



THE CITATION

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

Volume 92, Issue 4

E-mail: SavannahBarNewsletter@gmail.com

December 2010

Editor:

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Happy holidays and best wishes to everyone! See you next year!



NEXT BAR MEETING - JANUARY 13, 2011

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold weather to attend the SBA Annual Oyster Roast this month. Everyone is still talking about the delicious oysters! Many thanks to our Executive Board for organizing this event.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, January 13, 2011** — this is our annual Hot Topics Seminar. As always, this is a great and easy way to get CLEs. **Please be on the lookout for e-mails detailing additional information on Hot Topics, including course offerings, available CLE hours and costs.** (Just a reminder that you can check the status of your CLEs online at www.gabar.org.)

As usual, our monthly luncheon meeting will take place on this same date as well. Even if you do not attend Hot Topics, please join us for our lunch meeting.

Please contact Greg Sapp at gvsapp@sapplawgroup.com or at 912-234-1623 with any questions.

MORE ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE STATE BAR

The State Bar is now offering more online resources. You probably already know that you can readily access a current member directory through the State Bar's website. Now you can access the 2010-2011 Handbook, including information on the organization of the State Bar and Admissions; Ethics and Discipline information, including our Rules of Professional Conduct; and State Bar Programs. The website also offers PDF versions of the Georgia Bar Journal, going back as far as 1999. In my experience, the journals are searchable by inserting key words into the search tool at the top of the Georgia Bar's website. Happy Hunting!

STATE BAR MIDYEAR MEETING

Just a reminder that the State Bar's Midyear Meeting takes place from **January 13-15, 2011 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.** Go to www.gabar.org for further details, including a brochure of all the offerings. Please note that the early bird registration deadline is December 29, 2010. The final date to register is January 7, 2011.



Keep us in mind in 2011! Please submit articles, announcements, photos, etc. to The Citation! Contact us at SavannahBarNewsletter@gmail.com.

YLD USHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON "IN STYLE"

By Nick Bruce: As mentioned in prior articles, this fall the YLD has spent its time raising money for America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia to support their newly constructed community kitchen.

On November 18, 2010, the YLD, in addition to enjoying their happy hour at Billy's Place, took the opportunity to keep raising money for Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. This was added to the money raised during the Halloween Party and the money raised during the Christmas Party for one year-end donation that will take advantage of a Kresge Foundation grant that will match the YLD donation.

Once again, the annual "Tacky Sweater" Christmas Party proved to be a huge success. Patrick and Louise Connell graciously hosted the party this year, and provided both an oyster roast and jambalaya that was as good as any I've had this side of the Mississippi. Zach Thomas of Bergen and Bergen joined in the holiday spirit and sponsored part of the party to help offset costs. In addition to the food and fun, there was the much-anticipated "contest" to decide the tackiest sweater. Drew Johnson chaired the rules committee, and after the votes were tallied Nick Bruce was crowned this year's winner for his (really

his wife's) creation of a sweater meant to imitate a Christmas tree.

As much as I would like to continue discussing the contest and my hard-fought victory, the real winner for the evening was Second Harvest. Thanks to the hard work of the Board and the generosity of all the young lawyers, **we have raised over \$800.00 for their kitchen renovation.** If anyone would like to donate to this wonderful cause, please email YLD Philanthropy Chair Jennifer Campbell at jcampbell@tmlawpc.com.

The YLD is currently planning several exciting events for 2011, including bowling, a happy hour and a concert during the Savannah Music Festival, networking with the Leadership Academy, and possibly going to a Derby Devils game. If anyone has any suggestion or ideas for events, email Blake Greco at bgreco@olivermaner.com.

The YLD Executive Committee meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday, 5:30p.m., at Ellis, Painter, Ratterree and Adams. If you are a young lawyer and would like a say in what events we organize, come and be heard. All members are welcome. Please email Nick Bruce at nbruce@olivermaner.com if you would like to attend.

Right: At the 2010 party, a snapshot of the competitors and their sweaters.

Below: Ah, memories! The 2009 participants show off their holiday finest.



CIVIL PRACTICE TIP - AMENDMENTS TO OCGA SEC. 9-11-4

Effective July 1, 2010, O.C.G.A. sec. 9-11-4, which addresses process, was amended to provide as follows:

(h) Return. The person serving the process shall make proof of such service with the court in the county in which the action is pending within five business days of the service date. If the proof of service is not filed within five business days, the time for the party served to answer the process shall not begin to run until such proof of service is filed....

In amending this provision, the legislature substituted “proof of such service with the court in the county in which the action is pending within five business days of the service date” for “proof of service thereof to the court promptly and, in any event, within the time during which the person served must respond to the process” and added the second sentence.

As it now reads, this provision might impact the amount of time a party has to respond upon being served. If you or your opposing counsel fail to timely file proof of service within five business days (consider the impact of OCGA sec. 1-3-1 here), the time for responding to the complaint is extended and runs from the date of filing.

By way of example, a party who moves for default but fails to timely file proof of service now has to wait more than 30 days from the date of service for the party to be considered in default and more than 45 days after service before seeking a default judgment.

Do you have a practice tip(s) you would like to share? Please e-mail it to us at SavannahBarNewsletter@gmail.com.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR TRAFFIC PRACTITIONERS AND THEIR CLIENTS (AND EVEN FOR THE REST OF US DRIVERS)

On December 13, 2010, Governor Sonny Perdue announced the addition of new internet services available to Georgia drivers and I.D. card holders. Through the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS), online customers can now pay most Failure to Appear suspension fines and reinstate their licenses; check moving violation points; order a certified motor vehicle report; and order an identification card, among other things. DDS anticipates adding additional features in the near future, including the ability to reinstate your license online and do online reporting of Completion Certificates by Risk Reduction Schools. For more information on the available online services and how they can work for you and your clients, please visit www.dds.ga.gov.

2010 SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA STATISTICS

Wondering what the Supreme Court Justices are considering? From September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, the following were the most common types of cases filed with our high court:

- ◆ 566 Appeals
- ◆ 505 Petitions for Cert from Court of Appeals
- ◆ 395 Habeas Corpus
- ◆ 210 Discretionary Applications
- ◆ 150 Attorney Discipline
- ◆ 81 Pre-Docket Matters
- ◆ 51 Interlocutory Applications