

The Citation

A Monthly Publication of the Savannah Bar Association

Editors: Lindsey A. Lovingood and Denton C. Hill

Dates to Remember:

- February 10, 2012
Monthly Luncheon
at DeSoto Hilton
- February 16, 2012
YLD CLE and
Happy Hour at
Coastal Bar Office
and Churchill's
- February 24-25,
2012
High School Mock
Trial Competition
Chatham Co.
Courthouse
- February 28, 2012
Savannah GAWL
Luncheon at Vic's
on the River
- March 14, 2012
Good Scout
Service Luncheon
at Savannah Golf
Club
- April 20, 2012
SBA Boat Ride

Honorable Michael L. Karpf Becomes Chief Judge of Chatham County Superior Court

The Savannah Bar Association congratulates Judge Karpf as he assumes the Chief Judge role of the Chatham County Superior Court, the position previously held by Senior Judge Perry Brannen, Jr. Judge Karpf and Judge Brannen were both recognized on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, for their hard work and dedication to the judiciary.



Top Left: Members of the Savannah Bar Association, the Chatham County Judiciary, and the community gather at the Chatham County Courthouse for the investiture of **Judge Karpf** as Chief Judge and recognition of **Judge Brannen** for his years of service. *Top Right:* **Chief Judge Karpf** with his staff attorney, **Leslie Keene**, and his adorable grandson Sammy Karpf (son of Ben and Suzy Karpf). *Left:* **Judge Brannen** and fellow Superior Court **Judge Louisa Abbot**.

Due to the funeral services for the Honorable Lawrence G. Dillon which are scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 12:00 p.m., **the SBA February Luncheon has been moved to Friday, February 10, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.** at the Desoto Hilton.

The Savannah Bar Association extends sympathy to the family of Judge Dillon and all SBA members who are able are encouraged to attend the service.

Savannah Chapter of GAWL Hosts NASA Speaker

On Tuesday, February 28, 2012, the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers will host Lisa Malone from the Kennedy Space Center who will present "The Kennedy Story." The February luncheon is generously sponsored by GAWL member **Gwendolyn Fortson Waring**.

GAWL is the premiere association for women lawyers throughout Georgia. It supports and promotes women lawyers by providing networking opportunities, personal and professional development programs, leadership training, and community outreach. Those interested in joining the Savannah Chapter of GAWL and/or attending February event can contact Savannah Chapter President **Francesca Macchiaverna** at Francesca@tmlawpc.com.

Boy Scouts of America Hold Good Scout Service Luncheon

The Honorable Gerald Tjoflat, United States Court of Appeals Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, will be the keynote speaker at the Boy Scouts of America Coastal Empire Council's Good Scout Service Luncheon at the Savannah Golf Club on Wednesday, March 14, 2012. In addition to serving as a fundraiser for the Coastal Empire Council, the luncheon honors those in the Savannah area who have helped contribute to the success of the Boy Scouts of America. If you would like to hear Judge Tjoflat speak, in addition to showing support for the Coastal Empire Council, please contact **Pat O'Connor** (pto@olivermaner.com) or **Paul Meyer** (pmeyer@bart-law.com) for more details.

Savannah YLD Update

By Jennifer Campbell Mock

The Savannah YLD held trivia night at Locos on Broughton on January 17, 2012. This well-attended event featured **Jacob Masee** and **Thomas Gore** asking the questions and four teams vying for the title of YLD Trivia champion. We are extremely grateful to Ortiz & Associates for sponsoring the event. Our next event will be a CLE/Happy Hour on February 16, 2012, that will be held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia YLD. The CLE will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Georgia Bar Center, and will provide each attendee with 1 professionalism credit hour. The cost will only be \$5.00, which can be paid at the door. Afterwards, at 6 p.m., we will go to Churchills to catch up and relax. You do not have to attend the CLE to attend the happy hour, but local support for the state-wide CLE would be appreciated! Please contact **Jacob Masee** at jmasee@olivermaner.com for more details. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Volunteers Needed for High School Mock Trial Competition

As local high school students prepare to compete in the annual High School Mock Trial Competition, local attorneys are needed to serve as judges on **February 24th and 25th** at the Chatham County Courthouse. Each courtroom will have one presiding judge and three scoring evaluators. Volunteers must allow ample time to prepare for the competition by thoroughly reviewing the case materials which will be provided, and have at least four hours set aside for each scheduled round on the day of competition. All judgment will attend an orientation session prior to each round. To volunteer, please complete the form on the last page of the Citation and return the same to **Will Claiborne**, Regional Coordinator, at will@claibornesurmay.com.

Local Attorneys Selected as *Georgia Trend's* Legal Elite

Several local Savannah attorneys were selected as Georgia's 2011 Legal Elite by *Georgia Trend*. The Legal Elite were voted on and selected by their peers in several recognized practice areas for the ninth edition of the list. Of more than 34,000 licensed attorneys in Georgia, 330 attorneys were selected in eight practice areas. The SBA congratulates the following attorneys:

Business Law

Christopher "Smitty" Smith. Mr. Smith is a business litigation partner at **Thomerson Macchiaverna & Smith P.C.**, representing clients in the areas of contract disputes, loan workouts, employment agreements, personal injury, products liability, trucking and transportation law, premises liability, medical malpractice, construction law, and insurance litigation. Mr. Smith was recently named a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a Super Lawyers Rising Star, and was added to the roll of the Best Lawyers in America as published in *U.S. News & World Report*.

Family Law

George "Terry" Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard has practiced law in Savannah since 1974. He opened his own firm in 1985 and specializes in all aspects of domestic relations.

K. Paul Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a partner in the firm of **Johnson, Kraeuter & Dunn, LLC**, and practices exclusively in the area of family law. Prior to forming his current firm in 2012, Mr. Johnson practiced with McCorkle, Pedigo & Johnson, LLP, and then McCorkle & Johnson, LLP, since his graduation from law school at the University of Georgia in 1996. He regularly speaks on topics related to family law and is a past Chairman of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

Jenni F. Swan. Ms. Swan practices in the areas of family law, child custody, insurance litigation, and insurance defense with her own firm, **Swan Law Firm, LLC**.

Labor & Employment Law

Catherine Bowman. Ms. Bowman has practiced employment law for almost twenty years, representing both employers and employees. Ms. Bowman is the former chair of the employment law section of the Georgia Defense Lawyers, and is a member of the invitation-only American Employment Law Council. She recently addressed "*Representing Employees in Employment Law Cases*" at the SBA "Hot Topics" seminar. **The Bowman Law Office**, which includes Amanda Love, also handles insurance defense and family law matters.

Wade W. Herring II. Mr. Herring is a partner with **Hunter Maclean** and represents businesses and management on all aspects of employment problems and issues. Mr. Herring has published articles in the *Georgia Defense Lawyers Association Journal*, the *Fulton County Daily Report*, and the *Mercer Law Review*.

Personal Injury

Fred Bergen. Mr. Bergen is a partner with **Bergen & Bergen** in Savannah and represents individuals in personal injury, wrongful death and products liability cases, with a concentration in medical malpractice actions throughout Georgia. He has been selected as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Georgia Super Lawyer*, and Top 100 Attorneys in Georgia.

Local Attorneys Selected as *Georgia Trend's* Legal Elite

Personal Injury continued

Roy R. "Rob" Kelly, IV. Mr. Kelly practices in Savannah, GA as a partner in the law firm of **Kelly & Kelly**. Rob focuses his practice on representing individuals in cases involving person injury, premises liability, wrongful death and commercial disputes. Mr. Kelly has been recognized as a Rising Star by *Atlanta Magazine* and the *Super Lawyers* publication. In 2011, he obtained more than \$2 million in verdicts and settlements for his clients, including verdicts of \$750,000 and \$500,000 from trials in Southeast Georgia. Rob also authored a chapter entitled Recovering Damages in *Georgia's Civil Trial Procedure, LexisNexis Practice Guide, 2011-2012 Edition*.

Howard Spiva. Mr. Spiva has practiced for over 28 years, and limits his practice to serious and catastrophic personal injuries and wrongful deaths. He has a litigation practice with an emphasis on traumatic brain injuries and claims involving children.

Criminal law

Steven L. Beauvais. Mr. Beauvais is an attorney with **Zipperer, Lorberbaum & Beauvais**, and has been a practicing attorney in Savannah since 1992. Mr. Beauvais focuses 100% of his practice area in criminal defense. He is the only Savannah lawyer selected by *Georgia Trend's* Legal Elite poll of lawyers among the top 32 criminal defense lawyers in the state of Georgia.

Taxes, Estates & Trusts

Russ Simpson. Mr. Simpson, of **Simpson Law, P.C.**, practices primarily in the areas of estate and trust planning, taxation and administration for the affluent. He also is honored to be the President of The Savannah Community Foundation, Inc., which benefits donors, donees and the community by providing a safe, simple, inexpensive and tax efficient vehicle for philanthropic capital formation, investment and distribution to public charities.

Amy R. Henderson and **Thomas B. Sayers.** Ms. Henderson and Mr. Sayers are partners in the firm of **Bart, Meyer & Company, LLP**, a leading Trusts and Estates law firm based in Savannah. Ms. Henderson practices in the areas of trusts and estates, probate, tax exempt organizations and corporate law. Thomas practices in the areas of trusts and estates, probate, taxation and corporate law.

Richard Barid. Mr. Barid has practiced in Savannah for over 15 years and founded his current firm, **Smith Barid, LLC**, in 2006. Mr. Barid's practice focuses on estate planning, elder law (Medicaid and VA benefits matters), and special needs planning.

Frank S. Macgill. Mr. Macgill is a partner with **Hunter Maclean** and practices in the areas of Trusts and Estates, Taxation, Tax-Exempt Organizations, and Corporate Law. Mr. Macgill has experience in estate planning, trust and estate administration, federal, state and local tax issues, and tax matters affecting non-profit and tax exempt organizations. He has repeatedly been recognized as one of Georgia's Super Lawyers by *Atlanta Magazine*, one of the Best Lawyers in America, and one of *Georgia Trend's* Legal Elite.

Get Involved in the State YLD

By Jon Pannell

There are many great opportunities for YLD members to become active with the State of Georgia YLD in an official capacity. Although you are automatically a member of the YLD if you are under the age of 36 or are in your first five years of practice, there are many different ways members can serve the YLD as an elected officer, a member of the executive committee, a member of the executive council or as a committee chair or member.

In the most recent edition of the State YLD Newsletter, there was a “Notification of Elections” published in accordance with the YLD bylaws. The statewide positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President-Elect of the YLD are voted on by statewide ballot in conjunction with the election for members of the Board of Governors and the officers of the “Big Bar”. As provided in the notification, the YLD Nominating Committee met in January to propose a slate of candidates for the office of Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect. Although the Nomination Committee nominations are closed, nominations for these offices may also be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than March 2, 2012.

Outside of the officers which are elected by the entire YLD membership, the YLD bylaws provide that the President shall appoint an Editor (or co-Editors) of the YLD newsletter and a minimum of four directors. In recent years, the President has appointed more than four directors. In fact, this year there are 18 members of the Board of Directors. The officers and directors, both elected and appointed, make up the Executive Committee of the YLD.

YLD Representatives are elected annually during the State Bar’s Annual Meeting. A maximum of ten Representatives from each judicial district (serving 2-year terms), twelve Representatives at-large (serving 1-year terms), and two non-resident Representatives (serving 2-year terms) are elected during the State Bar annual meeting. The elected Representatives, members of the Executive Committee, all committee chairpersons, the president or chairperson of each affiliate unit (such as local YLD affiliates), and law student representatives from each of the law school in the State of Georgia, compose the Executive Council of the YLD.

Finally, our bylaws provide for standing committees and special committees to provide our membership with opportunities in legal education, outreach, and community service. There are currently 26 special committees of the YLD in practice specific areas such as litigation, real estate and criminal law and committees that focus on specific causes and issues such as high school mock trial, ethics, disaster legal assistance and minorities in the profession. Hopefully many of you are already active with one of the YLD’s committees. Standing committees are made up of members of the Executive Council to advance the goals of the YLD in areas of membership, meetings, communications, and budget.

Now that you are aware of all the different ways you can become involved in the YLD as an elected or appointed member, get involved! Go to www.georgiayld.org to learn more about upcoming events, committee meetings and other YLD news. The YLD also has a page on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. I hope you will consider attending the YLD Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. which includes the opportunity to be sworn into the United States Supreme Court on Monday, May 14th!

SAVE THE DATE

Our **SBA Annual Boat Ride** will take place **Friday, April 20, 2012** down the Savannah River to Daufuskie Island. The boat leaves at **10:00 a.m.** from the dock directly in front of Spanky's Restaurant on River Street. The boat should return around 4:00/4:30 p.m. that afternoon. We hope you can make it! The cost is \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the boat. Remember, you must have paid your 2011-2012 dues in full in order to board the boat! For further questions or to make payments, please contact **Catherine Bowman** at (912) 401-0121, Catherine@TheBowmanLawOffice.com.

SEALA Elects 2012-2013 Officers

The 2012-2013 officers for the Southeastern Association of Legal Assistants (SEALA) were installed by the Honorable Gregory V. Sapp, Judge of the State Court of Chatham County. The luncheon was held at the 17Hundred90 Restaurant in Savannah, Georgia, on Thursday, January 19, 2012. The officers for 2012-2013 are as follows:

Crystal Nichols, CP - President
(Harris Penn Lowry DelCampo, LLP)

Lisa M. Shinaberry, ACP – Vice President
(Harris Penn Lowry DelCampo, LLP)

Eunice Bolen - Secretary
(Bart, Meyer & Company, LLC)

Angie Porter, CP - Treasurer
(Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams, LLP)

Donna Gilliland, CP – NALA Liaison
(Oliver Maner, LLP)



L-R: Honorable Gregory V. Sapp, Crystal Nichols, Lisa Shinaberry, Donna Gilliland, Eunice Bolen, and Angie Porter.

GLSP Expanding Pro Bono

By Bill Broker

Given the reductions in staff at GLSP, the local office is attempting to enhance the handling of cases by members of the private bar on a Pro Bono basis. As a result, attorneys may receive emails from GLSP volunteers/staff when relevant cases match client needs.

Attorneys may receive an email from Tara Polli, who has begun working with GLSP as a volunteer to work with our own volunteers. Her efforts will supplement those of Carol Elliott, another volunteer working with the office to strengthen Pro Bono participation. If you have any suggestions or want to help out, please contact either Carol at celliot@glsp.org or Tara at tpolli@glsp.org.

Announcements

Young Lawyers' Division Supports GLSP

John Manly, an associate with **Bouhan, Williams & Levy LLP** and a Southern District Representative on the Executive Council of the Georgia YLD, delivered a \$760.22 donation from the attorneys and staff of the Firm to the Savannah office of Georgia Legal Services. The contribution was made as part of the Georgia Young Lawyers' Division's continued commitment to GLSP and to its work on behalf of those unable to afford legal representation.

Thomerson Macchiaverna & Smith P.C. invites members of the Savannah Bar Association to its Launch Party for its new office opening at 418 River Street, Greenville, South Carolina on February 23, 2012. The event is from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Greenville office.

The Wade Law Firm is pleased to announce that **Courtney Lerch** has become a full time associate with the firm. Ms. Lerch's practice is focused on state and federal criminal matters. The Wade Law Firm has relocated to 502 E. Broughton Street.

The Swan Law Firm announces that as of February 15, 2012 its office will relocate to 502 E. Broughton Street, Savannah Georgia 31401. The firm's new facsimile number will (912) 233-0666. The telephone number will remain (912) 236-2009, and Ms. Swan may still be contacted at jenni@swanlawfirm.net.

Law firm **Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP** has added **John D. Northup III** as an Associate in its Savannah office. Mr. Northup is a member of the firm's Commercial Real Estate, Corporate, Banking, and Healthcare practices. His healthcare experience includes representing hospitals and physicians in real estate and employment-related contractual matters and disputes. He also has extensive experience handling all aspects of special assets portfolios on behalf of commercial banks.

High Visibility Office Space on Oglethorpe Avenue

First floor office space available in downtown at the corner of Lincoln Street and Oglethorpe Avenue. Single office, plus lobby/reception area, with direct office street entrance, conference room, and bathrooms. Rent is \$600.00 per month with utilities. Larger space available to be negotiated. Contact Adam at 233-8585.

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!