

## 2014 SBA Boatripe Recap

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, The Savannah Bar Association enjoyed the springtime weather with the annual boat ride to Daufuskie Island. A special thanks to **Harvey Weitz** and **Langston Bass** for organizing another great trip. The SBA would also like to give a special thank you to this year's generous sponsors:

**Coastal Court Reporting and Video Services, Inc.**

**Pro-Legal Copies**

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**West, a Thomson Reuters Business**

Please remember to utilize these businesses, whose continue support of the SBA make the annual boat ride a success.

## SBA End of Year Cocktail Party

The Savannah Bar Association End of Year Cocktail Party will be held at the Savannah Golf Club on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be the swearing-in of new officers, scholarships awarded, and the Cheatham Professionalism Award recipient announced. Please join us for an open bar and delicious food and delightful fellowship! Registration will open soon.

## 2014 Law Day Award Recipients

Law Day was held on May 8, 2014. The SBA would like to congratulate the following award recipients:

**Rebecca T. Powell** received the Judge Edward Hester Award

**Rose Grant Robinson** received the Liberty Bell Award

**Joseph Newman** received the Robbie Robinson Award

**Julie Wade** received the John B. Miller Award

### **YLD Happy Hour**

Please remember to join the Savannah YLD this evening as we wind down the week with a happy hour at Forsyth Park prior to the SCAD Graduation Concert. The YLD will have food and drinks on the **stage side of Forsyth about 2/3 of the way back from the stage beginning at 5:15 p.m. tonight**. In order to be easier to spot, we will be flying a BC flag. As a reminder, the SCAD Graduation Concert will kick-off in Forsyth at 6 p.m.

We look forward to seeing everyone tonight at 5:15 p.m.!

### **United States Magistrate Judge Opening**

**Chief United States District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood** announces that applications will be received to fill the appointment of the full-time United States Magistrate Judge in Brunswick, Georgia. Magistrate Judge James E. Graham will retire on January 31, 2015.

The duties of the United States Magistrate Judge are demanding and wide ranging and include conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, pretrial matters in civil cases, and miscellaneous matters delegated to the Magistrate Judge by the District Judge pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. §631.

The current annual salary for U.S. Magistrate Judges is \$183,172.00 in addition to other employment benefits. The term of office is eight years.

To be qualified for appointment an applicant must:

- (1) be, and have been for five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court in Georgia, and engaged in the active practice of law for at least five years;
- (2) be competent to perform all the duties of the office; be of good moral character; be emotionally stable and mature; be committed to equal justice under the law; be in good health; be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
- (3) be less than seventy years old;
- (4) not be related to a Judge of the District Court.

A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will consider all applicants and recommend to the District Judge the five persons the panel considers best qualified. The District Court will make the appointment following an FBI investigation and an IRS check of the applicant selected for appointment.

The application form is available on the Court's website, [www.gasd.uscourts.gov](http://www.gasd.uscourts.gov). Those interested in applying must submit a resume and application no later than July 1, 2014 to Clerk, U.S. District Court, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 8236, Savannah, Georgia 31412.

## Real Property Tax Appeals for Commercial or Investment Properties

**By: Mathew McCoy**

If you or your clients own commercial or investment property, then now is the time to file a tax appeal. Every owner of commercial or investment property should file a tax appeal every three years to either contest or freeze the fair market value.

County Boards of Assessors are required to deliver Notices of Assessment (“NOA”) to every real property owner. In Chatham County NOAs were delivered in early May. The NOA establishes the fair market value of real property for purposes of taxation and triggers the deadline for filing a tax appeal. Property owners have 45 days from the notice date to file an appeal. If you or your client has not received a NOA, then it is imperative that you contact the Chatham County Board of Assessors to request a duplicate copy.

If the fair market value for 2014 is more than what you or your client believes it is worth, then you should appeal the value to the Board of Equalization. If the fair market value is less than what you or your client believes it is worth, then you should still appeal the value to the Board of Equalization to take advantage of the “three year freeze.” OCGA Section 48-5-299(c).

Georgia Law allows any property owner who appeals its valuation to “freeze” the value for the year in question plus two additional years. This process is much less complicated than an actual appeal and can save you or your clients thousands of dollars. For example, if your client owns property appraised for \$1,000,000.00, but the Board of Assessors has it valued at \$800,000.00, then it would be advisable to file an appeal and freeze the value at \$800,000.00 for 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Taking advantage of the “three year freeze” is incredibly important in an accelerating market. For more information on the tax appeal process, consult with an experienced attorney, log onto the Chatham County Board of Assessors Website [boa.chathamcounty.org](http://boa.chathamcounty.org), or email the Board of Assessors at [boa@chathamcounty.org](mailto:boa@chathamcounty.org).

**Mathew M. McCoy** is a partner at **McCorkle & Johnson, LLP**, and Treasurer of the Savannah Bar Association. Mat can be reached at 912-232-6485 or [mmm@mccorklejohnson.com](mailto:mmm@mccorklejohnson.com). Feel free to call Mat with any questions regarding the tax appeal process.

## **Savannah YLD 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament - June 6, 2014**

The Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association is proud to announce that it will host its **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 6, 2014**, at The Landings Club's Oakridge Course (prompt 1:30 p.m. shotgun start). As always, all proceeds will benefit the Savannah Guardian Ad Litem Program, a local and very worthy charitable endeavor which relies primarily on community volunteers and charitable donations to support its operations. For the non-golf enthusiasts, the YLD is also offering a Round Robin Tennis Tournament to occur simultaneously at Franklin Creek Tennis Center, which will begin at 2pm. Additional information is included on the attached flyer.

There are two ways that you can assist us in our mission. First, you may field a four-person team to play in the Tournament. The Registration Deadline for both the Golf Tournament and Tennis Tournament has been extended to **June 2, 2014**. Any individuals interested in participating can be matched with teams based on availability. Second, you may agree to sponsor a hole, which will entitle you to a tee box sign and inclusion of your firm's name on any Tournament promotional materials. A Sponsorship Form and Player Entry Form are attached to this email for your consideration. We hope that you will join the other firms, businesses and organizations which have already committed their support to this event.

If you decide to contribute to this worthy cause, please make all checks payable to: "SBA - Young Lawyers Division" and submit it along with a completed form to Colby Longley at McCorkle & Johnson, LLP. If you have questions about the Tournament, please feel free to contact Bryan Schivera at (912) 236-3311 or by email at [bschivera@olivermaner.com](mailto:bschivera@olivermaner.com) or Colby Longley at (912) 232-6000 or by email at [cel@mccorklejohnson.com](mailto:cel@mccorklejohnson.com). We sincerely hope that you will choose to participate in the Tournament in one or both of the ways outlined above. Thank you in advance for your consideration and anticipated support.

## **Lindsey Hobbs Receives GAWL Presidents Award**

**Lindsey Hobbs** is the 2014 recipient of the prestigious President's Award from the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers (GAWL). Lindsey, an associate at **Thomerson Macchiaverna Smith & Freeman P.C.**, was selected this year based on her outstanding contribution to the organization. Lindsey served as the President of the Savannah chapter for the past two years. Under her leadership, the Savannah chapter has grown to be the largest chapter in Georgia. Additionally, Lindsey was instrumental in establishing a monthly luncheon program with distinguished speakers and notable topics.

The Savannah Chapter would like to thank Lindsey for her hard work and continued dedication to our organization.

## Patrick Connell Competes for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Man of the Year

This spring, eleven other Savannahians and myself accepted a nomination to compete in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Man & Woman of the Year campaign, a ten week fundraising competition to benefit LLS. As of today, May 30, 2014, we are nine weeks in to the ten week campaign. Last year, the first year the campaign was held in Savannah, the competitors jointly raised an impressive \$210,000. Our own **John Manly** of **Bouhan + Falligant** represented the legal community in fine fashion, though Tal Johnson, a local accountant, raised the most money among the men and was named Man of the Year. Emily Dickinson of the Wet Willies franchise raised a whopping \$70,000+ and took home the title of Woman of the Year.

This year, as a group, we've pledged to raise over \$220,000 to benefit LLS. My personal goal is \$30,000 and I'm proud to say at this late stage that number is still in play. However, I need your help to make that happen. Please consider making a donation to my campaign by going to my personal fundraising page and clicking on the Donate Now link: <http://www.mwoy.org/pages/ga/savannah14/pconnell>. Or, if you would rather, donate to any of the other eleven men and women in the competition. I promise you, this is one competition I will not mind losing! To those who have already supported LLS through me, thank you very much.

There is not enough space in this newsletter to tell you why LLS is so important or to detail all of the wonderful programs and research it supports. Instead, I'll show you a picture of Rachel Kavlie (3) and Tishaun Tucker (10), the 2014 girl and boy of the year, two local children who were diagnosed with ALL at very young ages. I'm blessed to have never had blood cancer attack a close family member or friend. These two children have been my inspiration and are a reminder that blood cancers know no boundaries. With our help, LLS is funding cutting edge research that is literally moving the needle on the cure rate. The motto is Cures Today, not someday. Many people have asked why I got involved in this fundraiser. It's simple: I was asked, I thought it was a worthy cause and I thought I could help. Now I am asking you. Please help fund this worthy cause. You may donate

Sincerely,  
Patrick Connell

<http://www.mwoy.org/pages/ga/savannah14/pconnell>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tommy Branch**, an associate at the firm of **Callaway, Braun, Riddle & Hughes, P.C.** was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals by the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Savannah.

**Brennan, Wasden & Painter LLC** is seeking attorneys with 3+ years of experience to assist with its professional liability and business litigation practice groups in both the Savannah and Augusta offices. Those with deposition and courtroom experience will receive preference. Georgia Bar required. Please submit a cover letter and resume to **Wiley Wasden III** at [wwasden@brennanwasden.com](mailto:wwasden@brennanwasden.com).

Law Office for Rent at 221 East York Street with a parking space plus shared utilities. Approximately 1200 square feet. Walking distance to federal and state courthouses and River Street. Also available, office apartment with full kitchen and full bath at \$1,500.00/month with parking. Call **Davis Cohen** at 236-8000.