

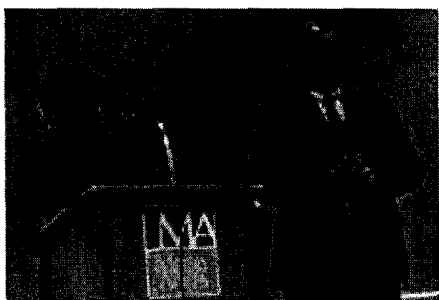
# Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

## Dougherty Bar Bulletin

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

Volume 22  
Issue 1  
November 2004

### City and County Executives Talk About Local Option Sales Tax Plans



Albany City Manager, Janice Allen Jackson, and Dougherty County Administrator, Richard Crowdis, spoke to the October meeting of the Dougherty Circuit Bar about plans to improve City and County infrastructure if a county-wide local option sales tax is approved by voters in the November 2nd General Election.

The one cent of additional sales taxes to be in force for six years is expected to raise some \$108 million for a variety of City and County improvements. Proposed projects include a new office for the EMS, relocating the Northwest Library, a fire/police training facility, airport improvements for air cargo handling, and improved public safety radio communications.

### State Bar News

Greg Fullerton has accepted leadership of the State Bar's Advisory Committee on Legislation. This committee receives recommendations from interested lawyers seeking the State Bar of Georgia's support for various bills to come before the General Assembly each year. The committee evaluates these requests and makes recommendations to the State Bar's Board of Governors, who decide whether the State Bar should support the various bills or not. These issues will come before the Board at its upcoming November 5th and January 15th meetings.

Gordon R. Zeese is chairing a subcommittee of the State Bar's Membership Services Committee, which is charged with seeking ideas to improve existing services of the State Bar to its members and to seek suggestions for new services for State Bar of Georgia's members. If you have suggestions for new or improved State Bar Services, please let him know so your ideas can be given consideration.

In addition to proposed legislation the November 5th Board of Governors will be voting on a proposal to amend the Bar's ethics rules to require lawyers to disclose to their clients if they have either no professional liability insurance or less

than a minimum of \$100,000.00/\$500,000.00 coverage. A proposal to designate several already existing Fulton County judgeships as a pilot project Business Court, where complex business litigation could be brought, and the creation by the Supreme Court of an Equal Justice Commission to coordinate equal access to justice for all Georgians are also on the agenda of the Board of Governors' November 5th meeting.

### Upcoming Events

**Christmas Party**, Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Shackelford House beginning at 7:00 p.m. Invitations will be coming in the mail.

**February meeting**, Wednesday February 25, 2005 at noon. Tentatively, the Trial Practice Seminar presentation by the Dougherty County District Attorney's office will be on the day of the Bar meeting. Our speaker for the meeting will be the Undersecretary of the Department of Defense, courtesy of Ken Hodges.

Our speaker for the April 27, 2005 meeting will be Rob Reinhardt, President of the State Bar Association.

**Election Day** - November 2, 2004. Don't forget to vote and give your staff time to exercise their franchise too.

## Lawyer Referral Study Committee

President Jim Moore announced the formation of a committee to study the creation of a general lawyer referral service for Dougherty County. While Dougherty County lawyers have long participated in more specialized lawyer referral programs run by the SOWEGA Council on Aging and the Georgia Legal Service Program, there has not been a program to give the public one place to go to be referred to a lawyer who may be able to help them with their legal problems. Such services have run successfully in Macon and Atlanta for several years, and it will be this committee's assignment to see if the experiences of these successful lawyer referral programs, can be applied locally, creating a win-win situation for both the public and local attorneys.

The initial membership of the committee includes: Joe Dent, Keith Pflapson, Mark Redden, and Gordon R. Zeese, with President Moore as ex-officio member. Anyone wishing to join in this committee's work is encouraged to contact President Jim Moore (888-3338).

## New Lawyers

Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers has two new attorneys with the firm, who recently received favorable bar results: Jim Oxford, a native of Summerville, who moved to Albany this summer with his wife, Carol; and Haze Sadler, who is an Albany native and lives here with his wife Holly and daughter Hallie Kate.

## Positions Vacancy Announcement at Dougherty County Public Defenders Office

The Dougherty County Public Defenders office is seeking applicants to fill some six available positions for Assistant Public Defender in Albany. Responsibilities include providing high quality, zealous defense services for indigent defendants, preparation of legal motions and memoranda of law, criminal trial practice in the Superior, State, and Juvenile Courts, appellate brief writing, and other duties as assigned.

Compensation ranges from \$38,124.00 to \$78,000.00 based on qualifications and experience. Those employed will be State employees of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, with eligibility for state employee fringe benefits.

Applicants must be members in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia or eligible for admission to the practice of law in Georgia. Previous experience as a criminal defense attorney is desirable as is proficiency in the Spanish language. Computer literacy and proficiency is essential.

Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three (3) references to:

Patricia A. Hunter  
Public Defender Office Administrator  
P. O. Box 549  
Albany, GA 31702.

## Dougherty Bar News

Dougherty Circuit Bar Association Secretary-Treasurer, Kimberly Reid, reports that as of September 30, 2004 most dues payments have been received and the Association's bank balance was \$17,979.09.

In an effort to minimize postage costs and to speed delivery of the "Dougherty Bar Bulletin" newsletter, the Bar Association is offering members the opportunity to receive the newsletter via email only. The emailed version includes color photos, and can be printed on your office black and white or color printer if you need a hard copy. If you prefer to receive a mailed copy of the newsletter as well (available only to dues paying members), please contact Kimberly A. Reid at: P. O. Box 71788  
Albany, GA 31708-1788.

Please notify Ms. Reid of any changes of address, phone numbers, or email accounts, and of the addition of any new members who become associated with your practice or who move into this area.

### Volunteer Opportunity

The Albany Recreation & Parks Department is looking for local attorneys to volunteer to help local adult volunteer youth baseball association to file for Not-for-Profit status 501(c)(3) under the Dept. of Treasury and with the State of Georgia. Interested individuals may contact Francesca Stalter, CYSA, Recreation General Supervisor, Athletics/Aquatics Albany (GA) Recreation and Parks at 229/430-5222 email: [fstalter@dougherty.ga.us](mailto:fstalter@dougherty.ga.us)