



The Citation

Law Day Awards Presented at SBA Luncheon

On May 26, 2022, the Savannah Bar Association held its annual Law Day luncheon at the Savannah Golf Club. Law Day is held on May 1st every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession. The Law Day 2022 theme was “The Constitution in Times of Change.” As the American Bar Association puts it:

The Constitution is a dynamic document, as it not only outlines a blueprint for government, but also delegates power, articulates rights, and offers mechanisms for change. It is neither perfect, nor exhaustive, as our nation’s history makes clear. Legislation, court rulings, amendments, lawyers, and “we the people” have built upon those original words across generations to attempt to make the “more perfect Union” more real. That effort continues today, as contemporary leaders and everyday citizens raise their voices as loud as ever to fulfill the promise of the Constitution. Defining and refining those words of the Constitution might be our oldest national tradition, and how each of us works—together—toward a more perfect Union.

See https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/.

In keeping with these themes, our keynote speaker at the luncheon was The Honorable Timothy R. Walmsley of the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia. Judge Walmsley presided over the murder trial of Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael, and William Bryan in Glynn County in connection with the February 23, 2020 killing of Ahmaud Arbery. On November 24, 2021, all three defendants were convicted of murder. In his speech, Judge Walmsley discussed the rights guaranteed to all criminal defendants by the Constitution and the importance of ensuring a fair and impartial trial.



The Honorable Timothy R. Walmsley

Additionally, the Young Lawyers Division of the SBA presented the following awards at the luncheon:

Judge Edward Hester Award: Recognizes outstanding local courthouse personnel who have been of particular assistance to the members of the local bar. The 2022 recipient of the Hester Award was Kara Mobley.



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. The 2022 recipient of the Liberty Bell Award was Jill Cheeks.

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. The 2022 recipient of the Robinson Award was Sandra Saseen-Smith.

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 2022 recipient of the Miller Award was Craig Call.

Last, but certainly not least, luncheon attendees voted to approve the following slate of 2022-2023 SBA officers:

- President: K. Paul Johnson
- President-Elect: Richard A. Sanders, Jr.
- Treasurer: Leslie Cecil Keene
- Secretary: Julia H. Sullivan

The investiture of these officers will take place at the SBA's Annual Cocktail Party on June 16, 2022.



Kara Mobley



Jill Cheeks



Sandra Saseen-Smith



Craig Call



Savannah Bar Association

*Invites you and a guest
to celebrate the closing of our
bar year at our*

Annual Cocktail Party

**Thursday, June 16, 2022
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



Join us at

The Charles H. Morris Center at Trustees' Garden

10 East Broad Street,
Savannah, GA 31401
Business casual attire

In addition to the investiture
of the 2022-2023 SBA Officers, SBA will present
the **Judge Eugene Gadsden Scholarship** &
the **Judge Phyllis Kravitch Scholarship** &
the **Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Professionalism Award**

This event is proudly sponsored by
Miles Mediation & Arbitration



Please review our [Guest Policy](#) at

<https://www.savannahbar.org/resources/Documents/SBAGuest%20Policy.pdf>

before registering guests. If you plan to bring more than one guest, kindly contact the SBA for guest fees prior to this event.

RSVP at <https://www.savannahbar.org/event-4433706> by June 14th to attend this event.



YLD Holds May Happy Hour

On May 26, 2022, the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association held its monthly happy hour at Abe's on Lincoln. Thanks to all who attended, and especially to Ohana Spine & Ortho Care of Pooler for generously sponsoring the event!

Fun Fact: Did you know that Lincoln Street is named not after U.S. President Abraham Lincoln but instead after Revolutionary War general Benjamin Lincoln? Born in 1733, Lincoln fought in the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, surrendered to the British in the Siege of Charleston in 1780, and accepted the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. From 1781 to 1783, he served as the first U.S. Secretary of War. Later active in politics as a member of the Federalist Party, Lincoln died in Massachusetts in 1810.





Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe opening office in Richmond Hill

The law firm of Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe is welcoming longtime Richmond Hill attorney Jim Gardner as of-counsel attorney and opening a fully staffed office located at 10385 Ford Avenue in Richmond Hill dedicated to serving Bryan County and southeast Georgia.

Mr. Gardner will bring his many years of experience and expertise to the firm while working with Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe partner, Christopher R. Lane, in the management of the day-to-day activities of the Richmond Hill office. The WSWG office in Richmond Hill will concentrate on real estate, civil litigation, estate planning, estate planning litigation and general business law.

Mr. Gardner has practiced law in Georgia and South Carolina for more than 40 years in the areas of commercial and residential real estate, civil litigation, estate planning and probate in addition to general business law. Mr. Lane's practice focuses on commercial and residential real estate, estate planning and probate in addition to general business law.

“Our firm is proud to add Mr. Gardner, who has earned an outstanding reputation while serving Richmond Hill and southeast Georgia during his storied career,” said Lane, who often represents buyers, sellers, lenders, landlords, tenants, builders and homeowner associations in various transactional matters. “It’s exciting for WSWG to be able to expand our firm’s footprint with a fully staffed office in Richmond Hill to serve clients in Bryan, Liberty and Long counties as well as the surrounding areas with the same approach the firm has embraced and embodied for more than 60 years. We recognize that the area is rapidly expanding, and we look forward to our firm being part of that dynamic growth.”

Bryan County has experienced enormous growth during the past two decades and is poised to grow more with the recent announcement that Hyundai Motor Group will open its first fully dedicated electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility at the Bryan County megasite. The facility is expected to generate more than 8,000 new jobs in the area.

In addition to the practice of law, Mr. Gardner has been an active member of the Richmond Hill community, including serving on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Richmond Hill and the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill. He is a former Board member and Chairman of the Richmond Hill/Bryan County Chamber of Commerce and past President of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill.



Jim Gardner



Chris Lane



“These are exciting times for Richmond Hill and Bryan County, and I am delighted to be able to join a firm such as Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe with its many capable and experienced attorneys and staff,” Gardner said. “The merger of my practice into WSWG will tremendously increase the level of legal services and resources that we offer to residents of Richmond Hill and surrounding areas, especially with an office conveniently located to meet the needs of our clients.”

WSWG has offices in Savannah and Bluffton, S.C., and has been the most trusted law firm in Savannah, coastal Georgia and the South Carolina Lowcountry for more than 60 years, with a long history of representing clients in Chatham County, Bryan County, Effingham County, Liberty County, Long County and southeast Georgia. The firm is composed of 15 attorneys who embrace a shared value system that prioritizes the importance of our clients, respect for the practice of law and our legal and judicial system as well as the ethical responsibilities of attorneys.

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

STLA Awards 2022 Scholarship

On May 31, 2022, The Savannah Trial Lawyers Association (STLA) awarded its 2022 scholarship to Tyler Schell of Richmond Hill High School, who will be attending Georgia Southern University in the fall.

Pictured left to right: Ben Davidson (The Cornwell Firm), STLA Scholarship Chair; Tyler Schell, scholarship awardee; Danny Justus (Lasky Cooper Law), STLA President.





Judge Salinas’s Top 10 Reasons to Do Pro Bono ^[1]

Catherine Salinas is a United States Magistrate Judge in the Northern District of Georgia and past-president of Atlanta Legal Aid. Currently she serves as the chair of the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Shea Conlan is the Development & Communications Coordinator at Atlanta Legal Aid. Together they bring you this Top Ten list.^[2]

#10 The Rules of Professional Conduct

The Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and the ABA Model Rules state that a lawyer should aspire to render at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services per year. These aspirational goals exist to help even the legal playing field.

#9 Billable Hours

Many firms give billable credit to their lawyers for pro bono work. (Psst . . . if you’re in a decision-making position at a firm, you should give your lawyers billable credit for fulfilling their 50 hours of pro bono!) It’s a no brainer to take advantage of the opportunity to give back to the community and get billable credit at the same time. Your volunteer hours could be the difference between someone remaining in their home or ending up on the streets.

#8 First Chair Experience

Pro bono cases give you the opportunity to have direct client contact, make decisions, and lead your own case. If you are longing for first-chair experience, this is it! Georgia Legal Services Program offers extensive support to volunteers, so you can practice a new area of law without fear.

#7 You Pick the Case

You’re the boss when doing pro bono. You can choose what type of case you want to work on, choose your client, and learn a new area of law. It can be a refreshing break from the grind of your day job.

#6 It Feels Good

Pro bono work feels good – It’s as simple as that. It’s a way to do something that feels unequivocally right. In our fast-paced, uncertain world, volunteering can help relieve the anxiety of everyday life. It also gives you a sense of agency. You may not be able to change the world, but you can make your corner of it a better place.

#5 Judges Like It

That’s right – an unexpected perk of pro bono is that it offers a way to get in good with judges. Having pro se litigants is hard for judges, and it’s easier for everyone involved if the parties are represented by a lawyer. Judge Salinas encourages lawyers to let judges know when they are doing a case pro bono, and she always gives them a positive shout out.

¹ Used with Judge Salinas’s permission.

² You can access Rule 6.1 Voluntary Pro Bono Public Service at <https://duejusticedo50.org/georgia-bar-rule-6-1/> and other information about pro bono work at <https://duejusticedo50.org/read-more/> (last accessed 5/7/2022).



#4 Meet Real Clients

Many newer lawyers don't often get to speak with real clients. Helping a low-income person in need can be an opportunity to interact directly with a client who needs your help, and then see first-hand how your efforts pay off. It's gratifying to see the impact you are making on someone.

#3 Appreciate What You Have

Let's face it: We all get caught up in our day-to-day lives and sometimes forget to practice gratitude. Pro bono work keeps you focused on what's important in your life and gives you an outlet to practice empathy.

#2 There's Great Need

There is a massive need for more lawyers for low-income Americans. In fact, there's just one legal aid lawyer for every 8,893 low-income Americans who qualify for legal aid.³ This means that people who are dealing with domestic violence, facing eviction, or getting access to life-saving public benefits often must go it alone. But you can help by volunteering pro bono!

#1 Brag at Cocktail Parties

Many years ago, Judge Salinas worked on a pro bono case involving an ADA access issue. Judge Salinas still brags about it years later. Pro bono work is a good way to use your law degree in a way that non-lawyers can really relate to. Talking about your pro bono work shows you in a good light and reflects well on the bar. We encourage bragging about your good deeds – it's how we spread the word that lawyers are good people doing amazing things, and it's a nice counterbalance to lawyer jokes.



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 Atlanta.
To volunteer, contact Sarah J. Anderson at sjanderson@glsp.org
or sign up online at <https://www.glsp.org/volunteer-2/>

³ In Georgia, there is just one legal aid lawyer for every 20,000 low-income Americans who qualify for legal aid. For more information on Attorney Access, visit the National Center for Access to Justice- Justice Index 2020 at <https://ncaj.org/state-rankings/2020/attorney-access> (last accessed 4/14/2022).



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.