

Third Annual Pre-Trial Discovery and Deposition Boot Camp a Success

Deposition Boot Camp, chaired again by C. Jason Willcox of Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers in Albany, was completely revamped this year to encompass all pre-trial discovery. The course materials were even changed to be the case study used in Trial & Mediation Academy, so there is continuity for continued learning between the two seminars.

The two-day CLE was subsequently renamed "Pre-Trial Discovery & Deposition Boot Camp" and held August 16-17, 2012 at State Bar Headquarters.

The workshop combined lectures and demonstrations from an expert faculty with practical exercises to help students learn and apply critical skills. Presentations included planning your strategy for discovery, identifying deponents,

preparing plaintiff and defendant deposition outlines, questioning the deponent, defending the deposition, ethical considerations during depositions, using documents and creating exhibits in depositions, preparing for motions for summary judgment through depositions, preparing your witness to be deposed, and knowing the deponent through social media.

Macon Superior Court Judge Tilman E. Self, III discussed "Professionalism: A View from the Bench" during Thursday's luncheon. The first day concluded with a networking reception, giving students time to get acquainted and to ask the faculty questions on an informal basis.

State Bar Past President S. Lester Tate, III of Akin & Tate in Cartersville returned this year as

Friday's luncheon speaker, addressing "The Plaintiff's Perspective: How the Other Side Sees Us." As a former defense attorney turned plaintiff's lawyer, Mr. Tate offers a unique perspective from both sides of a case.

Additional faculty were: Thomas Peter Allen III of Martin Snow, Macon; GDLA Executive Vice President Ted Freeman of Freeman Mathis & Gary, Atlanta; Jo A. Jagor of Hall Booth Smith, Atlanta; Wayne S. Melnick of Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske, Atlanta; Brett A. Miller of Mabry & McClelland, Atlanta; GDLA President Lynn M. Roberson of Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers, Atlanta; and Sonja R. Tate of Fulcher Hagler, Augusta. ❖



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Scenes from Boot Camp

1. Program Chair Jason Willcox discusses using documents and creating exhibits in depositions. 2. Pete Allen reviews preparing for MSJs through depositions. 3. Lester Tate shares the plaintiff's perspective. 4. (l-r) Jatreen Sanders, Ashley Gowder, Mary Claire Jagor and Jessica Davis. 5. Brett Miller (right) leads a breakout. 6. Sonja Tate (right) shares a point with Ashley Gowder during a breakout. 7. Rustin Smith talks with Andrew Murdison at the reception. 8. Executive VP Ted Freeman (left) leads a breakout. 9. Lauren McCullough, Becky Gabelman and Crystal Filiberto. 10. Hays McQueen and Allan Galis. 11 Wayne Melnick shares tips for surviving "Depositionland"—much like Zombieland. 12. Jake Evans and Bobby Thomas visit at the reception. 13. Judge Self discusses professionalism. 14. At the reception are (l-r) Heather Hammonds, Tommy Branch, Megan Scheller and Mariel Williams.

