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11/2012 Newsclippings

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Office of the Governor, State of Tennessee has issued the following news release:

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"Keith has good experience in the 16th District, serving the citizens well as a magistrate in Juvenile Court," Haslam said. "I'm pleased to appoint him to fill the vacancy, and I appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity."

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After receiving his J.D., he clerked for the 16th Judicial District Chancery Court before becoming a general practitioner of civil and criminal cases.

Siskin is a past president of the Rutherford and Cannon County Bar Association, and he has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I want to thank Gov. Haslam for offering me this opportunity in the 16th Judicial District," Siskin said. "I'm honored to be able to continue serving the citizens of Rutherford and Cannon County."

Siskin, 40, lives in Murfreesboro with his wife, Sheri, and two step-daughters, Micah and Shae.

For more information please visit: http://news.tn.gov. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com
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Attorney seeks Woodall's seat in Congress District 7

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

By Josh Green (3252)
josh.green@gwinnettdailypost.com

As of Thursday, November 1, 2012
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A Lawrenceville attorney is seeking to unseat a one-term congressman in the race for Georgia's 7th Congressional District.

The district includes portions of the northeast Atlanta metro area, including the cities of Norcross, Cumming, Lawrenceville, Duluth, Suwanee and Buford.

Two years ago, Rob Woodall, 42, beat out a long slate of Republicans hoping to replace long-time U.S. Rep. John Linder in the district. He faces democrat Steve Reilly, 51, an attorney in private practice in Lawrenceville. Both men hold law degrees from the University of Georgia.

Woodall says passing the FairTax would remain his top priority if reelected.

"It is the single most powerful bill in Congress today," Woodall said. "It will transform this nation's economy and put us back on a track to prosperity, and it will return more freedom and control back to the American people ... I believe that the closer to home decisions are made about how Americans are governed, the better those decisions will be."

Woodall drew clear distinctions between him and his competition.

"I want to repeal ObamaCare; he supports it. I want to simplify tax rates; he wants to raise them," Woodall said. "I believe America's success depends on bringing power and decisions back home locally to the American people; he believes that the Federal government may have more of the answers. He is a good man, but his ideas are bad for American families."

In terms of political experience, Reilly was a Democratic candidate for Georgia State House District 79 in 1992 and 1994; chairman of the Gwinnett County Democratic Party from 1996 to 2002; a member of the State Committee of Democratic Party of Georgia; and 7th District Chair of Democratic Party of Georgia.

If elected, Reilly hopes to return Congress to a "sensible center," or "away from the dogma and uncompromising doctrines of both the left and the right," he said. "We must put America's interests first."

Reilly pointed to differences between himself and the incumbent.

"I have a moderately activist view of the role of government; my opponent is a governmental 'minimalist,'" he said. "My opponent has been a career civil servant in Washington; I served as an officer in the U.S. Army and have run a small business — my law practice — since leaving the Army."

Reilly's top goal would be to reduce "the influence of 'Big Money' on Congress through election reform, and fixing Congress by implementing the reform agenda of the non-partisan group known as No Labels," he said, pointing to the group's website, www.nolabels.org.

Candidate bios and questions

Rob Woodall (i)

Party: Republican

Age: 42

Education: Law degree from University of Georgia

Occupation: 7th District Member of Congress
Attorney seeks Woodall's seat in Congress District 7

Rob Woodall

Political Experience: One term, Congress

Family: Single

What is your political philosophy, and how will it drive your role in office?

My political philosophy is more freedom is always the right answer. The best way to achieve that goal is to move power and decision making away from the federal government and return it to the elected officials who are closest to home, where our founding fathers intended it to be.

Name your top goal or issue you want to tackle.

Deficit reduction through economic growth. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I passed an aggressive budget that tackles spending head on and eliminates the federal uncertainty that is draining economy opportunity today.

What sets you apart from your competitor?

I want to repeal Obamacare; he supports it. I want to simplify tax rates; he wants to raise them. I believe America’s success depends on bringing power and decisions back home locally to the American people; he believes that the federal government may have more of the answers. He is a good man, but his ideas are bad for American families.

Steve Reilly

Party: Democratic

Age: 51

Education: Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville (1979); BA, Mercer University (1983); Juris doctorate, University of Georgia (1986)

Occupation: Attorney

Political Experience: Democratic Candidate for Georgia State House District 79 in 1992 and 1994; Chairman of Gwinnett County Democratic Party 1996-2002; member of State Committee of Democratic Party of Georgia; 7th District Chair of Democratic Party of Georgia

Family: Wife Cathy; two children, Michael, 20, and Savannah, 17

What is your political philosophy, and how will it drive your role in office?

I believe that government can do good things when it is managed with care and integrity. I think we have to return Congress to the "sensible center", away from the dogma and uncompromising doctrines of both the left and the right. We must put America's interests first.

Name your top goal or issue you want to tackle.

Reducing the influence of "Big Money" on Congress through election reform, and fixing Congress by implementing the reform agenda of the non-partisan group known as "No Labels." The agenda can be found online at www.nolabels.org.

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Gov. Bill Haslam made a solid choice in appointing Keith Siskin to fill the big shoes of Judge Don Ash, who took a senior judgeship several months ago.

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A graduate of Vanderbilt University with a degree from the University of Georgia School of Law, Siskin's education and experience make him a strong selection for the position.

In August, a pool of 13 candidates was narrowed to three by a committee. Of the remaining three - Siskin, Smyrna Municipal Court Judge Keta Barnes, and Howard Wilson of Murfreesboro law firm Wilson & Bradley - any choice would have been a good one. Barnes and Wilson are well qualified in their own right.

As Haslam pointed out, "Keith (already) has good experience in the 16th District, serving the citizens well as a magistrate in Juvenile Court." After receiving his law degree, he clerked for the 16th Judicial District Chancery Court. He has also been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

We wish Siskin well in adjudicating with a fair and firm hand in the 16th Judicial District.

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But after you're done with that, change out all the batteries in your smoke detectors.
It's a simple practice, but it truly could save a life. You're going to get an extra hour on Sunday. Spend it wisely.

Opinions in this column represent consensus of discussion by The Daily News Journal Editorial Board.

LOAD-DATE: November 3, 2012

All eight candidates running for three seats on the East County Water Control District board are well-known in the Lehigh Acres community. The board is known for not increasing assessments, and it has not done so over the past four years. The total adopted budget for the upcoming fiscal year is $5,539,325.

The focus of those monies, according to David Lindsay, district manager, is on replacing equipment and beginning the engineering and design phase on some projects as part of the capital improvement plan. The assessment rate is $105.15 per acre, or $26.29 for a typical quarter-acre lot. According to its website, the district "preserves and protects water reserves through drainage, conservation, mitigation, navigational and water management practices in 70,000 acres of land in both Lehigh Acres and the western portion of Hendry County."

It maintains 311 miles of canals, 20 lakes, 360 culvert crossings, 22 bridges and 66 water control structures as well as 1,298 preserve acres and 578 acres of Harns Marsh - a major retention/detention area.

SEAT 1

Neal Horrom

Age: 45

Family: Married, three children

Education: Bachelor's degree in citrus business from Florida Southern College

Experience: 13 years on the water board, 1997-2008; business experience in agriculture production and agriculture technology development; serves on board of directors at his church, New Life Assembly of God in Lehigh Acres

His focus is on accountability, fiscal responsibility and the mission of water control and conservation is being accomplished.
Dewey A. Tyler
Age: 50
Occupation: Retired; Vietnam veteran; former tae kwon do instructor
Education: Two years at Edison College
Experience: Running a small business, leasing offices in a business building from the Admiral Resort, raised about $10,000 for the community
He would push for a 20 percent payroll cut for district employees and use money to fix culverts and bridges.

Michael J. Welch
Age: 53
Occupation: Consultant in political government affairs for building industry issues of Southwest Florida
Education: Towson University, degree in political science; Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, master's degree in theology/philosophy
Experience: Eight years as legislative aide, board at Ave Maria University
His focus is on continued accountability and providing quality work. Motto for the incumbent commissioner: "Promises made, promises kept."

SEAT 3
Frank T. LaRosa
Elected not to respond

Kenneth K. Thompson
Age: 59
Occupation: Lawyer for 33 years
Education: University of Georgia with a bachelors in history; University of Georgia Law School, 1979
Experience: Non-profit Family Health Centers of SWFL board of directors, represent Collier County and Lee County housing authority, Immokalee water and sewer district
He will emphasize cooperative relations with local governments. He believes he brings the experience of dealing with local government and budgets as well as negotiating contracts.

Joseph L. Whalen
Age: 41
Occupation: First-grade teacher at Lehigh Acres Elementary School
Education: Law degree from University of Miami; MBA from Arizona State University; bachelor's degree in political science from University of South Florida
Experience: Executive director of Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce for three years, served on Lehigh Acres Social Services board and as director of sales/consultant for Majestic Golf Club

He wants the public to be aware of the large budget the water district maintains and where the money is being spent. His focus is on being a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

SEAT 5

Nathan Stout

Age: 63

Occupation: CPA

Education: Bachelor's of business administration in accounting from Florida Atlantic University

Experience: Longest serving member on the Greater Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce board of directors, United Way of Lee County, Lehigh Acres Community Council, Lee County Electric Co-op, 12 years on water board, past chair Lehigh Regional Medical Center board of directors, president of chamber and Rotary Club in the 1980s.

He said he wants to continue to see things handled in a fiscally responsible way. He considers himself an environmentalist investing in the future.

Edward "Edd" Terry Weiner

Age: 67

Occupation: architect/planner

Education: Bachelor's of Arts from University of Nebraska

Experience: Architect for 42 years and owned his own firm for 32 years, chairman of the Lehigh Acres Community Planning Panel, CEO of the Economic Development Board, vice-chair of the Lighting Municipal Services Taxing Unit, secretary of Volunteers in Medicine, chairman of the board of the Community Council, past president of the Democratic Club.

He wants to see the district do more with its money.

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For more information please visit: http://www.tsc.state.tn.us. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

LOAD-DATE: November 4, 2012

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Our View: Siskin solid judicial pick

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First, don't forget to set your clocks back before going to bed tonight.

But after you're done with that, change out all the batteries in your smoke detectors.

It's a simple practice, but it truly could save a life. You're going to get an extra hour on Sunday. Spend it wisely.

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Newsmakers in business Nov. 4

From staff reports

November 3, 2012

Gainesville attorney Brim named Fellow by American College of Trial Lawyers

James E. Brim III of Gainesville has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

Brim is a partner in the firm of Forrester & Brim in Gainesville. He has served as president of the Gainesville-Northeastern Bar Association, and has been practicing in Gainesville since 1979. He is an alumnus of The University of Georgia School of Law.

The induction ceremony took place before an audience of 1,070 during the recent annual meeting of the College in New York, N.Y. Founded in 1950, the College is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada. Fellowship in the College is extended by invitation only and extended only to experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Lawyers must have a minimum of 15 years of trial experience to be considered for Fellowship.

There are currently approximately 5,838 college members in the United States and Canada.

Physicians Reisman, McDonald chosen state leaders with Medical Association

Two Gainesville area physicians were sworn into office in key leadership positions with the Medical Association of Georgia during its annual House of Delegates meeting Oct. 21 in Savannah.

Andrew B. Reisman, M.D., was elected to the position of second vice president and E. Frank McDonald, M.D., was elected to a third term as vice speaker of MAG’s House of Delegates.

Reisman is a family physician with The Longstreet Clinic in Oakwood. McDonald is a neurologist with The Longstreet Clinic in Gainesville.

“It says a lot about the caliber of the physicians we have in North Georgia,” said
HIRES/PROMOTIONS

GEIR KILEN

New job title: Executive chef, 700 Drayton Restaurant  
Company: Mansion on Forsyth Park  
Related work experience: Kilen joins 700 Drayton Restaurant from his most recent position as the executive chef of The Commerce Club in Atlanta. Kilen brings more than 25 years of culinary experience to his new position.  
Education: Kilen received a culinary degree from The Culinary Institute in his hometown of Kristiansand, Norway, in addition to a certification in Business Management from Kristiansand Handels Skole.

W. STEPHEN HUTCHESON

New job title: Physician assistant  
Company: The Bone & Joint Institute of South Georgia  
Related work experience: Hutcheson has nearly 10 years of orthopedic experience, most recently with Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Waycross.  
Education: Hutcheson holds a bachelor's degree in physician assistant studies from The Medical College of Georgia.

GREGORY O. DEBACKER

New job title: Attorney  
Company: Hunter-Maclean  
Related work experience: DeBacker worked as a legal intern in the Brand and Intellectual Property departments at The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta.  
Education: DeBacker earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law. He also has a Master of Arts in International Law from the University of Florida and a B.A. in sociology from the University of Georgia.

MARYANNA BARRETT

New job title: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Company: All Women's Health  
Duties: Barrett's special interests include laparoscopic and vaginal surgery.  
Related work experience: Barrett recently moved to Savannah from Honolulu, where she practiced.  
Education: Barrett is board-certified in OB/GYN and attended the University of Tennessee.

MARIA PAASCII

New job title: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Company: All Women's Health  
Duties: Paasch's special interest in OB/GYN include adolescent gynecology, vaginal surgery and counseling and empowering women to achieve their health and fertility goals.  
Related work experience: Paasch recently moved to Savannah from Honolulu where she practiced.  
Education: Paasch attended the University of Tennessee and the University of Hawaii.
EDWARD CONNORS
New job title: Executive chef
Company: The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa
Duties: Connors will oversee the culinary team, food service for all restaurants, bars, catering and events.
Related work experience: Connors has more than 30 years of experience, most recently as executive chef for the Members Club of the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach, Fla.
Education: Connors has studied at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

LAUREN HOUSE
New job title: Sales manager
Company: The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa
Duties: House will manage group sales in midwest markets, from the Dakotas to Ohio, handling group sales needs for groups and meetings requiring 25 or more rooms.
Related work experience: House was leisure and business group sales manager for the Ritz-Carlton in Denver, Colo.

STEPHEN LEGG
New job title: Sales manager
Company: The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa
Duties: Legg will handle sales and needs of all smaller groups requiring 20 rooms and under.

MOHAMMAD DAVOUD
New job title: Dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering & Information Technology
Company: Georgia Southern University
Related work experience: Davoud served as interim dean leading the creation of the university’s newest college. Davoud has served in academic administrative positions for the past eight years, and his industrial experience includes roles as a mechanical engineer and mechanical design engineer.
Education: Davoud earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in mechanical engineering from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of South Carolina.

CHRISTINE BEDDIA
New job title: Development director
Company: The Savannah Music Festival
Duties: Beddia is responsible for all aspects of SMF’s development, donor services and corporate sponsorship activities.
Related work experience: Beddia joined the SMF team after spending eight years working with Coastal Community Foundation. She held positions in development, donor services and as director of marketing and communications.
Education: Beddia holds a B.S. in merchandising from Philadelphia University and a master’s of public and nonprofit administration with an arts management concentration from College of Charleston.

JENNY A. WOODRUFF
New job title: Education director
Company: The Savannah Music Festival
Duties: Woodruff will be in charge of educational programming, production and planning, including artist residencies, in-school performances, the Swing Central Jazz High School Jazz Band Competition and Workshop and the Acoustic Music Seminar.
Related work experience: Woodruff was an assistant professor of music at Bates College in Lewiston. She has also worked as tour actor and director for Missoula Children’s Theatre and held administrative positions at the Durham, N.C., Arts Council and Aucocisco School.
Education: Woodruff holds a Ph.D. in musicology and ethnomusicology, M.A. in performance practice from Duke University and a bachelor of music in vocal performance from Converse College.

DAN BROMSTAD AND LAWRENCE BRODY
Company: Wells Fargo Advisors
**Duties:** Help clients meet financial needs.

**Related experience:** Bromstad was a portfolio manager with Wells Fargo Investment & Fiduciary Services. Brody has been a financial advisor for 25 years in Savannah with Wells Fargo Advisors and its predecessor companies.

**Education:** Bromstad has a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Southern California and holds the chartered financial analyst, or CFA designation.

Brody is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in finance from Georgia's Terry College of Business.

**HONORS/AWARDS**

**Savannah psychiatrist recognized**

Psychiatrist W. Douglas Skelton, M.D., received the Physician's Award for Community Service for 2012 at the Medical Association of Georgia’s 158th House of Delegates meeting in Savannah on Oct. 20. The award recognizes a physician who demonstrates a love for the community outside the regular scope of practice.

**AASU appoints foundation chair**

Armstrong Atlantic State University has announced the appointment of Cathy Hill as board chair of the Armstrong Foundation. Hill succeeds John C. Helmken II, president of Savannah Bancorp, who joined the board in 2008. The Armstrong Foundation acquires and administers charitable donations and funds in support of the university and its programs.
Richmond County Probate Judge: Carleton Vaughn

By Augusta Chronicle Editorial Staff

Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012

Carleton Vaughn may be the most distinguished gentleman you ever meet. But he's so much more than that.

Besides a breadth of life experience and education that is impressive if not daunting, it's as if this community has practically trained him for the job he's running for on Tuesday: probate judge.

His 40-year law practice here has specialized in precisely what the probate office primarily does, which is to handle the disposition of wills and estates. As if that's not enough, for a dozen years or so Mr. Vaughn has actually served as an acting probate judge on many occasions.

Mr. Vaughn is highly organized,

and shows up for hearings eminently prepared - which will be a tremendous boon to folks who are already going through enough trauma without having to be inconvenienced by the courts.

He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, with a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting, and of Georgia Law School - and was first in his class at Southern Methodist University Law School, where he obtained a Master of Laws degree in taxation. All this after serving in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he prosecuted and defended cases and advised fellow military members on wills, trusts and estate planning.

At Mr. Vaughn's kickoff - attended by esteemed retiring Probate Judge Isaac Jolles - his campaign chairman Tom Allgood Jr. said Vaughn has been an invaluable resource to the legal community as an expert on the often arcane world of probate law.

"He has been our go-to guy for probate and estate matters for many, many years," Allgood said.

Now he can be everyone's go-to guy - as judge of Probate Court.

We strongly urge you to vote for Carleton Vaughn on Tuesday.
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
November 4, 2012 Sunday
Main Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 8A
LENGTH: 942 words
HEADLINE: Congressional races in metro Atlanta districts
BYLINE: Daniel Malloy, Jeremy Redmon, Aaron Gould Schinin; Staff

BODY:

On Tuesday, voters in eight metro Atlanta congressional districts will select a U.S. House member. In seven of those districts, a heavily favored incumbent --- from 13-term Rep. John Lewis to freshman Rep. Rob Woodall --- is facing a less-funded challenger. All of the districts have new boundaries after Georgia gained a seat after the 2010 census. The Gainesville-based 9th Congressional District is a new open seat.

District 4
HENRY C. Johnson (D) (i)
Age: 58
Home: Lithonia
Education: Juris Doctor, Texas Southern University School of Law; 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 33 years to Mereda; two children
Website: www.hankforcongress.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

District 6
JEFF KAZANOW (D)
Age: 57

Home: Kennesaw

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/

Tom Price (R)(i)

Age: 58

Home: Roswell

Education: Medical and bachelor's degrees, University of Michigan

Occupation: Member of Congress, orthopedic surgeon

Political experience: U.S. House member, 2005-present; Georgia state senator, 1997-2004

Family: Married 29 years to Betty; one child

Website: www.tomprice.com

District 14

DANIEL "DANNY" GRANT (D)

Age: 54

Home: Ringgold

Education: High school; certification as master instructor/trainer for electricians

Occupation: Electrical contractor

Political experience: None

Family: Married 29 years to Jena; eight children

Website: dannygrantforcongress.com

Tom Graves (R)(i)

Age: 42

Home: Ranger

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Georgia

Occupation: Member of Congress, real estate developer

Political experience: U.S. House, 2010-present; Georgia state House, 2003-2010
Family: Married 16 years to Julie; three children
Website: gravesforcongress.org
District 7
Steve Reilly (D)
Age: 51
Home: Norcross
Education: Juris Doctor, University of Georgia Law School; bachelor's degree, Mercer University
Occupation: Attorney
Political experience: Unsuccessful 1994 state House campaign, current chair of 7th District Democratic Party
Family: Married 25 years to Cathy; two children
Website: www.stevereillyforcongress.com
Rob Woodall (R)
Age: 42
Home: Lawrenceville
Education: Juris Doctor, University of Georgia Law School; bachelor's degree from Furman University
Occupation: Member of Congress, former congressional staffer to Rep. John Linder
Political experience: U.S. House, 2011-present
Family: Single
Website: http://robwoodall.com/
District 9
DOUG COLLINS (R)
Age: 46
Home: Gainesville
Education: Juris Doctor, John Marshall Law School; bachelor's degree, North Georgia College & State University
Occupation: Attorney, Air Force Reserves chaplain
Political experience: Georgia House, 2007-present
Family: Married 23 years to Lisa; three children
Website: collinsleads.com
Jody Cooley (D)
Age: 51
Home: Gainesville

Education: Juris Doctor and bachelor's degree in business administration, University of Georgia

Occupation: Attorney

Political experience: Gainesville City School Board, 1997-2001

Family: Married 25 years to Lora; two daughters

Website: cooleyforcongress.com

District 11

PHIL GINGREY (R)(I)

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

Patrick Thompson (D)

Age: 55
Home: Cherokee County

Education: Bachelor of science in biology and psychology, Mary Washington University; bachelor of science in computer technology, ITT Technical Institute

Occupation: Venture entrepreneur in environmental technology companies

Political experience: Unsuccessful Georgia state Senate campaign in 2010

Family: Married 27 years to Lorraine; two children

Website: www.patrickthompsonforcongress.com

District 13

S. MALIK (R)

Age: 60
Home: Riverdale

Education: Attended school in Pakistan

Occupation: Owner, Around Town Atlanta
Political experience: None

Family: Married; two children

Website: malik2012.com

David Scott (D)(i)

Age: 67

Home: Atlanta

Education: Master in Business Administration, University of Pennsylvania; bachelor's degree, Florida A&M University

Occupation: Member of Congress


Family: Married more than 30 years to Alfredia; two daughters

Website: www.davidscottforcongress.com

District 5

JOHN LEWIS (D)(I)

Age: 72

Home: Atlanta

Education: Bachelor's degree, Fisk University; bachelor's degree, American Baptist Theological College

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

Howard Stopeck (R)

Age: 73

Home: Virginia-Highland

Education: Bachelor of Laws degree and Juris Doctor, Woodrow Wilson College of Law; management degree, Roosevelt University

Occupation: Poet and retired attorney

Political experience: Unsuccessful 1984 campaign for Georgia's 4th Congressional District

Family: Married 23 years to Ana; two children

Website: www.gowithsto.com
Attorney Parker C. Morgan Joins HunterMaclean’s Real Estate Practice Group

November 05, 2012

Morgan recently joined HunterMaclean, a leading business law firm with offices in Savannah and Brunswick, as an associate with the firm’s Real Estate Practice Group.

Morgan earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he received a Law School Association Scholarship. He also earned a B.A. in Political Science, magna cum laude, from the University of Georgia’s Honors program.

Morgan previously served as a summer associate with HunterMaclean, where he worked on litigation and transactional projects involving commercial real estate issues, the Stark Law, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Fair Housing Act. Before joining HunterMaclean, he clerked at a law firm in Brunswick, Ga. where he specialized in civil litigation and worked on a range of cases in state and federal court.

In addition to his legal experience, Morgan served as a soccer coach in college and covered University of Georgia sports for Dawgpost.com in Athens, Ga.

Morgan is licensed to practice law in the state of Georgia. He currently resides in Savannah.
November 5, 2012 Monday 1:47 AM EST

LENGTH: 462 words

HEADLINE: Georgia Law Names Foyer for Aflac Foundation President Kathelen Amos

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

DATELINE: ATHENS, Ga.

BODY:

The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

The University of Georgia School of Law recently dedicated one of its newly renovated spaces in honor of Kathelen V. Amos, a 1982 graduate of the law school. The ceremony included a portrait unveiling of Amos, whose likeness now hangs in the space that bears her name—the Kathelen Van Blarcum Amos Foyer. Amos and her husband, Dan, made a leadership gift to the law school to assist in its renovations and have been longtime supporters of the school.

"I cannot say enough about what Kathelen and Dan have done throughout the years to help ensure a bright future for Georgia Law," Dean Rebecca Hanner White said. "Kathelen is an outstanding advocate for and a dear friend to the law school, giving unselfishly of both her time and money. She leads by example and seeks out new ways to make a difference in the lives of those around her. Kathelen is an amazing individual, and I am thankful for having the privilege of working so closely with her over the years."

Amos has been a member of the law school's Board of Visitors since 2005 and has served as chair of the BOV for the last three years. In addition to her support of the law school's renovation, significant gifts made by Amos include the establishment of the Kathelen Van Blarcum Amos Law School Scholarship in 2010.

A native of Columbus, Ga., Amos joined Aflac as a staff attorney in its legal department in 1985 and was promoted to deputy counsel seven years later. In addition to duties in the legal arena, she was made responsible for the company's public and media relations, corporate philanthropy and its shareholder services department. Then, in 1995, her role was further expanded to include corporate advertising.

Two of Amos' most visible contributions during her career at Aflac were the introduction of the very successful Aflac Duck advertising campaign and the company becoming the named sponsor of the Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Notably, she was also Aflac's first female executive vice president, receiving that promotion in 2001. Since officially retiring from the company in 2005, she has remained the senior relationship adviser with the Aflac Cancer Center and serves as president of the Aflac Foundation.

Well-known among the philanthropic community, Amos also currently serves on the board of the Georgia Research Alliance, formerly the Georgia Cancer Coalition, and is co-chair of the advisory board of the John B. Amos Cancer Center. Additionally, she is a member of the board of trustees of Emory University, Brookstone School, the Columbus Museum and the Columbus Bank and Trust Company.

Writer: Cindy Rice
Judge Glanville gets promotion to general

Greg Land
Fulton County Superior Court Judge Ural Glanville, currently deployed to Afghanistan as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, has been promoted to brigadier general.

During a ceremony at Camp Phoenix in Kabul on Oct. 23, U.S. Marine Corps General John Allen awarded Glanville his first star while the judge's family watched via an Internet connection, according to a press release from the camp's public affairs unit.

"Words cannot begin to express how important the love and support of my family means in this moment," said Glanville, according to the release.

"The rule of law is so important to all of us—it represents the ability of the government of Afghanistan on a daily basis throughout Afghanistan to demonstrate transparency, legitimacy, due process and is one of the most visible symbols of sovereignty," Glanville said.

Glanville, 50, is a 1987 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law who served as an assistant solicitor in both Fulton and DeKalb counties before being appointed a Fulton County magistrate in 1994. He was first elected to the Fulton bench in 2004. As a member of the Army Reserve, Glanville also served as a staff judge advocate during Operation Iraqi Freedom assigned to the 335th Theater Signal Command.

Before leaving for Afghanistan, Glanville served as a military judge in the Second Judicial Region, which includes the southeastern United States, according to the release.

"This is an honor to be able to promote this great soldier, this great leader," said Allen, commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, during the ceremony, in which he replaced Glanville's colonel insignia with that of a brigadier general. "I'm deeply honored to be able to officiate at this moment."

Fulton County Superior Court Chief Judge Cynthia Wright said Glanville's cases have been assigned to other judges during his one-year deployment, which began during the summer.
Students reflect on election after state polls close

C. Bailey Davis, Marena Galluccio, Aepril Smith and Maria Torres | Posted: Tuesday, November 6, 2012 11:00 pm

Students walking near the University Arch reflected on the election Tuesday shortly after the polls in Georgia closed at 7 p.m.

Sadia Hasan, a sophomore health promotions pre-med major from Buford, said she is not happy with either President Barack Obama or Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

"I've seen the debates, and obviously Obama nailed the last one and the one before that," Hasan said. "But as a citizen, I'm not happy with my options. If either one wins, I'll just be like, 'OK.'"

Mark Grafton, a first-year law student from Miami, said he hopes Obama wins the election.

"I hope that the man with the most integrity wins," Tyler Kimbrough, a junior marketing major from Stone Mountain, said. "Because I feel like when everything else falls apart, integrity and character are the only things you can depend on. We need to be able to trust whoever's [in] office."

Rebel Lord, a first-year anthropology and linguistics major from Dublin, said this is his first presidential election.

"I just really think what this country needs right now is to return to its family values," Lord said. "I think that would solve a lot of problems. I hope the winning candidate places an emphasis on getting back to what America once was when it was founded."

At Myers Hall, students surround televisions, eagerly watching the election results flooding in.

"I voted because I am from a swing state and know the importance of each vote," said Ellen Catlin, a senior painting major from Jacksonville, Fla.

This is the first election that Isaac Hopkins, a freshman English and theater major from Gainesville, has been eligible to vote.

"I also had the opportunity to take my grandmother to vote for her 20th election," Hopkins said. "I voted because I believe it really is essential for our democracy for youth to take full reign of the direction of the country."

Jonathan Rawls, an economics major from Gwinnett County, also voted in his first election.

"I voted for a couple of reasons," Rawls said. "It is a historic election in terms of policy and the direction of America. I believe it it important for our democracy to express our opinion, regardless
of political affiliation.”

Tate Grand Hall is ready to watch the vote.

See the Vote Election Party at Tate allows for students from the University to come together and watch the 2012 election.

The line to get into See the Vote Election Party was out the door, down four flights of stairs and wrapped around the corner at the Tate Student Center.

The University’s student body is ready for what the night may bring.

Chelsea Chambers, a freshman from Tucker, voted for the first time with an absentee ballot.

“I am excited to see where we might be headed in the next four years,” Chambers said.

Caroline Caldwell, a theater freshman from Easley, S.C., agrees with Chambers as she hopes to see history to be made.

“It is good that the University is putting [See the Vote] on and not expecting us to watch it on our own, but rather are encouraging people to vote and to support the government.”

Whether they are going to stay the whole night is a different story.

“I probably won’t stay for the whole night, but I want some food so I will probably wait for it to get here,” Chambers said.

Britney McDonald is an international affairs and linguistics and romance languages junior from Kingston, Jamaica and the coordinator for the Committee for Black Cultural Programming within the University Union.

“We started preparing in mid-September and then found out that the Residence Hall Association had an event four years ago titled Housing Rocks the Vote, and we decided to collaborate with them and Alpha Phi Alpha and produce an exciting event,” she said.

The goal of See the Vote is to create a relaxed and safe environment and safe for students to express opinions in mind of others.

Amber Painter, a political science and pre-law junior from Dallas, Ga., is the Residence Hall Association vice president and co-head for event.

“Almost 500 students said ‘yes’ on Facebook along with 150 ‘maybe.’ Two-thousand-two-hundred were invited on the Facebook event, but we talked around our classes,” Painter said.

“Everyone has been saying they know about it.”

Throughout the night, the event is offering food including catering by Chick-fil-A and Krispy Kreme and prizes such as bean bags and futons. Buses will also be provided for students to go to East Campus Village when the event is complete in the early morning.
“We hope to allow the student body to come together, Democrats and Republicans of all ages, and celebrate together to watch the event and get free T-shirts and other free stuff,” said Andre Sutton, a third-year marketing major from Decatur and the representative Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

With more polls closing across the country, students at the Miller Learning Center were concerned about the results.

Freshmen Tyler Crase and Kyle Larson sat at Jittery Joe’s on their computers.

Crase, a Romney supporter, said the election is a toss-up with Florida’s results being so tight.

“I think Romney has a solid chance if he pulls off Florida,” said the business major from Kennesaw. “It’s all up to that and there’s no way of knowing because they currently tallied 84 percent of the vote, and it’s still neck-in-neck. It could go either way but I’m hopeful.”

Larson, a business and journalism major from Marietta, said he supports Romney because he doesn’t think the direction the country has been going in recent years is where it should be going. He followed polls leading up to the election and did so all Tuesday.

“It’s way too close to call,” Larson said. “If Ohio goes to Obama, I think it will become very difficult for Romney to win through that. He would have to pull out Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Colorado if he wanted a shot to win from there.”

Zack Upton, a fifth-year math major from Winder, said he has been trying not to think about the election all day.

“I’ve been hanging out all day, keeping myself busy, working on homework so I don’t have to worry about it,” he said. “I have a certain outcome I would like, and I’m afraid it’s not going to happen. I’m just going to wait until I hear the news later on.”

But Jamelia Jones, a senior criminal justice and psychology major from Augusta, said she was looking forward to finding out election results.

“I’m excited, but I’m really nervous,” she said. “I really want Obama to win but the way things are looking, it’s going to be a really close race.”

Burt Casarella, a second-year graduate student student from Dawsonville, said he wants Romney to win but it’s “looking 50-50.”

“It can swing either way,” he said. “I’m a Rand-ian philosopher. It matters to me if a Conservative is elected.”

Harris Pankow, a second year engineering major from Gainesville, said he wish the election wasn’t as close.
"I'm actually holding off to check again but I wish Romney was in the lead," he said.

Halie O'Brien said this would have been her first election where she was old enough, but she did not get to vote.

"I tried voting three times and still did not get to. I first tried early and the lines were just too long. I even drove back home today and waited twice, but the lines were just ridiculous," said Halie O'Brien, a freshman environmental health major from Smyrna.

"I am just glad Todd Akin lost tonight. That is good for women everywhere," Alex Edquist, a freshman economics major from Alpharetta, said.
Downs: Whatever the vote on charter amendment, Georgia has serious work to do in public education

By BERTIS DOWNS, published Tuesday, November 6, 2012

This is being written on Sunday, so I have no idea how the charter school amendment vote came out on Tuesday.

Like a lot of people, I hope and pray Amendment 1 is defeated, and I’ve tried to get the word out on what the choice really comes down to — continuing the challenging work of improving the public schools we have, or giving up on those schools and hoping the magic elixir of “choice” and “reform” and “competition” will somehow do that hard work itself (with a hefty dose of politics and cronyism and for-profit management companies playing an outsized role in the place of the school boards and local control Georgians have always valued). But however the vote came out on Tuesday, there will be lots of work to do in transforming our schools so that all children can flourish and have the opportunity to reach their potential.

I know a fair amount about our local schools in Athens, having about 16 student-years of experience at four schools in the district as a parent. I know the hallways, teachers, students, principals and staff of those four westside schools well, and our family has had an overall positive experience — our children have learned, grown and thrived pretty much all the way through. The schools I know are fine schools. But as I think about the complex issues surrounding the general discussions of “education reform” and the specific ways a new state charter schools commission might change the schools, for the worst, I think also about a school I don’t know as much about but have had some recent experience with — the eastside’s Coile Middle School.

I first visited Coile last spring at the invitation of Steve Jones, local Cedar Shoals High School kid made good as a lawyer, now a federal judge (and a former student of mine at the University of Georgia School of Law — I’m proud of that fact!).

Steve and I were guests of the Coile Men’s Group,
an English class of eighth-graders organized by Paul Sellew, recently named Coile’s Teacher of the Year, who wants his students to see beyond their immediate circumstances and envision what they might become if they work hard and apply themselves — in eighth grade, high school and beyond.

Sellew brings in guest speakers once a month to talk about their careers and how they got to where they are today. From the minute I walked in the door at Coile Middle School, I was impressed by the kids, Sellew, Principal Dwight Manzy and the overall look and feel and atmosphere at the school. My brief remarks to the eighth-graders were about my own modest upbringing with a single mother, and the importance of my Big Brother/mentor, who pointed me toward college and becoming a lawyer. He, and other significant mentor figures in my life, including lots of teachers, have a lot to do with who I am now and whatever I have managed to achieve in life — and I never forget that, or them.

Steve came at it from his own perspective, both as a youngster and as a judge who saw kids not much older than this group who have made bad decisions that affected the rest of their lives. It was a sobering and realistic message and the kids were attentive, engaged and switched-on. It was an eye-opening experience for me and it was definitely a case of learning at least as much from the students as they learned from me.

On paper, statistically speaking, Coile has the most challenging demographics of the four middle schools in Athens. And yet, in terms of measurements like test scores, its student performance is at or near the top of the Clarke County School District year after year. Why is this? How can there be more Coile Middle schools? Well, it must have a lot to do with the principal, who came to Coile a few years ago from Whitehead Road Elementary. Manzy clearly sets a tone at the school, inspires talented and dedicated teachers who believe all students can learn, and lets his teachers do their work to make a difference.

It’s working. It helps that the faculty is stellar — Coile students win significant awards in math and other academic competitions; the teachers have won awards of excellence and classroom grants from the Foundation for Excellence. Teachers like Kelly Bivins look beyond the school day and try to incorporate activities that will positively impact their students’ lives.

Right now, Bivins is planning a trip to the base of the Appalachian Trail with two dozen of her students, aided by a grant she received from the Foundation for Excellence. She believes in her kids and rewards them when she can. As she says, “These are great kids who’ve qualified for this field trip due to their hard work, leadership skills, and application essays. Plus, for most of the students, this will be their first time seeing the mountains!”

I happen to know about Paul and Kelly from firsthand experience — but I also know there are many others at Coile and at every other school in our community doing similarly great work. They are Athens heroes.

However the charter amendment came out, I hope we do more to build
up these schools rather than tear them down — to replicate the many successes our schools, our students and their families, with the guidance of their teachers and support staff, can achieve even against the long odds that so many of them face.

Personally, I put my faith and hope in Clarke County Schools Superintendent Phil Lanoue, Dwight Manzy, Paul Sellew, Kelly Bivins and the host of other dedicated teachers and educators throughout our district and throughout Georgia. And if politicians are going to become even more involved in Georgia’s schools, as a parent I would simply ask them to really listen to the teachers, principals and superintendents who are doing a good job and to let them help re-create those successes elsewhere so there can be more great schools all across the state.

Good schools for all kids — anything less than that is not a goal worth having.

* Bertis Downs is an Athens lawyer and father of two children in local schools.
The law firm of Cantey Hanger, with headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, has hired two new associates, according to a press release from the firm. The new associates at the firm are Antonio Allen and Matthew Neill. Allen’s practice will be centered on Labor and Employment Law while Neill’s practice will be centered on Litigation.

Allen is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he earned his BBA in Transportation and Logistics and his Master’s in Business. Allen spent 15 years with Frito-Lay in management positions before he earned his J.D. from the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. Allen has worked for the Attorney General’s Office in the Consumer Protection Division in Austin and the Dallas County Public Defender Office.

Allen belongs to the Tarrant County Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas and the American Bar Association’s Litigation Section.

Neill earned his Bachelor’s degree in Economics from Baylor University and he acquired his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law. While in law school, Neill worked for the Western Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office. Neill is also a member of the State Bar of Texas. While in school Neill was part of the University of Georgia Mock Trial team.

Both men volunteer their time with Junior Achievement while Neill is a volunteer youth basketball coach.

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Posted by jim on November 6, 2012. Filed under Cantey Hanger Law Firm News. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.
Governor Deal's JNC gets 75 names for appeals court

Kathleen Baydala Joyner and Alyson M. Palmer
Governor Nathan Deal’s Judicial Nominating Commission received 75 names of judges and lawyers to replace retiring Judge A. Harris Adams, a huge number compared with recent open seats.

Some of the nominees are expected to withdraw from consideration before the panel interviews candidates next month to select a short list from which Deal will make his fifth appellate appointment since taking office 22 months ago.

When Deal appointed Judge Michael Boggs to the Court of Appeals in December 2011, he chose from a list of six applicants, which the JNC had pared down from 18. The state Supreme Court vacancy this summer drew a pool of about 40 applicants to replace Justice George Carley, which the JNC trimmed to seven and from which Deal appointed Justice Keith Blackwell. Two more Court of Appeals vacancies around the time yielded a field also of about 40—most were carried over from the Supreme Court list—which the JNC reduced to seven and from which Deal appointed Judges William “Billy” Ray II and Lisa Branch.

Adams, 64, announced in August that he will retire on Jan. 1 after a decade on the appellate court. Whoever is appointed is expected to face the voters in 2014.

Many of the nominees to replace him already are members of the judiciary in the municipal, juvenile, state and superior courts. The long list of nominees also includes prosecutors, trial lawyers, solo practitioners, large firm partners, government attorneys and civil defense lawyers.

Five of the nominees have been on the short list for other appellate seats that Deal filled: Green & Sapp litigator Mary Paige Adams, who is a member of the JNC (and not related to Harris Adams); DeKalb County Chief Assistant District Attorney Don Geary; Macon Superior Court Judge Tilman “Trip” Self III; State Bar of Georgia Past President Kenneth Shigley; and Henry County State Court Chief Judge Benjamin Studdard III.

Adams, Self and Shigley confirmed Tuesday they will pursue the appointment, while Studdard declined to comment.

"It is an honor to be nominated for the Georgia Court of Appeals and it would be a privilege to serve the citizens of Georgia," said Adams in a written statement.

"I am honored and humbled to be included with so many distinguished lawyers and judges on the list of nominees for the upcoming vacancy on the Court of Appeals. I am also grateful to my many friends and supporters around the State who have offered me their advice and encouragement," Self said, also in a written statement.

Geary, who garnered national media attention for his conviction of Hemy Neuman and prosecution of Andrea Sneiderman in the Dunwoody day care murder case, said he also plans to apply. So does Fulton County Superior Court Judge Todd Markle, who served as Deal’s executive counsel prior to his appointment in July 2011.

The long list also includes Antonio DelCampo, a former DeKalb County State Court judge, who was considered for a federal judgeship in 2009. DelCampo, who is now a plaintiffs attorney with Harris Penn Lowry DelCampo, said he is seriously considering submitting an application for the Court of Appeals seat.

"It’s an important court, and it’s an honor to have been nominated," he said.

Here, from the JNC, is the full list of nominees:

- Catherine “Katie” Salinas Acree, partner at Carlton Fields specializing in business and white collar crime litigation;
- Mary Paige Adams, Green & Sapp litigator and member of the JNC;
- Virgil Adams, Bibb County attorney and former Macon assistant district attorney;
- Wayne R. Allen, the state’s legislative counsel;
- Kathleen Joan Anderson, a lawyer with the Piedmont Circuit Public Defender;
- Alison Kyler Arce, part-time Fulton County Superior Court Family Division magistrate and partner at Arce Shaw.
Manubir "Manny" Arora, an Atlanta criminal defense lawyer with Arora & LaScala;
Aliisa C. Atkins, senior associate at Ken David & Associates specializing in workers compensation defense;
Amelia Waller Baker, lawyer with the state Law Department;
Jeffrey Bashuk, attorney with Bashuk & Glickman in Atlanta;
David S. Beale, Atlanta lawyer;
Deborah C. Benefield, Clayton County Superior Court chief judge;
Ernest Blount, Henry County State Court judge;
Christopher S. Brasher, Fulton County Superior Court judge;
Charles Bridgers, partner at Delong, Caldwell, Bridgers & Fitzpatrick and general counsel for physician practices and restaurant groups;
Manley Brown, personal injury and product liability lawyer at O'Neal & Brown and former assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia;
Sewell R. Brumby, Conyers lawyer and former legislative counsel;
Jacqueline Bunn, a lawyer with the Georgia Department of Public Safety;
Deitra Pleshette Burney-Butler, Clayton County Juvenile Court judge;
W. Sander "Sandy" Callahan, Atlanta solo practitioner specializing in criminal defense and other matters;
Dan Thomas Carter, labor and employment lawyer in Jones Day's Cleveland, Ohio, office;
Michael C. Clark, Gwinnett County Superior Court judge;
Charles M. Cork III, Macon attorney who previously chaired the amicus curiae committee for the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association;
Arthur J. Creque, chief assistant solicitor-general in Houston County;
C. Celeste Creswell, a civil litigator with Miller & Martin's Chattanooga office;
David Darden, Cobb County State Court judge and president of the Council of State Court Judges;
Antonio DelCampo, plaintiff's attorney with Harris Penn Lowry DelCampo and a former DeKalb County State Court judge;
James Alan Dooley, Douglas County assistant district attorney;
C. Wilson DuBose, Madison attorney who has served as president of the Atlanta Bar Association and chairman of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council;
Christopher Edwards, chief judge for the Griffin Circuit Superior Court;
Jason "Jay" Fisher, lawyer with the state Law Department;
Angela Marie Garland, assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Georgia;
Don P. Geary, DeKalb County chief assistant district attorney;
William D. Gifford, an assistant U.S. attorney in the Middle District of Georgia;
Stephen Goss, Dougherty Circuit Superior Court judge;
R. William Graham, owner and operator of A Patent Lawyer, which is based in Oklahoma and also operates in Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio;
Reuben Green, Cobb County Superior Court judge;
Jason T. Harper, Henry County State Court judge;
Thomas D. Harper, solo practitioner and mediator; (J.D. ’77)
Lorraine Sanchez Hayes, Tyrone attorney who offers corporations consulting services in law department management and conflict resolution;
Joshua E. Kight, solo practitioner in Dublin, Ga. and executive director of the Downtown Dublin Development Authority;
Gerard B. Kleinrock, appellate attorney with the DeKalb County Public Defender’s Office;
Leslie Klemperer, former lawyer at Delta Air Lines who is chair of the board of directors of the Georgia Justice Project;
J. Pope Langstaff, civil and tort litigation lawyer at Chambless, Higdon, Richardson, Katz & Griggs and former Macon city attorney;
Hugh J. Lanier, government attorney in Lawrenceville;
Jeannette Little, Troup County State Court judge;
Willie J. Lovett, Jr., director of the Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney;
James Luttrell, a solo practitioner in Canton;
D. Todd Markle, who was Deal’s executive counsel before the governor appointed him to the Fulton County Superior Court;
Marc Mallon, Fulton County chief senior assistant district attorney;
Richard Marks, Atlanta Circuit public defender;
Doug McKillip, former state House representative from Athens defeated in the Republican primary this summer; (J.D. ’94)
Carla Wong McMillan, Fayette County State Court judge; (J.D. ’98)
Garret W. Meader, litigation partner with Brown, Readdick, Bumgartner, Carter, Strickland & Watkins in Brunswick;
Larry B. Mims, Tift County State Court judge; (J.D. ’96)
LaRae Dixon Moore, Chattahoochee Circuit assistant district attorney;
Ashley Phillips Purcell, heads Hall Booth Smith’s birth trauma and catastrophic injury litigation group; (J.D. ’95)
Latonya Moore Raston, lawyer with Novartis Animal Health, an animal pharmaceutical company, in Greensboro, N.C.;
Richard Read, Rockdale County district attorney; (J.D. ’87)
Tilman E. “Trip” Self III, Macon Circuit Superior Court judge; (J.D. ’77)
Kenneth L. Shigley, State Bar of Georgia past president and trial lawyer at Chambers, Aholt & Rickard;
Lamar Sizemore Jr., of counsel and mediator at Sell & Martin and former Macon Superior Court judge;
Michelle Smith;
D. Jay Stewart, Atlantic Circuit Superior Court judge;
Benjamin Studdard III, Henry County State Court chief judge;
Jeffrey “Jeff” W. Stump, a lawyer with the state Law Department;
J. Darren Summerville, a litigator with Summerville Moore in Atlanta;

Wes Tailor, Fulton County State Court judge and former director of the Georgia Secretary of State's Elections Division;

Kathryn Tanksley, Cobb County State Court judge; (J. D. '83)

Jason Brian Von Berman, lawyer at Fidelity National Title Group;

Nathan J. Wade, solo practitioner and Marietta Municipal Court judge;

R. Christina "Chris" Wall, medical malpractice defense lawyer at Carlock, Copeland & Stair; (J. D. '97)

Thomas Leland Walker, solo practitioner in Atlanta; (J. D. '92)

Lyle G. Warshauer, personal injury attorney with the Warshauer Law Group in Atlanta;

Charles S. Wynne, Hall County State Court judge. (J. D. '97)
Real estate duo jumps from Paul Hastings to Carlton Fields
Paul Hastings partner Charles Sharbaugh has decamped for Carlton Fields, bringing an associate, Jason Howard, with whom he works closely in his real estate practice.

"I am very proud to have been a Paul Hastings partner and to be a Paul Hastings alumni. It's a wonderful firm," said Sharbaugh, who joined Carlton Fields on Nov. 1 as a shareholder. Howard joined as an associate.

Carlton Fields has also hired an associate for its corporate practice, Philip Bresson, from Quarles & Brady in Florida.

Paul Hastings' local managing partner, Phil Marzetti, wished Sharbaugh well. "Charlie and I have been great friends since 1975, when we worked together at Powell Goldstein," he said.

Sharbaugh started practicing law at Powell Goldstein in 1974 where he worked until Marzetti recruited him to Paul Hastings in 1994.

"I wish him a lot of success and hope he has a lot of fun," said Marzetti. "I will miss him."

Marzetti said the global firm still has three real estate lawyers in its Atlanta office and is actively looking for a fourth. "We continue to have a vibrant practice here in Atlanta," he said.

Sharbaugh said he started thinking about Carlton Fields after talking to Greg Null, who joined the Florida-based firm 3½ years ago to start a commercial real estate practice for its Atlanta office.

"I have been friends and worked with Greg Null for many years, and the fit for us was exactly right," said Sharbaugh, explaining that he and Howard will have more flexibility in pricing matters.

"We believe that working with a firm of the size and caliber of Carlton Fields will provide a better opportunity for us to service our real estate clients," Sharbaugh said. The roughly 300-lawyer firm has offices in Florida and Atlanta and just opened a New York office.

"Having the international presence of Paul Hastings is a wonderful thing—but it's not a wonderful thing for all the clients we represent," he said.

Null said he was delighted to add the Paul Hastings lawyers to the team. "Charlie is one of the icons of the commercial real estate finance practice in Atlanta. It's a terrific opportunity for us," he said.

The addition of Sharbaugh and Howard gives Carlton Field's Atlanta office eight real estate lawyers, Null said. "It's been a growing enterprise in this down market," he said. "We think we have as deep a bench as any firm in the country."

Carlton Fields takes a low-leverage approach, he said, with more shareholders than associates. Of the Atlanta real estate team, all are shareholders except Howard and one of counsel.

"We don't compete on rates necessarily, but on the overall cost of the transaction. When it's staffed with more experienced people, we can do it faster," he said.

Null said the group's focus has been helping clients with distressed debt and problem loan work, but "increasingly we are seeing more funding opportunities" as the economy slowly recovers.

Sharbaugh said he and Howard are representing private equity funds in workouts, distressed debt deals, and some new acquisitions in multifamily housing.

"One of the things I enjoy most is working with my friends and clients to make deals happen," he said.

The biggest deal he and Howard have done this year, Sharbaugh said, was representing Crocker Partners in the acquisition of the Prominence Building in Buckhead at the Piedmont Loop—a complex deal with multiple sellers, plus zoning and financing issues. "It was fun," he said.
Sharbaugh added that he was "very proud" of a deal he and Howard handled last year, representing the City of Atlanta in the sale of City Hall East to Jamestown Properties.

Other clients include Area Property Co., based in New York, and Quarter Circle Properties in Nebraska as well as local funds, Live Oak Investors and Bright Side Properties. He's handled industrial and some office deals for Koch Industries and its subsidiary, Georgia-Pacific.

Sharbaugh is also quite involved in the community. He is president of the Druid Hills Golf Club and serves on the boards of Zoo Atlanta, The Atlanta Opera, the Midtown Alliance and Kennesaw State University Foundation.

Asked if he'd considered retiring, Sharbaugh, 63, replied, "I've got a lot of energy, and I'm not ready to go to the first tee."

He added that he enjoys working with Howard and ultimately plans to hand off the practice to him.

Howard joined Paul Hastings almost three years ago, after receiving his law degree from the University of Georgia in 2009. "I started working with Charlie and I've been side by side with him my entire time in practice," he said.

During his undergraduate career at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Howard was a three-time Academic All-American in swimming. He is on the advisory board of the Pro Bono Partnership.

Historic Savannah firms combine

Two established Savannah firms have announced they'll merge. Bouhan, Williams & Levy, whose roots go back to 1886, is combining with Inglesby, Falligant, Horne, Courington & Chisholm, effective Jan. 1, 2013.

The combined firm, to be called Bouhan + Falligant, will be headquartered in the Armstrong House at 447 Bull St., where Bouhan Williams has its offices.

The merger marks the first name change in 44 years for Bouhan Williams, which handles corporate law and litigation.

One Bouhan Williams lawyer, Frank W. "Sonny" Seiler, was the lead defense counsel in the multiple trials of local antiques dealer and preservationist Jim Williams for the 1981 killing of his assistant, Danny Hansford, which occurred in Williams' home, Mercer House. The case was made famous by John Berendt's book, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, published in 1994.

Bouhan Williams acquired the Armstrong House from Williams in 1970, according to the firm's website.

Seiler is also the owner of the UGA bulldog dynasty. He and his family have raised the University of Georgia mascots, Uga I to Uga IX, since the 1950s.

Bouhan + Falligant's managing partner will be Lea Holliday, the managing partner of Bouhan Williams. The firm will have 29 lawyers if all 17 Bouhan Williams and all 12 Inglesby Falligant lawyers make the move.

"Inglesby Falligant will contribute what we consider to be the best group of commercial and residential real estate lawyers in the Southeast, plus an extensive bankruptcy practice," Holliday said in a statement. "Our trial lawyers, who are well known for litigating business disputes and defending malpractice cases, will be complemented by Inglesby Falligant's successful products liability, transportation and family law practices."

Inglesby Falligant's senior partner, Danny Falligant, said Bouhan Williams has "produced some of the finest lawyers in Savannah in many years. We've observed their exceptional team from the other side of the table and now can look forward to being on the same side."

Briefly

The Weather Company, parent of The Weather Channel, has hired Jennifer Cavanaugh from JetBlue Airways Corp. as senior employment counsel and chief compliance officer. Cavanaugh spent almost a decade at JetBlue in New York, where she was lead labor and employment counsel.

Carlock, Copeland & Stair has chosen William P. Jones to serve as the firm's general counsel. Jones is a litigator focused on representing contractors, designers and owners in construction disputes. He also handles litigation related to
protecting trade secrets and enforcing employment agreements.

**McKenna Long & Aldridge** has hired six new associates for its Atlanta office, among a fall class of 18 first-year associates. **Erica Svoboda** joined the corporate practice with a law degree from the University of Georgia. **Suneet Sidhu**, who joined the real estate and finance practice, earned a law degree from Emory University. Four associates joined the litigation practice: **Cary Burke** and **Jeff Zachman** from UGA, **Jennifer Whitton** from Georgia State University and **Chris Cottrell** from the University of Pennsylvania.

**HunterMaclean** in Savannah has hired two new associates, both 2012 graduates of the University of Georgia School of Law. **Parker Morgan** joined the firm’s real estate practice and **Gregory DeBacker** joined its corporate and tax practice.

The **Georgia Defense Lawyers Association** received the **Defense Research Institute’s top award this year** for innovative programs contributing to the defense bar. The DRI, which is the national association of the civil defense bar, recognized GDLA for its membership drive, which encouraged members to recruit at least one new member. That yielded three times the usual number of applications and has been copied by other civil defense bar associations. The group was also commended for expanding its continuing legal education programming, its robust amicus brief program and its newsletter, *The Georgia Defense Lawyer.*
The date was September 15th at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia. Bulldog fans cheered as Russ, the eight-year old interim mascot, was escorted to midfield to be officially collared as "Uga IX." Dog owner Sonny Seiler and University of Georgia President Michael Adams did the honors.

Seiler says the dog represents more than the football team. "He's the University mascot. The decision was made to make him "Uga IX" and there he sits on his throne as old as he is."

Seiler is a University of Georgia Law School graduate and prominent attorney in Savannah. He's provided Georgia's bulldog mascot ever since 1956.

The original "Uga" can be traced back to Columbus. Frank Heard, who now lives in Lumpkin, Georgia, owned a young English bulldog named Bobo. Frank went to Columbus High School with Sonny's bride-to-be Cecelia.

When Frank headed off to the Army, he needed a home for Bobo. Heard recalls, "When I left I thought there was no better hands...she (Cecelia) was ready to get married. There were no better hands to do that because they obviously both loved the dog, and so that's how it started."

Bobo's name was changed thanks to a suggestion from another Columbus resident, Seiler's law school buddy Billy Young.

"Billy said Seiler, if I had that dog I'd call him Uga. I said Uga? What is that? He said, you know, University of Georgia. I said Billy that's the smartest thing I've ever heard you say. And that's how Uga got its name."

By the fall of 1956 word of Seiler's bulldog had spread to Georgia Head Football Coach Wally Butts who...
A Dog Named "Uga"

IWRBL http://www2.wrbl.com/news/2012/nov/07/dog-named-uga-ar-4919318/

called Sonny into his office. Seiler remembers that Coach Butts said, "Dan (Magill) tells me you've got an English bulldog that might make us a good mascot. Why don't you let us use him? I don't seem to be affording much entertainment." Seiler responded, "Well coach, if you think it will help the program I'll be glad to do it." Coach Butts said, "Good, have him at every game."

That started a tradition that has lasted for 56 years. Sonny Seiler's Bulldog mascots have enjoyed incredible moments in the spotlight.

Uga III's reign was capped off with a national championship in 1980. Uga IV became the first four-legged mascot to attend the Heisman trophy ceremony in New York with Herschel Walker. Uga V made national headlines when he defended his turf against Auburn's Robert Baker in 1996. Baker had scored a touchdown and ran near Uga.

Seiler says, "Uga wanted to catch him. So he jumped up to grab his forearm. In the film it looked like he was going for something else. But he was really going for his arm and he missed and Baker pulled him back just in the nick of time."

In 1997 Uga was named America's best mascot by Sports Illustrated.

Despite the mascot's close attachment to the University, Seiler reminds folks to keep things in proper perspective. "People don't understand this. They are family pets first and mascots next. So we get very, very wrapped up in them."

By the way, Frank Heard...the gentleman from Columbus whose gift to Sonny started the Uga line at Georgia...he graduated from Auburn.
Atlanta JC: Judge imposes harsh sanctions on Norcross drug treatment facility

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Atlanta JC: Judge imposes harsh sanctions on Norcross drug treatment facility

By Christian Boone The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Nov. 09--In a rare move, a DeKalb County state judge has withdrawn a Norcross drug treatment facility's response to allegations in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by a former patient's parents.

Judge Stacey K. Hydrick said in a court order Nov. 5 that Narconon of Georgia "intentionally, willfully and repeatedly provided false and misleading responses to plaintiff's discovery requests regarding issues relevant to the resolution of this case."

Narconon "repeatedly failed to produce, and on multiple occasions falsely denied the existence of clearly relevant, responsive documents and information," Hydrick wrote.

As a result, the allegations against Narconon will essentially go unanswered, which will be to the suing parents' advantage.

"This judicial order is as sharply worded rebuke of a party as one is likely to see in American courts," said University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson, calling the sanctions "very uncommon."

In their suit, the family of Patrick Desmond -- who died of a drug overdose four years ago while a patient at Narconon of Georgia -- alleges the rehabilitation facility duped them into believing it provided in-patient care even though it lacked the proper license.

Their suit, filed in May 2010, also accuses Narconon of Georgia of lying to Florida's drug court, which had sentenced Desmond to six months in an in-patient residential facility.

Those accusations will go uncontested during the civil trial, scheduled to begin in mid-February, unless an appeal is granted, Carlson said.

In a statement, Narconon of Georgia's lawyers said they "respectfully disagree" with Hydrick's order.

"We are now pursuing the only avenue available to us to try to seek appellate review of the order at this time," said attorneys Steve Miller and Barbara Marschalk in their statement.

That appeal cannot be granted, however, without Hydrick's permission.

Information contained within the Desmond lawsuit -- first reported by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution last month -- has led Georgia's Department of Community Health to reopen an investigation into Narconon of Georgia.

The state has received a decade's worth of complaints that Narconon, licensed only for outpatient care, was illegally operating a residential facility. But investigators say they never had enough evidence to prove the accusations, even though a number of its inspectors believed the Norcross treatment facility had repeatedly
misrepresented itself.

DCH director David Cook said the state can't act against Narconon solely on the basis that it may have made false claims about providing residential care.

"There's a distinction between running a residential treatment facility and holding oneself out as a residential treatment facility," Cook told the AJC. "The violation would be actually running a residential treatment facility."

Attorney Jeff Harris, who represents Rick and Colleen Desmond, said his clients were "very gratified" by the order.

"Though they realize it won't bring their son back, they feel this brings them one step closer to shutting down Narconon for good," he said.

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Marianna Miller

Marianna, 84, passed away peacefully at her home on November 3, 2012. Despite being in excellent health for most of her life, she developed Cushing’s Syndrome, followed by metastasized adrenal cancer in the liver, a very rare form of cancer.

Marianna grew up on a farm near Goldsboro, NC, the daughter of Floyd and Bertha Morris. During childhood she loved school, reading and learning. She dreamed of one day seeing the places described in stories she read. Her love of learning continued throughout her life.

Marianna attended Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, graduating with a B.A. in Home Economics in 1949. In October 1947, at a Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting, she met Jack Miller, then a student at NC State. They were married on December 21, 1950. She could not have known at that first meeting that he would become her cherished husband of 62 years or imagined the team they would be for decades.

The summer of 1948, she worked with the Free Will Baptist Children’s Home. As a fund raiser for the orphanage, she drove, and was responsible for a group of the children who travelled throughout eastern NC singing at different church each night and staying in homes of church members. Marianna was the dietician for the 4-H Club Camp in Manteo, NC in the summer of 1949.

Then through 1950 she was assistant home agent and 4-H agent for Randolph County, NC.

After her marriage to Jack, she taught sewing at the Wisconsin Reform School for Girls near Madison while he completed his Ph.D. Their first daughter was born the night after his final exam. After a year at the University of Illinois, they moved to Athens in 1953.

Marianna stayed home with her children until the four were in school. Her degree in Home Economics and growing up during the Depression served her well in this period. She was an excellent seamstress and cook and took pride in those duties. She canned and froze most of the vegetables and many of the fruits for the family table, made hers and the children’s clothes, including costumes for her daughters’ dance recitals, and cut family members’ hair. Earlier she had typed Jack’s PhD dissertation and Master’s thesis and later many of his articles for publication when secretarial support was insufficient. They also worked together on many enterprises, including land and tree farm purchases and management.

Marianna, a hard worker, was often compared to The Little Engine That Could, a favorite book of her children. Whatever the task, she found a way to get things done; she believed that if something was worth doing, it was worth doing well. When Marianna and Jack built their house, to a considerable extent they literally did it themselves. They designed and drew plans and did much of the physical labor required to erect the brick ranch. Marianna finished sheetrock, woodwork and hardwood floors; helped pour concrete; painted walls; and then made the drapes and upholstery covers for the home furnishings. She proceeded to fill the house with love and laughter through her respect, admiration and devotion to Jack and her unwavering guidance and nurturing of her children. Her inspiration and encouragement of her children lead them to much achievement and to lead healthful, helpful and Christian-like lives.

Even though Marianna and Jack worked hard at their careers, they took time to enjoy life and each other’s companionship. They played bridge, square danced, and travelled throughout the U.S. (46 states), Canada and Europe. On these trips, Marianna saw places she had read about during her formative years.

When her children were in school, Marianna returned to UGA for her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and her 6-year certificate, in elementary education. She taught first grade at Alps Road School from 1967 to 1988. She had a particular enthusiasm for sharing her love of reading with new students and served as an inspiration and mentor for students and fellow faculty members alike.

During her tenure at Alps Road, she was named Clarke County Teacher of the Year, an honor that meant much to her. Later she was the Instructional Lead Teacher at Statham Elementary School for 9 years from 1988 to 1997. When she retired from Statham Elementary, among the gifts she received was a rocking chair (although her co-workers commented that they knew she would be too active to merely sit in a chair). Her retirement ceremony, which included dedication of a bench area to her, was well attended with many students, teachers, administrators and family members.

Marianna was a woman of strong faith and she lived her faith every day of her life. She was fond of quoting from Psalms: "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 116:24). She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Athens from 1953 until her death. They attended weekly services, Sunday School, and Wednesday night suppers, taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and participated fully in the life of the church with friends and family. Marianna made sure her children attended Sunday school and church, as well as Vacation Bible School, and later the Methodist Youth Fellowship. When her grandchildren were old enough, she took them as well to Bible School.

For more than 30 years, Marianna enjoyed playing the piano for the Tuck Class at the First United Methodist Church, a class which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Even after the side effects of the Cushing’s Syndrome forced her to leave that cherished position, she continued to attend services and was an active member of the Fellowship Class, serving as its president for the last 3 years she attended.

Marianna was an avid bridge player, and played regularly in two women’s groups, a couples bridge group, bridge-a-rama and a marathon bridge group, and, after computers were invented, online bridge. Family bridge games were a highlight of many gatherings. A strong advocate of education, not only in her professional career, but in her own life as well. Marianna earned her Doctor of Education from UGA at age 56, graduating in the same ceremony as her son. Bill graduated with his law degree.

Marianna always sought ways to remain close to family. She was one of the first in the family to get an email address and begin corresponding with others in the family, assisting each of them with the "new" technology, now so common. For years she had written a weekly letter to her out-of-town family and the new technology was a welcome change from the manual typewriter and carbon paper she had used in the beginning.

She also began a road race tradition that has continued for four generations. She was one of the first in the family to run the Peachtree Road Race and did so with many of her children and grandchildren over the years, running it into her mid-70s. She ran a 5K most weekends rather than training in the traditional manner and enjoyed meeting the other runners at the races.

Marianna was always ready to help people in anyway she could. She welcomed her children’s and grandchildren’s friends into her...
home and often made homemade pancakes or waffles for them, which many of them still remember. Many who came as visitors for Sunday lunch have become lifelong friends.

She is survived by her husband, William Jack Miller, Sr.; their four children, Virginia McGuffey and husband, Wade; Nancy Jones and husband, Randall; Barbara Goetz and husband, Vic; and William Jack (Bill) Miller, Jr. and wife, Kim; by her two sisters, Liz Thigpen and Margaret Batchelor, and one brother, Donald Morris and wife, Lois; by ten grandchildren, Mack McGuffey and wife, Laura, Michelle Conti and husband, David; Jennifer McGuffey, Preston Jones and wife, Meredith; Alana Jones, Jean Mangan and husband, Trevor; Anne Goetz, Harrison Miller, Maggie Miller and Katie Miller, and by five great grandchildren, Madison, Elizabeth, Nora, Denver and Rebecca.

The family will be receiving friends from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Saturday November 10, 2012 at Bernstein's Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Athens, Georgia on Sunday November 11, 2012, at 3:00 pm. The family will receive friends immediately after. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Fellowship Sunday School Class, the Tuck Sunday School Class, and their spouses. The family requests that in lieu of flowers you consider donations either to the Fellowship Class or the Tuck Class of the First United Methodist Church of Athens, 327 N. Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30606 or to a charity of the giver's choice.

Online condolences may be offered at www.bernsteinfuneralhome.com.

Bernstein Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Published in Athens Banner-Herald from November 8 to November 10, 2012.
HIRES/PROMOTIONS

PARKER C. MORGAN
New job title: Attorney
Company: Hunter-Maclean
Duties: Morgan is an associate with the firm's Real Estate Practice Group.
Related work experience: Morgan served as a summer associate with Hunter-Maclean after he clerked at a law firm in Brunswick.
Education: Morgan earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law. He also earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Georgia.

MARY WARNELL
New job title: Board of Directors, member
Company: Savannah Technical College
Duties: Member of Savannah Technical College Board of Directors
Related work experience: Warnell is the mayor of Pembroke and treasurer for Groveland Farms. She has served as a member of the Bryan County Board of Education.
Education: Warnell graduated from Georgia College with a B.S. in home economics.

ANJA FABIN
New job title: Group leader, Engineering & Facilities
Company: Target IW
Duties: Fabin will lead the Engineering and Facilities Department.
Related work experience: Fabin joined Target in January 2007 as a Logistics Technician. She was promoted to Wave Technician in July 2011.
Education: Fabin will complete her bachelor's degree in supply chain management from The University of Phoenix in March 2013.

TERRY LEMMONS
New job title: Board of Directors, member
Company: Savannah Technical College
Duties: Member of Savannah Technical College Board of Directors
Related work experience: Lemmons is vice president of Willis Insurance Services. Previously, he was vice president and market growth and development consultant for Wells Fargo Insurance Services.
Education: Lemmons holds a bachelor of business administration, marketing from Texas A&M University.

ALAN TANNER
New job title: Funeral assistant
Company: Fox & Weeks Funeral Home
Duties: Tanner will perform a variety of tasks during funerals.

Related work experience: Tanner is the business administrator for Bible Baptist Church and has been in ministry throughout his career.

Education: Tanner graduated from Savannah High School and Bible Baptist College in Springfield, Mo.

SHANNA JO FOSKEY

New job title: Apprentice funeral director/embalmer

Company: Fox & Weeks Funeral Home

Duties: Foskey will perform the tasks and duties of a funeral director with the guidance of licensed Fox & Weeks funeral directors.

Education: Foskey has completed course work in funeral service at Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro and is completing her apprenticeship at Fox & Weeks.

BRADLEY SULLIVAN

New job title: Apprentice funeral director/embalmer

Company: Fox & Weeks Funeral Home

Duties: Sullivan will perform the tasks and duties of a funeral director with the guidance of licensed Fox & Weeks funeral directors.

Education: Sullivan graduated from Southeast Bulloch High School and is enrolled at Georgia Southern University.

HOLLY WEEKS GERINER

New job title: Administrative assistant

Company: Fox & Weeks Funeral Home

Duties: Geriner will assist with the day-to-day operations of the Fox & Weeks Island Chapel and act as a liaison for the families the funeral home serves.

Education: Geriner is a graduate of Savannah Christian Preparatory School and received a degree in early childhood education from Armstrong Atlantic State University.

MOLLY PETERSON

New job title: Administrative assistant

Company: Fox & Weeks Funeral Home

Duties: Peterson will assist with the day-to-day operations of the Fox & Weeks Hodgson Chapel and act as a liaison for the families the funeral home serves.

Education: Peterson graduated from George Mason University with a degree in English.

BRIAN DYCUS

New job title: Senior director of Admissions

Company: South University

Duties: Dycus will lead a 14-person team to create a vibrant new student environment and ensure that all policies are followed.

Related work experience: Dycus has more than 10 years of recruitment and enrollment experience, including serving as senior director of admissions at Argosy University in Arlington, Va., and regional director of admissions for the College of Health Care Professions in Houston, Texas.

Education: Dycus earned an MBA from George Mason University in Virginia and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the University of Georgia.

HONORS/AWARDS

EMT honored

Savannah Technical College Department Head for Emergency Medical Services and Paramedicine Walter Webel was recently recognized by the Board of Directors of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for achieving 20 consecutive years as a nationally recognized EMT.

JT Turner Construction employee retires
Geri Hannah recently retired from JT Turner Construction as the director of accounts payable. Hannah has been with the company for 18 years and was the first recipient of the Carol Daniel Carter Award (Employee of the Year) in 1999. Hannah was instrumental in starting the company’s Good Works Group and in the selection of Marketplace Chaplains as a service for company employees.

NLaws Produce names Driver of the Month

NLaws Produce has named Ervin Johnson Driver of the Month.

Child Abuse Center elects new officers

Coastal Children’s Advocacy Center, which provides free services to children who have been sexually or severely physically abused or witnessed violence, has elected new officers for 2012-13.

The new officers are:
- Matthew H. Folan, DMD, president
- Kathy Gruver, Memorial Health social worker, vice president
- Nancy Montford, Savannah Drywall, secretary
- Gerry Long, community volunteer and retired SCMPD major, treasurer
- Shannon Brett, CPA, CFE, Holland, Henry & Bromley, assistant treasurer
- Chief Ulysses Bryant, Safe Schools director, Savannah Chatham Public Schools, immediate past president

Pooler resident honored

Douglas Weathers Jr, a senior at the University of Alabama has been elected president of the Math Society of the University of Alabama. Weathers was also presented with the Thomas Waverly Mathematics award as one of the top math students at the university. Weathers plans to teach math after he earns a masters degree from the university.
Attorney Kate Chaplin Lawson Joins HunterMaclean's Real Estate Practice Group

by Abshire PR 912.659.2126, WEB: www.huntermaclean.com

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Attorney Kate Chaplin Lawson recently joined HunterMaclean, a leading business law firm with offices in Savannah and Brunswick, as an associate with the firm's Specialty Litigation Group.

Lawson earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as managing board member, editorial board member and notes editor for the Georgia Law Review. In law school, she was an active member of the Student Bar Association and Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity.

She also attended the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law's Summer Study Abroad Program in Florence, Italy and earned a B.A. in Political Science, cum laude, from the University of South Carolina Honors College.

She previously worked as a summer associate with HunterMaclean in 2011. Before joining the firm, she served as an intern for U.S. Magistrate Judge Paige Gossett in Columbia, S.C., where she researched Westlaw and drafted language for various reports and recommendations. She also worked as a clerk and courier for a law firm in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Lawson is licensed to practice law in the state of Georgia. She currently resides in Savannah.

ABOUT HUNTER MACLEAN
With offices in Savannah and Brunswick, HunterMaclean has extensive experience representing businesses and individuals in all areas of litigation as well as in corporate, tax, real estate, information technology, business, transportation and maritime law. The firm's clients include Fortune 500 companies, banks, hospitals, maritime companies, professional service organizations, industrial development authorities and nonprofit corporations. For more information about HunterMaclean, call 912.236.0261 or visit www.huntermaclean.com online.
The Georgia Top Ten
(Top 10 highest compensated GC's in the South)

Katheryn Hayes Tucker
Daily Report
11-13-2012

Eric Bock

- $4.95M
- Executive vice president, chief legal officer and chief administrative officer
- Travelport Limited
- Atlanta
- Bachelor's degree, economics, Lafayette College
- J.D., Fordham University School of Law

New to our list this year in the No. 1 spot are Bock and Atlanta-based Travelport, which provides transaction processing services to the global travel industry, with 3,500 employees and locations in 170 countries. He's one of those bright new GCs who offer double value, serving also as the company's chief administrative officer, a title he added in 2009. Include his role as chief compliance and ethics officer, and that might be double times two. He plays a key role in strategic planning as well. Previously he was executive vice president, law, for Cendant Corp. During his nine years there he helped to divide Cendant into four separate companies in 2006: Travelport, Realogy, Wyndam Worldwide and Avis Budget Group. Before joining Cendant, Bock worked for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Joey Loudermilk

- $2.49M
- Executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary
- AFLAC Inc.
- Columbus
- Bachelor's degree, Georgia State University
- J.D., University of Georgia School of Law

Loudermilk was fourth on our list last year, with a comparable total pay package. He's been with AFLAC since 1983, when he became the insurer's first in-house lawyer. He's been GC since 1991. He also heads up government relations for the company. But he isn't the only Loudermilk in the AFLAC legal department. The proxy statement also discloses that his son, J. Matthew Loudermilk, earned $165,400 last year as second vice president and associate counsel. The younger Loudermilk graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2000.

John Parker Jr.

- $2.10M
Daily Report: The Georgia Top Ten

- Senior vice president and general counsel
- Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.
- Atlanta
- J.D., University of North Carolina School of Law

Parker is down a bit from No. 1 and $3.91 million last year, and he fell out of the Southeast top 10. He started out as an in-house lawyer with the Coca-Cola in 1967 and has served in a continuous string of higher positions with Coke in past 25 years. He stepped up to GC for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of New York in 1992.

Richard Denning

- $1.89M
- Senior vice president, secretary and general counsel
- Cumulus Media Inc.
- Atlanta
- J.D., National Law Center, George Washington University

Prior to joining Cumulus, Denning worked for Dow, Lohnes & Albertson's corporate practice group in Atlanta. He also worked in DLA's Washington, D.C., office and has a background in regulatory matters before the Federal Communications Commission. Denning added the title of CEO last year.

Kent Mast

- $1.75M
- Corporate vice president and chief legal officer
- Equifax Inc.
- Atlanta
- J.D., Duke University School of Law

Equifax has announced that Mast, 68, will retire at the end of 2012. He's been with the company since 2000. Prior to joining Equifax, Mast worked for Kilpatrick Townsend and Hunton & Williams. His replacement as GC will be King & Spalding senior partner John Kelley III.

G. Sanders Griffith III

- $1.64M
- Senior executive vice president, general counsel and secretary
- Total System Services Inc.
- Columbus
- Bachelor's degree, LaGrange College
- J.D., University of Georgia School of Law

Griffith has served in the legal department of TSYS and Synovus Bank since 1988. Total System named him GC in 1988, secretary in 1995 and senior executive vice president in 2008, according to the company's proxy. He's responsible for legal affairs worldwide, as well as compliance, information security and business continuity. Prior to joining the company, he was in private practice.

Stephen Hellrung

- $1.64M
- Senior vice president, general counsel and secretary
- Graphic Packaging Holding Co.
- Marietta
- Bachelor's and J.D., University of Notre Dame

Hellrung is an example of a GC who came to the job as an experienced GC. He took his current job in 2003. Before that, he served as GC at Pillsbury, Lowe's and Bausch & Lomb. Before becoming a GC, he served as an assistant GC at A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. Prior to his corporate counsel job, he spent six years as an associate at Rassieur, Long, Yawitz & Schneider. He was in our No. 5 spot last year, with $1.73 million.
Peter Schneider
- $1.53M
- Executive vice president, general counsel, corporate secretary and chief administrative officer
- Primerica Inc.
- Duluth
- Bachelor’s and J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Schneider was in the No. 2 spot for the Georgia top 10 last year, and No. 9 for the Southeast, with $3.75 million.

John Camperlengo
- $1.36M
- Senior vice president, general counsel, chief compliance officer and secretary
- Gentiva Health Services Inc.
- Atlanta
- Bachelor’s degree, St. John’s University
- J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law

Camperlengo was named GC of Gentiva, the home health care services company, in 2010. He had been deputy GC since 2005. His first job with the company was senior counsel in 2000. Prior, he was chief compliance officer and vice president at Duane Reade Holdings, a retail pharmacy chain. Previously, he worked in the Prudential Insurance Co. of America legal department. He is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Robert Mcintosh
- $1.30M
- Executive vice president, general counsel and secretary
- Rock-Tenn Co.
- Norcross
- Bachelor’s in finance, Virginia Tech
- M.B.A., Emory University
- J.D., Washington & Lee University School of Law

Mcintosh became GC of RockTenn, the consumer packaging company, in 2000, with more titles added since. Prior to joining the company he practiced at King & Spalding for 10 years, representing companies in mergers and acquisitions as well as general corporate and securities matters.

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Family-Placed Death Notice

RUSHING, Michael W. Michael W. Rushing, age 69, of Atlanta, GA, passed away November 10, 2012 after a two-year battle with lymphoma. He was born on September 28, 1943 in Miami, Florida to James Thomas Rushing of Louisville, Kentucky and Mae Elizabeth Shaw of Irwinville, Georgia. He attended Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville, Florida and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1966. He then moved to Atlanta, where he became a Certified Public Accountant in 1968 and worked in the tax department of Ernst & Young. He went on to earn his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1971. After graduation from UGA, he served as a tax manager with the international public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen & Co., where he met his devoted wife, Mary Harris Rushing. An author and lecturer on taxation, he taught in Georgia State University's Master of Taxation program and was a guest lecturer on numerous professional tax programs. His law career included founding the firm Willard & Rushing, being a principal at Neely & Player, and then serving as counsel with Merritt Watson, LLP for 21 years. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and several other professional organizations. Michael was a man of diverse talents and interests. He ran track in high school and college and continued his enthusiasm for running by completing 32 Peachtree Road Races in Atlanta. He was an avid tennis player who enjoyed singles and doubles tennis at Cherokee Town and Country Club for 25 years. He was also committed to his educational institutions and loved being a University of Virginia Cavalier, combining his interests by faithfully supporting their men's tennis program. He was a staunch Georgia Bulldog, who cheered on Saturdays at Sanford Stadium for most of his adult life and was honored with membership in the Gridiron Society and The President's Club. His hobbies included photography, studying history, and traveling, but his greatest passion was his faith in Jesus Christ. He read the Bible with devotionals daily and delighted in learning and sharing the Word of God. He considered himself a very blessed man with a large and loving family. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Mary; his four daughters and their husbands, Kimberly and Greg Bitzer, Stephanie and John Hale, Mary Elizabeth and McGregor Lott, and Melanie and Tom Hall; grandchildren Madison, Allie and Zachary Bitzer, Will, Ben, and Cara Anderson, and Candler and Harris Lott; and siblings Pat Dejarnette and Jimmy Rushing. His family remembers him as a passionate, intellectual, and athletic man who was diligent, honest, and loyal, with an unforgettable sense of humor. Funeral services will be held at Northside United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 14 at 1 o'clock with Dr. Gil Watson officiating. Family will receive friends in the church's Faith and Arts Center following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Northside United Methodist Church of Atlanta or the University of Virginia men's tennis program. Advantage Funeral and Cremation Services, Lilburn is in charge of the arrangements (770) 923-2940.

Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on November 13, 2012
Fellow judges, attorneys and Johnson County employees joined proud family members on Friday in the Guinn Justice Center's 18th District Courtroom as District Judge John Neill swore in his son, Matthew J. Neill.

Burleson resident Matthew Neill recently passed the Texas bar exam. He earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. Neill earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Baylor University before attending law school.

Judge Neill beamed with pride after the short ceremony and said he is honored to have been able to swear his son into the practice of law.

"Usually they go down to Austin to be sworn in," Neill said. "But Matthew asked me to do it and I was more than happy to be able to do it here in Johnson County."

The choice of who he wanted to swear him in was obvious, Matthew Neill said.

"Definitely he did," Neill said when asked if his father was an influence in his decision to pursue a legal career. "That's why it's an honor to be here today and have my dad swear me in."

Neill recently joined the litigation department of Cantey & Hanger in Fort Worth, one of Tarrant County's oldest and largest law firms.

GRAPHIC: 18th District Judge John Neill, left, swears his son Matthew Neill into the practice of law. Matthew Neill, who recently graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law, works as an associate attorney at Cantey & Hanger in Fort Worth. Matt Smith/CTR

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 2012
MARIETTA - WellStar Health System and the Hospital Authority of Cobb County have recognized Charles "Pete" Wood for his 50 years of service at the Authority's October meeting.

Wood was a founding member of the Hospital Authority for Cobb County in 1962 and has served since that time. He recently stepped down as chair of the Authority, but remains a member.

Wood also was a member of the WellStar Health System Board of Trustees for 19 years, until his retirement in 2012. He served in the U.S. Army as a commissioned second lieutenant, and he retired from the Army Reserves as a colonel. Wood also was a member of the Smyrna City Council from 1991 until 2012.

Meanwhile, WellStar Medical Group has announced the additions of two more doctors.

Leslie Choy-Hee, M.D., has joined the OB/GYN Hospitalist at Cobb practice at 3950 Austell Road. She received bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology from Emory University. She earned a medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine, where she also completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Choy-Hee is board certified in obstetrics.

Rafik Raphael, M.D., has joined the Internal Medicine practice at 3875 Austell Road, Suite 101. He earned his medical degree from Cairo University School of Medicine in Egypt. He completed his internship at Verdun General Hospital in Montreal and his residency in anatomical and clinical pathology at McGill University-affiliated hospitals in Montreal. He is board-certified in special hematology, clinical and anatomical pathology.

Home Depot going recruiting

KENNESAW - Home Depot will conduct a recruitment event Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at the GDOL's Cobb-Cherokee Career Center in Kennesaw. The company will be recruiting for supervisors who are fluent in both Spanish and English. Applicants must have a high school diploma or a General Education Diploma and have at least one year of supervisory experience.

Warner, Bates, McGough & McGinnis has hired Kate Cornwell as an associate in the areas of family law and domestic litigation. She received her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law and interned for Superior Court Chief Judge Lawton Stephens.

FlightWorks, a private air charter and aircraft management services company at McCollum Field, has installed Electronic Flight Bags iPads in its planes, eliminating printed flight materials. The EFBS will provide electronic Jeppesen Navigation Charts, company manuals, company forms, flight plans, and other FAA-required manuals for pilots.

Zett Quinn, a Marietta resident and founder of Marietta-based Quality Craftsmen, will host a weekly home improvement show on Peachtree TV. The show will run in the Atlanta area Saturdays at 8 a.m.

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 2012

********** Print Completed **********

Time of Request: Monday, November 26, 2012 06:40:31 EST

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Lawyer returns to SEC as enforcer

Meredith Hobbs
Pat Huddleston II has joined the Securities and Exchange Commission's Atlanta enforcement division as senior trial counsel, leaving plaintiffs' securities firm Page Perry to combat what he calls the "tsunami of investment fraud" threatening the life's savings of retirees and other investors.

"I feel like I'm doing what I was meant to do," Huddleston said.

Huddleston, 50, worked at the SEC's Atlanta regional office for six years in the early 1990s, becoming the local enforcement branch chief. Now he is in the trial unit. He explained that the SEC's enforcement lawyers investigate and work up cases and then the trial unit represents the commission in court.

Huddleston returned to private practice in 1996, saying he wanted to get back into court. Since then, he has worked as a plaintiff's lawyer suing alleged fraudsters on behalf of investors and acted as a receiver for the SEC and Federal Trade Commission.

He published a book last year, The Vigilant Investor, and wrote a blog, Investors Watchdog, to help investors keep from getting ripped off. Page Perry will continue the blog.

Huddleston said he learned last spring that a trial attorney spot had opened up at the SEC's Atlanta office, which covers Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina. He decided to apply, he said, because "it was an opportunity to be in the trial unit and make a bigger impact."

Now that his children are in college, he added, he doesn't need the flexibility of private practice. "I don't have to leave at 3 p.m. to coach baseball."

Huddleston is the seventh lawyer to join the trial unit, and an eighth will be added soon, said William Hicks, the associate regional director for enforcement for the Atlanta region. Hicks said the unit is "expanding somewhat," adding staff and bringing more cases.

The trial unit had only three attorneys, Huddleston recalled, when he was last at the SEC in the 1990s.

Huddleston said the nature of investment scams has changed since the recession began, but not the level of activity, noting that he was speaking for himself and not the SEC.

"Fraud never stops," he said.

In the current economy, he said, prospective investors are wary of putting their money in the stock market, but they want greater returns than can be gained from parking money in a bank at 7% percent interest.

The recession shrank people's retirement assets, adding to a sense of urgency. "Everyone had the asset figure in their head that they needed to retire where they wanted to," Huddleston said. "We're talking about the difference between retiring independently or retiring into a Medicaid nursing home—or people having to give up their home and move in with adult kids that they swore they'd never move in with."

That makes people vulnerable to scam artists promising steady yields of 6 or 7 percent from alternative investment schemes such as real estate trusts or fixed-rate annuities.

"The safety of people's nest eggs is at stake here," Huddleston said, who handled a lot of cases in private practice involving fraud against older investors.

"There has never been a more important time in our country's history to protect our baby boomers' retirement," he said. "People are moving their nest eggs from the relative safety of 401(k)s to self-directed accounts—and the bad guys are out there waiting for it."

Huddleston said he can pursue a broader array of wrongdoing at the SEC than in private practice. As a plaintiff's lawyer, he said, there were many cases where people had been defrauded and he could not help. The money was gone, he explained, so it was not financially viable to take the case on contingency.
"Now I'm in a position to do something about it and hold these fraudsters accountable," he said, adding that he expects to take on insider-trading cases as well as fraudulent investment schemes.

"If there were no SEC, you would see armies of disappointed investors. No attorney could afford to take their case, and the con artists would just relocate to another state." Huddleston said there are many cases where there has been wrongdoing that does not rise to the level of criminal charges, noting that the SEC handles civil suits while the Department of Justice pursues criminal cases.

"It's important to have a team of enforcers who are well-versed in securities law and can dig in and enforce them," Huddleston said. "Without enforcers, you begin to ask if the capital markets in the U.S. are fair. Can the little guy even compete on a level playing field—or only the big guys?"

He added that the SEC also can bring claims against the salespeople who carry out a scam, not just the person who created it.

"Pat likes to fight fraud on the front line," said Boyd Perry, a name partner at Page Perry. "I think he sees an explosion of scams, as do we, and he wants to prosecute those and do what he can to protect the public."

Perry said he is sorry to lose Huddleston from the 11-lawyer firm. "The SEC is very lucky to get a first-rate trial lawyer back on its staff."

Perry said arbitration complaints filed by investors with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority have dropped because people have moved away from the financial markets, but Ponzi schemes—many involving registered investment advisors and money managers—are an "explosive" area of fraud right now. "I think that's why Pat decided to go back to the commission," he said.

Perry also mentioned fraud against older people snookered into alternative investment schemes. He said many of these products, such as non-traded real estate funds that were sold before the recession, are still coming to light.

Briefly

The American Cancer Society Inc. has promoted Timothy Phillips to general counsel. Phillips has worked for the nonprofit since 2005, serving as senior counsel and interim general counsel, after eight years at Troutman Sanders as special tax counsel, focused on the firm's nonprofit clients.

Phillips is the chairman of the Association of Corporate Counsel's nonprofit organizations committee and on the advisory boards of the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. The U.S. Naval Academy alumnus is also counsel to the Navy SEAL Foundation. Phillips is the immediate past president of the Atlanta Bar Association's tax section and a past president of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Association.

Energy lawyer Gregory Chafee has joined Thompson Hine as a partner from Morris Manning & Martin. Chafee, the first energy lawyer for Thompson Hines' Atlanta office, joined the firm's corporate and energy practices. He led the sustainability practice at Morris Manning & Martin, where he was counsel.


Kate Cornwell has joined Warner, Bates, McGough & McGinnis as an associate, focusing on family law. Cornwell received her law degree from the University of Georgia this year.

HunterMaclean has added Kate Lawson as an associate in its specialty litigation group. Lawson is a 2012 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law.

Stuart Johnson has been re-elected the managing partner for Barnes & Thornburg's Atlanta office, a position he's held since opening the office in 2009. It now has 22 lawyers. Johnson, a corporate lawyer, also chairs the firm's private
November 16, 2012 Friday

LENGTH: 560 words

HEADLINE: AT GILLIBRAND'S RECOMMENDATION, WHITE HOUSE FORMALLY NOMINATES VALERIE CAPRONI AND JUDGE ANALISA TORRES FOR U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGES FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK CAPRONI, TORRES APPOINTMENTS WOULD ADD EXCEPTIONAL FEMALE JURISTS TO FEDERAL BENCH

BYLINE: States News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The following information was released by New York Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand:

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today announced the White House has formally nominated Valerie Caproni and Judge Analisa Torres to be District Court judges for the Southern District of New York after Senator Gillibrand recommended both for the positions.

Valerie Caproni and Judge Torres are both highly experienced and exceptional legal minds, Senator Gillibrand said. Their breadth of experience and knowledge make them ideal to serve on the federal bench. Both are fair-minded women dedicated to public service. I am confident they would serve with the highest integrity.

Valerie Caproni is currently Deputy General Counsel for Northrop Grumman Corp., where she supervises all aspects of Northrop Grumman litigation and internal investigations. Previously, Ms. Caproni served as General Counsel to the FBI, where she provided legal advice and counseling of the FBI Director and other FBI executives as to all areas within the FBI's purview, including civil and employment litigation, national security, procurement, administrative, science and technology, legal instruction of new agents and analysts, criminal investigative law, asset forfeiture, and privacy and civil liberties. Ms. Caproni also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorneys Office for the Eastern District of New York. From 1989 to October of 1992, she served as General Counsel to the New York State Urban Development (Empire State Development), where she provided legal advice and counsel to the Chairman and executive management. Ms. Caproni is a graduate of the University of Georgia Law School and received her bachelor's degree from Newcomb College of Tulane University.

The Honorable Analisa Torres currently serves as Justice on the New York County Supreme Court, criminal term. She was elected to this position to serve from 2012 to 2025. Previously, she served on the New York County Supreme Court as an Acting Justice from 2004 to 2011, having been appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman. Prior to serving on the New York County Supreme Court, Judge Torres served as a Judge on the Civil Court of the City of New York from 2003 to 2004, and a Judge on the Criminal Court of the City of New York from 2000 to 2002. Judge Torres was also a law clerk to Justice Elliott Wilk from 1992 to 1999, and served as a Commissioner on the City Planning Commission from 1993 to 1995. She was an associate at Patterson, Belknap, Webb and Tyler from 1988 to 1992, an associate at Coudert Brothers from 1985 to 1987, and an associate at Kaye Scholer LLP from 1984 to 1985. In addition, she was a teacher at De La Salle Academy from 1987 to 1988. Judge Torres is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law and received her bachelor's degree from Harvard College.
The number of women serving on the federal bench has stagnated over the past several years, remaining at 500 positions filled by women from 2007 to 2011. Less than a third of federal bench positions are filled by women, according to the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.

In March of 2012, the U.S. Senate confirmed Senator Gillibrand's very first judicial nominee, Ms. Ronnie Abrams, to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York.
At Gillibrand's Recommendation, White House Formally Nominates Valerie Caproni and Judge Analisa Torres for U.S. District Court Judges for Southern District of New York;
Caproni, Torres Appointments Would Add Exceptional Female Jurists to Federal Bench;
Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY) News Release

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today announced the White House has formally nominated Valerie Caproni and Judge Analisa Torres to be District Court judges for the Southern District of New York after Senator Gillibrand recommended both for the positions.

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In March of 2012, the U.S. Senate confirmed Senator Gillibrand's very first judicial nominee, Ms. Ronnie Abrams, to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York.

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1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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The White House has issued the following news release:

Today, President Obama nominated Valerie E. Caproni, Kenneth John Gonzales, Raymond P. Moore, Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, Judge William L. Thomas, Judge Analisa Torres and Derrick Kahala Watson for District Court judgeships.

"These individuals have demonstrated the talent, expertise, and fair-mindedness Americans expect and deserve from their judicial system," said President Obama. "They also represent my continued commitment to ensure that the judiciary resembles the nation it serves. I am grateful for their willingness to serve and confident that they will apply the law with the utmost impartiality and integrity. Too many of our courtrooms stand empty. I hope the Senate will promptly consider all of my nominees and ensure justice for everyday Americans."

Valerie E. Caproni: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Valerie E. Caproni is Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Northrop Grumman Corporation. Previously, she served for eight years as General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Caproni has had a distinguished legal career in both private practice and public service, including stints at the Securities and Exchange Commission, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, the New York State Urban Development Corporation, and the law firms of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Cravath, Swaine & Moore. She began her legal career by clerking for the Honorable Phyllis Kravitch of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Caproni received her J.D. summa cum laude in 1979 from the University of Georgia School of Law and her B.A. magna cum laude in 1976 from Newcomb College of Tulane University.

Kenneth John Gonzales: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico

Kenneth John Gonzales currently serves as the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, a position he has held since 2010. Prior to his confirmation by the Senate, Gonzales spent eleven years working in the same office as an Assistant United States Attorney. In 2001, he was commissioned an officer in the United States Army Reserve. He presently holds the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and is an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. From 1996 to 1999, Gonzales worked as a Legislative Assistant for United States Senator Jeff Bingaman. He began his legal career clerking for the Honorable Joseph Baca, Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, from 1994 to 1996. Gonzales received his J.D. in 1994 from the University of New Mexico School of Law and his B.A. in 1988 from the University of New Mexico.

Raymond P. Moore: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Raymond P. Moore currently serves as the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming, a position he has held since January 2004. Previously, he was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Colorado from 1993 through 2003. From 1986 through 1992, Moore worked at the law firm of Davis,

Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Central District of California
Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell currently serves as a Superior Court Judge for Los Angeles County in California, a position she has held since 2005. For a five-month period in 2010 and 2011, she sat by designation on the California Court of Appeals for the Second District, Division 8, and has since served as Assistant Supervising Judge of the North Valley District of the Superior Court. Prior to becoming a judge, Judge O'Connell served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California from 1995 to 2005. From 1990 until 1995, she worked at the law firm Morrison & Foerster, where she handled a variety of civil litigation matters. Judge O'Connell received her J.D. magna cum laude in 1990 from Pepperdine University School of Law and her B.A. in 1986 from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Judge William L. Thomas: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
Judge William L. Thomas has served as a Circuit Judge in Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit since 2005, where he has presided over both civil and criminal matters. For seven years, from 1997 to 2005, he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Southern District of Florida, where he represented indigent clients in federal criminal cases. Judge Thomas began his legal career as an Assistant Public Defender at the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office in 1994. He received his J.D. in 1994 from the Temple University School of Law and his B.A. in 1991 from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Judge Analisa Torres: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Judge Analisa Torres currently serves as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, where she has handled criminal felony cases since 2010. Judge Torres served as an Acting Justice of the same court in Bronx County from 2004 to 2009. From 2003 to 2004, she was a judge on the New York Civil Court and from 2000 to 2002 she was a judge on the New York Criminal Court. From 1992 to 1999, Judge Torres clerked for the Honorable Elliot Wilk of the New York State Supreme Court. She also served as a Commissioner of the New York City Planning Commission from 1993 to 1995. During the early portion of her legal career, Judge Torres worked for seven years as a real estate associate at three New York City law firms. Judge Torres received her J.D. in 1984 from Columbia Law School and her A.B. magna cum laude in 1981 from Harvard College.

Derrick Kahala Watson: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii
Derrick Kahala Watson has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii since 2009, and has served as Chief of the Civil Division since 2009. Previously, he worked at the San Francisco law firm of Farella Braun + Martel LLP, where his practice focused on product liability, toxic tort, and environmental cost recovery litigation. He joined the firm in 2000 and was named partner in 2003. Watson was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California from 1995 to 2000, serving as Deputy Chief of the Civil Division from 1999 to 2000. He began his legal career at the law firm of Landels, Ripley & Diamond in San Francisco, where he was an associate from 1991 to 1995. Watson received his J.D. in 1991 from Harvard Law School, his A.B. in 1988 from Harvard College, and is a 1984 graduate of The Kamehameha Schools.

For more information please visit: http://www.whitehouse.gov

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 2012
The White House has issued the following news release:

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Kenneth John Gonzales currently serves as the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, a position he has held since 2010. Prior to his confirmation by the Senate, Gonzales spent eleven years working in the same office as an Assistant United States Attorney. In 2001, he was commissioned an officer in the United States Army Reserve. He presently holds the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and is an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. From 1996 to 1999, Gonzales worked as a Legislative Assistant for United States Senator Jeff Bingaman. He began his legal career clerking for the Honorable Joseph Baca, Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, from 1994 to 1996. Gonzales received his J.D. in 1994 from the University of New Mexico School of Law and his B.A. in 1988 from the University of New Mexico.

Raymond P. Moore: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of Colorado
Raymond P. Moore currently serves as the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming, a position he has held since January 2004. Previously, he was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Colorado from 1993 through 2003. From 1986 through 1992, Moore worked at the law firm of Davis,

Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Central District of California
Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell currently serves as a Superior Court Judge for Los Angeles County in California, a position she has held since 2005. For a five-month period in 2010 and 2011, she sat by designation on the California Court of Appeals for the Second District, Division 8, and has since served as Assistant Supervising Judge of the North Valley District of the Superior Court. Prior to becoming a judge, Judge O'Connell served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California from 1995 to 2005. From 1990 until 1995, she worked at the law firm Morrison & Foerster, where she handled a variety of civil litigation matters. Judge O'Connell received her J.D. magna cum laude in 1990 from Pepperdine University School of Law and her B.A. in 1986 from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Judge William L. Thomas: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
Judge William L. Thomas has served as a Circuit Judge in Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit since 2005, where he has presided over both civil and criminal matters. For seven years, from 1997 to 2005, he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Southern District of Florida, where he represented indigent clients in federal criminal cases. Judge Thomas began his legal career as an Assistant Public Defender at the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office in 1994. He received his J.D. in 1994 from the Temple University School of Law and his B.A. in 1991 from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Judge Analisa Torres: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Judge Analisa Torres currently serves as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, where she has handled criminal felony cases since 2010. Judge Torres served as an Acting Justice of the same court in Bronx County from 2004 to 2009. From 2003 to 2004, she was a judge on the New York Civil Court and from 2000 to 2002 she was a judge on the New York Criminal Court. From 1992 to 1999, Judge Torres clerked for the Honorable Elliot Wilk of the New York State Supreme Court. She also served as a Commissioner of the New York City Planning Commission from 1993 to 1995. During the early portion of her legal career, Judge Torres worked for seven years as a real estate associate at three New York City law firms. Judge Torres received her J.D. in 1984 from Columbia Law School and her A.B. magna cum laude in 1981 from Harvard College.

Derrick Kahala Watson: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii
Derrick Kahala Watson has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii since 2007, and has served as Chief of the Civil Division since 2009. Previously, he worked at the San Francisco law firm of Farella Braun + Martel LLP, where his practice focused on product liability, toxic tort, and environmental cost recovery litigation. He joined the firm in 2000 and was named partner in 2003. Watson was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California from 1995 to 2000, serving as Deputy Chief of the Civil Division from 1999 to 2000. He began his legal career at the law firm of Landels, Ripley & Diamond in San Francisco, where he was an associate from 1991 to 1995. Watson received his J.D. in 1991 from Harvard Law School, his A.B. in 1988 from Harvard College, and is a 1984 graduate of The Kamehameha Schools.

For more information please visit: http://www.whitehouse.gov

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 2012
Stephen Bright, a nationally prominent opponent of the death penalty and advocate for poor people accused of crimes, will speak at Indiana University Bloomington as part of the College of Arts and Sciences' Themester 2012 "Good Behavior, Bad Behavior: Molecules to Morality."

Bright will speak at noon Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Moot Court Room of the IU Maurer School of Law, 211 S. Indiana Ave. His topic: "Race and Poverty in the American Criminal Justice System."

Stephen Bright

Known as an engaging speaker, Bright is president and senior counsel of the Southern Center on Human Rights in Atlanta. He was director of the center from 1982 through 2005 and has been in his present position since 2006. He also teaches at Yale Law School and the University of Georgia School of Law.

The Southern Center on Human Rights provides legal representation to people facing the death penalty, challenges human rights violations in prisons and jails, seeks to improve legal representation for poor people accused of crimes and advocates for criminal justice system reforms.

Bright has tried cases, including death-penalty cases, before juries and in federal and state appellate courts. He has twice won cases before the U.S. Supreme Court -- Snyder v. Louisiana and Amadeo v. Zant, both of which involved racial discrimination in jury selection. He has testified many times before committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

His and the center's work has been the subject of a documentary film, "Fighting for Life in the Death Belt," and two books, "Proximity to Death" by William McPeely and "Finding Life on Death Row" by Katya Lezin. Bright has received numerous awards, including the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award and the American Civil Liberties Union's Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty.

Bright's lecture at IU Bloomington is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the departments of criminal justice and political science, the Maurer School of Law, the Political and Civic Engagement program and the School of Environmental and Public Affairs.
Each year, Themester at IU Bloomington invites faculty and undergraduate students to explore an idea across the disciplines. This year's theme encompasses moral philosophy, behavioral biology, social sciences, mathematics, and literary and dramatic arts in more than 40 courses and an array of public events.

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 2012

The office of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., issued the following news release:

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today announced the White House has formally nominated Valerie Caproni and Judge Analisa Torres to be District Court judges for the Southern District of New York after Senator Gillibrand recommended both for the positions.

"Valerie Caproni and Judge Torres are both highly experienced and exceptional legal minds," Senator Gillibrand said. "Their breadth of experience and knowledge make them ideal to serve on the federal bench. Both are fair-minded women dedicated to public service. I am confident they would serve with the highest integrity."

Valerie Caproni is currently Deputy General Counsel for Northrop Grumman Corp., where she supervises all aspects of Northrop Grumman litigation and internal investigations. Previously, Ms. Caproni served as General Counsel to the FBI, where she provided legal advice and counseling of the FBI Director and other FBI executives as to all areas within the FBI's purview, including civil and employment litigation, national security, procurement, administrative, science and technology, legal instruction of new agents and analysts, criminal investigative law, asset forfeiture, and privacy and civil liberties. Ms. Caproni also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States' Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. From 1989 to October of 1992, she served as General Counsel to the New York State Urban Development (Empire State Development), where she provided legal advice and counsel to the Chairman and executive management. Ms. Caproni is a graduate of the University of Georgia Law School and received her bachelor's degree from Newcomb College of Tulane University.

The Honorable Analisa Torres currently serves as Justice on the New York County Supreme Court, criminal term. She was elected to this position to serve
from 2012 to 2025. Previously, she served on the New York County Supreme Court as an Acting Justice from 2004 to 2011, having been appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman. Prior to serving on the New York County Supreme Court, Judge Torres served as a Judge on the Civil Court of the City of New York from 2003 to 2004, and a Judge on the Criminal Court of the City of New York from 2000 to 2002. Judge Torres was also a law clerk to Justice Elliott Wilk from 1992 to 1999, and served as a Commissioner on the City Planning Commission from 1993 to 1995. She was an associate at Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler from 1988 to 1992, an associate at Coudert Brothers from 1985 to 1987, and an associate at Kaye Scholer LLP from 1984 to 1985. In addition, she was a teacher at De La Salle Academy from 1987 to 1988. Judge Torres is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law and received her bachelor's degree from Harvard College.

The number of women serving on the federal bench has stagnated over the past several years, remaining at 500 positions filled by women from 2007 to 2011. Less than a third of federal bench positions are filled by women, according to the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.

In March of 2012, the U.S. Senate confirmed Senator Gillibrand's very first judicial nominee, Ms. Ronnie Abrams, to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York.

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Admitted Athens cop-killer Jamie Hood is on his second judge, has a new defense team, and was ruled mentally competent to stand trial.

His former attorneys filed nearly 100 pretrial motions.

But now, approaching two years since Hood admittedly shot and killed one Athens-Clarke police officer and wounded another, the long road to trial in the death-penalty case has been pushed back closer to square one.

Hood’s original attorneys, from the Capital Defender Office, withdrew from the case last month after constant bickering with their client over defense strategy.

Now that a new defense team is in place, Superior Court Judge H. Patrick Haggard has scheduled another “first appearance” for next month, in which attorneys will inform the court about any pretrial issues they plan to raise.

That was already done with Hood’s first defense team, in October 2011. But under the rules that govern death penalty cases — called the Uniform Appeal Procedure — his new attorneys have the same opportunity.

Haggard last month replaced Judge Lawton Stephens, who was recused from Hood’s case because of the potential for a conflict of interest due to his familiarity with the surviving officer and his family.

“In my opinion, because there are new lawyers representing Mr. Hood and a new judge presiding over the case, a first appearance will be necessary to re-start the process,” said Ryan Swingle, a defense attorney who is representing a client in another Athens death-penalty case.

“Mr. Hood, under the rules of the Unified Appeal Procedure, will be given an opportunity to express
any concerns he has with his attorneys," Swingle said.

Hood is accused of murder in the shooting death of Athens-Clarke Senior Police Officer Elmer "Buddy" Christian III, and the attempted murder of SPO Tony Howard.

In several court appearances, Hood publicly admitted to shooting the officers on March 22, 2011, when Hood was a suspect in an armed robbery and kidnapping that occurred earlier in the day.

Hood is also accused of another, unrelated murder — the December 2010 shooting death of Kenneth Omari Wray.

Because the district attorney announced he will seek the death penalty if Hood is convicted, the case is proceeding under the Uniform Appeal Procedure, a system of checklists designed to make sure the defense raises all possible challenges prior to trial so the case can withstand scrutiny from higher courts should the verdict later be appealed.

Proceeding under rules of the UAP typically means a murder case will take twice as long to go to trial than one in which capital punishment is not sought.

"The UAP in general is necessary in death penalty cases because the stakes are so high and the punishment is final," said Swingle, who heads the Conflict Defender Office in the Western Judicial Circuit.

"Humans are prone to mistakes and in emotional, tragic cases, there can be a rush to judgement," he said. "The UAP attempts to make the process more reliable for the state and more fair for the accused."

In other trials, only a conviction can be appealed, but in death penalty cases, each time a judge rules on a pre-trial motion, the UAP provides for appeals directly to the Georgia Supreme Court.

Under UAP rules, Hood's original defense team filed pretrial motions ranging from claims that Hood was not mentally competent to a challenge of the constitutionality of the death penalty and the racial makeup of the jury pool.

They also filed motions asking that Hood be allowed to visit crime scenes, to forbid police officers from wearing uniforms in court, asking for the psychiatric and criminal histories of witnesses, to disallow "snitch testimony," and for prosecutors to disclose any deals they made with witnesses.

"Some motions might seem frivolous to the casual observer, they are issues that must be hashed out so that any conviction isn't overturned on appeal years later," according to Ron Carlson, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Swingle believed that motions which judges already have ruled on will not be brought up again, but Haggard must still deal with those that have not been settled.
He also expects Hood's new attorneys will file new motions of their own.

"The new attorneys will have to pursue all defenses they believe apply, whether or not those defenses were asserted by the previous lawyers or not," he said.

* Follow criminal justice reporter Joe Johnson at www.facebook.com/JoeJohnsonABH or www.twitter.com/JoeJohnsonABH.
HIRES/PROMOTIONS

KATE CHAPLIN LAWSON
New job title: Attorney
Company: Hunter-Maclean
Duties: Lawson is an associate with the firm’s Specialty Litigation Group.
Related work experience: Before joining the firm, Lawson served as an intern for U.S. Magistrate Judge Paige Gossett in Columbia, S.C. She also worked as a clerk and courier for a law firm in Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Education: Lawson earned a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law and also earned a B.A. in political science from the University of South Carolina Honors College.

SALLY NIELSEN
New job title: Attorney
Company: Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
Duties: Nielsen will practice within the Corporate Finance and Real Estate Department as a member of the Employee Benefits Team.
Related work experience: Nielsen joins the firm from Hunter-Maclean. She has also worked at King & Spalding and was a member of Kilpatrick Townsend’s Employee Benefits team from 1982-1998.
Education: She earned her J.D., with distinction, from Emory University School of Law and her B.A. from Albion College.

MADELINE STACY
New job title: Sales representative
Company: Sam Sharpe, State Farm
Duties: Stacy will handle homeowners and auto insurance along with car loans through State Farm Bank.
Education: Stacy attended St. Vincent’s Academy and is a recent graduate of Armstrong Atlantic University.

CHRISTIAN FLATHMAN
New job title: Associate vice president, Marketing & Communications
Company: Georgia Southern University
Duties: Flathman manages the university’s marketing, brand and identity, communications, advertising, websites and public relations.
Related work experience: Flathman worked at GE’s Global Headquarters and Aviation business units, as well as Michelin. He began his communication’s career at Gulfstream in Savannah.
Education: Flathman is a graduate of Auburn University.

HONORS/AWARDS
Coldwell Bankers honor associates
Coldwell Banker Platinum has announced its Circle of Excellence Winners. The Circle of Excellence is a Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners internal awards program established to recognize well-rounded agents.
The winners are Jane Beare, Michael Cherry, Steffany Farmer and Jeff Shaufelberger.
Attorney honored
Frederick S. Bergen of Bergen & Bergen, P.C. has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Bergen was inducted during the 2012 Annual Meeting of the College in New York City.

Pharmacy director honored
Kenneth Jozefczyk, a 1984 graduate of The Ohio State University, has been named the 2012 Clifton J. Latiolais Award recipient. Established in 1985, it is awarded by The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy and the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center Department of Pharmacy.

Jozefczyk is the director of pharmacy at Memorial University Medical Center.

Financial representative recognized
Northwestern Mutual is honoring Richard Geriner Jr., a Savannah-based financial representative, with membership in its 2012 Forum group, which recognizes an outstanding year of helping people achieve financial security. Only the top 5 percent of Northwestern Mutual’s more than 6,000 financial representatives receive this annual honor.
November 20, 2012 Tuesday 12:19 AM EST

LENGTH: 357 words

HEADLINE: Georgia Law Secures Win at Hulsey/Gambrell Moot Court Competition

BYLINE: Targeted News Service

DATELINE: ATHENS, Ga.

BODY:

The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

The University of Georgia School of Law recently defeated the University of Florida School of Law in the annual Hulsey/Gambrell Moot Court Competition in Jacksonville, Fla.

Formerly known as the Hulsey-Kimbrell Moot Court Competition, this contest is traditionally held at the end of October on the eve of the Georgia-Florida football game. Two law students from each school compete as lawyers in a mock appellate case, and the victors in the case earn the right to keep the championship trophy at their law school for the year.

Representing the law school in the moot court competition were third-year law students John A. Bunice from Valdosta, Ga., and Jocelyn N. Maner from Augusta, Ga. This year's win continued Georgia Law's dominance of the tournament with a record of 20-8-2.

This year's case was a criminal appeal. The issues argued were whether the Equal Protection Clause prohibited a prosecutor's use of peremptory strikes during jury selection based solely on religious affiliation or involvement and whether Federal Rule of Evidence 606B prohibited the trial judge from considering a juror's affidavit about racially biased comments made during jury deliberations in a hearing for a new trial.

"I am very proud of the continuing success of our team in this competition," Georgia Law Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey said. "It is very rewarding to see our students' hard work pay off with a victory in what has become both a fun tradition and an intense rivalry."

The competition, which was in abeyance last year, was started more than 30 years ago when Mark Hulsey, a partner with the Jacksonville law firm Smith Hulsey & Busey and a UF graduate, and Charlie Kimbrell, a lawyer practicing in Miami who was a UGA graduate, agreed to co-sponsor the event. Both original founders have since passed away, but their legacy lives on. Today, Smith Hulsey & Busey and the law firm Smith, Gambrell & Russell—which has offices in Atlanta and Jacksonville among other locations—support this annual courtroom contest.

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LOAD-DATE: November 21, 2012

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Nelson Mullins hires to expand real estate practice locally
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough has expanded its local commercial real estate practice with the addition of Andrew Litvak and Anne Marie Garavaglia.

Litvak joined as a partner from Hartman Simons & Wood, and Garavaglia joined as of counsel from CRE Companies, an Atlanta real estate investment advisory where she was general counsel and president.

Nelson Mullins started a commercial real estate practice in Atlanta at the beginning of the year with the hire of a partner, Shawn Lanier, and an associate, Paula Rothenberger, from DLA Piper.

Garavaglia’s focus is real estate finance, said Nelson Mullins’ Atlanta managing partner, Michael Hollingsworth. Litvak, like Lanier, handles the gamut of commercial real estate law and represents developers, retailers, investors and special loan servicers.

Hollingsworth said Litvak has also developed a practice in retail leasing, which was an impetus for recruiting him.

"To build out a full-service real estate group, you’ve got to have that capability," he said.

"We have existing clients we haven’t been able to do that kind of work for in the past," Hollingsworth said, adding that work on retail leases can also be a good entry point for client relationships.

Litvak was traveling and not available to comment on his move.

A. Summey Orr III, the managing partner of Hartman Simons, said Litvak would be missed. "Andy Litvak is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet. We like him and respect him and wish him the best there."

Nelson Mullins is investing in a local real estate practice, even though the market is still sluggish, with an eye to the future, Hollingsworth said.

"Atlanta’s lifeblood is commercial real estate," he said. "Now is the right time to invest. The market isn’t going to stay down forever, and it’s not going to be possible to get the real estate talent on the platform as easily when the market recovers."

He added that the firm is being careful to invest conservatively. "We’re not looking to build the largest commercial real estate group in town. To be overexposed is a mistake—but so would be not participating in commercial real estate at all."

Nelson Mullins is beefing up its real estate capabilities in other offices besides Atlanta, Hollingsworth said. The 400-lawyer firm, based in Columbia, S.C., established a six-lawyer Nashville office earlier this year and three of those lawyers handle real estate matters.

Briefly

Health care lawyers Tracy Field and Deonis de Cardenas have joined Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice from Piedmont Healthcare. Field, who joined as a partner, was executive vice president of compliance and government appeals at Piedmont. De Cardenas, who joined as an associate, was director of government appeals. Before joining Piedmont in 2010, Field spent 17 years at Arnall Golden Gregory.

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz has added five associates to its Atlanta office.

Alexander Koskey III, who handles business litigation and real estate law, joined from Peterson & Myers in Lakeland, Fla.

Andrew Stulce, who will focus on business litigation, was a law clerk for Judge Charles Pannell Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Stulce received his law degree in 2009 from the University of Georgia.

Emily Early clerked for Judge W. Louis Sands of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia after earning a J.D. from Howard University School of Law in 2010. She is also a business litigator.
The new associates include two 2012 law school graduates, David Roberson and Brett Switzer. Roberson graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and is focusing on real estate and financing transactions, including zoning. Switzer earned a J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law and then clerked over the summer for Judge Wendy Hagenau of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He is handling commercial bankruptcy and creditor-debtor matters.

Evan Rosen has been named a shareholder at Epstein Becker Green, where he is an employment lawyer.

James Monacell, a bond lawyer at Smith, Gambrell & Russell, has been elected to the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce board of directors. His three-year term will start on Jan. 1, 2013.

James Brim III, a partner in the Gainesville firm Forrester & Brim, has been made a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Lawyers must have at least 15 years trial experience to be considered as a fellow, which is by invitation only. Brim has practiced in Gainesville since 1979.

Glenn Hendrix, the managing partner of Arnall Golden Gregory, has been made a member of the American Society of International Law’s executive council. The group has 4,000 members from almost 100 countries, and its mission is to promote international relations based on law and justice.

The Atlanta Bar Association’s estate planning and probate section has recognized Nikola “Nick” Djuric of Sutherland as the first recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. Djuric, a tax lawyer, is also involved in the Atlanta Estate Planning Council and the State Bar of Georgia’s fiduciary law section. He is a frequent presenter at CLEs and participates in the March Madness will training program.
The University of Georgia beat the Florida Gators 17-9 in football earlier this year, and it beat the Gators again, this time in an annual moot court competition.

Alyson M. Palmer
2012-11-23 12:00:00 AM

The University of Georgia reports that its law school has beaten the University of Florida in an annual moot court competition between the two schools.

The event traditionally is held in late October on the eve of the Georgia-Florida football game. At this year's contest in Jacksonville, third-year law students John Eunice from Valdosta and Jocelyn Maner from Augusta represented UGA.

UGA leads the law student series with a record of 20-8-2. Its football team also had a good weekend, beating then-No. 3 Florida by a score of 17-9.
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This story was first published in ATLaw, a blog published by The Daily Report, an affiliate of the Daily Business Review.

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Mark McDonald’s jarring childhood Moment stirred lifetime passion for preserving historic sites

Posted by Chris Schroder - Moments, Moments Season 2
Date: November 26th, 2012, 6:38 pm

Mark McDonald and his childhood friends were bicycling to their favorite fishing pond nestled in a grove of trees outside their historically rich hometown of Montgomery, Alabama, when they made a startling discovery. The future CEO of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and his friends suddenly faced a harsh reality that had struck many historical southern towns before and since - development. The boys stood in silence as they watched as a large construction tractor bulldoze their beloved trees that had always shaded their favorite getaway.

They soon learned their boyhood fishing spot would be transformed into a new area of Montgomery with a housing subdivision of ranch houses. The friends pedaled home dispirited.

“I was really powerless to do anything about it,” Mark said. “It was really a terrible, tragic feeling to see this happening to a place that I loved.”

The development may have come as a surprise to Mark and his friends, but it was not a surprise for Montgomery. As seen in many cities in the 1970s, people were moving out of dwindling downtown areas and moving into subdivisions outside of the city near newly developed malls and commercial strip centers. This meant pastoral spots such as the fishing pond had to be cleared to make way for the new houses and their pristine lawns. In the process, historical sites would be lost.

The Moment Mark saw the bulldozers clearing the trees planted a seed that would bear fruit years later. He attended Emory University and graduated with a law degree from the University of Georgia. While practicing law, he began to read about a growing preservation and environmental movements that reconnected with the powerlessness he once felt about the fishing pond.

“After I got out of law school, I realized that there were things that could be done about this,” he said in our accompanying Moments video. “The historic preservation movement was taking hold.”
The historic preservation movement began after World War II, as prosperous economic times threatened historical landmarks with rapid development of new commercial and residential buildings. Early activists fought tirelessly to preserve buildings that defined our nation's political and civic history and their efforts gradually gained momentum through the decades. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the activists began to encounter less resistance and opposition to their pleas as larger percentages of the voting public voiced their agreement for the cause.

At 29 years old, Mark left the practice of law, moved to North Carolina and began work with the Historic Salisbury Foundation. During his first professional position in historic preservation, Mark had the opportunity to chip away at the powerless feeling he once felt and found success in maintaining the character that graced historic neighborhoods and landmarks.

"It's been a great career for me – a wonderful, very fulfilling time I've spent working in preservation," he said.

Mark continued his career, gaining 25 years in nonprofit and business experience working at The Mobile Historic Development Commission in Mobile, AL, and serving as the Executive Director for Historic Savannah Foundation. Now in his third leadership role in historic preservation in the Southeast, he serves as the president and CEO of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation has grown to become one of the largest, statewide nonprofit organizations in the country. The Trust not only saves and preserves endangered buildings across the state, it provides educational programs open to the public as well as for statewide teachers to spread the message about the importance of preservation.

"I've joined a community of people who feel as passionate about this as I do," Mark said. "This many people all working together, we have had an impact on changing our culture.

"Older neighborhoods are coming back, downtowns are coming back – so that our children and our children's children will have a choice about where they want to live and the type of communities they want to invest in," he said.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation recently unveiled its 2013 Places in Peril of sites that they hope to build the type of momentum that could prevent them from being bulldozed and instead, to restore them as historical references of the culture of Georgia.

One of Mark's goals as the nonprofit's leader is to make preservation more accessible to larger portions of the community, to shine the light not only on buildings, but also significant tracts of land, such as landscapes and industrial sites whose topography bear witness to their previous uses in past centuries.

The Trust maintains offices in three cities, working in and restoring historic Rhodes Hall in Midtown Atlanta, the Hay House in Macon and its design office in Athens. Raising funds to support its work and increasing membership to growing numbers of supporters, Mark and his team's efforts through the state do their best to preserve for future generations what he and his friends felt powerless to do for their childhood fishing pond.

Disclosure: Chris Schroder's PR firm provides consulting services to the communications staff of the Georgia Trust.

Next week in Moments: Charlie Ackerman, Atlanta business icon, on his visit to a mystical hidden mountain kingdom.
Mark McDonald’s jarring childhood Moment stirred lifetime passion for... http://saportareport.com/blog/2012/11/mark-mcdonalds-jarring-childh...

**Video by Francis McDonald. Research and writing assistance by Bailee Bowman, SchroderPR**

Don’t miss previous Moments from Season Two: Frank Skinner, Tom Murphy, Matt Arnett, Kasim Reed, Alana Shepherd, Charles Driebe, Hank Aaron, Kevin Rathbun, Larrie Del Martin, Mike Luckovich, Dan Matthews.

Don’t miss previous Moments from Season One: Arthur Blank, Doug Hertz, Thomas Dimitroff, Jenny Levison, Brad Cunard, Joe Roberts, Plemon El-Amin, Bob Williams, Gary Price, John Dewberry, Bill Tush, Milton Little, Hope Arbery, Bo Jackson, Lisa Borders, Tom Key, Bob Voyles, Joyce Fownes, Joel Babbit, John Pruitt, Noel Khalil, Chuck Leavell, Bill Nitig, Evelyln Winn-Dixon, Steve Nygren, Chris White, Josh Starks, Ryan Gravel, Shirley Franklin, Sam Massell and Clark Howard.

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**About Chris Schroder**

Chris Schroder, Publisher, manages business matters and writes a weekly column for SaportaReport while also counseling clients at Schroder Public Relations, in Atlanta. Before starting his PR firm in 2002, Chris worked for six Southeast daily newspapers (including the AJC, Daily Report and Charlotte Observer) as a reporter, editor, marketing and advertising executive before starting his own chain of neighborhood newspapers in 1994 in Virginia-Highland, Buckhead and Downtown Atlanta. He is fifth-generation Atlantan, a graduate of The Westminster Schools and the University of Virginia, is married to Jan Butsch Schroder and has four young adult children and step-children.

View all posts by Chris Schroder —>

This entry was posted in Chris Schroder - Moments, Moments Season 2 and tagged Chris Schroder - Moments, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Hay House, Historic Savannah Foundation, Historic Savannah Foundation, Mark McDonald, Mobile Historic Development Commission, Montgomery AL, Places in Peril, preservation movement, Rhodes Hall, SaportaReport.com, SchroderPR.com, University of Georgia School of Law. Bookmark the permalink.

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"Disclosure: Chris Schroder's PR firm provides consulting services to the communications staff of the Georgia Trust." Well, I suppose some would call that "progress." But I sure hope you don't ever call it "new journalism." It is not.
HEADLINE: Tennessee: Judge Siskin investiture ceremony in Rutherford County Friday

DATELINE: Nashville

BODY:

Administrative Office of the Courts, State of Tennessee has issued the following news release:

An investiture ceremony for Judge M. Keith Siskin, Division III Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Judicial District will be held 3 p.m. Friday, November 30 at the Rutherford County Courthouse on the Square.

Judge Donna Scott Davenport will administer the oath of office. Siskin fills the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Don Ash to senior judge earlier this year. Gov. Bill Haslam announced Siskin's appointment to the bench on October 29.

Siskin has been a Juvenile Court magistrate since 2004, presiding over both civil and criminal cases including parentage, child support, child custody and visitation, dependency, neglect, abuse and delinquency matters.

Siskin graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1994 with a bachelor's in English and went to the University of Georgia School of Law, graduating cum laude in 1997.

For more information please visit: http://www.tsc.state.tn.us

LOAD-DATE: November 28, 2012
Birmingham lawyer Kira Fonteneau hired to lead Jefferson County's first public defender office

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama -- Poor criminal defendants, who can't afford to hire a lawyer, have a new advocate.

Birmingham attorney **Kira Fonteneau** (http://thefonteneaufirm.com/) has been chosen to lead the newly created Jefferson County Public Defender Office, the director of Alabama's Indigent Defense Services announced today.

As the public defender, Fonteneau will lead a large team of as-yet-to-be-hired lawyers in representing poor criminal defendants charged in the Birmingham division of Jefferson County's court system and who otherwise can't afford an attorney. The Bessemer Cutoff division will continue to appoint local attorneys to represent indigent clients.

Fonteneau was selected by Ricky McKinney, director of Alabama's Indigent Defense Services, after her nomination last week by the **Indigent Defense Advisory Board** (http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/07/jefferson_county_switching_to.html) for the Birmingham division of Jefferson County.

"Kira is an outstanding attorney with a significant background in criminal law and specifically indigent defense," McKinney stated in an email response to questions from The Birmingham News. "She is an experienced administrator, having started and
maintained a thriving law practice in Birmingham for several years as well as managed significant projects as a member of upper management with Wachovia Bank. We are very supportive of her selection and look forward to working with her."

Fonteneau said she was excited about her new job. She said she has a passion for making sure the rights of the accused are protected.

"I think there's a great opportunity to add some value to the community," Fonteneau said. "I'm just excited to be a part of that process."

A budget for the newly created public defender office hasn't been set yet, but the early numbers projected that as many as 35 lawyers could be hired as assistant public defenders for that office, Fonteneau said.

Presiding Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Scott Vowell, who chairs the Birmingham division indigent defense advisory board, said he hoped the new office would be open by this time next year. "It's going to be in essence like setting up a moderate size law firm," he said.

Vowell said he would expect the size of the public defender office to mirror the size of the Jefferson County District Attorneys Office. While some defendants do hire their own attorneys, 90 percent or more of the defendants are considered indigent and can't pay for their own lawyers, he said.

Vowell said they are trying to get Jefferson County to make room in the 2121 building, which is across the street from the criminal justice center, for the public defender office. The Legal Aid Society will continue to serve under contract to represent indigent defendants in family court.

Fonteneau, 36, has practiced law in Birmingham since graduating from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2005. She is married and has one child.

Fonteneau was born in Detroit, Mich., where she lived until she was 13 years old. After living a year in Hawaii, her parents moved the family to Chesapeake, Va., where she went to high school and college. She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 1998 from The University of Virginia.

Her mother worked in banking and her stepfather is a juvenile probation officer, Fonteneau said.

After college, Fonteneau didn't immediately get into law. It was only after working four years at Wachovia bank that she decided to go to law school.

Fonteneau said she likes the atmosphere of a courtroom. "I'm passionate. I'm certainly protective (of clients)," she said.

"The goal is to provide better

Fonteneau has practiced a variety of law, including criminal defense. Her
Birmingham lawyer Kira Fonteneau hired to lead Jefferson County's legal services to the poor at a lesser cost to the taxpayers" - Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Scott Vowell.

"Kira is well regarded within the legal community," Vowell said. "We feel she has a great zeal for this subject."

According to her on-line resume, Fonteneau also has spoken on topics including the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

She also formerly served as a member of the indigent defense services advisory board.

It was that committee that voted in a blind vote to nominate Fonteneau for the public defender job.

"We had two good candidates," said Everett Wess, a local attorney on the indigent defense services advisory board.

Although he said he had some initial concerns about how a public defender office might work, "we're going to make sure it's successful," Wess said.

"We want to make sure that defendants have adequate representation as the 6th Amendment dictates," Wess said. He said the board will work to make sure the public defender office has the resources it needs.

A move to begin a public defender office took off under a 2011 Alabama indigent defense law that provides for an indigent defense advisory board in each circuit or each county made up of the presiding judge, local bar chairman and lawyers for three at-large positions. That board decides whether indigent defense be provided on a case-by-case appointment of local lawyers or through a public defender office.

Until now, judges have appointed local attorneys to defend indigent criminal defendants. The attorneys are paid by the state for their work.

Vowell said the board for the Birmingham Division looked at the different methods of providing lawyers for poor defendants. "Our expenses have been extremely high and the quality of the legal services is not what it should be in some cases," he said.

"The goal is to provide better legal services to the poor at a lesser cost to the taxpayers," Vowell said.

Board members visited other cities, including Nashville and Tuscaloosa, that had public defender offices, Vowell said. Birmingham was one of the few its size in the nation that did not have a public defender office, he said.
Kevin Butler, the public defender for the federal court system for the northern district of Alabama, has helped in advising the committee on how to set up a public defender office, Vowell said. The federal public defender office opened this past summer (http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/06/federal_public_defender_moving.html). Until then the federal district for northern Alabama was one of only a few in the nation that didn't have a public defender office.

Once the board decided on a public defender office for the Birmingham division, the board opened up applications for the job of public defender (http://10jc.alacourt.gov/publicDefender.html), the person who would oversee the staff of lawyers. That screening committee (http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/10/committee_to_recommend_three_f.html) interviewed the 15 candidates who applied for the job and gave the advisory board the names of two applicants, which included Fonteneau, he said.

"They were both extremely well qualified," Vowell said. "It was a very, very, difficult decision."
Panelists debate law schools and practice-ready grads

Meredith Hobbs

Daily Report

11-28-2012

It used to be that people went to law school to learn how to "think like a lawyer" and assumed they would learn how to practice on the job. But now law schools are under pressure to turn out practice-ready lawyers.

In a sluggish economy, jobs are scarce for new law graduates, who often are burdened with hefty student loans. Clients won't pay to train first-year associates and firms say they can't absorb the expense, especially with competition from contract lawyers and offshore legal services. And so law schools are in the hot seat.

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism organized a daylong conference at the State Bar of Georgia's headquarters to explore ways law schools can turn out graduates with more practical legal skills.

"Schools have got to do something to radically change the delivery and outcome of legal education or applications will keep going down," said Fred Rooney, a panelist at the Nov. 15 symposium who directs an incubator program for new law graduates at the CUNY School of Law.

Law schools are retooling their curriculums, adding more skills training through clinics, externships, courses with case simulations and the like, but one question that kept coming up at the conference was how feasible it is for a law school to teach a lawyer how to practice law.

Panelists from academia, nonprofits, government and the private bar offered a range of ideas: devoting the third-year curriculum to practical training, creating a two-track curriculum for either scholarship or professional skills, or dispensing with the third year altogether in favor of a supervised apprenticeship.

But the rough consensus that emerged was that one must actually practice law in order to learn how to practice law.

3L curriculum

Washington & Lee University School of Law redesigned its third-year curriculum in 2008 to focus on practical skills developed through classroom simulations and clinical coursework.

James Moliterno, a W&L law professor, said the school made the curriculum optional for the first two years as it was phased in. "I figured the students would be scared of it," he said, because their comfort zone was "sitting for a three-hour exam to get a grade."
To his surprise, three quarters of the 3L class opted in the first year.

Each semester begins with a two-week immersion course, where students work fulltime on a litigation matter in the fall and a transactional matter in the spring. In the fall semester, students represent either a plaintiff or defendant in a simulated dispute and in the spring they represent the buyer and seller of a hypothetical furniture manufacturer.

The students then take two experiential courses per semester, said Moliterno, including an externship where they work with actual clients. There is also a one-credit service requirement and a practicum. "Every student represents a client before graduating," he said.

Steven Kaminshine, the dean of Georgia State University College of Law, raised the larger question of whether a student can learn to practice law in an academic environment, no matter how experientially oriented.

"Yes, we can change the third year and change the pedagogy—but law school is still not going to be taught by members of the bar coming in on Thursday night," Kaminshine said.

"We can innovate—add externships, clinics, skills labs, integrate more legal skills into the coursework," he said, but "we are still nibbling around the edges of the problem."

He said revising the coursework is not the same as having students go through a legal apprenticeship, which he compared to the role a residency plays for medical school graduates.

"The schizophrenia in legal education is palpable," Kaminshine said.

Legal education is "confused about what it's doing," said Emory University Law School professor Frank Alexander, because it has two different missions—teaching legal scholarship and preparing people to practice law.

"The purpose of legal education is ambiguous and so we're not preparing people to do either very well," said Alexander, who directs Emory's Project on Affordable Housing and Community Development and has served as interim dean of the law school.

He suggested that law schools offer two tracks—one for professional training, which would include field work after the first year, and a separate legal scholarship track leading to an LL.M. or Ph.D. degree in legal studies that "makes no pretense that it is preparing someone to pass the bar."

The debate over legal education is not "a war between theory and practice," said Thomas Morgan, a professor at George Washington University School of Law and a former dean of Emory's law school.

"You can't provide just a practical education without an academic base," Morgan said. Pursuing the medical comparison, he said doctor training wouldn't work if students merely followed doctors around without taking any classes.

"But when half our graduates can't get jobs, what does a practice-ready lawyer look like?" Morgan asked.

Law school has a broader purpose than preparing lawyers to practice law, said the dean of the University of Georgia's law school, Rebecca White.

"Sure, you need to know how to draft a complaint, interview a client and get to the courthouse," White said. "But scholarship matters. We need to teach deep thinking. If students don't get exposed to that in their first year of law school, they're not going to get it later."

"Law school can't provide practice-ready lawyers," White said. "We can be part of the process, but we can't do it alone."

Alexander pointed out that there is institutional resistance to shifting away from scholarship to more practical teaching. Faculty salaries are a law school's biggest expense, he said, and the bulk of spending on salaries goes to professors who have not represented a client in 10 years, if ever.

"If we are going to start a professional track, then we need to invest money and hire professors with experience practicing law," he said.

Alexander hastened to add that he doesn't think law professors should give up scholarship. "But we need to acknowledge our ambivalence about legal scholarship versus teaching people how to practice law."

Practice-ready lawyers
The notion of compressing law school to two years and adding an apprenticeship year was broached, but did not get much discussion.

C. Lash Harrison, the managing partner of Ford & Harrison, said he proposed to a law school dean, whom he did not name, that his firm could train several 3Ls, who would still pay law school tuition, but was met with little enthusiasm. "He did not jump up and down," Harrison said.

"Finding practice-ready lawyers is about as hard as finding shovel-ready projects for economic development," he said.

Harrison is not waiting for law schools to deliver these mythical creatures. His labor and employment firm started its own first-year associate training program in 2007. For their first year of employment, new associates work on cases and perform research without any billable hours requirement.

The program is hands-on, Harrison said. Initially it offered more classroom work, but he said that "was not very productive."

"Our associates got more out of dealing with clients and real-life problems," Harrison said, although participants do write a paper for a self-directed research project.

Ford & Harrison started the program as an associate retention effort at a time when competition for top law school graduates was fierce. Now many firms won't hire first-year associates because clients won't pay for them.

Harrison still prefers to train new lawyers from scratch, to avoid the risk of people coming in with bad habits. "Our experience is that associates who go through the program are going to advance much faster. I think they are more engaged and more committed to the practice of law," he said.

The program is expensive, he acknowledged, but said it's developing the firm's next generation. He said about 70 percent of the 25 lawyers who've participated since 2007 are still at Ford & Harrison—and several of those who've left are working in-house for clients.

Briefly

R.O. "Ray" Lerer has become of counsel at Federal & Hasson after retiring from the Georgia Department of Law. Lerer spent 32 years at the agency, where most recently he headed the commercial transactions and litigation division.

Locke Lord has added Danya Snyder as an associate in its corporate practice. Snyder received her J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in May.
Considering Law School? Here’s What You Need to Know

by Emily Driscoll

Published November 28, 2012 | FOXBusiness

Undergrads considering extending their education into law school should think long and hard before pounding the gavel on the decision.

According to analysis from the Wall Street Journal, only 55% of Class of 2011 law school grads were employed full-time as lawyers nine months after graduation.

Despite declining starting salaries (falling $9,000 between 2009-2010) and 85% of law school grads facing an average debt load of $98,500, getting a law degree can open many doors for grads in the long run, says Lisa Jones Johnson, lawyer and co-author of So You Want to Be a Lawyer.

While a law degree is usually associated with jobs in the court room, Johnson points out that politicians, business executives and sports and music agents use a Juris Doctor degree for expertise with contracts and negotiations.

"You're buying yourself an insurance policy that says that if I go to law school and pass the bar, at some point I will always be able to hang out my shingle," she says. "It's extremely expensive but you're giving yourself a graduate degree, which is going to make you more competitive in the job market."

Although going back to school for a JD can make sense for a variety of professions, here are five steps experts suggest students take before committing to law school.

Consider the Cost

Students with existing undergraduate debt have to weigh out the cost of school plus lost wages when making the decision to commit to another degree, says recent University of Georgia Law School graduate and lawyer, Brittany Bolton.

"Attending law school costs roughly as much as buying a small home and is perhaps a larger decision because in addition to cost, it will become a career," she says. "It's extremely expensive but you're giving yourself a graduate degree, which is going to make you more competitive in the job market."

Choose the Right School

Having a general idea of what students want to accomplish with a law degree can help them decide what schools to target, says Paula Casey, dean at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law.

"Does a student want to teach in a law school? Then a top-tier school that is rich in faculty research opportunities is probably the right choice from an investment standpoint," she says. "If a student wants to practice law, he or she needs to enroll in a school that's in the state where that future attorney wants to practice."

Research the Profession

Law school and the actual practice of law are very different, says Bolton, and prospective students should research what life as a lawyer will be like.

"Reaching out to practicing lawyers along with taking advantage of resources such as pre-law advisors, undergraduate courses on legal topics and pre-law programs are excellent ways to accomplish balanced research before deciding whether to apply to law school," she says.

Experts also suggest checking out student organizations and regional, state and local bar associations (the National Bar..."
Considering Law School? Here’s What You Need to Know

How Will You Perform?

Although every law school is different, how students measure up against their peers in terms of grades and performance can be a major hiring factor for some firms, according to Johnson.

“If you’re at a law school that is not a well known national law school, then your grades are absolutely important,” she says. “For the mid to lower tier law schools, the only way you’re going to get a job in any kind of competitive firm would be if you are at the top of your class.”

Some schools like the University of Georgia grade on a curve, where a student’s grade is determined by their performance compared to the entire class as opposed to percentage of correct answers—even if all students master the material, less than a third will get receive an A, says Bolton.

“This is not to say the law school experience is completely cut throat—I found it easy to study in groups and made some of my best friends in law school,” she says. “Most of my classmates were very friendly, courteous and would gladly help others understand the material when needed.”

How to Use the Degree

A law degree doesn’t automatically equal success and a big paycheck. Students should be aware that strong writing skills and oral advocacy skills are the minimum requirements in any legal position, says Casey.

“They should also focus on developing soft skills—like communication, collaboration, empathy—because those will help in any workplace,” she says. “Clinical experiences and externships always add to a student’s chances of getting a job in the legal field.”

Like many industries, the legal field is constantly changing and it’s imperative that students understand the increasingly competitive role of marketing, says Johnson.

“It’s about being able to get clients, being able to sell your services to prospective clients,” she says. “To get to the point of being a senior lawyer, you need to have the basic analytical, writing, research types of skills, stamina, but ultimately, that’s not what’s going to give you success.”
Social Circle picks new city judge

Danielle Everson
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November 29, 2012

Social Circle has a new judge who is presiding over its court cases. Judge David Dickinson began serving as Social Circle's newly appointed municipal court judge on Nov. 21.

The former mayor of Monroe and litigation attorney was named to the position at a council meeting on Oct. 16 by the Municipal Court Judge Review Committee, a specially-formed committee consisting of council members David Keener and Angela Porter and former municipal court judge Jeff Foster, who announced he was stepping down as Social Circle's municipal court judge in August.

According to minutes from that meeting, Keener, chairman of the committee, presented the mayor and the council with four candidates chosen by the committee as applicants up for consideration for the open position.

Those candidates included Dickinson, Steven Hathorn, a Covington lawyer; Lori Duff, a Loganville lawyer; and Brad Brownlow, a Monroe lawyer. The four finalists were chosen from 10 applicants who were reviewed by the committee.

At the meeting, the candidates gave five minute presentations to the council describing why they were qualified for the position. Brownlow was unavailable to give a presentation at the meeting. The council then went into executive session to discuss their choices, and soon named Dickinson as their new judge.

Dickinson graduated from the University of Georgia Law School in 1985 and has been serving as an attorney ever since. He said he does trial work and tries cases all over Georgia. He also fills in as the judge pro-tem for the Walton County Juvenile Court. He said because the position is part time, he will continue to practice law.

When it comes to his working in Social Circle, Dickinson said his first court session was an enjoyable experience and he expects it to continue to be that way.

"One of the things that I'm really big on is the municipal courts are sort of what I call people's courts and [for] a lot of folks it's the only experience they'll ever have with the judicial system. And I tried to do things on an individual basis," he said.
"I don't practice assembly line justice sort of speak because every person's case is unique to them and I try to listen to everyone's story sort of speak and do what's right in every case."

He explained that he enjoyed the community of Social Circle and he feels like taking this position is a way for him to give back to the community.

"I just do it because I think I'm at a point in my career where it's time to give back to the community," he said.

"I love the community. I've got a lot of friends and connections in Social Circle and I'm doing this as a way of giving back."

Dickinson has lived in Monroe since 1981. He doesn't have plans right now to relocate to Social Circle. He and his wife Rita have been married for 35 years and have three adult daughters.
Taking care of business for R.E.M.

Shawn Bratton, Special to the Daily Report
R.E.M. recorded its first album in 1981, and one person who was there from the beginning was attorney Bertis E. Downs IV, who started out providing legal services for the band and ended up managing its business affairs, a role that he continues today. Late last year, the band announced it was disbanding, but Downs said he remains busy taking care of the band’s business.

Downs recently talked about his role with the band in a conversation with attorney Shawn Bratton, a part-time Gwinnett County magistrate judge, an associate at Mahaffey Pickens Tucker and a lifetime fan who grew up with the band’s music. Their conversation, edited for brevity, follows.

**How does a sole practitioner act as legal counsel for a world-famous band?**

You don’t. I’ve really functioned for years now, going back to the ’80s, as more management. I’m still a lawyer, but the band uses a firm in Atlanta—Kilpatrick Townsend—and a firm in Los Angeles—Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown—for actual contract work and for legal compliance issues. That kind of lawyering is impossible for a solo practitioner to do on the scale of a band our size. My role just sort of developed slowly until it became more of a management capacity in the late ’80s.

**What got you interested in law school? Did the law profession run in your family?**

Not at all. My dad had been a minister. Both Bertis the first and second were pharmacists. I remember always being interested in law, and I really became interested as early as middle school and high school. I recall going downtown and watching the trial of the man who kidnapped Reg Murphy [the editor of *The Atlanta Constitution* at the time of his abduction].

Years later I went back and visited the Superior Court judge of that case, Judge Jack Etheridge. I was a freshman at Davidson College at the time and remember going to visit him during Christmas break. I went over looking for internships or anything at the courthouse I could do. Long story short, I ended up working a summer with three other college students at the Fulton County Jail. That summer I worked at the Fulton County Jail during the day, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and then I went to work at the Fairmont Hotel at Colony Square.

It was the summer that the Rolling Stones did their Tour of the Americas ’75, and they based their Southeastern dates at the Fairmont Hotel. I remember my main sensation being, "How can these really old guys, who are like in their 30s, how can they still be doing this?"

**Did you do any clerkship as a student?**

I did. I worked for Hudson and Montgomery, which is a law firm here in Athens that is still going strong. I am still good friends with them. They are a litigation firm and I clerked for them at different times over a couple of years.

**You first met the guys who would become R.E.M. while you were still in law school?**

Yeah. I met them very early on and began helping them over time as they needed it.

**What were your first jobs out of law school?**

After law school, I started teaching at the university, teaching the writing program, which was my first job. It was a way to be in Athens. The real story is that I was trying to get a job in the public sector but it was the year of the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan. I was applying for jobs at the same time that everybody’s budgets were completely frozen or cut. It was a terrible time to be looking for that kind of work, which is what I had thought all through law school that I would be doing. I had done legal aid and defender clinic and those kinds of things. There were very limited clinics then compared to the ones that we have now. So when I graduated, being able to stay in Athens and teach law school sounded pretty good.

**Were you able to still help the band out during that year?**

No. That year I was not actively involved in their career, but I came back to Athens in 1984. That was basically when they had their second record out so I came back for their second record. That was almost 30 years ago.
Your varied positions right out of school sound like they provided a good range of work and the opportunity to enable you to learn a lot and build a good practice.

And I got lucky. There is a certain amount of fortuity, luck, fortune, hard work and experience that go into that. I did the volunteering with the band early on because I was just happy to help out. At Davidson I had been on the concert committee and had a radio show. I was always interested in music but I was interested more in the business side of music: how does it work?

Were there any concerns with presenting these songs prior to the album's creation or release?

What was really interesting about those shows is that when you play something in 2007 live it goes over the Internet. It's on peoples' cellphones and it's immediately all around the Internet. We decided it was fine. We decided to kind of go with the flow.

In fact, a lot of the early word that Accelerate was a really good record was because of that and it didn't hurt us. It's hard to tell exactly what the effect was, but we didn't ever sense that it did. What it did do was let people hear these same songs live, rougher versions of them that eventually get perfected into this beautiful masterpiece ... same songs. They still bought the record.

It was a very successful record for us. We didn't feel like it hurt; in fact, it probably helped that there were some advance fans. People in Atlanta who would have loved to have been there ended up seeing it on YouTube. It ended up being a good thing. But it definitely at the time felt like it was kind of risky.

Over the years did you ever feel any power struggles with defining your duties as manager against the duties being imposed or put on you by others in the business?

I've always tried to approach things with collaborative, pardon the cliché, but as transparent, fair-dealing, and direct and, you know, just good clear communication ... but no, the world's definitely changing in the way record labels, managers and agents and artists and advertisers operate. There are just so many more variables now than there were when we started.

How so?

When we started it was a really simple world. When we started you made a record, you got a record deal, you put it out and you toured. You might make it. These were pretty much the possibilities.

Now, there are so many more ways to release records, so many more ways to promote records, so many more ways to reach people. So everybody's doing it, so it's a more cluttered world but nobody really knows what the magic combinations are to make it any more.

One thing is for sure, you can't monetize the sale of the recorded music the way that you once did. Sales are just not the same. There are other things, streaming services, touring, etc. There are just so many more variables now so it's a much more complicated world than the one we started in.

Are you musical in any way?

I have always liked music and been around music. I took piano lessons as a kid, I played in the band at Shamrock. I was in the concert band and marching band. I was always kind of a fan and interested in the way things worked. I thought I might like doing that kind of thing someday but didn't know what it was, maybe a promoter or working in radio.

Then I decided to go to law school so that is more compatible with management skills ... that's kind of the way it worked out.

I took up the Highland bagpipe in law school. I figured there would be nothing more obnoxious than a lawyer who is also a bagpiper, and that's pretty much been true. I went to the College of Piping in Glasgow when I got out of law school.

I did sort of the opposite of what you did; I went into the Navy before I went to college. And I had such an eye-opening experience in the Navy, having joined to see the world; I got stationed in Kings Bay, Ga., inside a submarine and never saw anything else. For three years.

What are your thoughts on the decision to formally disband after all this time?
It feels to me that they decided to stop as a band when it made sense for them to do so. They felt like they had a
great run, a great career, and they wanted to stop when they did as opposed to just going through the motions, which
can easily happen.

I admire it as a very mature decision, a very thoughtful and considered decision, and obviously we are still sort of
figuring out what's next. That's not at all conclusive, just because nobody really knows.

**Now that the band is no longer actively recording or touring, what will you do?**

There is still a lot happening. They obviously have a large catalog of music. There is still work to do on the business
end. They continue to be in business together. They are not active, meaning they are not making new records, but
there are still decisions to be made about songs and catalog licensing rights. So there is going to be a category of
work that's still not as busy but there will still be work to be done.
Rival schools outclass University in clean energy

Mikey Salter | Posted: Friday, November 30, 2012 7:00 am

With all eyes turned toward Atlanta for the SEC championship, I find myself considering the other rivalries of our school. While I hate houndstooth-wearing, tree-killing Bama fans and jean short-clad Florida fans as much as the next self-respecting Dawg fan, I cannot help but be ashamed of the long-term energy decisions our dear University is making.

As a proud alumnus and current graduate student at UGA, I want our school to shine. In many ways, we are doing so. We are in the SEC Championship with a good chance at making it to the title. We are a leading research institution. We have very strong schools, such as Terry, the School of Law, Grady, Education, Fine Arts, Public Affairs, Veterinary Medicine and Clinical Psychology. And now we are developing a strong medical school. These are fantastic achievements and I hope they continue.

Unfortunately, we are being consistently outclassed in an area that is only increasing in importance: clean energy. Our rival schools are improving by leaps and bounds, while we are stagnating. Did you even know that we have a coal boiler on campus that’s almost a half-century old? That we spend over a million dollars a year on coal? That the University refuses to give more than vague promises that they are considering scrapping it? That they are not considering decentralized renewable alternatives?

Meanwhile, schools all over the Southeast — schools that you know and cheer against week after week — are decimating us when it comes to clean energy. UNC-Chapel Hill, Clemson and Louisville have made concrete commitments to move off coal. Texas A&M was ranked 14th by the EPA for its use of green power. Georgia Tech was ranked the 9th best school for clean technology in the nation by leadenergy.org. Furthermore, the Sierra Club has ranked UNC-Chapel Hill 39th, the University of South Florida 47th and the University of Missouri 75th on its list of schools that are approaching sustainability. Perhaps the one that bothers me most, however, is that Gainesville, Fla. is the seventh highest per-capita solar power generator in the world.

I’m as big a Dawg fan as anyone on campus, but it irks me that while we are successful in so many ways, we have been so unsuccessful at working toward clean energy. We have the ability to be a true leader in this field, as we are in so many others. It is up to us to let the administration know that we care about this.

In order to do this, UGA Beyond Coal is partnering with the Georgia Climate Change Coalition to have a rally this Saturday, Dec. 1. We will start at the coal plant at 12:30 p.m. and move towards
New Earth Music Hall with stops along the way. After the rally we will watch the Dawgs beat the Tide on the big screen at New Earth. Everyone is invited, so come out and rally with us. Be part of a positive legacy for the Bulldog Nation.

— Mikey Salter is a third-year law student from Alpharetta with degrees in Latin, philosophy and classical culture
Georgia Law Wins National Moot Court Competition

The University of Georgia School of Law recently took home top honors at the Third Annual Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition, capturing both first and second place against a field of more than 20 teams. Hosted by Mercer University, this is the second year in a row Georgia Law has won this national competition.

Third-year students Chandler L. Smith and Timothy F.J. "Tim" Dean comprised the winning team, while third-year classmates Nneka A. Egwuatu and Scott F. McAfee finished in the runner-up position. Additionally, McAfee was named the tournament's best oralist.

"I am so proud of our students for their outstanding performance," Georgia Law Advocacy Director Kellie Casey said. "To have both of our teams make it to the final round of the competition really speaks to the caliber of our students. It was a great win."

Writer: Cindy Rice

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