

14-C-5029

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Referred To _____

First Reading

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION
 2nd
 1st & 2nd
 3rd
 Readings
 Consent V. Vote RC Vote

CERTIFIED
 MAY 05 2014
 ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT


A COMMUNICATION FROM
 COUNCILMEMBERS CARLA SMITH,
 DISTRICT 1, KWANZA HALL, DISTRICT
 2, IVORY LEE YOUNG, JR., DISTRICT 3,
 CLETA WINSLOW, DISTRICT 4 AND
 MICHAEL BOND, POST 1- AT-LARGE
 APPOINTING CHRISTOPHER BALCH TO
 THE COMMISSION ON VETERANS
 AFFAIRS. THIS APPOINTMENT IS FOR
 A TERM OF TWO (2) YEARS,
 SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON THE DATE
 OF COUNCIL CONFIRMATION.

CONFIRMED BY

MAY 05 2014

COUNCIL

- CONSENT REFER
 - REGULAR REPORT REFER
 - ADVERTISE & REFER
 - 1ST ADOPT 2ND READ & REFER
 - PERSONAL PAPER REFER
- Date Referred: 4/21/14
 Referred To: CD/HR + CAC
 Date Referred: _____
 Referred To: _____
 Date Referred: _____
 Referred To: _____

Committee Date Chair Referred To	Committee Date Chair Action Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) Other	Members Refer To	Committee Date Chair Action Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) Other	Members Refer To
_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____

MAYOR'S ACTION

CERTIFIED
 MAY 05 2014


RCS# 281
5/05/14
3:03 PM

Atlanta City Council

MULTIPLE

14-C-5021 AND 14-C-5029

CONFIRM

YEAS: 11
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 5
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 0

NV Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	Y Bond
NV Hall	Y Wan	Y Martin	Y Norwood
NV Young	Y Shook	Y Bottoms	Y Dickens
NV Winslow	Y Adrean	Y Sheperd	NV Mitchell

MULTIPLE



14-C-5029

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

CARLA SMITH
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT ONE

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
SECOND FLOOR, EAST
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335
(404) 330-6039

April 21, 2014

Honorable Ceasar Mitchell
President, Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

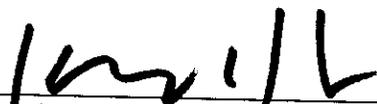
Dear President Mitchell;

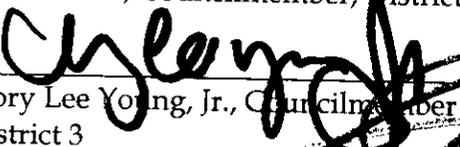
Councilmembers Kwanza Hall, District 2, Ivory Lee Young, Jr. District 3, Cleta Winslow, District 4 and Michael Bond, Post 1 - At Large, and I are pleased to submit Mr. Christopher Balch for appointment to the Atlanta Commission on Veteran Affairs.

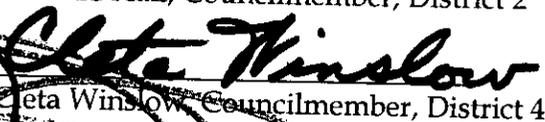
A copy of his resume is attached for your perusal.

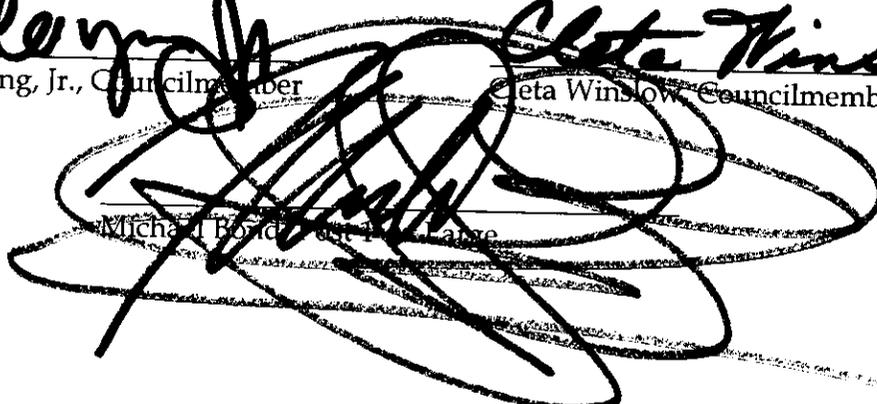
Sincerely,


Carla Smith, Councilmember, District 1


Kwanza Hall, Councilmember, District 2


Ivory Lee Young, Jr., Councilmember
District 3


Cleta Winslow, Councilmember, District 4


Michael Bond, Post 1 - At Large

Christopher D. Balch

Committed to the highest level of excellence through achievement, client focus, and consensus building based on more than 20 years of litigation, legal and management experience. A respected manager who leads by example. Excellent decision-making and problem-solving skills developed while meeting the challenge of constantly fluctuating legal and business environment.

SKILLS

Commercial and Coverage Litigation

- Successfully represented Ebenezer Baptist Church in litigation resulting in no liability to Church
- Tried over 90 jury trials to verdict
- Successfully represent clients in land use, zoning and design proposals before local governments
- Evaluate, analyze and articulate interpretations of statutes, local codes and ordinances to effect client plans and proposals
- Conduct analysis of complex coverage questions related to duty to defend, duty to indemnify, and coverage defenses
- Analyze and provide advice to clients concerning contracts, intellectual property, employment and other business and civil disputes
- Resolved multimillion dollar bad faith claim against insurer based on mishandling by TPA and then led successful indemnity action against third party administrator
- Organize and evaluate litigation strategy to effectuate client defined goals
- Negotiated resolution of complex commercial dispute for 30% of demand
- Manage budget and control expenses within agreed budgetary limits
- Advise senior client leadership on issues related to risk of litigation and range of outcomes

Management and Leadership

- Direct and motivate team of professionals and paraprofessionals to accomplish organization goals and objectives
- Mentor and develop skills for junior professionals to further professional development
- Led all-volunteer committee in development and marketing of National seminar which achieved its highest attendance
- Develop and implement employee training for professional development for paraprofessional staff
- Recognize need and implement processes and procedures for efficient handling of office and department work flow
- Reduce risk exposure by proactively developing policies and procedures
- Awarded Navy Achievement Medal by the Secretary of the United States Navy for professional performance and leadership

Consensus Building

- Advise local government boards regarding policy choices and recommended action
- Facilitate resolution of departmental and employee disputes
- Identify and define business challenges with proposed solutions
- Resolved community dispute over development for less than 50% of plaintiffs' demands
- Identify and manage dispute resolution, paying particular attention to situations appropriate for early intervention and resolution to avoid later, costlier problem solving
- Community involvement in seeking solutions to complex challenges

Christopher D. Balch

EXPERIENCE

Principal, Balch Law Group, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2008 – Present

- Lead litigation for clients across broad range of matters
- Advise and counsel clients in development and project management concerning land use regulations, design implementation and interaction with local government authorities
- Provide advice and assistance to clients during investigations, employee negotiation, and supplier or customer negotiations
- Identify and recommend changes to client processes to minimize risk to client
- Conduct coverage analysis and interaction with insurers on claimed losses

Of Counsel, Jarrard & Davis, LLP, Cumming, GA, February 2007 –June, 2008

- Served as Senior Litigation Counsel across broad range of litigated matters involving local government, including land use, Special Local Option Sales Tax allocation, and citizens claims
- Managed and minimized risk by evaluating course of action and recommending choices to be considered by policy- and decision-makers
- Directed litigation team involving contract disputes, intellectual property, and employment matters

Partner, Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, Atlanta, GA, 1996–2007

- Acted as lead litigation and trial counsel in insurance coverage disputes, intellectual property, civil rights and employment matters, and serious personal injury or death claims
- Participated in meetings identifying alternatives and options for governing boards and commissions
- Appointed Special Assistant Attorney General by Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker
- Promoted to Partner in 2001

Adjunct Professor, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, 1998–2004

- Taught business law and ethics for MBA students
- Consistently rated among the top instructors in the business law and ethics faculty, which was consistently rated among the top faculty groups in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business

Associate, Chambless, Higdon & Carson, Macon, GA, 1994–1996

- Managed general litigation caseload of more than 100 files
- Interacted with clients in dispute resolution, including mediations, litigation, and investigations
- Appeared as lead or secondary counsel in state and Federal Courts, including Appellate Courts

Law Clerk, the Honorable Duross Fitzpatrick, U.S. District Court, Macon, GA, 1992–1994

- Assisted Federal Court Trial Judge with rulings on motions to ensure risk of error was reduced insofar as possible
- Prepared jury charges for civil and criminal trials, including drug possession and distribution, sentencing issues, fraud, UCC, slip and falls, employment discrimination, and excessive force by police officers

U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA • Active Duty 1986–1989 • Reserves 1989-1994

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, First Force Service Support Group

- Served as noncommissioned officer in charge of office providing legal services to logistical support command for the First Marine Division

Christopher D. Balch

COURT AND BAR MEMBERSHIPS

- U.S. Supreme Court, 1999
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, 1994
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 1994
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, 1992
- Georgia Supreme Court, 1992
- Georgia Court of Appeals, 1992
- Georgia Trial Courts, 1992
- State Bar of Georgia, 1992
- Atlanta Bar Association, 1996-Present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Defense Research Institute, 1997-present; Employment Law Committee; Membership Chair, Trial Tactics Committee, 2004–2006, Liaison to Annual Meeting Steering Committee, 2007, Complex Medicine Seminar Steering Committee 2005; Governmental Liability Committee, Publications Chair 2004–2006, Web Page Chair 1997–2004; American Bar Association, 1994–2001.

PRESENTATIONS

- *Why Your Investigator Needs To Be Like A Moonshiner*, City and County Attorney's Institute, Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, Athens, Georgia 2012
- *Crisis Management in YouTube and CNN World*, City and County Attorney's Institute, Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, Athens, Georgia 2011
- *Electronic Discovery: The Amended Federal Rules and Strategies for Litigation*, Insurance Law Institute, St. Simons Island, GA 2007
- *Lessons for Trial from Children's Stories: Winnie the Pooh as a Trial Lawyer*, Ohio Association of Civil Defense Lawyers, Dayton, OH 2006
- *Qualified Immunity: The Basics and Beyond*, Defense Research Institute Governmental Liability Seminar, San Diego, CA, 2005
- *Expert Witness Discovery in Georgia*, Swift Currie Client Seminar, Atlanta, Georgia 2005
- *Employee Leasing Organizations: How To Analyze The Contract To Measure Risks And Benefits For Small Businesses*, North Atlanta Chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management, Atlanta, GA 2004
- *Electronic Discovery for Public Entities*, Defense Research Institute Governmental Liability Seminar, San Diego, CA, 2004
- *Qualified Immunity in the 11th Circuit*, PESI § 1983 Litigation in the 11th Circuit, Atlanta, GA, 2004
- *Electronic Discovery for Counties*, Utah Association of County Attorneys, Zion National Park, UT, 2004
- *Electronic Discovery: Challenges for a New Millennium*, Insurance Law Institute, St. Simons Island, GA, 2003
- *Discovery Techniques in Civil Rights Litigation for Defendants*, PESI § 1983 and Police Misconduct Litigation in the 11th Circuit, Atlanta, GA, 2001
- *Settling a Case Before Summary Judgment, A Dialogue Between Opposing Counsel*, Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia § 1983 Update, Atlanta, GA, 1999
- *The Attorney Client Privilege in the Insurance Relationship*, Swift Currie Client Seminar, Atlanta, GA 1999
- *Subrogation and Claims against the Government*, Swift Currie Client Seminar, Atlanta, GA 1998

PUBLICATIONS

- *Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 68: An Underutilized Mechanism of Settlement*, 46 For the Defense 38 (2004)
- *Is There Hope After Hope? Qualified Immunity in the Eleventh Circuit*, 54 Mercer L. Rev. 1293 (2003)
- *The Art of War and the Art of Trial Advocacy: Is There Common Ground?* 42 Mercer L. Rev. 861 (1991)

Christopher D. Balch

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, cum laude, *Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University*, Macon, GA, 1992.
Top 10% of Class, Phi Delta Phi National Honor Society; Brainerd Currie Honor Society; Order of Barristers; *Mercer Law Review*, 1990–1992; Moot Court Board 1992-1992; Best Oral Advocate Team, Florida Institute of Worker's Compensation, Orlando, Florida 1991.

Bachelor of Arts, History, 1985, *University of Tennessee*, Knoxville
Music Scholarship, Pride of the Southland Marching Band (marching instructor and section leader), University Concert Bands (section leader)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

State Bar Service and Volunteer

- National Moot Court Regional Competition Committee—Judge
- Intrastate Moot Court Committee—Chair (1998-99), Problem Subcommittee Chair (1993-1997), Judge (1993-2013), Finals Judge 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2012
- National Black Law Students Association National Moot Court Competition, Judge 2014
- Pro bono work for Nicholas House
- Pro bono work for The Study Hall

South East Atlanta Business Association (SEABA) – 2010 to Present

- Elected to Board of Directors 2012.
- Chair Elect, 2014.
- Chair, Candidates Forum Committee (providing venue for candidates in contested City (Council and School Board) races to respond to questions of public concern) (2013).

Neighborhood Planning Unit W- 2009 to present.

- Member
- Member Public Safety Subcommittee (2009 to present).
- Appointed to Special Committee on SAP application related to 800 Glenwood Project.
- Drafted NPU response to SAP application related to ordinance based objections to application.

Smart Growth Atlanta – 2013 to present

- Liaison with legal counsel concerning the proposed development of the 800 Glenwood property in Eastern Grant Park.
- Conduct research regarding interplay between Beltline Overlay and underlying City Ordinances concerning zoning, purpose of overlay, and interplay between aspirational goals of ordinance and legal requirements.
- Evaluate and approve litigation and public strategies for challenging proposed development.

Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency – 2011 to present

- Communications Volunteer
- Installation and maintenance of Amateur Radio communications equipment
- Support ESF-2 function for the EMA during disasters and planned special event
- Provide training and support to EMA in Auxiliary Communications under Federal Incident Response and Command Structure

Volunteer at Grady Memorial Hospital – 2009 to present

- Teach Amateur Radio Technician class for emergency management professionals
- Assist with training and implementation of alternative communication channels in event of emergency
- Participate in Annual Accreditation Survey of Emergency Management Function
- Provide communications expertise to hospitals in Georgia Hospital Association Region D

Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)—Member since 2008.

- Land Use and Zoning Committee Member (2008 to 2013), Vice Chair (2008-present)
- Fundraising Committee (2008-2011)
- Economic Development Committees, Member (2008-2012)
- Reporter for Bylaw Revision Special Committee in 2011 and 2013.
- Nominated for President in 2011.
- Elected as GPNA representative to Neighborhood Planning Unit W (2009 to 2013)
- Elected as Economic Development Committee Chair for 2013

Grant Park Security Patrol (GPSP)—2007 to present.

- Elected President, 2012.
- Drafted and led effort to create first bylaws for organization.
- Led effort to consolidate GPSP and GPNA for administrative and leadership purposes.

Amateur Radio Licensee (KS4MM)—1973 to present

- Hold highest issued license class.
- Led Emergency Communications Response group for South Fulton County (all territory south of the Chattahoochee River) from 2011 to 2013.
- Lead amateur radio support for public events throughout the metro Atlanta area
- Establish and lead the communications support for the Children's Hospital of Atlanta Christmas Parade (2009 to present)
- Teach amateur radio technician license class for the Centers for Disease Control
- Present programs to local clubs related to legal issues encountered by amateur radio operators
- Appointed as Volunteer Counsel for the Southeastern Division of the American Radio Relay League (2012)

Atlanta Track Club

- Atlanta Marathon Organizing Committee (2013 to present)
- Turkey Day ½ Marathon and 5K Organizing Committee (2013 to Present)
- Lead communications support to supplement public safety response for the Peachtree Road Race (2009 to present)
- Peachtree Road Race Organizing Committee (2014)

Alford Memorial Radio Club—Member (2008 to present).

- Chair of Hamfest Committee (2012 to present) (a hamfest is part learning forum, part swap meet/flea market, part electronics supermarket, and part social gathering)
- Supervise 50 volunteers in providing safe and appropriate services to Hamfest Attendees
- Manage budget to control costs and maximize fundraising impact of event
- Executive Committee (2012 to present)