

Skits & Suds Uncorks Ethics and Professionalism Issues

On June 21, 2012, lawyers both young and old gathered for "Skits & Suds: Ethics & Professionalism Uncorked" at RiRa Irish Pub in midtown Atlanta.

The popular CLE seminar was reprised last summer after several years of hiatus, and features GDLA members performing skits that bring to life everyday ethical and professionalism dilemmas lawyers will likely face. The evening also included a beer and wine reception for networking.

This year's fact pattern was developed by GDLA Education Committee Vice-chair Brett Miller of Mabry & McClelland and committee member Sarah Smith of Drew Eckl & Farnham.

While the 2011 seminar focused on an auto accident in Springfield involving The

Simpsons™ characters, this year attendees were ushered to The Savannah Shore, where the infamous Snooki had slipped and fallen at a nightclub owned by Pauly D, played by Jeffrey M. Wasick of Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske. Snooki's lawyer, The Situation, played by Jason D. Darneille of Crim & Bassler subsequently filed suit. Other characters included Junior Associate J. Woww, played by Pamela N. Lee of Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers, and Senior Partner, played by Erica L. Morton of Hicks Casey & Foster. All of the actors are Education Committee members.

We were especially honored to have Fulton State Court Judge Jay Roth on-hand, offering insights from a judicial perspective and even acting in one of the skits. We

were also fortunate to have State Bar General Counsel Paula J. Frederick there to give specific guidance as to how each dilemma relates to the Bar's disciplinary rules.

GDLA Education Committee Chair and Board of Directors member Wayne S. Melnick of Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske moderated the seminar.

The Skits & Suds fact pattern will change each year — as will the different dilemmas faced (*i.e.*, discovery debacles, deposition nightmares, summary judgment crises, etc.) — making this an enlightening and entertaining way to earn CLE annually.

See photo highlights from the seminar on next page. ❖

SAVE THE DATE

The Georgia Defense Lawyers Association's
Melburne D. "Mac" McLendon

TRIAL ACADEMY

January 24-26, 2013

Callaway Gardens Lodge & Spa

Trial Academy was developed for intermediate level lawyers who are ready to begin trying cases or who want to improve their courtroom skills. It is too advanced for those who have never taken a deposition, argued a motion or assisted in a trial, and too basic for experienced trial lawyers. Participants learn by observing experienced defense lawyers and practicing their own skills in small breakout sessions. GDLA non-members who register get a free year of GDLA membership, so spread the word. Look for more information coming soon to the calendar page of www.gdla.org. Participation is limited to civil defense attorneys.

Program Chair

Matthew G. Moffett, Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske, Atlanta

Program Vice-chair

Douglas K. Burrell, Drew Eckl & Farnham, Atlanta



Scenes from Skits & Suds:

1. Judge Jay Roth shares his wisdom. 2. Pauly D and The Situation (aka Jeff Wasick and Jason Darneille) role play during a skit. 3. Executive VP Ted Freeman (right) and Past President Grant Smith were on-hand to share experiences from their years in the trenches. 4. Bill Casey (center) makes a point as Lara Percifield (left) and Anne Gowen listen. 5. Brian Williams (left) shares his view alongside Matthew McLaughlin. 6. Myles Levelle discusses the hypothetical alongside Anne Marie du Toit. 7. (l-r) Megan Klein and Program Co-chair Sarah Smith watch a skit. 8. Moses Kim (right) adds a comment as Program Co-chair Brett Miller looks on. 9. (l-r) Zach Matthews and Arthur York enjoy a pint at the reception. 10. State Bar General Counsel Paula Frederick references the applicable ethics rules. 11. Education Committee Chair Wayne Melnick moderates the seminar.