

**GEORGIA DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
SPRING BOARD MEETING**

**April 2, 2011  
King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort  
St. Simon's Island, Georgia**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 9:05 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort, St. Simon's Island, Georgia.

Those present were **Officers:** President Edward M. "Bubba" Hughes; Executive Vice President W. Melvin Haas, III; Immediate Past President N. Staten Bitting, Jr.; **Vice Presidents:** Ted Freeman; Kirby Gould Mason; Peter D. Muller; **Board of Directors:** At Large - C. Jason Willcox; Middle - Craig C. Avery; Northern - Hall F. McKinley, III; Southern - Sarah B. Akins; Southern - Jeffrey S. Ward; **Past Presidents:** Morton G. "Salty" Forbes; John A. "Johnny" Foster; Warner S. Fox; Walter B. McClelland; **Other:** Insurance SLC Chair Brian Moore; and Executive Director Jennifer M. Davis.

President Hughes called the meeting to order. A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the February 2011 Winter Board Meeting minutes; it passed unanimously.

The membership report indicated the association currently has 593 members.

The following individuals were proposed for membership, and unanimously accepted:

	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Firm</b>	<b>Years Practicing</b>
1.	Brooks, Stephen M.	Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP	18
2.	Campbell, Joshua Joseph	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	3
3.	Dimitri, Lauren King	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	4
4.	Ivey, Jr., Paul D.	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	12
5.	Jackson, Nola	Cruser & Mitchell, LLP	12
6.	Leet, Nicole Christine	Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske, LLC	3
7.	Maholick, Mark D.	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	4
8.	Smith, Edgar Murray	Hunter Maclean Exley &Dunn, P.C.	5
9.	Sharp, Joseph Chandler	Ashe, Rafuse & Hill LLP	18

In the absence of Education Committee Chair Wayne S. Melnick, the Board reviewed the upcoming CLE calendar: Premises Liability 360°: Dissecting a Real Life Trial from Complaint to Verdict, Wednesday, April 27, 2011, from 8:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Maggiano's Buckhead (5 CLE hours, including 1 professionalism and 5 trial); and Skits & Suds: Ethics & Professionalism Uncorked, May 12, 2011, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Gordon Biersch Midtown (2 CLE hours, including 1 ethics and 1 professionalism). The Board also reviewed the financial report from the recent webinar on Medicare Secondary Payer, held March 16, 2011 (1 CLE hour).

Jason Willcox, chair of Deposition Boot Camp, reviewed plans to revamp the upcoming 2012 program by changing the fact pattern to be the same one used during Trial Academy – which would offer continuity between programs – and expanding the focus beyond just depositions to include pre-trial discovery, written discovery, etc. The Board reviewed the contract executed with the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association licensing the program they developed for use by the GDLA with an attendant charge of \$1,000 per use plus \$25 per attendee. The Board discussed whether a complete overhaul of the ADLA version of the program would release us from the contract and, subsequently, any monetary requirements in the future. Staten Bitting offered to discuss the issue with the ADLA Executive Director Ed Livingston.

The Board discussed a petition from the Defense Research Institute's Young Lawyers Division to publicize a happy hour for Atlanta area DRI YL members via the GDLA blast e-mail system. The e-mail blast policy prohibits publicizing any non-GDLA events, and the Board voted not to allow an exception for this event.

Since Jo Jagor was not present to discuss mentoring for young lawyer members, the item was tabled.

Substantive Law Committee (SLC) Chair Johnny Foster introduced Brian Moore, who has served as the Insurance SLC chair since the program's inception. Brian discussed the pitfalls and opportunities he has experienced in leading an SLC; he noted it is very often a solitary effort by the chair and vice-chair and suggested we look for ways to encourage each committee member's involvement.

Judicial Relations Committee Chair Bob Travis reviewed the various judgeships for which the GDLA had recently been asked for input by the Governor's Judicial Nominating Commission.

Meetings Chair-elect Staten Bitting reviewed the upcoming meetings schedule:

- 2011 Annual Meeting – June 9-12, 2011, Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island, FL
- 2011 Fall Meeting – October 21-23, 2011, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC
- 2012 Fall Meeting – October 19-22, 2012, Brasstown Valley, Young Harris, GA
- 2012 Annual Meeting – June 7-10, 2012, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Staten also presented the possibility of the GDLA teaming up with our counterpart SLDOs in Texas and Alabama for a Ski CLE, February 1-5, 2012, in Crested Butte, Colorado. The Board discussed it, and voted to offer it as a GDLA program; Staten would follow-up with the ADLA Executive Director Ed Livingston regarding details for publicity.

*Law Journal* Editor Sally Akins reviewed articles she has slated for the 2011 edition, which will be published in late May.

Newsletter Editor Peter Muller announced the deadline for the summer edition is June 15.

On behalf of Sponsorships chair Ted Freeman, Jennifer Davis reported that we will welcome two new sponsors beginning at the Annual Meeting through year end – CED Investigative Technologies at Platinum and Southern Medical-Legal Consulting at Gold. The Board reviewed a comparison of sponsorship revenue from 2009, 2010 and 2011, showing we have almost doubled our revenue in two years. Jennifer expressed that some sponsors do not feel they are receiving a return on their investment. She strongly encouraged Board members to use our sponsors and to advise the company that they chose them because of their sponsorship, and to advise her as well when they employ a sponsor. The Board was provided a listing of the sponsors by level, including their contact info and a blurb about their services.

On behalf of Trial Academy Chair Lynn Roberson, Jennifer Davis provided a report on the 2010 event. Because of an extremely low turnout this year, we lost over \$4,000. Jennifer was able to convince Callaway Gardens to forgive our attrition charges for unused contracted hotel rooms. The Board discussed whether this was an anomaly or whether a decrease in trials, plus slowed hiring and layoffs of younger attorneys, could be a trend. The Board suggested a couple options for Lynn and Chair-elect Matt Moffett to consider for 2011: 1) not paying for the faculty rooms and/or food and beverage while on-site; 2) not paying for the faculty's CLE (but they could opt to pay for it); 3) reducing the number of faculty; 4) reducing the room block; 5) having Trial Academy in alternating years. Jennifer will discuss the options with Lynn and Matt, as they were not present at the meeting.

Bubba Hughes provided the DRI report on behalf of DRI State Rep Lynn Roberson. Bubba will act as Georgia's marketing contact for the DRI Annual Meeting, which is set for October 26-30, 2011, at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C.

Jeff Ward and Rusty Gunn, Amicus Committee co-chairs advised there were no requests for Amicus briefs this quarter.

Jennifer Davis presented the financial report on behalf of Treasurer Lynn Roberson.

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

Jennifer Davis presented the draft 2011-2012 Dues Invoice. It added two new categories: \$125 for members 65 and older with 10 years of GDLA membership and comp for Past Presidents 65 and older. She also presented a revision for the dues structure as listed on the website to better clarify how much is owed as the year cycles. This is to prevent the GDLA having to issue so many refund checks for dues overpayment. The Board approved the Dues Invoice and the revised dues structure language.