

GEORGIA BAR  
**JOURNAL**

From the President:  
The Value of Mentorship

Mentoring Matters

Labor & Employment  
Law Section's  
Mentorship Academy:  
Stronger Than Ever

When a Timeline is  
Worth a Thousand  
Words



THE LEGAL

**To Respond or Not to Respond?  
Confidentiality and Defending  
Against Online Critics**

# 2021 Law School Orientations on Professionalism

The Commission thanks all of the lawyers and judges, including the 138 lawyers and judges who served as group leaders for helping to make the 2021 Law School Orientations on Professionalism a great success!

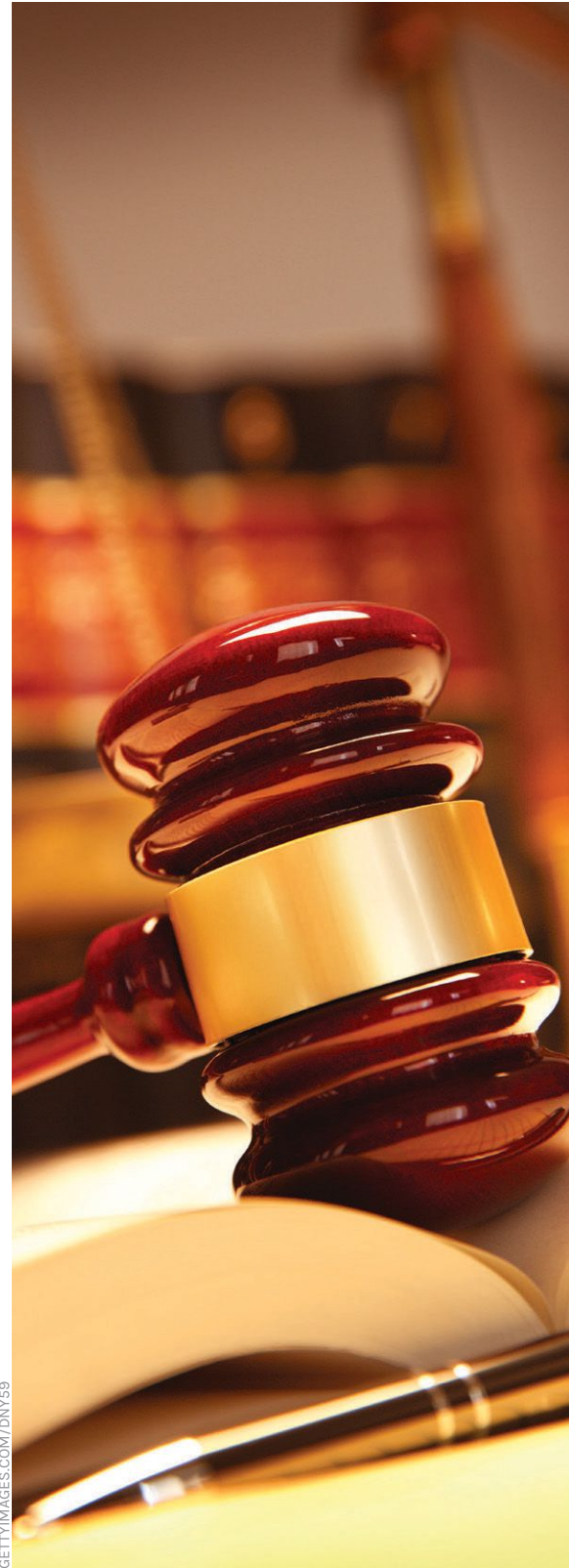
BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

Each year, the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism conduct a professionalism orientation at every law school in Georgia. This year, 2021, marked the 29th year of the program. The orientations are designed to provide incoming 1Ls with their first introduction to professionalism. As part of the orientations, schools also invited distinguished lawyers or judges to provide professionalism remarks during a plenary session and to administer a professionalism or honor code oath to the students.

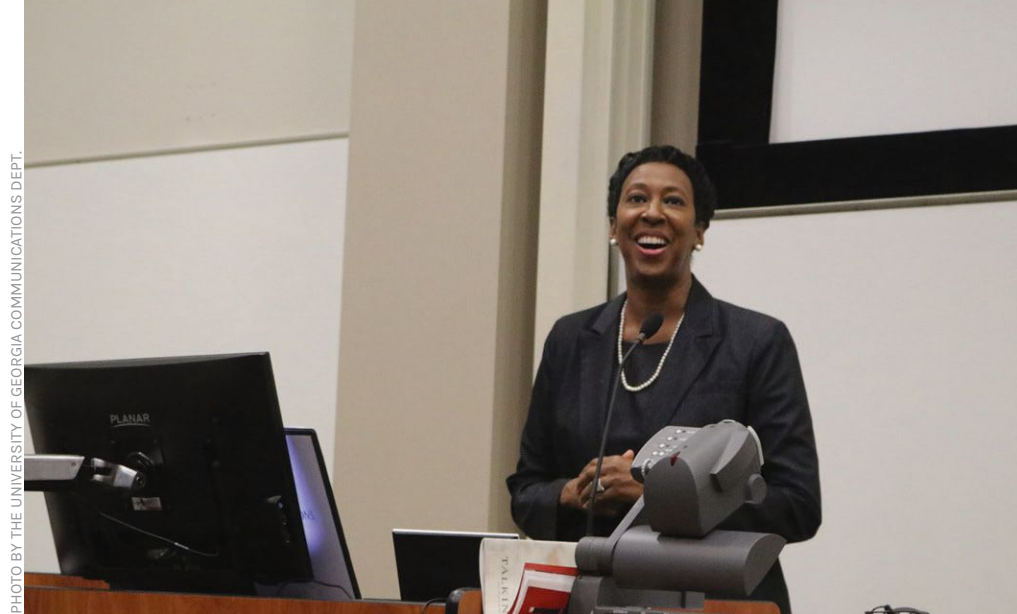
Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Michael Herskowitz, who chairs the State Bar subcommittee that organizes the orientations, explained why he volunteers, "Professionalism in the legal field should be embodied from the first day of law school—onwards. That is why I am proud to serve in a leadership role on the Professionalism Committee and work with new law students through-

out the state of Georgia to illustrate the importance of professionalism and integrity in the practice of law," he observed.

Although Chief Justice David E. Nahmias' schedule did not permit him to serve as a 2021 group leader, in a letter to the students he shared: "Over the years, I have enjoyed serving as a group leader at several Professionalism Orientations. I truly believe that judges and lawyers need to emphasize the importance of professionalism to law students from the very start of your legal careers to help you avoid disciplinary issues, but even more to teach that you are part of a professional community. You are now a member of your law school community, and you will eventually be a member of the Bar. You will often interact with one another in stressful, chaotic environments that are designed to be adversarial. But you should never put aside the moral compass that you brought with you to law school or forget that we are all colleagues in a noble profession."



GETTYIMAGES.COM/DNY59



Justice Verda M. Colvin addresses students at the University of Georgia School of Law.

State Bar of Georgia President Elizabeth L. Fite, shared in a letter she wrote to the students:

“Beginning with your first moments as a law student, it is important that you establish solid professional and social relationships with your classmates because this is one of the foundational elements of professionalism. While you may not realize it yet, the relationships that you establish with your peers will benefit you throughout your entire professional life. The persons who now share your classroom space will be your professional colleagues once you formally enter the practice of law. Whether you decide to practice law in Georgia or not, the reputation that you build among your classmates will follow you into your professional pursuits.”

Three of the justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia administered professionalism oaths to the students. Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua returned to her alma mater, Georgia State University College of Law, to give brief remarks and administer the professionalism oath. During her remarks, Justice LaGrua highlighted the importance of developing professional friendships with other lawyers. She also talked to students about the significance of developing their professional identity at the start of their law school careers. Students at the University of Georgia School of Law also had an opportunity to hear from one of their alumna, Justice Verda M. Colvin. Justice Colvin told students: “From today, your first day of law



State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism chair and repeat volunteer Josh Bosin (podium) addresses a group of Georgia State College of Law students.



Justice Carla Wong McMillian virtually administered the professionalism oath to Emory University School of Law students.





Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrúa served as a keynote speaker for law students at Georgia State University College of Law.



Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism member and first-time volunteer Francys Johnson spends time with students at the University of Georgia School of Law.

school and for the rest of your life after obtaining your license to practice law, you represent the legal profession for the good and hopefully never for the bad." She also told students no matter your background, demographic, philosophical, political or religious beliefs, you are citizens that have a special responsibility for the quality of justice. "The quality of justice will rest in your hands as our future legal minds and scholars," she said. Justice Carla Wong McMillian, although not an alumna, administered the professionalism oath at the Emory University School of Law. During her remarks to the students, Justice McMillian summarized professionalism as encompassing the 4 C's: competence, character, civility and commitment to the public good.

The heart of the professionalism orientation is the breakout session, during which Georgia lawyers and judges serve

as group leaders and guide students through a discussion of several hypothetical problems. The hypothetical problems are designed to highlight professionalism challenges the students might face in law school or in legal practice. During the 2021 professionalism orientations, all but one of the law schools used hypothetical problems developed by a team of lawyers, judges, law school professors and administrators, and law students, who volunteered with the law school orientations subcommittee of the State Bar's Committee on Professionalism. The volunteer lawyers and judges who served as group leaders attended a training to discuss the hypothetical problems and the relevant professionalism concepts before facilitating the discussion with the students.

While the professionalism orientations have traditionally been conducted in

person, this year both Emory University and Atlanta's John Marshall Law School held their professionalism orientations virtually for a second year. It is always exciting to see volunteers who return each year, such as Joshua I. Bosin, chair of the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, and volunteers who participate for the first time, such as Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism member Francys Johnson. The Commission thanks all of the lawyers and judges, including the 138 lawyers and judges who served as group leaders for helping to make the 2021 Law School Orientations on Professionalism a great success! ●



**Karlise Y. Grier**

Executive Director  
*Chief Justice's Commission  
 on Professionalism*  
 kygrier@cjcpga.org

---

# 2021 Law School Orientation on Professionalism Group Leader Volunteers

---

David Addleton	Ramona Condell	Francys Johnson	Bob Norman
Kimberly Aiken	Lawrence Cooper	Eric Johnson	Benjamin Pearlman
Denise Allen	Michael Cross	Carole Jones	Jonathan Pierce
Crighton Allen	Willie Davis	Beth Jones	Polly Price
Amber Arnette	Theodore Davis	Kendall Kerew	Megan Pulsts
Robert Arrington	J. Anderson Davis	Erin King	Kristen Quinton
Bryan Babcock	Luke Donohue	Deborah Krotenberg	Maurice Riden
Spenser Berrios	Ashley Drake	David Krugler	Mark Rogers
Jamal Bethune	Jim Elliott	Kevin Kwashnak	Jennifer Romig
Phill Bettis	David Emadi	Shawn LaGrua	Sana Rupani
William Black	Gary Freed	Eric Lang	Claudia Saari
Mara Block	Frank Gaddy	John Larkins	Jessica Seares
Joshua Bosin	Tiana Garner	Aimee LaTourette	Robert Smalley
Stephen Boswell	Megan Glimmerveen	Brittany Lavalley	Robert Smith
Charles Bowen	Mindy Goldstein	Robert Lavender	Matthew Stoddard
Eric Brewton	Karlise Grier	Thomas Lavender	Meg Strickler
Suzette Broderick	Tom Griner	Katherine Lumsden	Donald Suesssmith
Dean Bucci	James Hays	Alexander Lurey	Henry Tharpe
Brian Burgoon	Beau Hays	Corey Martin	John Thielman
James Butler	Adam L. Hebbard	Nicole Massiah	Torin Togut
Scott Cahalan	Michael Herskowitz	Kevin Maxim	Zack Tumlin
James Carlson	Corey Hirokawa	David McCain	Priscilla Upshaw
Vanessa Carroll	Elizabeth Hodges	Ruth McMullin	Randee Waldman
J. Wickliffe Cauthorn	Stephen Hodges	Michael Melonakos	Thomas Walker
Christopher Chan	David Hoort	Eleanor Mixon Attwood	Kathleen Wasch
David Cheng	Jennifer Hubbard	Leighton Moore	Julayaun Waters
Antoinette Clarington	Shukura Ingram	Ron Mullins	Maria Waters
Lara Ortega Clark	Deborah Jackson	Trish Murphy	Stephen Weyer
Valerie Cochran	Philip Jackson	Bill NeSmith	
Darryl Cohen	LeRoy Jennings	Titus Nichols	

---

# 2021 Law School Orientation on Professionalism Keynote Speakers

---

**Atlanta's John Marshall Law School**  
Judge Eric Richardson

**Emory University School of Law**  
Nora Benavidez  
Justice Carla Wong McMillian  
(Administration of Professionalism Oath)

**Georgia State University  
College of Law**  
Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua

**Mercer University School of Law**  
Judge Sarah S. Harris

**University of Georgia School of Law**  
Justice Verda M. Colvin