



# The Citation January

## 3RD ANNUAL PRO BONO AWARDS

Linda A. Klein, President of the American Bar Association, addressed **Georgia Legal Services** and local attorneys at the 3rd Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon, Friday, January 13th, 2017. The luncheon honored 49 pro bono attorneys in Southeast Georgia who assisted 280 low-income Georgians seeking legal services last year.

The program's "Champion," Jerold Murray, handled 33 cases in 2016. The Pro Bono "Advocate" was Birney Bull. The final award of Pro Bono "Catalyst" was presented to Statesboro's **Hall Law Group** for its work in promoting and supporting the Pro Bono initiative.

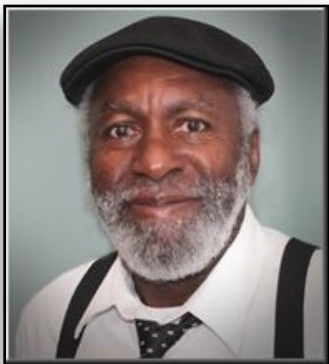
The luncheon raised over \$14,000 to support GLSP's Pro Bono Project. Special thanks to the Pro Bono Committee of the **Savannah Bar Association** and its chair, Julia Sullivan. A non-profit, public-interest

law firm, GLSP serves low income and at-risk Georgians. The GLSP's Savannah office serves an 11-county region.

Other sponsors: Bouhan Falligant, The Bowman Law Group, Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C., Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP, and Zipperer, Lorberbaum & Beauvais.



**SBA President Mat McCoy and ABA President Linda Klein**



**Jerold Murray**



**Birney Bull**

**Gold Sponsors:** Marriott Savannah Riverfront, Tate Law Group

**Silver Sponsors:** Georgia Power, the Savannah Bar Association, and Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP

**Bronze Sponsors:** HunterMaclean, Oliver Maner, LLP, and Savannah Technical College

# YLD CORNER

## WORLD OF BEER BE THERE - FEBRUARY 16

The **Savannah Bar Association YLD** hosted a successful happy hour in January at Service Brewing Company, members gathered to meet friends old and new. As a nod to YLD election season, the event was sponsored by **Ron Daniels** for YLD Secretary.

The YLD's next event is tentatively set as a Trivia Event at **World of Beer** on February 16th at 5:30 p.m. Be on the lookout for details via email over the next week. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The YLD is also finalizing details for other exciting 2017 events:

The **12th Annual YLD Charity Golf Tournament** has been set for June 3, 2017 at The Landings. The YLD encourages all members and alumni to field a team or join one, as proceeds go directly to the **Savannah Guardian Ad Litem Charity**.

YLD Members can also look forward a 2017 spring schedule that will include the annual "YLD Picnic in the Park" event and "YLD Law Day."

In addition, the YLD Board will be volunteering at the **Ronald McDonald House** in March to cook a meal for the residents.

All Savannah YLD members are encouraged to renew their membership. Our membership base allows the YLD to continue the monthly events that we all enjoy.

Those who have not renewed their membership for the YLD Bar year, or who want to join should contact:

Sam Mikell  
[smikell@olivermaner.com](mailto:smikell@olivermaner.com)



## EIGHT MAKE GEORGIA TREND'S LEGAL ELITE

**HunterMaclean** is honored to announce that eight attorneys were recently recognized as 2016 Legal Elite by Georgia Trend. A statewide business publication, **Georgia Trend** recently published its 14th annual issue honoring Georgia's leading attorneys for their outstanding achievements in various practice areas.

**Georgia Trend's Legal Elite** is compiled by attorneys submitting their nominations through the publication's website, and the listing is determined solely by attorneys' votes.

HunterMaclean attorneys named as **Georgia Trend's 2016 Legal Elite** include:

Thomas S. Cullen – Corporate Law  
 Brad Harmon – General Practice/Trial Law  
 J. Benedict Hartman – Taxes/Estates  
 Wade W. Herring, II – Labor and Employment  
 Shawn A. Kachmar – Labor and Employment  
 Frank S. Macgill – Taxes/Estates  
 Colin A. McRae – General Practice/Trial Law  
 Joseph F. Strength – Real Estate, Estates & Trusts, Business Transactions



## ADMIRAL HARVEY WEITZ BOAT RIDE- SAVE THE DATE



*Savannah Bar Boat Ride, Dafuskie Island*

In this Photo: **John Ranitz** (Ranitz Mahoney); **Ed Maner** (Oliver, Maner & Gray); **Honorable Herman Coolidge** (Bankruptcy Court); **Honorable George Oliver** (Superior Court); **Honorable Shelby Myrick** (Probate Court); and other distinguished members of the Savannah Bar Association

Save the date and mark your calendars for Friday, April 21, 2017.

Langston Bass is hard at work finalizing this year's The Admiral Harvey Weitz SBA Boat Ride, and the **Savannah Bar Association** encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the day.

Notices with instructions about registering for the 2017 **Admiral Harvey Weitz SBA Boat Ride** will be coming to your email inbox soon.

To the left, a classic "throwback" of a Savannah Bar Association boat ride. No email available back then, but somehow everyone received the memo on the dress code.

## COX, RODMAN, & MIDDLETON OPEN NEW FIRM

Falen O. Cox, John W. Rodman, and Christopher K. Middleton announce the formation of **Cox, Rodman, & Middleton, LLC (CRM)**. CRM will practice criminal defense, personal injury, family law, contract law, business formation, and employment law throughout the State of Georgia. Cox and Rodman are graduates of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law, while Middleton is a graduate of Vermont Law School.

Middleton also serves on the Savannah Bar Association's executive board, and is the 2016 recipient of the SBA's Robbie Robinson Award. Together, they have over 20 years of experience, and have represented clients in more than 50 jury trials. Over the years, Cox, Rodman, and Middleton have shared their legal expertise with various organizations in the Savannah community by serving on boards, mentoring students, and giving lectures.



**COX  
RODMAN &  
MIDDLETON**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



**(L-R) Christopher Middleton, Falen O. Cox & John Rodman of CRM**  
**5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 236-C**  
**Savannah, GA 31405**  
**912.376.7901**

## RUBNITZ THOMPSON ZIBLUT FORM NEW FIRM

Savannah Bar Association members Jeffrey W. Rubnitz, Elizabeth F. Thompson and Tiece G. Ziblut are pleased to announce the formation of **Rubnitz Thompson Ziblut, LLC**. The firm offers residential and commercial real estate, estate planning and probate services. The law firm is located at 617 Stephenson Avenue, Suite 202, Savannah, GA 31405 (the former offices of Rubnitz & Ziblut). Tel: 912.353.9300.



**Jeffery W. Rubnitz**



**Elizabeth F. Thompson**



**Tiece G. Ziblut**

## STLA NEWS AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Savannah Trial Lawyers Association's January luncheon featured Judge Gregory V. Sapp discussing court approval of minor settlements. The STLA February luncheon will be **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** at noon at the Savannah Golf Club. Cherokee Funding will present at the luncheon. The STLA March luncheon will **Tuesday, March 28, 2017** at noon at the Savannah Golf Club. Westlaw will present at the luncheon. If you are interested in attending, please contact STLA President Zach Thomas at [zhthomas@aol.com](mailto:zhthomas@aol.com).



**Judge Gregory V. Sapp**



The STLA is offering a \$1,000.00 scholarship to help a deserving high school senior pursue their college education. This is a merit scholarship, awarded to the most deserving candidate based on academic excellence, high moral character, and positive involvement in the community. Although the scholarship is given by the STLA, the successful applicant need not have the intention of attending law school. Please have any interested candidate complete and submit an application no later than **Monday, May 1, 2017**, for it to be considered by the Scholarship Committee. To obtain an application, please contact Danny Justus at [djustus@laskycooperlaw.com](mailto:djustus@laskycooperlaw.com). The scholarship will be awarded at the May 30, 2017 monthly meeting of the STLA.

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## LOST IN TIME BY KAREN DOVE BARR



**Karen Dove Barr**

I recently filed an appeal with the Georgia Court of Appeals. I received the docketing notice with only fifteen days, including Christmas, to file my brief.

When I tried to register for the now mandatory e-filing I was told I would have to apply for expedited admission to

the Court of Appeals as they had no record of me, although I have been appealing to that court since my original admission in September, 1977. The clerk could not even pull up my bar number.

When I gave the citation of a recent Court of Appeals decision in my client's favor, they apologized. The problem was I had been practicing law so long they assumed I was dead and had deleted me.





## HESTER NAMED PARTNER AT WSWGS

Real estate and civil litigation attorney Helen Hester has been named a partner at **Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe**.

Hester, recently named a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star, joined the firm in 2014 and has focused her practice on commercial and residential real estate, real estate litigation, complex business litigation, commercial litigation and construction litigation in Georgia and South Carolina. Ms. Hester has been active in a variety of community and non-profit organizations throughout her career, including the Emerging Leaders Committee of the Savannah Community Foundation, Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, Historic Savannah Foundation, the Thirteenth Colony Society, the William Jay Society, the Georgia Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the American Diabetes Association and the Coastal Georgia Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.



**Helen Hester**

“To earn a partnership in a firm as prestigious and accomplished as **Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe** is a substantial achievement in my career,” Hester said. “I’m very proud of the work our firm does, and I am equally proud to partner with attorneys who practice with the highest standards applicable in our legal and judicial system. I plan to continue and further the long-standing tenets of client service, ethics and respect for the practice of law that have been well-established at this firm for the past 55 years.”

Hester is a member of the **Savannah Bar Association**, the State Bar of Georgia, the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and the South Carolina Bar Association. She

is the past treasurer of the Savannah Division of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, a former officer of the local chapter of the Georgia Young Lawyers Division and a former member of the Executive Council of the State Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.

## MEDIATION TRAINING AT MILES



**Miles Mediation & Arbitration Services** is proud to announce the launch of a new Civil Mediation Training course led by Wendy Williamson, former Executive Director of the Mediation Center and former **Savannah Bar Association** president.

The first session is March 8–12 in Savannah.

Upon completion of the 28-hour course, one will have the tools and skills to begin practicing mediation and conflict resolution in all aspects of your practice, profession, and life.

Upon completion of the 28-hour course and the 12-hour practicum, one will also be eligible to register as a mediator with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

For more information about the training course or to reserve a spot, please call 912-417-2879.



**Wendy Williamson**

## HOWARD SPIVA: MAN ON A MISSION

He's been a practicing lawyer for 33 years, founder of his own firm (**Spiva Law Group**), past leader of the Savannah Trial Lawyers Association and the Georgia Civil Justice Foundation. He even helped make new Georgia law when, as co-counsel, he won a Supreme Court appeal that classified farm tractors as motor vehicles for the purposes of uninsured motorist claims.

That's only half the story.

The other half has been an 18-year quest to help prevent traumatic brain injuries to children through the Justice For Children Foundation (JFCF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Spiva co-founded with his sister Elaine, who lost her battle with cancer in 2012. Since then, Spiva has dedicated his efforts in her honor, creating the **Heads in Helmets** program that has given away tens of thousands of free helmets to Georgia children.

"We provide free helmets to families to protect children in car wrecks," Spiva said. "A child in a car safety seat is about the only activity remaining in America where head gear is not provided."

"Everyone else—bull riders, karate participants, race car drivers, skateboarders, cyclists, football players, those on scooters and snow mobiles, even bull riders—all wear helmets. Our main goal is for kids to know that helmets are cool!"



**Howard E. Spiva, Co-Founder,  
Justice For Children Foundation**



The foundation teams with community and business leaders throughout the year to host events such as this year's Lawyer Chili Cook Off on February 11 and to give away helmets. JFCF also partners with local police, fire departments, military and medical providers to give away helmet coupons throughout the year.

The JFCF's "Ambassador" program is taking the "Heads in Helmets" initiative national with law firms in seven states now part of the effort to protect children from traumatic brain injury.

*The Justice for Children Foundation, Inc.*  
Presents





### CHILI COOK OFF

All funds and donations go to Charity 501(c)(3)  
**Fundraising Event — LAW ENFORCEMENT JUDGING LAWYERS**  
The cooks/chefs will all be lawyers\*.  
The Judges\*\* will all be Law Enforcement — we Salute them.  
**February 11, 2017 @ 11am at 1137 Mohawk Street, Savannah**




**FREE Admission for the public**  
Two Categories: 1) **Regular** and 2) **Flaming hot!**  
**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Giant "Monster" Trophies & "People's choice Award".**  
**Attorney/cooks are you ready to sign up?**  
Email request to [Maggie@spivalaw.com](mailto:Maggie@spivalaw.com) Maggie Doberstein, (912)-920-2000



\* Please do not be alarmed no lawyers will actually be cooked nor harmed in the contest!  
\*\* Judges include Sheriff John Wilcher, Garden City Chief David Lyons, Pembroke Chief Randy Alexander, Tybee Island Chief Robert "Bob" Bryson, Pooler Chief Mark Revenue, Port Wentworth Major Lee Sherrod on behalf of Public Safety Director Matt Libby.  
Pending Invites: Chief Joseph H. "Jack" Lumpkin, Sr. - Savannah, Public Safety Director Bob Merriman - Thunderbolt, Chief A.B. Jeffcoat - Bloomingdale.

**Children's head injuries are no accident!**  
"Protecting children one helmet at a time" with our Free "Helmets for Life" Program  
[www.HeadsinHelmets.com](http://www.HeadsinHelmets.com)

**Click on the image above for more information on  
JFCF's "Chili4Children" cook off, February 11.**

## BOUHAN FALLIGANT: NEW PARTNERS & NEW HIRE

Harris G. Martin has become a partner at **Bouhan Falligant**. Martin's practice focuses on commercial and residential real estate and general corporate matters.

A member of the State Bar of Georgia and the **Savannah Bar Association**, Martin is an affiliate member of the Savannah Area REALTORS® and the

Mortgage Bankers Association of Savannah.



**Harris G. Martin**

Martin serves on the Board of Directors for the Lowcountry Down Syndrome Society and on the Emerging Leaders Committee of the Savannah Community Foundation, Inc. In 2016, he was named to Generation NEXT: Savannah's Rising Stars of Business.

Bouhan Falligant has also announced it has named John D. Harvey as partner. His practice area will concentrate on transportation and logistics, real estate litigation, and aviation law.

Before joining Bouhan Falligant in 2016, Harvey served as the Bryan County attorney, as the municipal court judge for the Cities of Midway and Pembroke, and as an assistant district attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit. He has also worked as a self-employed, private attorney.

Harvey earned his law degree from Samford University, where he was a member of the Trial Advocacy Board, and his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Georgia, where he was a Presidential Scholar and a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society.

Bouhan Falligant additionally announces Vandana Murty as an associate attorney. Murty's practice will focus on malpractice and professional liability defense.

Prior to joining Bouhan Falligant, Murty worked as an associate attorney and served as a prosecutor in the Chatham County District Attorney's Office, specializing in crimes of intimate partner violence and child abuse.

Murty, an active member of the **Savannah Bar Association**, serves as chairperson for the Chatham County Family Violence Council and is a member of the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc., which is dedicated to providing complete legal representation for police officers serving the community.

She earned her J.D. from the Georgia State University College of Law, where she served as president for the Student Trial Lawyers Association and competed successfully in national competitions. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a minor in Spanish from the University of Georgia.



**John D. Harvey**



**Vandana Murty**



## LETTERS OF THE LAW - SPECIAL REQUEST

Dear Friends of the SBA:

For years, you have told me stories of letters you have received from other attorneys that have been aggressive, offensive or downright rude. I am developing a CLE on Professionalism and I need your help. The title of the training is "Letters of the Law." I am asking you to send me letters from attorneys that offended you. I have spoken with the Georgia Bar Association to confirm that the following will protect you when you share these letters:

1. Redact or black out any names or identifying information that might reveal the identity of your client or the other client.
2. Redact or mark over the name of the sending attorney (I do not want to embarrass anyone).

I will also review the letters and share only the language needed to inspire discussion. I am looking for examples of threats, disparagement, exaggeration, extreme advocacy and personal attacks. Your name and your firm's name will not be associated with the letters shared. Only with your permission, I will list your name on a list of

contributors to whom I am grateful.

I would like to use real letters as a meaningful way to examine professionalism and the impact of unprofessionalism on cases and the legal system. I have yet to talk to an attorney who does not immediately respond "I have an unbelievable one for you." It is time we make good use of these bad experiences.

If you have questions, please call me at (912) 663-8844. Thank you in advance for sharing your experiences with me.

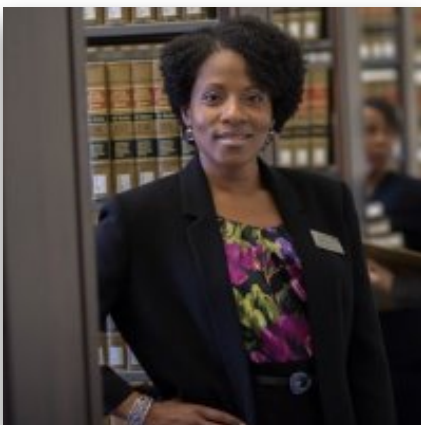
Wendy Williamson  
[wendyw3@comcast.net](mailto:wendyw3@comcast.net)



**Wendy Williamson, Esq.**

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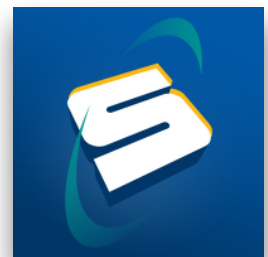
## WANT TO HOST AN INTERN?



**Debra R. Geiger, Esq.**

Are you looking for a part-time or full-time paralegal? Are you interested in hosting a paralegal intern for the Spring or Fall Semesters (15-weeks) or the Summer Semester (8-weeks)?

If so, please contact Savannah Bar Association member, Debra R. Geiger, Esq., Paralegal Studies Department Head at Savannah Technical College at 912-443-5715 or [dgeiger@savannahtech.edu](mailto:dgeiger@savannahtech.edu). She has students and recent graduates who are eager to work with you!





## SBA HOT TOPICS - A FULL PLATE

The 2017 SBA Hot Topics Seminar and Luncheon was held on Thursday, January 26th at the Savannah Golf Club.

Joe Cronk, chair of the SBA's Hot Topics Seminar, brought together a team of professionals who offered sessions on probate law, enforcement trends in healthcare, professionalism and ethics, federal post sentencing, family law, tax audit rules, medical billing and more.

Full-day attendees are eligible to receive up to 8.0 hours of CLE credit (pending approval), including 3 hours of trial practice, and 1 hour each of ethics and professionalism.



Mat McCoy, SBA President, addressed the 180+ attendees before the luncheon. Many thanks to Chair Joe Cronk, our seminar presenters (pictured below) and volunteers for a successful event!

**Not pictured:**  
**Adam Walters**



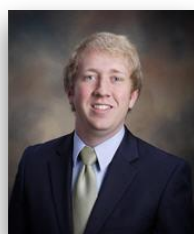
Richard Sanders



Chris Steinmetz



Wendy Williamson



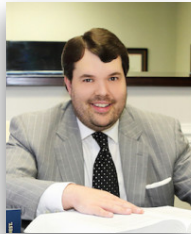
Bryan Schivera



Craig Call



Joe Cronk



Jeffery Williamson



David Purvis



Alex Zipperer



Mat McCoy



Will Ronning



Lester Johnson

## ELLINGTON KEYNOTES JANUARY SBA LUNCHEON

Judge John Ellington, Georgia Court of Appeals, served as guest speaker at the SBA's January Luncheon, which took place during the Hot Topics seminar on January 26. Judge Ellington's presentation also served as one hour of professionalism CLE credit.

After warming the crowd up with a few lawyer/judge stories that led to his solid advice to "get a life outside the courtroom," Judge Ellington focused his professionalism presentation on social media and its impact on the legal profession today. He narrated examples of negative consequences and conflicts of interest caused by friend lists, the posting of personal opinions and other common features of social media.

In summing up, Ellington warned against the practice of giving legal advice over social media platforms and the consequences of that advice being used across state lines where the attorney is not licensed.



**Judge John Ellington**  
**Georgia Court of Appeals**





## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The southeast regional law firm of **Lueder, Larkin & Hunter**, with a downtown Savannah location, is seeking a lateral partner hire with portable business.

Insurance defense client base preferred, but not required. Excellent base salary and benefits, plus a unique profit share bonus compensation structure.

Please contact Mark Langheim at 770-685-7029 or [mlangheim@luederlaw.com](mailto:mlangheim@luederlaw.com).



The Law Offices of **Mark A. Bandy, PC** are presently seeking a legal assistant, preferably with bankruptcy experience. If interested, please email your resume to [mark@markbandylaw.com](mailto:mark@markbandylaw.com) or call Mark Bandy at 912-507-9873.



## OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

### Office Suite for Lease

1400 approx square foot Office Suite for rent. Four offices, kitchen, bath and reception/secretarial area, Off street parking \$2500/month. MIDtown, 1510 Drayton Street. Easy access to downtown, Eastside and Westside. Call James B. Blackburn at 912-232-2136 or email at [jbbjratty@aol.com](mailto:jbbjratty@aol.com).



### Single Office Space for Lease

Single office space plus secretary space is available at 502 East Broughton Street. Please contact Julie Wade at 912-233-3313 or via email at [jwade@thewadelawfirm.com](mailto:jwade@thewadelawfirm.com) for more information.



## 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
- Barrister Buddies (please include names, identifying information and other items of interest)
- 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.

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