

Dougherty Bar Bulletin

A Publication of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association

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February 26th Meeting and Seminar

In conjunction with its February meeting, the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association is sponsoring a Continuing Legal Education Seminar on **Friday, February 26**, at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Albany. The seminar will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon, with a regular luncheon meeting to follow immediately thereafter. Paul S. Milich, pictured above, evidence professor at Georgia State University School of Law, will present the seminar, and he will also speak during the luncheon. Professor Milich is a well-known expert on evidence and a lively and entertaining speaker. He has written several books on evidence, including *Georgia Rules of Evidence* and *Courtroom Handbook on Georgia Evidence*. He has also won several "outstanding teacher" awards during his career.

In this seminar, Professor Milich plans to cover impeachment, cross-examination, and privileges, including the work product privilege. Three CLE hours will be available (they will count as three trial practice hours, which will satisfy the annual requirement that trial lawyers earn three trial practice CLE hours). The seminar and luncheon are free of charge to dues-paying members of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association. For all others, the fee is \$35.00, which covers both the seminar and the luncheon.

If you cannot attend the seminar, please make every effort to attend the luncheon meeting at noon. As previously noted, Professor Milich will speak during the luncheon meeting, as well.

If you plan to attend the seminar and/or the luncheon meeting, please call or e-mail our Secretary/Treasurer, Heather Lanier, to let her know. Heather must have an accurate headcount so that she can assure that everyone who attends the seminar will get credit for the CLE hours and so that the Hilton Garden Inn can properly plan for lunch. Heather can be reached at 229-431-3233 or at hlanier@dougherty.ga.us. Please join us on February 26 at what promises to be an excellent seminar and luncheon.

Reception to Honor Judge Richard Hodge

Please join your colleagues at a reception to honor Judge Richard Hodge on **Thursday, March 25** from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Shackelford House at 1801 Dawson Road in Albany. Judge Hodge recently retired after serving for over sixteen years as a U. S. Magistrate in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Judge Hodge was an assistant district attorney from 1977 to 1980. He was in private practice from 1980 to 1993. He was appointed as full-time magistrate on August 26, 1993.

If you can attend, please let Heather Lanier, secretary/treasurer for the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association, know by calling or e-mailing her. Her contact information is hlanier@dougherty.ga.us or 229-431-3233.

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President's Message

By Gail Pursel

Our Bar Association has had a busy year thus far, and we could not have done it without the efforts of our many hardworking members. In addition to our regular meetings, we have participated in several community service projects. At Halloween, we held "Boo from the Bar," an event started by Dougherty Bar Past-President Greg Edwards in 2007. During Boo from the Bar, Bar members and their families passed out goody bags to the residents of a local assisted living facility. (There are several photographs from this event in another part of this newsletter.) The residents love receiving the treats, but more than that, they appreciate the time that we and our children spend simply talking to them and listening to their stories. Boo from the Bar is a very meaningful event, and if you have not previously participated, I hope you will consider doing so in upcoming years.

At Christmas, our Bar Association collected hundreds of dollars worth of new toys, which were donated to Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots is a 62-year-old nationwide

project of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserves. The results of the 2009 campaign are now in, and it was one of the most successful in the organization's history, in spite of the economy. Our Bar Association is to be applauded for its assistance with this campaign.

By the time you read this newsletter, several of you will have participated in our community's "Big Read" event. Last year, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded a grant to Albany State University, in partnership with the Dougherty County Public Library, to conduct this program in February 2010. The focus of the Albany program is the book *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines. Since there are several legal issues in this book, members of our Bar Association are participating in various panel discussions and seminars throughout the month.

There are many upcoming opportunities for you to become more involved in our Association. Our annual Law Day celebration will kick off in April, and John Stephenson (the Chairman of our Law Day Committee) needs your help. This year's Law Day theme is "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges." John needs attorneys who are willing to serve as speakers in our local schools regarding this theme, as well as assistance with many events that have been planned (including forums at local colleges, school essay contests, Law at the Library seminars, and a banquet). If you can help, please contact John at 229-436-1545 or at jstephenson@watsonspence.com.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next luncheon meeting on February 26!

Future Meetings- Save the Dates

By Gail Pursel

Please go ahead and put the April 2010 and June 2010 meetings of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association on your calendar. On **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, our regular meeting will be held at noon at the Hilton Garden Inn in conjunction with our annual Law Day banquet. The keynote speaker will be the **Honorable Louis Sands**, U. S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Our June meeting will be held at noon on **Wednesday, June 30, 2010** (please note that this is the fifth Wednesday of the month, rather than the usual fourth Wednesday), and we are looking forward to having **Dr. Charles S. Bullock, III** as our speaker. Dr. Bullock is the Richard B. Russell Professor of Political Science at the University of Georgia and one of the country's most respected elections scholars. He is the author of numerous books related to politics, including *The New Politics of the Old South*, *Runoff Elections in the United States*, and *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*. The June meeting will also be held at the Hilton Garden Inn. Mark your calendars!

YLD News

The Dougherty Circuit Bar Association Young Lawyers Division is now up and running as an affiliate of the State Bar of Georgia. A “young lawyer” is a lawyer who is under 36 years of age or who has been a member of the Bar for less than five years. Sarah Kjellin is the President of the local division, so feel free to contact her at skjellin@watsonspence.com or at 229-436-1545 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Dougherty Bar member Tommy Duck is also very involved in YLD. He is currently spearheading a local Wills for Heroes project, but he needs help, so please contact him at 229-432-6500 if you can assist. Wills for Heroes is a nationwide YLD program that provides certain legal documents (such as wills, living wills, and powers of attorney) free of charge to our nation’s police officers, firefighters, and other first responders. For more information, please visit the Wills for Heroes website at www.willsforheroes.org.

Did you know that the State YLD has a disaster legal assistance committee that steps in whenever FEMA declares a disaster area in Georgia? Members of the YLD staff a hotline to field calls from individuals who are affected by a disaster and are unable to afford legal representation. Callers receive assistance regarding various issues, such as landlord/tenant disputes, family law, consumer law, unemployment benefits, and identification replacement. Disaster re-

lief is just one of many worthy projects undertaken by the YLD, and the YLD can always use more assistance on these projects, so please give Sarah or Tommy a call if you would like to get involved.

In Memoriam *Robert B. Langstaff, Sr.*

Long time Dougherty Bar member Robert “Bob” Burch Langstaff passed away Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at his home. Born February 5, 1930, in Paducah, Kentucky, the youngest son of the late Elizabeth Burch Langstaff and Samuel Husbands Langstaff, he is survived by his wife of 57 years, Calista Pope Langstaff, and five children, Susan Langstaff Reinhardt and her husband Rob of Tifton; James Pope Langstaff and his wife Katherine McLeod of Macon; Thomas Quigley Langstaff and his wife Virginia of Albany; Sally Langstaff Williamson and her husband Mark of Atlanta; and Robert Burch Langstaff, Jr. and his wife Deidra of Albany. Bob and Calista have 18 grandchildren. He was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church where he served on the vestry of St. Paul’s and was Senior Warden.

Bob attended the University of Tennessee prior to entering military service in 1951. He went through Officer Candidate School and stayed as an instructor. While stationed in Fort Benning, he met and married Calista. Upon being honorably discharged, he enrolled in the University of Georgia Law

School where he graduated cum laude and was initiated into the Gridiron Club.

After law school, Bob joined the firm of Perry & Walters in Albany in 1956. He opened his own practice in 1972 forming Langstaff, Campbell, & Plowden. He later practiced law with all three of his sons eventually forming Langstaff Law Offices. During his legal career he argued before the U. S. Supreme Court, the 5th and 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals; and various federal and state courts in Georgia. He served on the State Bar of Georgia’s Board of Governors and the State Disciplinary Board for two terms where he served as Chair for one of those terms; he was on the board of Albany First Federal and Georgia International Life Insurance Company. He was also a member of the Federal Energy Bar and appeared before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Ga. Public Service Commission.

It was with great pride that he mentored all three of his sons and a granddaughter and grandson as they began their legal careers. He practiced law until his death. He was active in the community and was one of the original incorporators of what was then Albany Junior College Foundation and in 1995 was named a Friend of the College for his work on behalf of Darton College. Those desiring may make donations to the Darton College Foundation, 2400 Gillionville Road, Albany, Ga., 31707 or St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 212 North Jefferson Street, Albany, 31701.

Practice Tips: How to Actively Manage Your Pro Bono Practice

By Mike Monahan



In celebration of National Pro Bono Awareness Week (the last week of October), Mike Monahan, the director of the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Project, spoke at the October meeting of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association. Mike had the following advice regarding how to actively manage your pro bono practice.

Identify the kind of pro bono work you would like to incorporate into your practice. Choose pro bono that means something to you and that matches your interests.

Choose how you want to structure your participation. Watch your calendar; don't get over-extended. Identify your time constraints and your current level of expertise.

Communicate your pro bono plan to your potential and current clients. For example, "I do X pro bono, and I take only pro bono clients screened by Y Program."

Stick with you plan, or change your plan! But be deliberate about it. Communicate any changes to potential clients, your secretary, and any referral programs.

Expect to be appreciated. Expect courtesy and professionalism, and set and communicate expectations for your pro bono clients.

Follow all the rules. Return phone calls in a *managed* way, but please return phone calls.

Increase pro bono efficiency. Use pro bono technology support, such as listservs and free on-line training, and call and e-mail pro bono coordinators for case assistance.

Ask for help when you need it. Contact the pro bono program coordinator who recruited you. Visit www.georgiaadvocates.org and click on "Live Help." Call the State Bar of Georgia Ethics Hotline.

Pass the word around. Share your pro bono experiences with other lawyers in your firm and in your local bar association. Share the experiences in your faith community and in other organizations to which you belong, as well. Take opportunities to explain to members of the public why pro bono service is important.

Be thankful. You are a member of a distinguished profession that has deep roots in the community. You have power to help and to heal - to bring order to chaos, to lend reason and light in difficult situations.

For additional information, please contact Mike at 404-527-8762 or mikem@gabar.org.

Dougherty Bar Helps the Big Read

The Big Read is now underway in Albany! This month-long celebration, which began on February 1, is a joint effort of Albany State University and the Dougherty County Public Library. The Big Read brings communities together to read, discuss, and celebrate various books from U. S. and world literature. ASU and the library have chosen Ernest Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying*. Gaines' novel is a story of an uneducated young black man named Jefferson, accused of the murder of a white storekeeper, and Grant Wiggins, a college-educated native son of Louisiana, who teaches at a plantation school.

The novel includes many law-related themes, including capital punishment and social justice. The Dougherty Circuit Bar Association has thus partnered with ASU and the library to assist the community in understanding the book's legal aspects. Maurice King, Tabitha Solomon, Nyota Tucker, and Victoria Johnson will participate in a panel discussion at Darton College, and Lauren Adams will present a legal research seminar at the Central Branch of the Dougherty County Public Library.

Many other activities related to this book are scheduled for the month of February, including a free showing of the movie *A Lesson Before Dying* at the Carmike Cinemas at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 20. For a complete schedule of the month's events, please contact Ashley Moore, the Assistant Director of the library, at 229-420-3200.

Boo from the Bar on October 30th

