

The ATLANTA LEGAL AID
DOCKET 

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

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R E V I E W 

Legal Aid Celebrates Award Winners!



Randall L. Hughes
Falcons' 2011 Community Quarterback



Women's Cancer Project (**Haley Schwartz**, director, is pictured with a client) Foundation for Improvement of Justice Award



(Pictured with The Hon. Kelli Wolk)
Sarah C. Cipperly Cobb Bar Association
Ross Adams Younger Lawyer Award



Lindsay Verity Georgia Association of Women
Lawyers Visionary Award



Jessica Felfoldi (2011 Equal Justice Works
Fellow) Emory University's 2011 Humanitarian of the
Year Award



Jeffrey J. Nix
(Volunteer, Cancer Legal Project)
Atlanta Bar Association
Celebrating Service Pro Bono Award Recipient

Highlights from a Remarkable Year

This most recent newsletter chronicles an amazing year.

Of course, the highlight has to be the premiere of our historical documentary *One Law for All: The Story of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society* which was first shown to a sold out house at the Rialto Theater on October 26 and then broadcast on WPBA 30 the next evening. I can't count the number of staff, board members, volunteers and donors who told me how proud the film made them to be associated with Atlanta Legal Aid.

The newsletter also shows other recognition we got this past year. Our staff and program got numerous awards, our Cobb office celebrated its 40th anniversary and our Run for Justice had close to 1000 participants.

Finally, the newsletter shows the support we get in the metropolitan Atlanta community, in the form of our many volunteers and our amazing financial support.

The newsletter tells a great story; I hope you enjoy it.

Steve Gottlieb
Executive Director



Legal Aid of Cobb County Celebrates 40 Years!

The Legal Aid office in Cobb opened in 1971 in Marietta with one staff attorney. Today, six full-time attorneys, four support staff and over 200 volunteers serve the legal needs of over 4,500 low-income people in Cobb County each year. On November 19th, the Cobb legal community turned out in force to celebrate this occasion with the staff. Dawn Levine presented a check to Cobb Justice Foundation's Sarah Cipperly for \$1,000 from the Solo and Small Firm Section of the Cobb Bar Association in honor of the event.



One Law for All: The Story of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society

Preview Party Highlights



Rep. Kathy and Lawrence Ashe hosted a preview party for endowment donors on October 6th in their home. Filmmakers John and David Duke offered guests a behind the scenes look at making *One Law for All: The Story of Atlanta Legal Aid Society* and a special preview of the full-length film.



The Premiere

Atlanta Legal Aid Society celebrated the premiere of the documentary *One Law for All: The Story of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society* with a sold-out screening on October 26th at the Rialto Theater. Over 800 tickets were sold and the event raised around \$80,000 for Legal Aid. The film then aired on WPBA on October 27th.



Legal Aid “Celebrates Service” at the Atlanta Bar Association’s Annual Lunch

Michael Rafter, partner at Kilpatrick Townsend and first vice president of Legal Aid’s board, presented awards to deserving volunteers.



Randall L. Hughes Lifetime Commitment to Legal Services Award: Robert N. Dokson

Robbie Dokson was the executive director of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society from 1975 until 1980. While it is not on his resume, he likes to say that he actually served in every position at Legal Aid, except as a receptionist. Although he is not technically correct (he never would have made it as a secretary), in fact Robbie did rise in the ranks at Atlanta Legal Aid from a staff attorney, just out of the University of Chicago law school, to executive director. Robbie has often said that being director at Atlanta Legal Aid was the best job of his life, and he has always remained loyal to the program. Robbie still serves on the board, as a volunteer fundraiser and as a mentor to younger Legal Aid lawyers. Though he has been gone from the official payroll for 30 years, Robbie Dokson has remained as committed to Legal Aid as a volunteer as he was as an attorney.



Innovations in Pro Bono Service Award:

- Cheryl Naja, Alston & Bird
- Mary Benton, Alston & Bird
- Dena Hong, United Parcel Service
- The Hotline Gang (Michelle Ashley not available for the photo), Dalia Selcis and Allison Madonia, Alston & Bird

Nominated by Dina Franch, Georgia Senior Legal Hotline & Haley Schwartz, Cancer Legal Initiative

In a project spearheaded by Mary Benton and Dena Hong, attorneys and paralegals from Alston & Bird and the corporate legal department of United Parcel Service (UPS) have recently created an innovative collaboration with the Cancer Legal Initiative and the Senior Citizens Law Project (SCLP) to assist relatives and caregivers in obtaining guardianship and conservatorship over medically feeble incompetent adults as well as assisting adults obtain guardianship over minor children due to the incapacitation or death of a parent due to life threatening illness. When accepting these adult guardianship and conservatorship cases, A+B and UPS absorb non-waivable fees in amount of \$500 per case to pay for assessments on the proposed ward. It is an amazing commitment that gives Legal Aid access to staff and financial resources which the program would not otherwise have. Mary and Dena are the driving force behind this amazing commitment to Legal Aid clients.

Alston & Bird is leading the pack in offering the joy of pro bono service for non-attorney staff - while expanding Legal Aid’s capacity to serve clients. The Georgia Senior Legal Hotline receives an average of 50 calls per day, but has no paid administrative support. When seniors call the Hotline, they must leave a voicemail message; the voicemail message must be retrieved and entered into the Hotline’s on-line case management system—a 3-4 hour a day administrative task that the Hotline’s attorneys used to handle themselves. The firm’s amazing Cheryl Naja developed this program for the Hotline in 2008.



Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year: Dean Russell, Kilpatrick Townsend

Kilpatrick Townsend’s Dean Russell has been a volunteer with the Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project for several years and just accepted his ninth adoption case. Dean consistently comes forward seeking a new case when one of his has wrapped up and is always available when we need an attorney to handle a case. Kilpatrick Townsend has several attorneys who have each represented multiple clients for the Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project, and we are lucky to have Dean leading the pack. A busy partner in his firm’s IP practice, Dean also served as board president for Atlanta Legal Aid Society in 2004. “I am a patent attorney. Although patents are vitally important to our country’s economic interests, they are not critical to the fabric of our communities. Helping build families is, though, especially in an age where familial bonds are either broken or non-existent. This is why I participate wholeheartedly in the Grandparent Adoption Project of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society—to help build and strengthen our families and in turn build and strengthen our communities.” – Dean Russell



Atlanta
Legal Aid
Society

Atlanta Legal Aid Society's projects and programs would like to thank the following volunteers for dedicating themselves to pro bono service, allowing us to expand our capacity to serve more clients and provide them with high-quality legal services and representation.

CANCER LEGAL PROJECT

Anisa Abdullahi
Shakara Barnes
Jeremy Burnette
Tammy Caldwell
Lisa Caucci
Elizabeth Crouse
Rob Elliott
Katelyn Fredericks

Judith Fuller
Teah Glenn
Brian Harms
Holly Hill
Dena Hong
Soo Hong
Byron Kirkpatrick
Jihan Jenkins
Kristina Jones

Shirley Jones
Jessica Harper
Sam Levine
Jennifer Liotta
Allison Lynch
Lindsey Mann
Mary Anthony Merchant
Wes McCart
Rebecca McFadyen

Mack McGuffey
Jason McLarry
Amy McMorro
Adriana Midence
Beth Mullican
Cheryl Naja
Emily Nally
Jeff Nix
Tejas Patel

Mary Jo Peed
Timothy Phillips
Hailey Procter
Elizabeth Quinn
Melissa Reading
Rick Rufolo
Dale M. Schwartz
Margaret Scott
Valerie Sewer

Shannon Shipley
Susanne Tarter
Jill Termini
Jamie Theriot
Taylor Tribble
Fitz Veira
Michael Wall
Drew Wooldridge

CLAYTON COUNTY PRO BONO PROJECT 2011 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

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Allan Alberga
Emmett J. Arnold IV
Joseph Chad Brannen

Hugh Cooper G.
Constance Daise
Monroe Ferguson
Yvonne Hawks

Betty Williams-Kirby
Susan Kirby
Robert Mack
Shonterria Martin

Pandora E. Palmer
Shalamar J. Parham
Dinah Rainey
Darrell B. Reynolds

William Rountree
Jewell Scott
Keisha A. Steed
Brian Strickland

William H. Turner
William West
Fred Zimmerman

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Alvin S. Albert
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Michael J. Brewster
David Britt
Jeff D. Bunch
Lawrence E. Burke
Julianna Burrall
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David A. Canale
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Charles Chesbro
Phyllis Gingrey Collins
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Brandy Daswani
Joan P. Davis
Jeffrey A. Daxe
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Charles J. Durrance
Shelley Elder
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Morgan Robertson
Natalie Rowland
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W. Allen Separk
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Howard P. Slomka
Loretta A. Smith

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Irene Steffas
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Sidney Lee Storesund
O'Neil Supnick
Adam M. Sutton
Darrell L. Sutton
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Tony Tatum

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GRANPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROJECT

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Kimberly Blackwell
Aisha Blanchard Collins
Christina Campbell
Kate Celender
Tuneen Chisolm

Wendy Choi
Nichole Davis Chollet
Greg Cline
Troy Covington
Kristin Doyle
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Jahnisa Tate
Lynnae Thandiwe

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Esther Vayman
Gretchen Wagner
Laura Whitman
Kathleen Womack
Alyson Wooten

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Cha'Ron A. Ballard
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Lauren A. Bryant
Louis Thomas Cain, Jr.
Richard A. Campbell
Emory L. Clark
Glenn E. Cooper
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Laura J. Friedman
Nelle M. Funderburk
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Kavan Singh Grover
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Albert F. Nasuti
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Romero T. Pearson
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Mary A. Prebula
Robert Matthew Reeves
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Steven M. Reilly
Dorothy B. Rosenberger
Jodie E. Rosser
Brett A. Schroyer
Brian M. Shockley
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C. Travis Tunnell
Nelson H. Turner
Lance W. Tyler
Mark L. Wells
Caspar S. Whitner
David M. Wittenberg
Lysander A. Woods
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Martha Bucaram
Debra Connelly

Sandy Edelman
Jim Ewing
Christopher Freeman

Kwende Jones
Dawn Jones
Ashby Kent

Ed Kirkland
Bill McKenzie
Patrick Norris

Amber Pride
Howard Rothbloom
Katie Salinas

Dawn Smith
Renee Smith
Monika Vyas

UNEMPLOYMENT PROJECT

John Allen
Bryan Bates

Michael Baumrind
Lauren Bellamy
Jeremy Berry

Eve Gu
Suneel Gupta

David Gordon
Petrina Hall McDaniel

Edward Patterson
Matthew James
Laurice Rutledge

Kathleen Sacks
Michelle Swiren

ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY THANKS THE FOLLOWING COURT REPORTERS FOR PROVIDING PRO BONO SERVICES THROUGHOUT 2011

Bull Darity
Darlene Akins
Suzanne Beasley

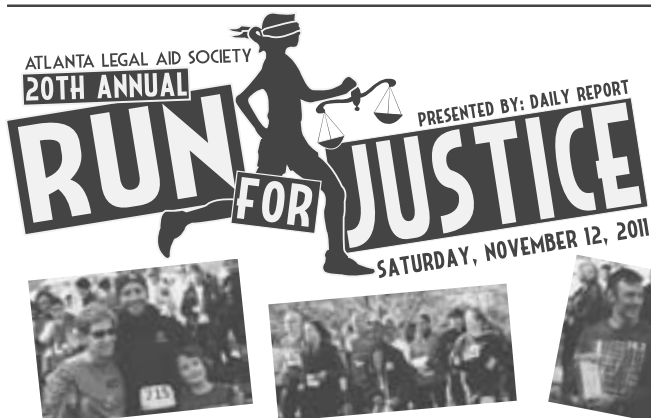
Kimberly Bennett
Kristine Bokelmann
Allison Bradson

Kelly D'Amico
Kimberly "Cissi" Goolsby
Kerry McFadden

B.J. Morris
Renee Teel
Cynthia Williams

Alcore Reporting
Esquire Court Reporting
Hopson & Worley

Huseby, Inc.*
Regency-Brentano, Inc.
Sandy Benson & Associates*



The Atlanta Legal Aid Society held the 2011 Run for Justice in Oakhurst on November 12th, 2011. The wonderful generosity of almost a thousand people raised \$20,000 for the general operating fund of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society!

Overall Male Winner:
Ben Murray

Overall Female Winner:
Liz Scola

Largest Team:
Ogltree Deakins

Highest Participation:
Ogltree Deakins

Largest public interest teams:
Justice for Kids (Office of the Child Attorney/Fulton)
Georgia Advocacy Office

Best Team Name:
Barnes & Thornberg:
"But Stuart Is Doing It. . . ."

Largest Team Under 50 Attorneys:
Barnes & Thornberg

Highest Sponsor Participation:
Esquire Depositions

1st Place Stroller:
Craig and Cade Goodmark

