



**Georgia Defense  
Lawyers Association**  
Advancing the Civil Defense Bar®

# **MASK UP FOR JUSTICE!**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GTLA and GDLA Announce Mask Up for Justice! Joint Fundraising Project to Help Courthouses Safely Reopen**

(September 21, 2020) The Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA) and Georgia Defense Lawyers Association (GDLA) have set aside their differences, crossed party lines, and joined forces to establish Mask Up for Justice! This charitable effort will raise funds to provide supplies, including masks and personal protective equipment (PPE), for Georgia's courthouse facilities with the goal of helping them resume jury trials and operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project was the brainchild of GTLA member Laura Voght of Cash Krugler & Fredericks, Atlanta, whose sister is a front-line medical worker and subsequently contracted COVID-19. "Watching my sister and her colleagues struggle to obtain masks and sufficient PPE resonated with me in relation to my own profession as a trial lawyer, when I considered how the justice system would be impacted as courts move toward re-opening and resuming jury trials," she said. Ms. Voght brought the idea to GTLA President Lyle Warshauer of Warshauer Law Group, Vinings, who embraced it and suggested getting "the other side" (aka GDLA) on board. GTLA formed a Mask Up for Justice! Committee, headed by Ms. Voght and Robert Glass of Glass & Robson, Atlanta, who also chairs GTLA's Community Outreach Committee.

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“Since the courts system touches both sides of the ‘v.,’ it seemed logical to team up with GDLA to raise funds to support the restart of in-person hearings and jury trials,” explained Ms. Warshauer. GDLA President Jeff Ward of Drew Eckl & Farnham, Brunswick, added, “Our side was ready and willing to be involved, since it is incumbent on all parties to litigation to ensure the wheels of justice keep turning. It’s in our mission.”

Donations can be made by visiting [www.maskupforjustice.com](http://www.maskupforjustice.com) or via links on both association websites. GTLA and GDLA thank the State Bar of Georgia Foundation for developing the donations site. Donations are tax deductible and are not limited to lawyers. Ms. Voght added, “It is our hope that individual lawyers, paralegals, assistants, as well as law firms, legal organizations/voluntary bars, and companies who support the legal industry, will reach into their wallets and contribute to this important cause.” Donors will be showcased on both association websites and in printed material.

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**About GTLA:**

Founded in 1956, GTLA is an organization of trial lawyers dedicated to strengthening and upholding Georgia’s civil justice system and protecting the rights of Georgia citizens and consumers. GTLA works to ensure that the citizens of Georgia are never deprived of their constitutional guarantee of access to true justice, a right which is at the very core of what it is to be a Georgian and an American. The Mission of GTLA is simple: We are 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.

**About GDLA:**

Founded in 1967, GDLA is an organization of civil defense trial lawyers who seek to elevate the standards of trial practice, and to develop, establish, and secure court adoption or approval of a high standard code of trial conduct and courtroom manners. It is further the mission of GDLA to support and work for the improvement of the adversary system of jurisprudence in our courts, to work for the elimination of court congestion and delays in civil litigation, to promote improvements in the administration of justice, and to increase the quantity and quality of the service and contribution which the legal profession renders to the community, State, and nation.