



# The Citation

## August

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2016–2017 bar year! It is an honor and privilege to serve as your president. 2017 marks our centennial year as a bar association. I sincerely hope you will attend the events this year and next as we celebrate this important milestone.

Over the last few years, we have significantly increased membership. I would like to thank Shawn Kachmar, Wendy Williamson, Catherine Bowman, Colin McRae, and Kris Taylor for developing our [website](#) and fine tuning the registration process, which have significantly increased membership and financial strength. This year, our membership goal is 500!

By now, you should have received a membership renewal email. If you have not renewed, please login to the Savannah Bar Association [website](#) to complete the renewal process. Instructions are in this edition of *The Citation*, which sports a new format we hope you enjoy.

We are kicking off the bar year with a luncheon on September 22nd at The Savannah Golf Club. We are honored to have fellow bar member and President of the State Bar of Georgia, Patrick T. O' Connor, as our keynote speaker. The luncheon will be followed by our annual barbecue on October 20th at the Forest City Gun Club.



Mathew M. McCoy  
SBA President  
2016–2017



## 2017 SBA HOT TOPICS

Planning for the January 2017 SBA Hot Topics Seminar is underway. Any assistance is appreciated. If you are interested in speaking at the **Hot Topics Seminar**, assisting with planning, providing a sponsorship, or if you have any other questions about Hot Topics, please contact the 2017 Hot Topics Chair Joe Cronk: [jocronksav@gmail.com](mailto:jocronksav@gmail.com).

# Meet Your Officers, 2016-2017



**President**

Mathew M. McCoy  
McCorkle & Johnson, LLP



**President-Elect**

Margaret "Maggie" Puccini  
Bouhan Falligant, LLP



**Treasurer**

Robert C. Hughes  
Rahimi, Hughes & Padgett, LLC



**Secretary**

Leesa A. Bohler  
Moore, Clarke, Duvall & Rodgers, PC

## SBA Selects Committee Members & Chairs

### Executive Committee

Colin A.B. McRae  
Christine Sieger Barker  
Stephen F. Greenberg  
Blake Lyons Greco  
Colby Edward Longley  
James Bradley Stevens  
K. Paul Johnson  
Leslie Cecil Keene  
Christopher Kenyetta Middleton  
Bryan A. Schivera

### Committee Chairs

Maggie Puccini, Chair of the Nominating Committee  
Chris Steinmetz, Chair of the Lawyers in Crisis Committee  
Steve Beauvais, Chair of the Grievance Committee  
Wade Herring, Chair of the Resolutions Committee  
Joe Cronk, Chair of the Hot Topics Committee  
Glen Darbyshire, Chair of the Bench & Bar Committee  
Matthew Mills, Chair of the Scholarship Committee  
Julia Sullivan, Chair of the Pro Bono Committee  
Langston Bass, Chair of the Adm. Harvey Weitz Boat Ride

Thanks to each committee member and chair for devoting their time and energy to making our association stronger and more effective!

## Save the Dates

**September 22, 2016**

Bar Luncheon

**October 20, 2016**

BBQ

**November 17, 2016**

Bar Luncheon

**December 15, 2016**

Oyster Roast

**January 26, 2017**

Hot Topics/Bar Luncheon

**February 16, 2017**

Bar Luncheon

**March 23, 2017**

Bar Luncheon

**April 21, 2017**

Adm. Harvey Weitz Boat Ride

**May 18, 2017**

Law Day Luncheon  
SBA Annual Meeting

**June 22, 2017**

Annual Cocktail Party

# Young Lawyers Division



## Summer Report

In April and May, YLD members participated in the annual Law Day, visiting local public schools to discuss the Magna Charta's impact on America's legal system.

In June, the YLD hosted the Eleventh Annual Savannah Guardian Ad Litem Charity Golf Tournament. Bar members and local businesses together raised thousands of dollars for the GAL Program. Congratulations to the winning team, led by new YLD President, Bryan Shivera of Oliver Maner LLP.



Also in June, the YLD hosted its third annual gathering in Forsyth Park to coincide with Savannah College of Art and Design's annual commencement concert for an evening of great music.

In July, at [El Rocko Lounge](#), the YLD hosted its Annual Alumni Happy Hour, sponsored by [Collision Specialists, Inc.](#) Savannah attorneys of all ages and practice areas attended, providing an opportunity to connect and share thoughts on their respective practices.

The YLD looks forward to an exciting year of programming and fellowship beginning with a kickoff party to welcome all new young lawyers to the area. The festivities will be held at the

[Congress Street Social Club](#) at 5:30 pm. September 22, 2016. For more information about Savannah YLD events or to become a member, contact Bobo Mullens at [dbmullens@olivermaner.com](mailto:dbmullens@olivermaner.com)

### YLD Officers 2016-2017

President - Bryan Shivera  
President-Elect - Philip Thompson  
Treasurer - Kate Lawson  
Secretary - Bobo Mullens  
Citation Chair - Keri M. Martin  
Philanthropy Chair - Prina Tailor Maines  
Social Chair - Josh Dorminy  
Sponsorship - Jill Jenkins



# Oliver Maner's O'Connor Inducted as Georgia State Bar President

Patrick T. O'Connor has been installed as President of the 48,000 member State Bar of Georgia. O'Connor was sworn in at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual meeting on Saturday, June 18, 2016 and is the first Savannah lawyer to hold the post since Frank "Sonny" Seiler in 1973.

O'Connor became Treasurer of the State Bar in

June, 2015, and served as President-Elect and Treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia from October, 2015, until his installation as President on June 18, 2016.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, O'Connor is a past president of the Savannah Bar Association as well as its Young Lawyers Division. O'Connor has also served as chairman of the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission and serves on the board of the Georgia Institution for Continuing Legal Education. In 2009, the Savannah Bar Association, recognized O'Connor's contributions with the Frank Cheatham Professionalism Award.

**Patrick O'Connor sworn in as president of State Bar of Georgia, June 18, 2016, Amelia Island, Georgia.**



## Don't Miss Out: Membership Renewal



It's our centennial year. It's dead simple and automatic with a credit card. It's smart. It's time. So, watch the video, if you want. But our guess is that you can login to the Savannah Bar Association [website](#) and select "Pay online" all by yourself. We also accept checks!

## SBA Luncheon: Sept. 22

Don't miss this special luncheon featuring the keynote address by new Georgia State Bar President, Patrick O'Connor. Registration opens on September 8th. Be sure to sign up early for this popular event.

### SBA Luncheon Guest Policy

A member may register a guest for a luncheon, including an attorney who practices in Savannah (who has never been a member of the SBA), but the member must pay the per person cost of the luncheon. This allows non-member attorneys to "sample" the SBA to decide if they would like to join. Once someone has joined the SBA, then he or she may attend the luncheons only upon continued active membership status.

## All Aboard: Adm. Harvey Weitz Boat Ride

Vagabond Cruise of Hilton Head Island delivered an invigorating day on the water last April 15. The day was made possible by this year's generous sponsors:

Coastal Court Reporting and Video Services, Inc.  
<http://coastalcourt.com>

The Savannah Law School  
<http://www.savannahlawschool.org/>

Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP  
<http://www.wswgs.com/>

West, a Thomson Reuters Business  
<http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/about>

Please remember to utilize and support these sponsors whose continued contributions make the annual Adm. Harvey Weitz Boat Ride a success.

Don't miss next year's cruise:  
 April 21, 2017



Guests and sponsors enjoying the slow cruise to serenity this past April 2016.



## Bowen Wins Chamber of Commerce Award

Charles Bowen of [The Bowen Law Group](#) received the Helen V. Head Business Advocate Award during the Savannah Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Business Expo & Awards Banquet on June 16.

The Helen V. Head Award is given annually at the Savannah Chamber of Commerce's Expo & Awards Banquet to an area businessperson who demonstrates a commitment to giving back to the community, as well as a belief in and support of small business.

Bowen, practicing corporate law for over twenty years, established The Bowen Law Group in 2012. He was recognized for his support of the Savannah business

community, for which he has provided counseling, authored



Charles Bowen, 2016 recipient of the Helen V. Head Business Advocate Award.

publications *pro bono* for business owners, resolved disputes between governmental agencies, and helped entrepreneurs get their companies

started from the ground up.

"I strive for my firm to be the one place that anyone who owns a business knows they can receive the assistance and advice they need in a professional yet comfortable atmosphere," Bowen said. "From the beginning, I envisioned building a law practice that utilizes the skill and techniques of large metropolitan law firms while maintaining the benefits and attentiveness of a small local practice. I truly appreciate the trust and faith that so many diverse business clients have placed in me."

Charles and his wife, Lisa, have lived in Savannah for twenty years.



# Volunteers Needed for October Mock Trial

High school students from 13 states, including 7 Georgia teams, are preparing for trial at Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta on the weekend of October 8 and 9.

Volunteer attorneys are needed to serve as mock judges and jurors. Competition features four preliminary rounds



**A young jurist states his case during last year's Empire Mock Trial competition.**

of competition, including pre-trial and oral argument components. Volunteers may judge as many or as few sessions as desired.

Empire Mock Trial's mission since 2007 has been to "mold young people into confident, respectful, culturally aware citizens." The competitions, also held in San Francisco and New York, provide the capstone experience for a classroom curriculum that fosters critical thinking and communication skills. For more information or to volunteer, click [here](#) or on the "Register Now" link.



**300 high school students need your support.**  
Attorneys needed to judge mock trials at Fulton County Superior Court on October 8 or 9.

**What is Empire Atlanta?**

- Highly competitive high school mock trial program scheduled for October 8-10.
- Brings together 300 high school students from 13 states.
- Georgia will be represented by Bremen H.S., Henry Grady H.S., Jonesboro H.S., Middle Christian Georgia Homeschool Association, North Gwinnett H.S., and The Westminster School.
- Students participate in four trials and are evaluated by lawyers and law students from the community.

**Who is hosting the program?**

- Empire Mock Trial is a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization.
- Since 2007, Empire has impacted 4,000 students from 7 countries and 32 states.
- Programs held in New York, Atlanta, and San Francisco.

**I'm ready to help! What's next?**

- Encourage fellow attorneys to volunteer as judges for one trial at the competition—complimentary food is served!
- Attorneys can register to judge by clicking the button below.

**Register Now**

**Honorable John Carls**  
Clayton County Chief Judge,  
Jonesboro H.S. Mock Trial Coach

**Questions?**  
Email: [judge@empiremocktrial.org](mailto:judge@empiremocktrial.org)

## Guardian Ad Litem Training

Guardian Ad Litem training will be held at the Family Law Resource Center located at 5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 111-A, Savannah, GA 31405, on Friday, October 28, 2016, from 8:15-5:30. For more information about the GAL Program and training to be a guardian, please contact Trish Murphy, Esq., by phone at 912-354-6686 or by email: [sav.familylawresource@gmail.com](mailto:sav.familylawresource@gmail.com).

Register for GAL training at [mediationsavannah.com](http://mediationsavannah.com), under the Family Law Resource Center tab.



**Helping Unrepresented Families Put the Pieces Together**

## Now Hiring

Savannah real estate and construction law firm seeks associate attorneys with experience in either real estate transactional / corporate work or real estate and construction litigation. Firm is willing to consider both full- and part-time applicants. Interested applicants may email a cover letter and resume to [rsh@mccorklejohnson.com](mailto:rsh@mccorklejohnson.com)



# Now Open for Submissions

Tell us about your news, views and people on the move

The Savannah Bar Association is always seeking content for upcoming editions of **The Citation**. Members are encouraged to submit:

- your professional and personal announcements
- law-related advertisements
- articles or announcements regarding your preferred philanthropies
- other written submissions

Suggestions for improving **The Citation** are also always welcome. Finally, we love to receive photographs and video 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.

Please contact us at [SBACitation@gmail.com](mailto:SBACitation@gmail.com) with submissions or inquiries.