State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division

THE YLD REVIEW

Volume 64, Issue 4, June 2023

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Did It Really Happen?

Ronald Edward “Ron” Daniels

As a formerly young lawyer who is inching closer to 40, I vividly remember being excited about setting up my MySpace page. I remember when Facebook required a college email address to sign up. Social media has come a long way since 2003. At the same time, I think I’ve gotten worse at utilizing it.

We’ve accomplished a lot this past year. I haven’t done the best job of posting it on my Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn or even TikTok. Even though the social media posts aren’t there—yes, it really happened.

Fresh faces tackled leading committees for the first time and came up with new revitalizing ideas. Familiar faces pitched in and provided helping hands to help guide certain projects. Remember when the YLD Criminal Law Committee packed out a room for a two-hour CLE on podcasts at the Midyear Meeting? The pictures on the YLD social media account confirms it actually happened. What about the Fall Meeting held in conjunction with other young lawyers from across the Southeast? Yup. Saw it on the ‘gram.

The YLD being recognized by the Georgia State Senate? Check. Raising $50,000 for the Georgia Legal Services Program, Inc., and Middle Georgia Justice? Check. Another successful Legal Food Frenzy? Another check.

What about the YLD Community Service Committee and President-Elect Brittanie Browning bringing back Build a Better Georgia Day in three different cities? We’ve got pictures and T-shirts. Important conversations about wellness and issues facing young lawyers? An OrangeTheory Fitness class for YLD members? A Wills Clinic in Eastman? A networking event at Wild Animal Safari? Learning that Frank Gaddy can double as an extra on Telemundo? Those things all happened, too.

Yes, we’ve got some pictures and videos. But what those fail to capture most often is the work which goes into making a Bar year successful. I regard this last year as highly successful. Not because of what I did (or sometimes didn’t do). The secret to a successful Bar year for any YLD President is you.

You did the work. You showed up at the meetings. You volunteered your time. You made this year successful. And maybe you took some pictures along the way. Hopefully, you also had some fun.

I set out to run for leadership in the YLD back in the summer of 2015 after graduating from Leadership Academy. To be honest, I kind of came out of nowhere. I didn’t win. So I ran again and lost again. I gave up on the idea of being in leadership at that point—not because vanity or pride, I just thought I had found a different way to make a difference. I wanted to make things better for young lawyers and that was my whole reason for running in the first place.

Still not sure how I would end up here. “But for whatever reasons […] call it fate, call it luck, call it karma, I believe everything happens for a reason.” Rizza O’Connor and Will Davis just wouldn’t let me say “no” and next thing I knew I was elected as Secretary of the YLD on the third try.

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The YLD Review seeks to provide a forum for the discussion of subjects pertaining to the regulation of the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services, as well as other matters of general interest to Georgia lawyers. The statements, views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of State Bar of Georgia, its officers, Board of Governors, sections, committees or staff.
GSU Law “Charms” Judges at Intrastate Competition

Hannah Couch

The annual Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition was held April 7-8, at Georgia State University (GSU) College of Law. GSU law students John Evan Laughter and John Mark Montgomery won the competition. University of Georgia law students Sarah Guilot, Aiden Meister and Josh Patton won Best Brief, and GSU law student Rachel Gradz Rankin won Best Oralist.

The problem, inspired by Groff v. DeJoy, 143 S. Ct. 646 (2023), and hit Bravo television series “Southern Charm,” concerned an employee’s religious accommodation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Specifically, the case questioned (1) whether the court should disapprove the more-than-de-minimis cost test, as explained in Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Hardison, 432 U.S. 63 (1997), which employers can use to show they have been unduly burdened and can thus deny religious accommodations under Title VII; and (2) whether an employer may demonstrate undue hardship by showing that her requested accommodation burdened USPS itself, rather than her co-workers.

USPS argued that Hardison, its progeny and its more-than-de-minimis cost test should be applied, and under such test, it prevails. USPS further argued it has demonstrated it suffered an undue burden by showing that Wimberly’s refusal to work on Sundays caused her co-workers to work more hours, disrupted the workplace and workflow, and diminished employee morale.

The fictional parties in the problem were inspired by the cast members of the Bravo television series “Southern Charm:” Craig Conover, Cameren Wimberly and Austen Kroll. Conover is a Charleston, South Carolina, attorney, helped judge the competition. Conover is a graduate of Charleston Law School and won several awards as a competitor in various national advocacy competitions while a student.

Semifinal and final round judges included Title VII experts, including Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Administrative Law Judge Shayla Sipp, Rebecca Hanner White, Marcus Keegan and Lance Simon. Numerous members of the Young Lawyers Division also judged various rounds.

The competition is hosted annually by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia to instill professionalism and educate our future Bar members on the practice of law. This year’s competition was sponsored by Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP, Alston & Bird LLP and King & Spalding LLP.

From the Editors

Final Letter From the Editors

Jena Emory

Virginia Josey

It is a challenge to try to adequately highlight our incredible 2022-23 Young Lawyers Division year. With so many remarkable committees and events, we struggled to capture clips for our highlight reel of this year.

What a wonderful problem for editors to face. In addition to showcasing the passionate work of our dedicated members, we also enjoyed featuring substantive issues facing our profession. We carefully considered opportunities to cast a light on the struggles and triumphs of our YLD. For every verdict or promotion, our members suffered losses and devastation. Both are equally impactful and worthy of promotion.

The YLD Review should showcase the collective range of the YLD experience. Our articles in this issue and prior issues show how YLD members are better together. We hope you have been inspired by at least one of the members highlighted by The YLD Review. This is our final issue and final opportunity to mention the many inspirational members across our state. It has been an honor to serve as editors of The YLD Review. Thank you.

Jena Emory is an associate at Copeland Stair Valz & Lovell LLP in Atlanta and is co-editor of The YLD Review.

Virginia Josey is a trial attorney who manages Virginia Josey Law in Macon and is co-editor of The YLD Review.
Name Change After Marriage in Georgia

Veronica (Rogusky) Cox

This author changed her name after marriage in Georgia and this article provides guidance on the process for Georgia lawyers interested in doing the same.

1 Apply for a Marriage License
If you’re getting married in Georgia, you’re required to obtain a marriage license prior to your ceremony. You and your fiancé must appear in person to apply. If one of you is a resident of Georgia, you can apply in any county in the state. Otherwise, you must apply in the county where the ceremony will take place. Each county has its own set of procedures for securing a marriage license. Go to the county website where you intend to apply for specific instructions. Make sure you identify your desired name after marriage on your marriage license application. The cost of a marriage license is typically $56, but it may be reduced to $16 if you provide proof of completion of a state-approved premarital education program.

2 File Your Signed Marriage License After Your Wedding
Your marriage license gives you the state’s permission to marry. Take it with you to your wedding. After the ceremony, the happy couple and officiant need to sign the marriage license and return it to the court within 30 days by mail. If you identified your name change when you applied for a marriage license, there is no petition, publication, hearing or other court filing required to legally change your name after marriage in Georgia.

3 Obtain Your Marriage Certificate and Certified Copies
Your marriage certificate is a certified record that you and your partner were legally married. If you don’t receive your marriage certificate in the mail 30 days after filing your marriage license, call the court and ask when you can expect it. Some organizations require you to submit an original or certified copy of your marriage certificate to change your name. This author recommends obtaining two or three certified copies of your marriage certificate. Certified copying services may vary by county.

4 Change Your Social Security Card
You must change your name on your Social Security card first before changing your driver’s license or passport. To change your name on your Social Security card, take your marriage certificate (original or certified copy) and your driver’s license or passport to a Social Security Administration (SSA) office, by appointment or walk in. You can find your local SSA office at www.ssa.gov/locator. Fill out an Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5) in advance at www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf or at one of the kiosks inside the SSA office. After meeting with an SSA agent and providing the required documentation, your name change application will be processed and your new Social Security card should arrive in the mail in a couple of weeks.

5 Change Your Driver’s License
To change your name on your driver’s license, take your new Social Security card and your marriage certificate to your local Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. Fill out an application to change your name on your driver’s license in advance at dds.drives.ga.gov or at a computer inside the DDS office. You have to take a number and wait to be called. The DDS agent will receive your documentation, process your application, take a new picture of you and give you a paper copy of your temporary license.
Your old license will be invalid, and you will receive your new license in the mail.

6  Change Your Passport
To change your name on your passport, visit travel.state.gov. Locate passport information and links to forms and fees under the U.S. Passports tab. If it’s been more than a year since your passport was issued, complete Form DS-82. If it’s been less than a year, complete form DS-5504. Both forms include specific instructions on mailing and required attachments. Be prepared to mail your completed form, your old passport, your marriage certificate (certified copy or original), a new color 2x2 inch passport photo (which you can obtain at USPS offices) and a check for the appropriate fee. Depending on whether you elect expedited or standard delivery, your new passport will be mailed to you in approximately five to 12 weeks. Your old passport and marriage certificate will be mailed back to you.

7  Change Your Georgia Bar License
To change your name with the State Bar of Georgia, submit a completed Request for Name Change form (found on www.gabar.org under FAQs > Membership > How to Change My Name) and a copy of your marriage certificate via email to membership@gabar.org. You should receive a confirmation email when your application has been processed.

8  Change Electronic Court Filing Accounts
After you change your name on your Georgia Bar license, you can change your name in electronic court filing systems.

   To change your name in the federal court electronic filing system, log into PACER Manage My Account at pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/psof/login.xtml, select the Maintenance tab > Update Personal Information > enter your new name and click Submit.

   In Odyssey (www.odysseyefilega.com), select My Account (person icon) > My Information > change your name and click Submit.

What Encourages You When Our Profession Gets Challenging?

RONALD EDWARD “RON” DANIELS | YLD President
I always think back to the days of yore and the wisdom imparted to us in song:

   I get knocked down, but I get up again
   You are never gonna keep me down.
   —"Tubthumping" by Chumbawumba

BRITTANIE D. BROWNING | YLD President-Elect
If I need encouragement when the profession gets challenging, I spend time with my family and friends. They offer both a different perspective and show the importance of a support system.

KENNETH MITCHELL JR. | YLD Treasurer
When things get challenging, I am encouraged by the fact that I have the privilege to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

VERONICA ROGUSKY COX | YLD Secretary
I am most encouraged by the fact that I have the ability to make a difference in peoples’ lives and to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

ELISSA B. HAYNES | YLD Immediate Past President
Knowing I have the unique opportunity to (hopefully) get clarification when there are inconsistencies in the law and to make new law on issues that affect my clients’ livelihoods.

JENA G. EMORY | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor
I visit my old bosses and friends that were there at the beginning of my law journey. Success or failure, they have seen both, and neither matters. That is what encourages me.

VIRGINIA C. JOSEY | YLD Newsletter Co-Editor
I call my clients. Sometimes I need to hear from the individuals and families who trust me to care for their cases. These calls help fight off the discouragement and remind me of our privilege to serve others.
Spotlight on Georgia State-wide Business Court

Brittanie Browning

In April 2023, Hon. William Grady “Bill” Hamrick III and his senior staff attorney, Lynette Jimenez, spoke to The YLD Review about the Georgia State-wide Business Court (court or Business Court).

As a new court in Georgia, we had a chance to discuss the court’s background and availability to litigants. Hamrick previously presided on the superior court bench in the Coweta Judicial Circuit. Before that, he served in the Georgia General Assembly and as general counsel for a construction company. Jimenez previously served as a staff attorney in Fulton County Superior Court and as the director for the Metro Atlanta Business Case Division, bringing experience in a specialized arena after working in private industry and construction. The court offers unique expertise in business-related disputes.

What types of cases are eligible?
The State-wide Business Court, whose jurisdiction is laid out in O.C.G.A. § 15-5A-3, is voluntary, meaning that parties must consent—or not object—to having the case before it. Business disputes, contractual disputes and even business divorces have appeared before the court. The vast array of industries represented on the court’s docket at this early juncture speaks to the level of business in the state. The court has had cases involving restaurants, shareholder disputes, construction contracts and renewable energy, among others. The most prevalent causes of action are for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. An additional claim asserted in most cases is for attorney’s fees. Other cases have involved insurance disputes, including contract claims and negligence claims related to the failure to procure insurance or to settle claims. If only monetary damages are sought, the amount in controversy must be at least $1 million for claims involving commercial real property or $500,000 for any claims not involving commercial real property. However, if equitable relief is sought in the litigation, no minimum amount in controversy is required.

How long has the court existed in Georgia?
The Business Court began accepting cases in August 2020. Currently, e-Filing is available through PeachCourt, which facilitates the court’s ability to accept cases from all over the state.

How does a case get to the Business Court?
A case can be initiated in the Business Court by filing the complaint directly with the court or if a case is already pending in a Georgia state or superior court, parties may file a petition to transfer or a petition to remove their case to the court. By statute, the parties must consent—or not object—to being before the court and be within the jurisdiction prescribed by statute.

What’s the current caseload?
At this time, the court has more than 30 active cases on its docket. These complex cases are being litigated by more than 90 parties and more than 117 attorneys are involved in those active cases. Due to the complexity of the issues presented, the cases involve significantly more motions practice and regularly appear before the court—whether remotely or in person—for hearings and conferences.

How long are cases before the court?
Business Court takes cases all the way through litigation to the trial stage; and has already presided over two jury trials. To date, the court has closed 37 cases and the median disposition time to resolve those cases was 238 days, reflecting the efficiency of the court and its case management protocols. Most impressive is the current statistic that it takes only eight days as the average wait time for an order on a ripe motion.

What’s the general timeline for a case?
The court’s mission is to move cases expeditiously to reach a just resolution, leveraging the background and knowledge of the court with efficiency and expertise garnered from focusing exclusively on business matters and business disputes. Through active case management, prompt rulings and substantive orders addressing key legal disputes, several cases have resolved prior to jury trial.

What has been the overall impression by litigants?
The impression of litigants has been very positive and attorneys appearing before the court for the first time will often then seek to bring other cases to the Business Court.

Hamrick shared that one of his favorite parts of the court is the quality of legal ar-
arguments heard as well as the nature of the parties’ businesses. The court sees very good lawyers especially in light of the complexity of the issues. As of April, 44 attorney pro hac vice applications have been granted. Several of those out-of-state practitioners have conveyed that they wish their local jurisdictions had a similar forum to litigate complex business disputes.

Where are the jury trials held? How about the preliminary motions and hearings held?

Jury trials are presided over by Hamrick and are conducted in the local county where venue is proper (i.e., where the case otherwise would have been litigated). A time is scheduled for the attorneys to visit the local courtroom ahead of the trial in order to facilitate their preparation and ensure they have the necessary technology to best present their case.

Pre-trial hearings can be held in the Nathan Deal Judicial Center in Atlanta, although the court is also willing to travel to the local venue for pre-trial proceedings, if requested by counsel or the parties. Jimenez shared that, regardless of where the proceeding is held, the court works diligently to assist attorneys with technical support and is always available to answer questions. The court strives to be accessible to litigants to aid in a speedy resolution to their case to allow them to get back to business quickly.

Do you see any YLD attorneys?

The court has seen a mix of younger attorneys and senior partners. Hamrick strongly encourages younger attorneys to participate on its cases. To facilitate that goal, the court readily allows oral argument on a motion when a younger associate is involved.

Can attorneys tour the court without having a case pending?

The court is open for business and welcomes visitors to see their courtroom in Atlanta. Hamrick graciously offered to speak with attorneys or firms about the Business Court, and to arrange for a visit to their courtroom and related facilities at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. For those interested in visiting the Business Court or having a speaker from the court, contact Angie Davis, clerk of court, at 404-656-6620 or davisa@gsbc.us.
Affiliate Spotlight

Cobb County YLD

On March 31, the Cobb County YLD held their Solo/Small Firm and Younger Lawyers Division CLE at the Cobb County Superior Court. The seminar offered 6 CLE hours, including 1 trial hour and 1 professionalism hour.

Session 1
Interplay Between Bankruptcy and Other Practice Areas
Ian Falcone, Falcone Law Firm, P.C.

Session 2
Data Security and Privacy: Best Practices and Professionalism Standards for Attorneys
David A. Cole, Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP

Session 3
High Profile Cases and the Media
Randall M. Kessler, Kessler & Solomiany
Joshua Schiffer, ChancoSchiffer, P.C.

Session 4
Cobb County Accountability Courts: Judges Panel Discussion

Cobb County Superior Court
Hon. Kimberly A. Childs
Hon. Ann B. Harris
Hon. Kellie S. Hill
Hon. Robert D. Leonard II

Cobb County State Court
Hon. Eric A. Brewton

Cobb County Juvenile Court
Hon. Jeffrey D. Hamby

Session 5
Interplay Between Criminal Defense and Other Practice Areas
Joshua Schiffer, ChancoSchiffer

Session 6
Discovery: To Fight or Not to Fight, That Is the Question
Justin O’Dell, O’Dell, O’Neal, Hungerford & Blanchard

I was so fortunate to join the YLD Leadership Academy class of 2023. Over the course of six months, I developed a professional network with like-minded attorneys from across the state, I built relationships and forged new friendships, and, most importantly, I served the Bar and the public meaningfully through several service projects.

My favorite experience was our service project at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia. There, our Leadership Academy class packaged grab-and-go snack bags for the unhoused population in Atlanta. In one afternoon, we prepared approximately 500 take-away meals.

Another highlight was Legislative Day, where we were recognized during session at the State Capitol. Afterwards we attended a luncheon where we heard from a panel of lawyer-legislators. I was surprised to learn how few lawyers serve in the General Assembly: only 34 members are Georgia lawyers; 25 serve in the House and nine serve in the Senate. Legislative Day was a call to action for our class to someday consider serving as lawyer-legislators.

Because of the YLD Leadership Academy, I have new skills and connections to serve my local community. I urge those interested to apply—there is no better opportunity for young lawyers.

Siena Gaddy is a judicial law clerk with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Macon and adjunct professor of law at Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law.
YLD at the 2023 Annual Meeting
1. (L-R) 2022-23 YLD President Ron Daniels presented Justice Andrew Pinson with a Distinguished Judicial Service Award.

2. 1987-88 YLD President John C. Sammon received the Ross Adams Award. The award, named for the late Hon. Ross Adams who served as the 1998-99 YLD president, is the highest the YLD can bestow to a past president of the organization.


4. Justice Verda Colvin, Supreme Court of Georgia, administered the oath of office to the 2023-24 YLD officers. (L-R) Justice Verda Colvin, President Brittanie Browning, President-Elect Kenneth Mitchell Jr., Treasurer Veronica Cox, Secretary Virginia Josey, Immediate Past President Ron Daniels and Newsletter Co-Editors Jena Emory and Siena Gaddy.

5. (L-R) The Good Lawyer podcast host D. Sarah Young and 2022-23 YLD President Ron Daniels interview Joyette Holmes for a live recording of the podcast. In 2020, while serving as the Cobb County district attorney, Holmes was appointed as the special prosecutor for the Ahmaud Arbery case.

6. A group of YLD/Pro Bono 5K Fun Run finishers enjoy water after crossing the finish line at the very humid event. (L-R) Zack Howard, Ron Daniels, Caleb Ratliff, Justice Andrew Pinson, Jeremy Littlefield and John Earles.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MASON, JESSICA OGLESBY AND ASHLEY STOLLAR.
Let us help you do pro bono.

Go to the Pro Bono Resource Center for all your pro bono needs:
• Law practice management support on pro bono issues
• Professional liability insurance coverage
• Free or reduced-cost CLE programs and webinars
• Web-based training and support for pro bono cases
• Honor roll and pro bono incentives


PRESIDENT, FROM PAGE 2

I hope we can look back one day and say things are getting better for young lawyers—not just the past Bar year but every day. As much fun as I have had this last year, I’m more excited to see what the YLD does next. YLD

Ron Daniels is a partner at Daniels Taylor Law LLC and also serves as a special assistant attorney general representing the Division of Child Support Services and the Department of Corrections.

NAME CHANGE, FROM PAGE 5

Save Changes. If you use Odyssey through your firm, select Actions (orange) > Firm Users > select the user to change the name and click Save Changes.

In PeachCourt (peachcourt.com), select your name to display the drop-down menu > Account Settings > User Information > change your name and click Submit Changes.

Change Your Name Everywhere Else

There are a few more places you may need to change your name:

• Your place of employment;
• Bank accounts and credit card companies;
• Insurance and health care providers;
• Vehicle title at your county tag office;
• Voter registration;
• Leases and mortgages; and
• All other accounts and records.

It took this author six months to complete all the steps listed above. If it seems too overwhelming, there are companies like HitchSwitch, MissNowMrs and NewlyNamed that streamline the process for you for a fee. YLD

Veronica (Rogusky) Cox works as a trial attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Atlanta District Office.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 12TH ANNUAL LEGAL FOOD FRENZY CHAMPIONS

The Legal Food Frenzy is an effort of the Office of the Attorney General, the YLD and Feeding Georgia, a statewide network of regional food banks. The competition is designed to help the 1 in 4 children in Georgia whose families struggle to provide food for them during the summer months. This year, Georgia’s legal community raised $829,239. The funds raised during the competition will provide more than 3.2 million meals to the food banks over the summer months. The winners of the 2023 Legal Food Frenzy are:

**Attorney General's Cup**
- Habachy Law
  - 94,222 points per person

**Bar President's Award**
- Coleman Talley LLP
  - 226,874 total points

**Large Firm | Total Points**
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP
  - 225,343 total points

**Large Firm | Points Per Person**
- Baker Hostetler
  - 1,041 points per person

**Medium Firm | Total Points**
- Krevolin Horst LLC
  - 37,029 total points

**Medium Firm | Points Per Person**
- Kutak Rock LLP
  - 969 points per person

**Small Firm**
- Durham Bray Law Firm, P.C.
  - 65,310 total points and
  - 10,885 points per person

**Sole Proprietor**
- Law Offices of Nathan M. Jolles, PC
  - 12,512 total points and
  - 6,256 points per person

**Corporate, In-House Counsel**
- Serta Simmons Bedding, LLC
  - 93,376 total points and
  - 9,337 points per person

**Judicial**
- Columbia Judicial Circuit
  - 20,429 total points and
  - 2,043 points per person

**Legal Organization**
- Georgia Institute of Technology Office of the General Counsel
  - 99,474 total points and
  - 19,89x points per person

**Law School**
- University of Georgia School of Law
  - 40,858 total points and
  - 60 points per person

The Legal Food Frenzy is spearheaded by a team of young lawyers who oversee the promotion of the competition across the state. The 2023 efforts were led by YLD Legal Food Frenzy Co-Chairs Caroline Scalf and Amanda Szokoly, as well as regional representatives.

**America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia**
- Quentin Marlin
- Susannah Pedigo
- Stephen Swinson
- Amanda Szokoly

**Atlanta Community Food Bank**
- Brittanie Browning
- Morgan Lyndall
- Caroline Scalf

**Feeding the Valley Food Bank**
- S. Carson Cummings Jr.
- Robert Wadkins Jr.

**Food Bank of Northeast Georgia**
- Kirsten Pickering Charles

**Georgia Mountain Food Bank**
- Nathan Nicholson

**Golden Harvest Food Bank**
- Will Dasher
- Nicole DeLoach

**Middle Georgia Community Food Bank**
- Virginia Josey
- Brandi Holland
- D. Sarah Young Wheeler

**Second Harvest of South Georgia**
- Cameron Roberts
- Tom Shaw
2023 YLD FALL MEETING
Nov. 9-12 | Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina
Visit www.georgiayld.org for more information.