

# Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

## Dougherty Bar Bulletin

Thomas Q. Langstaff, President  
Gregory W. Edwards, President-Elect  
Laureen Adams, Secretary-Treasurer  
Gordon R. Zeese, Editor

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### Justice Hunstein to Speak to Bar August 30th

Georgia Supreme Court Presiding Justice Carol Hunstein will be the speaker at the Wednesday, August 30, 2006 meeting of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association. The meeting will be at noon at the Hilton - Garden Inn on Front Street.

Justice Hunstein's 1984 election to the Superior Court of DeKalb County made her the first woman ever to sit on the superior court bench in that county and one of the few female superior court judges in the state at the time. In 1992, she was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Zell Miller making her the second woman in history to serve as a permanent member of that Court. Among her many duties, Justice Hunstein chairs the Supreme Court Commission on Access and Fairness in the Court and the Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters.

Billy Mathis, Bill Underwood, Moore Clarke Rogers & DuVall, Watson Spence Lowe & Chambless and Vansant & Corriere invite you to attend a reception for Justice Hunstein from 4 to 6 p.m. on the 30th at the former U. S. District Court Room at the Old Post Office at the corner of Pine and Broad.

### Langstaff, Edwards, and Adams 2006- 2007 Officers

At the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association's annual meeting on June 28th Thomas Q. Langstaff became the association's President, Greg W. Edwards was elected as the President-Elect, and Laureen Adams was elected as its Secretary-Treasurer.

Tommy Langstaff is a native Albanian, and proud graduate of the public school system here in Dougherty County. He obtained a management degree from Georgia Tech, worked as a consultant for Arthur Andersen, and then obtained his law degree from the University of Georgia. Going from Tech to UGA still ranks as his greatest cultural shock.

He met his wife Virginia Reynolds while he was practicing law in Atlanta with Freeman & Hawkins (now Hawkins & Parnell). Tommy and Virginia moved to Albany 16 years ago, and she pays him back by spending a lot of time on the road as a software consultant.

Tommy and Virginia have 4 children: Lindsey (14), Pete (11), Thomas (9), and Reynolds (7). Tommy teaches part-time at Darton College in the paralegal program, and also through the continuing educa-

tion department at Darton. He serves as a trustee on the Board of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) in Georgia, and chairs the paralegal program advisory committee at Darton College. True to form as a civil litigator knowing little about a lot of different things, Tommy enjoys coaching his kids in basketball, baseball, and soccer.

When not involved with any of the above activities, Tommy practices law at Langstaff Law Offices with Bob Langstaff, Sr., and Bob Langstaff, Jr. In addition to being engaged in a general civil practice, he enjoys serving as a mediator and arbitrator.



Greg Edwards has served as Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Dougherty Judicial Circuit since July 1995. In 1989 he entered private practice as an associate with the law office of B.T. Edmonds. In October 1990, he was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney. Greg was appointed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in 1997.

A 1979 graduate of Albany State College, Edwards received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in Political Science. He earned his law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in 1983.

Greg Edwards is a member of the Georgia Bar Association, member and current president of the C.B. King Bar Association, member of the Dougherty Bar Association, the Georgia Alliance of African American Attorneys, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, the Lawyer's Foundation of Georgia, and has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Legal Services Program representing the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association. He has also served as an instructor for the National College of District Attorneys at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, SC.

Greg is a Trustee and member of Hines Memorial C.M.E. Church, member and current Area Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Leadership Albany and the Leadership Albany Foundation. He was recognized as an Outstanding Young Man of America (1983, 1988 & 1998) and listed in Strathmore's Who's Who for 2001-2002.



A native of Georgia, Laureen Alford Adams was born in 1964. She earned her B.S. in Political Science *summa cum laude* at Mercer University Atlanta in 1987. In 1990, Laureen earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia's Lumpkin School of Law. While a student at UGA, she became fascinated with the work of law librarians. She practiced law for six years at a plaintiff's employment law boutique in Athens, Georgia. After taking some time off with her children, Samuel, age 9, and Vivian and David, age 6, Laureen decided to pursue law librarianship as a career. She will complete her Masters in Library and Information Science in May 2008.

In May 2004, Ms. Adams was hired as Library Manager (and solo librarian) at the Dougherty County Law Library. At the request of the Superior Court Judges in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit, she has developed packets of forms and instructions for self-represented litigants. These packets can be picked up in person or downloaded from the law library's website, which may be viewed at [http://www.albany.ga.us/law\\_library/LL\\_index.htm](http://www.albany.ga.us/law_library/LL_index.htm). The library's usage has quadrupled since Laureen created and marketed new services for both attorneys and the lay public. Cataloging has been another big project, as the law library formerly lacked even a shelf-list or card catalog. The library's online catalog is now accessible via a link on the law library web site.

In 2005, Laureen was awarded both the Hubbard Scholarship by the Georgia Library Association and the Lucille Elliott Scholarship by the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. In

2006, she was awarded an AALL Type I Scholarship, which is designed for law school graduates pursuing the M.L.I.S. degree. She has been active in AALL since she attended her first Annual Conference in July 2004. She is especially interested in the work of the Legal Information Services to the Public and State/Court/County Law Libraries special interest sections. She co-authored an article about the history of county law libraries, which was published in the March 2006 issue of *AALL Spectrum*. An active member of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association, Laureen was Chair of the most recent Law Day Celebration, and is the current Secretary/Treasurer.

## Law Library Hours Extended

Beginning Wednesday, August 26, the Law Library will have extended hours for Darton College Paralegal students and members of the Bar. The extended hours are on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Gina Trulock will staff the library during those hours. You may enter the building at the Sheriff's department if you show the officers your bar card.

## Dougherty Bar Trivia Question

Q: Name the three Dougherty Circuit Bar Association members who have served as President of the State Bar of Georgia.

(Answer on last page.)

## UGA Football Trip

By Hugh Morris

Need BBQ? Need football tickets? All members of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association and guests are invited to attend the 16th Annual Law School Homecoming BBQ at the University of Georgia North Campus on October 14, 2006. All you can eat mouth-watering barbecue pork, chicken, Brunswick stew with all trimmings are provided by Fresh Air BBQ served with your favorite tailgate beverages. Plus, Anheuser Bush donated beverages to the event. The great "Strung Jury" bluegrass band (who are UGA law graduates) will play your favorite tunes. The UGA Athletic Association has allowed the Law School Association to buy a block of 400 seats for the UGA v Vanderbilt football game. Transportation will be provided by group van departing from and returning to Albany after the game. Football tickets are on sale for \$32.00 per person. BBQ tickets are on sale for \$22.00 per person. Cost for the group van and driver will be divided equally. In 2003, Dougherty Bar Members rented a group van for the event from Thrifty for \$436.44. That amount plus the amount paid for the driver was divided equally among the 9 attendees. The costs of transportation may be significantly reduced if any member will donate a van for the trip. Please contact Hugh Morris at 420-4104 or [hughmorrisattorney@hotmail.com](mailto:hughmorrisattorney@hotmail.com) to purchase tickets to the game and BBQ. 16 tickets for the game and BBQ have been reserved for Dougherty Bar members and guests. Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis.

## Georgia's Young Lawyers Division

By Hugh Morris

The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia met at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada Thursday April 20th through Sunday, April 22. Local representative, Hugh Morris, returned with unverified claims of "breaking-even" at blackjack for the three day event.

The next YLD meeting is set for August 24th through August 27th at the famous Waldorf - Astoria Hotel in New York, N.Y. The registration deadline is August 3, 2006. The agenda includes a welcome cocktail reception after hotel check-in on Thursday; a Mets vs. Phillies baseball game on Saturday, a CLE titled "Lawyers and Politics" provided by Court of Appeals Judge John Ellington and former Congressman, State Representative and District Attorney George "Buddy" Darden. Also included are the business meeting, group dinner and Broadway Show. Please contact Hugh Morris or Deidra Sanderson, YLD Director at the State Bar of Georgia if you are interested in attending this or future YLD meetings.

## Print vs. Electronic Legal Research: When to Use What

By Lauren Adams

Most legal researchers do not realize that print and electronic research differ significantly. They use either use them interchangeably or use one format exclusively. Many vendors and legal research instructors convey the

notion that all research can be done in either print or electronic format. Because the same information is usually available in either print or online, it would seem logical that either format will yield the same results. Nothing could be further from the truth. Knowing when to use each format will save you and your clients both time and money.

### Electronic Resources—Specificity and Speed

Electronic research is best for finding "known" items, which can be described in detail. Recent news and recent updates to statutes is also best suited to electronic research. Electronic research is best for the following situations:

- The document you seek uses a unique word or phrase—a proper name, a specific product, a geographic location, Latin maxims, unusual items, terms of art, exact quotations or phrases, etc.
- The research you are doing involves new developments or emerging trends. Examples would be research into copyright laws regarding P2P file sharing. Citation checking is also much easier electronically.
- You need the most up-to-date news: current weather, stock prices, this morning's speech, a verdict which was handed down today.
- The answer you seek is very specific (telephone number for the State Bar of Georgia, length of the Mississippi River).
- You need to manipulate information in a way that would be difficult in print. For example, obtaining a legal form electronically allows

you to paste it into Word or WordPerfect and quickly customize it for your client.

- You have a specific citation for a case, statute, regulation, report, or other document.
- After conducting background research, you are able to compose a very sophisticated search query which combines both facts and concepts.

#### **Print Resources— Complexity and Content**

Print research is great for broad, conceptual research or for background information. Print resources have indexes and tables of contents which allow you to broaden and narrow your search almost effortlessly. Statutory research is much more efficiently conducted in print. When you want to look at several sources at once or flip back-and-forth between sections, print is easier to use. Print is best when:

- The legal issue you are researching is described by common or ambiguous terms. Procedural questions often have this problem. For example, a question regarding what constitutes a perfect charge would be extremely difficult to research online. The word “charge” can be used in several different contexts. Instead, look in a digest under the category “indictments and accusations.”
- The research involves concepts or theories. Print resources are organized by concept or theory, so the researcher can quickly understand the context, and can easily broaden or narrow the search.

- When you are looking for analogous authority. If you cannot find a case on point, and need to find a similar case instead, print is superior.
- If you are unfamiliar with the topic. Getting an overview from print sources such as encyclopedias and treatises can help you learn enough to effectively research the topic.

No matter which format you choose to search, take ten or fifteen minutes to devise an intelligent research strategy. Think about your problem. Identify important facts, words, and concepts. Separate the project into smaller, more manageable chunks. With experience, you will develop an instinctive feel for which format best fits your research problem.

I need to give credit to the following author for some of the information in my article: Bintliff, Barbara. (2005). *Electronic Resources or Print Resources: Some Observations on Where to Search. Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*, 14(1). Eagan, MN: Thomson West.

## **Dougherty Bar Trivia Question**

A: H.H. Perry, Jr., Evans Plowden, and William Cannon have all served as President of the State Bar of Georgia.