

State Bar of Georgia Diversity High School Pipeline Program Completes its Third Year

by Marian Cover Dockery

The State Bar of Georgia Diversity Program, in partnership with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and The Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys, Inc. (LIWOCA), launched the third High School Pipeline Program from June 1 - 11, hosting 16 high school students from all over the metro Atlanta area. The program objective is to attract young people who are interested in pursuing a career in law, and was designed to teach critical skills that students will need to pursue a higher education. John Marshall provided classroom space, copying and other administrative support for the program and LIWOCA contributed to the funding and scholarships for graduating seniors and competition winners.

At 8 o'clock each morning, students convened at John Marshall for breakfast sponsored by Arnall Golden Gregory LLP. Classes began at 8:30, with grammar and



Photos by Marian Cover Dockery

Attorney Katy Forseth speaks to the Pipeline students at Baker Donelson during a lunch session.

writing taught by teachers Keelah Jackson, Hapeville Charter Middle School and Matt Clair of the Teach for America program. These courses were supplemented by



Winners of the 2010 written and oral competition. (Front row, left to right) Marian Cover Dockery, program director; Keelah Jackson, Pipeline teacher; Chelsey Parker, 2nd place, Kourtney Outlaw, 3rd place, Henderson Johnson II, honorable mention, Danielle Hayes, 1st place and Faith Morris, honorable mention. (Back row, left to right) James Johnson, of counsel, Sutherland and Matt Clair, Pipeline teacher.

a daily speech class focusing on current event topics and taught by volunteer attorneys: Kevin Wilson, clerk, Supreme Court of Georgia; Trishanda Treadwell, associate, Parker Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP; Femi Obadina, Genny Zhu, Adriana Midenci and Sean Libby, associates, Elarbee Thompson Sapp & Wilson LLP; Frederick Dawkins, partner, Freeman Mathis Gary, LLP; Martine Cumbermack, senior attorney, and Jennifer Guerra, associate, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP; and Marian Cover Dockery, partner, Dockery Mills LLC.

The students attended luncheons hosted by member firms and corporations of the State Bar of Georgia Diversity Program. The attorneys provided mentoring and discussed different topics, such as dining room etiquette, Facebook etiquette and use of technology in the workplace, how to select the best college, credit 101 and the new credit laws and interviewing skills with the students each day.

During their visit to DLA Piper, students benefited from a tour of the firm and presentations from law firm support staff to expose them to additional work opportunities in the legal field or in a law firm office. Alston & Bird LLP hosted a one-on-one mentoring session that provided the students with an opportunity to find and keep a mentor throughout their school career. The students also had the privilege of seeing the fighter jets at Lockheed with a PowerPoint presentation by staff attorneys showcasing some of the most powerful jets on the planet. Students also toured the Lockheed plant and saw the mechanics assembling the planes.

Following the daily luncheons, students returned to John Marshall and heard from various speakers including Willie Lovett, director Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney, who discussed legal careers in public service; Claristine Pinckney, diversity

coordinator, Alston & Bird LLP, who presented a workshop on interviewing and resume writing skills; and Caitlin Merlo, a nutrition expert of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention who presented valuable points on good nutrition and food choices to the students.

The program concluded with an oral and written competition hosted by Sutherland before a panel of volunteer judges in the firm's courtroom. This year's judges were James Johnson, of-counsel, Sutherland; Wendy A. Choi, partner, Kilpatrick Stockton LLP; James McDonald, partner and Doug Bennett, senior counsel, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP; and Glen Fagan, associate, Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP.

The winners of this year's competition are Danielle Hayes, 1st place; Chelsey Parks, 2nd place; Kourtney Outlaw, 3rd place; and Henderson Johnson II and Faith Morris, honorable mention.



Let CAP Lend a Helping Hand!

What is the Consumer Assistance Program?

The State Bar's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) helps people with questions or problems with Georgia lawyers. When someone contacts the State Bar with a problem or complaint, a member of the Consumer Assistance Program staff responds to the inquiry and attempts to identify the problem. Most problems can be resolved by providing information or referrals, calling the lawyer, or suggesting various ways of dealing with the dispute. A grievance form is sent out when serious unethical conduct may be involved.

Does CAP assist attorneys as well as consumers?

Yes. CAP helps lawyers by providing courtesy calls, faxes or letters when dissatisfied clients contact the program.

Most problems with clients can be prevented by returning calls promptly, keeping clients informed about the status of their cases, explaining billing practices, meeting deadlines, and managing a caseload efficiently.

What doesn't CAP do?

CAP deals with problems that can be solved without resorting to the disciplinary procedures of the State Bar, that is, filing a grievance. CAP does not get involved when someone alleges serious unethical conduct. CAP cannot give legal advice, but can provide referrals that meet the consumer's need utilizing its extensive lists of government agencies, referral services and nonprofit organizations.

Are CAP calls confidential?


Everything CAP deals with is confidential, except:

1. Where the information clearly shows that the lawyer has misappropriated funds, engaged in criminal conduct, or intends to engage in criminal conduct in the future;
2. Where the caller files a grievance and the lawyer involved wants CAP to share some information with the Office of the General Counsel; or
3. A court compels the production of the information.

The purpose of the confidentiality rule is to encourage open communication and resolve conflicts informally.

**Call the State Bar's Consumer Assistance Program
at 404-527-8759 or 800-334-6865 or visit www.gabar.org/cap.**

Each competition winner received a monetary award and the two graduating seniors, Brianna Bogan who will attend the University of Georgia and Chelsey Parks, who will attend Vanderbilt University, each received stipends of \$500 to help them with their college expenses. Both Bogan and Parks participated in the Pipeline Program for three years.

Many thanks to the law firms, corporations and attorneys for their continued support of the Pipeline Program: Adorno & Yoss; Alston & Bird LLP; Arnall Golden Gregory LLP; Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC; Casey Gilson, P.C.; Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP; DLA Piper; Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson, LLP; Equifax; Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP; Supreme Court of Georgia; Kilpatrick Stockton LLP; Lockheed Martin-Marietta; Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP; Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP; Sutherland; Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP; Troutman Sanders LLP; and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. 



Alston & Bird LLP partners, associates and summer associates provided one-on-one mentoring to the Pipeline students.



Pipeline students at Marietta's Lockheed Plant. (Back row, left to right) Dianna Xu, Kristen Miller-Patton, Terrence McKenzie, Kourtney Outlaw, Faith Morris, Dwayne Daniel Jr., Nicole Martin, Trey Williams, Elizabeth Jean and Lanerica Rogers. (Front row, left to right) Brianna Bogan, Beatrice Jean-Mary, Henderson Johnson II, Chelsey Parks and Danielle Hayes.



Marian Cover Dockery is a member of Dockery Mills LLC and the executive director of the State Bar of Georgia Diversity

Program. For more information on the Diversity Program, go to www.gabar.org/programs.



The State Bar of Georgia
Diversity Program
presents the
18th Annual CLE and Luncheon
Sept. 29, 2010
Bar Center
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for details and registration information.