

# The Citation September

SBA UNVEILS NEW LOGO

The Savannah Bar Association is excited to unveil our new logo commemorating our centennial year. The logo blends Savannah's "Waving Girl" statue with Lady Justice against a colorful marsh background.

The logo was designed by Ralph Newton of Sandfly. Ralph was a childhood friend of Justice Clarence Thomas, who lived down the road in Pinpoint. After graduating from Georgia Southern University, Ralph received a Master's Degree from the Pratt Institute School of Design in New York City and worked for advertising agencies in New York, representing clients such as Panama Jack, Xerox, Kodak, Bausch & Lomb and DuPont.

Ralph eventually returned home to Sandfly, where he works with local clients such as Gulfstream and Nurse Rosie Products. In his free time, Ralph proudly serves his perpetual term as Mayor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sandfly.

The SBA offers Ralph a huge thank you for his generous contribution. We are especially grateful for Ralph's insistence that he design our logo **pro bono**. Though compensation was offered, Ralph refused, saying: "No sir. Art is my yoga!" Thanks, Ralph, for helping us celebrate this significant milestone.



#### DON'T MISS OUT: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Membership has its privileges, and in this case they include celebrating the Savannah Bar Association's 100th year of continuous service to its members and community.

If you have not renewed your membership for the SBA's centennial year, the process takes just a few clicks with a credit card on our website (please see accompanying video). Renewal is immediate. Checks are also accepted, but please allow time for processing before you see a change in your renewal status.

Editor: Keri M. Martin Production: Kris Taylor



#### WE ARE FAMILY: DAVIS RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS

On June 30, 2016, as the Honorable Lamar W. Davis, Jr., walked to his chambers for his last day of work, court staff greeted him to the tune of "We Are Family." After serving 26 years as a bankruptcy judge in our district, followed by an additional four years as a recalled judge, Judge Davis has now retired from the bench. As a valued member of the court family, his service will be forever remembered.

Chief Judge Susan D. Barrett remarked: "As a country and district, we have been fortunate to have Judge Davis's leadership for 30 years. Time and time again he has shown his strength of character in protecting the legal profession and the integrity

of the court while serving the public and fulfilling his oath of office to administer justice



equally without respect to persons and in accordance with the Constitution. He has done this

in very public ways through his actions and rulings, and he has done this when people were not looking. Regardless of the forum, he has always undertaken such endeavors with the integrity in which he lives his life. It has been a great honor for me, and for all of us, to be able to work with him. We wish him and his family joy and happiness in retirement, but it is a bittersweet time for us all."

Judge Lamar Davis' retirement was also featured in SavannahNow.

#### JUDGE FOWLER RECEIVES FIRST "STAR" AWARD

The Hon. H. Gregory Fowler, Chief Judge, State Court of Chatham County, was presented with the Council of Accountability Court Judges' first annual STAR Award on September 16 for his work for the Chatham Country DUI Court.

In 2002, Judge Fowler participated in a pilot program that founded the DUI Court on the model of the Drug Court. With limited resources, Judge Fowler led the DUI Court team through hours of training, ensuring that evidence—based practices were used in every decision possible.

In 2005, Judge Fowler convinced the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to approve "an excise tax of 3% on distilled spirits sold by the drink" in the unincorporated areas of the county to provide funding for DUI Court, which now has graduated over 1,180 participants. Judge Fowler

understood, even before DUI Court existed, that jail alone would not help an addict become sober and that an addict need not hit "rock bottom" to succeed. The award recognizes his vision, his compassion for the recovery community, and his refusal to allow participants to give up on their sobriety.



Judge H.
Gregory
Fowler,
recipient of
CACJ's first
STAR Award,
presides in
DUI Court.
Click image for
video.



#### PAT O'CONNOR SPEAKS AT FALL LUNCHEON

The Savannah Bar Association commenced its Centennial Year with a record-breaking 193 registrants for its September Luncheon, which also saw the induction of 14 new members. The Luncheon was held in memoriam of the late and distinguished Aron Weiner of Weiner Shearouse

Weitz & Shawe, LLP. To that end, members of the Bar Association passed a resolution, presented by Judge Ronald Ginsburg, to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Aron Weiner, a copy of which will be entered upon the minutes of the Superior Court.

Pat O'Connor, newly elected President of the State Bar of Georgia, addressed the SBA regarding issues facing the State Bar as well as plans for advancement, including making the extensive educational resources at State Bar Headquarters in Atlanta available to Georgia's school children through digitization and technology. O'Connor also highlighted that the SBA's Centennial Year occurs in tandem with the 100-year anniversary of women in the practice of law in the practice of law in Georgia.

Lastly, it was suggested that the Savannah Bar Association only "does boat rides and oyster roasts"; however, it is well known that our Bar Association has other refined interests such as barbeque. Don't miss the upcoming "family friendly" SBA Barbeque on October 20th at the Forest City Gun Club. Registration information will be emailed to members in early October.

Newly elected Georgia State Bar President and SBA member, Pat O'Connor keynotes SBA's attendance-breaking luncheon.

#### ORAL ARGUMENTS AT SAVANNAH LAW SCHOOL

Savannah Law School welcomes Presiding Judge Miller and Judges McFadden and McMillian of the Court of Appeals of Georgia to campus this fall. On Tuesday, October 25, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., the law school will host a reception for the judges on the second floor of the library. On Wednesday, October 26 at 9:30 a.m., the panel of judges will hold oral arguments in three cases at the school. Space is limited. Those interested in attending either event should RSVP to rsvp@savannahlawschool.org or call 912.525.3919.



Presiding Judge M. Yvette Miller



Judge Christopher J. McFadden



Judge Carla Wong McMillian



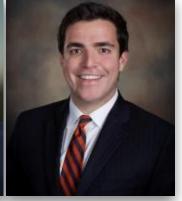
#### UNITED WAY CO-CHAIRS: RODEN AND MULLENS

The Lawyer's Division of United Way of Coastal Georgia has committed to raise \$77,287 for this year's fund drive. Leading that effort are two SBA members, Eric Roden of Roden + Love, and Bobo Mullens of OliverManer.

On September 8, more than 1,100 people gathered at the Savannah Civic Center to kick off the United Way of the Coastal Empire's annual fund drive. Chaired by Kay Ford of BankSouth, United Way of Coastal Georgia has set \$8,338,000 as its overall goal for a campaign that runs September 8 – November 18.

Last year, the United Way of the Coastal Empire and its partners provided 101,173 meals to the hungry and homeless, provided school and summer programs that focused on academic improvement to 1,791 children and youth, presented over 9,000 bags of groceries to 1,500 seniors, secured 15,914







## United Way of the Coastal Empire

nights of safe shelter and accommodations for children and adult victims of abuse, and arranged for 2,277 individuals to attend financial literacy classes.

Thanks to the Herschel B. Jenkins Trust, all overhead costs are covered, meaning each donor's dollar goes directly to areas of need. To make a difference in our community, your donation can be made at the United Way's website, or by contacting the 2016 Lawyer's Division Campaign Co-chairs, Eric Roden and Bobo Mullens.

Campaign Co-Chairs of the Lawyer's Division of United Way of Coastal Georgia, Eric Roden and Bobo Mullens.

#### GLENN OPENS NEW DISPUTE RESOLUTION FIRM



Bobby Glenn's new firm, Robert S. Glenn, Jr., LLC, focuses on mediation and arbitration, which he has practiced since 1992, including civil mediations and maritime cases. Currently. Glenn is mediating death claims and cargo damage claims arising from the loss of the M/V El Faro during Hurricane Joachim in October, 2015.

El Faro on the ocean floor. Courtesy NTSB.





#### HUNTER MACLEAN COHOSTS LOGISTICS LUNCH

The Savannah Logistics Lunch, co-presented by HunterMaclean and the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Center of Innovation for Logistics, was held on Thursday, July 21, at the Armstrong Center. With an audience of over 300, the second annual event was streamed live on the internet.

"HunterMaclean is pleased to partner with the Center of Innovation for Logistics to present the Savannah Logistics Lunch," said HunterMaclean managing partner Brad Harmon. "We look forward to continuing that partnership and working together to provide valuable and timely information for the Savannah logistics community."

Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Chris Carr and Center of Innovation for Logistics Director Jannine Miller gave opening remarks followed by the keynote panel on Technology and Transportation.

"There's clearly great interest from our logistics providers and cargo-owning companies to network and learn about the latest trends in the industry," said Miller. "Similar to the Georgia Logistics Summit, we created the Savannah Logistics Lunch to provide our state's logistics businesses the opportunity to connect, compete, and grow."



HunterMaclean logistics attorney Chris "Smitty" Smith at the podium moderating the panel (left to right): Brandon Tatom, Strategic Sales Executive, C.H. Robinson; Professor Chip White, Schneider National Chair of Transportation & Logistics, Georgia Institute of Technology; Kent Williams, Regional Vice President, Averitt Express; Gordon Hammer, General Manager of Client Relations Center, Georgia Ports Authority; Chris Jones, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Services, Descartes Systems Group.

#### DYCHES PREVAILS IN SHORT-TERM RENTAL CASE

Don Dyches of Dyches & Norse recently won a case against the City of Savannah. In 2013, the City began citing property owners who listed properties as short-term rentals on VRBO and Airbnb, effectively

prohibiting short-term residential rentals in most of Savannah.

Don Dyches of Dyches & Norse

The City cited Dyches' client, arguing that short-term residential leases constituted operating an "inn" in violation of the City's zoning ordinance. The Recorder's Court agreed, issuing fines and injunctive relief against the property owner.

The Superior Court overturned the injunctive relief, but upheld the convictions. On appeal, the Court of Appeals reversed the convictions, finding an ambiguity



in the zoning ordinance and ruling that such ambiguity must be construed in favor of the free use of property.

Although unreported, the Georgia Court of Appeals case may apply to property owners engaged in short-term residential rentals in Savannah prior to the City's recent enactment of a short-term rental ordinance. Link to the full opinion here.



#### ROBERTS ACCEPTS LEADERSHIP ROLE AT SEALS



Savannah Law School Professor Caprice Roberts, newly appointed Vice Chair of Programming for the Southeastern Association of Law Schools.

Savannah Law School Professor Caprice Roberts has been appointed Vice Chair of Programming for the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS). The principal function of the team that Professor Roberts leads is to encourage additional programming in specific subject areas. In her role, Professor Roberts will match like-minded scholars and proposals with resource teams of subject-matter experts in order to facilitate and enhance substantive programming for the association.

"I'm honored to be able to serve this organization that has been instrumental to my development as a teacher and scholar," said Roberts. "I am already hard at work to realize the SEALS' goal to continue broadening its dynamic, robust, and diverse program content." For more information about the SEALS' Program, please click here.

#### REHAL HONORED AT RED MASS

Francesca Rehal received the St. Thomas More Award from The Catholic Lawyers Guild at its Annual Red Mass held Friday, September 23. The yearly award recognizes an attorney whose integrity, intellect and moral courage exemplifies that of St. Thomas More.

Rehal was recognized not only for the leadership she has provided the Guild over the past several years, but also for her work in religious education in her parish, St. Peter the Apostle. She has also been one of the stalwarts of the Pro Bono Project, having already handled 15 cases during 2016.

The award was presented at a luncheon held in Boland Hall at the Pastoral Center of St. Mary's Chapel and presided over by Birney Bull, president of the Guild. The luncheon followed the Annual Red Mass where Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer served as main celebrant and Fr. Gerald Schreck delivered the homily.

> Francesca A. Rehal, recipient of the 2016 St. Thomas More Award from the Catholic Lawyers Guild.





#### 21 HUNTER MACLEAN LAWYERS NAMED "BEST"

Twenty-one attorneys from HunterMaclean were recently selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© 2017, published annually in nearly 70 countries to recognize attorneys for outstanding achievements in their area of practice.

Attorneys are selected through peer-review surveys completed by thousands of lawyers who confidentially evaluate their peers.

"HunterMaclean is honored that so many of our attorneys are included in Best Lawyers 2017," said Brad Harmon, HunterMaclean's managing partner. "It is gratifying to see these attorneys recognized by their legal peers."





#### 2017 SBA HOT TOPICS

Planning for the January 2017 SBA Hot Topics Seminar is underway. Any assistance is appreciated. If you are interested in speaking at the Hot Topics Seminar, assisting with planning, providing a sponsorship, or if you have any other questions about Hot Topics, please contact the 2017 Hot Topics Chair Joe Cronk: joecronksav@gmail.com



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### TWO NEW ATTORNEYS AT GLSP'S SAVANNAH OFFICE

Georgia Legal Service Program's Savannah Regional Office recently announced two new staff attorneys:

Amanda Jones was raised in Savannah, received her undergraduate degree from The University of Georgia, and her law degree from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. Joining GLSP in April 2016, Amanda provides advice and representation to low–income clients in civil matters.

Matthew Brigman is a native of Dalton, Georgia. He is admitted to practice law in Georgia, Virginia, and Washington DC. Matthew graduated

from Georgia Tech with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and earned his law degree from the College of William & Mary. Starting in August 2016 with GLSP, he focuses on consumer rights and crime victims.





**Amanda Jones** 

**Matthew Brigman** 

#### SAVANNAH TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The Savannah Trial Lawyers Association began its 2016–2017 membership year with a September lunch meeting featuring Court of Appeals Presiding Judge John Ellington as speaker.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at the Savannah Golf Club at noon with U.S. District Court Chief Judge Lisa Godbey Wood of the Southern District as speaker.



Court of Appeals Presiding Judge John Ellington



U.S. District Court Chief Judge Lisa Godbey Wood

The Association meets on the last Tuesday of every month through May, 2017, with the exception of December. Meetings are open to active members of the Association, prospective members, and all Judges.

To join the Association, or if you are a member of the Judiciary and would like to attend, contact Zach

Thomas, President, at (912) 233–6600, <a href="mailto:zhthomas@aol.com">zhthomas@aol.com</a>, or Adam Harper, Secretary, at (912) 232–6767, <a href="mailto:adam@sutherslaw.com">adam@sutherslaw.com</a>.



The Savannah Trial Lawyers Association meets on the last Tuesday of every month through May, 2017, (excluding December) at The Savannah Golf Club.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS STREET LAW PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The US Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Georgia is proud to partner with the Savannah Law School to once again present the Street Law Program at Savannah High School.

Attorneys and current law students have the opportunity to teach 10th–12th grade students an interactive and engaging curriculum that targets practical legal issues relevant to young people in the United States. Volunteers will receive the curriculum and all supplements needed in order to teach each lesson. This semester's Street Law program at Savannah High School will be held on Fridays from 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 beginning on September 9th and ending on November 18th. Volunteers can sign up for one or more classes here or email lknight@savannahlawschool.org.



School of Liberal Studies At Savannah High School

#### MEDIATION CENTER OF SAVANNAH FALL CLASSES

The Mediation Center of Savannah is offering a number of trainings and CLE credits this fall that will satisfy the training requirements for registered neutrals by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Registration is available online.

Continuing Education

Domestic Mediator Child Support Calculator Training October 20, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm (3 hr) Civil Mediator Continuing Education October 26, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm (3 hr)

Guardian Ad Litem Training
October 28, 8:15 am - 5:30 pm
For more information, contact T

For more information, contact Trish Murphy at sav.familylawresource@gmail.com

Domestic Mediation Training November 1– 5, 8:00 am– 4:00 pm Led by Wendy Williamson, Esq.

Domestic Violence Training
December 8–9, 8:00 am– 4:00 pm
Led by Wendy Williamson, Esq.



The Mediation Center of Savannah

Cutting the Emotional and Financial Costs of Disputes



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### GEORGIA CHILD SUPPORT CONFERENCE 2016

The Georgia Commission on Child Support will be presenting its 2016 Child Support Conference: Georgia Kids Count! on November 10, 2016, at the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center.

The Child Support conference will feature hands—on training with the new Online Child Support Calculator, an ethics presentation, and breakout sessions that include basic child support training, a "bring your files" session for difficult child support questions, how to collect child support payments, child support for mediators, and more.



The Conference is open to judges, attorneys, mediators, and judicial and legal support staff. Cost is \$130, which includes 6 CLE credits, including one ethics hour.

Click here for more information or to register.

#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

#### Now Hiring



Savannah real estate and construction law firm seeks associate attorneys with experience in either real estate transactional / corporate work or real estate and construction litigation.

Firm will consider full— and part—time applicants. Interested applicants should email their cover letter and resume to rsh@mccorklejohnson.com



#### Now Open for Submissions

Tell us about your news, views and people on the move

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.