



BLASINGAME • BURCH
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**LEGAL
LETTER**

FIRM NEWS
FOR CLIENTS &
ATTORNEYS

VOLUME 5

July 2023

BBGA Raises More Than 15,000 Meals for Foodbank of Northeast Georgia

BBGA once again participated in the Annual Legal Food Frenzy, a two-week fund drive competition amongst law firms and other legal organizations held in partnership

with the Georgia Attorney General, the State Bar & Young Lawyers Division, and the Georgia Food Bank Association.

BBGA ranked first regionally for total points in this year's competition and third for Points Per Person. BBGA staff and attorneys raised the equivalent of 15,033 meals for people in the Athens community.

Donations for the Northeast Georgia region increased 6% in this year's competition.

BBGA attorney

Kirsten Pickering Charles organizes the firm-wide effort each year.

"Once again, our firm has been so generous. In two weeks, we raised over 15,000 meals for our local community," Kirsten said. "Because of our efforts, along with other firms and legal offices, many children, families, and seniors will have access to food this summer. It feels good to play a role in a community effort to help those in need."

During the 2023 competition, 197 law firms and legal organizations raised \$829,238, the equivalent of more than 3.2 million meals for Georgia's regional food banks.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, PC

For raising the equivalent of

15,033 Meals

for

Foodbank of Northeast Georgia



FEEDING
GEORGIA



Christopher M. Carr

CHRISTOPHER M. CARR
Georgia Attorney General

Danah C. Craft

DANAH C. CRAFT
Executive Director, Feeding Georgia

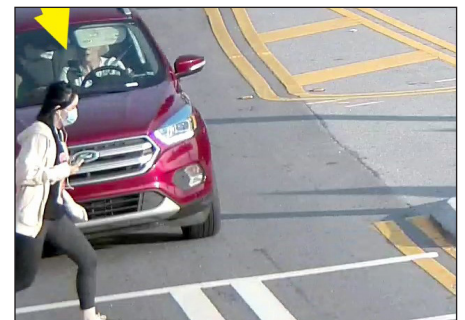
\$100,000 Settlement for Pedestrian Struck in Crosswalk

Ms. N was crossing Marietta Street in a crosswalk when an oncoming driver hit her.

Despite being in the crosswalk, the police and the driver's insurance company found her at fault for the wreck and even issued her a citation. BBGA Attorney Mi-

chael Ruppensburg investigated the incident and found surveillance video proving that Ms. N was in a crosswalk and that the driver was looking at her phone during the wreck. He secured a \$100,000 settlement with the driver's insurance

Pedestrian Continued on Page 3



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Kirsten Charles
David Dismuke
Henry Garrard
Drew Hill
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Rob Huestis
Alex Hughes
Tommy Jeffords
Evan Jones
Austin Joseph
Jim Matthews
Tyler Mathis
Greg O'Connell
Leanna Pittard
Chase Ruffin
Michael Ruppensburg
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Richard Schmidt
Molly Talley
Josh Wages

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PRACTICE AREAS

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bbga.com
surgicalmeshhelp.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

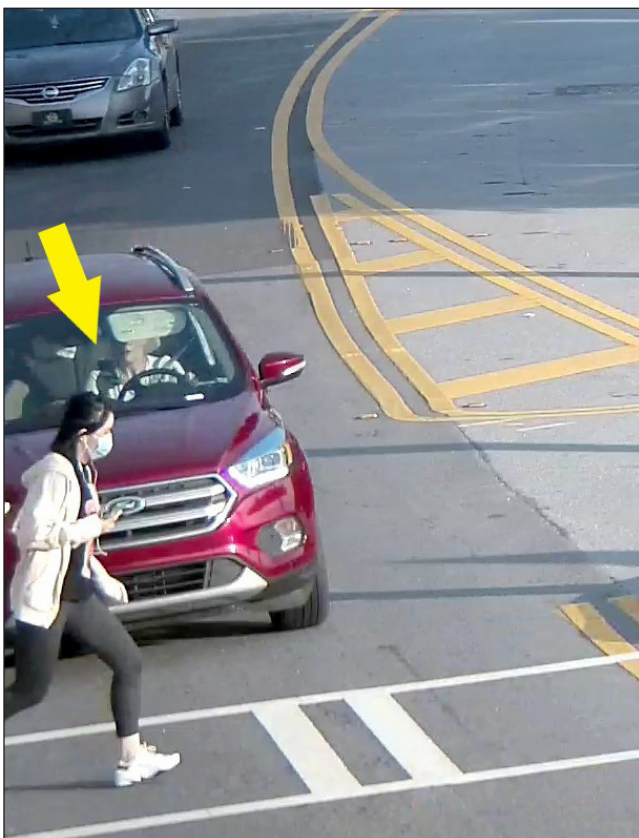
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**Providing Clients with Exceptional Legal
Services for Nearly 40 Years**



**\$1,100,000,000 IN VERDICTS AND
SETTLEMENTS IN THE LAST 9 YEARS**



Screenshot of surveillance video showing Ms. N in the crosswalk



Zoomed in screenshot showing the driver was on her cell phone

Pedestrian Continued

company, which is the full amount of their policy limits.

Pedestrian Issued Citation After Being Hit in Atlanta Crosswalk

Ms. N was attempting to cross Marietta Street in a crosswalk when she was hit by a car.

The impact threw her up into the air and pushed her forward where she landed outside of the crosswalk.

When police arrived, the driver of the vehicle told police that Ms. N wasn't in the crosswalk when she hit her, and that Ms. N had instead darted into the street.

The police report indicated that video surveillance footage showed Ms. N was not in the crosswalk when she was struck. Ms. N was issued a citation for darting into traffic.

The Injuries

When EMS arrived on the scene,

Ms. N was unable to talk.

She was transported to a nearby hospital where emergency room doctors noted a tib-fib fracture in

Ms. N's left leg, a hip joint fracture, a skull fracture, brain bleeding, multiple pelvic fractures, and a comminuted R L5 TP fracture, which is a fracture of the fifth lumbar vertebrae.

Ms. N. underwent immediate surgery to repair her left leg and many pelvic ring fractures.

Doctors placed several screws in her leg and pelvic region.

She was in the ICU for several days before being discharged.

When she was discharged a CT scan still showed pools of blood in her brain with localized swelling.

BBGA Attorney Proves Pedestrian Was in Crosswalk and Negotiates Settlement for Policy Limits

Ms. N retained BBGA Attorney

Michael Ruppensburg to investigate the incident. The insurance company denied liability for the wreck, stating that Ms. N was not in the crosswalk.

Michael obtained surveillance video from a nearby police camera. It provided unmistakable evidence that proved not only was Ms. N inside the crosswalk when she was hit, but the driver was holding her cell phone at the time of the incident.

The insurance company then accepted responsibility and agreed to pay the policy limit of \$100,000.

We are happy to have helped Ms. N with her case and we wish her the best in her ongoing recovery.



Michael Ruppensburg

LEAD PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BBGA Attorney Graduates from LEAD Program

BBGA Personal Injury Attorney Tyler Mathis recently graduated from the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA) Leadership Education & Advanced Direction (LEAD) Program.

The LEAD Program is a selective, highly acclaimed program that trains young, promising trial lawyers who have been identified as potential leaders with the necessary tools to take the next steps in their legal careers, both in and out of the courtroom. Participants

are selected through a competitive application process and are purposefully chosen from diverse geographic locations and areas of trial practice

“As a plaintiff’s attorney, I am passionate about seeking justice for those who have been wronged,” Tyler said. “My involvement in LEAD allowed me to learn from some of the nation’s leading trial lawyers. Because of the skills and insights I’ve gained through

Graduation Continued on Page 5



BBGA Attorney Selected to 2023-2024 LEAD Program

BBGA Personal Injury Attorney Chase Ruffin has been selected to join the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association 2023-2024 LEAD Class.

The LEAD Program (Leadership, Education & Advanced Direction) was founded in 2013 and is a selective, highly acclaimed program that trains young, promising trial lawyers who have been identified as potential leaders with the necessary tools to take the next step in

their legal careers, both in and out of the courtroom.

Participants are selected through a competitive application process, purposefully chosen from diverse geographic locations and areas of trial practice.

“I am thrilled to be selected for this year’s LEAD class,” Chase said. “GTLA is instrumental in ensuring Georgians receive full and fair compensation for in-

LEAD Continued on Page 5

Graduation Continued

LEAD, I will be able to provide an improved level of service to not only my clients but also to the community,” he said. “Participating in LEAD also allowed me to establish lifelong relationships with my LEAD classmates, who are among the most talented and accomplished young attorneys in Georgia.”

In all, Tyler said the group completed 44 hours of lessons by some of the best trial lawyers in Georgia.

Tyler joined the personal injury team at Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C. in June 2020. His practice at BBGA includes medical malpractice, car and truck accidents, nursing home abuse, and other personal injury cases.

Tyler was born and raised in Dublin, Georgia, and graduated from Georgia College and State University, in Milledgeville, with a degree in Political Science. After graduating from GCSU, Tyler earned his J.D. at the University of Georgia School of Law. During law school, Tyler spent four semesters working at The Veterans Legal Clinic at UGA Law, which serves Georgia veterans and helps them get the benefits they’ve earned through their military service.

Tyler also founded the UGA School of Law’s First-Generation Student Association and was the recipient of the Stacey Godfrey Evans Scholarship, which is awarded to first-generation college

graduates. The student group focuses on social issues that are relevant to first-generation graduates and is an addition to the First-Start Scholars Program.

GTLA is dedicated to protecting the Constitutional promise of justice for all by guaranteeing the right to trial by jury, preserving an independent judiciary, and providing access to the courts for all Georgians.



Tyler Mathis

LEAD Continued

juries caused by the negligence of others. I look forward to becoming more involved in this critical organization and helping to support its core mission to protect Georgians’

right to a trial by jury.”

Chase’s practice at BBGA is focused on representing individuals injured by defective medical devices, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse, car and truck accidents, and dangerous property conditions

cases.

Join us in congratulating Chase for being selected to join this year’s LEAD Class.



Chase Ruffin

4th ANNUAL ELDER ABUSE Litigation SEMINAR

October 20, 2023

EPICUREAN, ATLANTA

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON

Multiple BBGA Attorneys selected as 2023 AV Preeminent Attorneys, Judicial Edition

Multiple BBGA Attorneys have been selected as 2023 AV Preeminent® Attorneys – Judicial Edition, Martindale-Hubbell's highest distinction.

AV Preeminent® is the highest level of peer rating. This rating signifies that the lawyer's peers rank them at the highest level of professional excellence for their legal knowledge, communication skills, and ethical standards.

The Judicial Edition award indi-

cates perfect ratings from the judiciary on an attorney's legal ability and ethical standards.

BBGA Attorneys selected include:

- Gary Blasingame (Of Counsel)
- Davison Burch (Of Counsel)
- Henry Garrard
- Drew Hill
- Evan Jones
- Jim Matthews

- Michael Morris (Of Counsel)
- Thomas Rogers (Of Counsel)
- Molly Talley
- Josh Wages

Martindale-Hubbell has been evaluating attorneys for more than 130 years for their strong legal ability and high ethical standards with its Peer Review Rating System.

The goal of Martindale-Hubbell ratings is to help keep the public informed when deciding to do business with an attorney or law firm.

2023 AV Preeminent® Attorney – Judicial Edition

CONGRATULATIONS!



Gary Blasingame



Davison Burch



Henry Garrard



Drew Hill



Evan Jones



Jim Matthews



Michael Morris



Thomas Rogers



Molly Talley



Josh Wages

BBGA Co-Sponsored Black Art and Culture Awards at Georgia Museum of Art



Photo By Jason Thrasher of Thrasher Photo.

Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C. recently sponsored the Black Art and Culture Awards at the Georgia Museum of Art.

Each year, the Georgia Museum of Art hosts the awards, which honor African American visual artists and leaders who have made a significant contribution to African American cultural education and service.

Those in attendance from BBGA included Managing Shareholder Henry Garrard and his wife, Carolyn; Attorney Mary M. Russell and her husband, Cap; and Attorney Tyler Mathis.

At the awards ceremony, Annie Greene was awarded The Lillian C. Lynch Citation for her leadership

and contributions to African American cultural education and service. Stefanie Jackson received The Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Award for her contributions to the visual arts in Georgia.

Following the awards ceremony there was a reception with food and beverages, and attendees were able to network and view the museum exhibits after hours.

Stefanie Jackson had a painting on display at the museum, and Annie Greene had several of her books for sale through the Georgia Museum of Art.

Both artists visited with guests at the reception, with Ms. Greene signing copies of her books and

Ms. Jackson signing prints of her work, “Bluest Eye.”

BBGA is honored to support the Georgia Museum of Art and the talented local artists who were recognized at the event.

Scan the QR code to contact us about a potential case. We offer free consultations.



Scan to Contact Us



Attorneys at Law

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BBGA PERSONAL INJURY TEAM



Lee Atkinson



Henry Garrard



Drew Hill



Thomas Hollingsworth



Alex Hughes



Evan Jones



Jim Matthews



Tyler Mathis



Leanna Pittard



Chase Ruffin



Michael Ruppensburg



Mary M. Russell



Josh Wages

We take cases across
Georgia and the U.S.



PERSONAL INJURY AREAS OF PRACTICE INCLUDE, BUT AREN'T LIMITED TO:

DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS
DANGEROUS DRUGS
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
BIRTH INJURIES
CAR ACCIDENTS
TRUCK ACCIDENTS
PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS
DOG BITES
WRONGFUL DEATH
UNSAFE ROADS
SLIP & FALL
DROWNING/POOL ACCIDENTS
DAYCARE ABUSE
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