



GATE CITY BAR ASSOCIATION

www.gatecitybar.org

December 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shawntel R. Hebert, Esq.

Five Things I Learned This Year...

When I started the New Year, I eagerly anticipated my installation as the 2017 President of the Gate City Bar Association. I had lots of ideas and grandiose plans, but mostly I just wanted to uphold the high bar of excellence in service set by those on whose shoulders I stand. It has been an incredible year of growth and here are a few of my takeaways from bar leadership:

1. Everything takes longer than you expect it to. Plan accordingly. No matter how far ahead of time you start planning a program, CLE, happy hour, etc., there will always be issues that you did not account for. Give yourself extra time to craft the perfect e-mail, to review the contract, to make follow-up phone calls, to do a site visit, and/or to consider alternative ideas. Allotting more time on the front end will inevitably save you stress and headaches on the back end.

2. Atlanta traffic will not let you be great! Living in the thriving Atlanta metropolitan area means there are a plethora of fun and exciting events that you can attend every night of the week. Living in north Georgia also means we usually get some version of all four seasons, to include rain, sleet, hail, and even snow. Add to the mix our population of 5.7 Million people and that means TRAFFIC!!! Always leave 20-30 minutes earlier than you think you need to. You will thank me later.

3. There are some really amazing people in the legal profession and you should want to know them. One of the greatest joys of serving as Gate City Bar President has been the opportunity to meet and interact with so many different members of the legal profession. From working with Gate City's current Executive Committee and Past Presidents to serving on the boards of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Atlanta Bar Association to having one-on-one conversations with judges, law students, paralegals, and other practitioners

whose paths I may not normally cross in my employment practice, I have been impressed with the talent, the generosity, the authenticity, and the diversity of those who make up our esteemed profession. I believe that interacting with others helps us to develop our networks, strengthen our relationships, and improve ourselves. Get out there and meet people!

4. Life is short. Don't sweat the small stuff. Despite your best efforts and sincerest intentions, some things just will not work out as planned. Life is not about perfection (though it is a commendable goal!), so do the very best you can and let go of the rest. There is always tomorrow.

5. In the end, it is not our professional achievements that will matter, but how we treated each other. Be kind. I am very proud to have served as the 2017 President of Gate City. I am even prouder to receive e-mails and thank you notes from law students with whom I've spoken, awarded scholarships to, and/or selected for Gate City's Summer Associate Program. I am most proud to be called a good daughter, sister, friend, and colleague. We are all smart. Most of us work really hard and make daily sacrifices of time and energy for our clients. Yet, what will matter in the end is how we treated those around us. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

These are the rambling reflections of an almost Immediate Past President. My sincere gratitude to our Executive Director Shyrl Beck for getting me to the finish line. Thank you for taking this journey with me and the Happiest of Holidays to You and Yours!



Elevation: Our Mission, Our Programs, Our Community

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HALL OF FAME GALA

By: Damon E. Elmore, Gala Chair

This year, as it does every year, the Gate City Bar Association's Hall of Fame Gala renewed my passion for the Association, particularly our work and our purpose. It was a look back and reminder of why I became a lawyer. More important than that, it was a preview, because of the speaker's message and the stories of our honorees past and present, of what I still have to do as I constantly work to improve my craft and help our community.

My message to those that attended the event remains true. The event and support of our sponsors, helps foster a brighter future for those that will be our colleagues, and promotes a more inclusive profession for those we help.

I was also pretty clear then, as I am now, that Gate City is still relevant. It continues to call our attention to the state of the profession as we seek to tackle old problems in new ways. It is still relevant as we look to build upon our successes each year, and address new challenges with creative and innovative strategies. The profession is better for our work.

Last month we honored some in the legal community that have done remarkable work, and who showcase the highest ideals of the profession. We should all emulate just a small part from each of them. We should commit ourselves to creating solutions for problems when we find them, like Judge Lovett did. We should place excellence as the only acceptable standard in our practice or at trial, like Keenan Nix does. We should find ways to make our work open to all, lawyers, clients and citizens, like Judge Toomer does. We should find ways to endure and press on regardless of the obstacles faced, like Andrew Patterson has.

Next year, we will celebrate 70 years of Gate City. It is a milestone, for sure, but not a finish line. As we look toward the future, I am delivering a charge, and inviting all of you to continue to help us impact the profession and our communities...too.



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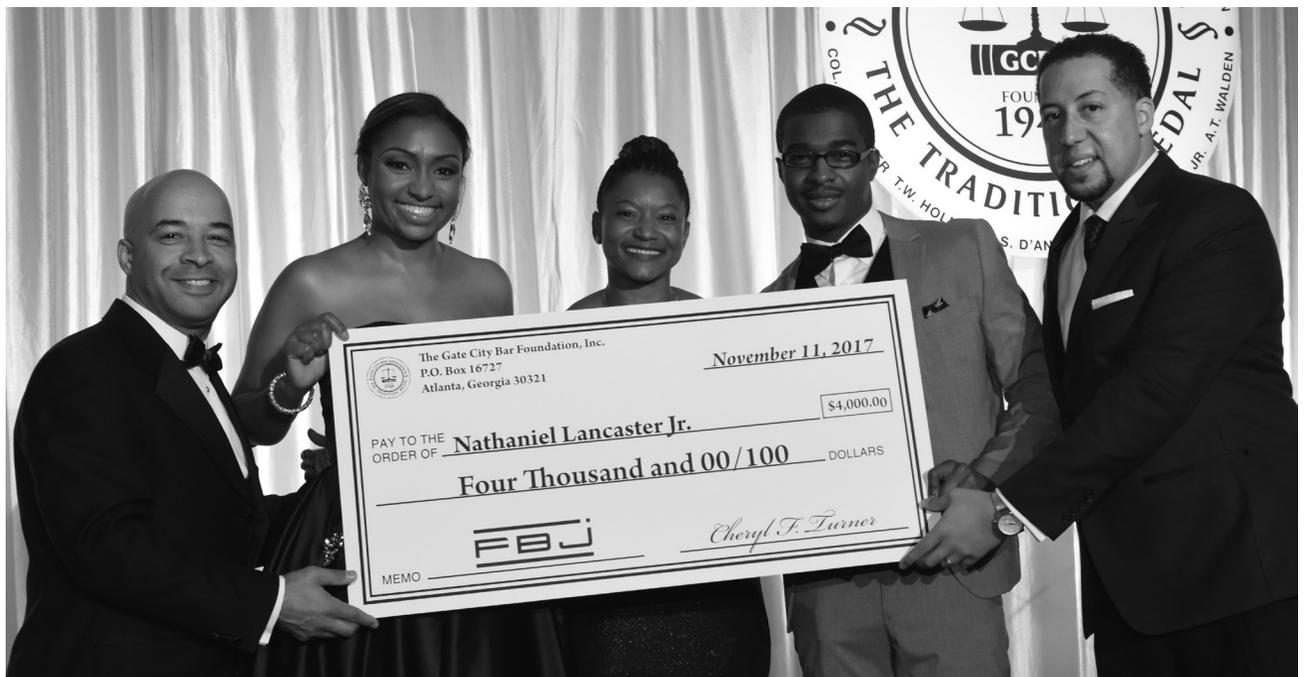
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GOING FORWARD

By: Clyde E. Mize Jr., President-Elect

2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Gate City Bar Association (“GCBA”). As I have reflected on the awesome responsibility and honor of serving as the next president of the Gate City, I have revisited, again and again, the purpose for which our organization was birthed.

Seventy years ago, our founders had a very specific goal in mind: provide structured opportunities for educational, social and community involvement for members of the legal community. Through the years, our educational and social opportunities have been inwardly focused on the betterment of our members, while our efforts towards community involvement have focused on strengthening the lives of those in the greater metropolitan Atlanta and beyond through service.

Our service to others has been achieved through various avenues such as The Justice Robert Benham Law

Camp, the Brother to Brother Mentoring Program, and Law Day at Greenbriar Mall during which we provide free legal consultations to members of our community. Serving others is not just something that we do; it is woven into the DNA of who are as an organization.

With excitement and a sense of purpose and commitment, we are going to start our 70th anniversary year by continuing our service to others. We will achieve this in the following ways:

1. January 13, 2018: Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation’s (“AVLF”) Saturday Lawyer Program. We will partner with the AVLF in its oldest and largest program through which they provide free legal services to low-income Atlantans. Attorney, paralegal and law student volunteers are welcomed. No prior experience is required as volunteers with be provided with material and support from the AVLF.

2. January 27, 2018: Black Law Students Winter Mock Interview/Resume Review Workshop. In partnership with the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (“GABWA”), we will help law students hone their interviewing skills, provide strategies for drafting resumes and impart advice on personal and career development.

While we hope that you will join us for the installation of our new board on **January 16, 2018** at the Fulton County Government Center, our greater hope is that you will partner with us on these two amazing opportunities. As you are finding joy in celebrating the New Year, join us in the joy of serving others. As Booker T. Washington wrote in his classic work, *Up from Slavery*, “Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others”. We look forward to seeing you.

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2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
INSTALLATION CEREMONY (16TH) BLSA RESUME REVIEW AND MOCK INTERVIEW WORKSHOP (27TH)	BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM (20TH) NBA ORATORICAL DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE COMPETITION	FIRST YEAR DIVERSE LAW STUDENT WORKSHOP WOMEN OF THE GATE CITY BAR BROTHER TO BROTHER MENTORING PROGRAM	YOUTH AND LAW SUMMIT MBLC “DIVERSITY COOK OFF”
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
SUMMER ASSOCIATE PROGRAM COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC (19TH)	STATE BAR MEETING LAW DAY JUSTICE BENHAM LAW CAMP FOUNDERS CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT	NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (27TH THRU 8-2) NEW ORLEANS, LA	JUDICIAL RECEPTION (21ST)
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
BLSA RETREAT	INTERNATIONAL CLE ANGUILLA WEST INDIES (24-28TH) FALL GARDEN PARTY ANNUAL MEETING AND GCBA ELECTIONS	HALL OF FAME GALA (10TH) GRAND HYATT ATLANTA	HOLIDAY PARTY (13TH)

PHOTO GALLERY



You can enjoy more pictures from Gate City Bar events in the Gallery on our website at www.gatecitybar.org.