



# The Citation

## Letter from the President

Greetings from my Shelter in Place:

I predict “virtual” will be the 2020 word of the year.

While most SBA events have been cancelled since our last newsletter, things have been happening virtually. Our March 25 Pro Bono luncheon was cancelled, but the Pro Bono Committee published their award winners in the Savannah Morning News. Our association will determine how to further honor our Pro Bono award winners in the future. A statewide emergency judicial order issued by the Georgia Supreme Court remains in effect until May 13. It remains to be seen what will happen after that date, but some virtual court proceedings have been going forward along with virtual meetings, depositions, mediations, and real estate closings. The Savannah Bar Executive Committee held its regular April meeting virtually via Zoom for the first time in the history of our organization. It worked pretty well, but we could not figure out a way to hold our annual April Boat Ride or May Law Day Luncheon in a virtual format. Accordingly, our Boat Ride and Law Day traditions have been postponed. Thank you to Boat Ride Chair Langston Bass for his efforts to reschedule our Boat Ride for a Friday in late August or September and to the YLD and Law Day Chair Sam Mikell for continued work on the annual Law Day awards. Stay tuned for possible reset dates for the Boat Ride and Law Day celebration depending upon the state of our state and CDC guidelines for future gatherings.

Our annual third week in June Cocktail Party is still in the planning process, but we will not pay any deposits until we know it will be a go. The Executive Committee voted to donate the usual tips earned to those who would have served us at our March luncheon through the Savannah Golf Club and to donate the remaining budgeted amount for the March luncheon to the local charity, Meals for Medicals. The Exec Comm also decided that if future events must be cancelled, the budgeted amounts for those events will be donated to an appropriate charitable cause. At our May virtual Executive Committee meeting, we will discuss how to hold our annual meeting and elect new SBA officers virtually.

Be on the lookout in early May for an email from Hancock Askew and Constant Contact with instructions regarding how to complete the SBA Judicial Qualifications Survey. Your Savannah Bar Association will continue its efforts to keep you posted regarding legal developments during this pandemic. Stay tuned and stay safe.

Virtually yours,  
Leesa A. Bohler,  
SBA President





## SAVANNAH LAW FIRMS UNITE: Advisory Regarding Coronavirus Impact

In this time of uncertainty where the Coronavirus has begun to impact our community, the law firms listed below felt it important that we provide our clients, realtors, mortgage lenders and community with guidance, solutions and reassurance of measures we are taking to assist with closing transactions, our foremost concern being the health and safety of our families, clients and real estate professionals.

Our firms share much in common – longevity in the Savannah area and the local real estate community, similarly sized offices, a high degree of respect for each other and for the rules and laws that govern our profession. We care about each other and all of you individually, and we understand what makes a successful, proper real estate closing. We have collectively closed more properties in the Savannah area for more years than we can count and have always been deeply devoted to the needs of the local Savannah community. We will be here for you long after the Coronavirus passes.

We recognize that our business decisions are not just about us. Our ability to make safe decisions about closings during this crisis will impact individual home buyers and sellers, realtors, mortgage lenders, builders and many others who depend on us for their livelihoods. Our work enables the military service members relocating or the buyer family with a lease running out to move into their new homes. Our ability to close refinances enables those facing hard times to lower their monthly payments or to pull equity out of their homes to pay bills.

In the spirit of Teamwork, our firms have agreed to help each other in any way that we can and have implemented the following temporary closing options to allow business to move forward with minimal personal exposure for everyone's safety:

- 1) Our offices can provide an unaffiliated individual to act as Power of Attorney to execute all documents on your behalf, subject to lender approval if you are borrowing. All documents will be sent for your review and approval prior to Closing.
- 2) Our offices can email or Federal Express all documents (subject to timely receipt from Lender) for you to execute all documents prior to Closing except those requiring witness and notary public. All documents requiring Closing Attorney, witness, and notary public can be signed in our offices respective parking lot with the Closing Attorney avoiding any need to enter any enclosed space.
- 3) If necessary or strongly desired, we are happy to accommodate a closing in our offices subject to all CDC recommended precautions and procedures. We will ask that only the required parties to the closing attend. Obviously for the health and safety of all parties and our team members, this option is preferably reserved for those parties truly requiring an in-person closing in our offices.



We are all in this together. We will continue to monitor any developments and confer with each other on best temporary practices. In fact, the State Bar is currently working with the Governor trying to implement other temporary measures to allow closings to continue despite the circumstances. Please remain safe and healthy and follow the recommendations of our local, state and federal health professionals.



Best wishes from your friends:  
 DYCHES LAW GROUP  
 GARDNER LAW FIRM, LLC  
 HENDERSON LAW FIRM  
 KLEIN LAW GROUP, LLC  
 LEE BLACK & HOLLIS, PC  
 MCMANAMY JACKSON, PC  
 MCNAMARA ADAMS, PC  
 RUBNITZ THOMPSON ZIBLUT, LLC  
 WEINER SHEAROUSE, LLP  
 ZEIGLER & WALKER, PC



## Attorneys Needed to Help with COVID-19 Fallout

We’ve only just begun to feel the effects of COVID-19. With over six million Americans filing for unemployment, the pandemic has affected our ability to work, maintain housing, and access healthcare and educational services. Many will need assistance to navigate these potential legal problems.

Georgia Legal Services Program provides legal representation to low-income Americans. The GLSP Savannah Regional Office has ten staff attorneys covering eleven counties with over 100,000 people who qualify for service. With the increase in unemployment, the number of people who qualify for service will rise significantly. In 2019, the Savannah Regional Office accepted nearly 1500 cases for representation. Pro bono attorneys handled 15% of those cases.

Volunteer for quick and easy pro bono from your desk by providing 30-minute telephone consultations on legal issues, such as housing, employment, consumer, and military legal assistance. We provide training, support, and malpractice insurance for cases you handle for us. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pro Bono Lawyer-Coordinator Sarah J. Anderson at [sjanderson@glsp.org](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org) or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GAProBono> to sign up.

## Help Needed – TPO Need Expected to Increase

In this time of self-isolation, social distancing, and shelter-in-place orders, there is a concern that instances of domestic violence will increase. Where once survivors and children may have had some respite by going to work or school, isolation allows abusers more tactics to maintain control.

Volunteer attorneys are needed to provide legal services to TPO petitioners. Petitioners may need advice and council on filing an initial petition and appearing at an ex parte hearing or may need representation at a second TPO hearing. We provide training, support, and malpractice insurance for cases you handle for us. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pro Bono TPO Lawyer-Coordinator Sarah J. Anderson at [sjanderson@glsp.org](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org) or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GAProBono> to sign up.



## Fighting COVID-19 Together with United Way

Submitted by Kate Strain, Shay Bowen and David Burkoff

United, now as always, we face a new challenge. COVID-19 has led to the closure and reduction of many businesses and services, leaving many hardworking people without jobs. If you, or someone you care about, is suffering the ramifications of this crisis, please reach out to 211, United Way's resource and referral line. They are ready to help.

If you are able to continue to work, please be as careful and vigilant as you can. If you are able, please join hands with United Way as we continue to help our community. United Way has responded quickly by creating the COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund with an initial goal of \$200,000. This fund will assist local residents with rent, mortgage, and utility payments when grace periods are not offered. It will also provide financial assistance for additional critical needs such as medical expenses and child care.

United Way jump started the fund by releasing \$80,000, and now we are asking the legal community to join us. As we conquer this storm, the more we work together the stronger we become! To donate, simply text UWCOVID19 to 41444, or go to [uwce.org](http://uwce.org) and click "Give Help." You can also send a check to United Way of the Coastal Empire, Inc. at 428 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

SBA members Kate Strain, Shay Bowen and David Burkoff serve on the United Way Campaign Committee

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## Highlights of Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

Submitted by Kristin W. Goodman

The Coronavirus ("C-19") pandemic has had, and will likely continue to have, an unprecedented impact on our work life. On March 18, 2020, the President signed into law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) to address some of the most compelling challenges facing employers and employees as a result of the C-19 crisis.

### New Employee Leave Laws

The FFCRA provides two new paid leave entitlements for eligible employees of any employer who has between 1 and 500 employees. First, the Employee Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA) requires an employer to provide paid sick leave for up to 80 hours for full time employees, and in an amount equal to the average number of hours the part time employee worked over a two-week period. Importantly, this leave is only available if the employee cannot work or telework for specific reasons related to C-19, including being subject to quarantine or isolation order, having or seeking a diagnosis of C-19 from a health care provider, caring for one subject to such an order or health care provider's directive, or to care for a child whose school is closed and/or child care provider is not available due to the pandemic.

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**Kristin W. Goodman**  
Partner  
Hail, Gilligan, Roberts &  
Shanlever LLP





In addition, the FFCRA amends the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to provide a new emergency leave for those who must care for a child due to a school or child care closure or unavailability of the child's caregiver. This Emergency Family and Medical Leave (E-FMLA) is, again, mandated for any employers with 1-500 employees. This is in contrast to the FMLA, which only applies to employers with 50 or more employees. The E-FMLA requires the employer to provide employees who have been employed for longer than 30 days who need child-care related leave with up to twelve weeks of leave. The first ten days of the E-FMLA are unpaid; however, the employer must pay the employee 2/3 of his regular pay (up to \$200 per day) for up to a maximum of ten additional weeks.

A business with less than 50 employees may be exempt from providing paid leave due to C-19 related school or place of care closure or child care unavailability if doing so would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern. Note that there is no exemption from providing paid leave for reasons related to the employee's quarantine or illness or their need to care for a dependent in similar circumstances.

### **Available Tax Credits**

The legislation provides employers a payroll tax break to help finance the cost of the EPSLA and E-FMLA leave. This credit allows employers to offset the cost of leave in a dollar for dollar deduction from what the employer would otherwise owe in payroll taxes. In cases of over payment, a refund will be provided to the employer. It is critical that the employer document the need for and length of leave and all payments associated with these paid leave benefits in order to take advantage of the payroll tax credit.

### **Options in the Cessation or Reduction of Business**

Employers who must lay off or reduce the hours of employees due to C-19 related operational decline may file for enhanced temporary or partial unemployment benefits for their employees. Employees receiving unemployment benefits due to business cessation are not entitled to paid leave under the FFCRA.

### **Ongoing Guidance from DOL, IRS**

The Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service have provided interpretive guidance on the provisions of the FFCRA on five separation occasions since March 18. Understanding the details of the legislation, and the rights and obligations of both employers and employees, is critical to successfully navigating the "new normal" in our workplaces.

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## **GLSP Recognizes Fair Housing Month**

April 11, 2020, marked the 52nd anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, a federal law protecting against discrimination in most private and public housing based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

In recognition of this event, Georgia Legal Services Program's Equal Justice Works Georgia Housing Corps Fellow, Alison Slagowitz, published an essay entitled Landlord Liability for Tenant-on-Tenant Discrimination under the Fair Housing Act in the Spring 2020 issue of the Federal Bar Association Civil Rights Law Section's Newsletter, The Civil Rights Insider. For those interested, the newsletter can be downloaded here: <https://www.fedbar.org/civil-rights-law-section/civilrights/civil-rights-insider/>



Additionally, the Shriver Center on Poverty Law selected Ms. Slagowitz along with two of her GLSP colleagues for inclusion in the Center's Racial Justice Institute to explore disparate impact discrimination of Black people caused by policies to deny housing applications and evict tenants after learning of the tenant's criminal history. Barring people from housing based on criminal history excludes people of color disproportionately. Nationwide, Black people are arrested at a rate more than double their proportion of the general population and imprisoned at a rate about three times higher than their proportion of the general population. Black men are imprisoned at a rate almost six times greater than white men. In Georgia, Black residents make up about 30.5 percent of the population, but 62 percent of those are incarcerated in Georgia prisons. As a result of these and other disparities in arrests and prosecutions, barring people based solely on criminal history will disproportionately harm people of color.



## Georgia Legal Services Program

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### GLSP Thanks 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 Project in the first quarter of 2020. With the help of these volunteers, we were able to serve 65 people who might not otherwise have received assistance. 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.

Solomon Amusan, The Amusan Law Firm PC  
Keith Barber, Gabe T. Cliett PC  
Richard Barid, Smith Barid LLC  
Thomas Bateski, Thomas R. Bateski, Esq. PC  
Britt Beecher, Farah & Farah PA  
Clete Bergen, Attorney at Law  
James Blackburn Jr., Wiseman Blackburn LLC  
Elizabeth Branch, The Branch Law Firm LLC  
Dana Braun, Ellis, Painer, Ratterree & Adams LLP  
Marc Bruce, Edenfield Cox Bruce  
Ted Carellas, Carellas Law Firm,  
Dolly Chisholm, Bouhan Falligant LLP  
Dottie Courington, Bouhan Falligant LLP  
Will Cubbedge, Law Office of William A. Cubbedge  
Rachel Edwards, Wright & Edwards PC  
Gwendolyn Fortson Waring, Attorney at Law  
Freddie Heitmann, Heitmann & Associates LLC  
Doug Herman, Michael G. Hostilo, LLC  
Kathy Horne, Bouhan Falligant LLP

Derek Kauhane, Attorney at Law  
Shalena Jones, The Law Office of Shalena Cook Jones LLC  
Melanie Marks, Bouhan Falligant LLP  
Elaine, McGruder, Emeritus  
Jerold Murray, Law Office of Jerold L. Murray LLC  
Paige Navarro, Hall Law Group PC  
Virginia Patterson, Law Office of Virginia E. Patterson PC  
Janice Powell, Attorney-Mediator  
Rick Rafter, The Rafter Law Firm LLC  
Francesca Rehal, Attorney at Law  
Kran Riddle, Law Offices of R. Krannert Riddle LLC  
Christopher Rouse, Rouse + Copeland LLC  
Richard Sanders, Andrews & Sanders Law Offices  
Mark Schaefer, Elder Law Office of Mark Schaefer PC  
Bryan Schivera, Oliver Maner LLP  
Julia Sullivan, The Sullivan Law Firm  
Lew Tippet, Tippet Legal Services LLC  
Joey Turner, The Turner Firm, LLC  
Nathanael Wright, Law Office of Nathanael E. Wright

Pro bono publico – “for the public good”. It makes the communities we practice in stronger. For more information on the Pro Bono Project or to volunteer, contact Pro Bono Lawyer-Coordinator Sarah J. Anderson at [sjanderson@glsp.org](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org) or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GAProBono> to sign up.

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## Harris Lowry Manton LLP Helps Donate 1,000 Protective Masks to Savannah-Area First Responders

Harris Lowry Manton LLP, an award-winning law firm with offices in Atlanta and Savannah, recently joined forces with Nine Line Apparel to donate free 1,000 protective masks to Savannah-area first responders serving on the front line of the battle against the spread of the coronavirus. Organizations receiving the mask donations include the Savannah Fire Department, Savannah Police Department, Chatham EMS, Chatham County Sheriff's Office and Chatham County Police Department.

This donation is part of Nine Line's new "Masks for Heroes" initiative, a campaign focused on donating American-made protective masks to essential workers in the healthcare, first responder and military communities. Harris Lowry Manton LLP is a partner in the Masks for Heroes initiative.

At a special event on April 23, Harris Lowry Manton LLP founding partner Steve Lowry explained that the masks were developed to help solve the current Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shortage in the United States. "We're glad we can play a part in helping out and making these masks available to first responders who need them," said Lowry. "We believe that first responders are truly the backbone of our community and want them to help keep them safe."

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is currently in short supply, and the Masks for Heroes initiative is leading the fight to solve this critical shortage, creating a reusable, patent-pending, injection molded, American-made protective mask. Each mask comes with a 10-pack of pre-cut, replaceable filter material.

"As first responders, we are facing many challenges during this pandemic and one of the biggest problems we're facing is the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment," said Savannah Fire Department Chief Derek Minard. "With the development of this mask, we will be able to help us stretch our resources for our various agencies. We're extremely grateful."

### ABOUT MASKS FOR HEROES:

As the nation comes together in extraordinary ways to battle COVID-19, Nine Line Apparel is proud to announce its "Masks for Heroes" initiative – a campaign to donate new American-made protective masks to those in the healthcare, first responder and military communities. As a U.S.-based, veteran-owned manufacturer, Nine Line recently joined the fight to solve the country's critical shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and began shipping their first protective masks to consumers. Nine Line has pledged to donate one mask for each one purchased on its website to these service sectors in need. To learn more, or to purchase a mask and support the Masks for Heroes campaign, visit [ninelineapparel.com](http://ninelineapparel.com).

### ABOUT NINE LINE:

Founded by patriots for patriots, Nine Line is determined to ensure the survival of liberty and true American values. As a lifestyle brand, Nine Line symbolizes the distress call echoed on the battlefield to protect our nation's heroes. The company offers a full line of clothing, gear and other items for men, women and children. At its core, Nine Line is a give-back organization, forever striving to be its brother's keeper, and encouraging others to do the same. For more information, visit [ninelineapparel.com](http://ninelineapparel.com).







## HunterMaclean Listed in Prestigious Chambers USA 2020 Guide

HunterMaclean, a leading business law firm with offices in Savannah and St. Simons Island, was recently ranked in the exclusive Chambers USA 2020. Chambers USA is compiled through a research-based review that evaluates the multiple practice areas of hundreds of law firms through investigative research and interviews with attorneys and their clients.

HunterMaclean received rankings in Labor and Employment and Litigation: General Commercial. Attorneys highlighted for their work within Labor and Employment include Wade Herring, Shawn Kachmar, and Sarah Lamar.

“We are honored to once again be included within this prestigious publication,” said HunterMaclean managing partner Brad Harmon. “This recognition is a testament to our attorneys’ commitment to their individual practices, clients, and our community.”

Considered the most trusted law resource guide worldwide, Chambers USA is the result of thousands of in-depth interviews by the largest research team of its kind that is trusted across the globe to objectively rank the world’s best lawyers and law firms.



Wade Herring



Shawn Kachmar



Sarah Lamar



Click [here](#) for your recordings and use this pause to brush up on the basics of digital marketing.

Chuck Boyle, CEO, Skyline Bay Area





## Oliver Maner Partner Timothy D. Roberts Joins International Association of Defense Counsel

Oliver Maner LLP, an award-winning law firm providing superior legal services since 1897, is pleased to announce firm partner and leading civil trial lawyer Timothy D. Roberts, has accepted an invitation to join the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), the preeminent invitation-only global legal organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests.

“I am honored to be invited as a new member of the prestigious International Association of Defense Counsel to work alongside other corporate defense lawyers and insurance executives who rely on the organization to provide valuable, high-level education and professional development opportunities,” said Roberts.

A Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent Rated lawyer, Roberts is highly regarded for his work as a civil trial lawyer with more than 26 years of experience spent serving in the litigation section of the firm. Career accolades include consecutive years ranking as a top lawyer in commercial litigation in Georgia including Georgia Rising Stars, Georgia Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers in America, and Savannah Business Journals’ 40 Business Leaders Under 40.



Timothy D. Roberts

Roberts is admitted to practice before all Georgia state courts and the United States District Courts for the Southern, Middle, and Northern Districts of Georgia as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Savannah Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

### About the International Association of Defense Counsel

The IADC is the preeminent invitation-only global legal organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests. Founded in 1920, the IADC’s members hail from six continents, 51 countries and territories, and all 50 U.S. states. The core purposes of the IADC are to enhance the development of skills, promote professionalism, and facilitate camaraderie among its members, their clients, as well as the broader civil justice community. For more information, visit [www.iadclaw.org](http://www.iadclaw.org).



## McCorkle & Johnson, LLP Announces New Name & Partners

McCorkle & Johnson, LLP has changed its name to McCorkle, Johnson & McCoy, LLP. The Savannah based firm continues its specialized practice in real estate and construction law. The firm is also proud to announce that Catherine M. Bolger and Colby E. Longley have been named partners.

Mrs. Bolger joined the firm in 2009 and focuses her litigation practice primarily in the areas of construction law, real estate disputes, landlord-tenant law, and municipal law. Mrs. Bolger is licensed in both Georgia and South Carolina and has practiced in both state and federal court.



Catherine M. Bolger



Colby E. Longley

Mr. Longley joined the firm in 2008, and is also licensed in Georgia and South Carolina. Mr. Longley focuses his practice in the areas of construction, real estate, and business litigation, and condominium and homeowner association law.



A food and fund drive competition among all Georgia lawyers.

*April 20 - May 1, 2020*

1 in 5 kids in Georgia is at risk for hunger.  
*You can help.*

Join the Office of the Attorney General, the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar, and the Georgia Food Bank Association for this two-week competition to see who can have the biggest impact on hunger.

The food & funds you raise stay in your community and benefit your local food bank, but the competition - *and the glory* - is statewide.

Learn more & sign up at  
[GaLegalFoodFrenzy.org](http://GaLegalFoodFrenzy.org)









## 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](mailto:SBACitation@gmail.com) with submissions or inquiries.