



GATE CITY BAR ASSOCIATION

www.gatecitybar.org

December 2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Clyde E. Mize Jr., Esq.

Thank You – Here's Looking To 2019

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Gate City Bar Association president for 2018. Whether through continuing our annual programs such as the Justice Benham Law Camp and Brother to Brother, or through new programs such as Brunchin' With a Cause and those established for our Young Lawyers Division, you have stepped up to make this a very successful year. Your efforts are appreciated.

Our membership is comprised of very talented, engaging and compassionate legal professionals. You set the standard for other legal communities around the country through your professionalism, client services, and your level of community engagement. There is no place like Atlanta, and there is no better group of legal professionals than you.

So what now? Do we sit back, smile and bask in all the greatness that we are? The resounding answer is "NO". The times in which we live, the communities that we serve and the calling upon our lives will not allow us to do so. We need to push for greater diversity and inclusion in our profession and on the bench. We must serve as mentors to law students and paralegal students in their quests to join our profession. We must provide the advocacy for those in our community who need it the most and are often least able to pay. There is more for us to do.

I'm excited for 2019 and to work with Cinque M. Axam as our next president. He is an attorney, business owner, family man and leader in our profession. He will provide the necessary ideals to propel our organization forward. Please stay with us on the journey!

Yours in Service,
Clyde E. Mize Jr.



2019 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
INSTALLATION CEREMONY (15TH) WINTER MOCK INTERVIEW/ RESUME REVIEW WORKSHOP PRE-SUPER BOWL HAPPY HOUR	BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM AND PAST PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION (19TH) DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT	EXCELLENCE SERIES (6TH) FIRST YEAR DIVERSE LAW STUDENT WORKSHOP WOMEN OF THE GATE CITY BAR BROTHER TO BROTHER MENTORING PROGRAM LAW CLINIC (27TH) JEAN CHILD'S MIDDLE SCHOOL	YOUTH AND LAW SUMMIT MBLC "DIVERSITY COOK OFF" SPRINGTIME HAPPY HOUR
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
SUMMER ASSOCIATE PROGRAM (28TH-JULY 5TH) COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC (18TH) SUNDAY BRUNCH	STATE BAR MEETING ORLANDO, FLORIDA LAW DAY AT CASCADE UMC EXCELLENCE SERIES (25TH) JUSTICE BENHAM LAW CAMP FOUNDERS CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT	NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (20-26TH) NEW YORK, NEW YORK	JUDICIAL RECEPTION (20TH) EXCELLENCE SERIES (22ND)

"Recommitting to our Mission, Engaging in our Community, Honoring Our Past"

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WHAT IS YOUR PRICE?

By: *Shawntel R. Hebert, Esq., Foundation Chair*

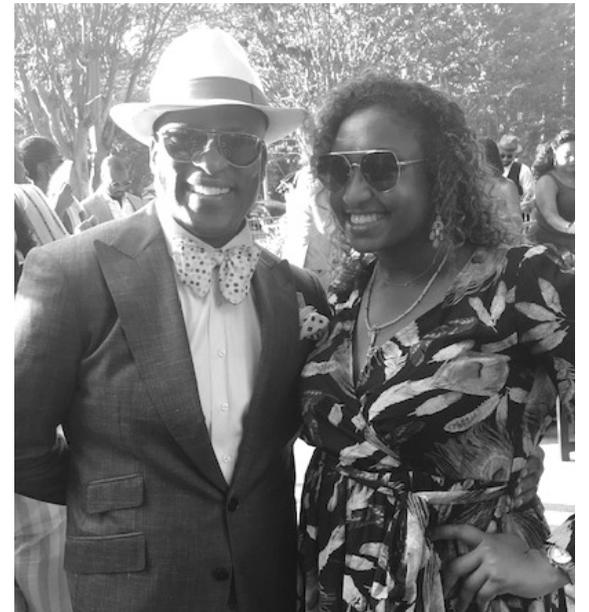
As we settle into the holiday season, some of us are thankful for a year of big wins and more money while others are disappointed with matters gone awry and goals unmet. Whether or not the past eleven months of 2018 were victorious, this is a great time to reflect and anticipate the start of a new year with a fresh opportunity to achieve professional success. And who doesn't want to be successful, right? So the question I would like to pose to my fellow lawyers is: What is your price for success?

Although I am no fortune-teller, I am confident that Keenan R.S. Nix, Esq. shared a tried and true recipe for professional success at the Excellence through Education session last month. For the past three years, the final seminar in the Excellence through Education series always focuses on business development. This is a timely subject because as we are closing out our year, many of us have an eye toward what we hope to achieve in the New Year – now 2019. Titled “Tapping into the Power of Good Stewardship,” I was somewhat expecting a sermon. While he started the presentation with biblical scriptures, Attorney Nix used most of his time to focus on what he deemed the “seven (7) basics of good stewardship.” The basics are as follows:

1. Be Excellent
2. Return Phone Calls
3. Treat Clients with Respect
4. Accept Responsibility for Dropping the Ball
5. Always Practice Integrity No Matter the Cost
6. Zealously Sharpen Your Skill Set Everyday
7. Work Every Case – big or small – Like It's Your Last!

Attorney Nix went through each of the seven basics and emphasized that there are no short cuts for success. Instead of wishing for that BIG case that could change the trajectory of your career, he encouraged the lawyers in attendance to give their utmost attention to their current cases – treating every case like a BIG case! Most impactful, Attorney Nix shared intimate stories from his own widely successful career wherein he chose to live by those basics even when it was uncomfortable.

By practicing the seven basics of good stewardship, every attorney can attain a level of hard work and professionalism that will serve him or her well when that BIG case arrives. Often we hear the quote, “To whom much is given, much is required.” Yet, before much is given, sometimes little is given to see how we handle it. How are you treating your current cases and/or matters? Are you practicing good stewardship over your current workload? As we look forward to 2019, let us all ponder these questions recognizing that the seven basics of good stewardship is the baseline price to pay if we truly want to be successful. On behalf of Gate City Bar, I wish each of you a successful and prosperous 2019!



A SALUTE TO OUR 2018 HALL OF FAME SPONSORS

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FOUNDATION. FUTURE. FELLOWSHIP

By: Cinque M. Axam, President-Elect

Nineteen forty-eight. There were just a handful of black attorneys in Georgia. And though they had graduated from various schools and were licensed to practice law, they were excluded from the Atlanta Bar and the Georgia Bar whose constitutions and organizing documents spoke specifically to “white” only membership. They dared not dream of practicing with a downtown white law firm and or serving as judges. Such notions were forbidden by the system of racial segregation, legalized by the very courts they sought to practice before. They often struggled to secure clients, even in their own community which understood all too well how exclusionary practices of the day could negatively impact the resolution of their cases.

The first meeting was held in the office of Attorney A. T. Walden. For twenty years, nine men and one woman sat monthly around a conference table at Walden’s office or some other black establishment to share their expertise and their experiences as they worked to provide the quality representation their clients needed and deserved, to collectively address the legal problems facing the African American community, and to set forth strategies to grow their numbers.

I am humbled to serve as the 55th President of the Gate City Bar and to shepherd the call to continue the work of these pioneers. Our programs to support each other and young African Americans seeking to practice law, and to be of service to our community rest squarely on the shoulders of those who came before us -- on the FOUNDATION they laid, the FUTURE they planned and the FELLOWSHIP they fostered. We continue to contribute to the continuing education of our professional community through our continuing legal education (CLE) programs. We partner with law firms for training and with universities to explore cutting edge issues. We teach young high schoolers about what the practice of law is like and why it is an excellent career choice. We serve as a forum for political debate, a safe place where all voices are honored and respected. We provide financial assistance to students who might not otherwise be able to attend law school, and we support the provision of quality legal services to our community.

Over the next year, we will be working together to assure that we preserve the incredible legacy of our ancestors and to continue their mandate to take responsibility for our future. As President of Gate City Bar, I have asked our Board and our membership to focus on three specific goals:

- **FOUNDATION:** Strengthen our foundation by updating our communications platforms and technology infrastructure to better serve our members and to reach out to those who might join us in our mission.
- **FUTURE:** Create a mentorship program which, with intentionality, will continue to nurture young African American attorneys who are the promise for our future.
- **FELLOWSHIP:** Continue to support events to build relationships and partners to strengthen our network to connect with new members and reconnect old members, because together we are strong.

I invite you to join us. Membership is open to everyone. Take a moment to learn more about us. Become a member and support our programs at www.gatecitybar.org. There is much work to be done and we would welcome your involvement.

ABOVE AND BEYOND SPONSORS

The following sponsors consistently contribute above and beyond in supporting our organization. Gate City sponsors various programs throughout the year designed to develop and assist attorneys, educate students, and enrich the community at large. The following sponsors have generously donated money, time and resources. We applaud their constant commitment and dedication and are pleased for their continued support.



KING & SPALDING

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TRIAL ATTORNEYS



PHOTO GALLERY

On Saturday, November 10, 2018, the Gate City Bar Association and the Gate City Foundation, Inc. hosted their Hall of Fame Gala and celebrated Gate City's 70th Anniversary.

