



The Citation

State Bar of Georgia's Deputy General Counsel Speaks at Hot Topics Luncheon

On Friday, January 19, 2024, the Savannah Bar Association held its annual Hot Topics Seminar and luncheon at the Savannah Golf Club. Luncheon attendees heard from Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia, who spoke on legal ethics, succession planning, and wrapping up a law practice. Immediately before the luncheon, Judge Jeffrey A. Watkins of the Court of Appeals of Georgia presented on appellate practice procedures. The SBA thanks Bill, Judge Watkins, and all the Hot Topics presenters. Many thanks also to the SBA's Hot Topics Committee: Mark Kelso (Chair), Evan Miller, Jennifer Wittich, Jay Johnson, Megan Ebert, and Marlene Mader.





High School Mock Trial Announcement

Counselors and Colleagues:

Savannah will once again host rounds of the 2024 High School Mock Trial Competition. The Regional Competition is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2024, followed by the District Competition on March 2, 2024, both at the Chatham County Courthouse. There will be a morning, mid-day, and afternoon round on each day. We need approximately 84 judging panel members for each day (28 per round), so please consider helping if you can.

CLE credit is available for attorneys and judges serving on a judging panel during the 2024 mock trial season: 1 general CLE hour, including 1 hour in Trial Practice and 1 hour in Professionalism (1,1,0,1). Members who are able to help in two different levels of the competition (Region/District/State Finals) can claim an additional 1 general CLE hour and 1 hour in Trial Practice (1,1,0,0). You will have to pay the minimum fee to earn the credit hour, and we can provide additional information in this regard on the date of the competition(s).

This is a great experience for the judges and students. If you can please spare the time to join us in hosting this event, please do so. For those who are interested and able to help, please register at <https://www.cognitoforms.com/HighSchoolMockTrial/JudgingPanelVolunteerRegistration2024Season>.

Thank you in advance and I hope to hear from you.

Yours collegially,
Craig Call

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!



Law Day Awards 2024 - Call for Nominations

It is once again time to nominate outstanding individuals from our legal community for the Savannah Bar Association's Law Day Awards. The awards will be presented at this year's annual SBA Law Day luncheon on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

The SBA Young Lawyers Division is seeking nominations for the following awards:

Judge Edward Hester Award: Recognizes outstanding local courthouse personnel who have been of particular assistance to the members of the local bar.

Liberty Bell Award: Recognizes a non-lawyer for outstanding service in promoting a better understanding of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. The recipient encourages greater respect for law in the courts, stimulates a more profound sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights, and fosters a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

Robbie Robinson Award: Presented to a member of the legal profession who has demonstrated dedication to the principles of service to individuals and of the advancement of the legal, political, social, and civil rights of the citizens of the Savannah community.

John B. Miller Award: Presented to a member of the Savannah Bar who is selflessly dedicated to making the Savannah area a better place to live through volunteer community service.

The SBA YLD is proud to continue the tradition of recognizing individuals for outstanding service to the Savannah legal community through the presentation of the Law Day Awards.

Please email all nominations to YLD President/Citation Editor Alec Chappell at sbacitation@gmail.com by February 12, 2024.



Oliver Maner LLP Celebrates First Anniversary of Associate Attorneys and Announces Two New Hires

Oliver Maner, one of Savannah's most prestigious law firms, is proud to celebrate the first anniversary of associate attorneys Madison E. Perrie, Ben T. Tuten, Wes Rahn and Katie S. Hembree. The four have spent the last year fully immersing themselves in Oliver Maner's cases and corporate culture, learning from veteran partners and gaining invaluable experience along the way.

[Madison E. Perrie](#) (J.D., [University of Georgia School of Law](#), '22), a former summer intern, joined Oliver Maner as an associate in the tax department. She is also the secretary of the Savannah chapter of the Georgia Association for Women's Lawyers (GAWL) and the logistics chair for the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association (YLD).

"I am honored to be involved with these two organizations that have been so helpful to me in my first year of practice," Perrie said. "These organizations have allowed me to better grasp the intricacies of Savannah's legal community while developing my leadership skills as I collaborate with other board members."



Madison E. Perrie

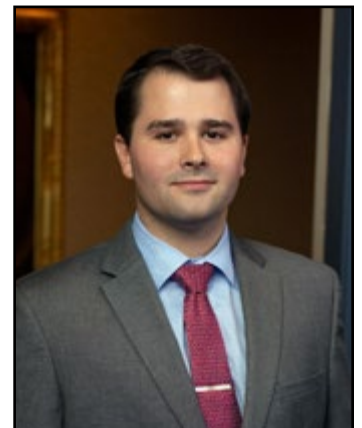
[Ben T. Tuten](#) (J.D., [Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law](#), '22) is a valuable member of Oliver Maner's litigation department. He primarily represents municipalities, counties, and quasi-municipal entities in a variety of litigation matters ranging from car accidents to wrongful death claims to federal constitutional claims. Tuten is also actively involved in the Savannah Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, where he serves on the Executive Board.



Ben T. Tuten

"Outside of my law practice, I serve as the primary liaison for the local chapter of the Boy Scouts of America's Exploring Law Careers program, which is hosted by Oliver Maner each school year," said Tuten. "Through this program, our team gives local high school students an inside look at the life of a lawyer, and we introduce them to influential members of the legal community in Savannah, in hopes of sparking an interest in pursuing a career in law."

[Wes Rahn](#) (J.D., [Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law](#), '22) is also an associate attorney in Oliver Maner's litigation department. Working with Partner Ben Perkins, Rahn enjoys engaging with community leaders and policymakers across the state of Georgia.



Wes Rahn



to serve these local communities, and we are some of the few attorneys in Georgia specializing in election law challenges, contests, and consultations. Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and I have successfully represented boards of elections and individual candidates against election challenges.”

[Katie S. Hembree](#) (J.D., [University of Georgia School of Law](#), '22), an associate in the transactional department, specializes in estate planning, corporate law, trusts, probate, business planning and tax planning. As the daughter of Partner Lee A. Summerford, she cherishes the opportunity to work alongside her father.

“It's hard to put into words how grateful I am. My dad and I have always been close, and being his associate has taken our bond to new heights,” Hembree said. “Seeing how he carefully considers all possibilities and helps clients make decisions that benefit them now and for future generations has had a profound impact on me. I am honored to continue his legacy at the firm, and even if the Summerford legal line ends with me, I will make sure to pass down the values and strong practices that I’ve learned from my father.”

Leadership at Oliver Maner commends the dedication and growth exhibited by these young attorneys, highlighting their commitment to providing exceptional client service and the development of their legal skills.

In addition to the anniversary celebrations, Oliver Maner is pleased to introduce two new talented attorneys to its esteemed legal team. The firm warmly welcomes Kate Daly Cobb and Kelvin Goodson as associate attorneys.

A native of Savannah, Kate Daly Cobb (J.D., [Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law](#), '23) concentrates on handling disputes related to misappropriation of assets and other misconduct by fiduciaries, including business partners, executors, administrators, trustees, and professionals. In addition, she handles a variety of business and commercial disputes involving contracts and business torts. Her expertise also extends to professional malpractice defense, personal injury defense and creditor representation. Prior to joining Oliver Maner, Cobb dedicated her time as a domestic violence victim advocate intern for the Victim's Witness Assistance Program in the Savannah District Attorney's Office.

Kelvin Goodson (J.D., [Liberty University School of Law](#), '23) joins Oliver Maner after a career in education. He spent four years as an instructor at Pinewood Christian Academy prior to earning his law degree. Goodson's focuses include legal research, drafting legal arguments and drafting and responding to discovery materials.

By celebrating its associates and welcoming new talent, Oliver Maner showcases its dedication to providing exemplary legal services. For more information, visit www.olivermaner.com.



Katie S. Hembree



Kate Daly Cobb



Kelvin Goodson



Taylor Barger and Jonathan Gwaltney Join Lasky Justus Law

Lasky Justus Law is excited to share two new members to the team. Taylor Barger and Jonathan Gwaltney both joined Lasky Justus Law in 2023.

Taylor Barger, PA-C, MSPAS is a Physician Assistant and serves as a medical consultant for Lasky Justus Law. She graduated from Shenandoah University with a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies in 2018 and currently practices Urgent Care and Emergency Medicine. She also has healthcare experience in Pain Management. Taylor is licensed in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia, and Maryland. She is a professional member of the American Academy of Physicians Assistants. Taylor brings a plethora of knowledge and insight to the medical malpractice litigation team.



Taylor Barger

Jonathan Gwaltney is a paralegal to the Litigation Team. He has been a paralegal since 2017 working primarily in real estate transaction. He joined Lasky Justus in the summer of 2023. Jonathan studied creative writing and political science, concentrating on political geography and legal studies, at Georgia College in Milledgeville. Jonathan



Jonathan Gwaltney

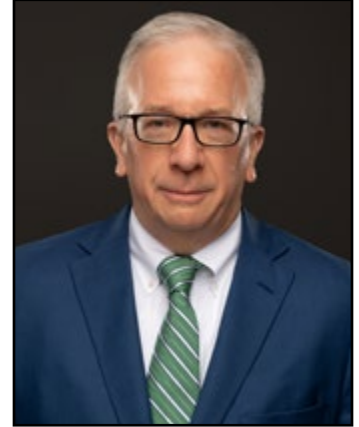
J.D. Blevins Joins Zipperer, Lorberbaum, Beauvais & Gotwalt

Zipperer, Lorberbaum, Beauvais & Gotwalt, PC is pleased to announce the addition of J. D. Blevins, Esq. to the firm. J.D. brings to the firm a deep commitment to zealously advocating for the rights of the injured. J.D.'s practice will primarily focus on Federal and State-level Worker's Compensation. J.D. has practiced law in Savannah since 2015.



The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire Announces New Board Officers, Welcomes Wade Herring to Board of Directors

[The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire](#) – a local 501©3 nonprofit committed to conflict resolution, de-escalation and fostering community health – is pleased to announce a new slate of officers for the organization's Board of Directors and to welcome new board member Wade Herring.



Wade Herring

The elected officers for The Mediation Center's Board of Directors for 2024 include:

- President - David Purvis
- Vice President - Tramayne Young
- Treasurer - Heather Peloquin
- Secretary - Denethris Barnes

Additional board members include youth mentor Ni'Aisha Banks, Pastor Marsha Buford, attorney Stephanie Burgess, Savannah Police Department Chief Lenny Gunther, Savannah Chatham-County Public School System Legal Compliance Officer Doreen Oliver, City of Savannah Alderman Nick Palumbo, community activist Curtis Singleton and volunteer mediator Ruby Weitzell.

In addition, Savannah attorney Wade Herring recently joined The Mediation Center's Board of Directors. Herring is a longtime partner at HunterMaclean, where he has worked since 1985. His law practice focuses on employment law, helping employers of all sizes in the public and private sectors.

Throughout his career, Herring has been an active volunteer, involved in a variety of professional and community activities. He is a past president of the Savannah Bar Association and the Rotary Club of Savannah East and has chaired the Board of Trustees at Savannah Country Day School and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. Originally from Macon, Ga., Herring received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Dartmouth College and his law degree, cum laude, from the University of Georgia.

The Mediation Center helps individuals or groups resolve conflicts using a neutral mediator who helps keep the focus on reaching workable agreements. Unlike court proceedings, mediation is confidential and scheduled at the convenience of the parties involved. Parties also maintain control of the solution including the nature and scope of their agreements. Over the last 36 years, the Mediation Center has trained more than 500 volunteer mediators, conducted 10,000+ mediations and facilitated over 7,000 settlements.



The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire to Host Anchored in the Community Event Honoring Award Winners on Thursday, Feb. 8

[The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire](#) — Savannah, Ga.'s leading organization dedicated to helping citizens proactively manage conflict — is delighted to host the 2024 [Anchored in the Community](#) fundraiser on Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Savannah Bottle Works, located at 411 W. Charlton St.

“Anchored in the Community unites The Mediation Center’s staff, volunteers and business partners to celebrate service to the local community,” said Jill Cardenas, executive director of the Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire. “We warmly invite supporters as well as anyone interested in learning more about The Mediation Center to join us for an amazing event and to help us celebrate exceptional local award winners.”

Formerly known as the Velvet Gala, this special event serves as a showcase of The Mediation Center’s services, providing strategic alternatives to litigation and increasing access to justice throughout coastal Georgia. Anchored in the Community helps fund The Mediation Center’s youth programs, mediations, training opportunities, professional services and the Family Law Resource Center.

The evening’s nautical-themed festivities will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by an awards ceremony at 6 p.m. Additional event highlights include hors d’oeuvres, dancing, raffle prizes, fun games and a photo booth.

Award winners recognized at the 2024 Anchored in the Community event will include:

- Domestic Mediator Award - Robert Rodatus
- General Civil Mediator Award - Carol McCarthy
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Jeanne Dent
- Innovator Award - Kelly Crosby
- Stellar Advocate for Youth: Guardian Ad Litem - Gwendolyn Fortson Waring
- Stellar Advocate for Youth - Janie Brodhead
- Attorney Appreciation Award - Jack Strother, Attorney at Law
- Attorney Appreciation Award - The Law Offices of Joseph J. Steffen Jr.
- Community Partnership Award - Resilient Coastal Georgia
- The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire Board Service Award - Adam Kirk

Tickets for Anchored in the Community are currently on sale for \$100 per person at [mediationsavannah.com](https://www.mediationsavannah.com).

Anchored in the Community sponsorship opportunities are also available. Local businesses interested in sponsoring The Mediation Center’s annual fundraising event are encouraged to contact Megan Gosney at mgosney@mediationsavannah.com.

The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire will host the 2024 Anchored in the Community fundraiser and awards ceremony on Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Savannah Bottle Works at 411 W. Charlton St.





United States Supreme Court Update CLE Presented at the Annual State Bar Conference

Presented by Laverne Lewis Gaskins

The State Bar of Georgia's Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, the Gate City Bar Association, the DeKalb Lawyers Association, the Augusta Conference of Black Lawyers, and the New Rock Legal Society co-sponsored a CLE designed to examine the recent United States Supreme Court's approach to various legal issues. The CLE Co-Chairs were Laverne Lewis Gaskins, Avarita L. Hanson, and Donna Coleman Stribling.

On June 9, 2023, in Savannah Georgia, against the backdrop of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent history-making and controversial decisions, a very well-attended CLE was held. Divergent viewpoints and perspectives provided fertile ground for robust discussions. The CLE was structured in three-panel presentations in the context of three areas: Affirmative Action, Reproductive Rights, Guns and Gangs: Legal Issues and Community Strategies.

The first panel addressed the issue of Affirmative Action. The speakers consisted of Charles S. Johnson, III, former General Counsel for Tuskegee University, The Peach Firm PC, Atlanta, GA, Jennifer L. Ervin, General Counsel, Clark Atlanta University, and Georgia State University College ("GSU") of Law Professor, Tanya Washington.

The second panel addressed Reproductive Rights. The panel consisted of Tricia "CK" Purks Hoffer, former President of the National Bar Association, The CK Hoffer Firm, Atlanta, GA, State Senator Ed Setzler, 37th district, Acworth, GA, Andrea I. Young, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, Atlanta, GA, and GSU Law Professor Tanya Washington.

The final session explored issues related to Guns and Gangs. The panel speakers consisted of Donna Coleman Stribling, DeKalb County Solicitor General, Decatur, GA, Gabriel Banks, Banks & Weaver, Atlanta, GA, Mawuli M. Malcolm Davis, and Francys Johnson, Jr. of the Davis Bozeman Johnson Law P.C., Decatur, GA and Fulton County District Attorney, Fani T. Willis.

Prior to the release of the much-anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*,^[1] presenters in the first panel discussed affirmative action in education.

Law Professor Washington, who served as moderator, framed the discussion by providing a historical overview of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions addressing race in higher education. Charles S. Johnson and Jennifer L. Ervin informed attendees about the impact of the use of race in admission decisions. Charles Johnson further provided an analysis of how the judicial treatment of the use of race in decision-making may vary depending on the legal predicate underlying the case at issue. The panel discussed how diversity enhances the learning experience and the socioeconomic value of exposing students to individuals from a variety of backgrounds. The panel discussed the discriminatory impact of legacy preference, a practice of providing preferential treatment to children of alumni in admissions. In contemplating the legal impact of the *Harvard* case on the broader socioeconomic terrain, the panel explored the reach of the Supreme Court case beyond the parameters of higher education.

¹ Decided June 29, 2023.



The second panel of the seminar focused on reproductive rights. The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 597 U.S. ____ (2022) case served as a foundation for a spirited discussion. Tanya Washington moderated the panel which included a discussion of the LIFE Act, a Georgia abortion ban that took effect in 2019. The LIFE Act, in essence, criminalizes abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. C.K. Hoffer and Sen. Edwin Setzler offered countering viewpoints on the *Dobbs* case and the LIFE Act. Setzler expressed support for the *Dobbs* case and the LIFE Act, while Hoffer offered an opposing perspective.

Andrea Young, detailed the case of *SisterSong v. State of Georgia*, a state court lawsuit filed by the ACLU challenging the constitutionality of the abortion ban. In the materials provided, Young quoted Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who wrote in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, "The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives."

As we live in a society impacted by the rule of law, issues related to criminal behavior are germane to discussions regarding Supreme Court decisions. The third section of the seminar focused on guns and gangs in the context of legal issues and strategies. Donna Stribling moderated the session. Gabe Banks and Mawuli Davis provided detailed information about the proliferation of gangs in Georgia and the prosecution of its members. Gabe Banks talked about the Georgia law on Participation in Criminal Gang Activity §16-15-4 and its use by agencies. D.A. Fani Willis discussed how gang activity has increasingly become a mechanism for human trafficking. She discussed how males and females are being initiated into gangs utilizing sexual activity. The panel members also discussed community initiatives designed to positively engage youth to stem the growth of gang activity. Community activities include workshops aimed at educating youth about the laws and legal consequences of their actions. Panel members discussed other initiatives that educate the public about theories on why youth join gangs, warning signs, and ways to identify opportunities to transform negative energy into positive outcomes.

Francys Johnson, in light of the information shared about the trend of increasing violence and gang activity, encouraged practitioners and community members to become engaged. As members of our society, he challenged us to facilitate change by recognizing there is a problem and volunteering with organizations seeking to bring about a positive transformation.



Laverne Lewis Gaskins, is an attorney and arbitrator with a private practice in Augusta, Georgia. She has an extensive background in higher education law and has served as an attorney at three major universities: University Attorney at Valdosta State University, a Senior Legal Advisor at Augusta University, and Deputy General Counsel at Tuskegee University. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for Voorhees University, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Legal Services Program. Jason Kennedy, DEA; AUSA John Harper; Shawn Fields, Liberty County Sheriff's Office; AUSA Frank Pennington; DEA Group Supervisor Deverron "Ram" Ramcheran; U.S. Attorney Jill Steinberg; and Linh Vuong, DEA.



Panel one Left to Right.
Tanya Washington, Jennifer L. Ervin, Charles S. Johnson



Panel Two Left to Right.
Tanya Washington, CK Hoffer, Edwin Setzler, Andrea L. Young



Panel Three Left to Right
Donna Stribling, Gabriel Banks, Mawuli Davis, Fani T. Willis, Francys Johnson



To the Members of the Savannah Bar Association:

The Judges of the Chatham County Juvenile Court announce a specialized continuing legal education opportunity being offered in person and via Zoom on **January 26, 2024** in the area of Domestic Violence in Child Welfare. This training is presented by the Chatham County Child Advocate Office. **Those in attendance will be eligible to receive a total of three CLE credit hours, with 0.5 hours qualifying for Ethics credit. There is no charge for attending the seminar and a Chic-fil-a lunch will be provided for in-person attendees pre-registering by January 22nd.** Whether you are a Juvenile Court practitioner or your practice is focused elsewhere, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the interplay of domestic violence as it relates to child welfare.

Domestic Violence in Child Welfare

Friday, January 26, 2024
Chatham County Juvenile Court
12:00 to 3:00 PM

Guest speakers:
Wendellyn Wright, JD, MA, NCC
Kari Barrett, MA, LPC, CPCS, RPT/S
Jessica Scott, Child Advocate at Safe Shelter Savannah

To register, please contact Christina Murray at chmurray@chathamcounty.org



GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING

Guardians Ad Litem are an arm of the court and play an important role in family law cases. The Georgia Bar suggests 50 pro bono hours per year. If helping children in our community resonates with you, then train to become a Guardian Ad Litem. GALs are paid or receive pro bono hours. This is a great way to contribute your time!

Training location: The Mediation Center
5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 125D
Friday, February 23, 2024, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

6 HOURS OF CLE CREDIT AVAILABLE

Training is only offered once a year, so don't miss this opportunity.

The cost is \$600 or a commitment to two (2) pro bono cases.

To apply for the training, please visit:

<https://mediationsavannah.com/application-for-gal-training>

For questions contact Amanda Love at

Alovee@MediationSavannah.com





GLSP Thanks 2023 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 Program in 2023. With the help of these volunteers, we were able to serve 166 people who might not otherwise have received assistance. Our volunteers drafted wills and powers of attorney for local seniors, represented survivors of domestic violence at protective order hearings, assisted grandparents in getting guardianship of children in their care, and cleared criminal records that were preventing clients from obtaining better housing and employment. 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.

Richard Barid, Smith Barid, LLC
Gracy Barksdale, Attorney at Law (Atlanta)
Marc Bruce, Bruce, Mathews & Lavoie
Birney Bull, Adoption Law Office of Birney O'Brian Bull
Anthony Burton, Burton Law Offices
Melissa Calhoun, Melissa M. Calhoun, PC
Herb Chestnut, Herbert Chestnut & Associates
Dolly Chisholm, Bouhan Falligant LLP
Gabe Cliett, Gabe T. Cliett, PC
Ben Davidson, The Cornwell Firm
Nancy DeVetter, DeVetter Law LLC
Rachel Edwards, Wright & Edwards PC
Joe Gannam, Gannam Gnann & Steinmetz LLC
Charles Grile, Law Office of Charles C. Grile
Erin Haug, Law Office of Erin Muldoon Haug
Ellen Horne, Holland & Knight LLP (Atlanta)
Matt Hube, The Hube Law Firm, PC
Amy Ihrig, Attorney at Law
Melanie Marks, Bouhan Falligant LLP
Harris Mason, Attorney at Law

Colton McRae, Brennan Harris & Rominger LLP
Jennifer Mock, The Mock Law Firm LLC
Elizabeth Murphey, Legacy Endowment Estate Planning
Jerold Murray, Law Office of Jerold L. Murray, LLC
Madeline Prince, Holland & Knight LLP (Atlanta)
Francesca Rehal, Francesca A. Rehal Attorney at Law
Julia Ritch, Bouhan Falligant LLP
Richard Sanders, Johnson Kraeuter LLC
Mark Schaefer, Elder Law Office of Mark Schaefer PC
Bryan Schivera, Oliver Maner LLP
Kaylee Shealy, Taulbee Rushing Snipes March & Hodgin LLC
Sandra Saseen Smith, GLSP In-House Volunteer Attorney
Julia Sullivan, DeVetter Law Firm
Stephen Swinson, Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP
Joey Turner, The Turner Law Firm LLC
Gwendolyn Fortson Waring, The Waring Law Firm LLC
Adam Walters, Walters Law PC
Rachel Wilson, Nest Estate Planning by L. Rachel Wilson
Mark Wojciechowski, Morrison Foerster



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 sjanderson@glsp.org
or sign up online at <https://www.glsp.org/volunteer-2/>.



Are you the next Pro Bono Champion?

Join us at the **February SBA Luncheon** as we recognize the great pro bono work done by the attorneys in the eleven counties covered by the GLSP Savannah Office. In 2023, 39 pro bono attorneys handled 166 cases of the nearly 1,100 cases accepted by the GLSP Savannah Office.

Past Award Winners

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pro Bono Champion</i>	<i>Pro Bono Advocate</i>	<i>Pro Bono Catalyst</i>	<i>Pro Bono Service</i>
2014	Kran Riddle	Francesca Rehal	In-House Volunteer Attorneys	
2015	Angie Tinsman	Jerold Murray	SBA Young Lawyers Division	
2016	Jerold Murray	Birney Bull	The Hall Law Group	
2017	Francesca Rehal	Julia Sullivan	Savannah Morning News	
2018	Francesca Rehal	Rob Brannen	Kristin Cerbone	
2019	Francesca Rehal	Mark Schaefer	SAFE Shelter	
2020	Joey Turner	Stephen Harris	Bouhan Falligant LLP	Jon Maire
2021	Joey Turner	Lucas D. Bradley		
		Matthew Hube		
2022	Anthony Burton	Ben Davidson		Gwen Fortson Waring



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 sjanderson@glsp.org
or sign up online at <https://www.glsp.org/volunteer-2/>.



LOST POTENTIAL. UNTAPPED LEADERSHIP. UNRECOGNIZED TALENT.

Did the 118,000 Georgia students suspended or expelled in 2022 fail? Or, DID THE SYSTEM FAIL THEM?

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.

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 Georgia needs.

Georgia Appleseed is a nonprofit law center advancing justice and equity for Georgia's children through legal advocacy and policy change.

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.



**GEORGIA
APPLESEED**

Center for Law & Justice



FAIR

Fairness,
Advocacy, &
Individualized
Representation

for Children
in Foster Care



GEORGIA APPLESEED
Center for Law & Justice

ABOUT US

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 in-person 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.



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

January 3, 2024

NOTICE

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia is proposing a complete revision to the Local Rules for Administration of Criminal Cases. A copy of the revised Rules is available on the Court's website at <https://www.gasd.uscourts.gov/court-info/local-rules-and-orders>. If adopted, the revised Rules would take effect on February 12, 2024.

Comments must be submitted via email on or before February 5, 2024 to localrules@gas.uscourts.gov.

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
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Reappointment of Bankruptcy Judge James R. Sacca United States Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of Georgia

The current 14-year term of The Honorable James R. Sacca, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia at Atlanta, is due to expire on 20 October 2024. The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit is considering whether to reappoint Bankruptcy Judge Sacca to a new 14-year term of office as a bankruptcy judge.

If reappointed, the incumbent would continue to exercise the jurisdiction of a bankruptcy judge as specified in United States Code title 28, United States Code title 11, and the Bankruptcy Amendment and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-353, §§ 101-122, 98 Stat. 333-346. In bankruptcy cases and proceedings referred by the district court, the incumbent would continue to perform the duties of a bankruptcy judge that might include holding status conferences, conducting hearings and trials, making final determinations, entering orders and judgments, and submitting proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to the district court.

Members of the bar and the public are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Court of Appeals concerning the reappointment of Bankruptcy Judge Sacca to a new term of office in Atlanta. The Court of Appeals seeks comments regarding the incumbent judge's: 1) judicial conduct; 2) effectiveness as a bankruptcy judge; 3) effectiveness as a supervisor of judicial employees; and 4) suitability for reappointment to another 14-year term as bankruptcy judge. If requested, the identity of a respondent to this solicitation will not be divulged without prior consent. However, the incumbent will be provided with a general description of the source and nature of any comments. All comments should be submitted to Ashlyn D. Beck, Circuit Executive, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, at CA11_Appointments@ca11.uscourts.gov on or before 7 March 2024. Please indicate Bankruptcy Judge - GAND in the subject line.



Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court

Filing Activity Notification System (FANS)



Clerk of Superior Court
Tammie Mosley

Chatham County Superior Court Clerk's office in conjunction with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) is pleased to offer the Filing Activity Notification System, **FANS**, providing Georgia citizens with tools to monitor activity regarding their property and records. The Filing Activity Notification System (FANS) is designed to offer individuals the ability to receive a notification when certain real estate and personal property records are filed with, indexed, and data is transmitted by Clerks of Superior Court throughout the state of Georgia.

FANS is a free, voluntary, opt-in program that can be used to send electronic notifications of filing activity to individuals who create notifications in the system.

To get started, go to <https://fans.gsccca.org> and follow the prompts. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the **FANS**, please contact the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority customer support at 1-800-304-5174 or help@gsccca.org.

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ECertification services provide users the ability to electronically request **CERTIFIED** court and real estate records 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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TAMMIE MOSLEY

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT





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.