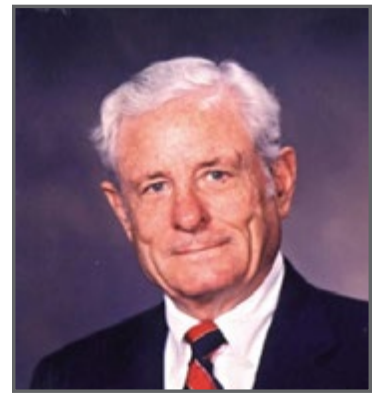




The Citation

Scholarship Donations in Honor of J.B. and James Blackburn

Last year, the Savannah Bar Association said goodbye to two beloved members. Longtime City Attorney James “J.B.” Blackburn, Sr., passed away on January 22, 2020. His son, James “Jay” Blackburn, Jr., who practiced alongside his father for over thirty years at the firm Wiseman, Blackburn, and Futrell, passed away on November 1, 2020. In honor of his late father and brother, John F. “Jack” Blackburn, along with his wife Maryann Gallagher, has made donations in their honor to two SBA scholarships, with \$500.00 going to the Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Scholarship in the name of Jay and \$500.00 going to the Judge Phyllis Kravitch Scholarship in the name of J.B. The SBA greatly appreciates the generosity of the Blackburn family and will continue to cherish the memory of J.B. and Jay.



James “J.B.” Blackburn, Sr

About the Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Scholarship:

The Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Memorial Scholarship was established by the Savannah Bar Association in tribute to the memory and legacy of Judge Gadsden as an outstanding community leader known for his character, integrity and compassion. His fairness, patience, and wisdom served as an inspiration not only to all lawyers and judges but also the community at large. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist a graduating senior from a high school in Savannah in attending an accredited college or university. The award is based on merit, and it provides an annual amount of \$1,000 for four years. The award may be used for tuition and fees, books, and other academic expenses. All applicants who have applied for or will be receiving other financial support must reveal that information and include it with the application. Applicants must meet entrance requirements of the institution and maintain grades in keeping with the standards of the Hope Scholarship. Applications for the Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Scholarship must be obtained from the high school’s guidance counselor.



James “Jay” Blackburn, Jr

About the Judge Phyllis Kravitch Scholarship:

The Judge Phyllis Kravitch Scholarship was established by the Savannah Bar Association in tribute to this outstanding community leader known for her character, integrity, and compassion. The fairness, patience, and wisdom of Judge Kravitch served as an inspiration not only to all lawyers and judges but also the community at large. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist a rising second or third-year law school student from Chatham County in continuing his/her education at an accredited school of law. The scholarship award of \$2,500 is given to one student based on merit for the second or third year of study in law school. A second-year law student who receives an award may apply for an additional award for his/her third year. The award granted may be used for



tuition and fees, books, and other academic expenses. All applicants who have applied for or will be receiving other financial support must reveal that information with the application. The scholarship award will be sent to the law school for the recipient's account. Applications for the Judge Phyllis Kravitch Scholarship may be downloaded from the SBA's website.

Tenth Annual Legal Food Frenzy

Friends and colleagues,

The 10th Annual Legal Food Frenzy begins April 19! Last year, Savannah lawyers helped raise \$27,836.50 for our local food bank, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. This year, we want to surpass that number.

There is an enormous need for monetary donations during this trying time as the Second Harvest responds to a sustained 50 percent increase in food assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families who have typically been food secure were impacted by the economic effects of the pandemic and are reaching out to the food bank for help for the first time. Families who were already struggling to put food on the table have been coping with increased hardship. Additionally, many students in Chatham County were learning remotely until very recently and were unable to receive the free or reduced-priced lunch they typically get at school. For every \$1 donated during the Legal Food Frenzy, Second Harvest can distribute roughly four meals into the community.

Registration is now open for the Legal Food Frenzy. The competition will take place virtually from April 19-30, 2021. To register, visit www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org/sign-up.

Bouhan Falligant's Appellate Practice Helps Victims of Family Violence

Bouhan Falligant's appellate practice was honored to file a pro bono brief on behalf of a victim of family violence on Monday, asking the Court of Appeals to honor the plain-text meaning of a Georgia law allowing family-violence victims to seek protective orders against their alleged abusers. Lucas Bradley, a partner with the firm's appellate practice, had primary responsibility for the brief and was assisted by Logan Lineberry, an associate in the practice group.

Georgia Legal Services brought the matter to Bouhan Falligant's attention as part of its broad-based work on behalf of victims of family violence. As Vicky Kimbrell, Director of the GLSP Family Violence Project, noted, its services are all the more important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kimbrell stated that "the stress, the danger, the losses of income and resources has led to a 46% increase in crisis calls to Domestic Violence programs. Survivors are turning to the courts for the safety they need during this time, and they need our support."

Bouhan Falligant has a robust pro bono appellate practice, and its work in this case follows its two appellate wins last year on behalf of a historical African-American church in a dispute involving that church's property rights. "Appellate practice is where the rubber hits the road—not just for individual cases, but vindicating the rights of all future litigants relying on Georgia precedent," said Lucas Bradley. "We are honored to lend the firm's resources and expertise to members of our community who need help navigating Georgia's appellate courts."



Southeastern Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates Announces New Slate of Officers

The Southeastern Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)—a leading association uniting experienced trial lawyers and judges across the region—is pleased to announce a new slate of officers for 2021-2022.

The chapter’s 2021-2022 executive committee includes:

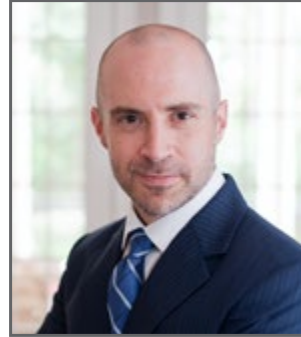
- **President:** Steve Lowry, Harris Lowry Manton LLP
- **Vice President:** Timothy D. Roberts, Oliver Maner LLP
- **Secretary:** William Andrew Bowen, Bowen Painter
- **Treasurer:** Christopher W. Phillips, HunterMaclean
- **Membership Chair and National Board Representative:** Rob Kelly, Kelly & Kelly LLP

In 2021, the Southeastern Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates will present an expanded selection of continuing education opportunities through a series of informative webinars. The chapter is also planning to read civics-related children’s books to elementary school students across southeast Georgia.

“ABOTA is the only legal organization that unites plaintiff’s and defense attorneys to support the right for Americans to have a civil jury trial,” said Chapter President Steve Lowry, a founding partner and trial lawyer at Harris Lowry Manton LLP. “We want to provide ongoing professional development and networking opportunities for trial lawyers and judges across the region.”

The American Board of Trial Advocates is an invitation-only national association of 7,600 experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right to civil jury trials.

ABOTA’s primary goal is to educate the American public about the history and value of the right to trial by jury and is dedicated to elevating the standards of skill, integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession. ABOTA members are required to have at least five years of active experience as trial lawyers, have tried at least 10 civil jury trials to conclusion and have additional litigation experience.



Steve Lowry
President



Timothy D. Roberts
Vice President



William Andrew Bowen
Secretary



Christopher W. Phillips
Treasurer



Rob Kelly
Membership Chair
& National Board
Representative



ABOUT ABOTA: Founded in 1958, the American Board of Trials Advocates (ABOTA) is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges. ABOTA and its members are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. ABOTA membership consists of more than 7,600 lawyers—equally balanced between plaintiff and defense attorneys—and judges spread among 96 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more at www.abota.org.

Bouhan Falligant Attorneys Named Georgia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

Bouhan Falligant partners were recently recognized as 2021 Georgia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

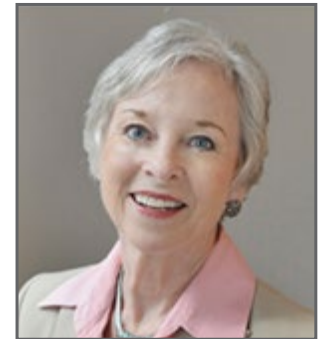
The Georgia Super Lawyer recognition is awarded annually to the top five percent of attorneys in the state. The honor is based on independent research, peer review, and professional achievement.

The following Bouhan Falligant attorneys were named 2021 Georgia Super Lawyers:

- Glen M. Darbyshire
Personal Injury Products: Defense
- Kathleen Horne
Bankruptcy
- Carlton E. Joyce
Personal Injury Medical Malpractice: Defense
- Dennis B. Keen
Personal Injury-Products: Defense



Glen M. Darbyshire



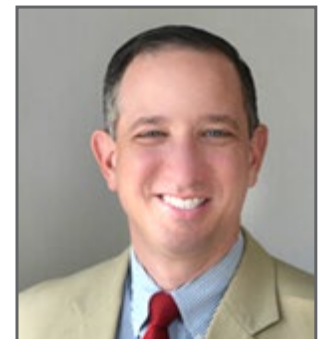
Kathleen Horne

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

- Heather Lundy
Real Estate
- Gregory G. Sewell
Personal Injury Medical Malpractice: Defense



Carlton E. Joyce



Dennis B. Keen

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.



Heather Lundy



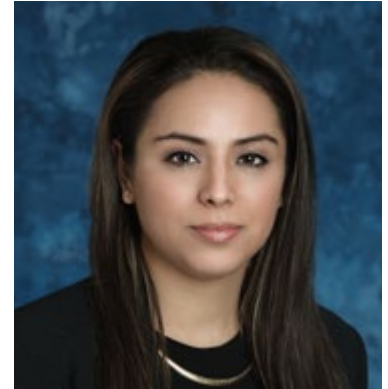
Gregory G. Sewell



Maxine Desir Joins The Manely Firm

The Manely Firm, P.C. is excited to announce a new associate attorney has joined the Firm, Attorney Maxine Desir. The Manely Firm proudly practices family law throughout the state of Georgia and worldwide. Of Ms. Desir, Founding Attorney Michael Manely says, “We are very excited about Ms. Desir joining the Firm, she will add more depth and breadth to the experience of the Firm.”

Ms. Desir officially joined the Firm on December 10, 2020 in the role of Associate Attorney to be based out of the Firm’s Atlanta office. Ms. Desir is a graduate of Florida International University Ave Maria School of Law and received her undergraduate degree here as well. She has past-experience working with civil litigation and guardianship matters through Dade Legal Aid in Miami, Florida.



Maxine Desir

Ms. Desir celebrates coming from a large blended Cuban and Columbian family while having spent much of her free time in Miami volunteering with local fundraisers benefitting police, veterans and low-income families. She says, “Even as a young girl, I spoke for my grandparents because they never spoke English, only now, I am taking that role with me into the legal field to make sure the families of my Latin community have that same voice.” Ms. Desir will focus on International and Domestic Family Law in her new role with The Manely Firm, P.C. and is our newest of seven Firm members fluent in Spanish. Mr. David Purvis, Savannah Partner Attorney says, “We are excited to have Ms. Desir join our firm. She brings a passion for family law and enhances our ability to provide strategic representation to our English and Spanish speaking clientele across Georgia.”

Christopher Lane named partner at Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe

Christopher R. Lane has been named a partner with the law firm of Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe.

Lane, who has been with the firm for six years, is a native Georgian with ties to Coastal Georgia, and he has rapidly become one of south Georgia’s preeminent real estate attorneys. His practice mostly encompasses matters from the acquisition, financing and disposition of both residential and commercial real estate. He is distinguished by the breadth of his experience in commercial and residential real estate law, and his comprehensive familiarity with real estate transactional law has made him one of the foremost real estate lawyers in coastal Georgia.



Christopher R. Lane

Lane routinely represents buyers, sellers, lenders, landlords, tenants, builders and homeowner associations, and his expertise includes managing transactional matters ranging from the clearance of title and contract review to complex commercial projects. He serves as outside general counsel for the Savannah Area Realtors and is involved with the leadership of The Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia (MBAG), where he was named the 2013-2014 Richard Raymer Associate Member of the Year for MBAG.



The Need for Legal Representation with TPOs Increases

When the pandemic began a little over a year ago, it was feared that the self-isolation, social distancing, and shelter-in-place orders would increase instances of domestic violence. Unfortunately, those fears have come true.

“The stress, the danger, the losses of income and resources has led to a 46% increase in crisis calls to Domestic Violence programs. Survivors are turning to the courts for the safety they need during this time.” says Vicky Kimbrell, Director of the GLSP Family Violence Project.

Although we are all glad to see the threat of the pandemic lifting, we expect more survivors will now be able to escape those violent homes. Those survivors will need legal representation.

GLSP-Savannah receives referrals from SAFE Shelter and the Family Justice Center. SAFE Shelter’s Outreach Program arranges legal representation for all their TPO clients. If a pro bono attorney cannot be secured, the shelter pays for legal assistance.

In 2020, SAFE Shelter referred 109 cases to GLSP-Savannah. Twenty-one pro bono attorneys represented 58 clients at their 12-month hearings, saving the shelter nearly \$30,000 in attorney’s fees. Unfortunately, 41 clients were referred back to the shelter because there was not an available pro bono attorney to represent them.

Now is a great time to become a pro bono attorney. TPO Petitioners need legal representation at 12-month hearings. We provide training, support, and malpractice insurance for cases you handle for us. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pro Bono Project Staff Attorney Sarah J. Anderson at sjanderson@glsp.org or sign up on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GAProBono>.

Seeking Associate Attorney

Lueder, Larkin & Hunter, LLC is seeking an associate attorney to join our insurance defense practice group in Savannah. Ideal candidate is licensed to practice law in Georgia, has a minimum of 1 to 3 of years of litigation experience, preferably handling personal injury, automobile, premises, and/or coverage issues. Salary commensurate with experience. Please contact Beverly O’Hearn (bohearn@luederlaw.com) for additional details.

A Message from Richard C. Metz, Attorney at Law

Effective 04/01/2021, I am moving my offices to

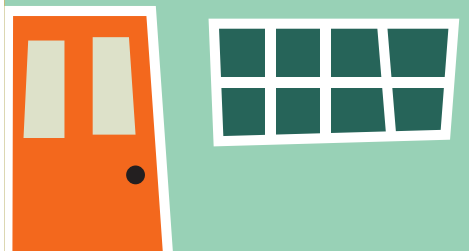
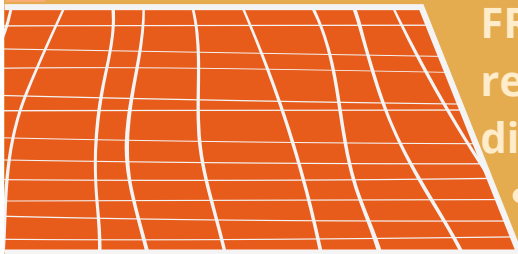
Waters Professional Square
7805 Waters Avenue #5A
Savannah, GA 31406

Telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address remain the same.



LANDLORD- TENANT MEDIATIONS

March 22-26 and March 29 - April 1



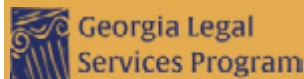
FREE mediation for COVID-related landlord-tenant disputes

- Both tenant and landlord must attend
- Emergency Rent Assistance is available through the United Way & Economic Opportunity Authority
- UWCE & EOA staff can help determine rent relief eligibility

LIMITED SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. SIGN UP EARLY



Request a mediation at mediationsavannah.com/landlordtenant





American Board of Trial Advocates



Southeastern Georgia ABOTA Chapter

YOU'RE INVITED

Lunch & Learn Webinar

**"Ethics and Standards: Top 10 Mistakes"
Jeff Harris, Harris Lowry Manton LLP**

Tuesday, April 20 | 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Free to Southeastern Georgia ABOTA Chapter members and guests



Jeff Harris, Harris Lowry Manton LLP

ABOUT JEFF HARRIS

One of the nation's top trial attorneys, Jeff Harris is an award-winning litigator and founding partner at [Harris Lowry Manton LLP](#) who handles high-profile, complex cases across a wide variety of practice areas. He excels at securing justice for clients who have been seriously injured or killed, holding responsible parties accountable for their actions as well as their negligence.

Over the course of his career, Jeff has secured hundreds of millions in jury verdicts and settlements for his clients and has helped make a variety of products, vehicles and industries safer for everyone. His cases have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *20/20*, CBS Evening News and many other national media outlets.

Jeff has obtained numerous record-setting verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients and has been repeatedly included on the annual survey of top jury verdicts in the United States, compiled by the National Law Journal. He has been inducted to the Georgia Verdicts Hall of Fame and honored on the Georgia Super Lawyers Top 100 list, the National Trial Lawyers Top 100 list and the National Association of Distinguished Counsel's Top One Percent list.



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.