



April 2016

Volume 10, No. 1

# Newsletter

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Contents

- HCBA Upcoming Events ..... 1
- Local Events..... 1
- Get to Know Your Member At Large ..... 1
- HCBA Spotlight Member ..... 2
- Advice from the Bench..... 2
- Henry County 2016 Elections: Get to Know the Candidates ..... 3
- Bobby Lee Cook: Legacy of Greatness..... 4
- **2016 Henry County Court Calendars Are Now Available**  
[http://www.co.henry.ga.us/  
SuperiorCourt/](http://www.co.henry.ga.us/SuperiorCourt/)



## Get to Know Your Member At Large: **AMANDA FLORA**

Amanda R. Flora is a lifelong resident of Henry County. In May 2004 she earned her J.D. Degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. After law school Ms. Flora was hired as an Assistant District Attorney in the Alcovy Circuit and practiced in the Walton County Office prosecuting felony and misdemeanor cases. In April 2006 Amanda began working for the Flint Circuit Public Defender's Office in Henry County as an Assistant Public Defender. During her time at the Public Defender's Office, Ms. Flora was able to represent clients charged with felony offenses and handled numerous appeals throughout the Metro Atlanta Area. In 2013 Ms. Flora left the Public Defender's Office to return to prosecution as a Senior Assistant Solicitor in the Clayton County Solicitor's Office. After being at the Solicitor's Office for a little over a year Ms. Flora was given the opportunity to

return to Henry County and prosecute as an Assistant District Attorney with the Flint Circuit District Attorney's Office. Ms. Flora serves her community by volunteering her time as the Secretary for the Haven House Board of Directors and has previously served on the board for Prevent Child Abuse Henry County.



## HCBA Upcoming Events

April 19

Candidate Forum - 6:00 p.m.  
Deep South Deli  
District Attorney Candidates  
Henry County State Court  
Candidates

April 22

Henry County Law Day -12:00 p.m.  
Henry County Superior Court  
Courtroom A  
Bobby Lee Cook - Speaker  
Judge Arch McGarity - Presiding

## Don't Forget

Georgia Legal Food Frenzy  
<http://galegalfoodfrenzy.org/>  
Contact: Holly Veal, Veal Law Firm



## **Advice From The Bench: Judge Bill Bartles, Juvenile Court**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Henry County is fortunate to have many fine individual, corporate and government entities actively involved in making our community safer for children and families. It is important for us as members of the legal community to strive to assist in these efforts whenever possible, whether as a volunteer, advocate or by whatever other means available.

Please let me take this opportunity to congratulate one of our own for just such a contribution. It is most fitting for the publication of our April newsletter that we recognize and honor Judge Buddy Welch as one of those community leaders. Judge Welch has recently been awarded the 17th Annual Justice Robert Benham Community Service Award for his outstanding contributions to our community. As most of you know, Judge Welch presided in Henry Juvenile Court for over 35 years prior to his recent retirement. During his years on the Bench, he always exhibited his passion for children and their families in presiding over pending cases and in structuring the Court's operations. We as a community are a better place because of his years of dedication to the Juvenile Court and to the children, families and community it serves. This annual award bestowed upon Judge Welch was initiated by the State Bar 17 years ago because of concerns about the decreasing number of lawyers in leadership positions in public and community service. A State Bar Task Force was formed and it concluded the Bar needed to encourage, support, and recognize within the legal profession the tradition that all lawyers perform community service and measure their success in ways other than just monetary success.

Judge Welch has been a role model and mentor to many of us who are members of the Henry County Bar. We should all strive to give back to our community as Judge Welch has for all these many years. There can be no better cause in which we as bar members can perform community service than in assisting in any way possible with the noble goal to prevent child abuse by any means available to us. We will all then be contributing to a better Henry County.

**Ask yourself: "How can I contribute?"**

## **HCBA Spotlight Member: Nicole Eck**

Born into a large military family, the daughter of a pilot, Nicole grew up all over the world. This experience was amazing and exposed Nicole and her brothers and sister to many cultures, people, and places. It also, however, created a vacuum of "hometown" and long term friendships and consistency. It was through this experience that Nicole became convinced of the importance of so-called "collateral" adults in the lives of children. Adults who influence, support, motivate, and help children find opportunities and achieve their goals. These childhood experiences would help drive Nicole the rest of her life. Attending college on a community involvement and religious scholarship, Nicole then went to the military where she did humanitarian work around the world. During her tenure in the military she became the 'Bluejacket of the Quarter' (Sailor of the Quarter) two times and the "Bluejacket of the Year" one time- being the first female with the United States Fleet Marine Corps Force to do so. Upon leaving the military and returning to college, Nicole continued to work with children through multiple community organizations including Big Brother, Big Sister, The Boys and Girls Club, Mentoring, and the Refugee Assistance Center earning her several University Awards. Upon graduating first in her class, Nicole decided she wanted to continue to work with the community and accepted the Woodruff Scholarship to Mercer University School of Law. After graduation, Nicole landed in Henry County as an Assistant Solicitor with the goal of eventually obtaining a position working with children. After several years, she was hired as one of the Assistant District Attorneys for Juvenile Court, where she currently works. Working with the Juvenile Court has allowed Nicole to work to truly try and impact the lives of children. Juvenile Court, as she learned under the tutelage of Mary Evans-Battle, is very different than the "normal" courts. In the disposition phase of a case, everyone works as a team to set in place a plan to assist a child to become their best self possible. This requires incredibly in depth looks at the child's educational, social, and environmental history. None of the work done at Juvenile Court would be possible

without a team effort of cooperation between the incredible judges, schools, attorneys, community resources, and probation officers. Among the resources that are offered through Juvenile Court are classes on Sexual Responsibility, New Resolutions, ART for high risk children, Mediation for appropriate cases, Wrap Services and Family Assessments for children just entering the system, and Mentoring. Nicole has been extremely proud to be a part of, along with Jackie Hyde of the Public Defender's Office, Amy Kuhns, Laura Mulkey, Charllette Smith, Jeff Fox of County Juvenile Probation, and other community partners, one of the first Juvenile Mental Health Courts in one of the first Juvenile Mental Health Courts in the State of Georgia. This court specifically works as an alternative disposition to traditional probation measures, meeting every other week with intensive classes and therapy options with the goal of letting families and children understand their diagnosis is a part of them, but not who they are so empowering them to manage their particular needs while leaving a positive, productive life. This Court has meaningfully impacted the lives of multiple families in the community as well as the lives of those who work in it. Through her Juvenile Court experiences, Nicole has been more convinced than ever of the importance of community involvement with its youth as well as the importance of the role of "collateral" adults in providing opportunities for children to lead productive lives and encourages everyone to seek out opportunities to help other children in the community in some way. Nicole has also been active in her church working with the youth group, with local 4H, Ag Science, and FFA members, and sits on the Multi Department Task Force for victims of Sexual Assault in Henry County. Nicole lives on a small working farm in Locust Grove with her husband, Brian who is a Henry County Traffic Accident Investigator, her miracle son Michael, and all of their animal menagerie.

*If you have nominations for HCBA Spotlight Member please submit them to [anita@lamarlawoffice.com](mailto:anita@lamarlawoffice.com).*

# Henry County 2016 Elections:

## District Attorney Candidates



Matthew McCord began his career as a prosecutor and served in Clayton County and in the Newton County office of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. He was an associate in the Atlanta firm of Harper, Waldon, and Craig, where he tried cases all over the state on behalf of insurance carriers, their clients, and other individuals and corporations. Since 2007 Matt has had a general practice serving families, corporations and individuals in Henry County and across the south side of Atlanta. He has been named one of Georgia's rising stars, the top two percent of Georgia's young lawyers, three times.

He serves as a volunteer on the state bar's fee arbitration board, and was invited to speak at the 2012 Bar President's leadership initiative. Matt is the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Stockbridge and is one of five judges elected by the Georgia Municipal Court Judges Council to serve on the Municipal Court Judges Training Council.

In 2012 he served as the president of the Henry Bar Association. He was the mock trial coach at Eagles Landing High School for two years, and served as the region coordinator for mock trial for two years.

Matt and his wife, Alley, have one daughter and live in McDonough.



Darius Pattillo attended the University of Georgia where he received a degree in Education. Mr. Pattillo also earned his law degree from UGA.

Mr. Pattillo presently serves as a Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb County where he prosecutes defendants charged with serious felonies such as murder, rape, and armed robbery. Mr. Pattillo is also a manager within the D.A.'s Office where he supervises attorneys, investigators, and paralegals.

In addition, Mr. Pattillo periodically teaches criminal justice classes at local colleges. He also volunteers as a high school mock trial coach and judge.

In 2012, Darius ran for Henry County District Attorney and received 47% of the vote. If elected, Mr. Pattillo plans to create a Domestic Violence Unit, a Pre-trial Diversion program, and a Community Outreach program within the D.A.'s Office.

Darius and his wife have lived in Henry County for 11 years and they have 2 children.



Sandi Rivers is seeking the office of District Attorney of Henry County.

She is a 1996 graduate of John Marshall Law School in Atlanta. Sandi is a career prosecutor having spent the past two decades as an assistant district attorney. Prior to that she served Henry County for eight years in law enforcement with the Henry County Sheriff, Henry County Police, and District Attorney. She is currently a coach for the Ola High School Mock Trial Team.

Sandi is committed to leading the office of the District Attorney with integrity and tenacity. She sees the job of the District Attorney as a commitment to protecting the safety of the County, prosecuting the guilty and exonerating the innocent.

She also looks forward to the opportunity to mentor young lawyers to prepare the Office for success into the next decade.



Holly Veal has been licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia since 2004.

Mrs. Veal attended the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law, on full merit scholarship.

Holly's prosecutorial experience includes working as an Assistant District Attorney, Senior Assistant District Attorney and Lead Assistant Solicitor General. She also has experience as a public defender and private defense lawyer. She has earned recognition for her work as a prosecutor and currently sits on the Formal Advisory Opinion Board through the State Bar of Georgia.

Holly is devoted to the citizens of Henry County and serves them as a member of the board of directors for the Hands of Hope Clinic and by working as the city representative for the Legal Food Frenzy, a brainchild of the attorney general, Sam Olens.

She and her husband, Lindsey Veal Jr., reside in Henry County with their two daughters.

### COME MEET THE CANDIDATES AT THE CANDIDATE FORUM

**WHEN: APRIL 19, 2016**

**WHERE: DEEP SOUTH DELI**

**TIME: 6:00 P.M., STARTING PROMPTLY**

**CANDIDATES WILL DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING THE HENRY COUNTY LEGAL COMMUNITY AND ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS**

# Bobby Lee Cook: *Legacy of Greatness*



The year was 1949. Bobby Lee Cook was handling one of his first-ever murder trials, defending a man who had killed another man who had called him a “goddamn son of a bitch.”

During opening statements, the prosecutor told the Dade County, Ga., jurors that while calling someone this was a bad thing, it didn’t give the defendant the right to kill the man.

Slowly, Cook rose from his chair at the defense table to approach the jury. “I have a question for you,” he asked the dozen in the box. “What would you have done if someone had called you a goddamn son of a bitch?” At that moment, an older mountain man with a long beard sitting at the back of the jury box whispered just loud enough for the other jurors to hear: “Why, I would have killed the son of a bitch.”

“I had an entire opening statement planned,” Cook says. “But I just looked at the man, looked at the jurors, nodded, walked back to my chair and sat down.”

The next day, the jury acquitted his client.

During the past six decades, Cook has tried thousands of cases, including more than 300 murder trials, in more than 40 states and several countries. He’s represented moonshiners and money launderers, bootleggers and bank fraud schemers. The Rockefellers and Carnegies have been his clients. The television show *Matlock* was reportedly based on Cook’s practice. And his defense of Savannah socialite Jim Williams helped bring to life John Berendt’s true-crime classic *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

At age 89, Cook still lives in Summerville, Ga., which sits a little closer to Chattanooga, Tenn., than to Atlanta. He’s still trying cases—he represents three murder defendants in separate cases set to go to trial this year. He remains one of the most sought-after criminal defense lawyers in the South.

“I’m having the best and most productive year of my career,” Cook says. “I enjoy waking up every morning and kicking somebody in the ass that needs it.”

When that feeling is gone, he says, that’s the day he’ll retire.

Read More at [http://www.abajournal.com/mobile/mag\\_article/bobby\\_lee\\_cook/](http://www.abajournal.com/mobile/mag_article/bobby_lee_cook/); ABA Journal, March 2009