



State Bar of Georgia

Lawyers Serving the Public and the Justice System

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State Bar of Georgia Honors Sen. McKoon

Atlanta – State Sen. Joshua McKoon (R-Columbus) was honored along with William John Camp of Warner Robins, a partner with Westmoreland Patterson Moseley & Hinson LLP in Macon, by the State Bar of Georgia with a resolution adopted unanimously by its Board of Governors on Aug. 18 at the Bar Center in Atlanta.

McKoon, who practices law with Day Crowley in Columbus, and Camp were recognized for their successful efforts toward enactment of Senate Bill 112, the Georgia Military Parents Rights Act, during the 2011 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly. The new law addresses a significant need to protect the rights of military parents on issues of child custody and visitation when they are deployed in defense of the nation. The new law provides relief for both custodial and non-custodial parents. The statute also provides Judges with authority to delegate visitation to members of the military parent's extended family while the service member is deployed.

McKoon introduced and led the effort to pass the legislation, which was adopted unanimously by both the Senate and House of Representatives. Gov. Nathan Deal signed the measure into law on May 11. Camp, an Air Force veteran who represents military service members in addressing their family law matters, had researched, drafted and obtained legislative sponsors for SB 112.

“We commend and thank Sen. McKoon and Mr. Camp for their vision, leadership and devotion to military families in our state,” State Bar President Kenneth L. Shigley said. “The Georgia Military Parents Rights Act will provide an important and compassionate means of legal support to protect our service members and their families in the years to come.”

The new law will also benefit the State Bar's Military Legal Assistance Program, which assists service members and veterans by connecting them to Georgia lawyers who are willing to provide free or reduced-fee legal services. Service members and veterans often have legal needs in their personal lives and specific to their military service. They also face financial issues and other civil law matters resulting from the sacrifices made in military life. Depending on eligibility, clients will be connected to a lawyer in their geographic area with expertise in their area of need.

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The State Bar of Georgia, with offices in Atlanta, Savannah and Tifton, was established in 1964 by Georgia's Supreme Court as the successor to the voluntary Georgia Bar Association, founded in 1884. All lawyers licensed to practice in Georgia belong to the State Bar. Its more than 43,000 members work together to strengthen the constitutional promise of justice for all, promote principles of duty and public service among Georgia's lawyers, and administer a strict code of legal ethics.