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# **YOUNG LAWYER RESOURCE GUIDE**

CJCP  
GEORGIA

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Version 07-18-24

For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.gabar.org](http://www.gabar.org) or [cjcpga.org](http://cjcpga.org)

# State Bar Resources

## Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct

Georgia lawyers are bound by strict rules of ethics in all of their professional dealings. The Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct help define a lawyer's obligations to clients, to the judicial system, and to the public. See [gabar.org](http://gabar.org)

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# A LAWYER'S CREED



**To my clients,** I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust.

**To the opposing parties and their counsel,** I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.

**To the courts,** and other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I offer respect, candor, and courtesy. I will strive to do honor to the search for justice.

**To my colleagues in the practice of law,** I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.

**To the profession,** I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service.

**To the public** and our systems of justice, I offer service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal system, to make the law and our legal system available to all, and to seek the common good through the representation of my clients.

# **ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT ON PROFESSIONALISM**

The Court believes there are unfortunate trends of commercialization and loss of professional community in the current practice of law. These trends are manifested in an undue emphasis on the financial rewards of practice, a lack of courtesy and civility among members of our profession, a lack of respect for the judiciary and for our systems of justice, and a lack of regard for others and for the common good. As a community of professionals, we should strive to make the internal rewards of service, craft, and character, and not the external reward of financial gain, the primary rewards of the practice of law. In our practices we should remember that the primary justification for who we are and what we do is the common good we can achieve through the faithful representation of people who desire to resolve their disputes in a peaceful manner and to prevent future disputes. We should remember, and we should help our clients remember, that the way in which our clients resolve their disputes defines part of the character of our society and we should act accordingly.

As professionals, we need aspirational ideals to help bind us together in a professional community. Accordingly, the Court issues the following Aspirational Statement setting forth general and specific aspirational ideals of our profession. This statement is a beginning list of the ideals of our profession. It is primarily illustrative. Our purpose is not to regulate, and certainly not to provide a basis for discipline, but rather to assist the Bar's efforts to maintain a professionalism that can stand against the negative trends of commercialization and loss of community. It is the Court's hope that Georgia's lawyers, judges, and legal educators will use the following aspirational ideals to reexamine the justifications of the practice of law in our society and to consider the implications of those justifications for their conduct. The Court feels that enhancement of professionalism can be best brought about by the cooperative efforts of the organized bar, the courts, and the law schools with each group working independently, but also jointly in that effort.

## GENERAL ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS

**As a lawyer**, I will aspire:

- (a) To put fidelity to clients and, through clients, to the common good, before selfish interests.
- (b) To model for others, and particularly for my clients, the respect due to those we call upon to resolve our disputes and the regard due to all participants in our dispute resolution processes.
- (c) To avoid all forms of wrongful discrimination in all of my activities including discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, handicap, veteran status, or national origin. The social goals of equality and fairness will be personal goals for me.
- (d) To preserve and improve the law, the legal system, and other dispute resolution processes as instruments for the common good.
- (e) To make the law, the legal system, and other dispute resolution processes available to all.
- (f) To practice with a personal commitment to the rules governing our profession and to encourage others to do the same.
- (g) To preserve the dignity and the integrity of our profession by my conduct. The dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained by each successive generation of lawyers.
- (h) To achieve the excellence of our craft, especially those that permit me to be the moral voice of clients to the public in advocacy while being the moral voice of the public to clients in counseling. Good lawyering should be a moral achievement for both the lawyer and the client.
- (i) To practice law not as a business, but as a calling in the spirit of public service.

## **SPECIFIC ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS**

**As to clients**, I will aspire:

- (a) To expeditious and economical achievement of all client objectives.
- (b) To fully informed client decision-making. As a professional, I should:
  - (1) Counsel clients about all forms of dispute resolution;
  - (2) Counsel clients about the value of cooperation as a means towards the productive resolution of disputes;
  - (3) Maintain the sympathetic detachment that permits objective and independent advice to clients;
  - (4) Communicate promptly and clearly with clients; and,
  - (5) Reach clear agreements with clients concerning the nature of the representation.
- (c) To fair and equitable fee agreements. As a professional, I should:
  - (1) Discuss alternative methods of charging fees with all clients;
  - (2) Offer fee arrangements that reflect the true value of the services rendered;
  - (3) Reach agreements with clients as early in the relationship as possible;
  - (4) Determine the amount of fees by consideration of many factors and not just time spent by the attorney;
  - (5) Provide written agreements as to all fee arrangements; and
  - (6) Resolve all fee disputes through the arbitration methods provided by the State Bar of Georgia.
- (d) To comply with the obligations of confidentiality and the avoidance of conflicting loyalties in a manner designed to achieve the fidelity to clients that is the purpose of these obligations.

**As to opposing parties and their counsel**, I will aspire:

- (a) To cooperate with opposing counsel in a manner consistent with the competent representation of all parties. As a professional, I should:
  - (1) Notify opposing counsel in a timely fashion of any cancelled appearance;
  - (2) Grant reasonable requests for extensions or scheduling changes; and,
  - (3) Consult with opposing counsel in the scheduling of appearances, meetings, and depositions.
- (b) To treat opposing counsel in a manner consistent with his or her professional obligations and consistent with the dignity of the search for justice. As a professional, I should:

- (1) Not serve motions or pleadings in such a manner or at such a time as to preclude opportunity for a competent response;
- (2) Be courteous and civil in all communications;
- (3) Respond promptly to all requests by opposing counsel;
- (4) Avoid rudeness and other acts of disrespect in all meetings including depositions and negotiations;
- (5) Prepare documents that accurately reflect the agreement of all parties; and
- (6) Clearly identify all changes made in documents submitted by opposing counsel for review.

**As to the courts, other tribunals, and to those who assist them**, I will aspire:

- (a) To represent my clients in a manner consistent with the proper functioning of a fair, efficient, and humane system of justice. As a professional, I should:
  - (1) Avoid non-essential litigation and non-essential pleading in litigation;
  - (2) Explore the possibilities of settlement of all litigated matters;
  - (3) Seek non-coerced agreement between the parties on procedural and discovery matters;
  - (4) Avoid all delays not dictated by a competent presentation of a client's claims;
  - (5) Prevent misuses of court time by verifying the availability of key participants for scheduled appearances before the court and by being punctual; and
  - (6) Advise clients about the obligations of civility, courtesy, fairness, cooperation, and other proper behavior expected of those who use our systems of justice.
- (b) To model for others the respect due to our courts. As a professional I should:
  - (1) Act with complete honesty;
  - (2) Know court rules and procedures;
  - (3) Give appropriate deference to court rulings;
  - (4) Avoid undue familiarity with members of the judiciary;
  - (5) Avoid unfounded, unsubstantiated, or unjustified public criticism of members of the judiciary;
  - (6) Show respect by attire and demeanor;
  - (7) Assist the judiciary in determining the applicable law; and,
  - (8) Seek to understand the judiciary's obligations of informed and impartial decision-making.

**As to my colleagues in the practice of law**, I will aspire:

- (a) To recognize and to develop our interdependence;
- (b) To respect the needs of others, especially the need to develop as a whole person; and,
- (c) To assist my colleagues become better people in the practice of law and to accept



their assistance offered to me.

**As to our profession**, I will aspire:

- (a) To improve the practice of law. As a professional, I should:
  - (1) Assist in continuing legal education efforts;
  - (2) Assist in organized bar activities; and,
  - (3) Assist law schools in the education of our future lawyers.
- (b) To protect the public from incompetent or other wrongful lawyering. As a professional, I should:
  - (1) Assist in bar admissions activities;
  - (2) Report violations of ethical regulations by fellow lawyers; and,
  - (3) Assist in the enforcement of the legal and ethical standards imposed upon all lawyers.

**As to the public and our systems of justice**, I will aspire:

- (a) To counsel clients about the moral and social consequences of their conduct.
- (b) To consider the effect of my conduct on the image of our systems of justice including the social effect of advertising methods. As a professional, I should ensure that any advertisement of my services:
  - (1) is consistent with the dignity of the justice system and a learned profession;
  - (2) provides a beneficial service to the public by providing accurate information about the availability of legal services;
  - (3) educates the public about the law and legal system;
  - (4) provides completely honest and straightforward information about my qualifications, fees, and costs; and
  - (5) does not imply that clients' legal needs can be met only through aggressive tactics.
- (c) To provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all.
- (d) To support organizations that provide pro bono representation to indigent clients.
- (e) To improve our laws and legal system by, for example:
  - (1) Serving as a public official;
  - (2) Assisting in the education of the public concerning our laws and legal system;
  - (3) Commenting publicly upon our laws; and,
  - (4) Using other appropriate methods of effecting positive change in our laws and legal system.

# PROFESSIONALISM: REPAYING THE DEBT

by Presiding Justice Harold G. Clarke,  
Georgia Supreme Court

**A**fter the Supreme Court of Georgia and the State Bar of Georgia announced their emphasis on professionalism, skeptics posed two questions: what is it and why does it matter? This article attempts to examine, but perhaps not answer, those questions looking at them in reverse order.

Public attitudes and expressions offer evidence of diminished professionalism in the law practice. Nobody allows us to forget the poll which indicated that lawyers enjoy public esteem equivalent to that of used car salesmen. Lawyer jokes are popular at every cocktail party and prove to us that cleverness is not so funny when we are the subject.

The natural question is what led to this attitude? Some point to Watergate as the watershed and say until that time lawyers enjoyed far greater respect. While it is true that John Dean uttered that immortal sentence, "How in God's name could so many lawyers get involved in something like this?" I do not believe that this one unfortunate episode created lawyer unpopularity. The popular pastime of lawyer baiting began long before anybody ever heard of Watergate. Even the English poet John Keats said, "I think we may class the lawyers in the natural history of monsters." And Woodrow Wilson, who once practiced law in Atlanta, commented, "I used to be a lawyer but now I am a reformed character." The problem is not a new one but it has become more acute in recent years.

I believe the main causes of deterioration of lawyer reputation are the over-commercialism of the profession, over-aggressiveness on the part of some lawyers, and the view that lawyers and the law stand as obstacles in the path of things which should be accomplished.

I further believe that the existence

of these problems makes necessary an identification of the nature of professionalism and an examination of how it can be instituted.

## Professionalism Defined

Most observers express a belief that a definition of professionalism lies outside an area in which a consensus can be reached. Some even say that professionalism is simply in the eye of the beholder. With this in mind, I proceed not as a member of the Supreme Court of Georgia, but as a beholder who believes the term is capable of definition. I also believe that lawyers and judges benefit from the exercise of attempting to define professionalism. So, here goes my effort.

I wrote this definition down several years ago, and while I believe it is one I personally drafted after reviewing numbers of others, there is at least a possibility of forgotten plagiarism.

**Professional** – A member of a group which provides an essential service in which the public has a vital interest and requires of the performer extensive training and the exercise of qualitative judgment.

"Essential service," "vital public interest," "extensive training," and "qualitative judgment" constitute the key phrases in this definition. Every lawyer would do well to use these phrases as a checklist for his or her everyday activities. This checklist stands as a reminder that the distinction between a profession and a commercial enterprise is that a profession demands adherence to the public interest.

Upon becoming a professional, an individual is endowed with certain privileges, including better earnings than most and higher status than most. These privileges likely lead to a higher standard of living and per-

*Presiding Justice Harold G. Clarke has served on the Supreme Court of Georgia since his appointment in 1979. He is a life-long resident of Forsyth, having been born there September 28, 1927. He graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1950 and was admitted to the Bar that same year. Justice Clarke served in the U.S. Army where he held the position of Managing Editor of the Pacific Stars and Stripes. He served as president of the State Bar of Georgia and president of the Flint Circuit Bar Association. From 1961 to 1971, Justice Clarke was a member of the Georgia General Assembly. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a Master Benchler of the Joseph Henry Lumpkin American Inn of Court.*



haps a high standard of self satisfaction. Derved privileges need no criticism, but lawyers need to examine whether they deserve their privileges. Another way to put it is whether lawyers are repaying their "debt," that of being a professional.

The debt of professionalism has an enormous principal, carries an astronomical rate of interest and its term extends for a lifetime. The debtor is each lawyer, but the creditors are at least five in number. Each lawyer owes a debt to the client, the law, the system of justice, fellow lawyers, and the public.

## Debt to the Client: Hard Work, Not Hardball

To the client, the lawyer owes honesty, knowledge, hard work, concern, courtesy, communication and zeal within appropriate limits.

The requirement of honesty as a professional goes deeper than the prohibition against lying and stealing. A professional's honesty is the type of openness and candor with the client which even extends to expression of independent judgment that a client's cause may not be a winner. The requirements of courtesy and concern also overlap and go along with the realization that to the client a matter of legal business is gravely important and sometimes even frightening. Appropriate response to the anxieties of a person tangled in the web of legal problems is a serious debt of professionalism. The lawyer who fails to answer letters, return phone calls, and keep the client abreast of developments falls short of professionalism by failing to appreciate the need for communication. Professionalism mandates zeal in the representation of clients. It also mandates reasonable limits upon that zeal. In a speech to a group of lawyers assembled for the administration of the oath of admission, Justice Hardy Gregory of the Georgia Supreme Court said the following:

Barbara Tuchman, the Pulitzer Prize winning historian, has recently published a best seller, *The March of Folly*. Her thesis is that governments often pursue policies contrary to their own best interest despite the availability of feasible alternatives. She traces this folly through history, from Troy to Vietnam. One prize example is the government of Great Britain at the time of the American Revolution. England could have yielded so little and gained so much yet the British government blindly insisted on its sovereign right to tax tea and other things prompting Benjamin Franklin to comment: 'Everything one has a right to do is not best to be done.' The message is this: I detect in law practice today a new meanness and blind insistence on the rights of clients with a serious lack of a spirit of compromise and sometimes even common sense. There's a time to take a stand and there's a time to find a way. Good lawyering is knowing the difference.

Hard work as a debt owed to the client surprises no one but lawyers too often fail to pay this debt.

## Debt to the Law: Lawyers as Problem Solvers

To the law itself, the lawyer owes a debt of study, understanding of the purpose of the law and the application of the law to good use. The lawyer who limits study to the technicalities of statutes and regulations and the meanderings of judicial opinions falls short of that which professionalism demands. Certainly, a lawyer needs knowledge of the law and its interpretations, but a lawyer also needs an understanding of human beings. That kind of understanding flows not so much from law books as it does from the humanities. Writing in *Law and The American Future*, Lyman M. Tondel, Jr., said, "... training and other qualities to perform the function beyond those of the technician are needed - those of the expositor and protector of individual liberty. The lawyer should also acquire a broad understanding of the role of the law, the power, purposes of regulation in our society, and the uniqueness of the lawyer's role; and he should know enough of history and culture to have a broader perspective than most." Mr. Tondel also quotes Learned Hand: "I am arguing that an education which includes the 'humanities' is essential to political wisdom. By humanities, I especially mean history; but close beside history and of almost, if not quite, equal importance are letters, poetry, philosophy, the plastic arts, and music. . . ."

In looking for an understanding of the purpose of the law and the application of its use for good, one statement comes quickly to mind. A lawyer justifies his or her existence only when the lawyer serves as a problem

solver. A substantial portion of the public views the legal profession as an institution dedicated to erecting barriers which impede progress. They see us as spending our time telling clients why they can't do things that ought to be done. J. P. Morgan once said, "I don't want a lawyer to tell me what I cannot do; I hire him to tell me how to do what I want to do." Mr. Morgan's statement is capable of two interpretations. First, he sought a lawyer to discover loopholes for the accomplishment of questionable goals. Another interpretation leads to the belief that he sought a lawyer who had the clarity of thought to recognize a problem and the creativity to find a solution. This is a worthy quest. Negativism should not be the hallmark of the law practice. We should rather strive as professionals to devise a system of conduct within which worthy things can be accomplished, so long as they do not infringe upon the rights of others.

In a speech to the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents, E. Osborne Ayscue, Jr., Past President of the North Carolina Bar Association, commented:

"The lawyer who uses his relationship with his client to influence him to act within the spirit of the law, and not just within its technical letter, is a professional. The lawyer who assists a client in finding a way to achieve a socially undesirable result, while staying within the letter of the law, is nothing more than a hired gun."

## Debt to Justice: To Act in the Public Interest

To the system of justice, lawyers owe a debt of respect, candor, cooperation and willingness to represent

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"I (attorney's name) swear that I will truly and honestly, justly and uprightly demean myself, according to the laws, as an attorney, counselor, and solicitor, and that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia. So Help me God."

*The new professionalism oath for Georgia attorneys which was adopted by the Georgia Supreme Court and took effect on October 14, 1988.*

## Professionalism

(Continued from page 171)

unpopular causes. As an officer of the court, a professional's respect for the system stems from an understanding that failure to work for efficient, inexpensive and speedy administration of justice amounts to failure in the practice of law. Lack of candor with the court serves to impede the wheels of justice and degrade the profession. The legal profession has risen to no greater heights than when it stepped forward in defense of the despised. A lawyer proves his or her professionalism with the willingness to represent an unpopular cause. Just as John Adams defended British soldiers who participated in the Boston Massacre, lawyers of this age have a duty to serve those in need without respect to their popularity.

Activities within the organized bar constitute a portion of the debt owed by lawyers to the system of justice. The Bar is an organization dedicated to the public interest. At its very inception the Supreme Court stated the purpose of the State Bar in Rule 1-103:

"The purposes of the State Bar of Georgia shall be: (a) to foster among the members of the bar of this State the principles of duty and service to the public; (b) to improve the administration of justice; and (c) to advance the science of law."

The State Bar through its activities has been faithful to this purpose. These activities run the gamut from pro bono service to improved lawyer competence and enforced discipline. Its success or failure depends upon the work, interest and time of its members. A professional recognizes this need.

### Debt to Fellow Lawyers: Cooperation and Civility

Lawyers owe a debt to fellow lawyers. This debt involves civility and cooperation. Some would say this proposition reeks of collusionary cliquism. The ABA Journal, July 1987, contained an article entitled "Playing Hardball." This article quoted a prominent law professor as viewing civility in litigation as a "euphemism for the old boy network,



*Some of the 120 lawyers and judges who attended an October convocation on professionalism in Macon.*

or covering up for one another." Almost a year later, the ABA Journal, March 1988, expressed a different view in the article, "Rambo Litigation - Why Hardball Tactics Do Not Work." This article viewed hardball as ineffective and often causing harm to the clients. The New York City Bar Association's Committee on Federal Courts in its 1988 report expressed opposition to hardball litigation tactics<sup>1</sup> and Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, retired, expressed similar views as far back as 1971. In his remarks to the American Law Institute, he said, "Someone must teach that good manners, disciplined behavior and civility - by whatever name - are the lubricants that prevent law suits from turning into combat. More than that, it is really the very glue that keeps an organized society from flying apart." On another occasion, Chief Justice Burger said, "In their highest role, lawyers are - or should be - healers of conflicts. . . . In their highest role, lawyers should try to conciliate, mediate and arbitrate."

Most of us recall Leo Durocher's alleged quote "nice guys finish last." The truthfulness of that statement is doubtful on the baseball field and far more doubtful in the courtroom and law offices. Polarization of lawyers and parties resulting from uncivil conduct frequently creates an unfor-

tunate outcome for all concerned. Civility with the fellow lawyer lies in the public interest because of the likelihood of quicker resolution of disputes with better results. Long experience teaches that undue aggressiveness leads to the kind of polarization which often prevents settlement or at least deters more efficient resolution of contested disputes. This even impacts on the public interest because of the increased financial burden on the judicial system.

### Duty to Serve and to Lead

The last and perhaps most important debt to be discussed is the one owed to the public. Professionalism burdens lawyers with a duty to serve and to lead.

The lawyer's debt to the public begins with the duty to weigh the public interest against the purely private interest of the lawyer and the client. An aspect of professionalism is the development of the sixth sense which imposes a self-prohibition against crossing the undefinable line into action which a professional is expected to avoid. In a positive sense, lawyers owe the public the debt of service and leadership. Service generally takes a form of pro bono legal work, because the needs of the deprived lie waiting for the

service of the more fortunate. The grand tradition of the legal profession insists that lawyers not shrink from leadership roles. By nature and training, lawyers possess qualities which uniquely fit them for positions of leadership in both the public and private sector. From the very beginnings of our republic, Americans have looked to lawyers for leadership. Some evidence indicates the setting of the sun on this tradition. Fewer and fewer lawyers offer to serve as public officials and it even seems that lawyers are volunteering less frequently to lead in civic and charitable activity. At least one reason for this unfortunate development is the explosion of cost in the operation of a law practice which makes time an enormously valuable commodity. With respect to public office, another reason is the tendency on the part of some persons to distrust lawyers and therefore diminish their electability. Perhaps the best way to regain lost trust is to reassert our willingness to serve and lead.

### A Higher Standard Than Ethical Canons

Leaving the issue of the debts of professionalism, it is well to call attention to the use to which lawyers may put the privileges of professionalism. Chief Justice Warren said: "... because the Constitution permits a given activity does not mean it is ethically appropriate for members of a profession to pursue it." I would take this a step further and paraphrase that statement in this manner: because the canons of ethics permit a given activity does not mean that it is professionally appropriate for lawyers to pursue it. The predicate for this proposition is the idea that ethics is a minimum standard which is *required* of all lawyers while professionalism is a higher standard *expected* of all lawyers. This is the kind of standard which leads to a satisfaction for a job well done or a life well spent. John Ruskin said: "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." We may well ask what we have become by our experience as members of the legal profession.

Another question is what our ex-

perience may do to the profession itself. Writing in the Torts and Insurance Practice and Section's Monograph on Professional Independence, Professor Bob McKay reasoned that in return for the right to regulate itself, the legal profession has accepted the implicit compact to act in the public interest.

### What Is At Stake?

This reasoning leads to even more serious considerations. Acting in the public interest is an element of professionalism. It can be said that when lawyers fail to act professionally, they forfeit their right to independence. The loss of lawyer independence obviously would result in a diminution of the stature of the bar. But more important is the effect it would have on the public good. For more than two hundred years, an independent bench and bar have stood as primary protectors of individual rights and the stability of our government. In exercise of their independence, lawyers have undertaken the representation of unpopular causes throughout the history of this republic beginning with the defense of the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre cases and continuing through a long line of cases in which lawyers and the judicial system stood fast in defense of individual liberties. Whether the right protected was that of little Miss Brown in the claim against the Board of Education or an unlovable, industrial giant in its battle against a government agency, the independence of the lawyers was essential in securing those rights.

Institutionally, lawyers in the ex-

ercise of their independence wrote the Declaration of Independence, devised the basic tenets of the United States Constitution and mapped out the framework of a judicial system which affords more protection to more people than any the world has ever known. To say that the independence of lawyers and the courts is important only to the legal profession and the judiciary overlooks many of the great truths of history. The United States in its two hundred year history has faced numerous crises in which factions of one sort or another have pulled in opposite directions. Yet only in 1861 has the legal system failed to resolve the conflicting positions of those factions. In the absence of independence, the system could not have acted so successfully in defense of the republic.

This leads then to the conclusion that the stakes in the question of whether lawyers act professionally extend far beyond the impact on the lawyers themselves or their clients or the courts. The absence of professional conduct leads to the loss of the right of self-regulation. The loss of the right of self-regulation leads to the loss of lawyer independence. The loss of lawyer independence puts at risk individual rights and the institutional protection of the republic. We cannot carry so heavy a burden as an amalgam of self-seeking individuals. We can do it only as members of a profession.

### Footnote

1. The Committee on Federal Courts, *A Proposed Code of Litigation Conduct*, 43 THE RECORD OF THE ASSN. OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK 738 (Oct. 1988).

HYATT REGENCY SAVANNAH

welcomes

The State Bar of Georgia

June 14-17, 1989

For your dining pleasure



Sunday-Thursday, 6:30am-10:30pm  
Friday-Saturday, 6:30am-11:30pm



Monday-Thursday 11:30am-2pm, 6-10pm  
Friday, 11:30am-2pm, 6-10:30pm  
Saturday, 6-10:30pm Sunday, 10:30am-2pm

# State Bar Resources

## Fastcase Legal Research

Fastcase provides industry-leading tools to make legal research easier and more intuitive. Lawyers, law firms, and bar associations across the country trust Fastcase to provide them with comprehensive access to the law through an innovative and award-winning platform. We help forward-thinking lawyers navigate the law faster and smarter, to democratize legal services. Please email @sheilab@gabar.org or call 404-526-8618 for questions concerning Fastcase, or you may call Fastcase directly at 886-773-2782 or email [support@fastcase.com](mailto:support@fastcase.com).

## CLE Approved Fastcase Training Opportunities

Fastcase by vLex offers three options for webinar training hosted by a Fastcase attorney: “Introduction to Legal Research on Fastcase 7,” “Introduction to Boolean on Fastcase 7” and “Ethics and Legal Research.” View the webinars here: <http://www.fastcase.com/webinars/>.

## Fastcase Access & Resources



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**Go to**

**| Classes**

**| Support**

**| News**

**| Webinars**

**| Tutorials**

**| FAQ**

# State Bar Resources

## Georgia Bar Member Benefits Program

### Conference Center Room Reservations

Licensed Georgia attorneys may reserve any of the Bar Center's conference rooms on a first-come, first-served basis. Rooms are located on 3rd floor and sub-basement. There is no charge for law-related meetings (soft drinks and coffee are extra and are not provided for groups larger than 20). Conference Center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Depending on individual needs, the 3rd floor can accommodate up to 200 people. Members wishing to host events after hours will incur charges to include cleaning, security, AV and heat/air. For room reservation inquiries, contact Kyle Gause at [kyleg@gabar.org](mailto:kyleg@gabar.org).

### Video Conferencing Capabilities

Our video conferencing services utilize state of the art two-way video conferencing for all platforms. We offer a huge array of diverse conferencing services at the Bar Center in Atlanta, as well as each of the satellite offices in Savannah and Tifton. If you have video conferencing needs, contact AV Manager Matthew Ficocelli at [matthewf@gabar.org](mailto:matthewf@gabar.org).

### Parking

Bar members may park free of charge, subject to space availability when visiting and using the Bar Center, in the Bar Center parking deck located at the corner of Ted Turner Drive and Marietta Street. **(Because there are a limited number of parking spaces, free parking cannot be provided for lawyers who work in other downtown buildings.)** An attendant is on site until 10 p.m. weekdays and for special events during weekends.

### Lawyers Lounge

The Bar Center's Lawyers Lounge provides an attractive environment for attorneys who may have occasion to be downtown and need a place to relax between meetings. Such visitors may help themselves to a fresh cup of coffee, enjoy the daily newspaper or check phone or email messages.



# State Bar Resources

## Resources for Georgia Lawyers

### Options for Insurance Benefits

The **Private Insurance Exchange for State Bar of Georgia** is designed to help members and their employees find the insurance and benefits they need — from health to long-term care, and everything in between . [Home - Insurance Programs for Members of the State Bar of Georgia \(memberbenefits.com\)](#)

### ReliaGuide Directory

The FIND A LAWYER public-facing directory is searched more than 1,000,000 times per year by members of the community who are seeking to hire a lawyer just like you to help with their legal needs. [ReliaGuide \(gabar.org\)](#)

### Vendor Directory

In order to help members easily locate vendors providing legal services and goods, the Bar has compiled the following categorical list. It is not intended to be inclusive or a recommendation of any vendor. Members are advised to use their own due diligence prior to using the services of these or any other vendors. [\(gabar.org\)](#)

### UseYourSix | Free Counseling Services

The LAP provides a broad range of helping services to members seeking assistance with depression, stress, alcohol/drug abuse, family problems, workplace conflicts, psychological and other issues. You can contact the LAP by calling 800-327-9631, or by emailing Nicole Browning, Customer Service Manager, CorpCare Associates, Inc., at [nicole@corpcareeap.com](mailto:nicole@corpcareeap.com). [Lawyer Assistance Program \(gabar.org\)](#)

### Suicide Awareness

The State Bar of Georgia's suicide awareness campaign has a dual purpose, directed toward lawyers and judges who are suffering from anxiety and depression and may be at risk for suicide, as well as all Bar members, who need to recognize the severity of the problem and be able to identify warning signs among our colleagues. If you are thinking about suicide or are worried a friend may be contemplating suicide, immediate action is critical. **Call the confidential LAP Hotline 1-800-327-9631.** [Suicide Awareness Campaign \(gabar.org\)](#)

### Wellness Programs

The State Bar of Georgia wants to help you by promoting health and wellness among our members and staff, including the development of work/life balance CLE programs, and increase awareness of existing Bar programs that deal with such issues. [Wellness Resources \(gabar.org\)](#)

### Peer Support Program

Peer support can take many forms – phone calls, text messaging, group meetings, individual meetings over a cup of coffee or a meal, going for walks together, or other common activities. There is no “one size fits all” approach or uniform strategy for peer support. Overall, peer support complements and enhances other health care services by creating emotional, social and practical assistance. [Georgia Lawyers Helping Lawyers – Volunteer Program \(georgialhl.org\)](#)



# State Bar Resources

## Resources for Georgia Lawyers

### Law Practice Management

The Law Practice Management Program is a member service to help all Georgia lawyers and their employees pull together the pieces of the office management puzzle. Whether you need advice on technology, firm finances, organization or library materials, we have the resources and training to assist you. Feel free to browse our online forms and articles collections, check out a book or videotape from our library or learn more about our on-site management consultations and training sessions. [Law Practice Management Program \(gabbar.org\)](http://gabbar.org)

### Hotel Discounts

As a member of the Bar, you are eligible for discounted rates at hotels in close proximity to the State Bar of Georgia headquarters located in downtown Atlanta. To receive these special rates, make sure you ask for the State Bar of Georgia discount when making reservations. The Bar has negotiated discounted rates with the following hotels. **\*\*Blackout dates apply for each hotel.\*\*** [Hotel Discounts for Bar Members \(gabbar.org\)](http://gabbar.org)

### Resource Library

The Law Practice Management Program maintains a library of books, audio CDs and DVDs on a variety of topics related to law office management and technology. These items can be checked out for a period of up to two weeks. We will gladly ship materials immediately upon receipt of a request; the law firm is responsible for all postage costs. [Click here](#) to view the Practice Management library. A [first-time patron registration form](#) will need to be completed to gain access to the online library catalog to hold and check out materials. *If you need library assistance, please contact Kim Henry at 404-526-8621 or [kimh@gabar.org](mailto:kimh@gabar.org)*

### Job Resources

Resources below are provided as a member service of the State Bar of Georgia which includes the Job Search Site, Law Practice Management and Lawyer Assistance program. This list is provided as a service to lawyers seeking employment. The list is not intended to be inclusive or an endorsement of any organization. **Members are advised to use their own due diligence prior to using the services of these or any other organizations.** [Job Resources \(gabbar.org\)](http://gabbar.org)

# **GET CONNECTED IN THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA !**

## **Get involved in the Young Lawyers' Division!**

On May 31, 1947, what is now the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, commonly known as the YLD, was formed. All members of the Bar who have not yet reached their 36th birthday or who have been admitted to their first bar less than five years are automatically members. Today, the YLD is one of the most dynamic arms of the Bar, offering outreach to both the profession and to the public through various legal programs and projects. See [https:// www.linkedin.com/company/young-lawyers-division-state-bar-of-georgia/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/young-lawyers-division-state-bar-of-georgia/)



## **YLD “Young Lawyers Division**

The YLD has more than 30 hard-working committees that provide service to the public, the profession and the Bar through an array of projects and programs. See more information by going to ([gabar.org](http://gabar.org)).

YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities

YLD Business Law Subcommittee

YLD Child Protection and Advocacy

YLD Community Service Projects

YLD Corporate Counsel

YLD Criminal Law

YLD Disaster Legal Assistance

YLD Estate and Elder Law

YLD Ethics and Professionalism

YLD Family Law

YLD Federal Law Subcommittee

YLD High School Mock Trial

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OTHER COMMITTEES AT [YLD Committees \(gabar.org\)](http://gabar.org)

# **GET CONNECTED IN THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA !**

**Get involved in the State Bar of Georgia's committees.**



## **State Bar of Georgia's Standing Committees**

Access to Justice  
Arbitration of Attorney Fee Disputes, Committee on the  
Attorney Wellness  
Attorney-Client Solicitation  
Audit  
BASICS  
Bar Center  
Bench and Bar  
Business Court  
Children and the Courts  
Clients' Security Fund Board of Trustees Communications  
Communications  
Continuing Lawyer Competency, Commission on  
Disciplinary Rules and Procedures  
Elections  
Finance Formal Advisory Opinion Board  
General Counsel Office Overview Committee  
Georgia Bar Journal Editorial Board  
Georgia Diversity Program  
ICLE Board Inclusion in the Profession, Committee to Promote  
Indigent Defense  
Insurance  
International Trade in Legal Service  
Investment  
Judicial Procedure and Administration/Uniform Rules  
Judicial Qualifications Commission Nominating Committee  
Law Practice Management Program  
Lawyer Assistance Program  
Legislation, Advisory Committee on Local and Voluntary Bars Member Benefits

Member Benefits  
Military Legal Assistance Program  
Pension Plan, Committee on the Bar Employees  
Personnel  
Professionalism  
Programs  
SOLACE  
Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias  
Senior Lawyers  
Statewide Judicial Evaluation  
Suicide Prevention and Awareness

For more information, please visit [www.gabar.org](http://www.gabar.org)

# LOCAL & VOLUNTARY BAR ORGANIZATIONS



[Alapaha Circuit Bar Association \\*](#)

[Appalachian Circuit Bar Association \\*](#)

[Atlanta Bar Association](#)

[Atlantic Circuit Bar Association \\*](#)

[Augusta Bar Association](#)

[Augusta Conference of African American Attorneys](#)

[Bainbridge-Decatur County Bar Association \\*](#)

[Baldwin County Bar Association \\*](#)

[Bartow County Bar Association](#)

[Blue Ridge Bar Association](#)

[Bulloch County Bar Association \\*](#)

[C. B. King Bar Association \\*](#)

[Camden County Bar Association](#)

[Carroll County Bar Association](#)

[Clayton County Bar Association](#)

[Cobb County Bar Association](#)

[Cochran Bar Association](#)

[Columbus Bar Association \\*](#)

[Conasauga Bar Association](#)

[Cordele Circuit Bar Association \\*](#)

[DeKalb Bar Association](#)

[Dougherty Circuit Bar Association](#)

[Douglas County Bar Association](#)

[Dublin Circuit Bar Association \\*](#)

[Effingham County Bar Association](#)

[Elberton Bar Association \\*](#)

[Enotah Circuit Bar Association \\*](#)

[Fayette County Bar Association](#)

[Forsyth County Bar Association](#)

[Gainesville-Northeastern Bar Association \\*](#)

[Gate City Bar Association](#)

[Georgia Alliance of African American Attorneys \\*](#)

[Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association](#)

[Georgia Association for Women Lawyers \\*](#)

[Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys](#)

[Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers](#)

[Georgia Defense Lawyers Association \\*](#)

[Georgia Hispanic Bar Association \\*](#)

[Georgia Trial Lawyers Association](#)

[Glynn County Bar Association](#)

[Gordon County Bar Association](#)

[Gwinnett County Bar Association](#)

[Henry County Bar Association](#)

[Houston County Bar Association](#)

[Jesup Bar Association](#)

[Jewish Bar Association of Georgia](#)

[Korean-American Bar Association of Georgia \\*](#)

[Lookout Mountain Bar Association \\*](#)

# LOCAL & VOLUNTARY BAR ORGANIZATIONS



Middle Circuit Bar Association \*

Mitchell County Bar Association

Moultrie Bar Association

Mountain Circuit Bar Association \*

Newnan-Coweta Bar Association

NewRock Legal Society

Newton County Bar Association

North Fulton Bar Association \*

Northern Circuit Bar Association \*

Northwest Georgia Bar Association

Ocmulgee Circuit Bar Association

Oconee Circuit Bar Association \*

Pataula Circuit Bar Association \*

Paulding County Bar Association

Piedmont Circuit Bar Association \*

Port City Bar Association

Rockdale County Bar Association \*

Rome Bar Association \*

Sandy Springs Bar Association

Savannah Bar Association

South Asian Bar Association of Georgia \*

South Georgia Circuit Bar Association

Southwestern Circuit Bar Association

Spalding County Bar Association \*

Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia, Inc.

Tallapoosa Circuit Bar Association \*

Thomas County Bar Association

Thomaston Bar Association

Tifton Circuit Bar Association \*

Toombs Circuit Bar Association \*

Towaliga Circuit Bar Association

Troup County Bar Association

Valdosta Bar Association \*

Walton County Bar Association

Waycross Bar Association

Western Circuit Bar Association