



The Citation

Savannah Bar Association January Luncheon

On January 24th, 2020 the SBA hosted a Luncheon for members, as well as participates in the Hot Topics Seminar in which Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Sara Doyle presented an hour long CLE credit course on professionalism. The lecture touched on many of the learning experiences she has had throughout her legal career, but boiled down to a very simple lesson; follow the “Lawyer’s Creed.” For those who were not fortunate enough to enjoy this lecture in person, a copy of the Lawyer’s Creed is provided below:

TO MY CLIENTS, I offer loyalty, confidentiality, competence, diligence and my best judgment. I shall represent you as I should want to be represented and be worthy of your trust. I shall counsel you with respect to alternative methods to resolve disputes. I shall endeavor to achieve your lawful objectives as expeditiously and economically as possible.

TO THE OPPOSING PARTIES and THEIR COUNSEL, I offer fairness, integrity and civility. I shall not knowingly make misleading or untrue statements of fact or law. I shall endeavor to consult with and cooperate with you in scheduling meetings, depositions and hearings. I shall avoid excessive and abusive discovery. I shall attempt to resolve differences and, if we fail, I shall strive to make our dispute a dignified one.

TO THE COURTS and OTHER TRIBUNALS, and TO THOSE WHO ASSIST THEM, I offer respect, candor and courtesy. Where consistent with my client’s interests, I shall communicate with opposing counsel in an effort to avoid or resolve litigation. I shall attempt to agree with other counsel on a voluntary exchange of information and on a plan for discovery. I shall do honor to the search for justice.

TO MY COLLEAGUES in the practice of law, I offer concern for your reputation and well-being. I shall extend to you the same courtesy, respect, candor and dignity that I expect to be extended to me.

TO THE PROFESSION, I offer assistance in keeping it a calling in the spirit of public service, and in promoting its understanding and an appreciation for it by the public. I recognize that my actions and demeanor reflect upon our system of justice and our profession, and I shall conduct myself accordingly.

TO THE PUBLIC and our SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, I offer service. I shall devote some of my time and skills to community, governmental and other activities that promote the common good. I shall strive to improve the law and our legal system and to make the law and our legal system available to all.



Stuart R. Halpern named partner at Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe

Stuart R. Halpern has been named a partner at Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP, one of Savannah's oldest and most respected law firms.

Mr. Halpern joined the firm in 2014 and has enjoyed considerable success as a transactional and litigation attorney in the areas of residential and commercial real estate, real estate litigation, business/corporation law, business litigation, contract law, municipal law and civil litigation, estate planning and probate work. Mr. Halpern has served as counsel to the City of Savannah on numerous occasions for municipal eminent domain work.

He has also worked with developers on a statewide basis on solar energy projects, recently serving as a panelist regarding solar panel development deals at the State Bar of Georgia's 2019 Commercial Real Estate seminar.

"Stuart Halpern is an outstanding attorney who also clearly demonstrates the character traits of diligence and integrity on which our firm has been built," said WSWG's managing partner Stephen F. Greenberg. "We are proud to call him a partner and look forward to the work he will do for our clients and our firm in the future."



Stuart R. Halpern

Mr. Halpern is admitted to practice in the states of Georgia and South Carolina. He received his B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Florida Warrington College of Business with a major in Finance and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2014 as a Sigmund A. Cohn Scholarship Recipient for all three years in law school. Mr. Halpern is a member of the Savannah Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia, the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, and the South Carolina Bar Association. He also serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Please visit www.wswgs.com to learn more about Mr. Halpern and Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg and Shawe, LLP.

4-Star Office Space Available - 427 E. York Street



This 2148 square foot space is well laid out with three private offices, one large enough to serve as a conference room, open workspace that can accommodate several work stations, a well appointed kitchen, one garage parking space, two bathrooms and lots of storage in addition to the built in cabinets. Previously used as Attorney Office.

Rental rate: \$19/square foot/year + utilities • Property type office building class B
Rentable Building Area: 2148 square feet • Year Built: 2001 • Air Conditioning •
Storage space • Courtyard • Central heating • Kitchen • Reception • One garage space.
Please call D. Nokes at (814) 341-1906



NOTICE

RE: JUVENILE COURT – JUDICIAL VACANCY

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-50(f), notice is hereby given that the Superior Court judges of the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia are seeking applicants for the appointment of a full-time Juvenile Court judge for the Eastern Judicial Circuit. The appointment is necessary to fill the vacancy that will be created by the retirement of Presiding Judge LeRoy Burke III on August 31, 2020.

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-11-51, to be qualified for this appointment, a person must (1) have attained the age of 30 years, (2) have been a citizen of Georgia for three years, (3) be a member of the State Bar of Georgia, and (4) have practiced law for five years.

To apply, candidates should submit a completed application packet and résumé to Crystal Cooper, Superior Court Administrator, no later than April 15, 2020. Application packets are available in hard copy in the Superior Court Administrator's Office or may be requested via email to ccooper@chathamcounty.org.

This 15th day of January, 2020.

Chief Judge Penny Haas Freesemann
Judge John E. Morse, Jr.
Judge James F. Bass, Jr.
Judge Louisa Abbot
Judge Timothy R. Walmsley
Judge Benjamin W. Karpf



New Law Changes IRA Provisions, Restricts Use of Inherited “Stretch” IRAs

By Michael Smith and Richard Barid

Recent changes to Individual Retirement Account (IRA) provisions will keep estate planning attorneys busy in the new year. Many proponents of the recently signed SECURE Act are touting the repeal of the age restriction on traditional IRAs allowing investors to continue contributing to their accounts after they have turned 70 ½ and the postponement of required minimum distributions (RMDs) from 70 ½ to 72. However, the bill has negative effects as well.

Prior to the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act, which President Trump signed into law on Dec. 20, 2019, IRA owners could use their accounts to pass along a particularly tax-advantaged inheritance to their descendants. However, the new law severely limits what had been known as “stretch” IRAs. In addition, the act could have adverse tax implications for beneficiaries.

The SECURE Act requires most non-spouse beneficiaries to drain their inherited IRA accounts within 10 years of the account owner’s death, often incurring taxes on those withdrawals. Exceptions apply to minor children, beneficiaries less than 10 years younger than the account owner and chronically ill beneficiaries. The change applies to IRAs inherited after Jan. 1, 2020.

Previously, annual RMDs were determined by the IRS-defined life expectancy of the beneficiary. For example, a 40-year-old, non-spouse beneficiary of a Roth IRA might enjoy the federal-income-tax-free inheritance benefits for 43.6 years. Now, unless one of the exceptions applies, beneficiaries are limited to 10 years of benefits. The 10-year rule applies to minor children once they reach the age of majority.

Depending on the type of IRA inherited, these changes could trigger a major tax event for some beneficiaries. Roth IRAs are funded with post-tax dollars so distributions are tax free. However, traditional IRAs are funded with pre-tax funds so those dollars are taxable upon distribution. Previously, this was not a big concern because the money could be withdrawn a little at a time. However, with the shorter withdrawal time frame traditional IRA beneficiaries may see significant tax hikes. This is especially true if the IRA was tied to a trust. Some IRA owners set up “conduit” or “pass-through” trusts as beneficiaries of their accounts to help manage the inherited accounts and provide protections from creditors. Some of these trusts were designed to only make distributions to beneficiaries based on the “RMD due each year.” The SECURE Act only requires an RMD at the end of 10 years. Therefore, a beneficiary could receive nothing for 10 years and then the entire account all at once. If the account is a traditional IRA, that could have serious tax implications.

After these significant changes, IRA owners may want to consult with a trusted estate planning attorney about the implications of changing their beneficiaries, converting traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs or changing the terms of their trusts. They may also want to consult an estate planning attorney about other options to provide an inheritance for an heir if their intended beneficiary is no longer eligible for “stretch treatment” based on these new regulations.

Michael Smith and Richard Barid are co-founders of Savannah-based Smith Barid LLC, which focuses on estate planning, elder law, and special needs planning. They can be reached at 912-352-3999, msmith@smithbarid.com, and richard@smithbarid.com.



2020 Georgia High School Mock Trial Regional Competition

The 2020 Georgia High School Mock Trial Regional Competition will be held in Savannah at the Chatham County Courthouse on Saturday, February 1, 2020, and the District Competition on Sunday, February 22, 2020. For each competition, there will be a morning round (starting about 8:30 a.m.), a mid-day round (starting about 12:30 p.m.) and an afternoon round (starting about 3:30 p.m.).

The Regional and District High School Mock Trial Competition is always much more fun than you expect it to be and you don't have to do much prep work! These kids work so hard during the year and deserve good lawyers (LIKE YOU!) to evaluate them. We need approximately 72 volunteers for each day of competition, so please consider helping with this worthwhile program!

Judging panel volunteers may claim 1 CLE credit hour (both general and trial) for each level of the competition. Volunteers in the Savannah Region could earn up to 2 CLE credits hours this year. To claim the CLE credit, the minimum fee is required, and the regional coordinator can provide additional information on the competition date(s). Savannah's Regional/District High School Mock Trial Competition is a great experience for both judges and students. If you can help with any round on the competition dates, kindly contact local coordinator Craig Call at atccall@smaclegal.com. Please be sure to state if you are willing to serve as the "presiding judge" when you volunteer. Also, feel free to forward this email to anyone that you think might be interested in helping.

Kristin A. Massee has been named Of Counsel for Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, LLP

Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, LLP is pleased to announce that Kristin A. Massee has been named Of Counsel with the firm. Massee, who has practiced in the firm's litigation section since arriving in Savannah, concentrates her practice on personal injury defense, commercial litigation, and civil trial and appellate practice. Before joining the firm, Massee practiced business litigation at a firm in Denver, Colorado, representing sophisticated clients in high-stakes commercial disputes nationwide. Prior to that, she worked as an Assistant Attorney General, during which she defended a wide range of civil actions involving state agencies and employees. Massee has also served as judicial law clerk to the Honorable Ruben B. Brooks of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. In addition, she has served as an appellate law clerk at the Colorado Court of Appeals. Massee is licensed to practice in Georgia, Colorado, and California.

Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride April 24

SBA's Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride Join the Savannah Bar Association Friday, April 24, 2020 for the Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride. The boat leaves PROMPTLY at 10:00 a.m. from the dock directly in front of Spanky's on River Street and travels down the Savannah River to Daufuskie Island. Boarding starts at 9:30 a.m. for the Boat Ride. The boat should return to the dock on River Street 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. www.savannahbar.org/event-3046575



Copyright Corner

By Charles M. Dalziel, Jr.

Judge Michael Brown of the United States District Court for the Northern District Of Georgia, Atlanta Division, on September 23, 2019, issued an opinion that is unusual, and informative, about not only contracts that can be construed to contain restrictive covenants subject to the analysis of O.C.G.A. 13-8-50, but also when one deemed an agent for the company he left can be deemed to have violated his fiduciary duty to the company as a matter of law. *Wind Logistics Professional, LLC v. Universal Truckload, Inc.*, 2019 WL 4600055 (N.D. Ga., Brown, J.).

The case is unusual because the individual independent contractor at issue, who had joined the new company was not bound by any typical restrictive covenant in a contract. No, Judge Brown accepted the argument that even though the independent contractor was an independent contractor, and even though he did not have a traditional restrictive covenant, two forgivable loans he had received in the amounts of \$85,000 and \$500,000, which were conditioned upon his agreeing not to leave the defendant (which he later left anyway), which were to be forgiven over five years, were restrictive covenants. Even though the agreements, titled Agency Agreement and Commissioned Agency Agreement, signed both by the individual and his single member LLC, were their label was irrelevant. The legal effect of the document controls, said Judge Brown, and he concluded the monetary penalties imposed in them were restrictive covenants whose purpose was to make it more difficult to compete, or at least give the Plaintiffs pause about doing so. The agreements contained restrictions unreasonable under the new law.

As to the first loan, the Court made a notable decision by declaring a \$10,000 on breach by competition provision an unenforceable penalty for restrictive covenant purposes (no liquidated damages analysis). The first loan was made to an independent contractor, had no geographic limitation, had no list of prohibited companies, was for a five-year duration (three years longer than is presumptively enforceable under the statute), was payable when the promisor began competing, and prohibited acceptance of business. The Court found this contract unenforceable, and the Court refused its potential power under the statute to modify the contract. The Court's reason was that it would have to rewrite the contract, not just strike out the parts that were unenforceable. Citing *LifeBrite Labs, LLC v. Cooksey*, 1:15-CV-4309, 2016 WL 7840217 (N.D.Ga. Dec. 9, 2016), the Court said, in terms familiar to the analysis under the old law, that the blue pencil doesn't write under the new law either.

The second contract said the independent contractor would repay the loan over sixty months if the independent contractor agreement ended for any reason. Judge Brown ruled this provision did not include a restrictive covenant. But the contract also contained a provision creating an accelerated repayment obligation if the obligor left to compete—this the Court did regard as a restrictive covenant. The Court applied the same analysis as to the enforceability of the accelerated repayment feature of the second contract and deemed it an unenforceable restrictive covenant. Having concluded that provision was unenforceable, what did the Court do? Vaporize it entirely—which left the first enforceable provision in the same contract intact. The first provision in the second contract required repayment regardless of competition.

As to the agency issue, the Plaintiff had admitted in deposition that he was the Defendant's agent. The Court noted the statutory language provided in OCGA 10-6-1 stating that an agency relationship arises "whenever one person, expressly or by implication, authorizes another to act for him," but then cited a case, *Physician Specialists v. Wildmon*,



238 Ga. App. 730 (1999), which says the distinguishing characteristic of an agent is that he is vested with authority, real or ostensible, to create obligations on behalf of the principal. The plaintiffs in Wind Logistics certainly had that authority, so Judge Brown had no trouble finding they were agents and owed and accompanying fiduciary duty. The Court in the context of this breach of fiduciary duty claim considered whether the plaintiffs had solicited customers pre-resignation. So, there is some discussion in the Wind Logistics opinion about having to ask for something to be soliciting. But what the Court really decided was that setting up a new email account before leaving and communicating with customers on it, establishing yourself as the client contact for the new company before you left the old, and telling the new company before he left the old company that all the drivers (80 in number) would all be coming with him to the new company, constituted a breach of fiduciary duty as a matter of law.

What are the takeaways Here?

One, a forgivable loan with its provisions of repayment upon beginning to compete can be a Restrictive Covenant in Contracts under OCGA 13-8-50 et seq., even though its appearance is foreign to the typical form restrictive covenant.

Two, both federal and state Courts are staying with the idea that the blue pencil doesn't write. You wonder if the legislature will want to say, "oh, yes, it does."

Three, the power to modify the covenant can be used to extract a whole section of a contract to leave intact the enforceable section (s).

Four, in an agency case, pre resignation activities can be so bad the old company receives summary judgment on the breach of fiduciary duty claim.

Mock Trial Volunteers and Coaches Needed

The 2019-2020 Georgia High School Mock Trial season is here and volunteer evaluators/coordinators are needed to host both the Regional and District levels of the competition here in Savannah. The Savannah Regional Competition will be held on February 1, 2020, and the District Competition on February 22, 2020, both at the Chatham County Courthouse. The mock trial competition is always a great experience for area high school students and volunteers alike. We need approximately 72 volunteers for each day of competition so please consider helping with this worthwhile program! Judging panel volunteers may claim 1 CLE credit hour (both general and trial) for each level of the competition. Volunteers in the Savannah Region could earn up to 2 CLE credits hours this year. To claim the credit the minimum fee is required, and the regional coordinator can provide additional information on the competition date(s).

If you are interested in learning about the program in general or volunteering to help with the regional competition please contact Regional Coordinator, Craig Call (ccall@smaclegal.com), for more information. If you are interested in mentoring/coaching students participating in the competition, Saint Andrews School is looking for an attorney coach to assist with its Mock Trial team this year. Please contact Saint Andrews School Representative Ben Dombroski (DombroskiB@saintschool.com) for more information.



“And Justice for All” State Bar Campaign for GLSP

Special thanks to all of those who have contributed to the annual State Bar Campaign for Georgia Legal Services. Not only does each dollar raised locally support the work of the Savannah Office, but funds raised from local members of the bench and bar boost the efforts of the local office to raise additional funds. The campaign began 4.1.19 and the results below reflect all gifts made through 1.14.20. A total of \$18,545.13 has been raised through the 2019 campaign. Thanks to all who contributed.

Anthony H. Abbot
Solomon Adeoye Amusan
Wanda Andrews
Charles W. Bell
Timothy James Bennett
Joseph James Berrigan
Shannon Marie Bishop
James B. Blackburn
Elizabeth C. Blair
William A. Bowen
Catherine McKenzie Bowman
Mark Alan Bradley
Thomas E. Branch, III
Carol Branham
Colleen Rene Brannen
Robert B. Brannen, Jr.
William K. Broker
Harry Wayne Brown, Jr.
David Michael Burns, Jr.
Robert W. Bush
Theodore T. Carellas
Jamie A. Casino
Adam P. Cerbone
Jason P. Cerbone
Mary R. Chapin
Cristine Tsai Cheng
William Randolph Claiborne
Coastal Empire Law Group, LLC
Maria C. Danello
Luther Kelly Davis
Andrew Harrison Dekle
Jeffrey C. Donaldson
Vera Sharon Edenfield
Timothy Higgins Edwards
David Sidney Eichholz
Ronald M. Fields, III
Stanley H. Friedman
Kyle Gallenstein
Hon. Ronald E. Ginsberg

Chester James Gregg
Charles Claude Grile
Timothy J. Haeussler
Stephen H. Harris
Ronald Paul Hart III
Erin Muldoon Haug
Douglas E. Herman
Mary Dean Hermann
Wade W. Herring II
Patrick W. Hinchey
Inman Gregory Hodges
Derek Eugene Horne
Billy N. Jones
Don Kole
Cameron C. Kuhlman
J. Curtis Lewis III
John Bell Manly
Melanie Lynn Marks
Janna Martin
Robert E. Matyjasik
C. James McCallar Jr.
Hugh B. McNatt
Philip L. Merkel
Paul Douglas Meyer
Jennifer Campbell Mock
Owen Couch Murphy
Todd Christopher Newsom
Elizabeth Jean Norman
Daniel J. O'Connor
Patrick T. O'Connor
Hon. Rizza O'Connor
James Noel Osteen
Osteen Law Group LLC
Paul Wain Painter III
Susannah Rogers Pedigo
Milton L. Petersen
Branden Owen Pollett
Margaret Ware Sigman Puccini
John Erling Pytte

Tyler Lee Randolph
Scott. G. Reddock
Francesca A. Rehal
Amber M. Robinson
Robert Rosenblum

Robb K. Sallee
Jennifer D. Sawyer
Steven Elliot Scheer
Michael Gregory Schiavone
James E. Shipley Jr.
Alison J. Slagowitz
Daniel Brent Snipes
Steven Lee Sparger
James Bradley Stevens
Karla Wolfe Talleur
Mark A. Tate
Elizabeth F. Thompson
Laura Thompson
Lewis Tippet
Carl Robert Varnedoe
Joshua Daniel Walker
Gwendolyn S. Fortson Waring
Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz,
Greenberg & Shawe, LLP
Edgar Pomeroy Williams
Jeffrey Lamar Williamson
L. Rachel Wilson
Willie T. Yancey
Andrew A. Zeman



Why Restorative?

“We are entering the fifth week of the year and our community has already experienced incidents of gun violence in the double digits. In 2019, the total number of non-fatal incidents involving guns reached 118. We are on track to exceed that number this year. This is traumatic on every level. We must, through education, accountability, and service, seek to eliminate this statistic and promote healing, unity, and purpose in order to create a community where children can thrive.”—Committee for a Restorative Response.

In its three-step response, the Committee for a Restorative Response aims first to educate the youth as to the laws and penalties relating to firearm possession and the harm to the community, while educating the community as to the needs and circumstances surrounding the possession of firearms.

Second, the committee aims to hold the youth accountable for actions taken after having been educated as to the legal ramifications, the harm to the community, and the harm to themselves, while holding the community accountable for addressing the needs and circumstances of the youth that cause them to possess firearms, after the community has been educated as to those factors.

Third, the committee aims to require the youth to engage in service projects within the community to allow them to affect the community in a positive manner and to use their personal skills and talents to do so, while requiring the community to provide service opportunities for the youth that allow them to become positive and contributing members of the community.

The essence of a restorative approach is that all stakeholders in the problem are stakeholders in the solution. The person causing the harm, the person harmed, and the community are all a part of a Restorative Justice solution. In the traditional legal system, these parties are not always directly involved in the resolution of the harm.

Also, in the traditional legal system, it is not uncommon that a family that comes before the Juvenile Court next finds itself in the State Courts, and some make it all the way to the Federal Courts. This is traumatic for the family, for the community, and especially for our youth. Within this state of affairs, it is not surprising that youth report a sense of hopelessness. A restorative approach offers opportunities to change the trajectory of these lives, instilling a sense of commitment and hope where there was none.

Acceptance of responsibility is also an essential component of a Restorative Justice approach. Failing to do so all but guarantees recidivism, the last thing that the person causing the harm, the person harmed, and the community need.

The Committee for a Restorative Response invites your participation in our effort to first reduce, and ultimately, eliminate gun possession by the youth in our community.

Founding Members: Hon. Lisa Goldwire Colbert, Judge, Chatham County Juvenile Court, Chief Roy Minter, Savannah Police Department, Patricia Merritt, Chatham County Juvenile Court Administrator, Sheryl Jones, Interim Director, Front Porch, Rayshawn Lawrence, Youth Advisor, Dion Hurley, City of Savannah Police Department, Dawantay Williams, Youth Advisor, Ashley Randall, Pastor's Alliance, Pastor Thurmond Tillman, Rabbi Robert Haas, Congregation Mickve Israel, Chester Ellis, Chatham County Commissioner, Crystal Commodore, Impactful Strategies and Consulting, LLC, Issac Felton, City of Savannah End the Gun Violence Initiative, Barbara Davis, Chatham County Juvenile Court, Probation Supervisor/Diversion Team, Alisha Markle, Chatham County Juvenile Court, Deputy Administrator, Heather Gerbasi, Chatham County Juvenile Court, Probation Supervisor, Patricia Patterson, Overcoming By Faith Ministries, Charlotte Fleming, Attorney/Facilitator, cyflemingesq@gmail.com/912-227-2012.



GSLP Bolsters Pro Bono Initiatives

Georgia Legal Services Program is proud to announce that Sarah J. Anderson has joined the firm as its Pro Bono Staff Attorney. Sarah's primary responsibility is to build and maintain a vibrant Pro Bono signature project program at GLSP and promote the delivery of high-quality legal services by volunteer lawyers, law students, paralegals, and other professionals in coordination with GLSP attorneys and staff.

"Bringing Sarah on board reflects well on the flagship status of the Pro Bono programs initiated by Georgia Legal Services and the Savannah Bar Association. Here in Savannah, we've played a leadership role in this work for many years. Savannah attorneys have been solid in their participation and support," says Bill Broker, GLSP Managing Attorney.

Sarah received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Detroit and her Juris Doctor, graduating magna cum laude, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She is licensed as an attorney in Maryland and the District of Columbia. She is also admitted to practice in U.S. District Court, District of Maryland. Her license to practice law is pending with the State Bar of Georgia. She is a member of National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR) and the Maryland State Bar Association.

Prior to coming to GLSP, Sarah was a staff attorney with Maryland Legal Aid. There she was in general practice, representing clients in landlord-tenant, Section 8, foreclosure, public benefits, SSDI/SSI claims, Medicaid and Medicaid waivers, and debt collection. She was active in outreach, coordinating and participating in the monthly Lawyers in the Library series and providing advice to seniors monthly at the local senior centers.

Paul Anderson Youth Home in Vidalia, Georgia

Many of us find ourselves in search of an alternative to incarceration for young male clients who have made a mistake or bad choice.

The Paul Anderson Youth Home in Vidalia, Georgia, is such an alternative. PAYH is a Christ-centered, fully licensed and accredited home offering a second chance to young men since 1961.

PAYH uses a holistic approach designed by its founder, Olympic Gold Medalist Paul Anderson that stresses character development from a Biblical perspective. PAYH essentially "re-parents" young men who have made mistakes and bad choices -- whose parents are unable to handle them on their own. PAYH boasts a more than 90% success rate of its graduates not returning to jail. No court system in the country is seeing these types of results; the recidivism rate in our country is currently more than 75%!

For more information on the Paul Anderson Youth Home and how they may be of service to you please contact Chief Operations Officer, Colonel Ken Vaughn at 912.677.6810, or visit their website at PAYH.ORG.



Stephen G. Swinson joins Grey Pannell & Woodward, LLP

Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP is proud to announce that Stephen G. Swinson has joined the firm and will be based in the Savannah office.

Stephen G. Swinson focuses his legal practice on municipal bond law and public finance, business law, estate and asset protection planning, and ancillary real estate matters.

Stephen Swinson was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia. He graduated from the University of Alabama, cum laude, in 2012 with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Political Science. While attending the University of Alabama, Stephen served as the President of the Student Government Association and as the Student Representative on the University System Board of Trustees. Stephen was the recipient of the University of Alabama's 2012 Capstone Hero Award for Leadership.



Stephen G. Swinson

Stephen graduated from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University, cum laude, in 2015. While attending law school, he was an active member in the Moot Court and Negotiations programs, the Business and Tax Law Society, and was elected President of the Student Bar Association. In 2015, Stephen was inducted into the Order of Barristers and was the recipient of the law school's Distinguished Leader Award.

Stephen previously practiced law in Macon, Georgia from 2015 to 2019, and has been active in many professional and civic related activities across the State of Georgia. Stephen is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and enjoys working closely with other attorneys and trusted advisors of his clients to exceed his client's expectations.

Gannam, Gnann & Steinmetz LLC seeking an associate attorney

Gannam, Gnann & Steinmetz LLC is seeking an associate attorney with 1 to 3 years' experience. The practice is diverse, but some civil litigation experience helpful. Please contact Joe Gannam, jgannam@ggsattorneys.com.



YLD Trivia Night

On January 16, 2020, the Young Lawyers Division partnered with the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs for a trivia night at B&D Burgers on Congress Street.

Gary Tiller served as emcee and stumped the participants with questions covering a wide range of topics, from the source of mozzarella cheese (the Italian water buffalo) to the name of Jupiter's anticyclonic storm (the "Great Red Spot").

The competition was fierce, but underdog team "We're Suited" staged a late rally to win fair and square, stunning their opponents (and themselves) and taking home a B&D gift card. Thanks to everyone who attended!



Gary Tiller

Bergen, Bergen & Thomas Debuts New Name

Award-winning law firm Bergen and Bergen, P.C. announces its name change to Bergen, Bergen & Thomas effective January 13, 2020. Founded in 1986 by the late Joseph B. Bergen and Frederick S. Bergen, the firm has changed its name to represent the addition of Zachary H. Thomas as a named partner.

Thomas joined the firm in 2007 and has been a partner since 2013. He has more than 15 years of trial experience handling medical malpractice, catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death cases for individuals and families. Thomas has served as the past president of the Savannah Trial

Lawyers Association and currently serves on the Political Action Committee Board with the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He is a graduate of Leadership Savannah and is a member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's leadership team.

BERGEN BERGEN & THOMAS

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
ESTABLISHED 1986

"Zach has been instrumental to the growth of our firm," says senior partner Frederick S. Bergen. "We are pleased to honor his accomplishments and hard work with the new name and look forward to our firm's continued success."

Bergen, Bergen & Thomas has 50 years of combined experience and is dedicated to the representation of injured individuals and families of those who have been injured with a focus on medical malpractice. Based in Savannah, the firm handles cases throughout Georgia and its surrounding states. For more information, visit www.bbtlawfirm.com.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

SUICIDE AWARENESS PROGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 | 2 - 5 P.M.



LIVE AT THE STATE BAR OF
GEORGIA ATLANTA OFFICE

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE TO TIFTON
AND SAVANNAH STATE BAR OFFICES*



Sally Quillian Yates
MODERATOR

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Ms. Robin Frazer Clark, *State Bar President (2012-13)*
Ms. Lynn Garson, *Chair, State Bar Lawyer Assistance Program*
Ms. R. Javoyne Hicks, *Chair, State Bar Wellness Committee*
Dr. Ben Hunter, *Medical Director at Skyland Trail*
Mr. Eric C. Lang, Esq., *Speaker, Attorney Suicide (Personal Perspective)*
Hon. Bill Reinhardt, *Judge, Tifton Circuit Superior Court*
Hon. Wesley B. Taylor, *Judge, State Court of Fulton County*

3 CLE HOURS INCLUDING 1 PROFESSIONALISM HOUR



REMINDER TO ALL BAR MEMBERS

You are entitled to six prepaid clinical personal counseling sessions per calendar year through the Lawyer Assistance Program of the State Bar of Georgia. #UseYour6

TAKE ACTION TODAY

If you are thinking of hurting yourself, or if you are concerned that someone you know may be suicidal, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by phone at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

FOR HELP: Bar members may contact the Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program confidential hotline at 800-327-9631.

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts | State Bar of Georgia SOLACE Committee | State Bar of Georgia Wellness Committee | State Bar of Georgia Suicide Prevention Committee | Drew Eckl Farnham

Learn more by contacting CJCP
at kygrier@cjcpga.org.

*Additional locations may be announced.



State Bar
of Georgia



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.