

# SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

## The Citation

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### GLSP's Pro Bono Awards Ceremony Honored Volunteer Attorneys

The Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) Savannah Regional Office hosted its 2014 Pro Bono Awards Ceremony on December 12, 2014, at the Charles H. Morris Center in Savannah, Georgia. The ceremony recognized attorneys who worked to provide access to justice for low-income Georgians by accepting case referrals from GLSP.



Bill Broker, Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Hugh Thompson, Heidi Behnke, Dean Phillips, Kran Riddle, Francesca Rehal, and Mike Monahan.

**Francesca Rehal** (Law Office of Francesca Rehal) and **Kran Riddle** (Callaway, Braun, Riddle, & Hughes, P.C.) received special awards for outstanding commitment to GLSP and for accepting the most pro bono cases, respectively.

GLSP also recognized its In-House Volunteer Attorney Project for the attorney-members' substantial time in office and consistent commitment to low-income Georgians.

GLSP thanks everyone who attended, donated, and sponsored the ceremony. Event sponsors included: **Tate Law Group, LLC**; **Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C.**; **Oliver Maner LLP**; **Savannah Bar Association**; **Savannah Law School**; **Brannen, Searcy & Smith, LLP**; **Bouhan Falligant, LLP**; and **Savannah Technical College**. The event would not have been a success without your support, and GLSP looks forward to seeing everyone next year!

## **Bouhan Falligant Attorneys Honored by W. Homer Drake, Jr. American Inn of Court**

**Kathleen “Kathy” Horne** and **Margaret “Maggie” Puccini**, partners



with **Bouhan Falligant**, were both selected as Masters of the Bench of the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court (the “Inn”). The Inn is a statewide organization established for the purpose of improving and



enhancing the professional and ethical quality of legal practice in the Bankruptcy Courts within Georgia. Masters are lawyers with at least fifteen years of experience who have demonstrated superior character, ability, and competence as practitioners within Bankruptcy Courts.

**Andrew Dekle**, an associate with Bouhan Falligant, was selected as an Associate of the Inn. Associates of the Inn are lawyers who have less than 5 years of experience in insolvency law.



## **GLSP Attorney Robert W. Bush Selected as a 2015 Where Health Meets Justice Fellow**

Georgia Legal Services Senior Staff Attorney **Robert W. Bush** was selected as one of sixteen 2015 Where Health Meets Justice Fellows. The ten-month fellowship is designed to build health care expertise and leadership for senior civil legal aid leaders and to promote new sustainability strategies. Fellows will identify and undertake tangible projects that support fundraising and data collection efforts for their agency, build strong health care alliances, and meet the challenges inherent in health reform.

### GLSP Acknowledges Pro Bono Attorneys

Georgia Legal Services Program ("GLSP") thanks all the attorneys who accepted pro bono cases during December 2014. 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](mailto:hbehnke@glsp.org) or contact GLSP Program Outreach and Development Associate Jamie Rush at (912) 651-2283, ext. 2183 or [jrush@glsp.org](mailto:jrush@glsp.org).

Dolly Chisholm  
Tracy O'Connell  
Cherice Tadday

Steve Harris  
Kran Riddle\*  
Adam Walters

\*Denotes an attorney who accepted multiple cases.

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### Savannah Law School Receives American Bar Association Approval

Savannah Law School ("SLS") is pleased to announce that the American Bar Association (ABA) voted to recognize the school as an approved branch of Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and as an ABA-accredited law school. This approval grants Savannah Law School all of the privileges that come with accreditation and ensures that its graduates are eligible to sit for the bar examination in all states. SLS is especially excited that this approval comes as its inaugural class prepares to graduate in May 2015. Upon receiving this news, Vice Dean Rose Anne Nespica remarked, "What a wonderful gift to present to our students at this time of year. This was a complete and total collaboration at all levels: faculty, staff, and students. Everyone should be proud."

SLS continues to provide the opportunity for legal education to both traditional and non-traditional students who show promise of making positive contributions to the profession, legal system or society. The school is dedicated to preparing highly skilled, ethical, and professional lawyers who possess a strong social conscience.

### Report from BASICS Committee Member Gwendolyn Fortson Waring

The Bar Associations' Support to Improve Correctional Services (BASICS) program was initiated in 1976 by the ABA, and twenty-two bar associations began BASICS programs around the country. Today, however, only the State Bar of Georgia's BASICS World of Work Program is still in existence. I was recently appointed to the BASICS committee, which is an advisory committee that reviews the operation of the BASICS World of Work program. The State Bar website describes the program's mission as follows: "to aid and steer inmates in the direction of self-rehabilitation" by assisting with career development, educational and/or work plans and upon release assisting with job search application for college and vocational schools as well as developing financial plans, with the goal of decreasing the likelihood that these individuals will return to jail.

On December 6, 2014, I had the honor of representing the State Bar at the Augusta Transitional Center graduation, one of five BASICS graduations held each Fall. The participants, whose ages ranged from the late teens to mid-sixties, thanked me as a representative of the State Bar. I was particularly moved by one former inmate who said to me, "I really want to thank you for this program, because, last year at this time, I had nothing." The graduates' families attended, and it was the first time that many of the men had an opportunity to wear a cap and gown. Of the five graduations held statewide, the Augusta graduation was the only one held off-site and at a local church because the pastor wanted the graduates to feel a "part of the community."



I hope to see a program such as this in the Savannah area and look forward to working to develop partnerships with local entities that support the BASICS mission. At the graduation, all in attendance were reminded that the graduates were "people who made mistakes, who needed a second chance, and who were determined not to let the mistakes define them." We have all made mistakes, and I for one am grateful that I was given opportunities to redeem myself.

I'm glad that our bar dues support this effort. The good news is that on July 1, 2014, sections 7 and 8 of Senate Bill 365 became law and relate to the codification of the responsibility of the Department of Corrections to create re-entry programs for adult offenders in the prison system. The BASICS committee is now looking at ways to expand the program in light of the legislation. For more information visit the site:

<http://www.gabar.org/committeesprogramssections/programs/basics>

- Gwendolyn Fortson Waring, Esq.



## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Office Space Available

Two premium offices available for lease on the top floor of the Manger Building (7 East Congress Street, Suite 1001). Both offices offer panoramic views of Savannah and include usage of reception and large reception area, two conference rooms, copy room and kitchen. \$1,250.00 each per month (utilities included). Please contact Charles Bowen at (912)544-2050 or [cbowen@thebowenlawgroup.com](mailto:cbowen@thebowenlawgroup.com).

