



THE CHRONICLE

THE INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

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The Honorable Leah Sears: A Dedicated ICLE Faculty Member

“One of the best in the country!” That is how Justice Leah Sears describes the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE). Additionally, Justice Sears is very pleased with the variety of topics that ICLE offers to lawyers across Georgia. She feels that the programs are “substantive, interesting, and accessible.”

Justice Sears has been an ICLE faculty member for over ten years. A faculty member prepares a paper on a specific topic and presents it at the ICLE program. Justice Sears agrees that being a faculty member is a contribution to the profession; however, she insists that it is a good way to remain updated on cutting edge issues. ICLE offers all lawyers across the state an opportunity to educate themselves on current issues in the profession.

In addition to educational benefits, Justice Sears enjoys the social aspect of ICLE programs. At ICLE seminars, lawyers are able to meet other professionals in their field. Justice Sears feels that the social aspect of the seminar “helps to keep you grounded.”

Currently, ICLE is offering more programs than ever before. One of the strengths of the ICLE programs is the variety in seminars and teachers. Justice Sears agrees that “the teachers are diverse, the topics are diverse, and there is something for everybody.”

As we approach the turn of the century, important issues will be ethics and professionalism. In the 80’s, many people were consumed with getting ahead and focusing on themselves; however, more professionals are now concerned with maintaining good ethical standards. Justice Sears feels that ICLE has been very important in adding meaningful ethical and professionalism components to so many of its programs in order to keep the discussion alive. She explained that the discussion needs to be about what kind of person you are going to be and if you have the character to actually live a “decent life” as a lawyer.

In keeping with the theme of ethics and professionalism, ICLE offered a program entitled “Resolving Litigation’s Civil Wars: Negotiating a Cease-fire Among Plaintiff Lawyers, Defense Lawyers and Judges.” Every litigator in Georgia knows that the tone and character of trial practice has taken a distinctly negative turn, evidenced in part by the increasing separation of the trial bar into two contentious camps—plaintiff lawyers and defense lawyers. This program was a bold move by trial lawyers, along with members of the judiciary, to explore together whether anything can be done to halt the current slide into rancor, and perhaps even reverse it.

Can you teach ethical and professional behavior? Justice Sears agrees it may be difficult,

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“substantive, interesting, and accessible”

--Justice Leah Sears, State Supreme Court of Georgia

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CLE Around the Corner

Are you tired of driving all the way to Atlanta to attend an ICLE seminar? Now ICLE is accessible in a town near you. Since November, ICLE began live satellite broadcasts on Fridays succeeded by a taped replay of that same program on the following Thursday.

Scott Coulter, Director of Production, created this satellite broadcast as a cooperative effort with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB). The seminars are produced at the GPTV studios in Atlanta with a studio capacity of 60 attendees. Now you have the opportunity to come to the studio or register to attend "around the corner" from your office at one of the ICLE satellite sites.

Current technology allows "on-site" quality of faculty-used overheads, slides, computer screens and VCR tapes. Additionally, telephone lines are set up at each site every Friday. The telephone access allows participants to call in and ask questions throughout the day. As a result of the telephone lines, each site is able to interact with the seminar in Atlanta. Everyone should take advantage of the interactive telephone service. For Thursday replays, you can call in a question and have it answered at the end of the program. Our faculty members are willing and eager to address your questions.

We would like to thank all of you for your evaluations of the live satellite broadcasts. In regard to satellite interruptions, GPB and ICLE are working diligently to correct technological problems. As a whole, we received very positive feedback in response to the new format of satellite broadcasts. For example, a seminar participant commented that he would like to see more courses offered by satellite broadcast, and he liked the idea of being able to have questions submitted by telephone. (Jan. 16- Professionalism, Ethics, and Malpractice Avoidance)

According to Scott Coulter, this satellite broadcast is a solution for those of you who do not live in Atlanta. Currently, ICLE has 24 satellite sites throughout Georgia. Many of you have asked for a specific site to be set up in your town. ICLE is willing to expand its services, and our goal is to cut driving time to 30 minutes from a law office to a satellite site. ICLE would like to offer 10 additional satellite sites, but we need your help. Let us know if you feel that there is a demand for a satellite site in your area.



Photo by John Disney/Fulton County Daily Report

"Satellite broadcast is a solution for those of you who do not live in Atlanta." *Scott Coulter, Director of Production, ICLE*

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Article by Stephanie S. Tice

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but certainly not impossible. For most people, their childhood homes are where they learned about integrity and morals. However, ethics and professionalism are issues that require ongoing discussion, with focus on values and the admirable way of doing things. Justice Sears believes that some people just need to be reminded of what they already know. As she stated, "As a judge or a lawyer you are always called upon to ask yourself, what is the right thing to do? So it's a discussion we as lawyers need to be always engaged in."

ICLE is committed to providing the best programs possible for lawyers across the state of Georgia. Being a faculty member is not only an important responsibility, but a forum to research and present your ideas. Justice Sears has been an excellent example through her devotion and willingness to give back to the profession. If you are interested in becoming a faculty member please call Steve Harper at (706) 369-5664 ext. 315.

Article by Stephanie S. Tice

SATELLITE BROADCAST LOCATIONS

ALBANY - Darton College
ATHENS - Institute of Continuing Legal Education
ATLANTA - Georgia Public Broadcasting Studio
AUGUSTA - Augusta State University
BAINBRIDGE - Bainbridge College
CHAMBLEE/TUCKER - Mercer University
CLARKSTON - DeKalb College
COLUMBUS - Columbus State University
DALTON - Dalton College
GAINESVILLE - East Hall Library Branch
GRIFFIN - Griffin RESA
JASPER - Pickens Tech., Main Campus
JESUP - Altamaha Technical Institute
LaGRANGE - West Georgia Tech.
LAWRENCEVILLE - Gwinnett Justice & Admin. Center
MACON - Macon State College
MARIETTA - Southern Polytechnic State University
MORROW - Clayton College and State University
ROME - Coosa Valley Tech.
SANDY SPRINGS - Ga. State University, North Metro Ctr.
SAVANNAH - Coastal Georgia Center
SWAINSBORO - East Georgia College
TIFTON - Coastal Plain Regional Library
VALDOSTA - Valdosta State University

In Step...

with Larry Jones

Executive Director

We at ICLE are pleased to present this inaugural issue of *The ChronICLE*, ICLE's newsletter. We hope to make this a regular feature in ICLE mailings several times a year. We want to improve our communication with the Bar about what ICLE is doing, and we hope that this will help in that effort. I want to give special thanks to Stephanie Tice, our intern from the University of Georgia's H.W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication here in Athens, who is helping us put together this newsletter. She has done a tremendous job and has spent many long hours working on this project.

I have just completed my first year as the Director of ICLE, and it has been both challenging and rewarding. The excellent staff here at ICLE has made the transition an easy one. We have several new things going on, and most of these will be covered somewhere in this newsletter.

One new feature is our ICLE web page. Please visit it at www.icle.org. You can check the ICLE schedule and pull up the agenda of any particular program. You can also get information about ICLE publications.

One of the most important things that ICLE has initiated this year is the "CLE Around the Corner" satellite delivery system. In partnership with GPTV, ICLE has developed a network of 24 local sites that receive simultaneous satellite broadcasts of selected ICLE programs throughout the year. These programs are generally rebroadcast the following week, in order to give everyone an opportunity to view them. The satellite sites allow lawyers throughout the state to attend live CLE programming, without having to drive to a major metropolitan area. So far, the reception of these by members of the Bar has been tremendous, and we plan to increase our satellite offerings in the coming year.

Another important item on the ICLE agenda this year is increased utilization of State Bar sections. During our entire existence, ICLE has worked closely with many Bar sections to develop programs. We are very proud of these relationships, and we take great pride in our ability to serve the sections in this manner. However, we also realize that there are opportunities for growth in this area, and we are constantly striving to serve every section of the Bar. I would take this opportunity to urge each of you to join one or more Bar sections, as these provide the best opportunities for Bar members to participate in the State Bar and most importantly, they provide an opportunity to associate with fellow lawyers who are in the same practice area. There seem to be new Bar sections every year, as well as new YLS committees, and we are constantly exploring opportunities to provide programming co-sponsored by these groups.

In summary, I hope that you will take a few minutes and read the articles contained in this newsletter. If you have any suggestions, comments, ideas, etc., please don't hesitate to call me or someone on the ICLE staff. We welcome all suggestions, and many ICLE programs have had their beginning from such a phone call or letter. We at ICLE thank you for your support and welcome the opportunity to serve you.

THE ★ CHRONICLE

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Welcome to ICLE

ICLE offers over 150 seminars and institutes each year. Most of our programs are presented on an annual basis, which means that the general subject of the program is the same. Some examples are: Adoption Law, White Collar Crime, Securities Litigation, Proving Damages, Family Law Institute, Computer Law Institute, and Corporate Counsel Institute. The direction each program takes is up to the chairperson. He or she determines the subjects that make up the agenda and recruits speakers for each subject who are experts in that particular area of the law. The agenda is put into a program brochure which is mailed out to all active Georgia attorneys about four to six weeks prior to the event. The registration form on each brochure is designed to be returned to us along with the individual's registration fee. Once the registration form is returned to ICLE, the attendees only need to come and learn at the program. We will take care of all the details, including reporting mandatory continuing legal education credits to the State Bar of Georgia, usually by the end of the following work week.

From year to year, the substance of a seminar offered under the same name changes with the impact of new legislation, more recent judicial decisions and changing practice techniques. Our chairpersons often stay with "their" programs for several years or more, but they usually use many different faculty members for each new program. Chairpersons and faculty members are experts in the specialized areas of law being addressed by the seminars and institutes. Almost 90% of all faculty members are Georgia attorneys who volunteer their knowledge, time and effort to support the programs. As you become more confident about your knowledge in a particular area, contact a chairperson or an ICLE staff attorney to share your desire to participate as a faculty member. Without such a broad base of volunteers, the Institute's CLE programs would take on a totally different format and most certainly would cost much more to attend.

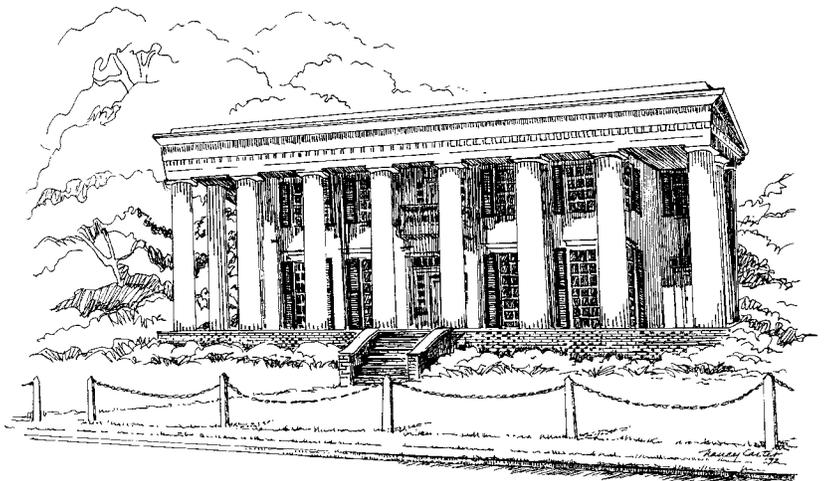
Each year ICLE adds many new programs based upon the initiatives of our fellow Georgia attorneys. Some recent examples are: Handling Soft Tissue Injury Cases Seminar, Matrimonial Law Trial Practice Workshop, Health Care Fraud Institute, The Troubled and Troubling Client Seminar, Defending Drinking Drivers Institute, and many more. The process of developing a new program is simple. The new chairperson, often with the help of others, creates the agenda and recruits the presenting faculty. The faculty member is responsible for preparing a paper and making a presentation at the seminar. That paper is sent to ICLE about three weeks before the seminar where it is formatted, printed and placed along with other papers into a book that becomes the program materials. Our books average three-hundred or more pages in length and contain up-to-the-minute developments in the law and the hottest practice tips.

Many times participants begin their research with materials from ICLE seminar programs or call an expert from the seminar. While supporting a recent workshop in Atlanta, the value of our program materials was punctuated by a comment made by an Atlanta attorney who devotes a large share of her practice to family law matters. She said that the ICLE materials on Adoption Law were a great initial reference for her and she still uses them extensively.

The size of our programs varies widely. We have some programs with as few as twenty-five attendees and some with as many as six hundred. The smaller seminars often are in very specialized areas, such as Representing Special Needs Children, Dealing with the Troubled and Troubling Client, Family Law Convocation on Professionalism, and Environmental Justice. Since the majority of the costs associated with a seminar are fixed, many of the smaller seminars are supported by the larger seminars. This is a true example of the Georgia Supreme Court's ideals of professionalism at work within the ICLE curriculum process.

The administrative and logistical considerations of the program do not present an undue stress for the chairperson or faculty and should not discourage you from participating as a chair or faculty member. Each program is assigned an ICLE staff attorney who works to ensure smooth execution of the event. All arrangements such as announcing the event, taking registrations, and publishing the faculty papers are organized by the staff at ICLE. Additionally, our staff orchestrates the hotel coordination, which includes registration area set up, meeting room configuration, refreshment breaks and luncheons. One of our traveling staff will be present at the seminar to ensure a successful presentation.

Article by Stephen J. Harper



**ICLE offices located in the historic
Joseph Henry Lumpkin House**

***The next issue of The ChronICLE will feature
the article "Where Your Registration Fee Goes"
by Stephen J. Harper***