



# The Citation

## SBA, YLD Hold October Events

On October 20, 2022, the Savannah Bar Association held its Annual Barbecue at the Forest City Gun Club. Barbecue was provided by Silk Road Catering of Richmond Hill, and live music was performed by Anders Thomsen. Many thanks to McKee Court Reporting for sponsoring the event!

Additionally, on October 27, 2022, the Young Lawyers Division held its Annual Trolley Ride around downtown Savannah with Old Town Trolley Tours. Thanks to all who attended, to Old Town trolley conductor Rich for sharing his vast knowledge of Savannah history and landmarks, and especially to Dennis Keene Mediation Services at Bouhan Falligant for sponsoring!





# THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION OF THE SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION

## NEW MEMBER/RENEWAL FORM 2022-2023

### 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 Sophia Karnegis at the address below. If you have any questions, please contact Sophia at [skarnegis@ellispainter.com](mailto:skarnegis@ellispainter.com).

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE 2022-2023 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 Bar Association - YLD to:

Sophia E. Karnegis

Ellis Painter

7 East Congress Street, Second Floor

Savannah, Georgia 31401

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

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

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

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



## Local Attorneys and Other Professionals Gather for United Way of the Coastal Empire Halftime Rally

Area attorneys, physicians, accountants, medical and other professionals gathered on October 26, 2022 at BowTie Barbecue for United Way of the Coastal Empire Campaign Social and Halftime Rally. The networking event featured BBQ, tailgate snacks, and drinks. Keeping in line with United Way's Campaign theme this year, "Team United," members of the talented Alfred E. Beach High School Marching Band provided an enthusiastic kickoff of the program.



2022 United Way Campaign Chair Cindy Robinett of Sterling Seacrest Partners invited everyone to "get in the game" and be a part of Team United to accomplish this year's Campaign goals: Engage more donors to give to the Community Fund and help as many people in the Coastal Empire as possible.

Kate Strain of Strain Law serves as chair of the Professionals Team for United Way's Campaign Cabinet. This group raises more than a quarter of a million dollars for United Way annually. Kate was joined by other members of the Campaign Cabinet Professionals team including Greg Finch of Bouhan Falligant who is also a Business Champion. Kate and Greg each shared their connection to United Way and how each dollar raised helps United Way achieve its mission of improving lives.

Matt Brigman and Harris Mason, attorneys from the Georgia Legal Services Program ("GLSP"), a United Way funded organization, spoke about the vital work they provide in the form of free civil legal services to low income individuals in the Coastal Empire.

"The Coastal Empire is blessed with hardworking, skilled, and generous doctors, lawyers, accountants, and other professionals who give to United Way because they know their donations will be used wisely for the greatest good of our community," says Strain. "Join us and donate to United Way for a better community and future."

The event was sponsored by Chatham Orthopedic Associates, Publix, and Zachary H. Thomas Law, P.C.

Learn more about United Way of the Coastal Empire and make a gift at [www.uwce.org/give](http://www.uwce.org/give).







## Brightside Opens Second Bright House

On October 7, 2022, Brightside Child and Family Advocacy, formerly known as Savannah Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), opened its second Bright House location at 929 Wheaton Street. Chatham County Juvenile Court Judges Thomas L. Cole, Roxanne E. Formey, and Lindretta Grindle Kramer cut the red ribbon during the grand opening ceremony.

The Bright House allows children in foster care to develop healthy relationships with their parents in a warm, home-like environment during court-mandated supervised visitations. Brightside opened its first Bright House location in February of 2022. Kate Blair, Brightside's Executive Director, spoke about the Bright House at the Savannah Bar Association's monthly luncheon on February 17, 2022. For more information about Brightside and the Bright House, visit <https://www.savannahcasa.org>.







## Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP listed in 2023 “Best Law Firms” by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers

Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP has been selected for the 2023 edition of “Best Law Firms” published by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers.

The firm was selected as a Metropolitan Tier 1 firm for Savannah in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Real Estate and Real Estate Law. Additionally, the firm was selected as a Metropolitan Tier 2 firm for Savannah in the areas of Construction Law, Litigation – Construction, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants and Trusts & Estates Law.

In addition to providing exemplary legal services in Savannah for more than six decades, the firm has also established offices in Bluffton, S.C., and Richmond Hill, Ga., to serve those communities adhering to the same standard for excellence that made Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe the best law firm in Savannah.

Inclusion in “Best Law Firms” is intensely competitive, and the firms recognized are considered elite firms in their respective markets. Each firm selected for “Best Law Firms” is distinguished by a reputation for professional excellence as well as consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. The Tier 1 ranking is the highest honor a firm can receive and signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise.

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 in the legal industry as a unique achievement.

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





## Oliver Maner Recognizes National Homeless Awareness Month with November Donation Drive

**Savannah's top law firm partners with other local firms to benefit Parker's House: A Home for Women.**

In recognition of National Homeless Awareness month in November, Oliver Maner, one of Savannah's most prestigious law firms, will once again partner with other local law firms to raise funds and collect supplies for Parker's House at Union Mission. This new program is Savannah and Coastal Georgia's only facility solely dedicated to providing emergency housing and comprehensive supportive services for unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness.

The donation drive will run throughout November, with a request to the legal community and the public at large to help collect goods for Parker's House.

"Last year, the program was a success and helped to stock Parker's House in time for their opening," said Oliver Maner partner Bill Hunter, who also serves on the Executive Committee for the Board of Directors at Union Mission. "Now that the new Emergency Housing Program is in operation, we are enthusiastic about continuing to help them and making a safe and comfortable place for women who find themselves homeless."

Donations of goods can be dropped off at the Oliver Maner office, 218 W. State St., during business hours. The firm will accept donations through Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Oliver Maner also set up an Amazon registry to make it easier to donate. Items needed include:

- Personal care items (toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant)
- Bedding (pillows, sheets)
- Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Cleaning supplies (Swiffer products, Lysol cleaners, disinfectant wipes)
- Undergarments (socks, undershirts)
- Laundry supplies (detergent, dryer sheets)

Parker's House is located at 125 Fahm St., Savannah, in the former JC Lewis Healthcare building. The 10,590-square-foot renovated facility offers emergency housing, on-site Case Managers, Resident Assistants, and support services for up to 32 women for 90 days.

Union Mission provides basic human needs for the residents, including food, clothing, transportation, access to mental healthcare, employment support and more. The goal of this program is to help residents maintain stable housing and become independent members of the community.

Savannah-Chatham County has the second-highest rate of homelessness in Georgia. According to the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless 2019 HUD PIT Survey, on any given night, more than 180 women in Chatham County are experiencing homelessness.



## ABOUT UNION MISSION

Union Mission has cared for Savannah's homeless community for 85 years offering emergency, transitional and permanent housing solutions to those in need. Union Mission also collaborates with the community's network of service providers to make comprehensive, wrap-around supportive services, such as mental health counseling and culinary arts job training available to all homeless persons in the community. The mission of Union Mission is to partner with people to end their homelessness. For more information, call (912) 238-2777 or visit [www.unionmission.org](http://www.unionmission.org).



**OLIVER  
MANER<sup>LLP</sup>**  
**DONATION  
DRIVE**  
for Union Mission's  
Parker's House



**November is  
National  
Homelessness  
Awareness  
Month**





**ITEMS NEEDED INCLUDE:**

- Personal care items (toothpaste, shampoo, soap, ect.)
- Bedding (pillows, sheets)
- Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Cleaning supplies (Swiffer, Lysol cleaners, disinfectant wipes, etc.)
- Undergarments
- Laundry supplies

**union**  **mission**

A complete list of items can be viewed and/or ordered by scanning the QR code.

*Please drop off new items through Nov. 30 at the law offices of  
Oliver Maner at 218 W. State Street, Savannah, GA 31401.*





## Alison N. Maher Joins Lueder, Larkin & Hunter

Lueder, Larkin & Hunter welcomes Alison N. Maher as an attorney in its Savannah office. Alison was raised in Pennsylvania and graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Psychology. Thereafter, she graduated cum laude from Western New England University School of Law in 2011. While in law school, Alison served as a publishing editor for the Western New England Law Review. Following graduation, from 2011 to 2019, Alison gained significant trial experience in her practice handling divorce, custody and other family law matters in the Philadelphia area.

Alison moved to Georgia and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 2019. After her move to Georgia, Alison worked as an associate at a law firm in Savannah handling longshore workers' compensation, labor unions, wills, trusts and estates, and personal injury matters. In addition to the Georgia Bar, Alison is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. While not at work, Alison enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter and is an avid fan of Penn State Football.

Alison joins attorneys Beverly O'Hearn and Kelly Crutchfield in the firm's Savannah office, where she will be handling insurance defense and other civil litigation matters.

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA


In re: Expired Dispossessories




### STANDING ORDER

Under the inherent authority to control dockets and Uniform Magistrate Court Rule 1.2, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that each dispossessory in which no writ of possession is requested within sixty (60) days from service shall be administratively dismissed.

SO ORDERED this 14th day of October, 2022.

  
Mary Kathryn Moss, Judge  
Magistrate Court of Chatham County

  
Michael H. Barker, Judge  
Magistrate Court of Chatham County



## 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 Program in the third quarter of 2022. With the help of these volunteers, we were able to serve 37 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.

Richard Barid, Smith Barid LLC  
Birney Bull, Adoption Law Office  
Birney O'Brian Bull  
Anthony Burton, Burton Law Offices  
Dolly Chisholm, Bouhan Falligant LLP  
Nancy DeVetter, DeVetter Law LLC  
Jerold Murray, Law Office of Jerold L. Murray, LLC  
Joel Osteen, Osteen Law Group LLC  
Francesca Rehal, Attorney at Law  
Richard Sanders, Andrews & Sanders Law Offices  
Alison Slagowitz, Attorney at Law  
Sandra Saseen-Smith, GLSP In-House Volunteer  
Joey Turner, The Turner Law Firm, LLC



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](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org) or sign up online at <https://www.glsp.org/volunteer-2/>



## Savannah Record Restriction Clinic December 2, 2022

Volunteers needed for the upcoming  
Record Restriction Clinic focusing on Chatham County.

GLSP Record Restriction Clinics are done in partnership  
with private attorneys, District Attorneys, and the Courts.

As we know, a person's past mistakes should not define them or negatively impact the remainder of their life. Many people suffer from the effects of a criminal record, making it difficult to obtain better housing, better employment, educational programs, and other opportunities. Record restriction means eligible records on a criminal record are restricted from public view.

Having records restricted gives individuals a greater chance to  
achieve their full potential and obtain better housing, employment, and education.

To make this clinic a success, we need you!

Meet with clients and provide advice on their criminal record.  
Assist them with filling out pro se paperwork to request record restriction.

No experience necessary. Training will be provided.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Sarah Anderson  
[sjanderson@glsp.org](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org)  
(912) 963-1883



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](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org)  
or sign up online at <https://www.glsp.org/volunteer-2/>





## November is National Adoption Month

Submitted by Birney O'Brian Bull

November is National Adoption Month. In more populous places, it is often marked by "Adoption Days" ... typically one or more November Saturdays when judges and support staff volunteer to complete uncontested adoptions so that everything happening at the courthouse those days are happy things. In our region of the state however, there just aren't enough adoptions to warrant such occasions, so I thought I'd write a little something about adoption for the Citation.

Adoption itself is deceptively complex, both legally and emotionally. As to adoption's legal complexities, ask any attorney who's handled one ... just make sure you have plenty of time if you're really going to listen to the full answer. But here in the Citation, for National Adoption Month, let's just talk a little about the intersection between adoption's emotional complexities and the legal process. As an attorney, I do my best to help clients address these concerns in how the legal proceedings themselves are handled. How one does the "legal stuff" today might seem unimportant, but 15 years from now, it could get to be a critical issue. If that sounds like a stretch, consider this one-word response: Teenagers. Parenting teenagers is hard enough as it is; let's do what we can when the child is younger so that parenting later won't be harder than it needs to be.

And heck, look at what we're dealing with: Human emotions are complex to start with, but adoption involves human emotions from three differing perspectives: Adoptive Parents, Birth Parents, and Adoptees. When one first approaches the topic of adoption, just one of these three perspectives may well seem to be the only one that really "matters." But the people with the other perspectives matter too, and sooner or later, if ANY ONE OF THEM is not duly honored, every step of the way, the adoption can develop problems of one sort or another. Georgia's code and case law does its best to account for these differing perspectives surrounding adoption, but statutes and legal proceedings can only go so far. Thus, the law further gives trial judges wide discretion and latitude in the fact-finding process in adoption (and relatedly, in legitimation proceedings) so that the legal process can best be suited to individual situations. Which is as it should be, and as it must be. But judges can lose sight of one or more of adoption's three emotional perspectives too, and that can cause problems in the legal part of the adoptive process.

My website ([www.AdoptNeed.com](http://www.AdoptNeed.com)) has a lot of space devoted to the emotional complexities of adoption ([www.AdoptNeed.com/id3.html](http://www.AdoptNeed.com/id3.html)). (OK, a lawyer wrote it, so it's pretty long too, but it DOES get down to the nitty-gritty.) So, to read EVERYTHING I have to say about adoption's emotions, that's your best bet.

But to boil it down here, ... the basic human virtue of being considerate applies as it does anywhere else. Well sure, but as with many parts of the human experience, that may be easy to say, but hard to do. Because in unusual circumstances, it takes familiarity with what the unusual issues are. But if those unusual circumstances are unfamiliar territory for us, who among us will know HOW to be considerate? Yeah, none. So when you brush up against adoption, remember that there are THREE perspectives that matter, not just one: Adoptive Parents, Birth Parents, and Adoptees.



## A Message from Chief Judge Penny Haas Freesemann

This is a reminder that the Chatham County Law Library on the 5th floor of the Courthouse has access to WestLaw. Anyone needing to use the service is welcome to use one of the two terminals located there. Although to save printing costs the Library Board asks that you send any research directly to your email account, there are printers attached if needed.

Judge Freesemann

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## Annual Red Mass on December 2, 2022

Annual Red Mass will be held December 2, 2022 at noon at the St. Mary's Chapel in the Catholic Pastoral Center located at 2170 E Victory Drive. The Red Mass is celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for all attorneys, judges, clerks, law students and others engaged in the legal profession. A reception to follow in Boland Hall.

Questions: Bill Broker, [bbroker@glsp.org](mailto:bbroker@glsp.org) or  
Sandra Saseen-Smith, [ssaseen-smith@glsp.org](mailto:ssaseen-smith@glsp.org)  
Register: [diosav.org/ccharities/events/red-mass](https://diosav.org/ccharities/events/red-mass)

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## Savannah Tech Offers Career Connections

Attention All Attorneys: Are you looking to hire legal support staff? Do you have a job description/job listing for the position to share? Well, the Paralegal students at Savannah Technical College are eagerly awaiting an opportunity to learn, grow and advance in the legal services industry. No need to pay to post ads. You can simply submit your job notices on Savannah Technical College's online portal, Career Connections, which will allow you to easily reach our students and graduates. This user-friendly system allows you to provide an overview of your company, post ads, manage the dates the ads will run as well as view resumes and directly contact job seekers.

We invite you to use this link to post any openings you may currently have: <https://savannahtech-csm.symplicity.com/employers/>

Periodically, Savannah Technical College, hosts events throughout the year that will also give you an opportunity to directly connect with its students. By enrolling in Career Connections, you will be added to the distribution list for those events. Thank you for your consideration of our students and programs!



## 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.