



# Newsletter

[www.henrycounty-bar.com](http://www.henrycounty-bar.com)

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- **2016 Henry County Court Calendars Are Now Available**  
<http://www.co.henry.ga.us/SuperiorCourt/>



## HCBA Upcoming Events

December 3  
 HCBA Christmas Party  
 Eagle's Brooke County Club  
 6:30 p.m. - Appetizers/Cash Bar  
 7:00 p.m. - Dinner  
 HCBA Members: Free  
 Non-Members: \$35.00/person  
 RSVP: [pandora@pandoralaw.com](mailto:pandora@pandoralaw.com)

## Local News

November 5-6  
 Child Support Conference 2015  
 Atlanta Evergreen Marriott  
 Conference Resort  
 4021 Lakeview Drive  
 Stone Mountain, GA

## Special Savings For HCBA Members in November

### Seasons Bistro

41 Griffith Street  
 McDonough, GA 30253  
[www.theseasonsbistro.com](http://www.theseasonsbistro.com)  
 All Current HCBA members will receive one (1) free dessert with purchase of entree from November 1 through November 30.

### Standard Fitness Studios

678-619-7345  
 2242 Hwy 42N  
 McDonough, GA 30253  
[www.standardfitnessstudios.com](http://www.standardfitnessstudios.com)  
 All Current HCBA members will receive discounted rate of \$67.00 (normally \$159.00) for 21 Day Fitness Program.

### Atlanta Sports & Injury Center

1325 Rock Quarry Road, Ste 100  
 Stockbridge, GA 30281  
[www.asicrehab.com](http://www.asicrehab.com)  
 770-909-0590  
 All Current HCBA members will receive 30 minute massage for \$19.00 (normally \$39.00) or receive 60 minute massage \$39.00 massage (normally \$59.00).

*HCBA Members at the Jailhouse Brewery Social, 2015*





## Advice From The Bench: Judge James Chafin Henry County State

Lawyers are hired to seek a good outcome for their client. In that process, they have to deal with opposing counsel that has the same goal for their client. Also standing in their way is the Judge that their matter gets assigned to handle. How do you get a better Judge? Be a better lawyer.

Judges are human. Or, so I am told. If you are the better prepared lawyer, prompt, professional in your dealings and courteous; then you will have more good outcomes for your clients.

Ever see a good team lose to a weaker opponent? Most people “play up” or “play down” to the abilities of their opponent. Judges also “play up” based on the lawyers before them. It is much more likely that a ruling will go your way when you offer the Judge the right answer supported by the law and the facts. You have the ability to anticipate the legal issues and evidence problems in advance, because you know the facts of the case. The Judge doesn’t.

The well prepared Lawyer anticipates and prepares. If you don’t know the law, the Judge may not figure it out either. I know I speak for all Judges, that we actually enjoy a well presented case. The lawyer that does the better job of preparing, knowing the law and acts professionally is going to get the better outcome for their client. Be that Lawyer!

## HCBA Spotlight Member: Michael Tafelski

Mike Tafelski is a Supervising Attorney at Georgia Legal Services Program. GLSP provides free civil legal services to low income families across 154 counties outside the five Metro Atlanta counties.

Mike received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Miami (Ohio) and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Cincinnati. He has been a member of the Georgia Bar since 2007.

Mike primarily handles cases for residents of Henry County. He has worked with GLSP for his entire legal career after being born and raised in Ohio by parents who are lifetime civil rights advocates.

Mike especially enjoys practicing in Henry County because the bar and bench are very supportive of GLSP and ensuring access to justice for all.

Mike is married to Anne Mellen, an employment law partner at Littler, and they have a toddler son, Miles, who loves feeding his vegetables to their rescue dog, Jay.

Our judicial system cannot function without the availability of counsel to ensure that all people have effective access to the legal system. The need for legal assistance by low-income Georgians to resolve life-shattering problems is enormous.

Legal intervention is often the critical factor that enables a family to remain together or to receive vital financial support. In even the best of times, legal aid programs can serve only a small fraction of the persons who meet their eligibility standards and who need legal assistance. Private attorney participation—or “pro bono”—is absolutely critical, especially so in areas of Georgia where we have no lawyers or very few lawyers who can be called upon to help.

You can help. Go to <http://www.glsp.org/get-involved-with-glsp/pro-bono/> for more information on becoming a volunteer today.

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

Michael Tafelski  
November 2015  
HCBA Spotlight Member

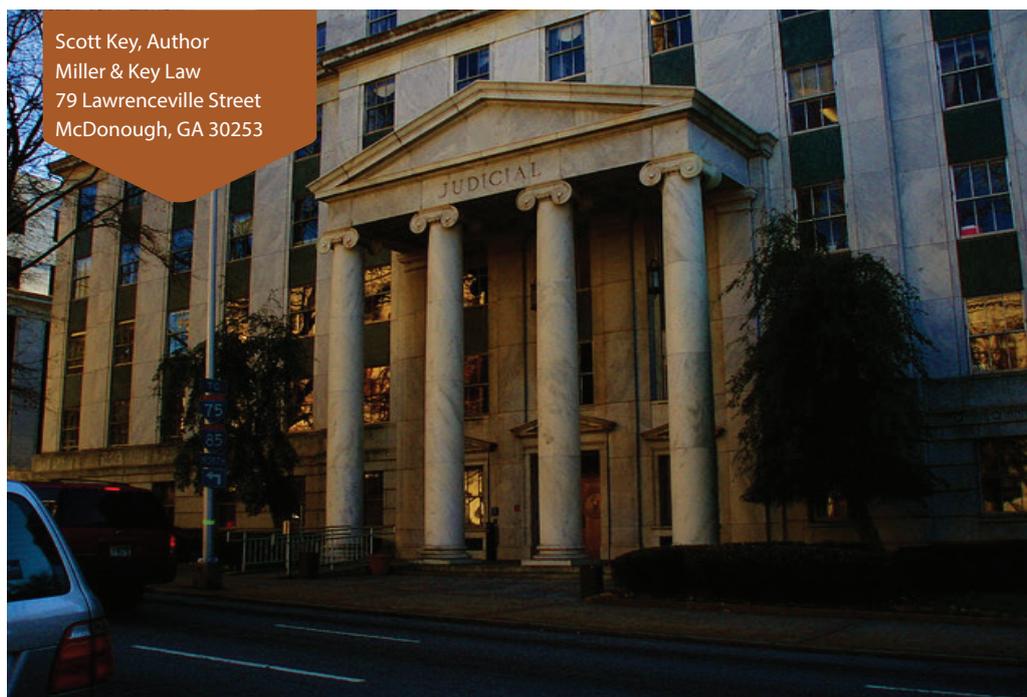


Jim Galloway, in the Atlanta Journal's Political Insider Blog, reports that the Governor is formulating a push in next year's session of the legislature to increase Georgia's seven-member Supreme Court by two justices.

Mr. Galloway opines that the governor's move could expand his influence beyond his eight year tenure and compares a potential Franklin Roosevelt's push, during the depression, to "pack" the court with like-minded Supreme Court justices. Such is an interesting take on the Gov's move. However, I don't know that the comparison is necessarily apt. A presidential appointment certainly has the potential to expand a president's influence beyond his own term. After all, United States Supreme Court justices have lifetime appointments. Also, the United States Supreme Court hears issues, in the aggregate, that are likely to shape the direction of public policy. While there are certain cases like that before the Georgia Supreme Court, that court also takes on its fair share of routine criminal and civil matters. Again, it's an interesting theory. But I have never thought of Georgia's appellate courts as an extension of the governors who appointed the justices that sit on it. Perhaps I haven't thought of it enough.

While the governor may have some hand in creating these new judgeships, his appointment would not extend for life. Georgia Supreme Court justices seek reelection at the end of their term. Though incumbency has its benefits, particularly in judicial elections. Interestingly, the Court of Appeals was expanded by three judges in the most recent legislative term. From an initial field of nominees of approximately 200, approximately 100 applicants remain.

Mr. Galloway reports that two "inducements" are on the table to increase the number of Supreme Court justices by two. There is a promise to build a new judicial building as well as talk of reducing the jurisdiction of the state Supreme Court. That jurisdiction is already significantly narrow. And it seems strange that the Supreme Court



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## Two New Justices on the Ga. Supreme Court?

### Why Would The Governor Make Such A Move?

would undergo a historic expansion as part of a package deal to reduce the court workload. Also, it is difficult to imagine that either court would like such a proposal. For the Supreme Court, loss of jurisdiction is a loss of power.

For the Court of Appeals, increased jurisdiction brings with it an increased caseload. It also seems odd that there would be a push to potentially increase the workload of the Court of Appeals. The Georgia Court of Appeals is known as one of the busiest if not the busiest intermediate appellate courts in the nation. The Georgia Court of Appeals hears on average about 3200 cases per year over the last five years. That workload means that each judge has a caseload of approximately 280. The addition of three Court of Appeals judges will significantly decrease the workload of each judge and probably increase the quality of opinions being authored as judges will have more time to spend on each case. By contrast, the seven justices on the Supreme Court here fewer direct

appeals and have a good bit of discretion over their caseload where petitions come before them. I'm certainly not in the loop for any of this, but I wonder what category of cases would be taken away from the Supreme Court.

I will be interested to see how this all falls out and what the debate is about these two new additions. From a lawyer's perspective, a move to increase the resources of either court is welcome. A better staffed court can only help the litigants before it.





Law Day 2015 at the Capital

## Holiday Season Help for Haven House and Henry County Sheriff's Office

### Haven House - Holiday Giving

#### Supply a Thanksgiving Meal-

Donate a frozen turkey, dressing mix, rolls, canned vegetables & pumpkin pie mix to a family in need.

**Adopt a Family-** Help a family fulfill their children's dreams by adopting a family at Christmastime.

**Host a Party** - Bring in punch & cookies or pizza & soft drinks for a holiday party. activities.

**Adopt a Family Room-** Help us furnish a room by donating towards the cause. We have selected sturdy furniture that should hold up to the constant, heavy use.

**Donate Individual Toys & Gifts-** If you don't wish to adopt an entire family consider selecting gifts to donate for children, teens and women.

**Host a Children's Outing-** The children are out of school over the Thanksgiving and Christmas- New Year's breaks. Help us take them on field trips.

**Gift Cards-** Gift cards are helpful year round to purchase gasoline, food items, clothing and other much needed items.

**Contact for more info 770-954-1008**

### Henry County Sheriff's Office Annual Fresh Fruit Sale to Support Shop with a Deputy

This program allows us to provide Christmas gifts to Henry County youth that would otherwise not have a Christmas. Additionally, proceeds also allow us to provide programs designed to enhance community awareness and safety.

Order deadline is Monday, December 7 at 1:00 pm. Delivery is expected on December 14.

#### Pre-Order Pricing Information

Bags of Fruit: Medium (1/4 bushel): \$6 each for White Navel Oranges, Red Grapefruit or Tangelos large (1/2 bushel): \$12 each for White Navel Oranges, Red Grapefruit or Tangelos.

Decorative Baskets of Mixed Fruit: Small Basket (10" diameter) : \$17 each for mixture of fruit large Basket (14" diameter): \$28 each for mixture of fruit

*Please drop off your [order form\(s\)](#) with payment to the Sheriff's Office - Sharon Mitchell, 120 Henry Parkway, McDonough, no later than Monday, December 7, 2015 at 1:00 PM.*