

SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

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Editor: Tawny D. Mack

William Hunter Named Fellow of Litigation Counsel of America

William “Bill” Hunter (Oliver Maner LLP) was selected as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. Hunter concentrates his practice in the areas of plaintiff’s personal injury/wrongful death, business litigation, and medical malpractice defense.



The LCA is a trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers, and fellowship in the LCA is highly selective and by invitation only. Fellows are selected based upon excellence and accomplishment in litigation, both at the trial and appellate levels, and superior ethical reputation. The number of Fellowships has been kept at an exclusive limit by design, allowing qualifications, diversity and inclusion to align effectively, with recognition of excellence in litigation across all segments of the bar. Fellows are generally at the partner or shareholder level, or are independent practitioners with recognized experience and accomplishment. In addition, the LCA is dedicated to promoting superior advocacy, professionalism and ethical standards among its Fellows.

Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Hugh Thompson to Keynote GLSP’s Pro Bono Awards Ceremony

The Savannah Regional Office of the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) will host its 2014 Pro Bono Awards Ceremony Friday, December 12th at the historic Charles H. Morris Center in Savannah from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Hugh Thompson as the keynote speaker and honored guest.

The event includes lunch and special presentations to celebrate local volunteer attorneys who have given their time and talents to handle GLSP case referrals. Tickets are \$50 and tables are \$400. For more information, contact Jamie Rush at (912) 651-2283, ext. 2183 or jrush@glsp.org.

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GLSP Congratulates the Graduates of the Fall 2014 PEP Program

This year, GLSP Savannah and Savannah Technical College partnered to create the Paralegal Experience Program ("PEP") in order to give paralegal studies students hands-on experience while helping GLSP maximize its impact in the community. PEP's first graduates completed the program in July, and GLSP is excited to congratulate five additional students who completed the program during their Fall 2014 semester. Congratulations to Courtney Baugh, Madi Coakley, Cassie Cofressi, Zak Guder, and Michael Martin. GLSP wishes you the best in your future endeavors!



Savannah Tech Dean of Business and Technology Division Brendan Ferrara, Paralegal Studies Department Head Debra Geiger, GLSP Managing Attorney Bill Broker, and Office Manager Heidi Behnke pictured with Fall 2014 PEP graduates.

Chatham County Juvenile Court's Family Dependency Treatment Court Receives National Honor

Chatham County Juvenile Court's Family Dependency Treatment Court has again been honored with maintaining its status of National Peer Learning Court after having been first selected as one in 2012 by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the national child welfare organization, Children and Family Futures. The Family Dependency Treatment Court program is designed to break the cycle of addiction and neglect through monitored service delivery and ongoing and expedited permanency planning. The primary mission of the Family Dependency Treatment Court is to improve the lives of children and their families by addressing the deprivation resulting from the substance abuse of a parent or care giver.

As a National Peer Learning Court, the Chatham County Family Dependency Treatment Court mentors developing courts by sharing information and giving other teams an opportunity to travel to Chatham County to observe Family Dependency Treatment Court staffing and sessions. The Family Dependency Treatment Court has hosted several courts from along the east coast and was represented at national conferences in both California and Washington, D.C. The Family Dependency Treatment Court is excited to continue its partnership with OJJDP and Children and Family Futures and looks forward to providing technical assistance to courts across the country.

Don't Miss the Boat! SBA Festivities to Take Place April 16th and 17th

Mark your calendar for **Friday, April 17, 2015**. Langston Bass is already hard at work finishing the planning for the annual **Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride**, and the Savannah Bar Association ("SBA") encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the day.

Please also save the date for a **SBA Storytelling Extravaganza**, with fun, food and beverages, to be held at the Savannah Law School on April 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. This event will be held in memory of our wonderful storyteller, Harvey Weitz, and will raise money for Georgia Legal Services. Please plan to join us!

Young Lawyers Division Update

The Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association ("YLD") continued the fall with an exciting slate of events. On Friday, October 31st, the YLD sent its President, **Colby Longley** (McCorkle & Johnson, LLP), and Board Member, **Carson Penney** (HunterMaclean), "Over the Edge" to raise money for the Boy Scouts of America Coastal Empire Council. Colby repelled off the top of the Manger Building at Johnson Square, boldly confronting a lifetime fear of heights and successfully navigating his way to safety.



On Thursday, November 13th the YLD chartered a trolley ride and ghost tour of downtown Savannah. The ride was well attended and graciously sponsored by **McKee Court Reporting**.

On November 14th, the **Honorable Timothy R. Walmsley** presided over the swearing in of Chatham County's newest attorneys. A reception open to the families of the new attorneys was held afterward. We welcome all new members of the bar and hope to see you at our next event!

On **December 6th** at 6pm, the YLD will hold its annual "Tacky Sweater" Christmas Party at the house of its President, Colby Longley (30 East 53rd Street, Savannah, GA 31405). Prizes will be given out to the best individual and couple's sweaters. The party is being sponsored by **Roden + Love, LLC**.

As a reminder, all Savannah young lawyers are encouraged to renew their annual membership for the 2014-2015 year. 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 new Bar year, or who want to join for the first time, should contact Kate Lawson (klawson@huntermaclean.com).

GLSP Acknowledges Pro Bono Attorneys

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

Adam Walters*	Kran Riddle*
Francesca Rehal*	Elizabeth Thompson
Kelly Miller	Steve Harris*

*Denotes an attorney who accepted multiple cases.

Latana M. Anthony Joins the Law Firm of Lester B. Johnson, III, P.C.

The **Law Firm of Lester B. Johnson, III, P.C.**, is pleased to announce that **Latana M. Anthony, Esq.** has joined the firm as an associate. Ms. Anthony is a former Assistant District Attorney for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit and the Mountain Judicial Circuit. She is also a former law clerk for the Honorable Judge John E. Morse, Jr., Chatham County Superior Court.

Basic Civil Mediator Training

The Mediation Center is offering Basic Civil Mediator Training on February 4-7, 2015, from 8am-4pm and on June 10-13, 2015, 8am- 4pm. Participants will receive 28 hours of CLE credit. The training and observation fee is \$1,000.00. Individuals interested in participating may apply online at www.mediationsavannah.com and may contact Wendy Williamson at (912)354-6686 with questions.

Annual Jane Coslick Holiday Cottage Tour

Kick off the holiday season with the third annual tour of Tybee Island's historic cottages with renowned interior designer Jane Coslick. Guests will enjoy exclusive access to 7 unique cottages and learn what happens when imagination, bright beach and holiday colors collide with historic cottages. Also, enjoy coffee and pastries with Jane from 10a.m - 11a.m. while viewing unique items and a bit of history at the famous Chu's Department Store on Tybrisa Street! Holiday treats will be provided at North Beach Bar and Grill from 11:30a.m. - 3:00p.m. All proceeds benefit the Humane Society for Greater Savannah and will help fulfill its long awaited goal to open a community low-cost spay/neuter clinic!

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by visiting www.tybeefun.com, www.humanesocietysav.org/holidaytour or at Seaside Sisters, located at 1207 U.S. Hwy. 80 on Tybee Island.

State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors Report

The Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia held its fall meeting on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Jekyll Island Club on Jekyll Island, Georgia. The meeting was called to order by the President of the State Bar, Patrise Perkins-Hooker. The first order of business was to approve the amended consent agenda, which included the appointment of **Lester Johnson, III** of Savannah and Lester Tate of Cartersville, Georgia as State Bar representatives to the Judicial Qualifications Commission. Lester Johnson fills the seat formerly held by former State Bar President Robert Ingram and gives a member of the Savannah Bar Association a seat on this very important state commission.

Next the Board of Governors took up several action items proposed by the Advisory Committee for Legislation (“ACL”) relating to the upcoming legislative session in January. The first legislative proposal was presented by the Family Law Section of the State Bar to amend O.C.G.A. § 19-3-62(a) to require that antenuptial agreements be attested and notarized by at least two witnesses. After very little comment, the Board of Governors unanimously approved supporting the legislation.

The Real Property Law Section presented proposed legislation to provide for a private cause of action for the unauthorized practice of law in residential real estate closings, the preparation of legal documents, and assistance with immigration matters. The proposed change to state law has been studied by the Real Property Law Section for more than two years and stems from complaints brought to the State Bar’s attention in recent years over witness only real estate closings and the increase in legal form document companies entering the marketplace. It is anticipated that non-attorney settlement companies, title insurance underwriters and legal form document companies such as “LegalZoom” will likely oppose the State Bar’s efforts in passage of this law. The Board of Governor’s unanimously approved supporting this proposed legislation.

The last action items brought by the ACL to the Board were two funding requests for the 2016 fiscal year that the State Bar has supported in the past: 1) providing state appropriations for legal services to assist low-income victims of domestic violence and state appropriations for the Georgia Appellate Practice; and 2) Educational Resource Center to represent indigent death sentence prisoners in habeas corpus proceedings. Support for both funding requests was unanimously approved.

During the President’s report, Patrise Perkins-Hooker gave an overview of her first four months in office. In addition to focusing on diversity inside the State Bar, she has been working with Bar leaders and Georgia law schools to encourage lawyers to practice in the rural areas of the state. Similar to what is taking place in the medical community, President Perkins-Hooker would like to see assistance given to rural lawyers to offset rent, utilities, and other expenses to attract lawyers to underserved areas of the state. She also reported that new technology has been installed in the Savannah and Tifton offices to improve communication with the Atlanta office to make meetings and CLE programs between the offices easier for participants. Looking ahead to the remainder of her year as President, she plans on focusing on communications and efforts with the media to promote the State Bar and its lawyers. She is working on an incubator program with Georgia law schools for recent law school graduates and she is planning a celebration and symposium for March of 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors Report - Continued

In other informational reports, Sharri Edenfield, current President of the Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) reported that YLD is spearheading a military support initiative to aid Georgia’s veterans through legal clinics, the handling of veteran’s affairs appeals, and supporting YLD members serving in the JAG Corps. **Quentin Marlin** of Savannah has been appointed as a Director of Military Support for the YLD to aid in this endeavor. Sharri also reported that the upcoming YLD signature fundraiser scheduled to be held in early 2015 will benefit the August Warrior Project, an advocacy 501(c)(3) charity based out of Augusta which supports military veterans in thirteen Georgia counties.

There were two special presentations made during the meeting. The first was a resolution honoring **Harvey Weitz**’s service to the State Bar. As many of you know, Harvey was a long time member of the Board of Governors and a member of the Executive Committee for ten years. Harvey’s brother, Julian, was present at the meeting and accepted the resolution on behalf of the Weitz family. Secondly, the State Bar recognized Randy Davis, a member of the Board from Cartersville, who was the pilot of the Gulfstream aircraft that flew one of the doctors infected with Ebola back to the U.S. from Liberia. In addition to the resolution recognizing Randy, the State Bar honored Randy with a glass blown statute of a Gulfstream jet being guided through the air on the wings of angels.

To conclude the meeting Chip Trefrey with Member Benefits, Inc., the State Bar’s recommended broker for health insurance, gave an overview of the private insurance exchange offered through the State Bar. For more information on the health exchange, please visit, www.gabar.memberbenefits.com.

The winter meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in conjunction with the State Bar midyear meeting, January 8-10, 2015 in Atlanta at the Marriott Marquis hotel.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as a member of the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors for the Eastern Circuit. The other members of the Board of Governors from the Eastern Circuit are **Lester B. Johnson, III** (Law Firm of Lester B. Johnson, III, P.C.), **Gwendolyn Fortson Waring** (The Waring Law Firm), who was appointed by the State Bar President to fill the unexpired term of Harvey Weitz, and **Sally Akin** (Ellis Painter). In addition, your representation from Savannah includes **Patrick O’Connor** who is the current Secretary of the State Bar of Georgia and serves as a member of the Executive Committee.



Respectfully submitted:

Jon Pannell

Board of Governors, Eastern Circuit, Post 3

ADVERTISEMENTS

Office Space Available

Premium office space available for lease on the top floor of the Manger Building (7 East Congress Street, Suite 1001). Availability includes two offices with views of downtown Savannah and the Savannah River. Space includes usage of large reception area, two conference rooms, copy room and kitchen for \$2,500.00 per month (utilities included). Please contact Charles Bowen at (912)544-2050 or cbowen@thebowenlawgroup.com.

Office Furniture for Sale

Less than one-year old l-shaped cherry desk for sale for \$200.00. If interested, please contact A.J. Linton with the Law Offices of Lester B. Johnson, III, P.C. at (912)238-5100.