

Local Attorneys Honored for Community Impact at February Pro Bono Awards Luncheon

Four attorneys were recognized for their outstanding pro bono contributions to the GreaterSavannah Region on Thursday February 15, 2024, at the 2023 Pro Bono Awards, presented by the Savannah Bar Association (SBA), in partnership with Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP).

Pro bono service – when attorneys take on legal matters without the expectation of being paid – is one of the most impactful ways that attorneys choose to give back to their communities and meet their ethical obligations. In 2023, of the 1,500 cases accepted by GLSP's Savannah office, nearly 170 were handled on a pro bono basis by 40 area attorneys with a commitment to service.

The honorees at this year's Pro Bono Awards exemplify that personal connection.

Two attorneys tied for the *Pro Bono Champion Award* for handling the most pro bono cases in 2023: Anthony Burton and Jerold Murray.

Anthony Burton, Burton Law Offices, handled 17 pro bono cases last year, representing clients seeking protective orders in domestic violence situations. This is the second year in a row, Mr. Burton has received the *Pro Bono Champion Award*.

Jerold Murray, Law Office of Jerold L. Murray, LLC, also handled 17 pro bono cases last year, representing clients seeking protective orders in domestic violence situations. Mr. Murray has volunteered for GLSP for 10 years and has handled nearly 150 pro bono cases. He received the *Pro Bono Champion Award* in 2016 and the *Pro Bono Advocate Award* in 2015.

Steven Woodward is the recipient of the Pro Bono Advocate Award for exceptional service to the underserved in the Savannah area. Mr. Woodward, a solo practitioner, represented a client in a security deposit case. Mr. Wood ward successfully obtained a default judgment for his client against an absentee landlord. He stayed on the case for another year to assist the client in collecting the judgment.

Dolly Chisholm is the recipient of the *Pro Bono Service Award*. For over 20 years, Ms. Chisholm, a partner at Bouhan



Falligant LLP, has assisted GLSP clients with wills, powers of attorney, and advanced directives for healthcare. She received the *H. Sol Clark Pro Bono Award* from the State Bar of Georgia in 2015.



Georgia Legal Services Program is a 501(c)3 nonprofit law firm. We provide free, civil legal services to low-income or senior-aged Georgians outside of the five metro Atlanta counties

To volunteer, contact Sarah J. Anderson at signaps.org or sign up online at https://www.glsp.org/volunteer-2/.









February YLD Update

The Savannah Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division held its first event of 2024—the annual trivia competition—on January 25 at Congress Street B&D Burgers. As always, YLD President-Elect Gary M. Tiller emceed the event. The winning team, "Ben and Friends," consisted of Ben Tuten, Laney Ivey, Woody Williams, and Beth Brooks.

On February 1, the State Bar's Young Lawyers Division held its second Leadership Academy event in Atlanta at the Georgia State Capitol and the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. Representing Savannah were YLD President Alec Chappell and Sponsorship Co-Chair Amelia Stevens. Throughout January and February, YLD Community Outreach Co-Chair Merry Layman planted trees with the Savannah Tree Foundation.

On February 10, the Savannah YLD oversaw the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition's Regional Round at the Chatham County Courthouse. The YLD wishes to thank the following attorneys who served as judges or evaluators:

Matthew Adkins

Sally Akins

Denethris Barnes

Jolee Battles

Leesa Bohler

Donald Cam Bowman

YLD President Alec Chappell

Kate Cobb

Hon. Edward J. Coleman, III

Max Compton

William Cubbedge

Hon. Jeffery Ferguson

Lynne Fleming

Chris Gates

Kathryn Gathy

Garrett Greiner

Rick Gnann

Renorda Herring

Kelsey Kicklighter

Hon. Lindretta Gringle Kramer

Felix Kloc

YLD Community Outreach Co-Chair Merry Layman

Tracie Macke

Sawyer Martin

Chris Middleton

Ivy Montano

Lindy Moody

Joe Newman

JOC INC WIII al

Courtney Patterson

Shelley Payne

Anthony Poulos

Maggie Puccini

YLD Secretary Amber Robinson

Ann Searcy

Channell Singh

Christian Stolfe

Bradley Thompson

YLD President-Elect Gary Tiller

YLD Sponsorship Co-Chair Ben Tuten

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Hon. Timothy R. Walmsley

Klyne Weaver

Andrew Wilkes

Kathryn Wrieden

Additionally, YLD Community Outreach Co-Chair Greg Finch and YLD Membership Co-Chair Laney Ivey coached high school teams. Special thanks are owed to YLD Mock Trial Chair Harrison Pratt, YLD Logistics Chair Madison Perrie, and Craig Call for their hard work running the program.





























Save the Date! 2024 Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride

Join the Savannah Bar Association on Friday, April 19, 2024, for the Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride. Boarding starts at 9:30 a.m. for the Boat Ride. The boat leaves promptly at 10:00 a.m. from the dock and travels down the Savannah River to Daufuskie Island. The boat should return to the dock at approximately 4:00 or 4:30 p.m.

Please note that online registration paid via credit card is the only way to guarantee a spot on the Boat Ride. Walk-up registrations on the morning of the event are subject to availability.

Be on the lookout for an SBA email with details and instructions on registering for this popular SBA event!

Oliver Maner Earns Ten 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers Honors and Three 2024 Georgia Rising Stars

Oliver Maner, one of Savannah's most prestigious law firms, is proud to announce that ten of its lawyers have been named to the 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers list and three to the 2024 Georgia Rising Stars list. Published by global media conglomerate Thomson Reuters, this recognition is based on peer nominations and independent research, and it identifies the top lawyers in the state from more than 70 practice areas.

The following Oliver Maner lawyers were named to the 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers list:

- I. Gregory Hodges, Personal Injury General: Defense
- Patrick T. O'Connor, Civil Litigation: Defense
- Patricia T. Paul, Employment Litigation: Defense
- Timothy D. Roberts, Business Litigation
- Lee A. Summerford, Closely Held Business
- Andrew M. Wilkes, Family Law
- William J. Hunter, General Litigation
- Benjamin M. Perkins, State/Local/Municipality
- Paul H. Threlkeld, General Litigation
- T. Lawrence Evans, Business Litigation

Oliver Maner lawyers named to the 2024 Georgia Rising Stars list:

- Bryan A. Schivera, Closely Held Business
- David Bobo Mullens, III, General Litigation
- I. William Drought, III, Personal Injury General: Defense

The list and profiles of selected lawyers are published in Super Lawyers Magazine and distributed to attorneys in their state or region. Super Lawyers is also published as a special section in leading city and regional magazines nationwide. Lawyers are selected to a Super Lawyers list in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.









Patrick T. O'Connor



Patricia T. Paul



Timothy D. Roberts



Lee A. Summerford



Andrew M. Wilkes



William J. Hunter



Benjamin M. Perkins



Paul H. Threlkeld



T. Lawrence Evans



Bryan A. Schivera



David Bobo Mullens, III



I. William Drought, III



Bouhan Falligant Attorneys Named Georgia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

Bouhan Falligant partners were recently recognized as 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

The Georgia Super Lawyer recognition is awarded annually to the top five percent of attorneys in the state. The honor is based on independent research, peer review, and professional achievement.

The following Bouhan Falligant attorneys were named 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers:

- Carlton E. Joyce-Personal Injury Medical Malpractice: Defense
- Dennis B. Keene-Personal Injury Products:
- Margaret "Maggie" W. S. Puccini-Bankruptcy Business
- Gregory G. Sewell-Personal Injury Medical Malpractice: Defense

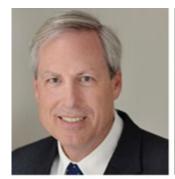
In addition, two Bouhan Falligant attorneys were selected as a Rising Star:

- Lucas D. Bradley-Transportation/Maritime
- Gregory Finch-Personal Injury Malpractice:
 Defense
- Heather Lundy: Real Estate

The Rising Star award is presented to no more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state who meet the same criteria as Super Lawyers. Rising Stars are either 40 years old or younger or have been in practice 10 or fewer years.

Super Lawyers is a rating service that identifies

outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The multi-phased selection process includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations.

















Sixteen HunterMaclean Attorneys Recognized as 2024 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

<u>HunterMaclean</u>, a business law firm with offices in Savannah and St. Simons Island, was recently honored with the selection of twelve attorneys as 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers and four attorneys as 2024 Rising Stars.

Attorneys are selected based upon peer review, professional achievements, and independent research. The process identifies attorneys from more than seventy practice areas who have achieved distinction in their respective practices of law.

The following HunterMaclean attorneys were recognized as 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers:

- David M. Burkoff Business Litigation
- T. Mills Fleming Health Care
- Bradley M. Harmon Business Litigation
- Wade W. Herring, II Employment Litigation
- Christopher R. Jordan Business Litigation
- Shawn A. Kachmar Employment Litigation
- Sarah H. Lamar Employment & Labor
- Francesca Macchiaverna Business Litigation
- Frank S. Macgill Estate Planning & Probate
- Kirby G. Mason Medical Malpractice
- Colin A. McRae Transportation/Maritime
- Christopher W. Phillips Construction Litigation

This is the first time that Chris Jordan has been included on the prestigious list and the first Georgia Rising Stars recognition for Mary Russell and Brian Sopp.

Georgia Rising Stars are selected according to the same criteria as Super Lawyers but include individuals who are forty years old or younger or who have been in practice for less than ten years. According to <u>SuperLawyers.com</u>, "while up to five percent of the lawyers in the state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Stars list."

HunterMaclean Rising Stars include:

- Taylor L. Dove Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights
- Mary Bostwick Russell Immigration
- Gracie Shepherd Saas Business Litigation
- Brian E. Sopp Litigation

Super Lawyers Magazine features the list and profiles of the selected attorneys and is distributed to attorneys in the region and in ABA-accredited law school libraries. In addition, the list is published as a special section in leading city and regional magazines across the country.





David M. Burkoff Business Litigation



T. Mills Fleming Health Care



Bradley M. Harmon Business Litigation



Wade W. Herring, II Employment Litigation



Christopher R. Jordan Business Litigation



Shawn A. Kachmar Employment Litigation



Sarah H. Lamar Employment & Labor



Francesca Macchiaverna Business Litigation



Frank S. Macgill Estate Planning & Probate



Kirby G. Mason Medical Malpractice



Colin A. McRae Transportation/Maritime



Christopher W. Phillips Construction Litigation



Taylor L. Dove
Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights



Mary Bostwick Russell Immigration



Gracie Shepherd Saas Business Litigation



Brian E. Sapp Litigation



Attorney Zachary H. Thomas Recognized as 2024 Super Lawyer

Attorney Zachary H. Thomas was recently recognized as a 2024 Georgia Super Lawyer. Attorneys are selected for Super Lawyer based upon peer review, independent research, and professional achievements. Only 5% of attorneys throughout the state are selected from more than seventy practice areas. This is the second consecutive year he has been recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyer. Zach was previously recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star for ten consecutive years, an honor reserved for 2.5% of attorneys in the state who have exhibited excellence in their practice.

Zach is the founder of Zachary H. Thomas Law, P.C., a Savannah law firm serving clients throughout Georgia. With over 19 years of experience, his practice areas include medical malpractice, personal injury, and wrongful death. A native of Savannah, Zach graduated from Mercer University School of Law and received his undergraduate degree from New York University's College of Arts and Sciences.



Zachary H. Thomas

Zach has received numerous recognitions during his professional career including an AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest peer rating given to attorneys. Additionally, he has been recognized as a Top 25 Medical Malpractice Trial Lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers. Zach currently serves on the Executive Committee and on the board of the Civil Justice Political Action Committee of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He is a graduate of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's leadership program and is the past president of the Savannah Trial Lawyers Association.

Zach is an active member of the community and involved with various non-profits including the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Savannah, where he has served on the Man & Woman of Year Leadership Team (now Visionaries of the Year) since 2018. Zach was named the LLS Savannah Man of the Year in 2018 and was the chair of the 2022 Light the Night Executive Challenge. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for both the Savannah Music Festival and Loop It Up Savannah and is a 2019 graduate of Leadership Savannah.

For additional information about Zachary H. Thomas Law, P.C., please visit https://zhtlawpc.com/.



City Announces New Partnerships To Combat Discriminatory Housing Practices

The City of Savannah is partnering with Slagowitz Law, LLC. and the Savannah Chatham Fair Housing Council to provide additional outreach, education, and enforcement services to help prevent and eliminate discriminatory housing practices.

The new partnership will provide for an increase in on-the-ground action in Savannah ensuring complaints are being met with proper response and citizens are not being taken advantage of by housing practices.

"We are excited about these new partnerships as we strengthen our existing services to Savannah residents," Director of Human Services Kerri Reid said. "We encourage residents to reach out through these new resources if they feel they have been discriminated against. We are here to help."



Alison Slagowitz

Slagowitz Law, a Savannah-based firm, will provide complaint intake and investigations, testing for fair housing violations and assist residents with inquiries regarding illegal housing discrimination. Investigations will be conducted for all housing discrimination complaints reported to the City of Savannah.

Savannah Chatham Fair Housing Council will work to educate residents and all community stakeholders through workshops, training sessions and community events to increase awareness and inform individuals of their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

A toll-free complaint hotline and complaint forms are available in English and Spanish and can be found at savannahga.gov/fairhousing or by calling 866-883-4243.

Contact info for intake is available at https://www.savannahga.gov/2496/Fair-Housing#:~:text=Alison%20 Slagowitz%20is%20the%20founding,housing%20and%20landlord%2Dtenant%20matters





FINDING OPPORTUNITIES IS EASY!

GLSP posts remote and in-person volunteer opportunities on Paladin, the new Pro Bono Opportunity Portal. These include direct service cases (where volunteers work with clients one-on-one) and clinics (where volunteers work with one or more clients at GLSP-hosted events).

You can find our latest opportunities now by going to our Paladin site:



bit.ly/GLSP_Paladin

For more information about pro bono opportunities in the Savannah Region, contact Sarah J. Anderson, Supervising Attorney

SJAnderson@glsp.org (912) 963-1883

DISCOVER WHAT THOUSANDS OF GEORGIA ATTORNEYS KNOW:

PRO BONO MAKES YOU HAPPY!

GLSP's Pro Bono Unit offers a wide array of inperson and remote direct service opportunities throughout the state of Georgia. These opportunities are a great way for attorneys licensed in Georgia to assist clients one-on-one with legal matters ranging from appearing in court, to drafting documents, to obtaining access to new resources.

Pro Bono attorneys create access to justice and opportunities out of poverty for Georgians by...

- Drafting wills and powers of attorney to help protect housing, families, and futures
- Clearing criminal records to help
 Georgians access job and housing
 opportunities
- Representing survivors of violence at protective order hearings to help them gain safety and independence
- Completing a guardianship for a kinship caregiver to help secure a stable homeplace for a child





The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire Raises \$50,000 to Support Youth Programs and Mediation Services at Anchored in the Community Event

<u>The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire</u> – Savannah, Ga.'s leading organization dedicated to helping citizens proactively manage conflict – recently hosted its Anchored in the Community fundraiser at Savannah Bottle Works in Savannah, Ga., raising more than \$50,000 in revenue to support The Mediation Center's youth programs, conflict resolution training opportunities, professional services and the Family Law Resource Center.



On February 8, more than 150 attendees – including Savannah City Council Fourth District Alderman Nick Palumbo, volunteers and representatives from numerous local law firms – came out to celebrate The Mediation Center and its efforts to make coastal Georgia a more resilient community. Attendees enjoyed nautical-themed decor, a delicious buffet dinner, dancing, raffle prizes, a photo booth and a fun-filled scavenger hunt.

"This special evening brought together all of those who donate their time and energy to help make our mission a reality," said The Mediation Center's Executive Director Jill Cardenas. "We're extremely grateful to everyone who joined us at Anchored in the Community 2024, especially our longtime supporters and generous sponsors, and look forward to using these funds to support our community, our youth programs and other important training opportunities."

The Anchored in the Community event — formerly known as the annual Velvet Gala — also featured a heartfelt awards ceremony recognizing The Mediation Center's exceptional volunteers and business partners. Cardenas served as emcee and was joined by several local high school students who shared the positive impact their participation in The Mediation Center's youth programs has had on their lives.

Juvenile Court Judge Robert Rodatus received the Domestic Mediator Award, Carol McCarthy was presented with the General Civil Mediator Award and Jeanne Dent was honored for 20 years of dedicated service with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. For providing comprehensive technological support during virtual mediation sessions, Kelly Crosby was presented with the Innovator Award. Gwendolyn Fortson Waring and Janie Brodhead were named Stellar Advocates for Youth, highlighting their efforts in protecting youth as a Guardian Ad Litem and mentoring youth through The Mediation Center's Peer Mediation Program. Attorney Appreciation Awards were presented to Jack Strother, Attorney at Law and The Law Offices of Joseph J. Steffen, Jr. HunterMaclean partner Adam Kirk was honored with The Mediation Center's Board Service Award. The Community Partnership Award was presented to Resilient Coastal Georgia for their exceptional work in 2023.

The Manely Firm, P.C. and Seimitsu served as Anchored in the Community Beacon Sponsors. Additional event sponsors included Anne and Tom Schafer; Gulfstream Aerospace; Burgess Law Group; Bouhan Falligant LLP;



HunterMaclean; SouthState Bank; BankSouth; Ellis Painter Attorneys at Law; the Law Office of Erin Muldoon Haug; Howard Barker Lane, P.C.; Jack Strother, Attorney at Law; Coastal Divorce Advisors, Ruby and Buz Weitzell; Denethris L. Barnes, Esq.; and Pastor Marsha Buford.



PHOTO CAPTION: The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire recently hosted a nautical-themed fundraiser, Anchored in the Community, which raised more than \$50,000 to support youth programs, mediations, training opportunities, professional services and the Family Law Resource Center. The Mediation Center's Executive Director Jill Cardenas, center right, presented the Community Partnership Award to Resilient Coastal Georgia Executive Director Lizann Roberts, center left, in recognition of the nonprofit organization's exceptional work in 2023.



Did the 118,000 Georgia students suspended or expelled in 2022 fail? Or, LOST POTENTIAL. DID THE SYSTEM FAIL THEM? UNTAPPED Kicking a child out of school can be devastating. Even an 11-day suspension could reduce a child's chance of graduating to just 52 percent, according to the Georgia Department of Education - the equivalent of a coin toss. LEADERSHIP. That's a chance Georgia doesn't have to take. With the right supports, these students graduate from high school. They become creative and productive community members, leaders, and the workforce **UNRECOGNIZED** Georgia needs. Georgia Appleseed is a nonprofit law center advancing justice and equity for Georgia's children through legal advocacy and policy change. TALENT. Our **School Justice** Initiative keeps children in school with the supports they need to graduate and stay out of the juvenile justice system. We've helped upwards of 375,000 kids over the last 13 years, ultimately breaking intergenerational cycles of incarceration and poverty. APPLESEED Center for Law & Justice



FAIR

Fairness, Advocacy, & Individualized Representation

for Children in Foster Care



ABOUT

Georgia Appleseed has partnered with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to grow the community of advocates for children in foster care statewide.

Through the FAIR Project, we train case managers, foster parents, and other community members to advocate for children in foster care facing long term removal from school for disciplinary issues. All children, especially those in care, deserve an advocate when faced with harsh practices that could have extreme consequences on their education and overall well-being.



678-426-4640



fair@gaappleseed.org



www.gaappleseed.org



Referral form at: www.ReferralGAA.org



OUR SERVICES

Trainings and Resources

Georgia Appleseed provides virtual and inperson trainings and develops and distributes written resources to give advocates the information and confidence necessary to stand up for children. To request a training, please contact fair@gaappleseed.org.

School Tribunal Referrals

Georgia Appleseed provides additional support for students who are facing removal from school for a period of more than ten days. In these cases, students are entitled to a school disciplinary hearing (often called a "tribunal"), which can be an overwhelming experience for the child and DFCS representatives. If you have a child in foster care who is facing a school disciplinary hearing, please fill out our referral form at www.ReferralGAA.org to receive support and guidance.

Community Advocacy Support

After we receive your referral, Georgia Appleseed will link you with an advocate who will provide Community Advocacy Support (CAS). Through CAS, you will get step-by-step guidance on what to expect in the tribunal process, and how to strategize and prepare for the child's case. For CAS to be effective, it is critical that you remain involved and responsive to the advocate providing support.

Direct Legal Representation

In some cases, Georgia Appleseed matches the child with an attorney who will represent the child at the tribunal. The attorney will contact you to schedule the intake process and a meeting with the child. To effectively represent the child, the attorney relies on your knowledge of the child's case and your expertise. Please remain involved and responsive to the attorney.



Lueder, Larkin & Hunter Seeking Litigation Associate

Lueder, Larkin & Hunter is seeking a litigation associate for its downtown Savannah office. The ideal candidate will have 1+ year of insurance defense experience. Position requires drafting pleadings, discovery, and briefs, and appearance at depositions, hearings, mediations, and trials. Georgia bar required. Great opportunity to join our team of well-regarded attorneys. Competitive salary and benefits package. Please submit resume to Beverly O'Hearn: bohearn@luederlaw.com.

List of Anchel Samuels's Wills in Possession of Chris Steinmetz

Some years ago, the son of late SBA-member Anchel Samuels asked Chris Steinmetz to take possession of several wills that were in Anchel's possession at the time of his death. Chris circulated this information among local practitioners in Probate Court, and some of the wills have been claimed. But many have not. Attached is list of wills in Chris's possession. If anyone has any information or inquiries, please email Chris at cjs@ggsattorneys.com.

BONNIE H. AKINS
SELMA B. ARNSTEIN
MARY W. BARNES
ANNE BEEBE
CARRIE B. BIZZARD
LUCHES BIZZARD
JANE G. BROOKINS
LAURA GWENDOLYN FENDER BOYD
HOWARD ROLAND BOYD
NORWOOD G. BROWN
KAREN E. BRUCE
ELIZABETH D. DASHER
GLENDA R. EDWARDS
WILLIAM L. GRANGER - BUCKLAND
HALL PLANTATION, BRYAN CO.

BEATRICE W. HUGHES
NORMAN KAPLAN
SALLY KAPLAN
CONSTANCE LATHAM KEATING
MARIAN F. LUTZ
MARIAN FOGARTY LUTZ
JOHN F. MCELLEN (2)
GERALD M. MACKAY
ELLEN K. MAHANY
MAMIE L. MAHANY (2)
THOMAS EDWARD MAHANY, SR.
MARY A. MARSH
MARYLA MELAMED
MARJORIE W. MOORE
BETTY T. NEW

LEAH SCHULMAN EDITH NELSON SHERMAN **GEORGE SMITH** MARY SMITH GILBERT STEIN (2) LOIS S. STEMBRIDGE NANCY M TARGETT TIMOTHY E. TARGETT ROBERT P THOMAS LAVEAU J VERNAY DONALD STEPHENS WHEELER FRANCIS LARAINE WILLIAMS BARBARA M. WILSON JAMES C. WILSON, JR. CATHERINE W. WOLFE WOODROW W. WOLFE





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 with submissions or inquiries.