



# The Citation

## Letter From The President

As the new President of the Savannah Bar Association, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-2021 SBA year! Unfortunately, this Bar year begins as the last one ended – in challenging times with restrictions and recommendations in place related to the pandemic that may keep us from getting together for a bit longer.

Before discussing the current Bar year, I want to take a moment to thank Leesa Bohler for her outstanding leadership over the last year. She did a great job leading the SBA, including guiding us through the beginning of the pandemic and all the challenges that came with it. Unfortunately, we were not able to have the Cocktail Party last June to celebrate the hard work and leadership Leesa displayed. However, I am sure she knows how much we appreciate all she has done for the SBA over the many years she has been on the Executive Committee and, finally, as our President last year. Thank you, Leesa. Below is a picture of the presentation of her gavel (in compliance with the face mask ordinance):



Also, a couple of months ago, the new SBA Officers were sworn in. Congratulations to our President-Elect, Colby Longley, our Treasurer, Paul Johnson, and our Secretary, Richard Sanders. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the Executive Committee this year. Below is a picture of the Officers being sworn in by Chief Judge Freeseemann (before the face mask ordinance):



Regarding the presentation of the Cheatham Award and other items that we were prevented from celebrating last year, the Executive Committee will work to determine the best way to make sure we perform those with the honor and recognition appropriate for those tributes.

continued



Now for this Bar year. The tentative calendar for the year is attached, so you can plan to attend the events, but please keep in mind that we may need to change or cancel events based on the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions that are in place at the time of the events.

As you will see, we are tentatively slated to have our first Bar event on Thursday, September 17th. However, the date might change because of pandemic restrictions and to ensure the safety of our membership. Though we are not sure when we will be able to begin events this year, please know that the Executive Committee is diligently following updates related to the pandemic and public gatherings to determine when we can get back together safely. I believe we have the perfect group of members on the Executive Committee to navigate these challenging times.

In recognition of the fact that we had to cancel several events last year and are faced with likely having to cancel at least one more this year, a credit to dues will be provided to our members this Bar year. We made the decision after carefully analyzing, among other things, the current financial condition of the SBA, the number of events canceled last year, the possibility of canceling events this year, the budget (including analyzing how differing amounts of dues collected would affect the budget), our ability to adjust expenses for upcoming events, and fairness to our members. Thanks to the efforts of the many years of outstanding leadership employing fiscal responsibility, we can offer a credit toward dues without harming the financial condition of the SBA. After completing the analysis, the decision was made to provide a credit toward dues as a necessary step to ensure the stability of the SBA and continued involvement of our Members. The credit will be equal to 40% of the dues (see below):

As you likely know, the SBA depends on dues and member involvement, and we hope the pandemic dues credit this year will keep you involved. When renewing your annual membership, please consider doing so online at [savannahbar.org](http://savannahbar.org). By paying online via credit card, your membership will be renewed immediately, and you will significantly reduce the administrative work required by our volunteers.

Please also keep in mind that, as a Member, you have the opportunity to include your practice information within the Member Directory on the SBA website. The SBA directory is a place where potential clients visit to seek out attorneys in the Savannah area. It is also where SBA officers refer potential clients since we do not have an attorney referral service. Therefore, it is important for you to have your profile on the Member Directory with current and accurate information. If you have not created your profile, we encourage you to do so. If you already have a profile, please review it to make sure it is updated and accurate.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the renewal process, please email me at [bgreco@parkersav.com](mailto:bgreco@parkersav.com) or our Treasurer, Paul Johnson, at [paul@johnsonkraeuter.com](mailto:paul@johnsonkraeuter.com).

SBA is a 100+ year organization, and we will get through these challenging times together. I look forward to seeing you all as soon as we can get back together. Until then, please continue to monitor your email for updates about upcoming events, and please be safe out there!

With best wishes,

Blake Greco  
SBA President





**SBA Bar Calendar 2020–2021**

*SBA Members will be notified by email regarding details & instructions on how to register for each SBA luncheon & event*

<b>September 15, 2020</b>	<b><i>SBA Annual Membership Renewal Due</i></b>
<b>September 17, 2020</b>	Bar Luncheon—12 noon @ SGC (Savannah Golf Club) <i>Open to all members regardless of renewal status—Please RSVP!</i>
<b>October 22, 2020</b>	SBA BBQ from 6:00—8:00 p.m. @ Forest City Gun Club
<b>November 19, 2020</b>	Bar Luncheon—12 noon @ SGC
<b>December 10, 2020</b>	SBA Oyster Roast from 6:00—8:00 p.m. <i>Location TBA</i>
<b>January 29, 2021</b>	HOT TOPICS Seminar Bar Luncheon—12 noon @ SGC
<b>February 18, 2021</b>	Bar Luncheon—12 noon @ SGC
<b>March 25, 2021</b>	Bar Luncheon—12 noon @ SGC
<b>April 2021</b>	The Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride <i>Date TBA</i>
<b>May 6, 2021</b>	SBA Law Day Luncheon & Annual SBA Meeting—12 noon @ SGC
<b>June 2021</b>	SBA Annual Cocktail Party from 6:00—8:00 p.m. <i>Date &amp; Location TBA</i>

*Please note: The SBA Bar Calendar may be subject to change*

[www.savannahbar.org](http://www.savannahbar.org)



## 2020-2021 Executive Board for the Savannah YLD

Congratulations to the newly elected Executive Board of the Savannah Bar Association Young Lawyers Division!

President: Samuel L. Mikell

President-Elect: Joshua H. Dorminy

Treasurer: Taylor L. Dove

Secretary: Nicole L. Pope

Membership Chair: Ellis Alexander Allen

Social Co-Chairs: Robert (Britt) Beecher and Gracie G. Shepherd

Sponsorship Co-Chairs: Patrick L. Barkley and Dustin W. Hamilton

Philanthropy Co-Chairs: Burt Anthony Burton and Gary Max Tiller

The Citation Newsletter Editor: Thomas Alec Chappell

Logistics Chair: Stuart Fallin Sumner

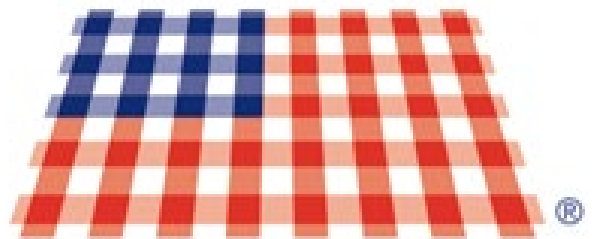
Sergeant-at-Arms: Haley Elizabeth Allen

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## Savannah YLD Supports America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

The Savannah Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division raised \$529 for America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia as part of Georgia's Ninth Annual Legal Food Frenzy. The annual fundraising drive was established by the Georgia Attorney General, the State Bar of Georgia, and the Georgia Food Bank Association. This year, the competition ran from April 20 to May 1, using an online fundraising platform due to the coronavirus pandemic. Statewide, the Savannah YLD ranked 22nd in the Legal Organization Category for Total Points with 2,118 total points and 20th in the Legal Organization Category for Points Per Person with 52 points per person. Under the scoring system, each dollar raised represents 4 points, with opportunities for bonus points. The Savannah YLD's point total was equivalent to 2,118 meals.

Additionally, on June 13, 2020, seven YLD members volunteered at Second Harvest's Savannah Volunteer Center on Causton Bluff Road. The volunteers prepared bags of breakfast food, with each bag containing a carton of milk, a juice box, and a packet of cereal. The Savannah YLD looks forward to next year's Legal Food Frenzy and to future opportunities to support America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia.



**America's Second Harvest**  
of Coastal Georgia



## Savannah Bar Association Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2021*

The Savannah Bar Association has been notified by Hunter Maclean; Bouhan Falligant; Oliver Maner; Brennan, Wasden & Painter; and The Bowman Law Office that the following members of their respective firms have recently been selected for inclusion in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America*. This publication honors those who have been selected by their peers for outstanding achievements in their practice areas.

### Hunter Maclean

Saunders Aldridge  
David M. Burkoff  
Thomas S. Cullen  
T. Mills Fleming  
Bradley M. Harmon  
Edward O. Henneman, Jr.  
Wade W. Herring, II  
John M. Hewson, III  
Christopher R. Jordan  
Randall A. Jordan  
Shawn A. Kachmar  
Sarah H. Lamar  
Nicholas J. Laybourn  
Frank S. Macgill  
Kirby G. Mason  
Diana J. P. McKenzie  
Colin A. McRae  
M. Lane Morrison

Christopher W. Phillips  
David F. Sipple  
Christopher H. Smith  
Joseph F. Strength  
Ron D. Talley  
John M. Tatum  
Harold B. Yellin  
Arnold C. Young

### Bouhan Falligant

Todd M. Baiad  
Rob Brannen  
Dolly Chisholm  
Dorothy W. Courington  
J. Daniel Falligant  
Leamon R. Holliday  
Kathleen Horne  
Carlton E. Joyce  
Dennis B. Keene  
B. H. Levy, Jr.

John G. Lientz  
Melanie L. Marks  
Harris G. Martin  
John D. Northup III  
Margaret W. S. Puccini  
Gregory G. Sewell

### Oliver Maner

William P. Franklin, Jr.  
David Herschel Dickey  
I. Gregory Hodges  
Robert W. Schivera  
Patrick T. O'Connor  
James P. Gerard  
Patricia Tanzer Paul  
Timothy D. Roberts  
Lee A. Summerford  
Andrew M. Wilkes  
William J. Hunter

### Brennan, Wasden & Painter

Joseph P. Brennan  
Wiley A. Wasden, III

### The Bowman Law Office

Catherine M. Bowman

Additional recognitions were awarded to individual attorneys with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region. The following Savannah attorneys received special recognition:

- J. Daniel Falligant (Bouhan Falligant) - Real Estate Law
- Patrick T. O'Connor (Oliver Maner) - Mediation
- Gregory Hodges (Oliver Maner) - Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs.
- Frank S. Macgill (Hunter Maclean) - Tax Law

Finally, the following attorneys were selected for inclusion in the new category Ones to Watch: David Bobo Mullens III (Oliver Maner), Irving William Drought III (Oliver Maner), Patrick L. Barkley (Hunter Maclean), William J. Gallagher, III (Hunter Maclean), and Nicole L. Pope (Hunter Maclean).

The Savannah Bar Association congratulates all members who were selected for the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America!*



## GLSP Thanks Volunteer Attorneys

On behalf of Georgia Legal Services Program, we want to thank the following attorneys for volunteering their legal services to the Pro Bono Project in the second quarter of 2020. With the help of these volunteers, we were able to serve 45 people who might not otherwise have received assistance. We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of lawyers in our community who are willing to give their time and expertise to help those in need. We truly appreciate your contribution to serving those who otherwise cannot afford legal services.

Kathleen Aderhold, Kathleen Aderhold, PC  
Langston Bass, Brennan, Harris & Rominger, LLP  
Lucas Bradley, Bouhan Falligant LLP  
Samantha Fassett, Johnson Kraeuter LLC  
Stephen Harris, Stephen H. Harris Attorney at Law LLC  
Erin Haug, Law Office of Erin Muldoon Haug  
Freddie Heitmann, Heitmann & Associates LLC  
Doug Herman, Michael G. Hostilo, LLC – Attorneys at Law  
Tom Hudson, Fleming Law, PC  
Derek Kauhane, Attorney at Law  
Karen McDonald, Michael G. Hostilo, LLC – Attorneys at Law  
Robert Mock, Robert M. Mock, Jr., Attorney at Law, LLC  
Tracy O’Connell, Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, LLP  
Francesca Rehal, Attorney at Law  
Mark Schaefer, Elder Law Office of Mark Schaefer, PC  
Julia Sullivan, The Sullivan Law Firm  
Angie Tinsman, George Sink, PA  
Lew Tippet, Tippet Legal Services, PA  
Joey Turner, The Turner Firm, LLC  
Josh Walker, Zeigler & Walker, PC  
Adam Walters, Walters Law, PC



## HunterMaclean Attorney Nicole Pope Recognized as Georgia Southern University Alumni 40 Under 40

HunterMaclean, a leading law firm with offices in Savannah and St. Simons Island, is pleased to announce that attorney Nicole Pope was recognized as one of Georgia Southern University Alumni Association's 40 Under 40 Class of 2020.

In its fifth year, the 40 Under 40 program recognizes alumni who have made significant achievements in leadership, business, community, and educational or philanthropic endeavors.

"Nicole's inclusion in this influential group of young leaders is a reflection of the dedication she brings to her practice and her community," said HunterMaclean's Managing Partner Brad Harmon. "This is a well-deserved honor, and we are proud to have Nicole as part of our team at HunterMaclean."



Nicole Pope

Nicole joined HunterMaclean in 2015 and is an associate in the firm's Savannah office. Her practice focuses on information technology law and intellectual property law.

In addition to her 40 Under 40 recognition, Nicole recently received an Award of Achievement for Service to the Profession from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia. In 2019, she received the President's Award from the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers.

An active member of the community, Nicole serves as a member of the Emerging Leaders Committee for the Savannah Community Foundation, a team captain for Susan G. Komen Coastal Georgia, and a member of the William Jay Society and the 13th Colony. She has also served as a board member of Urban Hope.

Nicole's involvement in the legal community includes serving as a board member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association and as a member of the International Technology Law Association. She has also served as president of the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers.

Nicole graduated summa cum laude from Georgia Southern University with a degree in Political Science. She went on to graduate cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as the executive editor of the Journal of Intellectual Property Law and was active in the Student Bar Association, Women's Law Student Association, and Phi Alpha Delta.



## Upcoming SBA Hot Topic Virtual CLE

The SBA will be hosting a Virtual Hot Topics CLE Class on October 9, 2020. Topics will include standard procedures and guidelines on how to practice law in the Chatham County Courthouses during our current COVID-19 Pandemic. A total of 6 hours CLE will be offered. All SBA Members wishing to attend the October 9, 2020, Hot Topic Virtual CLE can attend free of charge. Those SBA Members that want to obtain the 6 hours of CLE credit will be required to pay \$24.00 (6 CLE Hours X \$4.00 per hour) to the Georgia Bar Association via a form that will be provided to the attendees. Full details, as well as Registration Forms, will be published in the September Edition of the Citation.

For more information contact Mark Kelso at [MKelsoLaw@gmail.com](mailto:MKelsoLaw@gmail.com)

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## HunterMaclean and Hancock Askew & Co. Present Webinar on PPP

Companies Hancock Askew & Co. and HunterMaclean hosted a webinar regarding loan forgiveness for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) on Thursday, August 13th. During the live Zoom event, a panel of industry experts provided information on the PPP to an audience of over 300 business and community leaders in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

The panel discussion was moderated by Hancock Askew & Co. Managing Partner Mike McCarthy and included HunterMaclean Partner Robert J. McGuirk, HunterMaclean Partner Louann Bronstein, Hancock Askew & Co. Partner Stephen Leonard, and Hancock Askew & Co. Manager Samuel Evans.



The panelists discussed a variety of topics during the webinar, including a program overview, the PPP loan forgiveness process, tax implications, accounting for the loan, qualified expenses, and the forgiveness application. Attendees were invited to submit questions prior to and during the event.

To access the webinar in its entirety, please go to: <https://www.huntermaclean.com>





## Harris Lowry Manton LLP Associate Beth Manley Brooks Selected for Georgia Trial Lawyers Association LEAD Program

Harris Lowry Manton LLP, an award-winning, full-service trial law firm with offices in Savannah and Atlanta, recently announced that associate Beth Manley Brooks has been selected to participate in the 2020-2021 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's (GTLA) prestigious Leadership Education and Advanced Direction (LEAD) Program. Brooks is one of 18 attorneys from across the state and the only Savannah-area attorney selected to join the widely acclaimed program's eighth annual class.



**Beth Manley Brooks**

"Beth has a true passion for pursuing justice on behalf of our clients and a bright future ahead," said Harris Lowry Manton LLP partner Steve Lowry. "We can't wait to see what she accomplishes through the GTLA LEAD program."

After an extensive application review and selection process, Brooks was chosen to participate in the LEAD program, which equips future leaders in Georgia's legal field with the tools to take the next steps in their legal careers, both in and out of the courtroom. Participants are chosen from a pool of qualified applicants who have less than 10 years of legal practice experience or who are 35 years of age or younger.

"The GTLA LEAD program is one of the single-best sources for identifying and honing the talent in our association," said GTLA President Lyle Warshauer. "These 18 attorneys were chosen from one of the most competitive selection processes in the program's history, and I know that they will uphold the successful legacy of the LEAD program as they work toward becoming the future leaders of our association."

The 2020-2021 LEAD program will feature six sessions, beginning with a kickoff event at the end of August and concluding with a graduation at the GTLA Annual Convention and President's Gala in Spring 2021. Each educational session will tie back to GTLA's mission to strengthen and uphold Georgia's civil justice system and protect Georgia citizens' Constitutional right to trial by jury.

Brooks joined Harris Lowry Manton LLP in 2019 as an associate at the firm's Savannah office. She is responsible for supporting the firm's partners in complex personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice, business torts and wrongful death cases. Prior to joining the firm, she worked as a federal law clerk for the Honorable Hugh Lawson, United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia in Macon, Ga.

Brooks earned her J.D., cum laude, from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in 2017 and received the Cali Excellence for the Future Award and the Faculty Award for Legal Writing. In law school, she served as the Senior Managing Editor of the Mercer Law Review and was a Student Editor of the Journal of Southern Legal History.

Originally from North Georgia, Brooks currently resides in Savannah, Ga. and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the South Carolina Bar and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association.



## Daily Report Honors Harris Lowry Manton LLP Partner Yvonne S. Godfrey as 2020 On the Rise Attorney

Harris Lowry Manton LLP, an award-winning law firm with offices in Atlanta and Savannah, is pleased to announce that partner Yvonne S. Godfrey was recently honored by the Daily Report as an On the Rise attorney at the 2020 Georgia Legal Awards. Due to COVID-19, the awards were announced online on June 24.

Godfrey is one of 21 promising lawyers in Georgia under the age of 40 who are being honored for 2020. To qualify as an On the Rise honoree, attorneys must be innovators who develop unique practice niches, amass robust books of business, demonstrate strong leadership qualities, show expertise in litigation or transactional work and dedicate themselves to volunteer work.



Yvonne S. Godfrey

“Yvonne is a brilliant attorney with a strong work ethic and incredible commitment to clients,” said Jeff Harris, founding partner at Harris Lowry Manton LLP. “She has played a pivotal role in our firm’s success in the courtroom over the years and is truly a rising star in the legal field in Georgia.”

Godfrey joined Harris Lowry Manton LLP as an associate in 2013, after working for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit as a staff attorney. She practices in the areas of product liability, personal injury, wrongful death and whistleblower litigation and excels at trial work.

Godfrey was recognized by Georgia Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in 2019 and earned a GenerationNEXT Award in 2018. She serves as the host of the Great Trials Podcast, which features in-depth weekly interviews with America’s top trial lawyers.

Active in the legal community, Yvonne has served on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA) since 2015. She previously served as Co-Chair of the GTLA LEAD Program -- which identifies and trains young, promising trial lawyers for future leadership roles in GTLA and their communities -- and was a member of the 2014-2015 GTLA LEAD class.

Godfrey graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as notes editor on the Georgia Law Review, placed first in the Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition and received the award for best brief. She graduated cum laude from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., where she received a B.A. in English literature, and currently resides in Atlanta.



# Georgia Legal Services Program, Inc. Private Attorney Involvement Plan

The federal Legal Services Corporation, a funder of Georgia Legal Services Program, requires us to develop an annual plan for involving private attorneys in helping meet the civil legal needs of low-income persons. [45 CFR 1614.4]

This plan presents an overview of GLSP’s current program, provides information about new and ongoing obstacles to meeting the legal needs and service gaps in our region, and previews solutions that we are working toward in 2020.

This is developed in the same process as the annual GLSP Goals and Priorities development. Each GLSP field office is encouraged to craft a plan that meets local client legal needs and takes advantage of local attorneys’ skills and interests. GLSP focuses on Domestic Violence, Benefits, Access to Health Care, Housing, Consumer, Education, Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities and Farmworkers.

Our PAI plan addresses these and also gaps in service that GLSP staff attorneys cannot handle and where lawyers in our service area have identified themselves as available to handle the cases, including a broader range of family law (divorce, child custody), Chapter 7 bankruptcies to save the home place, wills and powers of attorneys for the terminally ill, and senior citizens.

## Current Program Overview

### *What We Do and Our Service Territory*

The mission of the Georgia Legal Services Program® is to provide access to justice and opportunities out of poverty for Georgians with low- incomes. Our lawyers, paralegals and volunteers provide the help that reflects your community’s values of fairness, equality, and responsibility to assist others in need.

We are a non-profit law firm serving rural and small-town Georgia—all of Georgia except the 5-county metro Atlanta area. That is a service territory of 154 mostly rural counties. We have 11 offices around the state to serve people where they live.

We offer free legal services in civil cases to people who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. Our clients have “high stakes” problems, such as domestic violence, eviction or foreclosure, denial of hard-earned benefits such as unemployment, inability to get critically needed health care or food aid, and many more.

We enlist private attorneys as volunteer lawyers to help provide civil legal services to the poor in our service territory. The work of our staff and volunteers assures that low income people have access to justice and opportunities out of poverty. When problems occur, we help our clients secure the support they need to get back on their feet — with dignity. When rights are denied, we help our clients seek redress and have those rights assured.

### *Our Pro Bono Approach*

GLSP’s pro bono programming and support is closely tied to the State Bar in several capacities. Staff actively participate in programs such as the Law Practice Management Program, Transition into Law Practice



Program (TILPP), Georgia's mandatory lawyer mentoring program, and more. Such relationships provide us ample opportunity to highlight the need for support and participation in pro bono programs and have allowed us to draw attention to the differences between rural/small-city populations (potential clients and volunteers) and those in living and working in metropolitan Atlanta.

The majority of our pro bono engagement relies on active participation from solo and small-firm lawyers. Staff coordinate cases through their local bar associations and relationships with the private bar among staff to cultivate a dedicated group of volunteer case handlers and clinic participants. We now urge lawyers to think strategically about pro bono and to include pro bono in their annual business plans. We ask lawyers to contact us and tell us exactly how many cases they would like to receive from us in the upcoming year, they type of case, and how frequently we should send a case to them.

Our coordinators place a great deal of emphasis on a well-rounded volunteer experience, and that includes consideration of client need, matching volunteers to impactful services, and assuring training and support systems are encouraging success at every step of the way.

## **Pro Bono Program Operations**

### *Services Available*

GLSP provides a wide variety of opportunities for volunteer engagement. This ability is greatly expanded and supported by Georgia Bar Rule 1.2, which allows attorneys to provide limited service rather than full representation to every client. GLSP has embraced the option of limiting the scope of representation and encourages volunteer attorneys to do so when appropriate. Attorneys may accept referrals to draft divorce documents or other court forms, review client circumstances in depth, negotiate with adverse parties, and more. New volunteers and those considering opportunities outside of their expertise benefit greatly from this approach.

### Regional Services

Each of our nine regional offices has a coordinator who can assist the local office in identifying suitable cases for pro bono and matching the case to a volunteer. While most the pro bono cases are in the family law area, cases are also available in housing, mortgage foreclosure, consumer matters and a wide range of other legal areas. Attorneys can specify the types of cases they are willing to consider. All clients served have household incomes below 200% of the federally established poverty level.

Staff contact attorneys by phone or email requesting assistance. Upon confirmation of the match, client information is sent to the attorney and the relevant coordinator continues to monitor the case through completion.

Difficult-to-place cases may also be issued through the Judicare Contract Program. Attorneys may provide legal services on a reduced fee basis. GLSP will pay the retainer contract attorney an hourly or flat fee for the representation. Judicare attorneys are generally located in places where the expense of travel for GLSP staff attorneys is the greatest.



### Clinics

Many volunteers actively participate through our regular clinics and dedicate a few hours or a day to providing advice and/or brief services to clients. The type of clinics varies between regional offices, but these clinics are generally concentrated to a few areas of law, a small service area, and rarely result in prolonged services afterward.

For the public, we post our upcoming pro bono legal clinics online on the home page of GeorgiaLegalAid. Volunteers may access the same site, but we also post these clinics for them on our GeorgiaAdvocates page. This same calendar is emailed monthly to all advocates registered with the advocate website.

### State Bar Special Projects- Child Support Helpline

GLSP and the Pro Bono Committee of the State Bar of Georgia Family Law Section have launched a rural pro bono Child Support Worksheet Helpline.

Georgia's Child Support Worksheets provide the framework for determining the appropriate amount of child support under Georgia law. The child support calculator is used to enter the financial information of both parents to calculate the appropriate amount of child support according to Georgia's statutory Child Support Guidelines.

Volunteer lawyers from the State Bar of Georgia Family Law Section will assist callers with the calculator and preparing the required Child Support Worksheets. Un-represented litigants needing help with the child support calculator can call (404) 526- 8609. A volunteer lawyer will then work with the caller to prepare Child Support Worksheets for his or her case. The Child Support Worksheets will be emailed or mailed to the caller.

The Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia has over 1,500 members and seeks to educate its members through continuing education and monitoring and reporting on legislation. The Child Support Helpline is an opportunity for the Section members to give back to Georgians in need of legal services who cannot afford it. Georgia Legal Services Program, which serves 154 mostly rural counties outside metro Atlanta, is partnering with the Section to launch the pilot project. GLSP receives many calls daily from people looking for legal help in connection with child support. The legal aid program will refer many of those callers to the new Child Support Helpline. [Press release attached]

### State Bar Special Projects- ABA Free Legal Answers

GLSP has entered into an agreement with Baker Donelson LLP and the ABA Center for Pro Bono to host the Georgia instance of ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org . The Georgia site (GeorgiaLegalAnswers.org) is currently being marketed only to large Atlanta law firm lawyers and to rural low-income households in the state. This strategy will help overcome the rural lawyer shortage in Georgia, matching lawyers with the rural poor who have legal problems. GLSP has developed a marketing plan to attract volunteer lawyers. Lawyers will sign up and create online profiles in our website, giving GLSP an additional pro bono panel. While these lawyers will be committed to providing advice services through the site, we will also market our usual LSC pro bono opportunities and training to them and recognize them so that they will be fully



integrated volunteers. The Atlanta office of Alston & Bird LLP runs the daily activities of the site as one of its pro bono signature projects.

### Military Legal Assistance Program

We continue to explore the best ways to provide targeted legal services to service members and Veterans. We will continue to maintain our statewide support website for volunteers who are helping veterans and active military personnel. We regularly provide volunteer lawyers at VA benefits fairs and “stand down” events.

In July of 2020, MLAP was brought fully under the GLSP umbrella and will provide more targeted assistance to low-income veterans while expanding services available through improved connections to other staff and pro bono initiatives.

### *Opportunities for Non-Lawyers*

GLSP pro bono and direct services staff engage with a variety of non-attorney volunteers to find innovative ways to improve our outreach and services abilities.

### Law Students and Recent Graduates

Local GLSP offices use law student interns to support volunteer lawyers on a limited basis, usually in the development and referral of PAI cases and for supporting pro bono legal clinics. We also offer law students the opportunity to develop PAI volunteer support materials and PAI-themed social media outreach opportunities. Our law students also participate in the development and staging of PAI recognition and training events.

GLSP pro bono coordinators and managing attorneys will work to exploit Georgia’s Law Student Practice Rule. The Georgia Office of Bar Admissions’ rule authorizes student practice that is co-extensive with all the work that a licensed attorney can do. A law student “when under the supervision of a member of the State Bar of Georgia, may, as if admitted and licensed to practice law in Georgia, advise, prepare legal instruments, appear before courts and administrative agencies and otherwise take action on behalf of” persons unable to pay for legal services.

Once graduated from law school, GLSP often works with these volunteers on a case-by-case basis through the local field offices under the guidance of a supervising attorney.

### Paralegals

Our Savannah office also works regularly with students from local technical programs, colleges, and universities seeking degrees in paralegal studies or who are considering attending law school. These volunteers may support screenings, client communication, or provide other assistance to their team.

### Court Reporters

GLSP has a decades-old Pro Bono Court Reporters Project that provides free take-down and print copies for pro bono depositions and some hearing work in our larger cities.



### *Volunteer Training and Supports*

GLSP takes seriously the LSC requirement to provide training and other supports to its volunteers and accomplishes this through several outlets. Our main hub for volunteer training and support is our statewide advocate support site, [www.GeorgiaAdvocates.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdvocates.org). We remain fully committed to this site and practice areas will continue adding and updating training and support content on this site and make it available to all our volunteer types. GLSP has been working with ProBono.net, our website vendor, to update and relaunch our volunteer support template.

GLSP also hosts periodic webinars – many CLE-accredited—as well as podcasts and local bar presentations on pro bono and substantive law for volunteer lawyers. Most of this content is added to [GeorgiaAdvocates.org](http://GeorgiaAdvocates.org) and made available to volunteers on a 24/7 basis.

GLSP employs several specialist attorneys in the areas of family law, housing, public benefits and health law. These attorneys are available to our volunteers and connected to them as needed by our local pro bono coordinators. Staff attorneys in our local field offices also help support volunteers in our PAI program through training, on-site legal clinic support, development of manuals, presentation of PowerPoint trainings, and the creation of other forms of legal content to support volunteer development.

Our partnership with the State Bar of Georgia will continue. GLSP and the State Bar partner to support the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center, an effort that is decades old. The Pro Bono Resource Center works closely with our local offices and assists with CLE programming, local bar presentations, online volunteer pledge forms and data, marketing, social media, training materials development and more.

Through networking events, such as the annual open house, we are also able to educate local lawyers about the legal needs of our clients, volunteer opportunities, and strengthen relationships between the coordinators and the private bar.

### *Volunteer Recognition*

Recognition of our volunteers allows us to both celebrate achievements, reward our team, and encourage future pro bono participation. GLSP does this in several ways.

Our lawyer volunteers are recognized through the State Bar of Georgia Honor Roll and the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center CLE Voucher Rewards Program, which provide certificates, highlight volunteer stories and local press releases, and award free CLE credits to participants. Several regional offices host local award and recognition events in tandem with their bar associations and with staff support.

Non-attorneys are included in presentations, nominations for state and local awards, and other events as available. One example is GLSP's State Bar Pro Bono Resource Center championing the State Bar of Georgia law school Access to Justice Awards.



## Case Management

### Intake and Eligibility

GLSP allows potential applicants to apply by phone and online. Staff dedicated to screening applicants for financial eligibility take calls from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Applications received through the online intake system are routed through GLSP’s case management system. Questions about family size, current and potential income and assets, citizenship status and other eligibility factors are used in determining initial eligibility. To be eligible for pro bono services, the applicant must have household income at or below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty level.

In addition, GLSP Board of Directors has determined, by legal problem type, the matters that can qualify for representation by GLSP. The limited resources available to meet the needs of low-income Georgians make this type of prioritization necessary. Some types of legal problems can only be accepted if a pro bono attorney is willing to accept the case.

### Referrals

After an applicant has been determined to be eligible for GLSP services, the case is reviewed in the local office covering the applicant’s county. The applicant is contacted and more information about their situation and their legal need is obtained.

**Referral Attempts**

Attorney	User	Date	Contact Method	Outcome	Notes	Actions
Willie XNelson	Michael L. Monahan	09/21/2011	Phone	Accept	N/A	Edit Delete
Willie XNelson	Michael L. Monahan	09/21/2011	Phone	Accept	N/A	Edit Delete

**Probono Users**

Probono Attorney Name	Outreaches	Office	Subjects	Counties	Languages	# of Open Cases	Organization County	Total Number of Cases	Recommend Pro Bono Attorney Notes	Start Date of Last Assignment	Organization	Actions	Is Interested	Referral Attempts
Gregory Dobson	N/A	MACON (8)	Problem Code Match	County Match	N/A	0	N/A	0 (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Assign	N/A	0
Gregory Dobson	N/A	MACON (8)	Problem Code Match	County Match	N/A	0	N/A	1 (0)	N/A	03/06/2003	N/A	Assign	N/A	0
Tangela King	N/A	MACON (8)	Problem Code Match	County Match	N/A	0	Bibb	1 (1)	N/A	06/30/2004	Buaflo and Associates	Assign	N/A	0
Scott Spwey	N/A	MACON (8)	Problem Code Match	County Match	N/A	0	Bibb	1 (1)	N/A	07/26/2004	JAMES, BATES, POPE & SPIVEY, LLP	Assign	N/A	0
James Wootan	N/A	MACON (8)	Problem Code Match	County Match	N/A	0	Bibb	3 (1)	N/A	04/24/2007	O'Neal, Brown, Sizemore, PC	Assign	N/A	0

Figure 1 Screen Shot of Referral Recommendations in Legal Server

Information about upcoming court deadlines, etc. are key to determining if a case is appropriate for pro bono referral. The length of time it takes to place a case with a volunteer attorney eliminates cases with rapidly approaching deadlines. The applicant’s access to reliable transportation is another factor considered. With knowledge of all relevant factors, the managing attorney of the office makes the decision that a case is appropriate for placement with a volunteer attorney.





Once a case has been designated for placement with a volunteer attorney, the list of volunteer attorneys is reviewed. In making determinations about which lawyers to contact, the various staff making contacts with attorneys take into consideration the geographic location, substantive areas of the law and when the attorney last took a pro bono case. Attempts to place cases are made by telephone and email contact.

### Follow Up

Following referral of a case, GLSP staff regularly follow-up on the case to determine the status of representation. The follow-up is done until the pro bono attorney notifies GLSP that the case is concluded. Assistance can be provided to the pro bono attorney throughout the case by GLSP staff unless the case referred represents a conflict of interest for GLSP.

GLSP is aware that some volunteer attorneys are not regularly referred a case, despite their willingness to accept cases. The match between case type and the location of the volunteer attorney sometimes makes a match difficult. GLSP continues to work to utilize all volunteer attorneys to meet the needs of eligible clients.

## *Outreach and Social Media*

### Pledge

Our volunteer pledge form is found online on several websites. The Online pledge form recruits volunteer lawyers to handle specific cases types and invites them to participate in legal clinics. We add all our volunteers to our case management system, Legal Server. Our local pro bono coordinators can search for a potential volunteer by county and LSC problem code type, clinic interest and more.

### Social Media

GLSP and its State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center employ Twitter and Facebook to publicize pro bono events like clinics and volunteer trainings, highlight volunteer efforts and educate the public and volunteers about pro bono and access to justice issues. Our main website, GLSP.org, also is used for these purposes. We have web pages devoted to Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) at and on our State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center page.

## **Information, Obstacles, and Challenges**

### *Volunteer Perspectives on Client Need*

We posted online in mid-2018 a survey for Georgia lawyers that asked their thoughts about critical legal needs of the poor in their community. We also asked lawyers for information they might have on local legal resources, their thoughts on ways they might participate in pro bono with us, and how their local bar associations might be helpful.

The survey tells us that you and your fellow lawyers believe the most critical legal needs of the poor in your community (and our service territory) are:

1. A range of family law matters, including family violence, divorce, and child support;
2. Consumer law, including debt collection and bankruptcy;
3. Landlord-tenant matters, including evictions, repairs, and security deposits; and
4. Senior citizen (elder) law.



These case types are representative of the kinds of cases handled by GLSP staff attorney. These are also the kinds of cases we would like to place with volunteer lawyers.

### *Volunteer Needs*

#### Pro Bono Attorney Survey

In 2009, the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Civil Justice published the results of a statewide Legal Needs Study and an accompanying Pro Bono Attorney Survey.

We include here for simplicity's sake this summary report excerpt.

There were a few surprises from the attorneys' surveys, and some conclusions that were expected are worthy of note here:

1. The response rates were surprising. Attorneys responded to the survey at a much higher rate than expected. This was perhaps because the cover letter from the CCJ alerted them to the importance of the research. Attorneys called in for appointments to complete their surveys, made return calls and stayed on the line to finish calls. We oversampled as a result, making our results more representative than we had hoped for at the outset.
2. The size of the law firm influences whether the attorney has time to engage in pro bono services. Larger firms seem more able to sustain the time and effort.
3. Although there are a variety of areas of law in which pro bono attorneys practice, family law is one area in which there are significantly different proportions of attorneys practicing pro bono law.
4. Attorneys avoid pro bono work due to concerns about lack of expertise, and concerns about malpractice insurance. There are some concerns about screening for client need, as attorneys' comments suggest that some who apply for pro bono appear to be able to afford to pay for services.
5. There is some support for doing shorter term pro bono work, if it could be identified, but attorneys appear to be wary of taking on larger projects
6. Attorneys express support for referral systems for pro bono work.
7. Attorneys who take on pro bono work are motivated by personal responsibility and needs of the poor; attorneys who do not are concerned about time limitations and family obligations.
8. Overall, support for pro bono is high, even among those who do not engage in it. In many cases, those who do not are looking for opportunities and want to have referral, access to information, training, or short-term commitments to contribute. They do want to be sure that the persons who receive pro bono legal services are screened, and truly eligible for services.

-- Legal Needs Survey Presented to the  
Committee on Civil Justice by the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service  
and Research Kennesaw State University

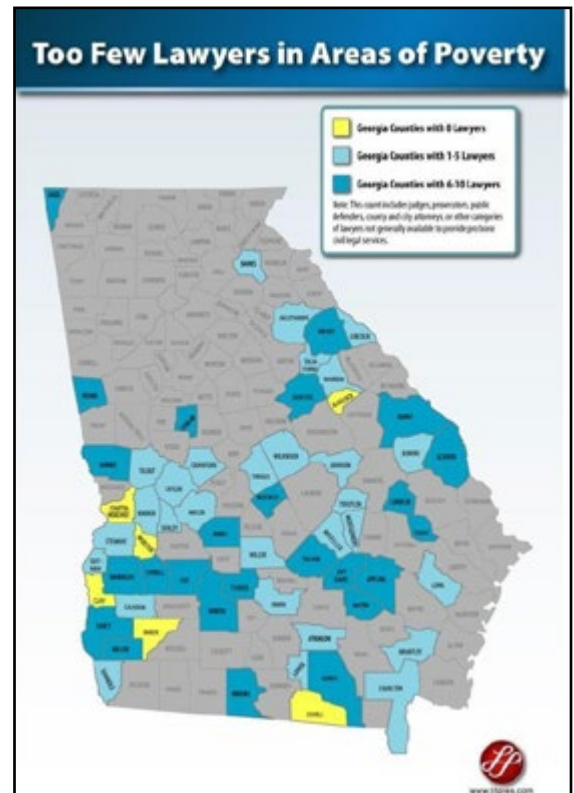


### Lawyer-less Counties

There are six Georgia counties that count no lawyer and an additional 65-plus counties with 15 or fewer lawyers. See “Too Few Lawyers in Areas of Poverty” Map.

We have additional information on lawyers in our service territory who are 65 years of age and older—“Baby Boom” lawyers who, if they have not yet retired, are likely winding down their practices or will not be available to us as volunteers within 3-5 years. Georgia’s emeritus practice rule has a high age 70 threshold for emeritus status. When the 65-plus data is added into the access to justice equation, the six counties without a lawyer increases to 11 counties. The 29 counties with 5 or fewer lawyers increases to 41 counties with 5 or fewer lawyers. And remember, for purposes of this count, “lawyer” also includes judges, prosecutors, public defenders—lawyers not available to provide free civil legal services to the poor.

It is imperative that our local GLSP field offices recruit and support volunteers in those areas of the map shaded in grey and darker blue to support the needs of our clients located in the lighter blue and yellow areas. Our past models have accomplished this by:



1. Placing court and administrative cases with volunteer lawyers on a one-on-one basis in our priority areas:
  - a. Family law (with family violence as a priority, as volunteers available otherwise);
  - b. Consumer law (collections cases, Chapter 7s to save the home place, improper garnishments);
  - c. Housing (Foreclosure prevention, Public housing, Landlord/Tenant);
  - d. School tribunal cases (School-to-Prison Pipeline); and
  - e. Wills and Estates, Powers of Attorney.
2. Hosting Advice and Brief Services (limited scope work) Clinics on:
  - a. General legal advice topics;
  - b. Family Law;
  - c. Wills and Estates;
  - d. Education Law; and
  - e. Landlord/Tenant Law.

### Meeting the Needs in 2020

Under the leadership of a new Executive Director in 2019, the pro bono program began efforts to transform the program by centralizing the team of coordinators, expanding our volunteer opportunities, and finding creative ways to engage with Atlanta-based members of the State Bar. These efforts are allowing us to resolve some of the long-standing obstacles to a more successful program.

In 2020, GLSP will still be undergoing the planning and development of many of these pro bono initiatives.



### *Addressing Statewide Client Need through Remote Services*

GLSP heavily invested in the hire of several, full-time attorneys to the pro bono program, each to act as a project leader in a statewide legal area: consumer, housing, military benefits, and record restriction. Though the projects themselves are in various stages of development, each is tasked with identifying actionable, impactful legal services that can be completed entirely remotely and can connect client needs with members of the private bar wherever either is located.

To further our 2020 theme of statewide services, GLSP is also encouraging all coordinators to find creative approaches to clinic and outreach services. Conducting events remotely not only increases the ability of our team to widen their reach to clients and volunteers, it also improves the professional development and collaborative opportunities of our staff, who rarely see and work together to achieve goals.

Finally, we also plan to increase recruitment to the 70% of Georgia lawyers who live and work in the Atlanta metro-region. As GLSP's 154-county area does not serve clients in Atlanta, our involvement with local bar associations, law firms, and other attorney organizations has been minimal here. To this end, we applied for 2020 Pro Bono Innovation Grant funding and were fortunate to receive an award to conduct a more in-depth review of the program and use our findings to successfully establish a project targeting such groups.

### *Bringing Lawyers to Lawyer-less Counties*

For the 6 counties shaded in yellow in the “Too Few Lawyers in Areas of Poverty” Map, we will recruit volunteer lawyers in other areas of the state and provide access to these volunteer lawyers via:

1. Local Legal Advice Clinics in neighboring counties;
2. Virtual Legal Clinics;
3. The Georgia Child Support Calculator Helpline that is a partnership between the State Bar of Georgia Family Law Section and GLSP;
4. Georgia.FreeLegalAnswers.org (launched in 2017); and
5. Distance services provided by volunteer lawyers from our structured pro bono program housed in the Georgia Lawyers for Equal Justice “incubator.”

For the public, we post our upcoming pro bono legal clinics online on the home page of GeorgiaLegalAid. Volunteers may access the same site, but we also post these clinics for them on our GeorgiaAdvocates page. This same calendar is emailed monthly to all advocates registered with the advocate website.

Starting in 2019, the GLSP Pro Bono Project began exploring the possibility of statewide, remote delivery of legal services to further these efforts and full implementation of this plan is ongoing in 2020.

### *Learning More about Lawyers in Georgia to Improve Pro Bono Participation*

In December 2016, our Savannah Regional Office conducted a Pro Bono Climate Survey the results of which are found here. The survey was shared with approximately 600 members of the Savannah Bar Association. Sixty lawyers – about 10% of the bar membership—responded. Those who responded were largely members of the Baby Boomer generation, from solo and small firm backgrounds, all of whom provided some level of pro bono services in the preceding 12 months. The survey respondents indicated the top four issues discouraging them from providing pro bono services are: time limitations, scheduling conflicts, (client meeting) travel expectations and solo/small firm economics.

Respondents also indicated that they did not have a pro bono plan in place for their practice.



GLSP partners with the State Bar of Georgia and the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division in the provision of disaster legal services, the disaster legal services hotline, disaster law volunteer lawyer recruitment and in help clinics and on individual cases.

GLSP has created a Senior Lawyer/Baby Boomer Pro Bono Project in its Piedmont region to reach out to lawyers who are retiring or nearing retirement. The project entails creating “in-house” volunteer positions for retiring lawyers to provide help with intake, brief services and advice and web resources navigation. Our Savannah Regional Office has taken advantage of retired lawyers to provide legal assistance for over 20 years.

GLSP has partnered with the State Bar of Georgia in its Due Justice pro bono message campaign. In 2020, GLSP will continue to adopt the Due Justice marketing approach and material. GLSP pro bono coordinators will accept volunteer lawyers recruited through the Bar under the campaign.

### Feedback on this Plan

The federal Legal Services Corporation, a funder of Georgia Legal Services Program, requires us to develop an annual plan for involving private attorneys in helping meet the civil legal needs of low-income persons.<sup>45</sup> C.F.R. Sec. 1614.4. GLSP is currently seeking comments on this proposed plan. Please provide comments to Mike Monahan, GLSP Pro Bono Director, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30303. You can also contact us by email at [mmonahan@glsp.org](mailto:mmonahan@glsp.org) or reach out to Lisa Krisher, Senior Director of Litigation, at [lkrisher@glsp.org](mailto:lkrisher@glsp.org).

A copy of this plan is posted on a State Bar of Georgia website page and provided to local offices for sharing with local bar associations.

“CONFESSIONS OF A SOUTH GEORGIA LAWYER” is a colorful and engaging story of the life and career of a ninety-two-old, retired Savannah attorney. James McAleer, through anecdotes, stories, and revelations of his personal experiences, comments, sometimes in hilarious fashion, on judges and lawyers whom he has known. He also describes the impact of the mass of black and female lawyers to the Bar of Georgia and on events occurring in courtrooms.

The book is available through the author, James Edward McAleer, at 1312 Lavon Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406, phone 912-354-8497. If you purchase the book directly from the author, the price will be only \$30.00. The book is also available at Barnes & Noble, E. Shaver Bookstore, on Ebay, and on Amazon.

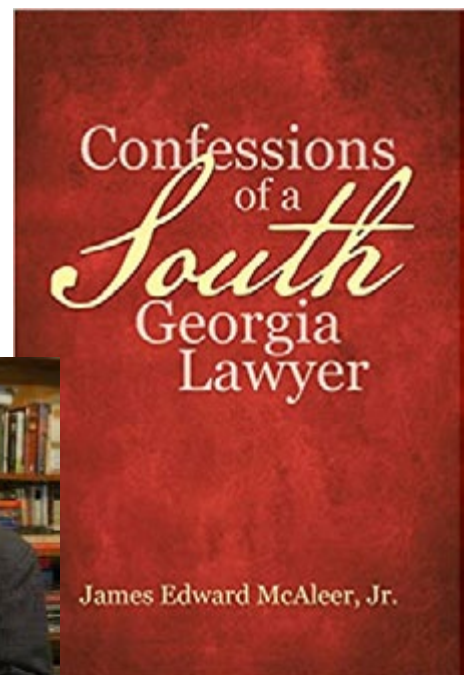
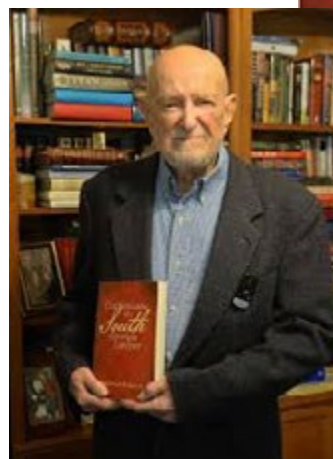


Image:  
[www.savannahnow.com](http://www.savannahnow.com)  
Posted Feb 10, 2018



## Brennan, Wasden & Painter LLC Seeking Attorneys

Brennan, Wasden & Painter LLC is seeking attorneys to assist with its professional liability and business litigation practice groups in both the Savannah and Augusta offices. Those with deposition and courtroom experience will receive preference. Georgia Bar required. Please contact Matthew Repella, [MRepella@BrennanWasden.com](mailto:MRepella@BrennanWasden.com).

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## 317 W. YORK ST.: OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT NEXT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Full Service office space for rent just across the street from the Chatham County Courthouse and the Robbie Robinson parking garage. Perfect location for lawyers practicing Criminal law and Family law who need quick access to the Courthouse. Parking cards for the garage available.

Three first floor offices are available, along with shared common area including a lobby, two conference rooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen. Ideal for renting all three, just one, or two offices together. Landlord provides Receptionist, Internet, Phone Lines (ability to keep your number), Access to Networked Copier/Printer/Scanner/Fax, Janitorial, CAM, and a Filtered Water System. Lease options include month to month and/or long term. Sign space available. Landlord and anchor tenant on floors two and three are Brad Stevens and the staff of The Stevens Firm, P.C. [[www.stevensfirm.com](http://www.stevensfirm.com)]. Seeking to fill the building with various practices for lawyer collaboration, comradery, and referral opportunities. Contact Sheila Hickman at 912-417-4597 to schedule an appointment to view.





## Now Open for Submissions

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.