

# Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

## Dougherty Bar Bulletin

Kenneth B. Hodges, III, President  
James H. Moore, III, President-Elect  
Kimberly Reid, Secretary-Treasurer  
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Volume 21  
Issue 5  
June 2004

### Congressman Sanford Bishop Speaks to Dougherty Bar's Law Day BBQ

U.S. House Representative Sanford Bishop spoke to the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association's Spring Law Day Barbeque on the occasion of Law Day 2004. The Law Day Theme, To Win Equality, *Brown v. Board of Education* at 50, was the subject of Congressman Bishop's speech to the Bar.

Bar members and their guests enjoyed fellowship, barbeque and beverages at Ben Barrow's farm south of Albany.



### Law Day Report By Jim Moore and Bo Strickland

As you know, the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association celebrated Law Day on May 1, 2004. Law Day is an opportunity to plan different events around the community in an effort to raise awareness of the legal system and promote the Law Day theme. This year's theme was "To Win Equality by Law: *Brown vs. Board at 50*". The Dougherty Circuit Bar Association played host to a myriad of activities in celebration of Law Day and the landmark decision upon which the day was focused in an effort to further the Law Day cause.

On April 26, 2004, Albany Mayor Willie Adams signed the Mayoral Proclamation declaring May 1, 2004 Law Day in the City of Albany. The Proclamation centered around this year's Law Day theme and reminded the community that the *Brown vs. Board* decision is a landmark in the nation's march toward equality and a testament to the legal system's ability to protect our rights. Members of the Dougherty County School Board joined with several members from the Dougherty Bar to witness the signing.

One of the many highlights of this year's Law Day was Congressman Sanford Bishop's address to the Dougherty Bar at our annual barbeque. The Dougherty Bar President, Ken Hodg-

es, and President-elect, Jim Moore, were both on hand to introduce the Congressman. Congressman Bishop shared personal experiences from his life that were changed or affected by the *Brown* decision. He largely credited the *Brown* decision, and the opportunities that developed as a result of that landmark case, with the level of professional success he has attained. The event was covered by local media including WFXL, one of the local television stations.

Once again, Dougherty Bar Association Secretary-Treasurer, Kimberly

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### Next Meeting Wednesday, June 30 12:30 Merry Acres Chief Justice Norman Fletcher, Georgia Supreme Court. Election of Officers

Nominees are:

Jim Moore - President  
Nancy S. Stephenson - President-elect  
Kimberly Reid - Sec/Tres.

Contact Libba Baldwin, 431-3204, to be sworn in to the Supreme Court by Justice Fletcher.

Reid volunteered to organize a school speaker's program. Members of the Dougherty Bar visited local schools to talk to the students and stress the importance of the *Brown* decision. Most students were surprised to find out that the integration process was fairly recent from a historical standpoint. In fact, many of the schools that hosted speakers were once segregated. During one of the many school presentations, Bo Strickland spoke with seniors at Albany High School. Albany High School was largely segregated until the late 1960s.

The efforts to reach Dougherty County youth and expose them to the Law Day theme did not stop with speakers. The Dougherty Circuit Bar Association also sponsored a school essay writing competition that involved the middle and high schools in Albany. Students were asked to write essays centered around the 2004 Law Day theme. Cash prizes were given to the top three papers written by middle school students and the top three papers written by high school students. In the middle school division, Jeremy Jones of Robert Cross Middle School won first place and in the high school division, Charlene Williams from Albany High won first place. The students received their awards at the annual Law Day awards ceremony held at the Courthouse on May 10, 2004.

To further promote Law Day, several members of the Dougherty Bar Association took their Law Day message to the world of television. Jim Moore, Law Day Chairperson and President-elect, teamed up with Chief Assistant District Attorney Greg Edwards to discuss the *Brown* decision on WALB's noontime talk show hosted by Ruthie Garner. The program is a staple in Albany and has been airing for approximately thirty

years. Many people were exposed to the Law Day cause and its important theme as a result of this event. Additionally, Kim Wesley and Bo Strickland, both members of the Dougherty Bar, traveled to Cordele, Georgia on April 26, 2004 to promote Law Day on a local program, broadcasted on local cable outlets, hosted by Phil Streetman.

Darton College was the site of the 2004 Law Day Forum. Bar member Bob Langstaff served as moderator of a panel discussion concerning the *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling. Panel members included U. S. District Judge W. Louis Sands, Dougherty County School Superintendent, Dr. Sally Whatley and Senator Michael Meyer von Bremen. The discussion centered around personal experiences with segregation and the integration process. A plethora of Darton students attended the panel discussion.

Bar members Judge Nancy Stephenson and John Stephenson, hosted a lecture as well as a question and answer session at the SOWEGA Council on Aging focusing on Law Day and the legal needs of seniors. SOWEGA offers various services to the elderly residents of South Georgia and the lecture addressed some of the issues that these citizens face.

Superior Court Judge Stephen Goss hosted a tour of the Dougherty County Courthouse on April 30, 2004. Approximately 60 student council representatives from area schools participated in the tour. During the tour Judge Goss stressed the importance of the law in a functional society and taught students about the role courts play in upholding our laws. Students were given pencils, stickers and bookmarks

bearing the Law Day theme.

Law Day always provides members of the Dougherty Bar Association with an opportunity to give back to the community. On March 10, 2004, attorneys put on blue jeans and work gloves and lent a hand to support the Great Day of Service. One of the projects planned this year for the Great Day of Service was the "Trees of Courage" event. On this day, members of the Dougherty Bar united with other Albanians on Westover Boulevard to plant over 600 trees to honor our soldiers lost in the Iraqi Conflict.

Additionally, members of the Dougherty Bar served as judges for oral presentations given by seniors at Westover High School and Albany High School as part of the high school literary project. The literary project is a new endeavor that schools in the area are undertaking in an effort to expose their students to public speaking prior to graduation. Bar members Brumby Dwyer, Wesley Lambertus, and Alex Kaplan were a few of the judges.

The Dougherty County Public Library created a Law Day display in the lobby of the main branch at 300 Pine Avenue in Albany. Posters, books and other Law Day items were centered around scales of justice in the display cabinet. According to the librarians, the display prompted several questions on the subject. Also, a poster promoting Law Day was placed in the main entrance of the Dougherty County Courthouse.

Law Day culminated with an awards ceremony on May 10, 2004. Superior Court Judges Loring Gray and Ste-

phen Goss hosted the ceremony in the Jury Assembly Room at the Dougherty County Courthouse. Dougherty Bar President Ken Hodges presented the Liberty Bell Award to Beth McKenzie for her work with Open Arms, Inc. Open Arms, Inc. provides twenty-four hour shelter for abused and neglected children at The Bridge where the mission is to provide hope and healing to victims of child abuse. Beth McKenzie is the Executive Director of Open Arms, Inc. Ms. McKenzie started her affiliation with Open Arms, Inc. in 1993 as a volunteer Board Member and she was elected Chairman of the Board for 1995-1997. She became Executive Director in 1998 and worked her first year for free so that other staff could be paid and the children would receive everything they needed.

Jim Moore, President-elect of the Dougherty Bar was on hand at the Law Day awards ceremony to present cash prizes to the winners of the Law Day essay writing contest. Winners were accompanied by teachers and parents as they were rewarded for their outstanding essays. The ceremony was attended by approximately 200 people and was covered by local newspaper and television stations.

Law Day is not over yet. Currently, Members of the Dougherty Bar are working with Albany State University in an effort to host a post-Law Day event at the College. Chief Assistant District Attorney Greg Edwards has been invited to address the pre-law students attending Albany State University. He has prepared a power point presentation on the history of black lawyers in Georgia. The University is very enthusiastic about Greg's appearance and a date for the presentation will be during the University's summer session.

## Dougherty Bar Wins Law Day 2004 Award

The Dougherty Circuit Bar Association's Law Day 2004 program was selected as the winner of the State Bar's Law Day 2004 Award for our sized bar association. The award was presented at the State Bar's Annual meeting on Friday, June 19th in Orlando, Florida.



Dougherty Circuit Bar Law Day Chair, Jim Moore, holds Law Day Award, with Bo Strickland.



Law Day Chair, Jim Moore, previews Law Day activities at Spring Law Day Barbeque



Superior Judge Willie Lockette and Congressman Bishop



Dougherty Circuit Bar members greet Congressman Bishop at Spring Law Day Barbeque



John Vansant, U. S. Magistrate Judge Richard Hodge, and Congressman Sanford Bishop

Photos of the Bar Association Law Day Barbeque are courtesy of Jay Reid

## From the President

By Ken Hodges

As I approach my last meeting as president of the Dougherty Bar Association I want to thank a few people for all they have done to help with the duties. First I want to thank Kelley Boswell for her service as president before me and for steering us to the new schedule which I think everyone enjoys. To Jim Moore, who did an outstanding job with the Law Day celebrations and kept the tradition alive! We will be in great hands under his leadership. I can't imagine any president having a better more organized secretary than Kimberly Reid. I am thankful that she has taken on the responsibility and continues to serve in that role. Of course, my own secretary here at the DA's office, Ms. Libba Baldwin was, as she always is, a tremendous help to me during my time. I appreciate very much the very active Judge Gordon Zeese who serves as our bulletin editor and who serves on the Board of Governors for us at the State Bar. I also appreciate Greg Fullerton's service to us with the State Bar. Walter Kelly is last but not least as the de facto social chairman who can certainly plan a party!

Thank you all who have helped make this a great year for the Dougherty Bar. Please come to our next meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm at Merry Acres where Chief Justice Norman Fletcher will be our speaker. I want to encourage everyone to become active in the Bar. If you have any suggestions on what we can do for you, please let us know.

## Law Library News

By Judge Loring A. Gray, Jr.

We are pleased to welcome our new law Librarian, Laureen Adams, who comes to us from Athens, where she previously practiced law. She is currently working on her Masters of Library Science degree through FSU. Laureen has three children, a seven year old and four year old twins, and she has bought a house in the Lake Park area.

Laureen is looking for suggestions and recommendations from the local Bar as to the research resources that we should have for our on-line access. As some of you know, the Law Library has been refurbished from top to bottom, and is now equipped with state of the art computer terminals. Please drop by to introduce yourself, or call 431-2133 to give her your input.

## FOR RENT

**Upstairs Office suite at 2539 Lafayette Plaza (Walter Kelley's Building)  
3 rooms, utilities, parking , cleaning service**

**\$650 per month**

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