



# GATE CITY BAR ASSOCIATION

[www.gatecitybar.org](http://www.gatecitybar.org)

February 2022

## GATE CITY BAR ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Jatrea M. Sanders

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kevin Coleman Jr.

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N. John Bey

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Precious Johnson

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Candis R. Jones Smith

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Christopher Bruce

Daedrea D. Fenwick

Germani Hardeman

Cameron D. Hawkins

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Honorable Cynthia C. Adams

Chair, Judicial Section

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shyrl E. Beck

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jatrea M. Sanders, Esq.

*"I am . . . because they were:*

*Reaffirming our commitment to Gate City in honor of those who came before us."*

Greetings and Happy Black History Month! As the 2022 President of the Gate City Bar Association, it is my honor to welcome our new members and thank our current members for your continued support of our organization. Established in 1948, the Gate City Bar Association is the oldest African-American Bar Association in the State of Georgia. Our theme this year is: *"I am...because they were: reaffirming our commitment to Gate City in honor of those who came before us."* Each of us are the embodiment of our Founders' dreams and vision for Gate City. We, individually and collectively, have accomplished what we have today because our Founders established a clear mission that has been upheld and executed year after year by Past Presidents and members of Gate City. It states:

*To create in the community a practical appreciation for the legal profession; to encourage persons of outstanding promise to attend first rate law schools and return to the communities that need their services most; to oppose arbitrary and capricious laws in our state with all the force and fiber of which we are capable as an organization; to uphold and extend the principles of justice in every phase of American life to the end that no one shall be discriminated against because of color, race, religious beliefs or national origin.*

As we settle into 2022, we must evaluate how we can work together to fulfill the charge left by our Founders. We will resume some of the service-oriented programs that members have grown to love over the years. This includes our biannual participation in AVLF's **Saturday Lawyer Program** - which we participated in on January 15, 2022, and will participate in again on **August 13, 2022**. We will also continue Gate City's signature programs aimed at fulfilling the first two prongs of our Mission Statement. This includes the **Community Law Clinic** on **May 21, 2022**, the **Summer Associate Program** from **May 31, 2022 - July 1, 2022**, and the **Justice Robert Benham Law Camp** in **June, 2022**, just to name a few. Similarly, we will also continue **Gate City L.E.A.D.** started by Immediate Past-President, **Candis R. Jones-Smith**, as a means for all lawyers, regardless of age, experience or practice area, to cultivate leadership, foster a sense of belonging, and hone their legal expertise.

The third prong of our Mission Statement is evidenced by our commitment to keeping our members and community well-informed about voter-education events, recent legislative changes, and crucial election-related deadlines. The ballot box has and continues to be one of the strongest means to oppose arbitrary and capricious laws in our State. In that vein, on **February 22, 2022**, Gate City will be co-sponsoring a members-only event, **The Black Roundtable - 2022 Legislative Reception**. A few days later, on **February 24, 2022**, we will be hosting a virtual **Black History Month** panel discussion on recent history-making moments. This panel discussion will inspire all of us as change-makers to uphold and defend the principles of justice in every phase of our life so that no person faces the same systemic injustices that have plagued this country for centuries, as our Founders envisioned.

Next year, the Gate City Bar Association will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have persevered as an organization and the essence of our mission statement can still be seen today. I intend to stay the course and hold steadfast to the mission left by our Founders. And, the only thing that is missing is YOU! So, renew your membership or join Gate City on [gatecitybar.org](http://gatecitybar.org). I look forward to seeing you at our in-person and virtual events this year!



*"Reaffirming Our Commitment to Gate City through Membership, Service and Sponsorship".*

The views expressed in the Gate City Bar Association Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the *Daily Report* or ALM MEDIA, LLC.

## MEET THE BOARD



**Jatrean M. Sanders**  
*President*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** Trust God's timing. Social media will make even the most accomplished professionals feel like they are behind their peers. The trajectory that you are on is ordained. As long as you

are working to move closer to your goal and taking steps forward, no matter how small, you are closer than you think.



**Kevin Coleman Jr.**  
*President-Elect*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** I'd tell my younger self to be patient; you've got time. Society puts a lot of pressure on us to have "it" all figured out in our 20s and 30s. Just keep moving forward and try to make

good decisions, and "it" will figure itself out.



**N. John Bey**  
*Vice President*

**Question:** What advice do you have for the young Black law students who are preparing to enter the workforce?

**Answer:** Never lose sight of who you are and why you decided to practice law.



**Racquel V. McGee**  
*Treasurer*

**Question:** Few people know?

**Answer:** I played Division I basketball, and I think (yes, think!) I can still hold my own on the court.



**Sara Kelly**  
*Secretary*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** Two quotes my Dad taught me growing up, "You do not have to make all the right decisions. You do have to make every decision right." "Do not make short term decisions with

long term consequences." All in all, my advice to my younger self would be "Listen to Daddy!"



**Pierce G. Hand IV**  
*Assistant Secretary*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** Everything has a way of working out in the end. Although the unknown can be unsettling, don't allow that feeling to stress you. Instead, use your skills to tackle one day at a time. It will

not always be easy, but try to enjoy the journey.



**Precious Johnson**  
*Historian*

**Question:** If you have the day off, how do you spend your time?

**Answer:** My favorite things include napping, watching my favorite shows, and eating my favorite foods. I also really enjoy massages, so if there's an opening, I book it! Nothing like

some relaxation!



**Henry A. Bailey Jr.**  
*Member-At-Large*

**Question:** Few people know?

**Answer:** "I'd love to live on the Yellowstone ranch and rope cattle all day."



**Christopher Bruce**  
*Member-At-Large*

**Question:** If you have the day off, how do you spend your time?

**Answer:** I would spend it either on a Black sand beach, hiking a volcano or mountain with amazing views or visiting a funky, uniquely styled museum.



**Daedrea D. Fenwick**  
*Member-At-Large*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** Keep going. Life is unpredictable. But learn the lessons and never give up. It gets better.



**Germani Hardeman**  
*Member-At-Large*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** Everything has a way of working out in the end. Although the unknown can be unsettling, don't allow that feeling of unsettledness to stress you.

Instead, use your skills to tackle one day at a time. It will not always be easy, but try to enjoy the journey. Try to enjoy the journey.



**Cameron D. Hawkins**  
*Member-At-Large*

**Question:** If you have the day off, how do you spend your time?

**Answer:** If I have the day off, I would likely take my 4 year old daughter golfing.



**Candis R. Jones Smith**  
*Immediate Past President*

**Question:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**Answer:** Stay Focused. Don't Rush. Everything Will Happen in Due Time.



**Judge Cynthia C. Adams**  
*Ex-Officio Member*

**Question:** If you have the day off, how do you spend your time?

**Answer:** We generally spend more time at work than we do at home, with our family, or enjoying a hobby. If you find yourself with some free time, enjoy it doing something that is not work related. For me, a day off means putting down the cell phone and reading, or working on a craft project. I often must remind myself not to worry, work is not going anywhere!

# An Ode to Gate City – Thank You!

*Candis R. Jones Smith, Esq.*

Thank You for allowing me to serve as your President. Thank You for nurturing my growth from a young lawyer volunteering with the Gate City Community Law Clinic to leading a membership of over 400 law students, attorneys, and judges. It has truly been an honor and privilege. Though we remained plagued by COVID-19, and limited to primarily virtual events, I am pleased with the work we were able to accomplish in just a year’s time.

Maintaining the very essence and heart of Gate City, we continued with our traditional programs and CLEs, Black History Month Program and Excellence in Education Series as we *worked* to enrich and engage our membership.

As we continue to face local challenges with voting laws and rights, we *organized* with our membership and Gate City supporters to co-host a CLE focused on election integrity to empower our members ahead of the city and statewide elections.

Understanding the importance of *nurturing* our membership, we hosted a speed networking event and panel for our law school students and young lawyers and introduced our inaugural leadership program, Gate City L.E.A.D. to fuel our pipeline of Gate City leaders and leaders in the legal and Atlanta communities.

This past year would not have been possible without the work and support of my amazing Executive Committee. Thank you for answering the call to serve, and always entertaining my “off the wall” ideas. A BIG thank you to our friends and supporters of Gate City who continue to volunteer their time, talents and tenth! It is with your dedication, donations, and membership dues that we can continue the mission and purpose of Gate City. A special thank you to **Keenan R.S. Nix** for continuing to graciously provide Gate City members with litigation techniques and skills through our signature **Excellence in Education Series**. Thank You to Past President, the **Honorable Shukura L. Ingram** for organizing and hosting two of this year’s amazing programs – Practicing in Federal Court and In-House Music. Thank You to **N. John Bey** for not only serving as part of the Executive Committee but for graciously chairing and sponsoring this year’s L.E.A.D. Program. Thank You to the **Honorable Eric Dunaway** for chairing the Judicial Section and organizing the From the Bar to the Bench Session as part of the Gate City L.E.A.D. Program. It was a pleasure working alongside you and the entire Judicial Section. Thank you to the Gate City Past Presidents Council and my trusted Gate City mentors and advisors who provided insight and feedback as I navigated through this year as President.

I have declared Gate City **W.O.N. in 2021**, and now, I can say without a doubt that my declaration is and was true. Last year was such a rewarding and fulfilling year. As we move into 2022, we need to keep the momentum going! That said, it’s time to pay your dues, or help plan and/or sponsor an event. Now, more than ever, we need strength in the Association and with our programming.

I look forward to working with **Jatrean M. Sanders** as our President. I am certain that she, along with her Executive Committee, will work to move Gate City forward. Thank You for Trusting Me as President. I am forever indebted to this amazing organization. In the words of my Forever President Obama, “**Candis Out!**” (drops mic).

In Service to Gate City,

*Candis R. Jones Smith*

Candis R. Jones Smith

**2021 Platform – W.O.N.: Working. Organizing. Nurturing.**

## 2022 AT A GLANCE: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
INSTALLATION CEREMONY (13TH) AVL F SATURDAY LAW CLINIC (15TH)	THE BLACK ROUNDTABLE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECEPTION (22ND) BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM (24TH)	GCBA & GABWA BLSA RESUME REVIEW AND MOCK INTERVIEW WORKSHOP (5TH) YLD COMMUNITY SERVICE (26TH) BROTHER TO BROTHER MENTORING PROGRAM MARCH MADNESS WOMEN OF THE GATE CITY BAR PANEL	YOUTH AND LAW SUMMIT YLD SPEED NETWORKING
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
LAW DAY AT CASCADE COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC (21ST) SUMMER ASSOCIATE PROGRAM MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROGRAM	STATE BAR MEETING AMELIA ISLAND, FL (2ND-5TH) JUSTICE BENHAM LAW CAMP	NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (24TH-29TH) MEMPHIS, TN	AVL F SATURDAY LAWYER PROGRAM (13TH) JUDICIAL RECEPTION (16TH)
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLE TRIP (2ND -10TH) ATHENS AND SANTORINI, GREECE BLSA RETREAT (23RD – 24TH) L.E.A.D. ACADEMY	2023 MEMBERSHIP MIXER YLD: FACT OF FICTION	HALL OF FAME GALA ANNUAL MEETING AND GATE CITY ELECTIONS	HOLIDAY PARTY

**JOIN THE GATE CITY BAR ASSOCIATION  
IN ATHENS AND SANTORINI GREECE  
SEPTEMBER 2-10, 2022**



*To reserve your spot complete the Reservation Form  
and return to travel agent along with \$200.00 per person deposit*

Questions: Email or call Laurie Gluck at [www.glucktravel.com](http://www.glucktravel.com) or 404.966.5712

Cost \$2,730.00 per person; Single supplement available upon request.

Prices are subject to change until travel group has been confirmed  
(We must have a minimum of 16 guests) and \$200.00 deposit is paid.

**Deadline for  
deposit:  
12-3-2021**

*Athens airport transfers and Round trip travel from Athens to Santorini included*



**4 days in Athens and 3 days on the island of Santorini  
Daily Breakfast/Four Dinners/One Lunch and Tours included**

Airfare not included (Group rate will be available) after confirmation of trip