

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MARTHA McMILLIN
Chapter President

New Year's Resolution: get involved in ACC- Georgia in 2012

It is a great honor to serve as the President of the vibrant ACC-Georgia chapter for 2012 and I appreciate that we have a strong Board for next year, ready to continue bringing good services to our members. We plan to keep

our tradition of offering interesting monthly luncheon CLEs, sponsoring student internships, holding special events and fundraisers, and volunteering our services. Our robust membership of over 800 in-house attorneys in Georgia is concentrated in the Atlanta area but is also located throughout the state. No matter where you are located or how often you are able to attend our monthly meetings, there are great volunteer

opportunities for anyone looking to get involved in big or small ways. Please make "get involved in ACC-Georgia in 2012" as one of your New Year's resolutions. It will benefit your career by expanding your skill set and making useful contacts, while you personally benefit by serving people inside and outside our chapter. Whether by serving on any of our committees below – Sponsorships & Programs; Outreach Initiatives; Membership; Special Programs; and Communications – or simply by letting me know you want to help, we will find the right fit for your time and interest.

Chapter Survey Results

Many thanks to Suellen Bergman for spearheading the useful survey of our chapter membership conducted in October 2011. It was designed to assist the Board in setting programs and continuing to improve the services provided by ACC-Georgia. We received a healthy amount of feedback, as 144 members participated. Some highlights of the results are: (1) services and

programs deemed "important" or "very important" are the monthly luncheon programs, special programs, the ACC website, ACC education courses, and advocacy on behalf of in-house attorneys; (2) the most important features of any program are the CLE credit, day, time, cost, networking opportunities, topic, written materials, length, and location; (3) lunch is by far the best time for meetings, although there is significant interest in breakfast or late afternoon receptions; and (4) the one type of evening event of interest is a dinner event with other professional organizations. The Board will review the survey results in our January planning meeting.

Share Your Contracts Drive Ends January 16, 2012

ACC-National is developing an automated contract system that will create and update contract templates. This system will analyze contract language from those submitted to synthesize a model legal document

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, **PG 2B**

ACC Georgia Chapter 2011 Board Members & Contacts

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Treasurer	Mr. Neil J. Ginn <i>Corporate Counsel</i> WEG Electric Corp. 6655 Sugarloaf Parkway Duluth, Georgia 30097 nginn@weg.net
At-Large Directors	Term of Office Ms. Virginia Wadsworth <i>General Counsel-APCO</i> Automobile Protection Corporation 6010 Atlantic Blvd. Norcross, GA 30071 vwadsworth@easycare.com One year as Past President
	Mr. Keith Henderson <i>Compliance Officer and VP, Ethics and Compliance</i> Capital Access Network, Inc. 2nd year of a two year term

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containing the most common clauses and language used by lawyers in practice today. Prize opportunities are offered to individual members who submit the most contracts and to chapters: those with at least 15% of members participating (that would be 120 members for our chapter) are eligible for a raffle prize for a free Annual Meeting registration and the chapter with the most submissions overall will win a free registration. ACC-Georgia was one of the early contenders in the number of contracts submitted although we had slipped a bit by Christmas. As you read this article in January, please make the commitment to help our chapter win by sending contracts you have drafted. Contracts submitted will be redacted and cleaned of personal information and can be entered at <http://www.acc.com/legalresources/contractssubmission.cfm>. January 16, 2012 is the deadline for providing contracts. Upon completion, the new system will be a

useful resource for ACC members.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee, consisting of Tom Best and Steve Curlee, recently submitted its report of its audit of the financial records and activities of the chapter for the fiscal year that ended on September 30, 2011. The Audit Committee found that the chapter's finances are in good order and recommended a number of measures to enhance financial reporting and accountability. The commendable work of 2011 Treasurer Dan Ellis was highlighted. Although it is not glamorous, the Audit Committee's work is important in providing an annual review independent from the Board to ensure that the chapter's financial matters are well run. Neither Tom nor Steve had previously done any work of this sort but they

did not hesitate to help out. They researched how to do a proper audit, created excellent procedures, and provided a stellar report. Their efforts are much appreciated and who knows, there may be a point in their legal careers that what they learned by serving as the Audit Committee will be most useful.

Programs

Many thanks to Creighton Frommer for his article in this issue summarizing our December 2011 chapter meeting. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 10 at Maggiano's Cumberland with a program sponsored by Littler Mendelson on "Advice for the New Year: 2012 Employment and Labor Law Considerations." The presentation will focus on recent trends in Labor and Employment Law. I hope to see you there!

ACC-Georgia Member Spotlight: Tom Best

1. What are your responsibilities at The Home Depot?

At The Home Depot, I work with a tremendous team of professionals who manage all the torts, products liability, and property damage claims and lawsuits for the Company in the United States and Canada. Our team works with our customers and their representatives on a daily basis to ensure that our customers receive the same excellent customer service during the claims process as they receive from our dedicated front-line associates in our stores.

2. How did your career path lead to an in-house role?

After graduating from law school, I worked for a great firm in Atlanta – Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers. During my time at Swift Currie, I learned many great lessons from some exemplary lawyers. I learned that while litigation is by its nature adversarial, one should not sacrifice one's professionalism, ethics, and character when communicating with one's adversary. This lesson has been extremely important to me and coincides perfectly with our commitment to customer service at The Home Depot. It is through some of the strong relationships that I built while at Swift Currie that I was approached about joining the General Liability Department at The Home Depot.

3. Please describe the legal department at The Home Depot.

The Legal Department at The Home Depot is comprised of many great associates performing a number of critical roles for the Company in the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, and China. Our mission is to provide quality, actionable advice in a timely manner to our business leaders and to provide excellent customer service to all of our stores and our front-line associates. We have leading experts in

Litigation, Corporate, Real Estate, Regulatory, Employment, Benefits, and Risk Management issues in our ranks.

4. What do you most enjoy about your work?

While the privilege to work on the variety of issues that arise during a typical week or month is wonderful, I most enjoy working with my fellow associates who are very passionate about what they do.

5. What is most challenging about your work?

Our store associates who work with our customers on a daily basis work in a fast-paced environment. Our primary challenge is to always provide them with advice that they can use to help solve the customer's problem. We are passionate about customer service and embrace our role in our Company's overall customer service philosophy.

6. How long have you been a member of ACC-Georgia?

Five years

7. What are the best benefits of ACC-Georgia membership?

My membership in ACC-Georgia is very beneficial as it allows me to meet other local in-house counsel who work on many of the same issues I work on a daily basis. Through the monthly meetings, I also obtain access to some of the leading outside lawyers who put on excellent presentations on timely issues.

8. Now for some personal questions:

• Your favorite burger is from: the Varsity? Or Flip?

o Five Guys

• Morning person or evening person?

o Evening person

• Krispy Kreme or Dunkin' Donuts?

o Krispy Kreme – especially if they are warm

• Boiled peanuts: thumbs up or thumbs down?

o Thumbs down

• Favorite hobby?

o I enjoy spending time with my wife and three children, running, tennis, and soccer.

• Name the actor or actress whose appearance in a movie guarantees you will go to see it.

o With three children, my movie selections are often based on what it is they want to see. So, with that in mind, the current character that will guarantee we will go to the movies is Lightning McQueen.

• If you could go anywhere in the world for free for two weeks, where would that be?

o New Zealand

• If you were not a lawyer, what would be your alternate career path?

o Over the years, my answer to this question has fluctuated. There are a number of different and interesting careers that are fascinating. Currently, I think being a doctor specializing in sports medicine would have been a fulfilling career.

Legal Humorist Highlights December Program

by Creighton Frommer

The Georgia Chapter of the ACC met Tuesday, December 13th for its monthly luncheon at Maggiano's Cumberland. Instead of its usual legal update speakers, for this meeting the Chapter presented Sean Carter, Humorist at Law, to guide us through legal ethics and professionalism.

Kicking-off the luncheon meeting, Virginia Wadsworth welcomed attendees with her final program as President, and several board members updated the Chapter with their recent efforts.

Paul Marcela, VP of Special Programs, asked attendees to 'save-the-date' for an ACC-GA event sponsored by Barnes & Thornburg in support of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation, which works to improve the health, education, and quality of life for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The event, similar to the successful "Help for Haiti" program earlier this year, will raise funds for the Foundation through admission tickets and an auction of unique sports memorabilia. It is scheduled for February 21st

from 6:30-9pm at the offices of Barnes & Thornburg. Please watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Wanda Morris, Vice President of Outreach Initiatives, then introduced Marine Staff Sgt. Jason Tollett, representing Toys for Tots. Attendees learned that Toys for Tots started in 1947 and in 2010 collected over 700,000 toys in the Metro Atlanta district. Along with providing three large boxes of toys (and dozens more toys at its November luncheon), the ACC-GA Chapter gave Staff Sgt. Tollett a prideful standing ovation in honor of all United States Armed Forces, including those who fought bravely in the Iraq War.

The incoming ACC-GA President for 2012, Martha McMillin, then presented Virginia with a custom engraved crystal plate from the Chapter as a special memento of her dedication and leadership as 2011 President. In her thanks, Virginia specifically recognized Chapter Administrator Lisa King Smith and volunteer Mary Jane Cagle for their hard work and dedicated service to the Chapter.

With the Chapter's business matters addressed, Joseph Freeman,

Vice President of Sponsorship and Programs, introduced Sean Carter, Harvard Law graduate and former practicing attorney in M&A and Securities law. Thankfully for the ACC-GA Chapter, Mr. Carter left behind his in-house role and had us laughing continuously at his humorous anecdotes and self-deprecating jokes revolving around the Seven Deadly Sins of Legal Ethics. Who knew legal ethics could be comedy gold? Comparing in-house legal practice to his tongue-in-cheek personal stories, Sylvester Stallone's Rocky, and the antics of Wile E. Coyote, Mr. Carter also counseled us to honor our role as lawyers and focus on serving our clients the best we can - not striving for mere competency.

The combination of serious issues explained with humor was a great way to remember the ethical and professionalism points discussed. It was an excellent way to finish 2011's stellar year of programs offering networking, education and support for in-house counsel.

ACC NEWSLETTER



“Advice For The New Year: 2012 Employment and Labor Law Considerations”

*January 10, 2012
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Maggiano’s Little Italy at Cumberland Mall
1601 Cumberland Mall SE*

The Georgia Chapter of Association of Corporate Counsel and Littler Mendelson will present: “Advice for the New Year: 2012 Employment and Labor Law Considerations.” The presentation will focus on recent trends in Labor and Employment Law. Addressing such topics as privacy, social media usage, transgender considerations, wage-hour, cutting edge employment law decisions, and proposed legislation impacting the workplace, this interactive session will equip you with tools to address workplace challenges in the upcoming year.

Panelists:

- Dionysia Johnson-Massie, Shareholder, Littler Mendelson
- Bradley E. Strawn, Shareholder, Littler Mendelson
- Mary E. Sharp, Shareholder, Littler Mendelson

Attendance is limited to ACC members and their invited guests, as well as prospective ACC members. ACC membership is open to attorneys who practice law as in-house counsel employees of organizations and who do not hold themselves out to the public for the practice of law.

Thanks to Littler Mendelson the CLE lunch program is *complimentary for the first 120 ACC members who register their intention to attend on-line*. Thereafter, the fee for current ACC members is \$25, and, in all circumstances, \$35 for non-members, including prospective members. A general CLE credit of one (1) hour is available and will be submitted to the Georgia State Bar for attendees licensed to practice in Georgia.

To register go to: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevoid=223843>. Please be sure to register under the first member registration to take advantage of the complimentary attendance. After the 120 free spaces have been filled, you will be asked for credit card information. No refunds will be provided for cancellations but credit can be applied to a future 2012 ACC-Georgia program. **Walk-ins are accommodated subject to space availability and must pay by check at the door. If you have registered and are unable to attend, please notify Lisa Smith by e-mail at laotsu@bellsouth.net as soon as possible so that your space is available for another member.**

Next meeting: Please mark your calendars for our February CLE program presented on February 14, 2012 from 11:30am-1:30pm at Maggiano’s Little Italy located at Cumberland Mall. The sponsor for our February luncheon will be Womble Carlyle and the topic will cover the Georgia Restrictive Covenant Act.