



State Bar
of Georgia

BOG BOARD BOOK

**2026 Midyear Meeting
Atlanta, GA**

*This book serves as the agenda and
materials for the State Bar of Georgia's
2026 Midyear Meeting.*



310th BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

Saturday, January 17, 2026

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Omni Hotel at the Battery

Atlanta, Georgia

Dress: Business

AGENDA

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1) ADMINISTRATION		
a) Welcome and Call to Order	Christopher P. Twyman President	1
b) Pledge of Allegiance	Markus Russell YLD Board of Directors	
c) Invocation.....	Hannah Couch Hostetler YLD Board of Directors	
d) Recognition of Special Guests	Chris Twyman	
e) Roll Call.....	Shiriki C. Jones..... Secretary	9
f) Future Meetings Schedule	Chris Twyman	15

2) MIDYEAR MEMBERS MEETING ACTION

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

a) Proposed Changes to Article IV.	Russell Willard	17
Section 3. Misconduct and Removal.	General Counsel Bill NeSmith Deputy General Counsel	

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

3) ACTION

a) Minutes of the 309 th Meeting of the	Shiriki Jones	24
Board of Governors on October 11, 2025		

b) Proposed Changes to Rule 10-103. Funding	Russell Willard	30
	Bill NeSmith	
c) Nominations of ABA Delegates	Chris Twyman	
2-year terms August 2026 – August 2028		
(1) Post 1 (currently held by Alvin T. Wong, Decatur)		
(2) Post 3 (currently held by C. Elisia Frazier, Pooler)		
(3) Post 7 (currently held by V. Sharon Edenfield, Statesboro)		
d) Nominations of State Bar Officers	Chris Twyman	
(nominations = 5 minutes, seconds = 2 minutes)		
(1) Office of Secretary		
(2) Office of Treasurer		
(3) Office of President-Elect		

4) LEGISLATION

a) Advisory Committee on Legislation	Rusty Sewell	33
New Legislative Proposals (action)	Mark Middleton	
(1) <i>Indigent Defense Committee</i> - Support for the Judicial Council’s Budget		33
Request for FY 2027 - Funding for Georgia Resource Center		
(2) <i>Real Property Law Section</i> - Expanding Legal Access to Qualified Special.....		41
Masters - Bill to Amend O.C.G.A. § 23-3-63		
b) Legislative Update	Rusty Sewell	
	Mark Middleton	

5) INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

a) President’s Report	Chris Twyman	
b) Treasurer’s Report.....	R. Javoyne Hicks	47
	Treasurer	
c) Executive Director’s Report.....	Damon Elmore	
	Executive Director	
d) Young Lawyers Division Report	Veronica R. Cox	64
	YLD President	
e) Chief Justice’s Commission on.....	Karlise Y. Grier	70
Professionalism Report	Executive Director, CJCP	
f) Administrative Office of the Courts	Ben Luke	
Content Management System Demo	Chief Technology Officer, AOC	

6) WRITTEN REPORTS

a) Law Practice Management Report	79
b) Institute of Continuing Legal Education Report	84
c) Media Report	86

7) CLOSING

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



2026 STATE BAR OF GEORGIA MIDYEAR MEETING

JAN. 15-17 | OMNI HOTEL AT THE BATTERY ATLANTA
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Hotel Cut-off | Monday, Dec. 22, 2025

Registration Cut-off | Friday, Jan. 9, 2026



State Bar
of Georgia

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Registration

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Military/Veterans Law Section | VA Accreditation CLE

12 – 12:30 p.m.
YLD Nominating Committee Meeting
(virtual—by invitation only)

1 – 3 p.m.
Clients' Security Fund Board of Trustees Meeting
(trustees only)

1 – 4 p.m.
Special Masters Training
(by invitation only)

2 – 3 p.m.
Bar Center Committee Meeting

3 – 4 p.m.
Family Law Section Executive Committee Meeting
(by invitation only)

4 – 5 p.m.
Family Law Section CLE

4 – 5:30 p.m.
Military/Veterans Law Section Reception

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Past Presidents' Meeting
(by invitation only)

5 – 6 p.m.
Family Law Section Reception

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Past Presidents' Dinner
(by invitation only)

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Registration

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
ICLE Board Meeting
(by invitation only)

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
State Disciplinary Board Meeting
(by invitation only)

12 – 1 p.m.
Law Practice Management Program Committee Meeting

12 – 2 p.m.
Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency Meeting

12 – 2 p.m.
General Practice & Trial Law Section
"Meet the Judges" Luncheon

12 – 2 p.m.
State Disciplinary Review Board Meeting
(by invitation only)

1 – 2:30 p.m.
YLD Leadership Academy | Session 1
(Limited to participants of the 2026 Leadership Academy.)

1 – 4 p.m.
Council of Municipal Court Judges Meeting

2:30 – 5 p.m.
Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee Meeting

3 – 4 p.m.
YLD CLE | Changing the Game: NIL, AI and Athletes—
A Sports Law Update

3 – 5 p.m.
Member Benefits Committee Meeting

4 – 5 p.m.
Senior Lawyers Section Reception

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
YLD General Session

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
YLD Leadership Academy Meet and Greet

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Board of Governors Dinner

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

7 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Registration

8 – 8:45 a.m.
SOLACE Committee Meeting

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Board of Governors Meeting



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HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta
2625 Circle 75 Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339
678-567-7327
Cut-off date is Monday, Dec. 22, 2025.

The Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta is our host hotel, offering a discounted room rate starting at \$289 per night for single/double occupancy, plus fees and taxes. To make reservations and receive our special rate, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/2026MidyearMeeting>.

Reservations must be made by Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, as rooms will be on a space and rate availability basis after this date. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Hotel Check-in | 4 p.m.

Hotel Check-out | 11 a.m.

ATTIRE

Business attire is appropriate for all meetings and events.



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YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

YLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | SESSION 1

(Limited to participants of the 2026 Leadership Academy.)

Friday, Jan. 16 | 1 – 2:30 p.m.

The 2026 class of the YLD Leadership Academy will meet for the first of six sessions. Participants will spend time getting to know one another and all about the Young Lawyers Division. Past YLD leaders will discuss why participation in the organization is vital to the success of young attorneys.

YLD CLE | CHANGING THE GAME: NIL, AI AND ATHLETES— A SPORTS LAW UPDATE

Friday, Jan. 16 | 3 – 4 p.m.

Join the YLD Sports Law and Intellectual Property Law committees for a CLE that will explore how name, image and likeness (NIL) rights and artificial intelligence are transforming sports law. Hear from experts on emerging legal and ethical issues changing the game of sports. Open to all Bar members.

YLD GENERAL SESSION

Friday, Jan. 16 | 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.

YLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MEET AND GREET

Friday, Jan. 16 | 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a reception and meet the 2026 Leadership Academy class. All Bar members are invited. Leadership Academy alumni are encouraged to attend.



YLD DONATION DRIVE | MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Join the YLD in participating in the 2026 MLK Day of Service. The YLD will be collecting packs of socks to be included in care packages for the unhoused community and distributed by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center. All donations will be delivered on Monday, Jan. 19. Donations will be accepted at the State Bar registration desk. All sizes are welcome.





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OTHER EVENTS

MILITARY/VETERANS LAW SECTION | VA ACCREDITATION CLE AND RECEPTION

Thursday, Jan. 15 | 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

This seminar will cover all of the mandatory topics required for attorneys to become certified/accredited to represent veterans on benefits appeals before the Department of Veterans Affairs, including: basic eligibility, claims procedures, representation before the VA, DIC, pension, right to appeal and disability compensation. It will also cover recent case law updates. Reception to follow. Open to all Bar members.

FAMILY LAW SECTION CLE AND RECEPTION

Thursday, Jan. 15 | 4 – 6 p.m.

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

GENERAL PRACTICE & TRIAL LAW SECTION “MEET THE JUDGES” LUNCHEON

Friday, Jan. 16 | 12 – 2 p.m.

Come meet your local judges for a lively conversation on legal issues. Featuring Hon. Tippi Burch, judge, Chattahoochee Superior Court; Hon. Shawn Ellen LaGrue, justice, Supreme Court of Georgia; and Hon. Shondeana Morris, judge, DeKalb Superior Court. Open to all Bar members.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS DINNER

Friday, Jan. 16 | 6:30 – 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. 17 | 8 – 8:45 a.m.

The SOLACE Committee will meet for a midyear check-in and discuss current requests and solutions. All are welcome to join.



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THINGS TO DO AT

THE BATTERY ATLANTA™

VISIT BATTERYATL.COM

DINE

- Antico Pizza
- Battle & Brew
- Blue Moon Brewery & Grill
- Burn
- C. Ellet's
- Cru Food & Wine Bar
- Cruz Blanca
- Eataliano Kitchen
- El Super Pan
- Garden & Gun Club
- Goldbergs Fine Goods
- H&F Burger
- J. Alexander's Kitchen & Bar
- Jeni's Ice Creams
- PhEast
- Shake Shack
- Supercia
- Walk*On's Sports Bistreaux
- Yard House

SHOP

- Baseballism
- Braves Clubhouse Store
- DressUp
- Mizuno
- Polestar
- River Street Sweets
- Savi Provisions
- Sitka
- Threads

PLAY

- ASW Distillery
- Battle & Brew
- GoodGame
- Muse Paintbar
- Park Bench
- PBR Atlanta
- Punch Bowl Social
- Sandbox VR
- Sports & Social
- The Escape Game

2026 MIDYEAR MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



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. 9, 2026.

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. 9, 2026, and will receive a full refund. 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.

Register online at www.gabar.org.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS EVENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Governors Dinner.....	\$150	Quantity
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Governors Dinner (YLD rate)*	\$120	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Governors Meeting	N/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

<input type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary Rules and Procedures	N/C
<input type="checkbox"/> SOLACE.....	N/C

SECTIONS EVENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Family Law CLE only	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Law Reception only.....	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Law CLE and Reception	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> General Practice & Trial Law	
"Meet the Judges" Luncheon	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Lawyers Reception	N/C
<input type="checkbox"/> Military/Veterans Law VA Accreditation	
CLE and Reception	\$180

YLD EVENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> YLD CLE Changing the Game:	
NIL, AI and Athletes	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> YLD General Session	N/C
<input type="checkbox"/> YLD Leadership Academy	
Meet and Greet	\$50

Total Fees Enclosed: _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION*

Please bill my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE CSC ZIP CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE CARD (PLEASE PRINT)

SIGNATURE

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



State Bar of Georgia

2026 MIDYEAR MEETING
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743

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SPONSORS AND REGISTRATION

Special thanks to the following corporate sponsors for their generous support of the State Bar of Georgia and the 2026 Midyear Meeting.



REGISTRATION

The final registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 9, 2026. 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. 9, 2026, at which time pre-registration will close. Onsite registration will open at the Omni at The Battery Atlanta on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026.

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

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Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25	6-25	10-25	
	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Friday Sawgrass	Saturday Sawgrass	Rising Fawn	
Jonathan Lang Adams	e	•	•	u	•	u	Jonathan Lang Adams
Keith E. Adams	•	•	u	u	u	•	Keith E. Adams
Mark W. Alexander	•	•	•	•	•	•	Mark W. Alexander
JaDawnya Cintelle Baker	e	•	•	•	•	•	JaDawnya Cintelle Baker
Nina M. Baker	e	•	e	e	e	•	Nina M. Baker
Eric A. Ballinger	•	•	•	•	•	•	Eric A. Ballinger
Thua G. Barlay	•	•	e	•	•	e	Thua G. Barlay
Donna G. Barwick	e	•	•	•	•	•	Donna G. Barwick
John C. Bell Jr.	•	•	•	•	•	e	John C. Bell Jr.
Tracee R. Benzo	e	•	•	•	•	e	Tracee Ready Benzo
N. John Bey	e	•	u	u	•	u	N. John Bey
James D. Blitch IV	u	•	•	u	u	e	James D. Blitch IV
Sherry Boston	•	•	e	•	•	•	Sherry Boston
Charity Reneatha Bridgewater	•	•	•	•	•	•	Charity Reneatha Bridgewater
Ashley Mackin Brodie	u	•	u	•	•	•	Ashley Mackin Brodie
Stephanie D. Burton	u	•	•	•	•	e	Stephanie D. Burton
Ivy Neal Cadle	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ivy Neal Cadle
Jerry Neal Cadle	•	•	•	•	•	e	Jerry Neal Cadle
Neal Joseph Callahan	n/a	•	n/a	n/a	•	•	Neal Joseph Callahan
Stacey McSwine Cameron	•	•	•	u	•	e	Stacey McSwine Cameron
Richard D. Campbell	•	•	•	u	•	e	Richard D. Campbell
Tedra L. Cannella	u	•	u	u	•	u	Tedra L. Cannella
David L. Cannon	u	•	•	•	•	u	David L. Cannon
Carl S. Cansino	•	e	u	u	u	u	Carl S. Cansino
Chris M. Carr	u	e	u	u	u	u	Chris M. Carr
Kimberly A. Childs	e	•	•	•	•	•	Kimberly A. Childs
Amanda Rourke Clark Palmer	u	•	•	•	•	•	Amanda Rourke Clark Palmer
Daniel Jackson Connell III	•	u	u	e	e	u	Daniel Jackson Connell III
Susan P. Coppedge	•	•	•	•	•	e	Susan P. Coppedge
John Craig Colton	•	•	•	•	•	•	John Craig Colton
Martin L. Cowen III	•	•	•	•	•	e	Martin L. Cowen III

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Shiriki Jones (shirikijonesq@gmail.com)

Please refer to Standing Board Policy 300 of the State Bar Handbook for the attendance requirements of Board of Governors members.

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25	6-25	10-25	
	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Friday Sawgrass	Saturday Sawgrass	Rising Fawn	
Veronica Rogusky Cox	•	•	•	•	•	•	Veronica Rogusky Cox
Eric C. Crawford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Eric C. Crawford
Gerald Davidson Jr.	e	•	•	•	•	•	Gerald Davidson Jr.
J. Anderson Davis	•	•	•	u	u	e	J. Anderson Davis
William T. Davis	u	u	•	•	•	u	William T. Davis
Howard Mark Delashmit	•	•	•	•	•	•	Howard Mark Delashmit
Joseph W. Dent	•	•	•	•	•	•	Joseph W. Dent
Miguel Angel Dominguez	•	•	•	•	•	•	Miguel Angel Dominguez
Thomas V. Duck III	n/a	n/a	•	•	•	•	Thomas V. Duck III
Susan E. Edlein	•	•	•	e	e	•	Susan E. Edlein
Otobong Ukpong "Oto" Ekpo	e	•	•	•	•	e	Otobong Ukpong "Oto" Ekpo
Ryan Welton English	•	•	•	•	•	u	Ryan Welton English
Archibald A. Farrar	e	•	•	•	•	•	Archibald A. Farrar
Adam Ferrell	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	u	Adam Ferrell
Gillian Brooke Fierer	•	•	•	•	•	•	Gillian Brooke Fierer
Amanda Renee Flora	•	•	•	•	•	•	Amanda Renee Flora
Harold Eugene Franklin Jr.	e	e	e	u	•	e	Harold Eugene Franklin Jr.
Keith E. Gammage	•	•	•	e	•	•	Keith E. Gammage
William C. Gentry	•	•	•	•	•	•	William C. Gentry
Patricia A. Gorham	•	•	e	e	e	•	Patricia A. Gorham
Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist	•	•	•	•	•	e	Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist
Paul William Hamilton	•	•	•	•	•	•	Paul William Hamilton
Thomas B. "Britt" Hammond	•	•	•	•	•	•	Thomas B. "Britt" Hammond
Roger Brent Hatcher Jr.	•	u	•	•	•	•	Roger Brent Hatcher Jr.
John Haubenreich	•	•	•	•	•	u	John Haubenreich
Patrick H. Head	e	•	•	u	u	e	Patrick H. Head
Randa M. Heard Jr.	•	•	u	•	•	u	Randa M. Heard Jr.
Amanda Nichole Heath	e	•	•	•	•	e	Amanda Nichole Heath
Catherine Harris Helms	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	e	Catherine Harris Helms
Matthew J. Hennessy	•	•	•	•	•	e	Matthew J. Hennessy
Thomas W. Herman	•	•	•	•	•	u	Thomas W. Herman

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Shiriki Jones (shiriki.jones@gmail.com)

Please refer to Standing Board Policy 300 of the State Bar Handbook for the attendance requirements of Board of Governors members.

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25	6-25	10-25	
	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Friday Sawgrass	Saturday Sawgrass	Rising Fawn	
R. Javoyne Hicks	•	•	•	•	•	•	R. Javoyne Hicks
Kimberly Wilkerson Higginbotham	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kimberly Wilkerson Higginbotham
Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV	•	•	•	•	•	•	Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV
Stacey K. Hydrick	•	•	e	•	•	•	Stacey K. Hydrick
Shukura L. Ingram	u	•	•	u	u	•	Shukura L. Ingram
James T. Irvin	•	e	e	•	•	•	James T. Irvin
Christopher Ross Jackson	•	•	•	•	•	•	Christopher Ross Jackson
Charles Michael Johnson	u	•	•	•	•	e	Charles Michael Johnson
Lester B. Johnson, III	•	•	e	e	e	e	Lester B. Johnson, III
Shiriki L. Cavitt Jones	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shiriki L. Cavitt Jones
Virginia C. Josey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Virginia C. Josey
Maria Christene Mekras Justus	u	•	•	e	•	e	Maria Christene Mekras Justus
Zahra S. Karinshak	e	e	•	•	•	•	Zahra S. Karinshak
John F. Kennedy	u	•	u	u	u	u	John F. Kennedy
Barry E. King	•	•	•	•	•	•	Barry E. King
Judy C. King	•	•	•	•	•	•	Judy C. King
Catherine Koura	u	•	u	e	e	e	Catherine Koura
Rachel R. Krause	•	•	•	•	•	•	Rachel R. Krause
Rhonda Bender Kreuziger	u	•	•	•	•	e	Rhonda Bender Kreuziger
Edward B. Krugman	e	•	e	e	e	e	Edward B. Krugman
Jeffrey R. Kuester	•	•	e	•	•	•	Jeffrey R. Kuester
Anne Templeton LaMalva	•	•	•	u	•	•	Anne Templeton LaMalva
Allegra J. Lawrence	u	•	u	e	e	•	Allegra J. Lawrence
Nicole C. Leet	e	•	•	•	•	•	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

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Shiriki Jones (shirikijonesq@gmail.com)

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Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25	6-25	10-25	
	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Friday Sawgrass	Saturday Sawgrass	Rising Fawn	
Dax Eric Lopez	e	✓	e	u	u	e	Dax Eric Lopez
Lindsey Stephens Macon	u	•	e	•	•	•	Lindsey Stephens Macon
John Bell Manly	•	•	u	e	e	•	John Bell Manly
Troy Windel Marsh Jr.	•	✓	u	u	•	u	Troy Windel Marsh Jr.
Edward T. McAfee	•	•	e	u	•	•	Edward T. McAfee
Robert Charles McBurney	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Robert Charles McBurney
Hugh J. McCullough	•	✓	•	u	•	e	Hugh J. McCullough
Letitia A. McDonald	e	✓	e	•	•	e	Letitia A. McDonald
Brad J. McFall	e	✓	u	e	e	•	Brad J. McFall
Michael D. McRae	u	✓	•	•	•	•	Michael D. McRae
Terry L. Miller	•	•	•	•	•	•	Terry L. Miller
Kenneth Mitchell Jr.	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kenneth Mitchell Jr.
William J. Monahan	•	e	•	•	•	•	William J. Monahan
Shondeana Crews Morris	e	✓	•	•	•	•	Shondeana Crews Morris
Stephen Russell Morris	•	•	•	•	•	•	Stephen Russell Morris
Joseph Kenneth Mulholland	•	e	•	u	•	e	Joseph Kenneth Mulholland
Samantha Marie Mullis	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Samantha Marie Mullis
Katrell Nash	u	✓	•	•	•	•	Katrell Nash
Paul Wain Painter III	•	•	•	u	u	u	Paul Wain Painter III
Joy Renea Parks	e	✓	u	•	•	•	Joy Renea Parks
David Jared Parrish	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	u	David Jared Parrish
Kathryn Drew Parrish Bennett	•	✓	•	e	e	•	Kathryn Drew Parrish Bennett
Kevin Charles Patrick	•	✓	•	•	•	•	Kevin Charles Patrick
Tabitha Edwina Payne	•	•	u	e	•	u	Tabitha Edwina Payne
Brandon Lee Peak	•	✓	•	•	•	u	Brandon Lee Peak
Edward Piasta	•	✓	•	•	e	•	Edward Piasta
Michael Prieto	u	u	u	u	u	u	Michael Prieto
Philip Zachary Pritchard	•	✓	u	u	u	u	Philip Zachary Pritchard
Jill Pryor	e	e	e	e	e	e	Jill Pryor
Elizabeth Dalia Racine	e	✓	•	•	•	•	Elizabeth Dalia Racine
William M. Ragland	e	✓	•	•	•	e	William M. Ragland

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Shiriki Jones (shiriki@onesq@gmail.com)

Please refer to Standing Board Policy 300 of the State Bar Handbook for the attendance requirements of Board of Governors members.

Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25	6-25	10-25	
	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Friday Sawgrass	Saturday Sawgrass	Rising Fawn	
Tina S. Roddenberry	e	•	e	•	•	•	Tina S. Roddenberry
Carlos Javier Rodriguez	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Carlos Javier Rodriguez
Kevin W. Roper	e	•	•	e	e	•	Kevin W. Roper
Joseph Roseborough	u	u	u	•	•	•	Joseph Roseborough
Wesley Charles Ross	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wesley Charles Ross
Adam Joshua Rozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Adam Joshua Rozen
Claudia S. Saari	•	•	•	•	•	e	Claudia S. Saari
Betrice A. Scott	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	•	Betrice A. Scott
Amanda Kay Seals	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	e	Amanda Kay Seals
Alex Musole Shalishali	u	e	•	u	u	•	Alex Musole Shalishali
H. Burke Sherwood	•	•	•	•	•	•	H. Burke Sherwood
William Murray Shingler	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	•	u	William Murray Shingler
Mitchell McKinley Shook	u	•	•	•	•	•	Mitchell McKinley Shook
Robert H. Smalley, III	•	•	•	u	u	•	Robert H. Smalley, III
Philip C. Smith	•	e	•	•	•	•	Philip C. Smith
R. Rucker Smith	•	•	•	•	•	•	R. Rucker Smith
Daniel B. Snipes	e	•	•	•	•	u	Daniel B. Snipes
R. Gary Spencer	•	•	e	•	•	e	R. Gary Spencer
H. Craig Stafford	•	•	•	u	u	•	H. Craig Stafford
Lawton E. Stephens	e	•	•	e	e	e	Lawton E. Stephens
Donna Coleman Stribling	e	•	•	•	•	e	Donna Coleman Stribling
Joseph C. Sumner, Jr.	u	u	u	e	e	•	Joseph C. Sumner, Jr.
Anita W. Thomas	e	u	•	u	•	•	Anita W. Thomas
Stephen Elliot Tillman	•	•	•	•	•	•	Stephen Elliot Tillman
Edward D. Tolley	u	e	•	u	u	e	Edward D. Tolley
Clayton Tomlinson	•	•	•	•	•	e	Clayton Tomlinson
Chris P. Twyman	•	•	•	•	•	•	Christopher Paul Twyman
Martin E. Valbuena	•	•	e	•	•	•	Martin E. Valbuena
J. Henry Walker	u	•	e	•	•	e	J. Henry Walker
Janice M. Wallace	•	•	•	•	•	•	Janice M. Wallace
Amy Carol Walters	e	•	•	e	e	•	Amy Carol Walters

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Board of Governors Attendance Record

	11-24	1-25	3-25	6-25	6-25	10-25	
	Jekyll Island	Savannah	Athens	Friday Sawgrass	Saturday Sawgrass	Rising Fawn	
Andrew Jackson Welch, III	e	v	•	•	•	•	Andrew Jackson Welch, III
Nancy J. Whaley	•	e	•	•	•	e	Nancy J. Whaley
Paige Reese Whitaker	e	•	•	•	•	•	Paige Reese Whitaker
Martha Wilson Williams	•	e	•	•	•	e	Martha Wilson Williams
Robert D. Wolf	e	v	•	•	•	•	Robert D. Wolf
Douglas Woodruff	•	e	e	•	•	•	Douglas Woodruff
• - attended meeting							
•* - attended virtually							
e - excused absence							
u - unexcused absence							

To request an excused absence, please email Secretary Shiriki Jones (shiriki.jones@q@gmail.com)

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State Bar of Georgia

Future Meetings Schedule

Executive Committee

February 6, 2026	Executive Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Local Affinity Bar Association Luncheon The Partridge Inn, Augusta, GA
April 17, 2026	Executive Committee Meeting Fri. Apr 17 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Local Affinity Bar Association Reception Thu. Apr. 16 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Inn at Serenbe, Chattahoochee Hills, GA
August 26-28, 2026	Supreme Court/Executive Committee Joint Meeting The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee, GA (Contract Pending)

Board of Governors

Spring 2026	March 27 – 29, 2026	The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee Greensboro, GA
Annual 2026	June 11 – 14, 2026	Omni Amelia Island Resort Fernandina Beach, FL
Fall 2026	October 15-18, 2026	The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa Hilton Head Island, SC (Contract Tentative)
Midyear 2027	January 14 – 17, 2027	Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta Atlanta, GA
Annual 2027	June 10 – 13, 2027	Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center Orlando, FL
Annual 2028	June 15 – 18, 2028	Omni Amelia Island Resort Fernandina Beach, FL

Young Lawyers Division

Spring 2026	April 23 – 25, 2026	Kimpton Hotel Arras Asheville, NC
Fall 2026	October 15-18, 2026	The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa In conjunction with the State Bar Fall BOG Meeting Hilton Head Island, SC (Contract Tentative)
Annual 2026	June 11 – 14, 2026	Omni Amelia Island Resort In conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting Fernandina Beach, FL

(Updated 12/02/25)

***Contract Tentative** – Initial stage where terms are being discussed but not confirmed / ***Pending** – Agreement is in progress, awaiting final approvals or signatures.



State Bar of Georgia

Future Meetings Schedule

Young Lawyers Division

Midyear 2027	January 14 – 17, 2027	Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta In conjunction with the State Bar Midyear Meeting Atlanta, GA
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American Bar Association

Midyear 2026	February 4 – 9, 2026	Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk San Antonio, TX
Annual 2026	July 29 – August 4, 2026	Hotel TBD Chicago, IL

Southern Conference of Bar Presidents

2026	Alabama	October 22 – 24, 2026	Hotel & Location TBD
2027	Maryland		

(Updated 12/02/25)

***Contract Tentative** – Initial stage where terms are being discussed but not confirmed / ***Pending** – Agreement is in progress, awaiting final approvals or signatures.



Executive Summary

To: Board of Governors

From: Russell Willard, General Counsel
Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel

Date: December 9, 2025

Re: Proposed Change to Article IV, Section 3. Misconduct and Removal

We are recommending that the Bylaw provision that was adopted at the Mid-Year meeting this past Bar Year be modified due to analysis of this Bylaw in application to situations that have arisen since the adoption of this Bylaw by the membership. The current Article IV, Section 3, sub-section (h) appears to limit the ability of the Executive Committee to ban or place restrictions on attendance solely to situations where a member (or the member's guest) was requested to leave an event.

To deal with situations that may lie outside the current parameters of the bylaw, such as an event concluding before the incident is made known to appropriate State Bar personnel or law enforcement, the member who is subject to the complaint has left the event prior to any action being taken, or the misconduct occurs in interaction with Bar volunteers or staff outside of an event, we are requesting that the bylaw be amended to enable the Executive Committee to take action upon the conclusion of an investigation by the Office of the General Counsel, even if no action was taken against that person at the event(s) in question.

Section 3. Misconduct and Removal.

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

b. Investigation. The Office of the General Counsel shall investigate any claim of misconduct involving a State Bar of Georgia event, ~~of, or~~ performance of duties for the State Bar of Georgia, interaction with staff, contractors, agents, or volunteers for the State Bar of Georgia, or interaction with event attendees or staff at a State Bar of Georgia event. If deemed necessary, the Office of the General Counsel may bring an allegation of misconduct and the results of the investigation to the Executive Committee for:

(1) possible suspension or removal from office or appointment ~~of~~;

(2) a ban or the imposition of restrictions on attendance at State Bar events; or

(3) a ban or the imposition of restrictions on accessing any State Bar property

for any member found to have engaged in misconduct. Additionally, the Executive Committee may ban or impose restrictions on attendance at State Bar events for any member whose guest is determined to have committed misconduct. The Executive Committee shall decide whether and how to act on the matter, including the imposition or continuation of any sanction authorized by this bylaw.

c. Suspension. Any member under investigation, upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, present and voting, may be suspended from office, committee, or section pending the completion of the investigation. Absent an affirmative vote to suspend, the member may continue to serve until there has been an affirmative vote of the Executive Committee to suspend.

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

41 e. Removal from an Event. Any Bar staff member, private security
42 personnel, or law enforcement officer providing security to an event may
43 ask a member and a member’s guest to leave an event because of
44 misbehavior or questionable conduct. When asked to leave an event, the
45 member shall comply. Failure to comply with a request to leave an event
46 by either a member or that member’s guest may be considered misconduct
47 subject to this bylaw.

48 f. Confidentiality. The Executive Committee shall treat any report of
49 misconduct as confidential and shall not disclose the details of such a
50 report to any person or entity unless required by law or court order. The
51 Office of the General Counsel shall keep the details of any investigation
52 confidential, except as necessary to conduct an investigation, report to the
53 Executive Committee on an investigation, or effectuate a removal or other
54 discipline pursuant to this bylaw.

55 g. Removal from Office. Any member who is removed, or who resigns after
56 the occurrence of an event subject to potential discipline under this bylaw,
57 from the Board of Governors, from the Executive Committee, as an officer,
58 or from any other leadership capacity within the State Bar of Georgia
59 shall be ineligible to serve as a member of the Board of Governors, on the
60 Executive Committee, as an officer, or in any other leadership capacity
61 within the State Bar of Georgia unless and until such ineligibility shall be
62 removed by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee.

63 h. Removal from an Event. Any member who was requested or had their
64 guest requested to leave an event under subsection (e) may be banned
65 from attending, or have conditions placed on their attendance at future
66 event. The Executive Committee, by a majority vote of those present and

67 voting, may impose such ban or restriction, and, if the Executive
68 Committee deems it appropriate, may structure that ban or restriction as
69 a permanent ban or restriction or make such ban or restriction event-
70 specific, time-limited, or person-specific. The Executive Committee may
71 vote to lift the ban or restriction if the Executive Committee, in its sole
72 discretion, believes the conduct is not likely to occur again.

73 i. Complementary Policies. This bylaw may be used in conjunction with
74 any other policies or procedures of the State Bar of Georgia, and those
75 complementary policies and procedures can likewise be used in
76 conjunction with this bylaw.

77

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76 conjunction with this bylaw.

DRAFT
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, October 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Cloudland at McLemore Resort
Rising Fawn, GA

The 309th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. President Christopher P. Twyman presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

YLD Board of Directors Member Marissa “Missy” Torgerson led the pledge of allegiance.

Invocation

YLD Board of Directors Member Taylor S. Wilson gave the invocation.

Special Recognition

President Chris Twyman recognized the members of the judiciary, the past presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Chris Twyman reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. The 2026 Midyear Meeting will be held at the Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta in Atlanta on Jan. 15-18; the 2026 Spring Meeting will be held at The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee in Greensboro on March 27-29; and the 2026 Annual Meeting will be held at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Fernandina Beach, Florida, on June 11-14.

Roll Call

Secretary Shiriki Jones circulated the roll for signature. The list of attendees is attached as Exhibit A.

Minutes of the 307th and 308th Meeting of the Board of Governors

Secretary Shiriki Jones presented the minutes of the Board of Governors meetings held June 6-7, 2025, at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. By majority vote, the Board of Governors approved the minutes.

Proposed Rule Change

General Counsel Russell Willard presented the proposed changes to Rule 4-203.1(a) (Uniform Service Rule), which the Board of Governors approved by majority vote.

This proposed change only amends 4-203.1(a) (providing for companion email notification/service) and does not propose any additional changes to 4-203.1(b) (personal service). This language cleans up concerns expressed by the Court, as regards the current pending Motion 2023-2, that a lawyer could be found to be in violation of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct if they do not maintain an email address on file with the State Bar. This proposed amendment, building on the current language found within the pending Motion 2023-2, makes clear that for pending provisions that require the complementary component of email service, such as service of petitions on Georgia-barred attorneys who maintain an official address in a foreign country, such provisions are deemed satisfied once the non-email components are completed.

Proposed Section Bylaws Changes

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented the following section bylaws changes:

1. *Eminent Domain Section Bylaws*
The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the proposed changes to the Eminent Domain Section Bylaws.
2. *Real Property Law Section Bylaws*
The Board of Governors, by unanimous vote, approved the proposed changes to the Real Property Law Section Bylaws.

Appointments to the State Disciplinary Boards

The Board of Governors approved the appointment of Terri Gordon (at-large, 2025-2028) to the State Disciplinary Board and the appointment of Alex Shalishali (middle district, 2025-2028) to the State Disciplinary Review Board by unanimous vote.

Appointments to the ICLE Board

The Board of Governors approved the appointments of Matthew Cathey (2025-2028), Mercedes Dickerson (2025-2027), David Lefkowitz (2025-2028), and Stephen Tillman (2025-2028) to the Institute of Continuing Legal Education of the State Bar of Georgia (ICLE) Board by unanimous vote.

Appointments to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency

The Board of Governors approved the two-year appointments (2026-2028) of Jarvarus Gresham and Stephen Tillman to the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency by majority vote.

Advisory Committee on Legislation New Legislative Proposals

Following a report by Director of Governmental Affairs Jennifer McNeely, 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>Professionalism Committee</i> Support for a Resolution of the General Assembly Recognizing April 2026 as Legal Professionalism Month	Passed by majority vote	Passed by 2/3 vote

Legislative Update

Director of Governmental Affairs Jennifer McNeely discussed the upcoming legislative session. She highlighted the pending bills from the previous year, particularly those that could impact Bar members. Notable bills to monitor include HB99, based upon the federal qualified child and dependent care tax credit, which is expected to be significant for members. HB902 is also of interest, focusing on transparency and accountability in rates and rate regulation after enactment of tort reform law. Additionally, SB215, a bar restructuring bill, is under consideration, and discussions are ongoing with its sponsor to find a resolution.

The potential for leadership changes was also a key point, as many current lawyer-legislators are running for higher office, which may reduce the number of lawyer-legislators in the Georgia General Assembly. Director McNeely emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with remaining legislators and

encouraged Bar Sections to communicate any legislative concerns. Board of Governors members were urged to engage with their Sections and share insights on legislation affecting the legal community. She also noted the commitment required for lawyers considering running for office, highlighting the balance needed between practice and public service. Lawyers were encouraged to support and mentor those interested in running for office, reinforcing the role of legal professionals in shaping policy and serving the community. She concluded with an open invitation for members to reach out with questions or concerns.

President's Report

President Chris Twyman provided an update on his focus on the Bar's priorities for the year, emphasizing gratitude for the contributions of the Executive Committee members and the dedicated staff, including the South Georgia and Coastal Georgia offices. He acknowledged the importance of collaboration with the Supreme Court of Georgia, highlighting the positive relationship that exists, which is crucial for the Bar's success. President Twyman reiterated the four primary focus areas for the year: enhancing Bar operations, improving the work of volunteer groups, strategically addressing the future of the profession through emerging technologies, and reinforcing the role of lawyers in upholding the rule of law.

Progress has already been made in these areas, particularly in evaluating Bar operations and optimizing resources. The Finance Committee and Executive Committee have been assessing year-end financials and planning necessary investments in the Bar Center. Additionally, efforts are being made to attract new tenants and optimize parking operations to increase revenue.

President Twyman stressed the importance of effective committee functioning and asked committee chairs to review their committee descriptions to ensure their work aligns with the descriptions and the Bar's mission. He mentioned ongoing advancements in artificial intelligence and technology as essential components for the profession's future, with an AI toolkit set to be released soon. Furthermore, he highlighted the commitment to fostering the next generation of lawyers through programs like Law-Related Education and High School Mock Trial, revising key elements to emphasize legal professionalism and ethics. President Twyman concluded with an optimistic outlook on the Bar's progress and collaboration, expressing enthusiasm for the upcoming months.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore provided an operational update on the Bar's progress. He noted that while the Bar year is still in its early stages, momentum is building, and operations are steady with no significant concerns, as the financials from the previous year have been closed and auditors are engaged. Executive Director Elmore highlighted several key initiatives, including the rapid advancement of the Center for Lawyer Wellbeing, which has garnered strong early responses.

He also mentioned the swift formation of the Senior Lawyers Division, expressing gratitude to President-elect Bill Gentry and his team for their leadership. Executive Director Elmore outlined the execution of priorities set by President Chris Twyman, such as economic development, cash management, and expanded educational programming, which are strengthening the Bar's foundation. He updated the Board on the awaited final order regarding CLE rule changes, thanking Justices Warren, Bethel, and McMillian for their partnership, as well as Bar staff for their extensive work in refining the rules. He commended the communications plan, ensuring readiness to inform members promptly once the order is issued. He encouraged attention to the annual report, which provides a data-driven snapshot of the Bar's operational health and the Office of the General Counsel's work. In closing, Elmore expressed gratitude to the officers, managers, staff, and the meetings team for their dedication and excellence in serving the Bar.

Treasurer's Report

State Bar Treasurer Javoyne Hicks reported on the Bar's finances. She highlighted the information in the executive summary below and said there were no items of note in the first quarter of the 2025-2026 FY. She thanked everyone for contributing to the legislative fund and the Georgia Legal Services Program.

The Board of Governors received a copy of the June 2025 Financial Statements, including Bar operations and Bar Center. The Executive Summary is as follows:

In total, the Bar budgeted a loss of \$1,140,469 for the year ended June 30, 2025. This total budgeted loss for the Bar was calculated as a budgeted loss for Bar operations of \$1,288,225 and a budgeted gain for the Bar Center of \$147,756.

The Bar Center realized an actual loss of \$574,745 for the year instead of the budgeted gain of \$147,756. This difference of 722,501 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 \$227,741 more 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) additional rental revenue of \$223,600 and (3) additional parking revenue of \$148,257. These savings were offset by (4) additional audio/video, furniture and equipment costs of \$58,798 and (5) additional building rehab costs of \$1,267,225. These five amounts net to an additional expense of \$726,425.

Bar operations realized a gain of \$181,742 instead of the budgeted loss of \$1,288,225. This difference of \$1,469,967 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. Like Bar Center operations, these income amounts totaled \$429,444 more than what was budgeted. (2) ICLE earned \$243,255 more in net program revenue than what was originally budgeted (3) savings in salaries and related personnel costs of \$984,993, (4) savings in officer expenses of \$28,613, (5) savings in bond premium amortization and investment service fees of \$28,908 (6) savings associated with the Bar Journal of \$28,722 (7) savings in building insurance of \$29,452 (8) savings in printing costs of \$35,387 (9) savings in supplies of \$26,102 (10) savings in seminars and training of \$27,964 and (11) savings in furniture and equipment of \$44,776. The savings were offset by the following components: (12) an overage in meeting costs (Board of Governors and Members meetings, Supreme Court and Court of Appeals meeting costs and Executive Committee meetings costs) of \$89,206 (13) additional costs for the State Disciplinary Board Panels of \$26,156 (14) website redesign costs of \$168,909 (15) Membership Database Project costs of \$110,713 (16) additional contract labor and contract programming costs of \$127,701 and (17) additional computer software costs of \$48,448. These seventeen items total a difference of \$1,291,707.

Young Lawyers Division Report

YLD President Veronica Cox reported on the activities of the YLD. She said the YLD has had a productive summer. The YLD held its Committee Chair Orientation in July at the State Bar of Georgia and its Officers and Directors Retreat in Athens in August, where, in addition to team bonding, the YLD conducted its planning for the year. The YLD announced future meeting dates coinciding with Board of Governors meetings, with the exception of the spring meeting, where the YLD will have its stand-alone meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. The YLD also announced the Signature Fundraiser taking place on February 28 in Macon benefitting Middle Georgia Justice and shared a QR code, linking to the Bar

website where tickets and sponsorship packages may be purchased. Lastly, the YLD invited the Board to attend the hike onsite at McLemore, the YLD Professionalism Committee's CLE with Justice Bethel and Judge Hise, and the YLD's dinner under the stars.

Preview of Proposed Fee Arbitration Rule Amendments

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith and Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb presented the proposed Fee Arbitration Rule Amendments. Deputy General Counsel NeSmith explained the original process, under which a petition was filed, the lawyer was asked if they would be bound by arbitration, and regardless of the lawyer's response, the arbitration proceeded and the lawyer was required to abide by the decision. If they did not agree with the decision, they were entitled to a trial de novo in Superior Court. This process helped ensure that fee disputes were settled effectively. However, under changes implemented in 2022, the rules were revised so that if a lawyer chose not to be bound, the arbitration would not move forward. Deputy General Counsel NeSmith noted that this shift significantly reduced its effectiveness in protecting the public.

Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb, who has served on the Fee Arbitration Committee since 2000, provided additional context. He referenced data from Fee Arbitration Director Donna Davis showing that, while the program previously managed approximately 100 hearings per year, only nine hearings have been conducted so far this Bar year, with 62% of lawyers refusing to be bound. Deputy General Counsel NeSmith emphasized that the suggested rule change would align Georgia with practices followed by many other bar associations. The proposed changes would revert the program back to its original way of functioning.

Both Deputy General Counsel NeSmith and Executive Committee Member Lipscomb answered multiple questions from Board of Governors members. After lengthy discussions, President Twyman asked that further questions be emailed to Bar staff for further comment and consideration. The Executive Committee will continue the discussion at its December meeting, factoring in the questions from the Board.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on August 21, 2025.

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

The Board of Governors received a copy of the 2024-2025 Combined State Bar of Georgia and Office of the General Counsel Annual Report.

ICLE Report

The Board of Governors received a written report from the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Law Practice Management Program

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

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

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 Treasurer and Center for Lawyer Wellbeing Chair Javoyne Hicks reminded everyone that the Out of the Darkness Walk is being held on Nov. 2 and to join, if possible, or contribute to the State Bar's Out of the Darkness Walk 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 11 a.m.

Shiriki C. Jones, Secretary

Approved:

Christopher P. Twyman, President



Executive Summary

To: Board of Governors

From: Russell Willard, General Counsel
Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel

Date: December 9, 2025

Re: Proposed Change to Bar Rule 10-103. Funding, which concerns the cap on distributions that may be made by the Trustees of the Client Security Fund within any single Bar Year

We are recommending that 10-103 be amended because, due to the current wording of the Rule, the Trustees of the Client Security Fund are forbidden from spending down any surplus that has been built up in the fund, as they may not spend more than what is received, via the annual assessment, in a single year. This change allows them to spend up to the annual assessment plus any surplus funds from prior Bar Years.

1 **Rule 10-103. Funding. (redlined)**

2 (1) The State Bar of Georgia shall provide funding for the payment of
3 claims and the costs of administering the Fund. Funding shall be
4 through an annual assessment of \$15 per dues-paying lawyer. The
5 Trustees shall not spend more than received through the annual
6 assessment in a single year as well as any funds carried over as
7 unspent from assessments of prior years. The Board of Governors may
8 from time to time adjust the Fund's maximum annual assessment to
9 advance the purposes of the Fund or to preserve the fiscal integrity of
10 the Fund.

11 (2) All monies or other assets of the Fund shall constitute a trust and
12 shall be held in the name of the Fund, subject to the direction of the
13 Board.

14 (3) Only the Board of Trustees may authorize the payment of money
15 from the Fund.

1 **Rule 10-103. Funding. (clean)**

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15 from the Fund.

Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL) 2025-2026 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 and enhancement funding of \$125,000 be included in the budget of the Judicial Council for the next session of the General Assembly. The \$900,000 baseline funding comprises the majority of the funding of the Resource Center – over 70% of projected funding for FY 2026. The Resource Center is seeking an enhancement of \$125,000 for FY 2027 due to the loss and reduction of key funding sources. 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 as well as an enhancement of \$125,000. The requested enhancement for FY 2027 will ensure that the Resource Center remains adequately funded to maintain staffing levels in line with the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases¹ despite an anticipated drastic reduction and uncertainty

¹ See ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases, *available at* https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/death_penalty_representation/2003_guidelines.pdf.

in compensation from the federal courts under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) and the elimination of longtime State Bar funding. For many years, the State Bar leadership has strongly encouraged the Resource Center to seek additional funding from the legislature.

After more than two decades of a long-standing funding amount of \$800,00, the Resource Center sought and was granted a \$100,000 enhancement in FY 2025 for the first time ever² in order to hire an additional attorney. The Resource Center hired an experienced capital attorney with almost 20 years of experience as Deputy Director.

The baseline funding of \$900,000 with the requested \$125,000 enhancement for FY 2027 will allow the Resource Center to maintain current staffing levels, while it faces significant cuts from other longtime funding sources and increasing costs, 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 proceedings before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.

3. Has the State Bar supported this appropriation in the past?

The State Bar was an instrumental partner at the Resource Center's founding. The Resource Center was created to address the critical gap in representation for people facing the death penalty in post-conviction proceedings in Georgia. For the past thirty-seven (37) 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 and enhancement 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.³ The lack of representation poses an especially acute problem in capital cases

² Before 2023, the Resource Center had only ever sought enhancements to restore previous cuts to its baseline funding—specifically after the 2008 financial crisis, and then after the COVID19 pandemic-related cuts that were imposed statewide. The Resource Center otherwise had been receiving \$800,000 from the legislature since FY 2002.

³ See *Gibson v. Turpin*, 270 Ga. 855 (1999). By the slimmest of margins, the Supreme Court of

where post-conviction review has been recognized to be a critical stage in the death penalty appellate process.⁴ 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.⁵ 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.⁶ The responsibilities of Resource Center staff also extend to advocating for clemency after people under death sentence 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 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").

The Resource Center seeks an enhancement due to the loss and reduction in two critical and longtime funding sources. First, the State Bar informed the Resource Center that FY 2025 was the last year it would receive funding, and for the last several years, the State Bar has strongly encouraged the Resource Center to seek additional funding from the legislature. Second, the Resource Center's compensation from vouchers under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) will dramatically decrease in FY 2026 and in subsequent years, due to fewer cases in federal court. In addition to the anticipated drop in funds, even before the recent shutdown, there was, and remains, significant uncertainty surrounding the timing of CJA payments. The Resource Center, for example, submitted a federal voucher on July 2, 2025, that has still not been paid. While the increase in legislative funding in FY 2025 was of critical importance to ensure adequate staffing levels, the Resource Center faces the inevitability of staffing cuts in coming years without the \$125,000 enhancement.

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.

⁴ *See, e.g., Murray v. Giarattano*, 492 U.S. 1, 24, 26 (1989).

⁵ The Resource Center is currently responsible for overseeing 35 cases from 23 counties across the state.

⁶ *See Martinez v. Ryan*, 566 U.S. 1, 12 (2012) (effective counsel is necessary in order to vindicate constitutional rights in post-conviction proceedings).

Simultaneously the Resource Center is 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.⁷

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 execution and that remains true today.⁸ Georgia has a high error rate in death sentences

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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. Similar organizations in other states are often state agencies, rather than independent nonprofits. Those similar organizations providing post-conviction representation to people on death row are funded at much higher rates than the Resource Center. For example, in FY 2025 Kansas projected to fund the Kansas Capital Habeas Defense office, which has a staff of eleven representing six out of the nine people on Kansas' death row, at \$1,200,000. *See* <https://budget.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/328-BIDS-FY2025.pdf>. Mississippi, which has a staff of nine representing 35 people on death row, funded the Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel in FY 2025 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.

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 and others on death row in recent years. In April 2025, Adrian Hargrove was resentenced to life without parole. 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 financial resources, when available, to support case needs.

By providing representation at this stage, moreover, the Resource Center allows Georgia’s capital punishment system to function expeditiously 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 *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; the Individual Rights Section of the State Bar; and the Appellate Section of the State Bar.

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 along with the enhancement funding of \$125,000 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 ask the State Bar of Georgia for endorsement of continuation funding of \$900,000 and enhancement funding of \$125,000 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.

Beyond legislative funding, the Resource Center is historically funded through three additional sources, one of which is being eliminated (the State Bar), another that fluctuates (the Georgia Bar Foundation), and another that is significantly decreasing (federal monies from CJA vouchers). These reductions in funding are putting long-term pressure on the Resource Center's finances such that without the current increase in the baseline funding from the legislature, the Resource Center will be facing staffing cuts in coming years that will negatively impact Georgia's death penalty system.

With respect to the Georgia Bar Foundation, the Resource Center received grants from the Georgia Bar Foundation from 2006 to 2011. From 2012 to 2018, the Georgia Bar Foundation was unable to provide the Resource Center any funds due to a decrease in IOLTA funds. Thankfully, since 2019, the Georgia Bar Foundation has generously provided a grant to the Resource Center in amounts varying from year to year depending on availability of funds, and these grants have helped to offset some of the reductions in other funding sources. The Resource Center sought additional funding from the Georgia Bar Foundation in its most recent cycle, but was funded at the previously-requested level, given the Foundation's own limited funds. As a result, we do not have reason to believe at this time that we will be able to offset reductions in funding from other sources through increased Georgia Bar Foundation grants, though we will certainly keep trying.

As for compensation from vouchers under the CJA for our work in federal court, this source of funding is in a precarious place both because we have fewer cases in federal court and because of funding shortfalls at the federal level. Today, due to a decline in death sentences in the state over the last two decades, our office has few cases in federal court and few in the pipeline. Nearly 40% of the people on Georgia's death row have now exhausted their federal appeals. Additionally, the funding itself is in flux due to shortfalls in funding the federal courts. CJA funds were depleted in July of 2025 and deferred until the beginning of the federal fiscal year in October 2025, even before the federal shutdown, which has resulted in additional delays. The Resource Center is contending not only with uncertain timeframes for payment, but also with lower

compensation due to decreases in attorney fees and a significant decrease in our federal docket. From FY 2015 to FY 2025, federal voucher funding comprised almost 25% of the Resource Center's funding. We expect in FY 2026 for federal voucher funding to comprise about 10% of the Resource Center's funding with even more significant decreases in the coming fiscal years. This is a substantial hit to the Resource Center's operating budget.

Finally, the Resource Center for many years received annual funding from the State Bar of Georgia. 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 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 due to shifting priorities in its funding of external programs. The Resource Center was notified in December 2024 that FY 2026 would be the last year of funding. Bar leadership strongly encouraged the Resource Center to seek additional funding from the legislature which we have done in the enhancement request for FY 2027 and are asking the Bar to support both the baseline funding and the enhancement funding requests.

Given these declines in funding sources coupled with rising costs, including staff salaries and benefits to remain competitive in the Atlanta public service market, the Resource Center will not be able to maintain adequate staffing levels under its current budget even with its modest reserves. State Bar support for the continuation of baseline funding of \$900,000 with the requested \$125,000 enhancement for FY 2027 is crucial to allow the Resource Center 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 proceedings before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.

**Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL) 2025-
2026 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: **Expanding Legal Access to Qualified Special Masters***

*Name of Section/Committee submitting this proposal: **Real Property Law Section***

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

RESPONSE:

Georgia presently has a highly concentrated population of attorneys within the metro Atlanta area, which poses a problem in finding competent, available, and non-conflicted attorneys to serve as special master in quiet title actions under existing O.C.G.A. 23-3-63.

Particularly, 74.73% of all Georgia attorneys with an official Georgia address practice within the eleven-county metro Atlanta region (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale counties). These eleven counties all are separate judicial districts – leaving approximately 25% of the Georgia attorneys with an official Georgia address to practice across forty-one judicial districts and one hundred and forty-eight counties.

Currently, O.C.G.A. 23-3-63, which addresses real property quiet title actions (statutory quiet title actions), requires the utilization of a special master to resolve the action. Particularly, O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 requires submission of the statutory quiet title action to a special master who resides in the judicial circuit where the property at issue is located. An equitable quiet title action, O.C.G.A. 23-3-43 makes it optional to use a special master at the election of the petitioner, but the special master is ultimately selected in the same manner as O.C.G.A. 23-3-63.

Concerningly, the eleven counties of the designated metro Atlanta region constitute only 5.5% of the total land area of Georgia. At a high level, twenty-five percent of Georgia attorneys with an official Georgia address are left as potentially viable special masters over 94% of the state's land mass. However, approximately half of the state's 51 judicial circuits have two hundred or less resident attorneys, which yet again narrows the potential pool of attorneys experienced in real property title and litigation matters, assuming no conflicts arise.

Real property title litigation is a specialized practice area requiring attorneys knowledgeable and

familiar with the nuances of Georgia real property case law. Because of the geographical constraints set forth within O.C.G.A. 23-3-63, as unchanged since its enactment in 1966, as well as the extreme concentration of Georgia resident attorneys in certain counties, it is extremely challenging to locate a qualified special master to handle quiet title matters who also has zero conflicts in a quiet title action. Given the close-knit nature of many of the judicial circuits, familial and personal conflicts regularly eliminate potentially qualified attorneys from serving as special masters in pending quiet title litigation.

The proposed bill expands the candidate pool of potential special masters while also incorporating a similar geographic locality requirement to the existing statute - but based on residency within a respective federal district in Georgia as opposed to judicial circuits. Half of the judicial circuits in the state have less than two hundred attorneys maintaining an official address therein, highlighting the need for a broader available pool of potential special masters.

2. Is this a model bill from the Uniform Law Commission, American Law Institute, or another entity that drafts model legislation?

RESPONSE:

No.

a. Please include relevant information on the model act, including when it was created and other states that have adopted it.

RESPONSE:

Not applicable. The proposed bill uses the existing 1966 statute, O.C.G.A. 23-3-63, as a baseline to expand the available pool of experienced real property attorneys to serve as special masters in quiet title actions.

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

RESPONSE:

Existing O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 dates to the creation of the statutory quiet title process in 1966, where it was enacted to “create[] an efficient, speedy and effective means of adjudicating disputed title claims and was intended by the General Assembly to serve as an additional remedy to other legal and equitable actions.” Heath v. Stinson, 238 Ga. 364, 365 (1977). There is no case law which otherwise interprets the plain language of O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 as to the appointment process and qualifications of special masters in quiet title actions.

4. Does this proposal seek to codify current case law or seek to modify a statute based on a recent appellate decision?

RESPONSE:

The proposal does not seek to codify current case law or otherwise address a recent appellate decision as to O.C.G.A. 23-3-63.

5. Will this proposed legislation have a fiscal impact on the state?

RESPONSE:

The proposed legislation will have zero fiscal impact on the state, as special masters appointed pursuant to O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 are paid within the course of litigation by the litigants themselves, as overseen and approved by the Superior Court judge assigned to the matter.

6. Describe how the pending or proposed legislation (1) regulates the legal profession, or (2) improves the quality of legal services.¹

RESPONSE:

The proposed legislation seeks to amend a pre-existing statute which regulates the legal profession, particularly the ability of superior courts to appoint a special master within the course of a real property quiet title proceeding. By expanding the available pool of potential qualified special masters to oversee quiet title proceedings, the proposed legislation would further expand the General Assembly's stated goal within the quiet title process to further provide efficient, speedy and effective means of adjudicating disputed title claims. Additionally, as the proposed legislation would create minimum levels of qualification for a special master to be appointed within a quiet title proceeding, it would further improve the legal profession by ensuring capable, experienced, and qualified attorneys are appointed within superior court quiet title proceedings.

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?

RESPONSE:

The Real Property Section is unaware of any prior attempts to update and improve O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 or the statutory quiet title process generally. There are no interest groups which lobby specifically on behalf of real property litigation matters.

8. Why should the State Bar use its resources to lobby this proposal on behalf of the legal profession?

RESPONSE:

O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 squarely touches on both Keller concerns – the regulation of legal services and

¹ 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).

improvement of legal services. With the State Bar taking a legislative position on the proposed changes to O.C.G.A. 23-3-63, the Bar would be taking a stance on further enhancing judicial efficiency and economy, as well as ensuring that an adequate number of qualified attorneys are available to assist the superior courts on quiet title matters.

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.

RESPONSE:

The Real Property Section does not anticipate any potential opponents to the proposed legislation. Potential proponents could include closing attorneys, title insurance companies, the Georgia Association of Realtors, and other real property lobbying organizations (e.g., Georgia Real Estate Closing Attorneys Association or American Land Title Association).

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?

RESPONSE:

The proposed legislation was circulated amongst the Executive Committee of the Real Property Law Section and unanimously supported, after comments, for submission to the Bar for potential Keller exception.

11. Which other State Bar committees or sections may have an interest in the legislation or proposal?

RESPONSE:

Because of the proposed legislation touching on exclusive real property matters, the Real Property Section does not anticipate other committees or sections taking a position.

a. Have you provided interested State Bar committees/sections with a copy of this proposal? If so, have they provided any comments?

RESPONSE:

The Real Property Section has not provided the proposal to any other committees/sections to-date.

12. What is the recommendation that your section or committee wishes to be adopted by the State Bar?

RESPONSE:

The Real Property Section wishes the proposed legislation to amend O.C.G.A. 23-3-63 be enacted in substantially a similar manner and scope as proposed. The Section believes that changes need to include (1) minimum qualifications to serve as a special master on quiet title actions and (2) a broader, regional footprint of permissible special masters to serve within quiet title actions as set forth in O.C.G.A. 23-3-63.

West's Code of Georgia Annotated
Title 23. Equity
Chapter 3. Equitable Remedies and Proceedings Generally
Article 3. Quia Timet (Refs & Annos)
Part 2. Quia Timet Against All the World (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 23-3-63

[**PROPOSED**] § 23-3-63. Submission to special master

Currentness

The court, upon receipt of the petition together with the plat and instruments filed therewith, shall submit the same to a special master who shall be:

- (a) a person who is authorized to practice law in this state;
- (b) a resident of the judicial district of the United States wherein the action is brought, as set forth in 28 U.S. Code § 90;
- (c) a citizen of this state for three years; and
- (d) has at least five years' experience in litigating or opining title to land in this state.

Credits

Laws 1966, p. 443, § 3.

Notes of Decisions (9)

Ga. Code Ann., § 23-3-63, GA ST § 23-3-63
The statutes and Constitution are current through Act 22 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly. Some sections may be more current, see credits for details. The statutes are subject to changes by the Georgia Code Commission.

End of Document © 2025 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.



State Bar of Georgia

To: Bar Officers/Finance Committee

From: Ron Turner

Date: November 19, 2025 *rwT*

Re: October 2025 Financial Statements-Bar Operations and Bar Center

Attached please find the October 2025 financial statements. These financial statements are presented at a summary level for clarity and to convey overall trends. Full departmental details are 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 < **\$2,500** are not explained to conserve your time.

New and revised items are highlighted in bold. Savings may be realized in each department to offset these overages. In many instances unbudgeted items will be covered as part of the use of unallocated cash.

Administration

Membership software license is over budget primarily due to the cost of iMIS membership licenses. While we factored in an increase in the budget for this item, the actual increase was greater than the budgeted increase. In addition, due to the transition of the iMIS database to the cloud there were certain unanticipated costs.

Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)

Professional fees for ICLE are over budget due to the purchase of Asana, a project management reporting software system. This amount was partially budgeted for in the prior fiscal year and partially in the current fiscal year. No costs were incurred in the prior year and the project did not start until the current fiscal year.

Other Bar Center Operations

The Bar Center incurred unbudgeted costs of approximately \$41,000 associated with the audio/video system for both the Presidents' Boardroom and the YLD Presidents' Boardroom. These costs are being incurred to overhaul both boardrooms to allow for better meeting functionality whether the meetings are in-person or hybrid.

The Bar incurred unbudgeted building rehab costs of approximately **\$289,100** for the following items: (1) lease buildout costs of approximately **\$227,200** for a tenant to enter into a lease renewal for space on the 4th floor and (2) approximately \$21,700 for the replacement of hoist ropes associated with one of the elevators and (3) approximately \$37,200 in costs paid for work done on electrical panels in order to replace the old electrical panels.

Other Bar Center Operations (Continued)

In addition, the Bar incurred unbudgeted tenant improvement costs of approximately \$11,800 for the replacement of an air handler motor in one of the tenant's suites that was found to be defective and not repairable.

Shared Office Overhead

Actual shared office expenses incurred exceed the allocation of these expenses to various departments and organizations by approximately **\$149,300**. 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.

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
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, 2025

	Year Ending 06/30/2025	Year To Date October 31, 2025	% of Budget	Year Ending 06/30/2026
	Actual	Actual		Annual Budget
Membership Numbers				
Active Members	42,777	43,111	98.65 %	43,700
Inactive Members	7,827	7,596	98.14 %	7,740
Provisional Members	21	13	26.00 %	50
Associates/Affiliates	20	20	153.85 %	13
Foreign Legal Consultants	12	12	133.33 %	9
Students	491	504	121.45 %	415
Emeritus	5,095	5,185	103.18 %	5,025
Total Membership Numbers	56,243	56,441	99.10 %	56,952
Revenue				
Dues Active	11,283,972	11,599,633	98.31 %	11,799,000
Dues Inactive	1,061,172	1,038,651	99.40 %	1,044,900
Dues Provisional	9,900	14,712	217.96 %	6,750
Dues Associates	850	1,600	177.78 %	900
Dues Foreign Legal Consultant	2,508	3,240	133.33 %	2,430
Dues Late Fees	244,825	201,625	77.55 %	260,000
Dues NSF Check Fee	140	40	28.57 %	140
Dues Prior Years	11,847	2,272	30.29 %	7,500
Total License and Dues	12,615,214	12,861,773	98.02 %	13,121,620
Program Registration Income	4,742,679	1,290,367	26.88 %	4,800,000
Section Expense Reimbursement	320,694	335,385	100.00 %	335,385
CSF Expense Reimbursement	73,000	63,333	33.33 %	190,000
Advertising and Sales	53,362	13,694	50.09 %	27,340
Membership Income	215,977	81,788	46.64 %	175,350
Credit Card Processing Fees	131,682	31,305	27.22 %	115,000
Interest Income	704,444	302,256	91.59 %	330,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	34,896	1,277	5.81 %	22,000
Total Bar Revenue	18,891,948	14,981,178	78.37 %	19,116,695
Total Bar Expenses	18,710,206	6,587,811	32.67 %	20,164,543
SBG Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 181,742 \$	\$ 8,393,367	(801.01) %	\$ (1,047,848)

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, 2025

	Year Ending 06/30/2025	Year To Date October 31, 2025	Year Ending 06/30/2026
	Actual	Actual	Annual Budget
Total Bar Center Operations Revenue	3,409,662	1,165,282	2,904,940
Total Bar Center Operations Expenses	3,984,407	1,285,812	2,931,965
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (574,745) \$	(120,530)	\$ (27,025)
Combined Revenue	22,301,610	16,146,460	22,021,635
Combined Expenses	22,694,613	7,873,622	23,096,508
Total Combined Net Income (Loss)	\$ (393,003) \$	8,272,838	\$ (1,074,873)

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, 2025

	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							
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	0	0.00 %	66,425	0.00 %	0	(66,425)	146,317
CCLC Contributions to Bar Center	500,000	35.97 %	500,000	35.97 %	1,390,000	890,000	1,358,389
Interest and Dividend Income	0	0.00 %	54,631	39.59 %	138,000	83,369	183,425
Bar Center Income and Cash Receipts	\$ 500,000	32.72 %	\$ 621,056	40.65 %	\$ 1,528,000	\$ 906,944	\$ 1,688,131
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements							
Bond Premium Amortization	0	0.00 %	1,783	14.86 %	12,000	10,217	11,053
Investment Service Fees	0	0.00 %	6,389	26.62 %	24,000	17,611	27,376
Conference Center Renovations	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	9,500	9,500	0
Audio Video, Furniture and Equipment	0	0.00 %	41,735	122.75 %	34,000	(7,735)	64,498
Building Rehabilitation	105,186	0.00 %	289,121	0.00 %	0	(289,121)	1,275,625
Tenant Improvements	0	0.00 %	11,813	0.00 %	0	(11,813)	0
President's Boardroom	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0	1,109
Bar Center Expenses and Cash Disbursements	105,186	132.31 %	350,841	441.31 %	79,500	(271,341)	1,379,661
Bar Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ 394,814	27.26 %	\$ 270,215	18.65 %	\$ 1,448,500	\$ 1,178,285	\$ 308,470
Conference Center Income and Expenses							
Room Rentals and Various Charges	914	6.77 %	5,668	41.99 %	13,500	7,832	16,415
Conference Center Operating Expenses	42,158	8.56 %	167,601	34.02 %	492,708	325,107	469,343
Conference Center Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (41,244)	8.61 %	\$ (161,933)	33.79 %	\$ (479,208)	\$ (317,275)	\$ (452,929)
Rental Income and Expenses							
Rental Income	84,076	11.18 %	325,016	43.22 %	752,000	426,984	983,600
Building Operating Expenses	159,059	8.00 %	652,859	32.82 %	1,989,330	1,336,471	1,792,395
Rental Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ (74,983)	6.06 %	\$ (327,842)	26.50 %	\$ (1,237,330)	\$ (909,488)	\$ (808,795)
Parking Income and Expenses							
Parking Income	62,314	10.19 %	213,541	34.92 %	611,440	397,899	721,517
Parking Deck Operating Expenses	34,617	9.35 %	114,510	30.91 %	370,427	255,917	343,008
Parking Combined Net Cash Flow	\$ 27,696	11.49 %	\$ 99,031	41.09 %	\$ 241,013	\$ 141,982	\$ 378,509
Total Bar Center Operations Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 306,283	(1,133.33) %	\$ (120,530)	445.99 %	\$ (27,025)	\$ 93,505	\$ (574,745)

Note: Non-Cash depreciation expense and gain/loss on disposal of fixed assets are excluded from this schedule.

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2025

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Revenues				
Dues - Active	\$ 11,599,633	\$ 11,799,000	98.31 %	\$ 11,283,972
Dues - Inactive	1,038,651	1,044,900	99.40 %	1,061,172
Dues - Provisional	14,712	6,750	217.96 %	9,900
Dues - Misc. Types	4,840	3,330	145.35 %	3,358
Dues - Late Fees	203,937	267,640	76.20 %	256,812
Total Dues & Licenses	12,861,773	13,121,620	98.02 %	12,615,214
Program Registration Income	1,290,367	4,800,000	26.88 %	4,742,679
Section Expense Reimbursement	335,385	335,385	100.00 %	320,694
CSF Expense Reimbursement	63,333	190,000	33.33 %	73,000
Advertising and Sales	13,694	27,340	50.09 %	53,362
Membership Income	31,788	84,150	37.77 %	94,477
Pro Hac Vice	114,000	480,000	23.75 %	535,200
Pro Hac Vice Contra	(64,000)	(388,800)	16.46 %	(413,700)
Credit Card Processing Fees	31,305	115,000	27.22 %	131,682
Interest Income	302,256	330,000	91.59 %	704,444
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,277	22,000	5.81 %	34,896
Total Revenues	14,981,178	19,116,695	78.37 %	18,891,948
Expenses				
Administration	1,055,858	2,988,568	35.33 %	2,846,592
General Counsel	1,770,895	5,633,355	31.44 %	5,133,157
Communications	289,107	958,061	30.18 %	1,061,121
Lawyer's Assistance Program	77,500	155,000	50.00 %	154,674
Fee Arbitration	182,061	626,996	29.04 %	571,668
Law Practice Management	128,017	573,367	22.33 %	458,571
Sections	110,132	335,385	32.84 %	323,193
Savannah Office	109,243	325,224	33.59 %	310,494
Tifton Office	60,491	203,515	29.72 %	209,899
Young Lawyers	163,950	470,224	34.87 %	435,031
Unauthorized Practice of Law	260,027	862,268	30.16 %	904,586
Law Related Education	155,898	464,994	33.53 %	438,473
High School Mock Trial	31,391	185,155	16.95 %	187,023
ICLE	1,440,826	4,530,379	31.80 %	3,935,703

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

State Bar of Georgia
Income Statement YTD - Operations
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2025

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Pro Bono	70,738	212,216	33.33 %	212,216
Fastcase	238,195	480,000	49.62 %	462,428
Officers' Expenses	10,169	99,470	10.22 %	73,857
Resource Center Contribution	55,166	55,166	100.00 %	55,166
Total Other Expenses	228,800	1,005,200	22.76 %	1,104,541
Unallocated Services	149,346	0	0.00 %	(168,187)
Total Expenses	6,587,811	20,164,543	32.67 %	18,710,206
Net Income	\$ 8,393,367	\$ (1,047,848)	(801.01) %	\$ 181,742

Note: For Total Other Expenses, the details can be found on the next page.
Created on 11/20/2025
State Bar of Georgia

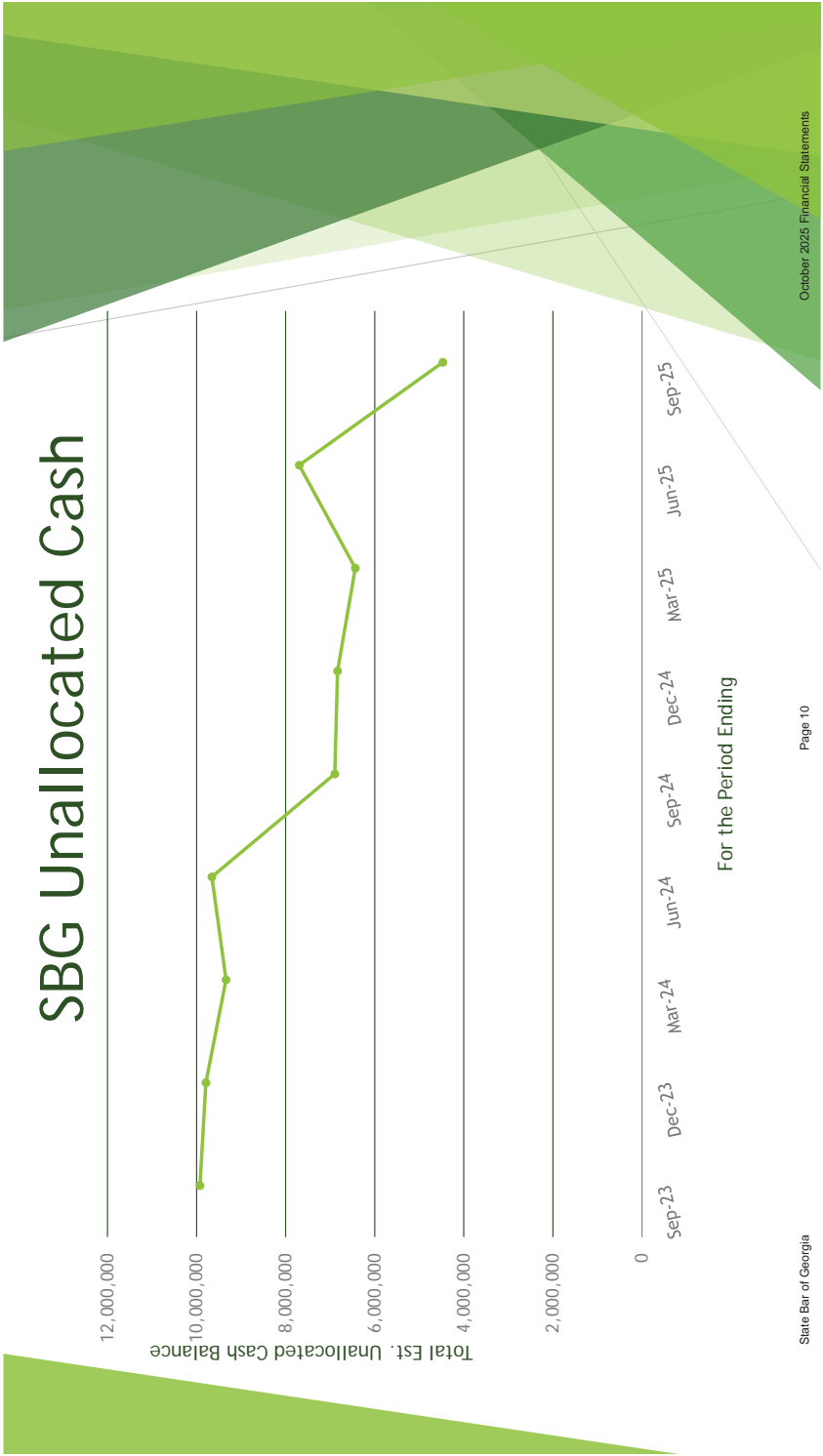
State Bar of Georgia
Supporting Schedule of Other Expenses - YTD
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2025

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Prior Year
Other Expenses				
BOG and Member Meetings	\$ 103,842	\$ 597,500	17.38 %	\$ 651,918
Supreme Court Meetings	10,514	79,000	13.31 %	81,230
Executive Committee Meetings	6,561	62,000	10.58 %	56,444
Court of Appeals Meetings	0	20,000	0.00 %	24,814
State Disciplinary Board Lawyers	11,333	34,000	33.33 %	31,500
Electronic Ballots	0	18,000	0.00 %	16,646
Dues Notice	5,348	38,000	14.07 %	32,984
Letters of Good Standing	481	2,400	20.02 %	2,033
Bar Membership Cards	4,233	12,500	33.86 %	12,442
50 Year Certificates	0	6,300	0.00 %	4,823
Membership Database Project	0	0	0.00 %	110,713
State Bar Committees	2,043	20,000	10.22 %	16,486
Georgia Diversity Program	10,000	10,000	100.00 %	10,000
ABA Delegate Breakfast	1,154	3,000	38.48 %	2,413
1st Floor Painting	0	6,000	0.00 %	0
Commitment to Equality Awards	7,500	7,500	100.00 %	2,500
Bond Premium Amortization	5,199	23,000	22.60 %	11,688
Investment Service Fees	30,593	36,000	84.98 %	28,407
Access to Justice/Pro Bono	30,000	30,000	100.00 %	7,500
Total Other Expenses	\$ 228,801	\$ 1,005,200	22.76 %	\$ 1,104,541

State Bar of Georgia
Status and Use of Cash and Investments
For the Current Period Ending October 31, 2025

	Current Month (October 2025)	Ending of Prior Fiscal Year (June 2025)	Dollar Change	% Increase/ Decrease
Cash and Investments - Bar	\$ 41,677,626			
Less:				
CCLC Cash and Investments Included in Above Amount	(6,170,962)			
Unrealized (Gain)/Loss in Investments	<u>(1,024,545)</u>			
Net Cash Available for State Bar	<u>34,482,119</u>			
Use of Cash:				
Less:				
Board Designated - See Separate Schedule Attached	(9,094,386)			
Donor Temporarily Restricted - See Separate Schedule Attached	<u>(3,750,552)</u>			
Total Board Designated and Temporarily Restricted	<u>(12,844,938)</u>			
Other - Cash Allocated:				
Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable	141,330			
Payment of Accounts Payable	(142,747)			
Payment of Accrued Vacation	(526,459)			
Deferred Income	(8,434)			
Payment of Credit Card Bill	(364,691)			
Payment of Accrued Salary	(377,707)			
Payment of Accrued Taxes	(28,894)			
Payment of Other Accrued Expenses (primarily pension)	(226,141)			
Payment to Client Security Fund	(3,383,961)			
Operational Expenses for Remaining Bar Year	(13,072,618)			
Additional Revenue for Bar Operations (Excluding Bar Center)	4,135,517			
Net Amount to be Paid to Related Entities	<u>(133,214)</u>			
Total Other - Cash Allocated	<u>(13,988,019)</u>			
Anticipated Use of Unauthorized Cash - Bar Operations	<u>0</u>			
Estimated Cash and Investments - June 30, 2026 - Bar	<u>7,649,162</u>	8,379,251	(730,089)	-9%
Cash and Investments - Bar Center	363,224			
Other Cash Allocated - Bar Center:				
Collection of Outstanding Accounts Receivable	34,103			
Payment of Accounts Payable	(14,575)			
Deferred Income	(35,204)			
Payment of Other Accrued Expenses	(236,535)			
Additional Expenses for Bar Center Operations	<u>(193,768)</u>			
Total Other - Cash Allocated - Bar Center	<u>(445,979)</u>			
Anticipated Use of Unallocated Cash - Bar Center Operations	<u>(2,983,182)</u>	(683,890)	(2,299,292)	-336%
Estimated Cash and Investments June 30, 2026 - Bar Center	<u>(3,065,937)</u>	\$ 7,695,361	(10,761,298)	-140%
Total Estimated Cash Balance at June 30, 2026	\$ 4,583,225			

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 2025 - 2026 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, 2026 to equal 100% of the total budgeted revenue. (3) Bar Center would contribute additional cash flow or pay additional expenses through June 30, 2026 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, 2025

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2025	October 31, 2025
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	232,656
Board Designated - Sections	3,664,312	3,745,183	3,608,573	4,075,645
YLD Meetings	77,999	49,795	5,091	36,085
Total Board-Designated excludes ICLE	\$ 8,792,311	\$ 8,844,978	\$ 8,663,664	\$ 9,094,386
Donor Temporarily Restricted				
Legislative	\$ 1,806,483	\$ 2,423,119	\$ 2,825,925	\$ 3,086,798
Law Related Education/Marshall fund	207,599	192,396	162,382	153,557
High School Mock Trial	15,299	17,481	27,719	24,306
Basics Program	116,951	121,963	125,851	139,773
Younger Lawyers	87,199	126,603	135,410	174,164
Lawyers Assistance	31,863	33,229	34,352	34,741
Georgia Diversity Program	13,555	6,374	165	278
Bar Media Conference	3,115	1,523	943	735
Law Day	6,212	6,317	5,610	5,674
Access to Justice	3,175	19,993	22,150	52,569
Promote Inclusion	8,701	5,924	12,649	20,335
Military Vet Pro Bono	14,481	15,101	15,582	15,758
Justice Portraits	1,022	1,066	1,100	1,113
Center for Lawyer Well-Being	0	0	1,195	40,751
Total Donor Temporarily Restricted	\$ 2,315,655	\$ 2,971,089	\$ 3,371,033	\$ 3,750,552
Net Board Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted	\$ 11,107,967	\$ 11,816,068	\$ 12,034,697	\$ 12,844,938

State Bar of Georgia Sections End of Period Balances For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2025

	2023 June 30	2024 June 30	2025 June 30	2025 October 31
Administrative Law	5,415	3,650	1,033	3,756
Agricultural Law	15,245	15,081	16,199	17,251
Animal Law	6,859	7,960	8,417	8,859
Anti-Trust Law	13,595	13,768	12,615	12,705
Appellate Practice Law	28,338	31,423	18,675	21,332
Aviation Law	11,198	8,446	5,856	6,545
Bankruptcy Law	83,998	84,451	38,833	53,506
Bike Law	3,854	4,797	5,439	6,189
Business Law	241,256	266,886	293,867	313,327
Cannabis and Hemp Law	15,274	20,322	25,922	30,095
Child Protection and Advocacy Law	6,976	8,745	10,845	15,931
Class Action Law	4,734	4,058	4,992	7,377
Constitutional Law	27,877	29,732	35,359	40,381
Construction Law	26,054	29,142	33,089	40,437
Consumer Law	51,659	53,548	57,389	60,145
Corporate Counsel Law	127,444	94,180	102,052	138,568
Creditor's Rights Law	46,899	49,363	35,810	44,989
Criminal Law	174,486	188,475	180,029	195,310
Dispute Law	49,926	62,924	73,039	83,447
E-Discovery and Use of Technology Law	34,558	55,788	47,202	51,432
Elder Law	148,843	159,997	155,265	161,821
Eminent Domain Law	65,781	57,060	53,055	51,879
Employee Benefits Law	36,540	38,182	41,262	43,856
Energy Law	0	198	1,721	3,842
Entertainment and Sports Law	72,629	77,275	75,947	74,317
Environmental Law	96,921	101,910	104,838	110,757
Equine Law	6,868	7,141	7,394	8,157
Family Law	365,473	350,651	220,110	248,925
Fiduciary Law	224,980	248,744	244,240	259,597
Franchise and Distribution Law	8,242	9,729	9,446	10,542
General Practice and Trial Law	65,181	70,571	102,820	167,025
Government Attorney Law	32,990	35,038	36,138	36,346
Health Law	37,353	42,765	27,631	43,057
Immigration Law	41,920	46,813	51,056	53,830
Intellectual Property Law	206,892	227,554	209,102	229,051
International Law	86,953	85,732	91,214	95,126
Judicial Law	18,222	18,212	18,149	22,894
Labor Law	102,539	104,105	93,255	105,138
Legal Economics Law	6,671	7,023	7,248	7,329

State Bar of Georgia
Sections End of Period Balances
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2025

	2023 June 30	2024 June 30	2025 June 30	2025 October 31
Local Government Law	56,744	59,979	58,702	66,731
Military and Veterans Law	18,403	20,281	21,440	22,963
Nonprofit Law	21,472	26,782	28,142	33,025
Privacy and Technology Law	36,345	(6,082)	48,183	59,044
Product Liability Law	117,187	128,385	137,714	144,146
Professional Liability Law	17,313	20,063	19,469	21,062
Real Property Law	403,493	414,763	348,879	422,536
Religious Liberty Law	1,325	2,933	4,219	5,362
School and College Law	40,768	42,856	41,733	43,538
Senior Lawyers Law	12,024	12,702	8,635	4,821
Taxation Law	36,464	35,026	37,828	46,351
Tort and Insurance Law	104,254	77,521	131,488	169,061
White Collar Law	0	295	2,198	3,999
Worker's Compensation Law	199,877	188,240	163,390	147,935
Total	\$ 3,664,312	\$ 3,745,183	\$ 3,608,573	\$ 4,075,645

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions
With Contributions Paid Through October 31, 2025

Dues Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	2025-26 Dues Season	2024-25 Dues Season	2023-24 Dues Season
	<u>50,592</u>	<u>50,114</u>	<u>49,695</u>
Active - Number Paid	44,227	43,317	42,632
Inactive - Number Paid	<u>7,830</u>	<u>8,074</u>	<u>8,237</u>
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	<u>52,057</u>	<u>51,391</u>	<u>50,869</u>
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	<u>102.9%</u>	<u>102.5%</u>	<u>102.4%</u>
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	<u>4,433</u>	<u>8,649</u>	<u>9,091</u>
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	<u>8.5%</u>	<u>16.8%</u>	<u>17.9%</u>
Total Contribution Amount	<u>\$ 381,272</u>	<u>\$ 820,248</u>	<u>\$ 862,990</u>
Average Amount Paid	<u>\$ 86</u>	<u>\$ 95</u>	<u>\$ 95</u>

Legislative Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2025 - 2026	<u>\$ 381,272</u>
2024 - 2025	<u>\$ 820,248</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>

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, 2025

Dues	2025-26 Dues Season	2024-25 Dues Season	2023-24 Dues Season
Total Number of Members at Apr 30 of Previous Bar year (active and inactive)	50,592	50,114	49,695
Active - Number Paid	44,227	43,317	42,632
Inactive - Number Paid	7,830	8,074	8,237
Total Number of Members With Dues Paid	52,057	51,391	50,869
Percent of Total Members With Dues Paid	102.9%	102.5%	102.4%
Number of Members Who Made A Contribution	2,038	3,460	3,575
Percent of Members Who Made A Contribution	3.9%	6.7%	7.0%
Total Contribution Amount	\$ 229,473	\$ 485,947	\$ 490,605
Average Contribution Amount	\$ 113	\$ 140	\$ 137

GLSP Contribution Amounts by Dues Year

2025 - 2026	<u>\$ 229,473</u>
2024 - 2025	<u>\$ 485,947</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>

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, 2025

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,825,925
Income:	
Interest and Dividend Income	16,176
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	19,668
Miscellaneous Income	380,872
Total Income	416,716
Expenditures:	
Staff and Contract Lobbyists	141,908
Travel	820
Shared Office Allocation	7,219
Miscellaneous	5,897
Total Expenditures	155,844
Net Donor Temporarily Restricted Balance	\$ 3,086,798

State Bar of Georgia
Summary of Client Security Fund Activity
For the Year To Date Period Ending October 31, 2025

	2023 June 30	2024 June 30	2025 June 30	October 31, 2025
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,634,260	\$ 2,212,202	\$ 2,782,908	\$ 2,715,520
Income:				
Interest and Dividend Income	33,117	44,364	60,224	16,777
Gain/Loss Investment Interest Allocation	19,577	92,242	47,344	20,399
Client Security Fund Assessments	751,680	760,050	767,625	762,525
Restitution Income	18,445	821	13,207	84
Total Income	\$ 822,819	\$ 897,477	\$ 888,400	\$ 799,785
Expenses:				
Restricted Expenses	73,000	73,000	73,000	63,333
Client Security Fund Claims Payments	159,879	239,968	870,020	65,500
Bond Premium Amortization	4,288	5,737	3,704	548
Investment Service Fees	7,710	8,066	9,064	1,962
Total Expenses	\$ 244,877	\$ 326,771	\$ 955,788	\$ 131,343
Net Income	\$ 577,942	\$ 570,706	\$ (67,388)	\$ 668,442
Fund Balance, End of Period	\$ 2,212,202	\$ 2,782,908	\$ 2,715,520	\$ 3,383,962



January 16, 2026

Dear Board of Governors:

I am pleased to report on the happenings of the 79th year of the YLD. Our programming is in full swing, and the year is already shaping up to be both productive and energizing. Thus far, the YLD and its committees have hosted 20 events, including four CLEs, six service projects and 10 networking socials. In short, we have been very busy, and our members have managed to keep up without staging a formal protest, which I consider a victory.

We enjoyed a wonderful Fall Meeting. More than 30 participants joined us for the wellness hike, proving once again that young lawyers can climb mountains both inside and outside the courtroom. The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee delivered a thoughtful CLE with Justice Bethel and Judge Hise, and our Dinner Under the Stars lived up to its charming name.

As I mentioned in my last address, my theme for the year is “Celebrate the YLD.” To that end, I am excited to share that tickets and sponsorship packages for the Signature Fundraiser on Feb. 28, 2026 (Macon, Ga.), are now available. We hope you will join us to support Middle Georgia Justice and to celebrate this year’s YLD Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Rebecca Grist, and YLD Signature Service Award recipient, James Banter.

We finalized our plans for the YLD stand-alone Spring Meeting. The meeting will take place April 23-25, 2026, at the Kimpton Hotel Arras in Asheville, North Carolina. The weekend is jam-packed with activities, including our general session, a CLE, a hands-on service project, a Pro Bono Power Hour with the NC YLD and a joint networking reception at Burial Brewing. It will be a weekend with equal parts productivity, fellowship and perhaps a modest amount of craft beer appreciation.

The Midyear Meeting marks another exciting milestone as we kick off the first session of the Leadership Academy Class of 2026. In honor of the Leadership Academy’s 20th anniversary, we will host a special reception to welcome the new class. I encourage you to stop by if you are able, as the enthusiasm of the incoming group is always contagious.

In other news, I am very excited to share that the YLD Podcast returns for a limited series, hosted by our very own YLD-ers for life, Bert Hummel and Ron Daniels. Look out for and listen to our first episode release in January 2026. It will be available for download on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts.

Finally, I’d like to extend my sincere appreciation to several outstanding YLD members. Thank you to Alec Chappell and Carlos Fernández for doing such an incredible job putting together the YLD Review and giving us truly quality content. Thank you to the Signature Fundraiser Committee, including Kindall Browning-Rickle, Chelsea Dease, Iyana Smith, Kayla Kudratt, Mallory Flemming, Brandi Holland and Kelsey Kicklighter, for working very hard to make this event happen. And thank you to the Leadership Academy co-chairs, James Banter, Matthew Caudell and Kelsie Mattox, for their tremendous work shaping this year’s programming

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

Zipporah Tillman and Mary Kathryn Vasquez, Co-Chairs

The YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee and YLD Community Service Projects Committee volunteered Nov. 11 from 1–4:30 p.m. for Empty Stocking Fund Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides toys and school supplies to children in need in and around Atlanta. We picked and packed holiday gift orders for children. The gifts were pre-purchased from other organizations and sponsors. A total of around 15 people signed up to volunteer. The location was the Empty Stocking Fund warehouse, 693 Humphries St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

We plan on hosting a virtual CLE in March or April 2026 concerning representing children with diminished capacities and the ethics surrounding the roles, specifically concerning client-directed vs. GAL advocacy. Panelists will include attorneys, GALs and stakeholders from various child welfare agencies.

YLD Community Service Projects Committee

Lyddy O'Brien and Nick Smith, Co-Chairs

The YLD Community Service Projects Committee held a Trees Atlanta volunteer day in October and an Empty Stocking Fund volunteer day in November (in collaboration with the Child Protection and Advocacy Committee).

We are planning a volunteer day with Open Hand, an organization that provides medically tailored meals for people in need, for early 2026. We also plan to follow up with other committees on co-hosting a statewide food bank volunteer day in early 2026.

YLD Criminal Law Committee

Devin Rafus and Erin Wingo, Co-Chairs

The YLD Criminal Law Committee will host a virtual CLE on Dec. 12, 2025, featuring a gang expert to discuss gang prosecutions, recent trends and what to look for in those cases.

YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee

Chelsey Haun and Benjamin Walker, Co-Chairs

The YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee is planning a CLE Hour in winter and are working on Wills Clinic for spring.

YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee

Meagan Hurley and Meghan Pittman, Co-Chairs

The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee hosted the Fireside Chat CLE with Justice Bethel and Judge Hise in conjunction with YLD programming at the Fall Meeting in Cloudland. We continue to hold monthly virtual meetings. We are planning a social networking event in Middle Georgia this winter and are discussing another social event in conjunction with the Midyear Meeting. We are actively planning a spring CLE, likely to be held in Atlanta.

We are also discussing a potential mixer in Savannah in March. Additionally, we have been contacted about collaborating with the State Bar's Professionalism Committee regarding its program on attorneys running for General Assembly. We have also resurrected the Rule of the Month postings via social media.

YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee

Caleb Grant and Maggie Martin, Co-Chairs

The YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee held a committee meeting Nov. 20, 2025. At our meeting, we discussed possible future events to be held in the spring and discussed budgeting as well as the division of duties for future events.

YLD Labor and Employment Committee

Dymond Anthony and Amber Porter, Co-Chairs

The YLD Labor and Employment Committee held a meeting on November 20 to discuss and plan upcoming events. On December 13 the Committee held a service project volunteering with the Clark's Christmas Kids at Wal-Mart for a live shopping event for holiday gifts for children in foster care.

Additionally, the Committee is currently planning a networking event co-hosted with the YLD Workers' Compensation Committee near Valentine's Day as well as a CLE on mediation.

YLD Law School Outreach Committee

Tom Church, Chair

The YLD Law School Outreach Committee has held two events (Emory Alumni Week Recess Event, swearing-in and job fair in Fulton). Plans for a third at GSU were canceled by the school. We are in the early stages of planning multiple events for next year, including an AI panel in Atlanta for all law schools (with in-person and virtual attendance options), a UGA event in Athens, a Mercer event in Macon and a John Marshall event in Atlanta. We are waiting to hear back from GSU on rescheduling. If not, we will plan a separate event..

YLD Leadership Academy

James Banter, Matt Caudell and Kelsie Mattox, Co-Chairs

The 2026 Leadership Academy class has been selected, and all sessions have been planned. The first session will take place in conjunction with the Midyear Meeting in Atlanta on Jan. 15, 2026. The class consists of 30 young lawyers. We're excited to welcome this outstanding group and look forward to an inspiring year of growth, service and impact.

YLD Leadership Academy Alumni

Alex Cark, Chair

The YLD Leadership Academy Alumni Committee hosted the Alumni Luncheon on Dec. 5 and will plan the Middle/South Georgia Alumni gathering in conjunction with the current LA session in Savannah on March 7. Details have not yet been finalized as of this submission (Nov. 19, 2025). The committee is also assisting with planning the March LA kickball tournaments in Savannah and Atlanta.

YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee

Alexa Dato-Caudell and Jack Wareham, Co-Chairs

Dates for the 2026 Food Frenzy competition have not yet been released. We appreciate everyone who provided donations or volunteer hours to local food banks during our week of service Oct. 20–26, especially in light of the government shutdown and its effect on SNAP benefits.

We are still looking for a personal representative in each region to coordinate in-person group volunteer events in the winter and spring. Please reach out to Jack or me if you are willing to serve.

YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee

Keona Blunt and Nicholas Lewis, Co-Chairs

The YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee would like to host an event or panel to promote the scholarship, showcase attorneys working in public interest, encourage applicants and explore public interest opportunities.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee

Angelik Holloway, Chair

The YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee recently attended a networking event hosted by the Georgia Bar Real Property Law Section and the Atlanta Bar Association, at Pour Taproom Midtown. Committee members met new and established lawyers and networked with each other as well.

For the spring, the committee is planning to host another networking event in connection with a Real Property Law Section conference and potentially jointly hosting an event with the Atlanta Bar Association on practice tips for new real estate lawyers.

YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee

Morgan Boulineau and Angelik Holloway, Co-Chairs

The Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee hosted *From Hustle to Hands-On: Your Law Firm Strategy Lab* on Nov. 14, 2025. The program included four practical sessions with local experts on finances, marketing, technology and law firm foundations. Attendees received an interactive workbook and three hours of general CLE credit.

YLD Sports Law Committee

Joy Bonner, Chair

The YLD Sports Law Committee will host YLD Night with the Atlanta Falcons on Dec. 29. In addition to networking during Monday Night Football, we hope to obtain near-field access for group photos and connections. In January 2026, Sports Law, in conjunction with IP Law, will host a CLE during the YLD Midyear Meeting on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, from 3–4 p.m.

The committee will also host its annual Night with the Atlanta Hawks. With the help of partners, the experience has been elevated to provide ample space for networking and conversation, and we plan to invite assistant counsel with the Hawks to discuss their roles. This experience will allow space for members to network, mingle, and enjoy. In addition, we intend to invite assistant counsel with the Hawks to discuss their roles in the organization.

YLD Women in the Profession Committee

Cayton Chrisman and Olivia Mercer, Co-Chairs

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee is planning a service event on November 20th with Ronald McDonald where we will cook a meal for the families staying at the home. We have also paid a deposit to get first dibs on the Atlanta United schedule to host a networking event. We are in talks of doing a CLE or a wine and cheese networking event in the spring as well (after Olivia returns from leave). If you have any suggestions of committees who would be good to pair up with for either the CLE or networking event, we are all ears.

YLD AFFILIATES

The YLD currently has seven recognized active affiliates around the state: Young Lawyers of Augusta, Cobb County Younger Lawyers Division, Columbus YLD, Gate City 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

Midyear Meeting | Jan. 15-18

Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

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

Spring Meeting | April 23-25

Kimpton Hotel Arras
Asheville, NC

Annual Meeting | Jun. 11-14

Omni Amelia Island Resort
Fernandina Beach, FL

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

Thank you for your continued support as we celebrate and elevate the YLD in its 79th year. If the first few months are any indication, it's going to be a great year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica R. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Veronica R. Cox
YLD President



The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia is pleased to announce the return of its 19th Annual Signature Fundraiser, benefitting Middle Georgia Justice, to Macon in 2026.

Please join us on Saturday, Feb. 28, at The Overlook on First from 6:30–10 p.m. for an elegant evening featuring live music, hors d’oeuvres, cocktails, and more.

Formal attire is requested.

In addition to supporting the vital work of Middle Georgia Justice, the evening will include the presentation of the YLD Lifetime Achievement Award and the YLD Signature Service Award.

For more details, please scan the QR code.





CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Members

The Honorable Nels S.D. Peterson (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

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

Mrs. Veronica Rogusky Cox
Federal Government
Atlanta, GA

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

Mr. Jeffrey William DeLoach
Epps Holloway DeLoach & Hoipkempier LLC
Watkinsville, GA

Ms. Anissa D. Floyd
Smurfit Westrock
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The Honorable Elizabeth D. Gobeil
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

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

The Honorable Jeffrey B. Hanson
Bibb County State Court
Macon, GA

Professor Tonja Jacobi
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Francys Johnson
Davis Borenman Johnson Law
Statesboro, GA

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

Mrs. Rizza O'Connor
Bryant & O'Connor Law Firm
Vidalia, Georgia

Mr. David M. "Dave" Paule
Our Fundraising Search
Atlanta, Georgia

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

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

Mr. Christopher P. Twyman
Cox Byington Twyman LLP
Rome, GA

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

Supreme Court of Georgia Advisor
The Honorable Shawn Ellen LaGrúa
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 17, 2026

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 with the primary charge to enhance professionalism among Georgia's lawyers and judges. **Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson** serves as the current Chair of the Commission. Other judges who serve on the Commission are as follows: **Judge Elizabeth Gobeil** for the Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Judge Benjamin S. Richardson** (Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit) for the Council of Superior Court Judges; and **Chief Judge Jeffrey B. Hanson** (State Court of Bibb County) for the Council of State Court Judges. **Judge Steven D. Grimberg** serves on the Commission for the federal judiciary. **Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrúa** is the Supreme Court of Georgia advisor to the Commission. You may find a complete list of Commission members, advisors, and liaisons at the Commission's website at <https://cjcpga.org/commission-members-2025-2026/>. A brief update of some of the Commission's activities as of December 3, 2025, is as follows.

THE 26TH ANNUAL JUSTICE ROBERT BENHAM AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Commission, in partnership with the Georgia Legal History Foundation (GLHF), will host the 26th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA26). The Commission accepted **nominations** for CSA26 from **Monday, September 15, 2025, until Tuesday, November 11, 2025**. The Commission's Benham Awards Selection Committee, chaired by **Attorney Michael D. Hobbs, Jr.**, Partner, Troutman, Pepper, Locke, met on November 20, 2025, and the Commission hoped to publicly announce the proposed award recipients by December 15, 2025. **Attorney LaToya Simone Williams** and **Mr. David M. "Dave" Paule**, Principal and Managing Director, Our Fundraising Search, co-chair the Benham Awards Planning Committee. **The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center on Tuesday, April 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception to follow.** Please save the date and plan to join us.

For more information regarding the 26th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service, visit:
<https://cjcpga.org/benhamcsa26/>



COMMISSION 2026 CONVOCAION ON PROFESSIONALISM AND THE RULE OF LAW

The Commission has authorized the Commission's Executive Director to plan the Commission's 2026, Convocation, which will focus on *Professionalism and The Rule of Law*. Planning for the Convocation is in its initial stages and is slated to occur during the Fall or Winter of 2026. Please look for additional details about the Convocation in future Board of Governor's memorandum updates.

JOINT CLE PROGRAM WITH STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM AND STATE BAR OF GEORGIA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

The Commission is in the early stages of discussions with the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism and the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia to provide information and encouragement to lawyers who might consider running for the Georgia General Assembly. Commission member, **Professor Clark D. Cunningham**, has offered to assist with the program.

CLE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS BY THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM AND STAFFED BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission staffs the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (Committee), currently chaired by **Mr. Carlos R. Vilela**. **Ms. J. Maria Waters** serves as the Committee's Vice-Chair. Some of the Committee's projects during the 24-25 and 25-26 Bar years are summarized below.

LAW DAY 2026

As you plan your May 2026 calendars, please consider scheduling time for a 2026 Law Day activity on a date and at a time and place of your choosing. 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 2026 Law Day Theme is *The Rule of Law and the American Dream***. The leaders for the State Bar's 2026 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. The State Bar's Law Day sub-committee will send suggested talking points to volunteers regarding the 2026 Law Day Theme by May 1, 2026.

The Law Day sub-committee was pleased that lawyers and/or judges in at least five (5) out of the ten judicial circuits participated in the Bar's Law Day 2025 activities. Under the leadership of **Attorney Denise Warner**, the Law Day sub-committee drafted suggested talking points for the judges and lawyers who presented about the 2025 Law Day theme. Commission Member, **Judge Jeff Hanson**, spoke to 4th Graders at the Academy for Classical Education in Macon (Judicial District 3) for Law Day 2025. **Judge Kimberly A. Alexander** (Judicial District 4) hosted the first official Decatur High School Legal Career Symposium on Friday, May 2, 2025, to educate students about different careers in the legal field and to commemorate Law Day 2025. Dodge County Juvenile Court **Judge Stephanie Burton** (Judicial District 8) made a 2025 Law Day presentation to the Dodge County Elementary School student council on May 12, 2025. With the assistance of **Judge Cheveda D. McCamy** (Judicial District 10), the Law Day Committee planned and held as a pilot project – a Law Day 2025 Social Media Contest – for Newton High School students. The pilot project was a great success; therefore, the Law Day Committee has secured Dodge County High School (Judicial District 8) as a second pilot project location for Law

Day 2026. Attorneys also organized Law Day events in Judicial District 5. Photos from the law day events with the judges are below.

	
Judge Jeff Hanson (Judicial District 3) Chief Judge, State Court of Bibb County	Judge Kimberly A. Alexander (Judicial District 4) State Court of DeKalb County
	
Judge Stephanie Burton (Judicial District 8) Dodge County Juvenile Court	



Judge Cheveda D. McCamy (Judicial District 10)
Superior Court, Alcovy Judicial Circuit

Thank you to everyone who helped to make Law Day 2025 a great success! Please look for a link to volunteer for Law Day 2026 in the Commission's February 2026, Judicial Council memorandum.

CONNECT WITH A COLLEAGUE CONTEST

The Committee's Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee is co-chaired by **Ms. Cathy Hampton** and **Ms. Samantha M. Mullis** with staff support from the Commission. In 2023, 2024, and 2025, the Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee received gubernatorial proclamations declaring April as Legal Professionalism Month. The original idea to seek a proclamation for a Legal Professionalism Month was that of Mr. Carlos Vilela, the current Chair of the Bar's Committee on Professionalism. At its meeting on September 10, 2025, the Bar's Committee on Professionalism approved the Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee's request to submit a proposed resolution declaring April 2026 as Legal Professionalism month. On September 30, 2025, Ms. Cathy Hampton and Ms. Samantha M. Mullis presented the proposal to the Bar's Advisory Committee on Legislation, which also approved the proposal. At its meeting on October 11, 2025, the Board of Governors approved the proposal for inclusion in the Bar's legislative program for the upcoming Georgia General Assembly session. The Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee also anticipates holding its 3rd Connect With A Colleague Contest March 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

For more information about the Connect With A Colleague contest on its website at <https://cjcpga.org/cwac/>.



SPEAKERS AND WRITERS BUREAU

The Speakers and Writers Bureau sub-committee of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism is currently co-chaired by **Mr. Kevin Patrick** and **Mr. Michael Perez**. The sub-committee had its first sub-committee meeting of this Bar year on October 20, 2025. The sub-committee decided to organize at least two CLEs during 2026, one of which will be geared towards transactional attorneys and which will be held in February 2026. **Mr. Taewoo Paul Nam**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Bluefin Payment System and a member of the State Bar's Committee on Professionalism, will moderate the February CLE entitled *Artificial Intelligence: Innovation without Regulation*. The panel will discuss the

professionalism and ethical issues the topic raises. The currently confirmed panelists are as follows: **Mr. Norm Brothers** (UPS Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer); **Mr. Jonathan Lippert** (General Counsel, Porsche Financial Services) and **Professor Nancy B. Rapoport, J.D.**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law. The Committee is in the process of confirming a fourth invited panelist. The sub-committee has also decided to consider working on a broader AI program for attorneys from a cross-section of practice areas in March 2026. **Judge Rhonda B. Kreuziger**, a Committee member is part of the planning team and has offered to moderate the March 2026 program.

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 published four times per year. The Summer 2025 Georgia Bar Journal Professionalism Page entitled *25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service* is attached as “Exhibit A.” Many of the Commission’s Professionalism Page articles are available on the Commission’s website at the following link: <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.

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>



EXHIBIT A

GBJ | Professionalism Page

25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service

The awards ceremony was held in April at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center in Atlanta.

BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

On April 15, 2025, Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson welcomed award recipients and other guests to the Supreme Court of Georgia for the 25th Annual Justice Robert

Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA25). Since 1998, the prestigious statewide awards have been presented to honor lawyers and judges in Georgia who have made significant contributions to

their communities and who demonstrate the positive contributions of members of the State Bar of Georgia beyond their legal or official work. Sarah "Sally" Lockwood, who served as the assistant director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism when the Benham Awards were established, recalled:

Early in his tenure as chief justice and chair of the Commission on Professionalism, Justice Benham expressed his concern about the declining numbers of lawyers involved in community and public service. He proposed that the Commission explore means of heightening the community and public service aspects of professionalism and stated his deep conviction, 'That's what the law is all about—improving the quality of life for all our citizens.' He then asked the Commission to create a Community Service Task Force, composed of members of the bench and bar, to develop goals and strategies for promoting civic mindedness and public spiritedness among Georgia lawyers

Justice Robert Benham and Sally Lockwood, former assistant director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, at the 2025 Benham Awards.



PHOTO BY DONT. MORGAN, DON MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

and judges. The first recommendation of the Task Force was the creation of the Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service to honor Justice Benham and give continuing impetus to the Commission's renewed focus on community and public service. After the Commission's and the State Bar's enthusiastic approval, the first awards were presented at the Annual Meeting of the State Bar on June 18, 1998, in Atlanta.

The concern that lawyers should serve and lead pre-dated Justice Benham's focus on the issue, however. In a May 1989 *Georgia Bar Journal* article entitled "Professionalism: Repaying the Debt," Justice Harold Clarke, one of the founders of Georgia's Professionalism movement, also noticed a decline in the willingness of lawyers to serve and lead, and encouraged them to reassert these commitments.¹

The award recipients of CSA25 served in a wide gamut of ways, including board service, mentoring, delivering furniture to the formerly unhoused. They demonstrated that whatever gifts or talents a lawyer has, there is a way in which the lawyer can serve his or her community. In what ways are you serving your community?

The CSA25 awards ceremony was a tremendous success because of the hard work of many individuals whom I would like to thank. First, the Commission appreciates the work of the Benham Awards Selection Committee members who determined the awards recipients.

Benham Awards Selection Committee

Hon. Joy Lampley-Fortson, *chair*
Thua G. Barlay
Hon. Joshua Clark Bell
John Michael Dugan
Jena G. Emory
Terrica Redfield Ganzey



PHOTO BY DON T. MORGAN, DON MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson welcomed award recipients and other guests to the 25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service.

Laverne Lewis Gaskins
Michael D. Hobbs Jr.
Chung H. Lee
William J. Liss
Jennifer Mock
Cindy Wang
Hon. Brenda Carol Youmas
Hon. Herbert E. Phipps, *honorary member*

CSA25 Planning Committee

LaToya S. Williams, *chair*
Hon. William P. "Bill" Adams
Ann Baird Bishop
William C. "Bill" Gentry
Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel IV
Gerond J. Lawrence
Kenneth A. Mitchell
Scott Mills
Cathy L. Scarver

Cathy Clark Tyler
Jeff Smith
Cathy Hampton
Shinnay Richards
Anissa Floyd
Jasmine Smith Reaves

Event Day Volunteers

Dr. Sparkle Adams
Samantha Beskin-Schemer
Ann Baird Bishop
Jena G. Emory
Ira L. Foster
Elicia N. Hargrove
Noah Henley
Azalea Hutchins
Eryn Jenkins
Gerond J. Lawrence
Yiyang Liu



(Front row, left to right) Cathy Cox, Steven J. Labovitz, Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Justice Robert Benham, Nell Benham and Hon. Sonja N. Brown. (Back row, left to right) Annette Ellington Dious, Wade W. Herring II, Hon. William H. McClain, Hon. Bryan C. Ramos and Karlise Y. Grier.

Julie Ly
Kermit McRae
Yaritzi Mejia
Paula Myrick
Trang Nguyen
Uche Nibo
Aliyah Perez
Yaremi N. Canas Periban
Ky Nguyen "Oscar" Pham
Adrianna Prosdocimo
Jasmine Smith Reaves
Shinnay Richards
Cathy L. Scarver
Michayla Stephens
LaToya S. Williams
Angie Wright-Rheaves
Joleigh Yim
Ranee Zilton

Program Participants

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Justice Robert Benham
William J. Liss
Jeffrey M. Smith
LaToya S. Williams

The Commission also thanks the justices and the staff of the Supreme Court of Georgia for their assistance; in particular, Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Justice Andrew A. Pinson, former Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs and former Chief Justice Robert Benham for their guidance regarding the Benham Awards. The Commission also thanks Therese "Tee" Barnes, Tia C. Milton, Lynnitia Terrell, Bob McAteer, Mike Harkness, Ashley Rankins, Anita Harrison, Marti Head, Sgt. Dexter Harden and all of the staff of the Supreme Court of Georgia who helped to make this event possible. Thank you also to Michael D. Hobbs Jr., a former Benham Award recipient and a member of the Selection Committee, for his work in helping to update the selection criteria.

In addition, the Commission thanks its fundraising partner, the Georgia Legal History Foundation, and in particular John C. Bell, Gregory K. Smith and Kathie N. Daniel, for their assistance.

Thank you to the members, advisors and liaisons of the Chief Justice's Com-

mission on Professionalism for your service. Also, Zaria Page, former administrative and communications specialist for the Commission, and Erin Nicole Smith, Commission intern, for their work during the ceremony. For more information regarding the 25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service, visit cbcpga.org/benhamcsa25. ●



Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director
Chief Justice's Commission
on Professionalism
kygrier@cbcpga.org

Endnote

1. See Harold G. Clarke, *Professionalism: Repaying the Debt*, 25 GA. ST. B.J. 170 (1989). See also <https://cbcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/25-GSBJ-170-1989-Professionalism-Repaying-the-Debt-Harold-Clarke-ethics-minimum.pdf>.

THANK YOU, SPONSORS

The Commission is grateful to the 27 sponsors who made the awards ceremony possible since no Commission professionalism fees are used to fund the awards ceremonies. Also, thanks to fundraising partner, the Georgia Legal History Foundation, for its assistance and support.

Diamond

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

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Johnson & Freeman, LLC
Kilpatrick Townsend
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Georgia Association of Black
Women Attorneys
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25th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service Recipients

Lifetime Achievement Award



Cathy Cox
Georgia College
& State University



Kenneth Dious
Kenneth Dious
& Associates

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Hon. Sonja N. Brown
Superior Court, Cobb
Judicial Circuit



Steven J. Labovitz
Dentons US LLP



Hon. Bryan C. Ramos
Municipal Court
of Brookhaven



Wade W. Herring II
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Hon. William H. McClain
Superior Court, Douglas
Judicial Circuit

*Nominations for the 26th
Annual Benham Awards
will open on or about Sept.
15. Information about the
eligibility criteria and
nominations process will
be available at [cjcpga.org/
nominationsbenhamcsa](http://cjcpga.org/nominationsbenhamcsa).*

Law Practice Management Program

(Abbreviated report for the 2025-2026 Bar Year)

Total Number of Members Served – 186

July 1, 2025 – November 28, 2025

The program has successfully engaged a total of 186 members and their staff from July 1, 2025, to November 28, 2025. During this period, we made contact with 62 existing members, 122 new members, and 2 law firm staff.

Resource Requests

Members have contacted our program to discuss or request the following:

- **Starting a Law Practice** – 61 copies of the *Starting a Georgia Law Practice Guide* were distributed to our members by request, including 16 via email, 41 through web store orders, and 4 during office visits to the Bar Center. Additionally, we received 2 inquiries by phone regarding resources for opening a law practice.
- **Software Recommendation/Technology Advice** – We received 2 inquiries from members seeking law office software recommendations via email and/or phone.
- **LPM Resources Assistance** – The program has responded to 217 phone and email inquiries, assisting members with resources on opening a law practice, program events, bar member services, library resources, form requests, and more. Of these, 42 inquiries specifically focused on best practices for various practice management topics, including effective client communication, streamlined workflow efficiency, optimized billing practices, secure and organized document management, sound financial management, proper trust account management, leveraging technology for practice improvement, and strategic succession planning.

Consultations

A total of 19 virtual consultations were completed during this period. Our program scheduled 13 general consultations and 6 corrective action consultations to address law firm practice management matters.

Resource Library

The [LPM Lending Library](#) offers 1,445 books, CDs, and DVDs for checkout by members and their staff, with options for pickup at the Bar Center or mailing. During this period, 38 members registered for access to the library. Additionally, 10 patrons visited the resource library, 10 members checked out a total of 43 books, and we responded to 55 email inquiries and one phone call for library assistance and resource requests.

Social Media Outreach

Members can stay connected with LPM by following the GA Law Practice Advisor on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribing to our newsletter, *The LPM Insider*, for practice tips and the latest updates on LPM events and programming. Since launching our social media channels, we have gained 231 Instagram followers, 113 LinkedIn followers, and 537 [LPM Insider](#) subscribers, totaling 881 followers—and growing.

Speaking Engagements and LPM Seminars

A total of 8 programs were completed and scheduled during this period. The Program's staff have given 5 continuing legal education and special presentations to Georgia lawyers and other related groups nationally and locally. 3 programs are scheduled for a future date. See list of events below:

Date	Event Name	Presentation(s)
July 16, 2025 September 19, 2025 November 19, 2025	vLex Fastcase Training CLE, State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, Atlanta, GA	<i>How to Effectively Use and Navigate vLex Fastcase</i> , Speaker: T.J. Diggins and Sheila Baldwin
September 18-19, 2025	Take Charge! Conference CLE , State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, Atlanta, GA	Program Chair: Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis, Sponsored by the State Bar's Law Practice Management Program

November 6, 2025	Women of The Cobb County Bar Section Meeting , Plastra Restaurant, Marietta, GA	<i>Law Practice Management Program Resources</i> , Speaker: Sheila Baldwin
January 6, 2026	AI Update for the General Assembly, Atlanta, GA	<i>AI Update for the General Assembly</i> , Speaker: Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis
April 16, 2026	Take Charge! Solo & Small Firm Summit Roadshow CLE, Macon, GA	Program Chair: Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis, Sponsored by the State Bar's Law Practice Management Program
September 17-18, 2026	Take Charge! Conference CLE , State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, Atlanta, GA	Program Chair: Nkoyo-Ene Effiong Lewis, Sponsored by the State Bar's Law Practice Management Program

vLex Fastcase Platform Report

vLex Fastcase: New Platform and Documents

vLex Fastcase continues to be one of the Bar's most valuable member benefits, providing free legal research to all members. Over 50% of our 55,000+ members log into their Fastcase account annually.

News: Clio's acquisition of vLex Fastcase, announced on November 10, 2025, signals a major shift toward integrated, AI-driven legal research platforms.

Current Status: Our members have access to vLex Fastcase with a global legal knowledge base with over 1 billion documents and Docket Alarm, with over 650M+ dockets and legal documents with a continuous addition of materials from the court system. Also, there is no change in how members access or use vLex Fastcase at this time. Members will continue to log into their bar account and select the vLex Fastcase link.

Future Changes and Enhancements for Bar Association Members: Soon, vLex Fastcase will be rebranded as Clio Library. Within the broader Clio ecosystem, legal research will take place in **Clio Work**, which includes **Clio Library, Clio Docket, and Vincent**. As part of this transition:

- **vLex Fastcase** will become **Clio Library**.
- **Docket Alarm** will be rebranded as **Clio Docket**.

Members will still log into their bar account as usual to access these tools.

We will monitor ongoing developments and report those impacting members to the committee.

Fastcase and vLex Fastcase Usage Report

Partner Usage Report For State Bar of Georgia From 9/1/2025 to 11/30/2025

	September FC	September VFC	September Total	October FC	October VFC	October Total	November FC	November VFC	November Total
First Time Logins	2025 34	121	155	43	159	202	30	140	170
Total Logins (FC)	2025 7,116			7,559			6,261		
Total Sessions (VFC)	2025	22,820	22,820		28,290	28,290		23,330	23,330
Total Users Who Logged In	2025 1,929			1,981			1,805		
Searches Conducted	2025 4,118	25,960	30,078	4,527	25,840	30,367	2,893	11,550	14,443
Documents Viewed	2025 16,798	30,630	47,428	16,997	28,680	45,687	12,180	15,900	28,080
Documents Printed	2025 7,720			16,314			11,030		

A few notes:

- Where information is available for both vLex Fastcase and Fastcase, the two numbers are combined.
- vLex Fastcase does not track documents printed, so that line only has information for Fastcase.
- While logins are tracked by Fastcase, in vLex Fastcase they count sessions. Sessions and logins are not the same thing, so I have included separate lines for those.

A login may include multiple sessions—for example, if a user switches over to email for a bit, then resumes their research in vLex Fastcase, then that is counted as a second session.

vLex Fastcase Reported Issues/Problems (July 2025-August 2025)	
vLex Fastcase Reported Issues / Problems	
Issue Reported to Member Benefits Coordinator (MBC)	Response
MBC Access to site. (07/01/25-08/31/25) Members were unable to access vLex Fastcase due to their computers holding old data.	Fastcase (Bar Staff) Responses Staff assisted 9 members access members access vLex Fastcase by various methods, most often helping them clear old data.
MBC General Assistance Request with access and navigation help. (07/01/2025-08/31/25) Members called needing help with logging in, navigating the system, locating specific data, etc.	Fastcase (Bar Staff) Responses Staff were able to assist 13 with their needs.
MBC: Request related to User Experience (07/01/25-08/31/25) Members requested assistance finding content, understanding Vincent AI, researching historic data, and formatting queries.	Fastcase (Bar Staff) Responses Staff or T.J. Diggins assisted 4 members with these tasks or questions.
MBC: Member unable to Access FC Account (11-21-25-11-26-25) Member had gotten 403 Error.	Fastcase (Bar Staff) Responses FC support and the Bar's IT Director resolved the issue after much research. The problem was on the user side due to a flagged IP address. Member will resolve the issue.

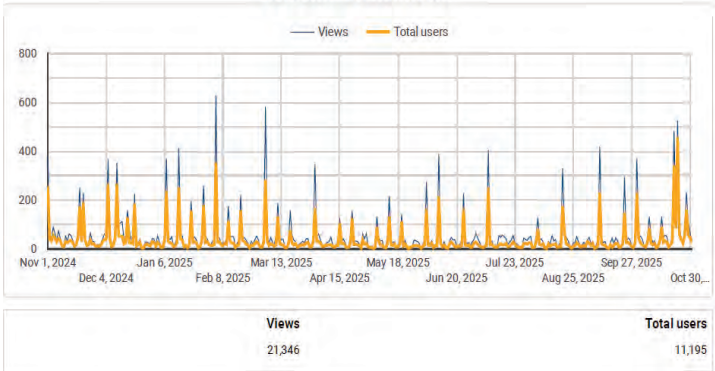


Member Benefits

Website Analytics Report: State Bar of Georgia

Oct 19, 2025 - Oct 25, 2025

PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS



CloudLawyer/ReliaGuide Report

We are excited to announce the new Lawyer Referral Network: a lawyers-only site for receiving referrals, making referrals, and expanding your network.

The ReliaGuide Lawyer Referral Network is the only bar-affiliated online legal community designed to help lawyers streamline their networking efforts and develop new business opportunities.

Built off the public-facing directory platform, the Lawyer Referral Network extends the reach of a member's existing profile to lawyers who are members of bars across our entire network.

For example, a member from The State Bar of Georgia can find and refer business to a lawyer in Michigan via one easy to use interface.

Statistical Updates Through November 30th

- 525,385 interactions with member profiles (views, clicks, and contact requests)
- 80,297 profile views
- 8,393 completed contact form requests
- 10,287 clicks on lawyer's email
- 14,988 clicks on lawyer's phone number
- 7,940 total sign ins
- 419 Profile Plus subscriptions
- 19 analytics products purchased
- 13 website products purchased



State Bar of Georgia
Private Health Insurance Exchange
December 2, 2025

INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENTS	
Total Enrollments	8,922
• Medical	2,853
• Medicare	56
• Dental	1,297
• Vision	597
• Telehealth	573
• ID Theft Protection	50
• Life / AD&D	3,117
• Disability	301
• Critical Illness	8
• Long-Term Care Enrollments	70

EMPLOYER ENROLLMENTS	
Total Enrollments	4,272
• Medical	1,648
• Ancillary	2,206
• Professional Liability	416
• Cyber Security	2



MEMORANDUM

To: ICLE Advisory Board Members

From: Julia Neighbors, ICLE Director

Date: December 3, 2025

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.

ICLE cannot 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 (September 1 – November 30, 2025)

- Institutes and Off-Site Programs - 5
 - Institute for City and County Attorneys
 - 2025 Take Charge! Conference
 - Advanced Health Law
 - Workers' Compensation Law Institute
 - Insurance Law Institute
- Bar Center Programs - 10
 - Center for Lawyer Wellbeing Program: Attorney Pro Tips, Truths and Hacks You Need to Know
 - Wrongful Death
 - Secrets to a Successful Plaintiff's Personal Injury Practice
 - Torts Trial Practice
 - Nursing Home Litigation
 - Basic Fiduciary Law 201
 - Business Litigation
 - Adoption Law
 - Advanced Negotiation Strategies for Lawyers
 - Trial Advocacy

HEADQUARTERS

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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
 - 2,860 on demand products purchased by 2,062 customers (July 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025)
 - 13,445 on demand products purchased by 8,890 customers (December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025)

Upcoming Off-Site Programs and Institutes

- Corporate Counsel Institute – December 11-12, 2025 – Atlanta, GA
- Update on Georgia Law (Ski LE) – February 2-5, 2026 – Avon, CO
- Estate Planning Institute - February 5-6, 2026 - Athens, GA
- Health Care Fraud Institute –February 11-12, 2026 (postponed from October 22-23, 2025 - Jekyll Island, GA
- Ancient Foundations & Modern Equivalents – February 12, 2026 – Atlanta, GA
- General Practice & Trial Institute – March 12-14, 2026 –Hilton Head, SC
- Basic Fiduciary Law 101 – March 18, 2026 – Macon, GA
- Real Property Law Institute – May 7-9, 2026 – Fernandina Beach, FL
- Family Law Institute – May 29-31, 2026 – Fernandina Beach, FL

Program Chair Support and Training

ICLE conducted a comprehensive Program Chair Orientation in August 2025, designed to provide essential support and guidance to both new and returning program chairs. This orientation ensures our volunteer leaders have the tools and knowledge necessary to deliver high-quality educational programming. We also continue to offer one-on-one meetings with new and returning chairs who want a deeper dive into program planning.

On-Demand Learning Expansion (One Hour Spotlight Programs)

We are continuing to build the catalog of one-credit hour on-demand programs which now includes nine programs primarily focusing on ethics and professionalism from the Real Property Institute, Georgia Auto Insurance Claims Law, Agriculture Law, Defense of Drinking Drivers Institute, Corporate Counsel Institute, VA Accreditation and Update on Georgia Law. We will continue to expand the on-demand catalog by extracting key content from our full-length programs, providing members with flexible, targeted learning opportunities.

Innovation in Program Delivery

Beyond our established lecture and panel discussion formats, we are witnessing increased adoption of interactive methodologies, including breakout sessions and audience engagement activities. ICLE actively encourages program chairs to incorporate these dynamic formats while we continue exploring innovative approaches to enhance educational content delivery and member engagement.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES 2025-2026			
Date	Newspaper	Headline	Circulation
6/10/2025	Rome News-Tribune	Twyman Installed as 63rd President of State Bar of Georgia	6,515
6/15/2025	Marietta Daily Journal	William C. Gentry Installed as President-Elect of State Bar of Georgia	9,821
6/19/2025	Americus Times-Recorder	Judge Rucker Smith reelected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	1,252
6/19/2025	Coastal Courier, Hinesville	McCullough reelected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	3,100
6/23/2025	Albany Herald	Thomas Duck elected to State Bar's Board of Governors	3,763
6/25/2025	Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth	Adams reelected to Georgia Bar Board of Governors	3,788
6/30/2025	Jackson Herald, Jefferson	King reelected to State Bar of Georgia board	3,307
7/1/2025	Metter Advertiser	Cadle Re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	1,347
7/2/2025	Fayette County News, Fayetteville	Kreuziger Reelected to State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors	1,694
7/2/2025	Cordele Dispatch	Craig Cotton reelected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	1,590
7/2/2025	Forest-Blade, Swainsboro	Jerry Cadle Re-Elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	3,963
7/2/2025	Times, Gainesville	Opinion: Georgia legal community mourns loss of John Cromartie	26,000
7/3/2025	Clayton Tribune	Judge Irvin re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	4,306
7/8/2025	Waycross Journal-Herald	Former Chief Justice Boggs receives award	4,940
7/10/2025	Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville	State Bar of Georgia honors Ashley Stinson with Hines Child Advocacy Award	63,740
7/10/2025	Rome News-Tribune	Jackson reelected to State Bar of Georgia board	6,515
7/16/2025	Miller County Liberal, Colquitt	William Shingler Elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	1,500
7/16/2025	Statesboro Herald	Troy Marsh re-elected to Board of Governors of State Bar of Georgia	4,429
8/1/2025	Champion, Decatur	Local attorneys elected to bar board	413
9/17/2025	Barrow News-Journal, Winder	Congratulations to new Barrow County Solicitor General Kyle Thompson	2,038
9/19/2025	Times-Georgian, Carrollton	Congratulations to new State Court Judge Kevin Drummond	2,176
10/9/2025	Clayton News, Jonesboro	Georgia legal community mourns loss of Judge Michael Baird	643
11/26/2025	Coastal Courier, Hinesville	State Bar congratulates Jones on honor	3,100
		TOTAL CIRCULATION	159,940

