

30th Georgia Bar, Media & Judiciary Conference

FEBRUARY 24-26, 2021

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

Registration for this Virtual Conference Now Open at
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

3:30-5:00 p

COPING WITH COVID-19: THE SCIENCE & OUR SOCIETY

A discussion of lessons to be learned from the past year and the year ahead.

Organizers:

Hank Klibanoff & Andy Miller

Host:

Andy Miller, Georgia Health News

Panelists:

*James Curran, Chair, Georgia Board of Public Health & Dean, Rollins
School of Public Health at Emory University*

*Carlos del Rio, Professor of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health
at Emory University*

Patrice Harris, President-Emeritus, American Medical Association

*Amber Schmidtke, Microbiologist & Author, Georgia COVID-19 Updates
Newsletter*

Scott Steiner, President & CEO, Phoebe Putney Health System

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

2:00-3:00 p

REPORTING ON THE PANDEMIC: ACCESS TO THE DATA THAT COUNTS

*The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed dangerous gaps in the public's civic
information safety net, as data about the incidence of coronavirus infections at
schools, nursing homes and workplaces has been produced or withheld*

inconsistently, at times due to confusing federal privacy laws. The panel will share stories of how journalists and researchers have struggled to obtain reliable data about the pandemic, and what the law does and does not say about the government's duty to produce health-related information.

Organizer and Moderator:

Frank LoMonte, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information

Panelists:

Alexis Madrigal, COVID-19 Tracking Project, The Atlantic

Al-Amyr Sumar, Counsel, New York Times

Carrie Teegardin, Investigative Reporter, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Sam Whitehead, WABE

3:30-5:00 p

ELECTIONS IN MODERN DAY AMERICA, GEORGIA STYLE

A review by interview of the Georgia election process—what worked, what the challenges were, the lessons learned and thinking about the future.

Organizer and Moderator:

Richard T. Griffiths, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Keynote interview:

Brad Raffensperger, Georgia Secretary of State

Panelists to include:

Sen. Jen Jordan, Senate Committee on Special Judiciary

Rep. Barry Fleming, Special Committee on Election Integrity

Andra Gillespie, Associate Professor, Emory University

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

11:00 a -12:00 p

THE PANDEMIC AND GEORGIA COURTS: WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED

A conversation with the Chief Justice, the COVID Task Force chair and the president of the Council of Superior Court Judges.

Organizer:

Jane Hansen, Georgia Supreme Court

Host and Moderator:

Susan Edlein, Chief Judge, Fulton State Court

Panel:

Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court

Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Justice, Georgia Supreme Court

Brian Amero, Chief Judge, Henry Superior Court

1:00-2:30 p

MEETING THE MOMENT: RACIAL JUSTICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

With the high-profile, tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and other Black Americans, 2020 brought increased attention and scrutiny on racial justice issues, particularly concerns of disparate treatment and a corresponding lack of adequate accountability for law enforcement. The collective outrage resulted in nearly 10,000 largely peaceful demonstrations worldwide. Many protestors were arrested, including reports of nearly 600 peaceful protestors arrested in Atlanta over a two-week period in June. Law enforcement responses to demonstrations in support of racial justice issues were sharply juxtaposed with the law enforcement response to last month's violent attack on the U.S. Capitol. This panel will discuss ways that elected officials, law enforcement, and our communities can effectively meet this moment and move forward with an eye toward equity and justice for all.

Organizers:

Lisa Cupid

Meredith Kincaid

Moderator:

Lisa Cupid, Chair, Cobb County Commission

Panelists to include:

Jasmina Alston, Reporter, CBS46

Flynn D. Broady, Jr., District Attorney, Cobb Judicial Circuit

John Melvin, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Tiffany Williams Roberts, Southern Center for Human Rights

4:00-5:00 p

2021: THE MEDIA AND OUR POLITICS

A discussion of media coverage of government and politics.

Moderator:

Richard Belcher, WSB-TV

Panel keynote:

Jim Galloway, AJC (retired)

Panel:

Nicole Carr, Investigative Reporter, WSB-TV

Robin Kemp, The Clayton Crescent

Matthew Osborne, The Northeast Georgian

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