

THE CITATION

A Publication of the Savannah Bar Association

Editors: Lindsey Hobbs and Denton C. Hill



Armstrong House,
Home to Bouhan + Falligant

Dates to Remember:

- Annual Oyster Roast
December 13th,
Roundhouse Museum
- YLD Tacky Christmas
Sweater Party
December 15th
- SBA Monthly Luncheon
January 10th, Savannah
Golf Club
- Hot Topics Seminar &
Monthly Luncheon
- February 8th, Savannah
Golf Club

Two of Savannah's Top Law Firms Announce Merger

Two major local law firms have officially announced plans to merge on January 1, 2013, forming **Bouhan + Falligant**.

The new law firm will combine the strengths of **Bouhan, Williams & Levy**, a well-known business and litigation firm tracing its Savannah roots back to 1886, and **Inglesby, Falligant, Horne, Courington & Chisholm**, a successful firm specializing in banking, real estate and bankruptcy law. The firm will be headquartered at The Armstrong House, located at 447 Bull St. just north of Forsyth Park. Plans are already underway to make the transition as smooth as possible as the two law firms strategically merge, combining attorneys, staff and resources.

Bouhan, Williams & Levy managing partner **Lea Holliday** will serve as the managing partner at Bouhan + Falligant, bringing extensive experience to his new position. Holliday believes the legal expertise of lawyers from both firms will fit seamlessly. "It will be exciting for all of these talented, highly productive lawyers to practice together under one roof" said Holliday.

As one of Savannah's largest law firms, Bouhan+Falligant will offer general corporate representation, trust and estate planning as well as excellence in real estate, admiralty, banking, education, intellectual property, employment, bankruptcy, professional malpractice, workers' compensation, environmental, immigration, products liability, transportation, construction and family law.

More than two-thirds of the partners in Bouhan + Falligant have been recognized as Georgia "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars" by the Thomson Reuters rating service. *Georgia Trend* has recognized over half of the new firm's lawyers as "Legal Elite" in their respective fields of practice. Bouhan Williams & Levy has earned a "first tier" ranking among *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Law Firms in admiralty, commercial and personal injury litigation.

Both firms also share a strong legacy of community involvement, a tradition which will continue at Bouhan + Falligant. For more information about the merger, please call 912.232.7000 or visit www.bouhan.com.

SAVANNAH LAW SCHOOL MOVES INTO OLD CANDLER HOSPITAL

The faculty, staff, and administration of Savannah Law School are happy to announce they have officially moved into the Old Candler Hospital building, located on Drayton Street across from Forsyth Park. As many in the local community know, the school began classes in August using a temporary space at the Coastal Georgia Center. The student body has been wonderfully understanding of the circumstances during construction delays, but all were anxious to attain permanency of location. The Savannah Law School is thrilled to be moving into their new home, and look forward to growing in the Savannah community.

HUNTER MACLEAN HONORED WITH FIRST-TIER RANKINGS IN 2013 *U.S. NEWS* “BEST LAW FIRMS”

Savannah law firm Hunter Maclean was recently honored with nine first-tier rankings in the 2013 edition of *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* “Best Law Firms.” The national first-tier rankings were featured in *U.S. News & World Report’s* Money issue on November 20, 2012. Firms distinguished with a first-tier “Best Law Firms” ranking are based on a combination of client feedback, information provided on the Law Firm Survey and Best Lawyers peer review.

“We’re deeply honored that our firm is held to such high esteem by our peers and clientele,” said Frank S. Macgill, Hunter Maclean’s managing partner. “This is an outstanding accomplishment for Hunter Maclean, and reflects the level of service we aim to provide all our clients.”

Hunter Maclean received first-tier rankings in the following practice areas: Admiralty & Maritime Law, Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, Insurance Law, Litigation – Construction, Litigation – Eminent Domain & Condemnation, Litigation – Real Estate, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, Real Estate Law, and Trust & Estates Law. The rankings, presented in tiers, showcase more than 10,000 law firms ranking nationally or by metropolitan region. Firms were ranking nationally in one or more of 80 legal practice areas and by metro or state in 118 practice areas.

With offices in Savannah and Brunswick, Hunter Maclean has extensive experience in representing businesses and individuals in all areas of litigation as well as in corporate, tax, real estate, health care, information technology, business, transportation and maritime law.

2013 SBA ANNUAL BOAT RIDE

Langston Bass would like to remind everyone that missed this year’s boat ride, please mark your calendar for next year for **Friday, April 19, 2013**. Harvey and Langston are already hard at work finishing the planning for this trip, and encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the day.



(Above) YLD Executive Board Member Heather Hammonds, and Former Savannah YLD President Jacob Massey

(Below) YLD Executive Board Member Colby Longley, and Brett Lundy



SAVANNAH YLD SECOND ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

by Heather Hammonds

On Thursday, October 18th, the Savannah YLD held a happy hour and cornhole tournament at Bonna Bella Yacht Club. Competition was steep in the double elimination tournament. Ultimately, HunterMaclean's **Greg DeBacker** and his wife, Laura, prevailed. The winners were awarded a gift certificate to Bonna Bella. Savannah YLD would like to thank **Dennis Dorsey** and **McKee Court Reporting** for the generous sponsorship of this event.

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, the YLD had its annual swearing-in ceremony for newly admitted attorneys in the Eastern Judicial Circuit. We would like to thank **Judge Tim Walmsley** for presiding over the ceremony. The YLD looks forward to getting to know the members of the bar as they come out to upcoming YLD events.

On Thursday, November 15th, the YLD held a happy hour event at Billy's Place above McDonough's. In case you missed, then please join us on December 15th for the YLD Tacky Christmas Sweater Party.

If anyone would like information about our other upcoming events and is not currently receiving YLD emails, please contact **Amanda Love** at alove@thebowmanlawoffice.com.

"Lawyers are the foot soldiers of our Constitution."

- RENNARD STRICKLAND & FRANK T. READ, *The Lawyer Myth*

Announcements

Charles J. Bowen is pleased to announce the formation of **The Bowen Law Group** in Savannah. Over the past several years, Mr. Bowen headed the Savannah branch of the Atlanta law firm of Weinstock & Scavo, P.C., which later merged into Taylor English Duma LLP. **The Bowen Law Group** will focus primarily on banking, commercial and tort litigation, and will continue to have offices in both Savannah and Atlanta. An open house will be announced upon the completion of renovations in early 2013. In the meantime, Charles may be reached at (912) 544-2050 or via email at cbowen@thebowenlawgroup.com.

Friedman & Martin announces that **Brad Stevens** has joined the firm as a partner. The firm is now **Friedman, Martin & Stevens**. Brad Stevens specializes in personal injury, wrongful death, and premises liability cases. He was formerly associated with the Lasky Law Group. He can be reached at 912-232-8500, and bstevens@friedmanmartin.com.

Hunter Maclean, a leading business law firm with offices in Savannah and Brunswick, is pleased to announce that **Parker C. Morgan** and **Kate Chaplin Lawson** have joined the firm as associates. Morgan will be joining the firm's Real Estate Practice Group. Prior to joining Hunter Maclean, he clerked at a law firm in Brunswick, Georgia where he specialized in civil litigation and worked on a range of cases in state and federal court. Morgan earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he received a Law School Association Scholarship. He also earned a B.A. in Political Science, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Georgia's Honors program. Lawson will be joining Hunter Maclean's Specialty Litigation Group. Lawson earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as managing board member, editorial board member and notes editor for the *Georgia Law Review*. She was also an active member of the Student Bar Association and Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity. Lawson earned a B.A. in Political Science, *cum laude*, from the University of South Carolina Honors College. Before joining Hunter Maclean, she served as an intern for U.S. Magistrate Judge Paige Gossett in Columbia, S.C. Both Morgan and Lawson are licensed to practice law in the state of Georgia.

Chris Colson is representing homeless and non-homeless clients who are experiencing problems in obtaining employment due to criminal backgrounds. Few ex-felons are eligible for expungements, except for errors and omissions in the criminal record. However, pardons are usually available if the client meets the eligibility requirements. Employers will often view a pardon as tantamount to an expungement, and will hire the applicant with a pardon. There is a growing pool of post-incarceration felons who are unable to obtain work in Chatham County. Please make referrals to Chris Colson at (912) 655-9850.

Just as a reminder, The Citation is always seeking submissions for the newsletter. We encourage you to submit your professional and personal announcements; law-related advertisements; and other written submissions. Articles or announcements about particular philanthropies you are involved in are welcome. Suggestions about ways to improve are always welcome. And, of course, we love to receive photographs to share with our readers! Bear in mind that our readers include not only current SBA members, but also many judges and law school students as well. Please contact us at SavannahBarNewsletter@gmail.com with submissions or questions. Thanks!