

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

3/14/23
Monthly CLE
(Two-hour CLE including Ethics)
“Cocktails, Conversations and Continuing Education”
Maggiano's at Perimeter

3/28/23
Women's Initiative Event
Fisher & Phillips LLP
1230 Peachtree Street NE
Promenade Level or Suite 3300
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

3/29/23
ACC/PBPA CLE Challenge
Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, Morris Manning & Martin
Robert Half | Protiviti, Taylor English

4/11/23
Monthly CLE Luncheon
Jones Day
Maggiano's

5/3/23
Deep Dive Luncheon
Consilio

5/9/23
Monthly CLE Luncheon
Maggiano's

6/13/23
Monthly CLE Luncheon
Polsinelli
Maggiano's

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SPRING CLEANING – STRATEGIC UPDATES AND HONORING THE CLASSICS!



Kathryn Hutton
ACC Georgia President

I picked up an ingenious tip from a professional women's forum on how to keep your wardrobe up to date. Every year, turn around all the hangers in your closet. As you wear an article of clothing, hang the item the right way. At the end of the year, you need to re-evaluate whether you want to keep any items that are still facing backwards. Because some of these items spark joy for me (thank you, Marie Kondo!), I will find an event or reason to wear some of those items, but the rest I donate.

I adopted my clothes-hanging strategy for friends as one of my New Year's resolutions. I identified people I consider to be friends whom I had not seen or spoken to in far too long. Honestly, I was embarrassed about just how long the gap in connecting was (years, for some people!). I also struggled over whether they would be offended that I hadn't emailed or even texted in so long. My fear was that they would not want such a neglectful friend. I drafted my texts, hesitated and then thought, "Well, they haven't contacted me either; friendship goes both ways." But I hit send anyway — and literally within minutes they responded that they were so happy that I had reached out!

Not long afterward, I received a similar message from a friend who had gone silent to my invitations. I also responded within minutes, and we met up for a two-hour lunch. It was awesome!

I am grateful that these friendships have been reinvigorated, as they bring me joy. Especially when many of us continue to work from home, connections to others are critical for our mental health and general well-being. My friends have also played a key role in my professional growth, from advice on negotiating salary to strategies for managing difficult conversations, updates in my practice area, and yes, even wardrobe tips!

ACC social events are a wonderful way to reconnect. We received feedback after the ACC Georgia holiday party (what a terrific event! See page 6 for the pictures!) that people enjoyed just having the opportunity to socialize. ACC Georgia will convey your feedback to our sponsors – we have some fun events planned, please see our upcoming events listed on this page!

One of the best results of professional associations is the development of mentor/mentee relationships.

Mentors are critical for career advice, and as a result, there is typically a higher demand for mentors than mentees. Mentors provide counsel, training and other encouragement — sometimes it's a reference for professional advancement — to their mentees. Mentors have the satisfaction of watching the next generation develop into solid performers from which the mentors themselves can learn.

To support our members in cultivating a mentor or mentee relationship, ACC will expand on the kickoff mentoring event we hosted in November by sending a survey this March to solicit interest in serving as a mentor or requesting a mentor. Lawyers who have been practicing for years may want to be a mentee if they are new to in-house or are taking on a new practice area. ACC will match people based on their survey responses, and we will host a get-together in May. Reach out to Veronica Davis, Vice President of Member Outreach (vyoungdavis@gmail.com), if you want to participate as either a mentor or mentee!

One significant way that a mentee can contribute to the mentor/mentee relationships is by nominating a deserving in-house attorney for one of the Corporate Counsel Awards sponsored by the Atlanta Business Chronicle in partnership with ACC Georgia. ACC Georgia has over 1,000 members, and the Corporate Counsel Awards recognize only eight individuals — less than 1% of or membership — so receiving one of these awards is a true achievement. The awards ceremony is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 4, in Atlanta. We will be sending out more information about it soon, and we encourage you to come. It's one of many ways the ACC facilitates initiating, developing, maintaining and reconnecting relationships.

Kathryn Hutton
ACC Georgia President

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer S. Blakely

Director of Litigation — Chick-fil-A Inc.



Q. How did you grow up, and why did you want to go to law school and become an attorney?

I was born in Sierra Leone in western Africa, and my family moved to Decatur when I was 5. I grew up in Decatur and studied at nearby Emory University for my undergraduate degree and a master's degree in public health.

I grew interested in law because legal issues came up often in some of my public health classes and my resulting job at the Centers for Disease and Prevention. So, I applied to the University of Georgia School of Law and went there.

Q. What attracted you to the type of law you practice?

When I got the opportunity to come in-house at Chick-fil-A, I was drawn to working in a new industry and focusing primarily on litigation matters in a growing and exciting company. Before joining Chick-fil-A, a big part of my practice involved working with healthcare systems and providers.

Q. How did you go about building your personal brand?

I focus on being kind and respectful with whomever I come into contact with. I try to be someone who's consistent and reliable. I also want to be perceived as someone who cares about their work and doing the right thing.

Q. What do you like about working at Chick-fil-A?

The people. I like the innovation. I like the energy, the business growth and the business model. I like Chick-fil-A's mission to be the world's most caring company.

And I also really like the exciting legal work I get to do — which is in a variety of different areas of the business.

Q. What makes a successful leader?

A successful leader is one who inspires people to make change and motivates others to pursue the mission of a company or organization.

Successful leaders also show care when developing the people around them.

Q. What is your best advice for outside lawyers?

Be proactive. It helps in-house counsel when outside counsel stay on top of the law or a trend. Sharing that information can be very helpful, especially before the in-house counsel asks for it. That's focusing on what the client really needs.

Q. Do you have any words of wisdom about legal practice?

As you work through legal challenges, remember to see things from different perspectives. You give your best legal advice by including different perspectives on difficult issues.

Q. Who is a mentor or a personal hero?

My dad. He's very bright and sharp. He's a retired pediatric cardiologist. He gives very good advice.

What I admire most is his humility and how he treats people. I admire how he has shown care to his family, his patients and his friends.

Q. What keeps you busy outside of work?

My husband — M.J. Blakely, a personal injury and mass torts lawyer — and I have two children, so they keep me busy. I also like to work out and enjoy the outdoors with my family.

Q. What is an interesting book you read recently?

"Shoe Dog," by Phil Knight. It's a memoir about how he founded Nike. It reignited my interest in reading for pleasure.

Q. What is your favorite legal movie or television show?

On TV, I just started watching "Your Honor," with Bryan Cranston.

As for movies, "Just Mercy" is phenomenal.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jerico Phillips

Business Counsel — Supply Chain & Mills; Graphic Packaging International LLC



Q. How did you grow up, and why did you want to go to law school and become an attorney?

My mother is a teacher who is passionate about education and approaches it from a holistic viewpoint to help her students with issues in and out of the classroom. She is a problem solver. Seeing her impact in the community and fulfillment in her profession inspired me to want to be a problem solver also. The legal profession offers endless opportunities for this on a variety of levels and topics. I went to law school for training in issue spotting and the skill set to develop solutions. Now as an attorney, issues needing resolution come my way by the minute, and I enjoy working with people to be a part of those solutions.

Q. How did you go about building your personal brand?

Kindness. I focus on coming from a place of kindness and optimism. Both of these ground and guide me to respond intentionally instead of reacting. Too often kindness can be forgotten in the competitive, winner-take-all approach that is commonly glorified in the pursuit of success in the legal profession. I'm building my personal brand to counter that way of thinking.

Q. What do you like about working at Graphic Packaging International?

The effortless collegiality and collaboration between the legal department and the business is what I like most. Also, the company is future focused to accomplish a vision, and that empowers everyone to think outside of the box and be creative.

Q. What makes a successful leader?

Self-awareness and efficiency. The leaders I gravitate to and model my leadership after are those who are aware of the qualities they personally bring to the relationships between themselves as leaders and those they are leading. Being aware and having the courage to adapt to others' needs that may differ from the way you would do something but still achieves the goal is key. A focus on efficiency respects everyone's time and allows for processes to be evaluated for value added, instead of doing things the way they have always been done.

Q. What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of my community involvement through service on various nonprofit boards. From voluntary bar associations to a local school board, I have enjoyed getting to know people from all walks of life and supporting causes that better our community.

Q. What are your favorite words of wisdom?

Play by the rules until you get to make them. Then make them better.

Q. What is the last book you read?

"Finding Me" by Viola Davis is an inspiring story of perseverance in following one's passion and talent in the face of seemingly endless life perils.

Q. What is your favorite legal television show?

"Drop Dead Diva." Series premise: A "vapid" aspiring model killed in a car crash gets brought back to life as an intelligent lawyer, hoping to find the meaning of inner beauty. What's not to love?

Q. What is your favorite travel destination?

The Greyfield Inn on Cumberland Island is a truly magical place and experience that gets better every time. Life seems to slow down the moment I step onto the dock.

Q. What would you be if you weren't a lawyer?

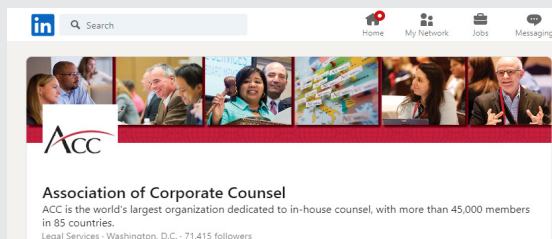
Realistically, a teacher. However, if we aren't speaking realistically, I'd be a Broadway star.

WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF ACC GEORGIA!

Jakeline Alfonso Chagas — Equifax Inc.
Tami Alston — Chick-fil-A Inc.
Tray André — Chick-fil-A Inc.
Dan Babb — Cisco Systems Inc.
Peggy Beat — Change Healthcare
Kerri Braun — Cisco Systems Inc.
Paul Cohen — WSP USA Inc.
John Coughlin — TowerPoint Capital LLC
Sean Cox — North Highland Company
Luke Donohue — Equifax Inc.
Jose Duthil — Cisco Systems Inc.
Jennifer Forte — Cisco Systems Inc.
Angel Gamon
Sheree Garner — Equifax Inc.
Christina Hadley Tanner — AMC Inc.
Blake Hanlon — Equifax Inc.
Heena Hirani — Equifax Inc.
Amanda Johnson — Microsoft Corporation
Kwende Jones — Chick-fil-A Inc.
Gisele Kalonzo-Douglas — The Pavilion Off The Park
Ricky Kaplan — Landis+Gyr Technology Inc.
Courtney Lyles — Deloitte Global Services Limited
Atul Mahajan — Oracle America Inc.
Emily McConnell — Equifax Inc.
D'Andrea Morning — Grady Health System
Matthew Patterson
Brandi Powe — Chick-fil-A Inc.
Allison Rhadans — Equifax Inc.
Victoria Rooks — Cisco Systems Inc.
Emily Shoda — Assurant Inc.
Bill Silverio — Cisco Systems Inc.
Sidney Simms — MetLife
Lisa Sims — Cisco Systems Inc.
Kate Stein — Equifax Inc.
Claudia Vaz de Lestapis — Huber
Emily Whittaker — Graphic Packaging International
Angie Woo — Cisco Systems Inc.
Larry Young — Chick-fil-A Inc.
Kerry Yun — Cisco Systems Inc.

Get Involved with ACC Georgia

Want to get involved in the in-house counsel community? Joining an ACC Georgia committee is the best way to start. For more information, go to <https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/georgia/chapter-committees>.



Join Your ACC Georgia Colleagues on LinkedIn

Without a doubt, one of the most popular benefits of being an ACC Georgia member is the professional networking. There's an easy way you can show your online network that you're a member – follow the ACC Georgia

LinkedIn page. We've launched a new group to allow in-house counsel to network with colleagues and stay up to date on chapter news.

Log in to LinkedIn and type "Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter" in the search bar to find our page.

By following our page, you'll stay up to date on the latest member events, CLE luncheons and more happening. We look forward to connecting with you online!



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CALLING FOR ATLANTA'S

LEADING CORPORATE COUNSEL!

The 11th annual Corporate Counsel Awards honor the top attorneys in Georgia practicing in the legal departments of corporations, associations and other private sector organizations.

Winners will be honored during a special awards program on May 4, 2023 and featured in a special section.

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ACC GEORGIA EVENT PHOTOS



Berman Fink Van Horn Deep Dive: Kathryn Hutton & Ashoo Sharma.



Holiday Party and Sponsor Appreciation Event: Sandy Newton & Veronica Davis.



Holiday Party and Sponsor Appreciation Event: Andrea Peters, Robbie Hurwitz, & Marty Heller.



Holiday Party and Sponsor Appreciation Event: Ashoo Sharma, Jessica Guevara, & Kevin Isom.



Holiday Party and Sponsor Appreciation Event: Emily Friedman, Angela Rovers, & Kimberly Lerman.



ACC GA members presenting at Deep Dive event.



Holiday Party and Sponsor Appreciation Event.



Holiday Party and Sponsor Appreciation Event.



ACC GA members enjoying Willenken CLE Luncheon.



ACC GA members enjoying CLE Luncheon.

ACC GA EVENT PHOTOS



ACC GA members enjoying CLE Luncheon.



Willenken CLE Luncheon: Jason Wilson.



Willenken CLE Luncheon: Jeff Handler, Ashoo Sharma, Kevin Isom, & Robbie Hurwitz.



Troutman Pepper Deep Dive: Kathryn Hutton, Tammi Parker, Ashoo Sharma, & Jennifer Miller.



Berman Fink Van Horn Deep Dive: Ashoo Sharma.



ACC GA members enjoying Willenken CLE Luncheon.

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