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(Pwd: **GA-AL-M3MB3R5!**)

May 25, 2018 Chapter Newsletter

Chapter Events

ONE WEEK AWAY - Register Now for Annual Chapter Meeting June 1, 2018

We are looking forward to seeing many of you next week at Maggiano's to celebrate our chapter's accomplishments this year, to set the tone for next year, and to be inspired by members of the community. Our agenda includes:

- Presentation by Silas W. Allard, Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University Law School, and chair of the Georgia Immigration Working Group will come speak with us.
- Essay winner reading his/her work on immigration
- Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Chapter and Pro Bono Champions
- Recognition of Committee Leadership
- Treasurer's Report
- Chapter Chair Report
- Election Results

When: Friday, June 1, 2018

Where: Maggiano's Perimeter - 4400 Ashford Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30346

Time: 11:30-12:00 Networking; 12:15 Presentation Begins

Cost: \$30.00

Registration: [Through the chapter website.](#)

Chapter Elections Open

It's time to vote for your GA-AL AILA Executive Committee for the 2018-2019 year!

Electronic voting is now open and will close on June 1st at NOON. Any member in good standing may cast a secret ballot for any opposed nominee. In person voting will take place at our Annual GA-AL Chapter Luncheon on Friday, June 1, 2018, at Maggiano's PERIMETER. If you haven't done so already, you should probably sign up to be there!

Here's the link to cast your vote: <https://ailagaal.wufoo.com/forms/z1h6m8qh139bne4/>

We have a contested election for Treasurer. As of 3pm on Friday, the 25th, two of those candidates has passed along a short statement. As others come in, we'll be sharing them here in our newsletter.

Joy Smith

Hi All,

My name is Joy Smith and I am pleased to be running for Treasurer for the Executive Committee! I chaired the New Members Division Committee and was part of the Conference Planning Committee this past year. I had a blast working with both new and long-time members to put on our mentoring dinners, NMD kick-off party and other events. It's been a pleasure to serve on both committees and now I hope to serve on our Chapter's Executive Committee as your Treasurer.

Sam Radin

Dear Chapter Members:

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. I'll keep this brief.

I wish to continue my involvement with the Chapter next term as Chapter Treasurer. I believe that I have learned a lot about advocacy for our Chapter members in my role this past term as Chair of the USCIS Liaison Committee and previous experience on both the USCIS and CBP Liaison Committees and wish to "capitalize" (pun intended) on this knowledge as Chapter Treasurer. Especially in light of the potential movement to raise Chapter dues, I believe that my experience with both the USCIS and CBP Liaison Committees make me an ideal candidate to knowledgeably and properly maintain the Chapter's finances.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Sam

#VoteforSam #AnUncleSamWhoCaresAboutImmigration

Chapter Dues Survey Update

Thank you to the over 40 people who have responded to our survey regarding Chapter Dues. The feedback has been helpful and informative. Although **we are not going to take a vote on June 1st for raising chapter dues**, we encourage members to complete the [survey](#) and share their insights with us.

As an Executive Committee, we realize that we need to provide you with a full overview of our financials before we contemplate raising dues. At the June 1st Annual Meeting, we will provide a financial statement that shows our expenses (including donations and travel reimbursements) and income. The Executive Committee is committed to figuring out ways to reach out more to our Alabama members, providing better events to increase attendance (all events have been down 20-50% this year, including our chapter

conference), and how to make more resources more available to all members with the use of technology.

This is a start to a good and necessary conversation. Again, we welcome your comments through the [survey](#).

RSVP for Chapter Meeting at AILA AC18 June 14, 2018

I know that there are over 60 chapter members attending the conference and yet fewer than 20 have registered for the free lunch we're hosting on the 14th. Sign up today to we can make sure we have plenty of food! **Please RSVP by June 1st.**

Thursday, June 14th

12 pm-1 pm

Hotel: Hilton San Francisco Union Square

Meeting Room: Union Square 22, Tower 3, 4th floor

Registration: [Online](#)

Committee News

Asylum Updates

Thank you the Asylum Committee for the minutes from the liaison call earlier this month. As noted in the Yahoo group, there is a new asylum vetting center housed in Atlanta - their job is to vet I-589s prior to getting to a field officer. Joe Kernan, former the Assistant District Director, is overseeing this new facility.

Airport Tour Full

The airport tour arranged by our CBP Committee was full within 18 hours. Thank you to everyone for your interest in this event!

Local News

Trans Mexican Client Receives Asylum

Great news out of the Stewart Detention Center, courtesy of Tamara Caldas, Pro Bono Partner and Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton: *After three merits hearings before Judge Trimble at Stewart and three trips to the BIA, our transgender Mexican client was finally granted asylum this morning in Lumpkin after the BIA vacated Judge Trimble's third order denying relief. The best part of our client's story - when Judge Trimble looked up at her and*

said “Congratulations, Ma’am.” In all these years, it was the first time he had acknowledged that she was a woman.

National News

DACA Discharge Petition

The discharge petition in the House only needs about 14 more signatures to move forward.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/388983-moderate-republicans-inch-closer-to-signatures-needed-to-force>

Here are the Georgians who have signed:

1. John Lewis, D-Georgia
2. Hank Johnson, D-Georgia
3. Sanford Bishop, D-Georgia
4. David Scott, D-Georgia

If you'd like to write a letter to your representative to encourage them to sign on to the discharge petition, here is sample language, courtesy of the Latin American Association:

Dear Representative X,

The future of more than 21,000 Georgians has been hanging in the balance since September 5, 2017, when the Trump administration announced that it would start phasing out the DACA deportation deferral program starting this spring. Though court rulings have kept DACA temporarily alive, the failure of Congress to come up with a permanent protection for our Dreamers continues to put their futures at risk.

Dreamers, most of whom are protected by DACA, were brought to this country as children by parents seeking a better life for their families. These young men and women have grown up in this country and attended our schools with our own children. They have graduated from high school, and many have gone on to college. Thanks to DACA, which grants them a work permit and driver's license, they are able to contribute to their communities and the state.

In fact, if Georgia's DACA recipients lose their benefits under the program, Georgia's tax revenues would be reduced by over \$1 billion over the next 10 years, and Georgia's economy would lose over \$4 billion dollars over the same period.^[i] In contrast, replacing DACA with a gradual path to citizenship would increase tax revenues by over \$200 million over the next 10 years.^[ii] Both Democrats and Republicans have supported a path to citizenship, and nearly 3 in 4 Americans believe that young people brought to the US illegally as children should be able to become citizens.^[iii]

Our Dreamers are an integral part of the state's future, and the harm to them would be irreparable if DACA ends with no legislative replacement. We ask that you please sign a

discharge petition that would force a crucial vote on a bill that would protect our DACA recipients and support Georgia's economy and future.

^[i] Cato Institute, "The Economic and Budgetary Cost of Repealing DACA at the State Level", by Ike Brannon, August 31, 2017.

<https://www.cato.org/blog/economic-budgetary-cost-repealing-daca-state-level>

^[ii] Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, "Georgia Stands to Lose Millions from Crackdown on Young Immigrants", by Wesley Tharpe, February 1, 2017.

<https://gbpi.org/2017/georgia-stands-lose-millions-federal-crackdown-young-immigrants/> (\$21 million/year increase in tax revenue by replacing DACA with a gradual path to citizenship).

^[iii] Monmouth University, "Public Says Let Dreamers Stay", February 5, 2018.

https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/monmouthpoll_us_020518/

AILA News and Events

AC 2018 Updates

Xavier Becerra, the Attorney General of the State of California was just announced as the keynote speaker.

Don't forget about the special events that happen at the Annual Conference like the "Taste of San Francisco" networking dinners, the "After Hours at the Hawthorn" fundraiser for the AIC, AILA online resources trainings, a special session on managing stress and avoiding substance abuse and SO MUCH MORE. Check it all out online:

<http://aila.org/conferences/in-person/annual/special-events-and-activities>.

AILA National Elections Voting Information

Just a reminder to vote for AILA National Leadership -

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at the Hilton, Plaza, Lobby Level, San Francisco, CA, and the elections will conclude at that time. The results of the election will be announced before the meeting adjourns.

Simply click on the link and follow the step by step instructions. You will need your member number in order to login. If you wish to request a paper ballot, please contact elections@aila.org. Candidate information is included on this voting site so you can make an informed decision. You may also view the candidate statements through aila.org.

Ballot Link: <https://eballot4.votenet.com/aila>

Job Scene

- Beth Taylor seeks a legal assistant / paralegal position. Her resume is attached.
- Maria Munoz contacted with the following - her resume is attached: *I am writing to express my interest to have the opportunity to meet with for a possible internship or volunteer opportunity within your firm. I am currently acquiring my paralegal certification with the University of Georgia Continuing Education Department. After I complete this course in August I will move on to complete my certification in immigration law. I developed a passion to work with the immigration community because of the extensive experiences I myself have been through due to my recent status change to permanent resident. As a child till my adulthood my family and I had to go through many steps to be able to stay in this country. I saw how frustrating it was for my family to not have a way to communicate with the lawyer they had handling their case at the time. While working in the ER at Cobb Hospital I had the pleasure of working closely with the immigration community and saw how much need there is for legal support. I decide to change my career path from nursing to paralegal in order to make a difference within my community.*

Parting Words...

Although I still have another week to go, this is my last newsletter as your Chapter Chair. It has been the honor of my career to serve the Georgia-Alabama Chapter these past 12 months. In a year where it seems like a success is merely getting up to fight another day, we've done great things together -

- Quarterly liaison meetings with USCIS Atlanta, EOIR, and ICE
- Monthly New Member Division mentor dinners
- First year of our Health and Wellness Committee - including an extremely well-received presentation at the Chapter Conference, meditation workshop and afternoon of hiking
- Numerous DACA and Naturalization clinics
- Chapter luncheons on practice management; ethics and pro bono work; and advocacy work
- Federal Litigation Roundtables
- Luncheon with the Arlington Asylum Director
- Joint Trainings on Master Hearings, Representing Minors in Court, How to Object in Court
- Sixth Annual Chapter Conference
- Increased social media presence
- Ten Georgia and one Alabama member to DC for National Day of Action
- Pro bono assistance to children in court through the Attorney of the Day Program
- Financial support to local non-profit partners through our Donations Committee
- Editorial pieces in local papers every month in 2017
- Saw the defeat of SB 452 and the "deportation bus" gubernatorial candidate

I'm sure this isn't everything and I'll ponder more before next week's lunch, but as this list shows, we have an amazing chapter. Thank you to all of our volunteer leaders for going above and beyond to make our chapter stronger and to everyone who supported each other, our chapter, and our clients in this challenging year.

Contact Us

- Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/ailagaal/>
- Tweet with us! <https://twitter.com/@ailagaal>
- Chapter Website: www.ga-al.com
 - Password for AILA Members Only Page: GA-AL-M3MB3R5!
- Chapter Yahoo Group: As chapter members, you get to use it. Send anyone on the Executive Committee an email if you want in on the action - the ability to post responsibly and search older threads.

	Tracie L. Klinke Chair Georgia Alabama Chapter American Immigration Lawyers Association
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