

2nd Annual Deposition Boot Camp a Success

The second annual GDLA Deposition Boot Camp was held November 11-12, 2010, at Sutherland's Elbert P. Tuttle Courtroom. The seminar was chaired by C. Jason Willcox of Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers.

Twenty-six lawyer students participated in the intensive training seminar under the leadership of a distinguished faculty: Shaun M. Daugherty and Jo A. Jagor, Hall Booth Smith & Slover; Ted Freeman, Freeman Mathis & Gary; Trish Peters, Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young; Amy Kolczak, Owen Gleaton Egan Jones & Sweeney; Curtis J. Martin, Miller & Martin; Lynn M. Roberson, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers; and Wayne S. Melnick, Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske.

Topics were first presented by a faculty member, then attendees broke into small groups to discuss and role play with a "real" case.

Presentations included beginning and concluding the deposition, preparing your witness, defending the deposition, responding to the difficult litigator, questioning the witness, using documents in a deposition, etc.

State Bar President S. Lester Tate III was the keynote speaker at Thursday's luncheon, addressing "The Plaintiff's Perspective: How the Other Side Sees Us." As a former defense attorney turned plaintiff's lawyer, Tate was able to share great insight from both sides of litigation.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams delivered Friday's keynote address

on professionalism. She had just presided over the so-called "Easter (hit-and-run) crash" that made national headlines. Judge Adams offered wisdom from her time on the bench – including the most recent trial that she called "the hardest case I have ever dealt with" – as well as her days as both a labor and employment lawyer at Constangy Brooks & Smith and Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney in Fulton County.

Thursday concluded with a networking reception, giving students time to get to know one another and ask the faculty questions on an informal basis.

GDLA thanks Sutherland Asbill & Brennan for graciously hosting us in its state-of-the-art Elbert P. Tuttle Courtroom.

1. Jo Jagor (left) leads a breakout group. 2. Faculty member Trish Peters and program chair Jason Willcox welcome guest speaker, State Bar President Lester Tate (center). 3. Curtis Martin teaches beginning and concluding depositions. 4. Wayne Melnick offered "Rules to Surviving Depositionland: Preparing Your Witness." 5. (l-r) Omeeka Loggins, Andrew Murdison, Andrew Capobianco and Joe Stephens at the reception.

6. Keynote speaker Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams. 7. Networking after the first day are (l-r) Robbie Fuller, Dan Kingsley, Michael Sayegh, Bill Buchanan and faculty member Amy Kolczak.

