ATHENS, Ga., May 1 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

Richard W. Story, U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia, will deliver the keynote address at the University of Georgia School of Law's Commencement May 19. The processional will begin at 10 a.m. on the quadrangle in front of the law school on UGA's North Campus. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to Stegeman Coliseum.

A federal judge for the last 14 years, Story previously served as a Superior Court judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia from 1986-1998, where he was chief judge for the latter five years. He also has served as a juvenile court judge in Hall County, as a special assistant attorney general representing the state of Georgia in child support and custody cases, and as a partner in the Gainesville law firm Hulsey, Oliver and Mahar.

While Superior Court judge, Story served as the administrative judge for the Ninth Judicial District of Georgia and as a member of the Judicial Council of Georgia and the Georgia Courts Automation Commission.

He earned his bachelor's degree from LaGrange College in 1975 and his juris doctor from Georgia Law in 1978.

At this year's Commencement ceremony, approximately 230 students will be honored for the completion of all requirements for a juris doctor. Additionally, 10 master of laws candidates, who have completed one year of graduate legal study, will be recognized.
U.S. District Court Judge Richard Story to Deliver Law School Graduation Address

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U.S. District Court judge to deliver law school graduation address

By UGA NEWS SERVICE on May 1, 2012

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A crowd of about 200 gathered at the University of Georgia's North Campus on Tuesday to light candles and say prayers for 34 university workers and students who died over the past year.

"We confirm in this service our sense of community, even in a place as large as the University of Georgia," said UGA President Michael Adams in the brief service, held annually on the steps of the UGA Chapel.

Scott Shamp, chairman of the University Council executive committee, Staff Council President Jerry Daniel and Student Government Association President Will Burgess read each of the names.
As they read each name, members of the Arch Society, a student group, lit another candle while other students tolled the chapel bell. Afterward, as a small wind ensemble played “Going Home,” the Arch Society members moved through the crowd, carefully protecting their candles against a light breeze as they lit candles handed out to friends and family members as the service began.

Many cried, remembering, as Joel Marcovitch, director of Hillel at University of Georgia, closed the service with a final prayer, quoting from a poem recited on Jewish high holidays: “We remember them/ In the rising of the sun and as it goes down,/

We remember them/ In the bowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,/ We remember them/ In the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,/ we remember them.”

A large group of younger men, student members of UGA’s Delta Epsilon Psi fraternity, stood quietly in a group during the service. They had come to honor fraternity brother Bhavin Patel, who died in an automobile accident in December.

“He was optimistic about everything,” said fraternity brother Jai Patel, who stood with chapter president Jason Patel and Sunny Patel, another brother.

“He was a good friend, ready for any challenge,” Sunny Patel said.

The service was a fitting memorial, judged Pastor Tommy Moment of Athens’ New Joy Church of God in Christ, who had come to remember his good friend, Ronald Monfort.

“It’s a beautiful thing to do,” Moment said.

“He was a good man. We hate to lose him,” Moment said of Monfort, a painter in UGA’s physical plant.

Faculty and staff members remembered were Mary Paige Adams, assistant research scientist; Fred Bateman, professor of economics; Clanton C. Black Jr., research professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; Linda Brooks, associate professor of comparative literature; Jean Margaret Bryan, senior
financial accountant; Jackie E. Davis, research technician; Kevin Deweaver, professor in the School of Social Work; Anne P. Dupre, professor in the School of Law; Conrad Fink, a professor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication; Roberto Friedmann, associate professor of marketing and distribution; Marco Fonseca, senior public service associate; James Daniel Fouche Jr., parking services monitor; Tyler Harris, police officer; Anita Huff, accounting assistant; Freddie J. Martin, skilled trades worker; Krista Mattocks, associate accountant; Ronald Monfort, painter; Tafronica Lasha Ollie, food services worker; Tariq Perwez, a research professional; Michael Self, fiscal compliance officer, and J. Douglas Toma, professor with the Institute of Higher Education.

Students remembered at the service were Logan Upshaw Bentley, a junior from Athens; James Richard Carter III, a junior from Valdosta; René Marek Cieszewski, a junior from Athens; Jeffery Scott Cook, a doctoral student from Duluth; Charles Dalton Couey, a freshman from Springfield; Susannah Davis, a freshman from Brooklet; Barrett S. Lawrimore Jr., a graduate student from Grayson; Howard Fisher Marks III, a junior from Wilmington, N.C.; Bhavin Patel, a junior from Thomaston; Richard Olaf Sabine Jr., a junior from Ringgold; Lexis Sierra Schantz, a sophomore Atlanta; Kenneth Rae Shoe, a senior from Hull, and Eric Wu, a doctoral student from Troy, Mich.
University to remember those who passed

By RED AND BLACK on May 1, 2012

The University will honor the memory of 33 faculty, staff and students at its annual candlelight memorial service today at 6 p.m.

The “Georgia Remembers...a Candlelight Memorial” service, which commemorates those who died since May 2011, will be held on the steps of the University Chapel.

University President Michael Adams will lead the service. The names of each of the 33 faculty and staff members and students will be read aloud by Scott Shamp, chair of the executive committee of the University council; Jerry Daniel, president of the Staff Council; and Will Burgess, president of the Student Government Association.

The reading of the names is followed by a toll of the Chapel bell and the lighting of a candle. The University’s Air Force ROTC will present the colors and ring the bell.

If inclement weather occurs, the memorial will be held inside the Chapel.

Susannah Maxine Davis

Susannah Maxine Davis, a freshman foreign language education major from Brooklet, died Dec. 28, 2011 when her family’s house caught on fire, according to a Red & Black article.

Davis, 19, attended Southeast Bulloch High School.

Swimming is listed as her favorite sport on her Facebook profile.

— Compiled by Adina Solomon

James Richard Carter III

James Richard Carter III, a junior comparative literature major from Valdosta, passed away Aug. 23, 2011, according to The Valdosta Daily Times.

Carter, 22, was born on March 23, 1989 in Valdosta.

He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hapeville.

— Compiled by Maria Torres

James Fred Bateman Jr.

James Fred Bateman, Jr., the department head of economics in the Terry College of Business, passed away Jan. 10, 2012 at the age of 74.

Bateman received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University, his master’s degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Doctorate at Tulane. He specialized in U.S. agricultural history and manufacturing in the 19th century, according to an obituary in Columns.

In addition to being a research associate at Harvard, he taught at Indiana University in Bloomington, the London School of Economics, Purdue University, University of Ljubljana, DePauw University and University of the South, according to an obituary in New Orleans' The Times-Picayune. He finally settled his career at the University in 1991. In 2002, Bateman won the Kamerschen-Hampton Award for Outstanding Research in Economics.
Fred Bateman, a full professor, would talk to anybody, and he was kind to everybody — it didn’t matter who they were,” said Jason Rudbeck, an economics professor. “Students loved him. He and I got along great — we’d just talk for hours about politics or history or anything, and that was why students loved him too. He was an exceptionally smart man, yet despite how intelligent he was, he was not arrogant in the least. He was willing to talk to everybody and teach everybody anything, and he was one of the best people I ever met.”

— Compiled by Alex Laughlin

Rene Marek Cieszewski

Fourth-year University honors student Rene Marek Cieszewski, 20, passed away Jan. 1, 2012. Born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Cieszewski moved to Athens and attended St. Joseph Catholic High School. He graduated from Cedar Shoals High School, but continued to attend St. Joseph Catholic Church. He was a mathematics major working toward a minor in astrophysics.

— Compiled by Megan Ernst

Howard Fisher Marks III

Howard Fisher Marks III, a junior management information systems major from Wilmington, N.C., passed away on Sept. 21, 2011.

Marks, 23, served as a student assistant for the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies on campus, according to an article from The Red & Black.

In memory of Marks, the family is asking for contributions and donations be made to The New Hanover Humane Society, according to the Wilmington Star-News.

— Compiled by Samantha Daigle

Linda Brooks

Linda Brooks, an associate professor of comparative literature, died June 7, 2011, according to an obituary in the University’s online newspaper Columns. She had been fighting a rare and incurable lung disease, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, for the past 10 years.

Brooks taught popular courses at the University on European Romanticism and Postmodernism, according to Columns. Her later teaching and research often focused on “testimonials,” a literary genre in which traumatic events are re-enacted and re-imagined as dramatic performances.

Brooks earned her bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. degrees in English literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. She taught at the University from 1998 to 1994 and from 2002 to 2010.

— Compiled by Briane Gerdeman

Richard Olaf Sabine Jr.

Richard Olaf Sabine, Jr., a junior psychology major from Ringgold, died on May 24, 2011.

Sabine was a lifelong resident of North Georgia, according to The Chattanoogan. He graduated from Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School in 2007.

He was admitted to the University Honors Program.

— Compiled by Adina Solomon

Tyler Harris

University Police Officer Tyler Harris died Sept. 5, 2011, while vacationing with family at Lake Sinclair during Labor Day weekend.

Harris, 24, was born March 21, 1987. He graduated from Gainesville State College with a criminal justice degree.

Harris had recently finished field training for the police department. He took on a spot in the patrol division in February, months before his drowning accident, according to the Athens Banner-Herald. Harris “loved the beach, water sports, country music, NASCAR, hunting and all things outdoors,” according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

— Compiled by Heidi Gholamhosseini

Roberto “Bobby” Friedmann

Roberto “Bobby” Friedmann, an associate professor of marketing and distribution for the Terry College of Business, passed away Sept. 24, 2011 at the age of 58 after battling pancreatic cancer, according to an article from The Red & Black. Since his father’s passing, Nick Friedmann has set up a Fight 4 Bobby charity to raise awareness for pancreatic cancer. It has raised $45,100 out of its $50,000 goal since its founding, according to FirstGiving, a fundraising website.

Friedmann was born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1953. He moved to the United States in 1973 and went to school at the University of Kansas. While there, Friedmann earned his Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics, his Master of Business Administration and his Ph.D. in Marketing. Friedmann worked at the University for 27 years, 12 of which he spent as the director of international business programs at Terry.

“His students had a universal love for him is the only way to put it,” said Richard Gooner, a fellow professor at the University of Kansas. “He did great things for internationalization.”

— Compiled by Adria S. Gwynn

Roberto Friedmann’s University Honors Program

Friedmann served as a student assistant for the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies on campus, according to an obituary in The Red & Black.

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— Compiled by Samantha Daigle

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst

Megan Ernst
Terry. "He was a demanding professor. He challenged his students. He was very invested in them, and you would almost never walk by his office without seeing a student there. I would have to go a long, long way before I would think that I have the same impact that Dr. Friedmann had on his student's lives."

- Compiled by Erica Techo

Tafronica Lasha Ollie

Tafronica Lasha Ollie, a food services worker in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel, passed away on Sept. 22, 2011.

The funeral of Ollie, 32, was held at Billups Grove Baptist Church in Athens.

- Compiled by Adina Solomon

Mary Paige Adams

Mary Paige Adams, an assistant research scientist in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, passed away July 3, 2011, according to the Tifton Gazette.

Adams, 47, earned her bachelor's degree in zoology in 1988 and her master's degree in forestry resources in 1991, both from the University, according to Adams' CV. She graduated with her PhD in environmental engineering studies from the University of Florida in 2005.

Adams was an assistant research scientist based in Tifton from 2006 until her death. Her research focused on emerging water quality issues.

- Compiled by Adina Solomon

J. Douglas Toma

J. Douglas Toma, a well-published author, scholar and University professor in the Institute of Higher Education, died May 4, 2011 at 47 after living with melanoma for eight months.

According to his obituary in The Red & Black, Toma also served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Law, dean of Franklin Residential College and director of the Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows program for the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. As dean of Franklin Residential College, Toma and his wife and son lived on campus in Rutherford Hall for six years, according to the Athens Banner-Herald.

During his time at the University, Toma helped create international partnerships for the Institute of Higher Education in China, Uganda, Australia, Croatia and throughout Europe and the U.K. On March 24, 2012, the Franklin Residential College held the J. Douglas Toma Memorial Field Day to help raise money to create the new Doug Toma study abroad scholarship.

- Compiled by Katie Valentine

Anita Huff

Anita Huff, an accounting assistant with Central Research Stores and a native of Atlanta, died Feb. 5, 2012, according to the Rockdale Citizen.

Loved by all who worked with her, Huff, 72, worked as an accountant for the University after serving as an employee for Athens Marble and Granite. As an employee for the University, Huff touched many people's lives, including fellow faculty and students. She also remained a dedicated Bulldog fan, often proclaiming her love for the Gym Dogs.

Lynn Slaton, a friend of Huff’s, said she was, “a beautiful lady,” and Julie Edmondson, a relative of Huff’s, said she remained, “a giving, kind person” who will be missed by all who were close to her.

- Compiled by Jamie Gottlieb

Logan Upshaw Bentley

University student Logan Upshaw Bentley passed away on March 23, 2012, according to an article from The Red & Black. He was a junior real estate major from Athens and grandson of former Athens mayor Upshaw Bentley.

After graduating from Oconee County High School in 2008, Bentley attended the University of Mississippi. He transferred to the University of Georgia in 2010.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Athens.

- Compiled by Lindsey Cook

Jeffery Scott Cook

Jeffery Scott Cook, a student from Duluth, died Jan. 8, 2012. Cook, 52, was in the process of completing his doctorate in health promotion and behavior.

In 1981, Cook received his bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the Army as Lieutenant Colonel for more than 20 years. He worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention beginning in 2002 as an operations branch chief, deputy chief of staff and an official in the heart disease prevention program.

In a eulogy in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Joel Stager, from Bloomington, Ind., said he was "a bright light and a special person. If wealth comes from the strength of friendships and admiration of others, Jeff was a very
Anne Profitt Dupre

Anne Profitt Dupre, a University professor of law, died at 58 on June 22, 2011 after battling metastatic small cell cervical cancer.

Dupre began teaching in the School of Law in 1994. She specialized in teaching education law, children and the law and contract law. Before coming to the University to teach, Dupre received a law degree from the University School of Law after graduating first in her class. In 2004, she became the fourth woman in Georgia Law History to be appointed to an endowed position after she earned the J. Alton Hosch Professorship.

Dupre was born in Parkersburg, W. Va. She earned her bachelor's degree in history and psychology from the University of Rhode Island. After earning her law degree at the University, Dupre served a clerkship with Judge J.L. Edmondson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th circuit. She then went on to serve as a judicial clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun.

Jackie Davis

Jackie Davis, a research technician in entomology at the University Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, died on Jan. 8, 2012 at the age of 57, according to the Tifton Gazette.

Davis worked in the entomology department for over 30 years. According to the department website, his research focused on the effects of pesticides on the environment.

According to the Tifton Gazette, Davis lived most of his life in Tifton and was a generous sponsor in the community.

Kevin DeWeaver

Kevin DeWeaver, a professor and Ph.D. program director at the School of Social Work, died after a year-long battle with cancer at the age of 60.

During DeWeaver's 26-year tenure, he served on more than 40 doctoral committees — more than any other professor in the program. According to the School of Social Work, his research focused on mental retardation and other developmental disorders.

DeWeaver was originally from New York, according to the School of Social Work. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of New York at Geneseo and later his doctoral degree in social work from Florida State University. DeWeaver was known for his dry sense of humor and love of music.

Clanton Candler Black Jr.

Clanton Candler Black Jr., a research professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, died on Aug. 14, 2011, according to the Athens Banner-Herald.

A member of the faculty at the University for 44 years, Black taught students until the time of his death.

Black, 70, traveled to all seven continents for his research. While at the University, he was awarded a Fulbright grant for inventing a new hybrid of rice in China, later using the grant to work in Mongolia and China.

Charles Dalton Couey

Charles Dalton Couey, a freshman sports management major, of Springfield died on Sept. 11, 2011 in Athens.

Couey, 19, graduated from Effingham County High School in 2010 as a celebrated member of the football team, according to the Effingham Herald.

The Dalton Couey Memorial Fund has been created in his remembrance, to the care of Heritage Bank of the South.

Charles Dalton Couey

Ronald Eugene Monfort

Ronald Eugene Monfort, a painter with the University Physical Plant for 27 years, died on Nov. 2, 2011.

Monfort, 56, also worked at Wal-Mart for 20 years, according to The Greensboro Herald Journal.

He was born on Feb. 20, 1955, in Greene County, according to The Herald Journal. Monfort was the youngest of eight siblings and became a Christian early in life, attending New Springfield Baptist Church.

James Daniel Fouche

James Daniel Fouche, a parking services monitor for University Parking Services, died Dec. 6, 2011.
University to remember those who passed | The Red and Black

http://redandblack.com/2012/05/01/university-to-remember-those-who...

Fouche, 56, had worked for the University for nine years and also worked for the Atlanta Union Mission. He has been described by acquaintances as "always friendly and positive" and "a great friend."

— Compiled by Heather Reese

Krista 'Kris' Allgood Mattocks

Krista 'Kris' Allgood Mattocks died June 18, 2011 at Tift Regional Medical Center in Tifton, according to an obituary in the Tifton Gazette. Mattocks was born on April 23, 1963. She graduated from Young Harris College with an associate of science degree in business administration and she also received an associate degree in general business from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She was an employee of the University for 23 years, 19 of which she worked at the Tifton campus's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. She was a member of the 43rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment Living Historians from the War Between the States and was fondly called "Mother Mattocks." She was a great lover of the outdoors and especially enjoyed coffee around the campfire with friends. She also loved quilting, cross-stitching and sewing.

— Compiled by Jeanette Kazmierczak

Conrad Fink

Conrad Fink, an esteemed professor at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, passed away from prostate cancer on Jan. 14, 2012. Fink was a former Vietnam war correspondent and Associated Press vice president.

Greg Bluestein, a reporter for the Associated Press and former editor of The Red & Black, said he was lucky enough to have Fink take an interest in him as a freshman, before he took any Fink classes. Bluestein told The Red & Black he walked into Fink's office clutching a copy of the student newspaper, but Fink quickly snatched it away and threw it at him.

"He said to me, 'This is the most important thing you'll do in your four years here. Now get out of my office,'" Bluestein said.

Some of Fink's awards include the University's Meigs Teaching Award in 1992, the National Journalism Teacher award from Freedom Forum and the Regents Teaching Excellence award in 2004. He was also honored last November when the Grady College made him a Grady Fellow.

— Compiled by Mariana Heredia

Tariq Perwez

Tariq Perwez, a research professional at the University Department of Genetics and at the University Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, passed away this year.

He had been employed by the University's Department of Genetics since 2003 and had been employed by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology since 2008. Perwez earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1998, according to the University website.

Perwez was also a post-doctoral research associate for the Kushner lab.

— Compiled by Joshua Johnson

Barrett S. Lawrimore Jr.

Barrett S. Lawrimore, Jr., a graduate student from Grayson studying occupational studies, died from clear cell renal cancer at his Grayson home on May 7, 2011, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Lawrimore, 56, was an engineer for 25 years, until he decided to take a year off from work in 2002. Since he had been involved with church youth groups and the Boy Scouts, he became a public schools teacher.

Lawrimore taught business at Berkmar High School for seven years and then taught math in Grayson, according to the AJC.

Lawrimore graduated from Clemson University with an undergraduate engineering degree. He completed his master's in business at Georgia State University. Prior to his death, Lawrimore was in the process of completing his doctorate in workforce education at the University where he was working on his dissertation proposal, according to the AJC.

— Compiled by Polina Marinova

Bhavin Patel

A University student and two family members were killed in a car accident while visiting family in India on Dec. 19, 2011.

Bhavin Patel, a sophomore and member of the Delta Epsilon Psi fraternity, was killed while riding in a car with family members near Sanghi village when the driver lost control and swerved into another lane, according to a Jan. 11 Red & Black article. Patel's fraternity brothers honored his memory with a candlelight vigil at the Tate Center on Jan. 11, 2012.

"We lost a great brother. He was our closest friend. He was always a cheerful person, and we're going to miss that," said Sunny Patel, a senior biochemistry major from Franklin and ambassador for Delta Epsilon Psi.
University to remember those who passed | The Red and Black

http://redandblack.com/2012/05/01/university-to-remember-those-who...

- Compiled by Sarah Giarratana

Eric Wu

Eric Wu, a doctoral student in psychology from Troy, Mich., is also being honored by the University. But at the request of Wu’s father, The Red & Black is not publishing anything further.

Kenneth Ray Shoe

Kenneth Ray Shoe, a senior psychology major from HUll, died on April 14, 2012 after being in a one-vehicle wreck in Boaz, Ala.

His vehicle hit a tree after leaving the road, according to The Sand Mountain Reporter. Though Shoe was wearing a seat belt, it was broken on impact due to the speed of the vehicle. He was 28.

Shoe is survived by his parents, Charley and Cynthia Shoe of Boaz and grandmothers Gladys Smith of Hull and Clara Shoe of Boaz.

— Compiled by Tiffany Stevens

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Yarbrough: Federal judge sees majesty in the law, not jokes

Dick Yarbrough
yarb2400@bellsouth.net
May 1, 2012

While May 1st is designated Law Day in the United States, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, chief judge of the U.S. Southern District of Georgia, says we Americans should remember that every day is a day of law in this country. There would be anarchy without it.

I had the privilege of following Judge Wood on a program in Savannah a couple of weeks ago and I have never heard anyone explain our system of law better or with more passion than she did. When it was my turn to speak, I felt like Tiny Tim and his ukulele following Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic.

Judge Wood was appointed to the federal court by President George W. Bush and approved by the U.S. Senate in 2007. In 2010, she was named chief judge. Prior to that, she had been a U.S. attorney and previously a magistrate judge in Brunswick and in private practice there.

I stopped by her office to tell her how impressed I was with her speech and to assure her I don't do lawyer jokes. Never. (Well, OK, there is the one story about the lawyer who ...)

What I got out of the visit was a marvelous tutorial on the role of our legal system within the framework of our democracy from a remarkable individual who shatters the stereotypes you may have of imperious judges who seem out-of-touch with reality. Judge Wood immediately puts you at ease, laughs a lot (but not at lawyer jokes) and talks enthusiastically about her family. She is married to a retired FBI agent and has 10-year-old twins.

But don't let her laid-back manner and easy-going persona fool you. For one thing, she is brighter than a new penny, having graduated summa cum laude from both the University of Georgia and from the UGA Law School. "I'm a Double Dawg," she declares proudly.

Observers say she runs a tight but polite courtroom. She doesn't deliver speeches to those on trial or to the juries. "I just talk to them," she said. "If I am sentencing someone, I want to look the person straight in the eye and tell them what the sentence is and why. I want to make sure they understand the rights they are giving up."
She rarely, if ever, excuses potential jurors from service. "I want every case to have a jury of one's peers, not just a group of people who had nothing better to do that day," the judge declares. She notes that the U.S. Constitution specifically mentions the jury system and she says it is the most fundamental part of democracy.

Judge Wood said, "The jury system is the ultimate check on the executive and legislative branches of government.

The jury gets the last say-so. Twelve people voting their collective view and they always seem to get it right."

I had to ask her about her disapproval of lawyer jokes. "We may have earned the jokes through the behavior of a minority of folks but when lawyers go bad and hurt our citizens, this strikes our system of law a mighty blow and that's not funny."

Judge Wood is at her most eloquent when she talks about "the majesty of the law," which she says is evident in the "plain old everyday cases," not necessarily the high-profile ones that come along every few years and dominate the headlines.

Of course, we don't always agree with or understand some of the decisions coming out of courts, but until someone comes up with a better system than the framers of the U.S. Constitution - and I suspect no one ever will - Judge Wood thinks our legal system serves us well.

"The courtroom is where people can potentially lose their freedom, their money and sometimes even their lives. To come into court and see people speaking for other people; witnesses swearing to tell the truth and doing it; citizens taking time away from what they might otherwise be engaged in to sit as a group and carefully determine the fate of their fellow citizens; to see the principles of the Constitution applied every day in neighborhoods and towns all over America to resolve disputes without violence. That is the majesty of the law."

I am glad I went to see Judge Lisa Godbey Wood. That was a good Law Day lecture from someone who knows what she is talking about and given to someone who badly needed to hear it. And that's no joke.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at yarb2400@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.
Richard “Bill” Littlefield, 63: Former state senator wanted to make Georgia better

By Michelle E. Shaw
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

4:58 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Richard “Bill” Littlefield knew Georgia politics, law and Hawaiian-themed shirts.

An attorney and former state senator, Mr. Littlefield was habitually a very serious man. But he also enjoyed extended periods of laughter that provided great balance, his family said.

“He could be really playful,” said Stephanie Littlefield, a daughter who lives in Seattle. “Those are times I think we will always cherish.”

“He didn’t shy away from a good time,” added Maj. R. Wells Littlefield, III, a son who is home on leave from military service in Afghanistan.

It was during family trips to the Virgin Islands that Mr. Littlefield began to collect tropical shirts, his family said. He enjoyed them so much that he and his wife, Beverly Littlefield, began throwing an annual winter party with a summer dress code.

“By February, you’d made it through the holidays, but there was still this cold weather,” Mrs. Littlefield said. “So we’d tell them to put on their Hawaiian shirts and come to the party and we’d get through this winter together. Bill loved that sort of thing.”

Richard Wells Littlefield Jr., called Bill by many, of Sandy Springs, died at his home Friday, from complications of congestive heart failure. He was 63.

His body was cremated and a memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. Friday at H.M. Patterson & Son, Spring Hill, which is also in charge of arrangements.

A Georgia native, Mr. Littlefield was educated in the public schools of Jesup and Wayne counties. He earned his undergraduate degree from Emory University in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1973.

Early in his career, Mr. Littlefield served as assistant district attorney for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit. He lived on St. Simons Island and was a state senator from 1979 until 1982, representing then-District 6. During his time as a senator, Mr. Littlefield was vice chairman of the judiciary committee, secretary of the insurance committee, served on the Governor’s committee on juvenile justice, the Governor’s committee on constitutional Revision and on the Georgia code revision commission.
“He was proud of being a part of the General Assembly during a time in which true bipartisanship was possible,” his wife said. “A lifelong Democrat, Bill nonetheless worked across the aisle in the spirit of making Georgia a better state.”

In 1983 he moved to the Atlanta area and specialized in worker’s compensation law, working for various firms. In 1999 Mr. Littlefield got a chance to get back on the legislative side of the law when he became the late Sen. René Kemp’s legal advisor for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He later served as the executive counsel to then-Lt. Governor Mark Taylor and then as the director of the joint senate information and research offices.

When Mr. Littlefield was in politics, his children said, he was happiest.

“He had a definite spark in his eye during that time,” Maj. Littlefield said.

“He felt like he was directly contributing to change,” added Ms. Littlefield. “And I think that is really what made him tick.”

In 1997, Mr. Littlefield, a divorcé, met and married the former Beverly Rheney. Though the couple did not have children, they enjoyed a “beautifully blended family,” Mrs. Littlefield said.

“He was a wonderful family man,” Mrs. Littlefield said. “And we often did things with the children, their mother and her husband, and it was just wonderful.”

In addition to his wife, son and daughter, Mr. Littlefield is also survived by another daughter, Lindsey L. Lieber, of Charlotte; sister, Mary Catherine L. Amerine, of North Augusta, S.C.; and one granddaughter.
Dick Yarbrough: Federal judge sees not jokes, but ... majesty in the law

by Dick Yarbrough
Columnist
05.02.12 - 12:01 am

While May 1 is designated Law Day in the United States, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, chief judge of the U.S. Southern District of Georgia, says we Americans should remember that every day is a day of law in this country. There would be anarchy without it.

I had the privilege of following Judge Wood on a program in Savannah a couple of weeks ago and I have never heard anyone explain our system of law better or with more passion than she did. When it was my turn to speak, I felt like Tiny Tim and his ukulele following Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic.

Judge Wood was appointed to the federal court by President George W. Bush and approved by the U.S. Senate in 2007. In 2010, she was named chief judge. Prior to that, she had been a U.S. attorney and previously a magistrate judge in Brunswick and in private practice there.

I stopped by her office to tell her how impressed I was with her speech and to assure her I don’t do lawyer jokes. Never. (Well, OK, there is the one story about

What I got out of the visit was a marvelous tutorial on the role of our legal system within the framework of our democracy from a remarkable individual who shatters the stereotypes you may have of imperious judges who seem out-of-touch with reality. Judge Wood immediately puts you at ease, laughs a lot (but not at lawyer jokes) and talks enthusiastically about her family. She is married to a retired FBI agent and has 10-year-old twins.

But don’t let her laid-back manner and easy-going persona fool you. For one thing, she is brighter than a new penny, having graduated summa cum laude from both the University of Georgia and from the UGA Law School. “I’m a Double Dawg,” she declares proudly.

Observers say she runs a tight but polite courtroom. She doesn’t deliver speeches to those on trial or to the juries. “I just talk to them,” she says, “If I am sentencing someone, I want to look the person straight in the eye and tell them what the
sentence is and why. I want to make sure they understand the rights they are giving up.”

She rarely, if ever, excuses potential jurors from service. “I want every case to have a jury of one’s peers, not just a group of people who had nothing better to do that day,” the judge declares. She notes that the U.S. Constitution specifically mentions the jury system and she says it is the most fundamental part of democracy.

Judge Wood says, “The jury system is the ultimate check on the executive and legislative branches of government. The jury gets the last say-so. Twelve people voting their collective view and they always seem to get it right.”

I had to ask her about her disapproval of lawyer jokes. “We may have earned the jokes through the behavior of a minority of folks but when lawyers go bad and hurt our citizens, this strikes our system of law a mighty blow and that’s not funny.”

Judge Wood is at her most eloquent when she talks about “the majesty of the law,” which she says is evident in the “plain old everyday cases,” not necessarily the high-profile ones that come along every few years and dominate the headlines.

Of course, we don’t always agree with or understand some of the decisions coming out of courts, but until someone comes up with a better system than the framers of the U.S. Constitution — and I suspect no one ever will — Judge Wood thinks our legal system serves us well.

“The courtroom is where people can potentially lose their freedom, their money and sometimes even their lives. To come into court and see people speaking for other people; witnesses swearing to tell the truth and doing it; citizens taking time away from what they might otherwise be engaged in to sit as a group and carefully determine the fate of their fellow citizens; to see the principles of the Constitution applied every day in neighborhoods and towns all over America to resolve disputes without violence. That is the majesty of the law.”

I am glad I went to see Judge Lisa Godbey Wood. That was a good Law Day lecture from someone who knows what she is talking about and given to someone who badly needed to hear it. And that’s no joke.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at yarb2400@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

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The American Judicial System: Is It Abusing Potential Jurors?

By KATHLEEN POINTER

Yes, according to Melanie Wilson, KU School of Law professor and associate dean. And, she adds, it’s so invasive and privacy invading that many jurors are tempted to lie during the selection process.

Wilson thinks we need to change the way juries are selected to take pressure off of citizens while maintaining the right to a fair jury and trial. She wants a system that would allow potential jurors to remove themselves, and not go through extensive questioning, if the trial hits too close to home.

Have you ever been called to jury duty? Did you feel like the process was too invasive?

Melanie Wilson is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served on the Law Review. Before turning to law teaching, Wilson served as an assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Georgia and, prior to that, in the Middle District of Georgia. She also served as law clerk to Richard Freeman, United States District Court Judge, Northern District of Georgia. She joined the KU Law faculty in 2007.

TAGS: Jury, trial, KU Law

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Rossville man to argue his case before Georgia Supreme Court

By Joy Lukachick

Sunday, May 6, 2012

A Rossville man with a pending racketeering charge in Walker County will go before the Georgia Supreme Court this week to argue that his arrest was unconstitutional.

Joe Mohwish will represent himself before the seven justices, claiming his civil lawsuit against prosecutors and police shouldn't have been dismissed.

He sued Lookout Mountain District Attorney Herbert “Buzz” Franklin and Rossville after his arrest in 2009, saying police shouldn't have raided his business and taken gambling equipment because he had a state license to operate raffles for nonprofits, which is legal in Georgia.

After the raid, Mohwish was indicted on a gambling charge under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, along with two others. Their indictments claim the three were operating an illegal gambling operation across North Georgia.

Mohwish said he believes if the Supreme Court rules that his arrest was unconstitutional, his criminal charges will be dropped. He denies doing anything illegal.

Franklin didn't return calls seeking comment on the case, but in a motion to the Supreme Court, he wrote that Mohwish's lawsuit was rightfully dismissed and that Mohwish would be able present his claims as part of his defense in the criminal trial, according to a summary by the Supreme Court's press office.

Mohwish and Franklin will present their oral arguments before the state Supreme Court on Tuesday morning, and the court is expected to issue a ruling within six months.

Only a few people represent themselves -- legally known as pro se litigants -- on serious cases and even fewer on appeals, said University of Georgia Law professor Ronald Carlson.

Jane Hansen, spokeswoman for the Georgia Supreme Court, said she couldn't estimate how many pro se litigants are granted an argument in the court each year, but the last person to represent himself and win was an Atlanta blogger named Matthew Cardinale in February. The court agreed with Cardinale that Atlanta shouldn't have omitted the names of City Council members who favored or opposed an amendment when it was later reported in the minutes.

BACKGROUND

In December 2008, Mohwish obtained his license to operate raffles for nonprofits. He claims he has a real estate business in which he leases property and equipment to fundraising charities, according to the Supreme Court summary.

Mohwish said he was operating a charitable raffle for the Michigan Barber School in Detroit when the Rossville Police Department raided his business, taking his records and machines.

The Michigan school's director, Darryl Green, said the school had agreed to participate in a raffle with Mohwish in 2009 and had applied for the proper license through Georgia, but the school never received any money from Mohwish.

In 2011, Green took over the business full time when his brother died and Mohwish called to renew the raffle. Green said he agreed, but after he started getting phone calls from the Walker County Sheriff's Office saying Mohwish was operating without a license and had a pending racketeering charge, he decided to get out.

"I didn't want to have anything to do with it anymore," Green said. "I had dealt with it long enough."

In 2011, Mohwish said he tried to renew his license to run a raffle, but the Walker County Sheriff's Office denied it.

Contact staff writer Joy Lukachick at jlukachick@timesfreepress.com or 423-757-6659.
Donating platelets shares one's health

One of the few joys left to me is my periodic forays to the Blood Assurance center across from the MacKenzie Arena to donate platelets.

Such a vital act of sharing one's health with another requires no act of heroism, hardship or inconvenience. I am so disappointed that so relatively few Americans undergo transfusion of their blood product.

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Make non-payers ante up money

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Well, I am outraged! These people must be forced to pay. How do they get away without paying?

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3) They are hiding their true income in offshore accounts (maybe in the Cayman Islands).

I'm sure these issues can be cleared up, and those with less income can be made to pay more tax.

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Rossville, Ga.

GOP can't accept world's realities

Republicans in Congress have forgotten that the world went into the "Great Recession" in 2008 while Bush was in office. They talked about it a lot before the election that year, but now say that Obama has not done enough to bring America out of it.

They ignore the fact that this was the worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. They fight government stimulation of the economy as the party of "no!" They want us to follow the Europeans in a budget and debt reduction, but ignore the many European countries that are in or face a new recession. Trickle-down economics has never worked, in the 1930s or the 1980s.

Oil and gas billionaires support the Republican Party, and Republicans support them. They decry taxing the rich and put down climate change and
evolution. However, weather disasters around the world in the past decade are the worst in history. Republicans have not criticized disaster relief to their own constituencies, even as they talk incessantly about reducing government and taxes. Disasters have hindered economic recovery in many areas while increasing government outlays.

If the Republicans cannot accept the world's realities, can you trust them to govern America?

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Obama's record one of destruction

Our president has set many records. Here's just a few:

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I'm 77 years old, and I'm tired of our present leaders. In the words of Thomas Jefferson: "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

Vote for a new "Hope and Change."

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Don't judge man by political party

I am not a member of any political party. I do listen to the radio, watch television and I read the newspaper. I also am a Christian.

I recently saw on television that Mitt Romney will be speaking at Liberty University, a Christian school. They would never think of asking President Obama, who is a professing Christian, to speak.

Mitt Romney is a Mormon. He also preaches and is a missionary in his church -- also gives millions to it. We Christians call Mormonism a cult. I think it is a double standard, myself. But I guess it is all right if you are a Republican.

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The place was huge, was bustling with activity, was fun to just walk through (I couldn't help but buy something), and I found myself asking why I had never heard of an Ikea store, or why the Chattanooga region doesn't have one.

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PAT PICKETT

LOAD-DATE: May 7, 2012
Deportation cases halted, but illegal immigrants lives remain on hold

By Jeremy Redmon
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
5:39 a.m. Monday, May 7, 2012

Dalton -- Pedro "Peter" Morales remembers the party his family and friends threw last summer after he was freed from a detention center and told he would not be deported to Mexico.

They presented the 19-year-old with a chocolate cake that said "Welcome Back, Pedro." His dad grilled chicken and steaks. Morales -- who was illegally brought to the U.S. by his parents when he was 7 -- was relieved to be back home in North Georgia. But those happy feelings have given way to anxiety. He still does not have legal status in the U.S. And the government won't permit him to work legally here.

His situation stems from the federal government's efforts to shrink a massive backlog in the nation's immigration courts, totaling 306,010 cases as of last month. The government is shifting more of its focus toward deporting violent criminals, fugitives from immigration authorities, recent border crossers and people who have re-entered the country illegally.

Morales' deportation case is among 2,722 the government has closed as part of this effort so far, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement figures show. Of those, 41 were from Atlanta's immigration court, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse -- a research organization that monitors the federal government.

Charles Kuck, Morales' immigration attorney, said his firm has about 20 other clients in the same predicament as Morales. He predicted there are many more caught in similar circumstances nationwide.

"It's quite clear that there was not a lot of thought given to what happens to these people when we exercise our discretion of 'Throw them back in the ocean,' " said Kuck, who teaches immigration law at the University of Georgia and is past president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "It's disappointing there wasn't a better plan, frankly."

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, has a different view. He said halting illegal immigrants' deportation cases and then permitting them to work here could send the message that it is OK to enter the country illegally and stay here without legal status.

"It is like: 'Hey, you know, now I'm legal. It's great. I'm glad ICE arrested me,"' said Krikorian, whose Washington-based organization advocates for tighter immigration controls. "Giving work authorization really is much more problematic."
Federal officials said they are constrained by law concerning when they may grant work permits. They said some people who have had their deportation cases closed since last year have received work permits, but they could not immediately say how many.

They also pointed out that the Obama administration has been pushing Congress to pass the Dream Act. That measure -- which failed in Congress in 2010 -- would give illegal immigrants a path to legal status if they came here as children, graduated from high school and attended college or served in the military.

Meanwhile, ICE officials said they are moving as quickly as they can to review the cases pending in the nation's immigration courts. They said they are trying to "alleviate the burden posed on already overwhelmed immigration courts" and have identified about 16,500 cases that meet their criteria for being closed. Closing cases through this process, according to ICE, allows the agency "to more quickly remove those individuals who pose the biggest threat to community security and who have most flagrantly abused our immigration system."

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano ignited controversy in August -- the same month Morales was freed -- when she announced the case-by-case review. The government's actions come as Georgia and several other states are seeking to crack down on illegal immigration through their own new laws. Among other things, those statutes seek to block illegal immigrants from taking jobs from U.S. citizens and getting public benefits they are not entitled to. Parts of those laws are tied up in federal court amid legal challenges.

State Rep. Matt Ramsey, who authored Georgia's illegal immigration law, said it makes sense for the government to prioritize deporting criminal illegal immigrants. But the government wouldn't have such a massive court backlog, he said, if it spent more resources keeping illegal immigrants out of the country.

"They are in a position of having to do this because they have fundamentally failed over a period of decades to stem the tide effectively," the Peachtree City Republican said, "and they are still not adequately putting the resources behind it to address the problem."

President Barack Obama's supporters point out that his administration has deported a record number of illegal immigrants and other noncitizens. Last fiscal year, that number was 396,906, the largest number removed in the history of ICE.

Morales feels strongly about the government's decision to halt deportation cases like his. A graduate of Whitfield Career Academy, he considers himself mostly American. His high school friends nicknamed him Peter. He sometimes speaks to his parents in English because he doesn't know which Spanish words to use.

"I was raised here," said Morales, a quiet, polite man who speaks in a somber tone. "I wouldn't know what to do in Mexico if I go back."

After his case was closed last year, Morales applied to the government through a process that could lead to a work permit, but his application was denied in March, his attorney said. Morales wants to get a full-time job -- with health insurance benefits -- to pay for tuition at Georgia Northwestern Technical College. He wants to study auto mechanics there and open his own car repair shop. He said he can't support himself without full-time work, so he lives with his parents and two U.S.-born siblings.
Morales talked about his case this month at his parent's home in a trailer park just outside Dalton. He said his parents brought him to the United States in 1999, fleeing poverty and crime in Mexico City. Morales was able to keep his legal status secret until he was arrested on Father's Day for driving without a license. Local authorities determined that he was in the country illegally and turned him over to ICE, which sent him to a detention center 145 miles south of Atlanta in Stewart County. He said he spent many weeks there, depressed and worried about his future.

Morales was freed after his attorney cited the government's new guidelines for "prosecutorial discretion" in court. Morales said he is glad to be free but is nervous about drawing the attention of immigration authorities again since they have the authority to reopen his deportation case. He said he rarely leaves home. When he does, friends drive. He mostly stays busy playing video games and working out at a local gym, though he can't shake his restlessness.

"I want to be a good citizen and make a living," he said. "It's kind of frustrating right now."

By the numbers

Seeking to shrink a massive backlog in the nation's immigration courts, federal officials have begun an extensive case-by-case review of the 306,010 matters pending in the courts to see whether they should be closed because they don't meet the government's top priorities for enforcement. The federal government is shifting more of its focus toward deporting violent criminals, recent border crossers, people who have re-entered the country illegally and fugitives from immigration authorities.

As of April 16, the government has reviewed 219,554 cases and determined that about 16,500 of them meet its criteria for being closed. Of those, 2,722 have been closed. They include:

- 2,055 who have had a "very long-term presence" in the U.S., have an immediate relative who is a U.S. citizen, have established "compelling ties and made compelling contributions" to the U.S.
- 182 who came to the U.S. under the age of 16, have been in the U.S. for more than five years, have completed high school or its equivalent and are now pursuing or have completed higher education in the U.S.
- 175 children who have been in the U.S. for more than five years and are either enrolled in school or have completed high school or its equivalent
- 103 who are a "very low enforcement priority"
- 100 who suffer from serious mental or physical conditions that would require "significant medical or detention resources"
- 60 victims of domestic violence, human trafficking or other serious crimes in the U.S.
- 23 who are older than 65 and have been in the U.S. for more than 10 years
- 16 who have been lawful permanent residents of the U.S. for 10 years or more and have a single, minor conviction for a nonviolent offense;
Deportation cases halted, but illegal immigrants lives remain on hold...

8 who are members of the U.S. military, honorably discharged U.S. military veterans or spouses or children of U.S. military veterans

Sources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review

Find this article at:
Georgia's Stand Your Ground Law

By Parker Wallace
Updated: 4 hours ago

Georgia is the first state having its "Stand Your Ground" law scrutinized by a federal court. An Atlanta civil rights leader filed a federal case challenging the law in response to the February shooting death of unarmed Florida teen, Trayvon Martin.

Here's how Georgia's Stand Your Ground law works: If you think someone is about to kill you, you can use deadly force to defend yourself. It's been Georgia law since 2006.

But self-defense can be a legal grey area. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation the number of justifiable homicides in Georgia has increased per year from 7 to 13 since the law went into effect. University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson explains the difference between Georgia's law and other states:

"In a normal self-defense case in a state without a stand your ground law, the person is required to retreat to the wall as they say—take every step up to the last one and then use force only if it's absolutely essential. In a stand your ground state, of course, force can be met with force."

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Ringhand joined the Georgia Law faculty in the fall of 2008. She teaches courses on constitutional law, election law, and state and local government. Her research focuses on empirical work regarding the voting patterns and practices of U.S. Supreme Court justices, and she is currently writing a book about the Supreme Court confirmation process. Her work has been published in journals such as the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law, Constitutional Commentary, the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law and the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies.

Ringhand was recently recognized for her scholarship by the Southern Political Science Association with its 2012 Neal Tate Award, which is an honor reserved for outstanding papers in judicial politics. She also is the recipient of the C. Ronald Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching (2010) and a Congressional Research Award from the Dirksen Congressional Center (2011). Ringhand came to UGA from the University of Kentucky College of Law. In addition, she has served as a visiting scholar at the Oxford Institute of European and Comparative Law and worked at the firm Foley & Lardner in its litigation and regulatory departments.

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Georgia’s Stand Your Ground Law

By Parker Wallace

Updated: 4 hours ago

Atlanta — Georgia is the first state having its “Stand Your Ground” law scrutinized by a federal court. An Atlanta civil rights leader filed a federal case challenging the law in response to the February shooting death of unarmed Florida teen, Trayvon Martin.

Here’s how Georgia’s Stand Your Ground law works: you think someone is about to kill you, you can use deadly force to defend yourself. It’s been Georgia law since 2006.

But self-defense can be a legal grey area. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the number of justifiable homicides in Georgia has increased per year from 7 to 13 since the law went into effect. University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson explains the difference between Georgia’s law and other states:

“In a normal self-defense case in a state without a stand your ground law, the person is required to retreat to the wall as they say—take every step up to the last one and then use force only if it’s absolutely essential. In a stand your ground state, of course, force can be met with force.”

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Deportation cases halted, but illegal immigrants lives remain on hold ...  

8 who are members of the U.S. military, honorably discharged U.S. military veterans or spouses or children of U.S. military veterans

Sources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Justice Department’s Executive Office for Immigration Review

Find this article at:
Morales talked about his case this month at his parent's home in a trailer park just outside Dalton. He said his parents brought him to the United States in 1999, fleeing poverty and crime in Mexico City. Morales was able to keep his legal status secret until he was arrested on Father's Day for driving without a license. Local authorities determined that he was in the country illegally and turned him over to ICE, which sent him to a detention center 145 miles south of Atlanta in Stewart County. He said he spent many weeks there, depressed and worried about his future.

Morales was freed after his attorney cited the government's new guidelines for "prosecutorial discretion" in court. Morales said he is glad to be free but is nervous about drawing the attention of immigration authorities again since they have the authority to reopen his deportation case. He said he rarely leaves home. When he does, friends drive. He mostly stays busy playing video games and working out at a local gym, though he can't shake his restlessness.

"I want to be a good citizen and make a living," he said. "It's kind of frustrating right now."

By the numbers

Seeking to shrink a massive backlog in the nation's immigration courts, federal officials have begun an extensive case-by-case review of the 306,010 matters pending in the courts to see whether they should be closed because they don't meet the government's top priorities for enforcement. The federal government is shifting more of its focus toward deporting violent criminals, recent border crossers, people who have re-entered the country illegally and fugitives from immigration authorities.

As of April 16, the government has reviewed 219,554 cases and determined that about 16,500 of them meet its criteria for being closed. Of those, 2,722 have been closed. They include:

2,055 who have had a "very long-term presence" in the U.S., have an immediate relative who is a U.S. citizen, have established "compelling ties and made compelling contributions" to the U.S.

182 who came to the U.S. under the age of 16, have been in the U.S. for more than five years, have completed high school or its equivalent and are now pursuing or have completed higher education in the U.S.

175 children who have been in the U.S. for more than five years and are either enrolled in school or have completed high school or its equivalent

103 who are a "very low enforcement priority"

100 who suffer from serious mental or physical conditions that would require "significant medical or detention resources"

60 victims of domestic violence, human trafficking or other serious crimes in the U.S.

23 who are older than 65 and have been in the U.S. for more than 10 years

16 who have been lawful permanent residents of the U.S. for 10 years or more and have a single, minor conviction for a nonviolent offense;
Deportation cases halted, but illegal immigrants lives remain on hold...

Federal officials said they are constrained by law concerning when they may grant work permits. They said some people who have had their deportation cases closed since last year have received work permits, but they could not immediately say how many.

They also pointed out that the Obama administration has been pushing Congress to pass the Dream Act. That measure -- which failed in Congress in 2010 -- would give illegal immigrants a path to legal status if they came here as children, graduated from high school and attended college or served in the military.

Meanwhile, ICE officials said they are moving as quickly as they can to review the cases pending in the nation's immigration courts. They said they are trying to "alleviate the burden posed on already overwhelmed immigration courts" and have identified about 16,500 cases that meet their criteria for being closed. Closing cases through this process, according to ICE, allows the agency "to more quickly remove those individuals who pose the biggest threat to community security and who have most flagrantly abused our immigration system."

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano ignited controversy in August -- the same month Morales was freed -- when she announced the case-by-case review. The government's actions come as Georgia and several other states are seeking to crack down on illegal immigration through their own new laws. Among other things, those statutes seek to block illegal immigrants from taking jobs from U.S. citizens and getting public benefits they are not entitled to. Parts of those laws are tied up in federal court amid legal challenges.

State Rep. Matt Ramsey, who authored Georgia's illegal immigration law, said it makes sense for the government to prioritize deporting criminal illegal immigrants. But the government wouldn't have such a massive court backlog, he said, if it spent more resources keeping illegal immigrants out of the country.

"They are in a position of having to do this because they have fundamentally failed over a period of decades to stem the tide effectively," the Peachtree City Republican said, "and they are still not adequately putting the resources behind it to address the problem."

President Barack Obama's supporters point out that his administration has deported a record number of illegal immigrants and other noncitizens. Last fiscal year, that number was 396,906, the largest number removed in the history of ICE.

Morales feels strongly about the government's decision to halt deportation cases like his. A graduate of Whitfield Career Academy, he considers himself mostly American. His high school friends nicknamed him Peter. He sometimes speaks to his parents in English because he doesn't know which Spanish words to use.

"I was raised here," said Morales, a quiet, polite man who speaks in a somber tone. "I wouldn't know what to do in Mexico if I go back."

After his case was closed last year, Morales applied to the government through a process that could lead to a work permit, but his application was denied in March, his attorney said. Morales wants to get a full-time job -- with health insurance benefits -- to pay for tuition at Georgia Northwestern Technical College. He wants to study auto mechanics there and open his own car repair shop. He said he can't support himself without full-time work, so he lives with his parents and two U.S.-born siblings.
Deportation cases halted, but illegal immigrants lives remain on hold

By Jeremy Redmon
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

5:39 a.m. Monday, May 7, 2012

Dalton -- Pedro “Peter” Morales remembers the party his family and friends threw last summer after he was freed from a detention center and told he would not be deported to Mexico.

They presented the 19-year-old with a chocolate cake that said “Welcome Back, Pedro.” His dad grilled chicken and steaks. Morales -- who was illegally brought to the U.S. by his parents when he was 7 -- was relieved to be back home in North Georgia. But those happy feelings have given way to anxiety. He still does not have legal status in the U.S. And the government won’t permit him to work legally here.

His situation stems from the federal government’s efforts to shrink a massive backlog in the nation’s immigration courts, totaling 306,010 cases as of last month. The government is shifting more of its focus toward deporting violent criminals, fugitives from immigration authorities, recent border crossers and people who have re-entered the country illegally.

Morales’ deportation case is among 2,722 the government has closed as part of this effort so far, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement figures show. Of those, 41 were from Atlanta’s immigration court, according to Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse -- a research organization that monitors the federal government.

Charles Kuck, Morales’ immigration attorney, said his firm has about 20 other clients in the same predicament as Morales. He predicted there are many more caught in similar circumstances nationwide.

“It’s quite clear that there was not a lot of thought given to what happens to these people when we exercise our discretion of ‘Throw them back in the ocean,’” said Kuck, who teaches immigration law at the University of Georgia and is past president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. “It’s disappointing there wasn’t a better plan, frankly.”

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, has a different view. He said halting illegal immigrants’ deportation cases and then permitting them to work here could send the message that it is OK to enter the country illegally and stay here without legal status.

“It is like: ‘Hey, you know, now I’m legal. It’s great. I’m glad ICE arrested me,” said Krikorian, whose Washington-based organization advocates for tighter immigration controls. “Giving work authorization really is much more problematic.”
Christian. Shame on you.

The Lord must really be laughing when he sees how stupid humans are.

LENA FERGUSON

Back DeGaetano for Sessions bench

Joe DeGaetano is the right choice for Sessions Court judge for Hamilton County. Joe has a thoughtful temperament and an eye for fairness that is exactly what Chattanooga needs. Our city has been besieged by the type of crime that could prevent the happiness and prosperity we deserve. Joe's steady judiciousness, experience and knowledge would help guide us through the perils of modern life.

Chattanooga needs someone who knows the city personally, as our problems and lifestyle are somewhat unique. Joe grew up in Chattanooga before pursuing some of the best education available in the South while studying economics at Vanderbilt before excelling in the University of Georgia School of Law.

Joe is intelligent, a dedicated family man, and a direct product of our fine city. There is no better candidate for serving in the judicial system. That is why he has my support for Sessions judge.

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Ikea would fit well in Chattanooga

Last year my husband and I visited an Ikea store.

The place was huge, was bustling with activity, was fun to just walk through (I couldn't help but buy something), and I found myself asking why I had never heard of an Ikea store, or why the Chattanooga region doesn't have one.

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I watched meteorologist David Glenn on Channel 9 during the tornado coverage last year. He kept us informed on which area the tornado was in and the approximate time it would be approaching another area. My neighborhood did not get a direct hit, but when David warned it was getting close I took his advice and went to a safe, secure place.

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Oil and gas billionaires support the Republican Party, and Republicans support them. They decry taxing the rich and put down climate change and evolution. However, weather disasters around the world in the past decade are the worst in history. Republicans have not criticized disaster relief to their own constituencies, even as they talk incessantly about reducing government and taxes. Disasters have hindered economic recovery in many areas while increasing government outlays.

If the Republicans cannot accept the world's realities, can you trust them to govern America?

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Our president has set many records. Here's just a few:

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In my estimation, President Obama has brought more destruction upon us in three years than any other event in the history of our country. For now we are stuck with a president who thinks government is the answer. If the Constitution was written to keep the government off our backs, why is it all over us? About the only thing our government does well is print and spend money. And why does everything in Washington seem to be for sale -- both sides?

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Vote for a new "Hope and Change."

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Don't judge man by political party

I am not a member of any political party. I do listen to the radio, watch television and I read the newspaper. I also am a Christian.

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Mitt Romney is a Mormon. He also preaches and is a missionary in his church -- also gives millions to it. We Christians call Mormonism a cult. I think it is a double standard, myself. But I guess it is all right if you are a Republican.

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Make non-payers ante up money

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They ignore the fact that this was the worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. They fight government stimulation of the economy as the party of "no!" They want us to follow the Europeans in a budget and debt reduction, but ignore the many European countries that are in or face a new recession. Trickle-down economics has never worked, in the 1930s or the 1980s.
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Rossville man to argue his case before Georgia Supreme Court

By Joy Lukachick
Sunday, May 6, 2012

A Rossville man with a pending racketeering charge in Walker County will go before the Georgia Supreme Court this week to argue that his arrest was unconstitutional.

Joe Mohwish will represent himself before the seven justices, claiming his civil lawsuit against prosecutors and police shouldn't have been dismissed.

He sued Lookout Mountain District Attorney Herbert "Buzz" Franklin and Rossville after his arrest in 2009, saying police shouldn't have raided his business and taken gambling equipment because he had a state license to operate raffles for nonprofits, which is legal in Georgia.

After the raid, Mohwish was indicted on a gambling charge under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, along with two others. Their indictments claim the three were operating an illegal gambling operation across North Georgia.

Mohwish said he believes if the Supreme Court rules that his arrest was unconstitutional, his criminal charges will be dropped. He denies doing anything illegal.

Franklin didn't return calls seeking comment on the case, but in a motion to the Supreme Court, he wrote that Mohwish's lawsuit was rightfully dismissed and that Mohwish would be able present his claims as part of his defense in the criminal trial, according to a summary by the Supreme Court's press office.

Mohwish and Franklin will present their oral arguments before the state Supreme Court on Tuesday morning, and the court is expected to issue a ruling within six months.

Only a few people represent themselves -- legally known as pro se litigants -- on serious cases and even fewer on appeals, said University of Georgia Law professor Ronald Carlson.

Jane Hansen, spokeswoman for the Georgia Supreme Court, said she couldn't estimate how many pro se litigants are granted an argument in the court each year, but the last person to represent himself and win was an Atlanta blogger named Matthew Cardinale in February. The court agreed with Cardinale that Atlanta shouldn't have omitted the names of City Council members who favored or opposed an amendment when it was later reported in the minutes.

BACKGROUND

In December 2008, Mohwish obtained his license to operate raffles for nonprofits. He claims he has a real estate business in which he leases property and equipment to fundraising charities, according to the Supreme Court summary.

Mohwish said he was operating a charitable raffle for the Michigan Barber School in Detroit when the Rossville Police Department raided his business, taking his records and machines.

The Michigan school's director, Darryl Green, said the school had agreed to participate in a raffle with Mohwish in 2009 and had applied for the proper license through Georgia, but the school never received any money from Mohwish.

In 2011, Green took over the business full time when his brother died and Mohwish called to renew the raffle. Green said he agreed, but after he started getting phone calls from the Walker County Sheriff's Office saying Mohwish was operating without a license and had a pending racketeering charge, he decided to get out.

"I didn't want to have anything to do with it anymore," Green said. "I had dealt with it long enough."

In 2011, Mohwish said he tried to renew his license to run a raffle, but the Walker County Sheriff's Office denied it.

Contact staff writer Joy Lukachick at jlukachick@timesfreepress.com or 423-757-6659.
The American Judicial System: Is It Abusing Potential Jurors?

By KATHLEEN POINTER (people/steve_kraske/people/pointer)

Yes, according to Melanie Wilson, KU School of Law professor and associate dean. And, she adds, it’s so invasive and privacy invading that many jurors are tempted to lie during the selection process.

Wilson thinks we need to change the way juries are selected to take pressure off of citizens while maintaining the right to a fair jury and trial. She wants a system that would allow potential jurors to remove themselves, and not go through extensive questioning, if the trial hits too close to home.

Have you ever been called to jury duty? Did you feel like the process was too invasive?

Melanie Wilson is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served on the Law Review. Before turning to law teaching, Wilson served as an assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Georgia and, prior to that, in the Middle District of Georgia. She also served as law clerk to Richard Freeman, United States District Court Judge, Northern District of Georgia. She joined the KU Law faculty in 2007.

TAGS: Jury (term) Juror (term) KU Law (term)
sentence is and why. I want to make sure they understand the rights they are giving up.”

She rarely, if ever, excuses potential jurors from service. “I want every case to have a jury of one’s peers, not just a group of people who had nothing better to do that day,” the judge declares. She notes that the U.S. Constitution specifically mentions the jury system and she says it is the most fundamental part of democracy.

Judge Wood says, “The jury system is the ultimate check on the executive and legislative branches of government. The jury gets the last say-so. Twelve people voting their collective view and they always seem to get it right.”

I had to ask her about her disapproval of lawyer jokes. “We may have earned the jokes through the behavior of a minority of folks but when lawyers go bad and hurt our citizens, this strikes our system of law a mighty blow and that’s not funny.”

Judge Wood is at her most eloquent when she talks about “the majesty of the law,” which she says is evident in the “plain old everyday cases,” not necessarily the high-profile ones that come along every few years and dominate the headlines.

Of course, we don’t always agree with or understand some of the decisions coming out of courts, but until someone comes up with a better system than the framers of the U.S. Constitution — and I suspect no one ever will — Judge Wood thinks our legal system serves us well.

“The courtroom is where people can potentially lose their freedom, their money and sometimes even their lives. To come into court and see people speaking for other people; witnesses swearing to tell the truth and doing it; citizens taking time away from what they might otherwise be engaged in to sit as a group and carefully determine the fate of their fellow citizens; to see the principles of the Constitution applied every day in neighborhoods and towns all over America to resolve disputes without violence. That is the majesty of the law.”

I am glad I went to see Judge Lisa Godbey Wood. That was a good Law Day lecture from someone who knows what she is talking about and given to someone who badly needed to hear it. And that’s no joke.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at yarb2400@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

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While May 1 is designated Law Day in the United States, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, chief judge of the U.S. Southern District of Georgia, says we Americans should remember that every day is a day of law in this country. There would be anarchy without it.

I had the privilege of following Judge Wood on a program in Savannah a couple of weeks ago and I have never heard anyone explain our system of law better or with more passion than she did. When it was my turn to speak, I felt like Tiny Tim and his ukelele following Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic.

Judge Wood was appointed to the federal court by President George W. Bush and approved by the U.S. Senate in 2007. In 2010, she was named chief judge. Prior to that, she had been a U.S. attorney and previously a magistrate judge in Brunswick and in private practice there.

I stopped by her office to tell her how impressed I was with her speech and to assure her I don’t do lawyer jokes. Never. (Well, OK, there is the one story about the lawyer who ...)

What I got out of the visit was a marvelous tutorial on the role of our legal system within the framework of our democracy from a remarkable individual who shatters the stereotypes you may have of imperious judges who seem out-of-touch with reality. Judge Wood immediately puts you at ease, laughs a lot (but not at lawyer jokes) and talks enthusiastically about her family. She is married to a retired FBI agent and has 10-year-old twins.

But don’t let her laid-back manner and easy-going persona fool you. For one thing, she is brighter than a new penny, having graduated summa cum laude from both the University of Georgia and from the UGA Law School. “I’m a Double Dawg,” she declares proudly.

Observers say she runs a tight but polite courtroom. She doesn’t deliver speeches to those on trial or to the juries. “I just talk to them,” she says, “If I am sentencing someone, I want to look the person straight in the eye and tell them what the
"He was proud of being a part of the General Assembly during a time in which true bipartisanship was possible," his wife said. "A lifelong Democrat, Bill nonetheless worked across the aisle in the spirit of making Georgia a better state."

In 1983 he moved to the Atlanta area and specialized in worker's compensation law, working for various firms. In 1999 Mr. Littlefield got a chance to get back on the legislative side of the law when he became the late Sen. René Kemp's legal advisor for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He later served as the executive counsel to then-Lt. Governor Mark Taylor and then as the director of the joint senate information and research offices.

When Mr. Littlefield was in politics, his children said, he was happiest.

"He had a definite spark in his eye during that time," Maj. Littlefield said.

"He felt like he was directly contributing to change," added Ms. Littlefield. "And I think that is really what made him tick."

In 1997, Mr. Littlefield, a divorcé, met and married the former Beverly Rheney. Though the couple did not have children, they enjoyed a "beautifully blended family," Mrs. Littlefield said.

"He was a wonderful family man," Mrs. Littlefield said. "And we often did things with the children, their mother and her husband, and it was just wonderful."

In addition to his wife, son and daughter, Mr. Littlefield is also survived by another daughter, Lindsey L. Lieber, of Charlotte; sister, Mary Catherine L. Amerine, of North Augusta, S.C.; and one granddaughter.
Richard "Bill" Littlefield, 63: Former state senator wanted to make Georgia better

By Michelle E. Shaw
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

4:58 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Richard "Bill" Littlefield knew Georgia politics, law and Hawaiian-themed shirts.

An attorney and former state senator, Mr. Littlefield was habitually a very serious man. But he also enjoyed extended periods of laughter that provided great balance, his family said.

"He could be really playful," said Stephanie Littlefield, a daughter who lives in Seattle. "Those are times I think we will always cherish."

"He didn't shy away from a good time," added Maj. R. Wells Littlefield, III, a son who is home on leave from military service in Afghanistan.

It was during family trips to the Virgin Islands that Mr. Littlefield began to collect tropical shirts, his family said. He enjoyed them so much that he and his wife, Beverly Littlefield, began throwing an annual winter party with a summer dress code.

"By February, you'd made it through the holidays, but there was still this cold weather," Mrs. Littlefield said. "So we'd tell them to put on their Hawaiian shirts and come to the party and we'd get through this winter together. Bill loved that sort of thing."

Richard Wells Littlefield Jr., called Bill by many, of Sandy Springs, died at his home Friday, from complications of congestive heart failure. He was 63.

His body was cremated and a memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. Friday at H.M. Patterson & Son, Spring Hill, which is also in charge of arrangements.

A Georgia native, Mr. Littlefield was educated in the public schools of Jesup and Wayne counties. He earned his undergraduate degree from Emory University in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1973.

Early in his career, Mr. Littlefield served as assistant district attorney for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit. He lived on St. Simons Island and was a state senator from 1979 until 1982, representing then-District 6. During his time as a senator, Mr. Littlefield was vice chairman of the judiciary committee, secretary of the insurance committee, served on the Governor's committee on juvenile justice, the Governor's committee on constitutional Revision and on the Georgia code revision commission.
She rarely, if ever, excuses potential jurors from service. "I want every case to have a jury of one's peers, not just a group of people who had nothing better to do that day," the judge declares. She notes that the U.S. Constitution specifically mentions the jury system and she says it is the most fundamental part of democracy.

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Yarbrough: Federal judge sees majesty in the law, not jokes

Dick Yarbrough
yarb2400@bellsouth.net
May 1, 2012

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Eric Wu

Eric Wu, a doctoral student in psychology from Troy, Mich., is also being honored by the University. But at the request of Wu's father, The Red & Black is not publishing anything further.

Kenneth Ray Shoe

Kenneth Ray Shoe, a senior psychology major from Hull, died on April 14, 2012 after being in a one-vehicle wreck in Boaz, Ala.

His vehicle hit a tree after leaving the road, according to The Sand Mountain Reporter. Though Shoe was wearing a seatbelt, it was broken on impact due to the speed of the vehicle. He was 28.

Shoe is survived by his parents, Charley and Cynthia Shoe of Boaz and grandmothers Gladys Smith of Hull and Clara Shoe of Boaz.

— Compiled by Tiffany Stevens

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Featured, News, Uncategorized.
Fouche, 56, had worked for the University for nine years and also worked for the Atlanta Union Mission. He has been described by acquaintances as “always friendly and positive” and “a great friend.”

— Compiled by Heather Reese

Krista ‘Kris’ Allgood Mattocks

Krista “Kris” Allgood Mattocks died June 18, 2011 at Tift Regional Medical Center in Tifton, according to an obituary in the Tifton Gazette.

Mattocks was born on April 23, 1963. She graduated from Young Harris College with an associate of science degree in business administration and she also received an associate degree in general business from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She was an employee of the University for 23 years, 19 of which she worked at the Tifton campus's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

She was a member of the 43rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment Living Historians from the War Between the States and was fondly called “Mother Mattocks.” She was a great lover of the outdoors and especially enjoyed coffee around the campfire with friends. She also loved quilting, cross-stitching and sewing.

— Compiled by Jeanette Kazmierczak

Conrad Fink

Conrad Fink, an esteemed professor at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, passed away from prostate cancer on Jan. 14, 2012. Fink was a former Vietnam War correspondent and Associated Press vice president.

Greg Bluestein, a reporter for the Associated Press and former editor of The Red & Black, said he was lucky enough to have Fink take an interest in him as a freshman, before he took any Fink classes. Bluestein told The Red & Black he walked into Fink's office clutching a copy of the student newspaper, but Fink quickly snatched it away and threw it at him.

“He said to me, ‘This is the most important thing you’ll do in your four years here. Now get out of my office,’” Bluestein said.

Some of Fink's awards include the University's Meigs Teaching Award in 1992, the National Journalism Teacher award from Freedom Forum and the Regents Teaching Excellence award in 2004. He was also honored last November when the Grady College made him a Grady Fellow.

— Compiled by Mariana Heredia

Tariq Perwez

Tariq Perwez, a research professional at the University Department of Genetics and at the University Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, passed away this year.

He had been employed by the University's Department of Genetics since 2003 and had been employed by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology since 2008. Perwez earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1998, according to the University website.

Perwez was also a post-doctoral research associate for the Kushner lab.

— Compiled by Joshua Johnson

Barrett S. Lawrimore Jr.

Barrett S. Lawrimore, Jr., a graduate student from Grayson studying occupational studies, died from clear cell renal cancer at his Grayson home on May 7, 2011, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Lawrimore, 56, was an engineer for 25 years, until he decided to take a year off from work in 2002. Since he had been involved with church youth groups and the Boy Scouts, he became a public school teacher.

Lawrimore taught business at Berkmar High School for seven years and then taught math in Grayson, according to the AJC.

Lawrimore graduated from Clemson University with an undergraduate engineering degree. He completed his master's in business at Georgia State University. Prior to his death, Lawrimore was in the process of completing his doctorate in workforce education at the University where he was working on his dissertation proposal, according to the AJC.

— Compiled by Polina Marinova

Bhavin Patel

A University student and two family members were killed in a car accident while visiting family in India on Dec. 19, 2011.

Bhavin Patel, a sophomore and member of the Delta Epsilon Psi fraternity, was killed while riding in a car with family members near Sanghi village when the driver lost control and swerved into another lane, according to a Jan. 11 Red & Black article. Patel's fraternity brothers honored his memory with a candlelight vigil at the Tate Center on Jan. 11, 2012.

"We lost a great brother. He was our closest friend. He was always a cheerful person and we're going to miss that," said Sunny Patel, a senior biochemistry major from Franklin and ambassador for Delta Epsilon Psi.
Anne Proffitt Dupre

Anne Proffitt Dupre, a University professor of law, died at 58 on June 22, 2011 after battling metastatic small cell cervical cancer.

Dupre began teaching in the School of Law in 1994. She specialized in teaching education law, children and the law, and contract law. Before coming to the University to teach, Dupre received a law degree from the University School of Law after graduating first in her class. In 2004, she became the fourth woman in Georgia Law History to be appointed to an endowed position after she earned the J. Alton Hosch Professorship.

Dupre was born in Parkersburg, W. Va. She earned her bachelor's degree in history and psychology from the University of Rhode Island. After earning her law degree at the University, Dupre served a clerkship with Judge J.L. Edmondson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th circuit. She then went on to serve as a judicial clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun.

Jackie Davis

Jackie Davis, a research technician in entomology at the University Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, died on Jan. 8, 2012 at the age of 57, according to the Tifton Gazette.

Davis worked in the entomology department for over 30 years. According to the department website, his research focused on the effects of pesticides on the environment.

Kevin DeWeaver

Kevin DeWeaver, a professor and Ph.D. program director at the School of Social Work, died after a year-long battle with cancer at the age of 60.

During DeWeaver's 26-year tenure, he served on more than 40 doctoral committees - more than any other professor in the program. According to the School of Social Work, his research focused on mental retardation and other developmental disorders.

DeWeaver was originally from New York, according to the School of Social Work. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of New York at Geneseo and later his doctoral degree in social work from Florida State University. DeWeaver was known for his dry sense of humor and love of music.

Clanton Candler Black Jr.

Clanton Candler Black, Jr., a research professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, died on Aug. 14, 2011, according to the Athens Banner-Herald.

A member of the faculty at the University for 44 years, Black taught students until the time of his death.

Black, 79, traveled to all seven continents for his research. While at the University, he was awarded a Fulbright grant for inventing a new hybrid of rice in China, later using the grant to work in Mongolia and China.

Charles Dalton Couey

Charles Dalton Couey, a freshman sports management major, of Springfield died on Sept. 11, 2011 in Athens.

Couey, 19, graduated from Effingham County High School in 2010 as a celebrated member of the football team, according to the Effingham Herald.

The Dalton Couey Memorial Fund has been created in his remembrance, to the care of HeritageBank of the South.

Ronald Eugene Monfort

Ronald Eugene Monfort, a painter with the University Physical Plant for 27 years, died on Nov. 2, 2011.

Monfort, 56, also worked at Wal-Mart for 20 years, according to The Greensboro Herald Journal.

He was born on Feb. 20, 1955, in Greene County, according to The Herald Journal. Monfort was the youngest of eight siblings and became a Christian early in life, attending New Springfield Baptist Church.

James Daniel Fouche

James Daniel Fouche, a parking services monitor for University Parking Services, died Dec. 6, 2011.
Terry. "He was a demanding professor. He challenged his students. He was very invested in them, and you would almost never walk by his office without seeing a student there. I would have to go a long, long way before I would think that I have the same impact that Dr. Friedmann had on his student's lives."

Compiled by Erica Techo

Tafronica Lasha Ollie

Tafronica Lasha Ollie, a food services worker in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel, passed away on Sept. 22, 2011.

The funeral of Ollie, 32, was held at Billups Grove Baptist Church in Athens.

Compiled by Adina Solomon

Mary Paige Adams

Mary Paige Adams, an assistant research scientist in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, passed away July 3, 2011, according to the Tifton Gazette.

Adams, 47, earned her bachelor's degree in zoology in 1988 and her master's degree in forestry resources in 1991, both from the University, according to Adams' CV. She graduated with her PhD in environmental engineering studies from the University of Florida in 2005.

Adams was an assistant research scientist based in Tifton from 2008 until her death. Her research focused on emerging water quality issues.

Compiled by Adina Solomon

J. Douglas Toma

J. Douglas Toma, a well-published author, scholar and University professor in the Institute of Higher Education, died May 4, 2011 at 47 after living with melanoma for eight months.

According to his obituary in The Red & Black, Toma also served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Law, dean of Franklin Residential College and director of the Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows program for the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. As dean of Franklin Residential College, Toma and his wife and son lived on campus in Rutherford Hall for six years, according to the Athens Banner-Herald.

During his time at the University, Toma helped create international partnerships for the Institute of Higher Education in China, Uganda, Australia, Croatia and throughout Europe and the U.K. On March 28, 2012, the Franklin Residential College held the J. Douglas Toma Memorial Field Day to help raise money to create the new Doug Toma study abroad scholarship.

Compiled by Katie Valentine

Anita Huff

Anita Huff, an accounting assistant with Central Research Stores and a native of Atlanta, died Feb. 5, 2012, according to the Rockdale Citizen.

Loved by all who worked with her, Huff, 72, worked as an accountant for the University after serving as an employee for Athens Marble and Granite. As an employee for the University, Huff touched many people's lives, including fellow faculty and students. She also remained a dedicated Bulldog fan, often proclaiming her love for the Gym Dogs.

Lynn Slaton, a friend of Huff's, said she was, "a beautiful lady" and Julie Edmondson, a relative of Huff's, said she remained, "a giving, kind person" who will be missed by all who were close to her.

Compiled by Jamie Gottlieb

Logan Upshaw Bentley

University student Logan Upshaw Bentley passed away on March 23, 2012, according to an article from The Red & Black. He was a junior real estate major from Athens and grandson of former Athens mayor Upshaw Bentley.

After graduating from Oconee County High School in 2008, Bentley attended the University of Mississippi. He transferred to the University of Georgia in 2010.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Athens.

Compiled by Lindsey Cook

Jeffery Scott Cook

Jeffery Scott Cook, a student from Duluth, died Jan. 8, 2012. Cook, 52, was in the process of completing his doctorate in health promotion and behavior.

In 1981, Cook received his bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the Army as Lieutenant Colonel for more than 20 years. He worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention beginning in 2002 as an operations branch chief, deputy chief of staff and an official in the heart disease prevention program.

In an eulogy in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Joel Stager, from Bloomington, Ind., said he was "a bright light and a special person. If wealth comes from the strength of friendships and admiration of others, Jeff was a very
"Fred Bateman, a full professor, would talk to anybody, and he was kind to everybody — it didn’t matter who they were," said Jason Rudbeck, an economics professor. "Students loved him. He and I got along great — we’d just talk for hours about politics or history or anything, and that was why students loved him too. He was an exceptionally smart man, yet despite how intelligent he was, he was not arrogant in the least. He was willing to talk to everybody and teach everybody anything, and he was one of the best people I ever met."

— Compiled by Alex Laughlin

Rene Marek Cieszewski

Born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Cieszewski moved to Athens and attended St. Joseph Catholic High School. He graduated from Cedar Shoals High School, but continued to attend St. Joseph Catholic Church.
He was a mathematics major working toward a minor in astrophysics.
— Compiled by Megan Ernst

Howard Fisher Marks III

Howard Fisher Marks III, a junior management information systems major from Wilmington, N.C., passed away on Sept. 21, 2011.
Marks, 23, served as a student assistant for the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies on campus, according to an article from The Red & Black.
In memory of Marks, the family is asking for contributions and donations be made to The New Hanover Humane Society, according to the Wilmington Star-News.
— Compiled by Samantha Daigle

Linda Brooks

Linda Brooks, an associate professor of comparative literature, died June 7, 2011, according to an obituary in the University’s online newspaper Columns. She had been fighting a rare and incurable lung disease, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, for the past 10 years.
Brooks taught popular courses at the University on European Romanticism and Postmodernism, according to Columns. Her later teaching and research often focused on "testimonios", a literary genre in which traumatic events are re-enacted and re-imagined as dramatic performances.
Brooks earned her bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in English literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. She taught at the University from 1968 to 1994 and from 2002 to 2010.
— Compiled by Briana Gardeman

Richard Olaf Sabine Jr.

Richard Olaf Sabine, Jr., a junior psychology major from Ringgold, died on May 24, 2011.
Sabine was a lifelong resident of North Georgia, according to The Chattanoogan. He graduated from Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School in 2007.
He was admitted to the University Honors Program.
— Compiled by Adina Solomon

Tyler Harris

University Police Officer Tyler Harris died Sept. 5, 2011, while vacationing with family at Lake Sinclair during Labor Day weekend.
Harris, 24, was born March 21, 1987. He graduated from Gainesville State College with a criminal justice degree.
Harris had recently finished field training for the police department. He took on a spot in the patrol division in February, months before his drowning accident, according to the Athens Banner-Herald. Harris "loved the beach, water sports, country music, NASCAR, hunting and all things outdoors," according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.
— Compiled by Heidi Gholamhosseini

Roberto ‘Bobby’ Friedmann

Roberto "Bobby" Friedmann, an associate professor of marketing and distribution for the Terry College of Business, passed away Sept. 24, 2011 at the age of 58 after battling pancreatic cancer, according to an article from The Red & Black. Since his father's passing, Nick Friedmann has set up a Fight 4 Bobby charity to raise awareness for pancreatic cancer. It has raised $45,100 out of its $50,000 goal since its founding, according to FirstGiving, a fundraising website.
Friedmann was born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1953. He moved to the United States in 1973 and went to school at the University of Kansas. While there, Friedmann earned his Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics, his Master of Business Administration and his Ph.D. in Marketing. Friedmann worked at the University for 27 years, 12 of which he spent as the director of international business programs at Terry.
"His students had a universal love for him is the only way to put it," said Richard Gooner, a fellow professor at
University to remember those who passed

By RED AND BLACK on May 1, 2012

The University will honor the memory of 33 faculty, staff and students at its annual candlelight memorial service today at 6 p.m.

The "Georgia Remembers... a Candlelight Memorial" service, which commemorates those who died since May 2011, will be held on the steps of the University Chapel.

University President Michael Adams will lead the service. The names of each of the 33 faculty and staff members and students will be read aloud by Scott Shamp, chair of the executive committee of the University council, Jerry Daniel, president of the Staff Council, and Will Burgess, president of the Student Government Association.

The reading of the names is followed by a toll of the Chapel bell and the lighting of a candle. The University's Air Force ROTC will present the colors and ring the bell.

In case of inclement weather, the memorial will be held inside the Chapel.

Susannah Maxine Davis

Susannah Maxine Davis, a freshman foreign language education major from Brooklet, died Dec. 28, 2011 when her family's house caught on fire, according to a Red & Black article.

Davis, 19, attended Southeast Bulloch High School.

Swimming is listed as her favorite sport on her Facebook profile.

— Compiled by Adina Solomon

James Richard Carter III

James Richard Carter III, a junior comparative literature major from Valdosta, passed away Aug. 23, 2011, according to The Valdosta Daily Times.

Carter, 22, was born on March 23, 1989 in Valdosta.

He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hapeville.

— Compiled by Maria Torres

James Fred Bateman Jr.

James Fred Bateman, Jr., the department head of economics in the Terry College of Business, passed away Jan. 10, 2012 at the age of 74.

Bateman received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University, his master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Doctorate at Tulane. He specialized in U.S. agricultural history and manufacturing in the 19th century, according to an obituary in Columns.

In addition to being a research associate at Harvard, he taught at Indiana University in Bloomington, the London School of Economics, Purdue University, University of Ljubljana, DePauw University and University of the South, according to an obituary in New Orleans' The Times-Picayune. He finally settled his career at the University in 1991. In 2002, Bateman won the Kamerschen-Hampton Award for Outstanding Research in Economics.
financial accountant; Jackie E. Davis, research technician; Kevin Deweaver, professor in the School of Social Work; Anne P. Dupre, professor in the School of Law; Conrad Fink, a professor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication; Roberto Friedmann, associate professor of marketing and distribution; Marco Fonseca, senior public service associate; James Daniel Fouche Jr., parking services monitor; Tyler Harris, police officer; Anita Huff, accounting assistant; Freddie J. Martin, skilled trades worker; Krista Mattocks, associate accountant; Ronald Monfort, painter; Tafronica Lasha Ollie, food services worker; Tariq Perwez, a research professional; Michael Self, fiscal compliance officer, and J. Douglas Toma, professor with the Institute of Higher Education.

Students remembered at the service were Logan Upshaw Bentley, a junior from Athens; James Richard Carter III, a junior from Valdosta; René Marek Cieszewski, a junior from Athens; Jeffery Scott Cook, a doctoral student from Duluth; Charles Dalton Couey, a freshman from Springfield; Susannah Davis, a freshman from Brooklet; Barrett S. Lawrimore Jr., a graduate student from Grayson; Howard Fisher Marks III, a junior from Wilmington, N.C.; Bhavin Patel, a junior from Thomaston; Richard Olaf Sabine Jr., a junior from Ringgold; Lexis Sierra Schantz, a sophomore Atlanta; Kenneth Rae Shoe, a senior from Hull, and Eric Wu, a doctoral student from Troy, Mich.
As they read each name, members of the Arch Society, a student group, lit another candle while other students tolled the chapel bell. Afterward, as a small wind ensemble played “Going Home,” the Arch Society members moved through the crowd, carefully protecting their candles against a light breeze as they lit candles handed out to friends and family members as the service began.

Many cried, remembering, as Joel Marcovitch, director of Hillel at University of Georgia, closed the service with a final prayer, quoting from a poem recited on Jewish high holidays: “We remember them/ In the rising of the sun and as it goes down,/

We remember them/ In the bowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,/ We remember them/ In the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,/ we remember them.”

A large group of younger men, student members of UGA’s Delta Epsilon Psi fraternity, stood quietly in a group during the service. They had come to honor fraternity brother Bhavin Patel, who died in an automobile accident in December.

“He was optimistic about everything,” said fraternity brother Jai Patel, who stood with chapter president Jason Patel and Sunny Patel, another brother.

“He was a good friend, ready for any challenge,” Sunny Patel said.

The service was a fitting memorial, judged Pastor Tommy Moment of Athens’ New Joy Church of God in Christ, who had come to remember his good friend, Ronald Monfort.

“It’s a beautiful thing to do,” Moment said.

“He was a good man. We hate to lose him,” Moment said of Monfort, a painter in UGA’s physical plant.

Faculty and staff members remembered were Mary Paige Adams, assistant research scientist; Fred Bateman, professor of economics; Clanton C. Black Jr., research professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; Linda Brooks, associate professor of comparative literature; Jean Margaret Bryan, senior
A crowd of about 200 gathered at the University of Georgia's North Campus on Tuesday to light candles and say prayers for 34 university workers and students who died over the past year.

"We confirm in this service our sense of community, even in a place as large as the University of Georgia," said UGA President Michael Adams in the brief service, held annually on the steps of the UGA Chapel.

Scott Shamp, chairman of the University Council executive committee, Staff Council President Jerry Daniel and Student Government Association President Will Burgess read each of the names.
U.S. District Court judge to deliver law school graduation address

By UGA NEWS SERVICE on May 1, 2012

Richard W. Story, U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia, will deliver the keynote address at the University of Georgia School of Law’s Commencement May 19. The processional will begin at 10 a.m. on the quadrangle in front of the law school on UGA’s North Campus. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to Stegeman Coliseum.

A federal judge for the last 14 years, Story previously served as a Superior Court judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia from 1986-1998, where he was chief judge for the latter five years. He also has served as a juvenile court judge in Hall County, as a special assistant attorney general representing the state of Georgia in child support and custody cases, and as a partner in the Gainesville law firm Hulsey, Oliver and Mahar.

While Superior Court judge, Story served as the administrative judge for the Ninth Judicial District of Georgia and as a member of the Judicial Council of Georgia and the Georgia Courts Automation Commission.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from LaGrange College in 1975 and his juris doctor from Georgia Law in 1978.

At this year’s Commencement ceremony, approximately 230 students will be honored for the completion of all requirements for a juris doctor. Additionally, 10 master of laws candidates, who have completed one year of graduate legal study, will be recognized.

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The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

Writer:
Heidi Murphy

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ATHENS, Ga., May 1 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

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LOAD-DATE: May 2, 2012
the Supreme Court and lower courts. He previously served as an associate professor of law at the Catholic University of America and was a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna School of Law from 2010-2011. He has lectured at universities around the world including, Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, Mainz, Stockholm, Oslo and Bologna.

Rutledge earned his bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Harvard University, his master's degree in applied ethics from the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) and his law degree with high honors from the University of Chicago, where he served as executive editor of the University of Chicago Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

Both Ringhand's and Rutledge's appointments are named in honor of notable members of the Georgia Law community. Hosch served as dean of the law school from 1933-1964, which was longer than any other dean of an American law school at that time. Talmadge graduated from the law school in 1936 and served as the governor of Georgia and as a U.S. senator.

Contact: Heidi M. Murphy, hmurphy@uga.edu

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LOAD-DATE: May 8, 2012
Real estate lawyer Philip Johnson runs for District 5

Gabriel Khouli
gkhouli@covnews.com
678-750-5009
May 8, 2012

Long time real estate attorney Philip A. Johnson is running as a Democrat for the District 5 seat on the Newton County Board of Commissioners seat because he wants to bring more civility to local government.

Johnson, 62, has been practicing law in Newton County for 38 years but said he wants to return to politics to get Newton County back on track.

Platform
"One of the most important issues we've got to tackle is the lack of civility in politics. We have got to reach the point where we can have consensus decisions again; every vote doesn't have to be 3-2," Johnson said.

Johnson said he served as county attorney in 1976 when Roy Varner was county chairman, and he remembered how much Varner was able to accomplish because he was able to build a consensus among the board, including Lake Varner, the creation of the Covington Bypass Road and the widening of Washington Street.

"I think what we have gotten into is where the two political parties exert far too much influence in the process, as opposed to the individual elected officials and the people exerting the influence," Johnson said. "I'm old. I've been around a lot of really sharp people in my life, and I think I can bring to the board civility and a sense of trying to find the best compromise to deal with the problems we have."

Another point on Johnson's platform is making Newton County more friendly to commercial businesses by reducing administrative and regulatory hurdles. He said he'd also like to see the county plan for commercial nodes in the southeast and southwest portions of the county.

He'd also like to see an increased focus on infrastructure, particularly roads. While the budget is constrained, Johnson would like to emphasize future planning so the county knows where to spend money when the economy improves.

Finally, Johnson said he would like to see an improved and meaningful relationship between the county and its cities, particularly Covington.
He referenced the Washington Street widening project, which Varner and former Covington Mayor Bill Dobbs worked together to make a reality. Johnson said the two men went to the Georgia Department of Transportation, where officials told them it couldn't widen the road because it would cost $2 million. Dobbs then agreed to move all of the utilities from the roadway for free, while Varner said the county would contribute the other $1 million.

"We've lost some of that cooperation over the past few years, and we have to bring some of it back. The city has expertise in administration and some areas, such as erosion control, where they may be a little more up to date in their processes," said Johnson, noting that as the county expands its services it will need the help of the city.

Professional background
Johnson has practiced law for 38 years, specializing in commercial real estate law, including transactions, banking and taxes. He has recently begun working in foreclosures and bank-owned properties, as that's where the majority of the legal real estate work is in this market.

He was previously county attorney for a few years in the late 1970s, while he was practicing with current County Attorney Tommy Craig. Craig then took over and has been county attorney since.

Johnson said he has also owned several side ventures, including a chain of day cares for 19 years, which he and his wife eventually sold off. The couple also ran Covington Athletic Club and Flaunt Boutique and Spa for several years, but both of the businesses closed during the economic recession. The buildings were eventually foreclosed on.

As a real estate lawyer, Johnson was also actively involved in residential and commercial development, developing around 5,000 single-family residential lots and 500 commercial lots from the early 1980s to 2005, including convenience stores, office buildings and small shopping centers. Johnson developed the strip of land along the Covington Bypass Road, where United Community Bank, Zaxby's and El Charro now sit.

Johnson has also served as chairman of the board and CEO for First National Bank of Newton County, which is now Bank of North Georgia.

He also served two terms in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1976 to 1980.

Education
Johnson was born and raised in Newton County and graduated from Newton County High School.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Georgia State University and graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1975.
Civic involvement and family
Johnson is a member of the Mansfield Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite and High Point Baptist Church. He and his wife Rita, have four adopted children Michael, Braden, Dylan and Mia.
The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a variety of methods to collect delinquent or back taxes. It can slap a tax lien on your property and sell it, or it can levy against your assets. It can also garnish your wages, but it can’t take your house. Just recently the United States Senate gave the IRS another tax collecting tool: the power to revoke or suspend your passport, deny your application for its renewal or withhold approval for a first-time applicant.

Newsmax reports that the Senate measure authorizes the State Department, as instructed by the IRS, to take the passport of any American citizen with a back tax debt of more than $50,000. The measure, attached as an amendment to the Highway Bill, was passed by a vote of 74-22, on a bipartisan basis. The bill is still required to pass the House of Congress and the president, before it can become law.

According to The Atlantic, the bill, officially titled Moving Ahead For Progress In The 21st Century Act (MAP-21), was introduced last fall by Senator Barbara Boxer, (D-Calif.); Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid (D-Nev.), added the passport provisions.

Easily Passed
While the bill easily passed the Senate, some members of the House of Representatives opposed the passport revocation, as it is seen as a violation of due process. Newsmax writes, according to specifics of the proposal, the IRS must first certify that a taxpayer is “seriously delinquent.” The State Department can then decide to “not issue, decline to renew or revoke a passport” of the accused delinquent taxpayer.

Despite Senate passage of the bill by a significant majority, Senator Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), opposed it and tried to squelch the passport section while it was still in the Senate Finance Committee. If the measure is passed as originally written and amended, citizens owing back taxes may find themselves surprised as they’re prevented from boarding an international flight. The passport measures are designed both to deter tax evaders or delinquents from fleeing the country to avoid payment, and to help recover what people owe the government.

The Atlantic does mention that there are some exceptions to the foreign travel ban, including taxpayers regularly making payments to the IRS under an IRS-approved payment plan. Also excepted are taxpayers legally disputing the debt, or people who must travel internationally under
an emergency or humanitarian circumstances. Although the travel ban proposal has been opposed as possibly unconstitutional, University of Georgia constitutional law professor, Timothy Meyer, believes the potential law would be upheld if tested in the courts. Due process requirements are not violated by the measure, says Meyer.

**Legal Precedents**
There are legal precedents for travel bans and passport denials or suspensions, Meyer points out. For example, the State Department monitors passport applications for people who owe more than $2,500 in child support and may deny applications or suspend their existing passports. Not all legislators agree that the proposal provides constitutional guarantees. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, contends that the proposed law threatens due process and assigns too much power to the IRS.

"Everyone is entitled to their day in court," Congressman Sensenbrenner said. "Tax evasion is inexcusable, but this provision would enable the IRS to administratively deny an American's ability to travel without first being found guilty of any crime in a court of law."

**The Bottom Line**
Government officials estimate that in its first five years the passport law could help collect more than $500 million in tax debt. Daniel Shaviro, a tax policy expert and professor at New York University School of Law, acknowledges the legitimate value of the passport provisions of the bill as a means of preventing the flight of tax evaders. He warns that the law could also be misused. Beyond its potential value as a means of collecting what taxpayers owe the IRS, some experts worry that the law might be abused.
Can The IRS Restrict Your Travels?

By Marc Davis | Investopedia - 23 hours ago

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a variety of methods to collect delinquent or back taxes. It can slap a tax lien on your property and sell it, or it can levy against your assets. It can also garnish your wages, but it can't take your house. Just recently the United States Senate gave the IRS another tax collecting tool: the power to revoke or suspend your passport, deny your application for its renewal or withhold approval for a first-time applicant.

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Can The IRS Restrict Your Travels? - Yahoo! Finance Canada

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For many African-Americans living in the south in the years after slavery, inequality meant sometimes not having access to something as basic as a birth certificate. Today, many of those same Black citizens, who have since migrated to Pennsylvania, will not be able to vote in the 2012 presidential election thanks to the recently passed voter identification law requiring voters to present photo ID at the polls.

"I'm here this evening because of this ridiculous bill that's been passed in Pennsylvania. They call it the voter ID bill; we call it the voter suppression bill," said John Jordan, civic engagement director of the Pennsylvania NAACP, at a Pittsburgh branch dinner on May 3. "We're going to show them the astronomical impact this will have."

This recent development, coupled with the recent injustices of the national incident of Trayvon Martin and local incident of Jordan Miles, took center stage at the 56th Annual NAACP Human Rights Dinner held at the Omni William Penn Hotel. There, Jordan and Pittsburgh NAACP President M. Gayle Moss urged the crowd to join in their efforts to increase voter participation.

"I salute our talented 15. We simply need to cultivate a generation of learners who aren't afraid to embark on the road that leads to success," Moss said. "Here we are 2012 still without justice. We have to use the ballot."

At this year's annual NAACP dinner, guests weren't sure if they had been transported to an Allegheny County courtroom or a Deep South schoolhouse. While the evening's honored judges combined stories of today's courtrooms with history lessons of the trailblazers who preceded them, none was more impassioned then keynote speaker Judge Glenda Hatchett.

"In a time when our hearts bleed for what we've seen, it's not just about Trayvon Martin. It's about generations of men, women and children who have suffered because of the injustices in this society. I understand that we are here because folks have suffered for us to be here," Hatchett said. "Yes, Trayvon Martin stirred the consciousness of this nation, but the question is, what are we doing on the front end to invest in the future of our children?"

Hatchett traced the timeline of historical events that eventually led her to clerk for Horace Ward the first African-American judge in Georgia, who years earlier unsuccessfully challenged racial segregation when he was denied admittance to the University of Georgia School of Law. She also shared one of her own confrontations with discrimination as a first grader whose only school books were those thrown in the trash from White schools and the lesson she learned from her father after this realization.

"(My teacher) looked at me and she said colored children don't get new books. And I didn't get that because I went to school after Brown vs. Board of Education," Hatchett said. "What (my father's) message was is I'm not going to let you wallow at the pity party. You cannot rest on the idea that injustice exists. We are called on to seize the opportunity. We are called to write a new story."

At the center of Hatchett's comments was the message that although injustice exists, African-Americans must use their power to vote to bring about change. She highlighted education as one of the key tenants of change and urged the audience to challenge lawmakers to focus more on education and less on incarceration.
"It costs $63 a day to house an inmate in Allegheny County. We spend almost three times as much to house prisoners in Pennsylvania as we do to educate children. We've got to invest and we've got to hold officials accountable who are making decisions," Hatchett said. "If you don't cheer for your children, the thugs will."

This year's Judge Homer S. Brown Honorees were judges Cheryl Lynn Allen, Kim Berkeley Clark, Gary Lancaster, Joseph Williams, Dwayne Woodruff, and attorneys Elliot Howsie and Tracey McCants Lewis.
Accused Golden Pantry clerk's killer claims indictment unconstitutional

By JOE JOHNSON - joe.johnson@onlineathens.com

Published Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Attorneys for one of two people accused of murdering a pregnant convenience store clerk in December 2010 are claiming their client was unconstitutionally indicted for the crime.

The attorneys for Shameeka Lashae Watson, who is black, claim in a motion filed last week that minorities were under-represented in the pool from which grand jurors were selected.

Watson, 32, and her boyfriend, Clarence McCord III, 38, each face the death penalty for allegedly murdering 25-year-old KeJuan Charde Hall the night of Dec. 30, 2011.

Grand jurors charged the couple with Hall's murder, and also with feticide because the clerk was eight-weeks pregnant when police say Watson and McCord stabbed her 31 times in the office of the Golden Pantry at Timothy Road and Atlanta Highway.

Police say Hall was killed during a robbery, but the only thing that was stolen from the store was the recorder for its surveillance system. In the early stages of the investigation, police said one theory they explored was Hall being the victim of a murder for hire.

As in all death penalty cases, Watson and McCord's attorneys have each filed dozens of pretrial motions, including one asking that Watson be tried separately from her boyfriend.

Attorneys for both defendants have made court filings declaring the
death penalty to be unconstitutional.

McCord has not yet challenged the make-up of the grand jury pool.

But in the motion filed last week, Watson's attorneys argue the indictment that charged their client should be quashed, "because of the improper, unauthorized, arbitrary and discriminatory method" used to select jurors.

The grand jury was empaneled by culling names from only voter registration records, attorneys argue, resulting in the "systematic under-representation of African-Americans and other minorities, women, young adults, unemployed, disabled Americans and non-voters."

Superior Court Judge David Sweat has not scheduled a hearing on the pending motions, and legal experts expect many more motions will be filed before Watson and McCord ever face a jury.

More so than in other murder cases, there is a "proliferation" of pretrial motions when the death penalty is sought, according to University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson.

"The defense is trying to make sure that they leave no stone unturned, to deflect or avoid any criticism later that they neglected to protect the defendant's rights in one respect or another," Carlson said.

- Follow Criminal Justice reporter Joe Johnson at www.twitter.com/JoeJohnsonABH or www.facebook.com/JoeJohnsonABH

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Now that the current Gwinnett County probate judge is retiring after a 20-year career, a number of people are campaigning for the position. Marlene Duwell, the current chief clerk, is one of the top contenders.

An Atlanta native, Duwell has been involved in law since 1993. She is currently the second-in-command at probate court and is responsible for the administrative side of things.

Probate court, according to Duwell, is the court closest to the people.

"Not only do I love working with the people," Duwell said, "but I really want people to feel that when they come in the door they will be heard, and sometimes that's all they really want.

Delivering justice in what people need everyday is the role of the court and something I take very seriously."

Before entering the world of law, Duwell attended Vanderbilt University and received a bachelor's degree in engineering. She spent about seven years writing technical computer manuals. However, working behind a computer screen was simply not fulfilling.

So, in her late twenties, she enrolled in law school at the University of Georgia. (She had her daughter, Rachel, while she was still in school.)

When she graduated in 1993, the economy was in a similar state as it is now. Finding any type of work was a challenge, so she responded to an advertisement for a volunteer position with the current Probate Court Judge Walter Clarke.

At that time, the judge had just started in his position.
"I have a lot of experience in the probate area," she said, "which is a pretty specialized area."

Probate Court, which was called the Court of the Ordinary decades ago, deals with wills, guardianships, and all other vital records for the county, including birth, death and marriage certificates. They pass judgment in cases relating to family law.

"I see serving as less about passing judgment than about mediating between families so that they can still live with each other at the end of it," she said. Duwell wants to see families come through difficult ordeals — like settling estates or establishing guardianship over an ailing family member — as unscathed as possible. She believes in keeping the family intact.

"The most important question I can ask before a hearing is 'have the parties talked?'" she explained. "I have found that far too often, the answer is 'no.'"

Often, old "baggage" is hauled into the dispute, Duwell said.

"I'm amazed at how often sitting in a conference room talking to one another shrinks the disagreement down to a manageable size," she said. "If we conclude the hearing and there is some dialogue between the parties, then perhaps both justice and peace were attained."

"For me, that moment is the summit of my profession."

Duwell genuinely enjoys public service, and, if elected, will be the first elected female Probate Court judge in the county. Elections for the position will be held on July 31.
Support Joe DeGaetano For Hamilton County Sessions Judge - 05/10...

Thursday, May 10, 2012

I was born in Chattanooga, graduated from Central High School and UTC, and am now raising my family here. This community is important to me, and for that reason, I support Joe DeGaetano for Hamilton County Sessions Court judge.

I hope you’ll vote for Joe because he cares about this community — it’s a part of him. Joe went to St. Jude School and Notre Dame High School. He grew up in Hixson and now lives and works in North Chattanooga.

I hope you’ll vote for Joe because he’s well-qualified to be Sessions judge. He went to Vanderbilt University, then to the University of Georgia School of Law, where he graduated second in his class. He served as a clerk for a senior judge on the United States Court of Appeals. He has argued in every court Tennessee has to offer (from Sessions Court to the Tennessee Supreme Court), and now operates his own law firm.

I hope you’ll vote for Joe because he is all of the things this community should expect in its judges; he is hard-working, intelligent, honest, composed, and thoughtful.

Join me in voting for Joe DeGaetano for Hamilton County Sessions judge on Aug. 2.

Brent Goldberg

Brainerd
Thursday, May 10, 2012

U.S. Judge Charles Pannell to take senior status
By R. Robin McDonald, Daily Report

U.S. District Judge Charles Pannell Jr. of the Northern District of Georgia says he will take senior status after he turns 67 next January.

Pannell said he notified the White House, the U.S. Administrative Office of Courts and Northern District Chief Judge Julie Carnes in March of his intent to take senior status after his Jan. 24 birthday.

Pannell said that by then he will have served 13 years as a federal judge. At that time, Pannell's age and years of service on the federal bench will total 80—qualifying him for senior status, making him eligible for a reduced caseload and opening up his slot for a new federal appointment.

Pannell said that federal judges are generally requested to give a year's notice before they step down.

Pannell was appointed to the federal bench in 1999 by President Bill Clinton. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Pannell served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1971 to 1972.

He left the U.S. Attorney's office for private practice with Pittman and Kinney in Dalton. In 1976, he was elected district attorney of the Conasauga Circuit, which includes Whitfield and Murray counties.

In 1979 he became a Superior Court judge for the circuit, a post he held for 20 years.

The Northern District already has two judicial vacancies.

The White House had nominated U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Walker and Natasha Perdew Silas, an attorney with the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta, to fill the posts but withdrew both nominations at the end of last year after Georgia's U.S. senators refused to lend their support to Silas.

The White House has not nominated their replacements.
Thursday, May 10, 2012

UGA, Emory rank high in grads landing jobs

Tuition at state's law schools barely beats national average $37,073

By Mark Niesse, Daily Report

The scores are based on the percentage of graduates who have permanent jobs that require a law degree—not including solo practice, which Law School Transparency doesn't consider sustainable employment for rookie lawyers. The site's scores, published April 30, come from combining employment figures for each school from the American Bar Association, U.S. News & World Report, school websites and the National Association for Law Placement.

Every school has experienced greater difficulty in getting graduates the jobs they want, but we're making progress," said Paul Roff, associate dean for administration.

Emory University ranked second place in the state and 26th in the nation. Vice Dean Robert Ahdieh interpreted its 75.6 percent employment score as a sign that academic programs can do better.

"There's no reason that number shouldn't be 100 percent, or overwhelmingly having a class able to pursue the opportunities they're interested in," Ahdieh said. "We have students who have not been able to find their niche to track the career path they want. We see that as a huge priority."

He said students should dig into the underlying numbers to make the best decisions for their individual situations rather than rely on aggregated numbers such as Law School Transparency's employment score or U.S. News & World Report's rankings.

Mercer University School of Law Dean Gary Simson took issue with Law School Transparency's exclusion of graduates who go into solo practice. Mercer received an employment score of 67.1 percent (49th nationally), but that number would have increased to 75 percent if all those in jobs requiring passage of the bar exam were counted.

"If they don't count our solo practitioners, then what you're going to do is punish those schools that don't send their graduates to large firms," Simson said. "That's bizarre."

Georgia State University didn't receive an employment score grade because it orcm report to U.S. News or on its own the number of its graduates in jobs that required bar passage. That number is needed to calculate Law School Transparency's employment score. The university is evaluating how it presents content online as it updates its career services website, Director of Career Services Vickie Brown said in a statement.

Law School Transparency gives each school an employment score, which attempts to measure how many graduates land permanent law jobs nine months later. The score is calculated by taking the number of 2010 graduates in jobs requiring state bar admission, and then subtracting those graduates who are solo practitioners or in short-term firm jobs.

Law School/Employment Score

University of Georgia 79%

Emory University 76.8%
Wood-Bremby Wedding

Morgan Kirkland Wood and William Bennett Bembry were married Oct. 22. Dr. David Jones officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of William B. and Susan K. Wood of Grayson. She is a 1998 graduate of Brookwood High School, a 2002 graduate of the University of Georgia and a 2011 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. She is employed with Lilenfield, PC as an attorney.

The groom is the son of Dr. John W. and Latrelle H. Bembry. He is employed with KPMG LLP as an attorney and CPA.

Lindsay Wood Hose of Jersey City, N.J., served as the matron of honor.

Bridesmaids were Beth Thomas Bembry of Atlanta, Jennifer Lee Dudley of Canton, Elizabeth Ann Petrie of Acworth and Melissa Anne Powers of Dayton, Ohio. Honor attendants were Terah Diane Kinser DeFore of Lemoore, Calif., and Leslie Carter Hoppe of Sugar Hill.

Tilden Bembry of Atlanta served as the best man.

Groomsman were Chad Taylor Baum of New York, Adam Bruce Hose of Jersey City, Eric David Stolze of Savannah and Lee Franklin Tittsworth of LaGrange.

After a honeymoon in the British Virgin Islands, the couple resides in Atlanta.
'Tennessee must focus on concrete issues' and more letters to the editors

Monday, May 14, 2012

State must focus on concrete issues

An open letter to the Tennessee Legislature: Next year, instead of making Tennessee fodder for late-night talk shows, why not tackle substantive issues such as our state economy, strengthening our educational system and supporting our teachers, repairing our infrastructure, crime, sustainability, new sources of revenue, job creation.

You know, the issues you were elected to address instead of silly social issues that solve nothing. Listen to your constituents and people of knowledge instead of well-financed lobbyists and misguided people with agendas.

Leave the educating of our children to our school systems and hard-working, well-trained, but underpaid teachers. Trust them.

In matters of faith and sexuality, direct those issues to where they belong, institutions of faith and the parents. It is their responsibility to wrestle with those issues, and as much as they would like government to step in and absolve them by passing laws that create a false sense of piety, the responsibility falls directly on their shoulders.

You have a tremendous responsibility entrusted to you by the people of Tennessee. Act on our behalf, not money and ignorance with eyes on the next election.

REBECCA ROCHAT

Officer’s kindness greatly appreciated

I thank Officer Corbin from the bottom of my heart. On May 10, he stopped and asked me if I was out of gas. I told him my car was having engine trouble. We were trying to make a Girl Scout meeting, with my two daughters also in the car. He told me that he had another call and would return down 11th and Central to see if we would need further assistance.

I called everyone I could to see about getting my car back home, and he came back in 15 minutes to check on us and help us in getting out of the street.

I’m a single mother who just had my car fixed on April 25, so needless to say wasn’t too happy to hear I needed to tow it back to the car-repair shop on Highway 58.

He didn’t have to stay around and assist, but my girls and I are glad he did since we had others ask to help but question if they were really trying to help us or not.

The tow truck and my dad finally arrived. Thanks, Officer Corbin, for the help. May you be blessed for that act of kindness.

KHENDRA JORDAN

DeGaetano offers what area needs

I was born in Chattanooga, graduated from Central High School and UTC, and am now raising my family here. This community is important to me, and for that reason, I support Joe DeGaetano for Hamilton County Sessions Court judge.

I hope you’ll vote for Joe because he cares about this community — it’s a part of him. Joe went to St. Jude School and Notre Dame High School. He grew up in Hixson and now lives and works in North Chattanooga.

Joe is well-qualified to be Sessions judge. He went to Vanderbilt University, then to the University of Georgia School of Law, where he graduated second in his class. He served as a clerk for a senior judge on the United States Court of Appeals. He has argued in every court Tennessee has to offer (from Sessions Court to the Tennessee Supreme Court), and now operates his own law firm.

I hope you’ll vote for Joe DeGaetano on Aug. 4 because he is all of the things this community should expect in its judges; he is hard-working, intelligent, honest, composed and thoughtful.

BRENT GOLDBERG

Braintree

Make up your mind on subsidies

Why is it that when the subject of welfare aid comes up, many folks scream well, we better test them for illegal drugs, yet when it comes to subsidies for wealthy oil companies or bailouts for the car companies or banks or insurance companies, there is a great silence!

DR. GEORGE A. MILLER

Ooltewah

It’s time now to impeach Obama

About President Obama — Obama backs gay marriage.

Franklin Graham says: "Obama is shaking his fist at God."

Evangelist Ray Jameson says: "President Obama is not fit nor qualified to be president of this great nation under God."

I vote for his impeachment.

EVANGELIST RAY JAMESON

Kudos to president for marriage stance

Bravo to Obama for taking a bold stand on a touchy issue when most politicians avoid the tough social questions like the plague.

Obama's acceptance of same-sex marriage has made a world of difference to those who have struggled with their families, their communities, and yes, even themselves over their heart's yearnings. Why, in a love-starved world, should any human be against two people who want to openly proclaim their love and make a life together? Could it be that some people are turned off while imagining the
mechanics of same gender lovemaking? If that really is the issue, then those folks need to get a life!

Obama showed himself to be an attentive parent, because he truly listened to his children who do not have the multitude of prejudices that most adults have. I am proud to have a president who is willing to recognize loving couples who have waited so long to be a full part of American society.

ANNE GARRARD GRINDLE
Sewanee, Tenn.

Simple tax code would be fair to all

I am sick and tired of politicians ranting about everyone not paying their fair share of taxes. A fair tax code would be 2 percent on the first $10,000; 5 percent on the next $40,000; 7.5 percent on the next $50,000; 12 percent on the next $150,000; 18 percent on the next $250,000 and 25 percent on everything over. There would be no deductions and no exemptions. All income would be counted no matter where it came from. Dividends would be a before-tax expense to encourage corporations to pay out more income to stockholders.

Anyone with a calculator could do their taxes in five minutes. Unfortunately, nobody wants to pay a fair share of taxes. They want everyone else to pay a fair share, just not themselves! Tax lawyers don’t want it. Accountants don’t want it. The IRS doesn’t want it. And politicians don’t want it, regardless of what they say!

DAVID FORSTEN
Dayton, Tenn.

Marijuana ban does no good

Oct. 1 will mark the 75th anniversary of marijuana prohibition. In those 75 years, we’ve arrested over 23 million Americans for marijuana offenses, over 85 percent of them for simple possession. In 2007, the U.S. arrested 872,720 Americans for marijuana, more than all violent crimes combined. Currently we arrest one person every 36 seconds.

According to a new study by Jon Gettman, Ph.D., the U.S. spends around $42 million to keep marijuana illegal, $10.7 billion in direct law enforcement cost and $31.1 billion in lost tax revenue. Marijuana is now the leading cash crop in the U.S., surpassing both corn and wheat combined. While the current recession has forced state and local governments to make cuts in education, health care and other social services, the drug cartels are making record profits from marijuana prohibition.

Marijuana is a safer substance than alcohol or tobacco, both physically and socially. There’s not one reported case of death caused by marijuana use. Why do we continue to follow a failed policy that hasn’t worked for the past 75 years? How many more Americans do we need to arrest and how many more billions of dollars do we need to waste before we realize that prohibition does not work?

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MARK GREGORY
Hixson

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 2012
Brown - Brooks

The engagement of Louise Lavens Brown and Michael David Brooks Jr. is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Brown Jr. Parents of the future bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Michael David Brooks.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, Oct. 27.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Cmdr. and Mrs. Richard P. Sullivan of Norfolk, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. William G. Brown.

Miss Brown is a graduate of Girls Preparatory School. She received a bachelor’s degree in interior design from the University of Georgia, where she was a member of Chi Omega Sorority. She is an interior designer and a member of Our Lady of the Mount Catholic Church.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Harry Martin Lawrence, Dillis Charles Brooks and the late Charlene Buchanan Brooks.

Mr. Brooks is a graduate of St. Andrews-Sewanee School. He received a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is a marine surveyor and a member of Christ Church Episcopal.

Dailey - Coffman

The engagement of Tiffany Suzanne Dailey and Markus John Coffman is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Doug Dailey and Patti Henderson. Parents of the future bridegroom are Darrell and Cathy Coffman.

The wedding is planned for Friday, June 1, at Tennessee RiverPlace.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Barbara Miller.

Miss Dailey received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a master's degree in nursing from Southern University. She is a family nurse practitioner.

Mr. Coffman attended Chattanooga State Community College. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church and is a Chattanooga firefighter-EMT.

Conn - Hale

The engagement of Laura Lisabeth Conn and Matthew Daniel Nathan Hale is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Eric Conn. Parents of the future bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hale of Folkeston, England.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, May 26, at Grace Episcopal Church.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Dr. Hadley and Betty Jean Conn and the late Edward and Patti McKinley.
Miss Conn received a bachelor's degree in history from Duke University, a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice, and a juris doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is an attorney in Washington, D.C.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of the late Howard and Elizabeth Hale and the late Daniel and Brenda Crawley.

Mr. Hale received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He is a human rights advocate.

Galloway - Henry

The engagement of Crystal Dai Galloway and Daniel Stephen Henry is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Lance of Ringgold, Ga. Parents of the future bridegroom are Janet Henry and Mike Henry of Atlanta.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, June 2, at The Grandview on Lookout Mountain.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Franklin and Roberta Jean Lewis, Sue Galloway and the late Harold Galloway.

Miss Galloway received a master's degree in information technology from American InterContinental University. She is a web developer at 7Weight.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of the late S. Rita and Mathias Thielman, Sylvia Henry and the late Joseph Henry.

Mr. Henry received a degree in photographic design from the University of Georgia. He is a photojournalist for the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

Kee - Mikell

The engagement of Kelley Elizabeth Kee and Robert Felton Mikell is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kee. Parents of the future bridegroom are Judge and Mrs. Gary Mikell of Statesboro, Ga.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, June 2, at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, where the bride-elect is a member.

The future bride is the granddaughter of Juanita Kee, the late Hayes Kee, Dorothy Warren and the late Robert Warren, all of Nashville.

Miss Kee received a bachelor's degree in theater and elementary education and a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She is a teacher at St. Jude Catholic School.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Felton Mikell and Mr and Mrs. C.J. Kim.

Mr. Mikell received a bachelor's degree in history from Georgia Southern University and a juris doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. He is an attorney and a member of Pittman Park United Methodist Church in Statesboro.

Mitchell - Hughes

The engagement of Samantha Lea Mitchell and Micah Seth Lee Hughes is announced today. The future bride is daughter of Eston Hal and Lisa B. Mitchell Jr. Parents of the future bridegroom are Ronald Lee and Judy B. Hughes.
The wedding is planned for Saturday, June 9, in Alumni Chapel at Baylor School.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Lee E. Boydston, the late Jewell G. Boydston, Jeananne B. Mitchell and the late Eston Hal Mitchell.

Miss Mitchell attended Miller-Mott Technical College. She is a special-needs educational assistant at Snowhill Elementary School.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Nola P. Beavers, the late Rev. Warren G. Beavers, Geraldine P. Hughes of Montgomery, Ala., and the late Claude Lee Hughes.

Mr. Hughes is pursuing a degree in education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is a member of Soddy Church of God, is a personal trainer at The Rush and an assistant football coach at Baylor School.

Tolbert - Nelson

The engagement of Julie Anna Tolbert and Bradley Ray Nelson is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Tim and Darline McGinnis and David Tolbert of New Castle, Colo. Parents of the future bridegroom are Mike and Monica Ogan of Grinnell, Iowa, and the late Raymond Dale Nelson.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, June 16, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Jim and Nancy Crane, Olavene McGinnis and the late William C. "Buck" Tolbert.

Miss Tolbert is a graduate of Hixson High School and Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs. She is a floral designer.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Velma Nelson of Searsboro, Iowa, the late Edwin D. Nelson, the late Melvin and Evelyn Storbeck and Lois Ogan of Grinnell.

Mr. Nelson is a graduate of Grinnell High School. He received a degree in business management from DeVry University. He is a branch manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Whaley - Kitts

The engagement of Reagan Elizabeth Whaley and Eric Michael Kitts is announced today. The future bride is the daughter of Michael David Whaley and Lisa Hicks Whaley. Parents of the future bridegroom are Greg and Missy Kitts of Blaine, Tenn.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, May 26, at Whitestone Inn in Kingston, Tenn.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Faye Whaley, the late Donald Whaley and the late Marjorie and Freed Hicks.

Miss Whaley received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Carson Newman College. She is pursuing a master's degree in the nurse practitioner program at Carson Newman. She is a registered nurse at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville and is a member of Lea Springs Baptist Church in Blaine.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Lois and Bill Kitts, Larry Davis and Judy Davis.

Mr. Kitts received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Lincoln Memorial
University. He is productivity manager for Red Rock Sonic in Knoxville and is a member of Lea Springs Baptist Church.

Cothren - Garner

Lauren Ashlee Garner became the bride of Christopher Lee Cothren in a ceremony on Saturday, March 31, at the Chattanooga Chapel.

The Rev. Rocky Bradford performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Brian and Tami Porter of Ringgold, Ga., and Jerry Garner of Rossville, Ga. Parents of the bridegroom are Danny and Julie Cothren of Rock Spring, Ga.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Aimee Garner was maid of honor. Tabi Cothren, Kodi Phillips, Beth Harris and Reagan Wampler were bridesmaids. Bella Duncan was the flower girl.

Jared Deberry served as best man. Groomsmen were Matt Vaughn, Kyle Taylor, Josh Duncan and Seth Garner. Bradley Bee was ring bearer.

A reception was held at the Chapel.

After a Caribbean cruise, the couple resides in Ringgold.
Judge McMillian launches election run for State Court

State Court Judge Carla McMillian officially launched her campaign for election earlier this month. McMillian presided over approximately 7,000 cases.

These efforts, in Judge McMillian’s words, work “to ensure that Fayette County’s future is as bright as its past.”

Judge McMillian actively serves the community in other ways as well. She educates Fayette County’s next generation by speaking to government classes at every county high school, hosting students and other civic groups who visit the State Court, and serving as a judge for high school and law school mock trial competitions. She also sits on several boards, including the Board of Directors for the Fayette County Historical Society.

A native Georgian, Judge McMillian became the second state court judge in Fayette County history in 2010. Prior to becoming a judge, she was twice selected by her peers in the legal profession as a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star for her work as a trial attorney.

Fayette County State Court is a court of record, holding jury trials each month. Judge McMillian has jurisdiction over misdemeanors, traffic cases, ordinance violations, and civil cases without regard to the amount in controversy.

To learn more about Judge McMillian and the work of State Court, visit JudgeCarla.com.

Judge McMillian attended law school as a Woodruff Scholar at the University of Georgia School of Law, where she graduated third in her class with highest honors and served as President of the Christian Legal Society. She also graduated with high honors from Duke University, earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in both History and Economics. In 2010, Judge McMillian received the "Distinguished Alumna" award from Westminster College.

For more information, visit JudgeCarla.com.
FreedomWorks endorses Wright McLeod in 12th District primary

3:20 pm May 16, 2012, by jgalloway

The culling may have just begun in the GOP race to challenge U.S. Rep. John Barrow, D-Augusta. From the press release:

FreedomWorks PAC announced its official endorsement of Wright McLeod for Congress in Georgia's 12th District. Through in-depth, one-on-one discussions with Wright, a review of the candidates in the race, and input from our members in the district, FreedomWorks PAC believes Wright McLeod is the clear choice for voters who support free markets, fiscal responsibility, and constitutionally limited government.

Wright McLeod has a distinguish background that includes an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, service in the Persian Gulf War, a Master's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from University of Georgia. He has spent his career as a small business owner in the district and knows firsthand how government overregulation impedes the creation of jobs.

As a judge, McLeod understands what the founding fathers intended the Constitution to be. He believes in a strict interpretation of the Constitution he swore to defend and that federalism is paramount.

FreedomWorks PAC Executive Director Max Pappas commented, "Wright McLeod is a solid fiscal conservative who is firmly committed to fighting for constitutionally-limited government. He has been willing to speak out about repealing ObamaCare and the need for a patient-centered healthcare plan.

He also has been willing to speak frankly about our current energy problems and to remove government-created roadblocks to more abundant and less expensive domestically produced fuels. We need more people like Wright who understand the Constitution, will be honest about the true state of the economy and work to rein in the spending."


- By Jim Galloway, Political Insider

For instant updates, follow me on Twitter, or connect with me on Facebook.

Tell us what you think about the site
FreedomWorks endorses Wright McLeod in GA-12

May 17, 2012 8:04 am

by Jason · 0 comments

Jim Galloway reported yesterday that Wright McLeod, who is running in the Republican primary in Georgia’s 12th Congressional District, has been endorsed by FreedomWorks, a DC-based organization that promotes the Tea Party movement:

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FreedomWorks endorses Wright McLeod in GA-12 — Peach Pundit

http://www.peachpundit.com/2012/05/17/freedomworks-endorse...
A guide to metro Atlanta’s education leaders

Welcome to Atlanta Business Chronicle’s annual Who’s Who in Education guide. Each year we offer a look at some of the top leaders in the education field—from those vested with government responsibility for our education system to the leaders of public and private primary and secondary schools, and the heads of our top colleges and universities.

Within this section you will find names and faces of key leaders of metro Atlanta schools. Our 10 largest private schools, 10 largest business schools and our largest technical schools.

We also included other area colleges and universities, top government officials, top law schools and top MBA programs, along with names of metro school superintendents.

In this section, you will also hear from education icon Ron Clark, co-founder of the Ron Clark Academy, who talks about the important relationship between business and education.

To quote Clark, “As the Atlanta area schools seek help from the corporate and philanthropic community, it is imperative that they develop relationships and realize that strong bonds, sincere appreciation and a connection to the impact they are making will turn minor support into substantial donations over time.”

Clark also notes that while there may be a tendency to become cynical in the wake of the recent cheating scandal, all schools and educators should not be painted with the same brush.

“With so many stories of cheating scandals and negative incidents, it is easy to forget that the worst is always sensationalized and that within each of our local schools you will find pockets of outstanding educators who are devoting their lives to the children of Atlanta,” he writes.

“They are dynamic, clever and in the trenches. They need support and appreciation more than ever because they have been ‘clumped’ with negative perceptions and stereotyped as cheaters because of the mistakes of a small percentage of their colleagues.”

Clark’s Viewpoint article can be found on page 13B. Also in this section on page 15B, you will find information about the University System of Georgia, an agency that comprises 35 institutions of higher learning and which generates an estimated 130,738 jobs. The university system enrolled 318,027 students for the fall 2011 semester and conferred 84,885 degrees in fiscal 2011.

We hope you find this guide informative and useful.

(Note: Anthony Tricoli stepped down as president of Georgia Perimeter College as this section was going to press.)
Beverly Daniel Tatum
Spelman College
President

Career highlights: In 2002, Tatum was selected as the ninth president of Spelman College. In 2004, the center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (LENS) was created and its annual Women of Color Leadership Conference was established as a national professional development resource. The curriculum has expanded to include Chinese language instruction, and in 2005, the Dorothy-Info Fund for International Students was established with a gift of $17 million, increasing opportunities for faculty and student travel and providing financial aid for international students.

Sherry L. Turner
Atlanta University Center Consortium Inc.
Executive director and CEO

Career highlights: As executive director and CEO of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, Turner manages the shared resources and facilitates cooperative partnerships among Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College. Additionally, Turner provides leadership to center-wide civic engagement initiatives that promote service-oriented learning; strengthen families and communities; and enhance the educational, health and development outcomes for children and youth in metro Atlanta communities.

Flora W. Tydings
Athens Technical College
President

Career highlights: Tydings is the third president to serve as the CEO in the 53-year history of Athens Technical College. Tydings has positioned the college to be a major contributor to the economic growth of northeast Georgia. Athens Technical College was selected recently to join Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national effort focused on increasing student success rates. Athens Technical College is the first college in Georgia to participate in this initiative. Tydings is actively involved in community organizations in the Athens area.

James W. Wagner
Emory University
President

Career highlights: Appointed president of Emory in 2003, Wagner has guided the university in developing a strategic vision for the 21st century. This vision builds on Emory’s traditional strengths in the liberal arts, the health sciences and professional education, while consistently advancing the university’s commitment to excellence in teaching, transformative research and diverse community. In 2009, he was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as vice chair of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, an appointment that was renewed in 2011. Earlier this year, Georgia Big Transaction Wagner with its 2012 Industry Growth Award.

Paula S. Wallace
Savannah College of Art and Design
President and co-founder

Career highlights: Since its inception in 1974, SCAD has grown to become the most comprehensive nonprofit art and design university in the country, offering more than 100 degree programs in more than 50 disciplines. The university is regularly recognized for its forward-thinking programs and curriculum, advanced by a wealth of industry-standard facilities and equipment. This rich creative atmosphere nurtures top-quality graduates who go on to redefine the boundaries of their professions. SCAD has four campuses in Atlanta, Savannah, Lecce (Italy) and Hong Kong, as well as online degrees available through SCAD eLearning.

Rob Watts
Georgia Highlands College
Interim president

Career highlights: Watts has been interim president of Georgia Highlands College since Jan. 1, following the retirement of Randy Pierce. Watts previously served as Georgia Highlands’ then-named Floyd College) interim president from 2000 until the appointment of Pierce in 2004. Watts has an accomplished career in the University System. He was chief operating officer for the USG until earlier this year. He previously served as interim president of Georgia Perimeter College in Decatur (2005-2006). From 2002 to 2005 he served as a senior policy advisor to the chancellor and as the interim director of the University System of Georgia and the economic development office.

CONT.
Crawford Corporate Counsel Amy Loggins Named to the Georgia Chamber Law & Judiciary Committee

PRNewswire

ATLANTA, May 17, 2012 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Amy E. Loggins, assistant vice president and corporate counsel for Crawford & Company, recently was appointed as a member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Law & Judiciary Committee.

The committee monitors Georgia's judiciary and laws and regulations affecting business in the state to ensure a competitive economic climate for businesses and individuals. Some of its work includes efforts to protect and enhance the fairness of the state's judicial system, protect private property rights and create a statewide business court network that specializes in hearing business disputes. A number of major businesses and law firms, including The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Airlines, Georgia Power and UPS, are represented on the committee.

"Amy has effectively guided employment law issues for our global company for a number of years and also has been very active in both state and national organizations," said Allen W. Nelson, general counsel and chief administrative officer for Crawford. "The Georgia Chamber is gaining a skilled new committee member who I'm sure will make a great contribution to the group. I congratulate her on this appointment."

Loggins serves as vice president for the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) - Georgia chapter and in a leadership role on the ACC's Employment and Labor Law Committee. In addition to community volunteer work, she is a pro-bono mediator for the EEOC and represents Crawford on the Labor Relations committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She speaks frequently on employment law issues at legal industry conferences and has contributed to the ACC Docket, the law journal for the ACC.

In 2010, Loggins was presented with the Jonathan A. Silber Outstanding Committee Member of the Year Award from the ACC for individual excellence, leadership and major contributions made by a member of an ACC committee. The ACC is the world's largest organization of in-house counsel, with more than 26,500 members in 75 countries.

Loggins joined Crawford in 2004 after serving as a trial attorney with the EEOC in Atlanta and an associate at the law firm of Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese, also in Atlanta. She received her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law and a bachelor of science degree with honors from the University of Georgia.

About Crawford

Based in Atlanta, Ga., Crawford & Company ( www.crawfordandcompany.com ) is the world's largest independent provider of claims management solutions to the risk management and insurance industry as well as self-insured entities, with an expansive global network serving clients in more than 70 countries. The Crawford System of Claims Solutions(SM) offers comprehensive, integrated claims services, business process outsourcing and consulting services for major product lines including property and casualty claims management, workers compensation claims and medical management, and legal settlement administration. The Company's shares are traded on the NYSE under the symbols CROA and CROB.

SOURCE Crawford & Company

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New Delhi, May 18 -- Amy E. Loggins, assistant vice president and corporate counsel for Crawford & Company, recently was appointed as a member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Law & Judiciary Committee.

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SOURCE Crawford & Company

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The debate about what happened the night of Trayvon Martin's death is becoming increasingly complex after details of the investigation, including new information about shooter George Zimmerman's injuries and the screaming heard on 911 recordings, were released Thursday.

The State Attorney's Office officially disclosed a hefty collection of court documents including 67 CDs of witness statements, 911 calls, non-emergency calls, photos and surveillance videos, WESH Orlando reports.

Zimmerman has been charged with killing an unarmed Martin the evening of Feb. 26 in the gated community where Martin's father's girlfriend lived in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer called 911 and told a police dispatcher that Martin, who was returning from a trip to a nearby convenience store, "looked suspicious." After an altercation, Zimmerman shot Martin in the chest, subsequently telling local police that he acted in self-defense.

Zimmerman has since been released on bond. The case is expected to go to trial.

The Associated Press reported the following details based on the newly released material:

- Autopsy results show Trayvon Martin had marijuana in his system and that he was shot through the heart at close range.

- George Zimmerman had a broken nose, bruises and bloody cuts on the back of his head. "Bleeding tenderness to his nose, and a small laceration to the back of his head. All injuries have minor bleeding," paramedic Michael Brandy wrote about Zimmerman's injuries in the report.

- The lead investigator called for Zimmerman's arrest in a report written March 13, a month before the actual arrest. The investigator, Christopher Serino, told prosecutors the fight could have been avoided if Zimmerman had stayed in his vehicle. He said Zimmerman could have identified himself to Martin, then talked to him, rather than confronting him. There is no evidence Martin was involved in any criminal activity, Serino said.

- Serino wrote in a report that he played a 911 call for Martin's father, Tracy, in which screams for help are heard multiple times. "I asked Mr. Martin if the voice calling for help was that of his son," the officer wrote. "Mr. Martin, clearly emotionally impacted by the recording, quietly responded 'no.'" Zimmerman's father also listened to the recording and told investigators on March 19 that it was his son yelling for help. "That is absolutely positively George Zimmerman," Robert Zimmerman said. "He was not just yelling, he sounded like he was screaming for his life."

- An unnamed woman told an investigator in a police interview that she stays away from Zimmerman because he's racist and because of things he's done to her in the past, but she didn't elaborate on what happened between them. "I don't at all know who this kid was or anything else. But I know George, and I know that he does not like black people. He would start something. He's very confrontational. It's in his blood. We'll just say that," the woman says in an audio recording.

- An unnamed man told investigators said he worked with Zimmerman in 2008 for a few months. The man, who described his heritage as "Middle Eastern," said Zimmerman bullied him at work. Zimmermann wanted to "get in" with the clique at work who did not like the man, so Zimmerman exaggerated a Middle Eastern accent, and made reference to terrorists and bombings when talking about him. "It was so immature," said the employee, who complained to management about Zimmerman. Zimmerman's parents say he wasn't racist. They said he mentored black students and had a black relative.

Whether the latest evidence will prove beneficial to the defense or the prosecution remains unclear.

According to details leaked from an autopsy report Wednesday and confirmed by the evidence Thursday, Martin's death was caused by a single gunshot wound to the chest, NBC News reported. One legal expert said the distance between Zimmerman and Martin at the time of the shooting will inevitably be key for both sides at trial.

"Time and space are often critical determinants in self-defense cases," Ronald Carlson, professor at University of Georgia Law told The Huffington Post Black Voices. "Defendants often are at an advantage by saying 'the attacker was very close to me, I was in imminent danger of death.'"

"If the [medical examiner] who will testify for the state comes toward the shorter range, that's not necessarily inconsistent with Zimmerman's account. But if we're out at 4 feet, then that's going to be very helpful to the prosecutor. If the evidence suggests that the person was not as close, then that puts the kibosh on the defendant's story."

Information from Martin's autopsy report was leaked just one day after medical records from Zimmerman's family physician, specifying his injuries following the attack were released. Those injuries also were confirmed Thursday.
New Evidence Released In Trayvon Martin Case May Complicate Pu...  
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/17/evidence-trayvon-martin...  

Carlson said those details align with Zimmerman's account of the confrontation. "The damage to Zimmerman is clearly corroborated by the injuries, the location and the severity," he said. "Clearly, there was a big conflict going on."

But Benjamin Crump, an attorney for Martin's family, said the Zimmerman medical reports raise more questions than answers. "You have to take all of this in full context," Crump told The Huffington Post this afternoon. "When someone leaks information they do it for a reason. Someone is trying to manipulate and bolster George Zimmerman's self-defense claims."

A number of points remain troubling, Crump said, including the fact that Zimmerman visited his family doctor the day after the shooting.

ABC News reported on Wednesday that Zimmerman sought an appointment with his family doctor to get legal clearance to return to work, which Crump said is a clear indication that Zimmerman was not as badly hurt as he claimed.

Leaked details also revealed Zimmerman was taking the prescription drugs Adderall, which is prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and narcolepsy, and Temazepam, an insomnia medication, said Crump.

"He was on uppers and downers at the same time," the attorney said. "These are medications that can cause side effects such as agitation, delusions and mood swings. That's what he was on prior to the shooting. The question becomes, did those drugs have an effect on George Zimmerman the night he shot and killed Trayvon Martin?"

ABC News also reported that the teen had traces of the drug THC, which is found in marijuana, in his system the night of the shooting.

As for the trial itself, Carlson said it could be a challenge for the prosecution simply because Zimmerman is the only witness to Martin's death. "The story line is going to be set first and foremost by the surviving party," he said. "It's not insurmountable, but it certainly gives the edge in the opening stages to the defense."

-- The Associated Press contributed to this story.

UPDATE: (10:09) -- This story has been updated since it was originally published.
Atlanta Legal Nurse Consultant Welcomes Social Media Attorney To Greater Augusta AALNC Event

WEBWIRE – Friday, May 18, 2012

Atlanta, GA -- Liz Buddenhagen, registered nurse and certified legal nurse consultant, welcomed Deborah Gonzalez, Esq. to the Greater Augusta AALNC dinner at the Pinnacle Club in Augusta, Georgia on May 3, 2012.

Social Media Law:

Gonzalez provided the Augusta legal nurse consultants with an overview of some of the legal issues relating to the use of social media and other online digital services. She discussed principles of social media, social media platforms, privacy, Facebook firings, social media threats and best practices.

Gonzalez pointed out the "new school" principles of social media include currency, authenticity and relevance. She covered copyright issues that legal nurses may encounter when utilizing Google Images, Pinterest and sample work product.

Preventative measures to the mishaps possible with social media are forming a comprehensive program of plan, policy and training.

Gonzalez is the founder of Law2sm, LLC, a new legal consulting firm focusing on helping clients navigate the legal issues relating to the new digital and social media world.

Gonzalez is experienced in intellectual property, arts, music and entertainment law and savvy in business marketing and negotiation. She relocated from New York to Georgia and teaches at the University of Georgia Law School in Athens, Georgia in addition to her Atlanta law practice.

Greater Augusta AALNC:

The Greater Augusta AALNC is a non-profit legal nurse consultant professional group formed to provided networking and education to legal nurses in the Central Savannah River Area (CRSA) and beyond through bimonthly national educational webinars and in person meetings in Augusta, Georgia.

The group also provides education to the community with a recent "Avoiding Medical Malpractice Lawsuits" conference for the medical community held on March 1, 2012.

2012 Board Members for the group include Lori Greenhill, president elect; Gwen Fryer, director at large; Gyalia Rutledge, secretary; Liz Buddenhagen, president; and new board member Betty Pederson-Chase, online recording secretary.

Atlanta Legal Nurse Consultant:

Liz Buddenhagen has a 30 year clinical hospital background and has been serving Atlanta attorneys for 6 years with medical record analysis, creation of chronologies and "expert" expert location. For more information please view website www.Legal-Nurse-Consultant-LNC.com, email Liz@BuddenhagenLNC.com or call 770-725-2997.
Atlanta Legal Nurse Consultant Enjoyed "Main Street Lawyers" In Macon, Georgia

WEBWIRE – Sunday, May 20, 2012

Atlanta, GA -- Atlanta legal nurse consultant Liz Buddenhagen, RN, CLNC traveled to Macon, Georgia to attend a CLE "How to Successfully Open and Maintain a Law Practice in a Small Town" on March 30, 2012 held at Mercer Law School.

Bottom line:

Well attended by lawyers from rural Georgia and Atlanta, it was noted that 72% of the lawyers who practice in Georgia are in Atlanta. This leaves the rest of the state wide open for any lawyer to set up a successful practice outside of Atlanta, particularly in rural areas.

Recent statistics show that of the 10 million people in Georgia, 5 million are in the Atlanta area. Many of the 5 million outside Atlanta are underserved with legal counseling.

About the program:

Gregory C. Sowell of the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Georgia, presided. Kenneth L. Shigley, President of the State Bar of Georgia, gave the welcome opening remarks noting that he was from a small town and was lured to Atlanta with a good job at a young age.

Charles E. Peeler of Albany, Georgia, and specialist in patent, copyright, and trademark disputes started off. Formerly practicing in Atlanta, he has been successful at retaining clientele from Georgia and nationally since he moved to southeast Georgia.

Joshua C. Bell of Whigham, Georgia, thoroughly engaged the lawyers with tales from his small town law practice experience "Start Up Basics: Turning the Lights on and Keeping Them On" Bell explained that a small town lawyer learns to grocery shop in the next county over. In the hometown store everyone knows you and wants to chat and get legal advice and it takes a long time to get groceries.

Douglas G. Ashworth of ICLE in Athens, Georgia, and Michael L. Monahan, Director of Pro Bono Project, State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta presented state bar resources that are available to start up and practicing lawyers.

Gregory C. Sowell expanded with "Take a Guru to Lunch" Cognizant that small town lawyers must learn to practice many types of law, unlike city firms that are largely specialized, he recommended learning how to develop a network of strong mentors to help build and win cases.

A panel of four, M. Tyler Smith of Gainesville, John P. Webb of Stockbridge, Kice H. Stone of Macon and Gregory C. Sowell of Athens, assembled for "Waiting for the Phone to Ring - How to Attract Clients"

"Common Ethical Challenges Confronting a Sole Practitioner" was covered by Walter J. Gordon, Jr. of Hartwell, J. Alexander Johnson of Baxley and Christina Petrig, Assistant General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta.

Atlanta Legal Nurse Consultant:
Liz Buddenhagen, registered nurse and certified legal nurse consultant, has 30 years of clinical hospital experience and has been assisting Atlanta attorneys with the medical issues of their legal cases for 6 years. For more information please view website www.Legal-Nurse-Consultant-LNC.com, email Liz@BuddenhagenLNC.com or call 770-725-2997.

RELATED LINKS
- Atlanta Legal Nurse Consultant
- Augusta Legal Nurse Consultants
CANTON — A prosecutor with the Cherokee County Solicitor’s Office and a Cherokee County native has thrown her hat in to vie for the seat on the bench in State Court being vacated by long-time State Court Judge Clyde Gober.

Michelle Leigh Holbrook Homier announced her intentions Friday to run against attorney Jeff Rusbridge, who is also seeking the seat vacated by Gober’s retirement.

Homier pointed to her four years of experience with the Fulton County Public Defender’s Office as well as her work in Cherokee State Court in making the announcement.

“I have been both a defense attorney and a prosecutor for about equal parts of my career, and I believe I can be fair and just to both sides of any case that comes into court,” she said. “More importantly, though, I feel that like my background in history has taught me that to understand where we want to go, we need to start with our past, to start from the beginning.”

Homier grew up in Woodstock, attended public schools in Cherokee County and graduated from Sequoyah High School in 1996 before attending Georgia Tech, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in history, technology, and society.

She attended law school at the University of Georgia, was a Georgia Senate intern in college, and after college, worked as a case clerk with Alston and Bird in Atlanta.

In 2007, she and husband, Tony Homier, moved back to Cherokee County, where she began working for the Solicitor General’s Office.

“I began my work there in the traffic court division and have really re-connected with traffic problems and systems,” she said. “Traffic court keeps me grounded to the feelings of the general public. This county is my people, it is my blood, and I want nothing more than to proudly represent Cherokee County as State Court judge.”

Homier is a member of the Blue Ridge Bar Association and the American Bar Association and is admitted to practice before the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court and all lower Georgia courts.

The candidate lives in the Great Sky community in Canton with her husband and the couple’s two children.

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JUDSON HAWK SIMMONS

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SIMMONS, Judson Hawk JUDSON HAWK SIMMONS

Judson Hawk Simmons died unexpectedly on May 16, 2012, at Piedmont Hospital. He was 66. Judson was born in Atlanta on February 20, 1946. He graduated from The Westminster Schools in 1964, and then attended Washington & Lee University (class of 1968), where he was secretary of the student body and a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. He spent one year abroad at the University of Nottingham. After W&L, Judson attended the University of Georgia Law School, where he met his wife, Candy Jones Simmons, and served as the Executive Editor of the Georgia Law Review. He clerked for the Honorable David W. Dyer of the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in Miami, Florida, before heading to New York to attend the Columbia University School of Law for his LLM. Following his time in New York, Judson and Candy returned to Atlanta and started their family. Judson worked for a number of prominent law firms in Atlanta, most recently Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP, representing a wide-variety of companies in all business matters. Judson finished his career as the General Counsel of Airo Wireless. Judson will be remembered by his friends and family for his eternal optimism, as evidenced by his thirty-plus years as a Falcons’ season ticket holder and the grace with which he handled the death of his wife and youngest daughter. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, enjoying weekends and summers at the Atlanta Yacht Club, family vacations to Hilton Head, and most of all, his beloved London and regular trips there with his daughter, Wendy. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane and Walker Candler; his mother-in-law, Nadine Jones Lawton; 3 brothers-in-law and 3 sisters-in-law and 13 nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Candy Jones Simmons; his youngest daughter, Wendy Hawk Simmons; his parents, James Walton Simmons, Jr. and Rosemary Hawk Simmons, and his father-in-law, Willis Bryant Jones. A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at Northside United Methodist Church at 11:00 am with a reception immediately following, where the family will greet friends. The family asks that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to Washington & Lee University.

Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution from May 19 to May 21, 2012

Sign Guest Book

“To the family, we are so sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. May God bring you comfort and...”

- SP

Share Condolences here.

View full Guest Book (9 entries)
Judson Simmons, 66: Attorney was an 'eternal optimist'

By Michelle E. Shaw
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

4:45 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2012

Judson Simmons' optimism amazed his family and friends. No matter the situation, they all knew how Mr. Simmons would react.

"He really was the eternal optimist," said Carlile Chambers, a childhood friend who lives in Atlanta. "And he thought everything was just going to be great."

His optimistic approach gave his daughters fits, but they understood that is who their father was.

"It was inspiring in that he was able to let things roll off his chest," said Julia S. Healy, a daughter who lives in Atlanta. "But I am a planner, and I like to plan."

Mr. Simmons' outlook allowed him to live every day to its fullest, said Alison Simmons, another daughter who lives in Atlanta.

"He worked very hard, but that was not all he did," she said. "He fully enjoyed his life."

Judson Hawk Simmons, of Atlanta, died unexpectedly Wednesday at Piedmont Hospital, from injuries sustained in a fall days earlier. He was 66.

His body was cremated and a memorial service has been scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Northside United Methodist Church. SouthCare Cremation Society and Memorial Centers, Marietta, was in charge of arrangements.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Mr. Simmons graduated from the Westminster Schools in 1964. He went on to attend Washington & Lee University, and graduated in 1968. After graduation he spent a year at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom, and then on to the University of Georgia for law school. It was during that time that he met the former Candy Jones, who became his wife in 1972. The couple eventually had three daughters, and were married for more than 34 years when Mrs. Simmons died in 2007.

Before moving back to Atlanta, Mr. Simmons moved to Miami to clerk for the Honorable David W. Dyer, a judge for the 5th Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals; and then to New York to attend the Columbia University School of Law to earn a Master of Laws degree.

Once back in Atlanta, Mr. Simmons worked at several firms, practicing corporate law, his daughters said.
At the time of his death, Mr. Simmons was the general counsel for Airo Wireless, a telecommunications company.

Friends of Mr. Simmons marveled at his strength and positivity over the past five weeks, after he buried his youngest daughter, Wendy Hawk Simmons. Born with spina bifida, Ms. Simmons was paralyzed and cared for by her parents.

"After our mom died, he did everything in his power to make sure [Wendy] was as comfortable as possible," Alison Simmons said of her father.

Colleagues describe Mr. Simmons as brilliant, compassionate and humble.

"I am hard-pressed to describe what a remarkable human being Jud was," said Jules Stine, of Atlanta, a friend and business associate. "He had all of those qualities that speak to humanity in us, but that many of us will never possess."

In addition to his two daughters, Mr. Simmons is survived by his brother, Jim Simmons of Macon; and his sister, Mary Jane Candler of Atlanta.

Find this article at:
The following information was released by the office of the Georgia Attorney General:

Attorney General Sam Olens announced today that the Georgia legal community raised 612,497 pounds of food to benefit the State's seven regional food banks during the inaugural Georgia Legal Food Frenzy. Olens asked Georgia lawyers to challenge each other outside the courtroom during the statewide food drive competition by competing to raise food and funds to reduce hunger in Georgia.

A total of 220 law firms and legal organizations representing 15,621 employees competed for the grand prize, the Attorney General's Cup. Solo-practitioner Adrienne P. Hobbs, PC won the honor this year -- raising an impressive 25,586 pounds of food, the most per capita statewide. Ms. Hobbs took a creative approach by renting the LeFont Movie Theater and selling tickets to a showing of the movie World's Smallest Airport, a documentary about her husband's grandfather and his brothers who were stunt pilots.

Additionally, Georgia's five law schools, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Emory University School of Law, Georgia State University College of Law, Mercer University School of Law and University of Georgia School of Law held their own competition. Mercer University took home this year's title by raising 4,421 pounds of food (9 pounds per capita).

I am exceedingly proud of the Georgia legal community for their overwhelming generosity and commitment to Georgia's less fortunate families struggling with hunger, said Olens. These donations will assist our food banks with providing balanced, nutritional meals to families over the summer, especially children who rely on free or reduced lunches during the school year. I am elated by the success this first year and look forward to an even stronger competition next year.

This inaugural year of the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy engaged more than 200 firms, law schools and legal organizations in 51 cities statewide in the fight against hunger, said Danah Craft, Executive Director of the Georgia Food Bank Association. This was truly a team effort led by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and Attorney General Sam Olens to benefit the seven regional food banks in Georgia. We are thrilled with the results. We'll go into the summer strong and ready to help children and families who need food assistance over the summer months.

Over half a million Georgia kids live in poverty and one out of six Georgians lack access to adequate food, said Kenneth Shigley, President of the State Bar of Georgia. We in the legal profession have been blessed to be a blessing to others. The generous response of members of the legal community in Georgia to help our less fortunate neighbors through the Legal Food Frenzy has been a great example of lawyers helping to salvage lives in families that lack sufficient food for their children.
The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) has been honored to be a partner in the successful inaugural Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, said Stephanie Kirijan, President of the State Bar of Georgia YLD. This event allowed the legal profession to band together and help nourish our communities by providing critical resources through food banks across the State.

The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy is based on the successful model pioneered by Virginia's former Attorney General, now Governor Bob McDonnell. After learning about the program and knowing the great need in Georgia, Olens joined forces with the State Bar of Georgia YLD and the Georgia Food Bank Association to replicate the competition in Georgia.

The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy was specifically timed to coincide with Law Day and the end of the school year to help the food banks prepare for the summer. During the summer months, the demand for food increases because children who depend on free or reduced school lunches are at home. Nearly 60% of Georgia's public school students receive either a free or reduced lunch each day.

Georgia's seven regional food banks work with more than 2,500 partner agencies and pantries to distribute more than 95 million pounds of food annually to all 159 counties in Georgia. All of the food collected has been donated directly to the regional food bank that serves each competitor's community.

Olens thanked all who pitched in to make the Legal Food Frenzy a success. I'd like to thank YLD President Stephanie Kirijan, YLD Community Service Co-Chairs Jonathan Poole and Ana Maria Martinez, Legal Food Frenzy Co-Chairs Deepa Subramanian and Kristi Wilson, State Bar President Ken Shigley, and Georgia Food Bank Association Executive Director Danah Craft, who have made this food drive possible. Last, but not least, I appreciate the generosity of all of the Georgia lawyers and legal staff who contributed to this important campaign.

The Winners of the Inaugural Legal Food Frenzy

Attorney General's Cup: Adrienne P. Hobbs, PC (25,586 lbs./employee)

Attorney General's Cup Law School Division: Mercer University Law School (9 lbs./employee)

Category Winners:

Sole Proprietorship: The Law Office of Alex P. Susor, PC (12,100 lbs./employee) Also winner in total pounds category with 12,100 pounds.

Small Firm: McRae Brooks Warner LLC (5,300 lbs./employee). Also winner in total pounds category with 21,322 pounds.

Medium Firm: Coleman Talley LLP (780 lbs./employee). Also winner in total pounds category with 36,655 pounds.

Large Firm: Frederick J. Hanna and Associates PC (175 lbs./employee). Also winner in total pounds category with 70,042 lbs.

Legal Organization Per Capita Winner: State Court of Clarke County (352 lbs/employee).


Legal Organization - Corporate Division Per Capita and Total Pounds Winner: Georgia Power General Counsel Organization (329 lbs/employee; 13,169 lbs total).
Judge Parrott retires when JQC launches ethics probe

R. Robin McDonald

05-22-2012

A superior court judge in Georgia's Ocmulgee Circuit who has trained new judges for more than a decade notified Governor Nathan Deal on Saturday that he was retiring immediately, apparently to stave off an ethics investigation by the state judicial disciplinary agency.

Judge John Lee Parrott, appointed to the bench by former Governor Joe Frank Harris in 1988, announced his retirement after the Judicial Qualifications Commission opened an ethics inquiry based on complaints that he had "allowed the prestige of his office to advance his private interests," according to a report the JQC filed with the Supreme Court of Georgia early Monday. The JQC closed the matter without offering any specifics about Parrott's conduct.

Parrott, who made news in 1991 as Judge of the Year and stirred controversy in 2007 when he refused to allow a lesbian to adopt a 7-year-old girl whose biological mother had given her custody of the child, stepped down just three days before he would have qualified to run for re-election to the post he has held for 24 years.

Parrott's retirement ended the JQC investigation, according to a consent order filed with the report.

JQC Director Jeffrey Davis had no comment on the grounds for the investigation that precipitated Parrott's departure from the bench. Parrott's attorney, Roy Robinson Kelly III of Monticello, told the Daily Report on Monday, "I think he just retired. There wasn't any big deal about it. He's been doing this for a long time. You get burned out doing things like that."

Kelly referred all other questions to the JQC and the documents filed with the Supreme Court, saying that they "speak for themselves."

A member of Parrott's staff referred a call to Parrott at his chambers to the circuit's chief judge, William Prior Jr. Prior was presiding over a trial in Putnam County and couldn't be reached for comment. The Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit includes Morgan, Greene, Jasper, Putnam, Hancock, Jones, Baldwin and Wilkinson counties in an area of east central Georgia that roughly parallels Interstate 20.

One of Parrott's colleagues on the Ocmulgee bench, Superior Court Judge Hulane George, told the Daily Report that she learned of Parrott's resignation from Prior, who called her over the weekend to tell her Parrott had retired "instantly."

George said she was surprised at the news because she had assumed Parrott intended to qualify to run for re-election this week. "I did not even know of a JQC investigation," she said.

Parrott, she continued, "has done a lot of good" in developing a handbook and forms for new judges to use when they take the bench that include basics such as how to open court, administer an oath to a court bailiff and conduct a trial. "He did some very important and very professional things for the development of new judges in the state of Georgia," she said. "I'm just sorry it ended like this. It's got to be sad."

Parrott graduated from The Citadel in 1971 and earned his law degree at the University of Georgia in 1974, according to The
Monticello News in a story announcing Parrott's 2008 re-election campaign. Before Parrott was appointed to the superior court bench, he practiced law for 13 years in Monticello and Gray, according to The Monticello News. In 1991, he was named Judge of the Year by the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and in 1995 served as a faculty adviser for The National Judicial College, the newspaper reported.

Parrott also wrote and annually revised a proceedings manual that the state Institute for Continuing Judicial Education uses to train new superior court judges, said ICJE Executive Director Richard Reaves. Parrott, he said, "has been a regular contributor to the orientation training for new superior court judges. He had a whole sheaf of form letters and form orders, and he would be very helpful when it came to enabling new judges to get a sense for how they would be inundated with requests for answers, for communications from ... the private sector, public agencies."

In ICJE new judge orientation sessions, Reaves said that Parrott "would spend a couple of hours going over form letters, form orders, form opinions ... He did that work not only with new judges of superior court but also did that with law clerks. ... If people wanted to borrow a format or piece of text, they were free to do so."

Reaves said Parrott was an "important component" of the new judge orientations. "I don't know of another individual ... who has collected and maintained up-to-date a similar sheaf of written materials that can be illustratively used by other judges and by law clerks to help the court complete its administrative work," he said. "I can't think of a new judge orientation course in the last 10 years that he hasn't been a part of."

Perhaps one of Parrott's most controversial cases involved his 2007 decision to strip Elizabeth Hadaway, a 28-year-old lesbian paramedic, of custody of a 7-year-old girl who had been living with Hadaway and her female partner for nearly a year. The child's biological mother had given the child to Hadaway and asked her to adopt her, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented Hadaway in her ultimately successful fight to regain custody of the child.

Hadaway had been granted legal custody of the girl in 2006 by one of Parrott's colleagues, Ocmulgee Circuit Superior Court Judge James Cline Jr., and had been seeking the final adoption of the child when Parrott — who had been assigned the permanent adoption petition — learned that Hadaway was a lesbian and then removed the child from her home, ordering her returned to her biological mother.

In his order, Parrott said he based his ruling, in part, on what he insisted were the consequences of "long-term exposure to the homosexual parent's lifestyle."

If the adoption were approved, the judge wrote in his order, "inevitably the child will witness both directly and circumstantially the homosexual activity of [Hadaway] and her same-sex partner," which he labeled as "undesirable conduct" and which he also suggested would stigmatize the little girl.

When Hadaway attempted to comply with Parrott's order, the child's mother insisted that Hadaway keep and raise the girl, according to the ACLU. Hadaway then ended her relationship with her partner, moved to Bibb County outside of Parrott's circuit, and again applied for custody with the biological mother's consent, according to the ACLU.

Parrott then ordered the little girl be placed in foster care, found Hadaway and one of her attorneys, Dana Johnson, in contempt of court, fined them, and imposed 10-day jail sentences, according to the ACLU, which appealed the contempt finding.

While the contempt appeal was pending, Macon Circuit Superior Court Judge Tilman Self III granted Hadaway's new petition for the custody of the child. In 2008, the Georgia Court of Appeals overturned Parrott's contempt finding.
Jury pool changes at issue in Gwinnett clerk race

Kathleen Baydala Joyner

05-22-2012

If a recent forum of Gwinnett County judicial candidates hosted by local lawyers is any indication, the most hotly contested race this year may be for clerk of court.

The format of the Gwinnett County Bar Association's forum on Friday in Duluth allowed each candidate to speak for only three minutes. And even though Clerk of Courts incumbent Richard Alexander Jr. spoke before his challenger, Lilburn lawyer Brian Whiteside, Alexander defended himself against apparent criticism aimed at his handling of jury pools.

"There has been some talk about not having juries available," Alexander said.

He said there was a change last year in how jury pools are called that has led to a few glitches — but overall taxpayer savings.

"There has been some talk about not having juries available," Alexander said.

He said there was a change last year in how jury pools are called that has led to a few glitches — but overall taxpayer savings.

Alexander served as deputy clerk under Tom Lawler and was appointed clerk after Lawler died last fall.

Whiteside, a former sheriffs deputy who has practiced law for 16 years in Gwinnett County, told the county bar he's running because of concerns about how jury pools are called and why county judges took responsibility for juries from the clerk's office.

He then cited a case, State v. Fuller, before Superior Court Judge Debra Turner, in which not enough qualified jurors were available.

"My research shows there is not coordination or organization from the clerk of the court to the judicial branch," Whiteside said.

"The decision was made by the judicial branch to take control of the jury pool. This is a key issue that I would like to come out in the campaign."

But Alexander provided an alternate explanation, citing research done last fall by Gwinnett County State Court Judge Randy Rich using clerk's jury software.

The judge conducted a statistical analysis, said Alexander, "and we determined that we were probably calling too many jurors."

"They were on-call all week, or sitting there waiting to be called," he added. "It just seemed to be a waste of money."

Under the old system, individual trial judges summoned a pool of jurors for each case, according to a November 2011 Gwinnett County news release. Often the cases were settled or pleaded out on the eve of trial, and the jurors weren't needed but remained on-call for the rest of the week. The new system, known as "One Day-One Trial," allows judges who have trials scheduled to begin on a Monday to pull jurors from a general pool, and jurors not selected for trial are released for the remainder of the week.

"The downside to that is, on occasion, you may not have enough jurors to start a jury trial, but that will be a rare occasion," Alexander said.

The new program saved the county $4,400 during its first month and is projected to save $100,000 over course of year, he said.
Alexander also told the audience that he would like to stay in his current role so that he can finish implementing an e-filing system that would equip clerk's employees with scanners and allow attorneys to view full documents online.

While candidates for probate, state and superior courts didn't criticize each other at the Gwinnett bar forum, there is strong competition in those races.

**Probate Court Chief Clerk and Hearing Officer Marlene Duwell** and Christopher Ballar, an estate planning and elder care lawyer in Buford, are running to replace Judge Walter Clarke, who is retiring.

Duwell, who earned her law degree from the University of Georgia and has a background in elder care and fiduciary law, said she has unique knowledge of the Probate Court's operations through her management and budgeting experience.

"I've worked hard to develop the judicial demeanor that is appropriate for the court," she said.

Ballar, who graduated law school from Mercer University in 2000 and runs his own practice, said his qualifications come from practicing before the Probate Court, which can be difficult to navigate.

"My entire career has been devoted to helping people get through the process," he said.

The state and superior court races have gained attention because of the number of candidates.

Having two contested elections with five candidates each is unprecedented, said outgoing Gwinnett Bar President Matt Reeves.

Plus, three chief judges have retired. "I've been out here 10 years and I've never seen that," he said.

Running for superior court to replace Chief Judge Dawson Jackson, who announced he is retiring at the end of the year, are Lawrenceville family law practitioner and former Duluth Municipal Court Judge Tracey Blasi, Lawrenceville civil litigator Christopher McClurg, Duluth sole practitioner Kathryn Schrader, Lawrenceville trial lawyer Giles Sexton and Magistrate Judge Robert Walker Jr.

Blasi didn't attend to the forum because she was at her daughter's college graduation, but she asked a friend to read a statement she wrote that mentioned her community involvement and that her honorary campaign chairmen are former Governor Zell Miller and Sheriff Butch Conway. She also is president of the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia and serves on the advisory committee of the Gwinnett Pro Bono Project.

McClurg, an Army veteran, said he has built experience through handling more than 1,000 cases from recorder's court to superior court. He was an auditor before going to law school at Emory University, from which he graduated in 2002.

Schrader reminded the audience that she is the only candidate in the race who is a past president of the county bar. She also is an appointed member of the Governor's Office for Families and Children and has worked on juvenile justice reform issues.

Sexton, who owns the firm Sexton & Sexton, said he has done a variety of legal work and is familiar with the superior court system through handling more than 500 felony cases in the county, including murder, rape and child molestation. Sexton also has worked on civil and domestic cases and took over the firm from his father, who established it in 1973.

Walker, a former assistant district attorney, has been a full-time magistrate since 2008. "During that time I've had a chance to sit in about every court there is in Gwinnett County," he said.

State Court Chief Judge Robert Mock Sr. announced last fall that he would retire. Running to fill his seat are Lawrenceville civil litigator and family law attorney Emily Brantley; Grayson general practitioner Pamela Brit; Lawrenceville general practitioner and part-time Doraville Municipal Court Judge Norman Cuadra; superior court senior staff attorney Gregory Lundy; and former superior court Judge Richard Winegarden.

Reeves said the Gwinnett bar felt it was important to introduce the myriad candidates to the legal community early so that lawyers could help inform the general public.

"People in the community rely on lawyers to vet the judicial candidates. With someone like a county commissioner, citizens know who they are. But they look to lawyers [for opinions on potential judges] because lawyers understand what a judge does," he said.

More candidates could join the races because qualifying is scheduled from Wednesday to Friday. The county's primary elections are scheduled for July 31.
A second Georgia judge has announced plans to give up his seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, adding a new element to a nominations game in which Georgia’s U.S. senators have blocked President Barack Obama’s choice to fill the first seat.

Judge J.L. Edmondson last week informed the White House of his plans to take senior status on July 15. That’s one day after he celebrates his 65th birthday and, based on his 26 years of judicial service, becomes eligible to go into the federal judiciary’s version of semi-retirement.

Another Georgia judge, Stanley Birch, retired from the court in August 2010, but a replacement has yet to be confirmed. Obama in February nominated Jill Pryor to replace Birch, but Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss have refused to return the so-called "blue slips" that would permit her nomination to proceed before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

An intriguing possibility is that Edmondson’s decision could allow the White House and the senators to compromise on a package of two nominees to the Eleventh Circuit — namely, Pryor and Troutman Sanders partner Mark Cohen.

Earlier this year, Chambliss and Isakson sent White House Counsel Kathryn Ruemmler a letter indicating they would return blue slips on Pryor and U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Walker for district court spots and Cohen for the circuit seat.

The Daily Report previously reported that Cohen was vetted late last year by FBI agents and the U.S. Justice Department for the Eleventh Circuit post, an indication the White House had considered him for Birch’s seat. Cohen has Democratic connections — he served as Governor Zell Miller’s executive counsel and chief of staff.

But, acting as a special assistant attorney general for the state, he defended challenges to Georgia’s voter ID law, a statute that Democrats generally consider anathema. Pryor, a partner at the Atlanta litigation boutique Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, previously was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia’s legal committee.

But it’s by no means clear that either the White House or the senators would go for such a package.

The senators have refused to discuss Pryor’s nomination with the press, and the White House’s press office doesn’t generally comment on such matters either.

Asked on Monday about the new opening, Chambliss’ spokeswoman reiterated that the senator’s office doesn’t discuss judicial nominees, and a White House press contact declined comment.

Atlanta lawyer David Dreyer, a member of the executive committee of American Constitution Society’s Georgia chapter, said the possibility of Edmondson taking senior status didn’t come up at meetings on nominations with White House officials and staffers for Chambliss and Isakson that he attended earlier this month.
Dreyer spoke positively of the possibility of both Pryor and Cohen being put on the Eleventh Circuit but was skeptical that Isakson and Chambliss would be supportive. "I think that it would be difficult for them to get behind this, based on my meeting with [the senators' staff members], because they seem very rigid on their approach to putting individuals on the bench," said Dreyer.

Moreover, judicial confirmations tend to slow as a presidential election approaches, as senators from the party out of the White House hope their candidate will assume the presidency and control of the nomination process.

Pryor clerked for Edmondson shortly after he was appointed to the circuit court by President Ronald Reagan in 1986.

A native of Jasper, Edmondson practiced for about 13 years in Lawrenceville before being nominated to the Eleventh Circuit.

For much of his time in practice, he taught at his law school alma mater, the University of Georgia. Edmondson was the Eleventh Circuit's chief judge from 2002 to 2009. In 2000, Edmondson presided over the case of 6-year-old Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez.

Before oral arguments in that case began, the usually formal Edmondson entered the courtroom without his robes to personally welcome the capacity crowd. The panel decision written by Edmondson ruled in favor of the boy's father, who wanted the boy returned to Cuba.

Later that year, notwithstanding his Republican roots, Edmondson joined the court's majority that sided with Democrats in refusing to stop hand counts of Florida ballots in the contested presidential race.

A lower court judge hearing the case had quoted extensively from a dissent Edmondson wrote years before in which he argued strenuously against federal involvement in state election procedures.

In a statement issued by his office, Edmondson said he always had considered himself lucky to be a federal judge. "I welcome the opportunity to take on the somewhat lesser burdens of a judge in senior status," Edmondson said. "I do plan to perform substantial judicial duties for some years to come, however."
Stay Out of It

On same-sex marriage, Orthodox Jews should keep the religious and civil separate—as they do on other issues

By Hillel Y. Levin | May 22, 2012 7:00 AM

Last week the two leading umbrella organizations of Orthodox Jewish synagogues issued statements opposing same-sex marriage and condemning President Barack Obama’s historic expression of support for it. As an Orthodox Jew, law professor, and a longtime advocate for same-sex marriage, I am left deeply distressed by this move. Although the Torah and Orthodox Jewish law and tradition clearly prohibit sexual activity between two members of the same sex, it is a mistake for these organizations to pick a fight on this matter. My synagogue, the Young Israel of Toco Hills, is a member of both groups, and I fervently hope they will rethink their positions. Put simply: Same-sex marriage should not be a religious issue for Orthodox Jews, because it does not threaten Orthodox Judaism.

To their credit, the National Council of Young Israel and the Orthodox Union avoided the predictable and specious arguments that same-sex marriage would harm children, threaten traditional marriage, or otherwise doom Western civilization. Instead, they grounded their
opposition in Jewish religious law. In its statement [2], the NCYI said it opposes what it calls “same gender marriage”—I guess the word “sex” is too titillating—because it is “antithetical to the religious principles that we live by.” (Full disclosure: The NCYI is currently engaged in a long-running feud [3] with several synagogues, including mine, about an unrelated matter, and I have been involved in efforts to reform the organization’s governance.) Similarly, the Orthodox Union, a relatively more centrist and open organization within the Orthodox Jewish spectrum, explained [4] that even though it “condemns discrimination,” it opposes “any effort to change the definition of marriage to include same sex unions.”

This is misguided, on a number of levels. Firstly, Judaism already treats Jewish and civil marriages differently, and synagogues—like all religious organizations—are free to define marriage according to their own religious principles. For example, marriages between Jews and members of other faiths are not performed or recognized in Orthodox synagogues. Other denominations perform them as they see fit. The same approach can easily be applied to same-sex marriages. Orthodox synagogues will not be forced to redefine religious marriage on account of the legalization of same sex marriage.

More fundamentally, the word “marriage” has no special significance to Jews. The Jewish term for the sacred union between a man and a woman is kiddushin. Kiddushin and civil marriage give rise to wholly different rights and impose different responsibilities, and the processes for dissolving a Jewish union and a civil marriage also differ entirely. Likewise, although a kiddushin ceremony is sufficient to establish a civil marriage under U.S. law, the reverse is not the case: A civil marriage ceremony is not necessarily sufficient to constitute kiddushin.

My own wedding experience illustrates this idea. For reasons of convenience, my wife and I had a civil marriage a few weeks before we entered kiddushin. During the period between the two ceremonies, secular law recognized us as married and bestowed all of the rights and responsibilities of marriage on us. Our synagogue, however, recognized no relationship between us at all. And, as Orthodox Jews, we continued to live separately until our kiddushin ceremony. Had we changed our minds about our commitment to one another, we would have had to seek a secular divorce or annulment but would not have gone through the religious divorce process. Plainly, Orthodox Judaism is capable of distinguishing and accommodating the differences between marriages that have religious significance and those that do not. Same-sex marriage should be no different.

But the strongest reason that organized American Orthodox Jewry should not take a religious stand on same-sex marriage lies in our cultural identity and history. In contrast to religious Christians, our culture is not the dominant one in this country. The Christian day of rest is observed in this country, but ours is not; Christmas is a federal holiday, but Yom Kippur is not. You won’t find religious Jews Tebowing [5] (unless they’re doing it ironically), and depictions of Orthodox Jews in popular movies are always played for the same kind of laughs as any other wacky racial and ethnic caricatures. What I am describing here is not a sense of unhealthy alienation from mainstream society, but rather the cultural distance that simply and naturally adheres to minority groups in America.
Unlike our Christian friends and neighbors, Jews grow up with our minority status deeply ingrained and without the instinctive expectation that our religious traditions and beliefs will naturally be reflected in the broader law and culture. As a minority within a minority, Orthodox Jews recognize that we reap the benefits of pluralism, tolerance, and accommodation. After all, if religious beliefs in this country were to orient secular law, we would find ourselves deeply disappointed and possibly threatened, just as we historically have in every other diaspora country.

For good reason, then, American Jews and Orthodox Jews in particular are usually reticent about imposing our religious values and views on others. For example, the NCYI and the OU have never taken a public political stance against laws that permit intermarriage, even though intermarriage represents a far greater practical threat to Jewish communities than does same-sex marriage. Likewise, Orthodox Jewish leaders would never (one hopes) support a constitutional amendment prohibiting idolatry—even though the Torah has far more nasty things to say about idolatry than it does about same-sex marriage. Orthodox Jewish institutions should approach same-sex marriage with at least the same cultural distance and dispassion.

To be sure, there may be some issues in the public sphere on which Orthodox Jews will find themselves compelled to take a political stand out of religious conviction. But these occasions should be the exception rather than the rule. And we should be especially hesitant to do so concerning the debate over same-sex marriage, in which the rights of another American minority are at stake. Instead, we ought to be grateful that we live in a society in which minority groups’ religious and civil rights are respected, and in which equality is imposed by law.

Same-sex marriage does not threaten any aspect of Orthodox Jewish religious beliefs or practices. Orthodox Jews should decide whether or not to support it on purely neutral, secular terms, and we should reconcile ourselves to our detachment from mainstream culture just as we always have.

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Find this story online: http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/100304/stay-out-of-it
Meet the Candidates for Athens-Clarke Commission

Today through Friday, candidates for the Athens-Clarke Commission will sign up to run for office.

By Camille Templeton  Email the author  May 23, 2012

Tweet Comment

Related Topics: Athens Clarke County, Athens GA, and athens commission candidates

Athens-Clarke Commission seats in districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 will be opening up next year, and candidates will formally declare their intention to run for these seats today, and through Friday of this week.

Two candidates, Allison Wright and David Ellison, have already announced their candidacies in District 4, where Alice Kinman is giving up her seat. District 4 covers Athens' Five Points neighborhood east of Lumpkin St., and most of UGA:s campus area. Issues in this district tend to focus around maintaining the charm and aura of Five Points, a pedestrian-friendly business district valued by many Athenians.

Wright, who lives in Five Points, has served on the Clarke County School Board since 2005 and has two sons who attend Clarke Middle School. She is a certified Medical Illustrator and CEO of Biomedical Visual Concepts, Inc. Wright will hold a meeting this evening at Aroma's Wine Bar in Five Points from 5pm-8pm for those interested in learning more about her campaign.

Ellison currently serves on the Athens-Clarke County Hearings Board and works as a law clerk for the Superior Courts of the Piedmont Judicial District. He graduated from the UGA School of Law in 2010. Ellison has lived in Athens with his wife, Lauren, a UGA School of Law graduate, since 1990 and currently resides in Five Points.

Two candidates for District 6, Jerry NeSmith and Ron Winders, have announced their desire to take Ed Robinson's seat. District 6 covers Athens' West Side, Atlanta Hwy area and Forest Heights. District 6 lost the Rivercliff Estates subdivision in a recent change to district maps that took effect on May 17, 2012. The major issues in this district have been focused on the Atlanta Hwy, as recent developments in bordering Oconee County have threatened the area's economic future.

NeSmith has been employed as a business and technical director at the University of Georgia for the past nine years. He serves on the ACC Planning Commission and is a manager of the Athens Farmers' Market. Before moving to Athens with his wife, Farol, in 1997, he was part of a well-organized neighborhood coalition, working with Mayor Maynard Jackson and all of Atlanta's northeastern neighborhoods in an attempt to preserve and rebuild the quality of life of Atlanta's in-town neighborhoods. He worked to change zoning laws and successfully defeated a planned interstate highway through those neighborhoods.

Winders, a native of Savannah, GA, has lived in Athens since 1996. He has a degree in Social Work from UGA, has worked in sales for 20 years, and is...
Winders, a native of Savannah, GA, has lived in Athens since 1996. He has a degree in Social Work from UGA, has worked in sales for 20 years, and is concerned with development issues in District 6. Winders has no previous political experience, but reported to the Athens Banner-Herald that his motivation to run for office stems from developments around Georgia Square Mall, which he says are flooding creeks, eroding soil and killing wildlife.

Elections will take place on July 31, 2012. Stay tuned for updates on candidates in Districts 2, 8 and 10. To find out which district you live in, click here.
Another candidate in Chatham County Commissioner race

Reported by: Jenifer Andrews
Email: jandrews@thecoastalsource.com
Published: 5/23 9:54 pm
Updated: 8:24 am

Savannah attorney Tony Center, son of former Savannah City Alderman Leo Center, and Chair of the Chatham County Democratic Committee, qualified Wednesday to run for Chatham County Commission District 3.

District 3 is presently represented by Pat Shay. Shay decided not to run for re-election.

"I hope to bring to the commission the same intensity of research, questioning, and resolution that I apply to my clients' cases. My goal is to make County government more attentive, more responsive, and more efficient. I want Chatham County citizens to be proud of their government," Center said.

Center, 62, is a native born Savannahian. He attended public schools, graduated from Savannah High, and won an academic scholarship to college.

He practiced law in Atlanta where in 1992 he won the Democratic Primary to oppose Newt Gingrich for Congress. Center has been a trial lawyer since graduating the University of Georgia law school in 1975. He served as General Counsel to a national telecommunications company, where he helped establish a consumer protection group for telephone customers.

Since moving home to Savannah in 2001, Center has stayed active in politics. He twice ran for Congress, then was elected and now serves as Chair of the Chatham County Democratic Committee, where he set records in fundraising, recruiting candidates, and party attendance. "My strengths are organization, learning the facts, and understanding the issues. I intend to campaign vigorously and engage the electorate. Should I be elected, I look forward to serving the citizens of Chatham County, particularly of the third district," Center stated.

Center is still organizing his campaign team. Jolene Byrne and Janice Shay will manage Center's campaign.

We Recommend

Pooler couple claims $1 million lottery prize (WJCL)
Savannah woman wins $40K from scratch off (WJCL)
Redrawn district maps won't be used for 2012 elections (WJCL)
Chatham seeks Spanish-speaking drivers (WJCL)
Savannah-Chatham Public Schools budget nears finalization (WJCL)

More From The Web

Model Berlin airport left on the tarmac (Financial Times)
Hotel Worker Allegedly Fired For Saying 'Bye-Bye,' Sues For Pregnancy Discrimination (AOL Jobs)
Steve Reilly, a Lawrenceville attorney, has qualified to run against U.S. Rep Rob Woodall, of District 7, which includes Snellville.
May 24, 2012

PRESS RELEASE/ Gwinnett County Democratic Party

Steve Reilly, a Lawrenceville attorney, qualified today and announced his candidacy for the U. S. House of Representatives in the 7th District. Reilly is a Democrat.

Steve Reilly has been a resident of Gwinnett County, Georgia since 1975. After completing law school in 1986, Mr. Reilly became an officer in the United States Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps, where he practiced law as a military attorney and attained the rank of captain. In 1990, Mr. Reilly was honorably discharged from the Army and entered private law practice in Lawrenceville. Mr. Reilly is a partner in the Lawrenceville law firm of Andrew, Merritt, Reilly & Smith, LLP.

Mr. Reilly graduated from law school at the University of Georgia in 1986. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in 1983 from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where he attended school on a U.S. Army R.O.T.C. scholarship. Mr. Reilly is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and the Gwinnett County Bar Association.

Mr. Reilly has been active in a variety of civic activities. He is a member of the board of directors of the Gwinnett United Way and the advisory board for Gwinnett Legal Aid. He has served on the board of the Gwinnett Boys & Girls Clubs, and is a graduate of Leadership Gwinnett. Reilly served as the chairman of the Gwinnett County Democratic Party from 1996-2002, and is a member of the State Committee of the Democratic Party of Georgia. Reilly also serves as the 7th congressional district chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia.

Mr. Reilly is a certified mediator. He mediates cases in the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit.

Steve and his wife, Cathy, currently reside in Peachtree Corners with their two children, Michael and Savannah.

(Editor's Note: Snellville Patch is publishing all received press releases regarding election qualification that concern Snellville voters.)
Niedrach's campaign statement

Rome Circuit Superior Court Judge John (Jack) Niedrach is unopposed for another four-year term on the bench. He released the following statement:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the citizens of Rome and Floyd County during my initial term of office, and I seek to continue my duty to faithfully and impartially administer justice in our community.

I believe that the rule of law should always be followed, that all persons stand equal in a court of law, that all parties should be treated with respect, and that cases should be completed in a timely manner. Public confidence in our judicial system requires no less."

Judge Niedrach was in private practice in Rome for 26 years prior to taking the bench in January, 2009. He is a 1982 graduate, cum laude, of the University of Georgia School of Law. He also graduated from the University of Georgia in 1978 with a business degree in accounting.

He and his wife Mary, a kindergarten teacher at Berry College Elementary School, have two grown sons. Judge Niedrach has been active and held leadership positions in numerous civic and professional organizations.

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Judge J. Bryant Durham Jr. is unopposed for re-election to a new four-year term.

Durham was originally appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue on Nov. 7, 2003, and has served on the Rome Circuit Superior Court since that time.

Prior to going on the Superior Court bench, Durham practiced law in Floyd County and served as Rome City Municipal Judge, county estate administrator for Floyd County and on the State Health Planning Review Board.

He graduated from Darlington School with honors, obtained his bachelor’s degree from Mercer University cum laude, and his juris doctor degree from University of Georgia School of Law.

Durham graduated on the commandant’s list from the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla. and served eight years in the Reserves before being honorably discharged as a captain.

"I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of Floyd County as judge of Superior Court. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving all citizens honestly, equally and with a sense of decorum," Durham stated.
May 27 2012 08:08:06

By Ed Grisamore The Macon Telegraph, Ga.

May 27—Oliver Bateman is slower to rise from his chair than when he was a younger man. He doesn’t move as gracefully from room to room.

War is hell. So is getting old. The redwood soldier will be 89 in August.

By the time he finds the strength to get out of bed each day, the sun is already high in the sky. Still, he considers himself blessed to still be around, even if it is to witness the sunset of the Greatest Generation.

He stands tall, especially when the memories stand tall with him.

The phone rings almost every day inside the same house where he grew up on Walden Road. He hears from the families of those who have gone on to greater glory. Sometimes their widows call to check on him. Or their sons. Or their granddaughters.

The circle will never be broken.

Bateman can recall the way his comrades walked and talked. Or how they could tip the wings of their P-51 Mustangs at 20,000 feet on the other side of the world.

"Their faces and stories pop up every night," he said. "They come back to me, and I remember them."

He salutes their service to our country. Every day is Memorial Day.

In the quiet of the house, he can hear the sounds of airplanes less than a mile away at the Middle Georgia Regional Airport and to the south at Robins Air Force Base.

Bateman was a few months shy of his fourth birthday when Charles Lindbergh flew the Spirit of St. Louis across the Atlantic 85 years ago this week. He was later inspired to write a poem in school about Lucky Lindy.

When he was 9, his father took him to an air show at Miller Field. He begged to ride with one of the barnstorming pilots.

He had dreamed of becoming a pilot, and that flying experience just added fuel to the fuselage. He graduated from the ROTC program at Lanier High, attended college at The Citadel and entered the aviation cadet program during World War II.

His heroes were Robert L. Scott, the famed aviator from Macon, and Claire Chenault. They were the key figures of the Flying Tigers, one of the most famous fighter squadrons in aviation history. They were made up of airmen from the Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines, who were recruited to help defend China against Japan during the war.

Bateman achieved his goal of becoming a Flying Tiger, too. In December 1944, he was assigned to the 14th Air Force and flew combat missions over China until the end of the war in August 1945.

His first experience with death came during his training at Eglin Field in the Florida panhandle in 1944. A fellow pilot named Buck Bailey flipped his PAD Warhawk. He was still alive when they pulled him out, but his neck was broken.

"The squadron commander sent me to stay with him at the hospital in Thomasville," said Bateman. "He told me (Bailey’s) fiancee and parents were on their way on a train from Chicago. He hoped they got there before he died."

Die? Who said anything about dying? Bateman was so upset he called his mother, Edna, in Macon. She drove to Thomasville to console him.

There were others who lost their lives in training. Or in combat. Whenever a plane took off, there were never any guarantees of a safe landing.

His friend, Jack Eager, died on a training exercise in Jacksonville, Fla. Bateman was part of the honor guard at the funeral and presented Eager’s mother with the flag from the casket. She was so distraught, she refused it and insisted Bateman keep it. He still has it. It’s the one with 48 stars.

Bateman also remembers those who died in the skies over the Far East. A young Catholic missionary would usually lead the memorial services. He was never quite sure how to sing some of the church hymns, though.
because he was pale and always looked like he needed a shot of something. He once had the unfortunate timing to pass a kidney stone while flying. (He probably should have received a Purple Heart for that incredible act of courage.)

Bob Leavell and Wayne Johnson were his tent mates. Bateman was called "Batman," and Leavell was known as "Robin." After the war, he asked Bateman to be in his wedding. Leavell was on the faculty of University of Georgia law school and was later killed in an automobile accident.

Johnson is still living and remains one of Bateman's closest friends. He wrote his memoirs and was once the longest-serving city attorney in the U.S., with more than 50 years in two cities. The airport in Silver Bay, Minn., is named in his honor.

Bateman returned to Macon to operate his family's peach-packing business. He became a political leader in Bibb County and served four terms as a state senator and six years as a Republican minority leader. He declared himself a candidate for governor in 1970, the year Jimmy Carter won, but withdrew before the election. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Flying Tigers Exhibit at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins.

On Memorial Day weekend five years ago, Bateman's daughter, Edna, traveled with him to Washington, D.C., to attend the final reunion of the Flying Tigers, which had been meeting since 1948. That same weekend, the Tigers said goodbye to one of their own at Arlington National Cemetery. James B. McGovern Jr. was better known as "Earthquake McGoon" after the hickory character in the L'il Abner comic strip. His remains were found by DNA evidence. He was shot down by enemy fire over Vietnam on May 6, 1954, while flying air transport for the CIA. He was buried with full military honors, more than 50 years later.

Three weeks ago, during the weekend of the huge air show at Robins Air Force Base, Bateman had a special visitor knock on his door. It was three-time national aerobatic champion Patty Wagstaff, who had an uncle who was killed in World War II.

Seeing her was a thrill for Bateman. He has always been one of her biggest fans. He gave her a signed portrait of the Flying Tigers.

Their heroics were so legendary the Tigers became the subject of a John Wayne movie. Of course, they were also immortalized in the book and movie "God Is My Co-Pilot," written by his longtime friend, the late Gen. Robert Scott.

On this Memorial Day, he recalls the motto of those he served beside.


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There was only one suspect, according to the Atlanta homicide detective who investigated the 1989 murder of public relations executive Connie Vance Krause, found strangled to death in the trunk of her car at the Lindbergh MARTA station.

For 18 months, police zeroed in on the woman's husband, Hans-Juergen Krause, a former state employee who spent a considerable portion of the couple's savings at local strip clubs. Extramarital affairs were also alleged, and police suspected Vance Krause was killed the very day she had begun to uncover details of her husband's secret life.

Amid a media maelstrom clamoring for an arrest, then-Fulton County District Attorney Lewis Slaton refused to budge, insisting there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. Krause, who was never charged criminally, denied any role in his wife's murder.

Desperate, the Vance family turned to a then-unprecedented legal gambit, suing Hans Krause for murder in a DeKalb County civil court in 1990. It had never happened before in Georgia and, according to the attorneys representing the Vances, hadn't been attempted elsewhere.

Now, it's more commonplace. Nine days ago, the brother of Rusty Sneideman, the Dunwoody entrepreneur gunned down by his wife's boss outside a day care facility, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against his sister-in-law, Andrea, alleging that she conspired to kill her husband. The Sneideman family hopes to recoup $2 million in insurance money paid to the widow less than a month after Rusty's murder at the hands of her former boss, Hemy Neuman.

"There's been a sea of change as to how people view these kinds of cases," said Kenneth Canfield, co-counsel for the Vances.

Andrea Sneideman, who has not been charged in connection to her husband's death, has maintained her innocence and has vowed to fight the civil suit. She has also sought to limit contact with her in-laws, alleging in a separate visitation dispute that they are not acting in the best interest of her children by claiming she was involved in her husband's murder.

Neuman, sentenced to life in prison without parole, is also named in the Sneideman's suit, which alleges Andrea Sneideman "utilized her illicit relationship with her co-conspirator [Neuman] to manipulate and influence him to murder Rusty Sneideman."
While there are some similarities between the Sneideman and Krause cases, there are just as many differences. For one, Andrea Sneideman could still be charged criminally by DeKalb County District Attorney Robert James, who, following Neuman's conviction, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "We have strong beliefs about Ms. Sneideman's involvement. The question is whether or not we can prove that beyond a reasonable doubt."

A civil jury, meanwhile, can find for the plaintiffs based on a preponderance of the evidence — a much less exacting standard than "beyond reasonable doubt." Also, while a defendant in a civil action can invoke their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, a jury can view a refusal to testify as proof of liability, unlike a criminal trial.

Jurors are also more likely to find against the defendant because the stakes aren't as high, according to legal experts.

"It's easier to punish people financially than it is sending them away to prison for the rest of their life," said University of Georgia law professor Donald E. Wilkes Jr.

**On a civil court stage**

Twenty-two years ago, those distinctions, while legally established, were largely untested.

"The initial reaction to our suit was skeptical," said Bob Shields, who, along with Canfield, represented the Vance family. "And the prosecutors were very defensive. They weren't rooting for us [to succeed]."

Two Georgia laws prevent anyone who commits murder from collecting insurance or estate money. The Vances brought their lawsuit under those statutes.

"The concept that legally anyone could not profit from the death they were responsible for goes back to common law," Shields said.

Krause's attorneys argued the suit violated their client's civil rights.

"It's patently unfair," said defense attorney Robert Ray at the time. "What would prevent some jealous relative from filing a lawsuit every time someone was murdered?"

The plaintiffs subpoenaed more than 100 people as potential witnesses, including Atlanta homicide detectives, friends of the Krauses and DeKalb District Attorney Robert E. Wilson, whose office participated in the murder investigation. Wilson was ultimately not called to testify. The sensational witness list also included several nude dancers and a woman with whom Mr. Krause says he had a relationship three weeks after his wife's body was found Nov. 4, 1989.

The jury ruled for the plaintiffs, preventing Krause from receiving $380,000 in life insurance benefits.

"We didn't need to decide he really did murder her," juror Hedy Edmondson told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "We just needed to decide that he probably did."

**What'll come out**

Jurors said they decided the Krause case entirely on circumstantial evidence. For the moment, such
evidence appears to provide the foundation of the Sneiderman’s civil suit.

“Almost everything that could come out has come out,” said attorney Jay Abt, who represents Shayna Citron, Andrea Sneiderman’s former best friend. “I don’t think we’re going to see any smoking guns emerge.”

Andrea Sneiderman’s own words are likely to figure strongly in the plaintiff’s argument. She testified in the Neuman trial that she did not learn that her husband had been shot until she arrived at Atlanta Medical Center. Later, Citron and father-in-law Don Sneiderman both testified that Andrea called and told them Rusty had been shot — before she had arrived at the hospital.

“To me, the biggest piece of evidence remains the timeline,” Abt said. “How can she explain knowing that Rusty was shot when she called Shayna and Don Sneiderman?”

But is it enough? Mere knowledge of a crime is not a prosecutable offense in Georgia, Wilkes Jr. said. But in a civil trial, it could be used to argue that Andrea Sneiderman, as the suit alleges, “actively and knowingly participated in the murder and the planning of the murder.”

“I don’t know if that’s going to be sufficient,” Wilkes Jr. said. “Not by itself. ... It’s certainly suspicious.”

The personal relationship between Andrea Sneiderman and Neuman, first alleged by the GE executive’s then-wife Ariela, is sure to figure prominently in the case against her. Phone records revealed nearly constant communication between the two and, despite additional evidence linking the two romantically, Sneiderman denied ever having an affair with Neuman.

Her lawyers have indicated that Andrea is likely to take the stand in her defense, though DeKalb prosecutors said later that her testimony in the Neuman trial only heightened their suspicions.

“We welcome the opportunity to present the real Andrea Sneiderman,” said John Petrey, who, along with former DeKalb District Attorney J. Tom Morgan and Doug Chalmers, make up the defense team. “Andrea has been portrayed very unfairly in the media to the advantage of others and to the litigation that has been going on so far.”

Among the most interested observers will be DeKalb’s current D.A., James, who was made aware of the civil suit prior to its filing by Steve Sneiderman, the victim’s brother.

“It’s not at all unusual to charge someone after they’ve been party to a civil action,” Wilkes Jr. said. “Prosecutors tend to welcome anything that could bring out the facts of the case.”

James could file charges at any time, pre-empting any civil action. A guilty verdict in a criminal trial would also allow the insurer to reclaim the money dispensed to Andrea Sneiderman after her husband’s death.

DeKalb’s chief prosecutor isn’t tipping his hand. Asked at the press conference following Neuman’s conviction if more charges were forthcoming, James responded: “Stay tuned.”

THE STORY SO FAR

Some key events surrounding the death of Rusty Sneiderman:
Nov. 18, 2010: Rusty Sneiderman is shot multiple times and killed after taking his son to class at Dunwoody Prep day care.

Jan. 4, 2011: Hemy Neuman, who supervised Sneiderman's wife at GE Energy, is arrested and charged with murder.

Feb. 8, 2011: Neuman is indicted by a DeKalb County grand jury.

March 7, 2011: Neuman's wife, Ariela, announces she is seeking legal separation from her husband of 22 years.

April 4, 2011: Neuman pleads not guilty to charges he shot and killed Rusty Sneiderman.

June 9, 2011: Sneiderman's wife, Andrea, says in a statement that she believes Neuman is her husband's killer and wants to see him convicted.

Sept. 16, 2011: Neuman's attorneys announce that their client will change his plea to not guilty by reason of insanity.

Oct. 5, 2011: Twelve days before it was set to begin, Neuman's trial is postponed so that court-appointed psychologists can examine the defendant.

Feb. 13: A jury is chosen to hear the case against Neuman.

Feb. 21: Opening statements are heard in Neuman's trial, and the prosecution begins presenting evidence.

Feb. 24: The judge bans Andrea Sneiderman from the courtroom for actions that were deemed as intimidating to witnesses.

March 13: The jury begins deliberations.

March 15: After deliberating nearly eight hours over three days, the jury finds Neuman guilty but mentally ill on the count of murder, and guilty on the count of using a firearm during the commission of a felony. The judge sentences Neuman to life in prison without parole on the murder count, and five years in prison on the firearms charge.

May 18: Steve Sneiderman, the brother of Rusty Sneiderman on Friday filed a wrongful death lawsuit against his sister-in-law, alleging that she conspired to kill her husband in front of a Dunwoody day care facility in November 2010.

Find this article at:
A wonderful commencement speech about "uncommon" students and fallen heroes

9:53 am May 27, 2012, by Maureen Downey

The Decatur High commencement speaker this weekend was retiring teacher Chris Billingsley, who kindly sent me a copy of his speech. (You can read a bit about him in this story in the Decatur Patch.)

With his approval, I am sharing his speech as it is the perfect Memorial Day weekend piece. On a personal note, I am sorry that Mr. B. will not be at Decatur High when my twins arrive in 2013.

By Chris Billingsley

My sincere thanks go to the Class of 2012 for the honor of speaking to you this evening. Seeing you all sitting here tonight reminds me of my own graduation from St. Pius X in 1971. At my advanced age, there is very little I remember from that day. However, I do recall that the ceremony took place in the Fox Theater; how cool is that.

Sitting in front of the stage in that beautiful theater, I must admit that I was not listening to the commencement speaker. Instead, I was thinking about the moment when my name would be called to receive my diploma and how important it would be to look as cool as possible walking across the stage. I anticipated hearing the crowd cheer and maybe pumping my fist in the air as I walked across the stage. Then it happened; someone called out "Christopher Billingsley."

No one ever told me how cool I looked crossing the stage. I don't think anyone was cheering. I was so nervous that I forgot all about the fist pump. I shook hands with my principal, Father Richard Kieran, walked off the stage, and it was over ... or so I thought.

In my excitement to get out of St. Pius, I had no idea how much my high school would mean to me in the future. Time and time again, whether it was our regular class reunions or other get-togethers with my former classmates and friends, the love and affection I have for my alma mater grows stronger and stronger.

Most of the people that I made friends with over 40 years ago are still my closest friends. The love of my life is my wife, Mary Colbert Billingsley; we spent 12 years together in the same classrooms at St. Thomas More and then at St. Pius. Graduation was not the end of my connection to my high school. It remains an important part of my life to this day.

I have been told that my 35 year career at Decatur may be the longest at a single school in the history of City Schools of Decatur. Thirty-five years here is, indeed, a long time. But the history of Decatur High School is much longer. Contrary to what some of my students may believe, I was not teaching here when, 100 years ago, Decatur High School began. The year 1912 was not only important in Decatur's history, but also in world history.

That year, the great ship Titanic, believed to be unsinkable, set sail on its maiden voyage from England to New York. As we all know, she struck an iceberg on the night of April 14th and was at the bottom of the ocean in about two hours, with almost 1,500 lost souls. I mention this because the oldest Decatur High School graduate I ever met was born around that same year.

His name was Mr. Lawrence Medcalf, and he lived most of his 95 years here in Decatur on Ponce de Leon Place, not far from the house that I grew up in, and where Jason Barefoot lives today. After I began teaching at Decatur, Mr. Medcalf would always ask me, "How are things at Decatur High? You know, I graduated from Decatur. Had a lot of great teachers while I was there. Great to see you again."

His comments were always the same over the years, as if his experience at Decatur High School had really shaped his entire life.
A wonderful commencement speech about “uncommon” students and f...

When he passed away several years ago, there were so many mourners at his funeral it created a huge traffic jam in Decatur. Mr. Medcaiff had many, many friends and associates from a long career in Decatur. I don’t doubt that Decatur High School was an important part of his life.

One of the great privileges I had this year was meeting George H. Carley, associate justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, and soon to be sworn in as Chief Justice. This year’s Georgia Close-Up team met with Justice Carley and Justice David Nahmias while visiting the state capital in March.

Justice Carley told the students that he was inspired to study law because of a teacher he had in the 10th grade here at Decatur High School. Her name is Miss Emily Norton, and because of her exceptional teaching, George Carley graduated from DHS and later the University of Georgia, where he received a law degree and started on a 50 year career that will culminate later this month when he is sworn in as Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. Miss Norton was still teaching here at Decatur when I began my career, and I remember her as an outstanding educator. Even today, when I meet her former students, they use terms like “brilliant” “inspiring” and “terrific sense of humor” to describe her and fondly recall her as their greatest teacher.

As a social studies teacher, I must confess, that I love local history. As I said earlier, Decatur High School has a long and interesting history, and it has been my privilege to pass some of this on to my students. Edward Ravenel, Charles Jackson and Gene Blough graduated from Decatur in the 1940s but were tragically killed while fighting during the Korean War.

This year’s Close-Up students were able to place a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., in honor of these graduates. The previous year, the Close-Up team placed a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial in honor of Harry Edwards, a 1960 graduate who died when his jet crashed while on a mission over North Vietnam. Harry was so loved by his friends in the Class of 1960 that they created a scholarship, which was awarded to one of you earlier this week.

In 2010, the Close-Up team also honored another Decatur student. He did not graduate, but attended his freshmen through junior years here. He was in my civics and world history classes in 1996 and 1997. This young man transferred to another school and graduated, volunteered in the U.S. Army, and served in the War in Iraq.

Honestly, I did not really remember much about him. He was quiet and not the best student in his class. Yet, Ms. Arlethia Williams and I both remembered seeing in him the potential to become a leader. He left Decatur, and I must admit that I forgot about him until one day, during a Georgia Close-Up trip several years ago, I was strolling around the capital rotunda in downtown Atlanta. There I saw portraits of more than 20 Georgians who have been killed in combat in Iraq. From across the room, I was strangely drawn to one portrait, which turned out to be Sergeant Jonathan Shields, my former student, who was killed during the Battle of Fallujah. I learned that he had indeed grown to be a fine leader. After graduation he joined the U.S. army, married and had a child. During the bitter fighting at Fallujah an explosion damaged his tank and several members of his team were badly injured.

He and others carried these soldiers to safety and, as it states in his battle commendation, “He quickly returned to his unit and the sound of the guns.” Sergeant Shields was killed later that day.

One of his friends later wrote: “I served with Shields in the same company for about three years. He was a great person to know, and an even better man to have on your side. Shields could always get a smile out of me no matter how mad or depressed I was. He just had that thing about him that no matter how bad things seemed, everything was actually all right. I always knew if I needed anything that I wasn’t able to get, Shields would know someone that would take care of us. That’s the type of person he was. He knew everyone and everyone like him. It was a privilege to have known him, and an honor to [serve] in combat with him. He will always be missed and never forgotten.”

I hope that sometime this Memorial Day weekend, you take the time to remember and honor the more than 50 graduates who gave their lives so that we could enjoy the freedom we have.

All of these former students, whether they went on to a long, successful career or one cut short by tragedy, were once sitting right where you are now, at their graduation from Decatur High School. And just like you, they experienced the wonderful, and maybe the not so wonderful, aspects of school life. You have all heard the bells signal class changes, waited for lunch to begin, participated in athletic contests, school dances, field trips, gossip, lectures, and now your graduation. I would like to think that this evening is not the end of your high school experience, but instead the beginning of a new chapter in your high school story. As you grow older, you may find, just as I have, that the ties you have to your alma mater and this community will grow stronger and stronger.

Like many of us sitting here in front of you, and those behind you in the audience, I believe that you will look back on many parts of your high school years as some of the greatest moments in your lives...the pep rallies and coming home floats, where the Class of 2012 always seemed to dominate...the class projects, especially the ones that impressed your 9th grade teachers four years ago, as well as your recent Senior Projects. All of these set a standard for excellence that your teachers will remember for many years to come.

We will remember your thrilling victories in athletics, as well as your tough defeats, knowing that in defeat you sometimes learn the virtues that will lead to success later in life. Virtues; these are the highest standards we strive for. Throughout your years in the City Schools of Decatur, your teachers have worked to teach you something about the virtues that have made the United States unique in the history of the world.

As one of your teachers, I discovered that I could talk to you day after day about the virtue of hard work and not make suffic...
A wonderful commencement speech about “uncommon” students and f...

Carter was told repeatedly by his teachers and his principal that “any one of you can grow up to be president of the United States.”

You read books about courage and may have discussed it in the classroom but after a field trip to the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History and a walk across the Cheatham Hill Battlefield in Kennesaw, you learned that real courage is knowing you sometimes face overwhelming odds and yet you still fight on. Through our many service projects at Glenn Creek Nature Preserve, Dearborn Park, and the MLK Service Day, you have learned the virtue of generosity and the importance of sharing your time and talents. It is my hope that these lessons will stay with you throughout your life and shape you in becoming the next leaders of this city, state, and country.

As I said earlier, many students have shared stories with me over the years of how they were inspired by their teachers here at Decatur High School. Now that I am retiring, I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have always been inspired by my colleagues. It has been an honor to work with all of them over the past 35 years. But it is you, the students, who are my biggest inspiration.

As I have tried to teach you everything you need to know about Citizenship, U.S. History, and other subjects, you have taught me many things that cannot be found in textbooks or teaching manuals. For this, I am most grateful. You have made me a better teacher but more importantly, a better person. As I prepare for the next chapter in my life, I want to tell you some of the things we have learned together. I now understand that there is a time and place for partisanship, and we should not let it dominate our lives. We can accomplish so much more when we are willing to really listen to each other’s views and ideas, and work together to solve the many problems facing us.

While working with you, I have learned how very important it is to be friendly. It is really such an easy thing to do; a friendly “Hello,” “How do you do?” “Good to see you” or, when leaving, “Adios.” This takes so little effort, and the rewards are great. By greeting those around you with a friendly gesture and a smile you can make a huge difference in someone’s day.

Finally, one of the most important lessons I have learned from you is to never sell yourself short. So many times I have seen a student struggle, whether it was in the classroom, or on the athletic fields. Sometimes it was an exam, sometimes it was just trying to fit in. Whenever I worried that student couldn’t make it, I discovered I was wrong. It might require a little extra help from a caring coach, it might mean someone had to work harder after school, but, time and time again, I have seen students succeed here when few others thought they could. We should never underestimate our abilities.

In closing, I would like to share something written a few years ago, not by that entertainer most of you associate me with, but by a former president. To a group of graduates just like you, he said, “In my opinion, there has been too much talk about the Common Man. We are in danger of developing a cult of the Common Man, which means a cult of mediocrity. But there is at least one hopeful sign: I have never been able to find out who this Common Man is. In fact, most Americans will get mad if you try calling them common. This is hopeful because it shows that most people are holding fast to an essential fact in American life. We believe in equal opportunity for all, but we know that this includes the opportunity to rise to leadership—in other words, to be uncommon. Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership. I have never met a father and mother who did not want their children to grow up to be uncommon men and women. May it always be so. For the future of America rests not in mediocrity, but in the constant renewal of leadership in every phase of our national life.”

To the Class of 2012, my wish for all of you is to become “The Uncommon Graduate.”

On behalf of the teachers and staff of Decatur High School, I want to tell you how proud we are of all your accomplishments. I hope you believe that “In the heart of Old Decatur,” you have a second home and will always be welcome. I want to especially thank your parents. They have made our jobs as teachers and administrators much easier. Without their continued support, this outstanding school could disappear almost as quickly as the Titanic. And although we may not have always communicated it clearly, your teachers, administrators and I truly love you in a way that may not be clear at this moment, but will become more evident as you continue on life’s journey. May God continue to bless you and your families, the City of Decatur, the Great State of Georgia, and the United States of America. Thank you.

–From Maureen Downey, for the AJC Get Schooled blog
3 judges compete for Cobb County Superior Court seat

Katheryn Hayes Tucker
Daily Report
05-29-2012

As qualifying closed Friday for those seeking election to judicial positions in Georgia, the long list of mostly uncontested races was punctuated by hot spots in Cobb County for the jobs of two judges and one district attorney.

Three experienced judges qualified to run for the opening created by the retirement of the most tenured member of the local bench, Cobb County Superior Court Judge Dorothy Robinson, who is retiring this year. Robinson, 74, has served since 1972, when then-Governor Jimmy Carter appointed her to Cobb County State Court and made her the first female trial judge in Georgia.

Rather than follow the practice of resigning and allowing the governor to appoint a successor, who then runs as an incumbent, Robinson chose to create a rare open judicial position in the election.

The candidates for her seat are:

- Roland Castellanos, 58, who has served as a Division II Cobb County State Court judge since 1999, following 20 years in private practice. Division II handles mostly traffic court cases. He earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1978.

- Van Pearlberg, 61, is one of two top-ranking assistant district attorneys in Cobb County. He has also served on the Marietta City Council from his election in 2005 until he resigned this year to pursue his court campaign. He earned a J.D. at John Marshall Law School in Atlanta and was admitted to the bar in 1976.

- Greg Poole, 52, has served as a Cobb County Juvenile Court judge for nine years. Previously, he had a private practice in Marietta. He also sits in for superior court judges monthly. He earned a J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 1985.

Of the six incumbent superior court judges who qualified for re-election, only one will have competition.

Nathan Wade qualified to run against Reuben Green, the newest member of the bench there, having been appointed by outgoing Governor Sonny Perdue to replace Chief Judge Ken Nix at the end of 2010.

Green, 41, worked at King & Spalding before joining the Cobb County district attorney's office. He has a philosophy of efficiency, rules and discipline that he has said was informed by his stint in the U.S. Marine Corps after his graduation from high school in Oregon. He graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Portland and, in 2000, Emory University Law School. In his first months in office, he said he cleared up more than 1,000 old cases.

If he wins, Wade, 39, a solo practitioner and Marietta Municipal Court judge, would be the first African American on the Cobb Superior Court bench. He was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1999, after graduating from John Marshall Law School in Chicago.
Cobb County District Attorney Pat Head also created an opening when he said two years ago that he wouldn't to seek re-election for another term. The candidates who qualified for the position are:

• Vic Reynolds, 55, a Marietta criminal defense attorney who has practiced for the past decade with death penalty defense lawyer Jimmy Berry. Previously, Reynolds worked as a prosecutor for two long-time district attorneys Lewis Slaton in Fulton County and Tom Charron in Cobb County. He also served as a Cobb County Magistrate judge. Reynolds has been laying his campaign groundwork for more than two years, meeting with the county's political leaders, including Head. Reynolds has a J.D. from Georgia State College of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1986.

• Cindi Yaeger, 50, is a Marietta solo and former prosecutor for both the Cobb County district attorney and solicitor. She is a former president of the Cobb County Bar Association (2007) and head of the criminal defense section. She has a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Five Cobb County Superior Court incumbents are running unopposed. They are:

• Adele Grubbs, 67. Grubbs had three decades of experience as a trial lawyer — and a stint as a prosecutor — before being appointed as a juvenile court judge in 1996. In 2000, she was elected to the superior court. She has been a member of the bar since 1969. She is a native of England.

• Lark Ingram, 58. Ingram was first appointed to the superior court in 1995. Before that, she served as a state court judge, first appointed in 1991. Previously, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the criminal and civil divisions in Atlanta. She has a J.D. from the University of Georgia Law School, 1978. She is the daughter of a retired superior court judge and Georgia Supreme Court Justice Conley Ingram and the sister of a recent president of the Cobb County Bar Association, Nancy Ingram Jordan.

• C. LaTain "Tain" Kell, 50. Kell was first appointed to the superior court in 2007 to fill a newly created 10th position by Perdue. In the two decades prior, he worked for Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers and also the Georgia attorney general's office in civil litigation. He's the son of a teacher and a longtime Cobb County football coach.

• Stephen "Steve" Schuster, 61. Schuster is in his eighth year on the superior court. Previously, he served as a juvenile court judge for two years. Before that, he had a private practice in Marietta for 22 years. Schuster earned his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1976.

• Mary Staley, 59. Staley was first elected to a judicial position in 1982, when she became a Cobb County Magistrate Court judge. She was elected to Cobb County State Court Division I in 1984. She was elected to superior court in 1992. She is one of the few judges who fought her way in by contested election, rather than starting out as a gubernatorial appointee. She earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1978.
New chief justice sworn in for brief spell

By KATE BRUMBACK
Published Tuesday, May 29, 2012

ATLANTA — Justice George Carley was sworn in Tuesday as the 29th chief justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, a post he will hold for less than two months.

Carley announced last fall that he would retire from the bench in July. He would have been retiring as presiding justice of the high court, but his colleagues on the bench unanimously voted for him to serve as chief justice for two months before he leaves.

The plan was hatched by then Chief Justice Carol Hunstein, who delivered the opening remarks at Carley's investiture Tuesday and who will resume her position as chief when Carley steps down.

Carley is the first person in Georgia history to have served as presiding judge and chief judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals, as well as presiding justice and chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

U.S. District Court Judge Steve C. Jones for the Northern District of Georgia administered the oath.

All six living former chief justices attended the investiture, as did Carley's family, the outgoing head of his alma mater, University of Georgia President Michael Adams, and a long list of state and federal government officials.

— Associated Press

Under state law, judges cannot collect their pensions if they stay on
the bench after they turn 75. Carley will be 74 when his term ends this year. A former judge with the state Court of Appeals, Carley was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court in 1993 by then Gov. Zell Miller, a Democrat. He was elected to three six-year terms.

The timing of Carley's retirement will allow his successor to be appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, a Republican, and serve a full two years before facing an election in 2014. By last Friday's deadline, 31 people had applied to replace Carley on the bench, a Deal spokesman said. The governor's judicial nominating commission is charged with narrowing that field and presenting finalists to Deal.

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Edelberg to seek Magistrate seat

05.30.12 - 11:56 am
Local attorney Joy Edelberg will seek the Magistrate Judge in the July 31 Primary. She will face fellow attorney Andrea Conarro, current magistrate court Chief Deputy Clerk Kathi Haney and Assistant Magistrate Randy Pruitt.

“I am running for Chief Magistrate Judge because I have a strong desire to serve my community. I see this position as an opportunity to apply my education, skills and experience for the good of our county,” she said. “I feel my education and work experience, coupled with my unwavering dedication to our community make me the best candidate for the position.”

Edelberg began learning about the law in her junior year of high school when she took a position with Horne & Horne, P.C. where she is now a partner.

Rather than entering college upon graduation, Edelberg continued to work full time during the illness of K.C. Horne’s wife, who passed away in 1992. She then enrolled in North Georgia College where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1997 while continuing to work every day.

Edelberg kept working while commuting to Athens to earn her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law, and by attending summer classes was able to graduate one semester early, in December 1999. She has been in private practice with Horne & Horne P.C. since then.

As Magistrate Judge, she said, she “will work to ensure that everyone that comes before the court for any reason is treated courteously and fairly. The Magistrate Court is a place for careful decision making in accordance with the law. It is also a court to which citizens can come without an attorney to present their case and have it decided. I will ensure that the court remains easily accessible to anyone that needs the services of the court, whether they are represented by an attorney or not.

“I will also work cooperatively with the Clerk of Courts, Sheriff’s Office and all other agencies involved with the Magistrate Court to ensure that the court operates with coordination and efficiency.”

Edelberg has been and continues to be active in the community where she grew up. She has a desire, she said, “to make a positive impact on our community.”

She served on the Lumpkin County Parks & Recreation Board for 10 years before the county partnered with the YMCA, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the YMCA Board of Management.

She has been a member of the Lumpkin County FFA Alumni Association since its formation and currently serves as Treasurer of the organization.
When her older daughters were involved in school sports she volunteered her time as an active member of their booster clubs. She is now a member on the Blackburn Elementary School Council and of the Lumpkin County School Superintendent’s Advisory Committee.

Edelberg is also an active board member of the Enotah Family Drug Court Foundation. “The program and organization helps parents suffering from drug or alcohol addiction overcome their addiction so they can make better choices and be reunited with their children,” she said.

“My husband, David, and I both believe in the importance of community and volunteerism, and we strive to instill these values in our four children, Chelsey, Tyler, DJ and Bailey.”

The family attends Dahlonega United Methodist Church.

“If elected,” Edelberg said, “I will serve with integrity and a sense of fairness.”

Edelberg can be reached at 706-864-4006, by emailing joy@edelbergformagitrate.com or by mail at P.O. Box 37, Dahlonega.

“Please feel free to contact me anytime,” she said.

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Jeffrey Y. Lewis, a partner at Arnall Golden Gregory LLP who does commercial litigation work, received the 2012 Alumnus Service Award from The Westminster Schools, a prestigious center of learning in Atlanta.

Mr. Lewis graduated from Westminster in 1973, then went on to attend college and law school at the University of Georgia.

At Westminster, Mr. Lewis was a member of the National Honor Society and won the American Association of Teachers of German award for Georgia, and the Hull Trophy as the outstanding junior in the Boys School.

Mr. Lewis was a two-sport state champion in football and wrestling, set a school record in the discus that stood for 21 years, and was inducted into Westminster's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1978. At UGA he played on the SEC Champion football team.

Mr. Lewis also was an accomplished thespian at Westminster, playing Sky Masterson in "Guys and Dolls."

He has been a committed volunteer and supporter of his alma mater, serving on Westminster's Alumni Governing Board, of which he was co-president during the 2005-06 school year.

Mr. Lewis came up with idea for Beyond the Gates, Westminster's Distinguished Speaker Series. He also has worked tirelessly to raise money for the school and was a member of the Trustee Development Committee during the 2005-06 school year.

Mr. Lewis has led efforts to organize his class's milestone reunions, the 1973 State Wrestling Championship Team Reunion, the "Rutledge" and 1971 State Championship Football Team Reunions, and the 2004 and 2011 Performing Arts Reunions.

He and Kathleen Lewis are the parents of Rosalee, who graduated from Westminster in 2009, and Ben.

About Arnall Golden Gregory

Arnall Golden Gregory LLP is a law firm with offices in Atlanta, Miami and Washington, D.C., that serves the business needs of growing public and private companies. Its areas of focus include real estate, healthcare, corporate, litigation, international, employment, life sciences, global logistics, privacy and intellectual property law. With the help of Arnall Golden Gregory's experienced attorneys, clients across a broad range of industries and around the globe turn legal challenges into business opportunities.

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Add New Comment
Georgia Supreme Court's 29th chief justice

Alyson M. Palmer
Daily Report
05-30-2012

Carol W. Hunstein and George H. Carley share a laugh before Carley is sworn in Tuesday as the Georgia Supreme Court's 29th chief justice.

In opening the brief but crowded ceremony in the court's courtroom, Hunstein noted the presence of all of the court's living former chief justices: retired Justices Harold Clarke, Willis Hunt, Norman Fletcher and Leah Ward Sears, current Justice Robert Benham — "and, in a few minutes, me."

Hunt, now a senior federal district court judge, gave light-hearted remarks, saying "the enduring image" of Carley for him was Carley working alone at the court on Saturdays, drinking coffee and sporting a tie.

Administered his oath by U.S. District Judge Steve Jones, Carley said he owed the most to Hunstein, who agreed to step aside from the chief role temporarily to give Carley an opportunity to serve in the post until he retires from the court on July 17. "This was all her idea," he said.
Gilbert A. BANKS Jr.

Family-Placed Death Notice

BANKS, Gilbert A., Jr. Forsyth. Gilbert Alexander Banks, Jr. died Monday, May 28, 2012. He was born April 2, 1941 in Forsyth, Ga., the only child of Julia Mae Chapman and Gilbert Alexander Banks, Sr. He graduated from Mary Persons High School in 1959, Emory University in 1963, and the University of Georgia Law School in 1966. Mr. Banks’s career included partnership with the Clarke and Haygood Law Firm, Vice Presidency of First Citizens Bank of Forsyth and of Bank South, Macon and owner of Alexander, Heath, and Walker Insurance Agency of Forsyth. Mr. Banks was a devoted life-long member of Forsyth United Methodist Church. His love of music was evidenced by his dedication to the recent renovation of the sanctuary and the refurbishing of the organ. Mr. Banks served on the Monroe County Hospital Authority for many years, was a member of the Georgia State Bar, the Capitol City Club of Atlanta, Idle Hour Country Club in Macon, and was a former member of the Kiwanis Club of Forsyth. Mr. Banks is survived by his wife of 32 years, Bera Kay Banks; a daughter, Anna Denham Banks; one grandchild, Julia Catherine Blair; cousins; Ruth Chapman Ham of Forsyth, Peter Banks of Barnesville, John Harris of Pensacola, Florida, Douglas Miser of West Virginia, and Patricia Jennings of St. Petersburg, Florida; and life-long friends Mary Isla and Charlie Haygood of Forsyth. A service will be held at the Forsyth United Methodist Church, Forsyth, Georgia, on Friday, June 1, 2012 at 11:00 A.M., followed by burial in Monroe Hills Memorial Gardens. The Reverend Ken Stephens will officiate. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at Monroe County Memorial Chapel, Forsyth, Georgia. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Mr. Banks may be made to Forsyth United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 108, Forsyth, Ga. 31029. Please visit www.monroecountymemorialchapel.com to express tributes. Monroe County Memorial Chapel has charge of arrangements.

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