

THE CITATION

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Savannah Bar Association Monthly Meeting

Thank you to all who joined us at our meeting in honor of Savannah native and Court of Appeals Chief Judge Charles B. Mikell, Jr. It was an incredible tribute to his service, character and wisdom. Chief Judge Mikell has served on the Court of Appeals since May 2000 and was sworn in as Chief Judge on November 14, 2011. Prior to serving on the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Mikell served on the Superior and State Courts of Chatham County.

Our next meeting will be our annual Oyster Roast on **Thursday, December 8, 2011**. As always, the Oyster Roast is open to SBA members and their families. Further information on this will follow.

Welcome Newly Admitted Lawyers!

The bar results are in! On November 7, 2011, the YLD conducted their annual swearing-in ceremony for attorneys who passed the Georgia bar exam. The attorneys were sworn in by Superior Court Judge Michael Karpf and Clerk of Superior Court Dan Massey. We are pleased to welcome the following attorneys to our bar and our community:

Dustin Davies
Jessica Davis
Rebecca Fackler
Lauren Grondin
Tyler Henderson
Crystal Lang
Ben Lingle
Bryan Schivera
Rachel Wilson
Mary Wood

Congratulations to our newest members! In addition, thank you to all the YLD members who organized the ceremony as well as to those who participated in and attended this important event.

SBA And GABWA Member Ventures To Brazil

By Gwendolyn Fortson Waring.

I just returned from a trip to Brazil with the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (I serve as GABWA's Savannah Regional Vice President) for a conference on legal issues affecting women and children, particularly domestic violence and prostitution. We met Jacques Wagner, the Governor of Bahia, Brazil (pictured). We also met with Benedita da Silva, who served as the first female Senator and the first woman and black to become Governor of Rio de Janeiro. She discussed Brazil's legislated Affirmative Action through quotas.



Rules Reminder: USCR 4.2

Uniform Superior Court Rule 4.2 requires that all pleadings and court filings *must include your email address (the one registered with the State Bar) in the signature block.*

Some judges are returning filings that are deficient. Please remember to include this required information in your pleadings.

Nominees Sought For The Justice Robert Benham Awards For Community Service

The State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism are seeking nominees for the 13th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service. Nominees should have combined a professional career along with outstanding community service through community organizations, government-sponsored activities or other humanitarian work. For further information, please go to the State Bar website at www.gabar.org. Nominations must be postmarked by December 2, 2011. Awards will be presented at the Georgia Bar Center in Atlanta on February 28, 2012.

SBA Volunteers Step Up For Annual "Ask A Lawyer Day"

By Bill Broker.

The State Bar of Georgia General Practice & Trial Law Section and Georgia Legal Services (GLS) partnered in hosting the 2nd annual "Ask-a-Lawyer Day" which was held on Friday, October 21, 2011 at the local GLS Office on Abercorn Street. Nine attorneys volunteered their time and expertise providing free legal advice in the areas of Family Law, Probate, Real Estate, Landlord Tenant, Consumer and Bankruptcy. The free advice clinic, held from 9:00 a.m. until noon, was aimed at providing help to local low-income families and seniors. Forty-two people were assisted. This number included pre-scheduled appointments as well as walk-ins.

The following attorneys participated: **John Paul Berlon, Amanda Love, Kelly Miller, Jennifer Mock, Robert Pace, Maggie Puccini, Kran Riddle, Mark Schaefer and Reid Williamson.**

Paul Painter III served as the local recruitment team leader.

Special thanks to **Carol Elliott**, GLS Pro Bono Coordinator, and the staff at the local office who made their offices available for this public service opportunity.

Continuing Legal Education Available in Savannah

The following CLEs will be offered at the State Bar of Georgia's Coastal Georgia Office.

November 17 th	Keep It Short and Simple Replay
November 18 th	Recent Developments
December 1 st	Recent Developments Replay
December 1 st	VC - Commercial Real Estate
December 2 nd	Professionalism, Ethics & Malpractice
December 8 th	Professionalism, Ethics & Malpractice Replay
December 9 th	Trial Advocacy
December 15 th	Trial Advocacy Replay
December 16 th	VC - Dealing with the IRS

"VC" denotes video conference CLEs. This schedule is subject to change. Visit www.iclega.org for more information and to register. Call 912-239-9910 for more information about the Coastal Georgia Office.

In Other Legal News....

On June 4, 2010, the Standing Committee on the Unlicensed Practice of Law issued Advisory Opinion No. 2010-1 which provided, in part, as follows:

QUESTION PRESENTED

Assuming no traverse has been filed by any party in a garnishment action, is the completion, execution and filing of an answer in the garnishment action by a non-attorney employee of the garnishee considered the unlicensed practice of law?

SUMMARY ANSWER

A nonlawyer who answers for a garnishee other than himself in a legal proceeding pending with a Georgia court of record is engaged in the unlicensed practice of law.

On September 12, 2011, the Supreme Court of Georgia issued a decision without an opinion approving UPL Advisory Opinion No. 2010-1 pursuant to State Bar Rule 14-9.1(g)(4). (A concurrence by Justice Nahmias is available at 2011 Ga. Lexis 654.) As it now stands, a non-lawyer, such as an employee of a corporation, who answers for a garnishee in a legal proceeding in a Georgia court of record is engaged in the unlicensed practice of law. At least one state lawmaker, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Wendall Willard, intends to introduce a bill in the upcoming legislative session to allow non-attorneys to file answers on behalf of their companies.

Fee Changes In Federal Court

Please be advised that a new miscellaneous fee schedule is available on the website for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia at www.gasd.uscourts.gov. A few costs, including fees for document filing, misdemeanor appeals, attorney admissions and others have been increased. The new fee schedule became effective on November 1, 2011.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Enjoy the holiday season!



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, articles, or announcements about particular philanthropies you are involved in, and other written submissions. 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!