

State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division

THE YLD REVIEW

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Working for the Profession and the Public

What, Like, It's Hard? Creating a Personal Brand and Marketing Yourself While Working With and for Other Lawyers | 4



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From the President

A Night on the Diamond: An Invitation to the 2025 YLD Signature Fundraiser



**Kenneth
Mitchell Jr.**

Please join the YLD at the 18th Annual YLD Signature Fundraiser on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Truist Park in Atlanta. We hope you will join us on the Hank Aaron Terrace for "A Night on the Diamond" featuring an evening of music, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and more.

This year, we are excited to recognize the service of two deserving Bar members: Paula Frederick, former general counsel of the State Bar of Georgia, will receive the YLD Lifetime Achievement Award, and Ashley A. Akins, partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, will receive the YLD Signature Service Award.

The 2025 YLD Signature Fundraiser will benefit the YLD's Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP), which supports law students and recent law school graduates with funding for unpaid full-time summer internships in public interest law. Last year, the YLD had an overwhelming number of applicants for a limited number of scholarships. We hope to continue our support of the public interest sector by awarding grants for law students to seek out unpaid internship opportunities.

The success of the YLD's Signature Fundraiser would not be possible without our generous sponsors, who lend their names and financial support to the event.



On behalf of the YLD and PIIP, we invite you to partner with us and make a difference statewide by becoming a sponsor of the 2025 YLD Signature Fundraiser. In participating as a sponsor, your organization will benefit from extended exposure through media campaigns and promotional efforts for this philanthropic event that is attended by hundreds of individuals including attorneys, judges, legislative representatives and law school students throughout the state.

To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities visit www.gabar.org/signaturefundraiser.

Thank you in advance for your support of the 2025 YLD Signature Fundraiser benefiting the YLD Public Interest Internship Program. Join us for a good cause and to have a good time. **YLD**

Kenneth Mitchell Jr. is a the chief assistant solicitor with the Cobb County Solicitors Office and president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.

The YLD Review seeks to provide a forum for the discussion of subjects pertaining to the regulation of the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services, as well as other matters of general interest to Georgia lawyers. The statements, views and the opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of State Bar of Georgia, its officers, Board of Governors, sections, committees or staff.

From the Editors

YLD and Gaining Perspective



**T. Alec
Chappell**

One of the greatest parts of being involved in the YLD is perspective. When you attend a YLD meeting or event, you are surrounded by young attorneys from across the state with completely different experiences from you. You learn about their practice areas and what the legal community is like in their part of the state. You also talk about your struggles with opposing counsel, colleagues at work or difficult bosses. Through this process your understanding of the legal profession and your life changes. You gain perspective.

We hope this edition of *The YLD Review* provides perspective as well. We are excited to spotlight the experiences of E. Tate Crymes, Samantha Mullis and Caleb Ratliff with the YLD. These articles give a glimpse into their personal lives and careers. An



**Jena
Emory**

interview with U.S. Magistrate Judge Amelia G. “Amy” Helmick, the first female U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Middle District of Georgia, gives insight into work-life balance in the legal profession. Another interview with Amirah Alvarez, assistant district attorney from the Rockdale Judicial Circuit, offers perspective on dealing with failure. Alvarez explains that, “Instead of being perfect, I focus on doing what’s right ethically and morally.”

Several YLD members also give advice on managing your career and involvement with the YLD. YLD Secretary Kindall Browning-Rickle reminds us that kindness and respect are core values of the YLD. Jessica Ashton shares her experiences working in an office, and how she learned the importance of a good work environment.



**Siena
Gaddy**

Katie Berg provides advice on how to develop your personal brand. Our very own Alec Chappell explains three shortcuts to improve your writing.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The YLD Review*, and we hope it provides you with some perspective. YLD

T. Alec Chappell is career law clerk for Chief Judge Edward J. Coleman III, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia, and an adjunct professor at Mercer University School of Law.

Jena Emory is a senior associate at Morris Manning & Martin, LLP, in Atlanta.

Siena Gaddy serves as a career law clerk to Hon. Austin E. Carter, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia, and is an adjunct professor at Mercer University School of Law.

A Night on the Diamond

We are excited to announce the return of the YLD Signature Fundraiser. Join us on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Truist Park in Atlanta. The 2025 Signature Fundraiser will benefit the YLD's Public Interest Internship Program supporting law students and recent law school graduates with funding for unpaid full-time summer internships in public interest law.

To learn more about sponsoring the 2025 YLD Signature Fundraiser, please visit www.gabar.org/signaturefundraiser.

Two deserving Bar members will be recognized for their achievements:
Paula Frederick, YLD Lifetime Achievement Award
Ashley A. Akins, YLD Signature Service Award

What, Like It's Hard? Creating a Personal Brand and Marketing Yourself While Working With and For Other Lawyers



Katie
Berg

Creating a personal brand and marketing yourself is challenging in the legal field because you must balance respect for the firm you work for with your own personal goals for growth. Often, I believe goals for business development can be aligned for both parties, but sometimes they are not. From my experience, name recognition and being top of mind is important for the business development of any attorney, no matter your practice area. It is all about who you know as we have always heard or, perhaps, we should say, it is all about who knows you when you are looking to build your business.

When creating a personal brand and marketing myself, there are three important factors I have continually considered throughout my nearly 10 years of practice: the culture of the firm where I am employed, the other practice areas of the firm and my target audience.

Firm Culture

The culture of the firm where you are employed must be considered because any individual branding or marketing you do must fit within the framework of the firm. I have practiced at two law firms over my career, and both are very different. The first firm I worked for celebrated its 150th year in business while I practiced there, has two offices and many partners who weigh in on matters such as the branding and marketing of the firm.

At that firm, I did not find it appropriate to ask for a budget to create my own personal brand or marketing materials because I did not see that modeled by any other attorneys there. In 2018, while at that



firm, I started my own personal Instagram that I tied to my personal Facebook page: @close_with_katie. I created this personal account as a way to test out some of the ideas I had for branding and marketing myself. My posts performed well, and I use my @close_with_katie account to this day. I believe my extra effort in branding and marketing me on my own dime and on my own time was a good solution for the environment I was in at the time and it was a win/win for myself and the firm because exceeding my revenue goals year after year made us both happy.

In 2022, I joined the firm where I am currently employed, Mayo | Hill, a boutique personal injury law firm. When I joined, I took on the task of adding a real estate department to their firm. Because I was born and raised in the town where I practice and have many connections here, the partners thought it would be smart to leverage that; thus, as one of our first items of business, we created my personal logo: Katie Berg @ Mayo | Hill. Then, they put my new logo up on a billboard in town at a prominent

location for several months as an advertising tool so my connections would know I moved firms. I never expected this kind of personal branding and marketing for myself, but the culture of Mayo | Hill supported it and I did not even have to ask. Now, their social media account known as @mayohill.law often collaborates with my @close_with_katie account on any real estate related posts for the firm. At Mayo | Hill, the culture supports my own personal brand and marketing and it works well with the firm's branding and marketing as a whole. Overall, it does not feel forced, and it is a good fit for all.

Other Practice Areas

The other practice areas of the firm where you work must be considered for personal branding and marketing as well. The first law firm I worked for has many practice areas. When you work for a full-service law firm, it is important to be conscious of the fact that some practice areas value advertising more than others. Moreover, as a young

attorney who grew up around social media, you should be sensitive that there are some attorneys who might believe that if you have to advertise, you are somehow a lesser lawyer. I don't agree with this way of thinking, but it is important to be conscious of this so you don't step on the toes of the other more experienced lawyers in your firm. In my practice, I have always valued respect for others, especially those senior to me, over my own needs and I believe using that as a guidepost has helped me navigate some of the challenges that come in this area of creating a personal brand and marketing.

Target Audience

Lastly, assuming you work for a firm that supports your efforts to create a personal brand and market yourself, it is important when to know your target audience.

As a real estate attorney, my audience includes realtors, lenders, buyers and sellers. I drew inspiration to create my @close_with_katie account by observing what realtors and lenders would post on social media: posting closing pictures and other fun, helpful content that seemed to gain traction with their followers. When I created my @close_with_katie account, I did not see any other lawyers in my area posting closing photos so I thought, as the youngest real estate attorney in my area at the time, that could be my niche. On my personal account, I began posting pictures from closings I handled, reviews from clients or customers, pictures from events my firm sponsored that I assisted with or attended, and even some personal family photos. I think this strategy worked well because consistently posting this varied content helped me to stay top of mind with my target audience.

Furthermore, the real estate agents and lenders I worked with enjoyed the extra attention I gave them. My posts also afforded another avenue for me to thank them for their business.

When I joined Mayo | Hill, I used this same strategy and was also able to leverage working with TH Davis, LLC, a social media marketing company founded by Tracie Davis. Davis is now my current best kept secret because she is able to take photos I send

to her from closings and events I attend or videos I record raffling off an item for a realtor or providing a "title tip" and turn it into something fabulous to be posted on social media. Delegating the content creation and posting to Davis has saved me so much time, allowing me to focus on what I do best: closing deals.


Creating a personal brand and marketing yourself in the legal field is a growing trend, but still a challenging area to navigate. As a young lawyer, my best advice is to start with respect for your firm's culture and be


sensitive to the needs of the other practice areas of your firm, if applicable. Balancing your firm's needs along with your personal goals can be a fine line to walk, but if you move thoughtfully and respectfully as you go, you may be able to look back on your career about 10 years in and say, "what, like it's hard?"^{YLD}

Katie Berg is an attorney at Mayo | Hill in Macon and is a member of the Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

It's time to submit for the

LOCAL & VOLUNTARY BAR AWARDS





**State Bar
of Georgia**

Submissions due by Friday, March 28.

Judicial Spotlight

U.S. Magistrate Judge Amelia G. “Amy” Helmick



**Michael L.
Baker**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Amelia G. “Amy” Helmick grew up in North Augusta, South Carolina. Her parents were both originally educators, but her father eventually became the owner of a restaurant called Wife Saver. Judge Helmick spent many hours working for Wife Saver during her formative years. She decided at a very young age—around eight years old—that she wanted to become a domestic attorney, and she diligently pursued that path.

After spending high school abroad at the American School of Kuwait, she attended Furman University, in Greenville, South Carolina, for undergrad where she received a B.A. in economics and political science, with a concentration in women’s studies. Judge Helmick earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law. After graduating law school, she clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Clay D. Land in Columbus, then joined Pope McGlamry as an associate, working on complex civil litigation.

When former U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Hyles took the bench in Columbus, Helmick returned to clerking full time. She remained with Judge Hyles for eight years before moving to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, handling civil cases and prosecuting criminal matters. Eventually, she became the branch chief for the Columbus Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, before taking the bench on July 1, 2024.

What do you do as the U.S. magistrate judge for the Middle District of Georgia in Columbus?

I have a criminal and civil docket. In a criminal case, if you are arrested on a federal warrant, I will be the first person you see in court during your initial appearance. I advise people of their constitutional rights and, importantly, decide whether someone is detained or released. After the initial ap-

pearance in a felony case, the case is handled by the district judge. I have my own criminal docket of misdemeanor cases, but also handle a variety of civil matters. The court hears many pro se prisoner civil rights cases. In those cases, I decide non-dispositive matters and issue recommendations on dispositive motions. The district judges also refer habeas petitions (immigration, state prisoner conviction and federal prisoner convictions), Social Security appeals and other pro se civil matters for my consideration.

You had a lot of preparation for becoming a U.S. magistrate judge. What surprised you the most when you got on the bench?

I won’t say I was surprised by this, but the thing that has impacted me most is the weight of the power I hold as a judge. When I was a law clerk and assistant U.S. attorney (AUSA), I made recommendations and arguments for certain outcomes, which obviously affected individuals, but the decisions were still ultimately on a judge.

Now wearing the robe, I am very aware of the effect that my rulings have on people appearing before me. And, I have to say, I want to always be aware of that impact. Career law clerks can get desensitized to it—you’re reviewing similar cases and making decisions every day. Because of that desensitization, it was important for me to practice again after serving as a law clerk and before I became a judge. I think most people would not think that you would become more compassionate toward defendants as a prosecutor. But, in my time as an AUSA, I engaged with many different types of people in my cases—victims, witnesses and defendants—and I felt a higher responsibility for what happened to the individuals I prosecuted or interacted with. So, as a judge, I have really tried to extend compassion and



U.S. Magistrate Judge Amelia G. “Amy” Helmick

grace to those individuals appearing before me, whether they are a prisoner filing a civil rights claim or an attorney.

You are the first female U.S. magistrate judge in the Middle District of Georgia in the district’s nearly 100-year history. How does that impact you?

I am proud to be the first female magistrate judge in the Middle District of Georgia. I am even prouder, that we already have a second female magistrate judge—Judge Alfreda Sheppard, who started at the beginning of January. In less than a year, we went from one female judge out of 10 judges (Chief Judge Leslie Gardner, still our only female district court judge), and we now have three female judges out of nine judges. I look forward to more women joining our bench in the future.

How do you manage your work-life balance?

Is there such a thing as work-life balance in this profession? Honestly, as a judge, my

work-life balance has been better than when I was a practicing attorney. That said, I view my job as being available on-call 24/7. I have made it clear to all of our agencies that I am available for those midnight warrant application calls. But I also now have the luxury of being able to leave work, pick up my kids from school and bring them back to chambers with me.

Any words of advice for younger attorneys on appearing before a federal judge?

Number one, be prepared. This includes knowing your audience—try to find someone who has practiced in front of that judge and get advice.

Number two, have compassion for others and yourself and be kind. Everyone makes mistakes. Today it might be opposing counsel, but tomorrow, it might be you. So, agree to the request for extension of time if it won't prejudice your client. Or agree to a late filing if you can. On the other hand, if it's your mistake, own up to it and fix it.

Number three, take advantage of people who offer help. Many senior attorneys would like to advise and mentor. If you're offered that opportunity, take advantage. YLD

Michael L. Baker serves as law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge Amelia G. "Amy" Helmick, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia.

Officers' Block

What book(s) have changed your life?



KENNETH MITCHELL JR. | YLD President

"Losing my Cool" by Thomas Chatterton Williams



VERONICA ROGUSKY COX | YLD President-Elect

"The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss sparked my love of reading as an adult. This book brought me into a creative and imaginative world, helped me cope with the stress of being a lawyer and taught me how to responsibly escape from everyday life.



VIRGINIA C. JOSEY | YLD Treasurer

"The Great Gatsby" and Willy Wonka will forever be childhood favorites. "Night" by Elie Wiesel, "The Parade" by Dave Eggers, "Slaughterhouse Five" by Kurt Vonnegut and "Emotionally Intelligent Lawyers" by Esperanza Franco were all life-changing reads.



KINDALL BROWNING-RICKLE | YLD Secretary

Anyone who knows me can tell you that the answer is always the Harry Potter books. They have taught me many things, chief among them that happiness can be found in even the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.



BRITTANIE D. BROWNING | YLD Immediate Past President

The Bible



T. ALEC CHAPPELL | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor

"Debt: The First 5,000 Years" (2011) by David Graeber. He shows that contrary to conventional wisdom, debt transactions preceded currency and barter transactions.



JENA G. EMORY | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor

No book has changed my life more than the Bible. Every year, every season, it is always good.



SIENA GADDY | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor

My top three are: "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom, "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson and "Collier on Bankruptcy" by Alan N. Resnick and Henry J. Sommer.

Keeping It Cordial: The Importance of Kindness and Respect as Core Values of the YLD



**Kindall
Browning-Rickle**

In today's world, full of political strife and fueled by keyboard warriors, it is important now, more than ever, to remember the Golden Rule: treat others how you would like to be treated.

I sat down with two attorneys who are well practiced in this area to get their thoughts on how members of the YLD can strive to keep the principles of kindness and respect alive and well in the practice of law.

Ivy N. Cadle is the 62nd president of the State Bar of Georgia. A 2007 graduate of Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law, Cadle is the office managing shareholder for Baker Donelson's offices in Macon and Atlanta.

Lina Khan, a 2013 graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law, is a career prosecutor. She is barred in Florida and Georgia and has spent time at the State Attorney's Office in Ocala, Florida, the Bibb County Solicitor's Office and is currently an assistant district attorney in the Houston Judicial Circuit.

In a profession that requires us to be zealous advocates for our clients, what can we do to keep cordiality between attorneys?

CADLE: Talk to each other. Communication is critical, and the tone of that communication is important. We can all actively work on creating responses that demonstrate active listening.

KHAN: I try to remember that there is a person on the other side of every email. When you think of it from that perspective, that there is a human on the other side just like me, it makes communication and relationships better.



Ivy N. Cadle

In today's political climate with so much animosity, what can lawyers do to show that this is a profession that values kindness and respect?

CADLE: Live by the Golden Rule: treat other people how you want to be treated. We should all work to exercise self-awareness in our professional and personal relationships. We could also benefit from learning how to de-escalate conflicts and practice the skill often.

KHAN: I recently saw a post on Facebook that said, "Don't lose friends over people you've never met." Everyone has a little perspective bias, but everyone also has something of value to bring to the table, even if you don't agree with it.

What can we do to show a little kindness and respect to ourselves in a profession that can be very taxing?

CADLE: It's important to make time for yourself, feed yourself well and be active. Find activities that help your brain to take a break from the law. To help my brain rest, I focus on my other interests like podcasts, reading good books and working on hands on projects.



Lina Khan

KHAN: I like to celebrate the wins—all of the wins. Little wins like coming to work, managing my caseload and being productive. I relax by "nerding out," which includes reading and being involved in communities that take me away from my cases.

Why is it important for members of the YLD to focus on kindness and respect as core values?

CADLE: What I love about the YLD is it gives lawyers who are still developing their professional identities many opportunities to form relationships that they will carry throughout their career. It gives them the opportunity to create a high-quality network of friends and colleagues early on. So, starting early with the idea of treating each other with kindness and respect and staying consistent with it through your practice is why the YLD is important.

KHAN: Being kind and respectful makes our jobs easier. We already have a difficult time as young attorneys in the profession. I love my job, and I could not say that if I did not practice kindness and respect day-to-day.

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Go Big or Go Home



**Jessica
Ashton**

After law school, I went to work where

I had completed my 3L internship, a satellite office of a large district attorney's office. We were a very small team, consisting of only three attorneys, two investigators and, on a good day, two legal assistants and two victim advocates. Working in the small counties was great because I got individualized support and mentorship, and the team became my second family. I was honestly devastated when I realized two things. First, despite a burning passion for criminal law and justice, prosecution was not for me. Second, my husband and I would have to move up to Atlanta, due to his work mandating a return to the office. I was going to have to leave my work family, and I selfishly wished I could take them with me. But after some networking, I secured an interview at a large law firm based in downtown Atlanta.

I remember walking into the building for the first time for my interview. I checked in with security and was given a guest badge with my picture on it. The elevator ride up had my stomach doing flips, as I had never taken an elevator up that high before. The view of Atlanta sprawled out for miles from the 35th floor. Everyone was perfectly nice. I received a job offer that night and accepted immediately.

I felt like I made it big! The amenities seemed too good to be true! My own office with a view and an adjustable desk, coffee and tea on demand, regular employee programming. The dress code was casual, and the work-from-home policy was very flexible. On my first day, I sat on my desk and just gazed out of my window. I would go on to do this often as part of my morning routine. It was peaceful and quite a view. For the first few months, I was entrenched in navigating a new area of law. But as the days went on, I started to realize how lonely



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I felt, and how there was something missing for me. My coworkers were more than welcoming, and they made an effort to include me. My supervising partners were patient and available to mentor me.

Nevertheless, the empty feeling grew and I was confronted with reality: this office didn't feel like home.

I realized that I would not be able to perform to the best of my abilities unless I truly felt like I was where I was meant to be. I think this is not unreasonable in this day and age. Lawyers endure a profession that often requires long days in the office. I often work nine-hour days (and consider myself lucky), then my commute is generally an hour and a half round trip, and on a good night I get about seven hours of sleep. With only 24 hours in a day, that leaves me with six and a half hours of "free time" at home. I put "free time" in quotes because we all know at least half of that time is always going to be dedicated to chores. But I say all that to say this: every working day I spend two and a half more hours with my coworkers than I do with my family at home.

If I don't want to be miserable for a majority of my working life, I need to be able to be myself, fully and completely, while at work. I need to be surrounded by people who feel and act like family. That is the only way that I can be the best version of myself. There's no amount of employee programming, or free tea and coffee, that makes up for a lack of the right vibe. The people thriving in that office felt at home there. I felt like I was drowning.

So I said goodbye to my 35th floor office with a breathtaking view that stretched for miles, and I said hello to a second floor office with a partially obstructed view of a major highway. I said hello to fellow associates who get my humor. I said hello to partners that I look up to, and who invite me to join their fantasy football league. I said hello to a small group of people who feel more like home and family, and I don't feel so lonely anymore. *YLD*

Jessica Ashton is an associate attorney at Cuzdey, Ehrmann, Stine & Sansalone, LLC, in Atlanta and is a member of the Workers' Compensation Law Section at the State Bar of Georgia.

What Is the Hardest Part of Being a New Lawyer? A Fresh Perspective



**Lina
Khan**

As I begin my last year in the YLD, I came to the sobering realization that I am no longer a “young lawyer.” I took some time to think of the past ten years of practicing law and the challenges like COVID-19, ever-changing case law, the rise of AI technology and even a shift to prioritize attorney mental health. I asked myself the question: “Are the challenges I faced the same as our new generation?” I decided to find out. I sat down with Amirah Alvarez, assistant district attorney, Rockdale Judicial Circuit, to talk about some new lawyer challenges and how to work through them.

Tell us a little bit about your background. What were your interest areas in law school? What internships did you have?

I’m so excited to have this opportunity to talk about my first year in practice. In undergrad, I worked for boutique law firm Watson Law, LLC, in Marietta, which handled a little bit of everything—criminal, small claims, landlord/tenant and business litigation. I also worked with Nelson Mullins, a large firm and mainly focused on product liability cases. In law school, I had an interest in trial practice so joining mock trial was a no brainer for me. I want to shout out to Katie Powers, the assistant dean of advocacy at Mercer, for helping me learn the evidence code.

I had one legal internship in law school at the Bibb County Solicitor-General’s Office under Rebecca Grist. I started there my first year and stayed throughout my entire law school career because I loved it.

You were one of my former interns, so I want you to be honest, do you feel like your prosecution internship prepared you well for a career

in prosecution? What areas of practice did the internship help with?

The Bibb County Solicitor-General’s Office was absolutely the most rewarding experience that I had in law school. I met some really great people—both prosecutors and defense attorneys. I pretty much invited the entire office to my wedding, if that tells you anything. I learned how to talk to victims and how to identify true victims over those who are using the criminal justice system to be petty. I learned so much about the traffic code and I was given the opportunity to run traffic court. It gave me the confidence to go into a prosecutor’s office and be able to jump right in and handle a caseload.

Let’s talk about some of the challenges you have faced as a young lawyer. What are they?

My first year of practice was rough. I started my career in a fast-paced, high volume county. I was assigned hundreds of cases and I felt the need to be an expert on all of them. The biggest hurdle for me is not knowing everything but being OK with not knowing everything. I hate that feeling, I don’t want to fail or look incompetent. It has taken some time to understand that I will fail, I will make mistakes, and that is OK. I was entirely too hard on myself. Instead of being perfect, I focus on doing what’s right ethically and morally.

Have you been able to find mentors? How did you find them?

This honestly is one of the biggest challenges for me. Everyone is busy. I was lucky to find mentors and I did it through watching practicing attorneys. My all-time favorite defense attorney is Kevin Hicks. He has been an invaluable mentor for me in navigating the legal field as a Black at-



Amirah Alvarez

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMIRAH ALVAREZ

torney. He has sat down with me to explain the importance of acknowledging the good and bad realities of a case. He’s helped me formulate good plea offers. I have also had some amazing mentorship from my former Chief Assistant Solicitor-General Brittany Woolfolk. Woolfolk has a certain detachment from her cases and is able to keep them separate from her personal life. That’s not to say she doesn’t care, but facing other people’s trauma and being able to separate yourself from it is a really important skill for lawyers to have because you really do carry your work home.

I’ve learned to embrace some of that detachment in my practice so that I can be a healthier person outside of my work.

How do you find your own voice as an attorney? What does that mean?

I’m not sure that I’ve found my own voice, yet. For me, this question is about learning

when to speak up for myself and also learning how to use my voice in ways that don't land me in hot water. I never want to come off as flippant or disrespectful but sometimes I do feel like I have a better suggestion or method on how to handle certain things. I think it's important to be able to have a supervisor who is willing to hear me and guide me through the process of working out an issue.

I hate the feeling of being ignored but I have also learned to not take things so personally. We work in a tough profession and we have strong opinions and sometimes two people can be right.

Why is it important to celebrate your successes in your first year of practice?

It's incredibly important to celebrate your successes because if you don't, you'll feel bad all the time. It's hard being an attorney.

You lose a lot. I've lost many motions and many cases and it sucks. But I have also won cases. I've won an immunity motion and even though that's only a pretrial motion, it still felt good because I worked really hard. I have celebrated dismissing cases because they weren't good cases and the person didn't deserve to be prosecuted.

On the other side, it's about making sure victims are given a chance to be made whole or a sense of justice. When I can help someone, it outweighs all of the bad. Being able to say you did something good for someone is always worth celebrating.

How did you handle the transition of being responsible only for yourself to then being responsible for hundreds of cases?

If you find yourself in a place where you start off with a low caseload, do not take that for granted. I think pretty much ev-

erywhere you go, you're going to be dealing with a heavy caseload.

There's no easy way to get through it. It took me a long time to get a handle on being responsible for so many cases. I definitely needed an organizational process that helped me make sense of it all. The process doesn't always work but you need to be organized to survive.

You're planning a wedding. How are you managing work-life balance? How do you "turn off" from the stress of your work?

When I first started out, I didn't have work-life balance. I was tied to my phone, my cases and worked every weekend. Some of that is just part of being a new attorney, but what I realized quickly is that is not the life that I wanted. Lawyers have so many bad stats—alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide rates. I had to force myself to work a better schedule by switching offices because I very easily saw how the pressure could push me to an unhealthy space. I also process by talking. I love to engage with my family and friends and that actually helps me not feel so alienated in my career. I also enjoy finding recipes on TikTok and trying them.

My advice is to find something you love and lean into it.

How do you handle being in court with senior attorneys who have been practicing significantly longer than you have?

I've been in court with every type of attorney. I don't feel particularly intimidated by older attorneys but I do feel like unfortunately, they do try to intimidate new attorneys. I feel like the attorneys I have met have looked down on me for having a different approach and not aligning with the "this is the way we have always done it" mental-

ity. I approach those situations by having a conversation. In having those conversations, I usually learn that they have made a snap judgment about me. My advice is not to get discouraged. You can learn from those conversations. You can learn that you never want to emulate those behaviors or you could learn something new. Every experience is a learning experience.

What is some advice you would give to your fellow young lawyers?

Talk to other attorneys and watch court. Join the local voluntary bar association in your circuit or an inn of court. You will meet attorneys who can help you. They may not even be in your practice area but they could be a resource for you. They could be your next job, your next client or your next friend. Don't be afraid of change, if your first job isn't the right fit for you—that's OK. It's important to be in a place where you feel valued and where you can grow. YLD

Lina Khan is an assistant district attorney in the Houston Judicial Circuit and co-chair at the YLD Law School Outreach Program.

► **CORDIAL, FROM PAGE 8**

There you have it. While we all work hard in our respective jobs, we can all work a little harder to make the profession of law one that exemplifies the notion that kindness and respect, when given freely and often, makes our jobs easier, our lives better and our corners of the world a little more cordial. YLD

Kindall Browning-Rickle is the senior assistant public defender in the Houston County Public Defender's Office and secretary of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.

YLD Member Spotlight: Northern District

Each quarter, The YLD Review will highlight three of the Young Lawyers Division's most impactful members—one from each federal judicial district. Those featured in our Member Spotlight serve both the YLD and their local communities, excel in their practice and maintain the highest level of professionalism.

Caleb Ratliff

Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Rome. Growing up, faith was always important to me and my family. My granddad was a Baptist minister, and I remember much of my childhood being spent involved in church activities. While I am certainly flawed, my relationship with Christ is the most important thing to me, and it governs much of who I am as a person and what I strive to be as an attorney.

My second home for as far back as I can remember has been Athens. I remember my family watching Georgia football games as a child and wondering why they would get worked up over something they had no control over. If only that boy could see me on a Saturday in the fall now. I am blessed that I was able to fulfill a lifelong dream to attend the University of Georgia for both undergrad and law school. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Georgia in 2013 and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2016. What is better is that I was able to marry my beautiful bride, Abbi, in between undergrad and law school. We just celebrated 12 years of marriage in November.

What is your practice area?

My legal career started with Barron & Redding, P.A., in Panama City, Florida. I practiced creditor's rights, bankruptcy and probate law. Although Hurricane Michael cut my time in Panama City shorter than I anticipated, I was able to learn and grow as a young attorney working in those practice areas. I also thoroughly enjoyed the activities that I participated in with the local YLD in Panama City including shrimp boils, lunches and community service projects.

Upon moving to Rome, I began working at Cox Byington Twyman LLP. My initial practice areas consisted of criminal law, family law and commercial litigation.

Working with Bill Byington, one of my mentors, I realized my calling was real estate. He taught me that real estate gives you an opportunity to serve the public in what many will make as their largest financial investment of their lives.

I also enjoyed being able to creatively solve title issues that have been present for generations involving families without the means to pay for such items to be cured. I became a partner in 2022 and I have almost exclusively practiced real estate and probate law.

What is your involvement with the YLD?

Byington always talked glowingly about his time spent with other lawyers and the positive impact it had on him as a younger attorney. The ability to have someone to call or chat with concerning a particularly difficult legal issue or even life issue is invaluable. "No one understands the struggles and issues lawyers face better than other lawyers," I recall him saying once. As such, he suggested I get involved with the YLD in Georgia.

My first involvement as far as in person attendance for a YLD meeting was the 2022 Fall Meeting held in Orlando. I was blown away at how accepting each of the attendees were. It was incredible to me that this group of people didn't care if you had been in their lives for five years or five minutes, they treated me just the same and didn't let me feel excluded.

I knew from my time at that meeting that I was going to emulate that with how I treated newcomers to the YLD. I recall sitting on a bench late into the evening outside an ice cream shop on the boardwalk right outside our hotel, accompanied by a famous dog named "Pancakes," chatting with friends that I had made about an hour earlier.

Coming from an area of the state that has few younger lawyers, it was refreshing to make meaningful connections with other young lawyers around the state.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALEB RATLIFF

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

My advice for younger lawyers: don't be afraid. While it might feel intimidating to put yourself out there for involvement in various YLD activities, I can assure you there is absolutely nothing to be afraid of.

What you will find in the YLD is a group that is here for each other, willing to sacrifice their time and talents for the greater good and, most importantly, you will find friendship and individuals that will walk alongside you.

You might also sometimes feel like you don't have the time to step away from your practice for meetings or service projects, but you will find that when you do make the time to attend that your time and effort will be worth the investment in the growth of your network and your personal brand.

Each of us has something to offer to our colleagues and to the public that is unique and involvement in the YLD and other Bar activities can help you discover what that is. **YLD**

Caleb H. Ratliff is a partner at Cox Byington Twyman LLP in Rome, Georgia, and co-chair of the YLD Sports Law Committee.

YLD Member Spotlight: Middle District

Each quarter, The YLD Review will highlight three of the Young Lawyers Division's most impactful members—one from each federal judicial district. Those featured in our Member Spotlight serve both the YLD and their local communities, excel in their practice and maintain the highest level of professionalism.

E. Tate Crymes

Tell us about yourself.

I was born in Atlanta and grew up in Newnan. When I was not in school or reading, you could find me playing tennis in Peachtree City or traveling throughout the South for tennis tournaments. Though I did not play varsity tennis in college, I played a season on the club tennis team at Georgia Tech while studying for a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy. While taking classes on cybersecurity policy and through the direction of mentors, I found my way to pre-law. I was fascinated by the unique way lawyers think and, after serving as an intern in the Georgia General Assembly, officially decided to pursue law school after graduation.

I moved to Macon to attend Mercer University School of Law. COVID-19 affected my law school experience and shaped my interactions with my professors and classmates. I nonetheless began to create my network in Macon and in the legal community by joining different organizations both in and out of school.

While in law school, I focused on strengthening my writing abilities. Outside of the required course load, I enrolled in as many writing-specific classes as I could. I joined the *Mercer Law Review* and served as a member for both my 2L and 3L years. During this experience, I created and published both a casenote and a comment. Additionally, I completed Mercer's Writing Certificate Program. This program changed not just how I wrote, but also how I thought about writing. I learned the importance of the editing process and how to give and receive constructive feedback.

What is your practice area?

After law school, I served as a term clerk for more than two years to Chief Judge Austin E. Carter, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Through Judge

Carter's mentorship, I continued to grow as a writer and as an attorney, implementing concepts I learned in law school and observed other attorneys and their practice in the courtroom.

Currently, I am an associate attorney at Stone and Baxter, LLP, in Macon. I look forward to continuing my growth as an attorney and writer in private practice. When I'm not reading or writing, you can find me on the pickleball court, cheering on Georgia Tech football, singing along to Taylor Swift or traveling.

My practice is focused on bankruptcy and construction law, neither of which I was aware of prior to law school. If not for my mentors challenging me to step outside my comfort zone, I would not have ended up where I am today. I first became aware of bankruptcy law in law school. I took a class for Mercer's Writing Certificate Program with my then professor, Siena Gaddy. In our writing group class, she introduced topics in bankruptcy law, as well as legal writing theory. We spent two semesters focusing on issues in bankruptcy law from the legal writing perspective.

Through Gaddy's encouragement, example and mentorship, I applied for and accepted a term clerkship with Judge Carter in the bankruptcy court. In addition to increasing my knowledge of bankruptcy law and legal writing, clerking enhanced my development as a professional.

Throughout my legal career, Gaddy has constantly pushed me to be a better writer, attorney and person. I have learned the importance of one more edit and that though writing can be a very painful process, it is also very rewarding.

What is your involvement with the YLD?

Following the camaraderie of law school, clerking and law practice can sometimes feel very isolating. Through attending meetings,



PHOTO COURTESY OF E. TATE CRYMES

CLEs and happy hours, the YLD provided me with a new peer group.

My involvement in the YLD began with an invitation to tag along to an event. I joined committees and eventually became co-chair for the YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee. I also became a member of the YLD Leadership Academy class of 2024. Through the YLD, I made new friends and reconnected with old ones, I attended and hosted CLEs, and I wrote articles with brilliant co-authors and interviewed a justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia. The opportunities for personal and professional growth are endless through the YLD.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Mentorship shapes my story. I am fortunate to have great mentors in my life and I know that I would not be where I am today without their influence, guidance and belief.

I recently attended a meeting where Judge Amelia "Amy" Helmick was the keynote speaker. Judge Helmick spoke on the importance of mentorship and the many types of mentors. Some mentors may be seasonal,

► SEE CRYMES, PAGE 14

YLD Member Spotlight: Southern District

Each quarter, The YLD Review will highlight three of the Young Lawyers Division's most impactful members—one from each federal judicial district. Those featured in our Member Spotlight serve both the YLD and their local communities, excel in their practice and maintain the highest level of professionalism.

Samantha Mullis

Tell us about yourself!

I am the eldest of two daughters from Goose Creek, South Carolina. My sister and I were first-generation college students, and I am a first-generation lawyer. I have a degree in math from Newberry College, and I went to the Charlotte School of Law for my J.D.

I wanted to be a lawyer since middle school, when my sixth grade English teacher made the class perform mock trials out of short stories that we read. She divided the class into prosecution and defense, we had legal jargon to learn and another class down the hall sat in as the jury. There was never a Plan B after that.

I am married to Justin Mullis, who is also a lawyer and prosecutes major cases in Richmond County. We have two boys, ages four and one.

When I'm not chasing the toddlers, I love to read. I'm in a book club at work and also one with my mom. You can also find me on spin bike 11 at the local cycling studio.

What is your practice area?

Currently, I am an assistant general counsel at Augusta University (AU). I guess my practice area is higher education law, which encompasses a lot of other areas. On any given day I review contracts, advise on Title IX matters, confer with HR on an employee relations issue or assist the Attorney General's Office with one of our tort cases.

Funny enough, I've dreamed of going in-house since going to law school. The summer before law school, I was a temp secretary in the Anesthesia Department of Medical University of South Carolina where the chair of the department was married to a general counsel. She was kind enough to take me to lunch and tell me about law school and what she does as a general counsel.

After seven years of practice, I had the opportunity to go in-house at AU and haven't looked back.

What is your involvement with the YLD?

I've been involved with the YLD since 2017 when I was an insurance defense associate. The firm supported Bar service and one year we had at least five associates as committee chairs. I started out as a member of the YLD Women in the Profession Committee, which I then chaired for two years. I have served on the Board of Directors of the YLD for quite awhile. I am a 2020 Leadership Academy graduate and have served as co-chair of the Leadership Academy since 2022. This Leadership Academy Class will be my last one, which is bittersweet, but also a welcome transition.

My favorite aspect of the YLD is the community, hands down. I have developed meaningful relationships with so many lawyers across the state, that I know will help me, or try their best, with whatever issue I have. I will do the same for them.

The YLD is also so inclusive in the best way. If you want to be involved, we want you to be involved. The more the merrier.

I can't name just one YLD memory because the YLD has always been there: the YLD has seen me grow up. I've gotten engaged, married and had two babies during my YLD years. It's not only shaped my professional life, but my personal life too.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

My advice to young lawyers is don't be afraid to change your practice area. You are not boxed in to the first job you get out of law school. You can even change practice areas within your own firm.

After clerking for two Superior Court judges and a brief stint prosecuting, I started as an insurance coverage associate and after a year of it not being the right fit, I transitioned to the general liability team. I completely changed practice areas taking my current position. You gain so many transferable skills that will serve you in any area of law.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA MULLIS

My last piece of advice which has generally been shared with me from my judges to my partners, is almost everything is fixable. It's OK to make a mistake, and you will make them. Address the issue honestly and reasonably, and there isn't much that can't be fixed, at least in my experience. YLD

Samantha Mullis is an assistant general counsel at Augusta University and co-chair of the YLD Leadership Academy.

► **CRYMES, FROM PAGE 13**

some may be role-specific and some may walk with you through many ups-and-downs.

Find mentors and mentees. This profession is built on a tradition of learning—with learning comes opportunities to teach and be taught. Be part of the mentorship cycle. Some of the best mentors and mentees may not have the same background as you, look like you or think like you. Look for people that can speak truth to you. YLD

E. Tate Crymes is an associate attorney at Stone and Baxter, LLP, in Macon, and co-chair of the YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee.

A Report From Jekyll Island: The YLD and the 2024 Fall Meeting



**Matt B.
Caudell**

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD), in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia, flocked to Jekyll Island for the 2024 Fall Meeting Nov. 1-3.

To kick off the weekend, the YLD hosted “Social Media Smarts: ‘Ethical Hacks’, Bar Rules and How to Stay Off the Disciplinary Radar,” a CLE in which members were apprised of updates to the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. The first YLD General Session of the 2024-25 Bar year was held, where officers, directors and committee members shared updates.

On Friday evening, we gathered for a poolside reception. Following the reception, the YLD joined other members of the Bar for the Board of Governors Dinner at the Jekyll Island Club on the Riverfront Lawn. The evening culminated with a game of “Glow Golf” and a hole-in-one competition won by Supreme Court of Georgia Justice John J. Ellington.

Saturday morning included the Board of Governors meeting, then many meeting attendees traveled to Jacksonville, Florida, and EverBank Stadium to watch the Georgia Bulldogs once again beat the Florida Gators. The State Bar hosted a tailgate outside of EverBank Stadium, as well as a watch party at the Jekyll Ocean Club Resort.

As the service arm of the Bar, the YLD collected donations for Hand in

Hand of Glynn, a community of 60 tiny homes that house adults experiencing chronic homelessness. The YLD thanks attendees for their generous support and donations.

Don’t forget to join the YLD in Nashville and Ponte Vedra Beach for the remaining YLD meetings of the 2024-25 Bar year. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to a YLD officer, director or committee chair for more information about the YLD, upcoming events or how you can be more involved with the YLD.

As with everything else in life, also remember that practice makes perfect. *YLD*

Matt B. Caudell is a family law attorney at Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles, PA, in Gainesville. He is a 2024 graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy.



Register Now

YLD Spring Meeting
March 28-30, 2025
Nashville, Tennessee

YLD Members at the 2025 Midyear Meeting

The YLD had a strong presence at the 2025 Midyear Meeting in Savannah, held at the JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District. Friday, Jan. 10, affectionally referred to as "YLD Day" was full of valuable networking opportunities and the start of new professional relationships as the 2025 YLD Leadership Academy kicked off its first session. Events featured a Headshot Studio where YLD members had the opportunity to put their best foot forward as they build

their brand with new headshots from Envisioning Freedom Photography; the Branding With Integrity CLE, moderated by YLD President Kenneth Mitchell Jr., featuring a discussion with Immediate Past President Hon. J. Antonio "Tony" DelCampo, Lester B. Johnson III and Shiriki Cavitt Jones on client development and incorporating new innovations while preserving the integrity and core values of the legal profession; and the General Session where YLD officers

gave reports and members of the Executive Council provided updates on projects and events. YLD members were also part of the Board Dinner on Friday evening, where President Ivy N. Cadle recognized outgoing General Counsel Paula Frederick for her 36 years of service to the Bar.

The weekend ended with a strong contingent of YLD members attending the Board of Governors Meeting on Saturday morning. ^{YLD}



(L-R) Lester B. Johnson III, Hon. J. Antonio "Tony" DelCampo, Shiriki Cavitt Jones and YLD President Kenneth Mitchell Jr.



State Bar President Ivy N. Cadle.



(L-R) James Banter, William D. "Bill" Barwick, Jennifer Mock and Ron Daniels on a panel of YLD past presidents.



(L-R) Paula Fredrick and President Ivy N. Cadle.



(L-R) YLD President Kenneth Mitchell Jr., Shirki Cavitt Jones, Hon. J. Antonio "Tony" DelCampo and Lester B. Johnson III.



YLD President Kenneth Mitchell Jr., delivered the YLD report to the Board of Governors.



(L-R) James Banter and Hannah Couch.



(L-R) Samantha Mullis, YLD Director Jessica Oglesby, James Banter and Kelsie Mattox Speight.



(L-R) YLD Secretary Kindall Browning-Rickle, Megan R. Hurley and Katie Rose Martin.



(L-R) Virginia Josey, Jordan Josey and Kelsie Mattox Speight.

Three Shortcuts to Improve Your Legal Writing



**T. Alec
Chappell**

Bad writing surrounds us. As legal scholar Bryan A. Garner has explained, we as lawyers “swim[] in a sea of bad writing” and must “struggl[e] through oceans of dreck” to do our jobs.¹ Newspaper editor Harold Evans has excoriated “those lawyers who file briefs” that are “vague, ambiguous, unintelligible, verbose, and repetitive.”² Having taught two semesters of legal writing as an adjunct professor at Mercer University’s School of Law, I’ve learned some tips to improve your writing. Here we’ll discuss three—specifically, three grammatical constructions you should avoid, or at least minimize. Throughout, I’ll provide examples relating to bankruptcy, the area of law with which I’m most familiar. And we’ll have some help from Garner and Evans along the way.

Passive Voice

When writing a sentence, you can use either active voice or passive voice, and in general you should prefer the former. In an active-voice sentence, the subject does something; in a passive-voice sentence, something is done to the subject.³ Consider the following:

Active

The Debtor filed a bankruptcy petition on Jan. 1, 2024.

Passive

A bankruptcy petition was filed by the Debtor on Jan. 1, 2024.

As news editor Harold Evans puts it, the passive voice “robs sentences of energy, adds unnecessary words, seeds a slew of wretched participles and prepositions, and leaves questions unanswered[.]”⁴ Likewise, legal scholar Bryan A. Garner observes that



the active voice has four advantages over the passive: (1) it uses fewer words; (2) it better reflects a chronological sequence in which an actor takes an action; (3) it satisfies the reader’s expectation that the subject will perform the action; and (4) it makes the sentence livelier.⁵ That said, both Evans and Garner recognize that you’ll occasionally need to use passive voice.⁶ For example, the action’s recipient might warrant more prominence than the actor:

Active

The bankruptcy court confirmed the Debtor’s Chapter 13 plan on Nov. 25, 2024.

Passive

The Debtor’s Chapter 13 plan was confirmed on Nov. 25, 2024.

In bankruptcy, plan confirmation alters the parties’ legal rights,⁷ so arguably the sentence should focus on the plan rather than the court, making the passive preferable.

Nominalizations

A nominalization is an abstract noun made from a verb.⁸ Some grammarians prefer the

term “zombie” because it’s as if a noun has “devoured a verb[.]”⁹ Whatever you call them, these nouns usually—but not always—end in -ion: authorization, implementation, indemnification, representation, mitigation, examination, etc. (The word “nominalization” is itself a nominalization.) Whenever possible, avoid these abstract nouns and use the verb form: authorize, implement, indemnify, represent, mitigate, examine, etc. Garner explains that using concrete nouns instead of abstract nominalizations makes your reader’s job less onerous—“it becomes far easier for readers to visualize what you’re talking about.”¹⁰ Take the following example:

Abstract

Liquidation of the debtor’s estate and distribution of proceeds to general unsecured creditors were carried out by the Chapter 7 trustee.

Concrete

The Chapter 7 trustee liquidated the debtor’s estate and distributed the proceeds to general unsecured creditors.

A reader cannot readily picture “liquidation” and “distribution,” but a bankruptcy

trustee, as a natural person, is easy to visualize. Note that, as in our example, nominalizations often coincide with passive voice, so fixing one may require fixing the other.

Prepositions, Especially “Of”

Although prepositions have their uses—they tell us where, when, why and how—they “are candidates for excision when they clutter sentences.”¹¹ The worst offender is the preposition “of,” which Garner identifies as “the one word in the English language that most commonly signals verbosity[.]”¹² Rather than “of,” try using a possessive or an adjective:

Verbose

The motion of the Chapter 7 trustee for turnover of property of the estate was granted by the bankruptcy court.

Concise

The bankruptcy court granted the Chapter 7 trustee’s motion for turnover of estate property.

Note that the second example replaces one “of” with a possessive (“motion of the Chapter 7 trustee” becomes “the Chapter 7 trustee’s motion”) and another with an adjective (“property of the estate” becomes “estate property”). As these examples demonstrate, reducing your “of” usage “can greatly improve briskness and readability.”¹³ In Garner’s words, “even the most accomplished writer can benefit from selective “of” removal.”¹⁴ If, as Garner and Evans advise, you avoid the preposition “of,” along with the passive voice and nominalizations, your writing will be stronger for it, and your readers will thank you. YLD

T. Alec Chappell is career law clerk for Judge Edward J. Coleman III, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia, and an adjunct professor at Mercer University School of Law. He is co-editor of The YLD Review.

Endnotes

1. Bryan A. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English: A Text with Exercises* 2 (3d ed. 2023).
2. Harold Evans, *Do I Make Myself Clear? Why Writing Well Matters* 346 (2017).
3. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English* 52.
4. Evans, *Do I Make Myself Clear?* 83.
5. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English* 52.
6. *Id.* at 52; Evans, *Do I Make Myself Clear?* 87.
7. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 1327.
8. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English* 78.
9. Evans, *Do I Make Myself Clear?* 141.
10. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English* 78.
11. Evans, *Do I Make Myself Clear?* 119.
12. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English* 74.
13. *Id.*
14. *Id.* at 76.

JUDGING PANEL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Judging Panel volunteers are needed for the 2025 Georgia High School Mock Trial district and state finals competitions!

Members of the State Bar of Georgia have supported the High School Mock Trial Competition for 36 seasons. We are asking for a few hours of your time as a presiding judge or evaluator (juror).

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