



STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
COMMISSION ON CONTINUING LAWYER COMPETENCY



TRANSITION INTO LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM

Douglas Ashworth, Director

John T. Marshall, Chair
Standards of the Profession Committee

DIRECTOR'S REPORT April 27, 2006

Greetings:

I am pleased to report on the progress of the mentoring component of our Program since our February 22, 2006, meeting.

A. Program Update:

For administrative purposes, our twelve (12) month mentoring periods begin on January 1st (e.g. Calendar Year 2006) and on July 1st (e.g. Fiscal Year 2007).

697 Beginning Lawyers are enrolled in our Calendar Year 2006 mentoring period. The Supreme Court of Georgia has appointed 790 Mentors.

B. Group Mentoring Update:

61 Beginning Lawyers currently enrolled in our Calendar Year 2006 mentoring period have been placed into Group Mentoring. The first ever Group Mentoring Seminar was held at the Bar Center on March 14 and was a success. Two more Group Mentoring events are planned for May 4 at the Bar Center and August 23 at the Fulton County Justice Center.

A few Beginning Lawyers in Group Mentoring who are not currently sole practitioners have requested individual mentors. We currently have Outside Mentors who are not assigned to a Beginning Lawyer. I am not currently assigning Outside Mentors to Beginning Lawyers in Group Mentoring because I want to retain enough Outside Mentors for the Beginning Lawyers who will be sole practitioners when the February 2006 Bar Examination results are released.

C. Mentor Qualifications:

You will recall approving a new proposed Regulation on minimum Mentor qualifications at our February 22 meeting. The new proposed Regulation was presented to the CCLC at its March 2 meeting.

I am pleased to report that the Standards Committee's recommendation for a new Regulation was passed with minor amendments consented to by Standards Committee members present at the CCLC meeting. (View the new Regulation (6) to State Bar Rule 8-104 (B) at www.gabar.org/programs/transition_into_law_practice_program).

D. Program Implementation Logistics:

We are ready to process enrollment and/or exemption of the new Beginning Lawyers upon the release of the February 2006 Bar Examination results in May. For administrative purposes, these Beginning Lawyers will be placed into the Fiscal Year 2007 Mentoring Period (i.e. July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007).

E. Webcast of Supreme Court of Georgia Oral Arguments:

A special thank you to Larry Jones, Chuck Olson and Jon Rapping for their work with the Supreme Court of Georgia on the concept of web casting oral arguments as a means of assisting Beginning Lawyers to obtain some of their Mandatory Advocacy Experiences. More details are available on the Supreme Court of Georgia website: www.gasupreme.us.

F. Program Status and Progress Reports:

Ron Ellington, Larry Jones, Cathy Helms and I participated in a recent presentation on the progress of our Program to the General Practice & Trial Law Section Institute. I also presented a Program status report to the Tift Judicial Circuit Bar Association.

Our Program continues to attract interest outside of Georgia - I am pleased to regularly receive calls from other states. Our Program will also be featured in an article on mentoring in an upcoming issue of *Bar Leader* magazine later this year. I will provide a copy of the article to each of you upon its publication.

I will make future Program progress reports to: (1) Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (May); (2) Board of Governors (June); (3) the Judicial Council of Georgia (June); and (4) the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia (July).

G. Next Meeting Date:

Your next Standards of the Profession Committee meeting date is set for Wednesday, September 13, 2006, beginning at 11:00 a.m. I will send the customary reminder notices and RSVP form.

Summary

You should be pleased to know that our Program has been implemented and is running effectively and efficiently.

I will end this report by passing along an unsolicited comment made to Larry Jones, Ron Ellington and myself by a Beginning Lawyer who approached us prior to a presentation we made in March about our Program. Her compliment, which is a wonderful one-phrase summary of our Program, was as follows: "This Program helps me avoid rookie mistakes by giving me a safe place to ask a stupid question".

My thanks to each of you for all of your hard work over the last ten (10) years – and for your continued assistance and support.

END OF REPORT