

A ClaimsScene

A Publication of the Atlanta Claims Association
November 2024



*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Wishing all of our members,
sponsors, and friends a happy and
blessed Thanksgiving.

ACA Officers 2024-2025

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LaDella Holmes

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For submissions to A
ClaimsScene, please
contact the Newsletter
Committee Chair Renata
McCoomer at:
rmccoomer6@gmail.com



Letter from The President LaDella Holmes



Greetings Atlanta Claims Association Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temps as we prepare for the holiday season. Thanksgiving is the time of the year we get to spend quality time with family and friends while being thankful for moments to be cherished for years to come.

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for December 3rd at 57th Fighter Group Restaurant. I look forward to seeing many of you there, as we enter this festive holiday season. Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate to a local charity for a child in need.

Please feel free to let us know if you have any concerns and we would love to have you become more active in the association by volunteering to serve on a committee of interest.

Let the Newsletter Committee Chair, Renata McCoomer, know if you have an article for Legal Corner or if your company has any upcoming webinars to be included in the next issue. Please send submissions to Renata at: Rmccoomer6@gmail.com

Let's get and stay connected! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

LaDella Holmes, ACA President



Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 3rd

5:30 until 8:00 p.m.

57th Fighter Group Restaurant

3829 Clairmont Road

Atlanta, GA 30341

Members free - Non-Members \$75.00

Limited seats available

- Sponsorships Available -

5 Sponsorships at \$1,000 each | 5 Sponsorships at \$500 each

- Each sponsorship includes -

Signage at the event, logo on the ACA website, attendee list, one attendee, and a mention in the ACA newsletter "A Claimscene". \$1,000 sponsors will receive special recognition in "A Claimscene".

Any additional company attendees are \$75 each.

For additional assistance please contact Event Chair,
Kellie Jackson - kellie.jackson@careworks.com

[Click Here for Tickets & Sponsorship](#)





Legislative Corner: Present and Future

As 2024 comes to a close, the Legislative Chair of the ACA is taking a moment to reflect on a few changes for this year and what we have in store for 2025.

Our Litigation team tracked several proposed laws. Many involved Tort Reform initiatives, ranging from seatbelt use as evidence to limited liability coverage for incidents arising from boating and water-based causes of action. These ultimately failed. Others were successful, including Senate Bill 426. Passage of the Bill resulted in amendments to O.C.G.A. §§ 40-1-112 and 40-2-140, which now limit direct actions against commercial insurers to instances where the motor carrier is insolvent, bankrupt, or service cannot be obtained against the driver or motor carrier. Plaintiffs previously had broad discretion to name the alleged tortfeasor's commercial auto insurance carrier as a defendant. The laws should reduce adverse judgments against commercial defendants by removing extra insurers. The law is not retroactive.

The Workers' Compensation section saw several changes to §34-9 in 2023, which were "tweaked" in 2024. For example, Rule 61(B) caused a flurry of questions in 2023 on the administration of editing all forms, including the panel of physicians, when it was changed to state "anyone using a form" must use the most current revised version of said form. Rule 61(B) now states "anyone filing a form" with the Board must use the most current version.

Additionally, this year language was added to the end of Rule 221(a) as follows: "Payments by electronic funds transfer shall be considered to be made at the time the payer initiates an Automated Clearing House (ACH) electronic funds transfer with its financial institution." The State Board and the Legislature clearly have modern payments and processes in mind when adding small guidelines regarding EFT and fast-track payment systems. The language regarding the three-day out of state "snail-mail" rule does not seem to impact automatic money transfers.

The ACA Legislative Committee forecasts that the State Board and General assembly will continue to address modern processes in small steps to ensure everything from filings to payment methods are efficient and precise before mandating any such procedures. Several Plaintiff attorneys are pushing for more rules regarding the allowance of, or even a requirement for, EFT and direct deposit payments in certain situations; however, overarching codifications are not presently on the horizon.

The Legislative Session starts during the second full week of January 2025. Last year, the defense bar was disappointed to hear that the Tort Reform initiatives were being scaled down in favor of long-awaited infrastructure and other referenda. There should be fewer hurdles this coming year. We will keep you apprised on any legislative news when the session gears up.

Thank you for your continued support and attention.

With great appreciation,

Meredith L. Knight, Esq.

Legislative Committee Chair

Atlanta Claims Association



Welcome New Members October 1st - October 31st

We're so happy that you've joined us!

Daniel Schert	Schert Rehabilitation
Erin Moore	ATI RESTORATION
George Vargas	G7 International Detective Agency
James Curtin	Optimum Consulting Associates, LLC
Kermisha Stringer	Case Management
Michael Crosa	Peter J. Crosa & Co.
Mike Cohan	Webster Henry Bradwell Cohan Speagle & DeShazo, P.C.

Please join us on social media





This Thanksgiving Season, Help Hungry Families by Supporting These Atlanta Food Banks

[Atlanta Community Food Bank](#)

One of the largest food banks in Georgia, Atlanta Community Food Bank partnered with hundreds of local organizations to distribute over 100 million meals to Atlantans in need last year. They accept food donations at their main location at 3400 North Desert Drive in East Point or charitable donations via their website. Volunteers are welcome at the food bank, as individuals or in groups. You can also organize a food or funds drive with your neighborhood, work, or organization.

[Emmaus House](#)


Founded by the civil rights leader Reverend Austin Ford, Emmaus House has been serving Peoplestown and surrounding communities since 1967. Today, they provide a host of services, including a food pantry where families in need can restock their kitchens free of charge. You can donate food items at pantry, located at 27 Haygood Avenue, on Mondays and Fridays between 9 am and 2 pm. Emmaus House can only accept shelf-stable goods. Financial donations and volunteers for specific programs are also welcome.

[Atlanta Mission](#)

Atlanta Mission supports individuals and families experiencing homelessness. They urgently need gently-used winter clothing for children and adults, as well as toiletries: you can find a [list of much-needed items here](#). You can also donate dried, non-perishable goods at their administrative office on 2353 Bolton Road Northwest, Monday through Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Financial donations are also welcome, and volunteers are always needed to prepare meals in the Atlanta Mission kitchen.

[Intown Cares](#)

Every Tuesday and Friday morning, Intown Cares sets up a free food pantry outside the Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. You can donate food directly on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at McIver Hall on the church complex, located at 1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue Northeast. Volunteers are needed for both the food pantry and for grocery delivery drivers.

Continued 

[Toco Hills Alliance](#)

The Toco Hills Alliance serves individuals and families in need in North Central DeKalb County. They run a food pantry and a hot meal program every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. You can donate food and toiletries from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Toco Hills Community Alliance, located at 1790 LaVista Road Northeast: [read the list of needed items here](#).

[Salvation Army](#)

Salvation Army distributes free food through its emergency services centers, which provide immediate assistance to individuals and families in crisis. [Here's a list](#) of what's most needed. Financial contributions and gently used clothes, furniture, and appliances are also welcome, and you can volunteer for many Salvation Army programs and events.

[Little Free Pantry Movement](#)

Little Free Pantry is a grassroots movement where community members set up small, free pantries in their neighborhood. To help restock an existing pantry, find a [pantry near you](#) using the map locator; this list is community managed, so you may want to email the pantry steward or drive by to make sure the pantry is still active. You can also set up your own pantry and add it to the registry. [Read the FAQs](#) for more information on what to contribute and how to start your own pantry.

[PAWS Atlanta Pet Food Bank](#)

Families facing financial crisis often struggle to feed their pets. PAWS Atlanta operates a free pet food bank where pet parents in need can pick up free dog and cat food. You can drop off unopened food and treats—bags or cans of any brand are welcome—at the covered bin at the front gate of PAWS Atlanta, located at 5287 Covington Highway, Decatur. The pet food pantry is open for drop-ins or appointments every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





ACA Membership

We would love for you to join us!

Some of the benefits of membership include:

- Free Special Events for Members
- Earn CE Credits at the Annual Conference
- Network With Other Claim Professionals
- Join a Committee or Become a Board Member
- Become a Valued Member of a Well-Recognized and Respected Group of Claim Professionals!

For more information or assistance, please contact
the ACA Membership Chair, Tracey Reid at:

tracey@trimedmgmt.com

www.atlantaclaims.com/membership





CODE OF ETHICS

1. To conduct ourselves and our profession so as to inspire public confidence by fair and honorable dealings.
2. To promote by our attitude towards the public, the proper regard for the profession of claims personnel.
3. To approach the investigation of claims without prejudice or bias.
4. To render complete and truthful reports of facts and conditions bearing to the case.
5. To disregard influences tending towards improper and extravagant settlements, and to fearlessly and honestly represent our company in the adjustment of claims.
6. To render at all times a service of the highest quality to the claimant and the companies we represent.
7. To avoid any sort of price fixing, boycotting or any other antitrust violation.