



The Citation

May

Paul Painter Obituary

Savannah attorney Paul W. Painter, Jr. died on Saturday, May 27, 2017. He was born in Cleveland, Tennessee on August 10, 1945, while his father was on active duty in World War II. He grew up and attended public schools in Rossville, Walker County, Georgia, graduating from Rossville High School in 1963. He was the quarterback and co-captain of the school's undefeated state championship football team, named to the Associated Press All-State football team, selected to play in the Georgia High School All-Star game at Grant Field, and given a scholarship by Coach Bobby Dodd to play football at Georgia Tech. He graduated with a degree in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech, where he was a member and president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

After graduating from college, he attended the Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island, where he received his commission. He was an active duty officer from 1968 to 1971, during much of which he was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence, where he was an underway officer of the deck. On Valentine's Day of 1971, he had his first date with Judith Ann (Judi) Babine of Norfolk, Virginia, who became the love of his life. The couple was married on August 28, 1971.

Two weeks after their wedding, the couple moved to Athens, Georgia, where he entered law school at the University of Georgia. He graduated from the law school with honors in 1974 after serving as Senior Editor of the Georgia Law Review. After graduation, the couple moved to Savannah, where he began the practice of civil trial law he would pursue for more than forty years. In 1988, he was a founding partner of the law firm known today as Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams LLP, from which he retired in 2015 for health reasons.



He was selected to be a "Georgia Super Lawyer" through a statewide, peer-reviewed process conducted by Law and Politics and Atlanta Magazine. Through that process, he was recognized as one of Georgia's "Top 100" lawyers from the initial review process in 2004 until his last year of active practice in 2014 when he was also recognized as one of Georgia's "Top 10" lawyers. He was also recognized in the peer-reviewed publication "Best Lawyers in America" beginning in 1994, where he was listed in four litigation categories: bet-the-company litigation, business litigation, product liability litigation and personal injury litigation.

He was past president of Georgia Law School's alumni association and a member of the school's Board of Visitors, past president of the Savannah Bar Association, and past president of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association. He was a Fellow and Georgia state chair of the America College of Trial Lawyers, a past member and chair of the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners, and a member of various committees to which he was appointed by Georgia's state and federal courts.

He was awarded the State Bar of Georgia's Tradition of Excellence Award, the State Bar's Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award, the University of Georgia Law School Association's Distinguished Service Scroll, which is the law school's highest alumni award, the Savannah Bar Association's Professionalism Award (renamed the Frank S. Cheatham Professionalism Award after Judge Cheatham's death), and the Paul W. Painter, Jr. Civility and Professionalism Award established by the Southeast Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.



He was a founding member of the board of directors of Georgia Appleseed, Inc., a non-profit, nonpartisan public interest law center whose mission is to increase justice in Georgia through law and policy reform and community engagement, a past director of Royce Learning Center, a school for children with learning disabilities, and a past president of the Savannah Arthritis Foundation. He was a member of Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church and its Alpha Sunday School class. He was also a member of The Savannah Golf Club, the Forest City Gun Club, and the Gridiron Society at the University of Georgia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Judge Paul W. Painter and Juanita Davis Painter of Rossville, and a younger sister, Claudia Ann Painter who died in 1955. He is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Judi Painter, his son Paul W. Painter III and

wife

Stephanie Boan Painter of Savannah, his sister and brother-in-law, Paulette Painter Grant and Calvin B. Grant of Chattanooga, Tennessee, his granddaughter Anna Clair Painter, two nephews and their wives, Philip Painter Grant (Sandy) of Fayetteville, Georgia, and Bradley Burton Grant (Farrah) of Chattanooga, a grand niece, Sarah Grant of Chattanooga, and his sister-in-law and her husband, Patricia Babine Collier and Jerry J. Collier of Norfolk, Virginia.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, 429 Abercorn Street in Savannah, with his friend and pastor Dr. Ben Martin officiating. A reception will follow the service. A private burial at Greenwich Cemetery will be held.

The family invites all attorneys and judges, along with their spouses, who are in attendance at the memorial service to serve as honorary pallbearers. Charitable donations may be made to Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, 429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401, or to the American Cancer Society.



Teach Old Laws New Tricks

When the False Claims Act was enacted in 1863, passenger pigeons still roamed the skies of North America. Fast-forward to 2017, the passenger pigeon has disappeared forever and the False Claims Act could be the key to saving rhinos and tigers from extinction.

The National Whistleblower Center is recruiting attorneys to join the first Wildlife Whistleblower Attorney Referral Service (ARS). By publicizing the opportunity to obtain rewards under laws like the False Claims Act, we hope to encourage whistleblowers to share their insider information to help law enforcement dismantle trafficking networks. This is a unique opportunity to expand your legal practice, develop a new area of the law, and fight global wildlife trafficking. Read the Program Overview for more details.

Whistleblower law is a great field for new lawyers because it does not involve expensive experts, lengthy discovery, or court appearances. Representing whistleblowers entails working with clients to develop their cases, protecting their confidentiality, and ensuring they receive rewards under the relevant U.S. laws. Casework will range from using tried-and-true whistleblower provisions in the False Claims Act and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act to activating dormant whistleblower provisions in the Lacey Act and Endangered Species Act. Gaining experience with whistleblower laws through the Wildlife ARS can lead to opportunities representing whistleblowers in the following contexts: federal employment, environmental, nuclear, and transportation industries, employment discrimination, and retaliation.

Please email any questions to Meera Gajjar at mg@whistleblowers.org.

Join the Wildlife Whistleblower ARS to unleash this powerful new tool against traffickers and make a lasting impact on the legal field.



SPEAK UP FOR WILDLIFE

Join the Wildlife Whistleblower Attorney Referral Service to Help End Global Wildlife Trafficking

wildlife@whistleblowers.org
whistleblowers.org/wildlife



Bouhan Falligant Partner Sonny Seiler Recognized by Judicial Council of Georgia

Savannah, Ga. – Bouhan Falligant announced that Frank “Sonny” Seiler was recently recognized with a resolution of commendation by the Judicial Council of Georgia. Seiler was recognized by the Council for practicing law in Savannah for nearly 60 years; serving his profession with distinction as president of the State Bar of Georgia and as a member of its Board of Governors; and for advancing the administration of justice during his service on The Judicial Council.

“Sonny Seiler has brought honor, prestige, pride -- and more than a little celebrity -- to the practice of law and to the Judicial Branch of Georgia,” noted Chief Justice P. Harris Hines. “This body does hereby commend and thank Sonny Seiler and express its deepest gratitude for his service to the Judicial Branch of the State of Georgia, to the City of Savannah, and to all of the citizens of this state.”

Seiler, a native of Savannah, joined the firm in 1960 and has an extensive litigation practice that includes the defense of personal injury claims, medical malpractice, products liability law, and white collar criminal cases. Seiler is well known for serving as lead defense counsel in the Jim Williams murder trials that were later made famous by their inclusion in John Berendt’s book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

Seiler graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.B.A. in 1956 and received his J.D. in 1957. He has held a number of notable positions, including president of the University of Georgia National Alumni Association, president of the State Bar of Georgia, member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia, fellow of the American Bar Foundation and member of the American Bar and the Savannah Bar Associations.”



Bouhan Falligant Partner Makes Presentation at International Conference

Savannah, Ga. – Todd Baiad, a partner at Bouhan Falligant, recently was a guest lecturer at the New York State Bar Association’s International Section’s meeting in Dublin, Ireland. Baiad spoke on the topic of federal court litigation in Georgia. Other speakers included prominent members of the New York State Bar Association, the former Chief Judge of the Southern District of New York and a Justice from the Supreme Court of Ireland. (Continued)



At Bouhan Falligant, Baiad focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, admiralty and maritime matters, professional malpractice and construction. He routinely advises and counsels financial institutions, business organizations, professional services firms and nonprofit organizations on risk management, compliance and litigation related issues.

Baiad received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in economics from the University of Georgia and his Juris Doctor degree from the Emory University School of Law. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Business Law Section, Maritime Law Association, and is a port director for the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute.

ABOUT BOUHAN FALLIGANT:

Bouhan Falligant is a full-service Georgia law firm with experienced attorneys who can handle a broad range of complex legal issues for businesses, governmental entities, organizations, professionals, and individuals, both regionally and nationally. Through more than 125 years of practicing law, the firm has developed the deep knowledge base and sound judgment that delivers value to our clients. Bouhan Falligant attracts exceptional attorneys who are diligent, determined and care about the success of its clients.

GLSP Thanks You For Your Pro Bono Service

Georgia Legal Services Program thanks all the attorneys who accepted Pro Bono cases from January 1, 2017 through March 2017. If you would like to join this elite group of attorneys who are furthering GLSP's mission to provide quality representation to eligible clients,

Amusan, Solomon
Bick, Vincent
Cerbone, Kristin
Blackburn, James
Boykin, Paige
Chisholm, Dolly
Clark, Jamie
Courington, Dorothy
Cunningham, Graham
Maire, Jon

McDonough, Kirsten
Murray, Jerold
Murty, Vandana
Patterson, Virginia
Purvis, David
Rehal, Francesca
Riddle, Kran
Rouse, Christopher
Sullivan, Julia
Verner, Elizabeth

HunterMaclean Critical Issues Forum Focuses on Cybersecurity

Savannah, Ga. – The 2017 HunterMaclean Critical Issues Forum on Cybersecurity took place on Thursday, April 27th at the Savannah Technical College Eckburg Auditorium. An audience of 150 local business and community leaders heard from notable panelists with a wide range of industry expertise address the practical business applications and opportunities within the field of cybersecurity.

Moderated by HunterMaclean partner Diana McKenzie, the panel included Kevin Mooney, Senior Director of Enterprise Data Governance at Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Sheryl Bunton, Chief Information Officer of Gulfstream Aerospace; and James Ainslie, Chief Executive Officer of Cape Augusta.

“Cybersecurity is a growing issue in our community and throughout the nation,” said McKenzie. “Today’s event addressed practical tactics and solutions that businesses and individuals can use to create and maintain a strong foundation to ensure their safety and growth.” The HunterMaclean Critical Issues Forum is an annual speaker series launched in 2004 that invites speakers to address an issue of importance to the community.



ABOUT HUNTERMACLEAN

With offices in Savannah and Brunswick, HunterMaclean has extensive experience representing businesses and individuals in all areas of business litigation as well as in corporate, tax, real estate, health care, information technology, and logistics law. The firm’s clients include Fortune 500 companies, banks, hospitals, professional service organizations, nonprofits, and start-up ventures. For more information about HunterMaclean, call 912.236.0261 or visit www.huntermaclean.com.



Annual Awards

The SBA proudly presented its annual awards to deserving recipients at its May luncheon.

Judge Edward Hester Award: Sandra Kent

Liberty Bell Award: Edward Gresham

John B. Miller Award: Catherine M. Bowman

Robbie Robinson Award: William S. Lewis



The Lawyer Pilots Bar Association Invites You to Join Its Summer Convention in Savannah

The Lawyer Pilots Bar Association (LPBA), a family friendly association of legal/aviation professionals and others interested in aviation safety and the law, is conducting its summer meeting at The Hyatt Regency on Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia, from Wednesday, July 12th through Sunday, July 16th, 2017 and invites all local Georgia flying attorneys to come and join in the fun, educational opportunities and camaraderie associated with this great event. The meeting is open to everyone who pays the registration fee and is not limited to members of the LPBA. The conference has been approved for Georgia CLE credits and will also satisfy the ethics credit requirements.

This promises to be a memorable convention, loaded with lectures and presentations of continuing legal education and many, many extra events, oftentimes including a golf tournament, running and walking events, tennis, skeet shooting, and weather permitting, some friendly local flying for members who have brought their own airplanes to the event.

The LPBA has been in existence since 1959 and has hundreds of national and international members. Dues is a reasonable \$119.00 per year which includes a quarterly law journal. Meetings such as these are also great family opportunities to gather, make new (and sometimes lifelong) friends, and network with colleagues in the field of aviation law. There is always something to do for kids, young adults and spouses alike during the morning meeting sessions. A stocked hospitality suite each evening and breakfast each morning is also provided with your convention registration fee. For more information check out the website at: <http://lpba.org> or call Executive Director Karen Griggs at (410) 571-1750.



Wade Herring Commencement



Wade Herring, a partner at HunterMaclean, welcomed the University of Georgia Law School Class of 2017 to the ranks of the alumni at graduation ceremonies on May 20, 2017. Wade is the outgoing president of the Law School Alumni Council.

Urging the graduates to stay connected to the law school and their fellow alumni, Herring stated in part: "Sooner than you can appreciate, your peers will become judges. You will wonder what to call them. My very serious graduation day advice to you is this: Call them 'Judge.' If they want you to call them something else, they will tell you. My graduation day prediction for you is this: They will not tell you."



Bouhan Falligant Partner One of the Nation's Top One Percent

Savannah, GA. – Bouhan Falligant announced Partner J. Daniel Falligant was recently recognized as a member of the "Top One Percent" of the attorneys in the nation by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel (NADC), an organization dedicated to promoting the highest standards of legal excellence.

By virtue of the selectivity of NADC's research process, less than 1% of practicing attorneys in the United States are members of the "Nation's Top Attorneys." The recipients of this prestigious award, who are selected by a blue ribbon panel of attorneys and a judicial review board, have demonstrated the highest ideals of the legal profession.

In addition to commercial and residential real estate, Falligant's practice focuses on business and corporate law. He has been named a Georgia "Super Lawyer" and "Legal Elite" by *Georgia Trend* and a "Best Lawyer in America" by *U.S. News & World Report*. He is a member of the Real Estate Section of the Georgia State Bar, a fellow in the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia, and served on the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors for 24 years.

Falligant, who earned his L.L.B. degree from Mercer University, has been active in the Savannah community for more than 45 years, serving on the advisory board of the Savannah Economic Development Authority and the Savannah Christian Preparatory School Board.



YLD Update

YLD members joined the SBA on the annual Admiral Harvey Weitz Boat Ride on April 21, 2017. Members set off from the scenic low country waterways of Savannah to the relaxing destination of Daufuskie Island. By the end of the afternoon, all had a long, full day enjoying the company and revelry of some of Savannah's finest advocates and story tellers.

The YLD helped organize the highly successful May 18, 2017, Law Day Event. Savannah Law Professor Caprice Roberts gave an instructive talk to the Savannah Bar Association on the Fourteenth Amendment. Recipients of the annual Law Day Awards were Chatham County State Court administrative assistant Sandra Kent, Chief Assistant Public Defender Bill Lewis, attorney Edward Gresham, and attorney Catherine Bowman.

On May 25, 2017, YLD members met at The Wyld Dock Bar to catch up and socialize for a leisurely evening of bocce, sunset, and cocktails. This event was made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Belford Title. Members are preparing for the 12th Annual Charity Golf Tournament has been set for June 2nd (Friday) at the Landings. The YLD has encouraged all members and alumni to field or join a team, and expects another full field this year.

All Savannah young lawyers are encouraged join the YLD, if they have not enrolled already. If interested, please contact Sam Mikell at smikell@olivermaner.com.

-Savannah YLD



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.