

**GEORGIA DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
FALL BOARD MEETING**

Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina

October 16, 2010

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. on Saturday, October 16, 2010, at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina. Members present were Sally Akins, Craig Avery, Immediate Past President Staten Bitting, Past President Joe Chambless, Evelyn Fletcher Davis, Past President Salty Forbes, Vice President Ted Freeman, Rusty Gunn, Executive Vice President Mel Haas, President Bubba Hughes, Past President Steve Kyle, Vice President Kirby Mason, Past President Walter McClelland, Hall McKinley, Vice President Matt Moffett, Dave Nelson, Secretary-Treasurer Lynn Roberson, Past President Bob Travis, Jeff Ward, Past President Bruce Welch, and Jamie Weston, with Executive Director Jennifer Davis.

President Hughes called the meeting to order. A Motion was made and duly seconded to approve the June 2010 Board Meeting minutes, and passed unanimously. The membership report indicated the association currently has 569 members. The following individuals were proposed for membership, and unanimously accepted:

Anderson, Scott Eric	James Bates Pope & Spivey
Becknell, Leslie P.	Drew, Eckl & Farnham
Boone, Mary Beth	Hall Booth Smith & Slover
Brauns, David	Fain Major & Brennan
Brock, L. Kristin	Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young
Darneille, Jason Digges	Crim & Bassler, LLP
Horne, Christi Henson	Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs, LLP
Jones, Glenn E.	Hall Booth Smith & Slover
Nguyen, Phi	Bendin Sumrall & Ladner, LLC
Priest-Goodsett, Noah W.	Taylor, Odachowski, Schmidt & Crossland, LLC
Sayegh, Michael David	Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers, LLP

A list of delinquent members was provided and Board members were encouraged to contact those whom they knew and encourage them to renew their membership.

It was reported that the Education Committee will be led by Chair Wayne Melnick; he is working on the first seminar and plans three or four for the year. Jennifer Davis reported that the Deposition Boot Camp, chaired by Jason Willcox, is set for November 11-12, 2010, at the Sutherland firm's courtroom. All Board members were encouraged to send young lawyers to the boot camp.

Chair Lynn Roberson reported that the Trial Academy is set for January 20-22, 2011, at Callaway Gardens. Faculty includes chair Lynn Roberson, vice chair Matt Moffett, Sally Akins,

Jerry Buchanan, Bill Casey, Rusty Gunn, Billy Harrison, Sandy Owens, and Dick Willis. Al Parnell has also agreed to address the students over a luncheon concerning developing their careers. The Trial Academy now plans to have a vice chair serve with the chair for a two-year term, followed by two years as chair. In this manner, it is anticipated that the Trial Academy will maintain its consistently excellent educational value and expose more students to a diverse and experienced faculty.

It was reported that some of the Substantive Law Committees lack chairs or vice chairs so Board members were encouraged to make any recommendations for appointment to these positions to Johnny Foster or the current president. Johnny Foster has job descriptions for each of the positions.

Dave Nelson reported on the work of the Web Site committee. They need to continue to update the content, specifically the Tort Reform Database and Brief Bank; they plan to work with the SLCs to accomplish this. One of our sponsors, Courtroom Visuals, scanned our past newsletters for free so they could be posted on the web site. You can also now search for a defense attorney by firm under Find a Defense Lawyer.

Bob Travis reported on the activities of the Judicial Relations Committee, which has been extremely busy reviewing applicants for various judgeships throughout Georgia for appointment by the Governor. The responses received from the membership regarding the candidates have been very meaningful. The Committee also reviewed the history of appointments by the Governor since June of 2010 and found that the appointments have by and large had a majority of positive responses by GDLA members.

Steve Kyle gave a report on future meetings. After many years of devoted service, Steve Kyle will be stepping down as meetings coordinator next year. Immediate Past President Staten Bitting will take over from Kyle at that time after being trained by Kyle. The Winter 2011 Board Meeting and Judicial Reception will be held February 3-4, 2011, in Atlanta – provided it does not conflict with the Lawyers Club judicial reception. The Spring Board Meeting will be held April 1-3 at the King & Prince Hotel on St. Simon's Island. The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held June 9-12, 2011, at Amelia Island Plantation in Florida. The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held June 7-9, 2012, at Ponte Vedra.

Mel Haas has put together a great program for CLE for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Speakers include Tim Williams of Winn-Dixie; Robin Hensley on marketing; Superior Court Judge Edgar W. Ennis, Jr. of Macon; George Israel, former president of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce; an experienced attorney updating us on employment law; and three sponsor speakers.

Sally Akins is seeking articles for the 2011 Law Journal as she is acting as editor this year.

Peter Muller will continue as chair of the newsletter committee. The deadline for the fall issue is October 27, 2010.

Jennifer Davis reported on sponsorships as this committee still has an opening for chair. Collision Specialists has agreed to be a new Platinum sponsor. Courtroom Visuals is considering

bumping up their sponsorship to the Platinum level and would provide animation for the Trial Academy. Sponsorships have provided GDLA will a significant increase in income, and the sponsors have all expressed great satisfaction with the return on their investment in sponsorships.

Evelyn Fletcher Davis provided the DRI report. She has planned a regional dinner for Wednesday during the DRI Annual Meeting in San Diego; the Southeastern Regional Meeting will be held on Friday from 1:15-2:00 p.m. The DRI Women's Committee's seminar is being held in Miami Beach, February 3-4, 2011. Kirby Mason has agreed to serve as the GDLA liaison to the DRI Women's Committee. The 2011 DRI Annual Meeting will be held October 26-30 in Washington, D.C. The 2011 DRI joint Southern/Southeastern Regional Meeting will take place April 28-31, 2011 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Jeff Ward will be serving as chair of the Amicus Committee with Rusty Gunn as vice-chair, so the committee is in good hands. The committee reported on their involvement in various amicus matters in the past year.

Lynn Roberson and Jennifer Davis reported on the financial health of the organization, which is good.

Bubba Hughes gave the President's report and advised that all appears to be in good order.

Various membership dues levels will be put on the dues notices in the future to clarify other categories already in place – *i.e.*, senior members age 65 and over who have been active with GDLA for 10 years will pay the young lawyers' rate and past presidents age 65 and over are exempt. The travel policy for DRI was clarified: For the DRI Annual Meeting, reasonable expenses for the President, Executive Vice President, DRI State Representative and Executive Director will be reimbursed (does not include reimbursements for spouse/guest).

A motion was made, duly seconded and passed unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to sign GDLA checks on the bank account up to \$2,500, provided those checks are not payable to the Executive Director. A motion was also made, duly seconded and passed unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to be on the American Express account.

The Executive Director was then excused and discussions were held regarding compensation for the Executive Director. After approval of same, the Executive Director was advised of her compensation beginning November 1, 2010, and thanked sincerely for her excellent job for the organization.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.