

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS  
DECATUR NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKING BREAKFAST ATTENDEES

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We practice exclusively immigration law with a particular emphasis on employment immigration and adjustment of status cases for scientists, athletes, and artists. All total, the members of our firm speak six foreign languages. I live in Decatur with my husband and two-year old son. In my spare time, or what I remember of it, I enjoy reading, photography, good barbecue, camping, and travel.

Lisa E. Chang, Esq. (March 8)  
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I left the employment law section of Jones Day in 2005. I now am a solo practitioner in Decatur. I have continued my employment law practice, but now I represent mostly employees with just a little defense work. I also do some commercial litigation, which is what I did for a number of years in New York City before moving to Atlanta. I have one wonderful husband, two wonderful teenage daughters, and a big dog who comes to the office on occasion but who still is not too effective at filing papers.

Gina A. Clements, Esq.  
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I am in private practice with my brother, Kirby. Our areas of practice are personal injury and criminal defense, but my primary focus is personal injury. In addition to practicing, I am an adjunct professor at DeVry University where I teach Business Law. While I grew up in Southwest Atlanta, I now reside in Decatur. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, attending cultural events, and spending time with my family.

Lisa Anne Crawford  
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I practice primarily in the areas of commercial real estate law and condominium law, with a focus on preparation of documents to establish condominium, residential, commercial, townhome, mixed-use and master planned communities. Our firm also represents builders and developers in their contract and acquisitions of real property. In addition, our firm represents over 450 community and condominium associations in the metropolitan area in matters ranging from collections, to enforcement of covenant violations and amending community and condominium association governing documents. I am an "Atlanta native" and love living and working in Decatur.

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I am a first year associate in the bankruptcy group at Troutman Sanders. My primary area of responsibility is representing a regional utility in various bankruptcies nationwide. I grew up in Marietta and now live in the Great Lakes area of Decatur, along with my cat Candy. I enjoy yoga, bike-riding and hanging out with my boyfriend.

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I am the Pro Bono Fellow at Hunton & Williams. As part of the two year fellowship, I handle only pro bono cases, and I practice primarily in the area of family law. I live near downtown Decatur with my spouse who is a debate coach at Emory. I also enjoy reading, traveling, puzzles, and good vegan food.

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Our firm concentrates in the areas of family law and worker's compensation, representing injured workers. Dawn de Klerk and I formed our LLC this year. I have practiced law for twenty years now, and during that time have done some insurance defense, personal injury, and real estate law in addition to my present practice. I am also General Counsel for the Gwinnett Ballet Theatre, GBT, a non-profit ballet company which has launched many a professional career in ballet. I enjoy ballet, the symphony, and in my spare time, I am the mother of two girls ages seven and two.

Anne S. Emanuel (May 13)  
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Member of the Faculty of the College of Law at Georgia State since 1986; teach in the areas of Wills & Trusts, Fiduciary Administration, and Criminal Law. Reporter for the 1991 Georgia Trust Code; Chair of the 2004-05 ABA Georgia Death Penalty Assessment Project. Current research project: authorized biography of Judge Elbert Tuttle of the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits.

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Annika is a Wealth Advisor at Brightworth where she provides comprehensive wealth advice that includes investment, tax, and philanthropy strategies as well as estate planning to high net worth individuals and families. She has a Masters degree in Personal Financial Planning from Georgia State University and graduated with honors from the University of Colorado with degrees in Business Administration-Information Technology and Biology. She is a Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner, Chartered Life Underwriter™, and is working on her Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™ designation. Annika is a member of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA), the Financial Planning Association (FPA), the Atlanta Estate Planning Council and the Atlanta Women's Network (AWN). She also serves on the Annual Support Committee of The Dekalb Medical Foundation. She has been published in the Journal for Retirement Planning, the Gwinnett Business Journal and Atlanta Life Magazine. Annika and her husband live in the Decatur area and enjoy tennis, gardening, travel, and scuba diving.

Kathleen Marie Flynn (May 21)  
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I have a social security disability law practice located at Decatur Court.

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We focus on working with attorneys in the areas of fundamental financial planning including retirement planning, risk management, estate planning, and tax reduction strategies. I am an Atlanta native, and I now live in Sandy Springs with my 20 lb cat. Outside of work I enjoy reading, eating out, and traveling.

Jennifer Lynn Giles (December 10)  
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I worked with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society for the first year and a half after graduating from law school. Now, two friends and I have opened our own law firm. We concentrate on residential real estate closings and general civil matters. Although I now live in the Oakhurst area of Decatur with my husband, dog and cat, I am originally from Ohio. I enjoy cooking, running and hanging out with my husband in our hammock.

M. Debra (Debbie) Gold  
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My practice focuses on *Guardian ad Litem* work, representing the best interests of children in custody disputes. Outside of my practice, my greatest passion is travel and I make it my goal to fill up all of the pages in my passport!

Brittini Goldman  
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I am a rising 2L at the University of Virginia.

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I am currently a staff attorney at legal aid doing a wide variety of civil cases. My background is primarily criminal defense and family law. I enjoy doing triathlons, studying spanish, and eating vegetarian meals. I live in midtown/Buckhead with my three really fat cats.

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I have my own criminal defense law firm where I represent people in all types of cases as well as handling appeals, parole and pardons. I also help people who have immigration problems as a result of criminal cases. I have been a part-time DeKalb magistrate judge for 10 years and in my spare time I run, play tennis and hang out in St Croix with my husband who lives there part-time and try to keep track of my 17 year old step-daughter (which is a full-time job itself!).

Jessica J. Harper (April 24)  
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I focus on employment issues and business divorces involving attorneys, CPAs and physicians. Our firm also represents clients in other commercial litigation, commercial real estate transactions, estate and probate litigation, family law matters and general corporate representation. I live in Decatur with my husband of twenty years, our cats and a smart alecky Siberian Husky.

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I have just recently opened my own firm. I am a former prosecutor who was a partner at Sexton, Key & Hendrix.

My firm practices Criminal Defense and Immigration Law. My office is in DeKalb and I live in Decatur.

In the free time I have I enjoy traveling, sewing and reading.

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Misty Johnson

Misty is a rising 2L at Vanderbilt and she is currently working for DLA Piper.

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Cheryl Legare just joined Buckley & Klein, LLP, a firm specializing in representing employees in matters related to their employment. Prior to joining Buckley & Klein, Cheryl represented management in litigation under Title VII, the ADA, the ADEA, the FMLA, the FLSA, and various state law torts. She lives in Oakhurst with her husband, 2 dogs and 2 cats, and she currently serves as Secretary of the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association.

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I focus on defending suits brought under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act and related statutes and causes of action and defending subcontractors in construction litigation matters. When I'm not working, I can be found running, swimming, shopping, throwing Kong toys for my two Australian Shepherd mix dogs, or planning my next trip.

Rachel Platt (October 22)  
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I worked with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society for the first year and a half after graduating from law school. I then spent a year working at Brock Clay in Marietta practicing special education law. At the beginning of this year, I opened my own law firm with two of my friends. Our primary focus is conducting residential real estate closings, but we also practice in the areas of wills, family law, and education law. I currently live in Kirkwood and enjoy reading, watching TV, and spending time with my friends and family.

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I have practiced in the areas of real estate-residential and commercial-for the past nine years. I am currently seeking a position which may be in those areas, or I would be happy to learn something new. I enjoy getting out and about in Decatur with my husband and toddler.

Lauren Rooney  
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Right now my career objectives are just to complete law school, pass the bar and continue working in the field of law in an area that will provide me with challenging and diverse opportunities. In my free time, I enjoy traveling as much and as far as I can, working out, spending time with family and friends and doing anything outdoors!

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I am an associate with the law firm of Weekes & Candler, LLP located in Decatur. I handle cases in many different areas of litigation, but my primary focus is education law. We handle issues related to special education throughout Georgia and represent DeKalb County School District. In my spare time I like to write, travel and hang out with my husband and two dogs.

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I have been practicing employment law for 25 years, predominantly representing employees. I am currently the senior partner at Thompson, Rollins, & Schwartz, a female owned firm that specializes in employment law and business immigration law. A substantial part of our practice deals with representing women who have been discriminated against on the basis of sex or have been sexually harassed. I am a long time member of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA), as well as the Georgia chapter of NELA, where I have previously served as President. I live in DeKalb County with my husband, my 16 year old son, and my daughter, when she isn't attending the College of Charleston.

Karen Shelley  
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I am a happy go lucky 3L at Georgia State University. When I am not in school, I am working for a criminal defense firm and dreaming about prosecuting. I live in

Decatur with my three dogs and boyfriend. My hobbies include watching soccer and reading.

Melinda (“Mindy”) Ellen Simon (July 22)

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I am an Associate General Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at Emory University. My primary focus is on tax and corporate issues, although I am also involved in a range of issues from alcohol to study abroad. I love to read and travel, although the latter has been curtailed somewhat with the arrival of my son three years ago and the impending arrival of my second child in April.

Deborah K. Spitale (October 1)  
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Debby is the Chief Fiduciary Officer of the Trust and Investment Management department of Alpha Bank and Trust. Her goal is to provide her clients with straightforward financial solutions, the highest quality service, and leading technology. Alpha Bank and Trust offers a full line of personalized financial services that include Investment Advisory Services, Trust and Fiduciary Services, Corporate Escrow services, 1031 Like Kind Exchange Intermediary Services, and Retirement Planning.

Debby is married to Paul who is a marketing manager with MeadWestvaco. They have a daughter, Alexandra who is 4.

Alisa Steinberg (June 25)  
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I am a second year law student at the University of Georgia and I'm interested in practicing in Atlanta after I graduate. I am also interested in cooking: crepes, banana bread, meringues, bitter melon soup- if it sounds strange or scrumptious, I've tried to cook it.

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Erin Whitcomb

Erin is a rising 2L at St. Johns and she is currently doing child advocacy work for a public interest organization.