



State Bar
of Georgia

BOG BOARD BOOK

2025 Midyear Meeting
Savannah, GA

This book serves as the agenda and materials for the State Bar of Georgia's 2025 Midyear Meeting.



305th BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2025

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District

Savannah, Georgia

Dress: Business

AGENDA

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1) ADMINISTRATION		
a) Welcome and Call to Order	Ivy N. Cadle..... President	1
a) Pledge of Allegiance	Lindsey S. Macon Atlanta Circuit, Post 20	
b) Invocation	Thua G. Barlay Rockdale Circuit	
c) Recognition of Special Guests.....	Ivy Cadle	
d) Roll Call	R. Javoyne Hicks	9
	Secretary	
e) Future Meetings Schedule.....	Ivy Cadle	14
2) INFORMATIONAL REPORTS		
a) President's Report.....	Ivy Cadle	
b) Treasurer's Report.....	William "Bill" Gentry	16
	Treasurer	
c) Executive Director's Report	Damon Elmore	
d) Young Lawyers Division Report	Kenneth Mitchell, Jr.	31
	YLD President	
e) Chief Justice's Commission on.....	Karlise Grier	37
Professionalism Report	Executive Director, CJC	

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
f) Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence Darrell Sutton and Technology Report	Committee Chair	

3)MIDYEAR MEMBERS MEETING ACTION ITEMS

All active members of the State Bar of Georgia are invited to attend and vote in the Members Meeting.

a) Proposed Bylaws Changes	Bill NeSmith	48
(1) Article I. Members. Section 1. Registration of Members		52
(2) Article I. Members. Section 2. Active Members and Foreign Law Consultants.		56
(3) Article I. Members. Section 6. Affiliate Membership and Law Student Membership.		58
(4) Article III. Board of Governors. Section 13. Standing Board Policies		62
(5) Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 1. Members. (EC Elections)		66
(6) Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 3. Misconduct and Removal		73
(7) Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 4. Standing Executive Committee Policies.		81
(8) Article VIII. Committees – Generally. Section 5. Authority to Establish Internal Rules.		85
(9) Article VIII. Committees – Generally. Section 6. Quorum		89

Plenary session is concluded, and the Board of Governors meeting commences.

4)ACTION

a) Minutes of the 304 th Meeting of the..... Javoyne Hicks	42
Board of Governors on November 2, 2024	
b) Proposed Rules Changes	Bill NeSmith
(1) Bar Rule 1-302. Composition.....	91
(2) Bar Rule 1-501. License Fees	99
(3) Bar Rule 1-501.1 License Fees—Late Fee	112
(4) Bar Rule 4-106. Conviction of a Crime; Suspension and Disbarment	114
(5) Bar Rule 4-108. Conduct Constituting Threat of Harm to Clients or Public; Emergency Suspension.	120
(6) GRPC 1.0. Terminology and Definitions	124
(7) GRPC 1.6. Confidentiality of Information	154
c) Center for Lawyer Wellbeing Dues Approval Javoyne Hicks	186
d) Nominations of ABA Delegates..... Ivy Cadle	
2-year terms August 2025 – August 2027	
(1) Post 2 (currently held by Glenn P. Hendrix, Atlanta)	
(2) Post 4 (currently held by Paula J. Frederick, Atlanta)	

Topics

Presenter

Page No.

- e) Nominations of State Bar Officers Ivy Cadle
(nominations = 5 minutes, seconds = 2 minutes)
 (1) Office of Secretary
 (2) Office of Treasurer
 (3) Office of President-Elect

5) LEGISLATION

- a) Advisory Committee on Legislation Jennifer McNeely.....188
 New Legislative Proposals (**action**)
 (1) *Professionalism Committee* – Support for a Resolution of the General191
 Assembly Recognizing April 2025 as Legal Professionalism Month
 (2) *Indigent Defense Committee* – Support for the Judicial Council’s195
 Budget Request for FY 2026 - Funding for the Georgia Resource Center
- b) Legislative Update Jennifer McNeely

6) WRITTEN REPORTS

- a) Code of Conduct for Bar Events 202
- b) Office of the General Counsel Report.....203
- c) Sections Report206
- d) Law Practice Management Report209
- e) Institute of Continuing Legal Education Report213
- f) Media Report215

7) CLOSING

- a) Old Business Ivy Cadle
- b) New Business Ivy Cadle
- c) Announcements Ivy Cadle
- d) Executive Session Ivy Cadle
- e) Remarks / Q&A / Comments / Suggestions
- f) Adjournment



2025 State Bar of Georgia

MIDYEAR MEETING

Hotel Cut-off | Dec. 24, 2024 // Registration Cut-off | Jan. 3, 2025

JAN. 9-12, 2025

JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District
Savannah, Georgia

PHOTO COURTESY OF JW MARRIOTT SAVANNAH PLANT RIVERSIDE DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Registration

12 – 12:30 p.m.

YLD Nominating Committee Meeting
(virtual—by invitation only)

3 – 4 p.m.

Family Law Section Executive Committee Meeting
(by invitation only)

4 – 5 p.m.

Family Law Section CLE

5 – 6 p.m.

Family Law Section Reception

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Past Presidents' Dinner
(by invitation only)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Registration

10 – 11:30 a.m.

ICLE Board Meeting
(by invitation only)

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Arc of Justice Legacy Lawyers CLE

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

State Disciplinary Board Meeting
(by invitation only)

12 – 1 p.m.

General Practice & Trial Law Section
"Meet the Judges" Luncheon

12 – 2 p.m.

State Disciplinary Review Board Meeting
(by invitation only)

12 – 4 p.m.

YLD Headshot Studio
(YLD members only)

1 – 2:30 p.m.

YLD Leadership Academy Session 1
(by invitation only)

2 – 5 p.m.

Elder Law Section CLE and Networking Reception

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee Meeting

3 – 4 p.m.

YLD CLE I Branding With Integrity

3 – 5 p.m.

Member Benefits Committee Meeting

4 – 5 p.m.

Past Presidents' Meeting
(by invitation only)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

YLD General Session

6 – 9:30 p.m.

Board of Governors Reception and Dinner

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Registration

8 – 8:45 a.m.

SOLACE Committee Meeting

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Board of Governors Meeting

12 – 2 p.m.

Criminal Law Section Luncheon and CLE

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District
500 W. River St.
Savannah, GA 31401
912-373-9100

Cut-off date is Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024.

The JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District is the host hotel, offering a discounted room rate of \$345 per night for single/double occupancy, plus fees and taxes. *(This rate includes a \$36 per night destination fee, which will be waived prior to check-out.)*

Please note that there is a limited inventory of queen beds. If you would like a room with two queen beds, or would like to extend your stay pre- or post-meeting, please first make your reservation and then forward your confirmation to our hotel contact Darshena Wood at darshena.wood@kesslercollection.com with your request.

To make a reservation and receive our special rate, visit bit.ly/MY25hotel. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, as rooms will be on a space and rate availability basis after this date. Please make your hotel reservations as early as possible.

Hotel Check-in | 4 p.m.

Hotel Check-out | 11 a.m.

ATTIRE

Business attire is appropriate for all meetings and events.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JW MARRIOTT SAVANNAH PLANT RIVERSIDE DISTRICT



YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

YLD HEADSHOT STUDIO

Friday, Jan. 10 | 12 – 4 p.m.

(YLD members only)

Those law school headshots could probably use some updating. Professional photographer Rikki from Envisioning Freedom Photography will be in Savannah to help you put your best foot forward as you build your brand. Each session includes two edited photos. Space is limited to the first 20 people, so don't wait to register.

YLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SESSION 1

Friday, Jan. 10 | 1 – 2:30 p.m.

(Limited to participants of the 2025 Leadership Academy.)

The YLD Leadership Academy Class of 2025 will meet for the first of six sessions. Participants will spend time getting to know one another and all about the Young Lawyers Division. YLD past presidents will discuss why participation in the organization is vital to the success of young attorneys.

YLD CLE | BRANDING WITH INTEGRITY

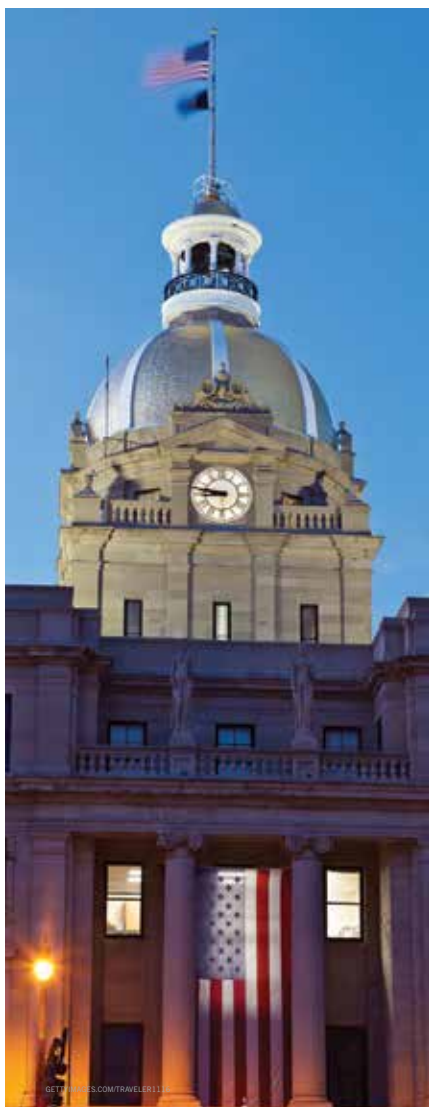
Friday, Jan. 10 | 3 – 4 p.m.

One of the YLD's goals this year is to support young lawyers in building their personal brand and maximizing their professional skills. This one-hour professionalism CLE, moderated by YLD President Kenneth Mitchell Jr., will feature a discussion with panelists N. John Bey, Lester B. Johnson III and Shiriki Cavitt Jones as they focus on client development, incorporating new innovations while preserving the integrity and core values of the legal profession. Open to all Bar members.

YLD GENERAL SESSION

Friday, Jan. 10 | 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

The General Session is open to all members. YLD officers will give reports and members of the Executive Council will provide updates on projects and events.



OTHER EVENTS

FAMILY LAW SECTION CLE AND RECEPTION

Thursday, Jan. 9 | 4 – 6 p.m.

Join the Family Law Section for a CLE focused on family law. Reception to follow. Open to all Bar members.

THE ARC OF JUSTICE LEGACY LAWYERS CLE

Friday, Jan. 10 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Griffin Bell and Donald Lee Hollowell are two Georgia lawyers whose careers were emblems of public service. This CLE program highlights their works and lays the foundation for a greater initiative in their honor.

GENERAL PRACTICE & TRIAL LAW SECTION

“MEET THE JUDGES” LUNCHEON

Friday, Jan. 10 | 12 – 1 p.m.

Come meet your local judges for a lively conversation on legal issues. Open to all Bar members.

ELDER LAW SECTION

CLE AND NETWORKING RECEPTION

Friday, Jan. 10 | 2 – 5 p.m.

Join the Elder Law Section for a CLE followed by a networking reception. Open to all Bar members.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS RECEPTION AND DINNER

Friday, Jan. 10 | 6 – 9:30 p.m.

Please join us for Friday night's Board of Governors Dinner as you network with fellow Bar members. Everyone is welcome.

SOLACE COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, Jan. 11 | 8 – 8:45 a.m.

The SOLACE Committee will meet for a midyear check-in and discuss current requests.

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION LUNCHEON AND CLE

Saturday, Jan. 11 | 12 – 2 p.m.

Join the Criminal Law Section for a luncheon and CLE entitled “Ethical Responses to Allegations of Misconduct: When They Go Low, We Go High.” We intend to examine practices in responding to allegations of misconduct in and out of the courtroom (including Bar complaints) whether lodged by an adversary, client or judge. Open to all Bar members.



STATE BAR OF GEORGIA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BAR EVENTS

Thank you for participating in an event sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia. To ensure that everyone enjoys their experience, we kindly request your cooperation in adhering to the following code of conduct:

- Please be considerate and respectful of fellow attendees, guests and staff members.
- Please refrain from disruptive behavior or engaging in any activity that may disturb others.
- Attendees and guests who engage in harassing or disruptive behavior will be immediately ejected from the program or event without refund or reimbursement.
- Attendees and guests are encouraged to promptly report any incidents, concerns or instances of inappropriate behavior to State Bar or venue personnel.
- Attendees and guests shall comply with requests from Bar or venue staff regarding operational and emergency procedures.
- Guests who consume alcoholic beverages shall do so in a responsible manner.
- Intervention with an impaired, intoxicated or underage guest will be handled promptly and safely. The State Bar of Georgia reserves the right to deny entry into an event and/or refuse service to guests displaying visible signs of impairment/intoxication.

State Bar of Georgia staff members are directed to intervene where necessary to help ensure the above expectations are met, and guests are encouraged to report inappropriate behavior to the nearest staff member. Attendees and guests who choose not to adhere to these provisions will be subject to ejection without a refund. If you feel that our staff does not address any issues to your satisfaction, please ask to speak with the Executive Director immediately.

2025 MIDYEAR MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



State Bar
of Georgia

Please use this form to register by checking events you plan to attend. Registration is required for all events, including "no charge" (N/C) functions. You may also register online at www.gabar.org. The registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

BAR NUMBER

NAME

INFORMAL/PREFERRED NAME

EMAIL

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME

GUEST BAR NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)

GUEST EMAIL (OPTIONAL)

SPECIAL NEEDS/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

ADA

If you qualify for protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act and need assistance, please email meetings@gabar.org.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation of registration must be received in writing no later than Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, and will receive a full refund. Absolutely no refunds will be made after Jan. 3. Requests should be emailed to meetings@gabar.org or mailed to State Bar of Georgia, Attn: Meetings Department, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. MasterCard, Visa and American Express are accepted. Please make checks payable to the State Bar of Georgia and mail them to: Meetings Department, 2025 Midyear Meeting, State Bar of Georgia, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS EVENTS

Quantity

- ☐ Board of Governors Reception and Dinner.....\$120 ____
- ☐ Board of Governors Reception
and Dinner (YLD rate)*\$95 ____
- ☐ Board of Governors MeetingN/C ____

* YLD rate applies to Bar members who are under 36 years of age or younger or within their first five years of practice in their first bar.

COMMITTEE EVENTS

- ☐ Disciplinary Rules and ProceduresN/C ____
- ☐ SOLACEN/C ____

SECTIONS EVENTS

- ☐ Criminal Law Luncheon and CLEN/C ____
- ☐ Elder Law CLE and Networking ReceptionN/C ____
- ☐ Family Law CLE only\$30 ____
- ☐ Family Law Reception only.....\$36 ____
- ☐ Family Law CLE and Reception\$61 ____
- ☐ General Practice & Trial Law
"Meet the Judges" Reception.....\$60 ____

YLD EVENTS

- ☐ YLD CLE\$35 ____
- ☐ YLD General SessionN/C ____
- ☐ YLD Headshot Studio (YLD members only)\$50 ____

OTHER

- ☐ The Arc of Justice Legacy Lawyers CLE\$75 ____

Total Fees Enclosed: _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION*

Please bill my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE CARD (PLEASE PRINT)

SIGNATURE

*Please do not email credit card information. Fax to 404-527-8717.

Register online at www.gabar.org.

 **State Bar
of Georgia**
2025 MIDYEAR MEETING
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743

PRST First-Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 1447
Atlanta, GA

SPONSORS AND REGISTRATION

Special thanks to the following corporate sponsors for their generous support of the State Bar of Georgia and the 2025 Midyear Meeting.

5 **MB** | Member**Benefits**
Gavel

5 **3** VERTICALS
Gavel

1  MILESTONE
Gavel REPORTING
Take your business to the next level

REGISTRATION

The final registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 3, 2025. All participants must pre-register using the registration form or online at www.gabar.org.

Registrations will not be processed without payment. Verbal registrations will not be accepted. Faxes will only be accepted for "no charge" functions or payment by credit card.

Registrations, along with payments, must be received at the State Bar on or before Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at which time pre-registration will close. Onsite registration will open at the JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025.

Note: All pre-registrations and onsite registrations are subject to availability on a first-come, first-served basis.



Board of Governors Attendance Record

	6-24 Saturday	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25 Friday	
	Amelia Island	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Sawgrass	
Jonathan Lang Adams	•	e				Jonathan Lang Adams
Keith E. Adams	•					Keith E. Adams
Mark W. Alexander	•	•				Mark W. Alexander
JaDawnya Cintelle Baker	•	e				JaDawnya Cintelle Baker
Nina M. Baker	•	e				Nina M. Baker
Eric A. Ballinger	•	•				Eric A. Ballinger
Thua G. Barlay	•	•				Thua G. Barlay
Donna G. Barwick	u	e				Donna G. Barwick
John C. Bell Jr.		•				John C. Bell Jr.
Tracee R. Benzo	•	e				Tracee Ready Benzo
N. John Bey	•	e				N. John Bey
James D. Blich IV	u	u				James D. Blich IV
Sherry Boston	•	•				Sherry Boston
Charity Reneatha Bridgewater	•	•				Charity Reneatha Bridgewater
Ashley Mackin Brodie	•	u				Ashley Mackin Brodie
Brittanie Browning	•	•				Brittanie Browning
Stephanie D. Burton	•	u				Stephanie D. Burton
Ivy Neal Cadle	•	•				Ivy Neal Cadle
Jerry Neal Cadle	•	•				Jerry Neal Cadle
Stacey McSwine Cameron	•	•				Stacey McSwine Cameron
Richard D. Campbell	•	•				Richard D. Campbell
Tedra L. Cannella	•	u				Tedra L. Cannella
David L. Cannon	•	u				David L. Cannon
Carl S. Cansino	u	•				Carl S. Cansino
Chris M. Carr	u	u				Chris M. Carr
Vernon L. Chambliss	•	•				Vernon L. Chambliss
Kimberly A. Childs	•	e				Kimberly A. Childs
Amanda Rourk Clark Palmer	•	u				Amanda Rourk Clark Palmer
Edward R. Collier	u	e				Edward R. Collier
Daniel Jackson Connell III	•	•				Daniel Jackson Connell III
Susan P. Coppedge	•	•				Susan P. Coppedge
John Craig Cotton	•	•				John Craig Cotton
Martin L. Cowen III	•	•				Martin L. Cowen III
Veronica Rogusky Cox	•	•				Veronica Rogusky Cox
Gerald Davidson Jr.	•	e				Gerald Davidson Jr.

An elected member of the Board of Governors shall attend at least 50 percent (50%) of the Board meetings held during the Bar year, unless his/her attendance is otherwise excused by the secretary. The burden of seeking and establishing an excused absence shall be upon the Board member. A written request to the Secretary for an excused absence shall be made within thirty (30) days prior to or after the missed meeting. **Should an elected Board member fail to meet the attendance requirement, the position shall become vacant, and the president of the State Bar shall fill the unexpired term by appointment.**

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Javoyne Hicks (javoyne@statebarofga@gmail.com).

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	6-24 Saturday	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25 Friday	
	Amelia Island	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Sawgrass	
J. Anderson Davis	u	•				J. Anderson Davis
William T. Davis	•	u				William T. Davis
Howard Mark Delashmit	•	•				Howard Mark Delashmit
J. Antonio DelCampo	•	•				J. Antonio DelCampo
Joseph W. Dent	•	•				Joseph W. Dent
Miguel Angel Dominguez	•	•				Miguel Angel Dominguez
Danny L. Durham	•	•				Danny L. Durham
Susan E. Edlein	•	•				Susan E. Edlein
Olobong Ukpong "Oto" Ekpo	•	e				Olobong Ukpong "Oto" Ekpo
Ryan Welton English	•	•				Ryan Welton English
Archibald A. Farrar	•	e				Archibald A. Farrar
Gillian Brooke Flier	•	•				Gillian Brooke Flier
Amanda Renee Flora	•	•				Amanda Renee Flora
Harold Eugene Franklin Jr.	•	e				Harold Eugene Franklin Jr.
Keith E. Gammage	•	•				Keith E. Gammage
William C. Gentry	•	•				William C. Gentry
Michael G. Geoffroy	•	u				Michael G. Geoffroy
Patricia A. Gorham	•	•				Patricia A. Gorham
Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist	•	•				Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist
Paul William Hamilton	u	•				Paul William Hamilton
Thomas B. "Britt" Hammond	•	•				Thomas B. "Britt" Hammond
Roger Brent Hatcher Jr.	•	•				Roger Brent Hatcher Jr.
John Haubenreich	•	•				John Haubenreich
Patrick H. Head	•	e				Patrick H. Head
Render M. Heard Jr.	•	•				Render M. Heard Jr.
Amanda Nichole Heath	•	e				Amanda Nichole Heath
Matthew J. Hennessy	•	•				Matthew J. Hennessy
Thomas W. Herman	u	•				Thomas W. Herman
R. Javoyne Hicks	•	•				R. Javoyne Hicks
Kimberly Wilkerson Higginbotham	u	•				Kimberly Wilkerson Higginbotham
Donna S. Hix	u	•				Donna S. Hix
Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV	•	•				Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV
Stacey K. Hydrick	•	•				Stacey K. Hydrick
Shukura L. Ingram	•	u				Shukura L. Ingram
James T. Irvin	•	•				James T. Irvin

Standing Board Policy 300 (Board Attendance Policy)

An elected member of the Board of Governors shall attend at least 50 percent (50%) of the Board meetings held during the Bar year, unless his/her attendance is otherwise excused by the secretary. The burden of seeking and establishing an excused absence shall be upon the Board member. A written request to the Secretary for an excused absence shall be made within thirty (30) days prior to or after the missed meeting. **Should an elected Board member fail to meet the attendance requirement, the position shall become vacant, and the president of the State Bar shall fill the unexpired term by appointment.**

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Javoyne Hicks (javoyne@statebarofga@gmail.com).

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	6-24 Saturday	11-24	1-25 Savannah	3-25 Athens	6-25 Friday	
Christopher Ross Jackson	•	Jekyll Island				Christopher Ross Jackson
Charles Michael Johnson	•	•				Charles Michael Johnson
Lester B. Johnson, III	•	•				Lester B. Johnson, III
Shiriki L. Cavitt Jones	•	•				Shiriki L. Cavitt Jones
Maria Christene Mekras Justus	•	•				Maria Christene Mekras Justus
Zahra S. Karinshak	•	•				Zahra S. Karinshak
John F. Kennedy	•	•				John F. Kennedy
Barry E. King	•	•				Barry E. King
Judy C. King	•	•				Judy C. King
Catherine Koura	•	•				Catherine Koura
Rachel R. Krause	•	•				Rachel R. Krause
Rhonda Bender Kreuziger	•	•				Rhonda Bender Kreuziger
Edward B. Krugman	•	•				Edward B. Krugman
Jeffrey R. Kuester	•	•				Jeffrey R. Kuester
Anne Templeton LaMalva	•	•				Anne Templeton LaMalva
Rosten Dara Diya "Chinny" Law	•	•				Rosten Dara Diya "Chinny" Law
Allegra Lawrence-Hardy	•	•				Allegra Lawrence-Hardy
Nicole C. Leet	•	•				Nicole C. Leet
Katie K. Leonard	•	•				Katie K. Leonard
Dawn Renee Levine	•	•				Dawn Renee Levine
Joyce Gist Lewis	•	•				Joyce Gist Lewis
Lisa Katsuko Liang	•	•				Lisa Katsuko Liang
Thomas Fredrick Lindsay	•	•				Thomas Fredrick Lindsay
David S. Lipscomb	•	•				David S. Lipscomb
John R. B. Long	•	•				John R. B. Long
Dax Eric Lopez	•	•				Dax Eric Lopez
Ronald A. Lowry	•	•				Ronald A. Lowry
Lindsey Stephens Macon	•	•				Lindsey Stephens Macon
John Bell Manly	•	•				John Bell Manly
Troy Windel Marsh Jr.	•	•				Troy Windel Marsh Jr.
Edward T. McAfee	•	•				Edward T. McAfee
Hugh J. McCullough	•	•				Hugh J. McCullough
Graham Elliott McDonald	•	•				Graham Elliott McDonald
Letitia A. McDonald	•	•				Letitia A. McDonald
Brad J. McFall	•	•				Brad J. McFall

Standing Board Policy 300 (Board Attendance Policy)

An elected member of the Board of Governors shall attend at least 50 percent (50%) of the Board meetings held during the Bar year, unless his/her attendance is otherwise excused by the secretary. The burden of seeking and establishing an excused absence shall be upon the Board member. A written request to the Secretary for an excused absence shall be made within thirty (30) days prior to or after the missed meeting. **Should an elected Board member fail to meet the attendance requirement, the position shall become vacant, and the president of the State Bar shall fill the unexpired term by appointment.**

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Jayovne Hicks (jayovnestatebarofga@gmail.com).

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	6-24 Saturday	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25 Friday
	Amelia Island u	Jekyll Island u	Savannah	Athens	Sawgrass
Michael D. McRae	•	•			Michael D. McRae
Terry L. Miller	•	•			Terry L. Miller
Kenneth Mitchell Jr.	•	•			Kenneth Mitchell Jr.
William J. Monahan	•	•			William J. Monahan
Shondeana Crews Morris	•	e			Shondeana Crews Morris
Stephen Russell Morris	•	•			Stephen Russell Morris
Joseph Kenneth Mulholland	•	•			Joseph Kenneth Mulholland
Laura J. Murphree	•	e			Laura J. Murphree
Katrell Nash	•	u			Katrell Nash
Paul Wain Painter III	•	•			Paul Wain Painter III
Joy Renea Parks	•	e			Joy Renea Parks
Kathryn Drew Parrish Bennett	e	•			Kathryn Drew Parrish Bennett
Kevin Charles Patrick	•	•			Kevin Charles Patrick
Tabitha Edwina Payne	•	•			Tabitha Edwina Payne
Brandon Lee Peak	•	•			Brandon Lee Peak
Edward Piasta	•	•			Edward Piasta
Kathryn Lauranne Powers	•	e			Kathryn Lauranne Powers
Michael Prieto	•	u			Michael Prieto
Philip Zachary Pritchard	•	•			Philip Zachary Pritchard
Jill Pryor	•	e			Jill Pryor
Elizabeth Dalia Racine	•	e			Elizabeth Dalia Racine
William M. Ragland	•	e			William M. Ragland
Tina S. Roddenberry	•	e			Tina S. Roddenberry
Kevin W. Roper	•	e			Kevin W. Roper
Joseph Roseborough	•	u			Joseph Roseborough
Wesley Charles Ross	•	•			Wesley Charles Ross
Claudia S. Saarl	•	•			Claudia S. Saarl
Alex Musole Shalishali	•	u			Alex Musole Shalishali
H. Burke Sherwood	•	•			H. Burke Sherwood
Mitchell McKinley Shook	•	u			Mitchell McKinley Shook
Robert H. Smalley, III	•	•			Robert H. Smalley, III
Philip C. Smith	•	•			Philip C. Smith
R. Rucker Smith	•	•			R. Rucker Smith
Daniel B. Snipes	•	e			Daniel B. Snipes
R. Gary Spencer	•	•			R. Gary Spencer

Standing Board Policy 300 (Board Attendance Policy)

An elected member of the Board of Governors shall attend at least 50 percent (50%) of the Board meetings held during the Bar year, unless his/her attendance is otherwise excused by the secretary. The burden of seeking and establishing an excused absence shall be upon the Board member. A written request to the Secretary for an excused absence shall be made within thirty (30) days prior to or after the missed meeting. **Should an elected Board member fail to meet the attendance requirement, the position shall become vacant, and the president of the State Bar shall fill the unexpired term by appointment.**

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Javoyne Hicks (javoyne@statebarofga@gmail.com).

	6-24 Saturday	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25 Friday
	Annelia Island	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Sawgrass
H. Craig Stafford	u	•			H. Craig Stafford
Lawton E. Stephens	•	e			Lawton E. Stephens
Donna Coleman Stribling	•	e			Donna Coleman Stribling
Joseph C. Sumner, Jr.	•	u			Joseph C. Sumner, Jr.
Jason W. Swindle	•	u			Jason W. Swindle
Anita W. Thomas	•	e			Anita W. Thomas
Stephen Elliot Tillman	•	•			Stephen Elliot Tillman
Edward D. Tolley	e	u			Edward D. Tolley
Clayton Tomlinson	•	•			Clayton Tomlinson
Chris P. Twyman	•	•			Christopher Paul Twyman
Martin E. Valbuena	•	•			Martin E. Valbuena
J. Henry Walker	•	u			J. Henry Walker
Janice M. Wallace	•	•			Janice M. Wallace
Amy Carol Walters	•	•			Amy Carol Walters
Andrew Jackson Welch, III	•	e			Andrew Jackson Welch, III
Nancy J. Whaley	•	•			Nancy J. Whaley
Paige Reese Whitaker	•	e			Paige Reese Whitaker
Martha Wilson Williams	•	•			Martha Wilson Williams
Robert D. Wolf	•	e			Robert D. Wolf
Douglas Woodruff	•	•			Douglas Woodruff
• - attended meeting					
• - attended virtually					
e - excused absence					
u - unexcused absence					

Standing Board Policy 300 (Board Attendance Policy)

An elected member of the Board of Governors shall attend at least 50 percent (50%) of the Board meetings held during the Bar Year, unless his/her attendance is otherwise excused by the secretary. The burden of seeking and establishing an excused absence shall be upon the Board member. A written request to the Secretary for an excused absence shall be made within thirty (30) days prior to or after the missed meeting. **Should an elected Board member fail to meet the attendance requirement, the position shall become vacant, and the president of the State Bar shall fill the unexpired term by appointment.**

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Javoyne Hicks (javoyne@statebarofga@gmail.com).



State Bar of Georgia

Future Meetings Schedule

Executive Committee

Feb. 20, 2025		Executive Committee Meeting Reception w/Local Bar Association Macon, GA (Contract Pending)
April 25, 2025		Executive Committee Meeting Lunch w/Local Bar Association Swainsboro, GA (Contract Pending)
August 20-22, 2025		Supreme Court/EC Joint Meeting Cloudland at McLemore Resort, Rising Fawn, GA (Contract Pending)

Board of Governors

Midyear 2025	January 9-12, 2025	JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District Savannah, GA
Spring 2025	March 21-23, 2025	Hyatt Place Athens Hotel & The Classic Center Athens, GA (Contract Pending)
Annual 2025	June 5-8, 2025	Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Midyear 2026	January 14-17, 2026	Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta Atlanta, GA (Contract Pending)
Annual 2026	June 11-14, 2026	Omni Amelia Island Resort Fernandina Beach, FL

Young Lawyers Division

Midyear 2025	January 9-12, 2025	JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District Savannah, GA In conjunction with the State Bar Midyear Meeting
Spring 2025	March 28-30, 2025	Kimpton Aertson Hotel, Nashville, TN
Annual 2025	June 5-8, 2025	Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Annual 2026	June 11-14, 2026	Omni Amelia Island Resort Fernandina Beach, FL

(Updated 11.11.24)



Future Meetings Schedule

American Bar Association Meetings

Annual 2025	August 6-12, 2025	Toronto, ON
-------------	-------------------	-------------

Southern Conference of Bar Presidents Meetings

2025	South Carolina	October 5-7, 2025	Charleston, South Carolina
------	----------------	-------------------	----------------------------

2026	Alabama		
------	---------	--	--

2027	Maryland		
------	----------	--	--

(Updated 11.11.24)



State Bar of Georgia

To: Bar Officers/Finance Committee

From: Ron Turner *RT*

Date: November 25, 2024

Re: October 2024 Financial Statements-Bar Operations and Bar Center

Attached please find the October 2024 financial statements. These financial statements are presented at a summary level for clarity and to convey overall trends. Full departmental detail is attached at year-end (6/30) and upon request.

Line item variance explanations follow. Department managers are expected to specify savings elsewhere in their budgets when exceeding a line item, unless there was a budgeting error. Line item variances < **\$1,000** are not explained to conserve your time.

New and revised items are highlighted in bold.

Savings will be realized in each department to offset these overages.

Administration

Computer hardware costs have exceeded the budget by \$1,156 primarily due to the purchase of monitors, scanners and a printer for the Membership Department that were not originally budgeted for.

Office of General Counsel

Computer hardware is in excess of the budget by **\$1,932** due to the purchase of a computer **along with two monitors** by the department that were not budgeted for.

Communications

The Bar has incurred **\$155,145** in charges associated with the redesign of the Bar's website. A budgeted amount was intentionally not included in the operating budget of the Bar as monies from unallocated cash will be used to fund this expenditure. This new website became operational in September 2024.

Tifton

The Bar incurred \$42,027 in costs associated with new furniture for the Tifton office. This furniture includes 12 tables with integrated power units, 2 tables without power units and 28 chairs for the main conference room. A budgeted amount was intentionally not included in the operating budget of the Bar as monies from unallocated cash were used to fund this expenditure.

Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)

Computer hardware has exceeded the budget primarily due to the purchase of six laptop computers that are being used as travel laptops for use in registrations for continuing education classes primarily outside of the office.

Membership Database Project

Similar to the Bar's website project, the Bar elected to update the membership database which was originally installed approximately 14 years ago. With this update, it is the intention to strengthen security to have this database in the cloud. A budget was not established intentionally as monies from unallocated cash will also be used to fund this expenditure. This project also was operational in September 2024.

Other Bar Center Operations

Audio and video equipment for the Bar is in excess of the budget by approximately **\$48,300** primarily because the Bar incurred charges associated with the installation of new poke thru devices in meeting rooms 3 and 5 to provide additional electrical capabilities in these rooms **along with a remote clicker**. The upgrade of the poke through devices was intentionally not included in the operating budget of the Bar Center as monies from unallocated cash were used to fund this expenditure.

The Bar incurred unbudgeted building rehab costs of approximately **\$460,500** for the following items: (1) lease buildout costs for a tenant to enter into a lease renewal for the occupation of space on the 6th floor in the amount of approximately **\$35,000** (2) approximately \$61,600 in costs paid for work done on electrical panels in order to replace the old electrical panels (3) approximately \$334,100 for flooring for the 1st and 3rd floors along with the sub-basement **(4) approximately \$18,000 in costs associated with a potential move of the Office of General Counsel within the building and (5) approximately \$12,000 of other costs for additional wi-fi access and additional electrical installation costs**. The resources in unallocated cash are being used to fund these costs.

Shared Office Overhead

Actual shared office expenses incurred exceed the allocation of these expenses to various departments and organizations by approximately **\$89,500**. Various expenses were incurred during the first portion of the fiscal year that are not incurred throughout the entire fiscal year. This number will fluctuate throughout the year.

Please give me a call at (404) 527-8748 or my cell number at 678-761-5889 if you have any questions regarding the attached financial statements.

cc: Damon Elmore
Paula Frederick
Russ Willard
Sarah Coole

State Bar of Georgia
Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures
Operations and Bar Center Combined
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	Year Ending 06/30/2024	Year To Date October 31, 2024	% of Budget	Year Ending 06/30/2025
	Actual	Actual		Annual Budget
Membership Numbers				
Active Members	42,194	42,171	98.77 %	42,695
Inactive Members	8,017	7,757	98.88 %	7,845
Provisional Members	18	15	75.00 %	20
Associates/Affiliates	14	13	100.00 %	10
Foreign Legal Consultants	10	9	100.00 %	9
Students	520	450	95.74 %	470
Emeritus	4,617	4,717	102.88 %	4,585
Total Membership Numbers	55,390	55,132	99.10 %	55,634
Revenue				
Dues Active	10,957,918	11,122,112	98.67 %	11,271,480
Dues Inactive	1,067,188	1,034,343	99.88 %	1,035,540
Dues Provisional	16,932	9,108	76.67 %	11,880
Dues Associates	1,750	500	50.00 %	1,000
Dues Foreign Legal Consultant	2,448	2,376	100.00 %	2,376
Dues Late Fees	256,000	200,557	75.68 %	265,000
Dues NSF Check Fee	120	100	50.00 %	200
Dues Prior Years	5,705	4,106	68.43 %	6,000
Total License and Dues	12,308,061	12,373,202	98.25 %	12,593,476
Program Registration Income	4,790,586	1,056,310	24.01 %	4,400,000
Section Expense Reimbursement	301,039	320,694	100.00 %	320,694
CSF Expense Reimbursement	73,000	24,333	33.33 %	73,000
Advertising and Sales	45,389	25,581	97.54 %	26,225
Membership Income	165,617	66,395	37.55 %	176,800
Credit Card Processing Fees	107,601	44,211	41.32 %	107,000
Interest Income	454,907	230,768	83.92 %	275,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	21,581	134	0.61 %	22,000
Total Bar Revenue	18,267,781	14,141,628	78.59 %	17,994,195
Total Bar Expenses	17,723,696	6,416,833	33.28 %	19,282,420
SBG Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 544,085	\$ 7,724,795	(599.65) %	\$ (1,288,225)

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expenses are excluded from this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures
Operations and Bar Center Combined
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	Year Ending 06/30/2024 Actual	Year To Date October 31, 2024 Actual	% of Budget	Year Ending 06/30/2025 Annual Budget
Total Bar Center Operations Revenue	3,314,107	1,186,516	42.03 %	2,822,960
Total Bar Center Operations Expenses	3,454,316	1,421,195	53.12 %	2,675,204
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (140,209) \$	(234,679)	(158.83) %	\$ 147,756
Combined Revenue	21,581,888	15,328,145	73.63 %	20,817,155
Combined Expenses	21,178,012	7,838,029	35.70 %	21,957,624
Total Combined Net Income (Loss)	\$ 403,876 \$	7,490,116	(656.76) %	\$ (1,140,469)

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expenses are excluded from this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Total Bar Center Operations
Revenues and Expenditures - Executive Summary
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	Current Month Actual	Month % of Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD % of Budget	Budget	Remaining Balance of Budget	Prior Year
Bar Center Income and Cash Receipts							
Bar Center Assessments	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	200	200	0
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	0	0.00 %	140,304	0.00 %	0	(140,304)	263,476
CCLC Contributions to Bar Center	0	0.00 %	500,000	36.36 %	1,375,000	875,000	1,393,988
Interest and Dividend Income	0	0.00 %	34,597	33.92 %	102,000	67,403	132,667
Bar Center Income and Cash Receipts	\$ 0	0.00 %	\$ 674,901	45.69 %	\$ 1,477,200	\$ 802,299	\$ 1,790,131
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements							
Bond Premium Amortization	0	0.00 %	2,714	15.96 %	17,000	14,286	17,366
Investment Service Fees	0	0.00 %	5,828	26.49 %	22,000	16,172	24,138
Museum and 1st Floor Exhibit	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	6,453
Audio Video, Furniture and Equipment	2,145	37.64 %	54,023	947.77 %	5,700	(48,323)	219,552
Building Rehabilitation	51,603	614.31 %	468,936	5,582.58 %	8,400	(460,536)	726,161
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements	53,748	101.22 %	531,501	1,000.94 %	53,100	(478,401)	993,670
Bar Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (53,748)	(3.77) %	\$ 143,400	10.07 %	\$ 1,424,100	\$ 1,280,700	\$ 796,462
Conference Center Income and Expenses							
Room Rentals and Various Charges	1,214	9.71 %	4,117	32.93 %	12,500	8,384	13,817
Conference Center Operating Expenses	40,678	8.30 %	152,794	31.16 %	490,349	337,555	477,025
Conference Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (39,464)	8.26 %	\$ (148,677)	31.11 %	\$ (477,849)	\$ (329,172)	\$ (463,208)
Rental Income and Expenses							
Rental Income	87,600	11.53 %	319,267	42.01 %	760,000	440,733	926,110
Building Operating Expenses	131,481	7.38 %	612,968	34.40 %	1,781,945	1,168,977	1,692,176
Rental Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (43,881)	4.29 %	\$ (293,701)	28.74 %	\$ (1,021,945)	\$ (728,244)	\$ (766,066)
Parking Income and Expenses							
Parking Income	56,165	9.80 %	188,231	32.84 %	573,260	385,029	584,050
Parking Deck Operating Expenses	48,490	13.86 %	123,931	35.43 %	349,810	225,879	291,446
Parking Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ 7,675	3.43 %	\$ 64,300	28.78 %	\$ 223,450	\$ 159,150	\$ 292,603
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (129,418)	(87.69) %	\$ (234,679)	(158.83) %	\$ 147,756	\$ 382,435	\$ (140,209)

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expense and gain/loss on disposal of fixed assets are excluded from this schedule.
 Created on 11/19/2024
 State Bar of Georgia

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Revenues				
Dues - Active	\$ 11,122,112	\$ 11,271,480	98.67 %	\$ 10,957,918
Dues - Inactive	1,034,343	1,035,540	99.88 %	1,067,188
Dues - Provisional	9,108	11,880	76.67 %	16,932
Dues - Misc. Types	2,876	3,376	85.19 %	4,198
Dues - Late Fees	204,763	271,200	75.50 %	261,825
Total Dues & Licenses	12,373,202	12,593,476	98.25 %	12,308,061
Program Registration Income	1,056,310	4,400,000	24.01 %	4,790,586
Section Expense Reimbursement	320,694	320,694	100.00 %	301,039
CSF Expense Reimbursement	24,333	73,000	33.33 %	73,000
Advertising and Sales	25,581	26,225	97.54 %	45,389
Membership Income	26,870	82,200	32.69 %	76,992
Pro Hac Vice	112,625	430,000	26.19 %	410,525
Pro Hac Vice Contra	(73,100)	(335,400)	21.79 %	(321,900)
Credit Card Processing Fees	44,211	107,000	41.32 %	107,601
Interest Income	230,768	275,000	83.92 %	454,907
Miscellaneous Revenues	134	22,000	0.61 %	21,581
Total Revenues	14,141,628	17,994,195	78.59 %	18,267,781
Expenses				
Administration	1,021,535	2,924,908	34.93 %	2,772,737
General Counsel	1,729,073	5,094,921	33.94 %	4,688,270
Communications	429,908	920,402	46.71 %	1,176,662
Lawyer's Assistance Program	77,500	155,000	50.00 %	125,000
Fee Arbitration	192,472	594,971	32.35 %	544,647
Law Practice Management	125,127	528,234	23.69 %	455,563
Sections	106,428	320,694	33.19 %	306,746
Savannah Office	102,118	316,729	32.24 %	306,971
Tifton Office	98,301	185,013	53.13 %	164,659
Young Lawyers	152,889	449,090	34.04 %	420,015
Unauthorized Practice of Law	337,127	994,864	33.89 %	942,450
Law Related Education	148,264	448,085	33.09 %	420,300
High School Mock Trial	32,121	182,067	17.64 %	167,484
ICLE	1,190,751	4,393,900	27.10 %	3,848,996

Note: For Total Other Expenses, the details can be found on the next page.

Created on 11/22/2024
State Bar of Georgia

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Pro Bono	70,738	212,216	33.33 %	212,216
Fastcase	226,124	455,000	49.70 %	297,471
Officers' Expenses	10,320	102,470	10.07 %	79,023
Resource Center Contribution	55,166	55,166	100.00 %	55,166
Total Other Expenses	221,411	948,690	23.34 %	857,373
Unallocated Services	89,461	0	0.00 %	(118,053)
Total Expenses	6,416,833	19,282,420	33.28 %	17,723,696
Net Income	\$ 7,724,795	\$ (1,288,225)	(599.65) %	\$ 544,085

Note: For Total Other Expenses, the details can be found on the next page.
Created on 11/22/2024
State Bar of Georgia

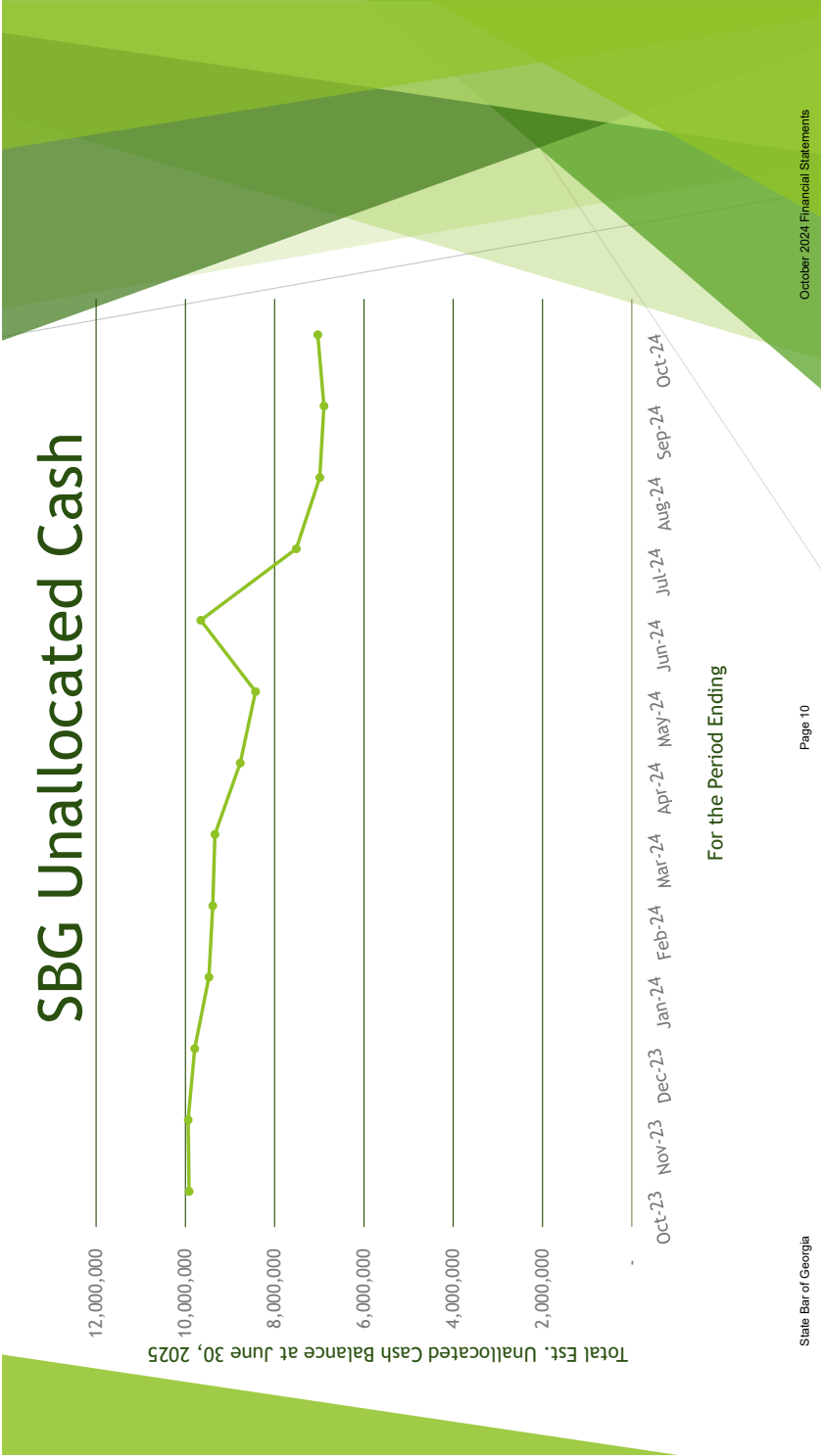
State Bar of Georgia
Supporting Schedule of Other Expenses - YTD
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Other Expenses				
BOG and Member Meetings	\$ 5,581	\$ 588,200	0.95 %	\$ 530,767
Supreme Court Meetings	58,392	75,000	77.86 %	79,023
Executive Committee Meetings	25,382	42,000	60.43 %	7,681
Court of Appeals Meetings	600	20,000	3.00 %	0
State Disciplinary Board Lawyers	10,500	31,500	33.33 %	30,000
Electronic Ballots	0	20,000	0.00 %	17,674
Dues Notice	6,546	45,990	14.23 %	34,148
Letters of Good Standing	681	2,500	27.25 %	1,713
Bar Membership Cards	4,083	11,000	37.12 %	9,728
50 Year Certificates	21	6,000	0.35 %	4,670
Membership Database Project	56,429	0	0.00 %	57,912
State Bar Committees	2,413	20,000	12.07 %	16,070
Georgia Diversity Program	10,000	10,000	100.00 %	10,000
ABA Delegate Breakfast	1,305	2,500	52.21 %	2,116
Commitment to Equality Awards	2,500	2,500	100.00 %	2,500
Bond Premium Amortization	7,614	29,000	26.26 %	22,811
Investment Service Fees	29,364	35,000	83.90 %	29,958
Access to Justice/Pro Bono	0	7,500	0.00 %	601
Total Other Expenses	\$ 221,411	\$ 948,690	23.34 %	\$ 857,372

State Bar of Georgia
Status and Use of Cash and Investments
For the Current Period Ending October 31, 2024

	Current Month (October 2024)	Ending of Prior Fiscal Year (June 2024)	Dollar Change	% Increase/ Decrease
Cash and Investments - Bar	\$ 41,581,230			
Less:				
CCLC Cash and Investments Included in Above Amount	(5,481,312)			
Unrealized (Gain)/Loss in Investments	(682,608)			
Net Cash Available for State Bar	35,417,310			
Use of Cash:				
Less:				
Board Designated - See Separate Schedule Attached	(9,314,761)			
Donor Temporarily Restricted - See Separate Schedule Attached	(3,781,599)			
Total Board Designated and Temporarily Restricted	(13,096,360)			
Other - Cash Allocated:				
Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable	129,854			
Payment of Accounts Payable	(311,074)			
Payment of Accrued Vacation	(593,724)			
Deferred Income	(114,494)			
Payment of Credit Card Bill	(227,859)			
Payment of Accrued Salary	(687,895)			
Payment of Accrued Taxes	(52,624)			
Payment of Other Accrued Expenses (primarily pension)	(199,424)			
Payment to Client Security Fund	(3,315,175)			
Operational Expenses for Remaining Bar Year	(12,637,128)			
Additional Revenue for Bar Operations (Excluding Bar Center)	3,852,567			
Net Amount to be paid to Related Entities	(230,961)			
Total Other - Cash Allocated	(14,387,937)			
Anticipated Use of Unauthorized Cash - Bar Operations	(39,751)			
Estimated Cash and Investments - June 30, 2025 - Bar	7,893,262	9,818,381	(1,925,119)	-20%
Cash and Investments - Bar Center	327,031			
Other Cash Allocated - Bar Center:				
Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable	22,735			
Payment of Accounts Payable	(30,439)			
Deferred Income	(26,432)			
Payment of Other Accrued Expenses	(74,679)			
Additional Expenses for Bar Center Operations	(136,352)			
Total Other - Cash Allocated - Bar Center	(245,167)			
Anticipated Use of Unauthorized Cash - Bar Center Operations	(941,654)			
Estimated Cash and Investments June 30, 2025 - Bar Center	(859,790)	(160,919)	(698,871)	-434%
Total Estimated Cash Balance at June 30, 2025	\$ 7,033,472	\$ 9,657,462	(2,623,990)	-27%

Note: The above schedule reflects the status of cash and investments as of the month end indicated above. There are no other State Bar funds or investments held in any institution that are not included on this schedule. Also included in the above are the following assumptions: (1) Actual expenses for 2024 - 2025 would be 97.5% of budget. This is for Bar operations only and not Bar Center. (2) Additional revenue for Bar operations is based upon the assumption of achieving additional revenue through June 30, 2025 to equal 100% of the total budgeted revenue. (3) Bar Center would contribute additional cash flow or pay additional expenses through June 30, 2025 to equal their budget.



State Bar of Georgia
Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2024	October 31, 2024
Board Designated				
Board Designated - General Operations - Bar	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,750,000
Board Designated - General Operations - Bar Center	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Litigation	300,000	300,000	300,000	261,506
Board Designated - Sections	3,677,156	3,664,312	3,745,183	4,237,178
YLD Meetings	88,929	77,999	49,795	66,077
Total Board-Designated excludes ICLE	\$ 8,816,085	\$ 8,792,311	\$ 8,844,978	\$ 9,314,761
Donor Temporarily Restricted				
Legislative	\$ 1,503,629	\$ 1,806,483	\$ 2,423,119	\$ 3,194,333
Law Related Education/Marshall fund	212,684	207,599	192,396	180,052
High School Mock Trial	18,617	15,299	17,481	27,738
Basics Program	115,094	116,951	121,963	124,174
Younger Lawyers	87,006	87,199	126,603	166,868
Lawyers Assistance	33,188	31,863	33,229	33,832
Georgia Diversity Program	46,528	13,555	6,374	207
Bar Media Conference	13,037	3,115	1,523	1,331
Law Day	6,266	6,212	6,317	6,432
Access to Justice	1,435	3,175	19,993	20,355
Promote Inclusion	8,842	8,701	5,924	8,555
Military Vet Pro Bono	14,240	14,481	15,101	15,374
Justice Portraits	1,006	1,022	1,066	1,086
Center for Lawyer Well-Being	0	0	0	1,261
Total Donor Temporarily Restricted	\$ 2,061,572	\$ 2,315,655	\$ 2,971,089	\$ 3,781,598
Net Board Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted	\$ 10,877,657	\$ 11,107,967	\$ 11,816,068	\$ 13,096,360

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions
With Contributions Paid Through October 31, 2024

Dues	2024-25 Dues Season	2023-24 Dues Season	2022-23 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	50,114	49,695	49,400
Active - Number Paid	42,509	42,632	42,018
Inactive - Number Paid	7,895	8,237	8,341
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	50,404	50,869	50,359
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	100.6%	102.4%	101.9%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	8,608	9,091	8,482
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	17.1%	17.9%	16.8%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 817,866	\$ 862,990	\$ 803,415
Average Amount Paid	\$ 95	\$ 95	\$ 95

Legislative Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2024 - 2025	<u>\$ 817,866</u>
2023 - 2024	<u>\$ 862,990</u>
2022 - 2023	<u>\$ 803,415</u>
2021 - 2022	<u>\$ 760,350</u>
2020 - 2021	<u>\$ 766,123</u>
2019 - 2020	<u>\$ 322,708</u>
2018 - 2019	<u>\$ 494,906</u>
2017 - 2018	<u>\$ 546,905</u>
2016 - 2017	<u>\$ 557,991</u>
2015 - 2016	<u>\$ 565,004</u>

Purpose: The purpose of the above schedule is to reflect donations to the Legislative Fund for each period shown. The information reflects the total number of members who have made a contribution along with applicable percentages.

The number of members above reflect the members who paid during the dues season indicated above. The dues season does not correspond to the fiscal year but starts in advance of the fiscal year. In addition, if members change status (active, inactive, emeritus, etc), this change will be reflected in the membership counts at month end but will not be reflected in the above schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)
With Contributions Paid Through October 31, 2024

Dues	2024-25 Dues Season	2023-24 Dues Season	2022-23 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	50,114	49,695	49,400
Active - Number Paid	42,509	42,632	42,018
Inactive - Number Paid	7,895	8,237	8,341
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	50,404	50,869	50,359
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	100.6%	102.4%	101.9%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	3,436	3,575	3,539
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 484,331	\$ 490,605	\$ 483,850
Average Contribution Amount	\$ 141	\$ 137	\$ 137

GLSP Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2024 - 2025	<u>\$ 484,331</u>
2023 - 2024	<u>\$ 490,605</u>
2022 - 2023	<u>\$ 483,850</u>
2021 - 2022	<u>\$ 478,287</u>
2020 - 2021	<u>\$ 436,815</u>
2019 - 2020	<u>\$ 366,674</u>
2018 - 2019	<u>\$ 295,454</u>
2017 - 2018	<u>\$ 312,251</u>
2016 - 2017	<u>\$ 276,487</u>
2015 - 2016	<u>\$ 264,492</u>

Purpose: The purpose of the above schedule is to reflect donations to the Georgia Legal Services Program for each period shown. The information reflects the total number of members who have made a contribution along with applicable percentages.

The number of members shown above is not the same as the number of members at the end of the month. The number of members above reflect the members who paid during the dues season indicated above. The dues season does not correspond to the fiscal year but starts in advance of the fiscal year. In addition, if members change status (active, inactive, emeritus, etc), this change will be reflected in the membership counts at month end but will not be reflected in the above schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement
For the Current Period Ending October 31, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,423,119
Income:	
Interest and Dividend Income	10,547
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	42,774
Miscellaneous Income	813,387
Total Income	866,708
Expenditures:	
Staff and Contract Lobbyists	83,074
Grassroots Efforts	146
Travel	599
Shared Office Allocation	7,224
Computer Hardware	1,266
Miscellaneous	3,185
Total Expenditures	95,494
Net Donor Temporarily Restricted Balance	\$ 3,194,333

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Client Security Fund Activity
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2024

	2022 June 30	2023 June 30	2024 June 30	October 31, 2024
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,798,187	\$ 1,634,260	\$ 2,212,202	\$ 2,782,908
Income:				
Interest and Dividend Income	26,218	33,117	44,364	11,856
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	(79,620)	19,577	92,242	48,083
Client Security Fund Assessments	77,590	751,680	760,050	751,050
Restitution Income	85,621	18,445	821	4,865
Total Income	\$ 109,809	\$ 822,819	\$ 897,477	\$ 815,854
Expenses:				
Restricted Expenses	73,000	73,000	73,000	24,333
Client Security Fund Claims Payments	186,737	159,879	239,968	256,327
Bond Premium Amortization	8,444	4,288	5,737	930
Investment Service Fees	5,555	7,710	8,066	1,998
Total Expenses	\$ 273,736	\$ 244,877	\$ 326,771	\$ 283,588
Net Income	\$ (163,927)	\$ 577,942	\$ 570,706	\$ 532,266
Fund Balance, End of Period	\$ 1,634,260	\$ 2,212,202	\$ 2,782,908	\$ 3,315,175



January 11, 2024

Dear Board of Governors,

I am excited to share the happenings of the YLD as the organization's 78th president. The YLD is building on the successes of our predecessors to continually increase engagement and involvement of our members. The YLD has over 10,000 members—which is a staggering number, but we continue to promote the YLD so that our members take advantage of the benefits of the State Bar of Georgia.

The YLD is in full swing and hosting events for our members. Intentionally, we have encouraged new member involvement with “new” faces added to leadership of some of the YLD committees—which we have more than 30 different committees including a few new ones this year based on areas of interest. We continue to reach out to leaders to join our committees across the state of Georgia.

As I mentioned at previous meetings, our goal for this Bar year is to continue to make service our top priority, increase engagement with the YLD, and encourage young lawyers to develop their professional brand. So far, we have done just that. During the Fall, the YLD Community Service Committee volunteered with Trees Atlanta for a tree planting activity; the YLD Litigation Committee hosted “When in Rome,” a panel discussion with Georgia Supreme Court Justice Verda Colvin, Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey A. Watkins, and Floyd County Superior Court Judge John E. Niedrach; the YLD Law School Outreach Committee hosted “Spooktacular Strategies: Navigating the Law without fear,” a conversation with Georgia Supreme Court Justice Carla Wong-McMillan, Houston County Probate Judge Kristen Warren Harris, Houston County Chief Assistant District Attorney Eric Z. Edwards, and Attorney Kevin B. Hicks; and the YLD Solo Practice/Small Firm Committee hosted “Building Your Brand with Purpose,” where panelists Attorney Justin Miller, Attorney Dayna Thomas, and Attorney Jason Wiggam discussed effective strategies for developing your practice. We also selected our 2025 YLD Leadership Academy Class and hosted our annual YLD Leadership Academy Alumni Luncheon at Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta.

The 2025 YLD Signature Fundraiser will be held on March 8, 2025, at Truist Park in the Hank Aaron Terrace. The 2025 Signature Fundraiser beneficiary will be the Public Interest Internship Program, which had more than 70 applicants last year for only four scholarships. We will also present a YLD Signature Service Award and present a Lifetime Achievement Award. We are excited about this event and welcome everyone to come and support.

The YLD Spring Meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from March 27-29, 2025. This meeting is our only standalone session. During the Spring Meeting, we will have our YLD General Session, a CLE, and a community service event. The CLE will be about the ELVIS (Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security) Act, which is the first enacted legislation in the US specifically designed to protect musicians from the unauthorized use of their voices through Artificial Intelligence technologies. The service event will be in conjunction with Vanderbilt Law School.

I want to give a special shoutout to YLD members: Alec Chappell, Jena Emory, and Siena Gaddy who have done a fantastic job with the YLD Newsletter; Frank Gaddy, Javarus Gresham, Kayla Kudratt, Serreen Meki, Shannon Schoultz, Iyana Smith, and Terrell Thomas who are spearheading our Signature Fundraiser event; and Leadership Academy Co-Chairs James Banter, Samantha Mullis, and Kelsie Speight who have planned a great year for our 2025 YLD Leadership Academy Class.

YLD COMMITTEES

The YLD has more than 30 committees working to support our motto of service to the community and profession. Each committee works diligently to provide substantive programming in their respective focus areas. Below are some of the events, activities, and accomplishments of our YLD committees this year:

YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee

Ashley Horton, Danielle Simpson, and Zipporah Tillman, Co-Chairs

The YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee will host a virtual panel during our monthly meeting on October 25 at 12 p.m. Panelists will discuss volunteer opportunities with organizations such as Appleseed and the Truancy Intervention Project.

In January, we will hold a networking event following the Child Protection & Advocacy Law Section's annual meeting. The event will occur near the Bar Center, with the exact date to be confirmed, likely in the latter half of January.

In March, we will collaborate with the Sports Law Committee for a kickball game during the Spring YLD meeting.

YLD Community Service Projects Committee

Lyddy O'Brien and Taylor Wilson, Co-Chairs

The YLD Community Service Projects Committee will organize a food bank volunteer day in Atlanta and Macon on November 16, 2024. Lyddy will coordinate activities in Atlanta, and Taylor will handle the Macon location. We encourage young lawyers to register in advance to volunteer for approximately three hours at designated food banks. Volunteers will assist with tasks such as inventory management, organization, and food preparation. We also request that volunteers bring at least one food item for donation. Our next steps include creating a flyer, developing an interest form, estimating volunteer numbers, and coordinating with food banks regarding volunteer space and time.

Additionally, we are exploring a one-day service opportunity with Trees Atlanta and local soup kitchens. We are also planning a donation drive in partnership with the high school mock trial team for children in foster care, though the start date is yet to be determined. Furthermore, we will follow up with several YLD committees, including judicial law clerk, child advocacy, and women in the profession, about co-sponsoring service events.

YLD Corporate Counsel Committee

Javier Becerra, Blair Weatherly and Tayah Woodard, Co-Chairs

The YLD Corporate Counsel Committee held our first Committee Meeting on Wednesday September 11, 2024, at 12:30 PM via Zoom. During this meeting, there were introductions of the Co-Chairs and Committee members, a discussion of the events being planned for the year, and of what the committee members hoped to see prioritized this year. We will continue to have monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30PM via zoom with the hope of incorporating a few in-person if possible. Events that are being planned include speakers during the meetings and/or virtual lunch and learns, a panel discussion, and networking hours. The committee members expressed the desire for information on the process of moving into an in-house position, resources when doing so, and for more networking opportunities with other in-house counsel, so we intend to make that our focus for the year. The next event that is being planned is for a virtual speaker / Q&A session for November, with more specific details to come.

YLD Criminal Law Committee

Shaniqua Christian and Devin Rafus, Co-Chairs

The YLD Criminal Law Committee will co-host a social networking event titled "Judges Aren't So Scary" on October 23 at Arora Law Firm. The event will feature distinguished guests such as Justice Andrew Pinson, Judge Elizabeth McBath, Judge Sara Doyle, Judge Robert C.I. McBurney, Judge Scott McAfee, Judge Kimberly Childs, Judge Shondeana Morris, Judge Stacey K. Hydrick, Judge Ashley Drake, and Judge William S. Duffey.

YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee

Katie Rose Martin, Chair

The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee has held two monthly meetings via Zoom. We have put out an August Rule of the Month on social media and will be posting a Rule of the Month on the third Wednesday of every month. At the Fall Meeting in Jekyll Island, there will be a CLE titled "Social Media Smarts: Ethical Hacks, Bar Rules and How to Stay Off the Disciplinary Radar," which will provide one Ethics credit.

YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee

Chelsey B. Haun and Markus L. Russell, Co-Chairs

The YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee will hold a Lunch and Learn featuring Cobb County Probate Court Hearing Officer Stephanie Carmen, who will provide an overview of the process for filing and obtaining Letters of Guardianship and/or Conservatorship for minor and adult wards. This event will be held on August 19 from 12 to 1 p.m. Written materials and/or CLE credit may be offered, pending confirmation. We will also be hosting a Lunch and Learn on September 16 from 12 to 1 p.m. Quinn Kasper, a magistrate court judge, will speak on the roles of court-appointed attorneys or guardians ad litem and logistics for serving in such roles within the Guardianship and Conservatorship processes.

YLD Family Law Committee

Emily Long and Jonathan Stoye, Co-Chairs

The YLD Family Law Committee is planning several events, including Supreme Cork (date TBD), TPO Clinic (date TBD), and Lunch and Learn CLEs on jury trials in family law and hearing preparation. Dates for these events will be confirmed.

YLD Federal Law Subcommittee

Chase Duvall, Chair

The YLD Federal Law Subcommittee will conduct our first virtual committee meeting to discuss plans for a virtual CLE and networking events in September.

YLD Inclusion in the Profession Committee

Shannon Schoultz, Demarius Newsome, Kier Prince, and Shannon Schoultz, Co-Chairs

The YLD Inclusion in the Profession Committee held our monthly committee meeting via Zoom on August 15, 2024, at 6 p.m. We discussed the committee's vision, upcoming YLD meetings, and brainstormed event ideas. Our next meeting will be on September 19.

YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee

Chelsea Henderson and Megan Howerter, Co-Chairs

The YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee will hold planning meetings on August 9 and September 13, both at 12:00 p.m. The competition will take place at the State Bar of Georgia on April 4-5,

and we are seeking volunteers.

YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee

Tate Crymes, Mallory Fleming, and Devon Holloway, Co-Chairs

The YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee plans to host a hike with the Wellness Committee in late September or early October, a judicial opinion writing CLE in January, and a park cleanup day with the Community Service Committee in April. We are also available to assist other committees with inviting judges to their events if needed.

YLD Law School Outreach Committee

Chelsea Dease, Farheen "Lina" Khan, and Emily Walker, Co-Chairs

The YLD Law School Outreach Committee has volunteers signed up for the Black Students Retreat on September 13-14, 2024, taking place at the Bar Headquarters. We are currently in coordination phase of events at each of Georgia's five law schools. We have two events in the works at Mercer, GSU Bar Association Fair on October 9th, and a spring panel at UGA and Emory. We are following up with John Marshall and we have also reached out to the YLD Women in the Profession Committee and Workers' Compensation Committee and look forward to hosting events with them!

YLD Litigation Committee

Carlos Fernández, Morgan Lyndall, and Holly Stephens, Co-Chairs

The YLD Litigation Committee's standing committee meetings are scheduled for the second Friday of each month from 9:00 to 9:15 a.m.

We will travel to Rome (location TBD) on October 17, 2024, to hear from North Georgia judges about ethics and professionalism in judicial decision-making.

We will partner with the YLD Criminal Law Committee and the Atlanta Bar Association's Criminal Law Section for a Halloween-themed "Judges Aren't So Scary" social hour on October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. This event will take place at Arora Law Firm, 75 W Wieuca Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30342.

We plan to hold an event on November 14, 2024, focusing on marketing strategies for young lawyers. This event, featuring Noy Media Group, will take place at Noy Media Group, 914 Howell Mill Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318, and will be followed by a networking happy hour at Culinary Dropout. Further details will be shared soon.

Our committee will also offer 3-4 virtual practical skills sessions throughout the Bar year, starting in November. These sessions will cover topics such as effective expert witness depositions, distinguishing oneself as an associate, preserving the record for appeal, and the path to the bench. We will announce dates, topics, and speakers as they are confirmed.

Finally, the Litigation Committee plans to collaborate with the Business Law Committee to host an event on business litigation in the spring. Additional information will be provided early next year.

YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee (PIIP)

Arthur Bailin and Keona Blunt, Co-Chairs

The YLD Public Interest internship Program Committee is currently planning the solicitation of scholarship applications for the Public Interest Internship Program.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee

Morgan Boulineau and Erika Harris Fritz, Co-Chairs

The YLD Real Estate Committee held a meeting on August 29, where members discussed ideas for monthly meetings and potential partnerships with the Georgia Bar Real Estate Section for the midyear and annual meetings. No events are scheduled currently.

YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee

Colin Adebayo, Angie Holloway and Michael Thompson, Co-Chairs

The YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee is set up for a strong year this year. We have already added some new members from different parts of the state and different practice areas, and we hope to increase the membership through a mix of in-person and virtual events this coming year. Our goal is to develop and put forth a curriculum tailored to helping lawyers in solo or small firms in every facet of the business.

For September, we are having a virtual meeting that will include an introduction of the co-chairs, an outline of the programming for the year, fielding ideas from the committee members, and learning more about the needs of the membership.

For October, we are planning a virtual webinar that will center around the early stages of a new law firm's operation, i.e. how to get the firm off the ground and set up for success. The panel will include a law firm consultant and one or two lawyers who have opened their own firm.

In November, the committee is partnering with the YLD Litigation Committee to host an in-person event focusing on personal branding in the legal profession. The panel is still being put together, but it almost certainly includes lawyers from a variety of practice areas, firm sizes, and backgrounds to discuss and examine the keys to marketing success and building a brand.

We plan to focus on health and wellness with our December event. For December, we are planning to have an in-person holiday lunch to bring everyone together, celebrate the year end, and discuss ways we can ensure we promote health and wellness for ourselves, our staff, and other lawyers. We intend to have one or two lawyers present regarding how they have focused on health and wellness in the culture and operation of their firms.

YLD Sports Law Committee

Joy Bonner and Caleb Ratliff, Co-Chairs

The YLD Sports Law Committee plans to organize a CLE event with the Atlanta Falcons this fall. In the spring, we will host a CLE on NIL with college administration from Georgia Tech or UGA. Additionally, we will hold our annual kickball game during the Spring YLD meeting in Nashville.

YLD Women in the Profession Committee

Cayton Chrisman, Olivia Mercer and Megan McCulloch, Co-Chairs

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee held our first committee meeting on September 3rd. We are in the process of planning a Meals that Heal event with Ronald McDonald in the first weeks of October.

Other events that are in the works are:

- Mercer 5k for Lauren Giddings (November 16)
- Holiday Mixer (December)
- Valentine's Day – Teen Dating Violence (February)
- International Women's Day (March, likely co-sponsored with GAWL)
- Atlanta United Game (spring, date TBD)"

YLD AFFILIATES

The YLD currently has seven recognized active affiliates around the state: Young Lawyers of Augusta, Cobb County Younger Lawyers Division, Columbus YLD, Glynn County YLD, Houston County YLD, Macon YLD and Savannah YLD. If you know anyone interested in joining the affiliates, please let us know.

YLD MEETINGS

Fall Meeting | Nov. 1-3

Jekyll Island Club Resort

Jekyll Island, Georgia

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

Midyear Meeting | Jan. 9-11

JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District

Savannah, Georgia

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

Spring Meeting | Mar. 28-30

Kimpton Aertson Hotel

Nashville, Tennessee

Annual Meeting | Jun. 5-8

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

I am honored and humbled to have served as the 78th President of the YLD. I appreciate the ongoing support from the Bar leadership and Board of Governors to make this year a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Mitchell Jr.", is positioned to the left of a vertical yellow line.

Kenneth Mitchell Jr.
2024-25 YLD President



CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Members

The Honorable Michael P. Boggs (Chair)
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. M. Lamar Barnett, Jr.
AFLAC
Columbus, Georgia

Associate Dean Michael Scott Boone
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Marie Greene Broder
Griffin Judicial Circuit District Attorney's
Office
Griffin, Georgia

Mr. Ivy N. Cadle
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell &
Berkowitz PC
Macon, Georgia

Professor Nathan S. Chapman
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens, Georgia

Professor Clark D. Cunningham
Georgia State University College of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Anissa D. Floyd
Smurfit Westrock
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Molly Barrett Gillis
The Gillis Law Firm, LLC
Marietta, Georgia

The Honorable Elizabeth D. Gobeil
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

The Honorable Steven D. Grinberg
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Tonja Jacobi
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Francis Johnson
Davis Bozeman Johnson Law
Statesboro, GA

Mrs. Nekia Hackworth Jones
Federal Government
Atlanta, GA

Professor Patrick E. Longan
Mercer University School of Law
Macon, Georgia

The Honorable T. Russell McClelland III
State Court of Forsyth County
Cumming, Georgia

Mr. Kenneth Mitchell Jr.
Cobb County Solicitor General's Office
Marietta, Georgia

Ms. Rizzo O'Connor
Bryant & O'Connor Law Firm
Vidalia, Georgia

The Honorable Benjamin S. Richardson
Chattahoochee Circuit Superior Court
Columbus, Georgia

Ms. Lauren Shuhov
Atlanta Circuit Public Defender's Office
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Cathy Clark Tyler
Atkins Global North America, Inc
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. LaToya Simone Williams
Georgia Public Defender Council
Atlanta, Georgia

Supreme Court of Georgia Advisor
The Honorable Andrew A. Pinson
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Staff
Ms. Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

TO: Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia

FROM: Karlise Yvette Grier
Executive Director, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

DATE: January 11, 2025

RE: Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (Commission), the first body of its kind in the nation, was created in 1989 by the Supreme Court of Georgia. The Commission's primary charge is to enhance professionalism among Georgia's lawyers and judges. **Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs** serves as the current Chair of the Commission. **Justice Andrew A. Pinson** serves as the Supreme Court Advisor to the Commission. You may find a complete list of Commission members, advisors, and liaisons at the Commission's web site at <http://cjcpga.org/commission-members-2023-2024/>. A brief update regarding the Commission's work as of December 6, 2024, is as follows.

THE 25TH ANNUAL JUSTICE ROBERT BENHAM AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Commission, in partnership with the Georgia Legal History Foundation (GLHF), will host the 25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA25) on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. **Ms. LaToya S. Williams** chairs the Benham Awards Planning Committee.

The Commission will provide updates regarding the 25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA25), including information about the award recipients, sponsors, and tickets at the link here:
<https://cjcpga.org/benhamcsa25/>.



GRANT AWARDS FOR PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE LEGAL PROFESSIONALISM

The Commission's Grants Committee, which is chaired by **Ms. Nekia Hackworth Jones**, accepted applications electronically for grants to promote legal professionalism from **June 7, 2024, until July 15, 2024**. At its October 29, 2024, meeting the Grants Committee recommended four (4) grants to the Commission, which the Commission approved. At this time, the Commission is in the process of finalizing grant agreements with the selected grant award recipients and the Commission will announce the recipients by the end of

December 2024. More information regarding the Commission's Grants Program, including a recording of the Grants Program training, is available at <http://cjcpga.org/grants/>.

Lawyer As Witness in Criminal Law Cases CLE

On **December 13, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**, the Commission held a CLE entitled ***"The Lawyer As Witness in Criminal Law Cases."*** The CLE was approved for 2 hours of CLE Credit, including 1 hour of ethics CLE credit, 1 hour of professionalism CLE credit, and 2 hours of trial CLE credit. During the CLE, the panelists were asked to discuss professionalism and ethics issues that lawyers face when serving as a witness in ineffective assistance of counsel hearings and/or as a witness in Brady claim hearings. Mercer University School of Law, **Professor Patrick Longan** and **Professor Meagan Hurley**, drafted hypothetical problems that the panelists were asked to use to discuss the relevant issues during the CLE. The confirmed panelists for the CLE were as follows: **Lisamarie Bristol**, Gwinnett County Solicitor-General; **Katie Elwart**, Founding Attorney, Kathryn R. Elwart, LLC; **Benjamin Goldberg**, Founding Attorney, The Law Office of Ben Goldberg, LLC; **Meghan Hill**, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Section Chief Post Conviction Litigation Section; **Honorable Samir Patel**, Judge, Superior Court, Cherokee Judicial Circuit; **Judge Holly W. Veal**, Judge, Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit; **Leigh Ann Webster**, Partner, Strickland Webster, LLC. The planning team for the CLE was as follows: **Trish McCann Bertram**, Professional Development Director, Georgia Public Defender Council; **Marie G. Broder**, District Attorney, Griffin Judicial Circuit; **Elicia Hargrove**, Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Georgia, Albany Criminal Division; **Lauren Shubow**, Atlanta Circuit Public Defender's Office; **Robert W. Smith, Jr.**, General Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Council; **LaToya S. Williams**, Managing Attorney, East Metro Alternate Defender Office, Georgia Public Defender Council; **Professor Patrick Longan**, William Augustus Bootle Chair in Ethics and Professionalism in the Practice of Law at Mercer University School of Law; **Meagan Hurley**, Assistant Professor of Law, Mercer University School of Law and Karlise Y. Grier. For more information about the CLE, visit: https://cjcpga.org/12-13-24_lawyer_as_witness_cle/.

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM PROJECTS

The Commission staffs the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (Committee), currently chaired by **Mr. Michael Herskowitz**. **Mr. Carlos Vilela** serves as the Committee's Vice-Chair. Some of the Committee's projects during the 23-24 Bar year are summarized below.

CONNECT WITH A COLLEAGUE CONTEST

The Committee's Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee is co-chaired by **Mr. Carlos Vilela** and **Ms. Cathy Hampton**, with staff support from the Commission. **The Connect With A Colleague sub-committee, will hold a Connect With A Colleague Contest from March 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025.** The sub-committee asks Georgia attorneys to submit up to five entries; one for each separate lunch, dinner, coffee or cocktail connection with a colleague outside the attorney's office, firm, or legal organization that occurs between March 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025. The Committee and the Commission thank the current 2025 Connect With A Colleague Contest sponsors who are as follows: **Mr. Jeffrey M. Smith**, Principal Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP for center-court Hawks tickets and **Thompson Hine LLP** for a donation of up to \$350 towards a monetary prize or gift.

For more information about the Connect With A Colleague contest and to find a flyer that you may download and share with your colleagues, please visit <https://cjcpga.org/cwac/>.



JUGGLING LIFE AND PROFESSIONALISM CLE

The State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, with staff support from the Commission, will present a **FREE to attend** CLE via Zoom on **Friday, March 7, 2025**, entitled *Juggling Life and Professionalism*. The planning team for the CLE includes the Speakers and Writers Bureau Sub-Committee co-chairs, Mr. Kevin Patrick and Mr. Michael Pérez, and Karlise Y. Grier. The speakers currently confirmed for the CLE are **Gwendolyn Fortson Waring**, Owner, The Waring Law Firm LLC; **Hon. Wes Taylor**, Judge, State Court of Fulton County; and **Russ Willard**, General Counsel Designate, State Bar of Georgia. **The Honorable Rhonda Kreuziger**, Judge, Griffin Judicial Circuit will serve as the moderator for the panel.

The Commission will post information regarding the CLE as it becomes available at https://cjcpga.org/sbg-cop_life-and-professionalism-cle_03-07-25/



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR LAW DAY 2025

As you plan your May 2025 calendars, please consider scheduling time for a 2025 Law Day activity on a date and at a time and place of your choosing. In 2024, the Law Day sub-committee was pleased that lawyers and/or judges in 7 out of the ten judicial circuits participated in the Bar's Law Day 2024 activities. Additional information about Law Day 2024 is available in an August 2024 Georgia Bar Journal Article written by Denise Warner at the link here: <https://digitaleditions.walsworth.com/publication/?m=15035&i=828375&p=44&ver=html5>.

In 2025, the Law Day sub-committee hopes to have participation for all 10 judicial circuits in a State Bar Law Day activity. The leaders for the State Bar's 2025 Law Day initiative are **the Honorable Ashley Palmer**, Judge, State Court of Cobb County; Attorney **Denise Warner**, Senior Staff Attorney to the Honorable Brian E. Lake, Superior Court of DeKalb County; and Attorney **Marlan J. Eller**, Staff Attorney to Judge Howard C. Kaufold, Jr., Oconee Judicial Circuit. Each year, the State Bar, along with many other bar associations and legal organizations, partner with the American Bar Association to promote Law Day. **The 2025 Law Day Theme is The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One.** The State Bar's Law Day sub-committee will send suggested talking points to volunteers regarding the 2025 Law Day Theme prior to the month of May.

To sign up to volunteer for a Law Day 2025 project or for more information regarding Law Day 2025, please visit: <https://www.gabar.org/law-day>



REPORT REGARDING STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM DURING CAREER TRANSITIONS – PART 2

The State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, with staff support from the Commission, presented a CLE via Zoom on **Friday, October 25, 2024**, entitled *Ethics and Professionalism During Career Transitions*. According to the Zoom report generated for the CLE, the CLE was attended by **653** “Unique Viewers.” The CLE was approved for two CLE hours, including one ethics hour and one professionalism hour. The Commission has reported attendance for **583** Georgia attorneys for CLE credit to the State Bar of Georgia’s Commission on Continuing Legal Education Department. The planning team for the CLE included the Speakers and Writers Bureau Sub-Committee co-chairs, **Mr. Kevin Patrick** and **Mr. Michael Pérez**, along with **Judge Kimberly Ann Alexander**, **Judge Rhonda Bender Kreuziger**, and **Karlise Y. Grier**. The ethics panel, consisting of **Andrea Morrison**, **Sharon Edenfield**, and **Judge Robert McBurney**, discussed issues such as trust account pitfalls, attorney advertising, keeping or leaving clients when moving between firms, and transitioning to the bench. The panel was moderated by **Michael Pérez**. The professionalism panel, consisting of **Sharon Edenfield**, **Cathy Hampton**, **Samantha Beskin-Schemer**, and **Judge Eric Richardson**, discussed forming professional friendships in new environments, mentoring and personal boards of advisors, maintaining or re-building professional community during transitions, and professional and community involvement for lawyers transitioning into practice. The professionalism panel was moderated by **Kenneth “Kenny” Mitchell, Jr.** To view the evaluations from the CLE, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-1Rwhmlr7yE6yPuSyXZed4Q_3D_3D/. To view the written materials and speaker biographies for the CLE, please visit: https://cjcpga.org/ethics-and-professionalism-during-career-transitions_10-25-24/.

PROFESSIONALISM PAGE ARTICLES

The Commission communicates with lawyers and judges through the Professionalism Page that appears in each issue of the Georgia Bar Journal, which is now published four times per year. Many of the Commission’s Professionalism Page articles are available on the Commission’s website at the link here: <https://cjcpga.org/georgia-bar-journal-articles/>.

COMMISSION ASSISTANCE WITH BAR ASSOCIATION AND SECTION PROFESSIONALISM CLE PROGRAMS

The Commission’s Executive Director is available to assist State Bar of Georgia sections, local and voluntary Bar associations, and other law-related organizations with their professionalism CLE programming to ensure the programming is in compliance with the Commission’s *Revised Professionalism CLE Guidelines*, which became effective July 1, 2019. You may find the *Revised Professionalism CLE Guidelines* on the Commission’s website at the link here: <https://cjcpga.org/professionalism-cle-guidelines/>. Please contact the Commission’s Executive Director, **Karlise Y. Grier**, via e-mail at kygrier@cjcpga.org if you would like assistance in planning a professionalism CLE program or if you would like to have her to make a professionalism presentation to your organization.

COMMISSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Commission enjoys communicating with lawyers and judges about professionalism on the Commission's social media platforms and via its website. Tell us what #professionalism means to you and why it matters. Connect with us!

Professionalism 2U: <http://cjcpga.org/2u/>

Twitter (now known as X): <https://x.com/CJCPGA>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cjcpga/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/CJCPGA/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cjcpga2/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cjcpga/videos>



DRAFT
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Jekyll Island Club Resort
Jekyll Island, GA

The 304th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. President Ivy N. Cadle presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Governors Member Ryan W. English, Houston Circuit, led the pledge of allegiance.

Invocation

Board of Governors Member Hon. Charity R. Bridgewater, Clayton Circuit, Post 2, gave the invocation.

Special Recognition

President Ivy N. Cadle recognized the members of the judiciary, the past presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

Roll Call

Secretary R. Javoyne Hicks circulated the roll for signature. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Ivy N. Cadle reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. The 2025 Midyear Meeting will be held at the JW Marriot Savannah Plant Riverside District in Savannah on Jan. 9-12; the 2025 Spring Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Place Athens Hotel & The Classic Center in Athens on March 21-23 (contract pending); and the Annual Meeting will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, on June 5-8.

SOLACE Report

Hon. Render M. Heard reported on the State Bar of Georgia's SOLACE program. SOLACE stands for Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel—All Concern Encouraged. He shared a video about SOLACE's work and the Bar's response during Hurricane Helene. In the video, Hon. Amanda Heath thanked the Bar for supporting Augusta and the other affected areas. Judge Heard said that while helping in the aftermath of Helene, the committee realized that SOLACE needs a more formal system and a more extensive network, especially when an event affects many lawyers in one area like Augusta. The committee will be working on that this year.

Young Lawyers Division Report

YLD President Kenneth Mitchell Jr. reported on the activities of the YLD. He said the YLD General Session and CLE on Friday, Social Media Smarts, went well. YLD committees are working on creating opportunities for more CLEs on professionalism and ethics. He reminded everyone that as the service arm of the Bar, the YLD tries to hold service projects at each meeting. For this meeting, the YLD partnered with Hand in Hand of Glynn, collecting personal hygiene items for individuals experiencing homelessness. He requested that the Board of Governors encourage young lawyers to become active in the YLD, reminding them they are automatically members.

Treasurer's Report

State Bar Treasurer Bill Gentry reported on the Bar's finances. He said the audit had been completed for the 2023-2024 fiscal year with no findings thanks to the Bar's accounting team, led by Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner. He highlighted the information in the executive summary below. No items of note in the first quarter of the 2024-2025 FY. He thanked everyone for contributing to the legislative fund and the Georgia Legal Services Program.

The Board of Governors received a copy of the June 2024 Financial Statements, including Bar operations and Bar Center. The Executive Summary is as follows:

In total, the Bar budgeted a loss of \$610,661 for the year ended June 30, 2024. This total budgeted loss for the Bar was calculated as a budgeted loss for Bar operations of \$564,108 and a budgeted loss for the Bar Center of \$46,553. The Bar Center realized an actual loss of \$140,209 for the year. Bar operations realized a gain of \$544,085 instead of the budgeted loss of \$564,108. This difference of \$1,108,193 (calculated as the difference between the realized gain of \$544,085 and the budgeted loss of \$564,108) is comprised of the following components: (1) additional interest income and earnings due primarily to the write-up of the Bar's investments to fair market value. These income amounts totaled \$314,907 than what was budgeted. The write-up or write-down of investments to fair market value is a standard adjustment. However, since we normally do not sell investments we have a zero budget for both the realized and unrealized gains on investments (2) savings in salaries and related personnel costs of \$740,316, (3) savings in officer expenses of \$38,754, (4) savings in bond premium amortization and investment service fees of \$50,327 (5) savings associated with the Bar Journal of \$90,324 and (6) overall savings in meeting costs (Board of Governors and Members meetings, Supreme Court meeting costs and Executive Committee meetings costs) of \$28,529 (7) savings in subscriptions and books of \$30,538 and (8) savings in shared office expenses of \$118,053. The savings were offset by the following components: (9) an overage on membership software license costs of \$32,490 (10) additional costs for the State Disciplinary Board Panels of \$32,616 (11) additional website maintenance costs of \$25,264 (12) website redesign costs of \$275,105 and (13) Membership Database Project costs of \$57,911. These thirteen items total \$988,362.

Minutes of the 302nd and 303rd Meeting of the Board of Governors

Secretary R. Javoyne Hicks presented the minutes of the Board of Governors meetings held June 7-8, 2024, at the Omni Amelia Island Resort, Amelia Island, FL. By majority vote, the Board of Governors approved the minutes.

Proposed Rules and Bylaws Changes

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented the following proposed rules and bylaws changes:

1. *Rule 10-106. Eligible Claims.*

This proposed change comes from the Clients' Security Fund Board of Trustees. This rule change corrects an oversight that seems to prohibit the Trustees from paying a claim if the lawyer is deceased or disabled and requires that the claimant cannot ask for relief unless the lawyer has a final disciplinary action from the Supreme Court of Georgia. This proposed change cleans up the rule, making it more concise.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to Rule 10-106.

2. *Franchise and Distribution Section Bylaws*

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed Franchise and Distribution Section Bylaws.

3. *Alternate Dispute Resolution Section Bylaws*

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to the Alternate Dispute Resolution Section Bylaws.

4. *Real Property Law Section Bylaws*

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to the Real Property Law Section Bylaws.

5. *Antitrust Section Bylaws*

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to the Antitrust Section Bylaws.

6. *Center for Lawyer Wellbeing Bylaws*

This proposed change allows the Board of Governors to vote to approve the dues amount for the Center at any meeting, not just the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to the Center for Lawyer Wellbeing Bylaws.

Appointments to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency

The Board of Governors approved the two-year appointments (2025-2027) of Paul Painter III and Sarah “Sally” Akins to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency by majority vote.

Advisory Committee on Legislation New Legislative Proposals

Following a report by Legislative Consultant Rusty Sewell, the Board of Governors took the following action on proposed legislation:

<u>Legislative Proposal</u>	<u>Germane to Purposes of the Bar</u>	<u>Support on Merits 2/3 Majority</u>
1) <i>Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession</i> Budget Request for FY 2026 – Funding for Civil Legal Services Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence.	Passed by majority vote	Passed by 2/3 vote
2) <i>Fiduciary Law Section</i> Amendments to Title 53 and Related Code Sections	Passed by majority vote	Passed by 2/3 vote

Legislative Update

Legislative Consultant Mark Middleton discussed the upcoming legislative session. He said while elections are next week, many good lawyers are friends to the Bar in both the Senate and House, and they will continue to work closely with them and the Bar’s legislative package. New Director of Governmental Affairs Jennifer McNeely was also introduced to the Board of Governors.

President's Report

President Ivy N. Cadle reported the Bar year was off to a busy start with several initiatives in process, not to mention the unexpected devastation of Hurricane Helene. He said the transition from General Counsel Paula Frederick to General Counsel Designate Russ Willard continues to progress well, and the onboarding process has been thorough. He reported that the Attorney-Client Solicitation Committee has been revived with the help of two new committee chairs, Darl Champion and Brian Adams. They have created four subcommittees with specific tasks and areas to focus on. He said the Executive Committee, Executive Director Damon Elmore, and Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner continue to look at the unallocated cash and the three to four-year plan for spending that down to a reasonable amount.

President Cadle said the Supreme Court of Georgia has created a new study committee on Legal Regulatory Reform to address the state's civil justice gap, which prevents many rural or low-income Georgia residents from acquiring legal representation in non-criminal matters. The 13-member committee, chaired by Justice Carla Wong McMillian and vice-chaired by Georgia Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard, is charged with developing recommendations by June 2025 that would bolster access to civil legal services for rural or low-income Georgians by giving them more options while also maintaining high standards for legal practitioners. He said that the Bar has five appointments to the committee: Jeremy J. Abernathy, Thua G. Barlay, Cherish Anne Dela Cruz, Thomas F. Lindsay, and Kevin C. Patrick.

He also reported that he has created a special committee on Artificial Intelligence and Technology, chaired by Past President Darrell Sutton. The committee will examine how the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct cover advancements in technology, particularly artificial intelligence, and the practice of law; whether existing rules and Bar policies adequately address lawyers' technology-related conduct; and how the State Bar of Georgia can aid its members as they integrate artificial intelligence and technological advances into the practice of law. They will report their findings to the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and the Supreme Court of Georgia.

President Cadle thanked the Supreme Court and the members of the Board for their quick and immediate response to Hurricane Helene, especially in hard-hit areas like Swainsboro and Augusta. The Supreme Court ordered a 30-day stay for lawyers in the areas affected by the hurricane. The Young Lawyers Division partnered with the Georgia Legal Services Program and trained more than 400 lawyers to help members of the public in need.

Lastly, he reminded the Board that the State Bar of Georgia has the largest governing body in any bar in any state in the United States. He said they can successfully work and accomplish the work of the Bar because of the group's strong connection and respect.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported on the operations of the Bar. He called the Board's attention to the written Annual Report included in the Board Book, remarking this is the third year the Bar has provided this snapshot of the work as a whole. He commended the Bar's staff on the hard work everyone has completed in the last few months: a redesign of the website and a complete upgrade to the Bar's membership database. He gave an update on recent staffing changes, including the addition of General Counsel Designate Russ Willard, Director of Governmental Affairs Jennifer McNeely, Meetings Coordinator Xavier Johnson, Administrative Support Assistant Astley Martin, and A/V Manager Matthew Ficocelli. He reminded the Board that the internal portion of the budget planning has begun. He assured the Board that placing tenants in space at the Bar Center remains a top priority and looks promising,

especially in light of a partnership with a new broker. Executive Damon Elmore said that the trend of transparency in the Bar's finances will continue and reviewed how the unallocated cash plan was used to improve the Bar Center so far and what the plan is for the 2024-2025 Bar year. He assured everyone that he and the Bar staff would remain responsible and prudent with the Bar's funds.

Preview of Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented the following proposed bylaw changes:

1. *Article I. Members. Section 1. Registration of Members*
Bar Counsel recommends this proposed amendment after discussing it with the Bar President. The proposed changes take a long paragraph, break it into subparts, and simplify the language.
2. *Article I. Members. Section 2. Active Members and Foreign Law Consultants*
Bar counsel recommends this proposed amendment after discussing it with the Bar President. The proposed change is a housekeeping amendment, adding "good standing" language and enabling rule for foreign law consultants.
3. *Article I. Members. Section 6. Affiliate Members and Law Student Members*
The Membership Department brought this proposed amendment to Bar Counsel's attention. The change would make the bylaw match Rule 1-206.1 by removing the requirement that a law student member attend a law school in Georgia and making other housekeeping changes.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Report

CJCP Executive Director Karlise Grier thanked the SOLACE Committee and Judge Heard for their instrumental response to Hurricane Helene. He opened his office to donations being shipped to the area and coordinated with other regions for collections. She then went on to thank Chief Justice Michael Boggs for his leadership of the commission. She said the 25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards nominations have been opened and will close on Nov. 11. She reminded everyone that serving the community makes a nominee eligible, not service to the Bar. She asked members of the Board to consider submitting a nomination. She acknowledged the 162 Law School Orientation group leaders for volunteering and making those programs successful. She announced that the ABA's 2025 Law Day theme is The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One. She also reported that the Connect with a Colleague program will continue in April 2025, with prize drawings for those who participate.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on August 22, 2024.

Combined State Bar of Georgia and Office of the General Counsel Annual Report

The Board of Governors received a copy of the 2023-2024 Combined State Bar of Georgia and Office of the General Counsel Annual Report.

Office of the General Counsel Report

The Board of Governors received a written report from the Office of the General Counsel.

ICLE Report

The Board of Governors received a written report from ICLE.

Law Practice Management Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Law Practice Management Program.

Communications Media Report

The Board of Governors received a media report from the Communications Department.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

State Bar Secretary and Attorney Wellness Committee Chair Javoyne Hicks reminded everyone that the Out of Darkness Walk is being held on Nov. 3 and to join, if possible, or contribute to the State Bar's team.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Remarks / Q&A / Comments / Suggestions

There were no remarks, Q&A, comments, or suggestions.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

R. Javoyne Hicks, Secretary

Approved:

Ivy N. Cadle, President



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: Board of Governors

From: Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel

Date: January 11, 2025

Re: Proposed Changes to the Governance Rules for the State Bar of Georgia and its Bylaws.

Below is a brief explanation of the proposed rule amendments and bylaw changes on the agenda for the January 11, 2025, Midyear Board of Governors meeting.

Action Items

Bylaws

1. **Article I. Members. Section 1. Registration of Members.** The proposed amendment, recommended by Bar Counsel, simplifies the language and reorganizes a long paragraph by creating subparts.
2. **Article I. Members. Section 2. Active Members and Foreign Law Consultants.** The proposed amendments, recommended by Bar Counsel, add “good standing” language and enabling rules for foreign law consultants.
3. **Article I. Members. Section 6. Affiliate Membership and Law Student Membership.** The proposed amendment, offered by the Membership Department, removes the provision that a law student member attends a law school in Georgia, making the bylaw consistent with Bar Rule 1-206.1.

4. **Article III. Board of Governors. Section 13. Standing Board Policies.** The amendment creates a new bylaw that provides authority for “Standing Board Policies.”
5. **Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 1. Members. (EC Elections)** This is a rewrite of the EC Election bylaw, designed to simplify the election process for Executive Committee members.
6. **Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 3. Misconduct and Removal.** This new bylaw guides the removal process for officers, board members, volunteers, guests, and others who have engaged in misconduct.
7. **Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 4. Standing Executive Committee Policies.** This amendment creates a new bylaw that provides authority for “Standing Executive Committee Policies.”
8. **Article VIII. Committees – Generally. Section 5. Authority to Establish Internal Rules.** The amendment creates a new bylaw that provides explicit authority for a State Bar committee to establish its operation or procedural rules.
9. **Article VIII. Committees – Generally. Section 6. Quorum.** This amendment creates a new bylaw that lowers the quorum requirements established by Roberts Rules of Orders (50% +1) to 40% of the committee membership. This allows committees with a large number of members (many of whom rarely or ever attend meetings) to more easily establish a quorum and conduct the business of the committee.

Bar Rules

10. **Bar Rule 1-302. Composition.** This is a rewrite of the rule defining the composition of the Board of Governors. This proposed change is designed to simplify the rule and remove old, archaic language that is no longer relevant.
11. **Bar Rule 1-501. License Fees.** This proposed change simplifies the appeal process for challenging a delinquent dues payment and reduces the termination date from five years to three years, matching the Office of Bar Admissions rules.
12. **Bar Rule 1-501.1 License Fees—Late Fee.** This proposed change removes the escalating late fee and sets it at \$175.
13. **Bar Rule 4-106. Conviction of a Crime; Suspension and Disbarment.** The proposed amendment to Rule 4-106 comes as a motion from the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee. The changes clarify that the report of a Special Master is to be filed with the State Disciplinary Clerk.
14. **Bar Rule 4-108. Conduct Constituting Threat of Harm to Clients or Public; Emergency Suspension.** The proposed amendment to Rule 4-108 comes as a motion from the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee. The changes clarify that the report of a Special Master is to be filed with the State Disciplinary Clerk.
15. **GRPC 1.0. Terminology and Definitions.** The proposed amendment to Rule 1.0 comes as a motion from the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee. The proposed amendments to Rule 1.0 amend the definition of “lawyer” and add definitions of “attorney” and “counsel.”
16. **GRPC 1.6. Confidentiality of Information.** The proposed amendment to Rule 1.6 comes as a motion from the Disciplinary

Executive Summary
January 11, 2025

Rules and Procedures Committee. The proposed amendments to Rule 1.6 adopt language from ABA Rule 1.6(c).

1 ARTICLE I MEMBERS

2 Section 1. Registration ~~of Members, Initial Dues, and Assessments.~~

3 ~~Persons~~1.1 Registration Requirement: All persons admitted by the
4 courts to ~~the practice of law shall,~~must register with the State Bar of
5 Georgia within 60 days ~~after of~~ admission to the ~~bar of the~~ Superior
6 Court, ~~register with the State Bar of Georgia and,~~

7

8 1.2 Initial Dues Payment: Newly admitted members must pay a
9 monthly pro-rated dues amount ~~calculated~~ from the date of their
10 admission to the Superior Court ~~admission through~~until the
11 ~~remainder end~~ of the State Bar of ~~Georgia's~~Georgia's fiscal year.~~If the~~
12 ~~date of admission is~~

13

14 1.3 Dues Exemption: Members admitted on or after May 15,~~the~~
15 ~~member shall not be required to pay any~~ are exempt from dues ~~or~~and
16 assessments for the remainder of that fiscal year.~~Those members~~

17

18 1.4 Mandatory Assessments for Exam-Admitted Members: Members

19 admitted by examination ~~shall~~must begin ~~making the~~paying mandatory

20 assessments ~~outlined in Rules~~ in the second full fiscal year following
21 their admission.

22

23 1.5 Mandatory Assessments for Members Admitted by Motion:

24 Members admitted by motion must begin paying mandatory

25 assessments upon their admission.

1 ARTICLE I MEMBERS

2 Section 1. Registration, Initial Dues, and Assessments.

3 1.1 Registration Requirement: All persons admitted by the courts to
4 practice law must register with the State Bar of Georgia within 60 days
5 of admission to the Superior Court.

6

7 1.2 Initial Dues Payment: Newly admitted members must pay a
8 monthly pro-rated dues amount from the date of their admission to the
9 Superior Court until the end of the State Bar of Georgia's fiscal year.

10

11 1.3 Dues Exemption: Members admitted on or after May 15 are exempt
12 from dues and assessments for the remainder of that fiscal year.

13

14 1.4 Mandatory Assessments for Exam-Admitted Members: Members
15 admitted by examination must begin paying mandatory assessments in
16 the second full fiscal year following their admission.

17

- 18 1.5 Mandatory Assessments for Members Admitted by Motion:
- 19 Members admitted by motion must begin paying mandatory
- 20 assessments upon their admission.

- 1 Section 2. Active Members and Foreign Law Consultants.
- 2 (a) Only active members of the State Bar of Georgia in good
- 3 standing are entitled to give legal advice and otherwise practice law.
- 4 (b) Only foreign law consultants, admitted pursuant to State
- 5 Bar Rule 1-202 (c). are entitled to give legal advice as authorized by
- 6 their license.

1 Section 2. Active Members and Foreign Law Consultants.

2 (a) Only active members of the State Bar of Georgia in good
3 standing are entitled to give legal advice and otherwise practice law.

4 (b) Only foreign law consultants, admitted pursuant to State
5 Bar Rule 1-202 (c), are entitled to give legal advice as authorized by
6 their license.

1 Article I. Section 6. Affiliate Membership and Law Student
2 Membership.

3

4 In addition to the classes of membership provided in Rule 1-202,
5 Organization of the State Bar and Admissions, the Board of Governors
6 or the Executive Committee may consider and approve or disapprove
7 applications for Affiliate or Law Student membership with the State
8 Bar of Georgia. Affiliate and Law Student members shall have the right
9 to attend State Bar of Georgia meetings and receive ~~State Bar~~ official
10 publications. Neither Affiliate nor Law Student members may hold
11 office, vote, or have any other rights and privileges incident to the
12 membership classes set forth in Rule 1-202 with the State Bar of
13 Georgia. Affiliate or Law Student members shall not hold themselves
14 out or imply to the public, courts, or members of the legal profession
15 that they are members of the State Bar of Georgia as defined in Rule 1-
16 202 of the State Bar of Georgia. The State Bar retains the right to deny
17 or revoke the membership privileges of any Affiliate or Law Student
18 member who violates this Section.

19 (a) Affiliate Membership. The application form for an Affiliate shall
20 include a recommendation signed by an active member in good standing
21 of the State Bar of Georgia. Affiliate membership may be renewed each

22 Bar year without additional application. The Board of Governors may
23 set an amount of annual dues or fees for Affiliate membership. Affiliate
24 membership shall be approved only when the applicant is a Domestic
25 Lawyer who is in good standing in all jurisdictions in which he or she is
26 licensed, is an employee of the government, the armed services, a
27 private or commercial institution, or a law school, and is not otherwise
28 authorized to practice law in Georgia.

29 (b) Law Student Membership. The application form for a Law Student
30 member shall include a certification by the applicant that he or she is a
31 student ~~in good standing at an ABA accredited law school in Georgia,~~
32 currently enrolled in a law school approved by the American Bar
33 Association or any law school approved by the Georgia Board of Bar
34 Examiners, and is in good standing. Law Student membership may be
35 renewed each Bar year by certifying to the Membership Department of
36 the State Bar of Georgia that the student is currently enrolled in and
37 attending law school and is in good standing. The Board of Governors
38 may set annual dues or fees for Law Student membership.

39

1 Article I. Section 6. Affiliate Membership and Law Student
2 Membership.

3

4 In addition to the classes of membership provided in Rule 1-202,
5 Organization of the State Bar and Admissions, the Board of Governors
6 or the Executive Committee may consider and approve or disapprove
7 applications for Affiliate or Law Student membership with the State
8 Bar of Georgia. Affiliate and Law Student members shall have the right
9 to attend State Bar of Georgia meetings and receive official
10 publications. Neither Affiliate nor Law Student members may hold
11 office, vote, or have any other rights and privileges incident to the
12 membership classes set forth in Rule 1-202 with the State Bar of
13 Georgia. Affiliate or Law Student members shall not hold themselves
14 out or imply to the public, courts, or members of the legal profession
15 that they are members of the State Bar of Georgia as defined in Rule 1-
16 202 of the State Bar of Georgia. The State Bar retains the right to deny
17 or revoke the membership privileges of any Affiliate or Law Student
18 member who violates this Section.

19 (a) Affiliate Membership. The application form for an Affiliate shall
20 include a recommendation signed by an active member in good standing
21 of the State Bar of Georgia. Affiliate membership may be renewed each

22 Bar year without additional application. The Board of Governors may
23 set an amount of annual dues or fees for Affiliate membership. Affiliate
24 membership shall be approved only when the applicant is a Domestic
25 Lawyer who is in good standing in all jurisdictions in which he or she is
26 licensed, is an employee of the government, the armed services, a
27 private or commercial institution, or a law school, and is not otherwise
28 authorized to practice law in Georgia.

29 (b) Law Student Membership. The application form for a Law Student
30 member shall include a certification by the applicant that he or she is a
31 student, currently enrolled in a law school approved by the American
32 Bar Association or any law school approved by the Georgia Board of Bar
33 Examiners and is in good standing. Law Student membership may be
34 renewed each Bar year by certifying to the Membership Department of
35 the State Bar of Georgia that the student is currently enrolled in and
36 attending law school and is in good standing. The Board of Governors
37 may set annual dues or fees for Law Student membership.
38

1 Article III. Section 13. Standing Board Policies.

2

3 (a) Authority of Standing Board Policies. Once adopted by the Board
4 of Governors, all Standing Board Policies shall be binding upon the
5 membership. These policies shall have the same force and effect as any
6 other obligation or requirement set forth in the bylaws, provided they
7 do not conflict with any existing bylaw, Bar Rule, or mandatory
8 provision of law.

9

10 (b) Notification and Accessibility. The Board of Governors shall
11 ensure that all Standing Board Policies are communicated to the
12 membership in a timely manner. Copies of all standing board policies
13 shall be made accessible to all members through the official website of
14 the State Bar of Georgia.

15

16 (c) Amendment and Rescission. Standing board policies may be
17 amended or rescinded by a majority vote of the Board of Governors at
18 any duly called meeting, provided that notice of the proposed
19 amendment or rescission has been given to all board members in

20 accordance with the notice requirements for board meetings. Any
21 amendments or rescissions shall also be communicated to the
22 membership by posting the rescission or amendment on the official
23 website of the State Bar of Georgia.

24

25 (d) Conflict Resolution. In the event of a conflict between a Standing
26 Board Policies and any provision of the bylaws, or Bar Rule, the bylaws
27 or rule shall govern. The Board of Governors shall resolve any disputes
28 regarding the interpretation or application of standing board policies,
29 whose decision shall be final and binding on all members.

1 Article III. Section 13. Standing Board Policies.

2

3 (a) Authority of Standing Board Policies. Once adopted by the Board
4 of Governors, all Standing Board Policies shall be binding upon the
5 membership. These policies shall have the same force and effect as any
6 other obligation or requirement set forth in the bylaws, provided they
7 do not conflict with any existing bylaw, Bar Rule, or mandatory
8 provision of law.

9

10 (b) Notification and Accessibility. The Board of Governors shall
11 ensure that all Standing Board Policies are communicated to the
12 membership in a timely manner. Copies of all standing board policies
13 shall be made accessible to all members through the official website of
14 the State Bar of Georgia.

15

16 (c) Amendment and Rescission. Standing board policies may be
17 amended or rescinded by a majority vote of the Board of Governors at
18 any duly called meeting, provided that notice of the proposed
19 amendment or rescission has been given to all board members in

20 accordance with the notice requirements for board meetings. Any
21 amendments or rescissions shall also be communicated to the
22 membership by posting the rescission or amendment on the official
23 website of the State Bar of Georgia.

24

25 (d) Conflict Resolution. In the event of a conflict between a Standing
26 Board Policies and any provision of the bylaws, or Bar Rule, the bylaws
27 or rule shall govern. The Board of Governors shall resolve any disputes
28 regarding the interpretation or application of standing board policies,
29 whose decision shall be final and binding on all members.

30

1 Article IV Executive Committee. Section 1. Members

2 (a) ~~(a)~~ There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of
3 Governors composed of the following: the President, the
4 President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary,
5 the Treasurer, the President of the Young Lawyers Division,
6 the President-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division, the
7 Immediate Past President of the Young Lawyers Division and
8 six ~~(6)~~ members of the Board of Governors elected by the Board
9 as At-Large Executive Committee Members to serve two-year
0 terms. Elected At-Large Members will serve until their
1 successors are elected.

2 (b) At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors, it will elect
3 At-Large Executive Committee Members to fill expired or
4 vacant positions. Candidates receiving the most votes from the
5 Board of Governors present and voting shall be elected.

6 (c) Each ballot must have one vote per position to be counted.
7 However, members may only cast one vote for any one
8 particular candidate.

19 (d) Unexpired terms will be decided first and on an individual
20 basis.

21 (e) If there are more candidates than open positions, the
22 candidates receiving the most votes win the election. If there is
23 a tie that would result in more successful candidates than
24 positions, additional ballots listing the tied candidates will be
25 cast until the tie is resolved and any remaining positions are
26 filled, eliminating candidates on successive ballots who receive
27 fewer votes than the tied candidates.

28 (f) If there is a vacancy for an At-Large Executive Committee
29 Member after the annual meeting but before the spring
30 meeting of the State Bar of Georgia, the President shall
31 immediately notify all Board of Governors members by email.
32 The Board of Governors, at its next meeting, shall conduct an
33 election to fill the unexpired term, provided the next Board of
34 Governors Meeting is 30 days or more from the notice of the
35 vacancy. If 30 days notice is not possible before the next Board
36 of Governors meeting, provided the next meeting is not the

37 annual meeting, the election shall be conducted at the
38 subsequent Board of Governors meeting.
39 (a) —
40 ~~The election of members of the Executive Committee by the Board of~~
41 ~~Governors shall take place at the meeting of the Board following~~
42 ~~adjournment of the annual meeting for the State Bar of Georgia, and~~
43 ~~they shall serve for the term for which they are elected and until their~~
44 ~~successors are elected and qualified. Elections shall be by majority vote~~
45 ~~of those members of the Board of Governors present and voting. A ballot~~
46 ~~must contain one (1) vote for each position to be filled in order for it to~~
47 ~~be counted. No candidate may receive more than one vote per ballot.~~
48 ~~After the first or any succeeding ballot, those candidates with the votes~~
49 ~~of a majority of the members of the Board of Governors present and~~
50 ~~voting shall be declared elected to the office. If more candidates receive~~
51 ~~the votes of a majority of the members of the Board of Governors~~
52 ~~present and voting than there are vacancies to be filled, the vacancies~~
53 ~~shall be filled from the candidates receiving the greatest number of~~
54 ~~votes. If, after any ballot, one or more positions remain unfilled, or there~~
55 ~~is a tie for the last position, additional ballots shall be cast until all~~

~~positions are filled. Those persons declared elected shall be dropped from all succeeding ballots. If on any ballot no candidate is declared elected, on the next succeeding ballot the person or persons who received the lowest number of votes cast shall be dropped from this and all future ballots, unless to do so would reduce the number of candidates to a number less than the positions to be filled plus one.~~

~~At the first election of members of the Executive Committee by the Board of Governors after adjournment of the 1998 Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia six (6) members of the Executive Committee shall be elected, three (3) of whom shall serve for two year terms and three (3) of whom shall serve for one year terms; and the President of the State Bar of Georgia shall determine by lot which three (3) of the six (6) members elected at such first election shall serve for one year and which three (3) shall serve for two (2) years. Thereafter, all members of the Executive Committee elected by the Board of Governors shall be elected for terms of two (2) years each.~~

1 Article IV Executive Committee. Section 1. Members

- 2 (a) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of
3 Governors composed of the following: the President, the
4 President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary,
5 the Treasurer, the President of the Young Lawyers Division,
6 the President-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division, the
7 Immediate Past President of the Young Lawyers Division and
8 six members of the Board of Governors elected by the Board as
9 At-Large Executive Committee Members to serve two-year
10 terms. Elected At-Large Members will serve until their
11 successors are elected.
- 12 (b) At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors, it will elect
13 At-Large Executive Committee Members to fill expired or
14 vacant positions. Candidates receiving the most votes from the
15 Board of Governors present and voting shall be elected.
- 16 (c) Each ballot must have one vote per position to be counted.
17 However, members may only cast one vote for any one
18 particular candidate.

- 19 (d) Unexpired terms will be decided first and on an individual
20 basis.
- 21 (e) If there are more candidates than open positions, the
22 candidates receiving the most votes win the election. If there is
23 a tie that would result in more successful candidates than
24 positions, additional ballots listing the tied candidates will be
25 cast until the tie is resolved and any remaining positions are
26 filled, eliminating candidates on successive ballots who receive
27 fewer votes than the tied candidates.
- 28 (f) If there is a vacancy for an At-Large Executive Committee
29 Member after the annual meeting but before the spring
30 meeting of the State Bar of Georgia, the President shall
31 immediately notify all Board of Governors members by email.
32 The Board of Governors, at its next meeting, shall conduct an
33 election to fill the unexpired term, provided the next Board of
34 Governors Meeting is 30 days or more from the notice of the
35 vacancy. If 30 days notice is not possible before the next Board
36 of Governors meeting, provided the next meeting is not the

37 annual meeting, the election shall be conducted at the
38 subsequent Board of Governors meeting.

39

40

1 Article IV Executive Committee. Section 3. Misconduct and
2 Removal.

3 (a) Removal for Cause. Any Bar volunteer (including
4 members of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, officers,
5 elected chairs of sections or committees, or attendee at a Bar
6 function) who engages in misconduct as set forth in paragraph (d)
7 below is subject to investigation and possible removal from the
8 office, committee, section or event of the State Bar of Georgia.

9 (b) Investigation. The Office of the General Counsel shall
10 investigate any claim of misconduct involving an event of, or
11 performance of duties for, the State Bar of Georgia. If deemed
12 necessary, the Office of the General Counsel may bring an
13 allegation of misconduct and the results of the investigation to the
14 Executive Committee for possible suspension or removal from office
15 or appointment of any member found to have engaged in
16 misconduct. The Executive Committee shall decide whether and
17 how to act on the matter.

18 (c) Suspension. Any member under investigation, upon a
19 majority vote of the Executive Committee, present and voting, may

20 be suspended from office, committee, or section pending the
21 completion of the investigation. Absent an affirmative vote to
22 suspend, the member may continue to serve until there has been an
23 affirmative vote of the Executive Committee to suspend.

24 (d) Definitions. “For cause” is defined as misfeasance,
25 malfeasance, or any other inappropriate action by a member.
26 Misconduct is defined as (i) any conviction of a felony or
27 misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; (ii) violation of any State
28 Bar of Georgia policies concerning harassment, discrimination, or
29 intimidation; (iii) the intentional breach of the State Bar of Georgia
30 Rules or bylaws; (iv) mental or physical incapacity; (v) failure to
31 leave an event when directed to do so. These definitions are not
32 intended to be all-inclusive.

33 (e) Removal from an Event. Any Bar staff member, private
34 security personnel, or law enforcement officer providing security to
35 an event may ask a member and a member’s guest to leave an event
36 because of misbehavior or questionable conduct. When asked to
37 leave an event, the member shall comply. Failure to comply with a

38 request to leave an event by either a member or that member's
39 guest may be considered misconduct subject to this bylaw.

40 (f) Confidentiality. The Executive Committee shall treat
41 any report of misconduct as confidential and shall not disclose the
42 details of such a report to any person or entity unless required by
43 law or court order. The Office of General Counsel shall keep the
44 details of any investigation confidential, except as necessary to
45 conduct an investigation, report to the Executive Committee on an
46 investigation, or effectuate a removal or other discipline pursuant
47 to this bylaw.

48 (g) Removal from Office. Any member who is removed, or
49 who resigns after the occurrence of an event subject to potential
50 discipline under this bylaw, from the Board of Governors, from the
51 Executive Committee, as an officer, or from any other leadership
52 capacity within the State Bar of Georgia shall be ineligible to serve
53 as a member of the Board of Governors, on the Executive
54 Committee, as an officer, or in any other leadership capacity within
55 the State Bar of Georgia unless and until such ineligibility shall be

56 removed by a majority vote of the members of the Executive
57 Committee.

58 (h) Removal from an Event. Any member who was
59 requested or had their guest requested to leave an event under
60 subsection (e) may be banned from attending, or have conditions
61 placed on their attendance at future event. The Executive
62 Committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, may
63 impose such ban or restriction, and, if the Executive Committee
64 deems it appropriate, may structure that ban or restriction as a
65 permanent ban or restriction or make such ban or restriction event-
66 specific, time-limited, or person-specific. The Executive Committee
67 may vote to lift the ban or restriction if the Executive Committee,
68 in its sole discretion, believes the conduct is not likely to occur
69 again.

70 (i) Complementary Policies. This bylaw may be used in
71 conjunction with any other policies or procedures of the State Bar,
72 and those complementary policies and procedures can likewise be
73 used in conjunction with this bylaw.

1 Article IV Executive Committee. Section 3. Misconduct and
2 Removal.

3 (a) Removal for Cause. Any Bar volunteer (including
4 members of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, officers,
5 elected chairs of sections or committees, or attendee at a Bar
6 function) who engages in misconduct as set forth in paragraph (d)
7 below is subject to investigation and possible removal from the
8 office, committee, section or event of the State Bar of Georgia.

9 (b) Investigation. The Office of the General Counsel shall
10 investigate any claim of misconduct involving an event of, or
11 performance of duties for, the State Bar of Georgia. If deemed
12 necessary, the Office of the General Counsel may bring an
13 allegation of misconduct and the results of the investigation to the
14 Executive Committee for possible suspension or removal from office
15 or appointment of any member found to have engaged in
16 misconduct. The Executive Committee shall decide whether and
17 how to act on the matter.

18 (c) Suspension. Any member under investigation, upon a
19 majority vote of the Executive Committee, present and voting, may

20 be suspended from office, committee, or section pending the
21 completion of the investigation. Absent an affirmative vote to
22 suspend, the member may continue to serve until there has been an
23 affirmative vote of the Executive Committee to suspend.

24 (d) Definitions. “For cause” is defined as misfeasance,
25 malfeasance, or any other inappropriate action by a member.
26 Misconduct is defined as (i) any conviction of a felony or
27 misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; (ii) violation of any State
28 Bar of Georgia policies concerning harassment, discrimination, or
29 intimidation; (iii) the intentional breach of the State Bar of Georgia
30 Rules or bylaws; (iv) mental or physical incapacity; (v) failure to
31 leave an event when directed to do so. These definitions are not
32 intended to be all-inclusive.

33 (e) Removal from an Event. Any Bar staff member, private
34 security personnel, or law enforcement officer providing security to
35 an event may ask a member and a member’s guest to leave an event
36 because of misbehavior or questionable conduct. When asked to
37 leave an event, the member shall comply. Failure to comply with a

38 request to leave an event by either a member or that member's
39 guest may be considered misconduct subject to this bylaw.

40 (f) Confidentiality. The Executive Committee shall treat
41 any report of misconduct as confidential and shall not disclose the
42 details of such a report to any person or entity unless required by
43 law or court order. The Office of General Counsel shall keep the
44 details of any investigation confidential, except as necessary to
45 conduct an investigation, report to the Executive Committee on an
46 investigation, or effectuate a removal or other discipline pursuant
47 to this bylaw.

48 (g) Removal from Office. Any member who is removed, or
49 who resigns after the occurrence of an event subject to potential
50 discipline under this bylaw, from the Board of Governors, from the
51 Executive Committee, as an officer, or from any other leadership
52 capacity within the State Bar of Georgia shall be ineligible to serve
53 as a member of the Board of Governors, on the Executive
54 Committee, as an officer, or in any other leadership capacity within
55 the State Bar of Georgia unless and until such ineligibility shall be

56 removed by a majority vote of the members of the Executive
57 Committee.

58 (h) Removal from an Event. Any member who was
59 requested or had their guest requested to leave an event under
60 subsection (e) may be banned from attending, or have conditions
61 placed on their attendance at future event. The Executive
62 Committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, may
63 impose such ban or restriction, and, if the Executive Committee
64 deems it appropriate, may structure that ban or restriction as a
65 permanent ban or restriction or make such ban or restriction event-
66 specific, time-limited, or person-specific. The Executive Committee
67 may vote to lift the ban or restriction if the Executive Committee,
68 in its sole discretion, believes the conduct is not likely to occur
69 again.

70 (i) Complementary Policies. This bylaw may be used in
71 conjunction with any other policies or procedures of the State Bar,
72 and those complementary policies and procedures can likewise be
73 used in conjunction with this bylaw.

1 **Article IV. Section 4. Standing Executive Committee Policies.**

2

3 **(a) Authority of Standing Executive Committee Policies.** Once

4 adopted by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of

5 Governors, all Standing Executive Committee Policies shall be binding

6 upon the membership. These policies shall have the same force and

7 effect as any other obligation or requirement set forth in the bylaws,

8 provided they do not conflict with any existing bylaw, Bar Rule, or

9 mandatory provision of law.

10 **(b) Notification and Accessibility.** The Executive Committee shall

11 ensure that all Executive Committee Standing Policies are

12 communicated to the membership in a timely manner. Copies of all

13 Standing Executive Committee Policies shall be made accessible to all

14 members through the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

15 **(c) Amendment and Rescission.** Executive Committee Standing

16 Policies may be amended or rescinded by a majority vote of the

17 Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, or the membership at

18 any duly called meeting, provided that notice of the proposed

19 amendment or rescission has been given to all Executive Committee,

20 Board of Governors and members. Such notice shall be sent via email to

21 the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and the membership
22 at least ten days prior to consideration of the amendment or rescission.
23 Any amendments or rescissions subsequently adopted shall also be
24 communicated to the membership by email and by posting the receipt or
25 amendment on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

26 **(d) Conflicts.** In the event of a conflict between an Executive
27 Committee Standing Policy and any provision of the bylaws or Bar
28 Rule, the bylaws or rule shall govern.

29 **(e) Conflict Resolution.** In the event of a conflict between a
30 Standing Executive Committee Policy and any provision of a bylaw or
31 Bar rule, the bylaw or rule shall govern. The Executive Committee shall
32 resolve any disputes regarding the interpretation or application of a
33 Standing Executive Committee Policy, which shall be binding on the
34 membership. Any decision by the Executive Committee concerning a
35 Standing Policy may be appealed to the Board of Governors.

1 **Article IV. Section 4. Standing Executive Committee Policies.**

2

3 **(a) Authority of Standing Executive Committee Policies.** Once

4 adopted by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of

5 Governors, all Standing Executive Committee Policies shall be binding

6 upon the membership. These policies shall have the same force and

7 effect as any other obligation or requirement set forth in the bylaws,

8 provided they do not conflict with any existing bylaw, Bar Rule, or

9 mandatory provision of law.

10 **(b) Notification and Accessibility.** The Executive Committee shall

11 ensure that all Executive Committee Standing Policies are

12 communicated to the membership in a timely manner. Copies of all

13 Standing Executive Committee Policies shall be made accessible to all

14 members through the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

15 **(c) Amendment and Rescission.** Executive Committee Standing

16 Policies may be amended or rescinded by a majority vote of the

17 Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, or the membership at

18 any duly called meeting, provided that notice of the proposed

19 amendment or rescission has been given to all Executive Committee,

20 Board of Governors and members. Such notice shall be sent via email to

21 the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and the membership
22 at least ten days prior to consideration of the amendment or rescission.
23 Any amendments or rescissions subsequently adopted shall also be
24 communicated to the membership by email and by posting the receipt or
25 amendment on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

26 **(d) Conflicts.** In the event of a conflict between an Executive
27 Committee Standing Policy and any provision of the bylaws or Bar
28 Rule, the bylaws or rule shall govern.

29 **(e) Conflict Resolution.** In the event of a conflict between a
30 Standing Executive Committee Policy and any provision of a bylaw or
31 Bar rule, the bylaw or rule shall govern. The Executive Committee shall
32 resolve any disputes regarding the interpretation or application of a
33 Standing Executive Committee Policy, which shall be binding on the
34 membership. Any decision by the Executive Committee concerning a
35 Standing Policy may be appealed to the Board of Governors.

Article VIII. Section 5. Authority to Establish Internal Rules

(a) Each committee shall have the authority to establish its own internal rules and procedures, provided they do not conflict with the State Bar of Georgia bylaws, standing policies, Bar Rules, or applicable laws and regulations.

(b) Any internal rules and procedures proposed by a committee must be first submitted to the Office of the General Counsel to ensure consistency with Bar Rules, Bylaws and policies. Once the internal rules have been approved by a majority vote of the committee members, they will be submitted to the Executive Committee for final approval.

(c) All internal rules and procedures established by committees must be consistent with the State Bar's bylaws, policies, and rules. If there is a conflict between a committee's internal rules and the State Bar's bylaws, policies, or rules, the State Bar's bylaws, policies, and rules shall control.

(d) All committees shall make their internal rules and procedures accessible to all committee members and to members of the State Bar of Georgia upon request. All internal rules shall be published on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

21

22 (e) Committees may amend their internal rules and procedures as

23 needed, following the same approval and documentation process

24 outlined in section (b).

25

1 **Article VIII. Section 5. Authority to Establish Internal Rules**

2

3 (a) Each committee shall have the authority to establish its own
4 internal rules and procedures, provided they do not conflict with the
5 State Bar of Georgia bylaws, standing policies, Bar Rules, or applicable
6 laws and regulations.

7 (b) Any internal rules and procedures proposed by a committee must
8 be first submitted to the Office of the General Counsel to ensure
9 consistency with Bar Rules, Bylaws and policies. Once the internal
10 rules have been approved by a majority vote of the committee members,
11 they will be submitted to the Executive Committee for final approval.

12 (c) All internal rules and procedures established by committees must
13 be consistent with the State Bar's bylaws, policies, and rules. If there is
14 a conflict between a committee's internal rules and the State Bar's
15 bylaws, policies, or rules, the State Bar's bylaws, policies, and rules
16 shall control.

17 (d) All committees shall make their internal rules and procedures
18 accessible to all committee members and to members of the State Bar of
19 Georgia upon request. All internal rules shall be published on the
20 official website of the State Bar of Georgia.

21

22 (e) Committees may amend their internal rules and procedures as

23 needed, following the same approval and documentation process

24 outlined in section (b).

25

1 Article VIII. Section 6. Quorum.

2

3 A quorum for all State Bar committees, except the Executive

4 Committee, shall be 40% of the committee members. The Executive

5 Committee liaison for each committee counts toward quorum and can

6 vote.

7

1 Article VIII. Section 6. Quorum.

2

3 A quorum for all State Bar committees, except the Executive

4 Committee, shall be 40% of the committee members. The Executive

5 Committee liaison for each committee counts toward quorum and can

6 vote.

7

Rule 1-302. Composition

(a) The Board of Governors shall be composed of the following:

(1) The President, the President-elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the President of the Young Lawyers Division, the President-elect of the Young Lawyers Division, the Immediate Past President of the Young Lawyers Division, and the Attorney General of Georgia; and

(2) Members elected by the membership of the State Bar of Georgia in each judicial circuit based upon the number of active members located in each circuit as of January 1, 2025.

~~Board of Governors members for each Judicial Circuit as existed on January 1, 2001, plus an additional 7 Board of Governor members to be elected from the Atlanta Circuit.~~

~~(i) — Each Judicial Circuit shall have an additional member for each additional five hundred active members of the State Bar of Georgia added to that circuit after January 1, 2001.~~

~~The size of the Board of Governors, excluding those designated in subsection (a)(1) above, shall not exceed 150,~~

20 ~~except as set out in subsection (b) below.~~

21 ~~(ii)(i)~~ If the geographical limits of a judicial circuit are
22 changed, and ~~by reason~~because of said change, there is a
23 reduction in the number of superior court judges ~~to which~~
24 ~~that circuit was entitled on July 1, 1979, then and in that~~
25 ~~event~~, there shall be a corresponding reduction in the
26 number of members of the Board of Governors
27 representing that circuit provided there was more than one
28 Board member representing that circuit. ~~In the event~~
29 ~~that~~If there is such a reduction, the last created post will
30 be the first post eliminated.

31 ~~(iii)(ii)~~ If the change in the geographical limits of a
32 judicial circuit does not result in a reduction in the number
33 of superior court judges in such circuit, then ~~the~~such
34 circuit shall retain ~~at least as many~~its current members of
35 the Board of Governors, ~~as it had on July 1, 1979.~~
36 ~~Additional Board representation will be determined by the~~
37 ~~number of active members of the State Bar of Georgia~~
38 ~~residing in that circuit as provided above.~~ A change in the

name of a judicial circuit shall ~~have no effect upon~~not affect
that circuit's Board of Governors' representatives, except
as otherwise provided.

(3) ~~two representatives of the~~Two active members of the State
Bar of Georgia residing outside of the ~~state~~State of Georgia,
who ~~themselves~~ must be residents of different states or
territories of the United States. The nonresident
~~representative Board members~~ shall be ~~an active member~~
members of the State Bar of Georgia in good standing residing
and residing outside ~~of~~ the ~~state~~State of Georgia.

(4) ~~three members appointed as follows:~~ The President-elect ~~in-~~
~~office when this rule becomes effective~~ shall appoint three
members to the Board of Governors. ~~Thereafter, the~~
~~President-elect shall appoint the number of such members~~
whose term shall expired at the annual meeting at which the
President-elect ~~assumed~~ assumes the office of President. The
appointed members shall be chosen ~~in such a manner as~~ to
promote geographic diversity and inclusion of
underrepresented members to provide balance within the

Board of Governors.

(b) When a new judicial circuit is created, it shall be entitled to one member to the Board of Governors for every two Superior Court judges within the circuit, provided that each new judicial circuit shall be entitled to at least one member to the Board of Governors. However, any current members of the Board of Governors residing in the newly created circuit at the time of its formation shall retain their positions in the new circuit, provided that the total number of Board members residing in the new circuit does not exceed 50% of the Board members from the original circuit from which it was formed.

(b) Upon the creation of a new circuit, such circuit shall be entitled to elect one member to the Board of Governors even if the cap of 150 Board of Governors members has been reached, and if the cap has not been reached, may be entitled to may elect additional members depending on the number of active members of the state State of Georgia residing in the circuit, as provided above.

(c) A member of the Board of Governors must be an active

77 member of the State Bar of Georgia and be in good standing. A
78 member representing a judicial circuit shall be a member of the
79 bar of that circuit.

80 (d)Members of the Board of Governors shall receive no
81 compensation for their services, excluding any approved allowances
82 by the Board of Governors to offset travel expenses.

Rule 1-302. Composition

(a) The Board of Governors shall be composed of the following:

(1) The President, the President-elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the President of the Young Lawyers Division, the President-elect of the Young Lawyers Division, the Immediate Past President of the Young Lawyers Division, and the Attorney General of Georgia; and

(2) Members elected by the membership of the State Bar of Georgia in each judicial circuit based upon the number of active members located in each circuit as of January 1, 2025.

(i) If the geographical limits of a judicial circuit are changed, and because of said change, there is a reduction in the number of superior court judges, there shall be a corresponding reduction in the number of members of the Board of Governors representing that circuit provided there was more than one Board member representing that circuit. If there is such a reduction, the last created post will be the first post eliminated.

(ii) If the change in the geographical limits of a judicial circuit does not result in a reduction in the number of superior court judges in such circuit, then the circuit shall retain its current members of the Board of Governors. A change in the name of a judicial circuit shall not affect that circuit's Board of Governors' representatives except as otherwise provided.

(3) Two active members of the State Bar of Georgia residing outside of the State of Georgia who must be residents of different states or territories of the United States. The nonresident Board members shall be active members of the State Bar of Georgia in good standing and residing outside the State of Georgia.

(4) The President-elect shall appoint three members to the Board of Governors, whose term shall expire at the annual meeting at which the President-elect assumes the office of President. The appointed members shall be chosen to promote geographic diversity and inclusion of underrepresented members to provide balance within the Board of Governors.

39 (b) When a new judicial circuit is created, it shall be entitled to
40 one member to the Board of Governors for every two Superior
41 Court judges within the circuit, provided that each new judicial
42 circuit shall be entitled to at least one member to the Board of
43 Governors.

44 (c) A member of the Board of Governors must be an active
45 member of the State Bar of Georgia and be in good standing. A
46 member representing a judicial circuit shall be a member of the
47 bar of that circuit.

48 (d) Members of the Board of Governors shall receive no
49 compensation for their services, excluding any approved allowances
50 by the Board of Governors to offset travel expenses.

1 Rule 1-501. License Fees

2 (a) Annual license fees for membership in the State Bar of Georgia shall
3 be due and payable on July 1 of each year. Upon the failure of a
4 member to pay the license fee by September 1, the member shall cease
5 to be a member in good standing. When such license fees, including any
6 late fees, costs, charges, or penalties incurred by the State Bar of
7 Georgia as a result of a ~~cancelled-canceled~~ or dishonored payment of
8 any type or kind for the current and prior years, have been paid in full,
9 the member shall automatically be reinstated to the status of a member
10 in good standing, except as provided in subsection (b) of this rule.

11

12 (b) ~~In the event. If~~ a member of the State Bar of Georgia is delinquent
13 in the payment of any license fee, late fee, assessment, reinstatement
14 fee, or cost, charge, or penalty incurred by the State Bar of Georgia as a
15 result of a cancelled or dishonored payment of any type or kind and of
16 any nature for ~~a period of~~ one year, the member shall be automatically
17 suspended, and shall not practice law in this state. The suspended
18 member may thereafter lift such suspension only upon the successful
19 completion of all of the following terms and conditions:

(1) payment of all outstanding dues, assessments, late fees, reinstatement fees, and ~~any and all~~any penalties due and owing before or accruing after the suspension of membership;

(2) provision to the membership section of the State Bar of Georgia of the following:

(i) a ~~certificate letter~~ from the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia certifying that the suspended member is not presently subject to any disciplinary procedure;

(ii) a ~~certificate letter~~ from the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency certifying that the suspended member is current on all requirements for continuing legal education;

~~(iii) a determination of fitness from the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants;~~

(3) payment to the State Bar of Georgia of a non-waivable reinstatement fee as follows:

(i) \$150 for the first reinstatement paid within the first year of suspension, plus \$150 for each year of suspension thereafter up to a total of ~~five~~three years;

39 (ii) \$250 for the second reinstatement paid within the first
40 year of suspension, plus \$250 for each year of suspension
41 thereafter up to a total of ~~five~~ three years;
42 (iii) \$500 for the third reinstatement paid within the first
43 year of suspension, plus \$500 for each year of suspension
44 thereafter up to a total of ~~five~~ three years; or
45 (iv) \$750 for each subsequent reinstatement paid within the
46 first year of suspension, plus \$750 for each year of
47 ~~suspension thereafter up to a total of~~ thereafter up to five
48 three years.
49 (4) The yearly increase in the reinstatement fee shall become
50 due and owing in its entirety upon the first day of each ~~next fiscal~~ Bar
51 year and shall not be prorated for any fraction of the ~~fiscal~~ Bar year in
52 which it is ~~actually~~ paid.
53 (5) A member who has been suspended pursuant to this rule
54 may submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee ~~a request~~
55 for an extension of time to complete any of the requirements ~~contained~~
56 in subsection (b). The request must state with particularity the reasons

57 and need for the extension. The Executive Committee, upon sufficient
58 and reasonable cause, may grant such an extension.

59 (c) A member suspended under subsection (b) above for ~~a total of five~~
60 three years in succession shall be immediately terminated as a member
61 without further action on the part of the State Bar of Georgia. The
62 terminated member shall not be entitled to a hearing as ~~set out set~~
63 forth in subsection (d) below. The terminated member shall be required
64 to apply for membership to the Office of Bar Admissions for readmission
65 to the State Bar of Georgia. Upon completion of the requirements for
66 readmission, the terminated member shall be required to pay the total
67 reinstatement fee due under subsection (b) (3) above, plus an additional
68 \$750 as a readmission fee to the State Bar of Georgia.

69 (d) Prior to suspending a member under subsection (b) above, the State
70 Bar of Georgia shall send, by certified mail and email, a notice ~~thereof~~
71 of pending suspension to the member's last known official address and
72 email address of the member as contained in the official membership
73 records. ~~It~~ The notice shall specify the years for which the license fee is
74 delinquent and state that unless ~~either~~ the fee and all penalties ~~related~~
75 ~~thereto~~ are paid within 60 days or ~~a hearing to establish reasonable~~

76 ~~cause is requested within 60 days~~, the membership shall be suspended.

77

78 ~~If a hearing is requested, it shall be held at State Bar of Georgia~~

79 ~~Headquarters within 90 days of receipt of the request by the Executive~~

80 ~~Committee. Notice of time and place of the hearing shall be mailed at~~

81 ~~least ten days in advance. The party cited may be represented by~~

82 ~~counsel. Witnesses shall be sworn; and, if requested by the party cited,~~

83 ~~a complete electronic record or a transcript shall be made of all~~

84 ~~proceedings and testimony. The expense of the record shall be paid by~~

85 ~~the party requesting it, and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the~~

86 ~~Executive Committee. The presiding member or Special Master shall~~

87 ~~have the authority to rule on all motions, objections, and other matters~~

88 ~~presented in connection with the Georgia Rules of Civil Procedure, and~~

89 ~~the practice in the trial of civil cases. The party cited may not be~~

90 ~~required to testify over his or her objection.~~

91

92 ~~The Executive Committee shall (1) make findings of fact and~~

93 ~~conclusions of law and shall determine whether the party cited was~~

94 ~~delinquent in violation of Bar Rule 1-501; and (2) upon a finding of~~

~~95 delinquency shall determine whether there was reasonable cause for
96 the delinquency. Financial hardship short of adjudicated bankruptcy
97 shall not constitute reasonable cause. A copy of the findings and the
98 determination shall be sent to the party cited. If it is determined that
99 no delinquency has occurred, the matter shall be dismissed. If it is
100 determined that delinquency has occurred but that there was
101 reasonable cause therefor, the matter shall be deferred for one year at
102 which time the matter will be reconsidered. If it is determined that
103 delinquency has occurred without reasonable cause therefor, the
104 membership shall be suspended immediately upon such determination.
105 An appropriate notice of suspension shall be sent to the clerks of all
106 Georgia courts and shall be published in an official publication of the
107 State Bar of Georgia. Alleged errors of law in the proceedings or
108 findings of the Executive Committee or its delegate shall be reviewed by
109 the Supreme Court of Georgia. The Executive Committee may delegate
110 to a special master any or all of its responsibilities and authority with
111 respect to suspending membership for license fee delinquency in which
112 event the Special Master shall make a report to the Committee of its
113 findings for its approval or disapproval.~~

114

115 ~~After a finding of delinquency, a copy of the finding shall be served upon~~
116 ~~the respondent attorney. The respondent attorney may file with the~~
117 ~~Supreme Court of Georgia any written exceptions (supported by the~~
118 ~~written argument) said respondent may have to the findings of the~~
119 ~~Executive Committee. All such exceptions shall be filed with the Clerk~~
120 ~~of the Supreme Court of Georgia and served on the Executive~~
121 ~~Committee by service on the General Counsel within 20 days of the date~~
122 ~~that the findings were served on the respondent attorney. Upon the~~
123 ~~filing of exceptions by the respondent attorney, the Executive~~
124 ~~Committee shall within 20 days of said filing file a report of its findings~~
125 ~~and the complete record and transcript of evidence with the Clerk of the~~
126 ~~Supreme Court of Georgia. The Supreme Court of Georgia may grant~~
127 ~~extensions of time for filing in appropriate cases. Findings of fact by the~~
128 ~~Executive Committee shall be conclusive if supported by any evidence.~~
129 ~~The Supreme Court of Georgia may grant oral argument on any~~
130 ~~exception filed with it upon application for such argument by the~~
131 ~~respondent attorney or the Executive Committee. The Supreme Court of~~
132 ~~Georgia shall promptly consider the report of the Executive Committee,~~

133 ~~exceptions thereto, and the responses filed by any party to such~~
134 ~~exceptions, if any, and enter its judgment. A copy of the Supreme Court~~
135 ~~of Georgia's judgment shall be transmitted to the Executive Committee~~
136 ~~and to the respondent attorney by the Supreme Court of Georgia.~~
137
138 ~~Within 30 days after a final judgment which suspends membership, the~~
139 ~~suspended member shall, under the supervision of the Supreme Court~~
140 ~~of Georgia, notify all clients of said suspended member's inability to~~
141 ~~represent them and of the necessity for promptly retaining new counsel,~~
142 ~~and shall take all actions necessary to protect the interests of said~~
143 ~~suspended member's clients. Should the suspended member fail to~~
144 ~~notify said clients or fail to protect their interests as herein required,~~
145 ~~the Supreme Court of Georgia, upon its motion, or upon the motion of~~
146 ~~the State Bar of Georgia, and after ten days notice to the suspended~~
147 ~~member and proof of failure to notify or protect said clients, may hold~~
148 ~~the suspended member in contempt and order that a member or~~
149 ~~members of the State Bar of Georgia take charge of the files and records~~
150 ~~of said suspended member and proceed to notify all clients and take~~
151 ~~such steps as seem indicated to protect their interests. Any member of~~

152 ~~the State Bar of Georgia appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia to~~
153 ~~take charge of the files and records of the suspended member under~~
154 ~~these rules shall not be permitted to disclose any information contained~~
155 ~~in the files and records in his or her care without the consent of the~~
156 ~~client to whom such file or record relates, except as clearly necessary to~~
157 ~~carry out the order of the Supreme Court of Georgia.~~

158

159

1 Rule 1-501. License Fees

2 (a) Annual license fees for membership in the State Bar of Georgia shall
3 be due and payable on July 1 of each year. Upon the failure of a
4 member to pay the license fee by September 1, the member shall cease
5 to be a member in good standing. When such license fees, including any
6 late fees, costs, charges, or penalties incurred by the State Bar of
7 Georgia as a result of a canceled or dishonored payment of any type or
8 kind for the current and prior years, have been paid in full, the member
9 shall automatically be reinstated to the status of a member in good
10 standing, except as provided in subsection (b) of this rule.

11

12 (b) If a member of the State Bar of Georgia is delinquent in the
13 payment of any license fee, late fee, assessment, reinstatement fee, or
14 cost, charge, or penalty incurred by the State Bar of Georgia as a result
15 of a cancelled or dishonored payment of any type or kind and of any
16 nature for one year, the member shall be automatically suspended, and
17 shall not practice law in this state. The suspended member may
18 thereafter lift such suspension only upon the successful completion of
19 all of the following terms and conditions:

20 (1) payment of all outstanding dues, assessments, late fees,
21 reinstatement fees, and any penalties due and owing before or accruing
22 after the suspension of membership;

23 (2) provision to the membership section of the State Bar of
24 Georgia of the following:

25 (i) a letter from the Office of the General Counsel of the
26 State Bar of Georgia certifying that the suspended member
27 is not presently subject to any disciplinary procedure;

28 (ii) a letter from the Commission on Continuing Lawyer
29 Competency certifying that the suspended member is
30 current on all requirements for continuing legal education;

31 (3) payment to the State Bar of Georgia of a non-waivable
32 reinstatement fee as follows:

33 (i) \$150 for the first reinstatement paid within the first year
34 of suspension, plus \$150 for each year of suspension
35 thereafter up to a total of three years;

36 (ii) \$250 for the second reinstatement paid within the first
37 year of suspension, plus \$250 for each year of suspension
38 thereafter up to a total of three years;

39 (iii) \$500 for the third reinstatement paid within the first
40 year of suspension, plus \$500 for each year of suspension
41 thereafter up to a total of three years; or
42 (iv) \$750 for each subsequent reinstatement paid within the
43 first year of suspension, plus \$750 for each year thereafter
44 up to three years.

45 (4) The yearly increase in the reinstatement fee shall become
46 due and owing in its entirety upon the first day of each Bar year and
47 shall not be prorated for any fraction of the Bar year in which it is paid.

48 (5) A member who has been suspended pursuant to this rule
49 may submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee for an
50 extension of time to complete any of the requirements in subsection (b).
51 The request must state with particularity the reasons and need for the
52 extension. The Executive Committee, upon sufficient and reasonable
53 cause, may grant such an extension.

54 (c) A member suspended under subsection (b) above for three years in
55 succession shall be immediately terminated as a member without
56 further action on the part of the State Bar of Georgia. The terminated
57 member shall not be entitled to a hearing as set forth in subsection (d)

58 below. The terminated member shall be required to apply for
59 membership to the Office of Bar Admissions for readmission to the
60 State Bar of Georgia. Upon completion of the requirements for
61 readmission, the terminated member shall be required to pay the total
62 reinstatement fee due under subsection (b) (3) above, plus an additional
63 \$750 as a readmission fee to the State Bar of Georgia.

64 (d) Prior to suspending a member under subsection (b) above, the State
65 Bar of Georgia shall send, by certified mail and email, a notice of
66 pending suspension to the member's last known official address and
67 email address as contained in the official membership records. The
68 notice shall specify the years for which the license fee is delinquent and
69 state that unless the fee and all penalties are paid within 60 days or,
70 the membership shall be suspended.

71

72

1 Rule 1-501.1. License Fees - Late Fee

2 (a) Any member who has not paid his or her license fee for the

3 State Bar of Georgia on or before August 1 shall be penalized in the

4 amount of \$~~75~~175.00, which will be added to the member's outstanding

5 license fee. ~~Any member who has not paid his or her license fee on or~~

6 ~~after January 1 of each year shall be penalized an additional amount of~~

7 ~~\$100 for a total of \$175, which will be added to the member's~~

8 ~~outstanding license fee.~~

9 (b) A member may submit a request in writing for waiver of any

10 late fees ~~in writing~~ to the Executive Committee of the State Bar of

11 Georgia. Upon good cause shown, such as extreme financial hardship,

12 illness, or natural disaster. any late fee or penalty imposed by this rule

13 may be waived by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

1 Rule 1-501.1. License Fees - Late Fee

2 (a) Any member who has not paid his or her license fee for the
3 State Bar of Georgia on or before August 1 shall be penalized in the
4 amount of \$175.00, which will be added to the member's outstanding
5 license fee.

6 (b) A member may submit a request in writing for waiver of any
7 late fees to the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Upon
8 good cause shown, such as extreme financial hardship, illness, or
9 natural disaster, any late fee or penalty imposed by this rule may be
10 waived by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Rule 4-106. Conviction of a Crime; Suspension and Disbarment

(a) Upon receipt of information or evidence that a conviction for any felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude has been entered against a lawyer, the Clerk of the State Disciplinary Boards shall immediately assign the matter a State Disciplinary Board docket number. The Office of the General Counsel shall petition the Supreme Court of Georgia for the appointment of a Special Master to conduct a show cause hearing.

(b) The petition shall show the date of the conviction and the court in which the conviction was entered, and shall be served upon the respondent pursuant to Rule 4- 203.1.

(c) Upon receipt of the Petition for Appointment of Special Master, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia shall file the matter in the records of the Court, shall give the matter a Supreme Court docket number and notify the Coordinating Special Master that appointment of a Special Master is appropriate.

(d) The Coordinating Special Master shall appoint a Special Master, pursuant to Rule 4- 209 (b).

(e) The show cause hearing should be held within 15 days after

20 service of the Petition for Appointment of Special Master upon
21 the respondent or appointment of a Special Master, whichever is
22 later. Within 30 days of the hearing, the Special Master shall file
23 a recommendation with the Clerk of the State Disciplinary
24 Boards. A copy of the report and recommendation shall be
25 served upon the respondent, and the Clerk shall file the record in
26 the case with the Supreme Court of Georgia within 10 days after
27 the report and recommendation is filed. The Supreme Court of
28 Georgia ~~which~~ may order such discipline as deemed appropriate.

29 (f) If the Supreme Court of Georgia orders the respondent
30 suspended pending any appeal, upon the termination of the
31 appeal (or expiration of time for appeal if no appeal is filed) the
32 State Bar of Georgia may petition the Special Master to conduct a
33 hearing for the purpose of determining whether the circumstances
34 of the termination of the appeal indicate that the suspended
35 respondent should:

- 36 (1) be disbarred under Rule 8.4; or
37 (2) be reinstated; or
38 (3) remain suspended pending retrial as a protection to the

39 public; or

40 (4) be reinstated while the facts giving rise to the conviction
41 are investigated and, if proper, prosecuted under regular
42 disciplinary procedures in these Rules.

43 ~~Reports of the Special Master shall be filed with the Supreme~~
44 ~~Court of Georgia, which may order such discipline as deemed~~
45 ~~appropriate.~~

46 (g) For purposes of this Rule, a certified copy of a conviction in any
47 jurisdiction shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Rule 8.4
48 of Rule 4-102 and shall be admissible in proceedings under the
49 disciplinary rules.

1 Rule 4-106. Conviction of a Crime; Suspension and Disbarment

2 (a) Upon receipt of information or evidence that a conviction for
3 any felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude has been
4 entered against a lawyer, the Clerk of the State Disciplinary
5 Boards shall immediately assign the matter a State Disciplinary
6 Board docket number. The Office of the General Counsel shall
7 petition the Supreme Court of Georgia for the appointment of a
8 Special Master to conduct a show cause hearing.

9 (b) The petition shall show the date of the conviction and the
10 court in which the conviction was entered, and shall be served
11 upon the respondent pursuant to Rule 4- 203.1.

12 (c) Upon receipt of the Petition for Appointment of Special Master,
13 the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia shall file the matter in
14 the records of the Court, shall give the matter a Supreme Court
15 docket number and notify the Coordinating Special Master that
16 appointment of a Special Master is appropriate.

17 (d) The Coordinating Special Master shall appoint a Special
18 Master, pursuant to Rule 4- 209 (b).

19 (e) The show cause hearing should be held within 15 days after

20 service of the Petition for Appointment of Special Master upon
21 the respondent or appointment of a Special Master, whichever is
22 later. Within 30 days of the hearing, the Special Master shall file
23 a recommendation with the Clerk of the State Disciplinary
24 Boards. A copy of the report and recommendation shall be
25 served upon the respondent, and the Clerk shall file the record in
26 the case with the Supreme Court of Georgia within 10 days after
27 the report and recommendation is filed. The Supreme Court of
28 Georgia may order such discipline as deemed appropriate.

29 (f) If the Supreme Court of Georgia orders the respondent
30 suspended pending any appeal, upon the termination of the
31 appeal (or expiration of time for appeal if no appeal is filed) the
32 State Bar of Georgia may petition the Special Master to conduct a
33 hearing for the purpose of determining whether the circumstances
34 of the termination of the appeal indicate that the suspended
35 respondent should:

36 (1) be disbarred under Rule 8.4; or

37 (2) be reinstated; or

38 (3) remain suspended pending retrial as a protection to the

39 public; or
40 (4) be reinstated while the facts giving rise to the conviction
41 are investigated and, if proper, prosecuted under regular
42 disciplinary procedures in these Rules.

43 (g) For purposes of this Rule, a certified copy of a conviction in any
44 jurisdiction shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Rule 8.4
45 of Rule 4-102 and shall be admissible in proceedings under the
46 disciplinary rules.

1 **Rule 4-108. Conduct Constituting Threat of Harm to Clients or Public;**
2 **Emergency Suspension**

3 (a) Upon receipt of sufficient evidence demonstrating that a lawyer's conduct
4 poses a substantial threat of harm to his clients or the public and at the
5 direction of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the State Disciplinary Board, the
6 Office of the General Counsel shall petition the Supreme Court of Georgia for
7 the suspension of the lawyer pending disciplinary proceedings predicated
8 upon the conduct causing such petition.

9 (b) The petition for emergency suspension shall state the evidence
10 justifying the emergency suspension.

11 (c) The petition for emergency suspension shall be served upon the
12 Respondent pursuant to Rule 4-203.1.

13 (d) Upon receipt of the petition for emergency suspension, the Clerk of the
14 Supreme Court of Georgia shall file the matter in the records of the Court,
15 shall assign the matter a Supreme Court docket number, and shall notify the
16 Coordinating Special Master that appointment of a Special Master is
17 appropriate.

18 (e) The Coordinating Special Master shall appoint a Special Master pursuant
19 to Rule 4- 209 (b) to conduct a hearing where the State Bar of Georgia shall

show cause why the Respondent should be suspended pending disciplinary proceedings.

(f) Within 15 days after service of the petition for emergency suspension upon the Respondent or appointment of a Special Master, whichever is later, the Special Master shall hold a hearing on the petition for emergency suspension.

(g) Within 20 days of the hearing, the Special Master shall file his or her recommendation with the ~~Supreme Court of Georgia~~ Clerk of the State Disciplinary Boards. A copy of the report and recommendation shall be served upon the respondent, and the Clerk shall file the record in the case with the Supreme Court of Georgia within 10 days after the report and recommendation is filed. The Court may suspend the Respondent pending final disposition of disciplinary proceedings predicated upon the conduct causing the emergency suspension, or order such other action as it deems appropriate.

**Rule 4-108. Conduct Constituting Threat of Harm to Clients or
Public; Emergency Suspension**

(a) Upon receipt of sufficient evidence demonstrating that a lawyer's conduct poses a substantial threat of harm to his clients or the public and at the direction of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the State Disciplinary Board, the Office of the General Counsel shall petition the Supreme Court of Georgia for the suspension of the lawyer pending disciplinary proceedings predicated upon the conduct causing such petition.

(b) The petition for emergency suspension shall state the evidence justifying the emergency suspension.

(c) The petition for emergency suspension shall be served upon the Respondent pursuant to Rule 4-203.1.

(d) Upon receipt of the petition for emergency suspension, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia shall file the matter in the records of the Court, shall assign the matter a Supreme Court docket number, and shall notify the Coordinating Special Master that appointment of a Special Master is appropriate.

(e) The Coordinating Special Master shall appoint a Special

20 Master pursuant to Rule 4- 209 (b) to conduct a hearing where
21 the State Bar of Georgia shall show cause why the Respondent
22 should be suspended pending disciplinary proceedings.

23 (f) Within 15 days after service of the petition for emergency
24 suspension upon the Respondent or appointment of a Special
25 Master, whichever is later, the Special Master shall hold a
26 hearing on the petition for emergency suspension.

27 (g) Within 20 days of the hearing, the Special Master shall file his
28 or her recommendation with the Clerk of the State Disciplinary
29 Boards. A copy of the report and recommendation shall be served
30 upon the respondent, and the Clerk shall file the record in the
31 case with the Supreme Court of Georgia within 10 days after the
32 report and recommendation is filed. The Court may suspend the
33 Respondent pending final disposition of disciplinary proceedings
34 predicated upon the conduct causing the emergency suspension,
35 or order such other action as it deems appropriate.

1 **RULE 1.0. TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) “Attorney” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the
3 duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any state
4 or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or a
5 foreign nation.

6 ~~(a)~~(b) “Belief” or “believes” denotes that the person involved
7 actually thought the fact in question to be true. A person’s belief
8 may be inferred from the circumstances.

9 ~~(b)~~(c) “Confidential Proceedings” denotes any proceeding under
10 these rules which occurs prior to a filing in the Supreme Court of
11 Georgia.

12 ~~(c)~~(d) “Confirmed in writing” when used in reference to the
13 informed consent of a person, denotes informed consent that is
14 given in writing by the person, or a writing that a lawyer
15 promptly transmits to the person confirming an oral informed
16 consent. See paragraph (l) for the definition of “informed
17 consent.” If it is not feasible to obtain or transmit the writing at
18 the time the person gives informed consent, then the lawyer must
19 obtain or transmit it within a reasonable time thereafter.

20 ~~(d)~~(e) “Consult” or “consultation” denotes communication of
21 information reasonably sufficient to permit the client to
22 appreciate the significance of the matter in question.

23 ~~(e)~~(f) “Conviction” or “convicted” denotes any of the
24 following accepted by a court, whether or not a sentence has
25 been imposed:

- 26 (1) a guilty plea;
- 27 (2) a plea of nolo contendere;
- 28 (3) a verdict of guilty;
- 29 (4) a verdict of guilty but mentally ill; or
- 30 (5) A plea entered under the Georgia First Offender Act,
31 OCGA § 42-8-60 et seq., or a substantially similar statute in
32 Georgia or another jurisdiction.

33 (g) “Counsel” when used in these rules as a noun, denotes a
34 person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and
35 authorized governmental body of any state or territory of the
36 United States or the District of Columbia or a foreign nation.
37 This definition does not apply to references to the “Office of
38 General Counsel,” “Bar Counsel,” or “staff counsel.”

~~(f)~~(h) “Domestic Lawyer” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia but not authorized by the Supreme Court of Georgia or its rules to practice law in the state of Georgia.

~~(g)~~(i) “Firm” or “law firm” denotes a lawyer or lawyers in a private firm, law partnership, professional corporation, sole proprietorship or other association authorized to practice law pursuant to Bar Rule 1-203 (d); or lawyers employed in a legal services organization or the legal department of a corporation or other organization.

~~(h)~~(j) “Foreign Lawyer” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any foreign nation but not authorized by the Supreme Court of Georgia or its rules to practice law in the state of Georgia.

~~(i)~~(k) “Fraud” or “fraudulent” denotes conduct that is fraudulent under the substantive or procedural law of the applicable jurisdiction and has a purpose to deceive; not merely negligent misrepresentation or failure to apprise another of relevant

58 information.

59 ~~(j)~~(l) “Grievance” denotes an allegation of unethical conduct filed
60 against a lawyer.

61 ~~(k)~~(m) “He,” “Him” or “His” denotes generic pronouns including
62 both male and female.

63 ~~(d)~~(n) “Informed consent” denotes the agreement by a person to a
64 proposed course of conduct after the lawyer has communicated
65 adequate information and explanation about the material risks of
66 and reasonably available alternatives to the proposed course of
67 conduct.

68 ~~(m)~~(o) “Knowingly,” “known,” or “knows” denotes actual
69 knowledge of the fact in question. A person's knowledge
70 may be inferred from the circumstances.

71 ~~(n)~~(p) “Lawyer” denotes a person authorized ~~by the Supreme~~
72 ~~Court of Georgia or its rules~~ to practice law by the duly
73 constituted and authorized governmental body of any state or
74 territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or a
75 foreign nation. “Lawyer” includes Domestic and Foreign Lawyers
76 as defined in Rule 1.0(h) and 1.0(j), respectively.~~in the state of~~

~~Georgia including persons admitted to practice in this state pro-~~
~~hae vice.~~

~~(e)(q)~~ “Memorandum of Grievance” denotes an allegation of
unethical conduct against a lawyer filed in writing with the
Office of the General Counsel and containing the name and
signature of the complainant or initiated pursuant to Rule 4-203
(2).

~~(p)(r)~~ “Nonlawyer” denotes a person not authorized to practice law
by either the:

(1) Supreme Court of Georgia or its rules (including pro hac
vice admission), or

(2) duly constituted and authorized governmental body
of any other state or territory of the United States, or the
District of Columbia, or

(3) duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any
foreign nation.

~~(q)(s)~~ “Notice of Discipline” denotes a notice by the State
Disciplinary Board that the respondent will be subject to a
disciplinary sanction for violation of one or more Georgia Rules

96 of Professional Conduct unless the respondent affirmatively
97 rejects the notice.

98 ~~(+)(t)~~ “Partner” denotes a member of a partnership, a
99 shareholder in a law firm organized pursuant to Bar Rule 1-203
100 (d), or a member of an association authorized to practice law.

101 ~~(+)(u)~~ “Petition for Voluntary Surrender of License” denotes a
102 Petition for Voluntary Discipline in which the respondent
103 voluntarily surrenders his license to practice law in this state. A
104 voluntary surrender of license is tantamount to disbarment.

105 ~~(+)(v)~~ “Probable Cause” denotes a finding by the State
106 Disciplinary Board that there is sufficient evidence to believe
107 that the respondent has violated one or more of the
108 provisions of Part IV, Chapter 1 of the rules.

109 ~~(+)(w)~~ “Prospective Client” denotes a person who consults
110 with a lawyer about the possibility of forming a client-
111 lawyer relationship with respect to a matter.

112 ~~(+)(x)~~ “Public Proceedings” denotes any proceeding under these
113 rules that has been filed with the Supreme Court of Georgia.

114 ~~(+)(y)~~ “Reasonable” or “reasonably” when used in relation to

conduct by a lawyer denotes the conduct of a reasonably prudent and competent lawyer.

~~(x)~~(z) “Reasonable belief” or “reasonably believes” when used in reference to a lawyer denotes that the lawyer believes the matter in question and that the circumstances are such that the belief is reasonable.

~~(y)~~(aa) “Reasonably should know” when used in reference to a lawyer denotes that a lawyer of reasonable prudence and competence would ascertain the matter in question.

~~(z)~~(bb) “Respondent” denotes a person whose conduct is the subject of any disciplinary investigation or proceeding.

~~(aa)~~(cc) “Screened” denotes the isolation of a lawyer from any participation in a matter through the timely imposition of procedures within a firm that are reasonably adequate under the circumstances to protect information that the isolated lawyer is obligated to protect under these rules or other law.

~~(bb)~~(dd) “Substantial” when used in reference to degree or extent denotes a material matter of clear and weighty importance.

134 ~~(ee)~~(ee) “Tribunal” denotes a court, an arbitrator in an arbitration
135 proceeding or a legislative body, administrative agency or other
136 body acting in an adjudicative capacity. A legislative body,
137 administrative agency or other body acts in an adjudicative
138 capacity when a neutral official, after the presentation of evidence
139 or legal argument by a party or parties, will render a legal
140 judgment directly affecting a party's interests in a particular
141 matter.

142 ~~(dd)~~(ff) “Willfull blindness” denotes awareness of a high
143 probability that a fact exists and deliberate action to avoid
144 learning of the fact.

145 ~~(ee)~~(gg) _____ “Writing” or “written” denotes a tangible or
146 electronic record of a communication or representation, including
147 but not limited to handwriting, typewriting, printing,
148 photostating, photography, audio or video recording and
149 electronic communications. A “signed” writing includes an
150 electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically
151 associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person
152 with the intent to sign the writing.

153 Comment

154 [1] Bar Rule 4-110 includes additional definitions for terminology
155 used in the procedural section of these rules.

156 Confirmed in Writing

157 [1A] If it is not feasible to obtain or transmit a written confirmation at
158 the time the client gives informed consent, then the lawyer must
159 obtain or transmit it within a reasonable time thereafter. If a lawyer
160 has obtained a client's informed consent, the lawyer may act in
161 reliance on that consent so long as it is confirmed in writing within a
162 reasonable time thereafter.

163 Firm

164 [2] Whether two or more lawyers constitute a firm within paragraph
165 (e) can depend on the specific facts. For example, two practitioners
166 who share office space and occasionally consult or assist each other
167 ordinarily would not be regarded as constituting a firm. However, if
168 they present themselves to the public in a way that suggests that they
169 are a firm or conduct themselves as a firm, they should be regarded as
170 a firm for purposes of the rules. A group of lawyers could be regarded
171 as a firm for purposes of the rule that the same lawyer should not

172 represent opposing parties in litigation, while it might not be so
173 regarded for purposes of the rule that information acquired by one
174 lawyer is attributed to another. The terms of any formal agreement
175 between associated lawyers are relevant in determining whether they
176 are a firm, as is the fact that they have mutual access to information
177 concerning the clients they serve. Furthermore, it is relevant in
178 doubtful cases to consider the underlying purpose of the rule that is
179 involved.

180 [3] With respect to the law department of an organization, including
181 the government, there is ordinarily no question that the members of
182 the department constitute a firm within the meaning of the Georgia
183 Rules of Professional Conduct. There can be uncertainty, however, as
184 to the identity of the client. For example, it may not be clear whether
185 the law department of a corporation represents a subsidiary or an
186 affiliated corporation, as well as the corporation by which the
187 members of the department are directly employed. A similar question
188 can arise concerning an unincorporated association and its local
189 affiliates.

190 [4] Similar questions can also arise with respect to lawyers in legal

191 aid and legal services organizations. Depending upon the structure of
192 the organization, the entire organization or different components of it
193 may constitute a firm or firms for purposes of these rules.

194 Fraud

195 [5] When used in these rules, the terms "fraud "or "fraudulent "refers
196 to conduct that is characterized as such under the substantive or
197 procedural law of the applicable jurisdiction and has a purpose to
198 deceive. This does not include merely negligent misrepresentation or
199 negligent failure to apprise another of relevant information. For
200 purposes of these rules, it is not necessary that anyone has suffered
201 damages or relied on the misrepresentation or failure to inform.

202 Informed Consent

203 [6] Many of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct require the
204 lawyer to obtain the informed consent of a client or other person (e.g.,
205 a former client or, under certain circumstances, a prospective client)
206 before accepting or continuing representation or pursuing a course of
207 conduct. See, e.g., Rules 1.2 (c), 1.6 (a) and 1.7 (b). The communication
208 necessary to obtain such consent will vary according to the rule
209 involved and the circumstances giving rise to the need to obtain

210 informed consent. The lawyer must make reasonable efforts to ensure
211 that the client or other person possesses information reasonably
212 adequate to make an informed decision. Ordinarily, this will require
213 communication that includes a disclosure of the facts and
214 circumstances giving rise to the situation, any explanation reasonably
215 necessary to inform the client or other person of the material
216 advantages and disadvantages of the proposed course of conduct and a
217 discussion of the client's or other person's options and alternatives. In
218 some circumstances it may be appropriate for a lawyer to advise a
219 client or other person to seek the advice of other counsel. A lawyer
220 need not inform a client or other person of facts or implications
221 already known to the client or other person; nevertheless, a lawyer
222 who does not personally inform the client or other person assumes the
223 risk that the client or other person is inadequately informed and the
224 consent is invalid. In determining whether the information and
225 explanation provided are reasonably adequate, relevant factors
226 include whether the client or other person is experienced in legal
227 matters generally and in making decisions of the type involved, and
228 whether the client or other person is independently represented by

229 other counsel in giving the consent. Normally, such persons need less
230 information and explanation than others, and generally a client or
231 other person who is independently represented by other counsel in
232 giving the consent should be assumed to have given informed consent.

233 [7] Obtaining informed consent will usually require an affirmative
234 response by the client or other person. In general, a lawyer may not
235 assume consent from a client's or other person's silence. Consent may
236 be inferred, however, from the conduct of a client or other person who
237 has reasonably adequate information about the matter. A number of
238 Rules require that a person's consent be confirmed in writing. *See*
239 *Rules 1.7 (b) and 1.9 (a)* . For a definition of "writing "and "confirmed
240 in writing,"see paragraphs (s) and (b). Other Rules require that a
241 client's consent be obtained in a writing signed by the client. *See, e.g.,*
242 *Rules 1.8 (a) (3) and (g)* . For a definition of "signed,"see paragraph
243 (s).

244 Screened

245 [8] This definition applies to situations where screening of a
246 personally disqualified lawyer is permitted to remove imputation of a
247 conflict of interest under Rules 1.11 and 1.12.

248 [9] The purpose of screening is to assure the affected parties that
249 confidential information known by the personally disqualified lawyer
250 remains protected. The personally disqualified lawyer should
251 acknowledge the obligation not to communicate with any of the other
252 lawyers in the firm with respect to the matter. Similarly, other
253 lawyers in the firm who are working on the matter should be
254 informed that the screening is in place and that they may not
255 communicate with the personally disqualified lawyer with respect to
256 the matter. Additional screening measures that are appropriate for
257 the particular matter will depend on the circumstances. To
258 implement, reinforce and remind all affected lawyers of the presence
259 of the screening, it may be appropriate for the firm to undertake such
260 procedures as a written undertaking by the screened lawyer to avoid
261 any communication with other firm personnel and any contact with
262 any firm files or other materials relating to the matter, written notice
263 and instructions to all other firm personnel forbidding any
264 communication with the screened lawyer relating to the matter,
265 denial of access by the screened lawyer to firm files or other materials
266 relating to the matter and periodic reminders of the screen to the

267 screened lawyer and all other firm personnel.

268 [10] In order to be effective, screening measures must be

269 implemented as soon as practical after a lawyer or law firm knows

270 or reasonably should know that there is a need for screening.

271 Writing

272 [11] The purpose of this definition is to permit a lawyer to use

273 developing technologies that maintain an objective record of a

274 communication that does not rely upon the memory of the lawyer or

275 any other person. *See OCGA § 10-12-2(8).*

1 **RULE 1.0. TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) “Attorney” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the
3 duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any state
4 or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or a
5 foreign nation.

6 (b) “Belief” or “believes” denotes that the person involved
7 actually thought the fact in question to be true. A person’s belief
8 may be inferred from the circumstances.

9 (c) “Confidential Proceedings” denotes any proceeding under these
10 rules which occurs prior to a filing in the Supreme Court of
11 Georgia.

12 (d) “Confirmed in writing” when used in reference to the informed
13 consent of a person, denotes informed consent that is given in
14 writing by the person, or a writing that a lawyer promptly
15 transmits to the person confirming an oral informed consent. See
16 paragraph (l) for the definition of “informed consent.” If it is not
17 feasible to obtain or transmit the writing at the time the person
18 gives informed consent, then the lawyer must obtain or transmit
19 it within a reasonable time thereafter.

(e) “Consult” or “consultation” denotes communication of information reasonably sufficient to permit the client to appreciate the significance of the matter in question.

(f) “Conviction” or “convicted” denotes any of the following accepted by a court, whether or not a sentence has been imposed:

(1) a guilty plea;

(2) a plea of nolo contendere;

(3) a verdict of guilty;

(4) a verdict of guilty but mentally ill; or

(5) A plea entered under the Georgia First Offender Act, OCGA § 42-8-60 et seq., or a substantially similar statute in Georgia or another jurisdiction.

(g) “Counsel” when used in these rules as a noun, denotes a person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or a foreign nation. This definition does not apply to references to the “Office of General Counsel,” “Bar Counsel,” or “staff counsel.”

(h) “Domestic Lawyer” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia but not authorized by the Supreme Court of Georgia or its rules to practice law in the state of Georgia.

(i) “Firm” or “law firm” denotes a lawyer or lawyers in a private firm, law partnership, professional corporation, sole proprietorship or other association authorized to practice law pursuant to Bar Rule 1-203 (d); or lawyers employed in a legal services organization or the legal department of a corporation or other organization.

(j) “Foreign Lawyer” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any foreign nation but not authorized by the Supreme Court of Georgia or its rules to practice law in the state of Georgia.

(k) “Fraud” or “fraudulent” denotes conduct that is fraudulent under the substantive or procedural law of the applicable jurisdiction and has a purpose to deceive; not merely negligent misrepresentation or failure to apprise another of relevant information.

(l) “Grievance” denotes an allegation of unethical conduct filed against a lawyer.

(m) “He,” “Him” or “His” denotes generic pronouns including both male and female.

(n) “Informed consent” denotes the agreement by a person to a proposed course of conduct after the lawyer has communicated adequate information and explanation about the material risks of and reasonably available alternatives to the proposed course of conduct.

(o) “Knowingly,” “known,” or “knows” denotes actual knowledge of the fact in question. A person’s knowledge may be inferred from the circumstances.

(p) “Lawyer” denotes a person authorized to practice law by the duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or a foreign nation. “Lawyer” includes Domestic and Foreign Lawyers as defined in Rule 1.0(h) and 1.0(j), respectively.

(q) “Memorandum of Grievance” denotes an allegation of unethical conduct against a lawyer filed in writing with the

Office of the General Counsel and containing the name and
signature of the complainant or initiated pursuant to Rule 4-203
(2).

(r) “Nonlawyer” denotes a person not authorized to practice law by
either the:

(1) Supreme Court of Georgia or its rules (including pro hac
vice admission), or

(2) duly constituted and authorized governmental body
of any other state or territory of the United States, or the
District of Columbia, or

(3) duly constituted and authorized governmental body of any
foreign nation.

(s) “Notice of Discipline” denotes a notice by the State
Disciplinary Board that the respondent will be subject to a
disciplinary sanction for violation of one or more Georgia Rules
of Professional Conduct unless the respondent affirmatively
rejects the notice.

(t) “Partner” denotes a member of a partnership, a shareholder in
a law firm organized pursuant to Bar Rule 1-203 (d), or a member

96 of an association authorized to practice law.

97 (u)“Petition for Voluntary Surrender of License” denotes a

98 Petition for Voluntary Discipline in which the respondent

99 voluntarily surrenders his license to practice law in this state. A

100 voluntary surrender of license is tantamount to disbarment.

101 (v) “Probable Cause” denotes a finding by the State

102 Disciplinary Board that there is sufficient evidence to believe

103 that the respondent has violated one or more of the

104 provisions of Part IV, Chapter 1 of the rules.

105 (w) "Prospective Client "denotes a person who consults

106 with a lawyer about the possibility of forming a client-

107 lawyer relationship with respect to a matter.

108 (x) “Public Proceedings” denotes any proceeding under these

109 rules that has been filed with the Supreme Court of Georgia.

110 (y) “Reasonable” or “reasonably” when used in relation to conduct

111 by a lawyer denotes the conduct of a reasonably prudent and

112 competent lawyer.

113 (z) “Reasonable belief” or “reasonably believes” when used in

114 reference to a lawyer denotes that the lawyer believes the

115 matter in question and that the circumstances are such that the
116 belief is reasonable.

117 (aa) “Reasonably should know” when used in reference to a
118 lawyer denotes that a lawyer of reasonable prudence and
119 competence would ascertain the matter in question.

120 (bb) “Respondent” denotes a person whose conduct is the subject
121 of any disciplinary investigation or proceeding.

122 (cc) “Screened” denotes the isolation of a lawyer from any
123 participation in a matter through the timely imposition of
124 procedures within a firm that are reasonably adequate under the
125 circumstances to protect information that the isolated lawyer is
126 obligated to protect under these rules or other law.

127 (dd) “Substantial” when used in reference to degree or extent
128 denotes a material matter of clear and weighty importance.

129 (ee) “Tribunal” denotes a court, an arbitrator in an arbitration
130 proceeding or a legislative body, administrative agency or other
131 body acting in an adjudicative capacity. A legislative body,
132 administrative agency or other body acts in an adjudicative
133 capacity when a neutral official, after the presentation of evidence

134 or legal argument by a party or parties, will render a legal
135 judgment directly affecting a party's interests in a particular
136 matter.

137 (ff) “Willfull blindness” denotes awareness of a high probability
138 that a fact exists and deliberate action to avoid learning of the
139 fact.

140 (gg) “Writing” or “written” denotes a tangible or electronic
141 record of a communication or representation, including but not
142 limited to handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating,
143 photography, audio or video recording and electronic
144 communications. A “signed” writing includes an electronic sound,
145 symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a
146 writing and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to
147 sign the writing.

148 Comment

149 [1] Bar Rule 4-110 includes additional definitions for terminology
150 used in the procedural section of these rules.

151 Confirmed in Writing

152 [1A] If it is not feasible to obtain or transmit a written confirmation at

153 the time the client gives informed consent, then the lawyer must
154 obtain or transmit it within a reasonable time thereafter. If a lawyer
155 has obtained a client's informed consent, the lawyer may act in
156 reliance on that consent so long as it is confirmed in writing within a
157 reasonable time thereafter.

158 Firm

159 [2] Whether two or more lawyers constitute a firm within paragraph
160 (e) can depend on the specific facts. For example, two practitioners
161 who share office space and occasionally consult or assist each other
162 ordinarily would not be regarded as constituting a firm. However, if
163 they present themselves to the public in a way that suggests that they
164 are a firm or conduct themselves as a firm, they should be regarded as
165 a firm for purposes of the rules. A group of lawyers could be regarded
166 as a firm for purposes of the rule that the same lawyer should not
167 represent opposing parties in litigation, while it might not be so
168 regarded for purposes of the rule that information acquired by one
169 lawyer is attributed to another. The terms of any formal agreement
170 between associated lawyers are relevant in determining whether they
171 are a firm, as is the fact that they have mutual access to information

172 concerning the clients they serve. Furthermore, it is relevant in
173 doubtful cases to consider the underlying purpose of the rule that is
174 involved.

175 [3] With respect to the law department of an organization, including
176 the government, there is ordinarily no question that the members of
177 the department constitute a firm within the meaning of the Georgia
178 Rules of Professional Conduct. There can be uncertainty, however, as
179 to the identity of the client. For example, it may not be clear whether
180 the law department of a corporation represents a subsidiary or an
181 affiliated corporation, as well as the corporation by which the
182 members of the department are directly employed. A similar question
183 can arise concerning an unincorporated association and its local
184 affiliates.

185 [4] Similar questions can also arise with respect to lawyers in legal
186 aid and legal services organizations. Depending upon the structure of
187 the organization, the entire organization or different components of it
188 may constitute a firm or firms for purposes of these rules.

189 Fraud

190 [5] When used in these rules, the terms "fraud "or "fraudulent "refers

191 to conduct that is characterized as such under the substantive or
192 procedural law of the applicable jurisdiction and has a purpose to
193 deceive. This does not include merely negligent misrepresentation or
194 negligent failure to apprise another of relevant information. For
195 purposes of these rules, it is not necessary that anyone has suffered
196 damages or relied on the misrepresentation or failure to inform.

197 Informed Consent

198 [6] Many of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct require the
199 lawyer to obtain the informed consent of a client or other person (e.g.,
200 a former client or, under certain circumstances, a prospective client)
201 before accepting or continuing representation or pursuing a course of
202 conduct. See, e.g., Rules 1.2 (c), 1.6 (a) and 1.7 (b). The communication
203 necessary to obtain such consent will vary according to the rule
204 involved and the circumstances giving rise to the need to obtain
205 informed consent. The lawyer must make reasonable efforts to ensure
206 that the client or other person possesses information reasonably
207 adequate to make an informed decision. Ordinarily, this will require
208 communication that includes a disclosure of the facts and
209 circumstances giving rise to the situation, any explanation reasonably

210 necessary to inform the client or other person of the material
211 advantages and disadvantages of the proposed course of conduct and a
212 discussion of the client's or other person's options and alternatives. In
213 some circumstances it may be appropriate for a lawyer to advise a
214 client or other person to seek the advice of other counsel. A lawyer
215 need not inform a client or other person of facts or implications
216 already known to the client or other person; nevertheless, a lawyer
217 who does not personally inform the client or other person assumes the
218 risk that the client or other person is inadequately informed and the
219 consent is invalid. In determining whether the information and
220 explanation provided are reasonably adequate, relevant factors
221 include whether the client or other person is experienced in legal
222 matters generally and in making decisions of the type involved, and
223 whether the client or other person is independently represented by
224 other counsel in giving the consent. Normally, such persons need less
225 information and explanation than others, and generally a client or
226 other person who is independently represented by other counsel in
227 giving the consent should be assumed to have given informed consent.
228 [7] Obtaining informed consent will usually require an affirmative

229 response by the client or other person. In general, a lawyer may not
230 assume consent from a client's or other person's silence. Consent may
231 be inferred, however, from the conduct of a client or other person who
232 has reasonably adequate information about the matter. A number of
233 Rules require that a person's consent be confirmed in writing. *See*
234 *Rules 1.7 (b) and 1.9 (a)* . For a definition of "writing "and "confirmed
235 in writing,"see paragraphs (s) and (b). Other Rules require that a
236 client's consent be obtained in a writing signed by the client. *See, e.g.,*
237 *Rules 1.8 (a) (3) and (g)* . For a definition of "signed,"see paragraph
238 (s).

239 Screened

240 [8] This definition applies to situations where screening of a
241 personally disqualified lawyer is permitted to remove imputation of a
242 conflict of interest under Rules 1.11 and 1.12.

243 [9] The purpose of screening is to assure the affected parties that
244 confidential information known by the personally disqualified lawyer
245 remains protected. The personally disqualified lawyer should
246 acknowledge the obligation not to communicate with any of the other
247 lawyers in the firm with respect to the matter. Similarly, other

248 lawyers in the firm who are working on the matter should be
249 informed that the screening is in place and that they may not
250 communicate with the personally disqualified lawyer with respect to
251 the matter. Additional screening measures that are appropriate for
252 the particular matter will depend on the circumstances. To
253 implement, reinforce and remind all affected lawyers of the presence
254 of the screening, it may be appropriate for the firm to undertake such
255 procedures as a written undertaking by the screened lawyer to avoid
256 any communication with other firm personnel and any contact with
257 any firm files or other materials relating to the matter, written notice
258 and instructions to all other firm personnel forbidding any
259 communication with the screened lawyer relating to the matter,
260 denial of access by the screened lawyer to firm files or other materials
261 relating to the matter and periodic reminders of the screen to the
262 screened lawyer and all other firm personnel.

263 [10] In order to be effective, screening measures must be
264 implemented as soon as practical after a lawyer or law firm knows
265 or reasonably should know that there is a need for screening.

266 Writing

267 [11] The purpose of this definition is to permit a lawyer to use
268 developing technologies that maintain an objective record of a
269 communication that does not rely upon the memory of the lawyer or
270 any other person. *See OCGA § 10-12-2(8).*

1 **RULE 1.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION**

2 (a) A lawyer shall maintain in confidence all information gained in
3 the professional relationship with a client, including information
4 which the client has requested to be held inviolate or the
5 disclosure of which would be embarrassing or would likely be
6 detrimental to the client, unless the client gives informed consent,
7 except for disclosures that are impliedly authorized in order to
8 carry out the representation, or are required by these rules or
9 other law, or by order of the court.

10 (b)

11 (1) A lawyer may reveal information covered by paragraph

12 (a) which the lawyer reasonably believes necessary:

13 (i) to avoid or prevent harm or substantial financial loss to
14 another as a result of client criminal conduct or third party
15 criminal conduct clearly in violation of the law;

16 (ii) to prevent serious injury or death not otherwise covered
17 by subparagraph (i) above;

18 (iii) to establish a claim or defense on behalf of the lawyer

19 in a controversy between the lawyer and the client, to
20 establish a defense to a criminal charge or civil claim
21 against the lawyer based upon conduct in which the client
22 was involved, or to respond to allegations in any
23 proceeding concerning the lawyer's representation of the
24 client;

25 (iv) to secure legal advice about the lawyer's compliance
26 with these rules.

27 (v) to detect and resolve conflicts of interest arising from
28 the lawyer's change of employment or changes in the
29 composition or ownership of a firm, but only if the revealed
30 information would not compromise the attorney-client
31 privilege or otherwise prejudice the client.

32 (2) In a situation described in paragraph (b) (1), if the client
33 has acted at the time the lawyer learns of the threat of harm
34 or loss to a victim, use or disclosure is permissible only if the
35 harm or loss has not yet occurred.

36 (3) Before using or disclosing information pursuant to
37 paragraph (b) (1) (i) or (ii), if feasible, the lawyer must make a

38 good faith effort to persuade the client either not to act or, if
39 the client has already acted, to warn the victim.

40 (c) A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the
41 inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of, or unauthorized
42 access to, information relating to the representation of a
43 client.

44 ~~(c)(d)~~ The duty of confidentiality shall continue after the
45 client-lawyer relationship has terminated.

46 The maximum penalty for a violation of this rule is disbarment.

47 Comment

48 [1] The lawyer is part of a judicial system charged with upholding
49 the law. One of the lawyer's functions is to advise clients so that
50 they avoid any violation of the law in the proper exercise of their
51 rights. See Rule 1.18.

52 [2] The observance of the ethical obligation of a lawyer to hold
53 inviolate confidential information of the client not only facilitates the
54 full development of facts essential to proper representation of the
55 client but also encourages people to seek early legal assistance.

56 [3] Almost without exception, clients come to lawyers in order to

57 determine what their rights are and what is, in the maze of laws and
58 regulations, deemed to be legal and correct. The common law
59 recognizes that the client's confidences must be protected from
60 disclosure. Based upon experience, lawyers know that almost all
61 clients follow the advice given, and the law is upheld.

62 [4] A fundamental principle in the client-lawyer relationship is that
63 the lawyer maintain confidentiality of information relating to the
64 representation. The client is thereby encouraged to communicate
65 fully and frankly with the lawyer even as to embarrassing or legally
66 damaging subject matter.

67 [4A] RESERVED

68 [5] The principle of confidentiality is given effect in two related bodies
69 of law, the attorney- client privilege (which includes the work product
70 doctrine) in the law of evidence and the rule of confidentiality
71 established in professional ethics. The attorney-client privilege applies
72 in judicial and other proceedings in which a lawyer may be called as a
73 witness or otherwise required to produce evidence concerning a client.
74 The rule of client-lawyer confidentiality applies in situations other
75 than those where evidence is sought from the lawyer through

76 compulsion of law. Rule 1.6 applies not merely to matters
77 communicated in confidence by the client but also to all information
78 gained in the professional relationship, whatever its source. A lawyer
79 may not disclose such information except as authorized or required by
80 the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or other law. See also Scope.
81 The requirement of maintaining confidentiality of information gained
82 in the professional relationship applies to government lawyers who
83 may disagree with the client's policy goals.

84 Authorized Disclosure

85 ~~(5)(6)~~A lawyer is impliedly authorized to make disclosures about a
86 client when appropriate in carrying out the representation, except to
87 the extent that the client's instructions or special circumstances limit
88 that authority. In litigation, for example, a lawyer may disclose
89 information by admitting a fact that cannot properly be disputed, or
90 in negotiation by making a disclosure that facilitates a satisfactory
91 conclusion.

92 ~~(6)(7)~~Lawyers in a firm may, in the course of the firm's practice,
93 disclose to each other information relating to a client of the firm,
94 unless the client has instructed that particular information be

95 confined to specified lawyers.

96 [7A] A lawyer's confidentiality obligations do not preclude a lawyer
97 from securing confidential legal advice about the lawyer's personal
98 responsibility to comply with these rules. In most situations,
99 disclosing information to secure such advice will be impliedly
100 authorized for the lawyer to carry out the representation. Even when
101 the disclosure is not impliedly authorized paragraph (b) (1) (iv)
102 permits such disclosure because of the importance of a lawyer's
103 compliance with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct.

104 Disclosure Adverse to Client

105 ~~[7]~~^[8] The confidentiality rule is subject to limited exceptions. In
106 becoming privy to information about a client, a lawyer may foresee
107 that the client intends serious harm to another person. The public is
108 better protected if full and open communication by the client is
109 encouraged than if it is inhibited.

110 ~~[8]~~^[9] Several situations must be distinguished. First, the lawyer may
111 not knowingly assist a client in conduct that is criminal or
112 fraudulent. See Rule 1.2 (d). Similarly, a lawyer has a duty under
113 Rule 3.3 (a) (4) not to use false evidence.

114 ~~[9]~~[10] Second, the lawyer may have been innocently involved in
115 past conduct by the client that was criminal or fraudulent. In such a
116 situation the lawyer has not violated Rule 1.2 (d), because to
117 "knowingly assist "criminal or fraudulent conduct requires knowing
118 that the conduct is of that character.

119 ~~[10]~~[11] Third, the lawyer may learn that a client intends
120 prospective conduct that is criminal and likely to result in death or
121 substantial bodily harm. As stated in paragraph (b) (1), the lawyer
122 has professional discretion to reveal information in order to prevent
123 such consequences. The lawyer may make a disclosure in order to
124 prevent death or serious bodily injury which the lawyer reasonably
125 believes will occur. It is very difficult for a lawyer to "know "when
126 such a heinous purpose will actually be carried out, for the client
127 may have a change of mind.

128 ~~[11]~~[12] The lawyer's exercise of discretion requires consideration
129 of such factors as the nature of the lawyer's relationship with the
130 client and with those who might be injured by the client, the lawyer's
131 own involvement in the transaction and factors that may extenuate
132 the conduct in question. Where practical, the lawyer should seek to

133 persuade the client to take suitable action. In any case, a disclosure
134 adverse to the client's interest should be no greater than the lawyer
135 reasonably believes necessary to the purpose. A lawyer's decision not
136 to take preventive action permitted by paragraph (b) (1) does not
137 violate this rule.

138 Withdrawal

139 ~~(12)~~(13) If the lawyer's services will be used by the client in
140 materially furthering a course of criminal or fraudulent conduct,
141 the lawyer must withdraw, as stated in Rule 1.16 (a) (1).

142 ~~(13)~~(14) After withdrawal the lawyer is required to refrain from
143 making disclosure of the client's confidences, except as otherwise
144 provided in Rule 1.6 . Neither this rule nor Rule 1.8 (b) nor Rule 1.16
145 (d) prevents the lawyer from giving notice of the fact of withdrawal,
146 and the lawyer may also withdraw or disaffirm any opinion,
147 document, affirmation, or the like.

148 ~~(14)~~(15) Where the client is an organization, the lawyer may be in
149 doubt whether contemplated conduct will actually be carried out by
150 the organization. Where necessary to guide conduct in connection
151 with this rule, the lawyer may make inquiry within the organization

152 as indicated in Rule 1.13 (b).

153 Dispute Concerning a Lawyer's Conduct

154 ~~[15]~~[16] Where a legal claim or disciplinary charge alleges

155 complicity of the lawyer in a client's conduct or other misconduct of

156 the lawyer involving representation of the client, the lawyer may

157 respond to the extent the lawyer reasonably believes necessary to

158 establish a defense. The same is true with respect to a claim involving

159 the conduct or representation of a former client. The lawyer's right to

160 respond arises when an assertion of such complicity has been made.

161 Paragraph (b) (1) (iii) does not require the lawyer to await the

162 commencement of an action or proceeding that charges such

163 complicity, so that the defense may be established by responding

164 directly to a third party who has made such an assertion. The right to

165 defend, of course, applies where a proceeding has been commenced.

166 Where practicable and not prejudicial to the lawyer's ability to

167 establish the defense, the lawyer should advise the client of the third

168 party's assertion and request that the client respond appropriately. In

169 any event, disclosure should be no greater than the lawyer reasonably

170 believes is necessary to vindicate innocence, the disclosure should be

171 made in a manner which limits access to the information to the
172 tribunal or other persons having a need to know it, and appropriate
173 protective orders or other arrangements should be sought by the
174 lawyer to the fullest extent practicable.

175 ~~146~~[17] If the lawyer is charged with wrongdoing in which the
176 client's conduct is implicated, the rule of confidentiality should not
177 prevent the lawyer from defending against the charge. Such a charge
178 can arise in a civil, criminal or professional disciplinary proceeding,
179 and can be based on a wrong allegedly committed by the lawyer
180 against the client, or on a wrong alleged by a third person; for
181 example, a person claiming to have been defrauded by the lawyer and
182 client acting together. A lawyer entitled to a fee is permitted by
183 paragraph (b) (1) (iii) to prove the services rendered in an action to
184 collect it. This aspect of the rule expresses the principle that the
185 beneficiary of a fiduciary relationship may not exploit it to the
186 detriment of the fiduciary. As stated above, the lawyer must make
187 every effort practicable to avoid unnecessary disclosure of information
188 relating to a representation, to limit disclosure to those having the
189 need to know it, and to obtain protective orders or make other

190 arrangements minimizing the risk of disclosure.

191 Detection of Conflicts of Interest

192 ~~[17]~~[18] Paragraph (b) (1) (v) recognizes that lawyers in different
193 firms may need to disclose limited information to each other to detect
194 and resolve conflicts of interest, such as when a lawyer is considering
195 an association with another firm, two or more firms are considering a
196 merger, or a lawyer is considering the purchase of a law practice. See
197 Rule 1.17, Comment [6]. Under these circumstances, lawyers and law
198 firms are permitted to disclose limited information, but only once
199 substantive discussions regarding the new relationship have occurred.
200 Any such disclosure should ordinarily include no more than the
201 identity of the persons and entities involved in a matter, a brief
202 summary of the general issues involved, and information about
203 whether the matter has terminated. Even this limited information,
204 however, should be disclosed only to the extent reasonably necessary
205 to detect and resolve conflicts of interests that might arise from the
206 possible new relationship. Moreover, the disclosure of any information
207 is prohibited if it would compromise the attorney-client privilege or
208 otherwise prejudice the client (e.g., the fact that a corporate client is

209 seeking advice on a corporate takeover that has not been publicly
210 announced; that a person has consulted a lawyer about the possibility
211 of divorce before the person's intentions are known to the person's
212 spouse; or that a person has consulted a lawyer about a criminal
213 investigation that has not led to a public charge). Under those
214 circumstances, paragraph (a) prohibits disclosure unless the client or
215 former client gives informed consent. A lawyer's fiduciary duty to the
216 lawyer's firm may also govern a lawyer's conduct when exploring an
217 association with another firm and is beyond the scope of these rules.

218 ~~[18]~~[19] Any information disclosed pursuant to paragraph (b) (1) (v)
219 may be used or further disclosed only to the extent necessary to detect
220 and resolve conflicts of interest. Paragraph (b) (1) (v) does not restrict
221 the use of information acquired by means independent of any
222 disclosure pursuant to paragraph (b) (1) (v). Paragraph (b) (1) (v) also
223 does not affect the disclosure of information within a law firm when
224 the disclosure is otherwise authorized, see Comment [7], such as when
225 a lawyer in a firm discloses information to another lawyer in the same
226 firm to detect and resolve conflicts of interest that could arise in
227 connection with undertaking a new representation.

228 Disclosures Otherwise Required or Authorized

229 ~~{19}~~[20] The attorney-client privilege is differently defined in
230 various jurisdictions. If a lawyer is called as a witness to give
231 testimony concerning a client, absent waiver by the client, paragraph
232 (a) requires the lawyer to invoke the privilege when it is applicable.
233 The lawyer must comply with the final orders of a court or other
234 tribunal of competent jurisdiction requiring the lawyer to give
235 information about the client.

236 ~~{20}~~[21] The Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct in various
237 circumstances permit or require a lawyer to disclose information
238 relating to the representation. See Rules 2.2, 2.3, 3.3 and 4.1. In
239 addition to these provisions, a lawyer may be obligated or permitted
240 by other provisions of law to give information about a client. Whether
241 another provision of law supersedes Rule 1.6 is a matter of
242 interpretation beyond the scope of these rules, but a presumption
243 should exist against such a supersession.

244 ~~{24}~~[22] Paragraph (b) permits disclosure only to the extent the
245 lawyer reasonably believes the disclosure is necessary to accomplish
246 one of the purposes specified. Where practicable, the lawyer should first

247 seek to persuade the client to take suitable action to obviate the need
248 for disclosure. In any case, a disclosure adverse to the client's interest
249 should be no greater than the lawyer reasonably believes necessary to
250 accomplish the purpose. If the disclosure will be made in connection
251 with a judicial proceeding, the disclosure should be made in a manner
252 that limits access to the information to the tribunal or other persons
253 having a need to know it and appropriate protective orders or other
254 arrangements should be sought by the lawyer to the fullest extent
255 practicable.

256 ~~(22)~~(23) Paragraph (b) permits but does not require the disclosure of
257 information relating to a client's representation to accomplish the
258 purposes specified. In exercising the discretion conferred by this rule,
259 the lawyer may consider such factors as the nature of the lawyer's
260 relationship with the client and with those who might be injured by
261 the client, the lawyer's own involvement in the transaction and
262 factors that may extenuate the conduct in question. A lawyer's
263 decision not to disclose as permitted by paragraph (b) does not violate
264 this rule. Disclosure may be required, however, by other rules. Some
265 rules require disclosure only if such disclosure would be permitted by

266 paragraph (b). See Rules 1.2 (d), 4.1 (b), and 8.1. Rule 3.3, on the other
267 hand, requires disclosure in some circumstances regardless of
268 whether such disclosure is permitted by this rule. See Rule 3.3 (b).
269 Acting Competently to Preserve Confidentiality
270 ~~23~~24 A lawyer should make reasonable efforts to prevent the
271 inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of, or unauthorized access to,
272 information covered by this Rule. A lawyer should make reasonable
273 efforts to safeguard information relating to the representation of a
274 client against unauthorized access by third parties and against
275 inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure by the lawyer or other persons
276 who are participating in the representation of the client or who are
277 subject to the lawyer's supervision. See Rules 1.1, 5.1 and 5.3. Factors
278 to be considered in determining the reasonableness of the lawyer's
279 efforts include, but are not limited to, the sensitivity of the
280 information, the likelihood of disclosure if additional safeguards are
281 not employed, the cost of employing additional safeguards, the
282 difficulty of implementing the safeguards, and the extent to which the
283 safeguards adversely affect the lawyer's ability to represent clients
284 (e.g., by making a device or important piece of software excessively

difficult to use). Whether a lawyer may be required to take additional steps to safeguard a client's information in order to comply with other law, such as state and federal laws that govern data privacy or that impose notification requirements upon the loss of, or unauthorized access to, electronic information, is beyond the scope of these rules.

~~[24]~~^[25] When transmitting a communication that includes information relating to the representation of a client, the lawyer should take reasonable precautions to prevent the information from coming into the hands of unintended recipients. This duty, however, does not require that the lawyer use special security measures if the method of communication affords a reasonable expectation of privacy. Special circumstances, however, may warrant special precautions. Factors to be considered in determining the reasonableness of the lawyer's expectation of confidentiality include the sensitivity of the information and the extent to which the privacy of the communication is protected by law or by a confidentiality agreement. Whether a lawyer may be required to take additional steps in order to comply with other laws, such as state and federal laws that govern data privacy, is beyond the scope of these rules.

1 **RULE 1.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION**

2 (a) A lawyer shall maintain in confidence all information gained in
3 the professional relationship with a client, including information
4 which the client has requested to be held inviolate or the
5 disclosure of which would be embarrassing or would likely be
6 detrimental to the client, unless the client gives informed consent,
7 except for disclosures that are impliedly authorized in order to
8 carry out the representation, or are required by these rules or
9 other law, or by order of the court.

10 (b)

11 (1) A lawyer may reveal information covered by paragraph

12 (a) which the lawyer reasonably believes necessary:

13 (i) to avoid or prevent harm or substantial financial loss to
14 another as a result of client criminal conduct or third party
15 criminal conduct clearly in violation of the law;

16 (ii) to prevent serious injury or death not otherwise covered
17 by subparagraph (i) above;

18 (iii) to establish a claim or defense on behalf of the lawyer

19 in a controversy between the lawyer and the client, to
20 establish a defense to a criminal charge or civil claim
21 against the lawyer based upon conduct in which the client
22 was involved, or to respond to allegations in any
23 proceeding concerning the lawyer's representation of the
24 client;

25 (iv) to secure legal advice about the lawyer's compliance
26 with these rules.

27 (v) to detect and resolve conflicts of interest arising from
28 the lawyer's change of employment or changes in the
29 composition or ownership of a firm, but only if the revealed
30 information would not compromise the attorney-client
31 privilege or otherwise prejudice the client.

32 (2) In a situation described in paragraph (b) (1), if the client
33 has acted at the time the lawyer learns of the threat of harm
34 or loss to a victim, use or disclosure is permissible only if the
35 harm or loss has not yet occurred.

36 (3) Before using or disclosing information pursuant to
37 paragraph (b) (1) (i) or (ii), if feasible, the lawyer must make a

38 good faith effort to persuade the client either not to act or, if
39 the client has already acted, to warn the victim.

40 (c) A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the
41 inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of, or unauthorized
42 access to, information relating to the representation of a
43 client.

44 (d) The duty of confidentiality shall continue after the client-
45 lawyer relationship has terminated.

46 The maximum penalty for a violation of this rule is disbarment.

47 Comment

48 [1] The lawyer is part of a judicial system charged with upholding
49 the law. One of the lawyer's functions is to advise clients so that
50 they avoid any violation of the law in the proper exercise of their
51 rights. See Rule 1.18.

52 [2] The observance of the ethical obligation of a lawyer to hold
53 inviolate confidential information of the client not only facilitates the
54 full development of facts essential to proper representation of the
55 client but also encourages people to seek early legal assistance.

56 [3] Almost without exception, clients come to lawyers in order to

57 determine what their rights are and what is, in the maze of laws and
58 regulations, deemed to be legal and correct. The common law
59 recognizes that the client's confidences must be protected from
60 disclosure. Based upon experience, lawyers know that almost all
61 clients follow the advice given, and the law is upheld.

62 [4] A fundamental principle in the client-lawyer relationship is that
63 the lawyer maintain confidentiality of information relating to the
64 representation. The client is thereby encouraged to communicate
65 fully and frankly with the lawyer even as to embarrassing or legally
66 damaging subject matter.

67 [4A] RESERVED

68 [5] The principle of confidentiality is given effect in two related bodies
69 of law, the attorney- client privilege (which includes the work product
70 doctrine) in the law of evidence and the rule of confidentiality
71 established in professional ethics. The attorney-client privilege applies
72 in judicial and other proceedings in which a lawyer may be called as a
73 witness or otherwise required to produce evidence concerning a client.
74 The rule of client-lawyer confidentiality applies in situations other
75 than those where evidence is sought from the lawyer through

76 compulsion of law. Rule 1.6 applies not merely to matters
77 communicated in confidence by the client but also to all information
78 gained in the professional relationship, whatever its source. A lawyer
79 may not disclose such information except as authorized or required by
80 the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct or other law. See also Scope.
81 The requirement of maintaining confidentiality of information gained
82 in the professional relationship applies to government lawyers who
83 may disagree with the client's policy goals.

84 Authorized Disclosure

85 [6] A lawyer is impliedly authorized to make disclosures about a client
86 when appropriate in carrying out the representation, except to the
87 extent that the client's instructions or special circumstances limit
88 that authority. In litigation, for example, a lawyer may disclose
89 information by admitting a fact that cannot properly be disputed, or
90 in negotiation by making a disclosure that facilitates a satisfactory
91 conclusion.

92 [7] Lawyers in a firm may, in the course of the firm's practice,
93 disclose to each other information relating to a client of the firm,
94 unless the client has instructed that particular information be

95 confined to specified lawyers.

96 [7A] A lawyer's confidentiality obligations do not preclude a lawyer
97 from securing confidential legal advice about the lawyer's personal
98 responsibility to comply with these rules. In most situations,
99 disclosing information to secure such advice will be impliedly
100 authorized for the lawyer to carry out the representation. Even when
101 the disclosure is not impliedly authorized paragraph (b) (1) (iv)
102 permits such disclosure because of the importance of a lawyer's
103 compliance with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct.

104 Disclosure Adverse to Client

105 [8] The confidentiality rule is subject to limited exceptions. In
106 becoming privy to information about a client, a lawyer may foresee
107 that the client intends serious harm to another person. The public is
108 better protected if full and open communication by the client is
109 encouraged than if it is inhibited.

110 [9] Several situations must be distinguished. First, the lawyer may
111 not knowingly assist a client in conduct that is criminal or
112 fraudulent. See Rule 1.2 (d). Similarly, a lawyer has a duty under
113 Rule 3.3 (a) (4) not to use false evidence.

114 [10] Second, the lawyer may have been innocently involved in past
115 conduct by the client that was criminal or fraudulent. In such a
116 situation the lawyer has not violated Rule 1.2 (d), because to
117 "knowingly assist "criminal or fraudulent conduct requires knowing
118 that the conduct is of that character.

119 [11] Third, the lawyer may learn that a client intends prospective
120 conduct that is criminal and likely to result in death or substantial
121 bodily harm. As stated in paragraph (b) (1), the lawyer has
122 professional discretion to reveal information in order to prevent
123 such consequences. The lawyer may make a disclosure in order to
124 prevent death or serious bodily injury which the lawyer reasonably
125 believes will occur. It is very difficult for a lawyer to "know "when
126 such a heinous purpose will actually be carried out, for the client
127 may have a change of mind.

128 [12] The lawyer's exercise of discretion requires consideration of such
129 factors as the nature of the lawyer's relationship with the client and
130 with those who might be injured by the client, the lawyer's own
131 involvement in the transaction and factors that may extenuate the
132 conduct in question. Where practical, the lawyer should seek to

133 persuade the client to take suitable action. In any case, a disclosure
134 adverse to the client's interest should be no greater than the lawyer
135 reasonably believes necessary to the purpose. A lawyer's decision not
136 to take preventive action permitted by paragraph (b) (1) does not
137 violate this rule.

138 Withdrawal

139 [13] If the lawyer's services will be used by the client in materially
140 furthering a course of criminal or fraudulent conduct, the lawyer
141 must withdraw, as stated in Rule 1.16 (a) (1).

142 [14] After withdrawal the lawyer is required to refrain from making
143 disclosure of the client's confidences, except as otherwise provided in
144 Rule 1.6. Neither this rule nor Rule 1.8 (b) nor Rule 1.16 (d) prevents
145 the lawyer from giving notice of the fact of withdrawal, and the
146 lawyer may also withdraw or disaffirm any opinion, document,
147 affirmation, or the like.

148 [15] Where the client is an organization, the lawyer may be in doubt
149 whether contemplated conduct will actually be carried out by the
150 organization. Where necessary to guide conduct in connection with
151 this rule, the lawyer may make inquiry within the organization as

152 indicated in Rule 1.13 (b).

153 Dispute Concerning a Lawyer's Conduct

154 [16] Where a legal claim or disciplinary charge alleges complicity of
155 the lawyer in a client's conduct or other misconduct of the lawyer
156 involving representation of the client, the lawyer may respond to the
157 extent the lawyer reasonably believes necessary to establish a
158 defense. The same is true with respect to a claim involving the
159 conduct or representation of a former client. The lawyer's right to
160 respond arises when an assertion of such complicity has been made.
161 Paragraph (b) (1) (iii) does not require the lawyer to await the
162 commencement of an action or proceeding that charges such
163 complicity, so that the defense may be established by responding
164 directly to a third party who has made such an assertion. The right to
165 defend, of course, applies where a proceeding has been commenced.
166 Where practicable and not prejudicial to the lawyer's ability to
167 establish the defense, the lawyer should advise the client of the third
168 party's assertion and request that the client respond appropriately. In
169 any event, disclosure should be no greater than the lawyer reasonably
170 believes is necessary to vindicate innocence, the disclosure should be

171 made in a manner which limits access to the information to the
172 tribunal or other persons having a need to know it, and appropriate
173 protective orders or other arrangements should be sought by the
174 lawyer to the fullest extent practicable.

175 [17] If the lawyer is charged with wrongdoing in which the client's
176 conduct is implicated, the rule of confidentiality should not prevent
177 the lawyer from defending against the charge. Such a charge can arise
178 in a civil, criminal or professional disciplinary proceeding, and can be
179 based on a wrong allegedly committed by the lawyer against the
180 client, or on a wrong alleged by a third person; for example, a person
181 claiming to have been defrauded by the lawyer and client acting
182 together. A lawyer entitled to a fee is permitted by paragraph (b) (1)
183 (iii) to prove the services rendered in an action to collect it. This
184 aspect of the rule expresses the principle that the beneficiary of a
185 fiduciary relationship may not exploit it to the detriment of the
186 fiduciary. As stated above, the lawyer must make every effort
187 practicable to avoid unnecessary disclosure of information relating to
188 a representation, to limit disclosure to those having the need to know
189 it, and to obtain protective orders or make other arrangements

190 minimizing the risk of disclosure.

191 Detection of Conflicts of Interest

192 [18] Paragraph (b) (1) (v) recognizes that lawyers in different firms
193 may need to disclose limited information to each other to detect and
194 resolve conflicts of interest, such as when a lawyer is considering an
195 association with another firm, two or more firms are considering a
196 merger, or a lawyer is considering the purchase of a law practice. See
197 Rule 1.17, Comment [6]. Under these circumstances, lawyers and law
198 firms are permitted to disclose limited information, but only once
199 substantive discussions regarding the new relationship have occurred.
200 Any such disclosure should ordinarily include no more than the
201 identity of the persons and entities involved in a matter, a brief
202 summary of the general issues involved, and information about
203 whether the matter has terminated. Even this limited information,
204 however, should be disclosed only to the extent reasonably necessary
205 to detect and resolve conflicts of interests that might arise from the
206 possible new relationship. Moreover, the disclosure of any information
207 is prohibited if it would compromise the attorney-client privilege or
208 otherwise prejudice the client (e.g., the fact that a corporate client is

209 seeking advice on a corporate takeover that has not been publicly
210 announced; that a person has consulted a lawyer about the possibility
211 of divorce before the person's intentions are known to the person's
212 spouse; or that a person has consulted a lawyer about a criminal
213 investigation that has not led to a public charge). Under those
214 circumstances, paragraph (a) prohibits disclosure unless the client or
215 former client gives informed consent. A lawyer's fiduciary duty to the
216 lawyer's firm may also govern a lawyer's conduct when exploring an
217 association with another firm and is beyond the scope of these rules.

218 [19] Any information disclosed pursuant to paragraph (b) (1) (v) may
219 be used or further disclosed only to the extent necessary to detect and
220 resolve conflicts of interest. Paragraph (b) (1) (v) does not restrict the
221 use of information acquired by means independent of any disclosure
222 pursuant to paragraph (b) (1) (v). Paragraph (b) (1) (v) also does not
223 affect the disclosure of information within a law firm when the
224 disclosure is otherwise authorized, see Comment [7], such as when a
225 lawyer in a firm discloses information to another lawyer in the same
226 firm to detect and resolve conflicts of interest that could arise in
227 connection with undertaking a new representation.

228 Disclosures Otherwise Required or Authorized

229 [20] The attorney-client privilege is differently defined in various
230 jurisdictions. If a lawyer is called as a witness to give testimony
231 concerning a client, absent waiver by the client, paragraph (a) requires
232 the lawyer to invoke the privilege when it is applicable. The lawyer
233 must comply with the final orders of a court or other tribunal of
234 competent jurisdiction requiring the lawyer to give information about
235 the client.

236 [21]The Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct in various
237 circumstances permit or require a lawyer to disclose information
238 relating to the representation. See Rules 2.2, 2.3, 3.3 and 4.1. In
239 addition to these provisions, a lawyer may be obligated or permitted
240 by other provisions of law to give information about a client. Whether
241 another provision of law supersedes Rule 1.6 is a matter of
242 interpretation beyond the scope of these rules, but a presumption
243 should exist against such a supersession.

244 [22] Paragraph (b) permits disclosure only to the extent the lawyer
245 reasonably believes the disclosure is necessary to accomplish one of the
246 purposes specified. Where practicable, the lawyer should first seek to

247 persuade the client to take suitable action to obviate the need
248 for disclosure. In any case, a disclosure adverse to the client's interest
249 should be no greater than the lawyer reasonably believes necessary to
250 accomplish the purpose. If the disclosure will be made in connection
251 with a judicial proceeding, the disclosure should be made in a manner
252 that limits access to the information to the tribunal or other persons
253 having a need to know it and appropriate protective orders or other
254 arrangements should be sought by the lawyer to the fullest extent
255 practicable.

256 [23] Paragraph (b) permits but does not require the disclosure of
257 information relating to a client's representation to accomplish the
258 purposes specified. In exercising the discretion conferred by this rule,
259 the lawyer may consider such factors as the nature of the lawyer's
260 relationship with the client and with those who might be injured by
261 the client, the lawyer's own involvement in the transaction and
262 factors that may extenuate the conduct in question. A lawyer's
263 decision not to disclose as permitted by paragraph (b) does not violate
264 this rule. Disclosure may be required, however, by other rules. Some
265 rules require disclosure only if such disclosure would be permitted by

266 paragraph (b). See Rules 1.2 (d), 4.1 (b), and 8.1. Rule 3.3, on the other
267 hand, requires disclosure in some circumstances regardless of
268 whether such disclosure is permitted by this rule. See Rule 3.3 (b).
269 Acting Competently to Preserve Confidentiality
270 [24] A lawyer should make reasonable efforts to prevent the
271 inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of, or unauthorized access to,
272 information covered by this Rule. A lawyer should make reasonable
273 efforts to safeguard information relating to the representation of a
274 client against unauthorized access by third parties and against
275 inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure by the lawyer or other persons
276 who are participating in the representation of the client or who are
277 subject to the lawyer's supervision. See Rules 1.1, 5.1 and 5.3. Factors
278 to be considered in determining the reasonableness of the lawyer's
279 efforts include, but are not limited to, the sensitivity of the
280 information, the likelihood of disclosure if additional safeguards are
281 not employed, the cost of employing additional safeguards, the
282 difficulty of implementing the safeguards, and the extent to which the
283 safeguards adversely affect the lawyer's ability to represent clients
284 (e.g., by making a device or important piece of software excessively

difficult to use). Whether a lawyer may be required to take additional steps to safeguard a client's information in order to comply with other law, such as state and federal laws that govern data privacy or that impose notification requirements upon the loss of, or unauthorized access to, electronic information, is beyond the scope of these rules.

[25] When transmitting a communication that includes information relating to the representation of a client, the lawyer should take reasonable precautions to prevent the information from coming into the hands of unintended recipients. This duty, however, does not require that the lawyer use special security measures if the method of communication affords a reasonable expectation of privacy. Special circumstances, however, may warrant special precautions. Factors to be considered in determining the reasonableness of the lawyer's expectation of confidentiality include the sensitivity of the information and the extent to which the privacy of the communication is protected by law or by a confidentiality agreement. Whether a lawyer may be required to take additional steps in order to comply with other laws, such as state and federal laws that govern data privacy, is beyond the scope of these rules.



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors

From: R. Javoyne Hicks

Date: January 11, 2025

Re: **Center for Lawyer Wellbeing Dues and Membership Benefits**

The Center for Lawyer Wellbeing is requesting the Board of Governors to approve our initial dues for members at \$40 per year.

Individual Membership - \$40
Law School Students - Free

Below is the proposed membership benefits that members may receive as the Center develops its programs and establishes its offerings.

1. 20% Discount on Wellbeing Center continued education and professional development including the Annual Wellness Institute. Paid members may have access to continued education and professional development opportunities related to wellness. This can include access to webinars, online courses, and certifications that can enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of wellness.
2. 20% Discounts on Center for Lawyer Wellbeing products and services: Paid members may be eligible for discounts on wellness products and services offered by the Center. Access to other vendors that can include discounted gym memberships, wellness retreats, spa treatments, fitness classes, and other wellness-related offerings. These discounts can help individuals save money while pursuing their wellness goals.
3. Priority access to wellness events and programs: Paid members may receive priority access to wellness events and programs organized by the committee. This can include early registration for workshops, seminars, and retreats, ensuring that members have the opportunity to participate in these activities before they reach capacity.
4. Exclusive access to premium wellness resources: Paid members of a Center for Lawyer Wellbeing may receive exclusive access to premium wellness resources such as advanced educational materials, specialized workshops, and personalized coaching sessions. These resources can provide a deeper level of knowledge and support for individuals looking to enhance their well-being.
5. Networking through listservs, small groups, other organizations and with industry experts: Paid members may have the opportunity to network with industry experts in the

field of wellness. This can include access to guest speakers, panel discussions, and networking events where members can connect with professionals who can provide valuable insights and guidance on building wellness programs at your workplace, analyzing program effectiveness, etc.

6. Exclusive member events and perks: Paid members may have access to exclusive member events and perks. This can include special wellness retreats, member-only workshops, and social gatherings where members can connect with like-minded individuals and build a sense of community.
 7. Recognition and rewards: Paid members may receive additional recognition and rewards for their commitment to wellness. This can include special badges or certificates, public acknowledgment of their membership status, and additional incentives such as exclusive merchandise or additional time off.
-

Proposed Future Offerings

1. Personalized wellness plans: Paid members may have the opportunity to receive personalized wellness plans tailored to their specific needs and goals. These plans can include customized exercise routines, nutrition guidance, stress management techniques, and other strategies to improve overall well-being.
2. Enhanced support and accountability: Paid members may receive enhanced support and accountability from the wellness committee. This can include regular check-ins, personalized coaching sessions, and ongoing guidance to help individuals stay on track with their wellness goals. Having this level of support can increase motivation and improve the likelihood of success.
3. Personalized support from wellness professionals: Paid members may have the opportunity to receive personalized support from wellness professionals such as nutritionists, personal trainers, therapists, or life coaches. This one-on-one support can provide tailored guidance and strategies to help individuals overcome specific challenges and achieve their wellness goals.

Other Membership Categories

- Firms – Provide programing consistent with ABA Well-Being Pledge
- Government
- Non-Profits

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
2024-2025
MINUTES OF MEETING 2
December 10, 2024**

Hybrid Meeting

In-person at the State Bar Conference Center (Room 3) & via Zoom

The second meeting of the 2024-2025 State Bar of Georgia Advisory Committee on Legislation ("ACL") was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 in a hybrid format. In-person participants attended the meeting at the State Bar Conference Center and virtual participants joined via Zoom video conferencing.

ATTENDANCE

The following members and liaisons attended in-person: Graham McDonald (Vice Chair), Ivy Cadle (President), Amanda Clark Palmer, Judge Joseph Dent, R. Javoyne Hicks, Norbert Hummel IV, Joyce Gist Lewis, Derrick Pope, and Judge T. Neal Brunt (Council of Juvenile Court Judges Liaison).

The following members and liaisons attended via Zoom: Mark Alexander, Tracee Benzo, Joshua Bosin, Patricia Gorham, Donna Hix, Amy Howell, Curtis Jenkins, Brandon Peak, Alex Shalishali, Daniel Snipes, Lawton Stephens, Nancy Whaley, Judge Christopher Ballar (Council of Probate Court Judges Liaison), Judge E. Trenton Brown (Court of Appeals Liaison), Judge Jeffrey Hanson (Council of State Court Judges Liaison), Judge David Will (Council of Municipal Court Judges Liaison), and Judge Robert Wolf (Council of Magistrate Court Judges Liaison).

Other stakeholders present and participating in-person and via Zoom included: Anna Arceneaux, Cathy Hampton, Cheryl Karounos, Tracy Mason, Carlos Vilela, Damon Elmore (Executive Director), Megan Jones, Jennifer McNeely (Staff Liaison), Bill NeSmith (Deputy General Counsel), Russ Willard (General Counsel-Designate), Mark Middleton (Legislative Consultant), Roy Robinson (Legislative Consultant), Rusty Sewell (Legislative Consultant), and Wanda Segars.

CALL TO ORDER

ACL Vice Chair Graham McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM and welcomed members, liaisons, and other stakeholders and guests. Attendance was taken via sign-in sheet for those in-person and via Zoom's meeting participant report for those attending virtually.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

KELLER REVIEW

Russ Willard, General Counsel-Designate of the State Bar of Georgia, presented a review of *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990). As a mandatory bar association, the State Bar of Georgia is subject to First Amendment free speech and free association scrutiny by its membership. Under *Keller*, mandatory bar dues may only be used towards activities germane to the scope and purposes of the mandatory bar. The purposes of the State Bar of Georgia are covered in Rule 1-103 and include: (1) fostering the principles of duty and service to the public among the members of the bar, (2) improving the administration of justice, and (3) advancing the science of law.

Before the State Bar's Board of Governors, Executive Committee, or Advisory Committee on Legislation takes a position on any legislative matter, it must do a *Keller* vote.

NEW LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The ACL reviewed the following new proposals. Both proposals presented at the meeting were approved by the committee and will be considered by the Board of Governors at its Midyear Meeting in Savannah on January 11, 2025.

a. Support for a Resolution of the Governor Recognizing April 2025 as Legal Professionalism Month.

Carlos Vilela and Cathy Hampton presented on behalf of the State Bar's Professionalism Committee. This proposed resolution calls attention to the role of professionalism among members of the bar and seeks to maintain the confidence of Georgians in the legal profession. Accordingly, this recognition by the legislative branch calls attention to the importance of the legal profession in Georgia society.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on January 11, 2025.

b. Support for FY 2026 Judicial Council Budget Request - \$900,000 to Fund the Georgia Resource Center

Anna Arceneaux, Executive Director of the Georgia Resource Center, presented this proposal on behalf of the Indigent Defense Committee. The proposal requests the continuation of the long-standing baseline budget of \$900,000 to fund the Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center. The Georgia Resource Center was initially started by bar members, law schools, and other stakeholders. Georgia is presently the only state that does not provide a statutory procedure or constitutional right to the appointment and compensation of counsel in state habeas corpus proceedings; the Resource Center seeks to provide free representation to indigent death row prisoners. The State Bar has supported the Resource Center's appropriations request for 34 years.

The *Keller* vote was unanimous. The vote supporting this proposal was unanimous. The Board of Governors will consider this proposal on January 11, 2025.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a. Election and Political Update

Rusty Sewell reported that the proposal approved by the committee at the September meeting is being prepared by the legislative council. Rep. Rob Leverett will introduce the fiduciary bill to the House. One big issue for the coming general session will be tort reform and we expect the Governor to present his package on tort reform early in the session. Mark Middleton and Roy Robinson provided the committee with an update about the political make-up on the legislature post-election. We anticipate the judiciary committee leadership will remain mostly the same. There are two new lawyer-legislators who were recently elected. Rusty Sewell responded to a question regarding the possibility that the secretary of state's office may want to regulate the professional licensing of attorneys in Georgia, noting that while there has been some slight discussion in the past about this possibility, there is no real concern or movement in that direction.

b. Update from the Judiciary

Tracy Mason with the Administrative Office of the Courts reported that the Judicial Council of Georgia. The Judicial Council will meet on December 13, 2024, to discuss among other things, the report from the Council's standing committee on legislation. Recommendations from that committee included amendments to last year's Senate Bill 508, which provided for personally identifiable information protection as well as digital takedown legislation. The committee also recommended support for the continuation of last year's compensation reform efforts for state paid judges. Rep. Rob Leverett will carry that bill in the House and the Council thanked the State Bar for its continued support of this effort.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Vice Chair Graham McDonald stated that the committee will be tentatively scheduled to meet virtually on February 18, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL) Legislative Proposal Form

FORM A

For proposed legislation drafted by a State Bar committee or section and
lobbied by the State Bar's legislative team.

*****PROPOSALS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS FORM MUST ATTACH A DRAFT OF THE
PROPOSED LEGISLATION AS IT WOULD APPEAR IN THE GEORGIA CODE*****

Name of Proposal: Legal Professionalism Month

Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: Professionalism Committee

1. Provide a statement of the issues to be addressed by the proposed bill, including why this proposed revision is needed in Georgia.

This proposed gubernatorial proclamation requests that April 2025 be recognized as “Legal Professionalism Month” to highlight for the members of the State Bar of Georgia, and the public, of the importance of the ideals of honesty, integrity, fairness and civility in the practice of law in our state.

2. Is this a model bill from the Uniform Law Commission, American Law Institute, or another entity that drafts model legislation? No.

3. Give a brief summary of the existing law on this issue, including citations to applicable case law addressed in the proposed legislation.

This proclamation is not intended, nor is it designed to, amend, substitute, or otherwise modify existing state law. There is no existing state law on this issue.

4. Does this proposal seek to codify current case law or seek to modify a statute based on a recent appellate decision? No, as with previous versions, this proposal is intended to be a proclamation by the Governor. Should the Governor decline to adopt the proclamation, it will be converted to a privileged resolution for adoption by the General Assembly.

5. Will this proposed legislation have a fiscal impact on the state? The adoption of the proclamation will have no fiscal impact on the state.
6. Describe how the pending or proposed legislation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.¹
This proclamation calls attention to the role that professionalism plays in the field of law. The proclamation recognizes that professionalism among members of the legal community has positive effects for Georgians, such as: lower costs to litigants and increased confidence in the legal system.
7. Has another group attempted to pass similar legislation in the past? Is there another interest group that may be suited to lobby this bill?
The Professionalism Committee presented this proclamation to the Advisory Committee on Legislation and the Board of Governors in 2022 and 2023 for presentation to the General Assembly. Governor Brian Kemp has twice adopted this language as a gubernatorial proclamation declaring April 2023, and April 2024 as “Legal Professionalism Month”.
8. Why should the State Bar use its resources to lobby this proposal on behalf of the legal profession?
We request that the State Bar utilize its resources to lobby for this proclamation for the four reasons that were true the first time the Professionalism Committee made this request: First, it will call attention to the role that professionalism plays in the legal community of Georgia. Second, it will underscore that the State Bar is aware of the role professionalism plays within its membership. Third, by recognizing for the third consecutive year a “first-of-its-kind”, State-level “legal professionalism month”, Georgia will highlight that professionalism in the legal community continues to be taken seriously by the State Bar of Georgia. Fourth, the Governor’s

¹ The State Bar of Georgia reviews all proposals for compliance with the standard set out by the United States Supreme Court in *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

office previously adopted this proclamation for the 2022-2023 bar year, the 2023-2024 bar year, and we anticipate it being adopted again for the 2024-2025 bar year.

9. Are there any potential proponents or opponents of the proposal or pending legislation, including, but not limited to, other State Bar sections, specialty bar associations (ie- the trial lawyers or real estate closing attorneys), governmental entities, and outside interest groups? If so, please list them below.

No, there are no anticipated opponents in the form of, other State Bar Sections, specialty bar associations, governmental entities or outside interest groups.

10. Have you circulated this legislative proposal to all of the members of your own section or committee? If so, have they provided any comments?

Yes, the entire Professionalism Committee has been presented with this proposed resolution. The Committee has not expressed any opposition to this proposed resolution.

11. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in the legislation or proposal?

- a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this proposal? If so, have they provided any comments? Yes, the leadership of the Family Law, General Practice, Corporate Law, and Real Estate Law sections have been provided with a copy of the resolution to share with their respective memberships. To date, we have not received comments in opposition.

12. What is the recommendation that your section or committee wishes to be adopted by the State Bar?

It is the recommendation of the Professionalism Committee that this proclamation be advanced to the Governor's office for adoption.

A PROCLAMATION

Recognizing April 2025, as Legal Professionalism Month; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State Bar of Georgia advocates for all members of the Georgia Bar to be civil with one another during their representation of clients; and

WHEREAS, collegiality among counsel is critical to the effective and efficient adjudication of cases and controversies before Georgia Courts; and

WHEREAS, decreased collegiality and lack of professionalism between opposing counsel leads to increased hostility between litigants in Georgia's court system; and

WHEREAS, such hostility and lack of professionalism may lead to increased stress and increased mental health concerns for legal practitioners, potentially resulting in less desirable outcomes for litigants; and

WHEREAS, greater collegiality and increased legal professionalism between counsel and litigants may result in more expeditious disposition of cases, lower costs to parties of a lawsuit, and better outcomes for litigants; and

WHEREAS, increased collegiality and legal professionalism and decreased hostility between counsel and litigants may also result in lower costs for Georgia's Courts to administer justice; and

WHEREAS, more professionalism among attorneys will instill greater public trust and confidence in the legal system; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of collegiality and encouraging adversaries to join in the spirit of connecting with one another to foster greater legal professionalism and positive professional relationships, the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism has created an event to encourage collegiality and legal professionalism among members of the bar.

THEREFORE, I, Brian P. Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Legal Professionalism Month in Georgia.

In witness, thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this __ day of _____, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL)
Legislative Proposal Form

FORM B

For proposals seeking State Bar support for appropriations and state funding.

Name of Proposal: Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center, Inc.

Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: Indigent Defense

- 1. Please provide (a) the purpose of the funding, (b) the requested amount, and (b) the name of the state agency that received and administers this funding from the legislature.**

This proposal seeks continued State Bar support for adequate state funding for the Resource Center, specifically that continuation funding of \$900,000 be included in the budget of the Judicial Council for the next session of the General Assembly. This funding comprises the majority of the funding for the Resource Center. State Bar support for the Resource Center remains critical, and, as always, deeply appreciated.

- 2. Please provide a brief background on this appropriations request, including whether the request seeks an increase from the previous fiscal year.**

The Resource Center respectfully requests support for a continuation of baseline funding of \$900,000. In FY 25, the Resource Center sought a \$100,000 enhancement to its long-standing \$800,000 baseline funding in order to hire an additional attorney to handle death penalty cases.

The baseline funding of \$900,000 will allow the Resource Center to maintain current staffing levels in order to fulfill its mandate of ensuring that every person under a sentence of death in Georgia receives high-quality representation in their state and federal habeas corpus proceedings, and in clemency proceeding before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole.

3. Has the State Bar supported this appropriation in the past?

For the past thirty-six (36) years, the State Bar of Georgia has actively supported the Resource Center's legislative proposal. The formal and active support for this legislative proposal by the State Bar is crucial to obtain continued funding from the General Assembly, so that the important work of the Resource Center can continue.

4. Provide a statement of the issues to be addressed by this appropriation.

Georgia is the only state in the country that does not provide a statutory procedure or constitutional right to the appointment and compensation of counsel in state habeas corpus proceedings.¹ The lack of representation poses an especially acute problem in capital cases where post-conviction review has been recognized to be a critical stage in the appellate process.² The Resource Center is mandated to oversee *all* capital post-conviction cases in Georgia, either through direct representation or through support of pro bono counsel.³ As the Supreme Court has recognized, capital habeas corpus proceedings are among the most complex in the legal field and require intensive investigation and litigation by experienced attorneys and investigators.⁴ The responsibilities of Resource Center staff also extend to advocating for clemency after people under death sentences have exhausted their habeas appeals and face execution. At all of the stages of proceedings, the Resource Center's workload continues to be voluminous and labor-intensive. While clemency hearings and state habeas proceedings are very different, both entail complex investigations that place enormous demands on the Resource Center's staff and

¹ See *Gibson v. Turpin*, 270 Ga. 855 (1999). By the slimmest of margins, the Supreme Court of Georgia held that people under death sentence in Georgia had no constitutional right to counsel in state habeas corpus proceedings. The court noted that a statute providing for state-funded counsel might be a good policy, but that absent legislative enactment of such a provision, state-funded counsel was not constitutionally compelled.

² See, e.g., *Murray v. Giarratano*, 492 U.S. 1, 24, 26 (1989).

³ The Resource Center is currently responsible for overseeing 36 cases from 24 counties across the state.

⁴ See *Martinez v. Ryan*, 132 S. Ct. 1309, 1317 (2012) (effective counsel is necessary in order to vindicate constitutional rights in post-conviction proceedings).

budget. *See* Guideline 10.7, ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases (counsel at every stage, including clemency, “have an obligation to conduct thorough and independent investigations relating to the issues of both guilt and penalty”).

While the increase in legislative funding was of critical importance, the Resource Center is experiencing decreasing funding from sources other than the state legislature, particularly in compensation from vouchers under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) for our work in federal court. The Resource Center is simultaneously dealing with rising costs, including staff salaries in order to remain competitive in the Atlanta public service market, and significant increases in health insurance expenses.

5. Why should the State Bar take an official position to support or oppose this funding?

Endorsement of this proposal is consistent with the purposes of the State Bar of Georgia. Members of the Bar are uniquely qualified to analyze the technical and public policy issues inherent in this proposal and can fulfill a duty of public service by examining these issues and making a statement to the General Assembly. Endorsement of this proposal will also improve the administration of justice in appellate and post-conviction capital proceedings in Georgia. Improving the administration of justice is one of the three foundational purposes of the State Bar. *See* Rule 1-103.

6. Describe how support for this appropriation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.⁵

The Resource Center prides itself on its ability to do more with less. In the past, the Resource Center has been found to be the most efficient and cost-effective means of moving capital cases to final adjudication and is a necessary safeguard against wrongful

⁵ The State Bar reviews all proposals for compliance with the standard set out by the United States Supreme Court in *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

execution.⁶ Georgia has a high error rate in death sentences with almost 63% of death sentences being overturned since the revival of the death penalty in *Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976). The Resource Center has seen many successes on behalf of its clients in recent years. In February 2024, Dallas Holiday was resentenced to life imprisonment in Jefferson County after 38 years on death row. The Resource Center also secured remands from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit back to the Southern District of Georgia on behalf of two separate clients: *Williams v. Warden*, No. 22-10249-P (2024), and *Jones v. Warden*, No. 20-12587 (2022). The Resource Center also relies on the support of *pro bono* co-counsel, both in terms of personnel and financially, when available, to support case expenses.

By providing representation at this stage, moreover, the Resource Center allows Georgia’s capital punishment system to function expeditiously (in particular by streamlining federal habeas review) in bringing these cases to final resolution. The Resource Center is not an anti-death penalty organization. Rather, the Resource Center seeks to promote the core principle of providing equal access to justice. This is reflected in the Lawyer’s Creed: to “strive to improve the law and our legal system [and] to make the laws and our legal system available to all.”

The Resource Center’s representation on behalf of its clients has also improved the quality of legal services for all indigent people on death row. For example, the Resource Center’s litigation in *Wilson v. Sellers*, decided in 2018 by the United States Supreme Court, made an important clarification in how federal courts review state court decisions in habeas corpus proceedings. Another example is the Resource Center’s litigation in

⁶ Additionally, the Resource Center’s performance audit requested by the Georgia Senate Appropriations Committee and conducted by the Department of Audits in 2005 found that Resource Center attorneys handled more cases and expended less money per case than similar organizations providing post-conviction representation to people on death row in other states. This remains true today. For example, in FY 2024 the State of Mississippi, which has slightly fewer people on death row (35 people) as Georgia (36 people), funds the Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel, a state agency, with a staff of nine full-time employees, at \$2,039,800—more than double the state budget of the Resource Center. See Legislative Appropriations Bulletin, FY 2025, at p. 7, Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel, available at https://www.lbo.ms.gov/pdfs/fy25_bulletin.pdf.

Nance v. Ward, decided in 2021 by the United States Supreme Court, which made an important clarification in the appropriate vehicle, section 1983 or federal habeas, for method-of-execution claims.

7. Are there any potential proponents or opponents of this appropriation, including, but not limited to, other State Bar sections, specialty bar associations, governmental entities, and outside interest groups? If so, please list them here.

The State Bar of Georgia has supported full funding for the Resource Center since its inception in 1988. Indeed, the State Bar of Georgia was one of three recipients in the United States of the 1988 Harrison Tweed Award from the American Bar Association for its work in establishing the Resource Center. The Georgia Supreme Court has also supported funding for the Resource Center, as has the Board of Governors and the Judicial Council of Georgia.

There are no known opponents of this proposal.

8. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in this appropriation?

The following other committees or sections which may have an interest in the legislation: the Advisory Committee on Legislation; the Criminal Law Section; the Access to Justice Committee; and the Individual Rights Section of the State Bar. These committees and sections have previously supported funding for the Resource Center.

a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this request? If so, have they provided any comments?

Yes, we have provided a copy of this request to the Indigent Defense Committee. We will provide any comments from this committee if we receive them.

9. What is the recommendation that your section/committee wishes to be adopted by

the State Bar?

The baseline funding of \$900,000 will allow the Resource Center to maintain the minimum staff necessary to fulfill its mandate to provide high-quality legal representation to the people in Georgia who are currently under a sentence of death, all of whom are indigent. The effectiveness, efficiency, and credibility of Georgia's death penalty system depend on an adequately-staffed and sufficiently-funded Resource Center. Without adequate staffing, the quality of representation we provide our clients will be negatively impacted.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Resource Center petition the State Bar of Georgia for endorsement of continuation funding of \$900,000 for the Resource Center and that such funding be placed in the budget of the Judicial Council for the next session of the General Assembly.

10. Please attach any additional information that the committee may find helpful in assessing this request.

Our baseline funding, which comprises more than 65% of our overall budget, comes from the Georgia legislature. Prior to the enhancement for FY 2025, this amount had remained stagnant for more than 20 years, excluding a few years of small reductions due to extraordinary circumstances.⁷ Beyond the baseline funding, the Resource Center is funded through two other primary sources: 1) the Georgia Bar and/or the Georgia Bar Foundation, and 2) compensation from vouchers under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) for our work in federal court.

The Georgia State Bar, a founding partner and strong supporter of the Resource Center since its inception in 1988, provided direct financial assistance of approximately \$110,000

⁷The Resource Center received \$800,000 starting in FY 2002 through FY 2008, and then from FY 2013-2023. From FY 2008 to FY 2013, the Resource Center received a small reduction in funding due to the financial crisis and another small reduction in FY 2021 and 2022 due to the pandemic cuts experienced across all state agencies and organizations that receive state funding. In those two fiscal years, we received \$775,000 from the State. The reduction was restored in FY 2023.

per year to the Resource Center from FY 2009 to FY 2021. From FY 2022 through FY 2025, Bar funding was cut in half to approximately \$55,000, and the Bar will decide in coming months whether to continue funding the Resource Center at that level, or at all for FY 2026. In the past, the Georgia Bar Foundation had provided grants to the Resource Center, but these grants were discontinued in FY 2012 when the economic downturn devastated its IOLTA revenues. Since FY 2019, the Georgia Bar Foundation has again generously awarded the Center a grant.

Federal court compensation is received in periodic amounts that vary substantially according to the number of federal habeas cases which are approaching resolution at any given time, the discretion of the court, and the time it takes the courts to fulfill payment vouchers. In FY 2023 the Resource Center received only \$156,867.70 in federal court compensation – its lowest amount in 20 years. In contrast, in the previous three fiscal years before that, the average annual federal compensation was \$362,871.89. As the number of cases in federal court continues to decrease, the amount of CJA compensation will decrease even further, and the Resource Center may soon experience some years with little to no federal compensation at all.

State Bar of Georgia Code of Conduct for Bar Events

Thank you for participating in a State Bar of Georgia-sponsored event. To ensure that everyone enjoys their experience, we kindly request your cooperation in adhering to the following code of conduct:

- Please be considerate and respectful of fellow attendees, guests, and staff members.
- Please refrain from disruptive behavior or engaging in any activity that may disturb others.
- Attendees and guests who engage in harassing or disruptive behavior will be immediately ejected from the program or event without refund or reimbursement.
- Attendees and guests are encouraged to promptly report any incidents, concerns, or instances of inappropriate behavior to State Bar or venue personnel.
- Attendees and guests shall comply with requests from Bar or venue staff regarding operational and emergency procedures.
- Guests who consume alcoholic beverages shall do so in a responsible manner.
- Intervention with an impaired, intoxicated, or underage guest will be handled promptly and safely. The State Bar of Georgia reserves the right to deny entry into an event and/or refuse service to guests displaying visible signs of impairment/intoxication.

State Bar of Georgia staff members are directed to intervene where necessary to help ensure the above expectations are met, and guests are encouraged to report inappropriate behavior to the nearest staff member. Attendees and guests who choose not to adhere to these provisions will be subject to ejection without a refund. If you feel that our staff does not address any issues to your satisfaction, please ask to speak with the Executive Director immediately.

Memorandum to: Members, Board of Governors
From: Paula Frederick
Date: December 12, 2024
Re: Report of the Office of the General Counsel

This is my last report to the Board. It has been a privilege serving as your general counsel; thank you for your support for the past 36 years. I leave you in good hands. The staff of the Office is outstanding and will continue their work regulating the profession and providing sound counsel to the State Bar of Georgia.

I am pleased to report on the activity of the Office for the period since the Fall meeting.

Discipline: The OGC has received 1,182 grievances this Bar year, 100 of which have survived the informal screening process and been forwarded to the State Disciplinary Board for additional investigation. This Bar year the Supreme Court has entered public orders in 24 cases and the Board has imposed confidential discipline in 23 matters. The Year-to-Date Report on Lawyer Regulation appears at page three of this memorandum.

Rule Changes: There are several proposed rule changes and amendments to the bylaws on the agenda for the Midyear Board meeting. The following proposed revisions to the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct are pending with the Supreme Court:

- Part VII of the Bar Rules, which deals with lawyer advertising and solicitation.
- A proposed amendment to Rule 4.2 clarifies that a lawyer who is acting pro se in a matter may not have substantive communications with a represented party on the other side, except as allowed by the rule.
- The proposed amendment to Rule 4-209.1 will remove language that suggests special masters should only serve for five years, allowing for longer service.
- Changes to the procedural rules for disciplinary cases add two new investigating at-large members to the State Disciplinary Board (Rule 4-201),

clarify who may grant extensions for filing exceptions to the State Disciplinary Review Board (Rule 4-214), allow the use of an email address for service of disciplinary process (Rule 4-203.1), and allow the release of confidential information to courts or related agencies in other jurisdictions to aid their investigation of a lawyer or judge (Rule 4-221.1).

Formal Advisory Opinion Board: The Formal Advisory Opinion Board will meet in mid-January. It is considering the following requests:

- FAO Request No. 24- R2 - May a lawyer reveal the identity of their client, former client, or prospective client to a third party without consent? This request is pending with the Board.
- Proposed FAO No. 24-1 (formerly request 23-R1) - May a lawyer use a third-party vendor to request the production of documents from a non-party pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11-34(c) and to follow up on and effectuate such a request to a non-party, and if so, what degree of autonomy may the lawyer allow the third-party vendor? The opinion was published in September and the comment period has expired. No comments were received.
- Proposed FAO 23-1 - Can an attorney fulfill his or her duties of “presence” at a real estate closing when using video conference? Six Bar members or organizations have submitted comments to the proposed opinion. The Board will consider the comments at its next meeting and may make additional changes to the proposed opinion.

Receiverships: Bar staff are currently serving as receiver in seven active matters. State Bar members are handling another 25 receiverships for deceased or disbarred lawyers.

Clients’ Security Fund: The Fund Trustees met in October to review 27 claims. They approved 21 claims for a total of \$476,935. They will meet again in February.

Continuing Legal Education: Lawyers in the office spoke at eight continuing legal education programs in November and December. Feel free to call upon us if your local bar group would like an ethics CLE hour.

Year-to-Date Report on Lawyer Regulation

July 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024

Grievance forms sent back to Office of General Counsel for screening	1,182
Grievances pending as June 30, 2024	491
*TOTAL	1,673
Grievances referred to State Disciplinary Board members	100
Grievances being screened by Grievance Counsel (GC)	471
Grievances closed by Grievance Counsel	1,094
Grievances moved to moot status by OGC after attorney was disbarred	8
TOTAL	1,673

Regulatory Action July 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024 ACTION	ATTORNEYS	CASES
Letters of Admonition Accepted	6	7
Confidential Reprimands Administered	10	16
Review Board Reprimands	0	0
Public Reprimands Administered	0	0
Suspensions	9	10
Disbarments/Voluntary Surrenders	9	14
TOTAL	34	47
Reinstatements Granted	1	1
Reinstatements Denied	0	0

Sections Department Report

EVENTS

Since the start of the 2024 bar year, alongside day-to-day administrative duties to support our members, the Sections Department has organized 31 CLE events, delivering a total of 55.5 CLE credit hours to 1,376 attendees. The department has conducted six 5-hour CLE programs, which included:

- The General Practice & Trial Section's Jury Trial: Provided attendees 6 hours of general CLE credit, 1 hour of ethics credit, and 1 hour of Professionalism credit.
- The Privacy & Technology Law Section's Forum: Offered attendees a total of 10 hours of general CLE credit over the course of the two-day seminar along with 1 hour of ethics credit, and 1 hour of Professionalism credit.
- Eminent Domain's Annual seminar: Provided attendees 5.5 hours of general CLE credit, 1 hour of Professionalism, and 1 hour of Trial credit.
- The E-Discovery & the Use of Technology Section's Legal Showcase and CLE: Offered attendees 5 hours of general CLE credit.
- The Real Property Law Section's Title seminar: Provided attendees with a total of 6 hours of general CLE credit, 1 hour of Trial credit, and 1 hour of ethics credit.
- The Real Property Law Section's Commercial Real Estate Seminar: Provided attendees with 6 hours of general CLE credit.

Essential duties required to organize these events include setting up registration in IMIS or AffiniPay (depending on the type of registration the section chooses to offer), adding the event to the website, and coordinating email blasts, reminders, and other marketing efforts for the sponsoring section. Additional responsibilities include assisting in cross-promoting events to other sections, obtaining CLE credit approval for event materials, registering speakers for their respective events, ensuring attendees sign in to receive CLE credit, processing CLE credit by entering attendance into the CLE portal, and preparing a spreadsheet report for accounting to transfer CLE costs from the section's budget to CLE.

The Real Property Law Section organizes an Executive Committee Retreat at the beginning of each new bar year to honor executive committee members and their families. We work closely with the section chair to plan and coordinate this weekend-long trip.

Our 5-hour programs, which previously went through ICLE but now align with the new model bylaws under the Section Department, involve numerous speakers. We collaborate with the section's executive committee to select gifts for all speakers. Some sections have larger executive committees, and the chair purchases gifts for the entire committee at the end of the bar year. We assist them in selecting the perfect gift for this occasion.

All sections meet at least once a year for their annual meetings, while select sections hold monthly meetings. These sections include:

- Family Law
- Real Property Law

- Intellectual Property Law
- Child Protection & Advocacy
- Corporate Counsel
- Fiduciary Law
- Labor & Employment
- Privacy & Technology

The Labor & Employment Law Section oversees the Mentorship Academy, a program designed to mentor newly admitted attorneys (with five or fewer years of practice) and those new to labor and employment law. Throughout the bar year, the Mentorship Academy hosts CLE events, which we assist in coordinating, including registration and processing CLE credits. At the end of each bar year, the Mentorship Academy concludes with a celebratory dinner, where awards are presented to both mentors and mentees. This event is typically held at the Capital City Club, and we support its organization and planning.

NEWSLETTERS/CREATIVE CONTENT

The Sections Department has published 10 newsletters during the 2024-2025 Bar year so far, and we anticipate this number will increase as the year progresses.

- Since the beginning of the 2024-2025 Bar year, several sections have distributed their newsletters via email blasts, including:
 - Class Action Law Section: 1 newsletter
 - Aviation Law Section: 2 newsletters
 - Real Property Law Section: 2 newsletters
 - Health Law Section: 1 newsletter
 - Intellectual Property Law Section: 1 newsletter
 - Child Protection & Advocacy Section: 1 newsletter
- The Family Law Section publishes a quarterly newsletter and has released two editions since the start of the Bar year. This section continues to print and mail the newsletter to all members, with each issue typically exceeding 45 pages.
- The General Practice & Trial Law Section has transitioned its newsletter publication to the Sections Department. We published the section's first in-house newsletter at the end of the 2023-2024 Bar year and plan to release the next one at the end of the 2024-2025 Bar year. Like the Family Law Section, this section prefers to print and mail its newsletter to all members, with issues often exceeding 45 pages.

The Sections Department is responsible for creating invitations to various events organized by the section and creating personalized thank-you notes for speakers.

SPONSORSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS/ DONATIONS

The Sections Department manages various events that involve sponsors and collaborates closely with the sponsors of Section Institutes. Previously, sponsorship payments were manually processed through IMIS.

However, with the addition of a third team member as a point of contact for sponsorships and collaboration with the Accounting Department, we have streamlined the process for receiving payments.

Instead of requiring sponsors to send checks through the mail, we now offer the option to pay via credit card using a third-party platform, AffiniPay. Since implementing individual sponsorship portals, we have created seven portals for the following sections:

- Real Property Law Section
- Family Law Section
- Fiduciary Law Section
- Environmental Law Section
- Privacy & Technology Law Section
- E-Discovery & the Use of Technology
- Environmental Law Section

The Sections Department is also responsible for creating signage to advertise sponsors at section-sponsored institutes.

Additionally, many sections provide scholarships for students, which are processed through IMIS. In some cases, scholarship recipients are invited to attend the section's institute, and the Sections Department manages all their reimbursements.

WEBSITE MAINTENANCE

The Sections Department is responsible for keeping the sections tab on the calendar of events up to date and maintaining all section web pages.

At the beginning of each bar year, the department updates all 52 section web pages to reflect the correct officers. Additionally, the Sections Department ensures that newsletters from the past two years are available on each section's web page for members to view.

DAILY DUTIES

The Sections Department manages a range of responsibilities beyond our core duties, addressing various tasks as they arise. These include providing monthly financial reports to section executive committees, processing daily section expenses and reimbursements, and collaborating with the Communications Department to clean and update section web pages. Additionally, we actively participate in weekly iMIS upgrade calls by offering feedback and insights.

Law Practice Management Program

(Abbreviated report for the 2024-2025 Bar Year)

Total Number of Members Served – 209

July 1, 2024 – December 1, 2024

The program has served a grand total of **209** members and their staff from July 1, 2024-December 1, 2024. Our program has made contact with **62** existing members, **141** new members, and **6** law firm staff during this period.

Resource Requests

Members have contacted our program to discuss or request the following:

- **Starting a Law Practice** - There were zero startup discussion appointments, and a total of **58** *Starting a Georgia Law Practice* guides were distributed to our members by request via email (10), web store order (40), and office visits (8) to the Bar Center.
- **Software Recommendation/Technology Advice** – A total of **5** members contacted our program for a law office software recommendation by both email and phone.
- **LPM Resources Assistance** – The program has responded to a total of **205** phone calls and emails, providing resources such as sample practice management forms, closing a law practice/succession planning resources, trust accounting resources, opening a law practice resources, program events, and member benefit services. This total includes **24** practice management inquiries on various topics.

Consultations

A total of **20** virtual consultation appointments were completed during this period. Our program scheduled **17** general law firm assessments and **3** corrective action virtual consultations to discuss law firm practice management matters.

Resource Library

The LPM lending library has a grand total of **1,430** books, CDs, and DVDs for checkout to members and their staff, with an option to pick up materials at the Bar Center or to be mailed. A total of **49** members registered to get access to the [lending library](#). During this period, **8** patrons visited the resource library, **10** patrons checked out a total of **28** books, and we responded to **56** emails and **2** phone call inquiries about the resource library.

Social Media Outreach

Members can follow LPM's *GA Law Practice Advisor* on [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our newsletter the [LPM Insider](#) for practice tips and the latest on LPM events and programming. Since our social media channels have been created, we have **183** Instagram followers, **78** LinkedIn followers, and **360** people who have subscribed to the *LPM Insider* newsletter with a grand total of **621** followers and growing.

Speaking Engagements and LPM Seminars

A total of **6** programs were completed and scheduled during this period. The Program's staff has given **3** continuing legal education and special presentations to Georgia lawyers and other related groups nationally and locally. **3** program is scheduled for a future date. See list of events below:

Date	Event Name	Presentation(s)
Oct.7-8, 2024	Clio Cloud Conference , Austin, TX	<i>Client Experience Panel</i> - Speakers: Daniela Szary, Lolita Rudovica, Host: Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis
Oct. 9, 2024	Tifton Bar Association Virtual Brown Bag Lunch CLE, Tifton, GA	<i>The State Bar's Law Practice Management Program</i> , Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis, sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia South Georgia location

Nov. 20, 2024	Clio Connects : An Atlanta Customer Event, Atlanta, GA	<i>Creating a Dignified Client Experience in the Age of AI</i> , Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis
Dec. 6, 2025	First Amendment Lawyer Bridge's Zoom Meeting: Trust Accounting Webinar	<i>Trust Account Management</i> , Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis, sponsored by Southern Center for Human Rights
Jan. 15, 2025	vLex Fastcase Training CLE, State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, Room 3, Atlanta, GA	<i>vLex Fastcase Training</i> , Sheila Baldwin, sponsored by the State Bar's Law Practice Management Program
April 25, 2025	Take Charge! Summit CLE, Atlanta, GA, Stae Bar of Georgia Conference Center, Atlanta, GA	Sponsored by the State Bar's Law Practice Management Program

vLex Fastcase Platform and New Content

vLex Fastcase Report

[vLex Fastcase](#) is ranked as one of the best member benefits product that the Bar offers, with over 50% of our 50,000+ members logging into their Fastcase account each year.

On September 26th, 2024, vLex Fastcase launched their new platform. Members can expect a significant improvement to the vLex Fastcase platform due to its excellent design. A key feature of the upgrade is the new Cert citator, which flags negative treatment and other citing references to a case.

The Bar launched their new Website shortly before the vLex launch which created some members a negative first impression of vLex due to difficulty in accessing the Bar's membership portal. This problem was solved by instructing members on how to clear their cache and using the correct updated link to the Bar's website.

Some members had difficulty using the new site. Once directed to various resources on the vLex Fastcase site, the calls subsided. vLex Fastcase provides a plethora of [tutorials](#) in the form of videos, tips on navigating documents, Smart Topics, and a Knowledge Base center. It's recommended that first-time users participate in the "Guided Tour" to learn about the design, features, and tools available to users within the new vLex Fastcase system.

[Docket Alarm](#), a database of over 650 million dockets and documents, is now available for our members. Several members have expressed gratitude for this extra content, which has been helpful for litigation strategy, calendaring, research, business development, and calculating legal risk. These documents will be a part of your Fastcase subscription and will populate in the results of your search query when you choose briefs, motions, and orders within your search criteria.

Training is scheduled to begin in January 2025 at the Bar Conference Center with two sessions to take place every other month and will cover the vLex Fastcase Platform and Docket Alarm.

vLex Fastcase Usage Report (July 2024-November 2024)						
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
First Time Logins	66	58	46	38	25	233
Total Logins	9,554	10,382	6,001	8,695	7,070	41702
Total Users Who Logged In	2,580	2,662	2,087	2,108	1,835	11272
Searches Conducted	34,453	36,840	21,447	12,613	3,610	108963
Documents Viewed	125,030	123,216	72,683	40,295	13,007	374231
Documents Printed	27,966	59,940	19,020	21,713	2,634	131273
Total Transactions	199,649	233,098	121,284	85,462	28,181	432,747

vLex Fastcase Reported Issues/Problems (July 2024-December 2024)

Fastcase Reported Issues / Problems	
Issue Reported to Member Benefits Coordinator (MBC)	Response
MBC 8/07/2024 A few members called with complaints of slowdown on site.	Fastcase Response 8/07/2024 Slowness must have been affected by the new platform rollout.
MBC 9/02/2024 Bar iMis and website project caused members to be unable to access their account. Many calls and email were coming in with a variety of reports of lack of access.	Fastcase Response 9/02/2024 (still ongoing for some members as of 9/30/2024.) Provided members with a free 1-week trial which was extended 2 more times to alleviate the problem.
MBC 09/26/2024 through 11/25/2024 Members were unable to access the membership portal due to old data saved to members accounts. A message was sent with instructions on how to clear the cache and to confirm the correct link to the Bar website. Over 250 emails and calls were responded to during the launch period from 8/26/24 through 11/25/24.	Fastcase Response Ongoing In cases where the member was able to get into their vLex Fastcase account but not able to navigate the system, FC staff did a great job troubleshooting many calls.

CloudLawyer/ReliaGuide Report

In October, [ReliaGuide](#) launched a new product to assist members in creating a compelling profile. Profile Builder uses the power of AI, previously provided profile information, and guides the member through a series of optional questions to create a robust and professional profile with a unique tagline and biography. **178** members accessed Profile Builder since it launched.

Statistic Updates:

- **537,476** interactions with member profiles (views, clicks, and contact requests)
- **100,788** profile views
- **7,021** completed contact form requests
- **9,842** clicks on lawyer's email
- **15,856** clicks on lawyer's phone number
- **26,851** total sign-ins
- **239** Profile Plus subscriptions
- **16** analytics products purchased
- **9** website products purchased



State Bar of Georgia
Private Health Insurance Exchange
November 18, 2024

WEBSITE ANALYTICS	
Total Users	86,109
Total Sessions	116,578
Total Pageviews	303,792

INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENTS	
Total Enrollments	8,259
• Medical	2,528
• Medicare	50
• Dental	1,196
• Vision	568
• Telehealth	573
• ID Theft Protection	49
• Life / AD&D	2,936
• Disability	289
• Long-Term Care Enrollments	70
EMPLOYER ENROLLMENTS	
Total Enrollments	3,366
• Medical	1,342
• Ancillary	1,621
• Professional Liability	401
• Cyber Security	2



M E M O R A N D U M

To: ICLE Advisory Board Members

From: Julia Neighbors, ICLE Director

Date: December 4, 2024

Re: Institute of Continuing Legal Education

I am pleased to present the following report for your review of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's activities for the quarter ending December 31, 2024.

ICLE is not able to do its work without the support of volunteers who serve as Program Chairs and speakers, and we are indebted to them and to every Georgia lawyer who volunteers his or her time in service to the legal profession.

ICLE Programs (October 1 – December 31, 2024)

- Institutes- 3
 - Insurance Law Institute -cancelled due to weather
 - Workers' Compensation Law Institute
 - Corporate Counsel Institute
 - Consumer and Business Bankruptcy Institute
- Bar Center Programs – 9
 - Basic Fiduciary Law 201
 - Business Litigation
 - Secrets to a Successful Plaintiff's Personal Injury Practice
 - Real Property Foreclosure
 - Torts Trial Practice
 - Adoption Law
 - VA Accreditation
 - Trial Advocacy
 - Health Care Fraud
- Off-Site Program- 1
 - Advanced Health Law

HEADQUARTERS

104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743
404-527-8700 · 800-334-6865
Fax 404-527-8717
www.gabar.org

COASTAL GEORGIA OFFICE

18 E. Bay St.
Savannah, GA 31401-9910
912-239-9910 · 877-239-9910
Fax 912-239-9970

SOUTH GEORGIA OFFICE

244 E. 2nd St. (31794)
P.O. Box 1390
Tifton, GA 31793-1390
229-387-0446 · 800-330-0446
Fax 229-382-7435

- On Demand Programs
 - 2,728 on demand products purchased by 1,959 members (July 1 – November 30, 2024)
 - 13,182 on demand programs purchased by 8,539 members (December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024)

Upcoming Off-Site Programs and Institutes

- Estate Planning Institute - February 6-7, 2025 - Athens, GA
- Update on Georgia Law (Ski LE) – February 10-13, 2025 – Avon, CO
- Workers’ Compensation for the General Practitioner – February 20, 2025 – Tifton
- Basic Fiduciary Law 101 – March 19, 2024 – Macon, GA
- Agriculture Law – March 20, 2025 – Macon, GA
- Real Property Law Institute – May 8-10, 2025 – Fernandina Beach, FL
- Family Law Institute – May 30- June 1, 2025 – Fernandina Beach, FL

Programming Updates

ICLE continues to encourage and support innovative programming, and previous programs have incorporated the use of the Bar’s courtroom; utilized a podcast format; and was held at the Michael C. Carlos Museum. In addition to the traditional lecture and panel discussion formats, we continue to see the use of break-out sessions and interactivity and encourage these formats and explore new ways to enhance the delivery of educational content.

Program Planning

ICLE continues to update and refine its production process to ensure more efficient planning. This includes reviewing program production timelines for Bar Center, alternate venue, and destination programs; confirming program dates earlier (several institutes have confirmed dates through 2027); and continued collaboration and communication with Sections, Committees, and other program sponsors.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES 2024-2025			
Date	Newspaper	Headline	Circulation
6/13/2024	Albany Herald	Ivy Cadle installed as 62nd State Bar of Georgia president	3,763
6/13/2024	Clayton News-Daily, Jonesboro	Ivy Cadle installed as 62nd State Bar of Georgia president	643
6/13/2024	Rockdale Citizen, Conyers	Ivy Cadle installed as 62nd State Bar of Georgia president	1,254
6/13/2024	Morgan County Citizen, Madison	Ivy Cadle installed as 62nd State Bar of Georgia president	2,574
6/13/2024	Henry Herald, McDonough	Ivy Cadle installed as 62nd State Bar of Georgia president	1,111
6/13/2024	Rome News-Tribune	Ivy Cadle installed as 62nd State Bar of Georgia president	6,515
6/14/2024	Daily Report, Atlanta	Baker Donelson Litigator Leads State Bar	1,905
6/16/2024	Douglas County Citizen, Douglasville	Dalia Racine elected to Bard of Governors of State Bar	1,313
6/17/2024	Albany Herald	Joe Dent re-elected to State Bar of Georgia Board of Directors	3,763
6/17/2024	Madison County Journal, Danielsville	Richard Campbell re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	2,179
6/17/2024	Rome News-Tribune	Davis Re-Elected To Ga. Bar Board of Governors	6,515
6/17/2024	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville attorneys re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	63,470
6/19/2024	Albany Herald	District Attorney Mulholland elected to State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors	3,763
6/19/2024	Statesboro Herald	Snipes is re-elected to State Bar of Ga. Board	4,429
6/20/2024	Newton Citizen, Covington	Judge Cheveda McCamy Receives State Bar of Georgia Leadership Award	982
6/22/2024	Griffin Daily News	Wallace reelected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	3,188
6/24/2024	Valdosta Daily Times	Valdosta attorneys re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	2,291
6/24/2024	Daily Tribune News, Cartersville	Pritchard elected to State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors	2,414
6/24/2024	Covington News	Newton County Bar Association Honored by State Bar of Georgia	2,873
6/24/2024	Atlanta Daily World	GABWA Honored with Prestigious President's Cup by State Bar of Georgia	10,000
6/24/2024	Rome News-Tribune	Ratliff of Cox Byington Twyman Awarded Joe Dent Hospitality Award	6,515
6/25/2024	Rome News-Tribune	Twyman Installed as President-Elect of State Bar of Georgia	6,515
6/25/2024	Cherokee Tribune, Canton	Cherokee County Case Manager Honored with Child Advocacy Award	3,502
6/25/2024	Marietta Daily Journal (Northside Neighbor)	Sandy Springs Bar Association Receives State Honors	9,821
6/26/2024	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	Mary Lynn Paulson Honored by State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division	63,470
6/27/2024	The Champion, Decatur	State bar honors, elects locals	413
6/28/2024	Augusta Chronicle	Georgia Bar honors Columbia County DA Bobby Christine for work with military	8,271
6/28/2024	Newnan Times-Herald	Newnan attorneys honored by State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division	4,822
6/29/2024	Cherokee Tribune, Canton	Judge Cannon Re-Elected to State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors	3,502
6/29/2024	Times-Georgian, Carrollton	Baker re-elected to state bar board of governors	2,176
6/29/2024	Marietta Daily Journal	William C. Gentry Installed as Treasurer of State Bar of Georgia	9,821
6/30/2024	Atlanta Daily World	Atlanta Attorneys Joyce Gist Lewis, Gary Spencer Elected to Executive Comm	10,000
6/30/2024	Dalton Daily Citizen	Miller reelected to State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors	3,804
7/2/2024	Union Recorder, Milledgeville	Area attorneys elected to state bar Board of Governors	3,048
7/17/2024	Daily Report, Atlanta	Georgia Legal Community Mourns Loss of Joseph Bankoff	1,905

Media Report

7/19/2024	Northeast Georgian, Cornelia	Letter to the Editor: Congratulations to Weidner	4,622
9/7/2024	Times-Georgian, Carrollton	Georgia legal community mourns loss of Gary Bunch	2,176
9/18/2024	Jackson Herald, Jefferson	Congratulations to new Superior Court Judge Sarah Griffie	3,307
11/13/2024	Forest-Blade, Swainsboro	After early career turns, Ivy Cadle settles into State Bar pilot's seat	3,963
11/16/2024	Atlanta Daily World	State Bar of Georgia Pays Homage to Judge Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore	10,000
11/20/2024	Tifton Gazette	Congratulations to new Superior Court Judge Ralph W. Powell	911
11/23/2024	Times-Georgian, Carrollton	Congratulations to Solicitor General on state commission appointment	2,176
		TOTAL CIRCULATION	289,685

