



# The Citation June

## The 2019 SBA Annual Cocktail Party

The SBA Annual Cocktail Party, held at the Grove, was a great success. Members of the Savannah Bar Association took advantage of the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues. In addition to swearing-in of our 2018-2019 officers, the SBA presented two of its annual awards: the Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Memorial Scholarship and the Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Professionalism Award.

The Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Mason Stoeber. The scholarship was established in tribute to the memory and legacy of Judge Gadsden as an outstanding community leader known for his character, integrity and compassion. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating High School Senior and provides an award of \$1,000.00 per year for four years of college (\$4,000 total).

Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Professionalism Award went to Judge Michael L. Karpf. The award is presented to the attorney within our legal community who best exemplifies professionalism in the manner in which he or she engages clients and other members of the profession and the community as a whole. Named after Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., who exemplified professionalism in his career, the award seeks to recognize that individual who pursues work on behalf of clients, as well as on behalf of the community, as a public servant to promote justice and the public good.

In addition, the SBA's Citation received the State Bar of Georgia Award for "Best Newsletter" for the 2017-2018 Bar year. Many thanks to those who have provided us with the content to make this newsletter an award-winner! Also, thanks again to Miles Mediation for sponsoring the event!



Presentation of the Judge Eugene H. Gadsden Memorial Scholarship



Presentation of Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Professionalism Award



Congratulations to our new 2017-2018 Officers (from left to right): President – Robert C. Hughes, III, President-Elect – Leesa Bohler, Treasurer – Blake L. Greco, Secretary – Colby E. Longley



## HunterMaclean Listed in Prestigious *Chambers USA 2018* Guide

HunterMaclean, a leading business law firm with offices in Savannah and Brunswick, was recently ranked in the exclusive Chambers USA 2018. Considered the most trusted law resource guide worldwide, Chambers USA is compiled through an extremely rigorous and research-based review, evaluating the multiple practice areas of hundreds of law firms through investigative research and interviews with attorneys and their clients.

HunterMaclean received rankings in Environmental Law, Labor and Employment, and Litigation: General Commercial. Attorneys highlighted for their work within these practices include Drew Ernst (Environmental Law), Wade Herring (Labor and Employment), Shawn Kachmar (Labor and Employment), and Sarah Lamar (Labor and Employment).

“We are honored to be highlighted again within this prestigious publication,” said HunterMaclean Managing Partner Brad Harmon. “This recognition further exemplifies the extensive knowledge and unwavering commitment of our attorneys at HunterMaclean.”

Chambers guides are the result of thousands of in-depth interviews by the largest research team of its kind and are trusted across the globe to objectively rank the world’s best lawyers and law firms. HunterMaclean is the only Savannah law firm to be ranked by Chambers USA in these practice areas.



Drew Ernst  
Environmental Law



Wade Herring  
Labor & Employment



Shawn Kachmar  
Labor & Employment



Sarah Lamar  
Labor & Employment

### ABOUT HUNTERMACLEAN

With offices in Savannah and Brunswick, HunterMaclean has extensive experience representing businesses and individuals in all areas of business litigation as well as in corporate, tax, real estate, health care, information technology, and logistics law. The firm’s clients include Fortune 500 companies, banks, hospitals, professional service organizations, nonprofits, and start-up ventures. For more information about HunterMaclean, call 912.236.0261 or visit [www.huntermaclean.com](http://www.huntermaclean.com)

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## Hasner Law Seeks Workers’ Compensation Attorney and Bilingual Paralegal

Hasner Law is seeking a Workers’ Compensation Attorney and Bilingual Paralegal to work in our thriving Savannah office. This is an incredible opportunity to help grow our Savannah presence while working with a great, family-like team. For more information, please contact Holly Wiggin ([holly@hasnerlaw.com](mailto:holly@hasnerlaw.com)).



## Joe Steffen opens law office in downtown Savannah

Grand opening of the Steffen Law Office and fundraiser for the Savannah Bicycle Campaign

Joe Steffen celebrated the grand opening of the Steffen Law Office at 317 Tattnall Street with a ribbon-cutting reception and fundraiser on April 17, 2018 from 5:30–7:00 pm that benefited the Savannah Bicycle Campaign. The event was co-hosted by attorneys Courtney Lerch and Jenni Swan. Over 125 guests were in attendance, including Van Johnson, Dr. Jamerson, Ron Scalf, & Caleb Harkleroad.

Joe Steffen previously served as legal counsel and director of government relations for Savannah State University, and is also known for his dedicated involvement in the Savannah community. Joe is an avid cyclist and has supported the Savannah Bicycle Campaign for years, so he saw an opportunity to share the spotlight with their cause as he opened his new law office:

“I’m a cyclist and have supported the Savannah Bicycle Campaign for years. As someone who represents injured cyclists, the organization’s outstanding advocacy efforts and promotion of safer cycling conditions in the city is extremely important to me,” said Steffen.

The Savannah Bicycle Campaign: The Savannah Bicycle Campaign helps to create a safer and more convenient bicycling environment by advocating for better facilities and enforcement, and encouraging, educating, and empowering residents and visitors to make bicycling a healthy, enjoyable, useful part of their daily lives.

“Joe has been a great supporter of the Savannah Bicycle Campaign and we’re thrilled he chose to fundraise for our organization at his office grand opening. Events like these raise not only essential funds but awareness of bicycling in our city, helping to create a safer, more active, healthier Savannah,” said John Bennett, Executive Director of the Bicycle Campaign.

For press inquiries, contact Marianne Ganem-Poppell & Scott West at 912-224-4869, Kendra DeMoura at 843-885-4621, or email [info@savannahmastercalendar.com](mailto:info@savannahmastercalendar.com).



## Special Assistant Attorney General Leo Beckmann, Jr. recognized

Special Assistant Attorney General Leo Beckmann, Jr. was recognized during the graduation ceremony of the Chatham County Juvenile Court's Family Treatment Court, on June 12, 2018. Leo has been a member of the FTC team since its inception ten years ago, and has practiced as a SAAG since 1989. He has spent countless hours attending FTC staffing meetings and hearings, as well as attending numerous national and state training events, in order to help abused and neglected children in Georgia. The Chatham County FTC is one of several accountability courts in Chatham County. Its mission is to achieve safe and permanent families for children by addressing dependency resulting from the substance abuse of a parent or caregiver. Leo's work on the FTC team helps parents not only with their substance abuse issues, but also with other parenting concerns, such as budgeting, education, housing, and parenting struggles. Congratulations and thank you to Leo Beckmann, Jr. from the FTC Court.



## GLSP HOSTS HOUSING FORUM

Georgia Legal Services hosted a forum on June 20th entitled "Dispossessed: The Impacts of Eviction" addressing the problems of eviction and affordable housing in Savannah. The panel featured Cindy Kelly (Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless), Katrina Bostick (Family Promise Savannah), Julie Wade (Park Place Outreach), Professor Marc Roark (Savannah Law School), Martin Fretty (City of Savannah, Housing & Neighborhood Services), and Amanda Webb (Georgia Legal Services, Eviction Protection Program).

Roark reported that, in a span of 7 years, 72,000 dispossessories were filed in Chatham County. Most of the tenants evicted owed approximately \$500 to \$900 in past due rent. Indicating the importance of legal assistance, Roark found that 72% of tenants were able to avoid eviction if they had legal representation. Those who did not have representation were successful in only 8% of cases.

The forum ended with the creation of a new housing task force to find realistic solutions to the housing crisis. GLSP, Step Up Savannah, the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, the Homeless Authority, and the Housing Authority of Savannah have expressed a desire to join the initiative.

Georgia Legal Services brought the issue to the fore in light of two attorneys joining its staff to work specifically on Landlord-Tenant issues. Amanda Webb is concentrating her efforts on private rental housing in Chatham County. Alison Slagowitz is working on subsidized housing (public housing, Section 8) throughout GLSP's 11-county service area. The funding for the work comes from the Georgia Bar Foundation and the Equal Justice Works Fellowship Program.

To learn more about this work, contact Ms. Webb at (912) 651-2283 ext. 2754 or [awebb@glsp.org](mailto:awebb@glsp.org); or Ms. Slagowitz at (912) 651-2283 ext. 2283 or [aslagowitz@glsp.org](mailto:aslagowitz@glsp.org). Any attorneys interested in doing Pro Bono work in that area of housing can contact Ruth Ann Dutton at (912) 651-2283 ext. 2184 or [rdutton@glsp.org](mailto:rdutton@glsp.org).

## Spiva Law Group Expands

Spiva Law Group is pleased to announce that Jennifer L. McKibban joined the firm in April 2018. Ms. McKibban works at the Spiva Law Group Office, located at 1137 Mohawk Street and can be reached at 912.920.2000 or [jmckibban@spivalaw.com](mailto:jmckibban@spivalaw.com).

Ms. McKibban graduated from Georgia Southern University cum laude with a B.S. degree in Psychology with a Criminal Justice minor as part of the Georgia Southern University Honors Program. She was inducted into the Delta Epsilon Iota academic honor society. During her undergraduate studies, Ms. McKibban was active in Sigma Alpha Omega, a service sorority, where she participated in a number of volunteer community service projects including Operation Christmas Child, Light the Night, Special Olympics, nursing home volunteer, a program, she participated in an alternate spring program serving as a camp counselor and mentor for adults with Down's syndrome and autism.

Jennifer McKibban earned her law degree at Savannah Law School where she focused her studies on litigation and mediation. She was a member of the Federalist Society and Environmental Law Society. She served as a volunteer mentor to first-year law students and worked as a law clerk with a local firm. Ms. McKibban is licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia. Further, she is a member of the Georgia State Bar, the Young Lawyer's Division, and the Savannah Bar Association.



**Jennifer L. McKibban**



For over 30 years, the Spiva Law Group has served the people of Savannah. The firm specializes in personal injury cases, helping to restore lives after catastrophic accidents. In addition to its legal practice, Spiva Law Group provides direct support to the Justice for Children Foundation, a charitable 501(c) private foundation that provides free safety helmets in an effort to prevent traumatic brain injury in children. For more information, please visit the Spiva Law Group website .



## Governor Deal Approves Changes to Trust Code, Longer Terms, Modifications

By Richard Barid and Michael Smith

Governor Deal recently signed into law a change to Georgia's Trust Code which is expected to keep more trust business in the state. Below is a summary of its provisions.

Georgia House Bill 121 strikes a middle ground between the most restrictive and most liberal terms by lengthening the lifespan of a trust from 90 to 360 years, which is expected to keep Georgia settlors from establishing trusts in more liberal states. Georgia's new Rule Against Perpetuities, which takes effect July 1, is similar to its neighbors Florida and Tennessee, and longer than Alabama, South Carolina or North Carolina. Establishing a trust for such a long term could create problems for descendants if unforeseen circumstances prevented the trust from fulfilling its purpose. However, Georgia legislators have added protections for descendants by adding provisions to allow beneficiaries to amend a non-charitable irrevocable trust under certain circumstances.

House Bill 121 provides several options for modification. First, if the settlor is still alive and has the consent of all beneficiaries, the court may modify or terminate the trust even if the modification does not agree with the original intent of the trust. After the settlor's death, the court may modify the trust if all the beneficiaries consent and the modification is in line with the purpose of the trust or the court may terminate the trust if its continuation would not fulfil its original purpose. The court may also modify the trust, the administrative provisions of the trust or appoint an additional trustee if unforeseen circumstances prompt modification to further the purposes of the trust or to achieve the settlor's tax objectives. Further, the court may order the division of a single trust into two or more trusts or the consolidation of two or more trusts into a single trust if the division or consolidation would be helpful to the administration of such trust or trusts. Finally, the court may terminate a trust and order distribution of the trust property if the costs of administration would substantially impair the purposes of the trust, the purpose of the trust has been fulfilled or become illegal or impossible to fulfill or continuance of the trust would not accomplish the purposes of the trust.

*Richard Barid and Michael Smith are co-founders of Savannah-based Smith Barid LLC, which focuses on estate planning, special needs planning and veteran benefits planning. They can be reached at 912-352-3999 or [richard@smithbarid.com](mailto:richard@smithbarid.com) or [msmith@smithbarid.com](mailto:msmith@smithbarid.com).*

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## Civil Mediation and Practicum: August 11-12, August 17-19

Miles Mediation & Arbitration will conduct its next Civil Mediation Training August 11-12, August 17-19. The five-day training is led by Miles neutral and trainer, Wendy Williamson, Esq.??

Upon completion of the 28-hour course, attorneys will have the tools and skills to begin practicing mediation and conflict resolution. Upon completion of the 28-hour course and the 12-hour practicum, attorneys will also be eligible to register as a mediator with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

For more information about the training or to reserve a spot, please call 912-417-2879 or visit <https://www.milesmediation.com/training/civil-mediation-training/>





## Remembering Frances Maclean, 1922-2016

By Wade Herring

I first knew Mrs. Maclean as the wife of my boss, Malcolm Maclean, and as the mother of my work colleagues, John and Nancy. For Mr. Maclean, Frances provided a safe harbor, a shelter away from the stress and worries of serving as mayor of the City of Savannah, or as the long-time managing partner of HunterMaclean. As much as he grumbled about going to Flat Rock or traveling overseas, Mr. Maclean needed that time away, and he cherished that time with her. On more than one occasion, Mr. Maclean instructed me to pay attention to my wife. He joked about it, but it was also sincere and excellent advice.

Mrs. Maclean loved her children and her grandchildren. They were ever at the forefront of her mind. She worried about them, but knew better than to try to say too much. Mrs. Maclean and I commiserated with one another over the hard-headedness of children.

Mrs. Maclean loved her extended family and looked forward to Thanksgivings on Edisto Island. She never forgot she was from Charleston, although she certainly felt at home in Savannah.

I next knew Mrs. Maclean as the widow of my much-loved mentor, who had become so much more than my boss. John was away in Chattanooga, and I felt duty-bound to check on Mrs. Maclean.

Very quickly, I came to know Mrs. Maclean as a close friend. I enjoyed and valued our visits together. Mrs. Maclean was graceful and joyous, and that grace and joy radiated out to the people around her. She had an ongoing curiosity about the world, and she ventured out into the world, even when the challenges of age and frailty would have kept a less-determined person home. Her children came by their hard-headedness quite naturally.

In the spring of 2017, just last year, I was walking through Forsyth Park on the Saturday evening of the SCAD sidewalk art festival. I came across a familiar figure in the middle of the park, Mrs. Maclean, who wanted to see the art for herself. As always, she radiated joy and grace and awe, still amazed by the world we live in.

In the song, No Hard Feelings, the singer contemplates what will happen to him after he dies. The singer asks:

*Will I run into the savior true  
And shake hands, laughing?  
And walk through the night,  
Straight to the light,  
Holding the love I've known in my life,  
And no hard feelings.*

As a person of faith, I believe that's what Mrs. Maclean did the night of June 2. She joyfully met her Savior, holding the love she'd known in her life, and greeting the people she'd loved in her life.

I will miss her. I will be forever grateful to have been part of her life. I will remember her standing there in Forsyth Park, smiling with grace and joy and awe. And I will try to remember her example of a life well-lived, holding the love I've known in my life, and no hard feelings.



## Moore Clarke DuVall & Rogers Seeking Associate

Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers, PC is seeking a litigation associate to join its civil litigation group in the Savannah, Georgia office. This position will provide hands-on experience in a variety of civil and business litigation areas. This practice group has a dynamic and successful practice, as well as strong culture of mentoring and professional development.

Candidate should have excellent research, writing, and analytical skills. Experience preparing for and taking depositions, as well as courtroom experience, preferred. Admission to the Georgia Bar required.

Compensation is merit-based and will be commensurate with experience. Generous benefit package. Please send cover letters and resumes to [aparker@mcd-r-law.com](mailto:aparker@mcd-r-law.com).



## 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.