

# SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

## The Citation

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon

“Recognizing those promoting access to justice and opportunities out of poverty”

Georgia Legal Services Program hosted its Annual Pro Bono

Awards Luncheon on Friday, January 15, 2016 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront.

The purpose of this event is to recognize the 39 private attorneys who assisted low-income Georgians

with 191 legal matters on a Pro Bono basis in 2015. These attorneys assisted with a wide array of civil legal matters ranging from helping victims of domestic violence obtain Temporary Protective Orders to preparing wills for the elderly.



Left to Right: Judge Boggs, Jerold Murray, Angelyn Tinsman, Zack Howard, Prina Tailor, and Bill Broker

This exciting event featured keynote speaker and honored guest, The Honorable Michael P. Boggs of the Georgia Court of Appeals. Special awards were presented to attorneys Angelyn Tinsman and Jerold Murray in recognition of their representation of low-income Georgians, as well as to the Young Lawyers Division (Zack Howard and Prina Tailor) for its support of the GLSP mission to promote access to justice and opportunities out of poverty.

## Hall, Arbery, Gilligan, Roberts, and Shanlever, LLP Recognized by Superlawyers and U.S. News and World Report

Hall, Arbery, Gilligan, Roberts, and Shanlever, LLP has been named Georgia's "Top Small Firm for Employment Law" by Superlawyers for the second year in a row, and one of the 2016 "Best Firms" in the nation for employment law by U.S. News and World Report. The Atlanta based firm opened its Savannah office last fall with partners **Kristen Goodman** and **Maury Bowen**. The firm now has twelve lawyers across the state who specialize in all types of employment and labor law. Goodman and Bowen also have active business law practices, including formation and sale of businesses, contracts, protection of trade secrets, and litigation of unfair business practices. Goodman was named to Georgia Trend's "Legal Elite" in 2013 and 2015.

## Volunteers Needed for the SLS Street Law Program

The US Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Georgia is proud to partner with the Savannah Law School to present the first Street Law Program at Savannah High School. Attorneys and current law students will have the opportunity to teach 10th-12th grade students an interactive and engaging curriculum that specifically targets practical legal issues that are relevant to them. Volunteers will receive the curriculum and all of the supplements needed in order to teach each lesson. Classes are held from 10:00 -11:30 on Tuesday mornings. If you are able to volunteer for one or more classes please email [lknight@savannahlawschool.org](mailto:lknight@savannahlawschool.org) for more information.

## Thank You to Mock Trial Volunteers

On behalf of the Georgia High School Mock Trial competition, we would like to express our gratitude to the following attorneys that volunteered to judge and evaluate for the High School Mock Trial Tournament on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. It was a great competition and was made better by your support.

**Judge Michael Barker**  
**Angela Gore**  
**Dan Justus**  
**Kristen Goodman**  
**Ruari O'Sullivan**  
**Sarah Doan**  
**Helen Hester**  
**Burt Burton**

**Kate Lawson**  
**Bryan Schivera**  
**Elizabeth Verner**  
**Katherine Lewis**  
**Danny Cohen**  
**Andre Pretorius**  
**Paul Painter, III**  
**Colby Longley**

**William Drought**  
**Keri Martin**  
**Patrick Hinchey**  
**Amanda Jones**  
**Bill McAbee**  
**Thomas Gore**  
**Zach Thomas**  
**Josh Dorminy**

**Taylor Dove**  
**Garrett Greiner**  
**Orlando Pearson**  
**John Harper**  
**Owen Murphy**  
**Kelin Murphy**  
**Gini Lynn Jenkins**  
**Shannon O'Reilly**

## **T. Mills Fleming Recognized with Justice Robert Benham Award**

HunterMaclean partner Mills Fleming is to be honored by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism with the 17th Annual Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service. Since 1998 the award has recognized judges and lawyers from the ten judicial districts across Georgia who have made outstanding contributions in the area of community service. The recognitions will be presented on February 23, 2016.

"Mills is an invaluable resource to the greater Savannah community," said HunterMaclean managing partner Frank S. Macgill. "His expertise and commitment are evident in his distinguished legal career and in his dedication to nonprofit institutions."



Although the award recognizes a career-long span of community service, Fleming's work with and board chairmanship for Bethesda Academy, Lucas Theatre for the Arts, and the Telfair Museums form the cornerstones of his recognition. His board service also includes the Savannah Music Festival, the Savannah VOICE Festival, Savannah Philharmonic, the Rape Crisis Center, and the Memorial Health University Medical Center Foundation. Additionally, he has worked to implement programs and fundraising efforts for Savannah Country Day School and the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Fleming is one of ten attorneys and judges who will be recognized on February 23 at the State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta. Two lifetime achievement awards will also be presented at the ceremony, which is free and open to the public. For more information on attending the event, contact Ms. Nneka Harris Daniel at 404.225.5040 or [nneka@cjcga.org](mailto:nneka@cjcga.org).

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## **Save the Date - SLS Building Dedication Ceremony**

Savannah Law School invites all members of the Savannah Bar Association to a building dedication ceremony with the Supreme Court of Georgia at 5:00 p.m., April 14, 2016. A reception with student-guided tours of the law school, hors d'oeuvres, and bubbly will follow. Hope you can join us!

Savannah Law School is located at 516 Drayton St., Savannah, GA 31401.

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## **The State Court of Chatham County has Relocated**

The State Court of Chatham County Clerk's Office has relocated from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Chatham County Courthouse. Our new room number is 501 and is across the hall from Indigent Defense and the Law Library/Resource Center. We opened for business on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Our phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

**Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe Celebrating 55th Anniversary**

The law firm of Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP, is celebrating its 55th anniversary in 2016 and is marking the occasion by celebrating its history, refreshing its brand, launching a new website and hosting a reception on March 9 in Wright Square.

The firm was founded as Friedman & Weiner, P.C., in 1961 in offices on Drayton Street in the Realty Building. The first partners were Aron Weiner, Ernie Friedman and Nelson Haslam, and the firm's name changed to Friedman, Haslam & Weiner, P.C. Now located in a thoroughly restored building facing Wright Square, the firm has retained the values of its founders, including the importance of clients, respect for the practice of law and the judicial system and the ethical responsibilities of every attorney.

"The development and evolution of a law firm does not happen overnight," said Senior Partner Steve Greenberg. "It takes constant nurturing and a combination of goals, futures, relationships, attitudes and desires. It takes a commitment to the ideal of a shared experience in pursuit of a profession, and it is the opposite of 'go it alone'. It is 'join as one and never be alone.' This 55th anniversary marks not the achievement of a "firm" but the achievement of each and every person who has made his or her contribution to what the firm is today."

In preparation for the 55th anniversary, Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe made the decision to update the firm's brand with a new logo and place additional emphasis on the firm's long history of dependable service by introducing the slogan, "Trusted lawyers for generations." The firm has been privileged to provide legal services to several businesses through multiple generations of growth and leadership, and Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe have many client relationships that have endured for decades. Additionally, the firm is continuing the renovation of its offices on State Street and launching a new website in 2016. The new website will prominently feature each member of the firm and serve as an informational resource for legal updates.

"The past 55 years of this firm mean a great deal to me, and the feelings that I have for the firm are secondary only to my family," said Senior Partner Aron Weiner, one of the original founders of the firm who continues to practice. "The firm began with only two lawyers, a receptionist and one secretary. As we grew over the years to the 15 lawyers we now have, we focused our intentions on providing a very high quality of legal services in a professional and ethical manner. Our reputation among the judges, our clients, and the general community is excellent, and I am both pleased and proud that we have continuously maintained our high standards. It is my hope that our firm will continue on for many years in providing legal services of a very high quality."

## 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](mailto:rdutton@glsp.org).

Catherine Bowman  
W. Lamar Fields\*  
J. Stephen Lewis  
Melanie Marks  
Megan Manly\*  
Jerold Murray\*

Robert Brannen  
Stephen Harris  
Christopher Smith  
Angelyn Tinsman\*  
Francesca Rehal\*  
Adam Walters

Dolly Chisholm\*  
Peter Sikorsky  
Lauren Tignor\*  
Colin McRae  
Kran Riddle  
Susannah Pedigo

\*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.

## Debra R. Geiger Selected as Instructor of the Year and Rich Perkins Award Winner

Debra R. Geiger, Esq. has been selected as the Savannah Technical College 2016 Instructor of the Year and is the College's Rick Perkins Award winner. The Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction honors outstanding faculty members at each of the Technical College System of Georgia institutions.



## Wheeler H. Bryant Joins Brannen, Searcy & Smith

Brannen, Searcy, & Smith is pleased to announce that Wheeler H. Bryant has joined the firm's civil litigation and insurance defense practice group. Wheeler was born and raised in Lexington, Georgia. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science, with a minor in History, from the University of Georgia in 2008, and earned his law degree from Florida State University College of Law in 2011.

Before moving to Savannah in 2015, Wheeler was an associate at a regional law firm in Pensacola, Florida, and primarily represented employers and insurance carriers in all areas of employment law, workers' compensation, and other business entity/insurance related matters.

## YLD Update

The YLD's next event will be a happy hour at **Service Brewing Co.** on **February 18<sup>th</sup>** at **5:30pm**. It is election season, and the event will be co-sponsored by **Will Davis for State YLD Secretary** and **Ron Daniels for State YLD Secretary**.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament has been set for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Landings. More details will be forthcoming.

The YLD is in the process of finalizing the details for other exciting 2016 events, such as the annual boat ride and a "Picnic in the Park" event later in the spring. As a reminder, all Savannah young lawyers are encouraged to renew their membership. Our membership base allows the YLD to continue having the monthly events that we all enjoy. Those who have not renewed their membership for the Bar year, or who want to join for the first time, should contact Kate Lawson ([klawson@huntermaclean.com](mailto:klawson@huntermaclean.com)).

## Upcoming GLSP Ask-A-Lawyer Days

### Effingham County

Location: United Way Effingham Office (Rincon)  
 Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m.  
 For Appointments: 912-826-5300 (UW Effingham Office)  
 Date: Last Tuesday of every month

### Bryan County

Location: United Way Bryan Office (Richmond Hill)  
 Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m.  
 For Appointment: 912-651-2283 ext. 2753 (Nancy DeVetter)  
 Date: Third Thursday of every month

### Emanuel County

Location: Franklin Memorial Library (Swainsboro)  
 Time: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30p.m.  
 For Appointments: 478-237-7791 (Barbara Moore)  
 Date: Second Wednesday of Even-Numbered Months

Clinics are open to all individuals with LSC eligible, civil legal matters.

## Commitment to Equality Awards Call for Nominations

The State Bar of Georgia's Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession invites you to submit nominations for the 2016 Commitment to Equality Awards. These awards honor individuals, companies and/or legal employers in Georgia that have shown a strong commitment to promoting diversity in the legal profession and who are committed to providing opportunities that foster a more diverse legal profession for members of underrepresented groups.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Feb. 26. The Awards Reception will be held, Thursday, May, 12, at Georgia State University College of Law.

Nomination forms can be downloaded by accessing this link:

[https://www.gabar.org/newsandpublications/announcement/upload/CTE16\\_NomForm.pdf](https://www.gabar.org/newsandpublications/announcement/upload/CTE16_NomForm.pdf)

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## Board of Governors Update

The Board of Governors met at the Midyear Meeting on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, there were several developments that we thought important. First, our very own Pat O'Connor was nominated for President of the Bar. Pat was the sole nominee and will stand for election this spring. We all owe Pat a great deal for his dedication to the Bar and for his outstanding representation of Savannah. If you would like to personally congratulate Pat, feel free to call his cell phone between the hours of 2:00 AM and 4:00 AM and yell "Roll Tide". (kidding!)

There were several action items on the Board's agenda that will impact us all. Perhaps most important was the Board's proposal related to E-Discovery. Prior to the Board convening, representatives from the Bar and interested parties met to work out a consensus approach for presentation to the Legislature. Unfortunately, the parties were unable to reach an agreement in time for the Board meeting, and the E-Discovery proposal was tabled until a meeting between interested parties could occur. Interested parties met several times in the weeks following the mid-year meeting. However, a consensus proposal could not be reached. In order to address this issue prior to the legislature adjourning, the Board of Governors held a specially called meeting on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved the proposal that was put together by the State Bar's task force. So, what does that mean? It means that the legislature will likely take up an E-Discovery bill this session. We will continue to monitor the bill and will report any news.

On a less serious note, we discussed changes to the parking rules at the State Bar Headquarters. If you take advantage of the parking at Headquarters, please be sure to follow the new signage that directs you on how to get the proper validation for parking. Also, remember to take your Bar Card!

Your Board representatives (Jon Pannell, Sally Akins, Lester Johnson, III and John Manly) are always free to answer any questions you might have.

Yours,  
John B. Manly