



# The Citation

## State Bar President Speaks at Luncheon

On November 18, 2021, the Savannah Bar Association held its monthly luncheon at the Savannah Golf Club. The guest speaker was Elizabeth L. Fite, the 59th President of the State Bar of Georgia. Elizabeth spoke about the clients' security fund, which provides monetary relief to clients who suffer reimbursable losses as a result of dishonest conduct by members of the State Bar, and about the law practice management program, which provides resources and training in office management. She also encouraged attendance at the State Bar's 2022 Midyear Meeting, which will take place on January 6-8, 2022, at The Westin Buckhead Atlanta.



Additionally, resolutions were presented in honor of the late David Hilton Fritts, who passed away on March 29, 2020, and H. Mitchell Dunn, Jr., who passed away on September 6, 2020. Mitchell's wife Polly spoke on her late husband's behalf.



The SBA's next event will be the annual Oyster Roast, which will take place at 6:00 PM on December 9, 2021, at the Pin Point Heritage Museum.



David Hilton Fritts



H. Mitchell Dunn, Jr.





## 2022 Georgia High School Mock Trial Announcement

The 2022 Georgia High School Mock Trial Regional Competition will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022, and the District Competition on Saturday, March 5, 2022. The Mock Trial Division of the State Bar of Georgia is still working out logistics for the competition dates. No matter the format, we still need to recruit judging panel members like you!

The Regional and District High School Mock Trial Competition is always much more fun than you expect it to be and you don't have to do much prep work. These kids work so hard during the year and deserve good lawyers (LIKE YOU!) to evaluate them. We need approximately 72 volunteers for each day of competition so please consider helping with this worthwhile program!

Judging panel volunteers may claim 1 CLE credit hour (both general and trial) for each level of the competition. Volunteers in the Savannah Region could earn up to 2 CLE credits hours this year. To claim the credit the minimum fee is required, and the regional coordinator can provide additional information on the competition date(s).

Savannah's Regional/District High School Mock Trial Competition is a great experience for both judges and students. If you can help for any round on the competition dates, kindly contact local coordinator Craig Call at [ccall@smaclegal.com](mailto:ccall@smaclegal.com). Please be sure to state if you are willing to serve as the "presiding judge" when you volunteer.

Also, multiple local high schools are seeking attorney-coaches for their mock trial programs. If you are interested in serving as an attorney-coach for a local team, please contact Craig Call at the above email address for more information.

Thank you in advance!



## New Attorneys Sworn In

On November 3, 2021, Chief Judge Gregory V. Sapp of the State Court of Chatham County swore in five new attorneys at the Chatham County Courthouse:

- Christina Ling of the Conner Law Group
- Julia Ritch of Bouhan Falligant
- Robert Hurst of HunterMaclean
- Matthew Repella of Brennan & Wasden LLC
- Cole Donahue of Savage, Turner, Pinckney & Savage

Please congratulate our newest members of the State Bar! Many thanks to Judge Sapp and to Tammie Mosley, Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court, for hosting the event. Thanks also to the Young Lawyers Division for organizing.



Christina Ling



Julia Ritch



Robert Hurst



Matthew Repella



Cole Donahue





## YLD Celebrates Happy Hour

The Young Lawyers Division held its monthly networking event at The Lost Square at The Alida Hotel rooftop on November 18, 2021. The event was also attended by members of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (“GAWL”). Many thanks to McKee Court Reporting, Inc., for generously sponsoring the event!

The YLD will celebrate its annual Holiday Party on December 17, at 7:00 PM. Please RSVP at <http://evite.me/9FQ3VqhHCQ>.





# THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION OF THE SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

## NEW MEMBER/RENEWAL FORM 2021-2022

### WHAT IS THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (YLD)?

The Savannah YLD is a subgroup of the Savannah Bar Association, and any local attorney under the age of 35, or who has been admitted to practice less than 5 years, is invited to join. Local attorneys who are waiting on Georgia Bar Exam results are also invited to join. YLD hosts many social activities and service projects throughout the year. Upcoming events include regular happy hours at favorite establishments, the annual holiday party, and the annual charity golf event.

### HOW DOES YLD SERVE THE COMMUNITY?

YLD participates in many service projects during the year including High School Mock Trial, Law Week, Over the Edge for Boy Scouts of America, and preparing a meal for the Ronald McDonald House.

### WHAT CAN YLD DO FOR YOU?

YLD provides many opportunities for young lawyers to:

- Socialize and network with other young lawyers
- Meet and work with members of the “Big Bar” (the Savannah Bar Association)
- Learn more about the community through service projects
- Get involved with the State YLD

### HOW DO I JOIN?

Complete and return the form below with your check to Haley Allen at the address below. If you have any questions, please contact Haley Allen at (912) 421-9988 or [savannahyld@gmail.com](mailto:savannahyld@gmail.com).

---

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE 2021-2022 YEAR ARE:

**\$60.00 for private sector**

**\$30.00 for government/public sector including judicial clerks**

Please complete and return this portion with your check made payable to Savannah Young Lawyers Division to:

Rahimi, Hughes & Padgett, LLC

Attn: Haley Allen

33 Bull Street, Suite 590

Savannah, Georgia 31401

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Harris Lowry Manton LLP Hosts 8th Annual First Responder Appreciation Event in Savannah, Ga., Serving Record 500 Meals

Harris Lowry Manton LLP, an award-winning trial law firm with offices in Savannah and Atlanta, hosted the 8th Annual First Responder Appreciation Event at Daffin Park in Savannah, Ga. on Oct. 28, with attorneys and paralegals serving 500 free hot meals to first responders from across the area, which was an all-time record. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 event was drive-through only for the second consecutive year.

“This event is a small but important way to honor the brave first responders who put their lives on the line in emergency situations, each and every day,” said Harris Lowry Manton LLP partner Steve Lowry. “Eight years ago, we decided to host an annual event to express our gratitude to local first responders, who work hard to keep our community safe. The pandemic has been particularly challenging for front-line first responders, so we wanted to be sure to carry on this annual tradition, rain or shine.”

The popular annual event attracted police officers, firefighters, paramedics and other first responders from across Chatham County and the surrounding area. Local dignitaries including Savannah Police Department Chief Roy Minter, City of Savannah Alderman Detric Leggett and Alderman Linda Wilder-Bryan attended the event and helped serve meals to local first responders.

“We very much appreciate Harris Lowry Manton LLP recognizing our first responders and their service to the community,” said paramedic Chuck Kearns, CEO of Chatham Emergency Services. “Our dispatchers and support personnel were extremely thankful for lunch as well.”

The event, which took place on National First Responders Day, included free hamburgers and BBQ pork lunches catered by Chef Kirk Blaine and complimentary giveaways for all first responders. All meals were available to-go, including more than 200 pre-orders.





## Bouhan Falligant Honored with Seven First-Tier Rankings in 2022 Edition of U.S. News - Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms”

Bouhan Falligant was recently recognized by the 2022 edition of *U.S. News-Best Lawyers* “Best Law Firms”<sup>®</sup> with prestigious first-tier rankings in seven practice areas: Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Elder Law, Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants, Product Liability Litigation-Defendants, Professional Malpractice Law-Defendants, Real Estate Law. The final rankings are published on the U.S. News website.

Firms honored with a first-tier “Best Law Firms” ranking are selected based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes the collection of client and lawyer evaluations, peer review from leading attorneys in their field, and review of additional information provided by law firms as part of the formal submission process.

In addition, Bouhan Falligant was also recognized nationally for the firm’s work in Education Law, Insurance Law, Litigation-Real Estate, Trusts & Estates Law, Workers’ Compensation Law-Employers, and Medical Malpractice Law-Defendants.

---

## Brennan & Wasden Recognized in the 2022 Edition of “Best Law Firms”

Brennan & Wasden, a leading law firm based in Savannah, Georgia, is pleased to announce it has been recognized in the 2022 edition of “Best Law Firms” by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers*. The firm received rankings in the following categories: Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants; Litigation – Construction; Litigation – Real Estate; Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants; and Commercial Litigation.

Brennan & Wasden, LLC is a full-service law firm serving businesses, professionals, and individuals throughout Georgia and the Carolinas. For over 30 years, the firm has built a reputation for client service and results. At Brennan & Wasden, we strive to deliver effective representation through close collaboration and ongoing communication with the clients we serve. Please visit [www.brennanwasden.com](http://www.brennanwasden.com) or call (912) 232-6700 to learn more about Brennan & Wasden.



## HunterMaclean Honored with Fourteen First-Tier Rankings in U.S. News – Best Lawyers® 2022 “Best Law Firms”

HunterMaclean, a business law firm with offices in Savannah and St. Simons Island, was honored to be recognized with fourteen first-tier rankings in the 2021 edition of U.S. News – Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms.” The complete list of rankings is published on the *U.S. News* website.

First published in 1983, Best Lawyers is recognized as one of the oldest and most esteemed peer review guides in the legal profession worldwide. Thousands of firms nationwide are considered through a detailed evaluation process before *U.S. News and Best Lawyers* make selections for a first-tier “Best Law Firms” ranking.

HunterMaclean received first-tier rankings in the following practice areas:

- Admiralty & Maritime Law
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law
- Corporate Law
- Employment Law – Management
- Insurance Law
- Litigation – Construction
- Litigation – Insurance
- Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants
- Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants
- Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- Railroad/Transportation Law
- Real Estate Law
- Trusts & Estates Law

HunterMaclean also received rankings in Health Care Law, Tax Law, and Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants. In addition to these rankings, thirty-one HunterMaclean attorneys were selected earlier this year for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*© 2022.

*Best Lawyers* is compiled based on extensive peer review evaluations from well-respected attorneys in similar practice areas, client and lawyer evaluations, and additional information included in the formal submission process. Reviews are based on several factors including expertise, integrity, responsiveness, understanding of a business and its needs, cost-effectiveness, civility, and the rate of referrals.





## Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP listed in 2022 “Best Law Firms” by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers

Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP is included in 2022 U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” rankings in the areas of Litigation - Real Estate, Real Estate Law, Municipal Law and Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants.

Firms included in the 2022 Edition of “Best Law Firms” are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise.

The firm’s Litigation – Real Estate and Real Estate Law practices received a Tier 1 ranking and the firm’s Municipal Law and Personal Injury Law – Defendant practices received a Tier 2 ranking. The “Best Law Firms” rankings are based on a combination of client feedback, information provided on the Law Firm Survey, the Law Firm Leaders Survey and peer review. ‘Best Lawyers’ is the oldest and most respected peer review publication in the legal profession, and a listing in “Best Lawyers” or “Best Law Firms” is widely regarded as a significant honor.

Please go to [www.wswgs.com](http://www.wswgs.com) to learn more about Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg and Shawe, LLP.

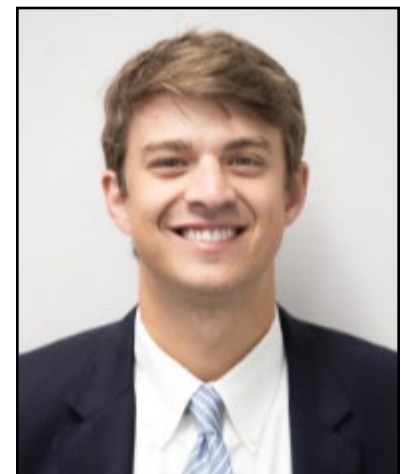
---

## Bouhan Falligant Hires Attorney Gary J. McGinty

Bouhan Falligant announced it has hired Gary J. McGinty as an associate attorney in its litigation group. McGinty’s practice will focus primarily on transportation and logistics, medical malpractice, maritime, and products liability.

A Savannah native, McGinty earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in May of 2019, where he was a Georgia Law Scholar. He earned his undergraduate degree from Oglethorpe University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, where he was a Presidential Scholar and was a member of the Men’s Basketball Team.

Prior to joining the firm, McGinty was a Litigation Associate with Drew, Eckl & Farnham in Atlanta. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and admitted to practice in Georgia State and Superior Courts as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia. In addition, McGinty is a member of the Young Lawyers’ Division of the Georgia Bar, the Defense Research Institute, and the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association.



Gary J. McGinty



## Two New Associate Attorneys Join The Manely Firm, P.C.

Two new associate attorneys join the stellar group of attorneys at The Manely Firm, P.C. to create one powerhouse team!

The Manely Firm, P.C. is excited to announce two new associate attorneys joining the team, Attorney Kaitie Ruhl-Pirone and Attorney Essie Ndem. The Firm proudly practices family law throughout the state of Georgia and has the unique expertise of handling international family law cases all over the world. The Manely Firm also has attorneys that specialize in estate planning and probate needs. The Firm has offices located in Atlanta, Forsyth, Marietta, Lawrenceville and Savannah, now with nine attorneys fluent in a combined ten languages to serve clients.

Ms. Ruhl-Pirone officially joined the Firm on August 2, 2021 in the role of Associate Attorney to be based out of the Firm's Marietta office. Ms. Ruhl-Pirone received her undergraduate degree in English Literature from the University of Georgia before going on to get her law degree at Mercer University. She began her career in law during law school as an intern with Georgia Legal Services and also represented the Georgia Department of Human Services through the Division of Family and Children Services in various counties.

Ms. Ndem officially joined the firm on August 9, 2021 in the role of Associate Attorney to be based out of the Firm's Atlanta office. Ms. Ndem received her Bachelor of Arts in English Professional Writing at Columbus State University and earned her law degree at Mercer University School of Law. She is fluent in English and Ibibio and has an extensive list of international experiences. Ms. Ndem is the CEO and Founder of Young Professionals Development Initiative and has experience in Family Law having previously worked in the role of Associate Attorney in Atlanta.

The Manely Firm team is thrilled to have Ms. Ruhl-Pirone and Ms. Ndem on board! To read their individual bios, please visit the Firm's website at [www.allfamilylaw.com](http://www.allfamilylaw.com).



Kaitie Ruhl-Pirone



Essie Ndem



## Catholic Charities of South Georgia Holds Donation Drive for Afghan Refugees

Catholic Charities of South Georgia recently held a donation drive to support organizations who are working to resettle Afghan Refugees in the greater Savannah area. The Savannah Regional Office staff donated household essential items. Those donations were delivered to Catholic Charities on Friday, October 29th.

Photo: L-R: GLSP Staff Attorneys Zuhra Aziz, Robert Bush, joined by Cynthia Kinnis, Director of local Catholic Charities program.







## Law Office Space for Rent

Law office space is available for an attorney to rent at 223 West York Street, one block from the Chatham County Courthouse. The building is shared by three other attorneys. The conference room is shared. Utilities are split each month. There is off-street parking for one vehicle. No deposit is required. The downstairs office is available as of December 1, 2021. The upstairs office will be available beginning February 1, 2022. For more information, please call (912) 233-8002.





## 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.