

**GDLA 2010 WINTER BOARD MEETING**  
**Hawkins & Parnell**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**  
**February 5, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

1. Staten Bitting called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. In attendance were President Staten Bitting of Fulcher Hagler; Executive Vice President Bubba Hughes of Callaway, Braun, Riddle & Hughes; Secretary-Treasurer Mel Haas of Constangy Brooks & Smith; Past Presidents and Directors Sally Akins of Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, Joe Chambless, Evelyn Fletcher Davis of Hawkins & Parnell, Ted Freeman of Freeman, Mathis & Gary, Jo Jagor of Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, Kirby Mason of Hunter Maclean, Walter McClelland of Mabry & McClelland, Hall McKinley of Drew Eckl & Farnham, Matt Moffett of Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske, Peter Muller of Goodman McGuffey Aust & Lindsay, Chris Parker of Miller & Martin, Lynn Roberson of Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers, Jimmy Singer of Bovis Kyle & Burch, Bob Travis of Bryan Cave, Jeff Ward of Gilbert Harrell Sumerford & Martin, Jamie Weston of Hull, Towill Norman Barrett & Salley, Bruce Welch of Hawkins & Parnell.
2. Thereafter, the Board approved the minutes from the Board meeting of October 2009.
3. Membership report: Jennifer Davis reported that we had a total of 551 members, 86 of whom are delinquent. The Board approved the applications of 37 new members, 20 of whom received a free year's membership through Trial Academy. Jennifer also noted that the judicial reception was a great source for membership renewals, since we had a number of delinquents pay their dues to be able to attend.

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4. Membership recruitment and retention: an idea was suggested that there be a discount for additional members from the same firm. Chris Parker will explore what other states do.
5. Educational Committee: Matt Moffett reported that we would discuss a March seminar and a webinar. Jennifer will contact Florida regarding their webinar vendor. We should consider Ed Lindsay to discuss legislative changes as one topic, and any additional topics should be given to Matt.
6. Jo Jagor discussed the Younger Lawyers and the Board will consider an Alabama model requiring the President to approve nominees. Perhaps consider younger lawyers participating on all committees and we will examine the By Laws by the Spring meeting to determine how to initiate the program. It was decided to schedule a cocktail party in the next month or so in Atlanta at the RiRa Irish Pub as appreciation for the Boot Camp's success.
7. Trial Academy: The Trial Academy was very successful with 42 students (the most ever) and 10 faculty members receiving high reviews. The social interaction also was well received. The position of Vice Chair for Lynn Roberson was discussed.
8. Substantive Law Committees: The Board discussed the need to invigorate the SLCs and what their role should be; it was noted that many do not have a vice chair. Lynn Roberson suggested a structure to the committee with a chair, vice chair, as well as 2-3

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committee members, and each month the committee will send out a blast email and also would be heavily involved in the webinar project. All of these factors should be considered as we develop a plan for the substantive law committees.

9. Website: Kirby Mason and Dave Nelson have done a great job in developing the newly launched web site and anyone with additional information or links to be considered should refer those to Jennifer Davis. We are exploring taking credit cards online as payment for dues, Annual Meeting registrations, etc.
  
10. Judicial relations committee: Bob Travis solicited applicants for two vacancies and two recommendations for the short list. Bob solicited suggestions for how we can improve our system for the GDLA participation and developing sources in each circuit.
  
11. Upcoming meetings:
  - The annual meeting is scheduled in Ponte Vedra from June 10 – 13.
  - The Judicial Reception is scheduled at the Savannah Bohemian Hotel on April 22.
  - The Spring meeting will be the next morning on April 23.
  - Fall meeting will be set by Steve Kyle and Bubba Hughes.
  - Serious consideration for the 2011 Annual meeting is being given to the Amelia Island Plantation. Others considered are the Amelia Ritz and the Sea Island Lodge. The Board also suggested that we consider having a sponsor speak on Thursday night and to continue activities for kids, depending on attendance.

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12. Law Journal: Ted Freeman announced that he will have 10 – 12 articles and the deadline is April 1.
  
13. Peter Muller discussed the excellent reviews received from the 2010 newsletter publication. The spring issue deadline is February 15. The Board determined that it was important to preserve providing hard copies of the newsletter.
  
14. Sally Akins discussed the sponsorships, and that we had received the highest total number of sponsors, which are reflected on the Treasurer's report.
  
15. The DRI report (from the October 20 – 23 San Diego meeting) was given by Evelyn Fletcher Davis. She discussed various issues from their annual meeting, such as a focus on generational differences, alternative billing arrangements and female attorneys programs. The DRI did discuss how beneficial it is for the GDLA and its members to share ideas and network.
  
16. Jamie Weston discussed the amicus brief issue and our brief on “apportionment without contributory fault of the plaintiff.” There were several additional briefs requested, including the issues of “hospitalization liens” and “ex parte communications with physicians.”

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17. Long Range Planning Committee is still in its development stages and the Board is considering various service projects.
  
18. Treasurer's report: Mel Haas covered the profit and loss statement, which is attached.
  
19. President's report: Staten encouraged us to do a better job of notifying judges with regard to future judicial receptions. Further, Staten confirmed that blast emails are only to be used for education and witness purposes and no other. Finally, the Board voted unanimously to raise Jennifer Davis' compensation for the next year to \$4,000 a month, effective March 1.