7-1-2012

07/2012 Newsclippings

Office of Communications and Public Relations

Recommended Citation
Office of Communications and Public Relations, "07/2012 Newsclippings" (2012). Media Archives. 27.
https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/media_archives/27
A Leap of Faith: Beth Sanders gives up a lucrative law career for a place on the pulpit, finding her way back to a Rome church after being gone for 30 years

by Severo Avila, Features Editor
07.01.12 - 04:10 am

Some will say that Beth Sanders' return to Rome is merely a coincidence. Others might attribute it to fate. But after spending a few years of her childhood here, then returning decades later after her decision to pursue completely different career path, Sanders herself will tell you that God brought her back.

As Second Avenue United Methodist Church's first female pastor, she may have her hands full with all the duties and responsibilities any new pastor has, but for the moment she's simply happy to be back in the community and in the welcoming arms of her new congregation.

"It was very much a blessing to be appointed to this church," Sanders said. "They had no idea I had spent some years of my childhood here. They didn't know I had connections to Rome."

The "they" Sanders refers to is the District Superintendent who, in the Methodist Church, decides on pastoral appointments within the district. In this case, the Northwest Georgia district. Sanders could have been appointed to serve in any number of churches. But she was sent to Second Avenue Methodist.

But that's merely the tail end of a long journey back to Rome.

Sanders spent a few years of her childhood here, the daughter of Gene and Grace Sanders, in a house on East Rome's Riverview Road. She attended first grade at Darlington Lower School and worshipped at Second Avenue Baptist where she enjoyed singing with the choir.

Her parents moved to Atlanta and Beth left Rome. She got her English and philosophy degree at Emory and then her law degree at UGA. She practiced law in Atlanta for seven years before her life took a complete turnaround.

"I started feeling called to become a pastor," she said. "Law wasn't as fulfilling as it should have been. One case in particular made me realize that a legal resolution wasn't enough for me or the client. I wanted to help with spiritual resolution as well."

So despite concerns from her parents, Sanders quit her law practice and went back to school at Emory's Candler School of Theology where she got her
theology degree.

"It totally changed my life," she said. "And now my parents are very supportive and active in my churches. I knew this was what God was calling me to do but I resisted it for a couple years because I knew it would be such a big commitment. You just have to go where you're sent."

After serving at two Atlanta Methodist Churches, she got the call to come to Rome.

"My first time leading worship was last Sunday," she said. "But everyone has been so generous and kind and welcoming. I hope to have gatherings at people's homes so I can meet them in smaller groups and finding out what I can offer to this congregation."

While she's getting to know her congregation and settling into life as pastor at Second Avenue Methodist, Sanders finds time to get reacquainted with Rome. One of the ways she's doing that is by running. She has run the Peachtree Road Race before and plans to run the race this year, saying running helps her to relax and unwind.

As the trails around Rome take her past familiar sights, Sanders gets little flashes of memories from her childhood. It won't take long before she's familiar with the community once more.

And members at her church may not realize they're getting a little help in the choir as well. Sanders sang in a small a cappella ensemble in Atlanta and can't wait to lend her voice in praise at Second Avenue Methodist.

"I'm really just trying to build their trust at this point," she said. "I'm used to a more traditional worship style which I believe will be appreciated here. But I have to demonstrate that pastoral care. It's tough to just come in and expect people to trust you with their faith and their beliefs which are so deeply held and so important."

Sanders also hopes to connect with other pastoral colleagues throughout Rome. She said although she is only a small part of Rome's religious community, she is excited at the idea of forming relationships that will extend beyond the walls of Second Avenue Methodist.

"I hope to serve my congregation but I'd also like to reach out to the entire community," she said. "Part of my job is to be a part of a great web of relationships within this community."

© m-t.com 2012
ATHENS, Ga. - Three people in Athens have recently used firearms to interrupt crimes, prompting police to caution it's preferable to call 911 if possible.

"These and other recent cases involve very different facts, but one theme resonates as a common denominator: citizens seem more ready these days to protect themselves or others who may be in mortal danger by using a gun," Ron Carlson, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law, told The Athens Banner-Herald (http://bit.ly/MLJ8Ya).

Athens-Clarke police authorities said people should call 911 in case of danger. Capt. Clarence Holeman said police are always on patrol and can quickly respond to problems so citizens are not in harm’s way.

"I believe in the Second Amendment, but I wish people wouldn’t take the law into their own hands unless it’s a direct threat where they know their life is in danger or someone else’s is," Holeman said.

In one incident on June 21, Dennis Terry said he was driving when he saw a man beating a woman who caught her assailant breaking into her car. Terry said he ran toward the assailant and threatened to shoot him.

"I got within about 15 feet of them and told him to 'get down or I'll shoot' two or three times, and when he saw I meant business he turned her loose and ran," Terry said.

Two weeks earlier, 75-year-old businessman Raymond Penn had a gun when he confronted a man he found hiding in a storage room attached to his business. Penn said he told the man to come out with his hands up. The businessman said the suspected burglar had a gun and fired at him, and he fired back.

"I had no option but to return fire and defend myself," Penn said. "It's regrettable, but he put himself in the position and had the opportunity to step out of it."

A third man, Willie Reed, said he was awakened in his home on June 18 by burglars who climbed through a window. While investigating the noise, Reed said he was confronted by a man who grabbed a TV and ran with an accomplice toward a van parked in the driveway.

Reed said he fired at the van as it backed out the driveway. The driver panicked and crashed into a retaining wall. Police captured the thieves, who escaped briefly when arriving officers told Reed to lower his weapon.
Three people in Athens use guns to disrupt crimes

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Three people in Athens have recently used firearms to interrupt crimes, prompting police to caution it’s preferable to call 911 if possible.

"These and other recent cases involve very different facts, but one theme resonates as a common denominator: citizens seem more ready these days to protect themselves or others who may be in mortal danger by using a gun," Ron Carlson, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law, told The Athens Banner-Herald (http://bit.ly/MLJ8Ya).

Athens-Clarke police authorities said people should call 911 in case of danger. Capt. Clarence Holeman said police are always on patrol and can quickly respond to problems so citizens are not in harm’s way.

"I believe in the Second Amendment, but I wish people wouldn’t take the law into their own hands unless it’s a direct threat where they know their life is in danger or someone else’s is," Holeman said.

In one incident on June 21, Dennis Terry said he was driving when he saw a man beating a woman who caught her assailant breaking into her car. Terry said he ran toward the assailant and threatened to shoot him.

"I got within about 15 feet of them and told him to ‘get down or I’ll shoot’ two or three times, and when he saw I meant business he turned her loose and ran," Terry said.

Two weeks earlier, 75-year-old businessman Raymond Penn had a gun when he confronted a man he found hiding in a storage room attached to his business. Penn said he told the man to come out with his hands up. The businessman said the suspected burglar had a gun and fired at him, and he fired back.

"I had no option but to return fire and defend myself," Penn said. "It’s regrettable, but he put himself in the position and had the opportunity to step out of it."

A third man, Willie Reed, said he was awakened in his home on June 18 by burglars who climbed through a window. While investigating the noise, Reed said he was confronted by a man who grabbed a TV and ran with an accomplice toward a van parked in the driveway.

Reed said he fired at the van as it backed out the driveway. The driver panicked and crashed into a retaining wall. Police
3 people in Athens use guns to disrupt crimes | www.wsbtv.com

captured the thieves, who escaped briefly when arriving officers told Reed to lower his weapon.

Copyright The Associated Press

More News

We recommend

- 13-year-old dies after fight with sibling (WSB-TV)
- 2nd daughter in alleged DUI crash dies (WSB-TV)
- 2nd UGA employee faces charges in online prostitution bust (WSB-TV)
- 15-year-old accused of molesting 7-year-old girl (WSB-TV)
- Customer: Apple Store denied me iPad for speaking Farsi (WSB-TV)

Comments

If you would like to post a comment please Sign in or Register
Your morning jolt: Miscreants, armed citizens clash in Athens

According to the Athens Banner-Herald, three people in Athens have used guns to halt crimes in progress recently, prompting cops to caution that a call to 911 may be safer:

"Athenians seem to be making more use of the Second Amendment these days," said Ron Carlson, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law.

"These and other recent cases involve very different facts, but one theme resonates as a common denominator: citizens seem more ready these days to protect themselves or others who may be in mortal danger by using a gun," Carlson said.

From Athens police:

"I believe in the Second Amendment, but I wish people wouldn't take the law into their own hands unless it's a direct threat where they know their life is in danger or someone else's is," said Capt. Clarence Holeman, commander of the Athens-Clarke police Centralized Criminal Investigations Division.

"If time permits, the appropriate thing to do would always be to call the authorities," he said. "We're always out there patrolling, and if someone can contact the police we can be there in a timely manner and settle matters so that citizens are not in harm's way."

***

Georgia Tipsheet points out that Georgia's Republican delegation in the U.S. House split over that bill passed last week that combined spending for transportation infrastructure with a compromise to keep current interest rates on student college loans:

Just 2 of Georgia's 6 Republican Congressmen voted "yea", with those members being Tom Price and Jack Kingston. Westmoreland, Scott, Gingrey, Graves, Woodall and Broun all veered to the right, joining 46 other Republicans in voting against the omnibus package. Meanwhile, in the Senate, both Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson cast ballots with the majority.

The vote comes in the wake of speculation that Congressman Westmoreland may potentially seek to lead the NRCC in 2013, as well as a push for Graves to chair the RSC (Republican Study Committee), not to mention mild VP speculation. Scott is President of the freshman class and, meanwhile, Price may have a looming opportunity to move to the fourth-ranking spot overall, Republican Conference chair.

***

Just a reminder: Florida Sen. Marco Rubio will appear at a Lawrenceville bookstore Thursday to promote his new biography, "An American Son."

The freshman U.S. senator is scheduled to appear at the Books-A-Million at Discover Mills.

Polls have shown Rubio a top pick among Republican voters when asked who they want as vice president on a
presidential ticket.

***

The day's news from the Gallup organization, one week after a U.S. Supreme Court decision largely overturned states' efforts to create a "self-deportation" climate:

A majority of U.S. Hispanics identify as political independents (51%) rather than as Democrats (32%) or Republicans (11%). However, once their partisan leanings are taken into account, most Hispanics affiliate with the Democratic Party (52%) rather than the Republican Party (23%). Both sets of numbers shift more decisively in the Democrats' favor among the roughly half of U.S. Hispanics who are registered to vote.

***

The following is relevant in that the fellow in question has a long history of involvement in Republican TV campaigns in Georgia. From the Los Angeles Times:

LAS VEGAS — He's not a witch.

Nor, Fred Davis wants the world to know, is he a racist.

Humbled, humiliated, saddened and chagrined, the Republican ad maker recently sagged into a chair in a noisy Las Vegas restaurant and for more than an hour talked about May 17, a date that will forever be ringed in red as one of personal infamy.

That day the New York Times published on its front page details of a proposed Davis-run campaign against President Obama, focusing on the incendiary Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., the president's former pastor, "in a big, attention-arresting way."

The intent, a do-over of sorts, was to "inflame ... questions" about Obama's character and competence. A 54-page outline, leaked to the newspaper by someone apprehensive of the plan, was very much like Davis himself: jokey, irreverent and a bit out there.

***

Over at ATLawblog, Kathleen Baydala Joyner reports that Bill Hamrick, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is on a short list of six candidates to replace Coweta Circuit Superior Court Judge William Lee Jr., who resigned in April as he was being investigated for a conflict of interest.

***

The following was posted by former Atlanta city council president Cathy Woolard on her Facebook page over the weekend:

Taking an out of town friend to the ga aquarium. Distressed to see there is trash on the ground everywhere. What's up, Aquarium folks, ya'll can't afford people to keep the place looking good[?] And ATL families, really you can't put a coke bottle in a trashcan right next to you? We can do better than this.

- 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
When Rap Lyrics Stand Trial

By: Erik Nielsen
Posted: July 3, 2012 at 12:39 AM

If artists' songs are used against them in court, what’s really being judged: hip-hop or the crime?

(The Root) -- Torrence Hatch, the Baton Rouge, La., rapper better known to fans as Lil Boosie, faced the trial of his life in May. Charged with first-degree murder in the 2009 shooting death of Terry Boyd, Boosie stood accused of paying his friend Mike "Marlo Mike" Loudon $2,800 to carry out the hit. A conviction would have put him behind bars for good.

But local prosecutors had very little with which to work. With no physical evidence tying Boosie to the crime, they built their case on a prior confession from Marlo Mike -- a statement he later recanted at trial -- and, more important, Boosie's rap lyrics. Despite objections from defense attorneys, District Judge Mike Erwin allowed prosecutors to present lyrics from the songs "187" and "Bodybag," which they claimed provided evidence of Boosie's involvement in the murder. Fortunately for Boosie, the jurors were not convinced. After just an hour of deliberations, they found him not guilty in a unanimous decision.

Boosie may have escaped conviction, but the lingering issue raised by his case is the increasing use of rap lyrics at criminal trials across the country. Rather than treat rap music as an art form whose primary purpose is to entertain, prosecutors have become adept at convincing judges and juries alike that the lyrics are, in fact, either autobiographical confessions of illegal behavior or evidence of a defendant’s propensity toward criminality. Defense attorneys can (and usually do) object, but the presiding judge, who has ultimate discretion in these matters, often allows them anyway.

According to Andrea Dennis, an associate professor at the University of Georgia School of Law who has written about rap lyrics in criminal trials, this gives government prosecutors a powerful advantage. "When courts permit the prosecutor to admit rap music lyrics as criminal evidence, they allow the government to obtain a stranglehold on the case," Dennis wrote in a 2007 journal article titled "Poetic (In)Justice? Rap Music Lyrics as Art, Life, and Criminal Evidence."

It is not exactly surprising that rappers find their lyrics used against them in this way. For years they have been vilified by critics who claim that rap and criminality go hand in hand. This is thanks in large part to lyrics that glorify illegal behavior, but also to the long list of performers who have served time in jail, effectively blurring the line between art and reality.
When they end up in court, this blurred line sometimes comes back to haunt them, and as a result, many rappers over the last two decades -- including well-known artists Mac Dre, Snoop Dogg and Beanie Sigel -- have seen their lyrics used against them in criminal proceedings. In the last several years, though, the practice has become widespread, with many cases involving amateur rappers who, imitating the conventions of commercially successful "gangsta" rap, attempt to project a criminal persona. When juries hear their lyrics, these rappers are often far less fortunate than Boosie.

Like The Root on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

Take, as a recent example, Clyde Smith (aka "G-Red" or "Tattoo Face"), also from Louisiana. In December of 2010, Smith and three other people were pulled over when Smith was allegedly clocked going 19 mph over the speed limit. When he couldn't produce a driver's license, police searched his car and found him with the prescriptions drugs hydrocodone, Xanax and Soma, which he had purchased in neighboring Texas. Despite the fact that he had prescriptions for all of the drugs, that no pills were missing from any of the containers and that he had a documented medical condition that justified his use of the drugs, he was charged with possession with intent to distribute.

At trial the following May, the judge overruled vigorous objections from defense counsel and allowed the prosecutor to show the jury two YouTube videos. In one, a video for a song called "B.M.F. Freestyle," Smith raps, "Another trip to Texas ... we going doctor shopping." In another video, called "Behind-the-Scenes," Smith -- still in character as G-Red, but talking instead of rapping -- insists to the camera that "We really do the sh-- that we rap about. Like, we really take those trips." Although he took the stand and repeatedly claimed that his raps were fiction and intended to entertain, the predominantly white jury had seen all it needed.

Smith was found guilty and, because he had a prior record, was sentenced to a jaw-dropping 30 years in prison. According to Carolyn McNabb, his attorney, the rap lyrics were "the primary motivator for the guilty verdict." Despite having a very strong defense, she knew that the YouTube videos were going to seal the outcome. "I knew when the jury saw them, it was over," she said. "That's why I fought so hard to keep them out."

Five months later, aspiring rapper Olutosin Oduwole also found himself on trial and facing jail time for his lyrics. In July 2007, Oduwole's car ran out of gas, forcing him to abandon it on the Edwardsville campus of Southern Illinois University, where he was a student. When school authorities found the car, they also found a crumpled piece of paper stuffed between the seats on which Oduwole had made written reference to a PayPal account and included the lines, "If this account doesn't reach $50,000 in the next 7 days then a murderous rampage similar to the VT shooting will occur at another highly populated university. THIS IS NOT A JOKE!"

Police immediately searched Oduwole's apartment, where they found a legally acquired handgun. They also learned that he had been trying to purchase additional guns, also legally, and that was all they needed. Oduwole was charged with attempting to communicate a terrorist threat.
At the October 2011 trial, defense attorneys argued that Oduwole was an amateur rapper who took compulsive notes about ideas for his lyrics. They even brought in an expert witness who reviewed Oduwole's other notebooks of lyrics and compared them with the note.

She testified that the writings on the crumpled note were clearly an idea for a rap song or "the formative stages of a rap lyric." She also testified that Oduwole was an aspiring "gangsta" rapper and that his lyrics comported with what one might expect from someone in that subgenre. Nevertheless, the all-white jury convicted the 26-year-old Oduwole, who is black, and he was later sentenced to five years in prison.

In both of these cases and many others, courts effectively deny rap the status of art. Rather than accept it as a kind of poetic fiction, they instead take it as a literal expression of reality. This is no doubt thanks in part to testimonials from rappers themselves, who, in order to be regarded as authentic, frequently claim that what they rap about is a life they've experienced firsthand. Judges and juries don't necessarily know that this is as much marketing strategy as it is reality, an ignorance that prosecutors either share or exploit.

However, even casual fans understand that exaggeration and hyperbole are hallmarks of the genre. Rappers are putting on an act, even if it's one that in some ways mirrors their reality. Their use of alternate names ought to make this obvious.

"Most rappers use a stage name or something other than their 'government name' when performing," Todd Boyd, professor of critical studies at the University of Southern California, told The Root. "This suggests that they are characters with a persona."

And sometimes that persona is a far cry from the person behind it. Rick Ross, one of the most popular rappers today, uses his lyrics to portray a criminal lifestyle patterned after the real Rick Ross, a notorious Los Angeles gangster. The rapper -- whose real name is William Leonard Roberts II -- is no brazen criminal himself, though. In one of life's delightful ironies, it turns out that he once worked as a prison guard.

But focusing on a Rick Ross persona, or one like it, gives prosecutors a powerful tool at trial, especially when their cases are weak. And this, argues Andrea Dennis, is a reason to exclude rap lyrics altogether. "I tend to favor exclusion," she told The Root, "because of reliability and prejudice concerns that may result in conviction despite insufficient other evidence."

Although jurors are supposed to acquit when there's reasonable doubt, the weight of lyrics can be too great, particularly if those lyrics reinforce preconceived notions about the defendant. Indeed, as Boyd reminds us, in these trials authorities are often prosecuting someone "who already looms as a threatening stereotype in the minds of society."

Using lyrics, then, isn't just a matter of an art form being sacrificed for the sake of an easy conviction; it can also be a pernicious tactic that plays upon and perpetuates enduring stereotypes about the inherent criminality of young black men.

These same stereotypes make it difficult for many people to regard rap as a legitimate art form in the first place. According to Paul Butler, professor of law at Georgetown University (and a former prosecutor himself), "Some people have always had a hard time
conceptualizing the young black men who are the primary creators of hip-hop as artists."

For Butler, this helps explain why rap lyrics are so frequently introduced. But it also reveals a glaring double standard. "Using lyrics as evidence against hip-hop artists is as preposterous as bringing organized crime charges against the author of The Godfather or gang charges against the director of Scarface," he says. "It’s art, stupid."

Erik Nielson is assistant professor of liberal arts at the University of Richmond. His research focuses on African-American literature and hip-hop culture.

Correction: A previous version of this story identified Paul Butler as a George Washington University professor. He joined the faculty of Georgetown Law this week. We regret the error.

Like The Root on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

Andrea Dennis and Georgia Law professor Clyde Smith and G-red Marlo Mike Oluotosin Oduwole and criminal evidence Politics Todd Boyd Torrence Hatch and Baton Rouge rapper criminal court cases hip-hop and art hip-hop and crime hip-hop and criminality hip-hop and entertainment justice lil boosie rap lyrics and scrutiny rap music lyrics shooting death

Source URL: http://www.theroot.com/views/rap-lyrics-and-crime

Links:
[5] http://www.theroot.com/javascript: void(0);
[8] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfJwUXWOC4A
[19] http://cinema.usc.edu/directories/profile.cfm?id=6459&amp;first=todd&amp;last=boyd&amp;title=&amp;did=50&amp;referer=%2Fdirectories%2FFaculty.cfm&amp;startpage=1&amp;startrow=1
ATHENS-----Retired Judge Aaron Cohn, captain of the 1937 Georgia men's tennis team and past recipient of the Bill Hartman Award, died Wednesday in Columbus, Ga. Cohn was 95.

Cohn, who was UGA's oldest living tennis letterman, was a member of the Bulldogs' tennis team from 1935-37 and was the Columbus City men's tennis champion several times. A native of Columbus, Cohn was the oldest serving judge in America at the time of his retirement in September 2011. He entered the role of juvenile court judge in 1965.

Cohn was given the University of Georgia's distinguished alumni merit award and the distinguished service scroll from Georgia's school of law. The Regional Youth Detention Center in Columbus is named for Cohn, and in 1987 the American Criminal Justice Association honored him as recipient of the Julie Lathrop Award for Outstanding Contributions to the juvenile justice system.

Cohn volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1940, entering with the rank of 2nd Lt., and he left the Army in 1946 as a Lt. Col. Cohn was combat operations officer in Gen. George Patton's famed Third Army in four major campaigns: Northern Europe, Central Europe, the Ardennes and the Rhineland.

In 2005 Cohn received the Bill Hartman Award, which is given annually to a former Georgia athlete who has excelled in their profession after graduation.

*UGA Sports Information*
Update: Judge Aaron Cohn dies at 96

Columbus Ledger Enquirer

9 principals named at school board meeting

Update: Judge Aaron Cohn dies at 96

Published: July 5, 2012 Updated 18 hours ago

Judge Aaron Cohn looks over photos from World War II hanging on his office walls. 09/10/09

Photo by Mike Haskey — mhaskey@ledger-enquirer.com
Buy Photo

By Richard Hyatt — Special to the Ledger-Enquirer

He was Sam and Etta's middle child, and from the beginning Aaron Cohn had the heart of a warrior and the wisdom of a judge.

For 96 years, he bravely fought for his Jewish heritage and for liberty, never forgetting the powerful moment when he saw the living standing among the dead at a Nazi Concentration Camp.

As a boy, he watched the University of Georgia Redcoat Band strut down Fourth Avenue, beginning a love affair with the Bulldogs that never waned. As an adult, he steadfastly supported boys and girls, and when he retired after 46 years as the judge of juvenile court he was among the nation's oldest sitting jurists.

A first generation American and decorated World War II hero, Cohn died on the Fourth of July — 10 months
Update: Judge Aaron Cohn dies at 96 | Latest News | Columbus Ledger...

after he retired from the bench and 16 months after he buried Janet Ann, his loving wife of 69 years.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Sunday at Temple Israel, 1617 Wildwood Avenue. Interment will follow at Riverdale Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to PAWS Columbus, the National Infantry Foundation's Holocaust exhibit or the Ruth and Leslie Lilenthal Garden Fund at Temple Israel.

Leslie Cohn, his son and law partner, said the service at the synagogue would be for Aaron Cohn the father, grandfather and judge but that the tone would change at Riverdale Cemetery.

"The burial will be for Col. Aaron Cohn," he said.

Cohn lived long enough to receive every meaningful award his hometown offers. But plaques and certificates can't express the regard this community has felt for a person that practiced law in the same house on Second Avenue that he lived in as a child.

As a young attorney Mayor Teresa Tomlinson visited his court. She last heard Cohn speak on Veteran's Day 2011 and said she has recounted excerpts of his remarks many times. She marveled at the lives he has touched in and out of the courtroom.

"Judge Cohn touched more young lives and more families than anyone could ever count,"

Tomlinson said. "He knew he had a moment in time to affect young people as they passed through his court and he didn't waste a second. The wisdom, encouragement and sometimes tough talk he dispensed was as valuable as gold. He has shaped generations of our citizens. We are forever grateful for his service."

Cohn didn't call it service. He called it love. That affection was returned by the successful men and women that thanked him for setting them straight when they were teens.

Leslie Cohn remembered a day at Smokey Pig Barbecue when an oversized man wearing a shirt with no sleeves that exposed muscular, tattooed arms met them at the door.

"I could see him looking at us and I thought to myself that I was going to get my tail whipped right there in the parking lot," Leslie said.

The man looked down at the judge and the diminutive Cohn stuck out his jaw like a turtle sticking his head out of a shell.

"You Judge Cohn?" the man asked.

"Yeah, what about it?"

"See that truck. That's my truck. See that name on the side? That's me. Those things are mine because when I was a kid, you gave me a chance." His decisions were based on law, but there was always a dose of concern. He didn't throw kids in jail and forget about them. He intervened and interceded — and Warner Kennon, his successor, said those were not just empty words.

"Judge Cohn sincerely cared about all of the children regardless of who they were," he said.

Long before he went to work with him in 1994, Kennon stopped by to watch Cohn conduct hearings and lecture troubled children. "I heard him craft his words to each particular case," he said.

Kennon also experienced that caring spirit. He lost his father when he was 13 and his grandfather when he was 18. Cohn became Kennon's surrogate father.

"We were like a family. When my son was playing in the state tennis meet, there was a rain delay. Judge Cohn took him aside and talked to him like a coach. He won, and nobody was prouder than Judge Cohn."
Muscogee Superior Court Senior Judge John Allen said Cohn’s success on the bench could be traced to his history and his life experience.

“He had a sympathy and an empathy with the public that carried over to the children who came in front of him. He didn’t just train to be a judge. He developed into the judge he was and he set the standard on how to deal with children.”

Cohn was a master storyteller and his tales have taken listeners on journeys to another Columbus, a time when children who lived downtown used the grounds of the old Muscogee County Courthouse as their playground. It was a Columbus where a small Jewish boy had to learn to box to survive.

Cohn was born in 1916, an era in which anti-Semitism was blatant. His father owned one of the town’s 14 livery stables and they moved to Fourth Avenue, next to the original Temple Israel.

It was an ethnic neighborhood and when they were older the Jewish children attended Columbus High — often tagged the Blue Jews instead of the Blue Devils. He had learned to play tennis on the outdoor courts at the YMCA and he became a stalwart on the high school tennis team.

At the University of Georgia, he also lettered in tennis and became friends with future Bulldog tennis mentor Dan Magill. They had met in 1933 when they competed in the finals of the state ping-pong championships — a match won by Cohn.

“We became friends when we were at the university,” Cohn said years ago. “But in his book, he mentioned a table tennis victory over me. He doesn’t talk about the time I whipped him for the state YMCA title.”

Cohn was considered the university’s oldest living tennis letterman.

Cohn became an Army officer in World War II. While serving under Gen. George Patton, he was part of a skirmish that Cohn said led to the end of the war. It started Dec. 16, 1944 — a date he often cited — though the Battle of the Bulge lasted for 40 days.

He survived without a scratch and in 1945 he had a life-changing experience when his unit helped repatriate a Nazi concentration camp at Ebensee in northern Austria.

“When we came into the camp we saw bodies stacked up, the crematoriums and the gas chambers. Among the prisoners were doctors and lawyers, and teachers, and children ... When they found out I was Jewish they went berserk because they had never seen a Jewish person with a gun,” he often described.

Back in Columbus, he tried the retail clothing business working for his father-in-law at Kayser-Lillienthal, a popular women’s shop on Broadway that catered to the wives of ranking officers at Fort Benning. He soon turned to the law.

Cohn became juvenile court judge in 1965. For him, it was more than a job. The court became his calling.

Leslie Cohn said his father dispensed justice with fairness and dignity but there was also an underlying toughness.

“A few years ago, he sentenced a young man to the Youth Detention Center and when he did the kid charged the bench. Security called for Daddy to rush out the door behind him but he didn’t move.”

Once the prisoner was subdued, deputies asked the judge why he didn’t follow the plan.

“Why should I?” Cohn asked. “I went through the Battle of the Bulge so I’m not going to run from a sucker like that.”

His latter years have been spent collecting honors and awards from his community, from the Army, from his alma mater and from his professional peers. He was even inducted into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame. He enjoyed traveling, but he enjoyed getting home even more. He followed his Bulldogs and
when he was able he used his courtside seats for Columbus State University basketball games.

More than anything, he enjoyed being a citizen — a title that gave him privileges at his favorite barbecue joint.

A few weeks ago, on his way to visit his mentor, Kennon stopped by Smokey Pig. He placed his order and said he wanted something for the judge. "A Judge Cohn Special," the man behind the counter yelled out.

Translated, that was a Smokey plate with Brunswick Stew, a small order of meat and a reduced price that the judge had negotiated long ago. Cohn has been in and out of the hospital for the past several weeks.

The end came at home, the only place he wanted to be. Around the room were his three children and grandchildren. He was their hero and their father.

Others recognized deeper traits, as expressed by Dr. Tommy Lawhorne, a star defensive player at Georgia before becoming an even bigger star in the operating room.

Aaron Cohn, he said, "was a paragon of dignity and character ... and a damn good Dawg."

Back to Top
< Previous Story

Isaiah Crowell enrolls at Alabama State

Next Story >

9 principals named at school board meeting

Ex-colleagues reunite for employment litigation firm

Meredith Hobbs
Daily Report
07-05-2012

John Stembridge has left national labor and employment firm Littler Mendelson, where he was a shareholder, to join his former colleague, G. Blaylock "Blake" Andrews Jr., at Andrews & Stembridge, a two-lawyer employment litigation shop representing plaintiffs and management.

Stembridge worked with Andrews at Littler before Andrews left for a federal judicial clerkship and then to start a solo practice in 2010.

"I saw a need for a smaller employment law firm, with the way the economy was," said Andrews. "I can provide cost-effective service for the day-to-day problems that companies run into."

Andrews said he and Stembridge had become friends at Littler and then worked together on a case for a common client after he started his solo practice. "I was constantly saying to John, come out and do this with me."

In May, Stembridge decided to take him up on the offer. "I wanted to run my own firm and manage it the way I wanted it to be managed," said Stembridge.

Stembridge spent seven years at Littler following a stint at another labor and employment firm, Ford & Harrison. He received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 2003. Before law school, he spent almost seven years working for Bank of America, managing bank branches and then a commercial loan portfolio.

Stembridge said he is still working with Littler on matters for three management-side clients, which he declined to name.

On the plaintiffs side, Andrews has been representing two Clayton County teachers in a breach of contract suit against the county school district over their salaries. The teachers allege that after they signed their annual contracts, starting with the 2010-2011 school year, the school district changed their salary schedules, effectively reducing their wages.

Andrews, Stembridge and the other lawyers on the suit, Jeffrey Shiver and Alan Hamilton of Shiver Hamilton and solo practitioner J. Tom Morgan III, hope to gain class action status for all teachers in the district.

The suit, filed in Clayton Superior Court, is still in the early stages, said Andrews. A hearing is scheduled on discovery for the class action, he said, pursuant to filing a motion for class certification.

Andrews received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 2001, then worked for Troutman Sanders in the litigation practice. He became interested in employment law while clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Charles Pannell Jr. of the Northern District of Georgia from 2006 to 2008. He subsequently joined Littler, then left the firm to clerk for U.S. Magistrate Court Judge Alan Bavsman of the Northern District of Georgia before going solo in 2010.
Andrews and Stembridge opened an office at 1904 Monroe Drive N.E. at the beginning of June.

**BRIEFLY**

J. Chase Wilson has joined Davis, Matthews & Quigley's family law practice as an associate. He previously worked at Shaffer, Raymond & Dalton in Macon.

Matt Moore has joined Smith Moore Leatherwood's commercial real estate practice as of counsel from the Charleston firm Clawson and Staubes. He will work in Smith Moore's Atlanta and Charleston offices.

Scott Marty has been named a partner at Ballard Spahr. Marty is an intellectual property attorney focused on clients in the biotechnology, chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

Patty S. Veazey of Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs has been appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to the state's Judicial Nominating Commission. Veazey, a health-care lawyer, works in the firm's Tifton office.

Morris, Manning & Martin has started a new practice group called Mobile Law & Compliance to handle legal and regulatory issues arising from mobile devices. Legal areas include e-commerce and mobile payments, privacy issues, mobile positioning and employee monitoring. Sandra Gardiner and Alex Woollcott are co-chairing the new group.

Jones Day announced a $350,000 gift to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, which broke ground on June 27. The new human rights center is located at Pemberton Place, next to the World of Coca-Cola and the Georgia Aquarium and near Centennial Olympic Park, and is expected to open in 2014. The gift from Jones Day, which comes from staff and attorney donations to the firm's nonprofit foundation, will be used to fund a "What Are Human Rights?" exhibit.
UGA law school loses Pepsi lawyer

Premium content from Atlanta Business Chronicle by Kat Greene, Staff Writer

Date: Friday, July 6, 2012, 6:00am EDT

Related:

Education, Legal Services

Kat Greene
Staff Writer - Atlanta Business Chronicle
Email

Just nine months after trumpeting the arrival of a top PepsiCo Inc. executive as a chaired professor at its law school, The University of Georgia is saying goodbye to him.

Larry Thompson, a former Justice Department official and U.S. Attorney in Atlanta who had been PepsiCo's general counsel since 2004, came to the university last fall to teach full time after he retired from Pepsi.

But in mid-June, Thompson notified UGA he is returning to New York-based Pepsi (NYSE: PEP) as executive vice president of government affairs, general counsel and corporate secretary. He officially starts July 30.

The reason: His replacement at Pepsi didn't last long. After Thompson retired, Maura Abelin Smith was named general counsel, but quit just a few months later. The company said on June 18 Smith was leaving the company to pursue other options. Pepsi turned to Thompson to fill the void. Pepsi declined to comment beyond a press release that stated simply he was returning to his post, and that Smith was leaving to pursue unspecified opportunities.

"I felt like this was something I wanted to do just to make certain that I can be part of helping to ensure the success of the company's mission," Thompson told Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Correspondence between Thompson and UGA Law Dean Rebecca Hanner White suggests the Pepsi job is temporary.
"While I am understandably disappointed that your time with us for the next year or two will be reduced, I do understand why you felt this was an opportunity you wanted to pursue," White wrote in a June 19 email to Thompson, which UGA provided to the Chronicle.

Thompson is "on loan" to Pepsi from UGA, she said in another email that day, this one to the law school staff.

"Please join me in congratulating Larry on this appointment, while we look forward to his return in Athens," White wrote in the email to the law school staff on June 19.

The school agreed to allow Thompson to keep his job at the university while working in New York. That's in part because Thompson insisted from the start his position at UGA would be part time, according to a letter from White dated April 19, 2011.

Thompson was paid at an annual rate of $150,000, or 51 percent of an academic salary, starting Aug. 16. He was also granted $5,000 for research and travel, according to the letter.

Thompson was named the John A. Sibley Chair in Corporate and Business Law. The seat is named for the one-time chairman of the Trust Company of Georgia, whose special committee on schools was credited with helping Georgia's desegregation crisis. Sibley's committee held a series of hearings in 1960 and 1961 at which more than 1,800 Georgians appeared.

Thompson's appointment followed several short stints as a guest professor at the school. He taught a class on white-collar crime in 2001. Ten years later, he taught a mini-course in 2011 on corporate responsibility.

In his most recent work with the university, he taught classes in corporate responsibility and business crimes.

"When I teach, I get a lot out of the classes, and obviously I hope the students get a lot out of the classes, too," Thompson said.

Thompson had been a partner in the Atlanta office of King & Spalding LLP and served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

And he was the deputy attorney general from 2001 to 2003.

He supervised the investigation into Enron Corp., the Texas energy company that filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy following a series of accounting irregularities on the part of the company and its accounting firm, Arthur Andersen.

Thompson had been looking forward to semi-retirement and teaching in Athens, buying condos in Atlanta's Park Place and in Athens.

He hadn't been able to sell his home in Greenwich, Conn., because he bought in 2005, he said. He'll move back there for now, but is planning to keep his Athens home, he said.

He wants to help Pepsi stay on track, he said. He refers to Pepsi as "the company" in
conversation.

"I have a great deal of affection for the company. I’m really committed to the success of the company, and the mission of the company," he said.

He called White directly when he got the offer to return to Pepsi.

"Rebecca, you are a dear, dear friend," he wrote in a June 19 email to White regarding his departure.

Kat Greene covers Banking & Finance
Foster EVANS Jr. Obituary: View Foster EVANS's Obituary by The Atl...

http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/atlanta/obituary.aspx?n=foster-evan...

Atlanta Obituaries

Foster EVANS Jr.
Obituary

Family-Placed Death Notice

EVANS, Foster, Jr. FOSTER LEE EVANS, JR. Foster Lee Evans, Jr., 79, of Atlanta, GA died June 9, 2012. Lee was a graduate of the Georgia Military Academy, now Woodward Academy, before serving in the U.S. Coast Guard aboard the USCGC COURIER, a State Department-sponsored Voice of America ship, stationed off the Island of Rhodes, Greece. After his service, Lee attended the University of Georgia, earning a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate. At UGA, Lee was a member of Chi Phi Fraternity and the Gridiron Secret Society. Lee began his career with the Coca-Cola Company in trade research in New York City and served as Assistant Pavilion Manager during the 1964 World's Fair. Upon his return to Atlanta, Lee worked in the banking industry before joining Fulton County in the probation department, where he served in a supervisory capacity until his retirement in 1992. Lee was very active in the Atlanta community and served on the board of the Atlanta Toulouse Sister City Committee, traveling abroad numerous times as an enthusiast of the French culture and its people. Lee was also a descendant of one of the English Trustees serving to incorporate the Colony of Georgia and an avid collector of political and historic memorabilia. He enjoyed times with family and friends in St. Petersburg, FL and stayed in touch with all those he loved and admired through his unyielding dedication to correspondence. Lee is preceded in death by his mother Eleanor Delucia Evans, father Foster Lee Evans, Sr. and brother James Edward Evans. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Carol C. Evans, daughter Jill Evans Garrett, son-in-law R. Edward Garrett and grandchildren Hollis Evans Garrett, Walter Edward Garrett and Henry Foster Garrett. Memorial services will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 435 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30308 on July 16 at 10:30 AM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to either St. Luke's Episcopal Church or the Shepherd Spinal Center, Multiple Sclerosis Support Charitable Giving 2020 Peachtree Road Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on July 8, 2012
Georgia pushes for ID checks after Arizona decision

By Jeremy Redmon
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

8:10 p.m. Monday, July 9, 2012

Georgia police should be allowed to start enforcing key parts of the state’s anti-illegal immigration law — including checking the immigration status of certain suspects — now that the U.S. Supreme Court has sustained a similar statute in Arizona, state lawyers argue in filings before a federal appeals court in Atlanta.

A coalition of civil and immigrant rights groups argues just the opposite, saying in a legal brief Friday that Georgia’s law, currently on hold pending the appeals court’s decision, would interfere with the federal government’s authority to set immigration policy and manage foreign relations.

At the center of the dispute is a part of the law that would let state and local police investigate the immigration status of suspects they believe have committed state or federal crimes and who cannot produce identification or provide other information that could help police identify them. Also at issue is a provision that would punish those who knowingly harbor or transport illegal immigrants in the state while committing another crime.

Critics say those statutes — passed by Georgia’s Republican-led Legislature last year — are preempted by federal law and therefore unconstitutional. Supporters argue the laws are needed to prevent illegal immigrants from taking jobs from U.S. citizens and burdening Georgia’s schools, hospitals and jails. The Pew Hispanic Center released a report last year, estimating that 325,000 illegal immigrants held jobs in Georgia in 2010.

A federal district court judge put those provisions of Georgia’s law on hold in June of last year amid a legal challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil and immigrant rights groups. The state is appealing to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

The 11th Circuit court said in March it would wait to rule until after the Supreme Court decided on the constitutionality of a part of Arizona’s law, since it is similar to Georgia’s statute. The appeals court has not said when it will rule on Georgia’s law now that the Supreme Court has acted.

Last month, the Supreme Court sustained a key part of Arizona’s statute. Nicknamed the "show-me-your-papers law" by critics, it requires police to determine the immigration status of suspects when practical and when they have "reasonable suspicion" the person is in the country illegally.

In a legal brief filed Friday, the Georgia Attorney General’s Office said the appeals court should sustain part of the state’s law that authorizes police to do immigration status checks because it "replicates"
Arizona's law. Like Arizona's law, that provision also would empower police to detain people who are in the country illegally and take them to jail.

State attorneys said the appeals court should also support the provision that would punish people for harboring or transporting illegal immigrants because it "mirrors federal law and objectives."

The ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center and other groups also filed court papers Friday, highlighting how the Supreme Court said detaining people "solely to verify their immigration status would raise constitutional concerns." The civil rights groups also underscored how the court said decisions about immigration enforcement "touch on foreign relations and must be made with one voice."

"The court confirmed that state laws of this type implicate foreign relations, further supporting preemption," the ACLU and others said.

Further, the civil and immigrant rights groups suggested the appeals court could refer questions about the law to the Georgia Supreme Court and keep the statute on hold until that panel responds. In its ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court said it would be improper to halt Arizona's law before that state's courts had an opportunity to construe it.

Harlan Cohen, who teaches foreign affairs and the Constitution at the University of Georgia School of Law, called the option of keeping Georgia's law on hold until the Georgia Supreme Court answers questions about it a "completely reasonable possibility."

"That would probably be the right way to handle that - find out exactly what the statute means before dealing with it," he said.

Hiroshi Motomura, who teaches immigration and citizenship law at the University of California Los Angeles, said it would be prudent to keep Georgia's immigration status check law on hold while the Georgia Supreme Court construes it. He also offered a prediction on how the appeals court could act in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling.

"The Supreme Court came out — in its general approach — extremely strongly in favor of federal supremacy and federal control over immigration," he said. "That is going to set the tone for what the 11th Circuit does."

Find this article at:
Georgia pushes for ID checks after Arizona decision


Georgia police should be allowed to start enforcing key parts of the state’s anti-illegal immigration law — including checking the immigration status of certain suspects — now that the U.S. Supreme Court has sustained a similar statute in Arizona, state lawyers argue in filings before a federal appeals court in Atlanta.

A coalition of civil and immigrant rights groups argues just the opposite, saying in a legal brief Friday that Georgia’s law, currently on hold pending the appeals court’s decision, would interfere with the federal government’s authority to set immigration policy and manage foreign relations.

At the center of the dispute is a part of the law that would let state and local police investigate the immigration status of suspects they believe have committed state or federal crimes and who cannot produce identification or provide other information that could help police identify them. Also at issue is a provision that would punish those who knowingly harbor or transport illegal immigrants in the state while committing another crime.

Critics say those statutes — passed by Georgia’s Republican-led Legislature last year — are preempted by federal law and therefore unconstitutional. Supporters argue the laws are needed to prevent illegal immigrants from taking jobs from U.S. citizens and burdening Georgia’s schools, hospitals and jails. The Pew Hispanic Center released a report last year, estimating that 325,000 illegal immigrants held jobs in Georgia in 2010.

A federal district court judge put those provisions of Georgia’s law on hold in June of last year amid a legal challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil and immigrant rights groups. The state is appealing to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

The 11th Circuit court said in March it would wait to rule until after the Supreme Court decided on the constitutionality of a part of Arizona’s law, since it is similar to Georgia’s statute. The appeals court has not said when it will rule on Georgia’s law now that the Supreme Court has acted.

Last month, the Supreme Court sustained a key part of Arizona’s statute. Nicknamed the “show-me-your-papers law” by critics, it requires police to determine the immigration status of suspects when practical and when they have “reasonable suspicion” the person is in the country illegally.

In a legal brief filed Friday, the Georgia Attorney General’s Office said the appeals court should also support the provision that would punish people for harboring or transporting illegal immigrants because it “mirrors federal law and objectives.”

The ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center and other groups also filed court papers Friday, highlighting how the Supreme Court said detaining people “solely to verify their immigration status would raise constitutional concerns.” The civil rights groups also underscored how the court said decisions about immigration enforcement “touch on foreign relations and must be made with one voice.”

“The court confirmed that state laws of this type implicate foreign relations, further supporting preemption,” the ACLU and others said.

Further, the civil and immigrant rights groups suggested the appeals court could refer questions about the law to the Georgia Supreme Court and keep the statute on hold until that panel responds. In its ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court said it would be improper to halt Arizona’s law before that state’s courts had an opportunity to construe it.

Harlan Cohen, who teaches foreign affairs and the Constitution at the University of Georgia School of Law, called the option of keeping Georgia’s immigration status check law on hold while the Georgia Supreme Court construes it. He also offered a prediction on how the appeals court could act in the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling.

“[The Supreme Court] came out — in its general approach — extremely strongly in favor of federal supremacy and federal control over immigration,” he said. “That is going to set the tone for what the 11th Circuit does.”

Visit The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Atlanta, Ga.) at www.ajc.com


Related Articles:

Romney says health care plan’s individual mandate is a tax

ICE agent shot in South Texas

Readers as split as U.S. Supreme Court
Georgia police should be allowed to start enforcing key parts of the state's anti-illegal immigration law -- including checking the immigration status of certain suspects -- now that the U.S. Supreme Court has sustained a similar statute in Arizona, state lawyers argue in filings before a federal appeals court in Atlanta.

A coalition of civil and immigrant rights groups argues just the opposite, saying in a legal brief Friday that Georgia's law, currently on hold pending the appeals court's decision, would interfere with the federal government's authority to set immigration policy and manage foreign relations.

At the center of the dispute is a part of the law that would let state and local police investigate the immigration status of suspects they believe have committed state or federal crimes and who cannot produce identification or provide other information that could help police identify them. Also at issue is a provision that would punish those who knowingly harbor or transport illegal immigrants in the state while committing another crime.

Critics say those statutes -- passed by Georgia's Republican-led Legislature last year -- are pre-empted by federal law and, therefore, unconstitutional. Supporters argue the laws are needed to prevent illegal immigrants from taking jobs from U.S. citizens and burdening Georgia's schools, hospitals and jails. The Pew Hispanic Center released a report last year, estimating that 325,000 illegal immigrants held jobs in Georgia in 2010.

A federal district court judge put those provisions of Georgia's law on hold in June of last year amid a legal challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil and immigrant rights groups. The state is appealing to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

The 11th Circuit Court said in March it would wait to rule until after the Supreme Court decided on the constitutionality of a part of Arizona's law, because it is similar to Georgia's statute. The appeals court has not said when it will rule on Georgia's law, now that the Supreme Court has acted.

Last month, the Supreme Court sustained a key part of Arizona's statute. Nicknamed the "show-me-your-papers law" by critics, it requires police to determine the immigration status of suspects when practical and when they have "reasonable suspicion" the person is in the country illegally.

In a legal brief filed Friday, the Georgia Attorney General's Office said the appeals court should sustain part of the state's law that authorizes police to do immigration status checks because it "replicates" Arizona's law. Like
Arizona's law, that provision also would empower police to detain people who are in the country illegally and take them to jail.

State attorneys said the appeals court also should support the provision that would punish people for harboring or transporting illegal immigrants because it "mirrors federal law and objectives."

The ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center and other groups also filed court papers Friday, highlighting how the Supreme Court said detaining people "solely to verify their immigration status would raise constitutional concerns." The civil rights groups also underscored how the court said decisions about immigration enforcement "touch on foreign relations and must be made with one voice."

"The court confirmed that state laws of this type implicate foreign relations, further supporting preemption," the ACLU and others said.

Further, the civil and immigrant rights groups suggested the appeals court could refer questions about the law to the Georgia Supreme Court and keep the statute on hold until that panel responds. In its ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court said it would be improper to halt Arizona's law before that state's courts had an opportunity to construe it.

Harlan Cohen, who teaches foreign affairs and the Constitution at the University of Georgia School of Law, called the option of keeping Georgia's law on hold until the Georgia Supreme Court answers questions about it a "completely reasonable possibility."

"That would probably be the right way to handle that --- find out exactly what the statute means before dealing with it," he said.

Hiroshi Motomura, who teaches immigration and citizenship law at the University of California Los Angeles, said it would be prudent to keep Georgia's immigration status check law on hold while the Georgia high court construes it. He also offered a prediction on how the appeals court could act in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling.

"The Supreme Court came out --- in its general approach --- extremely strongly in favor of federal supremacy and federal control over immigration," he said. "That is going to set the tone for what the 11th Circuit does."

LOAD-DATE: July 10, 2012

2 of 2 DOCUMENTS

India Investment News
July 7, 2012 Saturday 6:30 AM EST

LENGTH: 453 words

HEADLINE: PepsiCo Names Larry Thompson Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

BODY:

New Delhi, July 7 -- PepsiCo, Inc. (NYSE: PEP) today announced that Larry Thompson has rejoined the company as Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, effective July 30. Thompson
will succeed Maura Abeln Smith, who chose to leave the company to pursue other opportunities.

Thompson will be responsible for PepsiCo's worldwide legal function and government affairs and public policy organizations. He also will oversee the company's global compliance function and the PepsiCo Foundation, the company's philanthropic arm.

Thompson, who will report to PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi, was PepsiCo's senior vice president of government affairs, general counsel and corporate secretary from 2004 to 2011. Prior to rejoining the company, he served as the John A. Sibley Chair in Corporate and Business Law at the University of Georgia School of Law. Thompson also has been serving as a member of several prestigious corporate boards, and undertook other special projects.

"We are excited to welcome Larry back to PepsiCo," said Nooyi. "Larry is a proven and seasoned leader with a strong track record of success at PepsiCo. He has been a highly regarded and trusted advisor, and he has a deep knowledge of, and passion for our business. We will benefit greatly from Larry's leadership moving forward.

"Maura has a distinguished 30-year record of achievement and service on behalf of PepsiCo and other public companies. During her tenure at PepsiCo, she worked tirelessly and made significant contributions. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors."

Smith said, "It was a privilege to be part of the PepsiCo senior leadership team, and I wish all of my colleagues great success in the future."

"I'm delighted to return to PepsiCo and to work again with Indra and the PepsiCo team," Thompson said. "I'm committed to the long-term vision and success of PepsiCo, and I'm excited to get to work to help drive the execution of our strategy. I'm especially looking forward to rejoining Kelly Tullier and the very talented global legal function, Dan Bryant and the global public policy and government affairs team, and Dave Yawman and the global compliance team."

Prior to joining PepsiCo, Thompson was a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. He also served in The U.S. Department of Justice as Deputy Attorney General and led the Department’s National Security Coordination Council. Thompson also was appointed by President George W. Bush to lead the Corporate Fraud Task Force. Earlier in his career, Thompson was a partner in the Atlanta law firm of King & Spalding and also served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta.

LOAD-DATE: July 9, 2012

********** Print Completed **********
The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

Illegal immigration in the news - Harlan Cohen, who teaches foreign affairs and the Constitution at the UGA School of Law, tells the Atlanta Journal-Constitution the option of keeping Georgia's ID check law on hold until the Georgia Supreme Court answers questions about it a "completely reasonable possibility." A CNN report on how the farm labor shortage has affected Vidalia onion farmers cites a study performed by UGA's Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development.

LOAD-DATE: July 11, 2012

The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

UGA Law School loses Pepsi lawyer - "Just nine months after trumpeting the arrival of a top PepsiCo Inc. executive as a chaired professor at its law school, the University of Georgia is saying goodbye to him," the Atlanta Business Chronicle reports on Larry Thompson's return to Pepsi as executive vice president of government affairs, general counsel and corporate secretary.
Judge Charles Mikell to retire Aug. 31

Posted: July 12, 2012 - 1:03am

By Jan Skutch

Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Charles B. Mikell Jr. on Wednesday submitted to Gov. Nathan Deal his notice of intent to retire effective Aug. 31.

Mikell, 70, and a former Savannah attorney and judge, said he was resigning for health reasons. He has been battling cancer for six years.

"I think it's time to spend more time with my family and fighting my disease," Mikell said, adding it was time to turn the job over to a younger generation.

Mikell has served 12 years on the appellate court, and his present term will expire in December 2014.

Deal will appoint a successor.

Mikell practiced law for nine years before serving seven-and-a-half years each on Chatham County State and Superior Court - 15 years as a trial judge.

During his time on the Atlanta-based appellate court, Mikell has maintained his home in Savannah with neurologist Dr. Julia Mikell, his wife of 30 years, and commuted to Atlanta during the week. They have three adult sons.

He maintained his Savannah home because he believes in "geographical diversity" on the appellate court, Mikell said.

"If I move to Atlanta, I would not be from Savannah anymore."

"I enjoy it very much," Mikell said of his appellate work. "It's mostly reading and writing, and I am a bookworm."

The Princeton-educated Mikell, a Fulbright Scholar, began his practice in Savannah in 1976 after graduating with honors from the University of Georgia law school.

He was appointed to a state court judgeship in 1984 to succeed Judge James W. Head, then won a superior court judgeship in 1992 to succeed Judge Eugene H. Gadsden. He was appointed to the court of appeals by Gov. Roy Barnes in May 2000.

Senior Superior Court Judge Perry Brannen Jr. has known Mikell since childhood when they grew up on 44th Street.

"He's very, very brilliant," Brannen said.

He said Mikell, following service in the U.S. Army and tours in Vietnam, completed law school and came to work with Brannen's law firm, Brannen, Wessels and Searcey.

"He's an excellent writer," Brannen said.

"He was a legal scholar, but he never forgot what it was like to be a trial judge," Brannen said, adding his opinions made sense and presented something that was doable for a trial judge following his rulings.
Name: Lisa Jenkins

Age: 51

Home: Hilton Heights, Columbus

Occupation: Paralegal, administrative assistant.

Experience: Real estate title specialist (21 years) Books and Record Maintenance, Balancing; receipts accountable and disbursements; Kinder Care (Daycare Center) Assistant Director, Title I Teaching Assistant with Muscogee County School District, Coordinator with Governmental Agencies for local, state, and national services, Autism Support and Educational Services.

Education: Attended Andrews College, Cuthbert, Ga.; Attended Columbus College; Shaw High, 1979.

Family: Husband, Ed Jenkins, 53, attorney; three sons: Ed Jr., 15; Lucas Lloyd, 12; George, 10
Name: Linda Pierce

Age: 60

Home: Midtown (Meadowbrook/Mohina Woods) Came to Columbus via Air Force from Maxwell Air Base, Ala.

Occupation: Clerk of Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

Experience: Over 23 years as Clerk of Courts; first clerk in Georgia to implement imaging of real estate and court records; implemented first website in county; instituted one of first electronic filing real estate systems in Georgia; headed first task force in Georgia on Court Records and the Internet; currently closely working with State Bar and Georgia Supreme Court on implementing court e-filing for the state.

Prior Employment: Private attorney; captain in U.S. Air Force; Congressional district aide for two U.S. congressmen.

Education: B.A. in political science and public administration, Georgia College, Milledgeville; J.D. (Law) Degree, University of Georgia; Financial Management; Merrill Lynch; Wall Street, New York; Certification as mediator and arbitrator.

Family: Daughter, Kelley, 29.
Darrell Huckaby: A high honor to be asked to speak at homecoming

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

By Darrell Huckaby (536)

Jerry Varnado is a great American. He was born in Jacksonville but moved to Valdosta before being irrevocably damaged by living in the midst of so many Florida Gators. Jerry played football at the University of Georgia -- hallowed be thy name -- and was a member of a Bulldog team that was SEC Champions and won a Cotton Bowl victory over Donnie Anderson and the Texas Tech Red Raiders, officially making him one of my childhood heroes.

Jerry graduated from UGA and UGA law school, and then became a practicing attorney. Later, after a life-altering experience, he felt the call of God and decided to answer that call and become a minister. Jerry Varnado -- football star, scholar and lawyer -- finally made a preacher. He graduated from the Candler School of Theology in 1985 and has been serving the Lord ever since.

I met Jerry and his beautiful wife Beverly three years ago, during a session of freshman orientation at UGA. Our paths have crossed on a few occasions since and I have enjoyed getting to know Jerry and Beverly and have come to realize that we all have a lot in common. Beverly, in fact, is a writer, too.

Now I told you that to tell you this. Jerry Varnado has bestowed upon me a high honor. He has invited me to deliver this Sunday morning's message at his church, Rays United Methodist, in Bishop. It is always an honor to be asked to speak to any group of people -- but to be offered the pulpit on a Sunday morning is high cotton, indeed. And to top it all off, this Sunday is homecoming at Rays and that means that after the service they will be having dinner on the grounds.

Now that really struck a chord with me.

I was raised in the Methodist church in Porterdale. We always had homecoming in the fall -- on the first Sunday in October. I am pretty sure they still do. We, too, had a guest speaker on homecoming Sunday -- sometimes a former minister and sometimes a member of the laity, but the highlight of the day--as I am certain will be the case at Rays
UMC -- was the dinner on the grounds that followed the preaching.

You talk about some precious memories!

The words "dinner on the grounds" create an image of a slower lifestyle and a simpler time. There was no Wendy's or McDonald's or Captain D's back then and as far as I knew the closest Chinese restaurant was in Peking. We ate at home, seven days a week, and there was no running out to eat after church on Sunday. We ate well every day but on those special days when dinner was served at the church -- those days when all the women of the community cooked their very best dishes and spread them out on long tables covered with red and white checked tablecloths -- well, those days were just a little slice of heaven right here on earth.

The women would leave church early to get the tables ready and the smells that came through the open windows of our little brick church would tempt a bishop to pronounce the benediction early. Our visiting preachers might have been tempted to cut the message short but they never did. Homecoming attracted unusually large crowds and every preacher we ever had seemed to have more to say the more people there were in the house to hear him say it.

The wait was almost intolerable, but the meal was always worth the wait. So much good food! We had casseroles made from scratch, fried chicken and roast beef and ham, pickles and relishes of every description and every fresh vegetable known to man. There were always large tubs of sweet tea and fresh-squeezed lemonade to wash everything down with and a big kettle of Brunswick stew, cooked all night over an open fire by Homer Hill and the other men of the church. I am pretty sure I am bordering on gluttony just to think about the desserts. There were cakes and pies and cookies and brownies and churn after churn of homemade ice cream.

Glory! What memories are conjured up by the term "dinner on the grounds."

Of course I am older and wiser now and I have learned that the message is more important than the meal on homecoming and on every other Sunday, which makes the honor of being invited to speak at homecoming even more significant. There would have been a lot less pressure if I had been merely asked to bring a pork roast or a plate of deviled eggs.

I pray that I am up to the task. As I said, Jerry Varnado is a great guy and I wouldn't want to let him down. Him nor his boss, either, come to think of it.

Darrell Huckaby is a local educator and author. Email him at dhuck08@bellsouth.net.
For past columns, visit www.rockdalecitizen.com or www.newtoncitizen.com.
HUCKABY: A high honor to be asked to speak at homecoming

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

By Darrell Huckaby (537)

Jerry Varnado is a great American. He was born in Jacksonville but moved to Valdosta before being irrevocably damaged by living in the midst of so many Florida Gators. Jerry played football at the University of Georgia -- hallowed be thy name -- and was a member of a Bulldog team that was SEC Champions and won a Cotton Bowl victory over Donnie Anderson and the Texas Tech Red Raiders, officially making him one of my childhood heroes.

Jerry graduated from UGA and UGA law school, and then became a practicing attorney. Later, after a life-altering experience, he felt the call of God and decided to answer that call and become a minister. Jerry Varnado -- football star, scholar and lawyer -- finally made a preacher. He graduated from the Candler School of Theology in 1985 and has been serving the Lord ever since.

I met Jerry and his beautiful wife Beverly three years ago, during a session of freshman orientation at UGA. Our paths have crossed on a few occasions since and I have enjoyed getting to know Jerry and Beverly and have come to realize that we all have a lot in common. Beverly, in fact, is a writer, too.

Now I told you that to tell you this. Jerry Varnado has bestowed upon me a high honor. He has invited me to deliver this Sunday morning's message at his church, Rays United Methodist, in Bishop. It is always an honor to be asked to speak to any group of people -- but to be offered the pulpit on a Sunday morning is high cotton, indeed. And to top it all off, this Sunday is homecoming at Rays and that means that after the service they will be having dinner on the grounds.

Now that really struck a chord with me.

I was raised in the Methodist church in Porterdale. We always had homecoming in the fall -- on the first Sunday in October. I am pretty sure they still do. We, too, had a guest speaker on homecoming Sunday -- sometimes a former minister and sometimes a
member of the laity, but the highlight of the day—as I am certain will be the case at Rays UMC -- was the dinner on the grounds that followed the preaching.

You talk about some precious memories!

The words "dinner on the grounds" create an image of a slower lifestyle and a simpler time. There was no Wendy's or McDonald's or Captain D's back then and as far as I knew the closest Chinese restaurant was in Peking. We ate at home, seven days a week, and there was no running out to eat after church on Sunday. We ate well every day but on those special days when dinner was served at the church -- those days when all the women of the community cooked their very best dishes and spread them out on long tables covered with red and white checked tablecloths -- well, those days were just a little slice of heaven right here on earth.

The women would leave church early to get the tables ready and the smells that came through the open windows of our little brick church would tempt a bishop to pronounce the benediction early. Our visiting preachers might have been tempted to cut the message short but they never did. Homecoming attracted unusually large crowds and every preacher we ever had seemed to have more to say the more people there were in the house to hear him say it.

The wait was almost intolerable, but the meal was always worth the wait. So much good food! We had casseroles made from scratch, fried chicken and roast beef and ham, pickles and relishes of every description and every fresh vegetable known to man. There were always large tubs of sweet tea and fresh-squeezed lemonade to wash everything down with and a big kettle of Brunswick stew, cooked all night over an open fire by Homer Hill and the other men of the church. I am pretty sure I am bordering on gluttony just to think about the desserts. There were cakes and pies and cookies and brownies and churn after churn of homemade ice cream.

Glory! What memories are conjured up by the term "dinner on the grounds."

Of course I am older and wiser now and I have learned that the message is more important than the meal on homecoming and on every other Sunday, which makes the honor of being invited to speak at homecoming even more significant. There would have been a lot less pressure if I had been merely asked to bring a pork roast or a plate of deviled eggs.

I pray that I am up to the task. As I said, Jerry Varnado is a great guy and I wouldn't want to let him down. Him nor his boss, either, come to think of it. Darrell Huckaby is an author and teacher in Rockdale County. Email him at dhuck08@bellsouth.net. For archived columns, go to www.gwinnettdailypost.com/darrellhuckaby.
Earlier this week we featured TV ads for Rick Allen and Maria Sheffield. Wright McLeod is also up on TV, with the following ad running “on broadcast and cable television across the 12th district.”

Because I’m late getting this posted, I’ll grant the McLeod campaign a free press release announcing the endorsement from the Combat Veterans for Congress PAC as compensation:

AUGUSTA, Ga. – Wright McLeod, Republican candidate for Georgia’s 12th Congressional District, today announced an endorsement from Combat Veterans for Congress PAC. The PAC selected McLeod based on his fiscally conservative background, belief in limited government, and commitment to defend and abide by the United States Constitution.
Captain Joseph John, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Combat Veterans for Congress PAC, said McLeod “is a Constitutional Conservative candidate who will work to rein in the out of control spending by the Obama Administration. He will work to unleash the private sector to grow once again, create jobs, and stimulate private sector business investment.”

“It’s a great honor to be endorsed by Combat Veterans for Congress PAC because the men and women behind this PAC know firsthand what it’s like to face combat situations in defense of our great Country, and they understand the dramatic change needed in Washington in order to protect the Country for future generations. I’m grateful for their service and support,” said McLeod.

Combat Veterans for Congress is a PAC that supports the election of fiscally conservative combat veterans to Congress who will control spending, defend and preserve the Constitution, and encourage free market growth. They have previously endorsed candidates such as Senators John McCain and Mark Kirk and Congressmen Duncan Hunter, Michael Grimm, and Allen West.

McLeod has previously been endorsed by FreedomWorks PAC and Georgia Right to Life. The addition of Combat Veterans for Congress shows that groups committed to constitutionally limited government understand that Wright McLeod is the true fiscal conservative in the 12th District race.

McLeod is an Augusta native. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy, retired as a Commander after 20 years of service and now runs a successful real estate law firm. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the Naval Academy, Wright earned a Masters degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. Wright and his wife Sheri are proud parents of three daughters: Collier, Margaret and Grace. The McLeods attend the Church of the Good Shepherd.
Governor Nathan Deal will have another opportunity to make his mark on the appellate bench, as state Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Charles Mikell Jr. told the governor this week he plans to retire on Aug. 31.

Mikell, 70, cited health concerns in his letter to Deal. The judge from Savannah has battled cancer since being diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2006.

"I think the time has come," Mikell said in an interview with the Daily Report. "I've enjoyed my job very much ... but I want to spend more time in Savannah with my wife. I want to spend more time fighting my illness."

"I'm in remission now," he added, "but I want to stay that way, so I need to pay more attention to it, and I want to spend time with my children and my new grandchild." Mikell noted that he and his wife have planned a September cruise in the Adriatic Sea.

The governor already was in the process of choosing a replacement for Keith R. Blackwell, whom he elevated from the Court of Appeals to the state Supreme Court. Blackwell will be sworn in to his new job next week.

Mikell has been a judge for 26 years, 12 of those on the Court of Appeals. His current term would run though 2014.

Mikell attended Princeton University and received his law degree from the University of Georgia. He served on the state court and superior court in Chatham County before Governor Roy Barnes appointed him to the appeals court in 2000.

Last year Mikell undertook a two-month term as the appeals court's chief, explaining that his colleagues had allowed him to take his turn earlier than the court's tradition of seniority normally would allow in light of his declining health. Mikell is close to John Ellington, who temporarily stepped away from the chiefs post so that Mikell could have the opportunity.

"I'll certainly miss working with my colleagues," Mikell said. "I have so many close friends on the court, like Judge Ellington, and I'll certainly miss that. And I love the work. I'm a bookworm, and it's mostly reading and writing." He said he also would miss his office staff, noting his secretary had been with him for 30 years.

Deal's spokesman, Brian Robinson, said the governor's office does not yet have a timeline for appointing Mikell's replacement.

Deal's Judicial Nominating Commission has not yet released its short list of nominees for Blackwell's Court of Appeals seat, but JNC co-chairman Randy Evans said candidates from the previous state Supreme Court short list will automatically make the current Court of Appeals short list for Blackwell's seat, provided they don't asked to be removed.

Those candidates are: Cynthia "C.J." Becker, a DeKalb County Superior Court judge and a finalist for a Supreme Court opening in 2005; Elizabeth "Lisa" Branch, a litigation partner at Smith, Gambrell & Russell and a finalist for an opening on the state Court of Appeals last year; Michael Brown, co-leader of Alston & Bird's government and internal investigations group and a former federal
prosecutor; William Ray II, a Gwinnett County Superior Court judge who was on the short list for a 2009 Supreme Court vacancy; Tilman "Tripp" Self III, a superior court judge in the Macon Judicial Circuit; and Benjamin Studdard III, chief judge of the Henry County State Court and a finalist for the 2009 Supreme Court vacancy and last year's Court of Appeals opening.

"The not-set-in-stone timeline for appointing to Blackwell's seat is the end of the month," Robinson said.

Evans said the JNC had not decided whether the short list for Blackwell's seat will also be used to fill Mikell's seat.
Services for Judge Smith set for Tuesday

GAINESVILLE - A memorial service will be held Tuesday for former U.S. District Court Judge and community leader Sidney O. Smith, Jr. Judge Smith died early Saturday at the age of 88.

Judge Smith was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District where he served for nine years, including six years as chief judge.

Smith was also a staunch supporter of education as a former member of the Gainesville Board of Education, the state Board of Regents, and as a fourth-generation member of the Brenau University Board of Trustees.

Smith was born and raised in Gainesville, Ga. His great-grandfather, Reconstruction-era Congressman William Pierce Price of Dahlonega, was a member of the 1878 founding board of what is now Brenau University. Price's son-in-law and Smith's grandfather, William Arthur Charters, was on the board in 1911 when Brenau became a chartered institution of higher learning. Also, Smith's father and mother, Isabelle Price Charters Smith, served simultaneously on the Brenau board.

Following service in World War II, Smith graduated cum laude from Harvard, where he played on the football team with future U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia law school. After private law practice, he served as assistant Solicitor-General (a prosecuting attorney role) for Hall County and as a Superior Court Judge for the Gainesville-based Northeastern Judicial Circuit before President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Judge Smith served on the federal bench for nine years, including six years as chief judge. After leaving federal court, he returned to private law practice, joining an Atlanta law firm.

His service to both public and private education began as chairman of the Gainesville Board of Education. Including his service on the Brenau board, including a period as chairman, he also served on the state Board of Regents, the governing body for Georgia's public colleges and universities. Although he offered to step down from the Brenau board to remove possible conflict of interest questions, members of both bodies collectively dissuaded him.

In 2010, the Brenau Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name all of its graduate programs after Judge Smith. A year later the new doctoral degree-granting program at Brenau was named in his honor. In 2003, Smith was named to head the search committee that eventually brought Brenau its current president, Ed Schrader.

A memorial service for will be held on Tuesday July 17, 2012, at 4p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church.
Services for Judge Smith set for Tuesday | AccessNorthGa


©Copyright 2012 AccessNorthGa.com
All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed without permission.
Sidney O. Smith Jr., 88: Former U.S. district judge

By Michelle E. Shaw
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

5:25 p.m. Sunday, July 15, 2012

Former U.S. District Judge Sidney O. Smith Jr. was a champion for justice, education and family. He wanted to see people do what was right, understand the laws of the land and love one another.

The Gainesville native chose a career in law because "serving others was his vocational calling," said his son and namesake, Sidney "Sid" O. Smith III. But as much as Judge Smith served the public, he was also there for his family.

"He did an incredible work as a lawyer and a judge, but he was also 100 percent a family man," said Mr. Smith, an attorney in Gainesville.

Sidney Olsin Smith Jr., of Gainesville, died Saturday, from complications related to cancer, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. He was 88. His body has been cremated and a memorial service has been planned for 4 p.m. Tuesday at Grace Episcopal Church. Memorial Park North Riverside Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Judge Smith received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1949. He had attended Harvard for two years before joining the Army in 1943 during World War II, after which he returned to complete his undergraduate degree. During his career, he served as an assistant solicitor general for 10 years and a state court judge for almost three years. In 1965, he was appointed to the federal bench by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1974, Judge Smith resigned from his federal position and returned to private practice. Soon thereafter, he was able to take up the family tradition of serving as a board member what was Brenau College in Gainesville. His father, mother and grandfather, all served as board members of the private institution, which is now Brenau University. A former chairman of the State Board of Regents, the judge was a leader in the school's effort to obtain full university status in the '90s, and was "instrumental" in the university's bid become a doctoral degree-granting institution, said David Morrison, vice president of communications at Brenau.

Dr. Ed L. Schrader, president of Brenau, said Judge Smith "was a classic southern gentleman and a scholar. The judge was perhaps the most thoughtful person I have ever known."

Judge Smith was also known for his, "fantastic sense of humor," said Ellen Andersen, a daughter who lives in Dalton. One of the family's favorite comical anecdotes involves his current wife, Carolyn Reed Smith. Judge Smith was married to his first wife, Patricia Horkan Smith, for 57 years when she died in 2001. The
couple and then-Mrs. Reed, who had been widowed, were neighbors for approximately a year before Mrs. Smith died.

"When we started seeing each other, he told friends that I lived next door, was a gourmet cook and could drive at night," Mrs. Carolyn Smith said, with a hearty laugh. "And it was all true."

"And daddy had a hard time seeing at night," added Mrs. Andersen. "But that was his sense of humor, right there."

Judge and Mrs. Carolyn Smith married in 2004, but "packed 20 years in to eight," Mrs. Smith said.

Judge Smith is also survived by a second daughter, Charters Wilson of Charlottesville, Va., step-son Steve Sorrells of Gainesville; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Find this article at:
Meet David Ellison, Candidate for District 4 ACC Commission

The Athens native has rented a home in Five Points for two years.

July 16, 2012

1. Where did you grow up? Athens, Georgia
2. Where did you finish high school? College? Graduate or professional school? College major or area of concentration?
   Graduated from Athens Academy in 2003.
   Graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2007 with a Double Major in History and Political Science Major and with an Art History Minor.
   Graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law 2010, cum laude.
3. Are you married? Do you have children? If so, where do they go to school?
   Yes. I met my wife, Lauren, at Vanderbilt University and we both attended the University of Georgia School of Law together. She works as an Assistant Solicitor in Athens-Clarke County. We do not yet have any children.
4. Have you ever held any elected office?
   This is my first time running for elected office, but I currently serve on the Athens-Clarke County Hearings Board. Appointed by the Mayor and Commission, the Hearings Board considers requests for variances from Zoning & Development Standards, the Environmental Areas Ordinance, the Flood Protection Ordinance, the Sign Ordinance and the Community Tree Management Ordinance, as well as appeals of staff interpretations.
5. Why are you running for your commission seat?
   Athens needs a vision that will secure our future as the economic and cultural center of Northeast Georgia. I am running for the Commission for two primary reasons:
   (1) to promote economic development so that our community has the revenue to remain vibrant, and
   (2) to ensure that the Athens-Clarke County Government spends the taxpayers' dollars wisely and efficiently.
   With increased revenue and a responsible government, Athens will be a top destination for families and employers looking to locate in Georgia.
6. Why should those in your district vote for you?
   As Commissioner, I will lead a transparent government that is accountable to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County. In this great recession, citizens and local governments are operating under unprecedented fiscal restraints. The citizens of Athens-Clarke County deserve a government that spends each tax...
Meet David Ellison, Candidate for District 4 ACC Commission - Athens http://athens.patch.com/articles/meet-david-ellison-candidate-for-dist... dollar in a responsible and transparent manner. I will represent the citizens of Athens above special interests and, to that end; I have pledged to implement many of the recommendations of the 2010 Charter Overview Commission.

4. What is the most important issue facing your district? Facing Athens?

There are two equally important issues facing both of District 4.

In Five Points, I am committed to finding a long-term solution to the parking problems of the Commercial District. Five Points is being strangled by its success. The Commission must take a leadership role and support Five Points so that our neighborhoods continue to have a pedestrian-friendly shopping area and cultural draw.

On the other side of District 4, the Oak/Oconee Street corridor has already begun to be redeveloped and it stands to receive further substantial investment. The Commission needs to be ahead of this issue and plan for this development. If done properly, the revitalization of the Oak/Oconee Street Corridor could be a model for future development and the pride of Athens, Georgia.

Promoting economic development in Athens is the most important issue in this election. Athens-Clarke County is the smallest county in the state of Georgia, so we are already working from a limited tax base. Nevertheless, we still seek the highest aspirations for our community and I believe that our ambition should not be curtailed by a lack of revenue. By investing in our tax base, we can keep our schools competitive and our community vibrant. By attracting employers and supporting local entrepreneurs, the Commission can strike a blow to the endemic poverty that plagues our community and offer a future to the many who wish to live and work in Athens but simply cannot find a job. In sum, Athens' future both as a cultural draw and as a home for families depends upon increased economic opportunities for all.

8. How would you address this issue?

In Five Points, all options are on the table. From Day One, I will work with the merchants and the surrounding neighborhoods to find the cost-effective solution that preserves a pedestrian-friendly and historic Five Points. One possibility could be a Public-Private Partnership for the construction of a small parking deck. Similarly, the Commission could pursue Tax Allocation Districts or Community Improvement Districts to finance a parking solution. At the same time, the solution could be as informal as brokering a shared-parking arrangement between the various businesses in the area. Whatever the solution, I am committed to working with the Five Points neighborhood to find a lasting parking solution.

Along the Oak/Oconee Street Corridor, I will push for the creation of a Tax Allocation District so that any money invested in that neighborhood remains in that neighborhood. With that revenue, the Oak/Oconee Street Corridor can be revitalized in a manner that connects Downtown Athens to the North Oconee River and many of the recommendations of the Oak/Oconee Street Corridor Study could then be implemented. Furthermore, I will strive to have this area designated as an Opportunity Zone so that employers have an incentive to hire local neighborhood residents.

As Commissioner, I will streamline the process to create a business in Athens-Clarke County. Athens' zoning and development standards present something of a paradox. We have a strict zoning scheme to preserve our local character; however, it can be so time-consuming and expensive to navigate the process that only out-of-town big boxes tend to have the time and resources to come to Athens. I want Athens-Clarke County to be an ally, not an obstacle, to local businesses so that an entrepreneur can pursue his passion and turn business dreams into a reality in Athens-Clarke County.

9. Please describe your work history and where you work—do you commute? Or do you work in Athens Clarke County?

I am an Attorney by profession. During law school, I served as Student-Prosecutor in Greene County. After joining the State Bar in November 2010, I clerked for the Superior Courts of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit until I began a solo practice in Downtown Athens in July 2012. These past work experiences have uniquely prepared me for my work on the Commission.

For one, I have a background in the criminal justice system. Every day brings a new headline about violent crime in Athens, but the Commission has remained silent on this issue. I am concerned about the burgeoning crime rate as a citizen, and I believe that ensuring public safety should be among the Commission's top priorities. Due to my background, I can take a leadership role on the Commission to ensure that the criminal justice system operates efficiently and effectively and give law enforcement every available tool to keep our neighborhoods safe. As the judiciary and public safety take up about a third of the budget, my experiences will be indispensable when determining the annual budget.

I have also acquired a keen appreciation of the ramifications of local government decision making. I have worked on many cases involving local governments, and I have a heightened awareness of the pitfalls and expense of litigation. Furthermore, no attorney has served on the Commission for several years. Not only will my legal training be useful for the enactment of ordinances, but I can serve as a counterbalance and hold the Manager and County Attorney accountable to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.

10. What distinguishes you from your opponent?

There are three primary distinctions.

1) My zoning and legal background will provide a critical skill for the Commission as it enacts ordinances, amends the zoning standards that hamstring economic development, and plans for development along the Prince Avenue and Oak/Oconee Street Corridors.

2) I have a long-standing commitment to promoting economic development in Athens-Clarke County. In my capacity as Commissioner, I will lead the legislative process to streamline the process to invest in Athens-Clarke County. Moreover, I will personally work so that Athens-Clarke County Government is an ally, rather than an obstacle, to employers and entrepreneurs.

3) I am committed to Government Transparency and Accountability. A Commissioner must represent the citizens of Athens, hold unelected officials accountable to the people and be a responsible steward of public funds. However, my opponent has a poor track record in this regard.

In a presentment filed on July 3, 2012, the Grand Jury of Athens-Clarke County found the School District's management of the public funds to be "unconscionable." There was a "lack of adequate control," "failure to maintain," and "failure to monitor" that has resulted in taxpayers' dollars "being exposed to increased risk of theft, fraud of misuse." Further, the Grand Jury found that "these weaknesses have been cited by the Independent Auditor for several years in a row. And even worse, the School District's response to these previous findings was to agree with them, promise to correct them, yet not doing so. Under these conditions, the Grand Jury concluded that 'theft, fraud and misuse may indeed have already occurred, and we don't know it.' The Grand Jury's present is available here.
Municipal Court judge candidates

Cynthia Maisano
Age: 45
Home: Columbus
Occupation: Attorney, practicing family law and criminal law
Experience: Captain in JAG, United States Army Public Defender, Recorder's Court, judge of Recorder's Court, judge of Environmental Court; substitute judge of Municipal Court; private law practice since 2002; Kwanis Club of Greater Columbus, Board of Directors; Girls' Inc., Board; Georgia Association for Women Lawyer's, member; American Inns of Court, Member, Columbus
Education: Jordan High School, Columbus; Howard University, Washington, D.C.; Howard School of Law, Washington, D.C.

Steven D. Smith
Age: 59
Home: Midtown-Columbus
Occupation: Municipal Court judge and chief magistrate, Muscogee County
Education: Graduate of Hardaway High School, 1971; B.S. public administration, Auburn University, 1975; J.D. University of Georgia Law School, 1978
Family: Married to Amelia (Amy) Smith; children: Austin (married to Brittany), Ashley (married to Austin Ramsey), Andrew (married to Tiffany), Joseph, Sam and Luke; grandchildren: Story, Veda Grace and Wyatt

Robert D. Wilson
Age: 60
Home: Columbus
Occupation: Attorney private practice, (20 years); child advocate attorney Juvenile Court, Muscogee County (15 years)
Experience: Associate Magistrate Judge 2009-2012; Interim Municipal Court/Chief Magistrate judge 2010; 15 years judge pro tempore Juvenile Court Muscogee

Family: Married to Angela Wilson; children: Jordan, Jacob, Sydney, Natalie, Kelly, Sam and Luke; grandchildren: Jace, Payton, Jordan, and Isaiah
The Use of Eminent Domain Used to Have Clear Limits — Letters to the

Your editorial "An Eminently Bad Idea" (July 12) properly criticizes plans to use the power of eminent domain to seize mortgage contracts for properties that are "underwater." But this plan isn't just an abuse of eminent domain, it is also a direct affront to an important but nearly forgotten constitutional limitation: the Contract Clause.

The Constitution declares that no state may pass any law "impairing the Obligation of Contracts." This provision was enacted specifically to prevent governments from relieving favored parties of their debts.

Unfortunately, the Contract Clause has, through judicial abdication, been all but excised from the Constitution. The predictable result is that businesses like Mortgage Resolution Partners have attempted to co-opt government power to rewrite contracts for their own private gain. It is the responsibility of a properly engaged judiciary to stop these efforts. They can start by breathing new life into the long-neglected Contract Clause.

Paul Sherman
Institute for Justice
Arlington, Va.

You assert that "when government uses eminent domain, there is no negotiation. The government takes and determines the price." In the broadest sense, you are correct, but only if you include the courts in your definition of "the government." A city could not simply tell a mortgage lender that the compensation it will receive is adequate; a court determines the price that the government must pay after an adversarial proceeding.

The Fifth Amendment commands that a government pay a property owner "just compensation" whenever it exercises its power of eminent domain. The Supreme Court has defined "just compensation" to be fair market value or what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller in an arms-length transaction, and not one penny less.

Lenders and private investors are holding mortgages that simply aren't worth their face value because the underlying collateral has fallen in value. The proposals to use eminent domain take advantage of that economic fact. Cities will benefit—and thus satisfy the public use requirement—by avoiding rampant foreclosure and the attendant "neighborhood blight" (your words, not mine). In so doing, these proposals satisfy the public use requirement much more easily than the use in the Kelo decision that you criticize.

Prof. Peter A. Appel
University of Georgia
School of Law
Athens, Ga.

The possible use of eminent domain to justify seizure of mortgages from private investors by California counties...
The Use of Eminent Domain Used to Have Clear Limits — Letters to t... http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303740704577524...

and cities is yet one more example of cynical manipulation of the law to threaten, bully or force one party (generally businesses or investors) to cede legal rights and property to another (generally unions or other likely Democratic voters). The cumulative effect of each limited assault on the impartial rule of law is an erosion in confidence that leads to less willingness to risk capital, slower recovery and reduced economic growth.

Ron Allen
Columbia, Md.

A version of this article appeared July 17, 2012, on page A14 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: The Use of Eminent Domain Used to Have Clear Limits.
Leftover funds to go to Ga. law scholarships

The National Law Journal
07-16-2012

U.S. District Judge Clay Land has approved a cy pres award under which the University of Georgia School of Law be given $1.5 million, and the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law will receive $1 million.

Perkins v. American National Insurance Co. settled in 2009 for $22 million, of which $3.6 million went unclaimed by class members.

The remainder will go to the Community Foundation of Chattahoochee Valley Inc., The National Consumer Law Center Inc. and The Georgia Legal Services Foundation.
THOMASVILLE — Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Deason of Tifton and Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Branch of Thomasville announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Blair Branch of Atlanta, to Matthew Wayne Huckeba of Atlanta. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Huckeba.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. O.N. Branch, the late Mr. O.N. Branch, the late Mr. and Mrs. Ben Frampton and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Harvin, Mr. Loran Riggins and the late Mrs. Nell Riggins.

She is a 2003 graduate of Tift County High School and received a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Georgia State University.

She is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

Huckeba is the grandson of the late Mr. D.W. Huckeba and Mrs. Melba Huckeba and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hetherington.

He is a 2000 graduate of Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, Ill., and a 2004 graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor of arts degrees in political science and speech. In 2007, he received his juris doctorate from the University of Georgia Law School. He is principal at Intelligent Audit.

The wedding is at 6 p.m., Sept. 15, 2012, at Summerour Studio in Atlanta.
Belle is a seven-year old black lab or lab mix who was somebody s dog before she was surrendered to Walton County Animal Shelter. She comes vaccinated, de-wormed and flea sprayed. She s double unlucky, as both black dogs and senior dogs aren t highly adoptable. In my experience, senior dogs make great companions, and she ll be grateful to you for the rest of her life.

A quick clarification

On Friday, I wrote:

Is there a problem with the Senate Republican Trust transferring that much money to a new entity that spends it to reelect members of Senate leadership? Apparently not.

Georgia has some of the weakest PAC and independent committee laws in the country, said Rick Thompson, managing partner of R. Thompson & Associates who spent five years as the Ethic Commission s executive director.

If we want to get serious about reform and transparency, we need to abandon the ridiculous $100 limits and ideas being pushed around this election cycle by special interest groups and focus on the reporting requirements of PACs and independent committees.

Thompson, whose firm specializes in ethics and compliance consultation, said, to truly be an expenditure of an independent committee, the candidate cannot have any coordination or control of the expenditure. Otherwise it is an in kind contribution.

I failed to make clear that Thompson s quote was a general statement on the laxity of PAC regulation in the state Act governing campaign finance, but was not meant to state a position on whether the transfer from the Senate Trust to the Promotion PAC was in compliance with the Act. It certainly did not state that Rick Thompson had said the transfer from the Senate Republican Trust to the Georgia Republican Senate Caucus Promotion PAC is okay. That statement was about the general lack of regulation of committee-to-committee transfers.

There are really four ethics issues in the Promotion PAC expenditures. The first is whether the transfer of $140,000 from the Georgia Republican Senatorial Trust to the Promotion PAC is permissible. The second is whether the expenditures by the Promotion PAC in support of at least four incumbent state Senators are independent within the meaning of the Campaign Finance Act or were coordinated with the campaigns. Third is whether the lump sum payments to vendors without itemization by the Promotion PAC are properly reported. Fourth is whether the entire enterprise of the Promotion PAC is simply a sham to allow what would otherwise be contributions by the Trust in excess of the contribution limits.

So it s a bit more complicated and it s not likely to be sorted out by the Primary elections, or even the General Election in November. Under Georgia s Campaign Finance Act, the worst that s likely to happen is a bunch of fines might be issued.
Congressional candidate Wright McLeod continues to be dogged by questions about his disclosures.

McLeod says he has responded to a complaint by opponent Rick Allen to the Federal Elections Commission, but the FEC hasn't confirmed receipt of the answer and McLeod won't release it.

McLeod spokeswoman Holly Croft said the administrative process for complaints filed with the FEC is not public information.

But commission confidentiality rules make an exception for a response to a complaint.

These provisions, they say, do not prevent a complainant or respondent from disclosing the substance of the complaint itself or the response to that complaint or from engaging in conduct that leads to the publication of information contained in the complaint.

Scott Paradise, Allen's campaign manager, characterized McLeod's refusal to release the response as that candidate's latest blatant cover-up.

McLeod and his campaign have repeatedly failed to respond to questions about the complaint and related issues.

The FEC often takes 10 months or so to resolve complaints, so it's unlikely to act on Allen's before the July 31 primary.

Croft called it baseless and politically motivated. The response, she said, calls on the Allen campaign to repay all fees and costs to the taxpayers associated with the case.

Okay, so they'll talk about parts of it in which they criticize their opponent for filing the complaint, but they won't release the parts that actually address the complaint.

The Rick Allen campaign has also questioned large donations McLeod reportedly received from individuals.

Allen campaign manager Scott Paradiseraised the possibility that listed donors may have been reimbursed for checks they wrote a campaign.

That practice, which is illegal, conceals the real source of the money and sometimes allows an end run around the $2,500 limit.

McLeod campaign manager Mike Allen said, to the best of his knowledge, none of McLeod's campaign cash is from anyone other than those it listed as donors.

Neither the campaign nor Wright McLeod has reimbursed any donor for their contributions, Allen said.

If we had direct knowledge that a donor's contribution was made in an illegal manner, we would take appropriate action accordance with the FEC guidelines.

But Allen said the campaign has no direct knowledge that any of our contributions are anything other than honorable, valid and made by our supporters of their own accord.

So far, there's no proof to the contrary.
But some $2,500 donors are people of apparently limited means who had never before donated to a congressional campaign.

Two donors seemed to know little about McLeod's views. Two gave on the same day after one of them said their boss, also a $2,500 donor, discussed the campaign with them.

One had voted only once. One wrote a check the same day her boss did. Others declined to be interviewed.

I learned a long time ago that where there is smoke there is fire, Paradise said, and there is certainly a great deal of smoke surrounding Wright McLeod's entire campaign.

Savannah Morning News columnist Larry Peterson receives our quote of the week for his characterization of McLeod's non-responses to ethics questions.

Political campaigns are adept at saying things without quite lying or coming close to the truth.

The FEC often takes 10 months to act on complaints and keeps them under wraps until it does. So Allen's likely will be in limbo long after the July 31 primary.

Perhaps with that in mind, Team McLeod alternates between stonewalling and denial.

Last week it tried both.

Meanwhile, McLeod spokeswoman Holly Croft noted the administrative process for complaints is not public information.

In other words: We can't give you the response because the FEC won't let us.

Nice try. Its rules explicitly say respondents to a complaint can release it.

Croft also said yet again that the complaint was politically motivated and baseless.

Politically motivated? Well, duh. Let's stipulate that it is and move on.

But baseless?

Replying to the FEC letter, Team McLeod in effect conceded two points in the complaint.

Georgia Politics, Campaigns & Elections

Speaking of the State Campaign Finance Commission, Republican candidate for PSC Matt Reid submitted two-day reports detailing two $1000 contributions from liberal fellow travelers.

One of Reid's contributors is John Sweet, who served on Atlanta City Council from 1977-1981 and currently serves on the boards of Sevananda Natural Food Cooperative in Little Five Points and the Georgia ACLU. Sweet has a three-page rap sheet contribution record with the Campaign Finance Commission that includes thousands of dollars to liberal Democrats like Roy Barnes, Democratic House Leader Stacey Abrams, and Democratic State Rep. Pat Gardner. The other contributor to Reed is Ralph Green, who has also given to other liberal Democrats like Joe Martin, Nan Orrock, and Simone Bell.

Republicans should reject Matt Reid's attempt to infiltrate the GOP and send him packing in the Primary.
Republican credentials have also become an issue in the election for state Senate district 52. A campaign mailer from David Doss stating that his opponent Chuck Hufstetler voted as a Democrat is the latest bone of contention between two Republican candidates for the state Senate District 52 seat. Hufstetler came out swinging at the Bartow County GOP debate last week, claiming the attack ad is an attempt to divert attention from the fact that Doss was a Democrat until he switched parties in 2005.

I did vote in some Democratic primaries, Hufstetler said. But the truth is, when there is no Republican opposition, we try to put the weakest Democrat in office.

Doss said he wants to talk about issues, but he's fighting back against Hufstetler's focus on party identification. He said many older Republicans like former governor Sonny Perdue and Gov. Nathan Deal started out as Democrats.

Like Zell Miller said, I didn't leave the party. The party left me, Doss said. I've always been a conservative.

Herman Cain recorded a robocall for Congressional candidate and fellow talk radio conservative Martha Zoller.

You see the establishment is scared of Martha Zoller, and they should be, says Cain in a new robocall for Zoller. It showed today from her opponent, Doug Collins, who launched a false, negative attack against her. Apparently, they think we are stupid.

Last week, Collins released a scathing new mailer about Zoller's past statements on abortion, taxes and gay marriage. The mailer quotes Zoller saying It [Abortion] should not be outlawed, taxes are relatively low in the United States, and I do support civil unions.

Both candidates set up websites solely devoted to uncovering the other candidates' lies; Zoller's site is www.CollinsLies.com and Collins response to it is www.SeeMarthaSayIt.com - full of video clips of Zoller's comments about some of the most controversial political issues.

Columbus Municipal Court Clerk Vivian Creighton Bishop first ran for the office some twenty years ago because she was dissatisfied with the level of service a friend received. In her campaign for a sixth term, she faces a former employee who says she is dissatisfied with the way the office is run.

Creighton Bishop faces a primary challenge this month from Sherrell Dowdell-Mahone, a candidate who says she got a behind-the-scenes look at everything that was wrong with the office while working there for nearly five months. Not surprisingly, the rivals gave vastly divergent accounts of Dowdell-Mahone's departure from the office last August, underscoring the mounting tension of the campaign.

Accusations are flying back and forth in the race.

I think because my opponent had gone to law school she thought that she could exhibit those skills in here, and when she was told she could not and cited for attempting to do that she decided rather than take a reprimand that she would leave the office, Creighton Bishop said. We can't give legal advice.

Dowdell-Mahone, 47, said she wasn't cited or reprimanded in any fashion and
left because she wasn’t pleased with the services provided by the office or its hostile environment. She denied giving legal advice and said the incumbent was spreading misinformation out of desperation.

Mrs. Bishop’s 20-year tenure has just been riddled with one scandal after another, and I kind of just want to let the citizens know what new, innovative leadership I would bring to the court, she said. I did not leave for giving out any legal advice. I’m not a licensed attorney, so I knew better than that.

In interviews last week, the candidates also disagreed over who is more qualified for the job.

“I’m the only qualified candidate here, said Creighton Bishop, who worked as an administrator at Jack T. Rutledge Correctional Institute before unseating Ellen Pilgreen in 1992. There’s no school you can attend for this. It definitely takes you being here and learning.

Dowdell-Mahone countered that she has more than a decade of experience working closely on small claims cases in her twin brother’s law office. Not only does she have a law degree from Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School, she said, but she also earned a master’s degree in litigation from Atlanta Law School.

Dowdell-Mahone has not passed the bar and is not a licensed attorney.

Muscogee County Sheriff John T. Darr also faces a primary challenge from a former department employee.

Squaring off against Darr this month is Pam Brown, a former Sheriff’s Office lieutenant backed by former Sheriff Ralph B. Johnson. Brown hopes to make history not only by making Darr the first one-termer in recent memory, but also by becoming Muscogee County’s first female and first black sheriff.

The fact that many local offices will be decided in Democratic primaries is causing some Muscogee County voters angst.

It stems from several critical county posts being determined in the Democratic primary, leaving Republicans without a say in the marshal, Superior Court clerk, Municipal Court clerk and Municipal Court judge races. Sheriff John Darr is also in a contested primary race, though there will be Republican opposition in November.

A lot of people are used to voting for a certain party, Boren said. Then they get the ballot and realize that they can’t vote in the marshal’s race or the Superior Court clerk’s race.

This confusion is causing additional work for elections officials when someone asks for another ballot.

If it is an absentee ballot, we will cancel the original and then reissue the other one, Boren said.

In Augusta, a dead dog received a voter registration form from the NAACP.

McGregor, a West Highland terrier, died about two years ago, but there his name and address were on an envelope containing voter registration documents partially filled out and a hand printed note to Please fill in boxes 4, 5, and 6.

Box 4 had spaces for phone number, date of birth, gender and race. Box 5 had spaces for driver’s license or Georgia ID number, and Social Security number. Box 6 had spaces to check yes or no for citizenship and whether McGregor would be 18 before Election Day, spaces to date and sign an oath affirming his address, eligibility, and that McGregor has not been convicted of a felony.
involving moral turpitude or is not mentally incompetent.

Walter Jones discusses Republican Primary ballot questions, which include lobbyist regulation, casino gambling, gun permits for younger service members, and a Right to Life question. A separate piece by Jones discusses questions on the Democratic ballot.

Errin Haines, writing for the AP, also reviews the ballot questions:

On the abortion issue, Republican primary voters will be asked whether they would support a right to life amendment to the state Constitution.

Everhart said members of the party asked for it.

There was no discussion whatsoever, she said. They wanted it. The faith-based community really wanted it on there. I got more emails on that one and ethics than any of the other ones.

The Columbia County Board of Elections will meet Tuesday at 10 AM in the Board of Commissioners office on the second floor of Building B in the government center in Evans, to discuss alleged violations by a County Commission candidate.

The campaign for Richmond County Sheriff continues to center on a purported local endorsement that was disavowed by the national organization.

When a group of black police officers who had endorsed sheriff’s Capt. Scott Peebles as their candidate for Richmond County sheriff were forced to retract that endorsement by the organization they purported to represent, some saw it as an unfortunate mix-up.

Others saw it as dirty pool.

I said it was a lie, said sheriff’s Lt. John Ivey, a rival candidate. That what it was.

Whether a mix-up or something sinister, it’s a sign the sheriff’s race is heating up, candidates say.

I believe that some camps are going to do whatever is necessary to win, Ivey said.

Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Charles Mikell will retire from the bench effective August 31st.

The Princeton-educated Mikell, a Fulbright Scholar, began his practice in Savannah in 1976 after graduating with honors from the University of Georgia law school.

He was appointed to a state court judgeship in 1984 to succeed Judge James W. Head, then won a superior court judgeship in 1992 to succeed Judge Eugene H. Gadsden. He was appointed to the court of appeals by Gov. Roy Barnes in May 2000.

The City of Lake Park will elect a new Mayor and Council Member on November 6th after the resignation of Mayor Ben Futch.

Marietta City Council member Anthony Coleman, who pled guilty to assaulting another council member has a further history of violent workplace altercations.

Governor Deal signed an executive order suspending Dougherty County Board of Education member Velvet Riggins, who is under indictment.
Riggins was indicted in April on four felony counts—two counts of theft by taking, one count of public record fraud and one count of providing false information to obtain free school meals for a child.

Dr. Bernice Brooks, who was disqualified in her campaign for re-election to the Carroll County School Board, has appealed the decision.

Brooks was disqualified in a special hearing Tuesday after it was discovered her house is in a different district than the district she was running to represent. While the majority of Brooks’ Villa Rica property can be found in District 1, her home and street address are actually in District 3 because of a technical error.

A sign thief in Fayette County has been caught on camera.

[Board of Education candidate] Barry Marchman provided the video to The Citizen which shows what appears to be a bespectacled white male pulling the sign up from the ground. While the video quality is not high-definition by any means, it provides enough detail to likely identify the culprit.

The video was captured by a video camera designed to capture wildlife which is often referred to as a game cam.

Marchman is running against fellow Post 1 candidate Scott Hollowell to fill a four year-term as one of five members on the Fayette County Board of Education.
Brunswick Judicial Circuit getting new public defender

Kevin Gough will replace Grayson Lane Aug. 6.

By Terry Dickson

BRUNSWICK - Kevin Gough will become public defender of the five-county Brunswick Judicial Circuit Aug. 6.

W. Travis Sakrison, executive director of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, announced the appointment Tuesday.

"I am honored and humbled," Gough said.

He will oversee indigent defense in Camden, Glynn, Wayne, Appling and Jeff Davis counties. The office has regional offices in Brunswick, Woodbine and Jesup and has eight lawyers among the staff of 15.

He will replace Grayson Lane, who has been public defender for the circuit since the statewide public defender system was established in 2005.

Cheryl Prater, spokeswoman for the Public Defender Council, said the change was made as the council went about complying with new state law that reconstituted the supervisory council that oversees the public defender offices in each circuit.

The new supervisory council for each circuit has three members — one appointed by the governor, one by the chief Superior Court judge of the circuit and one by the county commission of the most populous county, Prater said.

The circuit council submitted a list of nominees that included Lane and Gough.

Bert Guy, a lawyer in private practice in Camden County, said Gough will be a good fit.

"I think Kevin will charge hard and represent the indigent. He'll jump in with both feet," he said.

Guy said early and vigorous representation is a key component in making sure that those who are in jail need to be there.

"There's a high cost of jailing people before trial," Guy said, but that must be balanced with protecting public safety, the challenges of scheduling trials and other factors.

Gough said he will make sure the public defender staff lawyers see their clients in jail and make sure their rights are protected.

District Attorney Jackie Johnson said a strong public defender helps make the system work.

An honors graduate of the University of Georgia law school, Gough is in private practice in Brunswick with 25 years experience in law. He is a former assistant district attorney.

terry.dickson@jacksonville.com, (912) 264-0405
July 18--A Brunswick attorney has been appointed public defender for the five-county Brunswick Judicial Circuit.

The Georgia Public Defender Standards Council announced the appointment Tuesday of Kevin Gough.

Gough was appointed by W. Travis Sakrison, executive director of the council, and will begin as the circuit public defender effective Aug. 6.

Gough hopes leaving private practice will afford him greater opportunities to make an impact.

"I am genuinely excited about the appointment, about taking on the challenges associated with managing the very important work of this office," he said.

Gough said indigent defense is meaningful and rewarding work.

"Unfortunately, given the daily pressures of private practice we rarely have the opportunity to do as much of that work as we would like," Gough said. "Adding to the frustration, of course, is the limited control we have, the limited input, as to how indigent services are provided.

"The circuit public defender is uniquely positioned within our criminal justice system to impact the provision of indigent defense services in a meaningful way -- to make a difference."

Calling the appointment a "dream job," Gough says the step toward becoming a public defender made sense.

"I turned 50 earlier this year and entered my 20th year of private practice. It was only natural for me to take stock of what I was doing with my life both personally and professionally," he said. "My new position as circuit public defender, and the public service which it implies, is simply a better fit for me."

Gough, who once worked for the circuit's District Attorney's office, is an honors graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and is the former president of the Brunswick-Glynn County Bar Association.

The Brunswick circuit public defender provides indigent defense services in Appling, Wayne, Jeff Davis, Glynn and Camden counties.
Judge Sidney Olsin Smith Jr., 88, of Gainesville, died Saturday, July 14, 2012.

A lifelong resident of Gainesville, he was born on Dec. 30, 1923, to the late Sidney O. Smith and Isabelle Charters Smith.

He was educated in Gainesville city schools, the Middlesex School, Concord Mass., Harvard University and the University of Georgia Law School, where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa.

He served 39 months during World War II in the U.S. Army, where he was discharged as a captain.

Following admission to the bar, Judge Smith began private practice in Gainesville in 1962. He was elected sole Superior Court judge for Dawson, Hall, Lumpkin and White counties. In 1965 he was named United States District judge for the Northern District of Georgia where he served until 1974 when he resigned to accept a senior position in the Atlanta firm of Alston & Bird, where he remained as a partner and counsel until the end of his career. He was honored by both the Georgia and Atlanta bars for his service to the courts and the profession. He was a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Long interested in education, Judge Smith served as chairman of the Gainesville Board of Education, as a member and chairman of the State Board of Regents and as a trustee of Brenau University for more than 35 years.

The Graduate School at Brenau is named for him.

At the time of his death, he was the longest serving member of Grace Episcopal Church where he had been treasurer, vestryman and senior warden and was a member of the Gainesville Rotary Club.

Judge Smith, is preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Patricia Horkan; and three sisters, Charters Smith Embry, Caroline Wallace and June Smith Woodruff.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and three children Charters Smith Wilson (Hugh) of Charlottesville, Va., Ellen Smith Andersen (Robb) of Dalton and Sidney O. Smith III of Gainesville; stepson, Steve Sorrolls of Gainesville; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Judge Smith, was an enthusiastic spectator and sportsman having played varsity football at Harvard. He was always thankful for his life his wife, his
family and friends.

Memorials may be made to Brenau University, 500 Washington St., Gainesville, GA 30501 or Grace Episcopal Church 422 Brenau Ave. NE, Gainesville, GA 30501.

Memorial services will be Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. The family will receive friends after the service at the fellowship hall.

Memorial Park North Riverside Chapel, 989 Riverside Drive, Gainesville; (770) 297-6200 is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.memorialparkfuneralhomes.com.

LOAD-DATE: July 16, 2012
certain will be the case at Rays UMC -- was the dinner on the grounds that followed the preaching.

You talk about some precious memories!

The words "dinner on the grounds" create an image of a slower lifestyle and a simpler time. There was no Wendy's or McDonald's or Captain D's back then and as far as I knew the closest Chinese restaurant was in Peking. We ate at home, seven days a week, and there was no running out to eat after church on Sunday. We ate well every day but on those special days when dinner was served at the church -- those days when all the women of the community cooked their very best dishes and spread them out on long tables covered with red and white checked tablecloths -- well, those days were just a little slice of heaven right here on earth.

The women would leave church early to get the tables ready and the smells that came through the open windows of our little brick church would tempt a bishop to pronounce the benediction early. Our visiting preachers might have been tempted to cut the message short but they never did. Homecoming attracted unusually large crowds and every preacher we ever had seemed to have more to say the more people there were in the house to hear him say it.

The wait was almost intolerable, but the meal was always worth the wait. So much good food! We had casseroles made from scratch, fried chicken and roast beef and ham, pickles and relishes of every description and every fresh vegetable known to man. There were always large tubs of sweet tea and fresh-squeezed lemonade to wash everything down with and a big kettle of Brunswick stew, cooked all night over an open fire by Homer Hill and the other men of the church. I am pretty sure I am bordering on gluttony just to think about the desserts. There were cakes and pies and cookies and brownies and churn after churn of homemade ice cream.

Glory! What memories are conjured up by the term "dinner on the grounds."

Of course I am older and wiser now and I have learned that the message is more important than the meal on homecoming and on every other Sunday, which makes the honor of being invited to speak at homecoming even more significant. There would have been a lot less pressure if I had been merely asked to bring a pork roast or a plate of deviled eggs.

I pray that I am up to the task. As I said, Jerry Varnado is a great guy and I wouldn't want to let him down. Him nor his boss, either, come to think of it.

Darrell Huckaby is a local educator and author. Email him at dhuck08@bellsouth.net For past columns, visit www.rockdalecitizen.com or www.newtoncitizen.com.

GRAPHIC: Darrell Huckaby
LOAD-DATE: July 16, 2012
HEADLINE: Georgia Politics, Campaigns, and Elections for June 26, 2012

BODY:

Amazing Zeb is a seven-year old Chesapeake Bay Retriever (Chessie) who was originally found blind, matted, in pain from arthritis, and malnourished, but Angels Among Us Rescue has gotten him on the road to recovery. All he needs now is a home.

He gets along well with kids, cats and other dogs, and is 100% house-broken, maneuvers well though he's blind, and his arthritis is under management inexpensively.

He is available for adoption from Angels Among Us Rescue and will make someone a great pet. You can also support Angels Among Us by donating online, applying to be a foster parent, or volunteering at adoption events.

Georgia Politics, Campaigns, and Elections

Yesterday was Supreme Court day, with the United States Supreme Court handing down a decision on Arizona's immigration reform statute, and denying certiorari for the Tri-State water case involving Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. A lot of attention was paid to a decision by the Georgia Supreme Court involving payouts for diminished value of buildings after insurance payouts, and Governor Deal's appointment of a new Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

Shortly after 10 AM yesterday, the US Supreme Court released an opinion in Arizona v. United States, involving the state’s immigration reform law, to which Georgia’s HB 87 is often compared.

SCOTUSblog has a plain English analysis of the arguments in the Arizona case, which happens to have been argued by Paul Clement, who also argued for Georgia in the Obamacare case. SCOTUSblog also has a plain English analysis of the decision. Please excuse the extended excerpt:

while the Court acknowledged that Arizona had valid concerns about the effects of illegal immigration, the Court explained that the federal government’s power to regulate immigration is extensive and complex. Among other things, the Court emphasized that it is fundamental that foreign countries be able to communicate with just one government the federal government about immigration issues; equally important is the broad discretion that the federal government has when it decides whether and how to enforce immigration laws.

the Court then turned to the four provisions of S.B. 1070 at issue in this case. First up was Section 3, which makes it a crime to fail to carry valid immigration papers while in Arizona. The state had argued that this provision should survive because it essentially does the same thing as federal law, which also requires immigrants to carry valid papers.

the Court explained that Congress had already made clear that it would provide the full (and only) set of standards to govern when and how immigrants must register with the federal government — a concept known as field preemption. When Congress has provided this full set of standards, the Court continued, state efforts to govern the same thing cannot be valid, even if the state laws and regulations are identical to the federal ones.

The Court next turned to Section 5(C) of S.B. 1070, which would make it a crime to apply for or hold a job in Arizona unless you have valid immigration papers. Unlike Section 3, Section 5(C) has no counterpart in federal law. But the Court again relied on the concept of field preemption to hold Section 5(C) invalid. [The court] explained, Congress made a deliberate choice not to criminalize the very conduct that Arizona now seeks to make a crime.
The third and final provision that the Court struck down was Section 6 of S.B. 1070, which would allow police officers to arrest someone without a warrant if the police officer has probable cause to believe that the individual has done something that would justify his deportation from the United States. Because Section 6 would give state law enforcement officials a much broader power to make arrests than under the federal system, the Court concluded, it cannot stand.

Section 2(B) of S.B. 1070, which requires police officers to check the immigration status of anyone whom they arrest or detain and allows them to stop and arrest someone if they believe that he is an undocumented immigrant (was upheld for the time being). The Court relied heavily on the fact that Section 2(B) requires police officers to contact the federal government to verify an individual’s immigration status.

The Supreme Court made quite clear that the key to the provision surviving in the future will be whether it is interpreted in a way that does not prolong detentions of people who are stopped by police.

Governor Nathan Deal, who signed House Bill 87, was cautiously optimistic about the impact of the Arizona case on Georgia’s law:

We will have to wait to see how the ruling on the Arizona immigration law will affect our state’s enforcement reforms because Georgia’s law is not identical to Arizona’s. That said, it appears the court has upheld the major thrust of our state’s statute: That states have the right to assist in enforcing federal immigration law.

Attorney General Sam Olens said:

I am pleased that the Supreme Court recognizes that states have an important role to play in upholding the law. I look forward to further proceedings in the Eleventh Circuit regarding Georgia’s immigration reform law in the light of this decision.

Further analysis of the impact of the Arizona decision on Georgia’s law is likely to trickle out over the coming days, as lawyers and commentators get a handle on what the case said.

According to the Marietta Daily Journal:

State Rep. Rich Golick (R-Smyrna) said the provisions in the Arizona law that the Supreme Court struck down are not in the Georgia law he helped write last year.

Moreover, Golick said, the Arizona provision the Court upheld goes further than the Georgia law, so it seems as if the Georgia law had a good day at the Supreme Court, and it seems to validate the measured approach taken by (state Rep. Matt Ramsey, a Peachtree City Republican) and myself.

State Sen. Judson Hill (R-east Cobb) said. Today’s ruling confirms our belief that not only was Georgia’s House Bill 87 an important step in protecting taxpayers from the social and economic consequences of illegal immigration, but the statute was also drafted to withstand constitutional scrutiny. At the state level, we must continue to create laws and provisions which protect those who are here legally.

Immigration reformer D.A. King of the Dustin Inman Society called the ruling a huge loss for the anti-enforcement coalition here and in the White House and a victory for the majority of Georgians who are pro-enforcement.

King said, [w]e know that attrition of the illegal alien population through
enforcement of the law works where elected officials have the courage to move forward.

Atlanta immigration lawyer Charles Kuck suggests that HB 87 supporters are celebrating too early. Kuck suggests that Georgia’s implementation of immigration status checks will determine whether it is upheld by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

For Georgia to avoid having that law overturned based on arguments that such checks amount to racial profiling, officers would have to investigate the immigration status of every person they detain, said Kuck. He said it was a mistake for supporters of the law to interpret the high court’s ruling as a victory.

This is a massive defeat for those who believe states can regulate immigration, Kuck said. I think it’s funny that anybody could read that decision and come to any other conclusion.

I don’t think this is a total victory for our side by any stretch of the imagination, said Mary Bauer, legal director of the Montgomery-based Southern Poverty Law Center, which is challenging Alabama’s law. But I think it’s a blow to other states that would think about going down this road.

State Rep. Matt Ramsey, (R-Peachtree City), who wrote House Bill 87, disagrees with Kuck:

Ramsey doesn’t see the court’s ruling the way Kuck does.

He says that’s because three Arizona provisions, the court struck down, do not mirror any part of Georgia’s law.

He says the part that does was upheld by the justices, allows state and local law enforcement officers the ability to check immigration status of criminal suspects.

Immigration attorney Charles Kuck and state representative Matt Ramsey differ on which provisions matter the most.

But both agree the Supreme Court’s ruling lays the foundation for a possible decision on a challenge to Georgia’s immigration law.

Kuck is optimistic the law will be ruled unconstitutional.

However Representative Ramsey maintains, not only was HB 87 a good step for protecting Georgia taxpayers from bearing the costs of illegal immigration it was also drafted to withstand constitutional scrutiny.

Through his blog, State Rep. Ramsey said:

I look forward to reading the opinion in its entirety, but I am pleased that the United States Supreme Court has recognized that the states do clearly have a role in enforcing our nation’s immigration laws. By upholding an Arizona provision that is similar to a provision in Georgia’s law, which allows state and local law enforcement officers to check the immigration status of criminal suspects, the Supreme Court has confirmed that states can implement this common-sense and important public safety measure. Today’s ruling confirms our belief that not only was Georgia’s H.B. 87 an important step in protecting taxpayers from the social and economic consequences of illegal immigration, but the statute was also drafted to withstand constitutional scrutiny.

The second major decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that will affect Georgia was announced with no fanfare, but simply noted that the cases involving the water dispute between Georgia, Florida, and Alabama were denied certiorari,
meaning the Court will not hear the case and the lower court decision stands. (If you hit that link, the disposition is on page 9 of the .pdf). Florida flew a pair of jean shorts at half staff from their state capitol.

WABE reviews the process of the case:

In 2009, a federal judge ruled Congress never intended for Lake Lanier to supply drinking water for Metro Atlanta. Alabama and Florida liked that ruling because they don't want the Atlanta area sucking up water that could be going to their states.

Georgia appealed that ruling to the federal appeals court in Atlanta and won last year. In other words, Metro Atlanta can use water from Lake Lanier. In response, Alabama, Florida and others asked the U-S Supreme Court to step in. In its announcement, the nation's highest court said it will not step in.

Now that we know Metro Atlanta can drink from Lake Lanier, the next question is how much? Chattahoochee River Keeper Executive Director Sally Bethea says the Army Corps of Engineers has been working on an answer to that question.

Once they have done that, then the three states should be able to sit down and have a lot of the facts at their disposal to come up with some water sharing agreement, said Bethea.

Jeremy King, a spokesman for Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, told WABE Alabama is disappointed will continue to fight. Lane Wright, a spokesman for Florida Governor Rick Scott, told WABE Florida is also disappointed and Governor Scott is exploring all options to ensure Florida's needs are met.

In Metro Atlanta, the decision was widely hailed as a victory:

governors from the three states must reconvene negotiations over water rights and it means Georgia will be in a much stronger position when that occurs. All three states are also eagerly awaiting a decision, expected later this week, by the Corps on the allocation of water from the man-made reservoir.

Monday, however, was a time of celebration for Georgia government and business leaders.

Shortly after the high court made its announcement, Sam Williams, president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, took the stage at a Rotary Club of Atlanta meeting wearing a broad smile.

We can legally drink the water of Lake Lanier, Williams said to booming applause throughout the banquet hall.

The much-anticipated decision could have monumental ramifications for economic development across the state and growth of the metro region.

Some companies have been hesitant to move to or expand in Atlanta, given the uncertainty of water supply, Williams said.

Georgia must not only negotiate with its neighboring states, it must also satisfy a number of federal regulators, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Corps.

The 11th Circuit's ruling tasked the Corps with deciding how much water metro Atlanta can use from Lake Lanier.

The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer notes that downstream communities in Georgia may have interests closer to those our neighbors.
Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson said she hopes the competing entities can reach an agreement suitable to all involved.

Hopefully they can get together and work something out, Tomlinson said. The whole state depends on the prosperity of Atlanta, but those of us downstream also depend on the river for our prosperity.

Hopefully they can reach an agreement fair to all three and balances the interests within the state of Georgia.

During this decades-old dispute, Columbus interests have more closely aligned with Alabama and Florida rather than Georgia. The governors of neighboring Alabama and Florida were not ready to concede. While the last ruling strengthened Atlanta's hand, it did not by itself address all the issues in a dispute that dates to 1990.

Georgia has spent $18.7 million on outside counsel in the water case, not including approximately 1000 hours by state-employed lawyers.

A third case handed down by the Supremes will have a limited direct effect in Georgia, affecting only 31 Georgia prisoners who were sentenced to life without parole for crimes committed when they were 17 or younger. In Miller v. Alabama, the Court held that a life without parole sentence cannot be mandatory for minors who are convicted, and sent two Alabama cases back to state courts for individualized sentencing.

The AJC writes:

Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens office and the state Board of Pardons and Paroles said they were reviewing the decision and those 31 cases to determine what if anything to do next.

The impact in Georgia will depend on each individual case, said Olens spokeswoman Lauren Kane.

Stephen Bright, executive director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, said an assessment of Georgia's cases, even though the sentence was not mandatory, would be the prudent thing to do. Monday's ruling addressed mandatory sentencing, which isn't how those a life without the possibility of parole sentence is handed down to juveniles in Georgia.

In this state, a sentence of life without the possibility of parole has been given to juvenile convicts, in most cases, as an alternative to death.

John Oxendine's back!

Former Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine returned to the news with a headline that did not include the words ethics or violation, as a decision released by the Georgia Supreme Court nearly a month ago could mean changes in the insurance industry.

Georgia Supreme Court Appointment

Rounding out yesterday's State and National Supreme Court Day, Governor Deal appointed Judge Keith Blackwell of the Georgia Court of Appeals to fill the Georgia Supreme Court seat being vacated by Justice Carley. Announcing the appointment, Deal said

The Supreme Court will benefit from Judge Blackwell's experience on both sides of the bench, said Deal. His intelligence, many years of experience and dedicated commitment to public service will serve Georgians well in his new role on our state's highest court.
Blackwell is a graduate of Cherokee High School, and graduated from the University of Georgia as a Political Science major in 1996 and from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1999. He graduated first in his class both times at UGA.

LOAD-DATE: July 18, 2012

5 of 6 DOCUMENTS

© 2012 The Newnan Times-Herald, Inc
Distributed by Newsbank, Inc. All Rights Reserved
The Newnan Times-Herald (Georgia)

June 10, 2012 Sunday

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS
LENGTH: 899 words
HEADLINE: Young to speak at annual tribute
BYLINE: W. WINSTON SKINNER, WINSTON@NEWNAN.COM

Ambassador Andrew Young will be the speaker for the annual Atkinson-Arnall Tribute on June 23 in Newnan.

Young, now 80, was a Civil Rights activist and a protege of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Young has served in Congress, as mayor of Atlanta and as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

The Atkinson-Arnall Tribute is sponsored each year by the Coweta County Democratic Party. The event honors the two Georgia governors from Coweta County, William Yates Atkinson and Ellis Gibbs Arnall.

This year's Atkinson-Arnall gathering will be June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Something Special Events Center, 83 Greenville St. Tickets are $50 each and are available from any Coweta County Democratic Committee officer or committee member.

Ticket information can also be obtained by contacting Morris Steward at or Dee Crouch at deecrouch@deecrouchlaw.com.

A native of New Orleans, Young is a longtime resident of Atlanta. He is a founding principal and co-chairman of GoodWorks International.

He attended Dillard University and holds a bachelor of science degree from Howard University and a bachelor of divinity degree from Hartford Theological Seminary. Ordained by the United Church of Christ, Young served as a pastor in Marion, Ala., and in Thomasville and Beachton in Georgia.

Young worked for four years with the National Council of Churches and served as executive director and executive vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was chairman of the Atlanta Community Relations Commission from 1970-1972.

He was elected to three terms in Congress before resigning in 1977 to become the U.S. representative to the United Nations. He served in that post for more than two years.

Young served as mayor of Atlanta from 1982-1990. He sought nomination as
governor of Georgia in 1990.

Young was co-chairman of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. In 1994, Young was appointed by Pres. Bill Clinton as chairman of the $100 million Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund.

Last year, South Africa's president, Jacob Zuma, honored presented Young with the Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo Award.

Both Atkinson and Arnall were progressive Democrats. Atkinson's wife, particularly, had strong political instincts and help her husband - when he was in the legislature - get the votes to pass a bill created the Georgia State College for Women.

Atkinson and Arnall both were governors during the era of the "Solid South" when Democrats held virtually every elective office in Georgia and nearby states. Both had interests in education, legislature reform and economic development.

A native of Meriwether County, Atkinson grew up on his family's farm and graduated from the University of Georgia Law School in 1877. He opened a law practice in Newnan the following year.

He was soon appointed county court solicitor and then rose through the ranks of Georgia's Democratic party. Atkinson was president of the state Democratic convention in 1890 and served four terms in the legislature. His wife, Susan "Susie" Cobb Milton Atkinson, was the granddaughter of John Milton, the governor of Florida during the Civil War.

Atkinson was elected governor and re-elected two years later. While he was in office, the legislature passed an anti-trust bill, a commission was formed to select textbooks for school, and election legislation was reformed. He appointed a commission to study conditions in the state's prisons.

Atkinson also sought to establish the office of lieutenant governor and to pass anti-lynching legislation, but those goals remained for later politicians to fulfill.

The Atkinsons' youngest child, Georgia, was the only child of a Georgia governor to be born in the Governor's Mansion.

Atkinson left office in 1898. The next year he underwent an appendectomy, then a new medical procedure. He survived the operation, but died at age 44 on Aug. 8, 1899. His widow remained in Newnan where she ran an insurance agency and later served as postmaster.

Arnall was born in the house where Leslie and Carol Toole now reside on Wesley Street. His Arnall grandparents lived nearby in the home where Bob and Georgia Shapiro live today.

He grew up among cousins and friends in Newnan and was quarterback on the Newnan High School team.

Arnall attended Mercer University briefly, and matriculated at the University of the South where he majored in Greek. He then earned a law degree at the University of Georgia.

Upon completing his education, he returned to his hometown where he began practicing law, joined the Newnan Civitan Club and got involved in politics. In 1932, he won a seat in the General Assembly. When he was only 31, he became Georgia's youngest attorney general.

Arnall's years as governor from 1943-1947 were significant. He appointed a
new board of regents for the state's universities and set up a system to protect the colleges from political manipulation.

Arnall worked to upgrade and modernize the penal system and undertook a thorough reworking of the Georgia Constitution. Under this leadership, Georgia became the first state in the nation to lower the voting age to 18 and the fourth in the South to abolish the poll tax.


GRAPHIC: Special Ambassador Andrew Young will be keynote speaker for the Coweta County Democrats' Atkinson-Arnall Tribute June 23 in Newnan.

LOAD-DATE: July 16, 2012

ALBANY -- James Clinton (Jim) Hall died on May 22, 2012, at the Willson Hospice House. Visitation will be held Friday, May 25 at Kimbrell-Stern from 1:30 pm until 2:45 pm, followed by the service at 3:00 pm also at Kimbrell-Stern. The service will be conducted by The Rev. Bryan Haynes with interment in Crown Hill Cemetery following the service. Mr. Hall was born in Brunswick, Georgia on November 12, 1929. He was raised in Berrien County on a farm from the age of 5. He was a graduate of Nashville High School and held an undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law, and was a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Banking.

He received an honorable discharge from the US Air Force's Strategic Air Command, having served in North Africa during the Korean Conflict.

In 1956, he joined the Citizens and Southern National Bank in Atlanta (predecessor of Bank of America). In 1960, he was transferred to Albany to serve as Trust Officer. He was later elected Vice President/Trust Officer and at that time, was the youngest vice president and trust officer to obtain that position.

A devoted community leader, Mr. Hall served as President of the Boys' Club of Albany and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Deerfield School. He was a board member of Darton College Foundation, the Albany YMCA, a member of Friends of Phoebe, and was President of the Albany Kiwanis Club. He was a long-time member of Sherwood Baptist Church, where he served as Finance Chair and Treasurer.
An avid fisherman, golfer and hunter, he also loved his family gatherings at Jekyll Island, Georgia and St. George Island, Florida.

Mr. Hall is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Louise Edwards Hall; his daughter, Mary Kathryn Hall Hawkins; sons, William Henry Hall (Beth) and James Clinton Hall, Jr.; grandchildren, Reedi Hawkins, Jackson Hawkins, Amanda Hall, Hannah Hall, and James C. Hall III, as well as one great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Willson Hospice House, 320 Foundation Lane, Albany, Georgia 31707 or to Deerfield-Windsor School, 2500 Nottingham Way, Albany, Georgia 31707.

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
Albany 229/883-4152
Blackwell sworn in as Georgia's newest Supreme Court justice

By Bill Rankin
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

12:04 p.m. Thursday, July 19, 2012

Keith Blackwell, sworn in Thursday as the 92nd justice on the Georgia Supreme Court, thanked his family for their support and vowed to serve "with integrity, independence and collegiality."

Gov. Nathan Deal administered the oath during a ceremony in the House chambers of the state Capitol. Blackwell succeeds George Carley, who retired this week after more than 30 years on the appellate bench.

Blackwell, who grew up in Ball Ground and now lives in Smyrna, told the assembly he got his desire for public service from his father, Robert, who served more than three decades in the armed forces, and his love of country from his mother, Peggy, an American history teacher.

The 37-year-old justice also thanked his wife, Angela, and his three young daughters for their inspiration and encouragement.

Blackwell, one of seven finalists for the vacancy, was serving on the Georgia Court of Appeals when Deal picked him for his new position. Blackwell graduated first in his undergraduate and law school classes at the University of Georgia and served as an assistant district attorney in Cobb County.

He once chaired the Atlanta chapter of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group, and also chaired Lawyers for Deal.

"His being number one in his classes is no fluke," said Ron Coleman, a former law partner of Blackwell's who introduced the new justice. "He's a quick study and a master of the facts and the law."

Find this article at:
Gov. Deal swears in Ga. Supreme Court justice

The Associated Press

07-19-2012

ATLANTA (AP) Gov. Nathan Deal has sworn in the newest justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Keith Blackwell was sworn in Thursday morning in the House Chamber of the State Capitol. Deal last month appointed the 37-year-old Blackwell to fill a vacancy left by Chief Justice George Carley. Carley’s resignation as chief justice was effective Tuesday.

Blackwell had served on the Court of Appeals since he was appointed in 2010 by former Gov. Sonny Perdue. He is the 92nd justice since the court’s creation in 1845.

Blackwell previously practiced civil and criminal law. He will serve on the court until 2014, when voters will decide whether to keep him on the bench for a six-year term.
UGA Summer Enrollment Down

Written by Mickey Montevideo
Thursday, 19 July 2012 10:42

ATHENS - The University of Georgia enrolled 13,854 students this summer, a 6.5 decrease from the 2011 summer figures, 558 fewer students overall. The total number accounts for the enrollment of 8,900 undergraduate students, 3,713 graduate students and 409 students in the professional schools of law, pharmacy and veterinary medicine, for a total number on the UGA campus in Athens of 13,042.

At UGA's extended campuses, 689 students registered, down 4.7 percent or 34 fewer students overall. These campuses, their enrollment numbers and their comparison to 2011 include Buckhead at 228 students, an increase of 8.6 percent or 18 students; Gwinnett at 368 students, a decrease of 11.5 percent or 48 students; Griffin at 79 students, a decrease of 1.3 percent or 1 student; and Tifton at 14 students, down 17.6 percent or three students overall.

Of the 1,152 new students enrolled for the summer, 254 are freshmen, 103 are sophomores, 105 are juniors, 23 are seniors, 313 are graduate students, 237 are transients, 13 are enrolled in one of the professional programs, and 97 are unclassified. Seven of the new enrollees are in an academic enhancement program.

UGA's independent study program experienced an increase of 16 percent from 2011. This summer, 123 students enrolled in the program; last year, 106 or 17 fewer students participated in independent study.

"We have seen a slight decrease in summer enrollment for the last two years, which may be attributed to the economy and other factors, but at this point in time we are examining data as it becomes available to determine these reasons," says Jan Hathcote, registrar for the University of Georgia.
The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

Larry D. Thompson, an executive with PepsiCo, will deliver the keynote address at the University of Georgia Black Faculty and Staff Organization's 10th annual Founders Award Scholarship Luncheon. The program will be held Sept. 5 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Mahler Auditorium of the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

"We chose Larry Thompson as this year's speaker because of the strong support that he and his wife, Brenda, have provided the UGA community and the School of Law," said Mark Dawkins, BFSO president and associate dean for academic programs in the Terry College of Business.

Thompson was the John A. Sibley Professor of Corporate and Business Law in the UGA School of Law during the 2011-2012 academic year. Currently on leave from the law school, Thompson will return to PepsiCo, one of the largest global convenience food and beverage companies, on July 30 as its new executive vice president of government affairs, general counsel and secretary. His responsibilities include PepsiCo's worldwide legal function as well as its government affairs organization.

A former deputy attorney general for the Justice Department, Thompson supervised the overall operations of the DOJ and led its National Security Coordination Council, its Corporate Fraud Task Force and its Enron investigation.

He then became responsible for the worldwide legal function of PepsiCo, where he served until May 2011 before joining the faculty at UGA. He also was a partner in the Atlanta office of King and Spalding and served as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

"In addition to hearing Larry discuss his extensive government and corporate experience," Dawkins said, "we want the campus community to help BFSO thank the Thompsonts for the new collection of prominent African-American artwork they recently donated to the Georgia Museum of Art, as well as the endowment they are funding to support a new curatorial position, the Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Curator of the African Diaspora."

Thompson earned his bachelor's degree from Culver-Stockton College, his master's from Michigan State University and his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Proceeds from the luncheon directly benefit BFSO's scholarship program. Available for purchase until Aug. 31, tickets are $30 each or $240 for a table of eight. To buy tickets, email Dawkins at mdawkins@terry.uga.edu
Bibb's state Teacher of the Year leaves "to grow personally and profes...
McCarthy's departure from the school system was mentioned briefly at Thursday's school board meeting.

Afterward, board member Lynn Farmer said she was sorry to see him leave the system.

"He did a wonderful job with the students here," she said. "We're sorry to lose someone of his caliber."

McCarthy was named the state Teacher of the Year in May 2011 and spent the 2011-12 school year touring the state and serving as an advocate for public education.

He started teaching at Northeast High, his alma mater, after finishing up a law degree at the University of Georgia.

At the end of his time in law school, McCarthy said he realized he wanted to make a difference in young people's lives.

About the same time, current school board member Ella Carter, then Northeast's principal and McCarthy's principal during his time at Jones Elementary, encouraged him to teach at Northeast for a year. While McCarthy is no longer the state Teacher of the Year -- a title now held by Georgia Academy for the Blind English teacher Lauren Eckman -- he is still serving as Georgia's representative through the end of 2012.

Before receiving the state honor, McCarthy served as Northeast's performance learning coach and Title I coordinator along with his English teacher duties.

He said his Bibb County roots have shaped his experiences, both as a man and an educator.

He said he'll carry those experiences with him forever.

"I will always be privileged to call myself a student in Bibb County and know I taught in Bibb County," he said.
Teaming up for justice: Carley, Gregorys to offer consulting service

Alyson M. Palmer
Daily Report
07-20-2012

Two former state Supreme Court justices — and one new bride — plan to team up to tackle cases together.

Former Justice Hardy Gregory Jr., who left the court in 1989, and former Chief Justice George Carley, who retired from the court this week, say they won't be forming a formal partnership. But, along with Gregory's wife, Antoinette "Toni" Davis Gregory, they plan to work together in offering their services to other lawyers looking for some extra help.

"Hardy and I and Toni have always been friends," Carley explained, noting that he had attended the December wedding of former Justice Gregory and Gregory's former law clerk, Toni. Carley recalled talking to Justice Gregory about his post-retirement plans.

"He said, 'What are you going to do, George?'"

Carley, who never was a full-time trial judge but occasionally filled in to get a feel for the work he was reviewing on the appellate courts, said he would have liked to sit on the trial bench some more as a senior judge or work as an arbitrator or mediator. But, he explained, a surgery in October he had hoped would improve his failing eyesight instead made things worse. Before the surgery, he could read, he said. Now, he said, he essentially can't read at all. He explained that his staff loads documents onto his Kindle, which will read the documents aloud to him. "I just don't think I could do it at this point," Carley said of the prospect of mediating disputes.

He recalled Justice Gregory saying, "I think we can have a loose arrangement and be lawyers' lawyers." Carley said the group is "not going to start from the beginning and try cases" but will consult with other attorneys on their cases, handling research, briefs and the occasional motion or appellate argument.

"It sounds interesting to me," said Carley. "I can't think of any two people I'd rather be with."

Former Justice Gregory said after he left the state's highest court, he teamed up with his son-in-law, David Forehand Jr., and Gary Christy, who since has passed away, and found himself getting calls from lawyers with legal questions. "I would get involved that way, sometimes write a brief or make an argument," he recalled. Usually, he said, the lawyer already had a verdict of some kind.

"Gary would say to me, 'Hardy, you get these cases when they're in the morgue.'"

Gregory said he "had a long kind of layoff" while his first wife, who passed away in April 2010, battled with cancer. "I'm anxious to get back in and do some things like that."

"It just sort of came out of our friendship," Justice Gregory said of the new arrangement. "We're not calling ourselves partners," he explained, saying they'll be "colleagues," and he expects to continue his partnership with Forehand.

Justice Gregory said he and his wife have backgrounds in plaintiffs work but he's open to civil defense work as well. "What we're really looking for is legal issues," he said, adding he expected to focus on "the law side of trial work, as opposed to the fact side"
of trial work."

"That's what Toni's been doing, essentially," he added.

Toni Davis Gregory until recently had practiced with the firm of Boone & Stone. In 2010, running under the name Toni Davis, she lost a bid to win a seat on the state Court of Appeals in a runoff with Christopher McFadden.

She said she and her husband will have an office in Cordele, where former Justice Gregory has housed his practice, and they have found office space for Carley in Decatur, where he lives. She said the trio will call its association "Carley, Gregory & Gregory, Attorneys."

She said the two former justices are "more excited than graduating law students" and she is honored Carley has chosen to practice with her and her husband. "We just think it's going to be so much fun," she said.

Asked whether he would appear before his former Supreme Court colleagues, Carley allowed "there should be some cooling-off period." He said he doesn't plan to appear to argue a case there anytime soon — noting his eyesight problems may preclude that, anyway — but hadn't considered the propriety of filing briefs there.

"I don't really know why Hardy wants me," Carley added. "He seems to think I have a thought or two about how the law and how the courts work."
Lisa Colbert named judge-designate for Chatham County Juvenile Court

Posted: July 21, 2012 - 12:31am

By Jan Skutch

Savannah attorney Lisa Goldwire Colbert on Friday was appointed Chatham County Juvenile Court Judge effective Sept. 28 when Judge John W. Beam Jr. retires.

Chatham County Superior Court Chief Judge Michael Karpf announced the unanimous appointment of Colbert, 43, as "judge designate" by the county's six superior court judges as part of a transition when Beam steps down after more than 30 years as juvenile court judge.

She is expected to remain assistant Chatham County attorney until then.

"I was thrilled," Colbert said Friday. "I am just looking forward to the opportunity to serve in the new capacity."

The superior court judges appoint judges to juvenile court for four-year terms. Colbert will join judges Patricia Stone and LeRoy Burke III on the bench.

Colbert has an "outstanding combination of qualifications," including the right temperament, being "smart as a whip" and having a wide range of professional and community experiences, Karpf said.

"She just is really the complete package," he said.

Beam earlier notified the judges of his plans to retire at the end of September and asked that they appoint his successor ahead of time to facilitate the transition, Karpf said.

Colbert, a Savannah native and 1986 graduate of Groves High School, has been an attorney since 1994. She is a former associate with the Atlanta firm of Austin and Bird, practiced law here with attorney Charles W. Bell, was a senior staff attorney with Chapter 13 bankruptcy trustee and staff attorney with Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbot from 2001-07 before taking the county post in 2007.

In addition to her professional experience, Colbert brings community activities focused on children's issues, including board memberships on the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation, the Savannah-Chatham Audit Committee, Savannah-Chatham Court-Appointed Special Advocates and Parent & Child Development Services.

Abbot cited Colbert's "remarkable ability" to recognize legal issues, then find and apply the law to the evidence in each case.

"She is one of the most fun people I have ever met in my life," Abbot said. "She is a people's person."

Colbert managed "a very difficult job as staff attorney with a heavy caseload and raised three daughters, all of whom are beautiful and amazing," Abbot said.

"I am so proud of her because I have seen her grow as an attorney and counselor. She exemplifies the best in the profession."

LISA GOLDWIRE COLBERT FILE

Name: Lisa Goldwire Colbert
Home: Savannah
Position: Judge-designate, Chatham County Juvenile Court
Education: Groves High School, 1986; Savannah State College bachelor degree in English, 1991; University of Georgia law school, 1994.
Professional: Associate, Austin & Bird in Atlanta, 1994-95; associate, attorney Charles Bell in Savannah, 1996-99; Senior staff attorney, Office of Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee, 1999-2001; Staff attorney, Chatham County Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbot, 2001-07; assistant Chatham County attorney, 2007-present
UGA graduate students test effect of power plant on Georgia town

Laurie Fowler

Laurie Fowler, an associate dean in the Odum School of Ecology, taught the practical that sent graduate student James Bevington to Juliette on a research trip to determine the effects of Georgia Power's Plant Scherer on the residents.

The Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club sent a request to Fowler for someone to put together a plan to go down to Juliette and sample water to see if Georgia Power's Plant Scherer had any effect on the contamination of drinking water there.

James Bevington decided to use the request as his memo topic in Fowler's class and combined it with a project he had to do for a sampling class to actually go to Juliette and sample water instead of just creating the plan.

"The reason the whole thing got started is because a lot of people are sick and nobody really knows why," Bevington said. "A lot of people are pointing the finger at the plant, but until you have data to support that it's just a theory."

Two other students, Chad Andrews and Wendy Wright, are also working on the project to help with sampling, analyzing and writing the final report.

The students decided to continue the project over the summer as a special topics course taught by William.

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Daily Calendar

23 Today

Arts in the Afternoon
Mon, Jul 23, 3:30 pm EDT
East Athens Community Center, Athens

Chekhov at Cine
Mon, Jul 23, 5:30 pm EDT
Cine

Capoeira
Mon, Jul 23, 7:00 pm EDT
UGA New Dance Theatre, Athens

Sangha Yoga Classes
Mon, Jul 23, 7:15 pm EDT
Healing Arts Centre, Athens

Music: Open Mic
A wide variety of health problems were being reported in Juliette that could not be explained, from respiratory problems to rare forms of cancer.

"You really just want to give them an answer," Bevington said. "It's sad to see people who have lived there their entire life or invested their life savings in a house and they're scared to take a shower in their home.

In doing that, the students wanted to put the access they had to University labs and sample testing machines like the ICP Mass Spectrometry, which costs $150 to test an outside sample, to good use while they had the opportunity.

"I felt like we were going to use a $100,000 dollar machine we should do something useful," said Bevington. "We wanted to go ahead and utilize our access to resources as students for the community."

Since the students released their first report with the findings from the first round of sampling in the spring, the Georgia Department of Public Health also began looking into the health concerns about the water in Juliette.

The first report that we published gave the [Georgia Department of Public Health] grounds to go down there and start investigating," Bevington said. "They've had their eye on the situation, but they had to have something in writing from an outside source that said 'Hey, this ought to be looked at a little bit closer.' and I think because we were associated with the University that was just enough.

The first set of data that was taken by the students from 11 homes in the area around Plant Scherer did not show anything to prove that the metals found in water samples came from the plant, but recommended that more sampling should be conducted.

The residents in Juliette that the students have worked with have been receptive and cooperative to the testing.

"Nobody has been negative against it," Bevington said. "I think some people are a little hesitant to have their water tested, but most people are excited about it."

The research in Juliette is ongoing and results from the second set of sampling completed by the University students have not yet been reported.

Furnished room to rent with private bath in my home.

- $300
- Updated: July 20

Apartment for Rent 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths Rent: $750.00 Per

- $750
- Updated: July 18

2brdm2bth condo,baxter and milledge, walk and busline, new carpet,pergo,newly decorated

- $850
- Updated: July 20

Similar Stories
- Athens voters disillusioned
- Large heat waves cause organization to rally for change in Georgia
- UGA makes plans to build outdoor pool by Lake Herrick
- Athens crime log: July 18-22

Most Read
- How to find that perfect husband in college
- Writer of 'How to find that perfect husband in college' reveals true nature of column
- How to find that perfect husband in college
- Crossword, July 23
- UGA makes plans to build outdoor pool by Lake Herrick

Similar Stories
- Athens voters disillusioned
- Large heat waves cause organization to rally for change in Georgia
- UGA makes plans to build outdoor pool by Lake Herrick
- Athens crime log: July 18-22

Most Read
- How to find that perfect husband in college
- Writer of 'How to find that perfect husband in college' reveals true nature of column
- How to find that perfect husband in college
- Crossword, July 23
- UGA makes plans to build outdoor pool by Lake Herrick
In the early 1980s, the World Bank forecast that more than 1.2 million people in Brazil would contract the HIV virus by 2000. That catastrophe did not come to pass, due largely to an aggressive anti-AIDS campaign launched by the Brazilian government. Brazil’s strategy contained a variety of elements, including public education, aggressive promotion of contraceptive, needle-exchange programs, and, most relevant for this article, the low-cost or free provision of antiretroviral drugs to affected populations. A key element to this strategy was aggressive negotiation over the price of medication used to treat patients suffering from HIV and AIDS.

When the Brazilian government was unable to reach consensus with Merck over the price for Efavirenz, a patented-HIV treatment drug, it issued a compulsory license. The license allowed Brazil to manufacture or import a generic version of the drug. Brazil’s strategy put it at loggerheads with Merck and other private companies whose products were essential to treating the Brazilian populace. It also sparked controversy in its diplomatic relations with the United States. Merck responded by accusing Brazil of engaging in an "expropriation of intellectual property." The United States Trade Representative placed Brazil on its "priority watch list."

Through an agreement later negotiated between the parties, Merck was supposed to receive a 1.5% royalty fee as remuneration. When Brazil ordered Merck to transfer all technical documents necessary for the production process, the company provided only the corresponding patent. Farmanguinhos, a...

Sign in with your Lexis.com ID to access the full text of this article.

Click here to order the full text of this article if you do not have a Lexis.com ID.
New public defender named for Brunswick Judicial Circuit

W. Travis Sakrison, Executive Director of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council ("GPDSC"), today announced the appointment of local attorney Kevin Gough as the Public Defender for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit effective Aug. 6, 2012.

An honors graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Kevin comes to GPDSC with twenty-five years of legal experience. A former prosecutor, Kevin is a past President of the Brunswick-Glynn County Bar Association, a past Vice President of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (GACDL), a member of the Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), a member of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and a member of the National Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). He is also a member of the Criminal Law Section of the American Bar Association. Kevin also previously served on the Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit.

“I am honored, and humbled, to be chosen Circuit Public Defender,” Gough said. “In the weeks to come,” he added, “I look forward to meeting with District Attorney Jackie Johnson, Sheriff Benny Deloach, our Superior Court Judges, Clerk of Court Floyd Hunter, our county commissioners and other stakeholders in our local criminal justice system. My purpose in doing so is to ensure a smooth transition and, at the same time, address any questions or concerns that they may have about the provision of indigent defense services within the communities we serve.”

With three regional offices, and a staff of fifteen, the Brunswick Circuit Public Defender ("CPD") provides indigent defense services in Appling, Wayne, Jeff Davis, Glynn and Camden counties under the supervision of GPDSC.

GPDSC is a statewide public defender organization created to ensure that indigent criminal defendants receive adequate, effective, timely, and ethical legal representation, consistent with the guarantees of the Constitution of the U.S., Georgia, and the mandates of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003; to provide all such legal services in a cost efficient manner; and to conduct that representation in such a way that the criminal justice system operates effectively to achieve justice.
UGA Presidential Search Committee Want a President With Vision & Integrity

Group met in Athens, Ga., for its first of many meetings.
By Rebecca McCarthy Email the author July 25, 2012

A 23-member search committee will recommend who should become the next president of the University of Georgia. Chaired by Board of Regents member and UGA alum—holding both an undergraduate and a law degree—Larry Walker, the group met Tuesday in Athens at the Richard Russell Building and Special Collections Library.

And what do the members want the next president to possess?

According to a story in the Athens Banner Herald, the search committee members want integrity and vision. They want someone who can work in Georgia's 159 counties. They want someone who can embrace the shared vision of the university's many colleges and schools. They want a team builder.

Members are from from just about every group involved with UGA: students, alumni, faculty, staff, regents.

The ABH story says the group will cull from 50 to 30 candidates down to about eight and then make a final group of three to five people. The search committee is working with a consultant in the process.

President Michael Adams leaves his position in June 2013.
Name: Michelle Leigh Holbrook Homier
Age: 34
Residence: Canton
Political Experience: No previous experience
Occupation: Attorney; Assistant Solicitor at Cherokee County Solicitor General's Office
Education: Bachelor of science in history, technology, and society from Georgia Institute of Technology and law degree from University of Georgia
Family: Husband, Tony, married 12 years, son, Riley, 4; daughter, Paleigh, 2
Website: www.homier4judge.com

1. What makes you the best qualified for the position you are seeking?

State Court handles both criminal misdemeanors and civil cases. A vast majority of the caseload is criminal cases. Criminal non-jury matters are handled two to four days a week with jury trials two to three weeks out of every three months. In contrast, civil cases are handled no more than eight days over a three-month period. I have handled criminal cases daily for the last nine years - first as a public defender in Fulton County and then as an Assistant Solicitor here in Cherokee County for the last four and one-half years, handling the same cases I would preside over as a judge.

2. What do you see as the most pressing problem the Cherokee County court system is facing and how would you solve it.

The county is continually expending resources on the same underlying issues. Over half of the DUIs are from repeat DUI offenders. I will address the addiction issues on the first offense. Due to the economy, some people simply and truly need non-monetary options to resolve a traffic ticket. Allowing community service, when honestly needed, at the first court appearance eliminates the need for multiple costly appearances. Lastly, the county needs a Mental Health Accountability Court to address the issues of those with a mental or emotional diagnosis - depression, anxiety, bi-polar, etc., - that keep them repeatedly involved in the system.

3. What do you think of the current court operations and structure and how would you improve them?

They generally work well, but some minor changes will result in vast improvements. Attorneys e-mailing judges notices instead of faxing saves paper and thus money. Our current DUI Court program is very valuable, and the idea of addiction treatment should be extended to first DUIs. Scheduling more cases on one court day or at the same time instead of different days and times would be more efficient. The development of a Mental Health Court would change the
structure of the court, but it would have a large positive impact overall for the community and result in fewer repeat offenses.

4. How would you help improve the use of the budget of the court system?

Allowing e-mailed communication instead of faxed communication will eliminate costs. Scheduling more court cases on the same day will reduce the resources utilized for multiple court dates. Scheduling jail cases all for the same time will save transportation costs. Utilizing persons with court community service requirements to perform services in the court system will reduce the costs otherwise incurred. Lastly, I will continually look at the budget and am willing to think outside the box in order to reduce costs and efficiently use resources.

5. What improvements to the court system to better serve victims and their families would you like to see made.

Currently, domestic violence victims are given notice at time of arrest of the offender's first court appearance in State Court. This gives the victim an opportunity to be heard and a chance to stay informed throughout the entire process. Victims of other crimes - such as traffic collisions - should be given the same information from the beginning so that they can also be intricately involved in the process and aware of their rights.

6. What changes should be made to the Cherokee County court system to better serve the public?

Addressing the underlying issues in cases from the onset will serve the public by eliminating costs associated with multiple repeat court appearances. This will also reduce the overall occurrences of these offenses. Lastly, I will continually strive to better serve the public by making my e-mail address available so that I may directly address any concerns.

Name: Jeff Rusbridge
Age: 38
Residence: Canton
Political Experience: First time running for office
Occupation: Attorney, Dyer & Rusbridge, P.C.
Education: bachelor's degree, Furman University, double major in political science and urban studies
Law degree University of Georgia School of Law
Family: Wife, Ashley; sons, Luke and Will
Website: www.voterusbridge.com

1. What makes you the best qualified for the position you are seeking?

I have experience handling every type of case heard in the State Court, both civil and criminal. I have spent the last 13 years representing local individuals and small businesses in courts across metro Atlanta. I am currently serving as the prosecutor for the cities of Holly Springs and Nelson. I have run a private business for the last eight years.

2. What do you see as the most pressing problem the Cherokee County court system is facing and how would you solve it.

A growing number of young people are having contact with the criminal courts.
We need to make sure that court results in consequences they take seriously, and work to make sure that their first contact with our court is also their last.

3. What do you think of the current court operations and structure and how would you improve them?

I believe the court runs well overall. I am a strong proponent of electronic filing systems such as are in use in the federal court system, especially given the savings that can result from lower document reproduction and storage costs. Although the implementation of such a system should be uniform statewide, we should work in our local courts to replicate these savings as much as possible, and I am willing to work and cooperate with other court officials to achieve these goals.

4. How would you help improve the use of the budget of the court system?

As a business owner, I work regularly to cut costs and improve efficiency. I will continue to use this experience in the State Court to insure that taxpayer monies are being spent wisely.

5. What improvements to the court system to better serve victims and their families would you like to see made.

Victims and their families need to know that their voices can be heard in the court system, and that their input is important. Too often, such parties feel that they have been forgotten or that their opinions don't matter. We need to provide a consistent forum for their voices to be heard.

6. What changes should be made to the Cherokee County court system to better serve the public?

I plan to make sure that court runs efficiently. As someone who has represented people and businesses, I understand that time is money, and intend to insure that unnecessary time is not spent in court or waiting on the judge to make a decision.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2012
Name, age: Josh Belinfante, 35

Occupation: attorney

Education: University of Pennsylvania, history, 1999, University of Georgia law school, 2003

Political experience: no elected office but served on Sandy Springs charter and ethics commissions, as legal counsel to state House of Representatives judiciary committee and executive counsel to the governor's office

Family: wife Karina, children Cole, 5, and Ian, 2

Why are you the best choice? "I know the issues facing all corners of the district and based on my public service with both [former] Gov. Sonny Perdue and [District 49 state] Rep. Wendell Willard [R-Sandy Springs], on day one I can start providing strong, effective leadership that will keep Georgia competitive and keep jobs coming to the 6th District."

Top three issues: jobs, government reform, health care

Net campaign funds: $119,729 through June 30 (according to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission)

Website: www.joshforsenate.com

Name, age: Drew Ellenburg, 37

Occupation: furniture manufacturer

Education: Liberty University, sports management, 1998

Political experience: no elected office or campaigns

Family: wife Mary Elizabeth, children Jack, 4, and Anne, 2

Why are you the best choice? "I'm not a politician. I am a businessman who has skin in the game. Every day, I have to make tough decisions. When there's a problem, I have to find a solution. I've met a payroll, signed the front of a paycheck, created jobs and balanced budgets. That's exactly the kind of experience we need in the state Senate and every level of government, for that matter, in order to turn this economy around."

Top three issues: economic growth, government reform, education

Net campaign funds: $129,916 through June 30 (according to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission)

Website: www.drewellenburg.com

Name, age: Hunter Hill, 35

Occupation: Director of security for SecurAmerica

Education: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, management and civil engineering, 2000

Political experience: no elected office but ran in 2008 against Stoner, winning nearly 40 percent of the vote

Family: wife, Shannan, children Hunter Jr., 1, and Annie, 7 months

Why are you the best choice? "Voters tell me they want a leader who can
forge consensus. They want solutions, not rancor. I've successfully led diverse people toward many common goals and that is what a successful legislator does."

Top three issues: government reform, the economy and growing jobs

Net campaign funds: $200,475 through June 30 (according to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission)

Website: www.votehunterhill.com

GRAPHIC: Drew Ellenburg

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2012

State Senate District 6

On July 31, Republican voters in parts of Smyrna and Vinings will choose from among three candidates - Josh Belinfante, Drew Ellenburg and Hunter Hill - aiming to unseat Democrat Doug Stoner in the newly redrawn state Senate District 6, which also extends into Fulton County.

The Journal asked all four candidates: Are you in favor of or opposed to casino gambling in Georgia? Do you support a $100-per-instance cap on gifts, meals, etc. provided by lobbyists? How will you vote on the charter-schools referendum in November? Should the HOPE scholarship have to be changed again, do you think it should be based on means or merit? Do you favor restoring the state's 4 percent sales tax on groceries? Will you vote for more cuts in school funding? Do you favor more toll roads across Georgia to address transportation needs? Do you favor an increase in the state's gasoline tax? Will you vote for any state money to go to MARTA? Do you favor a change in state law that would allow SPLOST money to finance the arts? What is the biggest problem you want to solve, if elected, and how would you do it?

Josh Belinfante

Party: Republican

Age: 35

Residence: Sandy Springs

Occupation: Attorney

Political experience: Fmr. Chief Counsel to Gov. Perdue; Fmr. Vice-Chairman of the State Ethics Commission; Fmr. Legal Counsel to Judiciary Committee of Georgia House of Representatives
Education: Pace Academy; University of Pennsylvania, '95; University of Georgia School of Law, '03

Family: Wife, Karina Belinfante, M.D. Internist practicing in Smyrna, Sons Cole, 6, and Ian, 3,

Casino gambling: Opposed. We need to and can find other ways to increase revenue for the HOPE Scholarship, like the HOPE Chest Amendment, which would ensure that HOPE Scholarship funding goes only to tuition and fees for Pre-K and higher education in Georgia.

Lobbyist cap: Yes. As the former Vice Chairman of the Ethics Commission, I recognize we must enhance voter confidence in elected officials. I support the legislation, and I remain the only candidate pledging not to accept any gift over $100 from lobbyists, with or without the passage of a gift cap law.

Charter schools: Yes. As a former high school teacher and parent of two young boys, I feel strongly that parents deserve choices in their children's education. I also believe that educators should be freed from burdensome state regulations. Charter schools expand options for parents and students, while providing greater flexibility for educators.

HOPE scholarship: Merit. HOPE is one of our state's best programs, and it has improved the lives of our students and quality of our colleges and universities. The HOPE Scholarship currently provides incentives for Georgia's brightest to stay here, regardless of their parents' income. Bright students necessarily improve our higher education system.

Grocery tax: On a standalone basis, I am not in favor of raising the sales tax on groceries. If it were to be considered in exchange for significantly lowering our state income tax, I would consider it more.

School funding: I do not favor cuts in school funding. Instead, I support lowering school operating costs by freeing educators and schools from burdensome state mandates and regulations. As a former high school educator, I know that children learn best when educators can focus on teaching not red tape.

Toll roads: Yes, but for new roads and through public-private partnerships. Tolls are a type of user fee for new road construction that can get traffic around the metro Atlanta area without going through it. Public-private partnerships allow the innovations of the private sector to help address our traffic issues.

Gas tax: No. Georgians pay a 7.5 cent and a 4% sales tax on the sale of every gallon of gasoline purchased. Uncertain fuel prices and a continuing recession make raising the gasoline tax unwise, particularly when we consider alternatives, such as tolls for the construction of new roads through public-private partnerships.

MARTA: No. MARTA is a regional transit system at best. Because state transportation dollars come from the gasoline tax, they should be used to fund road improvements across Georgia. The State can help facilitate better coordination between regional transit organizations, but it should not fund it with state tax dollars.

Arts SPLOST: Not currently. Until all SPLOST votes are all held on the same day as a general or primary election, I do not support expanding the types of projects they can cover.

Biggest problem: First: solve the State budget crisis without raising taxes. Our budget is already down $400 million (2% overall), so we need a proven conservative. I am both, having helped cut the state budget by 15% under
Governor Perdue. Second: unleash private sector ingenuity by sunsetting state regulations every six years.

Drew Ellenburg

Party: Republican

Age: 37

Residence: Buckhead

Occupation: Owner of a Wholesale Furniture Firm

Political Experience: I am not a political insider. I'm a successful businessman that started a business from scratch in the 6th District. I know what it is like to meet a payroll in a tough economy, create jobs and lead a company to success.

Education: Liberty University Graduate

Family: Drew is married to his Marietta High School sweetheart, the former Mary Elizabeth Wilson. They have 2 children; Jack is 5 and attends Heritage Preparatory School; Anne Collins is 2. They live in Buckhead and are longtime members of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta where Drew is a Deacon.

Casino gambling: Opposed. I have not seen sufficient evidence that would support casino gambling in Georgia. The question on the ballot will link casino gambling to education funding but I believe there are better ways to fund education without compromising the values of the people in this district.

Lobbyist cap: Absolutely. I would support a $100 and even a zero dollar cap on gifts and meals. I'm a successful businessman. I don't need anyone buying my lunch or giving me gifts. It's that simple.

Charter schools: As a taxpayer, I support charter schools as a way to insure accountability and provide school choice. As a parent, I believe parents make better decisions about their children's education than does the government. As a businessman, I know competition brings out the best and charter schools offer competition.

HOPE scholarship: The HOPE scholarship should be based on merit in order to reward our brightest students with an in-state education. Basing the HOPE on means rather than merit could send a large portion of our most talented students to other states to enter their workforce after college.

Grocery tax: Our families are already making tough decisions around their kitchen table during this recession; therefore, I would not favor adding to their burdens. My goal in office is not to increase or create new taxes but to lower the tax burden on Georgia families.

School funding: Our education system is in trouble because we have become top heavy. Overhead and administration costs can be controlled more efficiently. Instead of more cuts, we need to examine expenditures. We cannot continue to balance the budget at the expense of our students and on the backs of our teachers.

Toll roads: Based on the history of the Georgia 400 toll I would say "No." All over this district voters have expressed much public distrust aimed at the handling of the Georgia 400 toll. ... Now is the time to rebuild voter trust.

Gas tax: Gas prices are still very high based on historical data. These high prices have not only had a literal impact on our pocketbooks but a mental impact on our spending habits. Keeping gas taxes low is important in the rebuilding of
our economy. I would not favor an increase.

MARTA: Fulton and Dekalb residents have been paying an additional 1% sales tax to subsidize MARTA losses since 1971 - all while commuter ridership on MARTA is low. We need to restructure MARTA in order to make it profitable rather than imposing the tax on the entire state.

Arts SPLOST: As a businessman, I look at the risk and reward of every line item in my budget. We are in a recession - it is time to shore up our resources. As important as the arts are to a community, SPLOST money is not the answer.

Biggest problem: Our economy. It affects tax revenue, school systems, property values and our growth. I would increase Georgia's competitiveness with surrounding states by leveling the personal income tax percentage. I would entice new businesses with tax incentives and reward businesses already here with an incentive based tax scale to encourage growth.

Hunter Hill

Party: Republican

Age: 35

Residence: Smyrna / Vinings

Occupation: Commercial Security

Political experience: Won 75% of the Vote in the Republican Primary in 2008

Education: Westminster; West Point

Family: Wife, Shannan; two children, Hunter and Annie

Casino gambling: There are still a lot of questions to be answered before I could support casino gambling in Georgia. I see how casinos could bring an economic benefit to our state. But there are concerns about limitations on accessibility and specifics about how the revenue to Georgia would be spent. The HOPE scholarship provides a road map to follow, but with HOPE having challenges as it stands, there are still questions. There is also the clear downside of gambling addiction and other moral challenges that come with casino gambling; however, as a limited-government, conservative, it is difficult to tout liberty and personal responsibility on one issue and stifle them on another issue.

Lobbyist cap: Yes, I do support limiting gifts, meals and other lobbyists expenditures. I understand that voters are genuinely concerned about ethics reform. We need to focus on transparency, accountability and enforcement. For that reason, I believe that we can't address this issue with a piecemeal approach. The gift ban, on its own, only looks at one side of the equation and doesn't truly address ethics reform. My proposal calls for checks and balances, where elected officials would also be responsible for reporting the amount, giver, and purpose of gifts spent on their behalf. Real ethics reform is best achieved through accountability and transparency. Currently, our legislators are not required to report the receipt of any gifts. There are no limits to the amount they receive, and only lobbyists are required to report the gift. My proposal is in-line with what legislators already have to do with monetary and "in-kind" contributions to their campaigns. Adding this simple reporting mechanism would greatly boost transparency and accountability to the political process. Lastly, we would need to ensure that the Ethics Commission is fully funded, so that they can enforce the laws we have on the books.

Charter schools: I will vote yes! This Amendment to the GA Constitution is a way to allow local control at the school level. Charter schools also allow parents to have more control over their children's education. I believe that
parents can make better decisions regarding their children, than anyone else. What could be more local than a group of concerned families and communities coming together to petition for a charter to run a school that better serves their children? I will vote yes, and I would urge voters to consider voting yes on the referendum as well. Choices drive competition and therefore innovation and excellence. Let's give our parents and children a choice!

HOPE scholarship: If the HOPE scholarship needs to be changed again, then it should be based on merit. To base it on means alone would change it from a scholarship to a welfare program. If we want to encourage excellence in Georgia, then we need to reward excellence. The HOPE Scholarship currently does that, and if we cannot afford it at its current award level of a 3.0 grade point average, then we should raise the bar to 3.2 or as high as 3.5.

Grocery tax: No. I want to lower Georgian's tax burden. I will support tax reform that broadens the tax base and lowers marginal tax rates. We need to cap tax reassessments on real property, and we should implement a phased reduction in property tax. Furthermore, we need to repeal the state income tax as it is a tax not on the wealthy, but on producing wealth.

School funding: I am against cutting spending in our classrooms. I would also be opposed to cutting spending to any facet of education in Georgia, but the answer to the question depends on the situation of both the state budget requirements, the reason for the need or request to cut spending, and the area within the school that would be affected by the cuts. I am a proponent of ensuring that as much of our education funding going directly to the classroom.

Toll roads: I am for public-private partnerships in Georgia, and tolls are a great way to create interest and investment from the private sector. Tolls are a market driven solution that can I support, rather than raising taxes to fund a road that a taxpayer may never use. The actual users of the road pay for toll roads.

Gas tax: No. The best way to fund transportation improvements is through user fees (tolls) or paid for by a consumption tax, where the money does not go to the government, but directly toward a group of projects that have been agreed upon in advance. This ensures that politicians cannot pick winners and losers.

MARTA: No. MARTA's business performance has not earned additional outside investment. If it was flourishing with ridership and able to generate enough revenue to fund its operations and maintenance, I would consider voting to support it. However, neither scenario is the case, so I would not vote for funding.

Arts SPLOST: SPLOSTs are an interesting funding options and one decided by voters. On the surface I would say no to this question, but allowing for a SPLOST just means that a law can be created to give voters the chance to vote on a tax increase on themselves. If there was enough interest from the constituents of the 6th district to try a SPLOST for this, then I would support putting the process in place. However, as a citizen, I would vote no for increasing my own taxes.

Biggest problem: I want to make Georgia the best place in the country to start and grow a business. I plan to solve this problem by eliminating the income tax in Georgia. Capital goes to areas where it is welcome, cultivated, and can grow. In the same way that an individual drives a few miles out of his/her way to save a few pennies per gallon on gas, is the way that people move their money to areas where it can grow. Let's make Georgia that place, and let's move forward with this in the next session.

Doug Stoner
Party: Democrat
Age: 46
Residence: Smyrna
Occupation: Director of Business Development

Political experience: Smyrna Downtown Development Authority: 1991-Present; Cobb County Transit Board Member: 1995-2002; Chairman, Cobb County Transit Board: 1999-2002; Georgia House of Representatives, District 34 Post 1: 2002-2004; Georgia State Senate, District 6: 2004-Present

Education: Graduated Campbell High School; B.S. in Political Science from Kennesaw State University

Family: Wife, Della; Daughters, Honor and Gray

Casino gambling: Favor.

Lobbyist cap: Yes.

Charter schools: No

HOPE scholarship: I agree with the scholarship Gov. Zell Miller initially introduced that used both means and merit to maximize the number of Georgia children that are able to attend college and technical college.

Grocery tax: No

School funding: No

Toll roads: I support tolls used to pay for new lanes, but I strongly oppose taking existing lanes and adding tolls.

Gas tax: I believe we need to look for a new, equitable, and sustainable funding source, because, due to increases in fuel efficiency, gasoline taxes cannot raise sufficient revenue to maintain our infrastructure.

MARTA: I will continue to advocate for and support state funding for urban, suburban, and rural transit throughout the state as part of an overall transportation system.

Arts SPLOST: Yes. I, along with Fmr. Sen. Walls, sponsored and passed out of the Senate a bipartisan bill to give voters the option to institute a fractional penny SPLOST for the arts.

Biggest problem: Our biggest challenge is to create an educated workforce and a strong transportation infrastructure to create a pro-growth environment in which Georgia businesses and Georgia citizens thrive.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2012
Cobb voters will choose among three candidates, Roland Castellanos, Van Pearlberg and Greg Poole, to fill a seat on the Cobb Superior Court bench. Judge Dorothy Robinson is retiring when her term expires at the end of this year.

The Journal asked each of the candidates in the nonpartisan race why voters should elect them as judge of the Cobb Superior Court, and whether there is a particular philosophy they would follow in making decisions.

Roland Castellanos
Age: 58
Residence: Parkside Court, Marietta, 30064
Occupation: Judge, State Court of Cobb County
Education: Cobb County public schools from first grade through high school; Bachelor of Arts Degree from Georgia State University (1975); Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia (1978)
Family: Parents are deceased. I have one son who is 18 and has graduated from Mt. Paran Christian School. He has been accepted to Berry College in the fall. I have a sister who lives in Tucker, Ga., cousins who live in Duluth and Alpharetta and family which resides outside of the State of Georgia.
Elect because: I'm experienced as a judge and as a lawyer. I graduated from the University of Georgia Law School and practiced law in Cobb for 21 years before becoming your State Court Judge. Since then I have been elected three times. I also understand Cobb County as a community having lived here since 1961 and attended the Cobb school system from the first through the 12th grade.
Philosophy: My judicial philosophy is that of a traditionalist and a conservative. I believe in the Constitution and the limited role of the Courts to protect citizen's rights, their property, safety and freedom. I do not believe that the Courts should make the law. I believe our law enforcement officers deserve support and respect, justice should be swift and certain, and victims have rights, too!

Van Pearlberg
Age: 61
Residence: Church Street, Marietta, 30060
Occupation: Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Family: wife, Patti; three children, Erica, Richard and Scott; two grandchildren, Ezra and Joey; and a St. Bernard named Sebastian.
Elect because: I have practiced law for 36 years; 24 years as a conservative prosecutor. As Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney, I was awarded the Assistant District Attorney of the Year award in 2009. I was elected two times
to the Marietta City Council and served from 2006-2012. I have been endorsed by
law enforcement, Attorney General Sam Olens and District Attorney Pat Head.

Philosophy: My judicial philosophy is conservative. The Judge's role is to
uphold the law. I believe in strict construction and interpretation of laws and
leave legislation to the legislature.

Greg Poole
Age: 52
Residence: Marietta
Occupation: Judge, Cobb County Juvenile Court

Education: Marietta Hight School, 1978; Presbyterian College, B.A., 1982;
Cumberland School of Law of Samford Univ., J.D. 1985.

Family: Married to Lucia Poole, teacher at Harrison High School. Five
children: Alan (25), Robert (21); Zachary (17); Mary Brittain (14); and Jacob
(12).

Elect because: For over 9 years I have been a Juvenile Court judge, presiding
over serious cases involving families and children. I also serve one week every
month in as an Assisting Superior Court judge, hearing all types of cases in
that court. My experience and background make me the most qualified candidate.

Philosophy: A judge should work to move cases expeditiously while preserving
the rights of all parties, including victims; be fair and impartial in applying
the law to the facts; and never legislate from the bench.
Residence: Powder Springs

Occupation: None

Political experience: Former candidate for Superior court Judge.

Education: bachelor's degree, Wellesley College; J.D. Degree, Duquesne University School of Law;

Judge Advocate General (JAG) School, United States Army.

Family: One son, graduated Hampshire College

Why running: I have 23 years experience of using the services of the Clerk's office, e.g. filing pleadings, retrieving documents, accessing court dockets and files, as well as working with clerks in the courtroom. Therefore, I am extremely familiar with the workings of the Clerk's office.

I am the only candidate who has had experience leading an agency. I was General Counsel to the State of Maine Workers Compensation Commission, where I was head of and managed the employees in the Appellate division. I was awarded the Achievement Medal by the U.S. Army for my work with the JAG office and with soldiers, preparing their legal documents before being deployed overseas.

Third, I would seek continuity, by appointing a Deputy Clerk from the ranks of those people who are already working in the Clerk's office.

Changes: I would continue to upgrade the Clerk's office in the same vein as the previous Clerk, who had the files digitized, so they can be accessed via the computer.

I would work to convert the in person filing of legal documents to e-filing, so that legal documents could be filed over the internet, saving the public time and money, and freeing up personnel to work with the dockets and scheduling.

I would also look into allowing legal counsel to answer calendar calls and give their time announcements via the internet, cutting down on lengthy time spent in courtroom answering calendars.

Rebecca Keaton

Age: 46

Residence: Kennesaw

Occupation: lawyer

Political experience: None

Education: Business Degree from Birmingham-Southern College; Law Degree from John Marshall Law School

Family: Husband, Darrin; Children Michael (15), Isabella (11), Elijah "Eli" (4)

Why running: ....because I want to serve the people of Cobb County by utilizing my talents and skills to provide great customer service; to create a healthy working environment by treating the staff with respect and dignity; and utilize and implement current technology to ensure a lean, efficient and productive government office.

Changes: I will implement one computer operating system and an "e-filing" system; implement current technology such as "instant messaging" and "e-mailing"
to create efficient communication among court Clerks and courthouse staff; provide User Friendly access to all courthouse documents; Implement the administration of Passports to provide a substantial source of continual Revenue.

John H. Skelton

Age: 41

Residence: Powder Springs

Occupation: Attorney

Political experience: None

Education: Walton High School ('89), bachelor's degree in Classics from Rice University cum laude ('93), JD from UGA School of Law ('96)

Family: Wife, Dr. Brooke Skelton; Sons Alex (11) and Eric (8)

Why running: As Clerk, I will have a great opportunity to serve the citizens of Cobb County by continuing the standards of excellence that retiring Clerk Jay Stephenson has provided over the last 28 years. Jay asked me to run, and after careful consideration and prayer, I decided to do so.

Changes: I would implement a system that allows for redaction of electronic records that would keep sensitive information available only to the Court. Additionally, I would evaluate the possibility of joining in a potential lawsuit against Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for years of unpaid Real Estate Transfer Taxes.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2012

THOMASVILLE -- Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Deason of Tifton and Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Branch of Thomasville announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Blair Branch of Atlanta, to Matthew Wayne Huckeba of Atlanta. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Huckeba.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. O.N. Branch, the late Mr. O.N. Branch, the late Mr. and Mrs. Ben Frampton and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Harvin, Mr. Loran Riggins and the late Mrs. Nell Riggins.

She is a 2003 graduate of Tift County High School and received a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Georgia State University.
She is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

Huckeba is the grandson of the late Mr. D.W. Huckeba and Mrs. Melba Huckeba and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hetherington.

He is a 2000 graduate of Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, Ill., and a 2004 graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor of arts degrees in political science and speech. In 2007, he received his juris doctorate from the University of Georgia Law School. He is principal at Intelligent Audit.

The wedding is at 6 p.m., Sept. 15, 2012, at Summerour Studio in Atlanta.
The wedding will take place at First Baptist Church of Saint Simons Island on Saturday, Aug. 4. A reception will follow at the Saint Simons Island Casino.

Following the nuptials, the couple will reside in Tifton.

GRAPHIC: SPECIAL PHOTO Tamara Leigh Maddox and Jerry Mack Branch Jr. will be married Aug. 4 at First Baptist Church on St. Simons Island.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2012

SECTION: OBITUARIES

LENGTH: 439 words

HEADLINE: Sidney Olsin Smith Jr.

BODY:

Judge Sidney Olsin Smith Jr., 88, of Gainesville, died Saturday, July 14, 2012.

A lifelong resident of Gainesville, he was born on Dec. 30, 1923, to the late Sidney O. Smith and Isabelle Charters Smith.

He was educated in Gainesville city schools, the Middlesex School, Concord Mass., Harvard University and the University of Georgia Law School, where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa.

He served 39 months during World War II in the U.S. Army, where he was discharged as a captain.

Following admission to the bar, Judge Smith began private practice in Gainesville in 1962. He was elected sole Superior Court judge for Dawson, Hall, Lumpkin and White counties. In 1965 he was named United States District judge for the Northern District of Georgia where he served until 1974 when he resigned to accept a senior position in the Atlanta firm of Alston & Bird, where he remained as a partner and counsel until the end of his career. He was honored by both the Georgia and Atlanta bars for his service to the courts and the profession. He was a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Long interested in education, Judge Smith served as chairman of the Gainesville Board of Education, as a member and chairman of the State Board of Regents and as a trustee of Brenau University for more than 35 years.

The Graduate School at Brenau is named for him.

At the time of his death, he was the longest serving member of Grace Episcopal Church where he had been treasurer, vestryman and senior warden and was a member of the Gainesville Rotary Club.

Judge Smith, is preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Patricia Horkan; and three sisters, Charters Smith Embry, Caroline Wallace and June Smith Woodruff.
He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and three children Charters Smith Wilson (Hugh) of Charlottesville, Va., Ellen Smith Andersen (Robb) of Dalton and Sidney O. Smith III of Gainesville; stepson, Steve Sorrolls of Gainesville; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Judge Smith, was an enthusiastic spectator and sportsman having played varsity football at Harvard. He was always thankful for his life his wife, his family and friends.

Memorials may be made to Brenau University, 500 Washington St., Gainesville, GA 30501 or Grace Episcopal Church 422 Brenau Ave. NE, Gainesville, GA 30501.

Memorial services will be Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. The family will receive friends after the service at the fellowship hall.

Memorial Park North Riverside Chapel, 989 Riverside Drive, Gainesville; (770) 297-6200 is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.memorialparkfuneralhomes.com.

Jerry Varnado is a great American. He was born in Jacksonville but moved to Valdosta before being irrevocably damaged by living in the midst of so many Florida Gators. Jerry played football at the University of Georgia -- hallowed be thy name -- and was a member of a Bulldog team that was SEC Champions and won a Cotton Bowl victory over Donnie Anderson and the Texas Tech Red Raiders, officially making him one of my childhood heroes.

Jerry graduated from UGA and UGA law school, and then became a practicing attorney. Later, after a life-altering experience, he felt the call of God and decided to answer that call and become a minister. Jerry Varnado -- football star, scholar and lawyer -- finally made a preacher. He graduated from the Candler School of Theology in 1985 and has been serving the Lord ever since.

I met Jerry and his beautiful wife Beverly three years ago, during a session of freshman orientation at UGA. Our paths have crossed on a few occasions since and I have enjoyed getting to know Jerry and Beverly and have come to realize that we all have a lot in common. Beverly, in fact, is a writer, too.

Now I told you that to tell you this. Jerry Varnado has bestowed upon me a high honor. He has invited me to deliver this Sunday morning's message at his church, Rays United Methodist, in Bishop. It is always an honor to be asked to speak to any group of people -- but to be offered the pulpit on a Sunday morning is high cotton, indeed. And to top it all off, this Sunday is homecoming at Rays.
and that means that after the service they will be having dinner on the grounds.

Now that really struck a chord with me.

I was raised in the Methodist church in Porterdale. We always had homecoming in the fall -- on the first Sunday in October. I am pretty sure they still do. We, too, had a guest speaker on homecoming Sunday -- sometimes a former minister and sometimes a member of the laity, but the highlight of the day--as I am certain will be the case at Rays UMC -- was the dinner on the grounds that followed the preaching.

You talk about some precious memories!

The words "dinner on the grounds" create an image of a slower lifestyle and a simpler time. There was no Wendy's or McDonald's or Captain D's back then and as far as I knew the closest Chinese restaurant was in Peking. We ate at home, seven days a week, and there was no running out to eat after church on Sunday. We ate well every day but on those special days when dinner was served at the church -- those days when all the women of the community cooked their very best dishes and spread them out on long tables covered with red and white checked tablecloths -- well, those days were just a little slice of heaven right here on earth.

The women would leave church early to get the tables ready and the smells that came through the open windows of our little brick church would tempt a bishop to pronounce the benediction early. Our visiting preachers might have been tempted to cut the message short but they never did. Homecoming attracted unusually large crowds and every preacher we ever had seemed to have more to say the more people there were in the house to hear him say it.

The wait was almost intolerable, but the meal was always worth the wait. So much good food! We had casseroles made from scratch, fried chicken and roast beef and ham, pickles and relishes of every description and every fresh vegetable known to man. There were always large tubs of sweet tea and fresh-squeezed lemonade to wash everything down with and a big kettle of Brunswick stew, cooked all night over an open fire by Homer Hill and the other men of the church. I am pretty sure I am bordering on gluttony just to think about the desserts. There were cakes and pies and cookies and brownies and churn after churn of homemade ice cream.

Glory! What memories are conjured up by the term "dinner on the grounds."

Of course I am older and wiser now and I have learned that the message is more important than the meal on homecoming and on every other Sunday, which makes the honor of being invited to speak at homecoming even more significant. There would have been a lot less pressure if I had been merely asked to bring a pork roast or a plate of deviled eggs.

I pray that I am up to the task. As I said, Jerry Varnado is a great guy and I wouldn't want to let him down. Him nor his boss, either, come to think of it.

Darrell Huckaby is a local educator and author. Email him at dhuck08@bellsouth.net For past columns, visit www.rockdalecitizen.com or www.newtoncitizen.com.

GRAPHIC: Darrell Huckaby

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2012

******* Print Completed *******

Time of Request: Monday, August 27, 2012 06:42:37 EST
Gov. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., issued the following news release:

Gov. Nathan Deal today announced the appointments of the Hon. William "Billy" Ray II and Elizabeth L. Branch to the Georgia Court of Appeals. Ray's takes effect July 30, filling the vacancy left by Judge Keith Blackwell's appointment to the Supreme Court of Georgia. Branch's appointment takes effect Sept. 1. She replaces Judge Charles Mikell, who is retiring on Aug. 31.

William "Billy" Ray

Ray brings with him more than 20 years of litigation and appellate experience. Ray began his law career in 1990 as a trial attorney at Andersen, Davidson & Tate, PC., where he became partner in 1995; he primarily focused on the areas of business, construction, real estate and family law. Since 2002, he has served as presiding judge in Division 1 of the Gwinnett Superior Court. Ray is also the founder and presiding judge of the Gwinnett County Drug Treatment Court, on which he has served since 2005. Ray also served as a state senator from January 1997 until January 2002.

Among other honors and recognitions, Ray received the Friend of Suwanee Award in 2002, the Legislative Service Award of the Georgia Municipal Association in 2001 and the Legislative Service Award of the Georgia Conservation Voters in 2001. Ray is a member of the Council of Superior Court Judges, State Bar of Georgia and Gwinnett County Bar Association.

Ray graduated magna cum laude in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Insurance from the University of Georgia's Terry School of Business. He then went on to get his master's of Business Administration in Finance at the University of Georgia in 1986 and graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia's School of Law in 1990. Ray lives in Lawrenceville with his wife of 22 years, Kelle Chandler Ray, and their three sons, Chandler, Davis and Avery.

Elizabeth "Lisa" Branch

Branch currently serves as a partner at Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP in Atlanta, dealing with commercial litigation and government affairs. Previously, she served in Washington, D.C., as associate general counsel for Rules and Legislation for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as counselor to the administrator in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. She served as a judicial clerk for the Hon. J. Owen Forrester, of the United States District Court of Northern Georgia, in her early career.

Branch is presently eligible to practice in all superior and state courts of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, the U.S. District Courts of North Georgia and Middle Georgia, the U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a member of a variety of
professional societies and serves in leadership positions, including her role as vice chair of the American Bar Association's Homeland Security Coordinating Committee, a member of the Executive Board for the Federalist Society Atlanta Chapter and co-chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

A native and current resident of Atlanta, Branch graduated cum laude from Davidson College. She then attended Emory University School of Law, where she served as the Emory Law Journal editor and graduated with distinction in 1994.
NAACP wants 'stand your ground' provisions applied in Cobb murder case

By Janel Davis
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

5:21 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Members of the state and local NAACP were in Marietta Wednesday, rallying support for a Cobb County resident convicted of killing a man in his front yard and trying to link the case to Georgia's "stand your ground" law.

The group is continuing its effort to free John McNeil, who shot and killed Brian Epp on the front lawn of McNeil's Kennesaw home in December 2005. McNeil claimed self defense, but was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2006 by a Cobb jury.

"If the framers of 'stand your ground' intended the law to apply equally, then [McNeil] shouldn't be in jail," Edward DuBose, president of the NAACP's state conference, said on the steps of the Cobb County Justice Center. "John McNeil did not have a duty to retreat."

The group argued that McNeil, who is black, would not have been convicted if he had been white.

Cobb District Attorney Pat Head was attending a conference Wednesday and unavailable for comment, but in previous statements to the media he has supported his office's prosecution of McNeil and denied any racial motivation.

The shooting occurred prior to Georgia's 2006 implementation of the stand-your-ground law, which expanded self-defense laws and removed a person's obligation to retreat when threatened. But self-defense and defense-of-property laws were in place long before the incident, said McNeil's attorney, Mark Yurachek.

Cases like McNeil's spotlight the difficulty in proving self-defense and stand-your-ground cases, University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson said.

"Often in these cases there are no eye witnesses to the crime except the one person left standing," Carlson said Wednesday. "If that person claims he was threatened by the person who was killed, so often he's the only one telling the story."

According to trial testimony, Epp confronted McNeil in McNeil's front yard in a dispute over a home Epp had been building for McNeil. Epp appeared to have a knife in his pocket and was about to charge McNeil, who had a pistol and fired a warning shot into the ground. Epp rushed McNeil anyway and McNeil shot him in the head.
McNeil's murder conviction was upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court in 2008. Yurachek has since filed a legal action with the Superior Court in Baldwin County, where McNeil is being held, to try and get his client a new court hearing, possibly leading to a new trial.

The attorney is arguing that the jury wasn't told about a previous conviction against Epp and was not informed of other evidence in the case.

The state attorney general's office does not comment on ongoing cases, spokeswoman Lauren Kane said. The office did file a response to Yurachek's initial legal action denying the attorney's claims and asking the court not to grant the requested relief.

Both sides are scheduled to submit briefs in the case to the judge next month.

Find this article at:
DeKalb school settlement calls for Mitchell cooperation

Mark Niesse

Daily Report

07-26-2012

Last month's settlement between the DeKalb County school system and construction management company E.R. Mitchell & Co. provides no cash benefit to either party, but it requires the company to cooperate with the school system in ongoing litigation against joint venture partner Heery International.

The eight-page deal, obtained this week by the Daily Report, requires E.R. Mitchell to provide "truthful and complete" information, with no guarantee that it's useful to the DeKalb County School District in its $120 million claim that remains against Heery. Neither E.R. Mitchell nor the school district admitted wrongdoing.

"The Mitchell Parties are not required to 'make a case' for the School District or otherwise inculpate any party to the Action," according to the settlement, which was approved by the school board June 28.

E.R. Mitchell, which was a 35 percent partner with Heery in their joint venture to manage school projects, will be required to meet with the school district's lawyers, disclose "complete non-privileged information" and facilitate discussions between the school district and E.R. Mitchell employees.

School board member H. Paul Womack Jr. said he didn't know how valuable the company's assistance would be in the 5-year-old case, but Womack trusted the school system's lawyers.

"If they didn't believe it was worthwhile, they wouldn't have entered into the settlement," said Womack, the chairman of the board's budget committee. "I'm sure [E.R. Mitchell Jr.] will bring some information to the table, and it's my hope that it will help move this case to settlement."

Heery spokesman David Rubinger said its former partner's deal won't affect how it handles the case.

"We are still preparing for trial as we were doing before," Rubinger said. "We look forward to our day in court, where all the facts are heard, and we believe we will prevail when all the evidence is put before a jury."

DeKalb schools contracted with Heery and E.R. Mitchell twice, for school building and renovation projects beginning in 1997 and in 2003. But the school district fired the companies more than a year early, in 2007, and Heery/Mitchell sued for $1.5 million breach of contract.

The school system responded with a huge countersuit that has cost it at least $37 million in legal fees, much of it for outside counsel King & Spalding, according to a May 3 grand jury presentment.

When the deal with company president and CEO E.R. Mitchell was hatched, his attorney R. Joseph Burby IV said in a statement, "Today's settlement marks the end of what has been a very long and costly dispute for E.R. Mitchell Jr., and he is glad to put this matter behind him and move forward."
The settlement likely indicates that either the school system couldn't collect much money from E.R. Mitchell, or that E.R. Mitchell wasn't the party most responsible for alleged infractions, said University of Georgia School of Law professor Jaime Dodge.

The school system's claims against the construction management companies included cost overruns, inadequate supervision of project architects, lack of notification of contractor breaches and change-order requests.

"If DeKalb really thought that E.R. Mitchell was responsible for this, and if E.R. Mitchell had money, there's no way they would dismiss this," said Dodge, who teaches complex litigation, bankruptcy and dispute resolution. "They're really training all their focus on Heery.

E.R. Mitchell reached the deal several months after it hired Bryan Cave in December, a switch from Balch & Bingham. The move may indicate that E.R. Mitchell was looking to settle, Dodge said.

The deal suggests that one of the primary benefits for E.R. Mitchell is that it can avoid mounting legal costs that would continue to rise as next February's civil trial date approached.

"This Settlement Agreement is entered into for the purpose of compromising and settling disputed claims and to avoid time-consuming and expensive litigation," the settlement says.

School board chairman Eugene Walker also saw the settlement as a way to contain the sprawling litigation.

"This is a major step toward ending this lawsuit once and for all," Walker said in a statement. "This lawsuit has been a major and expensive distraction for the School Board and for all the citizens of DeKalb County.

A separate criminal case related to construction contracts is pending against former high-ranking school officials, including former Superintendent Crawford Lewis. A May superseding indictment alleges Lewis said the school system's former operations officer, Pat Pope, stopped working with Heery because "she wanted to hire her friends" — a claim also made by Heery/Mitchel in its suit against the school district.

Last week, DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Clarence Seeliger granted Heery partial summary judgment in the civil case when he ruled that 3½ years of breach of contract claims by the school system against Heery were invalid because the statute of limitations had expired. His order dismissed claims against Heery arising from school project work done between Oct. 30, 1997 and Feb. 20, 2001.

Most states and the federal government allow settlements with one party while maintaining claims against another, Dodge said.

In Georgia, the state Supreme Court decided in Posey v. Medical Center-West, 257 Ga. 55 (1987), that a release of one joint tortfeasor was not a release to all, according to the settlement.

"E.R. Mitchell probably told DeKalb 'It's not worth it for you to keep fighting us,'" Dodge said. "For E.R. Mitchell, if they're struggling financially, it's smart for them to say, 'Look, you're never going to get any money out of us anyway.'"

The case is Heery International v. DeKalb County School District, No. 07CV2532.

The Settlement and Mutual Release Agreement is here.
Deal taps Branch, Ray for Court of Appeals

Alyson M. Palmer

Daily Report

07-26-2012

Governor Nathan Deal on Wednesday tapped Gwinnett County Superior Court Judge William "Billy" Ray II and Smith, Gambrell & Russell partner Elizabeth "Lisa" Branch to fill two vacancies on the state Court of Appeals.

Deal's decision was unusually quick. A day earlier, his Judicial Nominating Commission had added two names to a short list of candidates to be considered for the appeals court.

Branch is the first woman appointed to one of the state's appellate courts since Governor Roy Barnes put M. Yvette Miller on the appeals court in 1999.

Effective July 30, Ray will replace Keith Blackwell, whom Deal recently elevated to the Georgia Supreme Court. Branch will fill the opening created by the upcoming retirement of Judge Charles Mikell Jr., who plans to leave the court at the end of next month.

The JNC's website announced that on Tuesday it had added former State Bar President Kenneth Shigley and litigator Mary Paige Adams of Atlanta's Green & Sapp to the group considered by Deal for the Supreme Court opening that went to Blackwell. Shigley and Adams joined five holdovers from the Supreme Court short list: Branch, Ray, Alston & Bird partner Michael Brown, Macon Superior Court Judge Tilman "Tripp" Self III and Henry County State Court Chief Judge Ben Studdard III.

DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Cynthia "C.J." Becker also was on the recent Supreme Court short list, but she withdrew from consideration for the Court of Appeals, according to the governor's office.

A spokeswoman for Deal, Stephanie Mayfield, has said Deal personally interviewed all seven of the finalists for the Supreme Court opening. On Wednesday she said the governor had interviewed the two new finalists, as well. Shigley told the Daily Report that Deal interviewed him in a Wednesday telephone call, noting he was happy to be considered. Adams could not be reached.

Branch, 44, specializes in business litigation and government affairs. The Atlanta native is a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina and was an editor on the Emory Law Journal.

She was a lawyer with the administration of President George W. Bush from 2004 to 2008, serving first as associate general counsel within the Department of Homeland Security, then as a counselor to the administrator within the Office of Management and Budget.

Branch has strong conservative credentials in addition to her work with the Bush administration. She is on the executive board of the Atlanta lawyers' chapter of the Federalist Society and has been a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association, the National Rifle Association, and the Fulton County Republican Party chairman's council.

After law school, Branch clerked for U.S. District Judge J. Owen Forrester.

Ray, 49, has spent much of his career as a lawyer in public life, first as a Republican state senator, then as a superior court judge. Born in Macon, Ray earned B.B.A. and M.B.A. degrees and his law degree from the University of Georgia. Just a few years out of

Until being appointed to the bench, Ray practiced with the Lawrenceville firm of Anderson, Tate & Carr, focusing on business, construction, real estate and family law, but he also once won acquittal for a man charged with vehicular homicide, according to an application he submitted to the JNC.

Placed on the bench by Barnes, a Democrat, Ray has presided over Gwinnett's drug court program. He is secretary-treasurer of the state's Council of Superior Court Judges.

In 2005, Ray helped Governor Sonny Perdue, with whom he had served in the Legislature, interview finalists for the high court seat awarded to Harold Melton. But Perdue passed Ray over when Ray applied for an opening on the state Supreme Court in 2009. This year, lawyers and judges in Gwinnett lobbied hard to get Ray a place on the state's appellate courts.

The candidates whom Deal passed over this time were:

- Adams, 35, who defends medical malpractice cases as a partner at Green & Sapp and has served as a member of Deal's JNC. She studied broadcast journalism at UGA before receiving her law degree there. She is the daughter-in-law of UGA President Michael Adams, who is stepping down next year. She didn't apply for the Supreme Court opening but threw her hat in the ring for the Court of Appeals.

- Brown, 43, a former federal prosecutor who's been representing former DeKalb County Schools Superintendent Crawford Lewis in a corruption case. After receiving his law degree from UGA, Brown clerked for Judge J.L. Edmondson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

- Self, 43, who was elected to the superior court in Macon in 2006. He is a graduate of the Citadel who did a military tour of duty along the North Korean border in the 1990s. In 2007, he made headlines when he awarded custody of a 7-year-old girl to a woman whose efforts to adopt the girl had been blocked by another judge in part on the grounds that the woman had been living with a same-sex partner. The UGA law graduate is also an NCAA football umpire in the Southern Conference and in 2007 was named to the Daily Report's list of lawyers under 40 who are "On the Rise."

- Shigley, 61, who completed his term as bar president earlier this year. Shigley is of counsel at Chambers, Aholt & Rickard in Atlanta and in recent years has focused his practice on representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters. A graduate of Emory University's law school, he also has experience as a prosecutor, insurance defense lawyer and mediator. He did not make the short list for the Supreme Court seat filled by Blackwell, but the JNC resurrected his name for the appeals court openings.

- Studdard, 50, who won a 1998 election to become the first judge of the Henry County State Court. He received his law degree from Mercer University before practicing with the firm then known as Smith, Welch, Studdard & Brittain. He maintains an online treatise on developments in Georgia criminal law, plays the tenor saxophone and once appeared on Jeopardy.

The JNC also announced this week its recommendations of three candidates to replace resigned Ocmulgee Superior Court Judge John Lee Parrott: Putnam County State Court Judge Enis Trenton Brown III; Alison Burleson, an assistant district attorney and adjunct law professor at Georgia State University; and Brenda Holbert Trammell, a solo practitioner.

Parrott announced his retirement in May, effectively closing a Judicial Qualifications Commission ethics investigation into allegations that he used his office to advance his private interests.

The governor's office says it will interview the three candidates but did not disclose a date.

Staff reporter Kathleen Baydala Joyner contributed to this article.
CALLAWAY GARDENS - H. Bradford "Brad" Morris was sworn in Friday at Callaway Gardens for another four-year term as the Circuit Public Defender for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, which encompasses Hall and Dawson counties.

Morris, who has been in charge of the Office of the Public Defender for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit since its inception in 2004, was unanimously recommended for reappointment by a three-person Supervisory Committee. He is responsible for an office of 14 attorneys and 10 support staff who represent indigent criminal defendants in the two-county circuit.

Morris was recommended for reappointment by a supervisory committee comprised of local attorneys Douglas Stewart, Tom Cole, and Graham McKinnon. The committee members are appointed by the Superior Court judges of the circuit, the chairmen of the Hall and Dawson County Commissions, and Gov. Nathan Deal, respectively.

W. Travis Sakrison, Executive Director of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, reappointed Morris to the post on the recommendation of the local advisory committee.

Morris was sworn in with other Circuit Public Defenders from throughout the state by John Ellington, Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals, during the Circuit Public Defenders' meeting at Callaway Gardens.

Morris is a graduate of Emory University and the University of Houston School of Law and has practiced criminal law for more than 35 years. He lives in Gainesville with his wife, Renee. They have three children, Texys, Bradford, and William.

Morris was the 2008 recipient of the Judge A.R. Kenyon Award from the Gainesville-Northeastern Circuit Bar Association and was also honored by the University of Georgia School of Law Equal Justice Foundation with its Practitioner's Award for Outstanding Commitment to Public Interest Law for 2009-2010. In 2011, he received the Indigent Defense Award from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for his lifetime commitment to the representation of indigent criminal defendants.

©Copyright 2012 AccessNorthGa.com
All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed without permission.
WASHINGTON --- The 112th Congress has been perhaps the most unpopular in the history of the institution, with an approval rating hovering near 10 percent for much of the term.

But in the U.S. House, the body closest to the passions of the people, a mass ejection of incumbents does not appear imminent.

Of Georgia's 13 incumbent members, six face primary challenges in Tuesday's vote. None of the races is likely to be close. In the general election only one incumbent --- Augusta Democrat John Barrow, in a district redrawn to favor Republicans --- is in real danger at this point.

Nationally, forecasters expect the House to remain under Republican control with a swing of just a few seats one way or the other.

"Just because congressional job approval is at an all-time low doesn't mean that all incumbents are going to be thrown out of office," said Stuart Rothenberg, a veteran congressional campaign analyst and publisher of the nonpartisan Rothenberg Political Report.

"Voters need a credible alternative, even when they're angry. And in these races a credible alternative hasn't come to the surface."

The primary hurdle to be a credible alternative is money, and campaign finance reports show challengers in Tuesday's contests at a severe disadvantage in that department.

Atlanta Democrat John Lewis had more than $400,000 in his campaign bank account earlier this month, compared with challenger Michael Johnson's $7,000. To the northwest, Marietta Republican Rep. Phil Gingrey had $1.74 million on hand against William Llop's mostly self-loaned $69,000 and Michael Opitz's $946. The same trend played out across other Georgia races.

"These elections aren't all about money, but you have to have money to introduce yourself to voters," Rothenberg said. "You can be the best candidate in the world with the best message and the best-looking family, but if you don't have money to run ads, do direct mail and introduce yourself, you're not going to win."

Also when it comes to primary challenges, Georgia has some of the most liberal and conservative members of Congress, making it difficult to wage an ideological contest.
"We've got [Democrats] John Lewis and Hank Johnson [on the left] and at the far right --- it's hard to get to the right of [Republicans] Paul Broun and Tom Graves," said University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock. "And so one of the interpretations of serious challengers for Graves and Broun is they look at those districts and say: 'Those guys are good matches for those districts. There's not much I can do.'"

The districts were reinforced last year through decennial redistricting. The politically charged process has been credited --- or blamed --- for keeping incumbents entrenched and creating more ideologically uniform districts.

In Georgia, Republicans controlled the process and used it to protect their sitting members, create a new Republican-heavy district based in Hall County and make Barrow's terrain significantly more difficult.

The result was a lack of high-profile challenges --- or any challenge at all. Freshman Republican Rep. Austin Scott of Tifton narrowly knocked off Democratic incumbent Jim Marshall in 2010. This year in a safely Republican district Scott does not have any qualified challengers from either party.

Coweta County's Rep. Lynn Westmoreland took the lead for House Republicans' campaign arm in a nationwide redistricting effort that Westmoreland said is a major factor in Republicans likely holding the House. Westmoreland said as early as late 2008 he and his allies were identifying important state House seats to give the GOP control of legislatures and, thus, redistricting.

As a result Republicans took complete control of the redistricting process for more than 200 U.S. House seats after the 2010 election, allowing them to protect and consolidate the gains of the GOP wave. Still, Westmoreland said, there is some upheaval involved.

"I've got a primary --- I've got two opponents," Westmoreland said. "Typically after redistricting you do have more contested races or primaries because you've got new districts."

But contested does not always mean competitive.

"There's that old saying that you can't beat somebody with nobody," Bullock said. "To the extent that there are people coming forward to challenge these incumbents, a lot of them are nobodies."

A look at the candidates

Of Georgia's 13 incumbent members of the U.S. House of Representatives, six face primary challenges in Tuesday's vote. None of those races is expected to be close. Below are profiles of candidates for House districts in metro Atlanta.

3rd district
Chip Flanegan (R)
Age: 54
Home: Henry County
Education: Forest Park High School graduate; studied for two years at the Baptist University of America
Occupation: Owner of Jonesboro Rental Center
Political experience: Ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 13th district in 2010
Family: Married nine years to Maria; two children
Website: www.chipflanegan.com

Kent Kingsley (R)
Age: 60
Home: Milner
Education: Bachelor's degree, Fort Valley State College; master's degree, Mississippi State University
Occupation: Broker/owner/Realtor at Traditions Realty
Political experience: Lamar County Commission chairman, 1998-2002
Family: Married 41 years to Joy; two children
Website: kingsleyforcongress.com

Lynn Westmoreland (R)
Age: 62
Home: Coweta County
Education: Attended Georgia State University, did not graduate; graduated Therrell High School
Occupation: Member of Congress, former building company owner
Political experience: U.S. House, 2005-present; Georgia state House, 1993-2005
Family: Married 43 years to Joan; three children
Website: www.lynnwestmoreland.org

4th district
Courtney L. Dillard Sr. (D)
Age: 49
Home: Conyers
Education: Bachelor's degree, Luther Rice University & Seminary; master of business administration candidate, Liberty University
Occupation: Real estate developer, small business owner
Political experience: Rockdale County Democratic Party leader, at-large post holder; unsuccessful campaign for Rockdale County commissioner, 2010
Family: Married 24 years to Gayla; five children
Website: www.courtneydillard.com

Hank Johnson Jr. (D)
Age: 57
Home: Lithonia
Education: Juris Doctorate, Texas Southern University; bachelor's degree, Clark College
Occupation: Member of Congress, former attorney
Political experience: U.S. Congress, 2007-present; DeKalb County Commissioner, 2001-2006; DeKalb County Magistrate Court Judge, 1989-2000
Family: Married 32 years to Mereda; two children
Website: www.hankforcongress.com

Lincoln Nunnally (D)
Age: 32
Home: Porterdale
Education: Bachelor's degree, Palm Beach Atlantic University
Occupation: Business consultant
Political experience: None
Family: Married to Rebekah; one child
Website: lincoln-nunnally.com

Greg Pallen (R)
Age: 43
Home: Oxford
Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Georgia
Occupation: President of Pallen Enterprises Inc.
Political experience: None
Family: Single
Website: www.gregpallenforcongress.com

J. Chris Vaughn (R)
Age: 46
Home: Conyers
Education: Attended Gaston College
Occupation: Minister, public speaker
Political experience: None
Family: Married 24 years to Lisa; three children
Website: www.chrisvaughnforcongress.com

5th district
Michael Johnson (D)
Age: 44
Home: Atlanta

Education: Juris Doctorate, Syracuse University College of Law; bachelor's degree, Morehouse College.

Occupation: Former Fulton County Superior Court judge

Political experience: Fulton County Superior Court judge, 2005-2012

Family: Married 13 years to Alison; two children

Website: www.michaeljohnsonforcongress.com

John Robert Lewis (D)
Age: 72
Home: Atlanta

Education: Bachelor's degree, Fisk University; associate degree, American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Occupation: Member of Congress, longtime civil rights activist

Political experience: U.S. House, 1987-present; Atlanta city councilman, 1982-1986

Family: Married 43 years to Lillian Miles; one child

Website: www.johnlewisforcongress.com

Jeff Kazanow (D)
Age: 57
Home: Roswell

Education: Master in business administration and bachelor's degrees, Michigan State University

Occupation: Business consultant

Political experience: None

Family: Widower; two children

Website: www.kazanowforcongress.com

Robert Montigel (D)
Age: 65
Home: Alpharetta

Education: Master in business administration, Columbia University; bachelor's degree, Lehigh University
Occupation: Owner, Biggs Building Products

Political experience: None.

Family: Married to Maryann for 41 years; two children

Website: www.montigelforcongress.com

* Winner will face Republican incumbent Tom Price.

9th district*

Doug Collins (R)

Age: 45

Home: Gainesville

Education: Juris Doctorate, John Marshall Law School; bachelor's degree, North Georgia College & State University

Occupation: Attorney, Air Force Reserves chaplain

Political experience: State House 2007-present

Family: Married 23 years to Lisa; three children

Website: collinsleads.com

Roger Fitzpatrick (R)

Age: 52

Home: Cleveland

Education: Master's degree, North Georgia College; bachelor's degree, University of Georgia

Occupation: Retired teacher and principal

Political experience: None

Family: Married 26 years to Linda; three children

Website: www.fitzpatrick4congress.com/

Martha Zoller (R)

Age: 52

Home: Gainesville

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Georgia

Occupation: Talk radio host

Political experience: None

Family: Married 22 years to Linwood; three children

Website: marthaforcongress.com
*New congressional district

10th District

Paul Broun (R)

Age: 66

Home: Athens

Education: Medical degree, Medical College of Georgia; bachelor's degree, University of Georgia

Occupation: Member of Congress, general practice physician

Political experience: U.S. House 2007-present

Family: Married 27 years to Niki; three children

Website: www.paulbroun.com

Stephen Simpson (R)

Age: 61

Home: Milledgeville

Education: Master's in business administration, Mercer University; bachelor's degree, Georgia College and State University

Occupation: Banker, retired military officer

Political experience: None

Family: Married 39 years to Susan; two children

Website: www.stephensimpson2012.com

11th District

Phil Gingrey (R)

Age: 70

Home: Marietta

Education: Medical degree, Medical College of Georgia; bachelor's degree, Georgia Tech

Occupation: Member of Congress, obstetrician/gynecologist


Family: Married 42 years to Billie; four children

Website: www.gingrey.com

William Llop (R)

Age: 53

Home: Sandy Springs
Education: Bachelor's degree, Mercer University

Occupation: Certified public accountant

Political experience: None

Family: Married 12 years to Mary Lynn; two children

Website: www.williamllopcpa forcongress.com

Michael Opitz (R)

Age: 66

Home: Marietta

Education: Master's degree in psychology, University of West Georgia; bachelor's degree, Auburn University

Occupation: Retired from Lucent Technologies/AT&T, mediator and arbitrator

Political experience: Brief run for Congress in 1994, pulled out before qualifying

Family: Married to Becky for 33 years; three children

Website: www.opitzforcongress.org

7th district*

David Hancock (R)

Age: 51

Home: Suwanee

Education: Bachelor's degree, Auburn University

Occupation: Software engineer/business owner

Political experience: Unsuccessful run for state House, 2008

Family: Married to Darlene; two children

Website: www.hancock2012.com

Rob Woodall (R)

Age: 42

Home: Lawrenceville

Education: Juris Doctorate, University of Georgia Law School; bachelor's degree, Furman University

Occupation: Member of Congress, former congressional staffer to Rep. John Linder

Political experience: U.S. House, 2011-present

Family: Single

Website: robwoodall.com
GC Appointments

The Hershey Co. named Leslie Turner vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary. Turner comes to the candy company from Coca-Cola North America, where she spent four years as chief legal officer. During her 25 years in the legal field, she has held numerous government postings and served as a partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

Larry Thompson returned to PepsiCo Inc. as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary, a position he formerly held from 2004 to 2011. In the interim, Thompson served as the John A. Sibley Chair in Corporate and Business Law at the University of Georgia School of Law. He previously was a deputy attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice and a partner at King & Spalding.

Paulette Dodson joined PetSmart Inc. as senior vice president, general counsel and secretary. Dodson comes to the company from Sara Lee Corp., where she also served as SVP, general counsel and secretary. Her prior work experience also includes a 14-year stint at the Tribune Co., where she was an assistant general counsel for publishing from 2000 to 2007.

Diana Weiss joined PricewaterhouseCoopers as general counsel. Weiss previously served as a partner in the litigation practice of King & Spalding, where she focused on representing clients in investigations and enforcement proceedings before regulatory agencies. She also was a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe.

Glassdoor, a social jobs and career website, hired Allyson Willoughby as general counsel and senior vice president of people. After beginning her in-house career at eBay, Willoughby went on to general counsel postings at RockYou, a social gaming and advertising company, and Method Products, a manufacturer of household products.

In vitro diagnostic company LipoScience Inc. appointed Ashok Marin general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary. Marin previously served as senior counsel for global compliance at GE Healthcare. He also spent nine years in the legal department of Sanofi U.S., most recently as assistant general counsel.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the country's largest breast cancer organization, named Ellen Willmott general counsel. Willmott joins the company after 12 years at Save the Children USA, where she most recently served as vice president and general counsel. In her new role, Willmott will oversee regulatory compliance and international and domestic partnerships.

Jelly Belly Candy Co. hired John Di Giusto as its inaugural general counsel. Di Giusto previously was a managing shareholder in the corporate and securities and tax groups of Boutin Jones Inc. He brings more than 30 years of experience.
to the candy corporation, which was one of his firm's long-term clients.

David McEvoy joined SeaChange International, a global video software company, as general counsel. McEvoy's in-house experience includes general counsel postings at ATG, VeriFone Systems, Aprisma Management Technologies and The Learning Company/Broderbund. He also was group general counsel at private equity firm The Gores Group.

Other In-House Moves

The Allstate Corp. announced that Michele Coleman Mayes will retire from the general counsel and executive VP spot after nearly five years with the company. During that time, Mayes dealt with legal and regulatory matters, corporate governance and public policy. She will now assume the role of general counsel and vice president of the New York Public Library.

Yahoo! Inc. executive VP and general counsel Mike Callahan announced his retirement after nearly 13 years with the company. Callahan joined the Internet corporation in 1999 and assumed the general counsel role almost nine years ago. Ron Bell, the company's deputy counsel for products and the Americas regions, will serve as interim GC.

Paula McGlarry was promoted to general counsel of Oliver Wyman Group. McGlarry joined the consulting firm's legal team in 2003 and has served as deputy general counsel since 2010. She previously was a mergers and acquisitions lawyer at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

Please send all promotions, career changes, hires and awards to jbeck@insidecounsel.com

LOAD-DATE: July 31, 2012