

Georgia State Bar Headquarters
Friday, 23 February 2024

33rd Georgia Bar, Media & Judiciary Conference

Program

(Sponsors and participants are confirmed as of 22 Feb 24.)

6 hours of approved CLE credit | [REGISTER NOW](#)

2024 Sponsors

ACLU
Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Atlanta Press Club
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Caplan Cobb
CNN
Council of Probate Court Judges
Council of State Court Judges
Council of Superior Court Judges

Cross Kincaid LLC
Department of Journalism, Grady College,
University of Georgia
First Amendment Clinic, University of Georgia
School of Law
Georgia First Amendment Foundation
Griffiths Family Fund
Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

9:15 a.m. When the Circus Comes to Town: Managing “TV Trials”

Fulton County is hosting a series of especially high-profile criminal trials that require accommodating camera coverage while also being mindful of the risks that come with highly polarizing cases, such as the potential for retaliation against jurors. How do judges, media ethicists and other experts see those interests balancing out, and what unique workarounds will be necessary if-and-when there is a Donald Trump criminal trial in Fulton Superior Court?

Moderator: Jonathan Ringel, Senior Vice President, Poston Communications

Panelists: Sherry Boston, District Attorney, DeKalb County
Dale Russell, retired Senior Investigative Reporter, Fox 5 Atlanta
Eric Segall, Professor, Georgia State University College of Law
Hon. Timothy R. Walmsley, Judge, Eastern Judicial Circuit Superior Court

10:30 a.m. Rethinking Campaign Coverage for 21st-Century Audiences

There is broad consensus that “horse-race,” poll-driven news coverage of political campaigns disserves the public interest. But there is less consensus about what optimal campaign coverage should look like, especially as people are increasingly being bombarded with ideologically skewed “reporting” from websites masquerading as journalism, and there are existential fears about eroding support for democratic principles and the rule of law. A roundtable discussion about 21st-century campaign coverage as Georgia approaches its moment in the 2024 presidential limelight.

Moderator: Nora Benavidez, Senior Counsel / Director of Digital Justice & Civil Rights, Free Press

Panelists: Audrey Haynes, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia
Chris Joyner, Deputy Politics Editor, *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*
DuBose Porter, Executive Director, Georgia Trust for Local News, former state representative and Democratic party chair
Glen Smith, Professor of Political Science & International Affairs, University of North Georgia
Nick Valencia, Journalist, CNN

11:35 a.m. Lunch Break / Pick Up Box Lunches

12 noon The Georgia Open Records Act at 65: Challenges and Opportunities, Both New and Old

The Open Records Act declares a presumption that records should be disclosed without delay, that exceptions should be interpreted narrowly, and that public policy strongly favors government transparency because of its importance to a free and democratic society. To what extent, though, is the ORA fulfilling that promise? What does it do well? What are its persistent failings and sources of frustration? What are the major issues now arising under it? What would it take to make the ORA a model for how public information is gathered and shared in the 21st century?

Moderator: Jonathan Peters, Head, Department of Journalism, University of Georgia

Panelists: Jon Burton, Managing Director of State Government Relations, RELX, Inc.
Charles Davis, Dean, Grady College, University of Georgia
Carrie Teegardin, Investigative Reporter, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Joy Ramsingh, Attorney, Ramsingh Legal
Allyson Veile, Legal Fellow, First Amendment Clinic, University of Georgia

1:10 p.m. You Say “Protest,” I Say “Racketeering” – Where Does the First Amendment Draw the Line?

Dozens of “Cop City” protesters are facing racketeering charges in state court, testing how far prosecutors and courts can go in prosecuting people for protest activity. Prosecutors increasingly are using racketeering statutes in cases that implicate constitutional interests. Have anti-organized crime laws been stretched to the breaking point?

Moderators: Sarah Hunt Blackwell, First Amendment Policy Advocate, ACLU of Georgia
Samantha Hamilton, Georgia Journalism & Access Attorney, UGA School of Law’s First Amendment Clinic

Panelists: Lynsey Barron, Attorney, Barron Law
Devin Franklin, Movement Policy Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights
Matt Scott, Journalist, Atlanta Community Press Collective
Elizabeth Taxel, Assistant Clinical Professor, UGA School of Law’s Criminal Defense Practicum

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. A Fred Friendly Hypothetical: Campus Speech in Turbulent Times

Global conflicts and national politics are shining an increasingly bright spotlight on already-existing free-speech tensions on college campuses. What does the law say about colleges' authority to control speech? Can students or faculty be punished for what they say? When can/should a university pull funding for a student organization protesting university or government policies? When does language of protest cross into hate speech? What challenges do news organizations face when covering campus protests? What recourse does a protestor have when an employer rescinds her job offer? Can a university force an alienated major donor to deliver on a signed pledge?

Interlocutor: Richard T. Griffiths, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Panelists: John Antonio, Former Vice-President of Programming, CNN/US
Martina Essert, Deputy Editor of Standards and Practices, *The Red and Black*, Athens
Anthony Hightower, Senior Associate General Counsel, Augusta University
W. Brian Holladay, employment attorney, Martenson, Hasbrouck, & Simon LLP
Gerry Weber, civil rights, constitutional, and media law attorney, The Weber Law Office
Hon. Alvin T. Wong, Judge, DeKalb County State Court

3:40 p.m. What's the Intel on Artificial Intelligence?

Every field that generates or processes information – including the courts, law firms, the news media, and higher education – is scrambling to stay ahead of developments in artificial intelligence. In some high-profile recent cases, lawyers have been caught using ChatGPT to write briefs, resulting in fictitious case citations. How are people who depend on the accuracy of information to make critical decisions adjusting to a world of (somewhat) convincing fakes? What is the potential for A.I. to transform how judges, lawyers and journalists do business? How can attorneys observe proper ethical standards in incorporating A.I. into their practices, while also advising their clients about this rapidly evolving technology?

Moderator: Clare Norins, Director, First Amendment Clinic, University of Georgia School of Law

Panelists: Ted Claypoole, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP
Johnita Due, Executive VP, Integrity and Inclusion, CNN Worldwide
Christian Turner, Associate Professor, University of Georgia School of Law

4:45 p.m. Closing Remarks / Sponsor Thanks / Invitation to Post-Program Reception