

GDLA 2010 SPRING BOARD MEETING
Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams LLP
April 21, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Officers: President, N. Staten Bitting, Jr.; Executive Vice President, Edward M. Hughes;
Secretary-Treasurer, W. Melvin Haas, III

Vice Presidents: Theodore Freeman, Kirby G. Mason, Peter D. Muller, Lynn M. Roberson,

Board of Directors: Hall F. McKinley, III, Matthew G. Moffett, Christopher E. Parker, James
S.V. Weston, Jeffrey S. Ward, Sarah B. “Sally” Akins

State At Large: Evelyn Fletcher Davis, Jo A. Jagor, C. Jason Willcox

Past Presidents: George Duncan, Salty Forbes, Paul Painter

1. Meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. We modified our schedule to have our accountant, Donald L. James, Jr. of Daniel & Duncan LLC make a brief presentation. Don discussed the fact that the IRS is policing nonprofit organizations to a greater degree. He also noted our shift to QuickBooks to track our finances made preparing our taxes a much smoother process.

2. We approved, with amendments, the minutes from February meeting and corrected the expiration number of terms for Middle District Board members Dave Nelson, Craig Avery and Rusty Gunn to 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

3. Warner Fox reported on new members. The new member applications were presented and all were approved with the exception of William J. Spradley of Jackstonville as Warner was unable to confirm he is solely a defense lawyer; his application will be considered again in June.

4. Chris Parker discussed a comparison of our dues with other defense lawyers associations – Alabama is \$175, Florida is \$125, South Carolina has a tiered membership, Tennessee is \$190, and we are \$200. It was also discussed that South Carolina has a progressive break in costs by encouraging more members of the firm to join at a reduced rate. They have seven levels of memberships based on the number of members from the firm. Chris will make recommendations for modifying our dues schedule in the fall.

5. Educational Committee chair Matt Moffett reminded everyone the FORCON sponsored CLE, “Advances in Auto Accident Reconstruction” is set for Maggiano’s Buckhead on May 5 from 8:30 am – 1:30 p.m. Matt also discussed potential webinar speakers and topics. Jennifer Davis has investigated webinar companies, and we will use the same one FDLA and the ABA use. We will ask FORCON if they will condense their upcoming CLE to be our inaugural one-hour webinar; Matt expects to have the first webinar in the summer.

6. Young lawyers – a cocktail party is scheduled for May 13 at TAP Gastro Pub in midtown Atlanta. Deposition Boot Camp 2011 was discussed by Jason Wilcox and the Board discussed the timing and scheduling of the program. Staten requested that the registration fee be set by the Board versus the Chairman and perhaps charge less than last year to attract more attendees. Staten discussed the establishment of a Younger Lawyers Division, and suggested the Board consider a committee approach first versus amending our bylaws to set up a formal division with YL officers, etc. The goal is for the YL Committee to attract participation and develop future leaders for the association. Salty suggested that one of the Board’s Vice Presidents be designated as a liaison with the YL Committee to help in the mentoring process.

7. Trial Academy: Lynn Roberson discussed the Trial Academy. We had 42 attendees and 10 faculty members in 2009. It is scheduled for January 19-21, 2011, and she already putting together the faculty, hoping many from 2009 will reprise their roles. Lynn proposes a vice-chair concept, so she has a successor in place, and will consider various individuals. She suggests that the price be slightly increased from last year. The event made about \$5,000. The Trial Academy does encourage repeat attendees.

8. Substantive Law Committees: In Johnny Foster's absence, Staten reported that the substantive law committees have made a significant contribution to the *Law Journal* this year.

9. Kirby Mason discussed the good reaction and responses that we have had to the new website. We have severed our relationship with our prior provider.

10. Judicial Relations Committee: It was discussed that our Savannah judicial reception the evening before had a good location and turn out. The Board discussed future locations and a particular time of year. We analyzed the purpose of the reception. The motion was made for the next judicial reception to be in Augusta, after the Masters in April in conjunction with a Board meeting. This motion was passed and Jamie Weston will be in charge of coordinating. With regard to GDLA input on judgeships as part of the Governor's Judicial Nominating Commission process, GDLA is putting into place a vetting system with members in various parts of the state assigned to garner feedback in their respective areas. We will seek other individuals and these names will be given to chair Bob Travis, who will be assisted by Walter McClelland and Sally Akins. We will develop a plan to ensure that the entire state is covered.

11. We discussed future meetings. The Annual Meeting is June 10 – 13, 2010 at Ponte Vedra. Both the 2010 and 2011 Fall Meetings are set for the Grove Park Inn in Asheville on October 15-17 and October 21-23, respectively. The Board discussed that the Winter 2011 Meeting will be in Atlanta and then the Spring Meeting would be elsewhere. We are considering holding the annual Atlanta judicial reception to be held every third week in February.

A motion to reconsider holding the Spring Meeting in Augusta Spring passed; Bubba Hughes will work with Steve Kyle on a venue. The Board discussed sites for the 2011 meeting with suggestions of Amelia, Ponte Vedra, Ritz Carlton Kiawah, the Westin Hilton Head, and Naples. The Board voted to defer exotic trips based on the economy and seek more family-friendly venues accessible by car preferably. A decision on 2011-2012 will be made by the Annual Meeting.

12. The *Law Journal* report was made by Ted Freeman. All 11 articles have been received; there will be a new format and a cover letter from Ted. We are researching through Westlaw whether this could be a revenue source as FDLA has done. A motion was passed to acquire the rights of any income from the *Law Journal*.

13. Peter Muller covered the newsletter. The deadline is October 15 for the fall issue. Our Platinum sponsors are allowed an article in one issue per the agreement. These articles will be informational, not advertising, and we would keep the intellectual property rights. The summer newsletter will be out in a few of weeks. Salty Forbes noted Johnny Foster has all of the newsletters since 1992, and offered his firm to scan them all to pdfs.

14. Sally Akins discussed sponsorships and the fact that Jennifer has done a great job increasing the sponsorships to \$46,600 from \$31,550 last year.

15. The DRI meeting report was given by Lynn Roberson and Evelyn Fletcher Davis. The DRI Annual Meeting is on October 20-23 in San Diego, and the Women in the Law DRI committee meeting is February 3-4 in Miami.

16. Amicus Committee Chair Jamie Weston reported on seeking briefs on the issue of “offset for medical payments for unpaid lien.” Staten and Jamie both expressed concern that it is challenging to find volunteers to draft amicus briefs when they are requested. This is especially troublesome given the short timeframe we have in which to file, since we do not want to lose the opportunity to have our voice heard by the court. Evelyn Davis arranged for an associate to draft a brief on *State Farm v. Adams*.

17. Long Range planning committee – Bubba will consider establishing that next year.

18. Mel Haas covered the Treasurer’s report, including a profit and loss statement, a copy of which is attached, and answered questions.

19. Staten gave the President’s report and discussed the presentation of the Dick Richardson Scholarship Award at the University of Georgia scholarship in Athens (at which he was present). Also, Salty Forbes made a motion, which passed, adding an area to the dues notice allowing for voluntary contributions to the scholarship fund.

20. There was no old business.

21. It was decided that the group did not want to provide swag pins with the GDLA logo on it to the Annual Meeting of the Association of Court Reporters. It was also noted that there would be no use of blast emails except for our stated purposes. It was also suggested and noted that

applications are subject to Board approval. It was approved for Jennifer to set up the ability to accept payment online with credit cards with PayPal for dues and CLE/meeting registrations. A motion was passed to make the payments online and to increase the credit card charges to cover the fee for online payments if that is in line with credit card rules.

2:12 PM
04/22/10
Cash Basis

Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
Profit & Loss
January through March 2010

	<u>Jan - Mar 10</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Fee Received	
Application Fees	1,600.00
Trial Academy	3,636.57
Total Fee Received	<u>5,236.57</u>
Membership Dues	3,975.00
Sponsorship Program	<u>33,500.00</u>
Total Income	42,711.57
Expense	
Academy/Seminars	
CLE Seminars	135.00
Trial Academy	582.22
Total Academy/Seminars	<u>717.22</u>
Dues Reimbursement	1,100.00
Insurance	3,093.55
Meetings	
Board Meeting	447.81
DRI National Meeting	216.13
Judicial Reception	8,333.95
Total Meetings	<u>8,997.89</u>
Membership Recruitment	60.55
Newsletter	4,998.28
Office Expense	566.86
Professional Services	11,000.00
Sponsor Program expenses	30.04
Void	0.00
Website	8,700.00
Total Expense	<u>39,264.39</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>3,447.18</u>
Net Income	<u><u>3,447.18</u></u>