

31st Georgia Bar, Media & Judiciary Conference

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2022

Georgia Judges, Journalists and Lawyers and the First Amendment
A Primer on Recurring and Emerging Issues and the Law
(Approved for 6.5 CLE including 1.5 Trial Practice hours)

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

3:30-5:00 p

THE ARBERY CASE: LESSONS FOR LAWYERS, JUDGES AND THE MEDIA

A panel discussion concerning Georgia's most watched trial in years, including commentary from two of the lawyers who participated.

Moderators:

Hyde Post, Hyde Post Communications, St. Simons

Margaret Coker, The Current, Savannah

Panelists:

Hon. Lisa Colbert, Judge, Chatham County Superior Court

Linda Dunikoski, Senior Assistant Cobb County District Attorney, Marietta

Robert G. Rubin, Peters Rubin Sheffield & Hodges, PA, Decatur

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

2:00-3:00 p

WHAT'S GOING ON: PARENTS, THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Recent years have seen calls for a renewed emphasis on civics education in our schools as an antidote for democratic disengagement and a spur for rational discourse and understanding. But now the schools themselves have become a pitched battleground, over COVID and public health and increasingly the curriculum, including black-listing books and how and even if we teach the lessons of history. A panel discussion of the challenges facing those seeking to stay informed and how the media is responding.

Organizer:

Sarah Brewerton-Palmer, Caplan Cobb LLP

Moderator:

Meredith Kincaid, Summerville Firm

Panelists:

Nicole Carr, ProPublica

Maureen Downey, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Jason Esteves, Atlanta Public Schools

Timmy L. Foster, Parkside Elementary School

3:30-5:00 p

COMMUNICATING IN THE DISINFORMATION AGE

The rise of disinformation has created perils for American democracy, the media and individuals who navigate the often hostile world of social media. A panel discussion highlighting problems and solutions, along with the responsibilities of technology platforms, the media and the public to foster truthful discourse.

Organizer:

Megan Hodgkiss, Hodgkiss Consulting LLC

Moderator:

Ken Foskett, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Panelists:

Hon. Sara L. Doyle, Presiding Judge, Georgia Court of Appeals

Michael Baldassarro, Senior Adviser, Digital Threats to Democracy and Elections Project, The Carter Center

Mike Gebhart, President, Georgia Press Association

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

11:00 a -12:30 p

GUIDING GEORGIA LAW: THE RACE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

In-depth interviews of candidates for Georgia Attorney General.

Interlocutors:

Richard Griffiths, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Everett Catts, Daily Report

Rose Scott, WABE

Candidates:

11:00 a

Hon. Chris Carr, Attorney General, State of Georgia

11:30 a

Hon. Jen Jordan, Senator (6th District), State of Georgia, and Jordan Woodward Cathey, Atlanta

1:30-2:30 p

DISINFORMATION AND POLARIZATION: IS LIBEL LAW A CAUSE AND/OR A CURE?

False information on air and online, including about the 2020 election in Georgia and elsewhere, has produced a string of high profile libel suits as well as calls for libel legal reform. A panel of experts reviews and analyzes the issues and makes some predictions.

Moderators:

Clare Norins, UGA

Jonathan Peters, UGA

Panelists:

Nora Benavidez, Free Press

Tom Clare, Clare Locke

Lee Levine, Ballard Spahr (ret)

3:30-5:00 p

ELECTION CENTRAL SEASON 2: COVERING GEORGIA POLITICS AND ELECTIONS IN 2022

Yet again Georgia is destined to capture the attention of the nation, if not the world, as it heads to the polls. A panel of Georgia's finest political reporters discuss the issues they are watching, what they are hearing from voters and experts and what they expect to catch the spotlight in the primaries, in November, and beyond.

Organizer:

Shawn McIntosh, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Moderator:

Patricia Murphy, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Panelists:

Rahul Bali, WABE News

Stephen Fowler, GPB

Chuck Williams, WRBL, Columbus

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ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE LOGIN INFORMATION FOR EACH SESSION IN A KNOW-BEFORE-YOU-GO EMAIL REMINDER ONE DAY IN ADVANCE.