On the cover: Atlanta Bar Association Litigation Section Bench & Bar Logan E. Bleckley Award for Judicial Excellence Recipient Hon. Carol W. Hunstein (Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia).

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It is customary for the outgoing president to give the board members a small gift. I did this at our last board meeting. I gave each person a book, *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

This book tells the story of eight young men who in the mid-1930s came together as freshmen to row for the University of Washington in Seattle. This was during the depths of the depression, and Seattle was basically a lumber town. With time and training, they became an extraordinary crew. During their junior year in 1936, they started by beating their archrival, Cal Berkeley. Then they came East—winning first on the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, New York and then at Princeton where the 1936 Olympic trials for rowing were held. They beat all the big boys, all the well-to-do Eastern crews. They became the U.S. men’s eight for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. They became a big deal.

In Berlin, in the weeks prior to the rowing finals, they spent a lot of time exploring the city and having fun. They were completely unaware of what Hitler’s Germany had been doing to hide everything. There is not time here to tell that story, but it is a fascinating part of the book.

About the rowing, they had two big problems. The stroke oarsman, Don Hume, became very sick. He had lost fourteen pounds. He had a fever that would not go away. During some of the training rows, the coach tried using a substitute, but the boat was not the same. Even so, on the day of the finals, the coach thought he had no choice but to use a sub. The other rowers protested—they wanted Don Hume in the boat in the stroke seat, and eventually the coach relented. But it did not look good.
The other problem was Lane 6, the outside lane. This lane was exposed to the winds and had rough water for most of the course. The Americans were stuck there even though they had the fastest qualifying time. The Germans—somehow—were Lane 1 where there was no wind and smooth water, and the Italians were in Lane 2.

At the start, the Americans fell immediately behind. At the half way 1000-meter mark, they were in last place. Don Hume’s eyes were closed, mouth hanging open; he could not lead the boat. The coxswain—Bobby Mock, who would later graduate from Harvard Law School and one day argue before the U.S. Supreme Court—was panicked. With 800 meters to go, he was about to do something drastic—turn the stroke duties over to the 7-seat oarsman. He called the stroke rate up again and somehow Don Hume came to—he opened his eyes and locked in. And the boat started to fly.

With 300 meters to go, they were in third place behind the Germans and the Italians. There were 75,000 fans in the grandstands, shouting “Deutsch-land” over and over. Adolf Hitler, Herman Goering, Joseph Goebbels, and other top Nazi leaders were there. With 100 meters to go, they took the stroke rate over 40, possibly even hitting 45. At the finish, the Americans won gold by .6 seconds.

Odd as it may seem, this story helps shape my view about those who are members of the Atlanta Bar Association. It does not matter whether you are a prosecutor or a criminal defense attorney, a Supreme Court justice or a trial court judge, whether you work for a law firm, a non-profit, a corporation in-house, or for the government.

My view is we are all in the same boat. Our boat is the legal profession. These days it is easy to take your eyes off this—easy to forget the profession part. There are forces working against us and what it means to be part of a profession like ours and to take care of it.

The Atlanta Bar Association has many concerns, many different forms of outreach—to its members and to those beyond our membership who need assistance. One of the Atlanta Bar’s core concerns, we can all agree, is the well-being of the profession. Another core concern is the rule of law. There is a strong correlation between the two. Attorneys committed to the profession are attorneys better equipped to stand up for the rule of law, which is our country’s greatest and most important asset.

No question, we are a group with diverse viewpoints; and it is true, our membership is not easily categorized. Nevertheless, we ALL value associating with each other, knowing each other, respecting each other, listening to each other. That is a real part of the Atlanta Bar.

These qualities are in short supply in lots of other places. But not here; not among the members of the Atlanta Bar Association. That is what I have learned.

I am thankful for our association—for what it does and what it stands for. Serving this past year as your president has been a high-water mark in my professional career. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity. It is something I will always remember. Thank you so much.

James D. Blitch IV
President, Atlanta Bar Association
2016-2017
L-R: Atlanta Bar Litigation Section Chair Christina Baugh (Fellows LaBriola), Logan E. Bleckley Award for Judicial Excellence Recipient Justice Carol W. Hunstein (Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia), and American Bar Association President Linda A. Klein (Baker Donelson).

Bench & Bar Reception
Honoring Justice Carol W. Hunstein

By Christina Baugh
Fellows LaBriola LLP
The Logan E. Bleckley Distinguished Service Award is bestowed by the Litigation Section at the annual Bench and Bar Reception to recognize and honor one of the judges or justices of the courts in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The award is named after Logan E. Bleckley, Associate Justice from 1875 to 1879 and the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court from 1887 to 1894, and is designed to recognize a judge with years of devoted public service as a member of the judiciary.

This year, the Litigation Section was honored to present the Logan E. Bleckley award to Georgia Supreme Court Justice Carol W. Hunstein. The award is well deserved.

Justice Hunstein won election to the Superior Court Bench of DeKalb County in 1984. As a superior court judge, she was active at the county, state, and national level including serving as the chair of many committees and task forces. Justice Hunstein was later appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court in November 1992 by then Governor Zell Miller. She was only the second woman to hold a permanent position on the Georgia Supreme Court.

Justice Hunstein was appointed as the Chair of the Georgia Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System, which issued its report to the Supreme Court in 1991. She was the district director of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and chaired the local host committee for the NAWJ 1995 Annual Conference, which was held in Atlanta.

Justice Hunstein has served as the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, chaired the Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness, chaired the 1993, 1998, and 2001 State Commissions on Child Support Guidelines, served on the Advisory Board of the Justice Center of Atlanta and the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. She is a former Rosalynn Carter Honorary Fellow in Public Policy at Emory University Institute of Women’s Studies and has served as an adjunct professor at Emory University School of Law.

Justice Hunstein is a member of the American Bar Association’s Public Perceptions Committee, the Bleckley Inn of Court, and has served as a liaison to the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism.

She is the recipient of more awards than can be listed, has served the community and the profession in many additional ways, and all while raising a family and otherwise having interests outside of the legal profession. Needless to say, very deserving indeed.

To help us honor her longtime friend, current American Bar Association (the “other” ABA) President, Linda Klein, was present and provided the introduction of Justice Hunstein. It was so important to Linda Klein to be with us that evening, and to help celebrate Justice Hunstein, that Linda Klein actually rearranged not only her schedule to be there, but the schedule of a
conference in Washington, D.C., in order to make sure she could be in Atlanta to celebrate her long-time friend’s accomplishments. We are so thankful that she was able to join us and provide us with insight into Justice Hunstein from someone who knows her well.

As always, the weather was beautiful for the early May celebration and we could not have had a better location than the balcony at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP. Thanks again to Nelson Mullins for allowing us to utilize the space. And, thank you to the Atlanta Bar staff for helping us to honor a devoted public servant and member of the judiciary.

Congratulations again to Justice Hunstein, and thank you for your years of devoted service.
END OF SUMMER PARTY
August 18, 2017
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

YACHT ROCK REVUE at VARIETY PLAYHOUSE

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Law Day

The 14th Amendment
Transforming American Democracy

By Melody Z. Richardson
Richardson Bloom & Lines LLC
The Atlanta Bar Association and the Fulton County Superior Court partnered to host nearly 230 middle school students from around Atlanta at a Law Day program on April 27, 2017. The students were welcomed by this year’s honorary host, Judge Alford J. Dempsey, the Deputy Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County, and treated to inspirational speeches from trial attorney L. Chris Stewart and immigration attorney Pamela Peynado Stewart. Many in the audience who aspire to become attorneys reported that the question and answer session with the Stewarts was their favorite part of the program.

The students also participated in a game of Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Law Day Edition, during which whiz kids competed for hot Cheetos. During this segment of the program, volunteers from the audience answered questions that were designed to teach the students about the long and winding road of the evolution of equal protection to all citizens from the ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868 through the Obergefell v. Hodges decision in 2015. The program was followed by lunch for the students in the atrium of the Fulton County Government Building, which had been appropriately decorated for Law Day.

Planning for the annual Law Day program began last year. Volunteers from the Atlanta Bar, the Fulton Superior Court staff, GABWA, and law students from Georgia State University all collaborated this year to raise funds to buy the lunches for the students and put together a program that helped the students better understand the important contribution the 14th Amendment has made to what it means to be an American and how closely liberty is tied to equality and justice.
There are many ways being a lawyer can be stressful. Two come immediately to mind for me. First, one has to have a fulsome grasp of the facts and the ever-changing law that are relevant to your case, demanding attention to detail that requires constant upkeep. Everyone in this profession signed up for that. Second, one has to deal with opposing counsel. There are occasions—too few, it often feels like—where opposing counsel work well together, and, while remaining zealous advocates for their clients, also remain cordial, professional, and cooperative with each other. But there are too many occasions where the relationship between opposing counsel breaks down. When this happens, it can make working on a case a painful proposition. And it is bad not only for the relationship between the attorneys themselves. It may well have an impact on the resolution of the case itself.

The scenario is too familiar. A discovery dispute emerges in your case. You receive an email that you believe not only to be inaccurate, but to be written in a nasty tone. Your response ups the ante. After a few more emails back and forth, all of course eventually attached to a motion to the court, counsels’ hardened positions on a small issue that could have been handled with a call or meeting have resulted in bitter feelings that permeate the entire case and what is left of a working relationship.

It does not have to be this way. Attorneys can and should understand that we do not need to jettison professionalism and civility to perform our jobs well. In an effort to foster that understanding, the Atlanta Bar’s Litigation Section began its Take Your Adversary to Lunch program in 1997. (Coffee or drinks would suffice as well.) This year, as in the past, the section further incentivized participation by holding a drawing and awarding gift cards. This year’s winners of Buckhead Life Gift Cards were Kevin O’Sullivan and Steven Wagner ($200); Daniel Park and Alex Barfield ($150); my self and Nick Protentis ($100); and Erin Krinsky and Matthew Herrington ($50). I was not informed until after winning that doing so also required a brief article from me on the event, although I would not have changed a thing.

As noted, I went to lunch with Nick Protentis, a plaintiff’s attorney at Miller & Bonham. Nick and I are on opposite sides of a product liability case filed in February 2015. Because the case is still technically active I will not go into details. But suffice it to say that, and do not be shocked, reader, but discovery got a bit contentious. Among other procedural maneuvers, there was a motion to compel and there were phone calls and hearings with the Judge. In sum, communications between the parties became less
At lunch, we did talk briefly about the case. But, far more importantly, we did not talk about the case. We talked about our families, our other work, our careers, our interests. And we had a pretty darn good meal, to boot. It helped immeasurably in reducing the artificially-inflated temperature.

Take Your Adversary to Lunch is perhaps lacking in only one way. It is the use of the word adversary. I hesitate to use it, as here it is something of a misnomer. Your adversary in one case today could be calling you tomorrow with a referral. That will only happen, though, when you treat others with civility. Regardless of whether you participated in the program this year or not, make a point to do so next year. In fact, there is no need to wait.

From the Board
The Atlanta Lawyer ask the Atlanta Bar Board “What was your favorite spring break trip during your life as a lawyer and why?”

Gino Brodgon, Member at Large
My favorite Spring Break trip is definitely Cancun, Mexico because I love the beach, tacos and margaritas. Also, I can get far enough from work to take a real break, yet close enough to find wifi and catch up on emails if necessary.

Greg Presmanes, Member at Large
My favorite spring break vacation was when my wife and I chaperoned our daughter and her closest friends on a cruise celebrating their graduation from high school. Staying up late at night and making sure the young ladies were safe while they were having a great time was definitely a challenge. Fortunately, there were no casualties (unless you count the wear and tear on the chaperones).

Maggie Vath, President Elect
I spent this Spring Break in Monterrey, Mexico at the Global Legal Skills Conference. What a wonderful experience to share knowledge with LLM legal writing experts, and to fit in a bit of sight-seeing along the way.
In the new age of global consumerism, it seems like every day we are asked to download a new mobile phone application, or “app,” as they are most commonly referred to. Apps have looked to mobilize every computer program you could ever want while on the go, and then some. Apple, Inc.’s trademarked phrase, “There’s an app for that!” became a humorous quip following the Apple App Store’s initial advertising campaign, but now seems more accurate than ever. Mobile ordering via apps takes away the need to wait in line at the counter or drive thru at your favorite junk food spot, Vivino lets you uncork pricing, ratings, reviews and food pairing suggestions with just snapping a photo of a wine label. Facebook and Twitter apps feed us information from our friends, family, and favorite celebrities wherever we are, and there is even an app (RunPee) that lets you know the best time to use the restroom when seeing a new film at the theater! “There’s an app for that!” now applies to legal advice as well. The constant development and downloading of new apps means lawsuits galore, but some firms are beginning to roll out their own apps. The content of the app varies from firm to firm. Some have chosen to utilize the app as an easier method of communication and others have provided legal practice area guides by state. Law360 named Baker McKenzie, Eversheds Sutherland, and Latham & Watkins LLP as having the most comprehensive and forward-thinking mobile apps in the business, and cites a Fliplet survey that reported this year that over 24% of the top 300 firms in the U.S. and U.K. have at least one application designed for use by the general public or clients via tablet or smartphone. Despite the growing trend, some attorneys remain skeptical.

In a 2013 article published by the American Bar Association’s Law Practice Magazine, author Erik Mazzone (former director of Center for Practice Management at the North Carolina Bar Association) gives 10 reasons not to bother with a law firm app. Most of his reasons center on lacking a focus for your app. Many firms may want to keep up with the pack, but will not know what content they want their app to include or what services, if any, they want it to provide. Since apps can be costly, even now, 4 years after Mazzone’s article, big firms are still the majority using apps.

So is an app right for your firm? Mazzone’s article is a good place to start your consideration, but his eighth and tenth reasons may be the only ones you need:

8. Your firm’s current Web presence is anemic. If you have not done much with your firm website, stop. An app is icing; your firm’s website is cake. Put your time and energy into the cake first. Then worry about the icing.

10. You cannot explain why building an app makes more sense than a mobile-friendly website. A lot of law firms would be better off foregoing the app and investing in a mobile-friendly website. There is no hard-and-fast rule as to when a project becomes app-worthy,
Hon. Diane Bessen
"For us I-75ers, not having I-85 traffic headed into town was fabulous. Felt like ATL did in 1980’s."

Hamida Jackson-Little
"I live and work in Alpharetta. I avoided driving any further south than Buckhead for the time being."

Maggie Vath
They say necessity is the mother of invention. The I-85 collapse forced many of us to rethink our daily commutes and to get creative. I worked remotely, commuted off hours, and learned some new short cuts.

Megan Hodgkiss
"I am so glad that the I-85 bridge has re-opened, and ahead of schedule. Atlanta traffic is bad enough; all of the extra congestion made for even longer commutes and traffic headaches."

Michael Jablonski
"I try not to drive as a general rule. Two years ago I started using a bicycle for most trips. The I-85 problem has had minimal impact on my commute."

Richard Caplan
"I am one of the too few, the proud, the MARTA riders. So while the train was sometimes more crowded because of the bridge collapse, my commute was largely unchanged. Thus, my answer is essentially the same to the unasked question of how my commute changed after the Great Atlanta Ice Storm of 2014: not much."
Interagency Law Enforcement Appreciation and Memorial Service Held
The Interagency Law Enforcement Appreciation and Memorial Service was held on May 17, 2017 at Woodruff Park. The annual event takes place during National Police Week when the Downtown community gathers to pay tribute to the public safety agencies that serve the Downtown area, as well as other areas of the city and the state. The event is hosted by Central Atlanta Progress (CAP) and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District (ADID), in partnership with the Atlanta Bar Association and the Atlanta Bar Foundation.

The Atlanta Police Department is a major component and partner in conducting the event. The event is intended to demonstrate the community’s appreciation for all law enforcement, particularly those serving Downtown. It then transitions into a Memorial Service to remember those that have given the ultimate sacrifice of their life while in the line of duty. A portion of the ceremony focuses on the Police Memorial which was established by the Atlanta Bar Association in 1980 to address public-police tensions at that time. Atlanta Bar President Jim Blitch and Atlanta Bar Foundation board member Bill deGolian gave words on the meaning of the monument and the long standing partnership between the Atlanta Bar Association and the Atlanta Police Department. A wreath laying ceremony then followed at the Memorial to pay tribute to the fallen officers to a bagpipe tribute.

Eleven public safety agencies representing the Downtown area participated in the service. Among them are the Atlanta Police Department, Georgia Tech Police, Georgia State and Emory University Police, MARTA Police and the Georgia World Congress Center Authority. This event has been conducted annually since 2010.
Truancy Intervention Project Georgia honored its exceptional volunteers at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, April 25. Held at Magnolia Hall at Piedmont Park, the luncheon was the culmination of a year of outstanding advocacy by some of Atlanta’s brightest attorneys on behalf of Atlanta’s most deserving youth.

TIP honored attorney volunteers Chip Benton, April Hall, Mary Alexander Myers, Angela Ramson and Wil Reeder for their dedication to TIP over the years. Attorney Andrew Hatchett was awarded the Honorable Glenda Hatchett Award for outstanding service to the children and families of TIP.

Thank you to our sponsors: Alston & Bird, LLP, The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta Mindfulness Institute, The Honorable Anne E. Barnes, Greenburg Traurig, Jones Day and Colin & Kelly Kelly. Special thanks to the Honorable Juliette Scales, Pre
100% Club

The distinguished 100% Club recognizes law firms of at least five attorneys that support firm-wide participation in the Atlanta Bar. The following firms are recognized for their demonstrated commitment to the Atlanta Bar Association, which furthers quality services for its members, supports the legal profession and benefits the community through its charitable work.

For more information on how your firm can become a member, contact madams@atlantabar.org.

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Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP*

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*Denotes Charter Members

siding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, for her wonderful words of wisdom and encouragement.

1 TIP Honorees and Volunteer of the Year awardee with TIP Staff L-R: Adrian Wright, Valerie Sanders, Andrew Hatchett, Mary Alexander Myers, April Hall, Wil Reeder, Angela Ramson and Chip Benton.

2 TIP Volunteer and honoree Wil Reeder of the Coca-Cola Company celebrates with his colleagues.

3 L-R: Colin Kelly, TIP Board Member and former award winner, Josh Swiger, former award winner, Judge Brad Boyd, Fulton County Juvenile Court, Terry Walsh, TIP Co-founder and Board Member, Judge Juliette Scales, Fulton County Juvenile Court and Erin Payne, former award winner and TIP Board Member.

4 TIP staff from left: Diane O’Steen, Adrian Wright, Shadonna Davis, Jessica Pennington, Terry Walsh and Caren Cloud.

5 Attorneys from Jones Day celebrate with honoree Mary Alexander Myers, Rick Deane, former TIP Board member and her family.
The Atlanta Bar Committee on Reputation and Public Trust (RAPT) was formed in response to several surveys which revealed a serious decline in public respect for lawyers. In the 1960’s and 70’s, lawyers were regarded as trustworthy and wise and ranked alongside doctors in public opinion. By the 1990’s, lawyers dropped in the rankings to a level previously reserved for auto mechanics.

Those surveyed think most of us charge too much for our services and that our litigation process takes too long and costs too much, effectively depriving some of access to our courts. They think some of us are unethical or dishonest and care more about money and winning than we do about playing by the rules. They think that our self-administered disciplinary process is not very effective. They think some lawyers file frivolous lawsuits and that others undertake matters beyond their competence.

While we know that the public has an exaggerated notion of how many lawyers are ethically challenged, can we afford to ignore these criticisms? The Atlanta Bar’s response was the creation of a standing committee on Reputation and Public Trust. The committee was initially chaired by Ben Weinberg and has been composed of trial and appellate judges, law school deans, representatives from the State Bar’s disciplinary office and lawyers committed to the task.

Members of RAPT have presented four programs to the Georgia Councils of Superior Court Judges and State Court Judges. The judges were surveyed, and their responses substantiated many of the public’s complaints. Many judges cited
problems with lawyers who were unprepared, incompetent or untruthful. Despite experiencing serious misbehavior in their courts, more than half had never reported a lawyer to the State Bar. The message left with the judges is that lawyer misbehavior is likely to continue if there are no negative consequences for the offenders.

RAPT has helped develop a protocol to be followed when it is appropriate for the Atlanta Bar to speak on the behalf of judges who are publicly criticized but are ethically constrained from defending their actions. Helping the public understand why judges have no choice but to follow the law even when it produces an unpopular result fits with the committee mission.

Other matters considered by RAPT include the State Bar’s Client Security Fund which seems inappropriately low when compared to such funds in other states and malpractice coverage. The public may believe that all or most lawyers have malpractice insurance, but many do not. In some states, lawyers are required to advise clients that they have no coverage. We should do the same.

RAPT has prepared various written materials. A good example is a pamphlet describing the various considerations which should go into the process of hiring a lawyer. That pamphlet is being distributed at the Fulton County Courthouse and is also available on the Atlanta Bar Website here.

Pamphlets are fine but what are we to do about more complex matters? Most agree that our litigation process takes too long and costs too much. What can be done about that? What can be done to increase the likelihood of negative consequences for unethical behavior? RAPT continues to struggle with these and other issues.
**Joint Spring Social**

A joint spring social of the Litigation, Bankruptcy and Public Interest Law Sections of the Atlanta Bar Association was held April 27, 2017 at Second Self Beer Company. Members enjoyed networking, beer tasting and brewery tours at one of Atlanta’s most popular venues.

**Spring CLE and Pollard Award Luncheon**

The Annual Spring CLE and Pollard Award Luncheon was held Thursday, May 11, 2017 at the Capital City Club Downtown. Over 50 CLE attendees enjoyed an excellent program featuring presentations on Hot Topics in 523 and 727 Dischargeability Actions (Ashley D. Champion, Howard P. Slomka and Bruce Z. Walker), Chapter 13 Model Plan Update (Hon. Lisa Ritchey Craig, Melissa Davey, Alex Dolhancyk, Regina Thom- as and Nancy J. Whaley) and Recent Trends in Student Loan Dischargeability Cases (Hon. Wendy L. Hagenau, Nate Juster, Shayna M. Steinfeld and Gregory M. Taube).

Following the CLE program, Grant T. Stein of Alston & Bird, was honored with the prestigious David W. Pollard Award, which is given annually to a member of the Atlanta Bar who best exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in the bankruptcy practice. Mr. Stein was introduced by his mentor, and inaugu- ral recipient of the Pollard Award in 1994, the Hon. W. Homer Drake, Jr. of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Mr. Stein began his legal career as a law clerk for Judge Drake over 35 years ago. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Stein thanked the Board of the Atlanta Bar Bankruptcy Sec-

During her remarks as outgoing Bankruptcy Section Chair, Alison Elko Franklin announced that the Bankruptcy Section was named the recipient of the 2016-2017 Small Section of the Year Award to be presented by the Atlanta Bar at its Annual Luncheon on May 23, 2017. This honor follows one received earlier in the year when the Bankruptcy Section was awarded the 2016 Community Service Award pre-

L-R: Atlanta Bar Bankruptcy Section Pollard Award Recipient Grant T. Stein (Alston & Bird) with mentor Hon. W. Homer Drake, Jr. (Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia).
2017-2018 Officers and Board members
Chair: Jeffery W. Cavender
Chair Elect: Sage M. Sigler
Secretary: B. Sumer Chandler
Treasurer: Melissa Davey
Immediate Past Chair: Alison Elko Franklin
Members at large: Vania Allen, Sameer K. Kapoor, Alexandra Schnapp, Howie Slomka, Gregory Taube, Bruce Walker, and Doroteya Wozniak

Many thanks to the outgoing 2016-2017 Officers and Board members for their dedication and service to the Bankruptcy Section: Ron Bingham, John Mills and M. Regina Thomas.

If you have ideas or suggestions for Bankruptcy Section activities or projects, please contact any of the officers or board members. We look forward to a great year and welcome your participation.

By M. Regina Thomas
United States Bankruptcy Court, NDGA
regina_thomas@ganb.uscourts.gov

1 L-R: Outgoing Bankruptcy Chair Alison Elko Franklin (Dentons) and incoming Bankruptcy Chair Jeffery W. Cavender (Troutman Sanders).
2 L-R: Bruce Z. Walker, Howard P. Slomka, and Ashley D. Champion.
3 L-R: M. Regina Thomas, Hon. Lisa Ritchey Craig, Melissa Davey, Nancy J. Whaley, and Alex Dolhancyk.
As the Bar Year comes to a close, I am amazed at how quickly time flew by and how much we have accomplished. But, wait! We aren’t done yet!

End of the Year Reception
On May 25, 2017, the Litigation Section, ACYL, Family Law, and Estate Planning & Probate Sections will host an End of the Year Reception at Skyline Park (rooftop of Ponce City Market) from 6:00-8:00pm. Tickets are $15 for members of the host sections and $25 for non-members. Come enjoy great networking, drinks, food, and putt-putt golf!

Atlanta Food Bank
The next week, on May 31, 2017, we will be volunteering at the Atlanta Food Bank from 6:00-8:30pm. Have kids that just finished up the school year? Bring them! This event is open to members, friends, and family. Come give back to the community with your Section friends and family.

Bad Hombres and Putin Enterprises
During April, we watched an epic battle between some Bad Hombres and Putin Enterprises while learning what the rules actually are (as opposed to what we tell ourselves the rules are) regarding depositions in Georgia state and federal actions. Thanks again to Simon Malko, Hillary Kinsey, Chad Lennon, and Brian Levy for their skilled acting and informative discussion.

Spring Mixer
We also mixed and mingled with the Public Law Section and the Bankruptcy Section during our Spring mixer at Second Self Beer Company.

Year in Review Summary
A lot has happened since our last Section Update in February. And no, I’m not just referencing the “new normal” that is our traffic “system.” On May 12th, we held our last breakfast of the year and learned about what the state legislators did to us this year in our annual Gold Dome - Year in Review summary. We heard from Democrat David Dryer and Republican Bert Reeves. It is amazing what they get accomplished in only forty days!

I had the pleasure of presenting the Logan E. Bleckley Award to Justice Carol Hunstein in recognition of her dedicated service and judicial excellence. Justice Hunstein was introduced by her longtime friend, American Bar President Linda Klein, on May 10, 2017, at the Section’s annual Bench & Bar Reception hosted at Nelson Mulins Riley & Scarborough, LLC. Both women are extremely accomplished and are helping advance the legal profession through their work in the community on a daily basis.

Competitive rates on life insurance thanks to you. All of you.
Atlanta Bar Association members are eligible to apply for life insurance at a group rate.

Insights from the Inside
In March, we heard from Evan Glover, Marcus Delgado, and Jason Esteves during Insights from the Inside. We learned about how in-house counsel looks at those of us on the outside in our attempts to gain business, make the client happy, and how to best communicate with in-house counsel. We also learned which of our speakers welcomes invites to lunch/sporting events, and which would prefer you wine and dine the business people
Discovery Disputes
February taught us that while Judges “do not like discovery disputes” they have a great sense of humor about it. Who knew we could laugh so hard while learning whether the recent changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as applied to discovery actually changed anything? Judge Leigh May and Judge Catherine Salinas regaled us with anecdotes of discovery disputes, the rules, and how they view the discovery process. Thank you again to moderator, John Jett, for asking the questions that everyone was thinking.

Take Your Adversary to Lunch
We concluded another year’s Take Your Adversary to Lunch Program with program winners: Kevin O’Sullivan/Steven Wagner ($200 Buckhead Life Gift Card Winners); Daniel Park/Alex Barfield ($150 Buckhead Life Gift Card Winners); Richard Caplan/Nicholas Protentis ($100 Buckhead Life Gift Card Winners); and Erin Krinsky/Matthew Herrington ($50 Buckhead Life Gift Card Winners). You don’t have to wait until next year. Reach out and take your adversary to lunch, coffee, or drinks and reap the benefits of humanizing the litigation process.

Pro Bono Opportunities
We also had the pleasure of being introduced to several pro bono opportunities including Atlanta Legal Aid, AVLF, and the Truancy Intervention Project. If you are looking for a way to make a difference, we strongly suggest you consider accepting a pro bono representation. Most pro bono programs offer training and assistance to its volunteer lawyers. As attorneys, we are in the unique position of being able to provide much needed legal services to people who have valid claims, defenses, and needs, but do not have the resources to hire and pay for an attorney. We are all busy, and it is hard to agree to something for which you are not passionate. Whether it is one of the programs the Section highlighted, or another one that fits your passion, please consider donating your services.

The Litigator
Hopefully you had a chance to read the informative articles in our Section’s newsletter, The Litigator, which was sent by email on April 26, 2017. Thanks again to newsletter editor John Hadden for a year of informative articles.

As always, the Litigation Section loves its judges and is happy to invite all judges and judicial law clerks to attend our Section events for free.

We would like to give a special thanks to our Section sponsors from the 2016-2017 Board year. Without them, we would not be able to put on the wonderful programing we do or make the same impact in our community. Thank you to: Applied Technical Services, Counsel on Call, Duplicating Products, Inc., Esquire, Habif Arogeti & Wynne- Aprio, and JAMS!

Thank you to my amazing board members - without you, we would not have had such fantastic programing this year. Thank you to Karen English and the rest of the Bar staff- without you, well, nothing would have gotten done!

We hope to see you soon at our end of the year events- on the rooftop and at the Atlanta Food Bank. Then enjoy your summer and see us again when programing resumes in September!

Christina M. Baugh
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Nobody wants to read about the honest lawyer down the street who does real estate loans and wills. If you want to sell books, you have to write about the interesting lawyers—the guys who steal all the money and take off. That’s the fun stuff. ~John Grisham

Real Estate Bocce Ball Team
“Dirt.” That’s what someone called the Atlanta Bar Association Real Estate Bocce Ball team. I liked it—it was better than “Real Estate,” our official name. It also takes into account the dirt bocce ball court at Empire State South. If you know the dirt court, you have a better chance of winning. Margaret Atwood probably did not have bocce ball in mind when she said, “In spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” But bocce ball is such fun and embodies what the section is trying to accomplish: find a place to get away from the cares of law, get dirty, and get to know some other attorneys in a fun venue. Good call Kevin Rys, Section Chair!

March 2 Breakfast Meeting
Apart from his immediate decision to embrace bocce ball, Real Estate Section Chair, Kevin Rys, hit another home run when he invited Bill Dodson, Amanda Callaway, and Leonard Gray to speak at the breakfast meeting for the Dirt Section on March 2, 2017. The title of the talk, New Title Problems Arising with Inner City Redevelopment, does no justice to how exciting Bill, Amanda, and Leonard made the talk. If you have ever seen a masterful teacher read a good book to young children, you have an idea about what it is like to hear Bill Dodson speak. Bill regaled his listeners with stories and factoids from his vast experience, and the audience listened with mouths agape, utterly quiet except for the loud explosions of laughter when Bill told a joke. Amanda Callaway from Callaway Title and Escrow kept pace with Bill, telling, for example, a story about how the basement of one famous downtown building goes beyond the surface boundaries and what kind of title problems that can create. Leonard Gray of First American Title moderated this fascinating talk.

Upcoming May Breakfast Meeting
As the year winds down, Jonathan Neville—Mr. Energy—will present a breakfast presentation on commercial leases in May. Jonathan has also given presentations at the ICLE presentation for the state bar real estate section and will do so again this year at the meeting in Sandestin, Florida next month (Don’t Let the Tail Wag the
Dog: Keeping the Lease from Upsetting Corporate Lawyers). Jonathan is a partner at the Law Firm of Arnall Golden Gregory, LLC. The final event for the Rys Regime will be the end-of-term celebration at Maggiano’s in Buckhead, a heavily attended event. Stay tuned to make sure you attend!

Sponsors
The Real Estate Section’s sponsors are Bennett Thrasher, Bull Realty, Inc., and First American Title Insurance Company. We are grateful for their support and encourage our section members to utilize their services.

Board of Directors
The Real Estate Section’s Board includes Chair Kevin Rys, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Katharine Dyott, Secretary Joseph Farrell, Treasurer Christopher Collier, Immediate Past Chair Cory Thompson, and Members at Large Michael E. Leavey, Jonathan Neville, Chris Troutman, and Chuck Van Horn.

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The Tax Law Section is proud to approach the close out of a very busy and successful year! We thankfully added two new sponsors and participated in more than a dozen CLE programs and other joint activities with the State Bar of Georgia, the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Georgia Department of Revenue, as well as with the Elder Law, Estate Planning & Probate, Labor & Employment, Litigation, and Real Estate Sections of the Atlanta Bar Association. Yet we still have more to come!

Joint CLE
On May 16, 2017, we have planned a Joint CLE program with the Estate Planning & Probate Section at the Buckhead Club. This will be a late afternoon seminar on “Secondary Planning for Charitable Remainder Trusts” to be presented by Evan Unzelman, President of our sponsor, Sterling Foundation Management. Evan’s presentation will be followed by a cocktail party. Finally, we will be teaming up with the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants for a joint CLE luncheon at the Buckhead Club on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 for a CLE featuring Tax Law Section Vice-Chair, Brian Harvel from Alston & Bird, who will present “An Introduction to Inbound Taxation”.

We hope to see you at these two upcoming events!

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Atlanta Bar Women in the Profession Section (WIP) is wrapping up another successful board year! WIP is dedicated to furthering the practice and perception of law, with a focus on issues unique to women in the legal field. Throughout the 2016-2017 board year, WIP has been organizing continuing education courses, community service opportunities, and networking events for its members.

**Breakfast CLE**
In February, WIP hosted a breakfast CLE at Atlanta Legal Aid’s downtown office, entitled “Lawyers, Secondary Trauma, and Self Care.” Shelley Senterfitt, a lawyer and therapist, spoke to the group about the importance of managing stress inherent in the practice of law. She also provided advice on how to improve your well-being and deal with daily anxieties.

**March Madness**
In March, WIP participated in the Atlanta Bar Association’s March Madness Series. Our section paired up with the Breast Cancer Legal Project of Atlanta Legal Aid for the CLE “Wills and Advance Directives for Low-Income Clients.” The event took place at the State Bar of Georgia, with an at-capacity crowd. Attendees learned how to help cancer patients and other low-income adults plan for their future by assisting with wills, advance directives, and stand-by guardianships.

**Upcoming Events**
While the 2016-2017 board year may be coming to a close, the Women in the Profession section still has several upcoming events on the calendar! In June, WIP will host its annual Woman of Achievement Award Luncheon at the Capital City Club. We are excited to announce that this year’s recipient will be the Honorable Mary Grace Diehl, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Also in June, the WIP section and Atlanta Legal Aid’s Breast Cancer Legal Project will once again pair up for the Susan G. Komen of Greater Atlanta “Race for the Cure” 5K at Lenox Square. (Please note – this annual event has been rescheduled from Mother’s Day weekend to Saturday, June 24th to accommodate the repairs to the I-85 bridge in Buckhead). To join our team, visit [komenatlanta.org](http://komenatlanta.org) and register with the team “Women in the Profession & Breast Cancer Legal Project.”

If you would like to receive the latest WIP updates and event details, you can follow us on Facebook at @AtlantaBarWIP, on Twitter at @AtlantaBar using the hashtag #AtlantaBarWIP, or on LinkedIn at “Atlanta Bar Women in the Profession Section.” The Women in the Profession Section board looks forward to seeing everyone at the Atlanta Bar Association’s Annual meeting and awards luncheon on May 23rd at the Piedmont Driving Club!

Women in the Profession Section 2016-2017 Board of Directors:
- Taylor Tribble, Chair
- Kimberly Charles, Chair-Elect
- Laurie Rashidi-Yazd, Secretary
- Megan Hodgkiss, Treasurer
- Sarah Cipperly, Immediate Past Chair
- Kristy Barnhart, Member at Large
- Meredith Carter, Member at Large
- Jaime Duguay, Member at Large
- Lisa Liang, Member at Large
- Sarah Siedentopf, Member at Large
- Emily Ward, Member at Large

Megan Hodgkiss
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SECTION UPDATE
WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION
1 On April 12, 2017, the Estate Planning & Probate Section hosted a breakfast at the Buckhead Club. L-R: Elizabeth Faist (Eversheds-Sutherland), Estate Planning & Probate section chair Shelly Donaldson (The Donaldson Law Firm) and Richard Litwin (The Litwin Law Firm PC). The breakfast topic was "State Income Tax Considerations and Estate Planning for Georgians Who Want to Move to Florida (or Another State)."

2 On April 20, 2017, the Sole Practitioner/Small Firm Section hosted a breakfast at the Buckhead Club. L-R: Sole Practitioner/Small Firm section chair Louis Cohan (Cohan Law Group) and speaker Chris L. Brannon (Brannon + Black, LLC). The breakfast topic was "Seasons of Planning."

3 On April 27, 2017, the Litigation, Public Interest, and Bankruptcy sections held a happy hour at Second Self Beer Company. L-R: Women in the Profession Section Chair-Elect Kimberly Charles (Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.), Member-at-Large of the Public Interest and Litigation Sections Hon. Susan E. Edlein (Judge, State Court of Fulton County), and Chair of the Public Interest Section Lindsey Siegel (Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.).
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