Class Notes Reported in December 2016

Christopher D. Balch, '92, was elected as the new 2016-17 State Chair for the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Balch will act in advisory capacity to the IMLA Board on matters of policy, programs and membership.

John G. Breakfield, '01, was sworn in as Judge for the State Court of Hall County on Dec. 16, 2016. Breakfield won an open seat in a contested election by nearly 20 percentage points. John, his wife (Astrid), and two sons (Jack & Gage) live in Flowery Branch.

Patrick M. Mincey, '08, was named partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP. Mincey, based in the firm's Wilmington, North Carolina office, serves as Chair of Criminal Defense Practice Group.

Amanda S. Petty, '05, was sworn in as Superior Court Judge for the Ocmulgee Circuit on Dec. 22, 2016. She was elected in May to take the seat vacated by the retirement of The Honorable Judge Hugh Wingfield, '82.

Kathryn L. Powers, '09, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to serve as Clayton County State Court Judge effective Jan. 4, 2017.

Michael A. Rivera, '11, joined the Office of the Public Defender of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in October 2016. Rivera was previously with the Houston County Public Defender’s Office.

Vernon M. Strickland, '06, joined Wargo & French LLP as Of Counsel in the areas of complex commercial litigation and intellectual property. Strickland was formerly with Holland & Knight.

Darrell L. Sutton, '03, wife Meredith and daughter, Louise, welcomes son Wilson Shaner Sutton, born in Atlanta on Dec. 1, 2016, weighing in at 7lbs, 6.3oz and measuring 21 1/4 inches.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, '98, was selected among Georgia Trend magazine's Legal Elite, recognized among leading family law practitioners in the state.

Nathan White, '05, joined Moore & Van Allen's Charlotte office and practices with the Litigation Group's International Regulatory Affairs Team. White previously served in the Air Force JAG Corps for 10 years.

Class Notes Reported in November 2016

Jonathan L. Adams, '02, was elected as District Attorney for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit in May 2016. Adams was previously an Assistant District Attorney in the Macon Judicial Circuit.

Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Michael P. Boggs, '90, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. Boggs will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Hugh P. Thompson, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Stephanie D. Burton, '01, was appointed as the first full-time juvenile court judge for the Oconee Judicial Circuit on Oct. 1, 2016.
**Jake Carroll, '14**, joined Freeman, Mathis & Gary, in Atlanta. His practice areas include construction law, commercial general liability and business liability. Prior to joining the firm, he clerked for the Honorable Charles H. Weigle, U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Middle District of Georgia.

**Ruslyn Clarice Daves, '16**, married Jeffrey Ruby on Nov. 5, 2016 at Wolf Mountain Vineyards and Winery in Dahlonega.

**Nancy Grace, '84**, began a new five-year term as a member of Mercer University's Board of Trustees at the board's annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**Robert W. Guy, '02**, was elected Superior Court Judge of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit serving Appling, Camden, Glynn, Jeff Davis, and Wayne Counties in May 2016.

**Tommy Malone, '66**, was re-elected Chair of the Board of Trustees at the board's annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**Claudia E. Meier, '98**, was appointed as the Chief for the Office of the Public Defender of the Houston Judicial Circuit effective October 2016. She has served 17 years in the office, with the past 10 years as a Senior Assistant Public Defender.

**Adam Miller, '14**, joined GrayRobinson, P.A., as an associate in the insurance defense practice group.

**Kyle C. Owenby, '16**, joined the Macon law firm of Bushway & Waystack, as an associate working in criminal defense, domestic relations and civil litigation.

**W. Carl Reynolds, '66**, was installed as a new member of Mercer University's Board of Trustees at the board's annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**Lindsey Cannon Padgett, '08**, joined the firm of Lee Durham LLC. She previously practiced in the Albany office of Westmoreland Patterson Moseley & Hinson LLP, for six years, where her practice was focused on Social Security law.

**Charles Ray Sheffield, '91**, has been named president and chief executive officer of the George C. Woodruff Company effective Jan. 1, 2017. Sheffield has spent the past five years working as CEO of the Woodruff Company and was on the board of directors beginning in 2006.

**Class Notes Reported in October 2016**

**Courtney L. Bodie, '12**, Associate Attorney at Klosinski Overstreet, LLP married Matthew Patrick on June 4, 2016.


**Emily L. Evett, '16**, married Tyler Cooper on Oct 16, 2016.

**Kristin Pollard Kiel, '08**, was named by *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the Top 10 Black Women Attorneys You Should Know.

Clyde L. Reese, III, '96, was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, effective Dec. 1, 2016.

Kathleen L. Wright, '02, a Partner at Gentry Locke in Roanoke, Virginia, was selected to the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of Litigation - Municipal.

Class Notes Reported in September 2016

Heather L. Bishop, '16, married Matt Logan on Aug. 27, 2016, in Alpharetta.

Patrick A. Dawson, '88, wrote an article, "Slaves, the Law, and the Banality of Horror" which was recently published in the Journal of Southern Legal History (23 J. S. Legal Hist. 161 (2015)). He also became a partner in the Cheeley Law Group, LLC in June 2016.

Fabiani A. Duarte, '16, was selected for the 2016-2017 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Emerging Leaders Program, having just concluded his term as national chair of the ABA Law Student Division.

Richard H. Flournoy, '10, and his wife, Michelle, announced the birth of their daughter, Alice Josephine, on Sept. 5, 2016. In October 2015, Richard was named Deputy Administrator for Product Management at the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency.

Rhett Fraser, '08, and Heidi Fraser announce the birth of their son, Raleigh Garrett Fraser, on June 8, 2016.

Margaret E. Heinen, '11, was elected Chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Georgia in July 2016. In September 2016, Heinen became the editor of What's the Decision?, a members' only publication of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers that summarizes recent important decisions of Georgia's state and federal appellate courts.

Heather H. Lanier, '04, was elected Superior Court Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit covering Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Mitchell and Grady counties. Lanier, starting her tenure in January 2017, will be the first female judge to hold this position within the circuit.


Natalie Fears Sundeen, '12, and Chris Sundeen, with big sister Channing, announced the birth of their son, Maverick Christopher Sundeen, on Sept. 8, 2016.

Joel C. Williams, '67, joined Taylor English Duma LLP as counsel in the firm's Corporate and Business Practice Group. Williams will serve clients in general corporate, international trade, and regulatory and legislative matters.
Class Notes Reported in August 2016

**Dallas C. Cox, ’15**, became an Assistant District Attorney for Fulton County. He was previously an Assistant District Attorney for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit.

**Ellen S. Golden, ’89**, was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the Board of Trustees of the Judicial Retirement System of Georgia on Aug. 1, 2016.

**George H. Hartwig, III, ’91**, District Attorney for the Houston County Judicial Circuit, was appointed by Governor Nathan Dean to the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council.

**Keith A. Johnston, ’13**, joined Spivey Pope Green and Greer in Macon as an Associate practicing in the areas of business litigation, general civil litigation and corporate law.

**Elizabeth E. Lambert, ’15**, joined Scroggin & Company, P.C. in Roswell as an Associate and will be working in the firm's estate and business practices. Lambert recently graduated from the University of Florida Master of Laws in Taxation program.

**John D. Mills, ’89**, received the 2016 President’s Book Award from the Florida Authors & Publishers Association on Aug. 6, 2016 in the Florida Adult Fiction category for "The Hooker, The Dancer and the Nun” published by Pono Publishing.

**Brandon L. Peak, ’04**, was elected President of the Columbus Bar Association. Peak is a Partner at Butler Wooten & Peak LLP,

**William Pierce, Jr., ’82**, was selected to the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of Real Estate Law.

**David F. Sipple, ’72**, of Hunter MacLean in Savannah, was selected to the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law.

**Jonathan J. Tuggle, ’98**, of Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle, was selected to the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of Family Law.

**Lynne M. White, ’84**, an attorney with Baker Donelson in Orlando, was selected to the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of Real Estate Law.

Class Notes Reported in July 2016

**Diana Strichard Barber, ’85**, is now the Assistant Professor of Hospitality Law and Liability in the Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality at Kennesaw State University. Previously she was a Senior Lecturer and Director of Study Abroad Programs for the Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality Administration at Georgia State University in Atlanta and taught at Georgia State for 12 years.

**Ivy Cadle, ’07**, was elected President of the William Augustus Bootle Inn of Court for 2016-2017. He is also serving as the President-Elect of the Macon Bar Association, as well as the Chair-Elect of the Eminent Domain Section of the State Bar of Georgia.
Elizabeth A. Carr, '10, was promoted to Director of Career Services at Mercer University School of Law on July 25, 2016. She was previously the Assistant Director of Career Services.

Charles "Chuck" Hodges, II, '95, has joined Jones Day as a partner in the domestic and international tax law practice.

Randall A. Meincke, '75, became a full-time Associate Judge for the Forsyth County Juvenile Court starting July 25, 2015. He was previously appointed as part-time Associate Judge in August 2014.

William Patrick Miles, Jr., '01, was promoted to partner at Gregory, Doyle, Calhoun & Rogers, LLC in Marietta.

Lindsey Anne Hansen, '14, married Adam Henry Miller, II, '14, on April 17, 2016 in Norcross.

Christopher J. Mueller, '05, was named to the 2016 Super Lawyers list for construction law. In addition, on July 29, 2016 he spoke at the ALFA International Construction Practice Group seminar in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on the topic of "The Building Code and Beyond: Government's Role in Construction and Construction Litigation."

Jonathan E. Smith, '05, was one of 25 attorneys named to the Fulton County Daily Report's "40 on the Rise". Smith is Associate General Counsel of the Atlanta Braves.

Carter L. Stout, '85, was named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary Club of Dunwoody for his leadership and service as Director at Large and Race Relations Director for the Club's 5K race.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, '98, was elected as president of The Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law American Inn of Court. During his two-year leadership term, Tuggle will support the mission of the organization, which promotes professionalism, collegiality and continuing education among Atlanta’s family law community.

Stuart E. Walker, '04, was elected President of the Macon Bar Association.


Paul "Pete" Wellborn, '89, was reappointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Technology Authority on July 5, 2016.

**Class Notes Reported in June 2016**

Ashley A. Akins, '13, received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

Elizabeth Carr, '10, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

James Daniel Cole, '12, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.
Tiffany Norris Cooper, ’10, and Kyle Cooper announced the birth of their daughter, Scarlett Rhea, on September 27, 2015.

Dustin E. Davies, ’11, received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Bar from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

R. Walker Garrett, ’10, was elected to District 8 City Council in Columbus, Georgia on May 24, 2016.

Amanda N. Heath, ’10, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

Franklin J. Hogue, ’91, received the 2015 G. Terry Jackson Friend of the Constitution Award from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins, ’05, received the Award of Achievement for Service to the YLD from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

Kristi Marie Minor, ’13, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

Matthew Mitchell, ’10, and his wife Tasha welcomes twin boys Mercer Gage and Sawyer Rhett on May 25, 2016.

Hugh B. McNatt, ’72, was recognized with the 15th annual Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award at the 2016 State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting by the Bench and Bar Committee for demonstrating the highest professional conduct and paramount reputation for professionalism.

Justin L. Oliverio, ’10, was recognized in the Sole Proprietor category for raising 12,200 pounds of food during the 2016 Legal Food Frenzy.

Elizabeth Pool O’Neal, ’11, received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.


Hon. J. Carlisle Overstreet, ’70, received the Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

Steven L. Pruitt, II, ’14, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

Michael A. Rivera, ’11, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

James A. Robson, ’07, and his wife, Kate W. Robson, announced the birth of their daughter, Lydia Charlotte, on February 22, 2016.

Amanda N. Steger, ’07, and husband Brett Lee Steger, ’07, welcomed their second child, Andrew Brett, on December 24, 2015.
Jill Anderson Travis, '86, received the 2015 GACDL President's Award from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Laura B. Traylor, '02, has joined MendenFreiman LLP as an of counsel attorney practicing Estate Planning, Trust and Estate.

Class Notes Reported in May 2016

Jennifer Friend Block, '10, and Jesse Block, '11, along with big sister Parker announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Katherine Block on April 9, 2016.

Lisa Ritchey Craig, '89, joined the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia on March 24, 2016.

Danielle Phillips McBride, '10, along with her husband, Ashley Steven McBride, welcome a baby girl, Annabeth Audrey McBride, born on April 1, 2016.

Floyd S. Mills, III, '05, is named one of Top Ten Personal Injury Attorneys in the state of South Carolina for 2016 by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys. He is also recognized as a “Rising Star” for the 5th consecutive year by Super Lawyers Magazine.


J. William Pierce, Jr., '82, is listed as leading attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending. Pierce is an attorney at Glankler Brown, a Memphis, Tennessee firm, selected by Chambers USA 2016 guide as a leading U.S. firm" in the area of Real Estate. "

Sunny R. Sands, '09, has recently been named the Executive Director of Planned Giving for East Tennessee State University. Sands has also been recently elected as President of the Northeast Tennessee Young Lawyers Association of the Tennessee Bar Association covering a jurisdiction of nine counties.

Darcee S. Siegel, '85, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil Circuit Mediator has been nominated to serve on the American Bar Association's Board of Governors for a three year term commencing in August 2016. She was nominated as a section member at large to represent the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division of the ABA.

Class Notes Reported in April 2016

J. Daniel Falligant, '68, was recognized as a member of the “Top One Percent” of the attorneys in the nation by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel (NADC), an organization dedicated to promoting the highest standards of legal excellence. Falligant, a partner at Bouhan Falligant, has been named "Super Lawyer" and "Legal Elite" by Georgia Trend, and "Best Lawyer in America" by US News and World Reports.

Rhett G. Fraser, '08, was selected as a Rising Star for 2016 in Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice by Super Lawyers for the state of Oregon.
D.R. Jones, '82, received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Memphis School of Law. Jones also serves as Associate Dean for Information Resources and Law Library Director. She teaches Copyright Law and recently served as Chair of the Copyright Committee for the American Association of Law Libraries.

Robert W. Johnson, '14, and D. Jordan Quinley, 14, were married on March 19, 2016, at The Foundry at Puritan Mill in Atlanta. Johnson represents insurance companies in automobile accidents at Gower Wooten & Darneille, LLC in Atlanta and is licensed in Georgia and Alabama. Quinley Johnson, licensed in Georgia, practices commercial real estate and commercial lending at Burr & Forman, LLP in Atlanta.

Charlotte J. Redo, '06, has been appointed Chair of the Labor & Employment Law Section for the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA). Prior to her appointment to this position, she served two consecutive years as the Co-Chair of GABWA's Community Service Committee spearheading various community service projects in the metro Atlanta area.

Class Notes Reported in March 2016

George R. Christian, '83, was appointed District Attorney for the Mountain Judicial Circuit by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal.

Bradley M. Harmon, '02, was elected Managing Partner at Hunter Maclean, business law firm in Savannah and Brunswick. Harmon will lead management committee, which guides firm strategy, sets long-term vision, and directs firm operations. He served on the management committee for two years, ensuring a smooth transition of firm management.

Jonathan W. Hedgepeth, '91, family law attorney and founding partner at Hedgepeth, Heredia & Rieder in Atlanta, Georgia, has been selected for Atlanta magazine's “Super Lawyers.”

Evett L. Simmons, '82, is featured in the cover story of the ABA Journal March 2016 issue focusing on the decline in the number of African-American women in Big Law. Currently the only female shareholder of color at Greenspoon Marder, Simmons shared her vision for a climate of inclusiveness for women and minorities and the difficulties in changing the paradigm.

Christopher N. Smith, '91, a Macon Attorney, was knighted in the Order of Danneborg by The Queen Margrethe II of the Kingdom of Denmark in recognition of his valuable services as Consul of Denmark in Georgia.

Keagan Waystack, '04, of Bushway and Waystack Attorneys at Law in Macon, has been selected for inclusion into its Top 100 Criminal Defense Trial Lawyers in Georgia by The National Trial Lawyers.

Amy Reeder Worley, '00, joins Merz Pharmaceutical in Raleigh, North Carolina as Senior Corporate Counsel. She was most recently a principal at Jackson Lewis, leading the Privacy e-Communications and Data Security practice group.

Class Notes Reported in February 2016

Author Kathy A. Bradley, '81, published "Wondering Toward Center", through Mercer University Press.
Kathleen B. Connell, '05, and Leigh Faulk Cummings announced the opening of their new law firm, Connell Cummings, LLC, located in Atlanta's Cumberland/Galleria area. Connell Cummings brings together two of Georgia's leading law attorneys, with practice encompassing all family-related issues including divorce, custody and visitation, alimony, child support, property division, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, paternity and legitimation, adoption, restraining and protective orders, and mediation and arbitration.

Bradley Mitchell Harmon, '02, of Hunter MacLean in Savannah, was named one of the 2016 Georgia Rising Stars. Georgia Rising Stars are selected based upon the same criteria as Super Lawyers but include individuals who are 40 years old or younger or have been in practice for less than ten years. This honor is presented to no more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state.

Kristin Pollard Kiel, '08, graduated from the distinguished National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) FIRST Leadership Program On December 10, 2015, and was recognized by NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden. The FIRST Program is a highly competitive year-long Agency-wide leadership development program. The 2015 class was comprised of only 38 participants from across all NASA Centers.

Nicholas J. Laybourn, '05, of Hunter MacLean in Savannah, was named one of the 2016 Georgia Rising Stars. Georgia Rising Stars are selected based upon the same criteria as Super Lawyers but include individuals who are 40 years old or younger or have been in practice for less than ten years. This honor is presented to no more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state.

Christopher J. Perniciaro, '14, joined Martenson, Hasbrouck, & Simon, LLP as an associate in the MHS's booming domestic relations, insurance defense, and commercial litigation practice groups at the firm’s Buckhead-Atlanta office. Perniciaro was most recently a law clerk for the Alcovy Circuit Superior Court.

Bryson McCollum Smith, '13, recently joined Martenson, Hasbrouck, & Simon, LLP as an associate in MHS’s booming domestic relations, insurance defense, and commercial litigation practice groups at the firm’s Buckhead-Atlanta office. Smith is most recently a law clerk at the Alcovy Circuit Superior Court.

Jonathan J. Tuggle, '98, was recognized by Super Lawyers for 2016 in the area of family law. Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle is proud to announce that Tuggle is also recognized among the Top 100. These accolades are impressive, considering the selection process evaluates outstanding lawyers throughout Georgia from more than 70 practice areas. Tuggle has been recognized five times by the publication.

Michael S. Weldon, '14, recently joined Martenson, Hasbrouck, & Simon, LLP as an associate in MHS’s booming domestic relations, insurance defense, and commercial litigation practice groups at the firm’s Buckhead-Atlanta office. Weldon is most recently an Assistant District Attorney in Newton County.

Burroughs Elijah Law Firm is proud to announce that Katherine N. Willett, '10, was appointed managing part of its Office in Greenville, SC. Licensed to practice law in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, Willett has served as a litigation attorney in Atlanta, focusing her practice in the areas of construction/business litigation, as well as landlord/tenant matters, collections work and plaintiff’s personal injury. Willett has also worked as a trust and estates attorney in Augusta, Georgia.

Class Notes Reported in January 2016

Kristin Pollard Kiel, '08, graduated from the distinguished National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) FIRST Leadership Program on Dec. 10, 2015, and was recognized by NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden. The FIRST Program is a highly competitive year-long Agency-wide leadership development program. The 2015 class was comprised of only 38 participants from across all NASA Centers.

Rick Waller, '94, was appointed as Chief Public Defender for the Macon Circuit, serving Bibb, Crawford and Peach counties, representing indigent people accused of crimes. Waller was most recently the interim chief after longtime PD Lee Robinson's death in November. He was chief assistant public defender since 2005.

Katherine N. Willet, '10, of Burroughs Elijah Attorneys, was recently names in Georgia Trend magazine's "2015 Legal Elite” in the Business Law category.