

DECEMBER 17, 2021
DESIGNATED ATTORNEY
FELLOWSHIP & CLE
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



CHIEF JUSTICE DAVID E. NAHMIAS



Chief Justice David E. Nahmias (pronounced “NAH-mee-iss”) was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia in August 2009 by Governor Sonny Perdue. In November 2010, after a statewide campaign against two opponents, Chief Justice Nahmias was elected to a full six-year term on the Court. In 2016, he was re-elected to another six-year term without opposition.

The son of immigrants from Egypt and Germany, Chief Justice Nahmias was born in Atlanta on September 11, 1964. He attended Briarcliff High School in DeKalb County and was the state’s STAR student in 1982. He attended Duke University, where he graduated second in his class and summa cum laude, and Harvard Law School, where he graduated magna cum laude and was a classmate of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and an editor of the Harvard Law Review along with former President Barack Obama. Chief Justice Nahmias then served as a law clerk for Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia and for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court.

After practicing with a large law firm in Washington, D.C., in 1995 Chief Justice Nahmias joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Atlanta. As a federal prosecutor, he worked extensively on the investigation of the Centennial Olympic Park and subsequent bombings committed by Eric Robert

Rudolph. He also worked on a number of major fraud and public corruption cases, including the successful prosecutions of a Georgia state senator and numerous City of Atlanta and Fulton County public officials and contractors.

Shortly after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Chief Justice Nahmias returned to Washington and became one of the Justice Department’s leading terrorism prosecutors, coordinating the investigation and prosecution of terrorist activity across the country and internationally and assisting in counter-terrorism policymaking. After being promoted to Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Chief Justice Nahmias supervised the Fraud Section, the Appellate Section, and the Capital Case Unit, in addition to the Counterterrorism Section.

On December 1, 2004, after being nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Chief Justice Nahmias returned home as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia – the chief federal law enforcement officer for the judicial district encompassing 46 counties in Northwest Georgia, including metro Atlanta. He served as U.S. Attorney for almost five years before his appointment to the bench, overseeing many major cases including the successful prosecutions of former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, the three Atlanta Police narcotics officers who conspired to violate civil rights by falsifying search warrants, resulting in the police shooting death of 92-year old Kathryn Johnston, and the first Georgians convicted of providing material support to international terrorism.

Chief Justice Nahmias has received numerous local, state, and national awards and honors for his public service. He has served on several committees and boards related to improving the legal system and the community. His wife, Catherine O’Neil, was a partner at King & Spalding and also a former federal prosecutor and senior Justice Department official. She passed away in 2017. Chief Justice Nahmias has two teenage sons.

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TERRICA REDFIELD GANZY



Terrica Redfield Ganzy is the Southern Center for Human Rights' (SCHR) Deputy Director, where she elevates SCHR's mission through public speaking, writing, and community engagement, assists the executive director with coordination of SCHR's strategy and programs, designs and leads SCHR's development strategy and development team, and builds strategic partnerships.

Prior to becoming SCHR's Deputy Director, Terrica was SCHR's Development Director for four years and a Staff Attorney in SCHR's Capital Litigation Unit for nine years, where her work focused on representing clients on death row in Georgia and Alabama. For five years, she also served as the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) Death Penalty Resource Counsel, providing training and resources to capital defense attorneys throughout the nation.

Terrica received her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and an LL.M. in trial advocacy from Temple University Beasley School of Law. She received a B.A. in English and Humanities,

summa cum laude, from Tougaloo College. She received a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Social Enterprise from Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Public Policy. She is admitted to practice law in North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of Georgia, and the United States Supreme Court.

Terrica is a member of Leadership Atlanta Class of 2022, a graduate of Leadership Clayton, a member of the 2015 Class of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits' High Potential Diverse Leaders, a 2014 New Leaders Council Fellow, and a graduate of Georgia's WIN List's Leadership Academy. She serves as Vice-President of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation's Board of Directors, as Mentoring Co-Chair for the Atlanta Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and as Vice-President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys' (GABWA). Terrica also serves on the State Bar of Georgia's Professionalism Committee and Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Racial Bias Committee as well as the Judicial Council of Georgia's Access to Justice Committee.



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JIM HOGAN



This is Jim's 40th year in the practice of law. He is presently a partner in the firm of Hogan & Stoye in Marietta. Most of his legal career has been spent as a solo practitioner or associated with a small firm. Although Jim has practiced in a number of areas including criminal defense, personal injury, business transactions and litigation, domestic, etc., he has now settled into Wills, Probate, Estate litigation and domestic relations.

During his years of practicing law, Jim has served the community in various ways: as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate campaign for Bob Barr and Chief Counsel of the Barr for Congress Campaign; past President of the North Cobb Rotary Club; served on the Board of Directors of the Pinetree Country Club; former Chaplain of the Cobb County Bar Association; served as a Trustee, member of the Executive Committee, and as President (2019-2020) of the Cobb County Bar Association.

He is also the Founder and Director of the Cobb County Bar Association's Lawyers Helping Lawyers. Jim presently serves the

Georgia Bar in the following committees: Lawyer Assistance Committee, Member Benefits Committee, Senior Lawyers Committee, and the committee for Delivery of Legal Services in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Jim is a life-long resident of Cobb County, the oldest of 6 children, and a graduate of Sprayberry High School in Marietta. Along with other sports, Jim was an honored member of the Sprayberry High School football team and has been inducted into the Sprayberry Sports Hall of Fame. He was also awarded the Sprayberry High Football Collage Event Award, which recognizes an outstanding Alumni who has brought credit to his school and himself, while being an asset to his fellow man. Shortly after graduating, Jim entered the U.S. Army, and was assigned to the 28th Air Defense Artillery Group and Forces Command. He received an Honorable Discharge after serving his country from 1973-1976. Jim and his wife, Amy, have seven children. They are active and engaged members of the Burnt Hickory Baptist Church, where they have led Adult and Children's Sunday School Classes.



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PAULA FREDERICK



Paula Frederick is General Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia, a unified bar organization with over 52,000 members. As General Counsel Ms. Frederick is responsible for interpreting the ethics rules for lawyers, prosecuting lawyer discipline cases, and providing legal advice to the officers and directors of the organization. She has served in the Office of the General Counsel for 33 years and was Deputy General Counsel for Discipline before becoming General Counsel in 2009.

Ms. Frederick is a 1982 graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Law and a 1979 graduate of Duke University. Prior to joining the Office of the General Counsel, she spent six years as a staff attorney with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society handling civil legal matters for low-income people. Ms. Frederick is a Past President of both the Atlanta Bar Association and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys.

She is also an active member of the American Bar Association, where she serves in the House of Delegates. She is Chair of the Coordinating Council of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility and recently chaired the Standing Committee on Professional Regulation. In the past she served on the Commission on the Future of Legal Services, chaired the Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility and the ABA Diversity Center, and served as a member of the Board of Governors.

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WILLIAM GENTRY



William (Bill) Gentry has been practicing law in Georgia since 1986 and has been a member of the Cobb County Bar Association since 1988, the State Bar of Georgia since 1986, and the American Bar Association. Bill has been a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia since 2012, and he was elected to the Executive Committee of the State Bar in 2021.

For the last several years, Bill has led the Senior Lawyers Committee, which has created the Sudden Health Crisis Web Portal and worked alongside the Office of General Counsel to create a “Retired” membership status within the State Bar, among other initiatives. He also served as President of the 1,000-member Cobb County Bar Association from 2001 to 2002.

Bill is admitted to and has argued in the Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals as well as the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta. Bill is also a member of the bar of

the United States Supreme Court. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Virginia’s Economics Honors Program, where he earned his BA degree in 1981. Bill earned his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1986. He currently chairs the District Union Committee of the Central West District of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church and is a member of Maple Avenue United Methodist Church.



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MOLLY GILLIS



Molly Barrett Gillis represents individuals all over the State of Georgia. She represents victims of serious physical injury and wrongful death in cases arising from car collisions, trucking accidents, insurance bad faith, and premises liability. Molly also handles select administrative, traffic and criminal cases.

Molly started her legal career as a public servant. Over the course of her career, she has served as a prosecutor in two different circuits – the Cobb County Judicial Circuit and the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit in DeKalb County. As a prosecutor, Molly gained invaluable trial experience prosecuting felonies, as well as misdemeanors. She tried over seventy-five cases to verdict. Recognized as a zealous advocate for victims and justice, Molly worked tirelessly to right wrongs and close painful chapters of victims’ lives.

Molly also practiced at one of the Southeast’s largest insurance defense firms under one of the nation’s best and most recognized trial attorneys. There, she gained insight,

knowledge, and experience regarding how the insurance companies operate and litigate.

Molly previously served in an Of Counsel position for an Atlanta law firm that specializes in personal injury cases, as well as assisting law enforcement officers.

Molly is married to Austin Gillis, who is also her law partner. The couple has two children, Emily and Jack. The family resides near the Marietta Square with their overactive black lab, Woody. Molly’s philanthropic activities include McKenna Farms, a non-profit organization that utilizes equine therapy to assist special needs children and veterans with PTSD. In addition, Molly was named as a Woman of the Year Candidate by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and she raised over \$118,000 in ten weeks to benefit cancer patients and their families. She is honored to have been named the Lexie Clayton Community Award recipient by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, in recognition of her leadership and collaborative efforts in fundraising.



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HON. LATISHA DEAR JACKSON



The Honorable LaTisha Dear Jackson was elected as a Superior Court Judge of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit on July 24, 2018. Immediately before her election, Judge Jackson was a Senior Associate with the oldest minority owned law firm in the State of Georgia, Thomas Kennedy Sampson & Tompkins, LLP (“TKST”). There, Judge Jackson served in the litigation department defending corporate clients in medical malpractice, wrongful death, premises liability, and insurance matters. She also represented individuals in personal injury and wrongful death matters. Prior to joining TKST, Judge Jackson served as a full-time judge in the DeKalb County Recorder’s Court, where she primarily presided over traffic offenses, misdemeanors and county ordinances. From 2014-2018, Judge Jackson sat by designation in both the Superior and State Courts of DeKalb County. For over a decade, Judge Jackson served as a judge in local courts. In 2008, she made history by becoming both the first female and youngest judge to ever serve as a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Stone Mountain. In 2012, she again made history by becoming the first female Chief Municipal Court Judge in the City of Lithonia.

Prior to becoming a member of the judiciary, Judge Jackson was an attorney and counselor at law with her own law practice located in the historic City of Stone Mountain, where she specialized in all areas of juvenile law, criminal defense, family law and handled several high-profile cases. Judge Jackson has also served as an Assistant Solicitor General for DeKalb County’s Office of the Solicitor-General, where she served as a trial attorney representing the State of Georgia on various misdemeanor crimes and habeas corpus proceedings. Judge Jackson earned her Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University College of Law, where she served on the Student Bar Association, as the Second Vice-President for the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and a Who’s Who of American Law Students. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the prestigious Spelman College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Pre-law concentration) and a double minor in Management Organization and Writing.

A native of Los Angeles, California, Judge Jackson is active in numerous professional organizations. She is a current member of both the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers and Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys’ Judicial Applicant Review Committees. In 2014, Judge Jackson was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia to serve on its Access to Justice Committee, where she continually works to ensure that there is unfettered access to the courts by litigants and the public as they navigate the judicial system. She is also a member of several bar associations which include but are not limited to DeKalb Bar Association and Gate City Bar. Judge Jackson also led the DeKalb Lawyers Association where she served an unprecedented two-year term as President. Presently, Judge Jackson is the President of the State Bar of Georgia’s Judicial Section and a past president of the Georgia Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Jackson has also served as a voting member of the State’s Judicial Council. In all that she does and has accomplished thus far, Judge Jackson remains humbled, inspired and motivated to continue to seek justice because there are still so many lives left to be touched. Finally, but most importantly Judge Jackson is the proud wife of Gari B. Jackson.



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MARTIN ENRIQUE VALBUENA



I opened my solo law practice in Dallas, Georgia in 2001. I handle primarily family law and plaintiff's personal injury cases. I also handle probate matters, traffic citations, and some general civil litigation.

I am also the elected part-time Chief Magistrate Judge for Paulding County, Georgia. I was appointed to that position in September 2002. I was first elected in 2004 and have been re-elected in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. I was elected to the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia in 2004, and I was elected to the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors in 2020. I previously served as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Hiram, Georgia from September 2002 until March 2011.

Before opening my solo practice, I practiced with Blackford & Blackford in Austell from 1998 until 2001, doing primarily plaintiff's personal injury and family law. I moved to Atlanta in February 1995, and after taking the bar exam, I practiced with an insurance defense firm in Atlanta from 1995 until 1998. Before moving to Atlanta, I practiced in Dallas, Texas

in the business/commercial litigation department of a large general practice firm from 1992 until 1995. I began my law career as a law clerk for Justice Howard Kirshbaum on the Colorado Supreme Court from 1991 until 1992.

I am married to my wife, Jennifer, and we have three children who are now all out of the home (for the most part). Jennifer is an R.N. that worked for WellStar for more than twenty years. Since the pandemic began, she is now working as a Covid Compliance Officer and supervising in-house company employee health clinics. Our daughter, Kiersten, is a 2015 UGA graduate and works as a food scientist in Charlotte, N.C., where she lives with her husband and two dogs. Our older son, Andrew, is a 2021 graduate of LaGrange College, where he played on the university soccer team for all four years. He is currently attending law school at Loyola University in New Orleans. Our youngest child, Ethan, is currently a sophomore at Rhodes College in Memphis, where he plays on the university soccer team.

I graduated from Davidson College with a BA in History in 1986 and from American University with my JD in 1991. Between graduating from Davidson and attending law school, I did the course work for a MA in Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. I grew up in Mt. Dora, Florida and still enjoy going home to visit my family and friends there. I enjoy doing triathlons of all distances and have completed 3 full ironman races, several half-ironman races, and many sprint and Olympic distance races.



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NKOYO-ENE EFFIONG



Nkoyo-Ene R. Effiong is the Director of Law Practice Management Program for the State Bar of Georgia. She helps Georgia lawyers tap into innovation to build a profitable and purpose-filled practice with less struggle and stress. With a steadfast focus on equipping lawpreneurs with the confidence, competence and capacity to adopt the right tools for their practice.

Nkoyo seeks to advance a more innovative and inclusive legal profession that meets the needs of legal professionals and legal consumers.

Prior to joining the State Bar, Nkoyo was the founder and principal attorney at The Effiong Firm LLC, an education and nonprofit law firm that advocated unapologetic-ally for excellence, equity, and education justice alongside marginalized communities.

As a strategic partner, Nkoyo helped families and mission-driven leaders leverage the law to protect the people and purposes that mattered most to them using a mix of flat-fee and subscription legal services. Nkoyo is a proud graduate of Brown University and New York University School of Law. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and children.

