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Geiger Elected to Board of Directors for American Association for Paralegal Education

Savannah Technical College Paralegal Studies Department Head Debra R. Geiger, Esq., was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors for American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) as Director of Associate Programs. The election was held at the 34th annual AAfPE Conference in Milwaukee, Wis.



“As an attorney, I am committed to serving my community,” said Geiger. “As a paralegal educator, I have the opportunity to encourage student civic engagement through academic service learning and community-based learning experiences. I am honored to serve as a member of AAfPE’s Board of Directors, and I look forward to supporting its continued pursuit of that mission.”

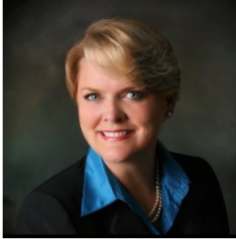
AAfPE is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide greater access to legal services by promoting quality paralegal education.

Geiger is admitted to practice law in the State of Georgia and has general practice experience. Geiger earned her law degree from the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida and is a member of the Georgia Bar Association, Savannah Bar Association, and Port City Bar Association.

STC’s Paralegal Studies program prepares students for a career in the paralegal profession. The knowledge and skills emphasized in the Paralegal Studies program include ethical obligations; research in state and federal law; legal correspondence preparation; family law matters; basic concepts of real property law; criminal law and procedure; civil litigation; substantive contract law; and wills, trusts and probate. Paralegals, also called legal assistants, work closely with attorneys, judges, prosecutors or public defenders. Graduates receive a Paralegal Studies Associate of Applied Technology degree. Contact Geiger at 912.443.5715 or dgeiger@savannahtech.edu.

The Honorable Patricia P. Stone Joins Miles Mediation and Arbitrations Services

Senior Judge Patricia P. Stone has recently joined Miles Mediation and Arbitration Services as a full-time mediator and arbitrator of all civil and domestic matters. Miles Mediation was voted the #1 mediation company in Georgia the past two years. Judge Stone is spearheading Miles Mediation's expansion to the coast. She currently serves as a mediator and arbitrator specializing in all personal injury, construction, corporate matters, and all forms of domestic litigation.



Her new local contact information is (912) 656-6327, email: tstone@milesmediation.com. You may also schedule Judge Stone for mediations online at milesmediation.com or by calling (678) 320-9118. There is no administrative fee, and Miles will be providing lunch for all parties. Judge Stone is thrilled to bring Miles Mediation to the Savannah area!

Savannah Law School Professors Submit Amicus Brief in Current U.S. Supreme Court Case and Attend Its Oral Argument in Washington, D.C.

Professors Shakira D. Pleasant and Vinay Harpalani, with the assistance of Danielle Cordova (SLS '16), filed an amicus curiae brief with the United States Supreme Court in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin, et al.* ("Fisher II"). The professors also attended the oral argument in the case on December 9, 2015.

Professor Pleasant is a former litigator and U.S. Supreme Court Bar Member. Professor Harpalani is a renowned scholar who has written four law review articles about race-conscious admissions, and specifically, the case of *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* ("Fisher I"). To view a copy of their brief, please visit http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2685446.



Volunteers Needed for Mock Trial Competition

The 2016 High School Mock Trial competition is set to take place on Saturday, January 30th at the Chatham County Courthouse. For all those that are interested in serving as a Judge or Evaluator, please contact John Manly (john@manlyjones.com) or Megan Manly (mmanly@epira-law.com). There are time slots available for the morning and afternoon rounds. Please consider helping with this very worthwhile cause.

Benjamin Karpf Named Partner at Bouhan Falligant

Bouhan Falligant recently announced that Benjamin Karpf has become a partner with the firm. He joined the firm in 2011 after practicing law in Washington, D.C. for several years. His practice focuses on intellectual property law and commercial transactions, including drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, corporate matters and intellectual property litigation. He advises clients on matters relating to business transactions, copyright law, the Internet, mobile devices, social media and related technology, and the clearance and prosecution of trademarks and service marks.



Karpf serves on the Board of Governors for the Savannah Jewish Federation and is a member of the Board of Directors of The Creative Coast. He is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Savannah and was recognized as a Generation Next: Savannah's Rising Stars of Business honoree in 2015. *Georgia Trend* magazine has named Karpf as one of Georgia's "Legal Elite" in the fields of intellectual property and corporate law.

A Savannah native, Karpf attended college, graduate school, and law school in Washington, D.C. He earned his J.D. degree, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University, as well as a master's degree in communication, culture and technology. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The George Washington University. During law school, Karpf worked as a law clerk for the Center for Democracy & Technology and the Media Access Project.

Canon Lawyer to Address Catholic Lawyers Guild

The Catholic Lawyers Guild will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, January 28 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 2170 E. Victory Drive. His topic will be "Catholic Lawyers and the Reform of the Annulment". Lunch will be provided. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon, followed by a presentation by David Castronovo, JCD, Director of the Diocesan Tribunal of Savannah. The program will end at 1:00 p.m. All area attorneys are welcome. The cost of the lunch is \$5.00. For further information, contact Bill Broker at [912.651.2283](tel:912.651.2283) x 2758.

The program for February 25 will feature Jonathan E. Maire, J.D. (Hastings College of Law), author of "The Possibility of a Christian Jurisprudence." *American Journal of Jurisprudence*. His topic will be "American Pragmatism and the Death of Truth."

The Spiva Lewis Law Group Announces New Team Members and Promotions

Maggie Doberstein has rejoined the firm as our lead team member on our customer Service and concierge team to insure all our clients receive VIP treatment. Maggie is currently enrolled in law school. Maggie will also serve as Program and Event Manager for The Justice For Children Foundation*

Attorney Mary Hashemi, has joined the firm to work on our law team. Mary is a Savannah native and alumni of the first graduating class of Savannah Law School. She joined the firm in 2015 to pursue her passion for protecting plaintiffs' rights and providing access to our justice system to those community members who need it most. Prior to law school, Mary worked as a News Producer at WSAV, where she earned an Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Regional Newscast in 2012. During law school, Mary participated in the Mock Trial Team as President, Coach, and Competitor. She placed Second in the annual Keenan's Kids Foundation Closing Argument competition in her second year of law school, which is held every year in Atlanta and hosts students from every Georgia law school. Mary also founded the Savannah Law School Student Chapter of American Association for Justice, the largest plaintiff's lawyers association in the country, of which she continues to be a member.

Sandy Henry has changed her status from "temporary services" to a front office coordinator.

Michelitza Melendez has joined our Client and Customer service team.

Jen Maceyko who joined the firm earlier this year as an administrative clerk, will also now serve as Program and Event Planner for The Justice For Children Foundation*. Jen is currently enrolled in paralegal school.

Kaitlyn Sayne, Attorney (Tenn Only) has joined the firm to work on our law team.

Congratulations to:

Attorney Katherine Lewis for passing the Georgia Bar and joining her father, George Lewis, at the SPIVA LEWIS Law Firm.

Maggie Doberstein for completing her first semester of studies at Savannah Law School

Howard "Gene" Spiva II for completing his first semester of studies at Walter F. George School of Law.

* The Justice for Children foundation, Inc. is a charitable organization dedicated to preventing children's brain injuries by giving away free helmets to kids.

GLSP Thanks Pro Bono Attorneys

Georgia Legal Services Program thanks all the attorneys who accepted Pro Bono cases during December 2015. If you would like to join this elite group of attorneys who are furthering GLSP's mission to provide quality representation to eligible clients, please contact GLSP Pro Bono Coordinator Ruth Ann Dutton at (912) 651-2283, ext. 2184 or rdutton@glsp.org.

Megan Manly*
Jerold Murray*

Francesa Rehal*
Adam Walters

Kran Riddle

*Denotes an attorney who accepted multiple cases



Mark your calendar for **Friday, April 15, 2016**. Langston Bass is hard at work finishing the planning for **The Admiral Harvey Weitz SBA Boat Ride**, and the SBA encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the day.

John D. Harvey Joins Bouhan Falligant

Bouhan Falligant is pleased to announce that John D. Harvey has joined the firm as an attorney. His practice area will concentrate on real estate, business law, civil litigation and aviation law. Before joining Bouhan Falligant, Harvey served as the Bryan County attorney, as the municipal court judge for the Cities of Midway and Pembroke, and as an assistant district attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit. He has also worked as a self-employed, private attorney.

Announcement from the Honorable Perry Brennan

Unlike previous senior superior court judges, I no longer have an office in the courthouse. Since it is unduly difficult to work in a courthouse without a desk, telephone, or internet access, I will not be working in Chatham County anymore. I plan to assist other circuits and be available for mediations. My home address is 407 Herb River Drive, Savannah GA 31406. My home phone is 912 355-3914 and my cell is 912 661-0788. Please feel free to contact me at home.

YLD Update

The Savannah YLD hosted its annual trivia competition at B&D Burgers in downtown Savannah on January 14th for its monthly happy hour. Those in attendance enjoyed good food, good drinks, and good company. The YLD thanks **Hancock Askew** for sponsoring this event.

The YLD will hold its next monthly happy hour on February 18th at Service Brewery. The event is being sponsored by **Ron Daniels for State YLD Secretary**. All YLD members are welcome to attend and should stay tuned for more details.

Hot Topics Seminar to be held January 29, 2016

The 2016 Hot Topics Seminar will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the Savannah Golf Club. This is a great chance to earn CLE hours locally, easily, and efficiently. EARLY registration has been extended and is now available through Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (attendees may continue to register after January 20th as a late registration). All registrations with a postmark on or before January 20th will be accepted as early registrations. For your convenience, you may also locate the Hot Topics Seminar information on the SBA website here. Thank you and we hope to see everyone there!

Please be aware seminar registration is not available online. To register for the seminar, you must download the registration form (<http://savannahbar.org/page-1195456>) and submit it to this year's seminar chair, Joe Cronk.

Owens and Mulherin Seeks Associate Attorney

Owens and Mulherin is looking to hire an associate with at least two years experience in plaintiff's personal injury work in Georgia. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who might be, please contact the firm at (912)212-2100 or pass this along.

High Visibility Office Space Available on Oglethorpe Avenue

First floor office space available now, downtown, corner of Lincoln Street and Oglethorpe Ave, ground floor, approximately 1,600 square feet, four offices, plus lobby/reception area, with direct office street entrance, conference room, 2 bathrooms. Rent \$1,500.00 per month with utilities. If interested, contact Elizabeth at 233-8585.