

Dougherty Bar Bulletin

A Publication of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

John M. Stephenson, President
Charles W. Lamb, Jr., President-Elect
Sarah F. Kjellin, Secretary-Treasurer
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Prof. Paul S. Milich To Present 3 Hour Evidence CLE Before February Meeting

In conjunction with its February meeting, the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association is sponsoring a continuing legal education seminar on **Friday, February 25** at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Albany. The seminar will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon, with a regular luncheon meeting to follow immediately after. Paul S. Milich, evidence professor at Georgia State University School of Law, will present the seminar, and he will also speak during the luncheon. Professor Milich is a well-known expert on evidence and a lively and

entertaining speaker. He has written several books on evidence, including *Georgia Rules of Evidence* and *Courtroom Handbook on Georgia Evidence*. He has also won several “outstanding teacher” awards during his career.

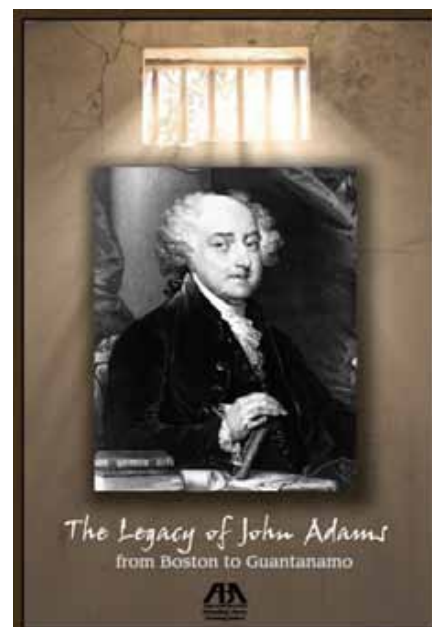
In this seminar, Professor Milich plans to cover two areas – expert testimony and electronic evidence (from telephones to Facebook). Three trial practice CLE hours will be available. For dues-paying members of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association, this seminar and luncheon is \$15, which covers our association’s cost for the CLE hours. If you do not wish to obtain CLE credit, the seminar and luncheon are free of charge to dues-paying members. For non-members, the fee is \$50, which covers the seminar, the luncheon, and the CLE hours.

If you cannot attend the seminar, please make every effort to attend the luncheon meeting at noon. As previously noted, Professor Milich will speak during the luncheon meeting, as well.

If you plan to attend the seminar and/or the luncheon meeting, please call or e-mail our secretary/treasurer, Sarah Kjellin, to let her know. Sarah needs an accurate headcount for planning purposes. She can be reached at 229-436-1545 or at skjellin@watsonspence.com. Please

join us on February 25 at what promises to be an excellent seminar and luncheon.

Law Day 2011



Please contact Law Day Chair, Charles Lamb, 438-1494, charleslamb@bellsouth.net, and volunteer to be part of the Dougherty Circuit Bar’s Law Day 2011 plans. Court of Appeals Judge Herbert Phipps will be our Law Day speaker, and will present a professionalism CLE program. Events are being planned for the colleges and schools and local media.

Dougherty Bar's Christmas Party Aids Toys For Tots



The Dougherty Circuit Bar's annual Christmas Party was held December 9, 2010 at the Shakelford House in Albany. Members brought new toys to be given to needy children by the United States Marine Corp's Toys For Tots program.



President-Elect, Charles Lamb, Recognized with MLK, Jr. Dream Award



The Dougherty Circuit Bar Association was well represented at the 2011 King Day Celebration held at the Albany Civic Center on Monday January 17, 2011. Bar President-Elect Charles Lamb was one of four individuals honored with a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Award. Charles was recognized for his achievements at the local, state, and national levels in promoting social, economic, and political change related to programs and services for individuals with

disabilities as well as for his provision of personal advocacy for the rights of such socially and economically disadvantaged individuals regardless of race, creed, or color.

Also honored with a Dream Award for her extensive leadership and volunteer activities was Karla Heath-Sands, wife of U.S. District Judge W. Louis Sands. Dougherty County District Attorney Greg Edwards and attorney Chris Cohilas of the Watson Spence firm both served on the King Day Planning Committee and assisted with hosting the event, introducing the speakers, and presenting the awards. Former Dougherty County District Attorney Ken Hodges served as one of the guest speakers.

High School Mock Trial Competition

By Will Davis and Gail Pursel

Albany attorneys Will Davis and Lauren Brock organized this year's regional High School Mock Trial Competition, which is one of the largest projects supported by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar. This year's competition took place on Saturday, February 12 at the Dougherty County Courthouse. Will and Lauren recruited almost 40 volunteer lawyers and judges from our Bar Association and surrounding counties to serve as evaluators and judges, including Hon. Willie Lockette, Hon. Bill Reinhardt, Hon. Loring Gray, and Hon. Gordon Zeese. Six regional teams

Mock Trial continued

competed in three separate rounds of competition, and Lowndes High School emerged as the winner.

That team will go on to compete in the State Mock Trial finals at the Gwinnett Justice Center in Lawrenceville on March 18 and 19, 2011.

The high school students who compete in this competition have put countless hours of preparation into their cases. This year's problem is a 1983 action in Federal District Court brought by Detective Rook E. Greenwood against Chief Billie Durden of the Miltonville Police Department. Greenwood claims that Durden violated his civil rights by terminating him based on a statement s/he made through a posting on a social networking web site. Chief Durden disputes that the statement in question had anything to do with Greenwood's firing, and instead claims to have terminated Greenwood "for good cause" due to citizen complaints. The participating high school students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses as they present their sides of the case.

Many thanks to the members of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association and other South Georgia lawyers and judges for their support of and encouragement for the students' efforts by volunteering their time to organize and put on the High School Mock Trial Regional Competition.

Anyone interested in being an evaluator or judge at the State Competition can find the application materials in the YLD section at www.gabar.org.

Board of Governors Report

by Gordon R. Zeese

Dougherty Circuit Bar representatives Joe Dent and Gordon Zeese attended the meeting of the State Bar's Board of Governors on January 15, 2011 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, held in conjunction with the State Bar's Mid-Year meeting. The Board voted to approve changes to standing Board policy that requires the Advisory Committee on Legislation to review and report on any legislation filed to amend the State Constitution, and approved a rule change to do away with dues for law student members of the State Bar in exchange for them only receiving State Bar publications by electronic means.

Nominations for officers for the 2011-2012 year include: President-Elect, Robin Frazier Clark; Treasurer, Buck Ruffin; and for Secretary, a contested race between Patrice Perkins Hooker and Derrick White. Paula Frederick and Donna Barwick were nominated to succeed themselves as representatives to the American Bar Association.

Treasurer Buck Ruffin reported that as of October 31, 2010 some 41,953 Georgia lawyers had paid State Bar dues totaling \$9,106,673. Projected expenses for this fiscal year of \$11,232,163 may leave a year end deficit of some \$1,430,899.

The State Bar will continue to try to influence legislation in the General Assembly session that is germane to the practice of law.

Among the legislation of concern is H.B. 1255 reducing the cost of filing the record with Georgia's Appellate Courts back to \$1.00 per page instead of the \$10.00 per page that it was raised to last year. It was noted that the State Tax Reform Commission did not include a proposed tax on professional services in its recommendations. Visit the State Bar's web site, www.gabar.org, and click on the Legislative Tracking button to keep up to date on pending legislation, and let your legislators know your thoughts on pending bills.

Throughout the legislative session, please visit [the State Bar's web site](http://www.gabar.org) for a complete summary of Bar proposals, other legislative items of interest and links to addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for your legislators. To join the State Bar's Legislative Action Network, update your member profile on the Bar's [web site](http://www.gabar.org) to include your home address and official e-mail address or send an e-mail with your home address and official e-mail address to the [membership department](mailto:membership@gabar.org). Visiting the web site and joining the Legislative Action Network will give you up-to-date information on all legislative issues and provide an easy way to communicate with your state representatives, senators, and clients.

Attorney Spotlight: John R. Ledford

John R. Ledford recently joined the Ledford Law Firm, where he practices with his father, longtime Albany attorney Tom Ledford. John is a May 2010 graduate of Mercer University School of Law. He obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia, where he majored in business (with an emphasis on real estate) and minored in history. John's practice focuses on personal injury and criminal defense.

John enjoys many sports (he lettered in football, baseball, swimming, and cross country while in high school!). He is also an avid outdoorsman, and now that he has returned to Southwest Georgia, he is looking forward to hunting and other outdoor activities. Welcome, John, 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.