

# SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

## Inside this Issue:

Local Lawyers Respond to "Ask A Lawyer Day"	2
Attorney Kathryn W. Baily joins HunterMaclean	3
Samantha Fasset Joins Johnson, Kraeuter & Dunn	3
Clair J. Hughes Joins Aderhold Law Group	3
Savannah to Host Court of Appeals Panel	3
Family Law Resource Center "Wall of Champions"	4
Colin McRae Recognized as Savannah Best Lawyers® 2015	4
GLSP Thanks Pro Bono Attorneys	5
YLD Update	5
Submission of Proposed Orders to Superior and State Courts	6-8
Save the Date for the November SBA Luncheon	8
Brad Harmon Recognized as Georgia Trend "40 Under 40"	9
Bouhan Falligant Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers in America® 2016	10
Attorneys Christopher H. Smith, Francesca Macchiaverna, and Patrick L. Barkley join HunterMaclean	11
State Bar Board of Governors Report	13
The State Court "DASHBOARD" Inquiry System	15
GLSP Celebrates "Purple Thursday"	16
Solicitation for Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Awards	16
Job Advertisements	17

## The Citation

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### Savannah Lawyer and Law Student Honored by State Bar

The State Bar of Georgia honored five advocates at its annual pro bono awards reception held Oct. 15 at the State Bar headquarters in Atlanta. Of the five honored, two were from Savannah, Dolly Chisholm and Meagan Rafferty.

Dolly Chisholm was presented the H. Sol Clark Award for her lengthy pro bono service record and for her role in the Georgia Legal Services Program Foundation. She was nominated for the Award by Bill Broker, Managing Attorney at Georgia Legal Services, for her work with the Pro Bono Project. Her law firm, Bouhan+Falligant LLP, received praise for its support of Chisholm's work and for its pro bono service in the Savannah community. The award is named for former Georgia Court of Appeals Judge H. Sol Clark of Savannah, who is known as the "father of legal aid in Georgia." The prestigious award honors an individual lawyer who has excelled in one or more of a variety of activities that extend civil legal services to the poor.



The Law School Excellence in Access to Justice Individual Award was presented to Meagan M. Rafferty for the access to justice activities she undertook as a student at the Savannah Law School. Associate Professor Andrew Wright praised Rafferty for her academic performance and the variety of ways she contributed to increasing access to justice through public interest law. In addition to her other activities, Rafferty was hosted by Georgia Legal Services (Savannah) for an internship.

The Law School Excellence in Access to Justice Award specifically recognizes a law student who has excelled in participation in support of a civil pro bono or legal aid program or who has developed or has been instrumental in the development of a civil pro bono program satisfying previously unmet civil legal needs or extended services to underserved segments of the population.

## Local Lawyers Respond to “Ask A Lawyer Day”

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Savannah Regional Office of Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP), the General Practice & Trial Law Section of the State Bar, and the Young Lawyers Division partnered to bring the annual “Ask A Lawyer Day” to all of GLSP Savannah’s 11 counties. This was part of a statewide effort to put a lawyer in every county, and was spearheaded locally by Paul Painter (Bowen Painter Law Firm) and Heidi Behnke (GLSP).

Events were held in Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Liberty, Long, Tattnall, and Toombs County with the help of more than 40 volunteers (legal and administrative). Volunteer and GLSP staff attorneys spoke with 55 individuals about a wide variety of legal problems ranging from custody and divorce to wills and estates. Thanks to the following attorneys for not only putting time aside to engage in this effort, but to meet the bar’s responsibility to make legal services available to those unable to afford them.

### Bryan County

Andrew Johnson  
Carol Miller  
Felix Montanez (GLSP)

### Emanuel County

Zachary Howard  
Jon Levis

### Bulloch County

Paul Painter

### Evans County

Benjamin Brinson  
David Laesser

### Candler County

John Kendall Gross  
Danny Olliff

### Liberty County

Nancy DeVetter (GLSP)  
Benjamin O’Neal

### Chatham County

T. Langston Bass  
  
Catherine Bowman  
Matthew Bush  
Jamie Clark  
Colin McRae  
Francesca Rehal  
Christopher Smith  
Kate Strain

H. Craig Stafford

### Long County

Bill Broker (GLSP)

### Tattnall County

DuAnn Davis

### Effingham County

James B. Blackburn, Jr.  
Richard Rafter  
Angelyn Tinsman

### Toombs County

Daniel O’Connor  
Rizza O’Connor  
Paul Calhoun  
Jack Downie  
Johnny Vines

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**Attorney Kathryn W. Baily joins HunterMaclean**

Kate Bailey recently joined HunterMaclean as an associate in the firm's Employment and Business Litigation Groups. Bailey graduated from the University of Texas School of Law with honors. She received her B.S.F.S. in Regional and Comparative Studies and Certification in Muslim-Christian Understanding from Georgetown University, where she graduated *summa cum laude*. Bailey has served as an Articles Editor for the Texas Law Review and is currently licensed to practice in the state of Virginia. She previously served as a law clerk for U.S. Senior District Judge W. Harold Albritton, III in Montgomery, AL. She resides in the Savannah area with her husband, David.

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**Samantha Fassett joins Johnson, Kraeuter & Dunn**

Johnson, Kraeuter & Dunn welcomes Samantha Fassett as an associate with the firm. Ms. Fassett is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, where she participated in the Family Violence Clinic pursuant to the third-year practice act and served as editor of the Georgial Journal of International and Comparative Law. She completed her undergraduate studies at Clemson Univeristy. Ms. Fassett's practice focuses on family and matrimonial law. The firm is located at 104 W. State Street, Suite 200, Savannah, GA 31401; 912-721-9844; Fax912-721-9849; [www.jkdlawfirm.com](http://www.jkdlawfirm.com).

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**Clair J. Hughes joins Aderhold Law Group**

Clair J. Hughes has joined The Aderhold Law Group and will be focusing her practice in the areas of criminal and family law.

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**Savannah to Host Court of Appeals Panel**

Savannah will be honored to host a panel of the Court of Appeals of Georgia on the morning of December 3, 2015, at which time they will hear oral arguments on three cases currently pending before the Court. The event will begin at 9:30 am at the old County Courthouse on Wright Square, now known as the Chatham County Commission building. In addition to hearing arguments on the three pending cases, the Court of Appeals will swear in attorneys seeking admission to practice before the Court. For more information on the swearing-in ceremony, please contact Kate Lawson at 912-236-0261 or [klawson@huntermaclean.com](mailto:klawson@huntermaclean.com).

## Family Law Resource Center “Wall of Champions”

The Family Law Resource Center will maintain a “Wall of Champions” on which lawyers’ names and information will be displayed for unrepresented citizens coming to the Center. It is our hope and goal to refer citizens with resources to a local attorney for representation. To be included on the “Wall of Champions” lawyers should go to [mediationsavannah.com](http://mediationsavannah.com) and under the Registration tab complete a Family Law Attorney Resource Questionnaire. Call [\(912\)354-6686 Ext 214](tel:9123546686) if you have questions.

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## Colin McRae Recognized as Savannah *Best Lawyers*® 2015 Admiralty and Maritime “Lawyer of the Year”

HunterMaclean, a leading law firm with offices in Savannah and Brunswick, is pleased to announce that Colin McRae was recently honored as the Best Lawyers® 2015 Admiralty and Maritime Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Savannah, GA.

Attorneys recognized by Best Lawyers as “Lawyer of the Year” have received notably high ratings in surveys and reports, earning and maintaining a high level of respect among their peers for their expertise, professionalism, and integrity. Each year this honor is awarded to only one attorney per practice area and location.

McRae joined HunterMaclean in 1999 and has built a successful career as a business litigator with a strong focus on maritime law, transportation, and logistics, frequently writing and presenting on these topics.



In addition to his “Lawyer of the Year” recognition, McRae has been named a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star multiple years and recognized as one of GenerationNEXT: Savannah’s Rising Stars of Business by Business in Savannah and Savannah Magazine. He has been honored with two awards for his community service: the Savannah Bar Association’s Robbie Robinson Award and the Savannah Technical College Community Council’s Community Star.

McRae currently serves as President of the Savannah Bar Association, and has served as a member of its Executive Committee and as a Past President of its Younger Lawyers Division. He is the current chairman of the Chatham County Board of Registrars, serves on the Savannah Bicycle Campaign’s Board of Directors, and has mentored and led the high school mock trial team at Savannah Country Day School—his alma mater—as an attorney coach for the past fifteen years. Most recently, McRae moderated the keynote panel on Cold Chain and Perishables at the first annual Savannah Logistics Lunch presented by the Center of Innovation for Logistics and HunterMaclean.



## GLSP Thanks Pro Bono Attorneys

Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) thanks all the attorneys who accepted Pro Bono cases during September 2015. If you would like to join this elite group of attorneys who are both helping to meet the Pro Bono responsibilities of the bar and 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).

**James Blackburn, Jr.**  
**Dorothy Courington**  
**William Fields\***  
**Stanley Harris, Jr.\***  
**Stephen Harris\***  
**Daniel Jenkins**  
**Megan Manly**  
**Robert Mock**  
**Jerold Murray\***  
**Daniel O'Connor\***  
**Francesca Rehal\***  
**Kran Riddle\***  
**Kristin Ruzicka Cerbone\***  
**Angelyn Tinsman\***  
**Adam Walters**

\*Attorneys with an asterisk beside his/her name accepted multiple cases in the month of September.

## YLD Update

The Savannah YLD invited its members to gather for a happy hour at Leoci's Trattoria on October 15th, sponsored by Coastal Court Reporting. The YLD enjoyed an evening of great food and great weather on Leoci's back deck.

The YLD also held its annual swearing-in ceremony on October 30th, which Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley officiated. The YLD welcomes our new colleagues to the local bar.



### Submission of Proposed Orders to Superior and State Courts

The Bench and Bar Committee continues to work with the Chatham Superior and State Court Judges and Administrators to seek ways to expedite rulings on motions that have been fully briefed and argued.

The committee previously announced that the **Superior Court Judges** will accept Proposed Orders through e-mails sent to their administrative assistants but **not** to their staff attorneys. The e-mail should request that the administrative assistant forward the Proposed Order to the attention of the staff attorney working on the case.

The **State Court Judges** have recently authorized the committee to announce that they will also accept Proposed Orders, which should also be sent via e-mail. However, the State Court Judges have instructed that the Proposed Orders be sent to **both** the Judge's administrative assistant and the civil or criminal staff attorney, depending on the type of case.

The State Court Judges have also established a "dashboard" website connection that attorneys can use to request the status of a pending motion through the office of the Court Administrator. This inquiry will be anonymous, unless the attorney provides identifying information (see details below).

The specific instructions for submitting a Proposed Order to a particular Judge are set forth below for each Judge, including the specific e-mail addresses that should be used. **As with all correspondence to a judge or a judge's office, all counsel of record should be copied on the email that is used to transmit a Proposed Order.**

In addition, in preparing a Proposed Order, the Judges have indicated that each statement of fact recited in a Proposed Order needs to have an accurate and specific record citation, and where legal principles are stated in a Proposed Order, appropriate citations to statutes and case precedents should follow. Litigants are not required to submit Proposed Orders, and the Proposed Orders should not simply constitute a regurgitated argument from a submitting party's briefs. A Proposed Order should represent the party's commitment to the Court that, if entered, it is the best work product that the party can submit for purposes of accurately stating the facts of record and the applicable law and successfully sustaining review by an appellate court.

(continued on following page)

## Submission of Proposed Orders to Superior and State Courts

### *Instructions for submitting Proposed Orders to Superior Court Judges:*

The Superior Court Judges agree that it would be of assistance to the court and may help expedite rulings if Proposed Orders accompany the motions and responses thereto, either at the time of filing or immediately after oral argument, if scheduled. The Proposed Orders should be sent via email, in an editable format such as Word or Word Perfect, to the judge's administrative assistant, with a notation that the correspondence should be directed to the attention of the staff attorney. The Proposed Orders should be sent to the applicable judge's administrative assistant via e-mail at the following addresses:

For **Chief Judge Michael Karpf**, send e-mail to:  
Priscilla Russell, [pmrussel@chathamcounty.org](mailto:pmrussel@chathamcounty.org)  
and request that the Proposed Order be sent to Leslie Keene, Esq

For **Judge Penny Freesemann**, send e-mail to:  
Mary Ann Boyd, [maboyd@chathamcounty.org](mailto:maboyd@chathamcounty.org)  
and request that the Proposed Order be sent to Lindretta Kramer, Esq.

For **Judge Louisa Abbot**, send e-mail to:  
Angela Hollinger, [arholli@chathamcounty.org](mailto:arholli@chathamcounty.org)  
and request that the Proposed Order be sent to Letta Sneed, Esq

For **Judge James Bass**, send e-mail to:  
Gloria Frazer, [gfrazier@chathamcounty.org](mailto:gfrazier@chathamcounty.org)  
and request that the Proposed Order be sent to Ann Searcy, Esq.

For **Judge Timothy Walmsley**, send email to:  
Debbie Carney, [dcarney@chathamcounty.org](mailto:dcarney@chathamcounty.org)  
and request that the Proposed Order be sent to Samantha Smith, Esq.

### *Instructions for submitting Proposed Orders to State Court Judges:*

The State Courts Judges have asked The Bench and Bar Committee of the Savannah Bar Association to let all bar members know that, in some instances, it may be of assistance to the court if proposed orders accompany the motions and responses thereto, either at the time of filing or immediately after oral argument, if scheduled. In addition to including copies for the Clerk to "furnish" to the Judge as required by Rule 6.1, electronic copies of proposed orders may be emailed to the judge's administrative assistant and staff attorney in a single email as an editable format such as Word or Word Perfect.

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## Submission of Proposed Orders to Superior and State Courts

As with all correspondence to a judge or a judge's office, all counsel of record should be copied on the email. Each statement of fact recited in a proposed order needs to have an accurate and specific record citation, and where legal principles are stated in a proposed order, appropriate citations to statutes and case precedents should follow. If desired, the proposed orders should be sent via e-mail to the email addresses below.

### **Chief Judge H. Gregory Fowler:**

Administrative Assistant – Sheila Small; [smsmall@chathamcounty.org](mailto:smsmall@chathamcounty.org)

For civil orders: Staff Attorney – Mark Smith; [mesmith@chathamcounty.org](mailto:mesmith@chathamcounty.org)

For criminal orders: Staff Attorney – Roxanne Formey; [rformey@chathamcounty.org](mailto:rformey@chathamcounty.org)

### **Judge Hermann Coolidge:**

Administrative Assistant – Patricia McCoy; [pmccoy@chathamcounty.org](mailto:pmccoy@chathamcounty.org)

For civil orders: Staff Attorney – Alison Kennickell – [akennickell@chathamcounty.org](mailto:akennickell@chathamcounty.org)

For criminal orders: Staff Attorney – Roxanne Formey; [rformey@chathamcounty.org](mailto:rformey@chathamcounty.org)

### **Judge Gregory V. Sapp:**

Administrative Assistant – Sandra Kent; [skent@chathamcounty.org](mailto:skent@chathamcounty.org)

For civil orders: Staff Attorney – Lauren Blatt; [lwblatt@chathamcounty.org](mailto:lwblatt@chathamcounty.org)

For criminal orders: Staff Attorney – Roxanne Formey; [rformey@chathamcounty.org](mailto:rformey@chathamcounty.org)

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## Save the Date for the November SBA Luncheon

The next SBA luncheon meeting will take place at noon on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at the Savannah Golf Club. In addition to a keynote address by Daisy Hurst Floyd, the Dean of the Mercer University School of Law, there will also be an In Memoriam presentation by Pat O'Connor, honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable B. Avant Edenfield.

## HunterMaclean Partner Brad Harmon Recognized as *Georgia Trend* "40 Under 40"

HunterMaclean is pleased to announce that attorney and partner Bradley M. Harmon was recognized as one of *Georgia Trend's* "40 Under 40" for 2015.



The "40 Under 40" honorees are all outstanding Georgians under the age of 40 who represent the areas of business, government, politics, non-profits, science, conservation, and education. Nominations are made each year by readers throughout the state and only 40 are selected to be part of this accomplished group.

"Brad's inclusion in this influential group of young leaders is a reflection of the dedication he brings to his career and his work on behalf of the Savannah community," said

Frank Macgill, HunterMaclean's managing partner. "In addition, Brad contributes to the firm as a member of the management committee and as assistant general counsel for HunterMaclean."

Harmon, a partner in HunterMaclean's Savannah office, joined the firm in 2006 and has established a strong practice as a business litigator, representing logistics companies, hospitals, financial institutions, builders, industrial manufacturers, and other businesses in commercial disputes and OSHA claims.

Harmon has been instrumental in forming HunterMaclean's Logistics Practice Group, bringing together clients and internal practice areas to more effectively represent clients in this important and expanding industry in Georgia. He has written and presented on liability and logistics issues, facilitated the 2013 Critical Issues Forum on Logistics, and recently spearheaded a partnership with the Georgia Center of Innovation in Logistics to present the first annual Savannah Logistics Lunch.

In addition to his "40 Under 40" recognition, Brad has been named a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star several times, honored by the *Fulton Daily Report* as a Lawyer on the Rise, and recognized by *Business in Savannah* as a GenerationNEXT Rising Star of Business. He has been ranked AV on Martindale-Hubbell by his legal peers, the highest possible ranking for an attorney.

An active member of the community, Brad is a graduate of Leadership Savannah and is immediate past president of the Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation. He is on the board of both Union Mission and the Savannah Technical College Foundation.



### Bouhan Falligant Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® 2016

Bouhan Falligant is pleased to announce eight of its attorneys were recently selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2016. The designation honors those who have been selected by their peers for outstanding achievements in their respective practice areas.

"It is especially an honor for so many of our attorneys across a wide variety of practice areas to be recognized by their peers," said Lea Holliday, managing partner, Bouhan Falligant. "We're pleased to be recognized for the unparalleled services we offer clients."

The Bouhan Falligant attorneys selected for the *Best Lawyers in America* designation include:

- Rob Brannen -- Real Estate Law
- Dolly Chisholm -- Elder Law; Real Estate Law
- J. Daniel Falligant -- Banking and Finance Law; Real Estate Law
- Kathleen Horne -- Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Carlton E. Joyce -- Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law; Medical Malpractice Law (Defendants); Personal Injury Litigation (Defendants); Professional Malpractice Law (Defendants); Transportation Law
- Dennis B. Keene -- Product Liability Litigation (Defendants); Transportation Law
- Edwin D. Robb -- Admiralty and Maritime Law
- Frank "Sonny" W. Seiler -- Medical Malpractice Law (Plaintiffs); Personal Injury Litigation (Defendants); Product Liability Litigation (Defendants)

*Best Lawyers* is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. A listing in *Best Lawyers* is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor, conferred on a lawyer by his or her peers. For more than three decades, *Best Lawyers* lists have earned the respect of the profession, the media, and the public, as the most reliable, unbiased source of legal referrals anywhere.

**Attorneys Christopher H. Smith, Francesca Macchiaverna, and Patrick L. Barkley join HunterMaclean**

HunterMaclean is pleased to announce that the firm's Savannah office has welcomed three new attorneys: Christopher H. "Smitty" Smith, Francesca Macchiaverna, and Patrick L. Barkley.

"These accomplished attorneys further strengthen HunterMaclean's highly effective litigation practice in southeast Georgia and coastal South Carolina," said Frank Macgill, managing partner. "They bring unique skills that will benefit our current and future clients."

**Chris "Smitty" Smith, Partner**

Smitty has extensive experience in business disputes and has litigated many cases throughout the United States during his career. He concentrates his practice in the areas of health care, commercial litigation and transactions, construction, employment, insurance, catastrophic injury, and transportation/logistics law. Smitty has argued cases in State, Superior, and Federal District Court, the Georgia Court of Appeals, and the Georgia Supreme Court.



Smitty is a graduate of Leadership Savannah as well as the State Bar of Georgia's Leadership Academy, and has served as president of the Savannah Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and as a board member of the Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers. He has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*, recognized as *Georgia Trend's* Legal Elite, and named a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star multiple years. He has received Awards of Achievement from the Young Lawyers Divisions of the Georgia Bar Association and the American Bar Association and has been named to the American Board of Trial Advocates.

An active member of the community, Smitty has served on the board of the Boys & Girls Club, the Next Generation Advisory Board supporting the Children's Hospital at Memorial University Medical Center, and as vice president of the Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation. Smitty received a B.S. in Kinesiology from the College of William and Mary and earned his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.

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## Attorneys Christopher H. Smith, Francesca Macchiaverna, and Patrick L. Barkley join HunterMaclean Cont'd

### Francesca Macchiaverna, Partner

Francesca joins HunterMaclean with over fifteen years of experience in business and commercial litigation, practicing within both state and federal courts in Georgia and South Carolina. Francesca has represented clients in matters including bankruptcy and creditors' rights, real estate, mechanic's liens and bonds, health care, post-judgment and foreign judgment collections, and landlord-tenant disputes. She has achieved the highest possible rating (AV) from Martindale-Hubbell in the practice areas of commercial law, litigation, and bankruptcy.



Francesca is a member of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association, the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association, and the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Sections of the State Bar of Georgia. Francesca is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court and is certified as a Circuit Court Mediator in South Carolina.

Francesca authors the legal newsletter for the Greater Savannah Apartment Association and previously served as the articles editor for the *South Carolina Environmental Law Journal*. She regularly presents on legal topics at professional education programs. She serves on the board of trustees of the Coastal Heritage Society and is a judge for High School Mock Trial Competitions in Georgia and South Carolina. Francesca received a B.A. from Emory University and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

### Patrick Barkley, Associate

Patrick practices primarily in the areas of business litigation, commercial disputes, and contract matters. He has experience helping clients develop their businesses by preparing corporate by-laws, operating agreements, employment contracts, membership and shareholder agreements, and other legal documents related to the security of company information.



Before moving to Savannah, Patrick focused his practice on civil litigation, business/transactional matters, and family law as an associate at Little, Bates, Kelehear & Toland in Dalton, Georgia. Other areas of his expertise include employment law, probate administration, and real estate.

Patrick received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Auburn University and earned his J.D. at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

## State Bar Board of Governors Report

The Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia held its fall meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at the Hyatt Hotel in Savannah.

In early October, the President-Elect of the State Bar of Georgia, Rita Sheffey, unexpectedly resigned her position. After reviewing the State Bar's by-laws and consulting with Bar counsel, the current President of the State Bar, Bob Kauffman, appointed Pat O'Connor to serve as President-Elect and also continue to serve as Treasurer. During the Board of Governor's meeting in Savannah, Bob Kauffman asked for the Board of Governors to ratify his decision. After O'Connor was properly nominated and nominations were closed, the Board of Governors unanimously approved O'Connor as President-Elect. Immediately after the vote, Presiding Justice Harris Hines swore in O'Connor to serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the 2015-16 bar year.



In other action items, Bill NeSmith, deputy general counsel, presented several rules changes and bylaws amendments to the Board of Governors. The rules for the Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) were amended to allow the committee to appoint a network of peer-support volunteers. These volunteers will be able to provide support to impaired or potentially impaired attorneys by sharing life experiences for mental/emotionally health problems or substance abuse problems. Rule 1-501 was clarified to require that costs, charges and penalties assessed by the State Bar as the result of a cancelled or dishonored payment will put a member's good standing status in jeopardy similar to a failure to pay dues. Finally, changes were approved to the nominations and elections bylaws to clarify voter lists, distribution of ballots, and the methods for a recount in State Bar elections.

The Board of Governors next heard presentations from Elena Kaplan, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee for Legislation (ACL), and Rusty Sewell, lobbyist for the State Bar, regarding certain State Bar positions on upcoming legislation. The Board again approved the funding request for the legal representation for victims of domestic violence and approved a policy to support pay parity for assistant public defenders and assistant district attorneys. ACL also recommended the Board of Governors support the passage of Senate Bill 64 introduced during last years' legislative session. In 2008, the General Assembly created a method of administrative legitimation by the execution of a voluntary acknowledgment in order to parallel the ability of biological parents to execute a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity. Since the passage of the law, it has created many unintended consequences of equating these two concepts and eliminating judicial oversight as to the best interest of the child.

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### State Bar Board of Governors Report Cont'd

SB 64 would repeal certain of these unintended consequences. The legislation is supported by the family law section of the Bar and several other lawyer and judicial councils who practice in the area of family law.

In other business, the Board of Governors unanimously approved the re-appointment of Jenny Jenson and the new appointment of Virgil Adams as the State Bar's representatives to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC).

Having completed the action items on the agenda, information reports were made by the President of the Bar, Treasurer, and the YLD President. A special report was given by Michael Ethridge regarding the South Carolina Bar's Attorney Wellness Committee and how it is being used as a model for Georgia in developing our own wellness initiative. John Haubenreich, Chair of the Disciplinary Rules and Procedure Committee gave a special report on the meetings his committee has been having in reviewing the State Bar's current disciplinary process and making proposed changes to the Board of Governors before the end of the current bar year.

Finally, Susan Cox gave an overview of the Ogeechee Circuit, and our very own John Manly gave a report on the activities on State Bar members in the Eastern Circuit.

After the Board of Governor meeting was adjourned, a "strategic planning session" was held to review the work done by the executive committee and a third party consultant, Leadership Strategies, who has been developing a 2016-2018 Strategic Plan for the State Bar. After a detailed presentation on the plan, Board of Governors members gave comments to the plan through a break-out session and through written comments. Leadership Strategies will report back to the Board of Governors during the midyear meeting in January for a final presentation of the strategic plan.

The midyear meeting of the Board of Governors will be held January 7-9, 2016 at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands in Buford, Georgia.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as a member of the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors for the Eastern Circuit. The other members of the Board of Governors from the Eastern Circuit are Sally Akins, Lester Johnson, III, and John Manley. In addition, your representation from Savannah includes Pat O'Connor who is the current Treasurer AND President-Elect of the State Bar of Georgia. In these roles Pat also serves as a member of the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted:

Jon Pannell, Board of Governors, Eastern Circuit, Post 3



## The State Court “DASHBOARD” Inquiry System

### ANONYMOUSLY REQUEST THE STATUS OF A STATE COURT MOTION

The State Courts Judges have asked The Bench and Bar Committee of the Savannah Bar Association to let all bar members know of a feature they have added to the “Attorney Dashboard” found at <https://courts.chathamcounty.org/Home/Attorney-Login>. If you have not registered, please go to the website and register if you wish to access the State Court Motion Status Request feature. Registration is easy. You must include your GA Bar Number to complete your registration. The Chatham County Information and Communication Systems (ICS) Department oversees this process. If you have any problems, contact the ICS Department at [912 652-7343](tel:912652-7343).

The State Court Motion Status Request feature allows attorney to direct questions to the presiding Judge and staff about the status of a specific motion or motions by completing the following on-line form. (Your view of the webpage many look slightly different but the form will be the same.)

The screenshot shows a web interface for the State Court Motion Status Request. On the left is a sidebar menu with links: Dashboard, Case Search, 72 Hr Bookings, Inmate Search, Attorney E-Mailer, Leave Request, Dashboard Administrator, Probate Court - Case Search, Motion Status Request, Recorder's Court IDU Report, and Dashboard Support. Below these are buttons for CASE LOOKUP, COURT FORMS, COURT FEES, MAP & DIRECTIONS, JURY SERVICES, and SITE SEARCH. The main content area is titled 'State Court Motion Status Request' and includes a blue instruction box: 'Use this form to inquire about the status of a specific CIVIL motion in State Court. The presiding judge will receive this correspondence and will reply to all parties. Be careful when selecting the presiding judge. If you select the incorrect judge, your request may not be received and processed.' Below this is a 'Contact Us' section with a form containing the following fields: Presiding Judge (dropdown menu), Case # (text box with 'STCV' entered), Style of the Case (large text box), Type of Motion (text box), Date Motion Filed (text box with a calendar icon), and Date of Last Filing in connection with the above Motion (text box with a calendar icon). A 'Send Request' button is at the bottom right of the form.

The presiding Judge and staff will receive the correspondence and will reply to all parties. Some attorneys have asked that they be able to send the request anonymously. With this in mind, the email received by the Judge and staff does not include the e-mail address of the sender. If you wish to identify yourself, you may include this information in the text box reserved for the style of the case.

### GLSP Celebrates “Purple Thursday”

The month of October is observed as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In light of Georgia Legal Services’ work in the area of domestic violence, the firm tries to increase awareness not only of the prevalence of domestic violence, but of the services the legal system can bring to bear on behalf of victims and their families.

October 22 was designated as “Purple Thursday.” GLSP staff and surrounding office personnel were asked to wear purple in remembrance of Georgia’s victims of domestic violence. All were invited to make an appearance in our office for a photo opportunity. A strong showing was had from SAFE Shelter, Morrison Dental, the Chatham Capital Group, the office of Congressman Buddy Carter, local residents, and GLSP Savannah staff and volunteers!



As part of its work with victims of domestic violence, GLSP continues to provide training to shelter staff and family advocates at Hunter Army Airfield, as well as Fort Stewart. Presentations are also provided to interested groups, including military personnel. In addition, direct client representation is provided throughout Savannah’s 11-county coverage area. This effort is largely successful as a result of the 19 Pro Bono attorneys in the Chatham County who provide legal representation to domestic violence victims in Temporary Protective Order hearings in Superior Court.

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### Solicitation for Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Awards

The Bench and Bar Committee of the State Bar of Georgia is soliciting nominations for its annual Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Awards. The award is presented each year to one Judge and one Attorney, so nominations for each are welcome. The deadline for submitting nominations is **Monday, November 30, 2015**. You are invited to use this form for submitting those nominations: [BenchBarComm.pdf](#)

**Cruser & Mitchell Seeks Litigation Associate**

Cruser & Mitchell, LLP is seeking a full-time Litigation Associate with two to four years of civil practice experience for its Savannah office. Candidates should have a Georgia bar license and extensive motion practice, deposition, and trial credentials in the areas of personal injury, employment litigation, civil rights litigation, and specialty lines litigation. Preferred candidates would also possess a South Carolina bar license. Please submit cover letter, resume, writing sample, and references to Shalena Cook Jones at [sjones@cmlawfirm.com](mailto:sjones@cmlawfirm.com).

**GLSP Seeks Staff Attorney****POSITION:**

Georgia Legal Services seeks a staff attorney to work in its Savannah office. The office is located in Savannah, Georgia and serves 11 counties. The office is geographically located on the Southeast Georgia coast, approximately 1.5 hours north of Jacksonville, Florida and 1.5 hours south of Charleston, S.C.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Circuit-ride to outlying counties; handle cases in state and federal court and administrative forums; conduct community legal education sessions and engage in outreach activities; participate with other advocates on action teams that explore and solve systemic issues affecting significant numbers of clients.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Graduate of accredited law school; Georgia Bar membership; demonstrated interest or experience in working with low-income clients and/or on poverty law issues. Legal experience in matters effecting low-income individuals. Good oral advocacy, writing, and computer skills, and have a reliable car and driver's license.

Ability to speak Spanish is a plus.

Unlicensed entry-level salary is \$36,550. Entry-level salary when licensed is \$41,500.

**APPLICATIONS:**

Click on the link below to apply for this position:

[https://rew31.ultipro.com/GEO1003/jobboard/NewCandidateExt.aspx?\\_JobID=128](https://rew31.ultipro.com/GEO1003/jobboard/NewCandidateExt.aspx?_JobID=128)

**Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors Vacancy**

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners is seeking to fill a vacancy on the Chatham County Board of Assessors. Anyone interested should send a resume to [JBocook@chathamcounty.org](mailto:JBocook@chathamcounty.org).

Term: 4 years; present vacant term ends June 27, 2019

Pay: \$5,000/yr

A tax assessor determines: 1) whether property is subject to taxation; 2) examines real and personal property county tax returns; and 3) approves the tax digest.

A tax assessor may not be immediately related to a commissioner by blood or by marriage and may not hold any state, county, or municipal office. A tax assessor must 1) be at least 21 years old; 2) hold a high school diploma or its equivalent; 3) have maintained a residence within Chatham County for the six months preceding his or her appointment to the Board of Assessors; 4) successfully complete a 40 hours training course held by the State Department of Revenue within 180 days of his or her appointment; 5) satisfy 40 hours of training during each calendar year of his or her tenure; and 5) attend two board meetings each month.