

# Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

## Dougherty Bar Bulletin

James H. Moore, III, President  
Nancy S. Stephenson, President-Elect  
Kimberly Reid, Secretary-Treasurer  
Gordon R. Zeese, Editor

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### Christmas Party

The Dougherty Circuit Bar's Christmas party was held December 15th at the Shakleford House in Albany. The Social Committee arranged a very enjoyable evening with good food, drink, and fellowship.



Dougherty Bar President Jim Moore, Walter Kelley chats with Judge and Mrs. Steve Goss



Bar members and guests enjoy food and fellowship.

### Everyone Now Has Online Legal Research

The State Bar of Georgia proudly announced that Casemaker, an online legal research tool, is now available to all 34,000 Georgia lawyers. The service costs you only \$9.00 per year, which you already paid as part of your State Bar dues. There is no additional charge to use Casemaker as much as you want.

Just go to the State Bar of Georgia's Internet Web site, [www.gabar.org](http://www.gabar.org), and click on the Casemaker icon. Enter your State Bar ID number in the space for your "user name", and your last name in the "password" space. Your last name has been set as your initial password, which you may change if you wish.

You will initially be asked to agree to Casemaker's license agreement, after which you can click on the Casemaker icon to access its various libraries of the laws and cases of Georgia, the United States, and eighteen other states' laws and cases.

Click on one of the available libraries, and then begin your search within that library.

### Assistant Secretary of Defense to Speak at Next Meeting Wednesday, January 26th

The next meeting for the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association will be held on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at Merry Acres. The speaker will be Michael J. Fucci, Deputy Director, Department of Defense General Counsel Office of Legislative Counsel. The topic will be Update on Global War on Terror and status of National Defense Authorizations Act.

### The American Jury: We the People in Action - Law Day 2005

Judge Nancy Stephenson, President-Elect of the Dougherty Circuit Bar and 2005 Law Day Committee Chair, is planning our Bar's Law Day program. Please be ready to lend your support for this all important program to improve awareness of the fundamental role of law in American society.

## Board of Governors News

By Gordon R. Zeese and Greg Fullerton

The State Bar's Board of Governors met at Callaway Gardens for its Fall meeting on November 5, 2005 and on January 15, 2005 at the newly refurbished Bar Center Building in Atlanta.

A proposal was offered and passed to urge the creation of a "Georgia Equal Justice Commission" by the Supreme Court. Its purpose would be to ensure equal access to justice for all Georgians.

A proposal was made to amend the Rules of Professional Conduct to require lawyers who do not maintain a minimum of \$100,000.00/500,000.00 professional liability insurance to disclose this in writing to his current and new clients, obtain the clients' signatures on the disclosure and keep records of this disclosure for six years from the end of the representation. Violation of this proposed rule could be punished by disbarment. The proposal was referred to the Rules committee which must review proposals to amend the disciplinary rules, after considerable discussion. Please let your Board of Governor's representatives know your thoughts on the propriety of this proposal.

A proposal passed to recommend the creation of a business court for Fulton County on a trial basis.

A motion passed to designate the members of the Board of Governors as special masters to be used to

receive evidence pursuant to a search warrant for evidence in the hands of an attorney, who is not a defendant, pursuant to O.C.G.A. section 17-5-32.

The Advisory Committee on Legislation chaired by Greg Fullerton presented requests for the Board to support legislative proposals. The Board approved support for proposed legislation to conform our laws dealing with income and principal distribution trusts, bringing funding for the Georgia Appellate Practice and Education Center back to \$1,000,000.00 at which it was previously funded, continued funding of the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, funding and recommended standards for the newly created Georgia Public Defender Program, continued funding for Victims of Domestic Violence, converting mobile homes to real property more quickly, funding the student loan forgiveness program for public service lawyers, and endorsement for additional judgeships.

After spirited debate in January, the Board approved a motion allowing the Executive Committee to act on its behalf on 2005 tort reform bills and issues consistent with the Bar's position dating back to 1986 and restated in the Bar's 2003 position paper on tort reform.

YLD President Laural Landon of Augusta announced that the YLD will be pushing a fifth grade law related education program this year.

The Bar has hired a new chief financial officer, Ronald W. Turner, a CPA, to replace Sue Harvey, who left the Bar.

The State Bar headquarters parking deck is finished and in use and free for visiting Georgia attorneys. The building was dedicated at a ceremony held after the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy was the featured speaker, as well as Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Norman Fletcher, and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin.

The dedication ceremony was attended by all the justices of the Georgia Supreme Court, the judges of the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Federal judiciary, over 20 past presidents of the State Bar of Georgia, Board of Governors representatives, lawyers and families and friends.

## Judge Gray's Courtroom Upgrades and Demo

Judge Gray's courtroom, #218, has recently had \$23,000 of technological improvements. We have up-to-date document display capabilities, total video media display, audio reproduction, and computer tie-ins at counsel tables. We also have a telestrator for all the John Madden wannabes, as well as a high-speed color printer that can make your telestration into a document/exhibit. We have planned a training session with the installation company for Friday, Feb. 4, 2005 @ 10:00a.m., and all interested members of the bar and their staff are welcome to attend.

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## Law Library News

By Lauren Adams

The library provides numerous electronic resources to you at no charge. We have CX Corporation's Trial Court Desktop software, as well as access to the Harris Company's database of Dougherty County court and real estate filings. From Lexis we have access to cases and codes from all fifty states, the U.S.C.S., C.F.R., F.R., Federal Agency Decisions, Collier's on Bankruptcy, the Southeast Transaction Guide, Bender's Forms of Discovery, all law review journals, Georgia forms and Georgia analytical materials. From Westlaw we have access to all of the American Law Reports and American Jurisprudence publications, as well as Georgia-specific forms, analysis, and civil and criminal procedure. As you research, you can print out your results or e-mail them to yourself. If you need a refresher class on computer assisted legal research, you may call the library to schedule one at your convenience.

Many of the library's Georgia treatises had not been updated since the 1980s. These books are now current to aid you in your research. A new online library catalog will soon be linked to our web site so that you can search the library collection remotely. My ultimate goal is to scan the table of contents and indexes of our books into the catalog database so that library patrons can easily search for information by keywords.

The library conference room has new furniture, including a conference table which seats twelve and three study carrels. Video-conferencing equipment will be installed early

in 2005 for the benefit of members of the Dougherty County Bar. The conference room can be reserved in advance for depositions or other meetings either by telephone or via our web site conference room reservation form.

Requests, comments and suggestions are always welcome from members of the Dougherty County Bar Association. Our web site is easily accessed through the county's web site, which is [www.albany.ga.us](http://www.albany.ga.us). The Law Library web site is linked on the right side of the county's home page under Quicklinks. Please come visit our web site and our facility soon. I look forward to serving you.

The Law Library's Online Catalog has been completed and linked to the Law Library's web site. This should save time for local attorneys, as they can now find out what we have before making a trip to the Library. In the future, I plan to scan in the Indexes and Tables of Contents of our collection to increa

The Dougherty County Law Library plans to add Georgia ICLE Program Materials to its collection. Donations of such materials by local attorneys are most welcome