

**GEORGIA DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
WINTER BOARD MEETING**

February 4, 2011

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. on Friday, February 4, 2011, at the the offices of Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young in Atlanta.. Members present were Sally Akins, Craig Avery (by telephone), Past President Joe Chambless, , Past President Salty Forbes, Past President Johnny Foster, Vice President Ted Freeman, Rusty Gunn, Executive Vice President Mel Haas, President Bubba Hughes, Jo Jagor, Past President Steve Kyle, Hall McKinley, Vice President Matt Moffett, Vice President Peter Muller, Chris Parker, Secretary-Treasurer Lynn Roberson, Past President Grant Smith, Past President Bob Travis, Jeff Ward, Past President Bruce Welch, , and C. Jason Willcox (by telephone), with Executive Director Jennifer Davis.

President Hughes called the meeting to order. A Motion was made and duly seconded to approve the October, 2010 Fall Board Meeting minutes, and passed unanimously. The membership report indicated the association currently has 577 members. Of those who attended the Trial Academy in 2010 and received free membership for one year, 50% have renewed their membership. A list of those members who were deactivated in November after non-payment of their 2010-11 dues was provided to the Board. Board members were encouraged to contact those whom they knew and encourage them to renew their membership.

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

Barrett, Matthew A.	Fields Howell
Bennion, Peter	James Bates Pope & Spivey
Brown, Matthew C.	Crim & Bassler, LLP
Buchanan, William Alan	Buchanan & Land, LLP
Colletti, Patricia	James Bates Pope & Spivey
Dial, Jackson Anthony	Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young, LLP
Estes, Brent Michael	Dennis Corry Porter & Smith, LLP
Filiberto, Crystal Deanna	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, PC
Fuller, Robert Glenn	Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs LLP
Foreman, Christopher Lucas	Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers, PC

Hogg, Dorothy Holley	Fulcher Hagler LLP
Jun, Juhee	Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young, LLP
Leonardo, Lori	Buchanan & Land, LLP
Levinson, Martin A.	Hawkins, Parnell, Thackston & Young
Manley, Megan Usher	Ellis Painter Raterree & Adams
McAfee, Edward T.	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
Mull, Eric Rosson	Drew Eckl & Farnham
Ozburn, Samuel David	Martin Snow, LLP
Palesch, Amy	Ashe Rafuse & Hill, LLP
Payne, Brooke	Carlock Copeland & Stair
Shelton, Amanda	Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
Stephens, Joseph David	Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs LLP
Wetzler, Ernest	Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young, LLP
York, Arthur	Hicks Casey & Foster, P.C.

As a follow-up to his report at the Spring Board Meeting in April 2009 regarding dues levels for neighboring states, Membership Committee chair Chris Parker proposed revising GDLA's dues structure. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Membership Committee's proposal to waive the initiation fee for those in practice 5 years or less was passed effective in the next dues cycle. It was felt that this waiver would assist with recruiting younger members.

The Education Committee, led by chair Wayne Melnick, is planning a Premises Liability seminar at Maggiano's Buckhead on April 27, 2011. Committee vice-chair Brett Miller is working to revive the Skits & Suds program in May. A Medicare Secondary Payer webinar is being planned by committee member Matt Stoddard for mid-March.

Jason Willcox, who chaired the 2010 Deposition Boot Camp, reported on a very successful event, held in November at Sutherland. Next year, the group expects to use the same problem as that used by the Trial Academy, since it is less factually complex which would allow the students to focus more on technique. The goal is also to dovetail better with Trial Academy by allowing students to become intimately familiar with the facts, much like they would if it were a real case to which they had been assigned to work.

Jo Jagor suggested that the Board consider developing a formal mentoring program for young lawyers.

Lynn Roberson reported that the Trial Academy held January 19-21, 2011 at Callaway Gardens was successful, although far fewer students registered this year than last year. The faculty, which included chair Lynn Roberson, vice-chair Matt Moffett, Jerry Buchanan, Doug Burrell, Bill Casey, Rusty Gunn, Billy Harrison, Beth McLeod, Sandy Owens, and Dick Willis. Al Parnell also addressed the students over a luncheon concerning professionalism, ethics and developing their careers. Next year's Trial Academy will be chaired by Matt Moffett, who will find a vice-chair to assist..

Substantive Law Committee chair Johnny Foster reported that all SLCs now had chairs and vice-chairs, many of which were new. He has sent them all details regarding their duties, which include submitting case law updates for the newsletter, etc.

In reporting for the Website Committee chair Dave Nelson, Jennifer Davis suggested that the SLCs should be recruited to update the content in the brief bank and tort reform database as it relates to their respective areas. Enhancing this content would, in turn, be a great marketing tool to recruit new members by showing real value in being a GDLA member.

Bob Travis reported on the activities of the Judicial Relations Committee, which has been invited by the state's Judicial Nominating Commission in the past to review and comment (by in-person testimony) on applicants for various judgeships throughout Georgia, for recommendation to the Governor for appointment. Travis is seeking to have the same opportunity for input with Governor Deal's current commission, and is in touch with its new leadership, Pete Robinson and Randy Evans.

Steve Kyle gave a report on future meetings. He has been training his successor, Immediate Past President Staten Bitting, who will take over from Kyle after the next Annual Meeting. 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 at Amelia Island Plantation in Florida. The 2011 Fall Board meeting will be held October 21-23 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina. The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held June 7-9 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. The 2012 Fall Board meeting will be held October 19-22 at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia.

Sally Akins is seeking additional articles for the 2011 *Law Journal* as she is acting as editor this year. She already has two articles and promises for four to five more. The deadline for submission of articles is March 15, 2011.

Peter Muller continues as editor of the newsletter and has produced several outstanding high quality newsletters. He has received good articles from sponsors and members, but could use legal updates from either the SLCs or members interested in contributing case law updates. The deadline for the spring issue is February 15, 2011.

Sponsorships chair Ted Freeman reported that the committee has seen a significant increase in sponsorships this year, thanks in large measure to the efforts of our executive director. Our sponsors continue to express great satisfaction with the return on their

investment in sponsorships. Board members were urged to show appreciation to our sponsors by utilizing their services when possible, and to let the sponsors know that they are using their services because of their support of the organization. Jennifer Davis noted that we had three brand new sponsors, who joined at the (highest/first tier) Platinum level: Courtroom Sciences Inc., Collision Specialists Inc. and Miles Mediation & Arbitration. Additionally, formerly (second tier) Gold sponsors CaseMetrix and Courtroom Visuals both upgraded to Platinum. And Tiffany Alley joined us as a new (third tier) Silver sponsor.

Lynn Roberson provided the DRI report. She sought volunteers to act as marketing person for the DRI Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. Bubba Hughes is considering the role and will be in touch with Lynn about details.

Jeff Ward reported on activities of the Amicus Committee. The committee's most recent effort in the Court of Appeals was successful in getting the trial court overturned. They had planned to submit an amicus to the Supreme Court on that same case, but the matter was settled. Amy Snell of Fulcher Hagler did a great job on the amicus brief in that matter. The most recent newsletter, Winter 2011, included an article about the amicus briefs submitted in the last year.

Lynn Roberson and Jennifer Davis presented the 2009 year-end balance sheet and profit and loss statement. The financial health of the organization is good.

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

The resolution below authorizing Staten Bitting, as new Meetings Chair, to execute documents for the Association with related indemnity was unanimously approved:

Whereas, N. Staten Bitting, Jr. has been designated by the Board of Directors of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association ("the Association") to serve as the Association's Meetings Chair, he is hereby authorized to negotiate on behalf of the Association for venue arrangements in connection with Association meetings, seminars, and other events, and to execute contracts on behalf of the association in relation thereto. The Association agrees to hold N. Staten Bitting, Jr. harmless for any claims against him as a result of any such negotiations or contracts and to indemnify him in all matters associated therewith. Resolved by the Association's Board of Directors this 4th day of February, 2011.

The Board recognized in Memoriam Past President Greg Melton, who died far too early last month.

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

GDLA Membership Applications – Spring 2011

	Member Name	Firm	Date of Application	Years Practicing	Payment
1.	Brooks, Stephen M.	Nelson Mullens Riley & Scarborough, LLP	03/22/11	18	\$300
2.	Campbell, Joshua Joseph	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	02/28/11	3	\$225
3.	Dimitri, Lauren King	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	02/07/11	4	\$225
4.	Ivey, Jr., Paul D.	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	02/06/11	12	\$300
5.	Jackson, Nola	Cruser & Mitchell, LLP	02/01/11	12	\$300
6.	Leet, Nicole Christine	Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske, LLC	02/07/11	3	\$225
7.	Maholick, Mark D.	Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C.	02/07/11	4	\$225
8.	Smith, Edgar Murray	Hunter Maclean Exley &Dunn, P.C.	1/25/11	5	\$225
9.	Sharp, Joseph Chandler	Ashe, Rafuse& Hill LLP	1/21/11	18	\$300