

THE ATLANTA LAWYER

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ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION | MAY 2022

**INTRODUCING TONI ROBERTS
ATLANTA BAR'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO**

**LIFECYCLE OF THE ATLANTA BAR
TWO VIEWS ON HOW THE ATLANTA BAR BRINGS
VALUE TO ITS MEMBERS**

**WOMEN LAWYERS: THE CHALLENGE OF
OVERCOMING BIAS**

**DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND BIAS: EVOLUTION OF
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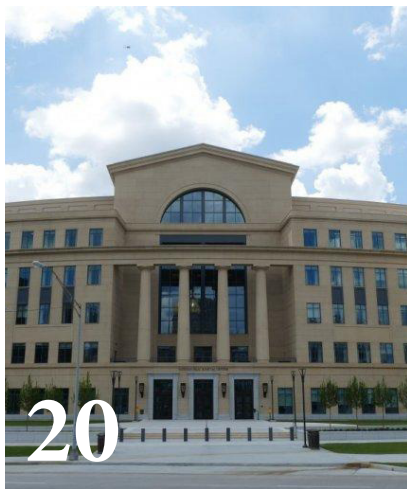
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On the Cover: L-R: Atlanta Bar
Executive Director
Diane O'Steen (1965-2013),
Atlanta Bar Executive Director
Toni Roberts (2022), and
Atlanta Bar Executive Director
Terri Bryant (2013-2022).



One Last Thing



CHRISTINA M. BAUGH
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
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This issue of The Atlanta Lawyer is set to publish exactly one week before the end of my term as President of the Atlanta Bar Association, and so it is likely my last opportunity to speak to you as the President of the organization, (I can almost hear the collective sigh of relief). As with any officer track of an organization like ours, I will move to the Immediate Past President role for one last year on the Board before rolling off altogether. To some that can be a scary proposition to have spent so much time and energy for the Association only to hand it off to others to run. Yet, for me, there is no fear or apprehension because the teams of those who will remain in leadership are so strong, I know the organization will continue to flourish.

At the risk of sounding cliché, I really did nothing all these years, it was always the team of amazing volunteers and staff around me that were worthy of the praise. I would ask that you take a moment and look at your surrounding volunteers - those on the Board of Directors, the Foundation, Section leadership, the CLE Board, the Membership Committee, the Innovation Study Group, and so many more. All of these people volunteer their time. Not one of them gets direct compensation for the work they do for the Association, and yet each one will likely be able to tell you some form of consideration or reward they get for the time spent (and the time spent away from their profession that does pay them, and time away from their families, friends, pets, hobbies, and more). Whether done for a sense of community, to repay what others have done before them, to change the direction of the profession, or for any number of other reasons, I am personally aware of the sacrifices made to fill these roles, of the effort that goes into doing them well, and I wanted to take this last moment to say a heartfelt thank you.

It is my hope for this Association that the leaders continue to evaluate what it means to be a Bar Association. "Coming out" of the pandemic was a good excuse to re-evaluate much of what the Association used to do for programing and decide whether it made sense to continue to offer the same, or whether changes needed to be made, either because the programing was no longer needed, expectations had shifted, accessibility needed improvement, or other considerations. At our very first Board of Directors meeting this year, I had the Board members evaluate each signature program and consider whether the

purpose of the program was still a valid one, whether the purpose had changed, whether the way it used to be organized matched or satisfied that purpose, and how we could change things (if necessary) to make it better. You will have seen the results of some of those discussions this year and more in the coming years. If it does not work, I feel confident the leadership will re-evaluate and shift again!

One of the moments of this past year when I felt most successful as the President, was during that opening meeting of the Board of Directors when I asked the Board members, new and experienced, to really dig in and discuss the signature events. Hearing how each of the Board members described the “why” behind events - and never just “because we have always done it that way” - and the discussion of how to satisfy that “why” with modern day logistics in mind was energizing. It is my hope that the Association continues this process of growth and continues to evaluate the “why” that is core to each of our “what.” If we are able to do so, there will be many more fruitful years to come.

Thank you for the honor of serving this past year as the President of the Atlanta Bar Association.



Christina M. Baugh
Atlanta Bar Association President

Introducing Toni Roberts

Atlanta Bar President Christina M. Baugh Converses and with New Atlanta Bar Executive Director & CEO.



TONI ROBERTS
Atlanta Bar Association
troberts@atlantabar.org

At long last, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Toni Roberts, the new Executive Director of the Atlanta Bar Association and Atlanta Bar Foundation. I did not want this introduction to read like a book report, so I asked Toni if she would indulge me asking her a few questions and setting up the article as a bit of a question and answer. She could not think of a valid excuse not to fast enough, and so here we go (answers modified to fit the article length and because I am not a professional transcriptionist, not to mention I will go in and out of first-person recounts):

Toni, where did you grow up and what schools did you attend?

I was born in Atlanta at Hughes Spalding Hospital, which I have come to learn the “Spalding” is the same as in King & Spalding. (Which must mean she was destined to work with lawyers). When I was three, my family moved to Illinois where I lived for the next ten years before returning home to Atlanta. We lived in Decatur, where I attended Renfro Middle School, Lakeside High School, and graduated from Decatur High School. After that, I attended Georgia State.

Do you have any pets? If so, tell us about them.

Despite growing up with all kinds of pets as a child (dogs, cats, a hamster, a gerbil, etc.), I do not have a pet. However, my mom is a groomer and has a Staffordshire Terrier, Jax, whom I just love.

Do you follow or enjoy any college or professional sports teams, and if so, which ones?

She denied “following” them closely, but cheers for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She much prefers to watch live in the stadium to experience the energy and passion of the fans than to watch on TV. However, when pressed a little, she admitted to owning Steeler’s paraphernalia including shirts, hoodies, a blanket, a tumbler, etc. She also traveled to Pittsburgh to wave her Terrible Towel for the team from the stands of the famous Heinz Stadium in 30-degree weather. So, I think we can all agree she is a Steelers fan.

Okay, so if not sports, what show do you watch or follow for which you will not tolerate spoilers?

Succession. She did not even hesitate, by the way, and friendly words of advice, based on her passion in responding I very seriously recommend you do not attempt to spoil an episode for her. I would also believe reports of Toni plotting to take over the family’s business in future episodes, so stay tuned for developments.

Do you have any hobbies?

Yes, I like to do crafty things including making handmade cards, woodworking projects, and interior decorating. I also love anything involving water sports- boating, whitewater rafting or water skiing come to mind.

What projects are you passionate about?

Advocating for survivors of domestic violence. It is an absolute epidemic and all of us know someone affected by it. I am proud of the work I have done since 2005 with organizations like Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, the DeKalb District Attorney's Office, and as part of the Metro Atlanta TPO Forum. In my roles as Executive Director of DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and as Co-Chair of the DeKalb County Domestic Violence Task Force, I had the honor of spearheading initiatives to create safer environments and communities for victims and their families, as well as to provide training and self-care resources for service providers. It has changed my life in a profound way and is the most rewarding work I've ever done. I will always advocate for survivors.

If you were to write an autobiography, what would it be titled?

"Boomerang: Finding My Way Back to Me." Everyone comes into this life innocent. You are who you are, until you realize you are not always free to be that person. As a woman of color, I have had to assimilate and fit into a certain narrative of who the world says I am. Add to that basic life influences, societal woes, and corporate culture that is not built on inclusivity or equity. Adjustments must be made. It takes a lot of work, growth, courage, resilience, and self-care to show up in the world unapologetically and using your most authentic voice. Walking toward that light has felt much like coming out of a cocoon. It has also led me to places I could not have foreseen, places that feel like I'm exactly where I was meant to be. The Atlanta Bar is that for me right now. It feels 100% right. Finally, I am finding my way back to the Toni I was born to be.

If you were stranded on an island with three people, three items, and three foods, who/what would they be?

For food, I would have salmon (it is my favorite food), ice cream (because it is ice cream), and bourbon (for the smooth finish). Items, I would bring a hammock, my phone and Wi-Fi. For people, I would bring Kevin Hart (for the comic relief), Ava Duvernay (because we obviously have to turn this escapade into a documentary), and Yasiin Bey for the unforgettable soundtrack to the entire experience.

What was the hardest question you were asked during the interview process for the Executive Director position? Why? Also, what is your best recollection of your answer or what do you wish you had answered?

The above question about the island. No, seriously, there was a question about how I planned to deal with any conflict between my role as the Executive Director of the Association and as the

Executive Director of the Foundation. I had not previously contemplated a situation in which that would come up but having just finished the non-binding arbitration training at Henning, I feel confident we would resolve any issue with a mutually beneficial resolution.

Understanding you are still getting into the weeds of the organization, what are your hopes and goals for the coming years?

Number one goal is to encourage people to come back to the bar. The last few years have proven quite difficult for many attorneys, and a lot has changed for them personally and in their practice. The pandemic has necessarily shifted the way many do business. But the Bar has shifted accordingly and the benefits to its members remain. The Atlanta Bar is a strong community, relevant to any attorney, at any and every stage of his or her career. I want to encourage attorneys to not just join to support their local bar, but to really engage with all the Bar has to offer.

Why the Atlanta Bar?

The Atlanta Bar is the most prestigious and longest running voluntary bar in the Southeast. It represents the largest cross section of lawyers and areas of practice, among whom are the best and brightest in the country. (I took this opportunity to thank her for not holding my presidency against the Bar). I believe in the power and nobility of the practice of law and the pathway it paves toward justice. Whether helping to patent a trade secret, or a family to adopt a child, or defending the falsely accused, lawyers make the difference. The Atlanta Bar is not only a storied institution that provides opportunities to network, develop leadership skills, access continuing education, and give back to the local community, it is a beacon of light for new lawyers coming into the profession, and it is hope for the future. As Executive Director of the Association and Foundation, I am perfectly positioned to promote the people, passion, and profession to which I've dedicated 28 years of my life. Why the Atlanta Bar? Clearly, I have saved the best for last.

Hopefully my random, all over the place questions have given you some insight into Toni as a person and the beginnings of some areas to start conversations and relationships. Please help me welcome Toni to the Bar, I know the years ahead will be great!

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Welcome 2022-2023 Atlanta Bar Association Board of Directors



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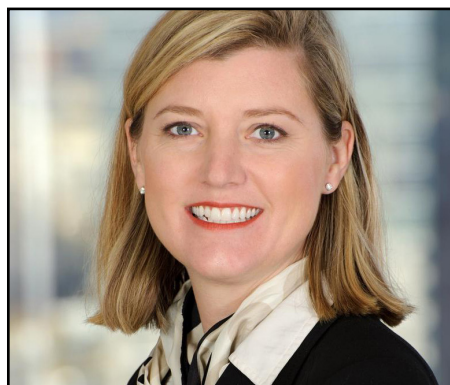
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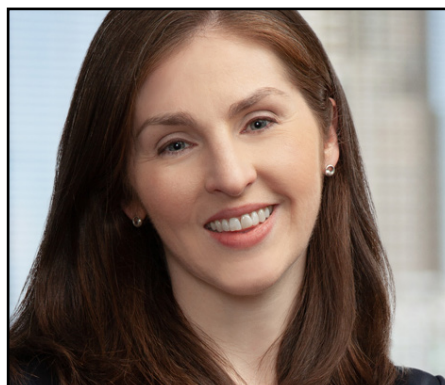
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Ask the Board

Who spoke at your college or law school graduation and how did the message impact you?



Foundation Board

Dr. Megan T. Hodgkiss
Hodgkiss Consulting LLC

I had the honor of listening to several great college graduation speakers (ex: Bubba Cathy, the former CEO of Southwest Airlines), but my hands-down favorite was Lawrence Lessig. Professor Lessig spoke at my law school graduation. He is an attorney, a Harvard and Stanford professor, political activist, and 2016 candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination for US President. Lessig is also the founder of Creative Commons and the Center for Internet and Society. Little did I know, as I was listening to Lessig speak about a lawyer's role in modern society and his challenge to make the world a less corrupt place, I would soon be studying his work in Communications and IP law for my own doctoral dissertation.



LRIS Board

James D. Blitch, IV
Blitch Law, PC

Ted Koppel of ABC's Nightline was the graduation speaker at my graduation from Duke in 1987. His remarks were extraordinary and centered on the importance of values. I can still remember the remarks and influence well.



Atlanta Bar Board

Lillian N. Caudle
Mercedes-Benz USA LLC

Sam Nunn spoke at my graduation from Wake Forest University on May 20, 1996. I remember a plea for civility and call to voluntarism, both of which still resonate with me today.



Foundation Board

Ryan K. Walsh
Jones Day

Ted Turner was our commencement speaker at Brown University in 1993. Turner had attended Brown in the 1960s, but (for reasons I have never confirmed) he was "asked to leave" before completing his degree. Brown bestowed an honorary degree upon him at our graduation, which I guess makes him a classmate of mine. I do not recall the subject of his speech, which may be due to the preceding week's festivities or the fact that it was (yikes) almost 30 years ago (probably a bit of both). However, I do recall that the speech was less than scintillating.

Ask the Board

Who spoke at your college or law school graduation and how did the message impact you?



Atlanta Bar Board

Emily C. Ward

Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP

I played in the commencement band at the University of Miami which meant I got to hear multiple commencement speakers during the ceremonies for three years preceding my graduation – and play Pomp and Circumstance for 40 minutes straight while everyone walked on stage to get their degrees. Needless to say all the commencement speakers have blended together in my brain and only Google revealed that my commencement speaker was Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund.



CLE Board

Jackie H. Saylor

The Saylor Law Firm

I remember being interviewed before I went to law school by three men who were very concerned about the fact that I was pregnant, and I would have my baby in the summer. They questioned how I would go to law school that fall. Although I was accepted and attended, it is not the law school I graduated from – my husband, I, and our two children moved twice while I was in law school.



CLE Board

Jena G. Emory

Copeland Stair Valz & Lovell LLP

I have a vague memory of my college graduation, but Judge Steve Jones (Northern District of Georgia) spoke at my law school graduation. While I cannot remember the specifics of his speech, I will always remember him telling me that he is proud of me as I walked across the stage.

CLE Board

Chris D. Balch

Balch Law Group

I would be interested in who can remember their Commencement speaker from college; because I cannot. (Yes, I will concede it was a long time ago). I just wanted mine to hurry up and get to the degrees so we could go home.

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We would like to thank our 100% Club members for their demonstrated commitment and leadership in supporting the legal profession and its work in the community.

For more information on joining the 100% Club, contact Amy Schlossberg at aschlossberg@atlantabar.org.

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or home, you can take us
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Lifecycle of the Atlanta Bar

Two Views on How the Atlanta Bar Brings Value to Its Members.

I start my day like many lawyers. I check emails and messages for matters that require urgent attention, review my daily tasks and remind myself of pending deadlines for work yet completed. As in-house counsel for Visa, I create strategic partnerships with Visa's domestic and cross-border merchant customers and financial institution partners. I negotiate commercial transactions with the goal of balancing risk and increasing Visa's market share in the fintech industry. Also,

I collaborate with privacy counsel on data privacy issues and support Visa's marketing team by reviewing content designed to engage new partners or introduce new technology to market.

I was introduced to the Atlanta Bar Association during a panel discussion co-sponsored by the Bar's Corporate Counsel and Litigation Sections. At that time, I was working as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Atlanta. The panel

included attorneys who either worked as in-house counsel or as outside counsel for various corporations. I listened intently to their stories about providing advice and counsel to executives and business stakeholders while mitigating their client's risk and finding solutions to challenging business issues. I was reminded of the high-caliber attorneys I encountered working in various business roles prior to practicing law and how they contributed to each company's success. I left the panel

discussion inspired and my desire to practice as an in-house attorney affirmed.

From that moment until now, the Atlanta Bar has provided professional development and networking opportunities that are both rewarding and have a positive impact on my legal career. From offering CLEs to coordinating volunteer opportunities and networking events with other members of the profession, the Atlanta Bar Association continues to renew my passion for practicing law. The Atlanta Bar also helped me to maintain a sense of community and connection during the last two years when most of us had to adjust to a new normal.

As I work each day to accomplish Visa's mission to "uplift everyone, everywhere by being the best way to pay and be paid," I am grateful for the Atlanta Bar's impact on my decision to practice as an in-house attorney and its contribution toward my future success.



SHANNA PASLEY
Visa
shannapasley@gmail.com

My name is Serene Hawasli Kashlan and I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. I am a staff attorney at the Georgia Asylum Immigration Network (GAIN), where I currently head the asylum program. GAIN is an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization that provides free immigration legal services to survivors of crime and persecution in Georgia.

I graduated from Georgia State University, College of Law in 2010, and am licensed in both Michigan and Georgia. In Michigan, I established my own practice (HK Law,

PLLC) and practiced in the areas of immigration law, estate planning, family law, and contracts. After moving back to Atlanta in 2018, I was admitted to the Georgia Bar and joined GAIN as a staff attorney in May 2019.

I joined the Public Interest Committee with **Sarah Babcock** (Truancy Intervention Project of Georgia) in 2020. It was wonderful getting to know the other committee members and the impactful work they did in the Atlanta community. I joined the committee during the pandemic, so our meetings took place virtually, where we were constantly brainstorming ways to engage the Atlanta legal community in public interest related topics. A main focus during my time on the committee was on social justice and we teamed up with the Bar to air "Good Trouble," a documentary on the late Congressman and Civil Rights activist John Lewis.

Other impactful experiences with the Atlanta Bar that helped me grow is my annual participation in the Pro Bono March Madness (PBMM) training, where I speak on asylum law related topics. My participation in PBMM helped me connect and build relationships with other attorneys and organizations in Atlanta. It also helped improve my communication and public speaking skills. I used to be shy to speak up, so being involved in legal committees and legal trainings has helped me grow and gain confidence, as well as communicate more effectively.

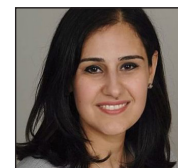
Each year, we try to think of new and creative ways to engage potential pro bono attorneys and provide meaningful training experiences for attorneys to feel comfortable and ready to take on an asylum case through GAIN. There is a dire need for more pro bono attorneys, and holding this annual training and advertising it to the Atlanta legal community has been helpful.

Due to the large increase in defensive asylum cases, this year, we focused on

representing asylum seekers in court where we invited two Atlanta based immigration judges, Judge Randall Duncan and Judge John M. Gillies, for a question and answer session. I have also teamed up with other immigration attorneys in the Atlanta legal community, such as Lynn Pearson and Eddie Lopez Lugo, to provide expertise on asylum related topics.

"The Atlanta Bar Association has provided professional development and networking opportunities that are both rewarding and have a positive impact on my legal career."

The annual participation in the March Madness training taught me how to be creative during a pandemic, how to best collaborate with others from other organizations or firms, and how to better connect with and engage the pro bono Atlanta legal community. These experiences have been invaluable.



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Women Lawyers: The Challenge of Overcoming Bias

Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Bias: Evolution of Legal Career Options for Women in Georgia.



PHOTO CREDIT: LAWYER MONTHLY



HEATHER D. ANCRUM

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March was celebrated nationally as Women's History Month to honor, celebrate, and bring awareness to the contributions of women. The Atlanta Bar Association, in conjunction with its Women in the Profession Section, honored Women's History Month with a CLE titled, "The Role of Professionalism in Advancing Legal Career Options for Women in Georgia." The CLE included one hour of professionalism.

The professionalism credit was a presentation on the "Evolution of Legal Career Options for Women in Georgia," presented by Talent Manager **Kimberly Lerman** (Legility + Consilio) and Executive Director **Lisa Lemke** (Legility + Consilio). Lemke and Lerman provided a history of legal career options for women

in Georgia through the present and highlighted the impact of the “Lawyer’s Creed and Aspirational Statement on Professionalism.”

The second part of the CLE was a discussion on “Diversity and Unconscious Bias” and featured a panel of distinguished women in the legal profession, including **Judge Ashley G. Drake** (Magistrate Court of Fulton County), **Megan L. Quinn** (Insight Global LLC), **Anita Wallace Thomas** (Nelson Mullins Riley Scarborough LLP), Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion **Sheri Crosby Wheeler** (Fossil Group, Inc.), Deputy General Counsel **Heather D. Ancrum** (Atlanta Housing) moderated the panel.

In a decade-by-decade review, Lemke and Lerman highlighted the experiences of women as they applied to law school, attended law school, applied for legal practicing positions, and as they practiced in law firms. Note, the first female to earn a law degree in Georgia, Minnie Anderson Hale, did so in 1911.

Prior to the Civil Rights movement, there were still many law schools that did not admit women and law firms that did not hire women. During the 1950s, it became more common for law schools to admit women, but women continued to struggle finding jobs as practicing attorneys, with many women instead offered legal secretary and that allowed them to practice law, with many women being offered legal secretary and educational positions instead.

In the 1960s, the women’s rights movement was underway, but women continued to find educational environments at law schools difficult, including limited on-campus restrooms available for women or constantly having to prove that they were attending law school to become lawyers rather than for the sole purpose of finding a husband.

By the end of the decade, President Lyndon B. Johnson abolished the Vietnam War draft exemption for males in graduate schools. This was important for the 1970s as the prospects for women attorneys increased due to the higher number of men now eligible for the Vietnam War draft, including male graduate and law students. Despite the growing number of women in the legal field, difficulties continued to prevail. Women were doubted for longevity in the profession and expected to leave their positions after getting pregnant or to care for children. They continued to be questioned about their legitimate interest in the profession. Women were eventually steered towards certain types of legal practice areas that seemed to include more female clients – like estate planning as the number of widowed women increased due to the Vietnam War.

By the 1980s, with more women in the workforce, many law firms were focusing on inclusivity and diversity in their hiring practices. Women began to experience more support from their male classmates and colleagues; however, women encountered obstacles that negatively impacted their ability to attract clients and maintain

client relations. For example, women were not allowed in many country clubs, which was often an ideal place for cultivating client relationships.

In 1990, the Supreme Court of Georgia approved the Lawyer’s Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism was approved by the Supreme Court of Georgia. These two documents serve as guidance and a reminder to lawyers of the importance of service to others. During the 1990s, the partnership track and the number of billable hours increased – another obstacle for women with children. However, many law firms created a non-equity partnership track, which allowed law firms to give the appearance of diversity and inclusion. It was common to offer women a non-equity partnership; yet, there were still few women who were equity partners. Non-equity partners have less authority and get less compensation than equity partners.

Moving into the 2000s, women represented almost half of the junior associate positions, but women were not equity partners in large numbers. Law firms, although, were beginning to accept part-time legal positions which heavily benefitted women who were caring for children.

The 2010s witnessed pressure on corporations to do more with less. Corporations began limiting its use of law firms, forcing many law firms to reduce their work force significantly.

The question for the audience and readers of this article, in 2022, is what would you do in scenarios where a female summer intern, associate, or even partner, is treated differently from their male counterparts? Does the Lawyer’s Creed and Aspirational Statement on Professionalism require you to take action? In what scenarios would you act? In what scenarios would you not take action?

The Diversity and Unconscious Bias panel was an opportunity for our panelists to share some of those scenarios. This group shared personal experiences, including how they handled situations where they were the cause of the bias directed toward another; where they were the recipient of bias; where they did not feel comfortable pointing out biased behavior; and moments when they felt comfortable enough to point out bias behavior to the person exhibiting biased behavior for the purpose of creating awareness.

It was decided early on that this panel would not be effective if they did not share their very personal, and sometimes difficult experiences. The panel agreed to first define for everyone the terms diversity, inclusion, equity, and bias. Diversity is who we are – our various backgrounds, nationalities, perspectives, and work styles. Inclusion is how we work with each other – not necessarily in agreement but with respect of others’ opinions

(continued on page 19)

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and hearing differences. Equity is recognizing and finding solutions - regarding who is trying to be a part of a group but is unable, or who is in threat of no longer being a part of the group, or what is being done to maintain the majority of the group, usually to the detriment of others. The panel pointed out that we all have biases. Unconscious biases are those involuntary favorable and unfavorable assessments made without realizing or without intentional control.

The panelists continued the discussion of these topics to help the audience be more aware of the various types of biases and to recognize where blind spots may exist and help others be more aware of their own biases. The Lawyer's Creed imposes obligations on lawyers to be more inclusive. Specifically, the Lawyer's Creed imposes an obligation to be fair and civil with opposing parties and counsel; an obligation to offer concern for the welfare of our colleagues; and an obligation to offer service to the public.

Each panelist shared observations of bias at work, including in the courtrooms, law firms, and in in-house legal departments. Panelists revealed their experiences in evaluating associates harshly and being evaluated too harshly due to biases. Next, panelists examined how perceptions or assumptions can prevent objective judgment in making decisions. Then, the panel reviewed how the overall impression of a person can influence how we feel and think about a person's character, and how we can often change our opinions or behavior based upon group pressure. We gravitate towards individuals with whom we find commonalities, in appearance,

beliefs, or backgrounds. For example, an assumption from others that identifies a female in the room as the legal assistant or court reporter when in fact she was the attorney. The panel also discussed how assumptions have been made about the availability of a female attorney to lead a project or take on a client.

However, biases are not always just about gender. Biases may include race, color, national origin, religion, veteran status, handicap, educational level, age, or anything where we make assumptions about an individual or group without sufficient information and context for the specific individual or group.

Lastly, the CLE audience was asked to be sure to avoid all forms of wrongful discrimination and to be aware of all the ways we all have biases. The Lawyer's Creed imposes upon all lawyers the duty to be aware of your actions and judgements towards your clients, opposing counsels, more junior and more senior colleagues, your clients, and the public. It also asks that we offer concern for the welfare of our colleagues. This CLE, in celebration of women in the law, reminds us that we all have biases. The key is to be aware of the many biases and ensure that your decisions and judgments are thoughtful and intentional. We should all strive to create equity and inclusion in the legal profession and to remember the role of professionalism in advancing legal career options for women.



Want to be Published?

Submit your articles with law-related topics, industry news, etc. for consideration to be in *The Atlanta Lawyer*

jcoleman@atlantabar.org

Judges Panel: Supreme Court of Georgia

Atlanta Bar's Continued Access Atlanta Bar Series.



PHOTO CREDIT: WRDW



LAUREN K. TRANT

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The Atlanta Bar Association hosted Justices from Georgia's Supreme Court on April 26, 2022, for a virtual panel discussion. **Justice Charles J. Bethel** (Supreme Court of Georgia), **Presiding Justice Michael P. Boggs** (Supreme Court of Georgia), **Justice Verda M. Colvin** (Supreme Court of Georgia), **Justice Carla Wong McMillian** (Supreme Court of Georgia), **Chief Justice David E. Nahmias** (Supreme Court of Georgia), **Justice Nels S.D. Peterson** (Supreme Court of Georgia), and **Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren** (Supreme Court of Georgia) were present. **Brooke M. French** (Kaye Lembeck Hitt & French Family Law LLC) moderated the event on behalf of the Atlanta Bar and fielded live questions from attendees.

Chief Justice Nahmias opened the session by describing his plans after July 17, 2022, his last day on the Georgia Supreme Court. Chief Justice Nahmias will be teaching a course at Emory Law School and intends on practicing in the future, but he is looking forward to taking some time away from the practice of law for the remainder of the year after his departure from the Court and watching his son play football at Duke.

Other Justices also shared personal activities and interests outside of the Court. Justice Bethel discussed his involvement in the Dalton sports community – having hosted the Dalton High School soccer team for dinner recently Justice Colvin talked about an experience that she recently shared with her son – hiking 96 miles over a 10-day course at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. “It was memorable,” she recalled. “I will never forget it.”

The Justices spoke about what drew them to the Georgia Supreme Court. A common thread was the desire to serve – noted by Justices Colvin, McMillian, and Warren. Justices Boggs, Nahmias, and Peterson also noted a particular interest in the unique subject matter jurisdiction of the Court. Justice Warren spoke fondly of her experience arguing in front of the Georgia Supreme Court and emphasized how that experience was instrumental in helping her prepare for arguments in front of the United States Supreme Court and her current role as a Justice. She attributed her experiences in front of the Georgia and United States Supreme Courts as those that opened her eyes to how gratifying and rewarding appellate practice can be.

Chief Justice Nahmias was asked about his favorite or most memorable case during his tenure on the Court. The Court decides about 350 cases per year by opinion, and Chief Justice Nahmias estimated he had participated in 13,000 cases over his tenure. He discussed a memorable dissent regarding state charter schools – which view was later adopted by the legislature through an amendment of the state constitution. He also noted that he tried to treat every case, big and small, with the same amount of seriousness, acknowledging the personal importance of each case to the litigants before him.

The Justices weighed in on successful strategies for oral argument. Justice McMillian recommended approaching oral argument like a conversation. “We have questions about your case and to the extent you can answer those questions and gear your argument towards what we are interested in and what we have concerns about, that will help with your argument.” She added that it is important for litigants to address the Court’s questions before turning to other points they may have. Justice Peterson noted the importance of focusing on the merits of your case, instead of focusing on the weaknesses of your opponent. Justice Bethel noted that, in practice, parties who request oral argument have a higher rate of success, and Justice Peterson said that the Court has a general

policy of granting all oral argument requests that are timely and comply with the Court’s rules.

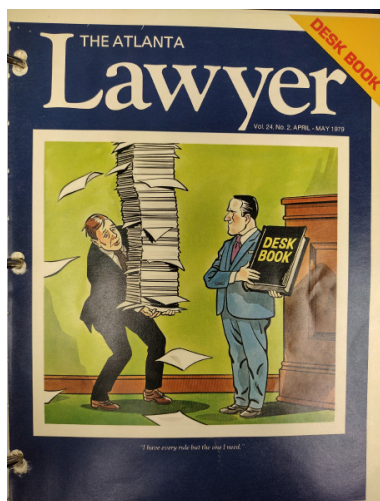
General pointers for appearing before the Court were also discussed. Justice Warren strongly recommended watching videos of oral arguments of other cases, even if they do not directly pertain to your case. The Court posts all oral argument videos on their website. She explained that it can help a party understand the dynamic and generally what to do and what not to do. She also stressed the importance of mooting your argument and suggested doing it with someone who did not have expertise on the topic, as he or she would be more likely to ask questions like those that the Court may pose. Justice Warren discouraged people from citing cases that are only tangentially on point, as a weak argument is unlikely to get past the entire panel. Justice Colvin suggested continuing to read and prepare even after submitting briefs. Justice McMillian said it is important for appellants to put out the best enumerations of error, instead of trying to put forth every error that may have been committed by the trial court reminding potential litigants that, “not all error is reversible error.” Justice Boggs dispelled the myth that the assigned Justice is the only justice familiar with the case. There are memos in every case which are reviewed by every Justice. Justice Boggs described it as a collaborative process. Justice Nahmias reminded litigants that all opinions are precedent so the Court must consider the case at hand as well as the effect on future cases and so potential or future litigants should keep this in mind when appearing before the Court.

The Court also discussed how COVID-19 has affected the Georgia Supreme Court – both in terms of their case load and how it has affected oral arguments. Earlier in the pandemic, oral arguments were conducted via videoconference, with Chief Justice Nahmias being present while the other Justices were remote, either from other places in the building or from home. Justice Boggs noted that some lawyers presented more casually or would read prepared scripts more so than they would have in person but said that remote hearings were generally successful. However, all hearings are now in person and Justice Boggs stated they were happy to be back together. When asked whether the pandemic has caused a backlog of cases, Justice Nahmias noted that the opposite was true and that their caseload is currently down due to the shutdowns in the trial courts where appeals are generated. Justice Boggs stated they are expecting more cases in the future but does not anticipate a backlog due to the two-term rule requiring that the Court dispose of every case during the term it was docketed or the following term.

Lastly, the Justices were asked for advice they would give to their younger selves. The consensus was they would tell their former selves to focus on doing a good job in their current role, instead of worrying about the future. “Bloom where you are planted,” encouraged Justice Boggs.

Blast from the Past

Past articles published in the May issues of *The Atlanta Lawyer* in previous decades.



May 1979 **Guide to Practicing in the Juvenile Court of Fulton County for Court-Appointed Defense Counsel in Delinquency Cases**

We are especially appreciative of the efforts of the Juvenile Court and its staff for the complication of the very comprehensive information contained

in this revision of the guide.

opportunity, the lack of clear standards cries out for legislative action to ensue uniformity and fairness.

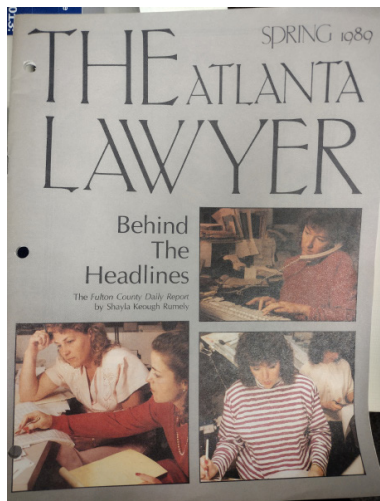
May 1991 **Those Who Do and Those Who Don't: Employer Liability for Sexual Favoritism**

Given its pervasiveness as a topic for both the popular media and legal periodicals, many often forget that sexual harassment as a legal wrong with a viable remedy, has existed for only just over 10 years. As a consequence of the relatively recent recognition of claims for harassment, courts and practitioners have only begun to explore the many bases of employer liability for consensual and non consensual sexual relations in the workplace.

May 1989

The Preliminary Hearing: Is It a Critical Stage in the Criminal Defense process or Not?

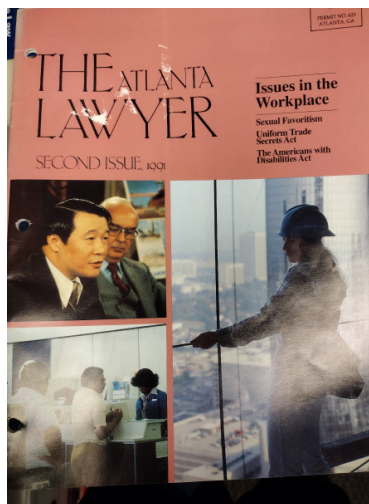
The preliminary hearing is often the first proceeding of inquiry in a criminal case. The various practices among the different Georgia circuits, and among



the different courts within each circuit, have reduced the effectiveness of the preliminary hearing and make it confusing and inconsistent. There appears to be no uniformity on this subject at the appellate or magistrate level with respect to the procedural and substantive aspects of

the hearing.

Since the mid-1970s, the preliminary hearing has been established as a "Critical stage" in the criminal defense process - one to which counsel attaches, while aggressive defense attorneys will strive to expand this



May 1991 **The Americans with Disabilities Act: An Overview**

On July 26, 1990, President Bush signed into law landmark legislation which has been described as an "Emancipation Proclamation for the disabled." This law, called the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

prohibits discrimination against disabled individuals in the provision of employment, public services by government entities, public accommodations and services by private entities and telecommunications services.

May 2003 **Citizens Support of Police is Crucial to Our Community**

In 1980, Atlanta was in the agonizing grip of a crime spree that had every member of the community on edge. More than 20 children disappeared and then were found murdered, and a serial killer was on the loose. Atlantans were extremely anxious about letting

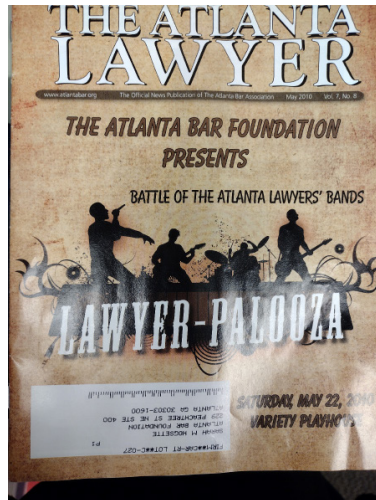
Blast from the Past

Past articles published in the May issues of *The Atlanta Lawyer* in previous decades.

their children out of their sight, and national focus turned to a perceived crime problem in our city. And in the midst of the chaos, fear, and national attention, some important members of our community were not receiving the recognition they deserved - the law enforcement officers who are our first line of defense against crime, and who ultimately caught the killer. For this reason the Atlanta Bar Association during 1980 launched "Give Our Police A Hand," a year-long campaign designed to honor and encourage community support for the men and women who protect our safety.

epidemic, homelessness, and other factors.

May 2010



Bringing Joy to the Practice of Law

There are a few times in the course of a lawyer's busy day that he or she can actually provide a moment of special excitement all around, especially if the matter is one being handled in court. That is why the Family Law Section enthusiastically embraced the idea of providing lawyers on

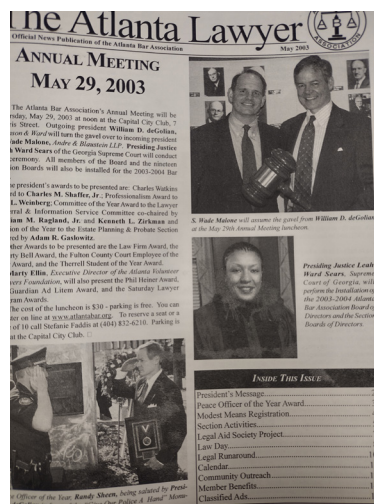
a pro bono basis to handle adoption proceedings, where cameras are truly welcome in the courtroom and the judge is preening to get in the pictures. It started when a Section member was approached by a director on the Board of Bethany adoption services to discuss the great things Bethany was accomplishing.

May 2010

Trying to Do Our Part

To paraphrase a Jewish proverb, "To help one life is to help the world." While we cannot cure the ills of the world, much less the community in which we live, we should try to do our part. The Atlanta Bar Foundation certainly strives to do its share.

When it was founded 25 years ago, the Foundation's initial goal was to support the children of Atlanta Police officers who were killed or disabled in the line of duty. Since that time the Foundation, with the support of the Atlanta Bar, has broadened the scope of its mission to include providing assistance to needy children and families in the Atlanta community.



May 2003

The Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project

At 52, Ms. L has been caring for her six grandchildren, who range in age from three to 16, for almost three years. The children's mother was addicted to crack cocaine and was unable to take care for the children because of AIDS. The

mother is now deceased. The father of the oldest child is unknown. The father of the five younger children has provided minimal support because he also has a drug addiction and is in and out of prison. Ms. L wants to provide a stable, secure, and permanent home for her grandchildren. She has finalized the adoption and is waiting to hear whether she will receive the monthly adoption assistance subsidy.

In the late 1990s, the Senior citizens Law Project and the Family Law Unit at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society began to see an increasing number of clients like Ms. L taking full responsibility for rearing their grandchildren and other relatives. The children in these families usually have been left without proper parental care due to their parents' drug addictions, the AIDS

Decatur Square: Where Lawyers Lunch

We Ask Lawyers for Some Favorite Restaurants Near the Courthouse to Network or Socialize.

One of my favorite restaurants near the square is Leon's. The food is very consistent, and the chef seems to bring a higher level of quality to the menu that is much more than bar food. The drink menu is outstanding, and the staff members are always polite, considerate, and friendly. It has become a go to for me on the weekend after work, or for convenient lunch meetings.

- George Johnson



PHOTO CREDIT: INSTAGRAM.COM/LEONSFULLSERVICE

My overall favorite is Leon's Full Service. Great food, ambiance, and service. Very nice outdoor seating as well. Very conveniently located just off the square. Another great option especially for dinner is Twain's Brewpub & Billiards which has wonderful food and service and a variety of great brewed-on-premise beers. It has a nice patio for outside dining.

- Judge Alan Harvey

DISCLAIMER: The reviews reflect personal opinions only and under no circumstances constitute formal recommendations or endorsements of the restaurants or the persons associated with it.



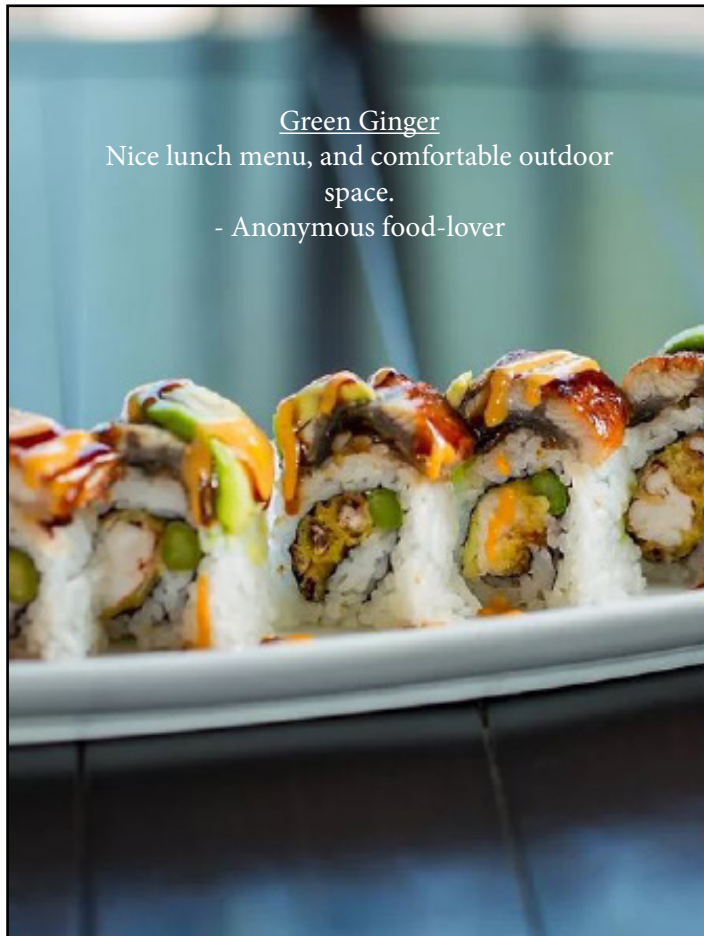
There are so many awesome places in Decatur that it is hard to choose just one. I love tacos and enchiladas, so my top choice would be [Taqueria Del Sol](#). That said, [Pastries A Go Go](#) is a great go-to for breakfast, and [Dancing Goats](#) is my favorite coffee spot!

- Erica Dempsey



[Café Alsace](#), hands down! Benedicte, the owner, has made it a mainstay in Decatur for over 20 years. It is authentic and good food at a reasonable price.

- Debbie Gold



[Green Ginger](#)
Nice lunch menu, and comfortable outdoor space.

- Anonymous food-lover



[Parker's on Ponce](#)
The ambience and great food options work for a nicer lunch. My staff attorney, Michele Jones, recommends [Brick Store Pub](#) as it is a City of Decatur staple, has a menu with a variety of options, and it features one of the most eclectic beer menus in Atlanta - for after hours, of course :)

- Judge Kimberly Alexander

Privacy & Cybersecurity Member Appreciation Month CLE



JENA G. EMORY

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“

Cryptocurrency is not as
anonymous as it seems.

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On April 19, 2022, as a part of Member Appreciation Month, the Privacy and Cybersecurity Law Section of the Atlanta Bar hosted a free virtual CLE entitled “Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, & Privacy: What Lawyers Need to Know.” **Andrei P. Tsygankov** (Founders Legal) moderated a discussion with **Nathan Langmack** (FBI), and **Stan Sater** (Founders Legal). For a photo of the Panel see Page 31 / Photo #5.

The program began with definitions of common cryptocurrency terms for those not familiar with the industry. Cryptocurrency is a digital based, cash-like instrument used to store and transmit value between two or more persons or over an open network. Blockchain is an open network that includes a shared ledger of cryptocurrency transactions. No entity controls the ledger. Cryptocurrency can be mined, transacted peer to peer, or purchased off an exchange.

Langmack then discussed how the FBI interacts with cryptocurrency. It issues subpoenas for search warrants to get information on cryptocurrency transactions. The FBI can obtain various information – from IP addresses all the way down to machine IDs and transaction hashes depending on the level of legal process. Sater discussed how the Fourth Amended applied to those search warrants.

This CLE emphasized that cryptocurrency is not as anonymous as it seems.. The FBI has relationships with the legitimate cryptocurrency companies and can easily gain access to information through valid legal process. Langmack did note that the cryptocurrency companies are quick to side with consumers and will inform the FBI when it is overreaching. The FBI can track cryptocurrency, but it often relies on private sector partners to assist it with complicated transactions.

Langmack shared that the FBI is interested in cryptocurrency for the purposes of putting criminals in jail. Many criminals launder money through blockchain. The FBI also assists victims of crimes. Langmack recommended establishing a relationship with the FBI before an issue occurs in the cryptocurrency space. He was also quick to note that establishing a relationship with the FBI does not open your business up to a massive government inspection. There is not an automatic IRS audit. The FBI only shares information with other government agencies if it is required to do so. He also suggested that companies should establish

internal breach notification procedures.

This free CLE for Atlanta Bar members provided insights into the FBI's use and investigation of cryptocurrency while explaining the legal issues involved with using cryptocurrency.

The Privacy & Cybersecurity Section was recognized on May 17th at the Bar's Annual Meeting as the Newest Section of our Atlanta Bar. There will be a full report on the Annual Meeting in The Atlanta Lawyer's next issue set for publication in June/July 2022.

“

Cryptocurrency is a digital based, cash-like instrument used to store and transmit value between two or more persons or over an open network. Blockchain is an open network that includes a shared ledger of cryptocurrency transactions. No entity controls the ledger. Cryptocurrency can be mined, transacted peer to peer, or purchased off an exchange.

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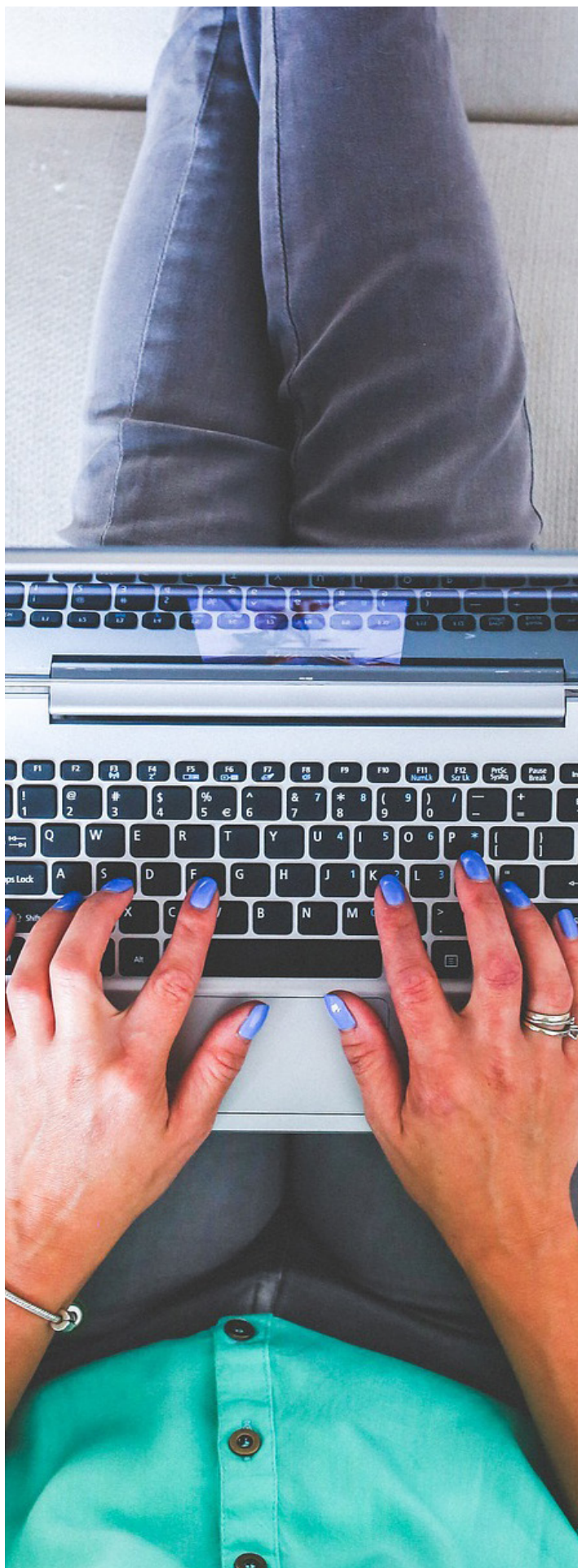


PHOTO CREDIT: PIXABAY

"Book Bar" Author Meet and Greet: Dan Schorr's "Final Table"



DOMINYKA PLUKAITE

Troutman Pepper

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I encourage everyone to join a future Book Bar, either to learn more about yourself, about others, or simply read a good book!

”

Earlier this year, the Atlanta Bar Association kicked off its first book club for lawyers, catchily named “Book Bar.” Book Bar’s reading selections alternate between fiction and nonfiction works. In April 2022, Book Bar explored the social, political, and ethical dilemmas in Dan Schorr’s fictional novel “Final Table.” On May 3, 2022, members of Book Bar met author Dan Schorr.

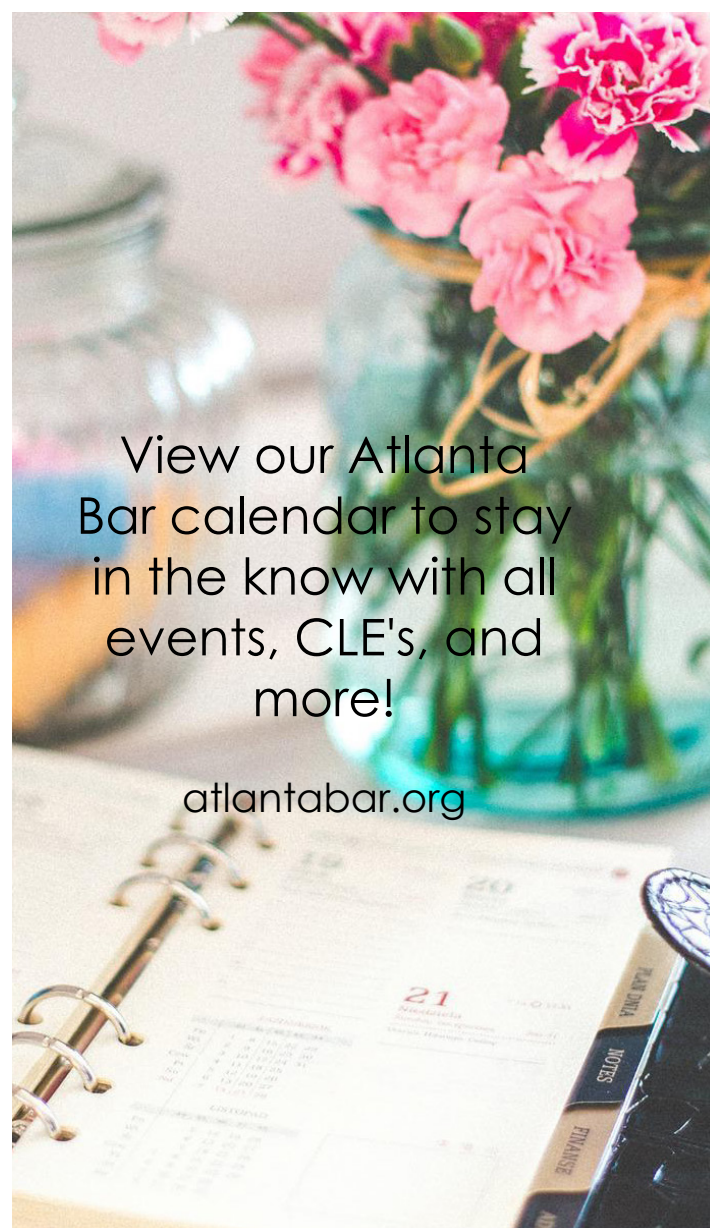
“Final Table,” an immersive political thriller about sexual misconduct in the #MeToo era, tells the story of one victim’s battle to recognize, acknowledge, cope with, and overcome trauma, and the power of news and social media in shaping people’s lives. The book draws upon Schorr’s firsthand experience as a New York City sex crimes prosecutor and sexual misconduct investigator to examine the current social, political, ethical, and media dysfunction. The primary protagonist is Maggie Raster, a former White House staffer growing her consulting firm after surviving her former boss’s sexual assault.” Co-protagonist Kyler Dawson wrestles with personal, familial, and financial troubles brought on by his long-lasting love for poker Dawson is desperate to play at a lucrative but politically controversial international poker tournament hosted by the Kingdom. The Kingdom faces widespread condemnation for the recent suspicious murder of a prominent American journalist, and a pending executive order to prohibit travel threatens Dawson’s last chance to “fix” his life. Raster and Dawson, in their uniquely challenging stages in life, find each other and are determined to win the big prize at the Kingdom’s poker tournament.

The members of Book Bar and Schorr discussed the many prevalent issues the characters face. While the book is a piece of fiction, the issues Schorr explores are very much real. As he reflected on his days at the DA’s Office during the meet-and-greet, Schorr explained that sexual assault is, unfortunately, common—in workplaces, on college campuses, between strangers and—notably—often between people who trust (or trusted) each other. Particularly, in such situations, the assault may feel confusing and surreal. In the book, Maggie Raster struggles with the same feelings: Did it really happen? Am I exaggerating? What do I do now?

By drawing from his prosecutor and sexual misconduct investigator experience, Schorr captures perfectly not only the many different emotions Raster feels after the assault, but also the decisions she must

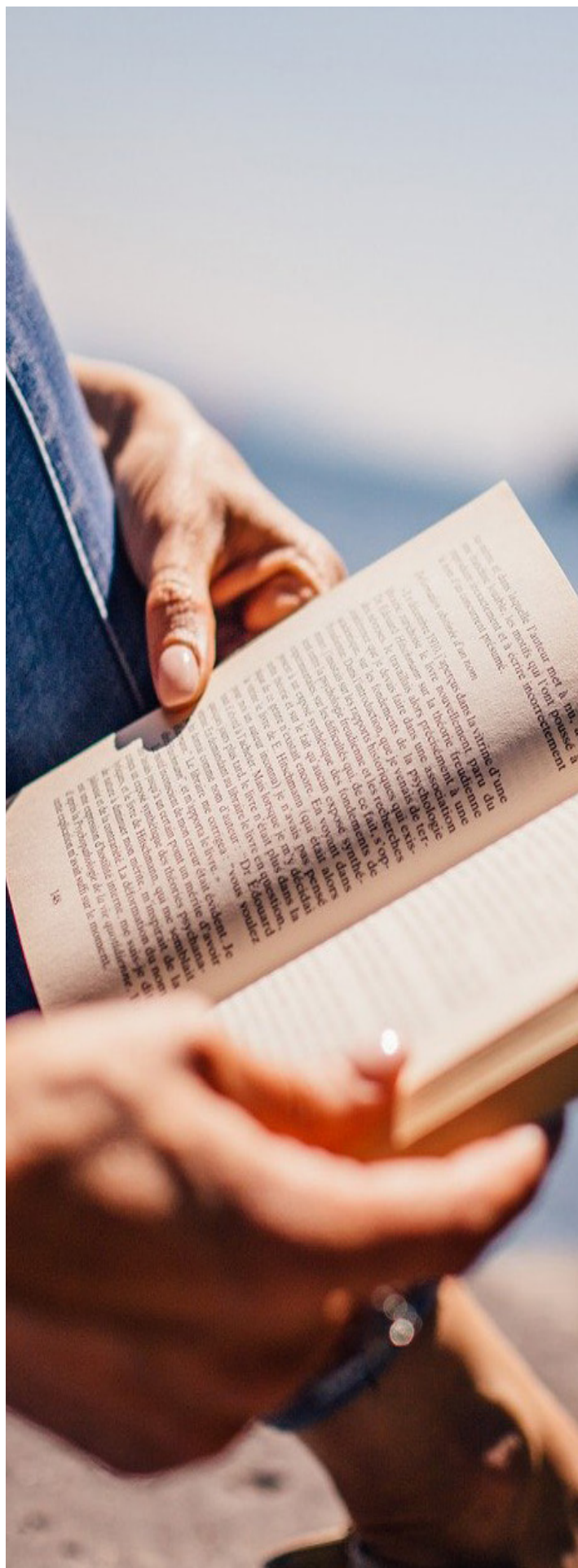
face. Should she confront the abuser? Should she go public? Stay quiet so as not to harm his reputation? Stay quiet to protect her own reputation? What if he has done this before to others? Schorr explained that these questions are persistent in the real-world cases he has worked on. People are often afraid to come forward for many reasons, and many considerations go into a person's deciding what to do. Because the considerations are personal, the decisions are, too.

Discussions of "Final Table" made us all reflect on our own experiences, views, and biases, and considering them openly, honestly, and respectfully felt refreshing. We learned about and from each other, in the best way possible—discussing and challenging each other on complicated topics. I encourage everyone to join a future Book Bar, either to learn more about yourself, about others, or simply read a good book!

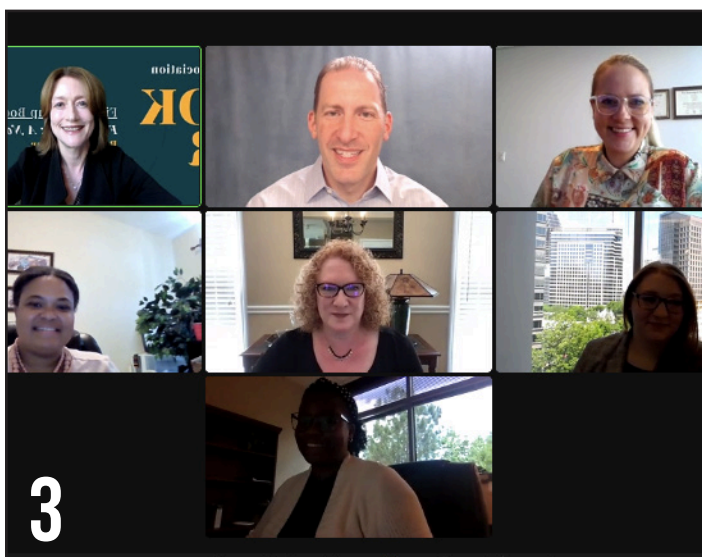


View our Atlanta
Bar calendar to stay
in the know with all
events, CLE's, and
more!

atlantabar.org



SECTION UPDATES



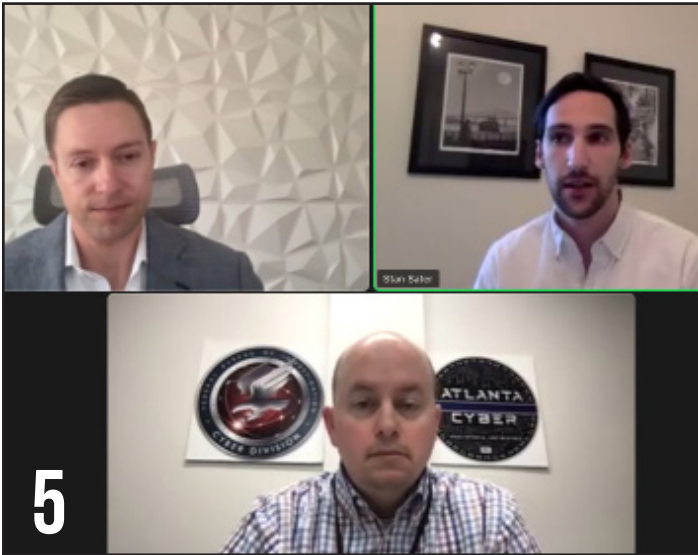
1 - April 11, 2022, "Neighborhood Meals with Women in the Profession Section" event. There were four meals throughout the week of April 11th - 14th at different times and in different areas of town. Locations included dinner in Buckhead at Taverna, lunch in Midtown at Bulla Gastrobar, breakfast in Sandy Springs at Cupanion Kitchen & Coffee, and lunch Downtown at White Oak Kitchen. L-R: **Kier A. Prince** (City of Atlanta), **Judge Ashley G. Drake** (Magistrate Court of Fulton County), **Marilyn L. Kapaun** (Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin LLC), and **Daniela B. Britton** (DeKalb County State Court).

2 - April 27, 2022, Construction Law meeting, "Rebuilding America: A Conversation on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill." L-R: **Drew C. Stevens** (Arnall Golden Gregory LLP), **Reginald L. Snyder** (Taylor English Duma LLP), **Peter M. Crofton** (Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP), **Gina M. Vitiello** (Chamberlain Hrdlicka White Williams & Aughtry, PC), **William E. Burnett** (Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP), **Phil E. Beck** (Smith Currie & Hancock LLP), **Jake Carroll** (Nelson Mullins), and **Chadd L. Reynolds**

(Chamberlain Hrdlicka).

3 - May 3, 2022, Book Bar meeting, L-R, top to bottom: facilitator **Daniela B. Britton** (DeKalb County State Court), Author of "Final Table" **Dan Schorr**, **Dominyka Plukaite** (Troutman Pepper), **Fatima Harris Felton** (The Harris Law Firm), **Allison L. Byrd** (Morgan & DiSalvo, PC), **Ashlynn E. Hutton** (Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP), and **Ashante Rosier-Robinson** (Lueder Larkin & Hunter). See page 28 for more information.

4 - April 1, 2022, joint Litigation and Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers Section breakfast, the Back on Track Series, "Training, Forging Relationships, and Building Firm Culture with Younger Lawyers in the New Normal." L-R: **Lillian N. Caudle** (Mercedes-Benz USA), **Michael J. Eshman** (Eshman Begnaud LLC), **Ben W. Thorpe** (The Home Depot), **Amy B. Cheng** (Nelson Mullins), **Hilary K. Lukacs** (Morris Manning & Martin LLP), **Christina M. Graham** (Morris Manning & Martin LLP), and **Matthew A. Gass** (Stites & Harbison PLLC).



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5 - April 19, 2022, Privacy & Cybersecurity Section Member Appreciation CLE "Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, & Privacy: What Lawyers Need to Know." L-R, top to bottom: **Andrei P. Tsygankov** (Founders Legal), **Stan Sater** (Founders Legal), and **Nathan Langmack** (FBI). See page 26 for more information.

6 - May 11, 2022, Bankruptcy Spring Social where members sipped, snacked and mingled at Bold Monk Brewery with Belgian-inspired craft brews.

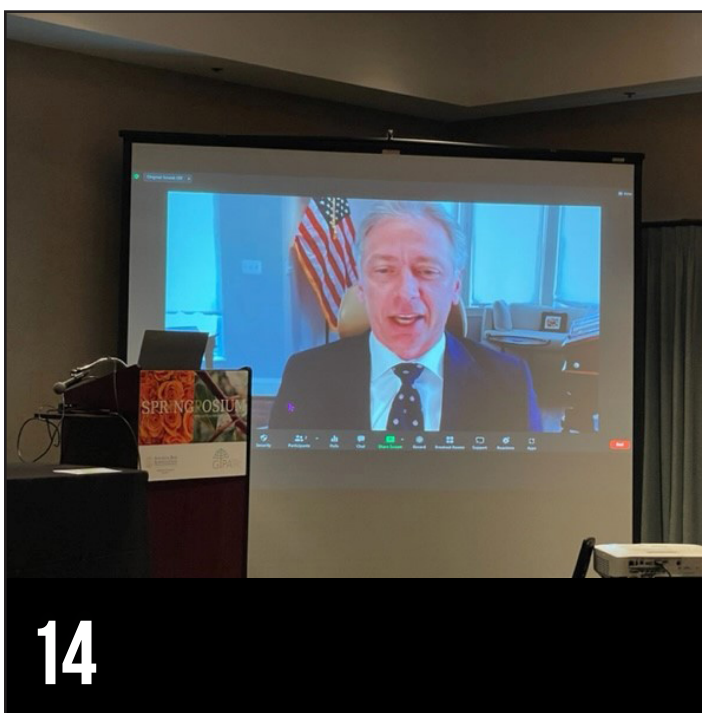
7 & 8 - April 28, 2022. Member Appreciation Month's Reception About Nothing at Smith Gambrell & Russell's new building.

9 - May 4, 2022, joint Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers, Dispute Resolution, and WIP Sections CLE Program and reception. L-R: **Michelle Urbani Wallace**, **Kristy A. Barnhart** (The Platt Law Firm), **Talis C. Trevino** (Holland & Knight LLP), **Alisha Wyatt-Bullman** (Office of General Counsel, SSA), and **Dr. Megan T. Hodgkiss** (Hodgkiss Consulting).



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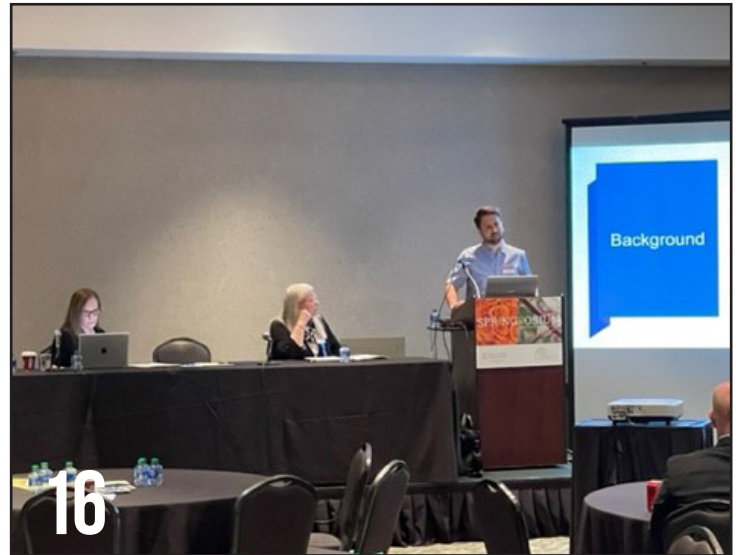


18th Annual IP SpringPosium® 2022

Colleagues came together at the beautiful Lanier Islands for a time of networking with IP practitioners and patent agents while earning eight CLE hours. IP SpringPosium® is an intellectual property CLE retreat designed to provide in-house and junior lawyers, as well as senior private-practice attorneys and IP service providers, with a convenient and affordable educational and networking opportunity. The CLE programming offers presentations from seasoned professionals on a variety of topics and issues impacting the IP industry. Attendees enjoyed networking with a view during the cocktail reception boat cruise on Lake Lanier followed by a lakeside dinner.

10 - Panelists L-R: **Joshua D. Rice** (Alston & Bird LLP), **Robert K. High** (Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garret & Dunner LLP) and **Nihal S.A. Parkar** (Eversheds Sutherland US LLP). The panel spoke on the topic of “Patent Law Update.”

11 - Panelists L-R: **T. Paul Tanpitukpongse** (Meunier Carlin &



Curfman), **David A. Kelly** (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), moderator **Stephen J.E. Dew** (Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP), and **Joshua M. Kalb** (Barnes & Thornburg LLP). The panel discussed “IP Issues Related to Cryptocurrency/Blockchain/NFTs.”

12 - Panelists L-R: **Laura F. Fritts** (Emory University, Office of Technology Transfer), **Dana Trexler** (Stout), and **Daniel A. Kent** (Kent & Risley LLC). The panel discussed “Damages/License Negotiations.”

13 - Speaker, **Chris Osborn** (ReelTime CLE) spoke on the topic of “Real Game Changers – Identifying and Guarding Against New and Different Risks in the Hybrid Work Era.”

14 - Speaker, **Andrei Iancu** (Former Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) gave the Keynote Address.

15 - Panelists L-R: **Bruce B. Siegal** (Greenspoon Marder LLP), **Cameron J. Cilano** (Georgia Institute of Technology) and Moderator, **Jeffrey D. Blake** (Merchant & Gould, PC). The panel

discussed “Name, Image & Likeness: What Does the Future Hold?”

16 - Panelists L-R: **Susan A. Russell** (Capstone IP Law PC), moderator **Joyce B. Klemmer** (JAMS), and **Jason H. Cooper** (The Sladkus Law Group). The panel discussed “Trademark & Copyright Law Update.”

17 - Program Chair **Meredith M. Ragains** (Georgia Lawyers for the Arts), addresses attendees at the 18th Annual IP SpringPosium.

18 - May 12, 2022, the Atlanta Bar Foundation Board of Directors meeting. L-R: **Ling-Ling Nie** (Georgia Tech), **Jo Lanier Meeks** (James Bates Brannan Groover LLP), **Margaret H. Vath** (GSU, College of Law), **Robert G. Wellon** (Wellon Family Law), **Toni Roberts** (Atlanta Bar), **Wade H. Watson** (Watson Bonander LLC), **Louis R. Cohan** (Cohan Law Group), **S. Wade Malone** (Nelson Mullins), **Joel M. Neuman** (The Coca-Cola Company), and **Betsy C. Griswold** (UPS, retired). On Zoom, **Terrence Lee Croft** (CroftADR/JAMS) and **Tracye T. Miller** (AMC, Inc.).

SECTION UPDATES

Bankruptcy

On May 11, 2022, the Bankruptcy Section held its Spring Social at Bold Monk Brewery. The event was well attended by over 30 members. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather and tasty appetizers and treats. The event was a great opportunity to mingle with friends old and new!

The Bankruptcy Section along with MACBAG, IWIRC Georgia Network, and the Cobb County Bar Association Section is hosting a blood drive campaign from May 15, 2022, through July 24, 2022. To sign-up, please visit the following website: <https://sleevesup.redcrossblood.org/campaign/atlanta-area-bankruptcy-lawyers-4/>. As a bonus, members that email proof of donation to MACBAG.Atlanta@gmail.com, will be entered into a drawing to win the following three prizes:

1. Free entry into an Atlanta Bar Association Bankruptcy Section event,
2. Free entry into a paid Georgia Network IWIRC event, and
3. \$35.00 UBER Eats gift card compliments of MACBAG.

Contact Us

We want to hear from you! If you have proposals or ideas for Bankruptcy Section activities or projects, please contact any of the officers or board members. We would welcome your participation!

ALEXANDRA “CC” SCHNAPP

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DOROTEYA N. WOZNIAK

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On April 21, 2022, the Section hosted a complimentary special two-hour Probate Judges Panel webinar featuring **Judge Christopher A. Ballar** (Gwinnett County Probate Court), **Judge Bedelia C. Hargrove** (DeKalb County Probate Court), **Judge Kenya M. Johnson** (Fulton County Probate Court), **Judge Christina J. Peterson** (Douglas County Probate Court), and **Judge Kelli L. Wolk** (Cobb County Probate Court). The event, superbly moderated by **F. Skip Sugarman** (Sugarman Law LLP), was a tremendous success and the highlight of our year. The Judges answered members' questions submitted in advance, discussed the new practices and guidelines they implemented during the pandemic, and gave insights on how best to comply with court procedures going forward and their individual preferences. The Judges' insights, advice, and suggestions on dealing with various Probate Court matters was truly invaluable.

EP&P looked forward to May 11, 2022, when the Section resumed breakfast meetings at the Buckhead Club and members were able to see each other and Section sponsors in-person. With the intriguing title “What Behavioral Economics Teaches Us About the Practice of Law,” **Robert C. Port** (Gaslowitz Frankel LLC) discussed important ethical considerations for estate planners.

On June 9, 2022, this Section will host a celebratory dinner from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Peachtree Club in Midtown to thank all the great speakers who have shared their expertise with Section members and express appreciation to the Section's esteemed sponsors who have supported the EP&P Section during the past few years. Due to the pandemic, the dinner was suspended, which has been a long-standing Section tradition, in 2020 and 2021, so mark your calendars for this very special event.

LINDA S. PACER

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Estate Planning & Probate

The Estate Planning & Probate Section is concluding the 2021-2022 Bar year on a high note.

At the April 13, 2022, webinar, **Blake Melton** (Synovus Family Office) gave an outstanding presentation on “Recent Developments in Fiduciary Law.” Melton's analysis and explanation of the cases—not to mention his incredibly comprehensive written materials—were extremely helpful.

Labor & Employment Law

The Labor & Employment Section has had a busy Spring! On February 18, 2022, L&E hosted a holiday-themed webinar focused on employment-related issues germane to Valentine's Day, such as workplace romances and sexual harassment claims. The program, titled “Beyond Valentine's Day: Navigating Legal Risks in Workplace Relationships” featured **Honore N. Hishamunda** (Seyfarth Shaw) and **Katherine M. Smallwood** (Employbridge) and as speakers.

On April 21, 2022, the Section hosted its annual Advanced Employment Law program. This year's program featured a series of webinars spread over three days. The first program provided an update on developments in wage and hour law, with **Charles R. Bridgers** (DeLong Caldwell Bridgers Fitzpatrick & Benjamin LLC) and **Craig S. Friedman** (Jones Day) as speakers. **Amanda A. Farahany** (Barrett & Farahany) and **Josh Y. Joel** (Stanton Law) then presented on the new federal law banning mandatory arbitration of sexual harassment claims and had a lively discussion on the potential impact the law will have for employers and employees.

The theme of day two of the series was COVID-19. **Kenneth N. Winkler** (Berman Fink Van Horn) moderated a panel of in-house counsel discussing their companies' experiences with navigating COVID-19-related legal issues, including vaccine policies. **Lisa Knottek Simpson** (Rollins), **Alicia P. Starkman** (Piedmont Healthcare), and **Matt Webb** (UPS) each provided unique perspectives on the various issues their organizations have had to confront over the last two years. After their presentation, **Amelia A. Ragan** (Legare Attwood & Wolfe LLC) moderated a panel discussing mediating employment law cases in the Zoom era. **Dan M. Klein** (Klein Dispute Resolution) and **Ellen B. Malow** (Malow Mediation) shared their perspectives on mediation trends and offered helpful tips on effectively mediating via Zoom.

The third and final day of the Advanced Employment Law program focused on the Great Resignation. **Neal F. Weinrich** (Berman Fink Van Horn, PC) moderated a panel on "Noncompete, Employee Transition and Unfair Competition Issues related to the Great Resignation." **Erika C. Birg** (Nelson Mullins), **Benjamin I. Fink** (Berman Fink Van Horn, PC), **Daniel P. Hart** (Seyfarth Shaw), and **Ashley Steiner Kelly** (Arnall Golden Gregory) shared their thoughts on how the challenging labor market, the increased prevalence of remote work, and the changing legal landscape have impacted both the use and enforcement of noncompete agreements. Finally, the series concluded with **Abigail J. Larimer** (Ford & Harrison) moderating a panel that discussed various trends in employment law during the Great Resignation. **Timothy M. Boughey** (Jackson Lewis, PC) and **Justin M. Scott** (Scott Employment Law, PC) provided perspectives from the plaintiff and defense bar, and Steven Wagner shared his insights as a trial attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The program was a tremendous success, and the Labor & Employment section thanks all of our excellent speakers for their participation!

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Litigation

The Litigation Section continued its monthly breakfast meeting tradition with the 2021-22 theme "Back on Track." A special thanks to Sections Director Karen English and the other dedicated Atlanta Bar staff who made every event possible whether in person or on Zoom!

- September 24, 2021 - The Back on Track Series | The State of the Judiciary. Panelists: **Judge Timothy C. Batten** (U.S. District Court for the NDGA), **Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher** (Superior Court of Fulton County), **Judge Susan E. Edlein** (State Court of Fulton County), and **Chief Justice David E. Nahmias** (Supreme Court of Georgia).
- October 8, 2021 - The Back on Track Series | Products Liability Claims involving Medical Devices. Panelists: **Geoffrey M. Drake** (King & Spalding), **Stephen G. Lowry** (Harris Lowry Manton LLP), **Michael C. McGlamry** (Pope McGlamry), and **Robert K. "Bobby" Woo, Jr.** (King & Spalding). Moderator: **Halli D. Cohn** (Troutman Pepper).
- October 13, 2021 - The Litigation Section gathered at Nelson Mullin to present the Logan E. Bleckley Award for Judicial Excellence to **The Honorable Harold D. Melton**, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, for his leadership of the judiciary through the first year of the pandemic.
- November 12, 2021 - The Back on Track Series | Credibility: How to Earn It and How to Lose It. Panelists: **Jim D. Blitch, IV** (Blitch Law PC), **Judge Shukura L. Ingram** (Superior Court of Fulton County), **Brandee J. Kowalzyk** (Nelson Mullins), **Bethany Schneider** (Schneider Injury Law), and **L. Chris Stewart** (Stewart Miller Simmons Trial Attorneys). Moderator: **S. Wade Malone** (Nelson Mullins).
- December 10, 2021 - The Back on Track Series | Offer of Judgement, Apportionment and Proving Attorneys' Fees. Panelists: **Daniel J. Huff** (Huff Powell Bailey LLC), **Kevin P. Race** (The Race Law Firm), **Judge Gail S. Tusan** (JAMS), and **Chief Judge Paige Reese Whitaker** (Superior Court of Fulton County). Moderator: **James M. Sherman** (Stanley Esrey & Buckley LLP).
- January 14, 2022 - The Back on Track Series | Trials in 2022 - A New Year & (Post?) Pandemic Outlook. Panelists: **Miguel A. Dominquez** (Morgan & Morgan), **Judge Leigh Martin May** (U.S. District Court, NDGA), **Chief Judge Robert C.I. McBurney** (Superior Court of Fulton County), **David L. Rusnak** (Drew Eckl & Farnham LLP). Moderator: **Chief Judge Shukura L. Ingram** (Superior Court of Fulton County) and **Mari L. Myer** (The Myer Law Firm).
- February 11, 2022 - The Back on Track Series | Medical Funding: Discoverability, Admissibility, and Revisiting the Collateral Source Rule. Panelists: **Gillian S. Crowl** (Swift

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Currie); **Elissa Haynes** (Drew Eckl Farnham); **Brandon Smith** (Brandon Smith Law); **Maxwell K. Thelen** (Ashby Thelen Lowry). Moderator: **Ashley G. Rice** (Waldon Adelman Castilla Hiestand & Prout).

- March 4, 2022 - The Back on Track Series | The Truth About Judicially Hosted Settlement Conferences. Panelists: **Chief Judge Philip F. Etheridge** (Former Superior Court of Fulton County), **Terrence Lee Croft** (JAMS), and **Judge Catherine M. Salinas** (U.S. Magistrate Judge). Moderator: **Frank A. Lightmas, Jr.** (The Law Offices of Frank A. Lightmas Jr. LLC).
- April 1, 2022 - The Back on Track Series | Training, Forging Relationships, and Building Firm Culture with Younger Lawyers in the New Normal. Panelists: **Amy B. Cheng** (Nelson Mullins), **Michael J. Eshman** (Eshman Begnaud LLC), **Matthew A. Gass** (Stites & Harbison PLLC), **Christina M. Graham** (Morris Manning & Martin LLP), **Ben W. Thorpe** (The Home Depot). Moderator: **Hillary K. Lukacs** (Morris Manning & Martin LLP).
- May 13, 2022 - The Back on Track Series | 2022 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Update. Panelists: **Kade Cullefer** (Troutman Pepper), **Chuck P. Efstration** (House District 104, and McGarity & Efstration), **Robert L. Fortson** (McGuireWoods), City Councilwoman **Madeleine Simmons** (City of Brookhaven), **Matthew Wilson** (House District 80 and Wilson Law Firm). Moderator: **Kevin C. Patrick** (Kevin Patrick Law).

The Litigation Section gave more than \$27,000 in the 2021-2022 bar year to the Atlanta Bar Foundation's Summer Law Internship Program, Whiskey Tasting, and The Legal Run Around; Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, and Pro Bono March Madness.

The Litigation Section is grateful to the generous support of its sponsors - Applied Technical Services; Aprio; CodexTen; and JAMS – and dedicated Section membership.

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Women in the Profession

The Outstanding Woman in the Profession Achievement Award Luncheon will honor **Judge Susan Edlein** (Fulton County State Court) on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.. The luncheon will be held at the Piedmont Driving Club located at 1215 Piedmont Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309. The Luncheon rates will be \$20 for Atlanta Bar Members and \$50 for Non-Members. Go to the Atlanta Bar calendar to register. **Laura Tate Yellig** (City of Atlanta) is making arrangements for the Luncheon, and The Saylor Law Firm LLP will be a Luncheon sponsor.

WIP is also planning on having a day of service on July 14, 2022. More details to come!

The Women in the Profession, Dispute Resolution and ACYL Sections held a joint CLE on marketing and branding with a cocktail reception at Nelson Mullins on May 4, 2022. Thank you to Nelson Mullins for providing the space. **Talis C. Trevino** (Holland & Knight LLP) and **Alisha Wyatt-Bullman** (Office of General Counsel, SSA) oversaw this special event.

Barnes & Thornburg is our main sponsor. Contact **Sarah M. White** (Atlanta Legal Aid) at white.msarah@gmail.com. if you want to inquire about becoming a regular sponsor or Luncheon sponsor.

Please remember to follow WIP on Facebook and LinkedIn!

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