



Don't miss the **59th GDLA Annual Meeting at Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast, FL, from June 18-21, 2026**. Earn CLE hours* and network with your friends and colleagues at various social events.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

See the agenda on the next page. We'll kick off Thursday evening with our traditional Welcome, Y'all Reception/ Dinner sponsored by GDLA Platinum Sponsor **BAY Mediation & Arbitration Services**.

President-Elect **Marty Levinson** of *Shires Peake & Gottlieb* in Alpharetta has planned a blockbuster educational program:

- Professionalism: A View from the Bench – **Judge Wesley B. Taylor**, *Fulton County State Court*
- Spoiler Alert: Emerging Issues in Spoliation Under Georgia Law – **Jennie E. Rogers** and **Jacob Davis**, *Hawkins Parnell & Young*, Atlanta
- The Death of Negligent Security? Georgia Premises Liability Law After SB 68 – **Elliott Ream** and **Alexandria Jackson**, *Shires Peake & Gottlieb*, Alpharetta
- Litigation on the Spectrum – **Joe Stephens**, *Cowsert Heath*, Athens; and **Jason Lewis**, *Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs*, Macon
- Collateral Damage: Limiting Damages with the Collateral Source Rule After SB 68 – **Leah Parker**, *Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers*, Atlanta, and **Tom Shaw**, *Alexander & Vann*, Thomasville
- Breaking Down the Impact: How Event Dynamics Influence Biomechanical Outcomes – **Niky Zaragoza-Rivera**, *GDLA Platinum Sponsor Rimkus*
- Things that Go Bump in the Night: Reconstructing Nighttime Pedestrian Crashes – **Amber Bishop**, *GDLA Platinum Sponsor Weed Reconstruction & Expert Consulting (WREC)*

Enjoy Friday and Saturday afternoons at our poolside hospitality cabanas thanks to GDLA Platinum Sponsors **ESi** and **Collision Specialists, Inc. (CSI)**. If you're interested in playing golf on Friday, email GDLA Young Lawyer Chair [Cody McCollum](#) for pricing/details; note this is not a GDLA sponsored event. We'll have a cornhole tournament on Saturday thanks to sponsors ESi and CSI – fun for all ages! Friday night is our President's Reception honoring **Ashley Rice** of *Waldon Adelman Castilla McNamara & Prout* in Atlanta for her year of leadership with thanks to GDLA Platinum Sponsor **Veritext**. On Saturday evening we'll bid farewell at the Closing Reception/Dinner sponsored by GDLA Platinum Sponsor **FORCON**.

REGISTRATION

Register online [here](#). The registration fee** is tiered as set forth below.

- Young Lawyers, age 36 or under – covers member + one spouse/guest:
 - \$595.00: early bird postmarked before May 18
 - \$695.00: postmarked May 19 or later
- All other GDLA members – covers member + one spouse/guest:
 - \$695.00: early bird postmarked before May 18
 - \$795.00: postmarked May 19 or later

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our negotiated room rates are below. The cut-off date for reservations is **Monday, May 18, 2026**, but we'll likely sell out before then. We reserve our block based on historical attendance. There is no guarantee that your preferred room type will be available when you book. Based on availability the room rates are good three days pre- and post-conference.

Book online [here](#) and use the code GADEF. **The total room rate + taxes/fees will be displayed**. For example, the \$269 room rate will show up as \$342 per night. If you want to see the per night/fees breakdown, click on "Georgia Defense Lawyers 2026" (in gray above the green verbiage "special code applied"). You can also call to reserve at 866.841.0287.

Room Rate Per Night (does not include taxes/fees – see note in red above). Explore the room types [here](#).

- Main Tower One-Bedroom Oceanview Premium: \$269.00 ++
- Main Tower Three-Bedroom Oceanview Suite: \$399.00 ++
- Ocean Tower Three-Bedroom Resort View Suite: \$499.00 ++
- Ocean Tower Three-Bedroom Oceanview Suite: \$499.00 ++

Cancellations/Deposit:

If you book a room and your plans change, let me know before cancelling with the resort as we will have a waiting list.

All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit. Remaining balance is due at time of check-in. A major credit card may be used to secure the charge for the deposit. Individual cancellations made between seven and two days of arrival will be charged one night deposit. Individual cancellations made within 48 hours of arrival will be charged for the entire length of the reservation.

*Earn 6.0 CLE Hours, 1.0 Ethics, 1.0 Professionalism, and 6.0 Trial Hours.

**The registration fee includes Thursday's Welcome, Y'all Reception/Dinner; Friday's President's Reception; and Saturday's Closing Reception/ Dinner for two (GDLA member and one spouse/guest). It also includes CLE credits and breakfast both days for the GDLA member.

REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY: A full refund of the registration fee will be given for cancellation requests received in writing by June 10. NO REFUNDS after June 11. See the hotel's cancellation policy above.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. **Welcome, Y'all! Opening Reception/Buffer**
Sponsor: BAY Mediation & Arbitration Services



**Georgia Defense
Lawyers Association**
Advancing the Civil Defense Bar

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

7:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast** – *GDLA Members, Invited Guests & Sponsors Only*
Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **Call to Order** – Ashley Rice, President
Announcements and Sponsors Introduction – Jennifer Davis Ward, Executive Director
Introduction of Program – Marty Levinson, President-Elect & Program Chair

8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CLE PROGRAMMING

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **The Death of Negligent Security? Georgia Premises Liability Law After SB 68**
Elliott Ream and Alexandria Jackson, Shires Peake & Gottlieb, Alpharetta

9:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Breaking Down the Impact: How Event Dynamics Influence Biomechanical Outcomes**
Niky Zaragoza-Rivera, GDLA Platinum Sponsor Rimkus

10:00 - 10:45 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Break**
Visit and Support GDLA's Platinum and Gold Sponsors

10:45 - 11:15 a.m. **Things that Go Bump in the Night: Reconstructing Nighttime Pedestrian Crashes**
Amber Bishop, GDLA Platinum Sponsor Weed Reconstruction & Expert Consulting (WREC)

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Collateral Damage: Limiting Damages with the Collateral Source Rule After SB 68 Rule**
Leah Fox Parker, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers, Atlanta, and
Tom Shaw, Alexander & Vann, Thomasville

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Hospitality Cabanas Open**
Sponsors: Collision Specialists, Inc. and ESi

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **President's Reception**
Sponsor: Veritext

7:30 p.m. **Dinner on Your Own**

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

7:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast** – *GDLA Members, Invited Guests & Sponsors Only*
Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **GDLA Members' Annual Business Meeting**

8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CLE PROGRAMMING

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Spoiler Alert: Emerging Issues in Spoliation Under Georgia Law**
Jennie E. Rogers and Jacob Davis, Hawkins Parnell & Young, Atlanta

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. **Litigation on the Spectrum**
Joe Stephens, Cowser Heath, Athens; and
Jason Lewis, Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs, Macon

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Break & Prize Drawing! MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**
Visit & Support GDLA's Platinum and Gold Sponsors

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Professionalism: A View from the Bench**
Honorable Wesley B. Taylor, Judge, Fulton County State Court

1:00 - 4:30 p.m. **Hospitality Cabanas Open**
Sponsors: Collision Specialists, Inc. and ESi

2:00 p.m. **Cornhole Tournament**
Sponsors: Collision Specialists, Inc. and ESi

6:00 - 10:00 p.m. **Closing Reception and Dinner**
Sponsor: FORCON Intl.

Thank You, GDLA Sponsors!

Show your appreciation to all the GDLA sponsors by visiting their exhibit booths to learn how they can help you and your clients. We owe special thanks to those Platinum Sponsors underwriting a portion of Annual Meeting events as noted on the agenda.