindsey Corbin** (delegate.legal). Corbin spoke on how to navigate creating a completely virtual practice and how to practice effective communication with your virtual team through the screen.

On March 23, 2023, the SPSF Section had the pleasure of listening to **Nkoyo-Ene Effiong** (State Bar of Georgia) speak on the ethics of designing a law practice in a post-pandemic world over lunch at 5Church Midtown. Effiong, who serves as the Director of the Law Practice Management Program at the State Bar of Georgia, shared

valuable insights on how to integrate new virtual business practices without running afoul of your ethical obligations.

The SPSF Section returned back to the Buckhead Club on April 13, 2023, for a breakfast meeting with Brian Sulka (EOS Worldwide). Sulka presented on the basics of EOS and how law firm owners can use it to run a better business and live a better life.

The past two months of events have provided a great networking space for members of the SPSF Section to learn essential lessons from great business leaders outside of our industries. We want to extend a special thanks to all of our presenters and sponsors who have helped bring the section together every month, and we are excited to continue learning as the year goes on and our brand-new SPSF Chair takes the reigns. Please visit the [atlantabar.org](http://atlantabar.org) calendar for more details on our upcoming Sections events!

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## Women in the Profession Section

The Women in Profession Section held small group lunch gatherings on April 12, 2023, and April 13, 2023, to share in good food and great company. These gatherings gave members the opportunity to dine and network in smaller groups and meet other woman living and working nearby. There were lunches at Canoe in Vinings, South City Kitchen in Buckhead, Bulla Gastrobar in Midtown, and White Oak Kitchen in Downtown.

As we round out this Bar year, we invite everyone to our annual Women of Achievement Luncheon that will take place this year on June 1, 2023, at the Capital City Club and will be honoring **Michelle Urbani Wallace** (Advantage Law Firm).

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