

# 30th 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.

### COPING WITH COVID-19: THE SCIENCE & OUR SOCIETY

**HANK KLIBANOFF**, a veteran journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, is a Professor of Practice in Emory's Creative Writing Program. He co-authored *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation* that won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for history. He directs the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project at Emory University ([coldcases.emory.edu](http://coldcases.emory.edu)), for which students examine Georgia's modern civil rights history through the investigation of unsolved and unpunished racially motivated murders. He hosts *Buried Truths*, a Peabody Award-winning podcast based on the cold cases project and produced at WABE. Prior to joining Emory, he was a reporter and editor for more than 35 years, held various reporting and editing positions in Mississippi, at *The Boston Globe*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and served as a managing editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He holds an undergraduate degree in English from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

**ANDY MILLER** is the CEO and editor of Georgia Health News. He has been a health care journalist for the past 25 years. From 1992 to mid-2009, he covered health care for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He won numerous awards for his newspaper reporting on hospitals and health insurers, state government and Georgia's mental hospitals. Miller has been an Association

of Health Care Journalists member for 17 years and is past president of the organization's Atlanta chapter. He was a Kaiser Family Foundation health journalism fellow in 2001-2002. He has worked as a freelance health care reporter for several organizations, including WebMD, AOL's WalletPop, Kaiser Health News, msnbc.com and AARP Bulletin.

Miller graduated from Duke University in 1973 and received a master's in education from Duke in 1979. He was a social studies teacher and basketball coach in a school system in North Carolina before switching careers to journalism.

**JAMES CURRAN** joined the Rollins School of Public Health as Dean and Professor of Epidemiology in 1995 following twenty-five years of leadership at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is Co-Director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research and holds faculty appointments in the Emory School of Medicine and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing.

In 1981, Jim Curran was tapped to lead a CDC task force charged with determining what was behind the first cases of what we now know as AIDS. A pioneer in HIV/AIDS prevention, Dr. Curran led the nation's efforts in the battle against HIV/AIDS for 15 years before joining Emory as Dean. While at the CDC, he attained the rank of the assistant surgeon general.

After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, Jim received his MD from the University of Michigan and a master of public health from Harvard University. Dr. Curran is a fellow of the American Epidemiologic Society, the American College of Preventive Medicine, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Author or co-author of more than 270 scholarly publications, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1993. He was given the Surgeon General's Medal of Excellence in 1996 and received the John Snow Award from the American Public Health Association in 2003.

In 2015 Curran was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is immediate past chair of the board on Population Health and Public Health Practice of the Institute of Medicine and serves on the Executive Committee of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health. In 2009, the Rollins School of Public Health Dean's position was named the James W. Curran Dean of Public Health in his honor.

Dr. Curran is married and has two adult children, Katie and David.

**CARLOS DEL RIO** is a Distinguished Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine and Executive Associate Dean for Emory at Grady. He is also Professor of Global Health in the Department of Global Health and Professor of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health. He is also co-Director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and co-PI of the Emory-CDC HIV Clinical Trials Unit and the Emory Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit. Dr. del Rio is a native of Mexico where he attended medical school at Universidad La Salle, graduating in 1983. He did his Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases residencies at Emory University. In 1989 he returned to Mexico where he was Executive Director of the National AIDS Council of Mexico (CONASIDA, the Federal agency of the Mexican Government responsible for AIDS Policy throughout Mexico), from 1992 through 1996. In November of 1996 he returned to Emory where he has been involved in patient care,

teaching and research. Dr. del Rio was Chief of the Emory Medical Service at Grady Memorial Hospital from 2001 - 2009 and Chair of the Department of Global Health from 2009 - 2019. Dr. del Rio's research focuses on the early diagnosis, access to care, engagement in care, compliance with antiretrovirals and the prevention of HIV infection. He has worked for over a decade with hard-to-reach populations including substance users to improve outcomes of those infected with HIV and to prevent infection with those at risk. He is also interested in the translation of research findings into practice and policy. His international work includes collaborations in the country of Georgia, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Mexico, Kenya and Thailand. He has also worked on emerging infections such as pandemic influenza and was a member of the WHO Influenza A(H1N1) Clinical Advisory Group and of the CDC Influenza A(H1N1) Task Force during the 2009 pandemic.

Dr. del Rio is a Member of the Board of Directors of the International Antiviral Society-USA (IAS-USA) and was a Board member and Chair of HIVMA of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). He is also the Chair of the PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board. He is Chief Section Editor for HIV/AIDS for NEJM Journal Watch Infectious Diseases, Associate Editor for Clinical Infectious Diseases and member of the editorial board of Journal of AIDS and Global Public Health. Dr. del Rio has co-authored 30 book chapters and over 350 scientific papers. Among his many honors are the James H. Nakano Citation received in 2001 and awarded by the CDC for an outstanding scientific paper published in 2000; the Emory University Marion V. Creekmore Achievement Award for Internationalization; he was selected by the "Atlanta Magazine" as one of the 55 most influential foreign born Atlantans in 2007. In 2013 Dr. del Rio was elected to the National Academy of Medicine and in 2020 was elected as Foreign Secretary of the National Academy of Medicine.

**PATRICE HARRIS, MD, MA**, a psychiatrist from Atlanta, was the 174th president of the American Medical Association, and the organization's first African American woman to hold this position. Dr. Harris has diverse experience as a private practicing physician, county public health director, patient advocate and medical society lobbyist.

Dr. Harris currently spearheads the AMA's efforts to end the opioid epidemic and has been chair of the AMA Opioid Task Force since its inception in 2014. Dr. Harris continues to lead the task force as it works across every state to eliminate barriers to treatment, provide patients with access to affordable, non-opioid pain care, and fight the stigma faced by those with substance use-disorders.

Having served on the AMA Board of Trustees since 2011, and as chair from 2016 to 2017, she has long been a mentor, a role model and an advocate. Prior to serving on the board, Dr. Harris honed her broad knowledge and deep understanding of health care issues through various leadership roles. At the AMA these included having served for many years on the AMA Council on Legislation, including a term as chair, and on multiple AMA task forces on topics such as health information technology, payment and delivery reform, and private contracting. Beyond the AMA she has held positions of leadership with the American Psychiatric Association, the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association, the Medical Association of Georgia, and The Big Cities Health Coalition, where she chaired this forum composed of leaders from America's largest metropolitan health departments.

Growing up in Bluefield, W. Va., Dr. Harris dreamt of entering medicine at a time when few women of color were encouraged to become physicians. Dr. Harris spent her formative years at West Virginia University, earning a BA in psychology, an MA in counseling psychology and, ultimately, a medical degree in 1992.

It was during this time that her passion for helping children emerged, and she completed her psychiatry residency and fellowships in child and adolescent psychiatry and forensic psychiatry at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Two themes that govern Dr. Harris's professional life are a passion to improve the lives of children and service to others. A recognized expert in children's mental health and childhood trauma, Dr. Harris has led efforts on both local and national levels to integrate public health, behavioral health and primary care services with supports for employment, housing and education.

A fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Harris continues in private practice and currently consults with both public and private organizations on health service delivery and emerging trends in practice and health policy. She is an adjunct assistant professor in the Emory Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and an adjunct clinical assistant professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Morehouse School of Medicine.

**AMBER SCHMIDTKE** recognized at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that there was a large gap between the way that scientists communicate and how non-scientists receive information. She has combined her roles as a public health microbiologist and college educator to provide meaningful analysis and explanation of disease trends to the public through a popular newsletter and podcast. She has become one of the most trusted voices in Georgia for analyzing and understanding the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of these communication efforts she was invited to serve as a member of the Georgia COVID-19 Data State Task Force, advising government agencies on how to package their complex data to meet the needs of the public.

**SCOTT STEINER, FACHE**, became President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Phoebe Putney Health System (PPHS) on March 1, 2019. Raised in St. Louis, Steiner graduated from Missouri State University before earning a Masters of Business Administration degree with a Health Services Emphasis from Webster University in St. Louis. He began his career in healthcare administration as Director of Physician Network & Development for a hospital in East St. Louis, IL in 1992.

Immediately prior to joining PPHS, Steiner was CEO of four Tenet Healthcare Corporation hospitals in Detroit, MI and previously was CEO of a Tenet hospital in Chicago, IL. Since 2007, Steiner had served as an executive with Tenet, a Fortune 500 company based in Dallas, TX, operating 70 hospitals and 470 outpatient centers in 47 states, since 2007.

PPHS is a not-for-profit healthcare delivery system serving a population of more than 500,000 residents in southwest Georgia. Phoebe has grown significantly over the last 20 years and now employs more than 4,300 people throughout the region. The system operates four hospitals, family medicine clinics, specialty physician offices and rehabilitation clinics.

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital is the system's flagship hospital and one of Georgia's largest comprehensive, regional medical centers with 691 beds on two campuses. PPHS also includes

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, a 76-bed community hospital in Americus, GA and Phoebe Worth Medical Center, a 25-bed critical access hospital located in Sylvester, GA. The health system also manages Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center, a 25-bed critical access hospital in Cuthbert, GA.

Phoebe Physician Group employs more than 300 clinicians who work in Phoebe hospitals as well as 42 clinics in 9 counties. The system also includes the Phoebe Family Medicine Residency and is home to the Medical College of Georgia Southwest Campus and the Southwest Clinical Campus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Phoebe's main campus serves as one of six designated regional perinatal centers in Georgia.

## **REPORTING ON THE PANDEMIC: ACCESS TO THE DATA THAT COUNTS**

**FRANK LOMONTE** was named Director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information in August 2017. Previously, he was the executive director of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) in Washington, D.C. since 2008. During his tenure, he launched a number of major programming initiatives, including the “New Voices” initiative that has resulted in enactment of fortified legal protections for student journalists in 13 states, and the “Active Voice” fellowship program for college undergraduates to design “press freedom service projects” amplifying the voices of young women, who experience the brunt of school censorship.

Before joining the SPLC, LoMonte practiced law with Sutherland Asbill and Brennan LLP in Atlanta and clerked for federal judges on the Northern District of Georgia and the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Prior to embarking on his legal career, he was an investigative journalist and political columnist. He was the capitol correspondent for the Florida Times Union (Jacksonville), Washington correspondent for Morris News Service and the Atlanta bureau chief for Morris.

He was the Otis Brumby Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at the Georgia Law School in spring-summer 2014 and has been a lecturer since 2015 in the University of Georgia Washington Program, teaching a course for undergraduates on “Law of Social Media.”

Frank received his B.A. from Georgia State University in 1994 and his J.D., from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2000 magna cum laude. His work on behalf of open government and journalists' rights has been recognized with numerous awards, including the American Library Association's “Freedom to Read Foundation Roll of Honor” and the National Press Photographers' Association First Amendment Award. The College Media Association offers an annual award in his name to honor special distinction in ethical journalism.

**ALEXIS MADRIGAL** is a journalist in Oakland, California. He's a staff writer at The Atlantic and a co-founder of The COVID Tracking Project. Previously, he was the editor-in-chief of Fusion and a staff writer at Wired. He's working on a book about Oakland and racial capitalism in urban America.

He's been a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Information School and UC Berkeley's Center for the Study of Technology, Science, and Medicine as well as an affiliate with Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society.

Madrigal authored the book *Powering the Dream: The History and Promise of Green Technology*. He curates the 5it newsletter, which covers emerging technologies and social dynamics through history and a general appreciation that the future will be as weird as the present.

He was born in Mexico City, grew up in rural Washington State, and went to Harvard. Madrigal works out of the Murray Street Media Lab in Berkeley with novelist (and olive oil magnate) Robin Sloan.

**AL-AMYN SUMAR** became Counsel to The New York Times in July 2020, where he works on newsroom issues, primarily from the Washington bureau. Al-Amyn was formerly with the law firm of Ballard Spahr, where he represented a variety of media clients. He previously clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the University of Alberta.

**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.

**SAM WHITEHEAD** is the host of *Did You Wash Your Hands?*, a podcast all about the coronavirus pandemic. He is a health reporter and sometimes editor/host/producer for WABE, Atlanta's NPR station. He is a former host/producer/reporter for Georgia Public Broadcasting. Has been heard/read on *All Things Considered*, *GPB News*, *Here and Now*, *Kaiser Health News*, *Marketplace*, *Marketplace Morning Report*, *Morning Edition*, *NPR News*, *The Salt*, and *State of the Re:Union*. He co-founded *WRFI Community Radio News*. Sam lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

## **ELECTIONS IN MODERN DAY AMERICA, GEORGIA STYLE**

**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 two adorable grandchildren.

**BRAD RAFFENSPERGER** was elected Georgia’s Secretary of State in 2018, assuming office in January 2019. He previously served in the Georgia House of Representatives, representing District 50, which includes Johns Creek. Raffensperger is a businessman and civil engineer, having earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in over 30 states. Raffensperger is the CEO and owner of Tendon Systems, LLC. Tendon is a specialty contracting and engineering design firm with nearly 150 employees. The firm has operated in 35 different states. Raffensperger also owns and operates a specialty steel manufacturing plant based in Forsyth County. He and his wife, Tricia, have been married for 42 years and live in Johns Creek. Brad is a member of North Point Community Church.

**JEN JORDAN** was elected to the senate in a special election in 2017. 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.

**BARRY FLEMING** is a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, representing District 121, which includes Harlem. He is the founding partner of the law firm of Fleming Nelson, LLP, in Augusta, Georgia. He previously served as a partner for 11 years at the Augusta firm of Fulcher Hagler LLP. In addition to his law practice, he served as chairman of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners until 2002, when he was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. At the start of his second term in office, his fellow Republicans elected him majority whip.

Along with his service in legislative leadership, he passed various meaningful bills, such as Georgia's photo ID law for voting, and chaired the committee overseeing the reform of Georgia's tort laws. He also passed numerous bills dealing with the operation of Georgia's criminal justice system, and received the Guardian of Justice Award from the Georgia District Attorney's Association. For his staunch support of businesses and job development, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. His strong pro-family positions earned him the Legislator of the Year Award from the Georgia Family Council. He was re-elected to the House of Representatives again in 2012.

Besides his law practice, Rep. Fleming serves on the Legislative Oversight Committee of the Georgia World Congress Center. He was also appointed by former Governor Nathan Deal to the Public Defender's Oversight Board for the State of Georgia and the Augusta Judicial Circuit. Rep. Fleming is a double graduate of the University of Georgia, receiving his undergraduate degree in 1988 and earning his law degree in 1994. He, his wife, Paige, and their son, Zach, reside in Harlem, Georgia. Rep. Fleming has served as chairman of the deacons and lay leader for the AWANA programs at Harlem Baptist Church. He is also a Gideon and a life member of the National Rifle Association.

**ANDRA GILLESPIE** is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute at Emory University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Government & Foreign Affairs and African American Studies from the University of Virginia. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in African American Studies and a Master of Philosophy in Political Science from Yale University, where she also earned her doctorate in 2005. Before joining the faculty at Emory, she worked as an analyst for Democratic pollster Mark Mellman.

Gillespie's teaching portfolio includes numerous classes on race and politics in the United States. She teaches the undergraduate survey course in African American politics, as well as a specialized course called "New Black Political Leadership." She has also taught courses in political participation, experimental methods, and race and elections.

Gillespie's current research focuses on the political leadership of the post-civil rights generation. She is the author of *The New Black Politician: Cory Booker, Newark and Post-Racial America*. (NYU Press 2012). This book uses a case study of the evolution of black politics in Newark, New Jersey to challenge students of black politics to revise their understanding of the connection between racial solidarity, vote choice and policy preferences. She is also the editor of and a contributor to *Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership* (Routledge, 2010). This book features case studies of prominent black elected officials born after 1960 to shed light on whether the advent of a new generation of black political leadership will actually revolutionize our understanding of African American politics. Due to her academic training and personal faith, Gillespie also maintains secondary academic interests in political participation, inter-minority group competition and evangelical politics in the United States.

For her efforts, Gillespie has received numerous honors. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Before earning her doctorate, she won an American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship (funding declined) and the prestigious National Science Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. She was honored by the Urban Section of the American Political Science Association as a 2009 Norton Long Fellow. She also was a 2009-2010 Ford Foundation Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University (in partial residence). In 2011-2012, she served as a Martin Luther King Visiting Scholar in the Political Science Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to her academic work, Gillespie maintains an active public profile, providing regular commentary for local and national news outlets. She has appeared on Atlanta's local ABC, NBC, Fox, CBS, and PBS affiliates, as well as CNN, NPR and FamilyNet. Her editorials have been featured in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Washington Post, and Politico. In addition, she is a contributor to Politico.com's Arena.

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

**JANE HANSEN** is the Public Information Officer of the Georgia Supreme Court, a position she assumed after many decades as an award-winning investigative reporter for The Atlanta Journal Constitution.

**SUSAN EDLEIN** is the Chief Judge of the State Court of Fulton County, a court on which she has served since 2008. In 2013 the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers awarded Susan Edlein its highest honor, the Kathleen Kessler Award, which is given to a female attorney who exhibits the highest degree of professionalism and dedication to service in the legal community.

The Atlanta Bar Association honored Edlein as the recipient of its "Professionalism Award" in 2012. In 2009, The Fulton County Daily Report identified Susan Edlein as one of twelve Georgia attorneys "On the Rise." Before taking the bench, Edlein's proficiency in the law previously earned

her recognition as a “Legal Eagle” by Atlanta Women's Magazine, a “Rising Star” by Georgia Super Lawyers and one of Georgia’s “Legal Elite” by Georgia Trend Magazine.

Susan Edlein is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Atlanta. She is also a graduate of both the Regional Leadership Institute and Commercial Real Estate Women’s Leadership Program.

Before taking the bench, Edlein was a litigation partner in Holland & Knight's Atlanta office, where she was co-chair of the national Real Estate Litigation Team and the Atlanta coordinator for the Women's Initiative program, which is part of the firm's commitment to diversity. Edlein was one of five women selected to participate in Holland & Knight's 2006 "Rising Stars" program, a firm-wide leadership and management program. After taking the bench, Judge Edlein has remained an active volunteer and speaker in the community.

She is a frequent speaker at CLEs and volunteers with the High School Mock Trial program. Edlein is very involved in legal organizations.

With the Atlanta Bar, Edlein currently serves on the Reputation and Public Trust Committee and is a Board Member of the Litigation Section, the Judicial Section and the Public Interest Law Section. She previously chaired the Celebrating Service Committee. Edlein is on the Executive Committee of the Lawyer’s Club. Edlein served as Chair of the Judiciary Section of the State Bar of Georgia during 2011-2012.

Susan Edlein grew up in Atlanta and attended Henderson High School in Dekalb County. She participated in the Honors Program at UNC-Chapel Hill, and graduated with a BA in Political Science. Edlein attended law school at the University of Virginia, where she was a semifinalist in the William Minor Lile Moot Court competition and Articles Editor of the Journal of Law and Politics.

Susan is married to Scott Edlein and is the proud mother of three children and an active volunteer in the community. Edlein is the Membership Chair for the Midtown Parents Group. Previously, she was a board member for the Midtown Neighbors Association and formed a non-profit to promote positive and balanced development along the Ponce de Leon corridor.

**HAROLD D. MELTON** was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Governor Sonny Perdue on July 1, 2005. He was sworn in as Chief Justice on September 4, 2018 by former Chief Justice P. Harris Hines.

Prior to joining the Court, Chief Justice Melton served as Executive Counsel to Governor Perdue, representing the Governor on legal issues covering the entire scope of state government. Chief Justice Melton helped safeguard Georgia’s interests in water rights disputes with Alabama and Florida, and he actively participated in administration efforts to advance the delivery of criminal justice services in the State.

Before serving as Executive Counsel, Chief Justice Melton spent 11 years in the Georgia Department of Law under two Attorneys General where he dealt with issues ranging from the creation of the Georgia Lottery Corporation to the administration of Georgia’s tobacco settlement. Prior to leaving to join the Governor’s Office, he served as Section Leader over the Consumer Interests Division.

Chief Justice Melton received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia in 1991. He previously served as a Volunteer Leader of Young Life Ministries for 11 years and currently serves on a local Young Life Board and on the national board. He is also a Board Member of Atlanta Youth Academies.

A native of Washington, D.C., Chief Justice Melton grew up in East Point and Marietta, Georgia. He currently resides in Atlanta with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children.

**SHAWN ELLEN LAGRUA** was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Governor Brian Kemp in December 2020, and she was sworn in by Governor Kemp on January 7, 2021.

Prior to joining the Supreme Court, Justice LaGrua was appointed to the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit by then-Governor Sonny Perdue and was sworn in on June 29, 2010. She served on the bench in the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit until January 2021, having been elected in 2012 and reelected in 2016 and 2020. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she served as Inspector General for the Georgia Secretary of State. From 2004 until 2007, she served as the Solicitor General for DeKalb County. Judge LaGrua has over 20 years of trial experience, including her work as Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb and Fulton counties and as Chief Assistant District Attorney in the Tallapoosa Circuit.

While serving on the bench in Fulton County, Justice LaGrua initiated and presided over “My Journey Matters,” a pilot probation program designed to divert young offenders from a lifetime of incarceration, and presided over the Court’s first Re-Entry Court, which worked to integrate prior offenders back into the community using close supervision, substance abuse counseling, job-training, and advancing education.

Justice LaGrua currently serves as the Chair of Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold D. Melton’s COVID-19 Task Force. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Kemp to serve as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission. Justice LaGrua was appointed by Governor Deal and re-appointed by Governor Kemp to the Georgia Child Support Commission and served as Chair of the Judicial Council’s Process Servers Committee. Justice LaGrua also served as the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges in 2019-2020. She serves on the Legislative Support Team, as vice-chair for the Access to Fairness and Justice Committee, and as a member of the Accountability Court and Bench and Bar Committees. She is a Member of the Criminal Justice Reform Sub-Committee. In 2016, Judge LaGrua received the St. Thomas Moore Award from the St. Thomas Moore Society in recognition of “specific actions manifesting a commitment to justice and humanity, especially in difficult circumstances” related in part to her formation of and continued commitment to the My Journey Matters Program. Judge LaGrua has been a speaker and presenter at multiple conferences and seminars during her career, presenting on topics such as RICO, State Bar Professionalism during COVID-19, and others.

Justice LaGrua is a Master of the Logan E. Bleckley Inn of Court and Lamar Inn of Court. She is a founding member and past Chair of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, Judicial Application Review Committee. She served as the Chair of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Georgia. She is an alumna member of Leadership Atlanta, Class of 2012, and served as the Vice Chair of the Criminal Justice Day for 2014-2015 and 2019.

Justice LaGrua graduated from the University of Georgia and received her Juris Doctorate from the Georgia State University College of Law.

Justice LaGrua grew up in a military family where her father served in the JAG Corps. She is married to husband Chris and has two step-sons and a fur-child.

**BRIAN AMERO** is the Chief Judge of Henry County Superior Court and now serves as President of the Council of Superior Court Judges. He first took the bench in 2006. Judge Amero received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his M.A. from Wilfrid Laurier University, and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

### **MEETING THE MOMENT:**

### **RACIAL JUSTICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST**

**LISA CUPID** was elected in November 2020 Chair of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners, a body to which she was first elected in November 2012. She is an attorney and formerly, an engineer.

In her time as Commissioner, Lisa has proven herself as a principled, pragmatic and people-centered leader. She lists the following as some of her accomplishments:

- Bringing developers and residents together to negotiate tough land use cases, as well as working with businesses to navigate permitting challenges
- Leading efforts to expand transit to areas that lost service during the recession, including the creation of a bus line from her district to the Cumberland commercial center as well as an expansion of service to Sundays
- Fostering creation of Cobb's first Zoning 101 program, and more recently the Cobb 101 program which has educated over 80 participants
- Advocating for a community-oriented policing and greater use of technology in policing, to better protect both citizens and police
- Supporting transparency, thoughtful spending and community engagement whether in assessing the county's new stadium and its annual budget and millage hearings
- Pushing for greater support of the County's Economic Development agency as well as backing the redevelopment of blighted structures. In 2017, Lisa's district led the county in new single family home starts

Lisa received her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech as well as a B.A. in English, Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor from Georgia State University. She has won honors and awards from numerous organizations for her service.

Lisa lives in Southwest Cobb with her husband Craig and two children, Nehemiah and Noah. The Cupids are members of Word of Faith in Austell and also attend Buckhead Church. In whatever time you can call spare, Lisa can be found running, reading, or supporting her children at different events

**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.

**JASMINA ALSTON** is a reporter with CBS46 in Atlanta. She came to CBS46 from ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, Alabama. There she was a multimedia journalist working out of the East Alabama bureau. Prior to Birmingham, Jasmina was the political reporter for WDHN in Dothan, Alabama, covering state and local politics. As a graduate of Georgia State University, Jasmina is excited to be back in Atlanta.

**FLYNN D. BROADY, JR.** is the District Attorney of Cobb County, a position to which he was elected in November 2020. Flynn's service to Cobb County began in 2008, when he became a Cobb County Assistant Solicitor General. There he gained invaluable experience as a prosecutor in the complex environment of the courtroom, displaying the judicial skills necessary to succeed as your District Attorney.

In 2014, Flynn took the position of the Veterans Treatment and Accountability Court Coordinator for Cobb County. In that role, Flynn helped our Veterans in overcoming issues of substance abuse, PTSD, and behavioral issues to help them reintegrate back into society as productive citizens.

In 2017 Flynn became Prosecuting Attorney for the Cobb County DUI Accountability Court, which offers a treatment alternative to DUI offenders who are willing to be accountable for their actions and seek treatment to control substance abuse issues. These programs save taxpayer's money and produce better outcomes for offenders, reducing recidivism rates and making all our communities safer. Accountability Courts and the unique needs of Veterans remain Flynn's special focus.

Broadly comes from a family with a tradition of service. In World War II, his grandfather served with the famed Red Ball Express, and his father served 20 years in the U.S. Army. Though Flynn had achieved a full engineering scholarship, his desire to serve led him into the U.S. Army. His 26 year career included three overseas tours. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, he led 157 soldiers in combat as an Infantry First Sergeant.

Flynn and his wife Monique live near Marietta Square, where they enjoy dining, performing arts, weekend festivals, and visiting with Cobb County residents. They are members of historic Zion Baptist Church in Marietta, where they are active in several ministries. Flynn's daughter Victoria is a graduate of Armstrong State University and resides in Savannah.

**JOHN MELVIN** serves as Assistant Director at the Georgia Bureau of Investigations. As second in command, he directs the operations and administration of this 920 agents and staff. In concert with the Director, provides leadership, communication, and coordination with the Governor, the Georgia General Assembly, United States Congress, other criminal justice agencies, and the private sector.

Prior to his work at the GBI, John served as a felony prosecutor for 25 years and ended his prosecution career as the Acting District Attorney of Cobb County. During those years, John tried more than 180 felony trials to include death penalty cases, multiple RICO trials, as well as the largest state tax fraud case and the largest Elder Financial Abuse case in Georgia history. John has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Atlanta John Marshall and Emory Law Schools.

John attended the United States Military Academy, the University of Georgia, and Ohio Northern 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.

## **2021: THE MEDIA AND OUR GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

**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.

**JIM GALLOWAY** was a writer and editor with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for more than three decades prior to his retirement in mid-January 2021. He was also 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 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.

**NICOLE CARR** is an investigative reporter for Channel 2 Action News. She joined WSB-TV in 2016, and has since been honored with three Southeast Regional Emmys, including a 2017 award for live reporting, and a 2020 award for investigative reporting.

Carr came to Atlanta from WTVD in Raleigh, NC, where she served as a Fayetteville/Fort Bragg bureau reporter and fill-in anchor. Covering her military hometown was a fitting assignment, as Nicole grew up an Army Brat. Her family made 10 moves before she turned 16, living everywhere from Alaska to Panama.

In 2012, Nicole was awarded a reporting fellowship through the International Center for Journalists. From Beijing, she pitched and produced a series revolving around North Carolina furniture and agriculture trade with China.

Nicole is a proud graduate of Winston-Salem State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication. She went on to Syracuse University, where she earned a Master's of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism. While journalism is her passion, Nicole's most important work is at home as a wife and mother. She also enjoys a good book, travel, and supporting military families.

**ROBIN KEMP** is now the CEO and Executive Editor of The Clayton Crescent, a nonprofit news start-up she organized in 2020 to serve the people of Clayton County, Georgia.

A writer, photographer, and videographer, she has worked for CNN and The Weather Channel and taught college English and adult ESL. She created a data system for The Weather Channel that allows live show producers to estimate hourly customer power outages in storm areas. She also contributed to many award-winning breaking news events at CNN while completing her undergraduate degree at Georgia State University during Desert Shield, Desert Storm, the fall of Eastern Europe, and the Balkan Conflict. Robin likes to pick up new technologies, especially in data journalism, and she leverages her training in English and history while researching complex stories. A largely self-taught photographer, videographer, and platform-agnostic video editor, Robin Kemp also trained in multimedia journalism at the Poynter Institute and in AVID and Premiere Pro at UGA's Grady College. At Gambit in New Orleans, Robin covered City Hall, the environment, small business, historic preservation, and arts and culture. She won the Brown Pelican Award for her coverage of Louisiana coastal erosion. Robin sees a story as a puzzle to solve and reporting as a daily educational field trip. Robin also has extensive academic training in poetry and creative nonfiction. Robin studied abroad in Cuba and is an avid student of all things Cuban. A longtime advocate for childcare, workplace diversity, and LGBTQ equality, Robin served as an activist in New Orleans in the 1980s, founded TurnOut, the Turner Broadcasting LGBTQ employee group, in the 1990s, and co-produced a segment of CNN's in-house diversity training video, Through The Lens. After Hurricane Katrina, Robin served dual roles with the American Red Cross and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, helping restore communications in central and coastal Mississippi, and coordinating a national book drive for writers and artists

who lost their libraries. Robin Kemp cooks like a Cajun, dives like a dolphin, and works like a warrior.

**MATTHEW OSBORNE** is the editor of The Northeast Georgian. A 16-time journalism award-winner, he is the former editor-in-chief of The Trentonian (N.J.) and two other newspapers in North Carolina. Before moving into news, he covered all levels of sports, including serving as a Heisman Trophy voter.