



Chief Justice Harold D. Melton

CHAIR

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Chief Justice Harold Melton was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Governor Sonny Perdue on July 1, 2005. Prior to joining the Court, Justice Melton served as Executive Counsel to Governor Perdue. Before that, he 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.

Justice Melton received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1991. He serves on the Board of Atlanta Youth Academies and is on the local and national board for Young Life youth ministry. A native of Washington, D.C., Justice Melton currently resides in Atlanta with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children.



Sally Q. Yates

MODERATOR

Former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates is a partner in King & Spalding's Special Matters & Government Investigations practice. Sally's deep experience, leadership and wide-ranging background provide clients with seasoned judgment in difficult times. Her practice focuses on counseling clients in complex and sensitive matters, including government enforcement and regulatory matters, congressional investigations, compliance, corporate governance and crisis management. Drawing upon her nearly three decades at the Department of Justice, she specializes in internal and independent investigations for public and private organizations and boards.

As the second-highest ranking official at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and as Acting Attorney General, Sally was responsible for all of DOJ's 113,000 employees including all prosecutorial, litigating, and national security components. She also was responsible for all U.S. Attorney's offices and law enforcement agencies and the Bureau of Prisons. Sally oversaw DOJ's most significant matters and was instrumental in setting DOJ's enforcement priorities and initiatives.

An accomplished trial lawyer and Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, Sally has tried numerous high-profile cases.



Robin Frazer Clark

Robin Frazer Clark is the owner and founder of the law firm of Robin Frazer Clark, P.C., and has practiced law in Georgia for 32 years. Ms. Clark devotes her practice exclusively to plaintiff's personal injury. She has tried over 75 jury trials and has argued before Georgia appellate courts over 40 times. Her motto is "A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats." Ms. Clark is the co-host of the podcast "*See You In Court.*"

Ms. Clark was sworn in as the Fiftieth President of the State Bar of Georgia on June 2, 2012, only the second woman ever to serve as President of the State Bar of Georgia and served as President of the 45,000-member association in 2012-2013. One of Ms. Clark's initiatives she created while President is the State Bar's Suicide Prevention Campaign, "*How to Save a Life.*" As President of the State Bar, she had 162 articles published in 84 different publications, with a total circulation of 3,122,569. Ms. Clark is also a Past President of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (**GTLA**), also only the second woman in the organization's history to lead **GTLA**. Ms. Clark is a Past President of The Lawyers Club of Atlanta (**LCA**), in which she has been a member for over 29 years. Ms. Clark is the only person ever to have served as President of all three of those professional associations, the State Bar of Georgia, GTLA and Lawyers Club of Atlanta. Ms. Clark is a Fellow and Board Member of the International Society of Barristers (**ISOB**) whose membership is by invitation only and which is dedicated to the preservation of trial by jury, the adversary system and an independent judiciary.

Ms. Clark has testified extensively before the Georgia General Assembly on issues as far ranging as the discriminatory effect of caps on damages, the detrimental impact of the proposed elimination of vicarious liability in Georgia, the Juvenile Justice Reform Legislation, signed into law in 2013 by Governor Deal, and the elimination of the assignability of legal malpractice claims. Ms. Clark served on the Georgia General Assembly Bicameral Evidence Code Committee that was responsible for drafting the Georgia Evidence Code that was passed and signed into law in 2011 and went into effect in January 2013.

Ms. Clark received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Vanderbilt University in 1985 and received her Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law in 1988. Ms. Clark is married to Georgia lawyer William T. Clark. They have two children, Chastain "Chaz", age 26, and Alexandria "Alex", age 23. Ms. Clark is a member of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church. She is an avid golfer, carrying a 19 handicap.



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Alex E. Crosby, MD, MPH

Dr. Alex E. Crosby, MD, MPH currently serves as the Senior Medical Advisor in the Division of Injury Prevention in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His work involves descriptive and analytic research and community technical assistance in the prevention of self-directed violence, interpersonal violence among adolescents, firearm-related injuries, and assault among minorities.

Dr. Crosby was raised in Detroit, Michigan. He is the son of Emeral and Corene Crosby and is a husband and father of four children. He graduated with a BA in chemistry from Fisk University, an MD from Howard University's School of Medicine, and an MPH in health administration and management from Emory University's School of Public Health. He completed training programs in Family Medicine then General Preventive Medicine and Public Health and epidemiology. He has responded to numerous public health emergencies and led investigative teams, addressing adolescent suicide clusters, civil unrest, school-associated violence, sniper attacks, firearm-related injuries due to celebratory shooting, Hurricane Rita, and Ebola. He has authored or co-authored over 125 publications. His work as a medical epidemiologist focuses on prevention of suicidal behavior, child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, interpersonal violence among adolescents, and assault injuries among minorities.



Lynn S. Garson

Lynn S. Garson serves as Counsel in the Atlanta office of Baker Hostetler. Lynn Garson practices healthcare law at Baker & Hostetler in the firm's Atlanta office. Ms. Garson's areas of expertise include physician practice acquisitions, employment and related agreements, and regulatory research.

Lynn is also a mental health advocate and author. In July 2012, she published *Southern Vapors*, a memoir describing her journey from major clinical depression to recovery, and has since spoken widely, including a TEDx Emory talk: "Reforming the Approach to Mental Health in the U.S." and made numerous presentations to private and public organizations including the American Bar

Association, local Bar associations, American Health Lawyers Association and a number of law schools.

Committees and Memberships:

- Chairperson of the Lawyers Assistance Program of the State Bar of Georgia
- Co-chair of BakerHostetler Atlanta Wellness Committee
- Member of American Bar Association Wellness Committee
- Member of Wellbeing Pledge Commitment Subcommittee of ABA Wellness Committee
- Member of Wellness Committee of the State Bar of Georgia
- Member of Mental Health Subcommittee of the Wellness Committee of the State Bar of Georgia
- Member of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee

Podcasts:

American Bar Association (as guest):

- <https://soundcloud.com/aba-colap/aba-colap-voices-of-recovery-podcast-series-episode-10-featuring-lynn-garson> (as interviewee)
- <https://www.law.com/2018/10/12/one-big-law-attorneys-journey-with-depression-one-firms-response-to-the-professions-problem/> (as interviewee)

State Bar of Georgia (as host)

- <https://soundcloud.com/statebarofga>

Video:

- 2019 ABA-produced video, <http://ambar.org/SpeakoutEndStigma>.

Publications (Partial List):

- Article published in Georgia Bar Journal (October 2020), "Help is out There," <http://digitaleditions.walsworthprintgroup.com/publication/?m=15035&i=676718&p=64>
- Article published in Mad in America (February 2017), [Southern Vapors: A Comeback Story Not Born of Chemistry](#)
- Article published in ABA Law Practice Today Magazine (June 2016), "Time to Speak Up for the Next Generation," <http://www.lawpracticetoday.org/article/time-speak-next-generation/>



R. Javoyne Hicks

R. Javoyne Hicks serves as Chair of the State Bar of Georgia Wellness Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee for Georgia State Bar's Board of Governors. Over the last several years Ms. Hicks has been committed to promoting the importance of wellness on all levels--physical, mental, social and financial. She has served as a speaker for several organizations, as a panel member and presenter for numerous continuing legal education classes. She helped develop the State Bar of Georgia's first Wellness and Practical Skills 12 hour Continuing Legal Education Seminar.

In her regular capacity, she serves as the DeKalb County State and Magistrate Courts Clerk. As such, she is responsible for the management of public records for Civil Law Suits, Garnishments, Eviction Proceedings, Personal Property Foreclosures, Domestic Violence Hearings, Traffic Violations, Ordinance Violations and Criminal Misdemeanor cases in DeKalb County, Georgia. Prior to coming to the Clerk's Office, Ms. Hicks served DeKalb County as the Deputy Chief Assistant Solicitor-General in charge of the Diversion Programs for the Solicitor-General's Office. She supervised and expanded the operations of several Diversion Programs designed to give first time and youthful offenders and those with special circumstances a second chance at opportunities to avoid criminal prosecution.

Ms. Hicks returned to DeKalb County after serving the federal government as the Chief of Staff of the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4. She oversaw the different offices in the 8 states of the southeast including Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. As the Chief of Staff, Ms. Hicks implemented high level policy decisions, community engagement initiatives and executed organizational processes to help facilitate the Region's high-caliber technical, financial, legal and administrative performance. Ms. Hicks focused on Environmental Justice and Sustainability and led the Region in its ability to meet critical deadlines while managing the overall health and maintenance of the organization and its people.

Prior to embarking on her environmental career, Ms. Hicks worked as a prosecutor for more than 17 years. She served as the Acting District Attorney and the Chief Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb County, Georgia. She managed the office's domestic violence/sexual assault units, elder abuse, white collar crime division, drug court, a pre-trial diversion program, the grand jury and the office's juvenile court unit. She also supervised the child support unit, support staff and oversaw the development and implementation of office policies and procedures, human resources and the budget.

Ms. Hicks also served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Georgia Attorney General's Office and as an Associate Magistrate in DeKalb County. She served as an Assistant District Attorney in three judicial circuits in Georgia. Ms. Hicks is a past president of the DeKalb Bar Association and served on the boards of Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and Leadership Georgia. She presently serves as a member of the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors.

Ms. Hicks is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned her undergraduate and law degrees. She is also the proud mom of two daughters, Victoria and Sydney.



Rachael Holloman, MS, LPC

Rachael Holloman currently works for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities as the Suicide Prevention Director and previously worked for DBHDD as the Transition Coordinator for Residential Services in the Region 4 Field Office in Thomasville, Georgia, since 2016. She has a Master’s Degree in Clinical/Counseling Psychology and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She has been providing services in the field of Behavioral Health for almost 15 years. Some of her past experience includes supervising a Community Support Team in rural communities, providing leadership as the Mental Health Director of a DJJ Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC), supervising an Intensive Family Intervention (IFI) team, as well as providing services in a private capacity for individuals involved with DJJ and DFCS, and assisting rural farmers in understanding, applying for, and receiving much needed grant funding following natural disasters.

Rachael has spent her entire life both living and working in rural communities in Georgia, especially South Georgia. Rural mental health services and suicide prevention services are passions of hers.



Ben Hunter, MD

Dr. Ben Hunter is Medical Director of Professional Services. In this role, Dr. Hunter manages psychiatric services, psychological testing, adult family therapy services, transcranial magnetic stimulation services, and the Glenn Family Wellness Clinic.

Dr. Hunter joined Skyland Trail as Medical Director of Outpatient Services in 2016. Dr. Hunter completed his medical training at Emory University followed by psychiatric residency at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as chief resident during his final year. Additionally, Dr. Hunter completed fellowships in psychoanalysis through the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia and organizational psychiatry with the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry. During his training, he received numerous distinctions including the University of Pennsylvania’s Laughlin Foundation Award for outstanding professional achievement as well as the Kenneth D. Cohen Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Award.

Dr. Hunter’s career in healthcare has been informed by lifelong involvement in team sports. Following an All-American baseball career at Wake Forest University and selection in the Major League Baseball draft, he ultimately decided that medicine was his calling. Dr. Hunter continues to share his athletic passion by advocating for healthy lifestyle as a critical element of physical and emotional wellbeing.



Eric C. Lang

Eric C. Lang has practiced law in Atlanta since 1990, primarily in the areas of business litigation and counseling. In his early career, he was a partner at Long Aldridge & Norman (n/k/a Dentons) and Counsel at Paul Hastings. During these “big firm” years, his kitchen sink of cases included disputes over weapons sales from China, various lawsuits concerning WorldCom, and a nationwide class action regarding bass fishing, as well as many traditional business controversies. He opened his own practice in 2003, where he continued to be involved in the sorts of cases that garner news coverage (e.g. a claim by a former law firm partner for an unpaid share of a contingency fee, in which former Attorney General Michael Bowers was the lead witness for the defense) or made new law (such as the 2011 case which defined the relationship between an exclusivity provision and an estoppel certificate). He was also able to devote time to smaller disputes and the needs of individual clients.

In 2012, against a background of undiagnosed (and untreated) bipolar disorder and unfortunate unethical activity, he attempted to take his own life. Following that, he received and still receives the appropriate care, and could not practice law until his recovery was demonstrated to the Georgia Supreme Court. That happened in 2015. Since then he has rebuilt his practice in a way that is consistent with his self-awareness of his own mental health. With the support of the clients he represented and lawyers who referred him business from before the time his issues manifested, he has rebuilt that practice. He is back to trying cases (including a one-week securities trial in Delaware), as well as bringing (and settling) other complex matters.

The intersection of mental health issues and the practice of law has been a focus of Mr. Lang’s since his return. He writes and speaks about the subject frequently. He has spoken to many statewide judicial gatherings, and has traveled around Georgia to discuss this subject with a number of local and subject matter bar associations. He is honored and proud to be included in these efforts to defeat the stigma attached to mental health issues. Please reach out to him at elang@langlegal.com to discuss any of the issues from today’s panel in greater depth.



Judge William "Bill" Reinhardt

Judge Bill Reinhardt currently serves as Chief Judge of the Superior Courts for the Tifton Judicial Circuit. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from UGA, was in private practice for 16 sixteen years, and was elected to the superior court bench in 2006.



Mark A. Swancutt, MD, PhD, DTM&H

Dr. Mark A. Swancutt is currently a staff physician for the Fulton County Board of Health Respiratory (Tuberculosis) Clinic. He is the Deputy Area Commander and also the Safety Officer for the Unified Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (AFCEMA) COVID-19 Pandemic Response.

A native of Dallas, Texas, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan in 1982. It was at an undergraduate course in 1980 that he realized that he wanted to be a microbiologist and infectious disease physician. He has been reading and studying about the history of plagues and pandemics ever since. He went on to attend the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center where he earned his MD and also earned his PhD in Microbiology in 1991. Dr. Swancutt moved to San Diego to do his residency in Internal Medicine and his fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Diego. After completion of training, he served on the faculty at UCSD and the San Diego VA as a clinician, researcher and teacher until 2005 and was the associate director of the clinical microbiology laboratory, the medical director of antibiotic stewardship, and the director of the infectious disease clinic.

He moved back to Dallas in 2005 to University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center where he was the course director for medical microbiology for medical students, an infectious disease faculty member, and the infectious disease clinic director. He has extensive experience treating tuberculosis and related conditions, fungal infections, HIV, transplant infectious diseases, antibiotic use, and other general infectious diseases. He was Interim Director of the Division of Infectious Disease for 3.5 years.

He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He received his Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) from the Gorgas Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine in Lima, Perú. He has further certifications in Travel and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Swancutt has worked as a clinician, researcher, and teacher with US and international students and colleagues in Perú, Bolivia, and Haiti. He was invited to teach international students in the Gorgas Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine. He split time living in Dallas and Lima in this period. He has active medical licenses in California, Texas, and Georgia.

His interest in emergency preparedness is long-term. He worked in hospital-based emergency preparedness at UCSD and the San Diego VA after the 2011 anthrax attacks and in emergency preparedness for Ebola in Dallas in 2014. In Atlanta, he has been involved in emergency preparedness at the Fulton County Board of Health and is on the steering committee of the Fulton Medical Reserve Corps since 2018.

Dr. Swancutt moved to Atlanta in 2016 when his wife, Dr. Jessica Ricaldi, received a position at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She works in tuberculosis research; she has worked on Zika outbreak response and has now been detailed to work on COVID-19 response.



Judge Wesley B. “Wes” Tailor

Judge Wesley B. Tailor has served on the State Court of Fulton County since 2010. Wes serves as President of the Executive Committee of the Council of State Court Judges and member of the Judicial Council of Georgia until July 2021.

Wes began his legal career in 1999 as a litigation attorney with Troutman Sanders LLP. Wes then served as a prosecutor in the Office of the Solicitor-General for DeKalb County. Wes then served as General Counsel to the Georgia Secretary of State, Director of Elections for the State of Georgia, and Assistant Secretary of State.

Wes graduated *summa cum laude* and Order of the Coif from the University of Kentucky School of Law, where he was Associate Editor of the *Kentucky Law Journal* and served on the Honor Council.