

Q&A With Greg Lundy: Staff Attorney for Gwinnett Superior Court and Judge Michael Clark

Conducted by Austin Buerlein

John Marshall Law School 3L and Law Clerk for Margaret Gettle Washburn, P.C.

Greg Lundy is a staff attorney with the Gwinnett Superior Court, and works directly with Judge Michael Clark (see profile on page 12). I had the opportunity to meet with Lundy and Judge Clark to discuss a day in the life of a staff attorney, and any advice that he may have for a lawyer litigating before his and Judge Clark's busy bench.

Q: Let's talk about the route you took to get here today. I understand you also attended John Marshall Law School here in Atlanta. Can you talk about your experience there?

A: I attended classes during the day and was working two jobs at night, including a job with the Atlanta Falcons reviewing their books, and I typically worked from 11 at night until 7 the next morning, and then went to school.

Q: Wow, when did you find time to sleep?

A: I took naps. You'd be surprised at the places I found I could take a nap.

Q: I've been extremely pleased with my education and the curriculum. How well do you feel it prepared you for the legal practice?

A: Extremely well. In fact, I felt John Marshall provided particular advantages over other schools in that the professors were all active in the legal community. Not only were they professors teaching law, but they were currently still in the trenches and taught me about the insides of the practice in the real world. I even had a criminal law professor who was an active assistant district attorney, and there were judges teaching classes too. I think complimenting what you learn in your books with real world practical advice is important for

a law school student.

Q: What next, what did you do after law school and before you began working as a staff attorney?

A: After law school I went into private practice for myself in Buford, Ga. I handled many court-appointed cases of all kinds, but a majority of my cases were criminal. Eventually I started getting a lot of referrals, as well as repeat clients. I did this for about five years before taking a job as a staff attorney with Judge Clark.

Q: Do you have any memories that stand out from your early years of practice?

A: Well, I remember attending a symposium as a young lawyer where Bobby Lee Cook was present. I was fascinated with some case that he had recently tried and after waiting in the long line of lawyers and people that were fighting to speak with him, I had the opportunity to ask him about the facts of the case. He asked me if I had a card, and he would send me the facts. I gave him my card and figured for sure I would never hear from him again. He is such a busy man and wouldn't have the time; plus he'd probably forget or lose my card anyway. However, less than a week later I got a personal letter in the mail along with a typed out explanation of all the facts. I will always remember that.

Q: That's a great story! Now, how did you end up with your position as a staff attorney?

A: Well, during my private practice Judge Clark had appointed me second chair for a murder case, and I got to know him fairly well over the course of this case. After it was over, I expressed interest in a position working as a staff attorney for

Judge Clark or the court. Not too long after, his secretary called me up and let me know about the opening and I jumped at the opportunity. A position as a staff attorney in Gwinnett is an excellent and heavily sought after career, not just a job. After interviewing with several other candidates, I was hired. I've been here since.

Q: How do you spend most of your time during the day?

A: I spend a lot of my time reviewing and managing the pleadings that are submitted for all of the cases assigned to our court. After receiving and ticking one party's pleading, I wait for the other party's response. I then read both of these pleadings and further research the authority on the matter and the law cited in the pleadings. I meet with Judge Clark and brief him and explain both sides and what my position on the issues is. Many times I'll have a drafted order ready for the judge to either edit, or sign if he agrees. I also sit in for and am involved in different regards for certain hearings or trials, among other duties.

Q: As a person who plays a direct role in assisting with the final determination on which side will prevail, do you have any advice to lawyers about how to write their pleadings, such as what to include and what not to include when submitting them to your court?

A: I think the two most important things for pleadings are brevity and authority. Make sure you explain your authority, and even attach the cases to the pleading. However, be careful not to stretch the

authority and law because I am going to read it, and if you are stretching the law then you lose your credibility. Also be brief. When I say brief, I don't mean leave out facts necessarily, but rather have your pleadings streamlined and succinctly explain the facts, what you are asking for, and exactly why you deserve what it is you are asking for (and again, use the law to assist your position in this regard).



Q: Are there any tips that you have for any lawyers that will be trying cases in your and Judge Clark's courtroom?

A: I'd say for starters, always be courteous and professional. We appreciate the old fashioned courtesy and decorum and respect for the court. This includes standing before you speak. I would also advise always know the facts of your case before you come into court to ask for something. We've had lawyers come in and request for child custody, but they don't even know the age of the child involved. Be prepared, because if you are not, it will negatively reflect on you and your client.

Q: Thanks a lot for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with me. Speaking of your busy schedule, I have been told that you and your wife are expecting a child. Do you think you are ready for this second job?

A: It will be my wife and my first child. She is due any day now, so I better hope so! FLR

“A Day in the Life of Greg Lundy, Esq.; Staff Attorney for Gwinnett Superior Court and the Honorable Michael Clark”

By Austin Buerlein

Greg Lundy is a Staff Attorney with the Gwinnett Superior Court, and works directly with Judge Michael Clark. I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Lundy and Judge Clark to discuss the day in the life of a Staff Attorney, and any advice that he may have for a lawyer litigating before his and Judge Clark's busy bench.

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A: Sherri and I just had our first child: Jackson Gregory, July 16th, so I better hope so!

*By Austin Buerlein - John Marshall Law School 3L;
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