

GDLA Trial & Mediation Academy

August 26-29, 2026 • Callaway Gardens Lodge & Spa



**Georgia Defense
Lawyers Association**
Advancing the Civil Defense Bar®

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26

- 3:30 pm Registration Open
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm Preparing a Case for Trial and (Possible) Appeal:
Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Jeff Davis
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm Nuts & Bolts of Mediation Followed by a Mock Mediation:
Featuring BAY Mediation's Thomas Lyman
and Henning Mediation's Nigel Wright
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Reception/Dinner: Professionalism Keynote
by Fulton State Court Judge Susan Edlein

THURSDAY AUGUST 27

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:00 am Jury Selection: Faculty Demo
- 10:00 - 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 am - 11:30 am Plaintiff Opening Statement: Faculty Demo
- 11:30 - 11:45 am Break & Get Boxed Lunch
- 11:45 am - 1:00 pm Working Lunch: Opening Statements
- 1:00 - 2:15 pm Breakout Session: Student performance of Opening
- 2:15 - 2:30 pm Break
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm Party & Lay Witness Examinations: Faculty Demo
- 3:30 - 4:00 pm Working Break: Party & Lay Witness
- 4:00 - 5:30 pm Breakout Session: Student performance of
direct and cross of parties and lay witnesses
- 6:00 - 8:30 pm Hospitality Suite Reception/Dinner: Pizza Provided

FRIDAY

- 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:30 am Consolidated Pretrial Order: Faculty Discussion
- 9:30 - 10:00 am Trial Preparation & Motions in Limine: Faculty Discussion
- 10:00 - 11:45 am Direct and Cross of Experts: Faculty Discussion/Demo
- 11:45 am - 12:15 pm Break & Get Boxed Lunch
- 12:15 - 1:30 pm Working Lunch:
Work on Direct and Cross-Examinations
- 1:30 - 3:30 pm Breakout Session: Student Demonstration of Direct
and Cross-Examination of Experts
- 3:30 - 3:45 pm Break
- 3:45 - 5:15 pm Closing Argument: Faculty Discussion and
Faculty Demo
- 5:15 - 6:15 pm Hospitality Suite Reception
- 6:15 pm Dinner on Your Own

SATURDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:30 - 11:00 am Closing Argument Breakout Session:
Student performance of a closing statement
- 11:00 am - noon Ethics Discussion and Awards Presentation
- 12:00 pm Adjourn

AUGUST 29

FACULTY

William T. "Bill" Casey, Academy Chair, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers, Atlanta
Anne D. Gower, Immediate Past Chair, Gower Wooten & Darneille, Atlanta

Brannon J. Arnold, Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial, Atlanta
Jerry Buchanan, The Buchanan Firm, Columbus
Douglas K. Burrell, Chartwell Law, Atlanta
Carrie L. Christie, Rutherford & Christie, Atlanta
Jason Darneille, Gower Wooten & Darneille, Atlanta
Beatrice "Bea" Hancock, Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs, Macon

Jason Lewis, Chambless Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs, Macon
Matthew G. Moffett, Gray Rust Moffett & Brieske, Atlanta
Dallas Roper, Georgia Farm Bureau, Macon
Joseph D. "Joe" Stephens, Cowser Heath, Athens SC
Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Watkins, Fulcher Hagler, Augusta
Richard H. "Dick" Willis, William Mullens, Columbia,

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