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Other AVLF News!



o Volunteer child attorney Julie Barnes represented her young client at trial in which the juvenile court accepted a surrender of parental rights from the child's mother and terminated the parental rights of the child's father. Julie has represented this child since his birth three years ago, and she is pleased that the child will now be adopted by his foster mother but will still enjoy visits from his biological mother.

o AVLF Volunteer, Attorney Steven Cayton, went above and beyond in a TPO matter today. After months of inability to serve, the hiring of process servers (by attorney and client), and 3 re-filings of his case, his client could not express how grateful he was to have finally been given his day in court. AVLF Volunteer, Rachel Platt,

AVLF Announces the Opening of the Housing Advocacy & Resource Center (HARC)

AVLF is excited to announce that on Monday, May 9th, attorney Jennifer Hubbard will begin working in AVLF's Housing Advocacy & Resource Center (HARC), located in the new Fulton County State Court Self Help Center, Room TG300 of the Justice Center Tower at 185 Central Ave. Jennifer will be available to assist tenants with legal questions about evictions and related housing matters in Fulton County, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, Monday-Thursday.



The Self Help Center, which is the first of its kind in Georgia, opened its doors on March 24, 2011 with support from both AVLF and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. In its first few weeks, the Center has assisted hundreds of individuals seeking guidance about how to navigate the courthouse, find records, and learn more about the legal process. With the addition of a part-time AVLF attorney, the Center will be able to offer direct legal assistance to tenants, who are typically unrepresented and face steep obstacles in the courthouse. AVLF is grateful to the Fulton County Department of Human Services for the grant that made it possible for AVLF to hire an attorney for HARC. AVLF continues to seek funding that will enable us to expand the hours and scope of this position and to make it permanent.

*Click here to view the HRAC flyer in [English](#)
 Click here to view the HRAC flyer in [Spanish](#)*

is pleased that the juvenile court placed her three year old client in the permanent guardianship of his foster mother, who will be supportive of an ongoing relationship between the child and his mother.

- o Georgia State law student Rebecca Tam negotiated a complex Protective Order By Consent, learning a whole lot about family law in the process, and above all giving her client the autonomy she needs to separate herself permanently from her long-time alcoholic abuser husband.

- o John Marshall law student Ben Beasley negotiated his first TPO against a master manipulator boyfriend who'd terrorized the client for months not only physically but psychologically with threats of suicide, an extended lie about having cancer, and, finally, attempted blackmail.

- o AVLF volunteer Tamika Johnson, of the T.M. Johnson Law Firm, obtained just over \$800 in unpaid wages for an AVLF client.

- o Volunteer child attorney Julie Barnes represented her young client at trial in which the juvenile court accepted a surrender of parental rights from the child's mother and terminated the parental rights of the child's father. Julie has represented this child since his birth three years ago, and she is pleased that the child will now be adopted by his foster mother but will still enjoy visits from his biological mother.

- o AVLF volunteer David Kluclewics, of Alston and Bird, took an AVLF client's case to trial and obtained an approximately \$700 judgment - the full amount sought for excessive utility bills

AVLF Summer Associate Cocktail Party and Fundraiser



Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker will host the 2011 **AVLF Summer Associate Cocktail Party and Fundraiser** on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, from 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm at the firm's Atlanta office on the 24th floor of the Bank of America Building at 600 Peachtree Street. The cost for each attendee is Fifty Dollars (\$50).

Each year AVLF asks Atlanta's firms to make this gathering a focus of their Summer Associate program. Law students have the chance to meet each other, renew friendships with classmates and, most importantly, to become acquainted with opportunities to participate in our legal community's long-standing tradition of *pro bono* service. The event not only introduces Summer Associates to the work of AVLF and other pro bono organizations, but it helps fund AVLF, which depends upon the volunteer generosity of Atlanta's lawyers to address the consistent demand for well-coordinated, high quality, free civil legal services.

We hope that all Summer Associates will join us on June 7th for the good food, drink and camaraderie that are hallmarks of the evening. For details, please contact AVLF's Office Manager, Jeffrey McIntyre at jmcintyre@avlf.org or 678-681-6002.

The Opportunity to be an Advocate and Counselor through the Saturday Lawyer Program

By: Jonathan D. Olinger, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP

I have always known that I wanted my legal career to include a robust pro bono practice. I knew that it would provide me with exposure to a variety of legal issues and opportunities that I would not have if I focused only on my intellectual property practice. Further, I view pro bono work as an opportunity to gain quality advocacy experience at a young age.

My firm, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, has maintained a long-standing relationship with the Atlanta Volunteer



due to landlord's failure to make repairs.

o AVLF volunteer Matt Montaigne, of Alston and Bird, obtained judgments of \$800 and \$1,200 for two AVLF clients whose security deposits were illegally withheld.

o AVLF Volunteer attorneys Knox Withers and Sean Fogarty, of Arnall Golden Gregory, obtained a \$4,500 judgment on behalf of an AVLF client who was defrauded by a auto dealership that sold him a faulty car, refused to deliver title, then disappeared.

o Volunteer David Kuklewicz, Alston & Bird, LLP, obtained a judgment for \$683 to compensate an AVLF client for her increased utility costs resulting from her landlord's repeated refusal to repair her AC unit.

o AVLF Volunteer, John Allen, celebrates the adoption out of foster care of his 2 year old client by a great aunt.AVLF

o AVLF Volunteer attorneys Knox Withers and Sean Fogarty, of Arnall Golden Gregory, obtained a \$4,500 judgment on behalf of an AVLF client who was defrauded by a auto dealership that sold him a faulty car, refused to deliver title, then disappeared.

o With both delicacy and determination, DLA Piper's Franklin Trapp, with Kimberly Middleton, won a TPO for a loving aunt on behalf of her 11-yr. old nephew.

Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) and its Saturday Lawyer Program. My colleagues had nothing but positive things to say about the program and told me that it would be a great way to get the pro bono work that I have been looking for.

Prior to my scheduled Saturday, Michael Lucas, an attorney at AVLF, provided me with a brief summary of the Saturday Lawyer Program and a handbook describing the primary types of disputes handled by the program. These resources were a great help, because I was initially apprehensive about advocating for a client in an area of law in which I have little or no experience. The materials were thorough and straightforward, and provided me with a great wealth of information about the legal issues I would be asked to handle.

When I arrived, I was informed that I would be interviewing, and possibly representing, a couple that had a landlord/tenant dispute. I read over the file and it immediately became apparent that these individuals were in need of legal representation. Upon moving into their rental home, my clients immediately noticed that the house they were renting was in need of several repairs, including substantial repairs to the home's plumbing system. The plumbing problems were so bad that my clients were unable to wash their clothes or use the home's only bathroom.

I anticipated that my primary task in working with them would be to provide them with information about their right to demand immediate repairs, their ability to reduce their rental payments to compensate for any repairs they made themselves, and the possibility of asserting a defense of constructive eviction should they choose to vacate the home. I was also prepared to volunteer to be an advocate for them and to negotiate a mutually agreeable outcome with their landlord.

Read the article in its entirety [here](#).

The Reward Of Serving As A Saturday Lawyer Through AVLF

By: Jeffrey Blake, Partner, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP



My practice as an intellectual property attorney provides the opportunity to work on a variety of legal matters, but few opportunities are as rewarding as working in the Saturday Lawyer Program sponsored by the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF). Atlanta's legal community has a rich tradition of participation in pro bono matters, and AVLF is at the center of that tradition. The AVLF Saturday staff -- Michael Lucas, Tamara Caldas, Dionne Hines Morse, Tamara McClendon-Coleman, and

JoQuita Etchison - all devote countless hours to AVLF's various pro bono projects and helping those in need.

Save the Date for the 20th Annual Winetasting!

AVLF is seeking donations for our first silent auction which will premiere at this year's Winetasting. To make a donation or for additional information, please contact Monique Henderson: mhenderson@avlf.org, or 404.521.3319

Thanks to our Funders!

AVLF would like to thank the following funders for their ongoing commitment and support of the Foundation:

- Fulton County Human Services
- Atlanta Bar Foundation
- Georgia Bar Foundation
- Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation
- Hedge Fund Cares Foundation
- Lawyers Foundation of Georgia
- Georgia Dept. of Human Services PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families)

Funding of the domestic violence project and Safe Families Office provided in part by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Housing and Human Services Department's Grant Program.

Quick Links

[Join Us on FaceBook](#)

One of the AVLF's most successful projects is the Saturday Lawyer Program, which is jointly sponsored by the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. I recently served as a volunteer Saturday Lawyer for a second time, and I'm a better lawyer for the experience. The AVLF staff members do a great job establishing a relationship with new clients and pre-screening them to determine the nature of their legal problems. Volunteer attorneys arrive on Saturday morning to a helpful training session and a chance to review the file of information gathered by the AVLF staff during pre-screening. Each volunteer attorney then meets with one or two clients with legal issues ranging from security deposit disputes to unpaid wages to illegal evictions. These meetings offer clients a chance to tell their story, which often is the thing clients need most, and allow the volunteer attorney to explain the available legal options and potential next steps in enforcing the clients' legal rights.

Once the legal options are discussed, a volunteer attorney determines if it makes sense for him or her to continue working with a client to pursue a matter on a pro bono basis. AVLF does not push volunteer attorneys to take the cases beyond their Saturday commitment, but most attorneys establish a rapport with a client that makes them want to take the case.

On the Saturday I volunteered, I was assigned to meet with Mr. C about his dispute with his landlord over the condition of his leased apartment. Mr. C and a roommate leased a two-bedroom apartment only to find the apartment in disrepair from the time they moved in and through the lease. Mr. C and his roommate reported numerous problems to the landlord, including backups in the sewage, excessive mold in the apartment, and non-functioning heating and air conditioning units. The landlord made very little effort to fix these problems, and Mr. C was forced to live in substandard conditions for much of the term of the lease. To make matters worse, Mr. C's roommate moved out of the apartment during the middle of the lease.

Read this article in its entirety by [clicking here](#).

Join GAP for Casino de jure!

Join the Georgia Association of Paralegals ("GAP") for the 1st Annual black tie fundraising and awards event.

Saturday, June 18, 2011
7:00pm - 11:00pm
Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Rotunda Ballroom
6205 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30328

**A portion of proceeds to benefit AVLF*

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[View Photos from the 19th Annual Winetasting](#)

Contact Us:

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

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Suite 1750

Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: (404)521.0790

Fax: (404)521.3434

www.AVLF.org

Help AVLF Continue to Provide Free Legal Assistance to Metro Atlanta Residents!

Now more than ever, AVLF depends on the in-kind and financial contributions from friends of the Foundation like you. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us continue to provide FREE legal services and programs for our community's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you!

\$15.00

\$50.00

\$100.00

\$250.00

Save the date! CASINO de jure™

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Casino de jure
Saturday, June 18, 2011
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Rotunda Ballroom
6205 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30328

Join The Georgia Association of Paralegals, "GAP", for our 1st annual black tie fundraising and awards event as we bring the fun and excitement of a Las Vegas casino to Atlanta!

Email president@gaparalegal.org
For Sponsorship Information

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GAP

Email: president@gaparalegal.org for additional information
www.gaparalegal.org

AVLF would like to thank the following volunteers for their service during the month of April:

Domestic Violence Project

Jimmy Russert, DLA Piper
Franklin Trapp, DLA Piper
Steven Cayton, Esq.
Prof. Clark Cunningham, Georgia State University School of Law
C. Knox Withers, Esq., Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
James Gober, Esq., Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
Sarah Madden, Esq.
David Tanner, Esq.
Nigel Hunter, Esq.
Ben Bish, John Marshall Law School
Jessica Felfoldi, Emory University School of Law
Rebecca Tam, Georgia State University School of Law

SLP (Saturday Morning Volunteer and/or Accepted Case(s) for Representation)

Sumeet Shah, Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter

James Clifton, Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter
 Reena Patel , Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter
 Taylor Davis, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi
 Meredith Whigham, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi
 Clark Wilson, Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter

Justin Meeks, Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter
 Eugene Fuller, Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter
 Reggie Lampkin, Florida Coastal School of Law - Atlanta Alumni Chapter
 Jen Fease, King & Spalding
 Dawn Edwards, King & Spalding
 Katie Bates, King & Spalding
 Nick Bates, The Weinberg Wheeler Firm
 Jim Long, Long & Holder
 Mary Ann Korre, Attorney at Law
 Christina Calloway, Attorney at Law
 Angela Wilson, Parks IP Law, LLC
 Rebecca McFadyen, Ballard Spahr
 Jason Grier, Ballard Spahr
 Sheila Cogan, Ballard Spahr
 Joseph Anderson, Ballard Spahr
 Jane Warring, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi
 Chris Armor, Armor Law

Eviction Defense

Trenton Ward, Troutman Sanders
 Alison Grounds, Troutman Sanders
 Chelsey McLeod, King & Spalding
 Trinity Townsend, King & Spalding
 Sarah Statz, King & Spalding
 Mary Williamson, King & Spalding
 Mark Cohen, Troutman Sanders
 Natalie Sacha, Troutman Sanders
 Madaline Harrison, Troutman Sanders

This year the Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care Event, sponsored by The Atlanta Bar Association LRIS and the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation was held on Tuesday May 3, 2011 in the Law Library of the Fulton County Courthouse. Thirteen attorney and seven paralegal volunteers executed 33 Advanced Health Care Directives for Superior Court employees as well as the Justice System Departments including the DA, PD, Sheriff, Solicitor General, Juvenile, Magistrate, Probate and State Court Administrators.

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Marie Campbell, | Kilpatrick Townsend |
| Patrick Norris | Hoffman and Assoc. |
| David Reed | Sutherland |
| Tresa Jennings | Clark University |
| Hamida Jackson-Little | Law Offices of HJ Little, P.C. |
| Sheila Howard | |
| K. Paezle' Harris, RP, CP | Cox Communications, President, Georgia Association of Paralegals |
| Audrea Finlay | |

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Julie Child | McLain & Merritt, PC |
| Jodi Mount | Atlanta Legal Aid |
| Jim Johnson | |
| Morgan Clemons | |
| Todd Larsen | The Larsen Firm, LLC |
| JoAnne Canchola | Troutman Sanders |
| Tamika Johnson | Johnson Law Practice |
| Tim Curtin | Curtin Law Firm, P.C. |
| Michelle Harris | Arnall Golden Gregory LLP |
| Michael Bauer | Law Office of Michael R. Bauer, LLC |
| Rakesh Parekh | |

About AVL: *The Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) coordinates the provision of free civil legal services for low-income greater Atlanta residents by private lawyers. In 2009, AVLF advised more than 28,500 callers and secured representation or other forms of legal information and support for more than 2,500 eligible clients through volunteer attorneys.*

Yours in service,

Monique Henderson

Development Director

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation