



## Presidential Ramblings.....

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As I draft this presidential pontification on the first day of February, 2010, I simply cannot fathom what happened to January, 2010, or December, 2009 for that matter. Happy Valentine's Day already? Weren't we just eating turkey and watching Spider-Man in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? Well, I know a big part of my time was spent with my family: my daughter's birthday is in December; then there's Christmas; and my son's birthday is in January. Of course there was that whole "going green" transition to the electronic version of the GCBA newsletter which required me to learn an awful lot about electronic publishing.....

I have continued to learn about this publishing business, and Margaret and I hope that you enjoy our new look. This is a work in progress, so we invite comments, suggestions, etc. We also welcome articles that relate (however remotely) to the practice of law. So let us hear from you: good comments, criticisms, or the submission of your Pulitzer-Prize winning journalism.

I know many of you are still leery of our move to our paperless format, but as a result, GCBA has saved a large amount of money, and we are now able to enjoy fabulous food for our luncheons. It is noteworthy that the cost of the GCBA luncheons has not gone up since....., well, since I can remember, which means part of your dues goes to subsidizing the luncheon. By spending much less money on the newsletter, we have been able to bring you good food at the luncheon without raising the cost at

the door. Good news in these hard times, indeed.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. We have a great variety of topics for you. Thank you to all of our authors, including the Honorable Pam South and the Honorable Charles Barrett. Margaret and her associate have educated us on VAWA; Mickey Roberts has synthesized an ever-changing area of the law that affects all of us as drivers of automobiles; Shawn Bratton tells us all about Law Day; and Jessica Towne admits how she has enjoyed being a "selfish" mock trial coach. In addition, Holly Hance has invited us to visit the Capital with the younger lawyers, and that brings me to my last thought this month.

On behalf of the Gwinnett Bar, I have written a letter of support for our judicial branch. As many of you know, our judges and prosecutors have had to endure furloughs, and more budget cuts are being considered at the State level. Given my tenure at GJAC, and the many friends I have made along the way, I have a deep respect for those who work there everyday. I felt compelled to answer the call of the State Bar in contacting the Gwinnett local delegation to express in no uncertain terms that we cannot allow any further cuts to the third branch of government. You can view my letter by clicking on the link in the newsletter. My plan is to follow up with a phone call to each member of our delegation. I invite you to contact these folks as well, so I have provided their information below. Our justice system is at stake, and we must voice our concerns to

those under the Gold Dome who may not understand the toll further cuts will take on the court system.

January has come and gone in a flash, and I'm sure February will be over before we know it. Take some time to enjoy the newsletter and all our organization has to offer. We'd love to see you at the February luncheon, and we've got some fun events coming up, so check your emails and keep in touch. Thanks for your continued support.



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