

# Dougherty Bar Bulletin

*A Publication of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association*

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## Court of Appeals Judges Herbert Phipps' and John Ellington's Professionalism



## Seminar Among Highlights of Dougherty Circuit Bar's Law Day 2011 Celebration

By Charles W. Lamb, Jr.

We had our first Law Day event April 10th, with a Law at the Library seminar for first-time home buyers presented by Lauren Williamson. On April 11th we had the Darton College lunch-time panel on the Law Day theme, The Legacy of John Adams: From Boston to Guantanamo, with Judge Willie Lockette, Brumby Montgerard, and Victoria Johnson as guest panelists. The school essay contest is underway, with essays being due by April 20th. There seems to be a great deal of interest in the contest this year. On the morning of April 25th at 11:00 am, Mayor Adams will be signing a Law Day Proclamation. On April 26th Ralph Scoccimaro will be sharing the story of his life and legal career with a group of more than 100 students at Albany High School. Judge Lockette will speak after Ralph regarding his own legal career and how he mentored Ralph. Later that day, during the students' lunch periods, volunteer attorneys will man a table in the lunchroom foyer to hand out Law Day related give-away items and to talk informally to interested students about their paths to becoming and the experiences of being attorneys. On April 27th, we will have a professionalism CLE taught by Court of Appeals Judges Herbert Phipps and John Ellington. It will be followed by our Law Day luncheon, which will include Judges Phipps

## Professionalism Seminar Details

Date: Wednesday, April 27th

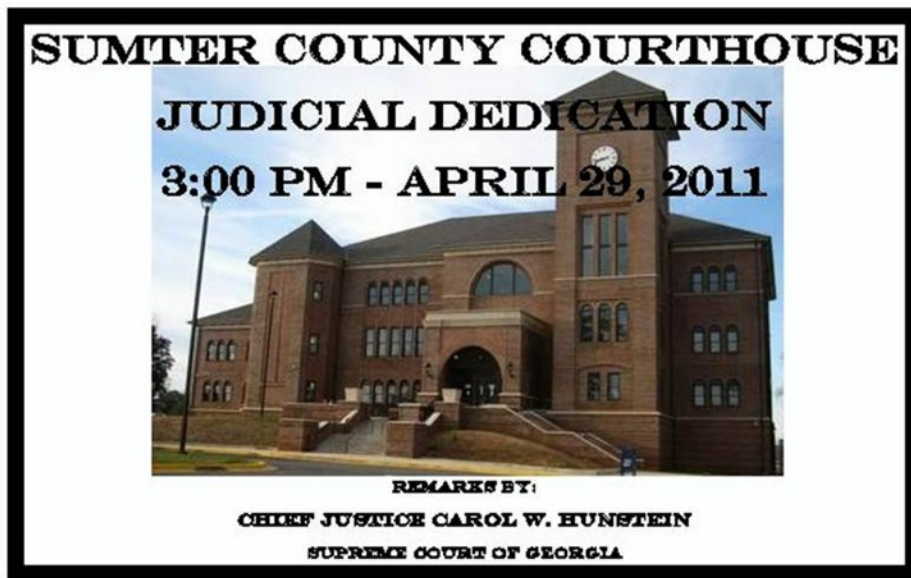
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 am

Location: Hilton Garden Inn

Speakers: Judges Herbert Phipps and John Ellington

Cost: \$20.00 for Dougherty Circuit Bar Members, \$50.00 for others. The price includes the cost of registering one hour of CLE and 1 hour of professionalism credit. For non-Dougherty Circuit Bar members the price includes the cost of lunch at which Chief Judge Ellington and Presiding Judge Phipps will also speak.

and Ellington as guest speakers; a law honor society induction for Albany High students; the recognition of the essay winners; and the presentation of the Liberty Bell Award. After the luncheon, the Albany High students will go either to the jail or to the courthouse to observe court proceedings. On May 2nd, there will be another Law at the Library seminar on Basic Business Law/Starting a Business presented by Deena Plaire-Haas.



## Board of Governors Report

By Gordon R. Zeese and Joe Dent

The State Bar's Board of Governors met on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at the State Bar Center in Atlanta.

The Board voted to raise Bar dues by \$2.00 to \$238.00 per year, the first increase since 2008. This helps to cover additional programs the Bar has agreed to fund, some due to loss of IOLTA funds, such as BASICS at \$140,000, Law Related Education at \$226,000, and about \$500,000 in other increased costs. Accumulated surplus funds will be used to cover the rest of these extra costs.

The Bar had a successful year in support and opposition of various law related legislation in the General Assembly. The revisions to the Rules of Evidence passed. The Appellate Record fee was reduced back to \$1.00 per page from the \$10.00 per page it had increased to. Funding for programs supported by the Bar were generally preserved or increased. An update of legislative developments is available on the State Bar's web site, [http://www.gabar.org/public/pdf/leg/legis\\_update\\_final2011.pdf](http://www.gabar.org/public/pdf/leg/legis_update_final2011.pdf) Members are reminded to thank their legislators for their service.

The families of deceased Court of Appeals Judges John Ruffin and Debra Bernes were recognized for their support of the practice of law and the public of Georgia.

Esteemed Colleagues,

Chief Judge R. Rucker Smith of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit invites you to join us for the Judicial Dedication of our new Sumter County Courthouse. If you have any questions or need more information please feel free to call Judge Smith's office at 229-928-4554. We look forward to seeing you soon.



## BOG Report con't.

Treasurer Buck Ruffin on behalf of the Military Legal Assistance Program presented its inaugural Marshall-Tuttle Award to the son of Judge Elbert Parr Tuttle who received it on behalf of the late Judge Tuttle. Judge Tuttle was recognized for his service to his country in the military from World War 1 through World War II, for his service as a distinguished jurist, and particularly for his support of pro bono representation.

YLD President, Michael Geoffrey, reported a successful YLD signature fund raiser which raised over \$45,000 this year for Georgia Legal Services. The YLD had a successful meeting at Las Vegas recently.

Past President, Linda Klein, who is the Speaker of the ABA's House of Delegates, thanked the State Bar for hosting the February ABA meeting in Atlanta. She thanked the YLD for continuing to make notable contributions regularly recognized for their excellence by the ABA. A recent ABA meeting with Congress members raised concerns about continued funding for the Legal Services Corporation, the Tax Intercept bill, which would intercept tax refunds to courts, and delays in appointment of federal judges.

Phyllis Holmen, the Executive Director of the Georgia Legal Services Program, thanked the Bar for their financial support for the program and for accepting referrals to assist poor people's access to the justice system. Federal budget cuts

will cost GLSP \$600,000 this coming year.

President Lester Tate recognized members of the newly created President's Advisory Council of local community leaders from around the State. The Council members had earlier today toured the State Bar Center after meetings with Chief Justice Hunstein, and other Appellate Court judiciary members.

David Cannon reported that the Fastcase company has agreed to provide computerized legal research services to local county law libraries for \$800.00 per year for the first terminal and \$400.00 for each additional terminal, and less if enough local law libraries get on board. This is a significant savings when compared to the cost of Lexis or Westlaw, which can cost up to \$1,000.00 per month. Interested local law library officials are encouraged to contact David at his email address: [dcannon@cherokeega.com](mailto:dcannon@cherokeega.com).

The State Bar's annual meeting this year will be held in Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from June 2-5, 2011.

## New Attorney Spotlight: Sarah Morris



Sarah Morris recently joined the staff of the Albany regional office of Georgia Legal Services. Sarah is a bilingual attorney who has been working with low-income, Spanish speaking families and senior citizens. Her practice focuses on domestic violence, housing matters, and consumer issues. Sarah is here through a generous, one-year grant from an anonymous donor to extend free legal assistance to low-income residents of Southwest Georgia.

Sarah was raised in rural Northwest Georgia, near Chattanooga, Tennessee. She graduated cum laude from Berry College in May of 2004 with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and French. During her time at Berry, she spent a semester abroad in Dijon, France. After graduation, Sarah was employed as a social worker with the Walker County Department of Family and Children's Services, putting back

together families torn apart by abuse or neglect. She then attended law school at Indiana University, obtaining both a Juris Doctorate and a Master's Degree in Public Affairs in May of 2010. During law school, Sarah studied abroad at the University of Buenos Aires, taking courses on international human rights and the globalization of the legal profession. Sarah was an active volunteer in the Central Indiana legal community, dividing her time between District 10 Pro Bono Project, the Indiana Legal Services Immigrants' and Language Rights Center, and the Community Justice and Mediation Center. Sarah was one of three students honored with the Terry Albright Pro Bono and Public Interest Award for her dedication to ensuring access to justice through pro bono and public interest service.

Welcome Sarah, to the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association.

*"Attorney Spotlight" is a regular column in the Dougherty Bar Bulletin. It will feature a recently joined member of the Association. If you would like to submit a photo and information about a recently admitted member, please contact Judge Gordon Zeese at 229-430-4280.*