



ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

Freedom is a funny thing isn't it, when you have it, you don't appreciate it, and when you miss it, it's already gone." ~ Leonardo DiCaprio's Bob Ferguson

GACDL Spring Seminar | April 23-25, 2026
The Westin | Jekyll Island, GA

Directed By: Senoqua Claiborne & John Donnelly

Thursday April 23, 2026

5:00pm

Cocktail reception | **Location:** The Sand Bar by the Wharf ([website](#) / [map](#))

Sponsored by: **KILGORE+RODRIGUEZ**
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

Friday, April 24, 2026 | All Speakers will Present in the Grand Ballroom

9:00am

GACDL Board Meeting | Palm Terrace

12:00 pm

Check-in (Walk-ins - space permitting - add \$40)

****No lunch provided on Friday ****

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Welcome & Kickoff

GACDL President: **Erin Gerstenzang**, Founder, EHG Law Firm

Program Directors: **Senoqua Claiborne**, Asst. Public Defender, Dougherty Judicial Circuit
GACDL AVP, District 2A

John Donnelly, Circuit Public Defender, Western Judicial Circuit

The Parole Board

Chris Barnett, Executive Director

Department of Community Supervision

Walter M. Donnelly, Deputy Director Field Operations

Parole Board and DCS staff will be available for questions in the hallway

1:00pm - 2:00 pm

Prejudice and Beyond: Rule 403 Objections

Ryan Bozarth, Assistant Public Defender, DeKalb Judicial Circuit

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Immigration Fallout in Criminal Cases: The Consequences of Arrest, indictment, Conviction, and Sentence

Felix Montanez

Founder, Montanez Law Firm

Michael Schwartz

Founder, New South Law

Vice Chair, GACDL Strike Force

3:00pm - 3:15pm

Break

3:15pm - 3:30pm

Amicus Report

Leslie Spornberger Jones, Founder, Leslie Jones Law

Chair, GACDL Amicus Committee

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Legislative Update: What Happened Under the Gold Dome This Year

Brian Heinze, Founder, Heinze Legal

GACDL, Policy Advocate

Sara Stewart, Founder, Sara Stewart Law

Chair, GACDL Legislative Committee

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Criminal Defense, Civil Rights, & Democracy

Jon Rapping, Founder, Gideon's Promise

Josie Duffy Rice, Senior Fellow, Type Media

5:30pm - 7:30pm

A Word from Reception Sponsor A 2nd Chance Bail Bonds

Annual Family-Friendly Cocktail Reception



Saturday, April 25, 2026 | All Speakers will Present in the Ballroom

7:00am - 8:00am

Yoga with Kalpin Shah | Sapelo Room

8:00am - 9:00am

Breakfast | St. Andrews Foyer

9:00am - 9:15am

Welcome Back to the Seminar

GACDL President: **Erin Gerstenzang**
Founder, EHG Law Firm

Program Directors: **Senoqua Claiborne**
Asst. Public Defender
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
GACDL AVP, District 2A

John Donnelly
Circuit Public Defender
Western Judicial Circuit

GCDLEF Update

Wes Bryant, Assistant Federal Defender, Federal Defender Program, Inc.
Vice Chair, GCDLEF

9:15am - 10:15am

[Professionalism] Diplomatic Resistance: How to Deal with Judges Who Move like Prosecutors
Francys Johnson, Partner, Davis Bozeman Johnson Law

10:15am - 10:30am

Break

10:30am - 10:45am

Strike Force Update

Michael Schwartz, Founder, New South Law
Vice Chair, GACDL Strike Force

10:45am - 11:45am

Challenging "CSI Certainty" | Rule 702/Daubert Hearings

Mary Dayton, Appellate Attorney, Georgia Capital Defender Office

11:45am - 12:00pm

Inspirational 15: State Bar Lawyers Assistance Program

Nicole Browning, Director of Client Success, State Bar of Georgia (Savannah)

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:00pm - 1:30pm

Case Law Update

Jonathan Lockwood, Chief Assistant Public Defender, Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Editor, GACDL's *What's the Decision?*

1:30pm - 2:30pm

The Clean Slate Checklist: Record Restriction and Sealing Before and After Disposition

Nancy DeVetter, Founder, DeVetter Law

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Break

2:45pm - 3:45pm

The [Ethics] of Interviewing Alleged Victims

Allison Parrish, Chief Asst. Public Defender, Tifton Judicial Circuit

3:45p - 4:00pm

Closing Insights & Takeaways

Program Directors: **Senoqua Claiborne**

John Donnelly