

Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

Dougherty Bar Bulletin

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Dougherty Lawyers Help Storm Victims

On Thursday, September 1, 2005, television broadcasts showed displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina pleading for food and other supplies, some saying they'd had no food for four days. Using hastily gathered donations, on Friday, September 2, 2005, lawyers of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association rented an 18 foot truck, and loaded it with cases of water, food, air mattresses, and personal necessities for delivery to hurricane evacuees.

The truck left Albany about 9:00 p.m. Friday night, arriving to the pitch black ghost town of Biloxi. Cell phone calls from the truck back to Albany brought instructions to head to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi to ask directions to hurricane shelters. Air Force personnel alerted the Biloxi Police Department, and police officers led the truck to a shelter that had received virtually nothing. Some ten to twelve Biloxi police officers showed up to unload the truck. The people, most of whom were sleeping on the floor, were so thankful that they actually had food. The officers wanted to know what group had provided the help, and the reply was, "lawyers from Albany, Georgia".

Disaster Aid Committee Formed

The Dougherty Circuit Bar has formed a special Disaster Aid Committee to facilitate assistance to displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina. The committee members include; Gail Pursel, Bill Underwood, Luanne Clarke, Gordon Zeese, and Lee Beauchamp

The committee is working with the American Red Cross to set up a series of free ask a lawyer clinics for evacuees. It is also considering obtaining donations of furniture, and other supplies. Other projects under consideration are raising money and/or volunteers to build a Habitat for Humanity home in the devastated areas, and sponsoring families in need of resettlement. The committee welcomes all other interested Dougherty Circuit Bar attorneys who want to work with the committee. Please call Gail Pursel at 883-2441.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 26th at Merry Acres, Senators Joseph Carter and Michael Meyer Von Bremen Christmas Party: Friday, December 9th Shackelford House 7:00 p.m.

ICLE OFFERS KATRINA RELIEF SEMINAR: LAWYERS LEARNING TO HELP THE DISPLACED.

Luanne Clarke of Moore, Clarke, DuVall, and Rogers has put together a seminar to give Georgia Lawyers information they will need to provide help to persons displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The ICLE seminar will be held on October 10, 2005 at the State Bar Headquarters Building in Atlanta. The seminar will be available later on video. We will try to arrange for it to be made available in Albany by video conference.

The seminar's topics include: Overview of Disaster Legal Services; Price Gouging, Public Benefits (Food Stamps, Etc) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Probate and Guardianship Issues, Health and Medicaid Issues, Medicare Issues, Unemployment Law Issues, Education Issues, Coordinating Workers' Compensation Benefits of Other States, Ethical Considerations, Homeowners' Claims and Scams, Landlord/Tenant Issues, (con't. on page 2)

ICLE SEMINAR

(con't.. From page 1)

Immigration Issues, Crisis Consumer Issues, Used Car Issues, Insurance Issues, Mental Health and Family Counseling, Family Law Issues, Consumer Scams, and Bankruptcy Issues.

The seminar offers 7.5 hours of CLE credit, including 1.0 ethics hour and 1.0 professionalism hour. The seminar fee has been reduced to \$60.00, which covers the CLE hours and a lunch. Register at ICLE's website, iclega.org, or call 1-800-422-0893.

Helpful Disaster Legal Information Web Sites

The following is a list of some online disaster legal information resources:

www.abanet.org/katrina/ -- The ABA provides information and resources for victims and lawyers affected by Hurricane Katrina.

www.lsba.org/home1/ -- Information from the Louisiana State Bar Association, including information on locating displaced lawyers.

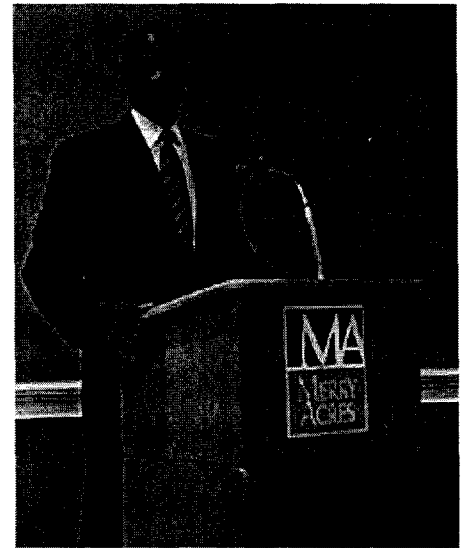
www.msbar.org/ -- Information from the Mississippi Bar, including information on locating displaced lawyers.

www.alabar.org/ -- Information from the Alabama State Bar.

www.katrinalegalaid.org/ -- This site seeks to coordinate the efforts of the many lawyers who have come to the fore to help in this crisis to address the needs of those who need help.

www.gabar.org -- the State Bar of Georgia's web site which has information about aiding hurricane victims and legal ethics answers about helping hurricane evacuees with legal problems in other states and sharing office space and facilities with displaced attorney's from other states.

www.legalaid-ga.org -- the Georgia Legal Services web site has general information on coping with the disaster.



Justice Harold Melton Speaks to Dougherty Bar

Harold Melton, Georgia's newest Supreme Court Justice spoke to the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association at its August 31st meeting at the Merry Acres restaurant. As he gets acquainted with his new position, Justice Melton offered his view that judges should respect and not intrude upon the responsibility of the General Assembly to legislate, and that he does not intend to be an "activist judge".

While in Albany, Justice Melton also swore in Heather Lanier, James Crowe (shown below), and Agis Bray as members of the bar of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

