



Don't miss the **58th GDLA Annual Meeting at Omni Amelia Island** from June 26-29, 2025. Earn CLE hours* and network with your friends and colleagues at various social events.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – See agenda on pages 2-3

kick off Thursday evening with our traditional Welcome, Y'all Reception/Dinner sponsored by BAY Mediation & Arbitration Services.

President-Elect Ashley Rice of Waldon Adelman Castilla McNamara & Prout in Atlanta has planned a blockbuster educational program for Friday and Saturday mornings:

- Professionalism: A View from the Bench – Judge J. Wade Padgett, Court of Appeals of Georgia
- Tort Reform Update – Jake Daly, Freeman Mathis & Gary, Atlanta; Tracy O’Connell, Ellis Painter, Savannah; Dallas Roper, James Bates Brannon Groover, Macon; and Kade Cullefer, Troutman Pepper Strategies, Atlanta
- Nuts & Bolts Defense of Government Entities – Ben Harbin, Waldon Adelman Castilla McNamara & Prout, Atlanta; and Mary Elizabeth “Libby” Watkins, Fulcher Hagler, Augusta
- Hot Topics in Med Mal – Sam Britt and Colleen Callaghan, McGrew Miller Bomar & Bagley, Atlanta
- Duties of a Commercial Carrier – Tujuana McGee and Allison Escott, Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith, Atlanta
- The Bermuda Triangle of Employment Law – Jason Logan and Jonathan Martin, Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete, Macon
- Fraud in Georgia: Case Studies, Impact and Prevention – Chris Roane and Cera Matta, GDLA Platinum Sponsor Bennett Thrasher
- Know the Limits of Collision Mitigation Systems. It's Not Something You Want to Find Out by "Accident" – Jim Middleton, GDLA Platinum Sponsor DELTA |v|

Enjoy Friday and Saturday afternoons at our hospitality suite thanks to our sponsors, ESI and Collision Specialists, Inc. Friday night is our President’s Reception honoring Bill Casey of Swift Currie for his year of leadership with thanks to our sponsor, Veritext. On Saturday evening we'll bid farewell at the Closing Reception/Dinner sponsored by FORCON.

REGISTRATION

This year's registration fee** is tiered as set forth below. Register [here](#).

- Young Lawyers, age 36 or under – covers member + one spouse/guest:
 - \$595.00: early bird postmarked before May 16
 - \$695.00: postmarked May 17 or later
- All other GDLA members – covers member + one spouse/guest:
 - \$695.00: early bird postmarked before May 16
 - \$795.00: postmarked May 17 or later

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our negotiated room rates are below and do not include taxes/fees. The cut-off date for reservations is **Friday, May 16, 2025**, but we'll likely sell out before then. We reserve our block based on historical attendance. There is no guarantee that your preferred room type will be available when you book. Below the chart you'll find deposit and cancellation details. If you prefer a different view/room type (oceanfront, etc.), please call and request it, knowing that rate may be higher.

Click on one of these two booking links, depending on your choice: [hotel](#) or [villa](#).

Hotel Room or Villa Type	Rate (not including taxes and fees)
Oceanview Run of House Omni Hotel	\$299.00
Sandcastle (1 Bedroom) Villa Guestroom	\$299.00
Oceanview 1 Bedroom Villa Suite	\$339.00
Oceanview 2 Bedroom Villa Suite	\$479.00
Oceanview 3 Bedroom Villa Suite	\$549.00
Nature View 1 Bedroom Villa Suite	\$319.00
Nature View 2 Bedroom Villa Suite	\$399.00
Nature View 3 Bedroom Villa Suite	\$479.00

Cancellations/Early Departure:

First, if you book a room/villa and your plans change, please let me know instead of cancelling with the Omni as we often have a waiting list. Next, per the Omni’s policy, in the event a guest who has requested a room within GDLA’s block checks out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, the hotel will add an early departure fee in the amount equal to one night room and tax to that guest's individual account. Guests wishing to avoid an early departure fee should advise the Omni Amelia Island at or before check-in of any change in the planned length of stay.

Deposit: All reservations must be guaranteed by a valid major credit card, which will be supplied at the time of reservation. For the Omni Resort Hotel, one night deposit is due at the time of booking and if the guest must cancel they must do so prior to 12:00 pm 7-days prior to arrival to avoid forfeiture of the deposit. For the Villas of Amelia, two nights deposit is due at the time of booking and if the guest must cancel they must do so prior to 12:00 pm 7-days prior to arrival to avoid forfeiture of the deposit.

*Earn 6.0 CLE Hours, 1.0 Ethics, 1.0 Professionalism, and 6.0 Trial Hours.

**The registration fee includes Thursday's Welcome, Y'all Reception/Dinner; Friday's President's Reception; and Saturday's Closing Reception/Dinner for two (GDLA member and one spouse/guest). It also includes CLE credits and breakfast both days for the GDLA member. The forthcoming e-brochure will include pricing for additional guests to attend social functions. REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY: A full refund of the registration fee will be given for cancellation requests received in writing by June 17. NO REFUNDS after June 18. See the hotel's cancellation policy above.



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

58th GDLA Annual Meeting
June 26-29, 2025
Omni Amelia Island, Florida

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. **Welcome, Y'all! Opening Reception/Buffer**
Sponsor: BAY Mediation & Arbitration Services
Location TBD

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Morning events are in TBD

7:30 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast** – *GDLA Members, Invited Guests & Sponsors Only*
Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **Call to Order** – *Bill Casey, President*
Announcements and Sponsors Introduction – *Jennifer Ward, Executive Director*
Introduction of Program – *Ashley Rice, President-Elect & Program Chair*

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **CLE PROGRAMMING**

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. **The Bermuda Triangle of Employment Law**
Jason Logan, Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete, Macon

9:15 - 10:00 a.m. **Nuts & Bolts Defense of Government Entities**
Ben Harbin, Waldon Adelman Castilla McNamara & Prout, Atlanta
Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Watkins, Fulcher Hagler, Augusta

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Know the Limits of Collision Mitigation Systems:
It's Not Something You Want to Find Out by "Accident"**
Jim Middleton, GDLA Platinum Sponsor Delta |v|

10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Break:**
Visit and Support GDLA's Platinum and Gold Sponsors

11:00 a.m. - noon **Tort Reform Update**
Jake Daly, Freeman Mathis & Gary, Atlanta
Tracy O'Connell, Ellis Painter, Savannah
Dallas Roper, James Bates Brannon Groover, Macon
Kade Cullefer, Troutman Pepper Strategies, Atlanta

12:15 - 5:00 p.m. **Hospitality Suite Open**
Sponsors: Collision Specialists, Inc. and ESi
Location TBD

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **President's Reception**
Sponsor: Veritext
Location TBD

7:30 p.m. **Dinner on Your Own**

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Morning events are in TBD

7:30 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast** – *GDLA Members, Invited Guests & Sponsors Only*
Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **GDLA Business Meeting**

- Welcome – *President Bill Casey*
- Treasurer’s Report – *Marty Levinson*
- DRI Report – *DRI Regional Director Matt Lavisky, Butler, Tampa, FL*
- Election of Officers/Board of Directors –
- Presentation of Awards – *President Bill Casey*
- Swearing-in of President Ashley Rice and Officers by
Court of Appeals Judge Wade Padgett

8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **CLE PROGRAMMING**

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. **Duties of a Commercial Carrier**
Tujuana McGee and Allison Escott, Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith, Atlanta

9:15 - 10:00 a.m. **Hot Topics in Med Mal**
Sam Britt and Colleen Callaghan, McGrew Miller Bomar & Bagley, Atlanta

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Fraud in Georgia: Case Studies, Impact and Prevention**
Chris Roane and Cera Matta, GDLA Platinum Sponsor Bennett Thrasher

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Break & Prize Drawing:**
Visit & Support GDLA’s Platinum and Gold Sponsors

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Professionalism: A View from the Bench**
Honorable Wade Padgett, Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia

12:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Hospitality Suite Open**
Sponsors: Collision Specialists, Inc. and ESi
Location TBD

2:00 p.m. **Cornhole Tournament**
Location TBD

6:00 - 10:00 p.m. **Closing Reception and Dinner**
Sponsor: FORCON Intl.
Location TBD

Thank you, GDLA Sponsors!

Show your appreciation to all the GDLA sponsors by visiting their exhibit booths to learn how they can help you in your practice. We owe a special thanks to those Platinum Sponsors underwriting a portion of Annual Meeting events as noted on the agenda.