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THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM PRESENTS :

Professionalism and the Rule of Law Convocation CLE

Friday, October 30, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

State Bar of Georgia Conference Center
(with a virtual Zoom Option)

104 Marietta St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

CHIEF JUSTICE NELS S.D. PETERSON

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia in 2016, and was elected to full six-year terms in 2018 and 2024. He previously served in a variety of other roles in Georgia state government, including as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia, general counsel for the University System of Georgia, Georgia's first solicitor general in the Attorney General's Office, and executive counsel to the Governor. Before entering state government, Chief Justice Peterson practiced at King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta and clerked for Chief Judge William H. Pryor Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He is a graduate of Kennesaw State University and Harvard Law School. Justice Peterson and his wife Jennifer have two children and live in Cobb County, where they teach adult Sunday school at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church.

LAUREN SHUBOW

PROGRAM CHAIR

Lauren Shubow is the founder of Shubow Law, a firm dedicated to helping people navigate some of the most difficult moments of their lives. She focuses her practice on appellate matters and criminal defense, bringing close to two decades of experience fighting for her clients in and out of the courtroom. Before starting her own firm, Shubow worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Atlanta where she handled every aspect of criminal defense with a focus on complex appeals. She has argued cases before appellate courts, written countless briefs, and helped numerous clients successfully challenge wrongful convictions and unfair sentences. Known for her thorough research, clear writing, and compassionate approach, Shubow is committed to giving every client the strong, thoughtful defense they deserve. She is deeply engaged in the legal community, serving as a member of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, the Georgia Bar Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency, and the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Amicus Committee. In addition, Shubow has served as a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program committee member for the Appellate Practice Workshop, designed to help new appellate lawyers in Georgia. She also was co-chair of a statewide CLE seminar on diminished capacity. In addition to her advocacy, Shubow is a respected trainer and lecturer, having presented programs with the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Gideon's Promise, and the Georgia Public Defender Council. She is also a contributing author to the ABA book *Defense of Justice: Transformational Tales from the Trenches* (2025), extending her impact beyond the courtroom. Shubow is a native Michigander, born in Detroit, Michigan. She went to University of Michigan for both her undergraduate studies and for law school. When not lawyering, she is an avid fiction reader and enjoys all varieties of arts and crafts. She lives in Atlanta, GA with her husband, and several dogs and cats.

HULETT H. "BUCKY" ASKEW

Hulett H. "Bucky" Askew is an Academic Professional at the Georgia State University College of Law. He was the Consultant on Legal Education to the American Bar Association from September 1, 2006, until September 1, 2012. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of Georgia from 1990 to 2006. He also concurrently served as the first Executive Director of Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism in Georgia from 1990 to 1996. From 1983 to 1990, he was the Director of the Civil Division of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association in Washington, DC. Prior to that, he worked for the Legal Services Corporation in Washington, D.C., from 1974 to 1983 and for the Office of Economic Opportunity Legal Services Program from 1969 to 1974. In 1993, President Clinton appointed him to the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, on which he served until 2003. Askew received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1964 and his J.D. from Emory University School of Law in 1967; he was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1967.

RANDY BECK

Randy Beck is the Justice Thomas O. Marshall Chair of Constitutional Law at the University of Georgia School of Law. He clerked for Judge Patrick E. Higginbotham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court. He also worked as an attorney-advisor in the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel and as a litigation associate at Perkins Coie in Seattle. He joined the faculty of the University of Georgia School of Law in 1997 and has twice won the C. Ronald Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching. He spent a year as the Garwood Visiting Fellow in Princeton University's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. Professor Beck's scholarship includes *Qui Tam Legislation and Article II: State Constitutional Precursors to the "Take Care" Clause*, 49 HARV. J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 33 (2026); *TransUnion, Vermont Agency and Statutory Damages Under Article III*, 77 FLORIDA L. REV. 161 (2025); *Standing to Litigate Public Rights in Georgia Courts*, 75 MERCER L. REV. 297 (2023); *Popular Enforcement of Controversial Legislation*, 57 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 553 (2022); *Qui Tam Litigation Against Government Officials: Constitutional Implications of a Neglected History*, 93 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 1235 (2018); *Transtemporal Separation of Powers in the Law of Precedent*, 87 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 1405 (2012); *Self-Conscious Dicta: The Origins of* Roe v. Wade's *Trimester Framework*, 51 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LEGAL HISTORY 505 (2011); Gonzales, Casey *and the Viability Rule*, 103 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY L. REV. 249 (2009); *The Heart of Federalism: Pretext Review of Means-End Relationships*, 36 U. CAL.-DAVIS L. REV. 407 (2003); *The New Jurisprudence of the Necessary and Proper Clause*, 2002 ILL. L. REV. 581 (2002); and *The False Claims Act and the English Eradication of* Qui Tam *Legislation*, 78 NORTH CAROLINA L. REV. 539 (2000).

PETER CANFIELD

Peter Canfield practices law in Atlanta, specializing in civil litigation generally and media law and litigation in particular. He is a former partner of Jones Day, from which he retired in March 2023. A graduate of Amherst College, where he was an editor of the student newspaper, and Yale Law School, where he was an editor of the Yale Law Journal, Canfield clerked for United States Court of Appeals Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. (then on the Fifth Circuit) and served as the first clerk for United States District Judge Myron H. Thompson (M.D. Ala.), who followed Judge Johnson on the district court bench. Following the clerkships, he served as a deputy district attorney in Montgomery, Alabama and a trial and appellate attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. Canfield and his wife Laurel Lucey, also a former Judge Johnson clerk, have two daughters and one son. Canfield is proud to serve on the executive committee and board of the Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute in Montgomery, Alabama. Founded by admirers of the legendary Judge Frank Johnson in 2019, the Johnson Institute was established in partnership with the Middle District of Alabama to facilitate public access to the historic Frank Johnson Courthouse and Myron Thompson Courtroom in Montgomery. The non-partisan Institute hosts thousands of visitors a year and through its many programs and events shares timely stories of the Constitution and judiciary that illuminate issues and perspectives, foster thoughtful and civil discourse and inspire our national community. In October 2024, over one hundred federal and state judges visited from the First Circuit, see *A Hundred Yankee Judges Visit Historic Frank M. Johnson's Alabama Court*, ATLANTA LAWYER 10 (Nov./Dec. 2024), and many returned this year. This fall, the Institute brought back to the courthouse the plaintiffs, all then young children, in *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education*, the 1964 statewide federal case that desegregated Alabama schools. Before a rapt courtroom audience, they discussed the loved ones that inspired them to fight and the struggles they endured. *Plaintiffs honored in case that led to Alabama schools' desegregation*, WSFA 12 (Sep. 11, 2026). By its annual Scholars program, the Institute equips professionals from education and other fields with deeper knowledge of the Constitution by examining historic court cases. Regular civil discourse and difficult decisions workshops teach high school students the values of the legal system. The Institute also preserves remarkable stories of justice through its Oral History Project.

JUSTICE VERDA M. COLVIN

Justice Verda M. Colvin was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia by Governor Brian Kemp on July 29, 2021, after having been appointed to the Court of Appeals of Georgia by Governor Kemp on April 9, 2020. She is the first African-American female appointed by a Republican Governor to the appellate court. She previously served as a Superior Court Judge in the Macon Judicial Circuit, which serves Macon Bibb, Crawford and Peach Counties having been appointed by Governor Nathan Deal on April 16, 2014. Judge Colvin grew up in southwest Atlanta. She received her B.A. degree from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and her J.D. from University of Georgia School of Law. Prior to her appointment, she was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Middle District of Georgia. Prior to her service with the federal government, she was an Assistant District Attorney in Clayton County, GA and an Assistant Solicitor in Athens in Clarke County. She also served as Assistant General Counsel at Clarke Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. All of this service followed her private practice in Charlotte, NC. Justice Colvin is committed to service professionally and personally. She is a member of several organizations and boards: The Order of Barristers, Macon Bar Association, American Bar Association (ABA), Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL), Gate City Bar – Judicial Section, Georgia Hispanic Bar Association (GHBA), Stonewall Bar Association, Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA), William A. Bootle American Inn of Court, Clarence Cooper Inn of Court, Clarke-Carley Inn of Court, the Downtown Rotary Club of Macon, Board of Trustees for Mount de Sales Academy (Chair of Board in 2021-2023), Jack and Jill of America – Macon Chapter, (Associate Jewel), Boys and Girls Club of Central Georgia Corporate Board of Directors, Macon Bibb Citizens Advocacy Board, Secretary (2021-2025, Chair 2025-2026), Co-chair of ONEMACON 2.0, Georgia Citizen Advocacy Board (2024-2026), Middle Georgia Food Bank Board of Directors, Sweet Briar College Board of Directors (Chair 2025- Present), Goodwill Industries Board of Directors, Wesleyan College Board of Trustees. Justice Colvin is a proud Leadership Macon 2010 graduate. She is the mother of two children, who have been groomed to serve.

RICHARD H. DEANE, JR.

Richard H. Deane, Jr. is the former Partner-in-Charge of the Atlanta office of Jones Day, where he led the office's litigation group and served as co-chair of the firm's Investigations and White-Collar Defense Practice. Throughout his career, he has practiced in a variety of legal settings and has worked alongside accomplished attorneys in private practice and public service. He has worked as U.S. Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and Magistrate Judge. Deane is a Fellow and the Immediate Past President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only organization recognizing experienced trial lawyers. He was selected by the State Bar of Georgia's Bench and Bar Committee as the attorney recipient of the 12th Annual Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award. Deane has been recognized as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" continuously since 2015. His other distinctions include recognition on TIME magazine's "TIME 100 List of Innovators" in 2001 and inclusion in Chambers USA and Georgia Trend magazine's "Legal Elite." Deane is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the University of Michigan. He is licensed to practice law in Georgia.

STEPHEN LOUIS A. DILLARD

Presiding Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard was appointed as the 73rd judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia on November 1, 2010, by Governor Sonny Perdue. Before his appointment, Judge Dillard was in private practice, specializing in complex litigation and appellate practice. He also served as law clerk to Judge Daniel A. Manion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. In 2012, 2018, and 2024, Judge Dillard was elected to serve full six-year terms on the Court of Appeals. He was the 30th chief judge of the Court of Appeals, and currently serves as the presiding judge of the Court's Third Division. Among his many honors and accolades, in 2025, Judge Dillard was given the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence at the Supreme Court of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts. Judge Dillard is a proud graduate of Samford University (B.A., 1992), the Mississippi College School of Law (J.D., with honors, 1996), and the Duke University Law School (LL.M. in Judicial Studies, 2025). Most importantly, he has been married to his college sweetheart, the former Krista McDaniel, for over thirty-two years. They have three children and are parishioners at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia.

TERRICA REDFIELD GANZY

Terrica Redfield Ganzy is the Executive Director of the Southern Center for Human Rights' (SCHR), where she leads the SCHR team in carrying out its mission to dramatically transform the criminal legal system through direct representation, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. Prior to becoming SCHR's Executive Director, Ganzy served in several different roles at SCHR, most recently as Deputy Director, helping to coordinate SCHR's strategy and programs. Ganzy also served as SCHR's development director, designing and leading SCHR's development strategy and building strategic partnerships. For nine years, Ganzy served as a Staff Attorney in SCHR's Capital Litigation Unit, 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. Ganzy 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. In 2026, Ganzy received the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorney's highest honor, the Leah Ward Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession. That same year, she was also inducted in YWCA Atlanta's Women of Achievement Academy and was named a recipient of the Georgians For Alternative to the Death Penalty (GFADP)'s Martina Correia Courage Award. Ganzy was a 2025 Public Voices Fellow for Transformative Justice through The OpEd Project. Ganzy was recognized by the State Bar of Georgia's Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession as a 2023 recipient of the Commitment to Equality Award. She received the 2023 Excellence in Advocacy Award from the Davis Bozeman Johnson law firm. Ganzy 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. Ganzy is a Past President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys' (GABWA). Ganzy also serves as a member of the State Bar of Georgia's Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Racial Bias Committee. She is a member of the Judicial Council of Georgia's Access to Justice Committee. Ganzy also serves as a member of the boards of directors of Kindred Futures and The Wilkerson Foundation. Ganzy is married to Omar Ganzy, Sr. They have two sons.

FRANCYS JOHNSON

Francys Johnson is an unapologetic believer in the power of ordinary people to change the world. Born and raised on his grandparents' farm in Sylvania, Georgia, he learned that faith without works is dead, community is sacred, and every generation must leave the ground better than it found it. Those lessons have carried him from the red clay of rural Georgia to the courtroom, classroom, pulpit, and front lines of consequential civil rights struggles. His life reflects a singular conviction: justice is not simply something we seek; it is something we must have the courage to create. Johnson is a partner at Davis Bozeman Johnson Law, where he practices criminal and civil law in state and federal courts. A seasoned trial attorney, he represents the wrongfully accused, seriously injured, families seeking justice, and individuals challenging powerful institutions. His advocacy has secured freedom for the wrongfully accused, millions of dollars for injured clients, and meaningful remedies for those denied equal treatment under law. His work has received national attention from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, USA Today, The New York Times, NPR, MSNBC, CNN, TMZ, and Time. He has also served as a legal commentator on Court TV. For three decades, Johnson served in ordained ministry rooted in the rural South. He is Senior Minister of Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church in Statesboro and Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Pembroke. His ministry embraces a liberating Gospel that strengthens families, builds communities, confronts injustice, and insists that faith must make a difference beyond Sunday morning. Johnson has held leadership roles throughout the modern civil rights movement, including President of the Georgia NAACP and Southeast Regional Director of the NAACP, helping lead advocacy across seven Southern states. Through litigation, organizing, and civic engagement, he helped restore more than 300,000 disenfranchised voters to the polls and supported efforts registering more than half a million new voters. His advocacy has also advanced fair housing, educational equity, workers' rights, and criminal justice reform. The Gate City Bar Association named Johnson its Civil Rights Lawyer of the Year, and he has been recognized on numerous Best Lawyers lists. His professional service includes the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, Standing Committee on the Eradication of Racism in the Justice System, Judicial Qualifications Nominating Committee, and Federal Judicial Nominating Committee. A graduate of Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia School of Law, Johnson has taught Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Race and the Law, and the Civil Rights Movement at Georgia Southern University and Savannah State University. He has testified before Congress, lectured nationally, and written and spoken extensively on voting rights, race, equity, power, and public policy. Johnson is married to Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson, an educational psychologist and university administrator. They are the parents of three children, one of whom has passed away. Johnson lives by the enduring command of Micah 6:8: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

SALLY EVANS LOCKWOOD

Sally Evans Lockwood served as director of the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of Georgia for over ten years, having moved to this position in 2006 from the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, where she served as director for more than a decade. While with the Commission, she developed a number of programs to enhance professionalism among Georgia lawyers and judges, including a statewide mandatory Mentoring Program and the Law School Orientations on Professionalism that serve as a model for similar programs at more than 40 law schools around the country. In her capacity as director of Admissions, Lockwood was responsible for the operations of the Office of Bar Admissions and reported directly to the Supreme Court of Georgia. The Office of Bar Admissions is the administrative arm of the Court responsible for implementing the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia and supports the responsibilities and activities of the two Supreme Court-appointed boards – the Board of Bar Examiners and the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants.

Lockwood holds a B.A. in History from Converse College and a Master's degree in Education from Georgia State University. After graduating with Distinction from the Emory University School of Law, she entered private practice in Atlanta and later served as assistant attorney general and administrative law judge for the State of Georgia. Active in the alternative dispute resolution movement in Georgia since 1982 when she was trained by the Justice Center of Atlanta, Lockwood is registered with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution in the categories of General Civil Mediation, Domestic Relations Mediation, and Non-binding Arbitration. She has been associated with the Justice Center since 1982 and has served as arbitrator and mediator in numerous cases in both court-annexed and private settings. Since her retirement, her primary professional focus has been mediation and mediation training at the Justice Center of Atlanta (Basic Mediation Training, Advanced Mediation Training, Mediation in Workplace Disputes, Mediation in Special Education). Lockwood is married to Dr. William Mitchell, Jr., and is the mother of two sons.

CHRISTOPHER J. MCFADDEN

Presiding Judge Christopher J. McFadden was elected in November 2010 for a term beginning January 1, 2011, and reelected in 2016 and 2022. He is a son of the late Isabel McFadden and the late Judge Donald B. McFadden, who served for twenty years as a trial court judge in Akron, Ohio. Presiding Judge McFadden graduated from Oglethorpe University in 1980 and from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1985. He opened his own law office in 1988 and remained a sole practitioner until he joined the Court of Appeals. For most of that time, he practiced in Decatur and focused on appellate litigation. Before joining the Court of Appeals as its 74th judge, he appeared as appellate counsel before 26 of the judges who preceded him. In 1996, along with the late Professor Edward C. Brewer and attorney Charles R. Sheppard, he published *Georgia Appellate Practice* through the Harrison Company of Norcross, Georgia. With Mr. Sheppard and attorneys Charles M. Cork III, David A. Webster, Kelly A. Weathers, and formerly with the late attorney George W. K. Snyder, Jr., Judge McFadden continues to update it for West, which now publishes it in annual editions. With attorney Laurie Webb Daniel, he is a founding past Chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Georgia. For twelve years, Judge McFadden served as an officer or director of the Atlanta Bar Association. He is a past chair of its Sole Practitioner/Small Firm and Judicial Sections and is a recipient of its Distinguished Service and Charles E. Watkins, Jr. Awards, as well as its Judicial Section's Romae Turner Powell Judicial Service Award. Judge McFadden is an elected member of The American Law Institute. He has served as a volunteer attorney for the Innocence Project and the Election Protection Project. In addition to the Atlanta Bar Association, he is a member of the DeKalb Bar Association, Lawyers Club of Atlanta, Gate City Bar Association, Federalist Society, American Constitution Society, Saint Thomas More Society, and Oglethorpe University's Stormy Petrel Bar Association. He served for more than six years on the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on the Judiciary. He presently serves as Chair of the Board of the Appellate Judges Education corporation, is immediate past Chair of the Executive Committee of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association, and chaired the 2018 Appellate Judges Education Institute, which was held in Atlanta. He chaired a committee of the Judicial Council of Georgia that drafted the Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act. He presently serves as Immediate Past Chair of the Executive Committee of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association. He is chair of the board of the Appellate Judges Education Institute corporation and chaired its 2018 conference, which was held in Atlanta. He is a parishioner at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Decatur, Georgia, and has served as a lector since 1988. Judge McFadden is married to Dr. Linda Hyde, Professor of Biology at Gordon State College in Barnesville, Georgia. They have one son.

JUSTICE HAROLD D. MELTON

Justice Harold D. Melton (Retired) currently serves as the Georgia State University College of Expert-In-Residence and Special Advisor to the Dean for Institutional Engagement. He joined the Georgia State University College of Law in July 2026, after spending most of his career in public and judicial service. Justice Melton was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Governor Sonny Perdue on July 1, 2005. He was selected by his fellow justices to serve as the Court's Chief Justice in 2018. He served for 16 years on the Court and resigned as Chief Justice in 2021. Justice Melton then joined the law firm of Troutman Pepper in July of 2021 as a Partner and an appellate specialist. 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 led the Consumer Protection Section for four years. During his tenure at the Georgia Department of Law, Justice Melton also 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. They have three adult children.

DAVID E. "DAVE" NAHMIAS

Justice David E. "Dave" Nahmias (Retired) is a partner in the Atlanta office of the global law firm Jones Day. He uses his broad experience and distinguished judgment to counsel organizations and individuals on government and internal investigations, litigation and appeals, and compliance and regulatory matters. Justice Nahmias served as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Georgia from 2009 to 2022, concluding his tenure as Chief Justice. He authored almost 500 published opinions and joined more than 2,700 others while becoming an influential leader in the judiciary. Before going on the bench, Justice Nahmias spent almost 15 years in the U.S. Justice Department. He served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia; the Deputy Assistant Attorney General overseeing the Counterterrorism, Fraud, and Appellate Sections of the Criminal Division in Washington; and a line AUSA prosecuting cases in Atlanta. The son of immigrants, Justice Nahmias grew up in Decatur and was the State's STAR Student in 1982. After graduating summa cum laude from Duke University and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he served on the Law Review, Justice Nahmias clerked on the D.C. Circuit and for Justice Antonin Scalia at the U.S. Supreme Court. He has chaired the Judicial Council of Georgia and has served on a number of other government and non-profit boards.

DERRICK ALEXANDER POPE

Derrick Alexander Pope teaches Legislative Drafting, Legislative Advocacy and The Reflective Lawyer at the Georgia State University College of Law, and is a Faculty Affiliate for Legislative and Public Impact in its Emmet J. Bondurant Center for Constitutional Law, Practice, & Democracy. He has previously taught Race, Ethnicity and the Law, and Probate Practice and Procedure. His professional experience includes providing counsel to the legislative and executive branches of government at the federal, state, and county level. While a lawyer on the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel, he provided legal representation to the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives in connection with voting rights litigation. He was a member of the White House Data-Driven Justice Initiative and the President's My Brother's Keeper Taskforce. Pope, an Atlanta native, is active with the State Bar of Georgia, serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Georgia Bar Journal and member of the Advisory Committee on Legislation. He is also a past Co-chair of the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession and past vice-chair of the Communications Committee. In addition, he is a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, the United States Supreme Court Historical Society, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. As a self-described "composer and conductor of ideas," Professor Pope is a sought-after speaker and master facilitator and author of two books (*Thy Will Be Done: An African American Guide to Estate Planning)* and (*By the Content of Our Character*, a collection of socio-political essays). His favorite creative endeavor was teaming with his daughter on the release of a spoken word CD titled "*The Race Track*," where he wrote the script for the project and composed the original music to four of its tracks. In addition to teaching at the College of Law, Professor Pope is the founder and managing director of The Arc of Justice Foundation, Inc. and host of its critically acclaimed podcast, "Hidden Legal Figures." Professor Pope graduated from Loyola University School of Law (New Orleans), with distinction in Advocacy from the Loyola Law Clinic, and from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia.

MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

Michael Schwartz is an attorney in Savannah, Georgia. His practice focuses on defending individuals whose conduct has been misunderstood by people in positions of power. He defends against criminal allegations ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder. Schwartz graduated with a B.A. from the University of Denver in 2003, and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2007. After law school, he commissioned in the United States Air Force, where he served on active duty as a judge advocate. As a JAG, and later as a DoD civilian, he represented men facing alleged war crimes before military commissions at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, USA. In 2018, he moved to Georgia for a position with the Georgia Capital Defender. In 2021, he opened a criminal defense firm in Savannah, where he practices today. Additionally, Schwartz directs the Safety Valve Project, Inc., a Savannah-based nonprofit that coordinates free access to counsel for public school students facing expulsion. Schwartz is licensed to practice law in Georgia and Illinois.

MILES SKEDSVOLD

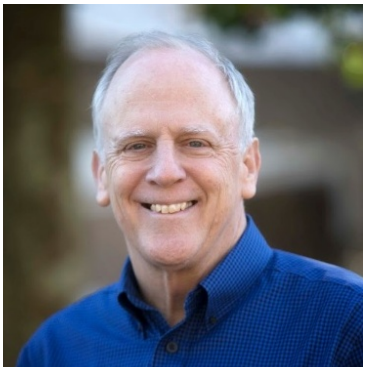
Miles Skedsvold joined the firm of Robbins Alloy Belinfante Littlefield LLC in 2024 after five years in government and the judiciary. As an honors fellow at the Georgia Attorney General's Office, Skedsvold represented government agencies and officials in election law, campaign finance law, employment law, and constitutional law issues. In the Solicitor General Unit, he assisted then-General Andrew Pinson in representing the State before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and Georgia's state appellate courts. Since then, Skedsvold has worked for three of Georgia's preeminent judges—Judge Lisa Godbey Wood of the Southern District of Georgia, then Presiding-Justice Nels S. D. Peterson, and Judge Lisa Branch on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. At the Robbins firm, Skedsvold specializes in government and regulatory litigation, which is to say he represents governments, sues governments, and advises clients on interactions with the government. Skedsvold is also an award winning legal writer; contributes to law school journals on issues of Georgia law, including recent articles on Constitutional Interpretation in the Mercer Law Review; and serves on the Board of the Atlanta Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society and the Religious Liberty Section of the State Bar of Georgia. Skedsvold lives in Cobb County with his wife, Sharon, their son, and their dog, Mae.

JEFFREY M. SMITH

Jeffrey M. Smith is an attorney in the Atlanta office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP. His practice includes corporate transactions, primarily involving entertainment or real estate, as well as alcohol beverage transactions, gambling transactions, cosmetics, legal malpractice, and ethics. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, from the University of Minnesota in 1970 and his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude and Order of the Coif, from the University of Minnesota in 1973. He also attended the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and served as a member and later president of the Minnesota Law Review. Smith has presented more than 250 major seminars in 37 states, Washington, D.C., 25 universities, and 11 countries. His teaching has included semester-long courses at Duke, Emory, and Vanderbilt; lectures at universities and legal institutions in China; and programs for organizations including the Securities and Exchange Commission, National Association of Securities Dealers, and American Arbitration Association. He has chaired the Georgia ICLE *Professionalism, Ethics and Malpractice* Seminar for more than four decades. Smith is an author and editor of books addressing legal opinions, legal malpractice, business transactions, and voice health. His professional recognition includes repeated selections by The Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers in Georgia. His community service includes work with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, Harvard's Thai and Nepal Studies programs, the National Association of Chinese Americans, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Georgia Heart Association, and the Supreme Court of Georgia's Mentoring Program.

DR. ALEXA J. CAMERON-WINDSOR

Dr. Alexa J. Cameron-Windsor is a legal scholar and educator whose work addresses alternative dispute resolution, law and religion, and the self-governance of minority communities. She is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Emory University School of Law and a Senior Fellow at its Center for the Study of Law and Religion, where she teaches Legal Profession and First Amendment: Free Expression. Her scholarship argues that the Federal Arbitration Act's content-neutral architecture can serve as a vehicle for minority self-governance: the mechanism by which Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities have built enforceable parallel legal systems in the United States for more than a century, and one available to queer communities on the same terms. She calls the framework architectural pluralism, and defends it on content-neutral grounds instead of religion-specific exemptions, on the view that exceptionalism is what leaves such regimes exposed when constitutional doctrine shifts. Her current article, "*Three Models of Arbitral Authority: Manifest Disregard After Hall Street*," is forthcoming in the Arbitration Law Review at Penn State Dickinson Law. It sorts the post-Hall Street circuit split by each circuit's theory of arbitral authority rather than by outcome, and finds three coherent models where the literature has seen disarray. Her monograph, *The Queer Conscience: Contract, Arbitration, and the Infrastructure of Self-Governance,* is in circulation, and *Arbitration, Neutrality, and the Perils of Exceptionalism*, co-authored with Michael J. Broyde, is under contract with Carolina Academic Press. "*Arbitrating Sex*" is forthcoming in the Thurgood Marshall Law Review, and her earlier work appears in the NYU Annual Survey of American Law, the Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal, and the Journal of Law and Religion. She earned her S.J.D. from Emory in 2025. Her dissertation, "*Conscience through Contract: Arbitration for the Nonnormative Other*," proposed binding arbitration as an alternative rights paradigm for LGBTQ+ communities. She also holds a J.D. (2021) and an LL.M. (2022) from Emory, where she was named the Randolph W. Thrower Scholar in Law and Religion, and she graduated cum laude from Colgate University (2013) with bachelor's degrees in German and history. Before law school she spent five years in Birmingham, Alabama, three of them as an AmeriCorps VISTA, building an education nonprofit that expanded competitive debate into under-resourced Alabama schools. Forty of her students earned full scholarships to the University of Alabama, and several have since completed law degrees. She is a co-founder and the associate director of Global Learning Online, which develops partnerships with international universities to deliver advanced training in arbitration and mediation, including a program for women law students in Pakistan. At Emory she serves on the Professional Conduct Committee and received the Eliza Ellison Prize for Leadership in Law and Religion. She lectures regularly in classrooms, conferences, and symposia on religious arbitration and the community-building functions of ADR, and she is a member in good standing of the Alabama State Bar.



COMER YATES

Comer Yates has served for 28 years as Executive Director of the Atlanta Speech School, the nation's most comprehensive language and literacy center with four schools, clinical programs and the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy. The school impacts the lives of approximately 1,400 children and adults on its campus and tens of thousands of students across Georgia and the nation through its Rollins Center's professional development program and its free online Cox Campus (coxcampus.org) with 430,000 members from all 50 states and 138 countries. The Rollins Center concentrates on providing educators, health providers and families with the capacity to break the cycle of illiteracy for children whose families have experienced generational denied access to educational opportunity. Yates earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from Emory University. Throughout his career, he has combined a commitment to education, law, and public service. A former high school teacher and coach of the Therrell High School Mock Trial Team, he practiced law for fifteen years, and later served as an adjunct professor at the Emory University School of Law. He is an Emeritus Member of the Atlanta Bar Association and previously served on the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Yates is a member of the Board of Directors of the Anti-Defamation League's Southeast Region, serves on the Emory Brain Health Advisory Council, and is a member of the Get Georgia Reading leadership cabinet. He is also a past president and current board member of Camp Twin Lakes and formerly chaired the Georgia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

KARLISE YVETTE GRIER

Executive Director, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, Convener

Karlise Yvette Grier has served as the Executive Director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism since September 2017, where she has served under the leadership of five Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Prior to assuming this role, Grier worked as the Managing Attorney of Grier Law Office, P.C., an Atlanta law firm that concentrated in the areas of adoption, divorce, and family law. From 2002 through 2017, Grier was a Fellow in the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, an invitation-only professional association. While in private practice, Grier also had a long history of working as an independent contractor on behalf of the Supreme Court of Georgia. In 2006, she staffed the Court's Committee on Civil Justice under the leadership of then Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears. In that role, she assisted the Court with developing the initial framework for *Civil Legal Needs of Low and Moderate Income Households: A Report from the 2007/2008 Legal Needs Study* (June 2009). Thereafter, in 2009, Grier was selected as one of the first group of Fellows for the Court's Committee on Justice for Children (J4C). The J4C Fellows reviewed "cold" cases of children who were languishing in foster care and recommended solutions to help children find permanent homes. The Fellows also helped to develop proposed policies to achieve better permanency outcomes for children in foster care. In 2016, Grier was selected to staff the Court's Access Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee (AFPTCC), n/k/a Access to Justice Committee. As part of her work with AFPTCC, Grier was the Georgia staff person for the 2017 National Association of Women Judges conference that was held in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of the conference, which was Chaired by Justice Carol Hunstein and Judge Sara Doyle, was *Access to Justice: Past, Present and Future*. The three-day conference featured a distinguished roster of speakers, including the late former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalyn Carter. As a volunteer, Grier also served the Supreme Court as a Special Master in 2016 and presided over a hearing in a contested attorney disciplinary matter. Grier's career also includes judicial service. She was appointed to serve as a part-time Magistrate Court judge in Fulton County and worked as a Judicial Officer in the Fulton County Superior Court Family Division from May 2006 through December 2008. From March 2000 until June 2005, Grier worked as a Judge Pro Hac Vice in the former City Court of Atlanta (Traffic Court). For over 17 years, Grier served the State Bar of Georgia in numerous volunteer capacities. She was a member of the Bar's Board of Governors from 2000 until 2017. Moreover, she was appointed by various Bar presidents to participate on several Committees, including the Finance Committee, the Advisory Committee on Legislation, and the Children and the Courts Committee. She served as the founding Vice Chair of the Bar's Child Protection and Advocacy Section. She is also a past Chair of the Bar's Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee, n/k/a the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession. Grier has also been active in other Bar associations and community organizations. For example, she is a past president of both the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and of the League of Women Voters of Atlanta-Fulton County. She is a member of the 2015 Class (BCE) of Leadership Atlanta. Grier received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer Science from Dartmouth College, and her law degree from the Emory University School of Law. After joining the Bar, she began her legal career as an associate at Kilpatrick & Cody, n/k/a Kilpatrick Townsend. Grier was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was graduated from Frederick Douglass High School. She is a member of Ben Hill United Methodist Church.