29TH ANNUAL
GEORGIA BAR MEDIA & JUDICIARY CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 28, 2020
STATE BAR HEADQUARTERS / ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Georgia Judges, Journalists and Lawyers
And the First Amendment
A Primer on Recurring and Emerging Issues and the Law

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A.M.
8:00 **Registration**

*Please arrive by 8:30 am to ensure seating prior to Political Rewind*

9:00 **Political Rewind Returns: What’s the State of Play in Georgia**

Georgia Public Broadcasting’s “Political Rewind” team of award winning political pundits and prognosticators return to broadcast live from the conference and try to answer what is happening and why.

Host:
Bill Nigut, *Georgia Public Broadcasting, Atlanta*

Panel:
Jim Galloway, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta*
Samuel S. Olens, *Dentons, Atlanta*
Dr. Amy Steigerwalt, *Georgia State University, Atlanta*
Eric Tanenblatt, *Dentons, Atlanta*
Michael Thurmond, *CEO, Dekalb County*

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **The Media and the Courts: Content & Coverage**

A retired federal judge probes a panel of veteran court watchers about lessons learned over decades of covering federal and state trial and appellate courts.

Moderator:
Hon. William S. Duffey, *U.S. District Judge (retired), Atlanta*

Panelists:
R. Robin McDonald, *Daily Report, Atlanta*
Bill Rankin, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta*

11:15 **Behind the Headlines: Reporting on Georgia Senior Care**

Investigative reporters for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution spent almost a year exploring the care Georgians receive from assisted living communities and personal care homes. Here’s what they found and how.

Moderator:
Andre Jackson, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta*

Panelists:
Lois Norder, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta*
Brad Schrade, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta*
Carrie Teegardin, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta*
P.M.
12:15 Lunch & Program

The State of Investigative Reporting: Nationally and in Georgia
What's ahead nationally and in Georgia for hard-hitting investigative reporting, featuring opening remarks from 4-time Pulitzer Prize winner David Barstow.
Keynote:
David Barstow, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism
Moderator:
Richard T. Griffiths, Georgia First Amendment Foundation, Atlanta
Panelists:
Ashley Fantz, CNN, Atlanta
Shawn McIntosh, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta
Dale Russell, Fox 5 I-Team, Atlanta

1:45 Justice or a Revolving Door?
A Fred-Friendly role-playing examination of the perennial public debate swirling around criminal justice in Fulton and elsewhere in the State.
Organizers: Jonathan Peters, UGA & Thomas M. Clyde, Kilpatrick Townsend
Interlocutor:
Richard Belcher, WSB-TV, Atlanta
Panelists to include:
Hon. Robert McBurney, Judge, Fulton County Superior Court
Paul L. Howard, Jr., Fulton County District Attorney
J. P. Matzigkeit, District 8, Atlanta City Council
Tiffany William Roberts, Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta

2:45 Are We Ready: Georgia Elections in 2020
Is the State ready for Election Day 2020?
Moderator:
Jonathan Ringel, Daily Report
Panelists:
Josh Belinfante, Robbins Firm, Atlanta
Bruce Brown, Bruce P. Brown LLC, Atlanta
Mark Niesse, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta
Andrea Young, ACLU of Georgia, Atlanta

3:30 Break
A LOOK BACK: LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE MEDIA AND THE SUSPECT
How Atlanta and the world dealt with the bombing of the Centennial Olympic Games and hero-then-suspect Richard Jewell.
Moderator:
   Sally Sears, WGCL/CBS46, Atlanta
Panelists:
   Kent Alexander, co-author, The Suspect, Atlanta
   Ron Martz, Atlanta Journal-Constitution (retired), Dahlonega
   Kevin Riley, Editor, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta
   Ann Woolner, Bloomberg News (retired), Savannah

5:00 POST-CONFERENCE RECEPTION

Special Thanks To:
   Ashley Stollar of the State Bar for Overall Assistance,
   Lesli Gaither of Kilpatrick Townsend for Coordination of Sponsorships and Preparation of the Conference Materials, and
   The Georgia First Amendment Foundation for Registration and Logistics
Program Chair:

**PETER CANFIELD** is of counsel to Jones Day based in the firm’s Atlanta office. A graduate of Amherst College and Yale Law School, he is a founding director of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation and nationally has chaired the biennial media law conference of the Newspaper Association of American and the National Association of Broadcasters, been a director of the New York-based Media Law Resource Center and served on the Governing Committee of the American Bar Association’s Forum on Communications Law. Prior to entering private practice, he clerked for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. (Fifth Circuit), U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson (M.D. Ala.) and served as an attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C., and a Deputy D.A. in Montgomery, Alabama.

Panelists:

**KENT ALEXANDER** is an attorney and author of *The Suspect: An Olympic Bombing, The FBI, The Media, and Richard Jewell, The Man Caught in The Middle* (Abrams 2019). He has served as General Counsel of Emory University, General Counsel of CARE, and a partner with the King & Spalding law firm. He was the US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia at the time of the 1996 Olympics. He spent hundreds of hours in meetings with the FBI about the bombing, and ultimately, he wrote and hand-delivered Jewell’s clearance letter.

**DAVID BARSTOW** is a former senior writer at The New York Times and the first reporter to ever win four Pulitzer Prizes. Named the Reva and David Logan Distinguished Chair in Investigative Journalism in July 2019, he is now the head of investigative reporting at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Barstow joined The Times in 1999 and became a member of the paper’s Investigative unit in 2002. He is the recipient of three Polk Awards, the Goldsmith Prize, the Alfred I. duPont Silver Baton, the Barlett and Steele Gold Medal, a Loeb Award, the Sidney Hillman Award, the Daniel Pearl Award for Investigative Reporting, two Sigma Delta Chi awards for distinguished service, the Peabody Award, the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, the Mirror Award, an Overseas Press Club Citation, two Society of American Business Editors and Writers awards, and the Gold Keyboard.

Before joining The Times, he reported for The St. Petersburg Times (now the Tampa Bay Times) in Florida, where he was a finalist for three Pulitzers. Before that, he was a reporter at The Times-Union in Rochester, N.Y., and The Green Bay Press-Gazette in Wisconsin. Barstow is a native of Concord, Mass., and a graduate of Northwestern University, which honored him with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010. He was inducted into the Hall of Achievement at the university’s Medill School of Journalism in 2015.

**RICHARD BELCHER** is an Investigative Reporter and Anchor with WSB-TV. He joined Channel 2 Action News in February, 1990 with 18 years of broadcast experience. Previously, Richard was a full-time investigative reporter and 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. anchor with WAGA-TV for 15 years. Prior to that he worked at WXIA-TV and WGST Radio.
Richard graduated from Georgia State University with a BBA in Marketing. Richard is married to Sally Sears, a former reporter at WSB-TV. They have one child, Will, born in February 1991. Richard also has two daughters, Brooke and Robin.

**JOSH BELINFANTE** is a partner with Robbins, a litigation and regulatory law firm, representing governmental and non-governmental clients, and those in the highly regulated fields of healthcare, gaming, land use, and energy. Josh brings to bear his experience in all three branches of government, having served as the Executive Counsel or Chief Legal Advisor to Governor Sonny Perdue, Georgia’s 81st Governor (2007-2009), Legal Counsel to the Georgia House Judiciary Committee (2006), and Law Clerk to Judge J.L. Edmondson of the Eleventh Circuit (2004-2005).

In litigation matters, Josh’s practice involves commercial disputes and representation of government and those challenging governmental acts. He has successfully argued cases that have shaped the Georgia healthcare and gaming industries. Josh also represents clients involved in procurement matters and bid protests, cases before the public service commission, and in precedent-setting challenges to annexations and local ordinances. He has long been a go-to lawyer of the State of Georgia in numerous high stakes cases against the United States Department of Justice, and private parties challenging Georgia’s Medicaid and special education programs.

Outside of litigation, Josh has significant experience in in campaign finance and election law matters. He represents entities governed by federal and state campaign finance laws, including campaigns and political action committees. He also has specific experience drafting laws governing Certificate of Need, gaming, the Georgia Lottery, restrictive covenants and non-compete agreements, and eminent domain.

The Atlanta Business Chronicle described Josh as the “go-to guy for Georgia healthcare policy and legislation.” In 2011, the Atlanta Business Chronicle named Josh one of the 40 Under 40 of Atlanta’s Rising and Business Leaders. In 2010, The Fulton County Daily Report named Josh one of 10 attorneys “On the Rise,” and Georgia Trend named him one of Georgia’s “Legal Elite.” Atlanta Magazine named Josh a “Super Lawyer” since 2015, and it frequently named him a Georgia “Rising Star Super Lawyer.” James Magazine has repeatedly identified Josh as one of the “Best Lawyers in Georgia.”

Josh serves on the University of Georgia Law School Alumni Council, the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chapter of the Federalist Society, and he is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta (2012), Leadership Sandy Springs (2015), and the Coverdell Leadership Institute (2007). Josh is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Georgia School of Law. He also taught high school at Pace Academy in Atlanta.

**BRUCE P. BROWN** is an Atlanta attorney who had 26 years of litigation experience at McKenna Long & Aldridge (now Dentons) before opening his own practice in 2012. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law with an A.B. from Davidson College, he was a law clerk to Judge Edward A. Tamm of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and Chief Justice Warren Burger of the United States Supreme Court.

**TOM CLYDE** is a partner of Kilpatrick Townsend, where he focuses his practice on complex commercial and appellate matters, with an emphasis on representing print, television, internet and
communications companies. A graduate of Princeton University and Duke University School of Law, he has represented clients in an array of litigation in federal and state courts and frequently defends clients in lawsuits challenging First Amendment protected speech.

ASHLEY FANTZ has been a reporter for CNN since 2006. With CNN Investigates, she reports on crime, military issues and gender violence. Her 2018 investigation "Destroyed" -- which won an Eppy award and was nominated for an Emmy -- revealed that dozens of law enforcement agencies across the nation have destroyed rape kits -- many never tested for DNA -- in unsolved cases. In at least 400 cases, prosecutions still could have been made. The story caused change: several police departments stopped destroying rape kits, launched internal reviews and revised their investigative practices. Inspired by the story, a Georgia lawmaker drafted legislation, which passed the legislature in 2019, mandating the preservation of rape kits. A leading non-profit that advocates for sexual violence survivors created model legislation encouraging the same action in other states.

Following that investigation, Fantz turned to Asheville, N.C., to unearth a story about a longtime charity leader's criminal charge involving a sex crime committed against a teenage girl. The survivor, now 47, told her story for the first time to CNN. Those revelations -- and Ashley's reporting on the charity leader's dubious awards -- ultimately led to the man leaving the charity and other organizations stripping him of several honors.

Her multimedia investigation "The Uncounted" revealed that military family members are committing and contemplating suicide just as service members and veterans are taking their own lives. The story showed the military's failure to track family member suicides.

Before joining CNN, Fantz was a general assignment reporter with the Miami Herald covering the state's child welfare system and the criminal justice beat. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism.

KEN FOSKETT has been at the AJC since 1989, serving as a beat reporter covering legal affairs and state politics, a Washington correspondent, an investigative reporter, an opinion editor and Sunday features editor. He is now the Senior Editor/Investigations. Prior to joining the Journal-Constitution, Foskett worked for three years in southern Africa for Save the Children. A graduate of Yale and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, he is the author of Judging Thomas: The Life and Times of Clarence Thomas (William Morrow 2004).

LESLI GAITHER is with Kilpatrick Townsend in Atlanta, where she focuses her practice on media litigation and counseling, as well as complex commercial litigation. She is a graduate of Purdue University and Vanderbilt University Law School.

JIM GALLOWAY has been a writer and editor with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for more than three decades and is now the newspaper’s political columnist and lead writer and founder of the Political Insider blog, the best-read and most influential political blog in the state. He is an unrepentant child of the suburbs who played Little League ball (badly) on what is now the fourth runway at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Galloway has witnessed every kind of political contest, from city council races to presidential contests to a failed revolution in China. In 1976, while Jimmy Carter accepted the Democratic nomination for president of the United States
on TV, it was young Galloway’s weighty task to blindly call Georgia residents to see how many were watching the John Wayne movie scheduled opposite. Quite a few, it turned out. Responsibilities have increased since then, somewhat, to include mayors, governors and the occasional head of state. But the meanest, nastiest, most low-down campaign he’s ever seen remains a race for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS currently serves as President Emeritus of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation, volunteering his time to focus on government access and free speech issues. Until he retired in March 2017, Griffiths held the position of Vice-President and Senior Editorial Director for CNN, responsible for global editorial quality control. In the nearly three years since his retirement, Griffiths has consulted on and taught journalism ethics, investigative reporting, and editorial management in the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Poland, Switzerland and Australia. He is the Stembler Distinguished Visiting Professional at the University of North Carolina School of Media and Journalism and in 2017 was named Distinguished Industry Fellow at the Cox Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management and Leadership, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia.

For more than twenty years at CNN, Griffiths oversaw “the Row,” the global network's editorial quality control operation. His responsibilities included editorial oversight of CNN’s investigative journalism and the network’s fact-checking operations during the 2008, 2012, and 2016 Presidential elections. Griffiths also led the CNN investigation into the 9/11 attacks, for which the team won a National Headliner award. Before taking on his editorial oversight role, Griffiths produced documentaries and special investigations for CNN.

From 1984-1991, Griffiths was a producer for CBS News based in Atlanta and Los Angeles. His many global assignments included reporting on South African apartheid, the fall of both Baby Doc Duvalier and General Avril in Haiti, aviation safety, NASA’s Space Shuttle program, and Reagan’s Western White House. Griffiths also was a long-form producer for WFAA-TV in Dallas; an investigative producer for KTVI-TV in Saint Louis; a producer and reporter for WFMY-TV in Greensboro, N.C.; a news director and reporter for WGBG-Radio in Greensboro; and a stringer for United Press International. He began his journalism career as a college radio reporter in 1974. Over his career, Griffiths’ work has been recognized with two Emmys, five Peabody awards, and two Investigative Reporters and Editors medals.

Since his retirement, Griffiths has crafted art pieces designed to give historical context to the current tensions between politicians and independent journalism. Griffiths studied at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is originally from Britain. He is married to Debbie, a Certified Public Accountant. They have two married children and one adorable grandchild.

PAUL L. HOWARD, JR. is currently serving his sixth term as Fulton County District Attorney, Mr. Howard first assumed the Office of Fulton County District Attorney in January 1997—becoming the first African-American to be elected District Attorney in the State of Georgia. He succeeded Lewis Slaton, who held this position for 31 years. Prior to being elected District Attorney, Mr. Howard had served as Fulton County’s Solicitor General for four years.
During his tenure as District Attorney, Mr. Howard has achieved a wide range of ambitious goals, transforming the DA’s Office and revolutionizing the county criminal justice system in the process. Some highlights include the top-to-bottom administrative restructuring of an antiquated office, featuring the installation of Deputy District Attorneys who provide day-to-day supervision of the Office’s divisions; the creation of specialized prosecution units, including Major Felony, Crimes Against Women & Children, White Collar Crime, the Multi-Agency Cold Case Squad, Public Integrity and the Trial Division. Additionally, Mr. Howard has established the Fulton County “Complaint Room” and, with it, has implemented a front-end case screening operation that has streamlined and expedited the felony charging process- a change that is saving the county millions of dollars in jail housing costs annually.

Mr. Howard’s innovative ideas extended beyond the courthouse to the community with the advent of “Community Prosecution,” a concept that strategically places Assistant District Attorneys in satellite offices throughout the County. Under the Community Prosecution umbrella, Mr. Howard has implemented several successful initiatives over the years, including the widely popular Citizens’ CourtWatch program. Implemented in 2004, the grass-roots program serves as a vehicle for community engagement in the criminal justice system. As Community Prosecutors track repeat offenders and cases of interest in their respective communities, citizens are kept abreast of pending cases and are invited to observe and participate (at the Court’s discretion) in judicial proceedings. Neighborhood Fresh Start and the Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force are other notable Community Prosecution efforts.

District Attorney Howard also has a passion for youth and creating programs that address their needs in unique and positive ways. Among his collection of youth initiatives are the Junior District Attorney and Project Legal Lives programs. Each offers elementary and middle school students hands-on lessons in civics and law. The Perkerson Reading Program, Partnership for Perfect Attendance, Project Turn Around and Teen Court round out the list of other key youth programs implemented during Mr. Howard’s tenure.

Mr. Howard’s law career began in 1976 with the City of Atlanta as an Assistant Solicitor. A year later, he became the City’s Deputy Solicitor. He remained in this position until 1980 when he joined Fulton County as an Assistant District Attorney in Mr. Slaton’s office where he served eight years. Upon leaving the District Attorney’s Office, Mr. Howard worked for three years as an attorney for the Atlanta law firm of Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson, Edward & Patterson, before becoming Fulton County’s Solicitor General.

Active in professional and community activities, Mr. Howard is a Director-at-Large of the National Association of District Attorneys (NDAA). He is also a member of the National Black Prosecutors Association, the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials and 100 Black Men of Atlanta. Mr. Howard has also served as chairperson of the Gate City Bar Association’s Government Law Section and the Atlanta University Criminal Justice Public Service Institute Courts Committee. During his administration, former Governor Roy Barnes appointed District Attorney Howard to his Commission on Certainty in Sentencing, a perfect complement to Howard’s previous service as co-chair of the Senate Structured Sentencing Commission.

Mr. Howard has received numerous awards and recognition for his service to the citizens of Fulton County. Among his recent accolades is the “Zenith Award for Service to the Community”
given by the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA). Mr. Howard has also been recognized by Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc. with the Paula Bevington “Helping Hand Award” and by the renowned Butler Street YMCA with its “Legacy of Firsts” award. In 2008, Mr. Howard was inducted into the Gate City Bar Association’s Hall of Fame, joining the ranks of other legal notables such as former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, former Governor Roy Barnes and famed attorney Donald Lee Hollowell. Mr. Howard is also a past recipient of the prestigious “Trumpet Award” and has received other national acknowledgements including the “Humane Law Enforcement Award” given by The Humane Society of the United States. He was also honored with the “Good Guy” award from the Georgia Women’s Political Caucus, the Atlanta Community Prevention Coalition’s “Outstanding Effort to Stop the Violence” award and the Gammon Theological Seminary’s “Outstanding Community Service” award. The Atlanta Business Chronicle has also recognized Mr. Howard numerous times by in its annual “Who’s Who in Law & Accounting” issue. He was also named one of the “50 Most Influential Georgians” by Georgia Informer magazine.

A cum laude graduate of Morehouse College in political science, Mr. Howard received the school’s Marvin C. Magnum Legal Achievement Award. His exemplary undergraduate performance also earned him an academic scholarship to Emory University’s School of Law. While completing his graduate work at Emory, Mr. Howard was elected president of the Black American Law Students’ Association and later vice president of the Student Bar Association.

Paul Howard is a native of Midville, Georgia. He is married to the former Petrina Moody and has three children.

ANDRE JACKSON was named editorial editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in April 2009. He oversees the newspaper’s thought leadership expressed via its Sunday editorial page and daily opinion pages. Previously, Jackson was senior editor for business, federal and state news at the AJC, which included overseeing the state capitol and D.C. bureaus. He joined the AJC in 2008 as an editorial writer covering business and the economy. Until March 2008, he was assistant managing editor/business of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Jackson joined the Post-Dispatch in 1987 as a general assignment reporter, covering events ranging from presidential campaigns to a Ku Klux Klan rally. His work earned him local, state and national journalism awards. Jackson holds an MBA with majors in marketing and management/competitive strategy from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

RON MARTZ is a journalist with more than 50 years’ experience as a writer and editor. During the 26 years he worked for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, he reported from more than 35 countries primarily on military affairs and national and international security issues. After retiring from the newspaper in 2007, he returned to school and obtained his Master’s degree in military history from the University of North Georgia. While at the school, he taught journalism, world civilization, and military history. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he is the author of six "as told to" books and is at work on two more. He and his wife, Mary, a technical writer, have five children, three grandchildren, and live in Forsyth County with Mary’s mother, their youngest son, and four dogs.

J.P. MATZIGKEIT is serving his first term as a member of Atlanta’s City Council, representing the citizens of District 8. J.P. brings a wealth of business experience to the council.
He currently serves as Chief Financial Officer of Wahoo Fitness, a global tech-fitness company located in Atlanta. Wahoo Fitness premiered on the Deloitte 2017 Technology Fast 500, a ranking of the fastest growing tech companies in North America. Prior to Wahoo, J.P. spent 14 years in Human Resources leadership for Cox Enterprises in Atlanta, including Vice President for Compensation & Benefits. J.P. was responsible for planning, directing and executing the strategic direction of the company’s multi-billion dollar compensation, healthcare benefits and pension fund. Prior to his role at Cox, J.P. held various positions during his 10-year career at Human Resources consulting firm Towers Watson. He worked in the St. Louis, Chicago, New York and Atlanta offices.

J.P. has invested many years in service to the community. Committed to the public input process, he co-founded the Chastain Park Conservancy and served two terms as President as well as serving on the Board of Directors and Advisory Board. Under his leadership, the Conservancy led the development of the 2008 Chastain Park Master Plan which was approved by the Atlanta City Council and the Mayor. J.P. played an instrumental role in the Conservancy’s recent $5.2 million capital campaign which funded a new expanded playground and the widening of the Powers Ferry Path.

J.P. earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. He is an active member of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, where he has served faithfully in the mission’s program. When he’s not working, he’s either traveling, working out or cycling. On occasion, he’s granted the opportunity to do all three simultaneously. An avid cyclist, J.P. has engaged in multiple century rides not only stateside, but also on several continents including Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

J.P. lives in the Chastain Park neighborhood with his wife, Linda, his son, Grant, and Labradoodle, Lily Belle.

ROBERT MCBURNEY has served as a Fulton County Superior Court Judge since 2012, including a term as Chief. A former Fulton County Assistant District Attorney and Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, McBurney has an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

R. ROBIN MCDONALD is the author of two true crime books, “Black Widow: The True Story of the Hilley Poisonings” and “Secrets Never Lie: The Death of Sara Tokars.” Currently a longtime reporter for The Daily Report in Atlanta, she is also a member of parent company ALM Media’s national litigation team. She has previously worked for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta Magazine, The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, The Wichita Eagle, and The Anniston Star where she first embarked on a career-long fascination with police and court coverage (returning her keys to the backdoor of the city police department and the front door of the county courthouse when she left The Star.) She has also worked part-time as a trial tracker, first for CourtTV and later for CNN. A Duke University graduate with a degree in Public Policy Studies and English, McDonald began her journalism career at the National Center for Community Action in Washington, D.C. where she served as a staff writer, associate editor.
and then editorial manager for the organization’s two monthly magazines and a monthly newspaper.

SHAWN MCINTOSH is editorial director at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and ajc.com, leading the news content department and coverage of local communities, politics and state government, arts and entertainment, business, education and journalism on topics from public safety to education to race and culture. Her career has been dedicated to investigative journalism and her mandate at the AJC includes ambitious investigative public service projects each year. She’s edited investigations at newspapers including The AJC, The Dallas Morning News and USA TODAY. She was top editor of The Clarion-Ledger, Mississippi’s largest newspaper, and served more than a decade on the board of directors of Investigative Reporters and Editors. McIntosh spent a year in a journalism ethics leadership fellowship with the Poynter Institute and has served four times as a Pulitzer Prize juror. She is on the journalism advisory board for ProPublica, a national non-profit investigative journalism newsroom, and on the board of directors of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation.

BILL NIGUT has been a program host and producer at Georgia Public Broadcasting since November 2013. He is host and executive producer of “Political Rewind,” a political roundtable show featuring some of Georgia’s best-informed insiders weighing in on the big state and national political stories. Political Rewind airs each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 2 p.m. on GPB Radio. The program also streams live on GPBNews.org and on the GPB News Facebook page. In addition, you can find it on GPB TV on Fridays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 9 a.m.

Bill spent 20 years as the national and state political correspondent for WSB-TV in Atlanta. In that role, he covered five presidential campaigns, traveling to Iowa, New Hampshire and other key primary states in each presidential election cycle. Bill also covered the White House and Capitol Hill for WSB, commuting from his home in Atlanta when major news stories were breaking in Washington, D.C. He grew up in Chicago, where he developed his love of rough and tumble politics and the Chicago Bears and Da Bulls.


LOIS NORDER is a senior editor for investigations at the AJC and led the AJC’s 2019 investigation of senior care facilities. Throughout her career, she has led numerous other investigative projects, including the AJC’s 2016 Doctors & Sex Abuse project, which was a Pulitzer finalist and which won several other national awards, including the Scripps Howard Investigative Reporting Award. Before joining the AJC in 2012, she was managing editor for news at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where she was honored with a national editing award. Previously, she worked as a journalist in Louisiana and Iowa. A graduate of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, she and her husband, Steve, have three children and three grandchildren.

SAMUEL S. OLENS is a counsel in Dentons' Public Policy practice and is a member of the firm's State Attorneys General group, based in the Atlanta office. His practice focuses on state attorneys general and local government affairs matters.
Sam was twice elected Attorney General of Georgia, in 2010 and 2014. In that role he worked to strengthen the penalties for and protect the victims of sex trafficking, guided a comprehensive revision of Georgia's sunshine laws and led the effort to stem the epidemic of prescription drug abuse. Olens also served as vice president of the National Association of Attorneys General in 2016, having previously served as chair of the 13-state Southern Region both in 2013 and 2015.

Prior to being elected attorney general, Olens was chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners, serving from August 2002 through March 2010. He previously served as a county commissioner from 1999 through June 2002.

Sam is a registered mediator/arbitrator with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. He has been admitted to practice law in Georgia and the District of Columbia.

JONATHAN PETERS is a media law professor at the University of Georgia, with appointments in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication and the School of Law. He is the press freedom correspondent for the Columbia Journalism Review, and he has blogged about free expression for the Harvard Law Review and the Harvard Law & Policy Review. He has also written about legal issues for Esquire, The Atlantic, Slate, Wired, and CNN.

Peters is active in several nonprofits, serving as the First Amendment Chair of the Civil Rights Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association, as a member of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists, and as a member of the board of directors of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. He is also a volunteer First Amendment lawyer for the Student Press Law Center and the ACLU.

Peters researches media law and policy, studying how new communication technologies are reshaping the gathering, production, and distribution of news, with the effect of challenging long-held legal principles. He recently completed a project, too, to develop legal guidelines for press rights at peaceful assemblies in Europe, working with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in Vienna, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in Warsaw.

BILL RANKIN joined the AJC in 1989, three years after his father, Jim Rankin, retired from the paper after 26 years. For most of his time at the AJC, Bill has covered state and federal courts, specializing in civil litigation, criminal justice and the death penalty. Beginning in 2015, Bill began hosting the AJC’s “Breakdown” podcast. The podcast’s sixth season, “A Jury of His Peers,” cohosted with AJC editor Kevin Riley, won the American Bar Association’s 2018 Silver Gavel Award.

KEVIN RILEY is the editor-in-chief of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, responsible for all news content for the AJC’s print and digital products, and has been since 2011. Previously he was the editor-in-chief of the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News. A native of Ohio, Riley started his career on the Daily News copy desk, served as both sports and features editor and then ran its online business. Riley was named one of the industry’s “20 under 40” up-and-comers in 2001 by the Newspaper Association of America.
JONATHAN RINGEL is managing editor of the Daily Report, the Atlanta legal newspaper. As a reporter for 10 years, he covered the U.S. Supreme Court and Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, and, in Atlanta, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court in Atlanta, the Georgia Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, the General Assembly and law firm business. In 2005, he became the Daily Report’s managing editor, and he became its top editor in 2014. He holds bachelor’s degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from Emory University.

TIFFANY WILLIAM ROBERTS joined the Southern Center for Human Rights in April 2018 as the Community Engagement & Movement Building Counsel. Tiffany Roberts is a civil rights and criminal defense attorney in Atlanta. She has practiced criminal defense since 2008, first as a public defender with the Atlanta Judicial Circuit Public Defender and later as a solo practitioner beginning in 2011. As a public defender, Tiffany represented hundreds of indigent clients facing felony prosecution and graduated from the Gideon’s Promise trial advocacy training program. She expanded her private practice to include civil rights litigation for victims of police abuse.

A significant portion of Tiffany’s practice is dedicated to pro bono representation of activists and organizers. She has been recognized by the Atlanta NAACP, DeKalb Lawyers Association and Southern Center for Human rights for movement lawyering and social justice activism.

Tiffany has volunteered with organizations promoting justice, fairness and equity in the criminal justice system for her entire legal career. A community organizer, she co-founded police accountability organization Building Locally to Organize for Community Safety (BLOCS) in 2008 to promote a holistic approach to public safety. BLOCS successfully advocated for legislative improvements to the Atlanta Citizen Review Board along with other critical local policy changes. In 2015, Tiffany co-founded Lawyers United for a New Atlanta (LUNA) in response to calls for criminal justice reforms in Atlanta courtrooms. She is also a founding member of the Atlanta chapter of the global Black Lives Matter network, which first convened in 2015. Tiffany was featured as a critic’s choice for one of four Best Citizen Activists by Creative Loafing Atlanta that same year.

In addition to working with grassroots organizations, Tiffany is extensively involved in government reform efforts. In 2010, she was appointed to sit on the search committee for the selection of the Atlanta’s police chief. Her appointment was based on her leadership role in BLOCS. Her civic engagement continued in 2013 as she served on an Atlanta City Council working group to evaluate legislation to address the equitable treatment of sex workers in the city limits. Tiffany joined the Atlanta Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Program (PAD) Design Team in 2017 and continues her work with PAD as a member of its Advisory Board. PAD enables law enforcement to refer community members to social services in lieu of arrest. Tiffany is a member of Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms’ Progressive Agenda Working Group (PAWG), which is responsible for populating and convening commissions focusing on four key social justice issues: criminal justice reform, housing affordability, homelessness and workforce development. Tiffany is co-chair of the PAWG Criminal Justice Reform Commission and sits on Mayor Bottoms’ Transition Team Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee. Her work with PAWG in coalition with several attorneys and community organizations was critical to securing bail reform within Mayor Bottoms’ first month in office. As chairperson of the Ebenezer Baptist Church Social Justice Ministry, Tiffany works to build bridges between grassroots social justice organizations, the legal community and faith-based institutions.
Tiffany is Deputy Director of the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism (NIFTEP) and Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgia State University College of Law. Since 2011, Tiffany has co-taught Fundamentals of Law Practice, an experiential course that aims to prepare law students for small firm practice through live-client representation, fieldwork and doctrinal instruction. Through her position with NIFTEP, Tiffany plans international workshops, conferences and symposia dedicated to helping practitioners and academics find innovative ways to teach ethics and professionalism to law students.

DALE RUSSELL is the FOX 5 I-Team’s senior investigative reporter and government watchdog. He has spent more than 30 years investigating some of Atlanta’s biggest stories. His investigations have helped shape Georgia’s political history; toppling people in power, exposing waste and corruption, sparking criminal investigations, and changing laws. Dale’s entire journalism career has been right here in Atlanta, where he began as a freelance newspaper and magazine writer. He went on to work as a reporter for WGST News Radio and then moved into television as an investigative reporter.

Dale has broken important stories while covering some of the nation’s biggest events, including the Atlanta Child Murders, the Olympic Park bombing, and the September 11th terrorist attacks. His exposes on Georgia’s Speaker of the House, Glenn Richardson, and presidential candidate Herman Cain led to dramatic changes in the state and nation’s political landscape. His examination of racial profiling by US Customs agents at Atlanta’s airport led to a nationwide overhaul of customs searches. In 2005, he traveled to Iraq to embed with the Georgia National Guard during its historic wartime deployment.

Dale has won more than 50 journalism awards, including broadcasting’s highest honor, the George Foster Peabody Award. Atlanta Magazine, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Creative Loafing, and The Atlanta Press Club have all named him as the city’s top TV journalist. Georgia Trend Magazine selected him as one of Georgia’s 100 Most Influential People. He has been inducted into the NATAS Southeast Silver Circle, honoring the state’s top television professionals.

A former high school counselor, Dale is a board member of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation, which fights for openness in government. Dale attended the University of Georgia and graduated from Georgia State with a BS in education. The Atlanta native has two children and lives with his wife in the DeKalb County neighborhood where he was raised.

SALLY SEARS is an award-winning broadcast news reporter whose assignments have included every Atlanta bombing involving Eric Robert Rudolph. Her coverage of North Georgia's growth problems of traffic, land use and water led to work with conservation associations. She is the Founding Director of the South Fork Conservancy, a public-private partnership restoring Peachtree Creek tributaries. The Trust for Public Land named her its 2015 TrailBlazer for her leadership of the vision of the South Fork. Sally is a native of Montevallo, Alabama, and a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University.

BRAD SCHRADE is an Atlanta native who first worked at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in the 1990s before moving to Nashville to join The Tennessean newspaper. He rejoined the AJC in
2013 as an investigative reporter. He has received numerous journalism honors, including a 2013 Pulitzer Prize for work as part of a team at the Minneapolis Star Tribune uncovered safety breakdowns and deaths in the state’s child care system. He was lead reporter on the AJC’s investigation into police shootings that helped prompt legislative reform of the state’s grand jury system in 2016. A graduate of University of Georgia, Schrade grew up in Roswell and is married to AJC journalist Rose French. He enjoys coaching their two sons in baseball, basketball and soccer.

MARK SHERMAN has covered the Supreme Court for The Associated Press since 2006, a period that has included blockbuster decisions on health care, same-sex marriage and voting rights, and big changes in the court’s membership. He has previously written about the Justice Department, health care and national politics in more than 30 years as a reporter based in Washington and Atlanta. Mark worked for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution from 1988 to 2001. His beats included the Gwinnett County government, Atlanta City Hall, Gov. Zell Miller, the statehouse and statewide political campaigns. The paper sent him to Washington in 1996 to report on Newt Gingrich and the rest of the Georgia congressional delegation. Earlier in his professional life, Mark was a Foreign Service officer. He is a native of Brooklyn, NY, a graduate of Princeton University and a resident of Washington, DC, where he lives just a few blocks from the court with his wife and children.

AMY STEIGERWALT is a Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University. Her research focuses on the federal judicial selection process, as well as the role of courts as institutions and the differing influences on judicial and legislative operations and decision-making. She has published four books to date, including Battle Over the Bench: Senators, Interest Groups and the Politics of Court of Appeals Confirmations (UVA Press, 2010) as well as articles in journals such as Journal of Politics, Political Research Quarterly, and Justice System Journal. A chapter from her book The Puzzle of Unanimity: Consensus on the U.S. Supreme Court, coauthored with Pamela Corley and Artemus Ward (Stanford Press, 2013) was awarded the 2013 Hughes-Gossett Award for the best article published that year in the Journal of Supreme Court History. Her most recent book is Gendered Vulnerability: How Women Work Harder to Stay in Office (Univ. Michigan Press, 2018, coauthored with Jeffrey Lazarus). Dr. Steigerwalt is also the current Editor-in-Chief of Justice System Journal.

ERIC TANENBLATT is the Global Chair of Public Policy and Regulation of Dentons, the world's largest law firm. He also leads the firm's US Public Policy Practice, leveraging his three decades of experience at the very highest levels of the federal and state governments. Mr. Tanenblatt, a renowned lecturer and political counselor who's widely regarded as one of the nation's preeminent public policy thought leaders, has served in the administrations of three US presidents and as a senior advisor to a US senator and governor, and held a US Senate-confirmable post governing a federal agency. He has a passion for shepherding disruptive companies and industries through the complicated web of law and regulation, and often writes and speaks about the innovation economy. He leads Dentons' global autonomous vehicles team and authors a popular weekly digest tracking the most consequential regulatory, political, and technical developments in the world of automotive autonomy.
Mr. Tanenblatt's political and fundraising activities and experience are extensive. He served as chief of staff to Governor Sonny Perdue, Georgia's first Republican governor in 130 years, and later helped coordinate the 2004 G-8 Economic Summit, hosted by President George W. Bush at Sea Island, Georgia. He served in 2012 as a political advisor and National Finance Co-chairman for the presidential campaign of Governor Mitt Romney, with whom his relationship dates back to 2004, when he served as Finance Co-chair for the Romney-led Republican Governors Association (RGA). Earlier, in 2000, he served as the state chairman for President Bush's successful Georgia campaign and held senior positions in the 1996 Bob Dole and Phil Gramm presidential campaigns. He also served as a longtime advisor to the late US Senator Paul Coverdell (R-GA), including as vice chairman of the senator's reelection bid in 1998. Later, he served in the administration of President George H. W. Bush at the Department of Health and Human Services as a special assistant to the secretary, and as director of intergovernmental affairs at the Peace Corps.

Mr. Tanenblatt is a prominent advocate for civic engagement, often writing and speaking on the subject. He was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the US Senate to serve on the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, serving from 2008 until 2013. He was also the founder and chairman of Hands on Georgia, a statewide organization to promote volunteerism, and served as co-chair of the Host Committee for the National Conference for Service and Volunteerism in 2008 and 2018.

Routinely named one of Georgia's 100 most influential persons by the magazine Georgia Trend, which years earlier named him one of the state's "Forty under 40" rising stars, Mr. Tanenblatt is often quoted or cited by some of the most prestigious news and opinion services in the world, including the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the New York Times, US News and World Report, National Journal, Politico, The Hill, Roll Call, the Associated Press, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

CARRIE TEEGARDIN is a veteran Atlanta Journal-Constitution investigative reporter. In 30 years at the AJC, Teegardin has written articles on a wide range of topics from health care to consumer affairs to criminal justice. She has won numerous state and national awards, including the Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished business and Financial Journalism, and in 2009 she was named the Atlanta Press Club’s Journalist of the Year. Teegardin was a lead reporter on the newspaper’s “Doctors and Sex Abuse” series in 2016 that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in national reporting and that won several other national awards, including the Scripps Howard Award for investigative reporting. A graduate of Duke University, Teegardin grew up in Circleville, Ohio. She is the mother of two teenagers and lives in Atlanta’s Grant Park Historic District.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND won a 2016 landslide victory to become chief executive officer of DeKalb County, one of the most diverse counties in the Southeast. Since his Jan. 1, 2017 swearing-in, Thurmond’s primary mission is restoring trust in county government. His other priorities include adopting a balanced budget, ensuring accurate water bills, removing blight, offering summer youth employment, improving employee compensation, and fulfilling the federal/state sewer consent agreement. Thurmond, a former member of the Georgia General Assembly and the first African-American elected to a statewide office without prior
appointment, is widely regarded as a “turnaround expert” after fundamentally transforming the
culture and enhancing operations of complex organizations such as the Georgia Division of
Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Labor and the DeKalb County School
District. As superintendent of DeKalb schools, Thurmond is credited with stabilizing the system
during a governance crisis, upgrading its threatened accreditation, eliminating a multimillion-
dollar deficit and improving student academic performance and graduation rates.

Thurmond was raised as a sharecropper's son in Clarke County, Georgia. He graduated with
honors with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion from Paine College and later earned a
Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina’s School of Law. He also completed
the Political Executives program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard
University. In 1986, he became the first African-American elected to the Georgia General
Assembly from Clarke County since Reconstruction. During his legislative tenure, Thurmond
authored major legislation that provided more than $250 million in tax relief to Georgia's senior
citizens and working families.

Thurmond received a gubernatorial appointment to lead the state Division of Family and
Children Services and direct Georgia's historic transition from welfare to work. He created the
innovative Work First program, which helped more than 90,000 welfare-dependent Georgia
families move from dependence into the workforce. In 1997, Thurmond became a distinguished
lecturer at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The following year,
he was elected Georgia labor commissioner. During his three terms as labor commissioner,
Thurmond’s most significant achievement was the construction of a $20 million school for
children with disabilities at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute.

Thurmond’s latest book, Freedom: Georgia’s Antislavery Heritage, 1733-1865, was awarded the
Freedom as one of The 25 Books All Georgian’s Should Read. He serves on the University of
Georgia Libraries Board of Visitors. He is married to Zola Fletcher Thurmond, and they have
one daughter, Mikaya.

MELVIN K. WESTMORELAND has been a judge in Fulton County since 1988, Judge
Westmoreland served for more than six years in the Family Court Division and was involved in
the creation of the Business Court Division in 2005. He was that Division’s first full-time judge
and has been a senior judge on the Business Court since 2011. In 2015, Judge Westmoreland
also assisted in gaining designation of the Fulton County Business Court Division as a
specialized court to provide assistance in aid of international commercial arbitrations and to
facilitate the prompt enforcement of international arbitral awards.

ANDREA YOUNG is the executive director of the 22,000 member American Civil Liberties
Union of Georgia. She is a life-long advocate for civil and human rights. The ACLU of Georgia
is a trusted, ethical, nonpartisan defender of our civil liberties: opposing threats to civil liberties;
combatting voter suppression; supporting criminal justice reform; protecting freedom of speech,
immigrant rights, and women’s rights, especially reproductive freedom. Under her leadership,
the ACLU of Georgia has reimagined its work on a framework integrating legal action, policy,
advocacy, civic engagement and communications. Prior to taking the helm of the statewide
affiliate of the ACLU in January 2017, Young was an Adjunct Professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. For many years, she served as executive director at the Andrew J. Young Foundation producing a nationally-syndicated series of documentary films and other programs on themes of civil and human rights.

Young has devoted her career to promoting policies to defend and extend civil and human rights. In the arena of national legislation, Young served as legislative assistant to Senator Edward Kennedy contributing to significant civil rights and international policy including the Martin Luther King Holiday Act and South Africa sanctions legislation. She later worked with the United Church of Christ in global mission and advocacy, returning to the Capitol to serve as Chief of Staff for the first woman to represent Georgia in Congress, Cynthia McKinney. She served as Vice President for External Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, defending a woman’s right to reproductive healthcare. As Vice President of the National Black Child Development Institute, Young led a school readiness initiative that increased local investments in early care and education and led to a commitment to universal pre-kindergarten in Washington, DC.

Young is the author of Life Lessons My Mother Taught Me; co-author of Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta and collaborated with former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young in writing, editing and researching An Easy Burden: Civil Rights and the Transformation of America. She has been recognized, nationally for her work as an advocate for civil and human rights.

Young is a graduate of Swarthmore College and received her law degree from Georgetown University School of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia. Young is married to attorney and art consultant, Jerry Thomas. She has one daughter and one granddaughter.
WILLIAM S. DUFFEY, JR. recently retired from active service as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. Before his judicial service, Judge Duffey served as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. Before his appointment as United States Attorney, Judge Duffey was a partner at King & Spalding in Atlanta. From 1994 to 1995, Judge Duffey left private practice to serve as Deputy Independent Counsel in charge of the Arkansas phase of the Whitewater investigation. He rejoined King & Spalding as a partner following government service.

An honors graduate of Drake University, Judge Duffey received his J.D. degree in 1977 from the University of South Carolina Law School. Judge Duffey served in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps from 1978-82.

Judge Duffey is married to Betsy Byars Duffey, an accomplished author of children’s and adult fiction. He has two married sons.

ANN WOOLNER, a full-time journalist for 40 years in Atlanta and Washington, has covered law, government and politics for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, American Lawyer Media and Bloomberg News, where she wrote a law-related opinion column for 11 years. Her magazine work has appeared in Bloomberg Businessweek, The American Lawyer, Atlanta magazine and Brill’s Content.

Ann has written opinion for USA Today and the Savannah Morning News, where she was the first woman on the paper’s editorial board. An author, she wrote WASHED IN GOLD: THE BIGGEST MONEY LAUNDERING INVESTIGATION IN U.S. HISTORY, published by Simon & Schuster.

A 1996 Nieman fellow at Harvard University, Ann holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri. She was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and spent most of her adult life in Atlanta. Now semi-retired, she lives in Savannah and visits Atlanta often.

Regarding Richard Jewell, Ann had just begun writing a weekly column for the American Lawyer newspaper in Atlanta, the Daily Report, in 1996 when the Olympic bomb exploded. While Jewell’s name was being broadcast around the world — his guilt seemingly presumed — Ann wrote a column asking what would happen if he turned out to be innocent. Later, as a writer for Brill’s Content, she examined the story closely, especially the Journal-Constitution’s role.