

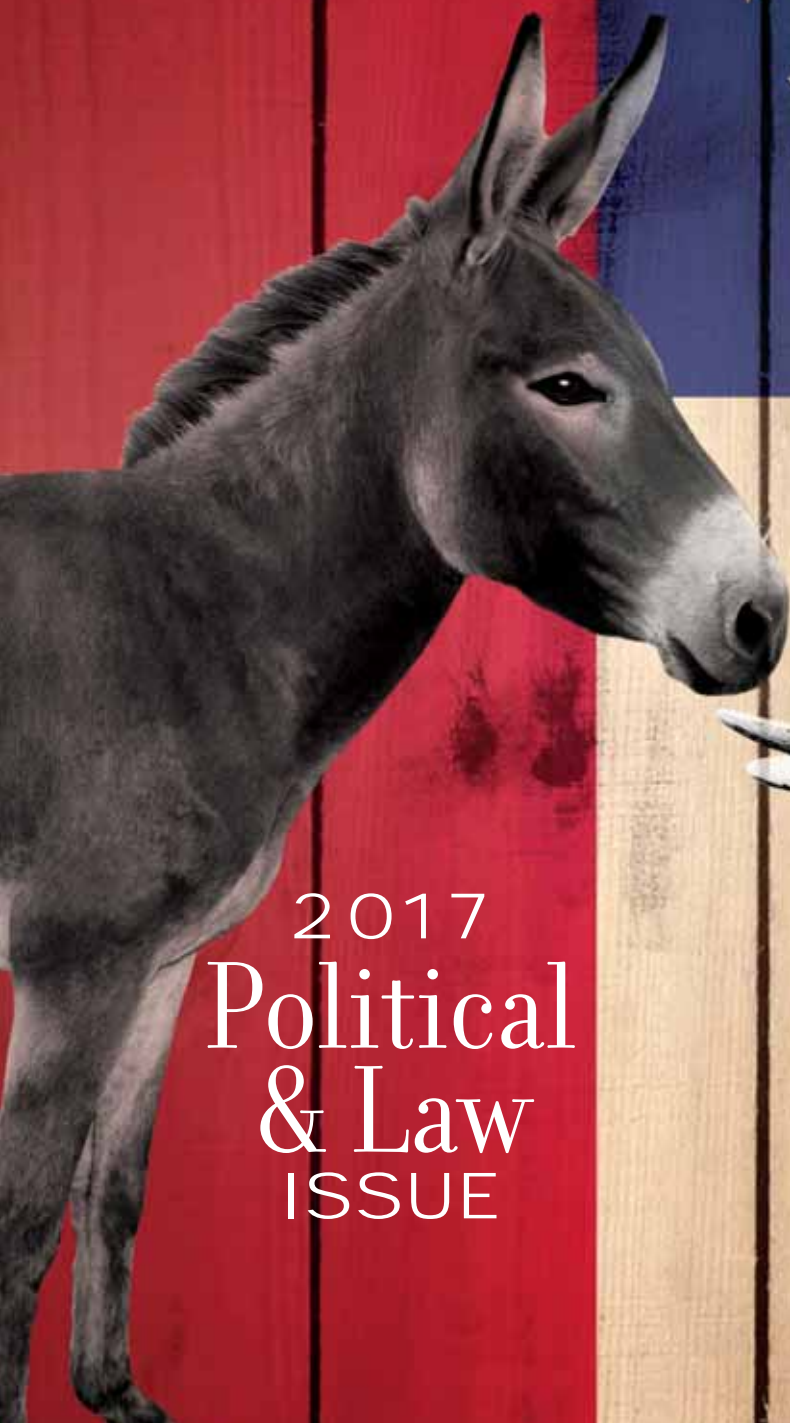


MAY/JUNE 2017

# JAMES

AN INSIDE VIEW INTO GEORGIA'S NEWS, POLITICS & CULTURE

READERS' POLL  
"TOP METRO ATLANTA  
POLITICAL HANGOUT"  
RESTAURANTS



2017  
Political  
& Law  
ISSUE

COLUMNS BY  
JOSH BELINFANTE  
RANDY EVANS  
VIRGINIA A. HEPNER  
PATRICK HICKEY  
PHIL KENT  
MAC McGREW  
CINDY MORLEY  
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PUBLISHED BY  
INTERNET NEWS AGENCY LLC



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## PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

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# *Of Politics, Lawyers & Even a Great Golfer's Legacy*

➔ **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** adjourned in late March and Gov. Nathan Deal has been busy signing bills that were passed. Furthermore, Georgia's 6th U.S. Congressional District special election runoff is currently in the national spotlight featuring an expensive slugfest between GOP candidate Karen Handel and Democrat Jon Ossoff. This is the perfect time for the *James* Political & Law Issue to hit the mailboxes—and our writers are well-qualified to address these timely topics and more.

Josh Belinfante discusses two well-publicized legislative initiatives that failed in the General Assembly—but could be back next year. Gary Wisenbaker pens a column on overdue legislation that would benefit rural Georgia. As for the 6th District race, Randy Evans peers into his crystal ball, analyzes the ground game and foresees a close outcome.

A special feature by staff writer Patrick Hickey provides a snapshot of Peach State movers and shakers in the nation's capital. Be sure to read this interesting roster of Georgians of varying degrees of influence who are in the District of Columbia and roaming the corridors of power.

Our annual "Most Influential Politically-Connected Lawyers" lists various new names along with familiar ones. The world of the law, politics and business are fascinatingly interconnected—and *James* strives to underscore these Georgia connections in every issue. This feature chronicles politically-connected attorneys who may or may not appear in a courtroom yet actively influence public policy as well as events in the court of public opinion that affect every Georgian.

Education is a topic in every *James*, so for this issue Atlanta's Woodruff Arts Center CEO Virginia Hepner writes about making arts education a staple in Georgia schools again.

We also present the results of our annual online reader poll that occurred on our parent company website [www.insideradvantage.com](http://www.insideradvantage.com). Staff writer Cindy Morley's feature focuses on the top five metro Atlanta "political hangout" restaurants. And, we have put together a chart featuring the overall top 20 vote-getters. Over 1,100 ballots were cast. Comments also arrived ranging from insightful to crazy.

Veteran journalist Dink NeSmith once remarked, "If Georgia is always on your mind, you'll love Larry Walker. He's as down-home as a plate of your grandma's cathead biscuits." So don't neglect to read Larry's latest column. And, finally, your publisher interviewed the grandson of the legendary golf champion Bobby Jones. Find out how the Jones family is keeping this great Georgian's legacy alive.

**PHIL KENT** CEO & PUBLISHER

**A MEA CULPA** We missed the mark on a couple of items in our March-April "Influential Georgians" issue. To our horror, the incorrect picture of Fox5Atlanta WAGA-TV's Vice President and General Manager Bill Schneider was inserted with his bio. Also, we incorrectly listed the mayor of Columbus who is, in fact, Teresa Tomlinson, the first woman to hold that office. We sincerely apologize for these oversights.



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# FLOATING BOATS

WHO'S RISING AND SINKING IN GEORGIA BUSINESS AND POLITICS

Former Georgia Governor **Sonny Perdue** was sworn in as Secretary of Agriculture last month by a Senate vote of 87-11. Perdue joins the Trump cabinet after a drawn out confirmation process that frustrated many Republicans, but comes as welcome relief to farmers and their allies as they anxiously look toward the President's budget proposals. For Perdue, his many Georgian friends, and farmers nationwide, the confirmation has the ship... **RISING**

A former Atlanta Police Department business manager is suing the city, alleging her firing was in retaliation for complaints made to her superiors against Atlanta Mayor **Kasim Reed**. Tracy Woodard says she discovered the mayor was diverting funds dedicated to the purchase of new police patrol cars to the purchase, instead, of vehicles for his own personal use and that of his family. Woodard also charges that city police officers were not only chauffeuring the mayor on city business but also driving him and escorting members of his family on personal errands. City attorneys strongly deny these allegations but, coupled with the dark cloud over the Reed administration that is undergoing a bribery/contracting scandal investigation, Georgia's capital city's reputation is taking another hit and its boat is definitely... *Drifting*

In April a fire under the I-85 overpass near Piedmont Road caused a section of the roadway to collapse, cutting off one of Atlanta's major arteries and dramatically increasing commute times for thousands of Georgians. The city rallied though, using MARTA, carpools, and telecommutes to help ease the traffic burden as workers toil feverishly to get the bridge fixed. The incident itself is regrettable, but the city and her citizens' response has their ship... **RISING**

**The Georgia Department of Insurance** has botched their annual budget, overspending to such a degree that they were forced to lay off over ten staffers and force employees to take up to four unpaid furlough days. Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens is not suspected of breaking any laws, but this bungled budget has the department's ship... **SINKING**

Atlanta's vaunted **film industry** continues to grow, posting a whopping \$7.2 billion worth of economic impact in the state in fiscal year 2016. That number is double that of 2013, and looks to keep growing as powerhouse franchises such as Marvel choose to come to the Peach state. For the legislators and other officials who

have worked on the tax breaks and other incentives to draw the industry here to Georgia, their ship is... **RISING**

A judge had to intervene to extend hours at some troubled **Fulton County** precincts for voters trying to cast a ballot for last month's special 6th Congressional District election. Furthermore, a glitch due to "technical difficulties" caused the final Fulton candidate numbers to be reported way after midnight—several hours after DeKalb and Cobb counties had tallied their final returns. Perhaps the elections director needs to be replaced, or better employees need to be hired. In any event, these are recurring and systemic problems that must be addressed by the county Board of Elections. When the whole state of Florida can tally its presidential votes in less than four hours, a comparison to this Georgia county has its elections boat... **SINKING**

The **National Rifle Association**, one of the country's largest and most powerful non-profit organizations, held its annual convention in Atlanta for the first time in April. The event brought in over 80,000 visitors and nearly \$60 million in direct economic impact. With speakers including Senators Ted Cruz and David Perdue and an appearance from President Donald Trump, it was surely one of the most high profile NRA events in recent memory. Scoring such a major event has the GWCC and all the hotels and businesses around it... **RISING**

Rumors swirling around a roof-issue at **Mercedes-Benz Stadium** were proven true when it was announced that the opening date would be pushed back another month, this time to August 26th. That's nearly five months of delays for those of you keeping score at home—the stadium was originally supposed to open March 1st. Two Atlanta United games will be rescheduled, but the stadium is expected to be ready for the opening of football season. More bad news for the AMB Group as it struggles to get its world class stadium open on time; its ship is... *Drifting*

It had been a while (relatively) since there has been an embarrassing story from a DeKalb County elected official, but on May 6 Sheriff **Jeffrey Mann** ended that streak. Mann, who took office in 2014, was arrested in Atlanta's Piedmont Park after allegedly exposing himself to a police officer and then running away until chased down. He was taken into custody and he initially vowed to "clear these charges." So just when there were high hopes for DeKalb with a new CEO and district attorney, now this. The weirdest story yet out of a county that is no stranger to scandals sees Mann's ship... **SINKING**





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A low-angle photograph of the Georgia State Capitol dome, showing its white stone structure and the large, gleaming gold dome. The dome is topped with a statue of Liberty. The background is a clear blue sky.

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# GOOD LEGISLATION TO BOOST RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BY GARY WISENBAKER

Before the ink was dry on a U.S. Department of Transportation pledge to give \$10 million for the replacement of a still-smoldering collapsed portion of I-85 in Atlanta, metro legislators were criticizing a well-thought-out, hard-fought-for and long overdue measure designed to help revitalize rural Georgia. Yet the “Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act” (GARJA), which passed minutes before the expiration of the 2017 legislative session, opens the door for small businesses in rural Georgia—approximately 130 counties—to have access to much needed growth capital.

This need is just as immediate as are the repairs to Interstate 85.

The idea is to make \$60 million in tax credits available to companies willing to infuse \$100 million of capital in designated rural counties for job creation in industries including, but not limited to, agribusiness and manufacturing.

As James Salzer of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* observed, it’s an idea that’s been around for decades—even put into practice in other states with varying degrees of success. The prior versions were found to create jobs and produce revenue for those states but since they didn’t produce at expected levels, some auditors suggested pulling the plug on the programs.

This bill, crafted by Rep. Jason Shaw, R-Lakeland, is different. “This is the most tightly crafted bill of its kind in the country,” Shaw recently wrote.

And Shaw is right.

Fees are strictly capped so that the available funds go to the intended recipient, not the fund managers. Where returns are realized on the invested sums, the state is allowed to share in those profits. Moreover, where the fund managers get out of line or the job creation targets are not met, the state—through the Department of Community Affairs—can recoup the tax credits.

Those entities providing the funding are required to hold a Rural Small Business Investment Company or Small Business Investment Company license. And the business

must demonstrate that the benefit to Georgia’s general fund must exceed the cost of the tax credits sought.

In other words, somebody’s connected brother-in-law in need of a job won’t be able use smoke and mirrors claiming a qualified investment and then reap the tax credits.

There’s accountability as well since these growth funds must file annual reports showing “job creation and retention (a key buzz word here), average compensation and rural impact.”

Contrary to its critics, Shaw’s bill is no “scheme.” It doesn’t allow a free ride where no jobs are created; the investment fund doesn’t reap an inordinate amount in fees, and the invested money has to stay in the state.

One thing is true, however: GARJA, in and of itself, doesn’t create jobs. It is just a tool to make that happen. Only the investors can do that, in the private sector, where they should be.

Rural Georgia needs this incentive, just as qualified rural hospitals need the stepped up tax credit (to 100 percent) to encourage contributions to these hospitals. Available, quality healthcare is central to any area’s investment and growth paradigm.

As to the needs of rural Georgia, the 2017 Georgia General Assembly “done good.” There’s more to do but the metro-centric blinders worn for so long by the legislative leadership seem to have come off.

Gov. Nathan Deal signed the legislation into law on May 9th. Obviously, the governor realized that revitalizing rural Georgia is critical to uniting Georgia.

Gary Wisenbaker is a corporate communications and political consultant at Blackstone, LLC in Valdosta.



Rep.  
Jason  
Shaw



THE 2017 LIST of

# GEORGIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL & POLITICALLY-CONNECTED ATTORNEYS

by the James Staff

*James Magazine's spotlight on "influential Georgia attorneys" considers not just expertise in court—some may not step foot in a courtroom— but activity influencing the court of public opinion. This listing takes into account a lawyer who may or may not serve powerful clients but who shapes public or private policies— sometimes behind the scenes— in the interconnected and fascinating world of the law, business and politics. So please don't confuse this list with the usual "super lawyer" roster of Peach State attorneys who are tops in their areas of litigation or deal making.*

## *It Begins with Governor Deal*

We start again this year with Gov. **Nathan Deal**. The former prosecutor, judge, state legislator and U.S. congressman has built a lasting legacy with widespread changes to Georgia's judicial system. Since his 2011 inauguration he has reshaped both the Court of Appeals and an expanded Supreme Court with his appointments. The governor has also appointed dozens of conservative constitutionalists to lower court judgeships while pushing sweeping criminal justice reforms with the consent of the legislature.

There are of course many fine attorneys laboring within the executive branch of government. Prominent among them is the gov-



NATHAN DEAL

ernor's executive counsel **David Werner** and deputy executive counsel **Carey Miller**, who are major players in everything from vetting legislation to advising on judicial choices and state board appointments.

A close Deal advisor is Dentons attorney **Randy Evans**, who also serves as the governor's personal attorney. Evans wields clout as Georgia's Republican National Committeeman (in this role, he has gotten to know President Donald Trump) and co-chairs the Judicial Nominating Commission which advises the governor on recommending candidates for judgeships.

Attorney alumni of Deal's office remain close with the administration and involved in the political process. Former executive counsel **Ryan Teague** is general counsel of Baldwin Paving as well as part-time partner with





Robbins Ross Alloy Belinfante and Littlefield. Former deputy executive counsel **Thomas Worthy** is vice president of government affairs for Piedmont Healthcare and serves on the MARTA board.

As for Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, he continues to be effectively assisted by his general counsel and policy director **Irene Munn**.

Attorney General **Chris Carr**, a former chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, is the state's top prosecutor. Among his capable staff is Solicitor General **Sarah Hawkins Warren**. She previously served as deputy solicitor general and special counsel for water litigation, where she represented Georgia before the U.S. Supreme Court.



CHRIS CARR

## Judges, Legends & Lawmakers

All state **Supreme Court** justices, as well as **Court of Appeals** judges, must be recognized for the wide-ranging impact of their decisions. They are listed in a separate chart accompanying this article. There are also, of course, prominent Georgia **federal judges** whom all have incredible impact on our lives due to their decisions. Then there are various **judges** scattered across Peach State counties and cities who fit into the "influential" category not just because of their rulings but also because they "make things happen."

As *James* noted last year, there are at least four lawyers we place in a "Legendary Georgia attorney" category—colorful trial attorney **Bobby Lee Cook** (who received a lifetime achievement award from the Southern Center for Human Rights); former U.S. senator and national defense expert **Sam Nunn**; 1996 Atlanta Olympics organizer and Augusta National Golf Club Chairman **Billy Payne**; and retired state Supreme Court Justice **Conley Ingram**.

Dozens of state legislators have law degrees but the General Assembly's most high-profile practicing attorney is House of Representatives Speaker **David Ralston**. The speaker's counsel is **Terry Chastain** and Marietta attorney **James Balli** is a trusted legal eagle for the speaker. Other



BOBBY LEE COOK



DAVID RALSTON

Republican attorneys in key positions are House Judiciary Chairman **Wendell Willard** and Rep. **Barry Fleming**, a respected Judiciary subcommittee chair. Waynesboro attorney **Jesse Stone** chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee while Macon lawyer **John F. Kennedy** chairs the Senate GOP Caucus.

Prominent on the Democrat aisle at the Capitol are House Minority Leader Rep. **Stacey Abrams** alongside Reps. **Mary Margaret Oliver** and **Stacey Evans**, and **Sen. Elena Parent**.

Former GOP state Rep. **Edward Lindsey**, a Dentons lawyer, is often sought for advice by state lawmakers, as is former Democrat state lawmaker **Larry Walker** of Perry who serves on the Board of Regents.



STACEY ABRAMS

## More lawyer politicians

Outside of government, let's focus on some of the many lawyers who move easily in the corridors of politics and law "taking care of business." There's the story-telling former Democrat Gov. **Roy Barnes**, ex-GOP Attorney General **Mike Bowers** with Balch & Bingham and one-time Democrat Attorney General **Thurbert Baker** with Dentons. This list also includes **Robert Highsmith**, former Perdue counsel and lawyer for Atlanta Mayor **Kasim Reed** along with former U.S. Attorneys **Joe Whitley** and **Larry Thompson**. Then there's **Pete Robinson** of Troutman Sanders, who co-chairs the Judicial Nominating Committee (JNC).

By the way, all lawyers serving on the JNC and the Judicial Qualifications Committee naturally qualify as "influential." The recently-reconstituted JQC is chaired by Athens attorney **Ed Tolley** and its executive director is **Ben Easterlin, IV**. As for the state ethics commission, it has received more funding and is becoming far more effective under executive director **Stefan Ritter**, who previously worked in the attorney general's office.

Indeed, the list of lawyers with impressive political



ROY BARNES



BEN EASTERLIN, IV

and business relationships grows longer every year. Consider Dentons—now the world’s largest law firm. In its Atlanta office are its busy U.S. Co-CEO **Jeff Haidet**, who specializes on providing advice regarding domestic and international commercial transactions for clients; former ambassador to Canada and state Democrat Party guru **Gordon Giffin**; former aide to Gov. Zell Miller **Keith Mason**; one-time Democrat Congressman **Buddy Darden**; former Atlanta mayoral aide **Steve Labovitz**; and **Ben Vinson**, who chairs the state Immigration Enforcement Review Board. There’s **Bob Webb**, who chairs the Troutman Sanders firm . . . **Bob Pannell** of Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough. **John G. “Sonny” Morris** and **John Yates** of Morris, Manning & Martin . . . Liberal lion **Emmet Bondurant** of Bondurant, Mixon and Elmore . . . “King of Torts” **Tommy Malone** of Malone Law along with his impressive son **Adam Malone** . . . **Dennis Cathey** of Cathey and Strain . . . **Paul Weathington** of Weathington & Smith . . . **Mark Spix**, who has shifted from criminal and civil cases to regulatory practice and alternative dispute resolution... and **Cary Ichter** with Ichter & Davis and now a substitute panelist on WAGA-TV’s “The Georgia Gang.” . . .

**John Hall** heads Hall, Booth & Smith firm with managing partner **Alex Booth**. That firm includes former state lawmaker, author and TV pundit **Matt Towery** chairing its government relations team, along with appellate bar legend **Scott Henwood** . . . **Ernest Greer**, the chairman of Greenberg Traurig, is notable as the first lawyer to have chaired the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Next comes **Josh Belinfante** with Robbins, Ross, Alloy, Belinfante & Littlefield, **Oscar Persons** of Strickland, Brockington & Lewis and **Ray Smith** of Smith & Liss— all friendly



JEFF HAIDET



BOB WEBB



CARY ICHTER



JOHN HALL

with many GOP politicians. So, too, is **Doug Chalmers** of Chalmers Pak Burch & Adams. **BJ Pak** of that firm, a recent addition, is a former GOP state representative.

Among prominent attorneys wired into Democratic politics is unsuccessful 2014 gubernatorial candidate and former state lawmaker **Jason Carter**, former Obama administration deputy U.S. Attorney General **Sally Yates**, former prosecutor **Ken Hodges**, the Machiavellian **Bobby Kahn** (ex-Governor Barnes’ former chief of staff) and ex-state Rep. **Rob Teilhet**.

**Craig Gillen** of Gillen Withers & Lake further enhanced his reputation this year as the lead attorney for former DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis. It was quite a coup when the Supreme Court reversed Ellis’s corruption convictions.

## *The list goes on . . .*

More well-known attorneys with political/business ties are having an impact in specialized areas. Atlanta entertainment attorney **Joel Katz** of Greenberg Traurig lists a long roster of celebrity clients . . . Criminal defense attorney **Ed Garland** (also a business partner with former Atlanta Braves baseball home run king Hank Aaron) and his partner **Don Samuel** have successfully handled high-profile cases . . . **David Worley** and workers’ comp guru **David Moskowitz** have distinguished themselves in the field of labor law.

**Scott Bonder** of Fried & Bonder is building an impressive record . . . Ditto for **Lori Cohen**, who heads Greenberg Traurig’s pharmaceutical, medical device and healthcare litigation . . . **Harry MacDougald** of Caldwell Watson, the blogger credited with getting disgraced journalist Dan Rather fired from CBS, is one of the best constitutional law gurus in the state . . . **A. Lee Parks** scored the first successful constitutional challenges to racially gerrymandered legislative districting plans, and Parks continues to be a



BJ PAK



SALLY YATES



JOEL KATZ



LORI COHEN



“go-to” lawyer for affirmative action and “whistle-blower” cases.

There are countless influential corporate attorneys, especially with Fortune 500 companies, who move easily in Georgia’s corridors of power. Space dictates that we can only single out a noteworthy few: **Peter Carter** with Delta Air Lines; **Hugh McNatt** of Vidalia who is a Balch & Bingham partner, Coca-Cola general counsel **Barnhard Goepelt**, **John Tanzine** of Columbus who represents the Georgia Crown Distributing Company, and **Tye Darland** of Georgia-Pacific.

Got a DUI in metro Atlanta? Prominent in this field are attorneys and their firm colleagues who especially command the respect of judges. Two very high-profile metro Atlanta examples are **William “Bubba” Head** and **Bob Chestney**. There are of course countless others in Atlanta and other cities.

Georgia, in the opinion of *James*, boasts of two especially expert attorneys in the field of libel, defamation and the First Amendment: **Lin Wood Jr.** of Atlanta and **David Hudson** of Augusta’s Hull Barrett firm. Wood, who has been called “the attorney for the damned,” once famously represented the security guard falsely accused in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing. Hudson, a Georgia Press Association counsel, has assisted state lawmakers in crafting and strengthening open records and meetings laws.

**Patrick Rice**, also of the Hull Barrett firm, ably represents the Augusta National Golf Club. Democrats (and brothers) **David Bell** and **John Bell** are high-profile Augusta trial attorneys. And Augustan **Ed Tarver**, a former Obama-appointed U.S. attorney, is back in private practice at Enoch and Tarver.

Prominent attorneys in Columbus are Democrats **Joel Wooten** and **Jim Butler** of the Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer firm. In Rome there’s **Bob Brinson** of Brinson, Askew and Berry. As for Savannah, there’s famed University



A. LEE PARKS



PETER CARTER



DAVID HUDSON



ED TARVER

of Georgia bulldog mascot owner **Sonny Seiler**. And **Paul Threlkeld** of Savannah has a plum client: the Georgia Ports Authority. In Brunswick/St. Simons, **Jim Bishop** is very influential with the local governments in that area.

**Patrick C. Cork** of Cork and Cork in Valdosta has deep GOP ties and **William “Pope” Langdale** of that same city just ended his presidency of the state Trial Lawyers Association. He is succeeded by **Mike Prieto** of Atlanta, known for developing one of the largest long-term care plaintiffs practices in Georgia.

The constitutionalist Federalist Society is often used as a resource by Republican governors (and presidents) when choosing members to work in their administrations or to be judges. (President Donald Trump consults with top Federalists for advice on judicial nominees). President of the large Atlanta Federalist chapter is **Anne Lewis** and law partner **Frank Strickland** is the overall chapter chairman.



SONNY SEILER



WILLIAM “POPE”  
LANGDALE

## Prosecutors

There are many fine district attorneys in judicial circuits throughout the state (and a few not so fine). But, in our view, several stand out in no particular order:

Cordele Judicial Circuit District Attorney **Brad Rigby** has been impressive in his aggressive prosecutions and with the early stages of the high-profile Tara Grinstead murder case. Cobb County DA **Vic Reynolds** and his gang unit continues to be a leader in confronting the state’s criminal gang crisis, as does Macon DA **David Cook**. Chatham County DA **Meg Heap** continues to impress. As this is written, new U.S. attorney candidates are being interviewed.

**Chuck Spahos**, executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia, continues to guide that important organization in a positive direction.



VIC REYNOLDS



CHUCK SPAHOS

## Members of Congress

Georgia's congressmen and their staff interact daily not only with constituents but also with all sorts of people ranging from Peach State officialdom to Washington bureaucrats. Four of Georgia's 14 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are attorneys: Rep. **Sanford Bishop** of Albany; Rep. **Doug Collins** of Gainesville; Rep. **Hank Johnson** of Lithonia; and Rep. **Rob Woodall** of Lawrenceville.



DOUG COLLINS

## Some final recognitions

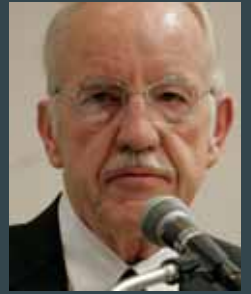
A special salute to **Linda Klein** of Atlanta's Baker Donelson, the American Bar Association's 140th president, for spearheading a veterans' legal services initiative. Savannah attorney **Pat O'Connor** is president of the State Bar of Georgia. He and state Bar executive director **Jeff Davis** and lobbyist



LINDA KLEIN

**Christine Butcher** continue to ably lead the organization through past political missteps and into the future committed to its core mission.

While there's an array of top-notch Georgia legal educators who have a wide-ranging impact, we must again note one of these professors should be recognized for his unique academic and political presence. We're referring to University of Georgia law professor (and Federal Nominating Commission member) **Ron Carlson**. He and son **Michael Carlson**, a Cobb County assistant district attorney, are sought-after lecturers for Georgia's bench and bar and co-authored *Carlson On Evidence*, the must-have reference book on Georgia's evidence code. That tome celebrated its 25th authoritative citation by appellate courts in 2017.



RON CARLSON

### A note to our readers

*We will no doubt hear from readers who will say we've missed lawyers who should have been included. And we're sure we have—and we apologize. But this lengthy feature had to end at some point! Anyhow, contact James Magazine and let us know. They could be included in next year's feature.*



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# THE 2017 LIST of GEORGIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL JUDGES



Chief Justice  
P. Harris Hines



Presiding Justice  
Harold D. Melton



Chief Judge  
Sarah L. Doyle



Presiding Judge  
Anne Elizabeth Barnes

## SUPREME COURT

	Elected	Term expires
<b>P. Harris Hines</b> (Chief Justice) .....	1995.....	2020
<b>Harold D. Melton</b> (Presiding Justice) .....	2005.....	2018
<b>Robert Benham</b> .....	1989.....	2020
<b>Carol W. Hunstein</b> .....	1992.....	2018
<b>David E. Nahmias</b> .....	2009.....	2022
<b>Keith R. Blackwell</b> .....	2012.....	2020
<b>Michael P. Boggs</b> .....	2016.....	2018
<b>Nels S.D. Peterson</b> .....	2017.....	2018
<b>Britt C. Grant</b> .....	2017.....	2018

## COURT OF APPEALS

**Sarah L. Doyle** (Chief Judge)

**Anne Elizabeth Barnes** (Presiding Judge)

**M. Yvette Miller** (Presiding Judge)

**John J. Ellington** (Presiding Judge)

**Stephen Louis A. Dillard** (Presiding Judge)

**Christopher J. McFadden** (Presiding Judge)

**Gary Blaylock Andrews**

**William M. Ray, II**

**Elizabeth L. Branch**

**Carla Wong McMillan**

**Brian M. Rickman**

**Amanda H. Mercer**

**Clyde L. Reese**

**Tilman E. Self III**

**Charles J. Bethel**

# IT DOESN'T TAKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO HELP KIDS WITH THEIR EDUCATION.



Nope. All it takes is a scratch or two. Because every time you play the Lottery, Georgia kids are the real winners. That's because for over 20 years the Georgia Lottery has contributed more than \$18.1 billion to education. On top of that, more than 1.7 million HOPE scholars have gone to college and more than 1.4 million four-year-olds have attended a Lottery-funded Pre-K Program. That qualifies as a rocket booster in our book.





# ART EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE CHILD

— by Virginia A. Hepner —

I was thrilled that day when, as a third grader, I came home with my books in one hand and my school violin in another. Because I was fortunate to go to a public school in the Kansas City suburbs that offered a full arts education program, I was going to be a musician!

As it turned out, I was the world's most mediocre violin player. I was *much* more accomplished at kickball.

But I will always be grateful for what I learned in my three years as a violinist. I learned a new language (reading music); I learned how to work with a team (the school orchestra); and I learned the importance of discipline (practice). Even though I didn't realize it at the time, it helped shape me as a person, not to mention instilling a life-long love of the arts.

That's an experience far too few students benefit from today. With our public education systems squeezed by limited budgets and pressured to disproportionately focus on standardized testing, many school systems have made the difficult decision to greatly diminish the arts as part of the academic experience.

And that's too bad for their students.

The impact that arts education has in the classroom is no longer open to debate. There have simply been too many studies over too many years coming to the same conclusion— exposure to the arts makes a significant difference to children, both in their academic achievement and in their social engagement.

The Arts Education Partnership, a coalition created by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts, recently published a library of



studies to reiterate how arts education helps prepare students for greater success in school, in the workplace and in life.

Some examples: studies consistently demonstrate that arts education helps students improve their critical thinking skills. In a time when “fake news” is a real problem, critical thinking skills are essential, not only in preparing students for college but also for living in the real world.

What about creativity? It's one of the top five skills employers value for the 21st Century. Research has shown again and again that performing arts students demonstrate greater flexibility and adaptability in thinking than their peers.

In Georgia, with the creative services industry surpassing \$62 billion in economic impact, having a ready pool of creative workers is important to the continued growth and success of this thriving part of our economy.

Recognizing these realities, three years ago Governor Nathan Deal issued an executive order creating the Arts

*continued on page 18*



**IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO  
KNOW THAT WHEN YOU PLAY,  
GEORGIA'S KIDS WIN.**



galottery.com

Learning Task Force for the state of Georgia. He asked the Task Force to make recommendations on ways the state could improve educational achievement by using arts education in the classroom.

The Task Force issued its 16-point recommendations in 2015 and they weren't timid in their response. Essentially, they pushed for full-on reactivation of arts education across the state. And while doing that will take some time, there's been early encouraging progress. For instance:

- ➔ **The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) hosted feedback sessions throughout the state this year to discuss changes to K-12 public education, including opportunities for fine arts.**
- ➔ **The Georgia Council for the Arts awarded 20 Georgia schools and arts organizations close to \$100,000 for projects that support at least one of the Arts Learning Task Force recommendations.**
- ➔ **The DOE created a Fine Arts Diploma Seal for qualified high school seniors and a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Certification program for Georgia public schools.**

In addition, the DOE named Jessica Booth as its Fine Arts Program Specialist. She already has made significant contributions to the state's efforts by evaluating and creating fine arts standards in our education system. We are fortunate to count Jessica as a member of the Woodruff Arts Center's Education Board.

Arts education is a core part of the mission of the Arts Center. More than 200,000 students from 70+ Georgia counties participate annually in our arts education programs. They tour the High Museum of Art or attend performances at the Alliance Theatre or the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. To create and manage these programs, the Arts Center spends more than \$8 million a year, funded primarily by donors. This intense focus makes the Arts Center the largest arts educator in Georgia.

That's a label we wear with pride. We're looking forward to working with administrators, teachers, students, the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, the Georgia Council for the Arts and many other committed supporters in taking steps to make arts education a staple in Georgia schools again.

*Virginia A. Hepner is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta.*

## Total Spectrum announces the opening of its Georgia office

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# THE 2017 LIST of GEORGIA'S POLITICAL INFLUENCERS IN WASHINGTON

by Patrick Hickey

## *It Starts with Some Trump Appointees*

When listing influential Georgia political figures in Washington, D.C., it should begin with prominent officials in President Donald Trump's cabinet—specifically, Health and Human Services Secretary **Tom Price** (who resigned from the 6th District U.S. congressional seat) and Agriculture Secretary (and former Georgia governor) **Sonny Perdue**. But it is also significant to note that working out of the White House is Atlantan **Stefan Passantino**, who left the Dentons law firm to work in the Office of White House Counsel.

Outside the Trump administration, former U.S. House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** (Georgia still claims him!) stays busy as a Fox News Channel pundit and coordinating with Dentons attorney and Georgia GOP National Committeeman **Randy Evans**. Former Governor Perdue aide **Nick Ayers**, a partner at Target Enterprises and 2016 campaign aide to Vice President Mike Pence, is a rising star who shuttles frequently between D.C. and Georgia. And quite the D.C. power player for a number of years is former Georgia Tech President **Wayne Clough**, secretary of the venerable Smithsonian Institution.

There's no question, too, that **Paul Bennecke**, a one-time Sonny Perdue aide and now executive director of the Republican Governor's Association, is a very



TOM PRICE



SONNY PERDUE



PAUL BENNECKE

influential— and busy— D.C. insider. And perhaps the “man of the hour”— for right now— is Rome native **Elliot Echols**. He is based out of the Republican National Committee on Capitol Hill but is in Georgia promoting turnout for the June 20 election runoff in Georgia's 6th Congressional District.

## *The Georgia State Society*

Aside from those big names, though, the membership of the Washington-based Georgia State Society provides an interesting roster of hundreds of Georgians of varying ages— and varying degrees of influence— who live or work in D.C. “We promote social and friendly relations among Georgians and advance the interest and welfare of Georgia and Georgians,” its website declares.

Among its officers is president-elect **Wells Ellenberg** of the Georgia Power Company; **Andrew Dill**, a past GSS president who now heads government relations for Lockheed Martin; **Ann Kingston**, who works for information technology firm Wipro; **Randy Nuckolls** of the D.C. Dentons government affairs group.

By the way, the Society's glitzy black-tie presidential inaugural gala this past January 20th was a “who's who” of Georgians who roam Washington's corridors of power.

## *Cabinet-Level Staffers*

It's not surprising that both Secretaries Price and Perdue are bringing into their departments some of their own trusted aides or one-time aides who hail from



ANDREW DILL

the Peach State. For example, **Carla DiBlasio** and **Amanda Street** hold key positions at Health & Human Services. Also at HHS is **Courtney Lawrence**, the deputy assistant secretary for legislation. Because of his late confirmation as secretary, Perdue was just starting to hire staff as this was written. So *James* will double back later to check on who's who from Georgia in that agency and others in the capital's vast federal bureaucracy. We did discover, though, that Atlantan **Jennifer Hazelton**— the Trump campaign's Georgia communications director— landed at the State Department to assist with the transition.



CARLA DiBLASIO

## Then there are the Lobbyists

Our research turned up quite a number of lobbyists from the Peach State who have great influence in the Capitol Hill public policy arena. Space doesn't permit a full listing, and unfortunately names will have been left out that shouldn't have been, but a wide range of *James* sources in D.C. have assisted this writer and our publisher in helping to chronicle some of these prominent lobbyists.

In no particular order, let's begin with **Rob Leebern**. The first chief of staff to U.S. Rep. and Sen. Saxby Chambliss is a well-known go-to guy in D.C. who heads up Troutman Sanders Strategies' federal shop. Leebern continues to be a trusted advisor of Georgia companies, top staffers around Capitol Hill and Georgia congressional delegation members. **Alex Albert** is co-head of government affairs for the Intercontinental Commodities Exchange (ICE) and a former chief of staff to ex-governor and former U.S. Sen. Zell Miller. (A footnote: Sandy Springs-based ICE owns the New York Stock Exchange.) Another big player— the Atlanta-based Southern Company— has **Bryan Anderson**, Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs, running its D.C. shop. And did you know that the manager of Public Policy & Government Affairs for Google is Georgian **Nick Pearson**?



ROB LEEBERN

The principal at Hurt, Norton & Associates, **Bob Hurt**, is a Washington institution— having originally arrived in D.C. as the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* bureau chief. And senior counsel with Hurt's firm is former Congressman **Lindsay Thomas**.

Coca-Cola's interests are well represented in D.C. by **Matt Echols**, Senior Vice President, Coca-Cola North

America Public Affairs & Communications. His Coke cohort is government affairs guru **Gene Rackley**. And **Lauren Culbertson**, a former communications director and campaign operative with Sen. Johnny Isakson, heads Millennial Bridge Consulting.



MATT ECHOLS

Consider, too, these well-connected lobbyists: an aide to then-congressman Nathan Deal, **Todd Smith**, works for Total Spectrum. **Justin Clay**, VP, Global Government Relations at NCR Corporation; **Jay Cranford** with the CGCN Group (and one-time staffer for former House Speaker John Boehner); **Lindsay Austin**, director of federal affairs for Troutman Sanders Strategies (and a former aide to retired Congressman Lynn Westmoreland); **Bruce Gates**, Senior Vice President, External Affairs Altria Client Services; **Alex McGee**, principal in public policy and regulation with Dentons; **Jeff Hamling**, also with Dentons and a former aide to now-HHS Secretary Price; **Krister Holladay**, Government Relations director at United Technologies; **Bob Redding** of the Redding Firm; **Scott Orr**, Federal Legislative Affairs Manager for the Georgia Power Company; and **Autumn Veazey**, vice president of Government Relations at Land O'Lakes, Inc.

## Policy Makers, Movers & Shakers

Of course, Georgians are salted throughout the many D.C. power-player companies and trade associations— and are too numerous to mention. But among some high-profile standouts are **Lisa Thompson** and **Kimberly Hudgins** of the large toll market consulting firm HNTB. **Gloria Dittus**, an Augusta native who presides over Story Partners, is one of the top public relations mavens in the nation's capital advising clients on public policy. And **Heather McNatt Hennessey** runs her own firm and is a well-known PR/lobbyist with Georgia roots.



GLORIA DITTUS

The Washington-based Heritage Foundation is very instrumental in both providing research papers and information to everyone ranging from the president and members of Congress to media outlets. It also has a lobbying arm. Two respected Georgians with key Heritage positions are attorneys **John Malcolm** and **Hans von Spakovsky**. Malcolm is the Director of the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies. Also at that Heritage center is senior legal fellow and one-time Justice Department official Spakovsky. These prolific writers have already provided valuable assistance to the Trump administration when it comes to judicial nominee research.



# THE 2017 LIST of

## GEORGIA'S REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS CHIEFS OF STAFF & LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORS

### SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON

Joan Kirchner • Chief of Staff  
Jay Sulzmann • Legislative Director

### SENATOR DAVID PERDUE

Derrick Dickey • Chief of Staff  
P.J. Waldrop • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. BUDDY CARTER

Chris Crawford • Chief of Staff  
William Cannon • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. SANFORD BISHOP JR.

Michael Reed • Chief of Staff  
Jonathan Halpern • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. DREW FERGUSON IV

Bobby Saporow • Chief of Staff  
Mary Dee Beal • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. HANK JOHNSON

Arthur Sidney • Chief of Staff  
Arya Hariharan • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. JOHN LEWIS

Michael Collins • Chief of Staff  
Jamila A. Thompson • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. ROB WOODALL

Derick Corbett • Chief of Staff  
Janet Rossi • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. AUSTIN SCOTT

Joby Young • Chief of Staff  
Mary Beal • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. DOUG COLLINS

Brendan Belaire • Chief of Staff  
Sally Rose Larson • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. JODY HICE

David Sours • Chief of Staff  
Michael Calvo • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. BARRY LOUDERMILK

Robert Adkerson • Chief of Staff  
Colin Carr • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. RICK ALLEN

Timothy Baker • Chief of Staff  
Cameron Bishop • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. DAVID SCOTT

Gary Woodward • Chief of Staff  
Lauren Lattany • Legislative Director

### U.S. REP. TOM GRAVES

John Donnelly • Chief of Staff  
Jason Murphy • Legislative Director

# THE BOBBY JONES LEGACY: TIMELESS VALUES TO A MODERN WORLD

by Phil Kent

*Y*ou might think that managing the legacy of Bobby Jones would require the efforts of a full-time professional. Instead, much as the legendary golfer was a lawyer by profession and an amateur golfer, the Bobby Jones legacy is continued by his grandson and namesake, a psychologist at the Behavioral Institute of Atlanta in Sandy Springs.

Dr. Robert Tyre Jones, IV wears many hats: psychologist, corporate speaker, one-time priest and President of Jonesheirs, Inc., a Georgia corporation that manages the use of the name, image and likeness of his famous grandfather. Jonesheirs, Inc. currently consists of Bob IV, his two sisters, and three cousins. "Jonesheirs, Inc.," Dr. Jones says, "is a fancy name for the family of Robert Tyre Jones, Jr." The company was started over 30 years ago, when Sony approached his grandfather's law partner, Buster Bird, because they wanted to put the Bobby Jones image on a Trinitron ad. At that point, the family realized that it needed to do something to protect their grandfather's image so, as Dr. Jones says, "we started Jonesheirs, Inc., never really thinking it would amount to anything."

A distant cousin of the family, Ely Reeves Callaway—the founder of Callaway Golf—had other ideas. Callaway saw the commercial value in the Bobby Jones

name. "Ely wanted to use the Bobby Jones name on golf clubs and got a license from us to do it. He manufactured a line of Jones clubs and putters for almost 20 years," Dr. Jones says. "But what really put us on the map was when Ely decided to market the Bobby Jones instructional videos with a company called Sybervision. Those films had not been seen in decades, yet Dr. Jones notes "they were successful beyond anything we could have imagined."

Callaway later suggested to his friend, Hartmarx chairman Bert Hand, that Bobby Jones would make a fantastic luxury sportswear brand. "That was more than 25 years ago, Dr. Jones remarks. "Interestingly, Hartmarx is now gone but the Bobby Jones brand continues strong." The brand is licensed to Atlanta-based Jones Global Sports and its president, Andy Bell, has developed the brand from a luxury sportswear brand to one that appeals to a wide range of people seeking to embrace the lifestyle of golf's greatest amateur—from members of the board room to millennials.

"Andy has done a great job," said Dr. Jones. "We still make the really nice Mercerized cotton shirts, but also performance sportswear under the XH2O brand. This year, Andy and his team have launched a new brand, designed to appeal to the next generation of Jones buyer. The brand is called 'Rule 18' which is modern, stylish and appealing to a younger eye. It also teaches the timeless values of golf, 'play the ball where it lies' and 'who are you when no one is looking?'"

The Rule 18 brand harkens back to the 1925 U.S.





Open, when Bobby Jones accidentally moved his ball and, even though no one saw it, invoked Rule 18. He called a two-shot penalty on himself, and later lost the Open by one shot. But his grandson is not satisfied to sit on the great accomplishments of Jonesheirs. "We have to continue to build for the future. We know, as a family, that our success as a company will advance Bub's legacy, not just commercially, but also historically and charitably."

"Our goal is to broaden the use of the Bobby Jones name commercially," he continues. "We feel that there are high-end opportunities available where we can attach the Jones name and bring real value to our licensees." Some of the areas where Dr. Jones and the family are looking to expand are in spirits, cigars, and furniture. "We feel that the Bobby Jones name immediately identifies with integrity, class and a commitment to friendship. We are fortunate that companies such as Sony, IBM, Motorola, and Lexus, among others, have agreed with us over the years."

Another area where Jonesheirs wants to make an impact is through charity. "We currently allow the

Jones name to be used in conjunction with projects that, we think, are representative of what our grandfather would have wanted," Dr. Jones says. The family supports the Robert T. Jones, Jr, Program at Emory

University. "The Jones program sponsors an exchange between Emory and The University of St. Andrews (Scotland), an ethics program in the Laney Graduate School, and a biomedical engineering exchange between Emory and Georgia Tech. We also support the Chiari and Syringomyelia Foundation, the Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation, the Atlanta History Center, and Historic Oakland Cemetery."



DR. ROBERT TYRE JONES, IV

Carrying forward a legacy is demanding business. Dr. Jones wryly observes, "As golfers, my sisters, cousins, and I are living proof that the gene pool really does dilute over time. However, we hope that our efforts to develop our grandfather's legacy are something that would make him proud and keep the name Bobby Jones at the forefront of the world of golf."

*Phil Kent is the CEO and publisher of James.*



**July 17-23, 2017**

**[www.garestaurantweek.com](http://www.garestaurantweek.com)**



**Dine Out. Dine Often. Dine Georgia.**

... the james readers' poll ...

## Top Metro Atlanta “Political Hangout” Restaurants

1. **Manuel's Tavern**
2. **Hal's**
3. **Bada Bings**
4. **Shillings on the Square**
5. **Blue Ridge Grill & The Capital Grille**
6. **OK Cafe**
7. **Six Feet Under**
8. **Bone's**
9. **Chops Lobster Bar**
10. **Rathbun's**
11. **Ray's on the River**
12. **Hammocks Trading Company**
13. **Canoe**
14. **Local Three**
15. **Agave**
16. **Davio's**
17. **Fadó**
18. **Antica Posta**
19. **The Tavern at Phipps**
20. **Murphy's**





# Readers Vote on Hangin' with the Politicos

by Cindy Morley

No. 1

## Manuel's Tavern

602 North Highland Avenue, Atlanta  
[www.manuelstavern.com](http://www.manuelstavern.com)

*People love to hang-out at Manuel's because it's a throw-back to earlier times when regular people, from all walks of life, gathered over a beer to discuss politics and the media in a spirit of camaraderie.*

Longtime Democrat patron **Billy Linville**

They say the only constant is change. Possibly, but not always—especially when it comes to favorite political hangouts. It seems once a favorite, always a favorite.

We partnered this year with the Georgia Restaurant Association and the Taste of Atlanta to ask the public to identify the most popular restaurants in metro Atlanta to engage in political banter and see political movers and shakers.

Many of the top watering holes held their spots; a few traded off positions, and one moved into a predictable top spot—Manuel's Tavern. After a year of renovations, Manuel's is back in business and in the No. 1 spot in the *James Magazine* poll.

"We wanted to preserve every piece of infrastructure," said owner Brian Maloof. It worked. And with Manuel's back in business, many of the state's decisions are being made over wings at Manuel's again.

The names on the list are probably familiar to most, but politicians in Georgia seem to be loyal to their favorite hangouts. Enjoy reading about our top five voter-getters.

Finally, a note about the rest of our "Top 20." It's good to see far more participation this year by readers as well as by restaurant/bar employees, with many of them using Facebook and tweets to get the word out about participating in our poll and why they appreciate their favorite political hang-out.

And we note and welcome metro Atlanta "newcomers" on the list—Local Three, Antica Posta, The Tavern at Phipps Plaza and, also in Atlanta's Buckhead section, the Fadó Irish pub.

Since 1956 Manuel's has been a gathering place for many Democrats when they ran Atlanta, DeKalb County and the state. Much of that is because of the force of personality of Manuel Maloof, the gruff barkeep-turned-politician who owned it much of that time.

Manuel's was closed temporarily for renovations last year, but when it re-opened the faithful, as well as a new crowd, came. Owner Brian Maloof says, "It's exciting to be part of all this history." He said extreme care was taken in restoring Manuel's to its original form after the renovations. "It was a huge undertaking, and we worked really hard to make sure not much changed..." "We wanted to preserve every piece of infrastructure—down to the bar that has been in the family for over 100 years." The bar, Brian says, came from his grandfather's Tip Top Billiard Parlor that was located across from the Capitol for many years. The Tip Top was a popular place for lawmakers and state officials who would walk across the street for lunch or after work to discuss government doings. The Tip Top



*Behind the bar at Manuel's*

was closed after a fire, and later re-opened as Manuel's at its current location on North Highland Avenue.

Today, there are few signs of changes. The walls are still filled with quirky political memorabilia (for example, old pictures ranging from John F. Kennedy to Franklin D. Roosevelt benignly gaze at patrons) and Manuel's urn still sits on the shelf behind the bar. "I am reminded every day how fortunate I am to keep Dad's dream alive," Brian says.

Billy Linville continues, "Although it has a long and deep association with the Democratic Party, everyone feels welcome. Very few places like this exist anymore. That's why it's still as popular as ever." •

## No.2

### Hal's

30 Old Ivy Road, Atlanta  
www.hals.net

*There's no other place in Atlanta like Hal's.  
It's our own version of "Cheers."*

Fulton County politician **Robb Pitts**

Hal's has been one of the most well-known Buckhead restaurants for more than two decades, so it's no surprise that this favorite of lobbyists and legislators held its No. 2 spot in the poll. Hal's isn't just known for its great steaks and New Orleans cuisine. It may be best known as "the place where locals go to eat and play, where Atlanta's power dinners happen and why Hal's boasts such a large number of repeat clientele," according to the website.



*The dining room at Hal's*

Add to that a classy atmosphere, live entertainment and a large wine selection and there's no question as to why this restaurant— owned by the affable Hal Nowak— continues to be popular.

Dave Pratt, partner at the lobbying firm Southern Strategy Group of Georgia, says: "I see Hal's as one of the most ideal venues within which to have a relaxed dinner conversation— political or otherwise."

In March a jovial Nigel Farage, the British leader of the pro-Brexit campaign and now a Fox News Channel contributor, was even seen having an upstairs dinner with Atlanta bigwigs and later holding court in the main downstairs bar with cigarette and glass in hand. "Hal's has a relaxed, easy elegance. I like it here!" he confided to *James*. Indeed. •

## No.3

### Bada Bings

349 Decatur Street SE Suite A-1, Atlanta  
www.badabingsatl.com

*Bada Bings is probably the best unheard  
of restaurant in metro Atlanta, and I think  
owner Lawrence Morrow likes it that way.*

A surveyed *James* reader

If you work at the Capitol, you can walk to Bada Bings— which is conveniently located in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood with a view of the skyline from the patio. Maybe that's one reason it has become a favorite with some of the state's most powerful lawmakers,





*The game room at Bada Bings*

including Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and House Speaker David Ralston. Bada Bings got its name from owner Lawrence Morrow's first boat. In case you didn't know, "bada bing" is a New Jersey expression for something that looks hard but turns out to be easy. The television show *The Sopranos* used the name Bada Bings for their strip club before owner Morrow could use it for his earlier restaurants, but when he opened this restaurant in 2014 he thought it was safe to use. Yet he admits he still gets a call occasionally asking about naked dancing women.

Morrow bills Bada Bings as, "your new hangout spot in Atlanta." They offer free covered parking, 20 beers on tap, creative mixologists, and the best burgers in town. Don't miss out on its favorites from the 50/50 Burger (bacon, bacon and more bacon!), Southern Charm (pimento cheese please!) or the monster Double Bacon Cheeseburger. Lawmakers and lobbyists have been known to take time for a lively game of ping pong in the game room, or enjoy pool, darts, shuffleboard and even karaoke.

Those voting in the survey had some interesting observations and a reader had a profound thought: "Lots of political figures go in and out of the doors of Bada Bings. They should paint a gold dome on top of it." •

## No. 4

### Shillings on the Square

19 North Park Square, Marietta  
[www.shillingsonthesquare.net](http://www.shillingsonthesquare.net)

One of the oldest operating restaurants in metro Atlanta, Shillings on the Square is named for the legendary hardware store that occupied the same site for



*The Shillings on the Square restaurant front*

decades. Now in its 39th year, Shillings remains a favorite gathering spot for trial lawyers, prosecutors and judges—especially Cobb County officials who only have to walk across the street from their offices in the courthouse.

County District Attorney Vic Reynolds is one of the regulars at Shillings. "It has a 'Cheers-like' environment, serving the neighborhood regular customers and new clientele alike," said Reynolds. "It's a short walk from the courthouse and more than a few cases have been resolved there over the years."

*Shillings has been a mainstay on Marietta Square for over 30 years. Many local campaign strategies have been developed while enjoying its atmosphere.*

#### County District Attorney Vic Reynolds

Owner David Reardon says, "I feel like I know everyone who walks in the door. The sheriff was in yesterday, the ex-governor (Roy Barnes) was in earlier today and our district attorney came in today. Besides politicians, we also have doctors come in from the hospital. And the great part is that they all have become friends."

Reardon agrees that Shillings is a lot like Sam Malone's place on *Cheers*. It is a downstairs pub with many regular faces and a dining room one flight up—overlooking the picturesque Marietta Square. "Everyone who comes in here makes it a joy for me to come to work," said Reardon. "It's not like going to a job every day; it's more like going to see old friends every day." •



No.5 (tie)

## Blue Ridge Grill

1261 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta  
www.blueridgegrill.com

*Blue Ridge Grill is a warm and welcoming place where friends— especially the politically-connected— meet and relax to enjoy great food, drink and fellowship*

Fulton County Superior Court Judge **Craig Schwall**

Owners Susan DeRose and Richard Lewis of Liberty House Restaurant Corporation were looking for something unique when they opened Blue Ridge Grill. They were hoping for a restaurant that offered the feel of the Blue Ridge Mountains, rustic but elegant— and not too far from the state Capitol. And they seem to have found it.

Blue Ridge Grill continues to be a favorite among many politicians, who can often be found on the porch where light fare is served and the conversations are more communal. During a memorable visit by *James* writers, several powerful lobbyists, two prominent lawyers, a judge and two former state House speakers were seen networking during “happy hour” on the porch and by the bar. Another glance around the room, and it was easy to spot a few more of the state’s influential politicians talking business.

Inside the restaurant, the exposed timbers, log walls and stone fireplace make the perfect setting for its signature grilled Georgia trout, iron-skillet seared mussels or rib-eye steaks grilled over a hickory fire. Restaurant owners boast that “You can have a private conversation. You go to some restaurants, and you’re almost in a conversation with your neighbor”— probably one of the



*The porch at Blue Ridge Grill*

reasons it remains as a top political hangout. “We’ve just been so very fortunate,” they say. “We’ve built up such a clientele over 21 years.” •

No.5 (tie)

## The Capital Grille

255 E. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta  
www.thecapitalgrille.com

*The Capital Grille has always been one of my favorites for political fundraisers and meetings. The location is perfect, the food is excellent and the staff is very professional.*

Former U.S. Senator **Saxby Chambliss**

The restaurant’s website states that “From the moment you step into The Capital Grille, the experience is one of comfortable elegance. African mahogany paneling and Art Deco chandeliers provide a warm, stately setting for our nationally renowned dry-aged steaks, fresh seafood, and acclaimed world-class wines. With service as gracious as it is attentive, we look forward to impressing you.”

The Buckhead location has clearly made an impression on our readers— as The Capital Grille moved into a tie among the top five vote-getters in the annual *James* survey. With a touch of class sophistication, The Capital Grille jumped five spots this year— from No. 9 last year.

According to the company’s website, “It is our sole desire that everything, and we mean everything, that arrives at your table at The Capital Grille delights you. To that end, we use only the finest, freshest ingredients, masterfully prepared in recipes designed to engage all of your senses.” Our poll respondents obviously agree. •



*The dining room at The Capital Grille*



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on 32



only received 37,993 votes in the April special election—or, 54,397 voters less than Ossoff. No matter what the makeup of the district, that is a hefty shortfall for even the most effective campaign organization.

The harsh GOP reality is that Ossoff only missed winning an outright victory by 3,653 votes out of 192,084 votes cast. But, unlike horseshoes and hand grenades, close does not count.

As the June 20 election runoff approaches, both campaign organizations will focus the majority of their fire on an enormous ground operation. The candidate who gets the most folks to the polls in early voting and on election day wins. It is as simple as that.

There will be some campaign advertisements, but these are mostly designed to make sure voters think their candidate is fighting and can still win. But the real battle will not be air war—it will be a ground war.

Post-special election polls show the election as about even. Yet polls are irrelevant. Asking a voter if they

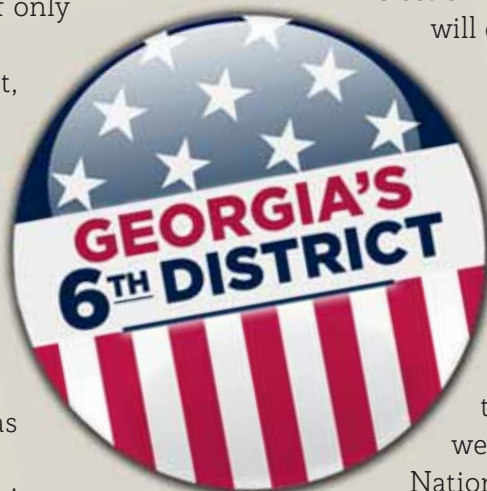
intend to vote means little in the context of folks who actually vote. Ignore them.

The real numbers will be who votes early, who requests absentee ballots and then who shows up on election day. Those are the only numbers that will count—and that is simple mathematics.

Of course, it is possible for either candidate to have an embarrassing gaffe or for the national political dynamics to sway voter sentiment in the district. But, absent that, this is an election decided by simple hard work—knocking on doors, making phone calls, visiting voters and getting them to the polls. It is all of the things that President Barack Obama did well in 2008 and 2012, and the Republican National Committee perfected in 2016.

All other things being equal, Ossoff has the shortest distance but Handel has the momentum. How it finishes will be down to the wire.

*Randy Evans is a Dentons attorney and Georgia's Republican National Committeeman.*



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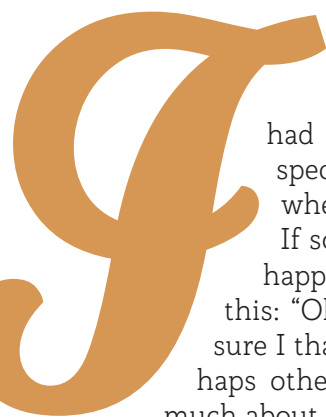
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# SOME DEBTS ARE TOO BIG TO BE REPAID

by Larry Walker



I had forgotten that I made a speech—specifically, any kind of farewell speech when I left the state Legislature in 2004. If someone had asked me (which didn't happen) I would have said something like this: "Oh, I made a few comments, and I'm sure I thanked my House colleagues and perhaps others, but I don't remember anything much about it."

Anyhow, in this context, during the last week of April a box was brought to my office with a few books, several photographs, originals of letters and lots of magazine and newspaper clippings. Most of them were about Sam Nunn or me. The box and contents were delivered by Charles Harrison and he told me that his sister-in-law, Florence Harrison, wanted me to have it and that his brother, Willis Harrison, had agreed. Mrs. Harrison had saved the contents of this box for years.

Florence Harrison was Sam Nunn's high school English teacher (he graduated from Perry High School in 1956) and was mine (I graduated from PHS in 1960). Florence died in May of 2014, and I handled her estate. Her husband, Willis, died in December of 2016, and I am handling his. But, back to the box and a newspaper clipping I don't ever remember seeing.

The clipping, half of a newspaper page, was titled "Text from State Rep. Larry Walker's farewell speech" and apparently was from *The Macon Telegraph* judging from an ad on the back of the page which had my speech.

A half page! I couldn't believe it. Saved, along with many other things, by my homeroom and twelfth grade teacher, Florence Harrison. Amazing.

Then I read it. And what struck me as never before was how much I owed Mrs. Harrison and my first grade teacher Miss Frances Couey and my sixth grade teacher Jean Bledsoe. I will never be able to pay what I owe. That's what teachers do. They give so much and it can never be repaid by the recipients.

I quoted Thomas Jefferson who said: "If due participation of office is a matter of right, how are vacancies to be obtained? Those by death are few; by resignation, none." Or, as Jefferson is usually quoted: "Few die, and none

resign." In other words, if the politician continues to serve long enough, he will either die or eventually be defeated. None quit. But, I did.

I talked about love undeserved and quoted from my favorite hymn, "My Tribute" (and I like it by Andraé Crouch) by reciting these words: "How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me. Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me. The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude..."

I talked of legislative colleagues, including Terry Coleman, Tom Buck, Tom Murphy, Lynn Westmoreland, Bill Lee and Calvin Smyre and perhaps 100 or so more.

Democrats and Republicans. Friends. Good friends.

Lobbyists, clerks, governors, secretaries, my shoe shine man, the press and three especially close political friends, Allan Stalvey, Clark Fain and Connell Stafford. I also talked of my wonderful secretary of 20 years, Dianna Lynn.

And, then I closed with what Robert E. Lee closed with when he gave his farewell address to the Army of Northern Virginia: "With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

And so, I bid my political colleagues and my friends an affectionate farewell which I truly meant—the affectionate part.

Frances Couey taught me to read in the first grade, and Florence Harrison taught me to love to read in the twelfth. I call them my bookend teachers. And, neither the speech I made in 2004 nor this column would have ever happened without Mrs. Harrison. She helped to make me what I was when I wrote the speech in the spring of 2004 and helped make me what I am today. I think Sam Nunn would say the same things about her. In fact, I know he would.

And, by the way, was it Macon's Pulitzer Prize winner Randall Savage that got this article printed? And, who was Randall's teacher(s) that made such a difference in his life?

*Larry Walker is a practicing attorney in Perry. He served 32 years in the General Assembly and serves on the University System Board of Regents.*







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# Reflecting on the Fate OF CASINO, CERTIFICATE OF NEED BILLS

by Josh Belinfante

**A QUICK SCAN** of articles prior to the 2017 General Assembly session would lead one to believe that the legislation garnering the most attention would be casino gambling. Reports that MGM Resorts would be joined by other heavy hitters Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts (not to mention a host of other, smaller operators) gave the impression to many that the time had come to allow a vote on whether to permit casino gaming in Georgia.

On the healthcare front, most expected the hospital provider fee to pass with little fanfare, and it did. Many were also ready for another debate about Certificate of Need (CON), the law that requires the state to approve the construction of everything from a new hospital, to new hospital services, to an ambulatory surgery center. (As with my previous article, I must disclose that I represent parties interested in reforming the CON process to inject some free market principles into healthcare.)

Despite expectations and significant press reports, both efforts failed to make it out of their assigned committees. The Senate held several hearings on the casino legislation, but it never took a vote. The House committee held one hearing, but as in the Senate, members took no vote.

On CON, a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Affairs tabled two pieces of legislation that sought to open the process to allow at least hospitals to expand more efficiently and without government approval. The Senate Health and Human Services Committee never heard the various bills pending there on a destination cancer hospital (Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Newnan) and multispecialty physician

ambulatory surgery centers. Nothing prevents any of the bills— either CON or casinos— from returning next session, and the safe bet is that they will.

The casino legislation underwent significant changes during the session. It began as an over 120-page bill that provided for six casinos and some horse racing tracks. The proceeds of the gaming revenue went largely to the Georgia Lottery for purposes of funding the HOPE Scholarship. Midway through session, the legislation changed significantly. The number of casinos dropped from six to two. Horse racing was stripped from the bill. And, the revenues began to be divvied up between varied interests, including rural healthcare. The bill also dropped in length, as the committee substitutes were only about 30 pages.

While many legislators liked the limited number of casinos and the shorter length of the bill, some of the changes left others (whose votes were needed to pass the controversial legislation) wondering how the effort would help their communities. Some

legislators hoped that the horse racing provision would bring horse farms or supporting industries to their districts. Others wanted more casinos, as the greater number increased the chances their community would be able to vote on the question of whether to have casinos located within

their county or city. Although the number of casinos eventually increased, it appeared that the rural and urban coalition needed to pass the legislation had splintered.

Consequently, the bill never escaped the House or Senate committees. Efforts to

*continued on page 36*





try again next session will likely focus on means to “spread the wealth” of the casino (and potentially horse racing) project and articulate how it would assist different areas of the state.

For CON, the story was a bit different. Last year, House Chairman Wendell Willard introduced legislation to sunset the CON program altogether. Most hospitals opposed, but HCA (who I represent and has seven hospitals in Georgia and is in public negotiations for an eighth) supported the legislation as a way to open up the Georgia market for growth and competition. The opposition focused on the impact the legislation would have on hospitals from physician-owned ambulatory surgery centers. Consequently, when the legislation returned this past session, the changes were scaled back. Instead of opening the program completely, it focused on (1) eliminating state approval for decisions to buy equipment or expand the physical plant of a CON-regulated facility; (2) deregulating mental health care services to expand opportunities to provide care in communities; (3) deregulating of free standing emergency departments to take pressure off of hospital emergency rooms; and (4) make it easier for hospitals to expand their bed count.

Most hospitals maintained their opposition to the legislation, but (as demonstrated by the pages of this magazine) they seemed to be addressing the 2016 sunset bill versus the 2017 reform bill that loosened hospital-on-hospital competition.

In the context of the House committee, most of the criticism focused on CON-exempt ambulatory surgery centers (which were not impacted by the bill) and the efforts of Cancer Treatment Centers of America. The committee tabled the bill without much discussion. The lack of debate leaves one to speculate what the issues were with the legislation, but rumblings about the need to reform and update a set of laws that have remained unchanged for almost a decade will likely force a return next year for further consideration.

Like Cubs fans of old, those seeking to reform Georgia’s gaming and CON laws are left, this year, saying “next year is our year.” But like Cubs fans of today, persistence pays off and, at some point, the actual debate will occur.

*Josh Belinfante practices litigation and regulatory law at Robbins Ross Alloy Belinfante and Littlefield in Atlanta.*



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# DRIVING BUSINESS ON THE COURSE

by Mac McGrew



**T**ime is money and how we use it can determine how successful we are. Golf is often seen as the ultimate business tool. An estimated 90 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs play golf, as have almost all the U.S. presidents since President Dwight Eisenhower. Furthermore, interesting studies show that executives who play golf make an average of 17 percent more than those who don't.

One of my favorite pastimes is playing golf and, for me, mixing golf with business is a hole-in-one for several reasons.

**Building Business Relationships** Taking a colleague, current client or prospect to play golf allows you time to truly get to know the person on the course. Often, meeting a client at his or her office means constant interruptions and strict time limitations. On the golf course, however, you'll likely have more time and a better opportunity to have in-depth conversations and truly build personal relationships. With a round of golf often taking up to four hours, you or your client may not always have a large block of time to dedicate to the sport. The driving range or a non-traditional facility such as Top Golf are other options.

**Gaining insight** Though some may consider it taboo to discuss business over golf, I'm often pleasantly surprised by the insight that arises from general conversations about market trends. While it's certainly inappropriate to bring contracts and paperwork to the course, generally, it is acceptable to discuss asset allocation, interest rates, capital markets and sectors of the stock market. Having conversations about the industry could even lead to new or increased business.

**Understanding Your Colleagues, Clients and Prospective Clients' Personalities** The calm competitiveness of golf is a great way to get an understanding of a colleague's or prospective client's temperament. It can shed light on whether they are easily agitated, patient or

passionate. It is valuable insight that can help you better manage your relationships and anticipate their future behaviors as the market frequently fluctuates. Remember to keep your own emotions in check on the course. As much as I love to golf, it can be frustrating at times but it's important to remain calm and be positive—regardless of the score.

**Finding a substitute** If you don't know how to play golf or prefer a different activity, that's okay too. I know plenty of colleagues that have other passions (i.e., hunting and wine tasting) that they share with their clients. The most important aspect is not the activity but rather the time it allows you to build a stronger relationship with your colleague, client or prospect.

**Giving Back** Golf as a whole generates more than \$3.9 billion annually in charitable giving. I have been involved in several charitable golf tournaments and have found that it's a great way to support both a client and a cause. Not surprisingly, the same crowds tend to frequent golf events year after year, which only helps you continue to build relationships and strengthen your network.

Though I'm certainly a fan of golf these days, I was a tennis player as a child. Around the age of twelve, my mother encouraged me to consider also playing golf because she insisted I would "one day do a lot of business on the course." She was right and golf has taught me a lot about both business and life. Bobby Jones, the most successful amateur golfer, once said, "Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots, you get good breaks from bad shots, but you have to play the ball where it lies."

So no matter what your sport or hobby, building and maintaining relationships is an essential business tool that is at the core of knocking every deal out the park, hitting each hole in one and scoring the big wins.

*Mac McGrew is a wealth advisor with The Harrison McGrew Group at Morgan Stanley in Atlanta. He can be reached at [Mac.McGrew@MS.com](mailto:Mac.McGrew@MS.com).*

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