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Local Attorney Spotlight - John Parker



John Parker grew up on a farm in Giles County, Tennessee and majored in economics at Vanderbilt University. He then obtained his J.D. from The George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C. He started practicing Georgia Workers' Compensation Law in 2002, representing employers and insurers. In 2007, he started his solo claimant's practice here in McDonough. His practice is limited to Workers' Compensation and representing injured workers throughout the State. His office is located in the Law South building just north of the McDonough Square.

THE PARKER LAW FIRM, P.C.
30 Woodruff Street
McDonough, Georgia
30253
Phone: 770-898-7099

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Luncheons

April 20

Changes in Law

Brian Strickland Andy Welch

May 18

Law Day

Justice Nahmias

September 14

Human Trafficking

Thomas Worthy

Director Governmental
Affairs for the State Bar

Upcoming Events

May 9

Haven House Hustle

Locust Grove City Hall
9a.m.

August 21-22

Henry County Bar CLE

Reynolds Plantation
Ritz Carlton

Announcements

Wills Clinic

July 18

Need Volunteers

4th Annual Legal Food

Frenzy

Contact Holly W. Veal
holly@vealandlamar.com

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Advice From The Bench
Judge Ben Studdard
Henry County State Court



Be prepared. Be over prepared. Because there's no such thing as over prepared. But there is certainly such a thing as underprepared. Don't be that underprepared lawyer. When you come to court, know the law, know the facts, and have your evidence where you can quickly find it. When you cite me a case, offer me a copy of it, highlighted, with another copy for opposing counsel.

Be the lawyer who would make your mama proud. Be courteous and professional to everyone, even other lawyers. And especially court staff. If you are ugly to court staff, will the judge hear about it? Yes, yes he/she will. Be that lawyer who brings credit to your profession – and to your mama.

About the Henry County Bar Association

The primary goals of the Henry County Bar Association are to promote the legal profession in Henry County and to provide fellowship for its members. These goals are accomplished in a variety of ways: through service to the community in ways consistent with highest ethical calling of our profession; through activities that encourage interaction between the members in non-adversarial situations, such as monthly meetings; through the advancement of knowledge; and insight into the law and its legal processes through seminars and speakers. We are a service profession and committed to this principle through membership in this Association. We hope the newsletter provides valuable information to you. If you have any questions about the HCBA, please do not hesitate to contact the President.

If Juries Could Impose The Sentence?
By Scott Key

In Georgia, juries generally don't get to decide the sentence. Only where the State is seeking death does the jury get a hand in sentencing. Not only do Georgia juries not get a say in sentencing decisions, our law is designed not to let them know a great deal about what might happen at sentencing. The idea is that jurors might be swayed by sympathy in the guilt-innocence phase of the trial if they knew what was in store for the defendant after a guilty verdict. For instance, an armed robbery conviction in Georgia carries with it a minimum mandatory ten years to serve without the possibility of parole. For certain repeat offenders, a guilty verdict means life without the possibility of parole. Jurors are not told about minimum mandatory sentences unless they stay to watch the sentencing hearing.

[Scott Greenfield posted at Simple Justice](#) about a Federal Judge who consulted with the jury on what a fair sentence ought to be in a case. Turns out that most jurors would sentence well below the sentencing guidelines. And I imagine, on the State side, that jurors would often sentence below the minimum mandatory.

A few months ago, I tried a case in Federal Court where the jury reached a guilty verdict. I noticed that many of the jurors were crying as they walked into the courtroom (never a good sign). After it was all over, they asked me to come back to the jury room to talk to me about their decision. They then asked the prosecutor to be lenient.

In between the verdict day and the ultimate sentencing date, I consulted with many colleagues who regularly practice in Federal Court about whether it would be a good idea (or even ethical) to invite jurors back to testify in mitigation. Opinions varied, but the consensus was that I should not do it. There was no way to know how a judge might respond to this kind of testimony or whether such a move might appear to be a stunt. I ultimately decided against doing it, thinking that the potential downside outweighed the potential good. After all, the judge saw the same trial they did. And he hopefully saw things the way they did.

When it was all over, my client received a sentence significantly below the guidelines.

Scott Greenfield's blog post raises an interesting question. Should jurors have a role in the sentencing process in more cases? And could jurors be consistently be counted on to recommend or impose a sentence below guidelines or below a mandatory minimum?

Read More At

www.georgiacriminalappellatelawblog.com



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Side Bar



2015 SCHEDULE WEEKDAY

APRIL							JUNE							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							ARI 9:30	ARI 9:30	ARI 3:30			PIT 7:30	PIT 7:00							PHI 7:00
5	MIA 4:00	MIA 7:00	MIA 7:00		NYM 7:30	NYM 7:00	PIT 1:30	SD 7:00	SD 7:00	SD 7:00	SD 12:00	NYM 7:00	NYM 7:00	PHI 1:30	SF 7:00	SF 7:00	SF 7:00	MIA 7:00	MIA 7:30	MIA 7:00
12	NYM 1:30	MIA 7:00	MIA 12:00		TOR 7:00	TOR 1:00	NYM 1:00	BOS 4:00	BOS 4:00	BOS 7:00	BOS 7:00	NYM 4:00	NYM 4:00	MIA 5:00	TB 7:00	TB 7:00	TB 7:00	ARI 7:30	ARI 7:00	
19	TOR 1:00	NYM 7:00	NYM 7:00	NYM 7:00	PHI 7:00	PHI 7:00	NYM 5:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 4:00	PIT 7:00	PIT 4:00	ARI 7:30	SD 10:00	SD 10:00	SD 3:30	CHI 8:00	CHI 4:00	CHI 4:00	
26	PHI 1:30	WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00	CIN 7:00		PIT 1:30	WSH 7:00					CHI 2:00	COL 7:00	COL 7:00	COL 7:00	NYN 7:30	NYN 7:00		
HOME GAMES: DIAMOND MARQUEE PREMIER SELECT VALUE SUPER VALUE AWAY GAMES							ALL TIMES EASTERN AND SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE													
MAY							JULY							SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					CIN 7:30	CIN 7:00			WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00	PHI 7:30	PHI 7:00			MIA 7:00	MIA 12:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00		
3	CIN 1:30	PHI 7:00	PHI 7:00	PHI 7:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 4:00	PHI 1:30	MIL 8:00	MIL 8:00	MIL 2:00	COL 8:30	COL 4:00	WSH 1:30	PHI 7:00	PHI 7:00	PHI 7:00	NYM 7:00	NYM 7:00		
10	WSH 1:30	CIN 7:00	CIN 7:00	CIN 7:00	MIA 7:00	MIA 4:00	COL 4:00	ALL STAR GAME CINCINNATI, OHIO 7:30			CHI 7:30	CHI 7:00	NYM 1:30	TOR 7:00	TOR 7:00	TOR 7:00	PHI 7:30	PHI 7:00		
17	MIA 1:00	TB 7:00	TB 7:00	MIL 7:00	MIL 7:30	MIL 4:00	CHI 5:00	LAD 7:00	LAD 7:00	LAD 12:00	STL 8:00	STL 7:00	PHI 1:30	NYM 7:00	NYM 7:00	NYM 7:00	MIA 7:00	MIA 4:00		
24	MIL 1:30	LAD 8:00	LAD 10:00	LAD 10:00	SF 10:00	SF 10:00	STL 2:00	BAL 7:00	BAL 7:00	BAL 7:00	PHI 7:00	PHI 7:00	MIA 1:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00	WSH 7:00	STL 7:30	STL 7:00		
31	SF 4:00												4	STL 1:30						

Henry County April Events

April 9 – April 12

The Henry County Players

Present:

Next to Normal

Henry County Performing Arts

April 17

Taste of Henry

Jason T. Harper Event Center

April 18 - 19

Summit Racing Auto Show

Atlanta Motor Speedway

April 25

Dirty Girl 5k

Atlanta Motor Speedway

April 25

A Musical Review

Holiday Inn – Stockbridge

April 26

Stunt Fest

Atlanta Motor Speedway

Other Henry County Bars

- Motorheads Bar and Grill – 650 Macon Street McDonough
- Season's Bistro – 41 Griffin Street McDonough
- Sugar Daddy's Bar and Grill – 1095 Hwy 155 S McDonough
- The Zone Sports Bar and Grill – 1483 Hwy 20 W McDonough
- Three Dollar Café – 1000 Regency Plaza Blvd McDonough
- Torbio's Mexican Grill and Bar – 835 Industrial Blvd McDonough

For Newsletter Submission Suggestions:
alamar@vealandlamar.com