

31st Georgia Bar, Media & Judiciary Conference

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

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.

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

HYDE POST is a communications consultant who lives on St. Simons Island. Prior to moving to the coast, he worked for many years in journalism, much of that time for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He served there as a reporter, special projects editor, assistant managing editor and as vice president for internet. He led development of the newspaper's digital portfolio from 1998 until 2009. Before moving to the web, projects he directed and edited garnered a number of awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting (bank redlining -1988) and the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting (bacterial resistance to antibiotics -1993). He currently serves on the board for The Current, a non-profit digital news organization on the Georgia coast, and he is a founder and board member of the non-profit Georgia First Amendment Foundation.

MARGARET COKER came home to Savannah in 2019 to launch *The Current*, to revive an investigative news culture in Coastal Georgia, and to mentor a new generation of journalists in our region. The editor-in-chief of The Current, Margaret started her two-decade career in journalism

at Cox Newspapers before going to work at The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. In that time she covered stories from 32 countries on four continents.

Margaret has won numerous national journalism prizes for investigative, business and diplomatic reporting as well as feature writing. She led a team of Wall Street Journal reporters named as finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting in 2017. She is the author of “The Spymaster of Baghdad,” a nonfiction book of Iraqi patriotism in the battle against Isis.

Margaret’s journalism has led to criminal trials and regulatory investigations of global banks and financiers, the dismissal of 14 corrupt police officers, and freedom for three people wrongly convicted and incarcerated.

LISA GOLDWIRE COLBERT is a Chatham County Superior Court Judge. She was elected to succeed the Honorable James Bass, Jr. in 2020. Judge Colbert is a graduate of Groves High School, Savannah State University, and the University of Georgia School of Law. She also served six years in the Georgia Air National Guard.

Judge Colbert previously served as judge of the Chatham County Juvenile Court for 8 years. She has also worked as an Associate for Alston & Bird, LLP in Atlanta; an Associate for the Law Office of Charles W. Bell & Associates, P.C.; Senior Staff Attorney for the Office of the Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee; Staff Attorney for Chatham County Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbot; and Assistant County Attorney for Chatham County, Georgia. She has served on the boards of the Savannah CASA, Inc. and Parent and Child Development Services, Inc. She currently serves on the boards of Goodwill Southeast Georgia; Elevate Savannah, Inc. and on the Board of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice and the Georgia Child Support Commission.

Judge Colbert has been deeply involved in activities associated with the legal profession. She is the former president of the Port City Bar Association. She has also served as a member and committee co-chair of both the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Colbert is a graduate of Leadership Georgia and Leadership Savannah. She was recognized by the Younger Lawyers Section of the Savannah Bar Association for her professional service and protection of the rights of others with the Robbie Robinson Award in 2006. She was also recognized by The Georgia Legal Services Program as the 2018 Champion of Justice for her commitment to justice for all.

Judge Colbert has been married to Eldries (EJ) Colbert for 28 years and they have three daughters.

LINDA DUNIKOSKI is a Senior Assistant District Attorney and head of the Appellate Section in the Cobb County District Attorney’s Office in Marietta, Georgia. She is a graduate of Indiana University and Georgia State College of Law. In 2002, she began her career as a prosecutor with the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office in Atlanta. In 2006, after spending a year in the Crimes Against Women and Children Division, she moved into the Major Case Division, primarily prosecuting homicides and high-profile cases. She was a member of the team that prosecuted the teachers and administrators involved in the Atlanta Public School Cheating Scandal, the longest RICO criminal trial in the State of Georgia, lasting from August 11, 2014 through April 1, 2015. She has tried over 95 felony cases to verdict. She was the lead prosecutor in the State v. McMichael et al, the case involving the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia.

ROBERT G. RUBIN has been practicing criminal defense in state and federal courts for over 35 years. His practice has involved all areas of criminal law, but has emphasized the representation of people accused of crimes against children and the representation of healthcare professionals in licensing board hearings.

A graduate of Emory University School of Law, Bob taught Criminal Litigation as an adjunct professor at Emory for 25 years, and led a delegation of criminal defense lawyers to the Republic of Georgia to teach trial techniques over the course of four years.

Bob, a Past President of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been a *Georgia Super Lawyer* from 2010 - 2022.

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

MEREDITH KINCAID is a partner in Atlanta's The Summerville Firm, which represents both plaintiffs and defendants in trial and appellate courts, both directly and by consulting with lawyers or associating with them on cases. She came to The Summerville Firm from the business and tort litigation group of a large international law firm, where she successfully represented plaintiffs and defendants in a range of high-stakes civil and criminal litigation matters at all stages in state and federal courts. Her practice centered on healthcare, white collar criminal, commercial, consumer protection, and media law actions. Her clients have come from all walks of life: Fortune 100 companies to nonprofit media organizations, senior executives to the indigent and incarcerated.

A Tar Heel born and bred, Meredith graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights and a Pro Bono Scholar. While in law school, she worked in the Capital Punishment Clinic, representing clients who were sentenced to death in Texas, and in the criminal division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas. She then clerked for the Honorable James A. Beaty, Jr., former chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Prior to attending law school, Meredith graduated with highest distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Arts Administration from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and then worked for several years as a professional fundraiser in higher education and the arts.

Meredith currently serves as co-chair of the Southern Center for Human Rights Ambassadors Leadership Council, and on the executive committee of the American Constitution Society's Georgia Lawyer Chapter. She also sings Soprano 2 with the Atlanta Women's Chorus. Meredith lives in Grant Park with her husband John and their two daughters.

SARAH BREWERTON-PALMER is an associate with Caplan Cobb specializing in complex business litigation, First Amendment issues, media & communications law, and appellate matters. Sarah also maintains an active pro bono practice focused on media clients and criminal cases. Super Lawyers magazine has recognized Sarah as a "Rising Star" in business litigation since 2019. Before joining Caplan Cobb, Sarah served as a law clerk to the Honorable Jill Pryor of the Eleventh

Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to clerking, Sarah practiced with Jenner & Block in Chicago, Illinois. Sarah has also volunteered her time as a law clerk to the Orleans Public Defender in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sarah frequently litigates cases involving the First Amendment and governmental transparency. In 2017, she represented the Undisclosed podcast before the Georgia Supreme Court in its suit to obtain recordings of a criminal murder trial. She has also represented news organizations such as the Atlanta-Journal Constitution and WSB-TV, along with non-profit organizations such as American Oversight, in their efforts to obtain public records from governmental bodies. Sarah has also filed amicus curiae briefs advocating for First Amendment rights and open government on behalf of some of the most influential non-profits in the country.

MAUREEN DOWNEY is a longtime reporter for the AJC where she writes about local, state and federal education policy. She writes the Get Schooled blog on AJC.com and a weekly print column on education issues.

NICOLE CARR is an award-winning investigative journalist, professor, and speaker based in Atlanta. Carr joined ProPublica in June 2021 as a reporter covering the criminal justice system and racial inequity in the South. Her initial work for ProPublica, featured on CNN, CBS, and Apple News Podcasts, explores the fallout of COVID policy indecisions in Georgia's second-largest school district. Carr is also an adjunct journalism professor at Morehouse College where she developed and teaches a new Social Justice Journalism course. Prior to ProPublica, Carr spent more than a decade in local television as an on-air reporter. Most recently, she spent five and half years reporting for WSB-TV in Atlanta. Carr is the recipient of four Southeast Regional Emmy awards, including two for her investigative and COVID-related coverage in 2020 and 2021.

JASON ESTEVES is an at-large representative and the outgoing Board Chair on the Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education. In 2013, he became the first Latino elected to a school board in Georgia and has focused his efforts on promoting equity and improving the financial outlook of the school system. In November 2021, Jason was re-elected to his third term on the Board with 62% of the vote. Under Jason's leadership, APS has attained its highest graduation rate to date (83.1%), provided over \$100 million in staff pay increases and stipends, and increased APS's fund balance to its highest levels while providing more money directly to school sites. Jason helped ensure that APS stepped up to address the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic-APS distributed hundreds of thousands of meals to families and provided every student with a laptop and, if needed, an internet hotspot. APS followed scientific guidance on masks, testing, and school re-opening despite pressure from Governor Kemp. Jason also worked with his colleagues to tackle controversial issues. In his first year as Board Chair (2018), the Board adopted an Equity Policy and Anti-Racism Resolution that eventually led to the creation of the Center for Equity and Social Justice. He oversaw the process of renaming buildings with hurtful legacies. And he created an LGBTQ+ Task Force that recommended policy changes and additional support for LGBTQ+ students and staff in the district.

Jason serves as Vice President at Equifax Inc., where he leads the handling of regulatory matters, risk mitigation, and sensitive disputes and investigations for the company. He was a litigation associate at the law firm of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP (now Dentons US LLP) after graduating from Emory University School of Law.

Jason is married to Ariel, a graduate of Kennesaw State University and Emory University's School of Nursing graduate program. Jason met Ariel while he attended Emory Law School. Ariel is the founder of WestsideMed, an urgent and primary care clinic in their neighborhood. Ariel is also Director of Clinical Operations at CareSource and is a board member of Planned Parenthood Southeast and the Soaring Owls Foundation (a neighborhood school foundation). Jason and Ariel are proud parents of Jaeden (6) and Zoe (3), and reside in northwest Atlanta.

TIMMY L. FOSTER is principal of Parkside Elementary School in the Atlanta Public School System. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of West Georgia in 1994, he was hired as a 5th grade teacher at Indian Creek Elementary School with the Dekalb County School System. During the 8 years he was in Dekalb, he served as a classroom teacher of mathematics, an Early Intervention Teacher, and an America's Choice Math Coach. In 2000, he received a Master's of Science in Education degree from Mercer University and completed a Leadership Certification program at Georgia State University in 2002. In the fall of 2002, he left Dekalb County School System for a job with the Clayton County School System as an Instructional Lead Teacher at Morrow Elementary School. While serving in this capacity, he obtained a Specialist of Leadership degree from Central Michigan University at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in 2006. Also, in 2006, he was appointed Assistant Principal of Morrow Elementary school and served in that role until 2008 when he was named Elementary Math Coordinator for the Clayton County School District. After only a year as Math Coordinator, he was appointed Principal of Morrow Elementary School in spring of 2009. In 2011, he came to the Atlanta Public School System as Principal of Whitefoord Elementary School. After 6 years at Whitefoord, in 2017, the district decided to merge Whitefoord with another elementary school to increase enrollment. He was appointed principal of Parkside Elementary School in 2017 after the closure and merger of Whitefoord Elementary.

COMMUNICATING IN THE DISINFORMATION AGE

MEGAN HODGKISS is an experienced media professional, as well as a licensed attorney and mediator. Her unique communications background includes more than 20 years in the areas of print and broadcast journalism, business marketing, feature writing, and editorial advising. She also has extensive experience in conference planning and event orchestration. Megan holds a Ph.D. in public communication and a J.D. in law. Her undergraduate degrees are in journalism and mass communication theory. In addition to her media and legal work, Megan also volunteers within her local community. She serves on a number of legal boards including the Georgia Bar Journal editorial board, the Atlanta Bar Association editorial board, and the Atlanta Bar Association Foundation. She is a past member of the Atlanta Bar Association CLE Board of Trustees, the award-winning Atlanta Bar Association Women in the Profession Section, and the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Foundation. Megan also regularly helps fundraise for health awareness campaigns.

KEN FOSKETT is an award-winning journalist and author who reported, wrote and later edited at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution over a 32-year career. When he retired in November 2021, Foskett was senior editor for investigations, leading teams of investigative reporters and data journalists. He also managed the internship program, placing 15 to 20 collegiate journalists in the AJC's newsroom each year. In 2001, Foskett reported and wrote a three-part profile of Georgia native and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He expanded the reporting into a full-length

biography entitled, “Judging Thomas: The Life & Times of Clarence Thomas,” published by William Morrow in 2004. Foscett continues to manage the AJC’s internship program in retirement. A 2014 graduate of Leadership DeKalb, he chairs the board of the Atlanta Press Club and is vice president of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. He is a graduate of Yale College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

SARA L. DOYLE was elected to the Georgia Court of Appeals in December, 2008 and took office on Jan. 1, 2009. In 2014 and 2020, she was elected to her second and third six- year term. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017, Judge Doyle was the Court’s Chief Judge where she was instrumental in implementing a historic jurisdiction shift of cases from the Supreme Court and the addition of a new fifth division adding three more judges to the Court, and funding and design of the new Nathan Deal Judicial Center. Judge Doyle has also sat by designation on the Supreme Court of Georgia and on Georgia’s State-wide Business Court. Born in Dallas, Texas, Judge Doyle lived in several states before entering the University of Florida where she graduated in 1990 with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. In 1994, she graduated *cum laude* from Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law where she was a member of the Mercer Law Review. Judge Doyle was admitted to the Georgia Bar in June 1994 and began her legal career as a civil litigator with Wilson, Strickland & Benson, P.C. Just prior to taking office, she was an equity partner with the national law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP where she practiced law with a focus on education issues since August 2000. As a practicing attorney, Judge Doyle received an A.V. peer-reviewed rating from Martindale Hubbell. She was selected as a Georgia Super Lawyer from 2004 to 2008, and in 2006 and 2008, was named one of the top 50 female attorneys in Georgia. She has also been recognized as one of Georgia’s legal elite by Georgia Trend Magazine. Additional honors include: Atlanta Bar Association Professionalism Award, 2013; University of Florida Women’s Inaugural Leadership, 2011; Honorary Member, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, 2009; ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section Leadership Academy, 2006 to 2007; Atlanta Regional Commission Leadership Institute, 2004; Leadership Midtown, 1999.

MICHAEL BALDASSARO is Senior Advisor for the Digital Threats to Democracy and Elections Project at The Carter Center. He is a certified data scientist with more than 15 years of experience designing, managing, and implementing projects that leverage data and technology to safeguard election integrity. Prior to The Carter Center, he was director of research, evidence, and data at Democracy International and program manager at the National Democratic Institute. Baldassaro has designed, managed and implemented democracy and governance projects in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Prior work for The Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute includes assisting civil society groups in applying statistical principles to election observation using state-of-the-art information and communications technologies, such as mobile data collection technologies, data visualization tools, and social media platforms. Baldassaro holds an M.A. in International Conflict Analysis from the University of Kent at Canterbury and the Brussels School of International Studies.

MIKE GEBHART is president and CEO of Southern Community Newspapers, Inc., a Georgia-based media company that includes seven newspapers and related websites. He is president of the Georgia Press Association and a board member of America’s Newspapers, an industry group incorporated in Washington, D.C. A native of St. Louis, Gebhart moved to Georgia in 2004 when he joined the Albany Herald as Vice President and General Manager. He was promoted to President and Publisher in 2005. In November 2007, he was named the Chief Operating Officer

and Executive Vice President of the parent company of The Herald, Southern Community Newspapers, Inc. of Atlanta with responsibility for the entire media division. In 2020 his company, Gebhart Media LLC purchased all the media assets of SCNI from GoldenTree Asset Management, a New York Private Equity firm. Mo. Gebhart began his newspaper career with the Suburban Journals in St. Louis and worked at media outlets in New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Michigan before moving to Georgia in 2004. He is a graduate of Missouri Baptist University and did graduate work for an MBA at St. Louis University and Webster University. In addition to the Albany Herald, SCNI owns and operates the Clayton News Daily, the Gwinnett Daily Post, the Henry Daily Herald, the Jackson Progress-Argus, the Newton Citizen and the Rockdale Citizen.

GUIDING GEORGIA LAW: THE RACE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS is a past President 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 two adorable grandchildren.

EVERETT CATTS has 26 years of experience as a journalist and joined the Daily Report in July after spending 15 years as news editor of the Neighbor Newspapers' Northside/Sandy Springs bureau, covering the cities of Atlanta and Sandy Springs and other parts of the metro area. The Atlanta native has also worked as an editor, sports editor and sports writer for other weekly and daily papers and magazines, including a stint as a freelance sports writer with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Catts also spent a year as an investigator and legal assistant for Catts and Brooks, the Brunswick law office owned by his father, Austin Catts, and brother-in-law, Todd Brooks.

ROSE SCOTT is an award-winning journalist and host of the midday news program “Closer Look” heard on Atlanta’s NPR, station 90.1 FM – WABE. In her role as a co-host and now host, Rose has interviewed foreign heads of states, cabinet members, U.S. ambassadors, numerous consul generals, state and local elected officials as well as civic and social leaders. Closer Look has become a signature broadcast for the community and brings together viewpoints from all sectors of society. She leads the “Closer Look” team in presenting discussions centered on affordable housing, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, immigration and criminal justice reform.

With more than two decades of reporting in Atlanta, Rose has covered education, minority health issues, Atlanta historically Black colleges and universities, gender issues and sports. Prior to moving into a permanent host role, Rose covered topics dealing with Georgia’s death penalty, sex trafficking of minors in Atlanta as well as the country’s biggest cheating scandal found in the Atlanta Public Schools. She often moderates panels on the two topics. In 2013, Rose traveled to Amman, Jordan to report on Syrian refugees. Rose also has an extensive background in sports broadcasting and has appeared on various national outlets.

Well respected in the Atlanta community for her thought-provoking reporting style, Scott has been honored with several awards including a Southeast Regional Emmy Award, an Edward R. Murrow Award, Atlanta Association of Black Journalists Award and numerous Georgia Association of Broadcaster awards. She has also received awards from the Georgia Associated Press and is a Girls Inc. Strong, Smart & Bold Award Winner.

Rose often speaks to youth groups, mentors journalism students and volunteers with youth empowerment initiatives.

CHRISTOPHER M. CARR was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal and sworn into office as Georgia's 54th Attorney General on November 1, 2016. On November 6, 2018, Carr was elected by the people of Georgia to serve a full four-year term. Carr appoints all members of the Georgia Consumer Advisory Board and is a member of the Georgia Board of Homeland Security. He served on Georgia’s Judicial Nominating Commission, the body charged with recommending candidates to the Governor to fill judicial vacancies, from 2011 through 2018, and the Executive Committee for the Georgia Older Adults Cabinet from 2016 - 2018. A dedicated member of the National Association of Attorneys General, Carr currently serves on the Human Trafficking, Substance Abuse and Presidential Initiative Committees (focused on elder abuse in 2017-18 and natural disasters in 2018-19) where he collaborates with his colleagues to shape the association's policies in these respective areas.

Carr previously served as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) under Governor Deal from November 2013 to November 2016. As Commissioner, Carr led the state agency responsible for creating jobs and investment in Georgia through business recruitment, retention and expansion, international trade and tourism, as well as the arts, film and music industries. During Carr's three-year tenure at GDEcD, the state of Georgia was recognized as the top state in the nation in which to do business for three consecutive years. In addition, GDEcD helped facilitate 1,069 projects across the state that represent approximately \$14.4 billion in investment and the creation of more than 84,000 jobs. In 2015, GDEcD was recognized as the top economic development agency in the country.

Prior to joining GDEcD, Carr was Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson for six years. During his time in Washington, Carr advised the Senator on federal legislation, numerous judicial nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court and lower federal courts in Georgia and across the country.

Carr began his career with Georgia Pacific, then practiced law with Alston & Bird LLP in Atlanta and later served as Vice President and General Counsel for the Georgia Public Policy Foundation.

A graduate from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business and Lumpkin School of Law, Carr is admitted to practice law in Georgia.

Carr and his wife Joan have two daughters and live in Dunwoody.

JEN JORDAN was elected to the senate in a special election in 2017 and re-elected in 2018 and 2020. She represents Georgia's 6th Senate District, which includes portions of Cobb and Fulton Counties. Sen. Jordan serves as Chairman of the Senate Special Judiciary Committee and as a member of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions, Government Oversight, Interstate Cooperation, Science and Technology, and Reapportionment and Redistricting Committees.

From kindergarten to law school, Sen. Jordan is a product of Georgia's public education system. Sen. Jordan obtained her bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University. She then went on to graduate magna cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law where she was a member of the Georgia Law Review and of the school's award winning National Moot Court Team. After graduating, Sen. Jordan served as a federal law clerk to United States District Court Judge Anthony A. Alaimo. She is the past President of the University of Georgia's Law School Association Council and a master with the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court.

Sen. Jordan was named to Georgia Trend Magazine's "40 Under 40" list that recognizes Georgia's leaders in "commercial, cultural, academic and governmental institutions" under the age of 40. In 2013, Sen. Jordan was recognized by the University of Georgia as one of its "40 Under 40" alumni who "have made an impact in business, leadership, community, educational and/or philanthropic endeavors." Additionally, in 2014, because of her legal work, she was recognized as one of the "40 Under 40: Rising Stars" by the Fulton County Daily Report. She is a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2008 and serves on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia.

Although a native of South Georgia, Sen. Jordan has lived in the Atlanta-area since moving here to begin her law practice. She lives with her husband, Lawton, and their two children, Lawton and Cokie.

CHRISTIAN WISE SMITH is a Cincinnati native who moved to the Atlanta area in 2005, worked as an Atlanta city solicitor and then as a member of the Fulton County district attorney's office. In 2020, he ran for Fulton County district attorney. Smith founded the [National Social Justice Alliance](#), a nonprofit organization that works with prosecutors with a goal of ending police brutality. In 2021, Smith wrote the children's book, "WISEUP Adventure Series: Chris & Key Go Vote!"

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

CLARE NORINS is an assistant clinical professor and director of the First Amendment Clinic at the University of Georgia School of Law. She represents clients on a range of First Amendment and media law issues while providing students with litigation experience in defense of expressive freedoms. In private practice at Beldock, Levine & Hoffman LLP, she represented plaintiffs in both individual and class actions focusing on issues of police misconduct and employment discrimination. She served in the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office and was Assistant Director of the University of Georgia's Equal Opportunity Office. She is a board member of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation.

JONATHAN PETERS is a media law professor at the University of Georgia, where he has faculty appointments in the School of Law and the College of Journalism and Mass Communication. His research focuses on how recent economic, political, and technological changes have renewed and complicated efforts to regulate the modern practice of journalism. His work has appeared in journals published by the law schools at Berkeley, Harvard, NYU, and Virginia, among others. He is also a coauthor of the book *The Law of Public Communication*, and by invitation he has blogged about the First Amendment for the *Harvard Law Review* and the *Harvard Law & Policy Review*. Peters is a frequent commentator on media law issues for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, CNN, NBC News, CBS News, NPR, and PBS. He has worked internationally on media law projects as a consultant to the U.N. Development Programme and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

NORA BENAVIDEZ is a civil and human rights attorney, working at the intersection of law, tech, and democracy. She serves as Senior Counsel and Director, Digital Justice & Civil Rights at Free Press, where she leads the organization's efforts to protect against digital threats to democracy and to push for media and platform accountability. She previously served as the director of PEN America's U.S. Free Expression Programs, where she launched their disinformation defense and media literacy program. She also led the organization's First Amendment lawsuit, *PEN America v. Trump*, to hold the former president accountable for his retaliation against journalists. Benavidez previously worked in private practice and at the ACLU of Georgia, litigating such issues as voting rights violations, unconstitutional police practices, First Amendment infringements, and more.

TOM CLARE, with his partner Libby Locke, represents Dominion Voting Systems in lawsuits against Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell, and MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell for spreading harmful untruths and conspiracy theories about the company's role in the 2020 presidential election. Clare's practice is devoted to defending clients against high-profile reputational attacks in print, broadcast, and online media outlets. He has handled defamation matters for Fortune 500 companies and prominent individuals, including CEOs, hedge fund managers, university presidents, professional

athletes and sports teams, celebrities, journalists, and military officials. Clare represented UVA Associate Dean Nicole Eramo in her defamation lawsuit against *Rolling Stone* relating to a highly publicized article falsely alleging the cover-up of an alleged gang rape on campus. Before that, he represented Chiquita in matters involving the theft of voicemail messages by a reporter at the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

LEE LEVINE retired from the practice of law in 2020 after more than 40 years representing media clients in defamation, reporter's privilege, access, and related First Amendment disputes. He is the coauthor of three books, most recently *The Progeny: Justice William J. Brennan Jr.'s Fight to Preserve the Legacy of New York Times v. Sullivan*. He is currently working on a new book about the Supreme Court's seminal decision addressing the reporter's privilege in *Branzburg v. Hayes*. In the U.S. Supreme Court, he argued for the media defendants in *Harte-Hanks Communications, Inc. v. Connaughton* and *Bartnicki v. Vopper*. He also litigated in the courts of more than 20 states and the District of Columbia, and he appeared in most federal courts of appeal and in the highest courts of several states. Levine was one of the founding attorneys of the highly regarded First Amendment boutique Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz, which merged with Ballard Spahr in 2017.

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

SHAWN MCINTOSH is the editorial director for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, overseeing news content and directing investigative reporting and data journalism.

PATRICIA MURPHY joined the AJC's politics team in 2020 from CQ Roll Call, where she was a nationally syndicated political columnist. Previously, she was the Capitol Hill Bureau Chief for Politics Daily, founder and editor of Citizen Jane Politics, and a contributor to The Washington Post's She the People blog. Before working in journalism, Patricia was a staffer for three senators. She graduated from Vanderbilt University and holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

RAHUL BALI covers politics for WABE Radio in Atlanta, a position to which he brings decades of experience. He began his career covering politics in 1994 as News Director at Georgia Tech's WREK. Prior to joining WABE, Bali held news anchor spots for the Oconee Radio Group and Cumulus Media, along with field reporting from the Georgia Capitol. He has also reported, produced and edited for CNN Radio, WSB Radio and Washington D.C.'s WTOP Radio. Bali is a graduate of Georgia State University and serves on the Board of Directors of both the Atlanta Press Club and the Georgia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. He is also the Radio and Podcasting Group Director for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) and is an active member of the Atlanta AAJA chapter. Bali has appeared as a panelist in several Atlanta Press Club televised debates, including a 2020 Georgia U.S. Senate debate.

STEPHEN FOWLER is an award-winning reporter for GPB News covering state and local politics and the host of the "Battleground: Ballot Box" podcast. His work focuses on voting rights and election law, state government and campaigns. He got his start with GPB's *All Things Considered* in Atlanta, where he helped create live shows everywhere from a brewery to a baseball game to a rooftop midway, was part of award-winning hurricane coverage and (occasionally) filled in as the afternoon news host. In college, he served as the Executive Digital Editor of *The Emory*

Wheel and was part of the inaugural cohort of the Georgia News Lab, a yearlong investigative journalism program.

His reporting takes him many places, like a chicken processing plant in southeast Georgia, fishing in the Flint River, a soul food restaurant in the mountains and protests in the streets of downtown Atlanta. He is a regular contributor to NPR, including stories on *Up First*, *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered* and NPR's national newscasts, with bylines on *Marketplace*, *Here and Now*, *ProPublica* and the *Columbia Journalism Review* as well.

CHUCK WILLIAMS of WRBL in Columbus, Georgia has decades of experience covering Georgia politics. A recovering sports editor, Williams spent nearly three decades working for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer where he did most of the jobs in the newsroom. Chuck was the sports editor who coordinated the newspaper's award-winning coverage of the 1996 Olympics. He wrote a sports column during that time. In 1997, Chuck moved to the news side where he became a metro editor and later a business editor. In 2001, Chuck moved back to his first love — reporting. He has covered state governments on both sides of the Chattahoochee River.

He has questioned government at all levels and been honored by the Georgia Associated Press and Georgia Press Association many times for his work. His reporting helped exposed financial crimes inside the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. The director of the city department was convicted of a felony. His 2015 work on gender integration of U.S Army Ranger School was honored by McClatchy, which owns the Ledger-Enquirer, as some of newspaper chain's best work that year. For that work, Chuck received the McClatchy President's Award. The story of the first three women to graduate from the most difficult school in the U.S. Army was nominated by the Ledger-Enquirer for a Pulitzer Prize.

Formally a “newspaper guy,” now Chuck is focusing on a different kind of news, as of November of 2018. He “left the relative comfort of a 35-year career to pursue a broadcasting career at WRBL News 3.” He calls it the best journalistic move he has have ever made.

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