

SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

The Citation

Volume 96, Issue 9

April 2015

Editor: Tawny D. Mack

Inside this Issue:

GLSP Acknowledges Pro Bono Attorneys	2
Local Attorneys Educate Local Youth About the Constitution	2
SAFE Shelter's Camp ROCK	3
GLSP Bar Campaign Reaches Goal	4
SBA Announces Lawyers in Crisis Committee	4
YLD Update	5
Georgia Legal Service Program's 3rd Annual Silent Auction	5
Catholic Lawyers Guild Elects New Officers, Schedules Annual Red Mass	6
Joseph Rahimi Announces New Firm	6
SBA Thanks Langston Bass	6
Board of Governors Report from Gwendolyn Fortson Waring	7
Advertisements	8

Wade Herring will be performing as celebrity comedian on May 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Council Hall on Liberty Street. The event is a fundraiser for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Other comedians include Rabbi Haas, Pete Liakakis, and Charlie Russo.



Tickets are \$25 each. You may contact Wade at wherring@huntermaclean.com to purchase tickets. If you cannot attend, you can support this effort as a donor or sponsor. The following link will take you to the fundraising page: <http://www.standupforkidscomedycompetition.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1136160&lis=1&kntae1136160=FCAD>

Lawyers Telling Stories: In Memory of Harvey Weitz and a Fundraiser for Georgia Legal Services

On April 16th, the first Savannah Bar Association StoryTelling event was held in the Savannah Law School's Courtroom. We were Lawyers Telling Stories. SBA raised over \$2,000 for Georgia Legal Services. Pat O'Connor and Steve Greenberg touched us and made us laugh with stories of Admiral Harvey Weitz, Judge John Ellington and Bill Franklin cracked us up with War Stories, and Fred Kramer's duck story about his trial for Fish and Wildlife caused loud guffaws. Our hilarious Master of Ceremonies, Wade Herring roasted Savannah, the Bar, and the speakers and kept the evening flowing and amusing. Special thanks to all who participated and to all who attended. It meant a lot to the Weitz family, and SBA may have begun an awesome tradition!

GLSP Acknowledges Pro Bono Attorneys

Georgia Legal Services Program ("GLSP") thanks all the attorneys who accepted pro bono cases during April 2015, and a special thank you to the attorneys at Smart & Harris for accepting a combined seven cases in March.

If you would like to join this elite group of attorneys who are furthering GLSP's mission to provide quality representation to eligible clients, please contact GLSP Office Manager Heidi Behnke at (912) 651-2283, ext. 2752 or hbehnke@glsp.org or contact GLSP Program Outreach and Development Associate Jamie Rush at (912) 651-2283, ext. 2183 or jrush@glsp.org.

Angelyn Tinsman*

David Purvis

Megan Manly

*Denotes an attorney who accepted multiple cases.

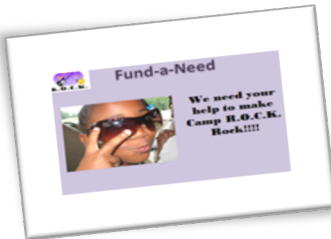
Local Attorneys Educate Local Youth About the Constitution

On April 13, 2015, local Savannah attorneys visited Chatham's public schools to teach lessons on the American Constitution. The attorneys took time out of their various practices to engage students on the essentials of our country's founding documents. The lessons included an overview of America's founding, discussions on the important rights held by all citizens, and the telling of various stories from time spent in the legal profession.

Each student was supplied with a booklet containing the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and flashcards containing various Q&A's.

Special thanks to the following attorneys for their time, help, and passion in helping make this project a success:

Doug Andrews
Wendy Williamson
Bill McAbee
Lori Loncon
Stephen Harris
Josh Walker
Richard Sanders
Zack Howard
Bobo Mullens

**Savannah Area Family Emergency Shelter, Inc.****Post Office Box 61119 • Savannah, Georgia 31420****Phone (912) 629-8888 • Fax (912) 629-0028****Toll free 1-866-390-7233 • www.safeshelter.org**

Dear Fellow Bar Member,

Summertime is fast approaching and I thought you should know that the S.A.F.E. Shelter, Savannah's only center for victims of domestic violence, will be hosting its annual summer camp "**Recognizing Our Children's Kreativity**" from June 1st–July 31st, 2015 for youth ages: 5-17. **Camp R.O.C.K.**, as it is lovingly called by attendees, sponsors and friends, was designed to instill hope and promote healing to children who have been victims or witnesses of abuse in their homes. Our program promotes growth, love, and support and creates a safe environment for them to learn and play during the summer, as their parents work to provide a safe, stable and peaceful place outside the shelter they can finally call home. Through a well-planned calendar and various activities, we will focus on strengthening the children by encouraging personal responsibility, building confidence, and promoting teamwork.

Because SAFE Shelter's **Camp R.O.C.K.** is a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of you and others throughout the community to support the program. The total cost of attendance is \$500 per child for all 8 weeks; however, there are many ways to give. Just \$12.50 would allow one child to attend the camp for one day and \$62.00 would cover the cost of attendance for one week. All contributions are tax deductible. Please consider making a donation in any amount today.

For more information about Camp R.O.C.K., including the schedule of events, planned activities and ways to contribute, or for more information about the S.A.F.E. Shelter's mission in general, please email me at sjones@cmlawfirm.com. To donate online, please visit www.safeshelter.org, click on the Donate tab and remember to put **Camp R.O.C.K** in the purpose line.

Thank you for your continued support and have a safe and enjoyable summer!

In service,

Shalena Cook Jones
Cruser & Mitchell, LLP

GLSP State Bar Campaign Makes Goal

GLSP Savannah would like to thank the Savannah Bar Association and its members for your financial support of our program through the State Bar's "And Justice For All" campaign. This year's campaign surpassed our statewide goal and raised \$527,083! In the Savannah region, more than 100 attorneys, legal professionals, and organizations donated \$43,938.00. Savannah led the way with more contributions than any other regional office including a \$10,000 increase in donations from the previous year.

In addition to your financial donations, Savannah attorneys consistently volunteer their time by accepting pro bono cases on behalf of GLSP. We are looking forward to celebrating the work of our Pro Bono attorneys and details about our 2015 Pro Bono Awards Ceremony will be coming soon.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the State Bar Campaign for GLSP. Your continued support allows our offices to continue to advocate for Georgians who lack access to critical civil legal services.

Savannah Bar Association Announces Lawyers in Crisis Committee

Do you know of a lawyer in crisis, be it from a sudden injury, illness, or other intervening cause? A moment's pause for reflection will quickly bring to mind Savannah Bar Association members who suffered practice-interrupting events in response to which friends and colleagues stepped up and worked with employees, clients, and other lawyers to avoid prejudice to any of the practitioners' clients and their matters.

A recent medical exigency in our community caused one member to suggest that the SBA consider creating a standing committee to address this situation when it next arises within the Savannah legal community. After consideration, the SBA Executive Committee has created the Lawyers in Crisis Committee to serve as a resource to interface with the State Bar General Counsel under Rule 4-228. Upon learning of the existence of a lawyer in crisis, the Committee will work with the State Bar to take steps to try to ensure that the clients of practitioner who suffers a practice-interrupting event are protected and their matters do not go unattended. Chris Steinmetz of Gannam, Gnann & Steinmetz, LLC will serve as the Committee's Chair. If any SBA member learns that a colleague may be in a state of crisis as contemplated under Rule 4-228, the Member should contact Chris at [912.232.1192](tel:912.232.1192) or at cjs@ggsattorneys.com so that the Committee can act quickly.

Chris and the Committee plan to offer a presentation about the Committee, its mission, and how the State Bar Rules govern these situations at the 2016 SBA Hot Topics Seminar.

YLD Update

The Savannah YLD welcomed April by hosting a joint happy hour with Mercer Law School and Savannah Law School on April 10th at Top Deck Bar of the Cotton Sail Hotel.

The YLD would also like to announce the **10th Annual Guardian Ad Litem Charity Golf Tournament** will take place on **May 29th** at the Landings. On that same day, the YLD will also host a picnic in the park event to coincide with the SCAD Graduation Concert in Forsyth Park. Details for these events will be forthcoming.

The Savannah YLD Executive Board will meet Tuesday, May 12th at Oliver Maner at 5:30p.m. Annual elections will take place at this meeting. Anyone interested in a YLD Board position should contact either President Elect Heather Lundy (hlundy@huntermaclean.com) or President Colby Longley (cel@mccorklejohnson.com) by Friday, May 8th.

As a reminder, all Savannah young lawyers are encouraged to renew their membership. Our membership base allows the YLD to continue having the monthly events that we all enjoy. Those who have not renewed their membership for the Bar year, or who want to join for the first time, should contact Kate Lawson (klawson@huntermaclean.com).

Georgia Legal Service Program's 3rd Annual Silent Auction

Get an early start with your donation to GLSP's 3rd Annual Silent Auction, June 18-21 in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting at Stone Mountain's Evergreen Marriott Resort.

This is your chance to showcase your artwork, photography, floral designs, paintings, illustrations, hand-crafted jewelry, pottery, crocheted or knitted items, and more. If you're not an artisan, you can donate frequent flyer miles, gift cards, gift baskets, hotel stays, vacation packages, or tickets to your favorite amusement park. We accept a wide variety of new or unused items.

If you would like additional information about the auction or would like a donation form, contact Sandy Wei at swei@glsp.org. Please send in your donation with a completed donation form by June 1 to Sandy Wei, Development Office, 104 Marietta Street, Suite 250, Atlanta GA, 30303.

Last year, we collected and sold almost 100 items from companies in Georgia, the GLSP Board, and Georgia Bar members. Thank you for your continued support!

Catholic Lawyers Guild Elects New Officers, Schedules Annual Red Mass

The Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Diocese of Savannah has selected Laura Marcantonio to serve as its President for 2015-2016. Birney Bull will serve as Vice President and Sabrina Hassanali as Secretary/Treasurer. Francesca Rehal is the Immediate Past President.

The Guild has scheduled its Annual Red Mass for Friday, October 23rd. The Mass will begin at noon and be held in the Chapel of the Catholic Pastoral Center, 2170 East Victory Drive. The reception and presentation of the St. Thomas More Award will follow at the Center. More information will be forthcoming.

Membership is open to all attorneys interested in integrating their faith within their profession. Monthly meetings are held at noon on the 3rd Thursday of the months of October, November, January, February, March, April and May. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 21.

Joseph Rahimi Announces New Firm

Joseph Y. Rahimi, II is pleased to announce the formation of the **Rahimi Law Firm, LLC**. Joe was a partner at a local law firm for the past eleven years. Joe is joined at the Rahimi Law Firm, LLC by attorneys **J. Wesley Padgett** and **John A. Hubert**. The firm is a general practice firm that focuses on civil litigation, representing clients throughout Georgia and South Carolina. Rahimi Law Firm, LLC is located in the Suntrust Building at 33 Bull Street, Suite 590, Savannah, Georgia, and can be reached at [\(912\) 421-9988](tel:9124219988).

Savannah Bar Association Thanks Langston Bass

The Savannah Bar Association thanks Langston Bass for his superior organizational skills in carrying on the planning for the Admiral Harvey Weitz Savannah Bar Association Boat Ride on April 17th. He learned from the master, and the Boat Ride was a wonderful success. Thanks Langston!

Board of Governors Report from Gwendolyn Fortson Waring

I was not the only person who regretted missing the Admiral Harvey Weitz annual boat ride for the Board of Governors' meeting; I am passing on a special request for future SBA presidents from various members of the judiciary to make certain that the boat ride does not conflict with the meeting. (or there just might be a judicial mandate coming, future meeting schedules are online).

The April Board of Governors meeting brought good news there will be no dues increase for the first time in two years. The financial reserves of the Bar are in good shape. The Client Security fund, which previously had a cap of \$350,000 in reserves, has been increased to \$1,000,000.00. The funds "provide monetary relief to persons who suffer reimbursable losses as a result of the dishonest conduct of Member of the State Bar of Georgia." There will be no further assessment against lawyers or dues increase to fund the increase in the security fund.

Hulett Bucky Askew (yes, you recognize that name because he was the Director of the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of Georgia from 1990 until 2006) has been working hard with the five law schools of the State and other partners to establish a lawyer incubator program. A 501(c) board will run the incubator program separately; and not associated with the State Bar. There will be two law students from each of the five participating law schools providing services for clients not served by Atlanta Legal aid, Georgia Legal Services and other federal programs, with access to justice as a priority. The lawyers will have mentors and report to a salaried Director. Each law school has committed \$25,000.00 and the Chief Justice's commission will contribute \$15,000.00 for operating costs each year. The program will be designed to be self-sustaining by the third year and then pay rent to the State Bar of Georgia for office space.

The Board of Governors is considering a request to provide support to the yet to be formed entity which will run the incubator program in the form of providing three years of rent-free space on the fifth floor of the Bar headquarters in Atlanta. In addition, the State Bar will pay for renovation costs for the entity to the tune of approximately \$260,000.00 (\$162,000 in renovation costs were planned previously). The Board will vote on whether to approve the above-referenced support of the proposed incubator program at the June meeting.

Legislative update: the State Bar celebrated the passage of the bill to increase funding for the judges, DAs and Public defenders. The requested funding urging the State to provide incentives for lawyers to practice in areas of the State where there are few or no lawyers was tabled this year to insure the success of the judicial pay increase bill. It was reported that there is one less county in Georgia with no lawyer (there were 6). For more information on State Bar legislation go to:

http://www.gabar.org/committeesprogramssections/programs/leg/weekly_updates.cfm

ADVERTISEMENTS

Short-term/Contract Legal Assistance

Feeling overwhelmed on a demanding case or need someone to bridge a staffing gap? Bi-lingual (Spanish-English) J.D./Certified Paralegal available for short-term assignments or contract work. No need to hire a full-time employee if you only have a short-term or case-by-case need for staff. Can help with translation (Spanish), motions, pleadings, discovery, memos, legal research, office administration, etc. as needed. Available now through June 1. Call John Toner at (912) 376-9933 for assistance.

Associate Position Available

Thomerson Macchiaverna Smith & Freeman P.C. is seeking a full-time Litigation Associate with a minimum of two years civil practice experience for its Savannah office. Candidates should have a Georgia bar license and extensive motion practice, deposition, and trial credentials in commercial litigation, construction law, insurance, and general corporate. Preferred candidates would also possess a South Carolina bar license. Please submit cover letter, resume, writing sample, and references to Francesca Macchiaverna at francesca@tmlawpc.com.

Condo Available

2nd floor office condo at 7805 Waters Avenue for sale or rent. 4 offices, reception area, and bath. 2nd floor. Call Karen Dove Barr at 912-352-8053.