



focus on the

law

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ANNOUNCEMENT!

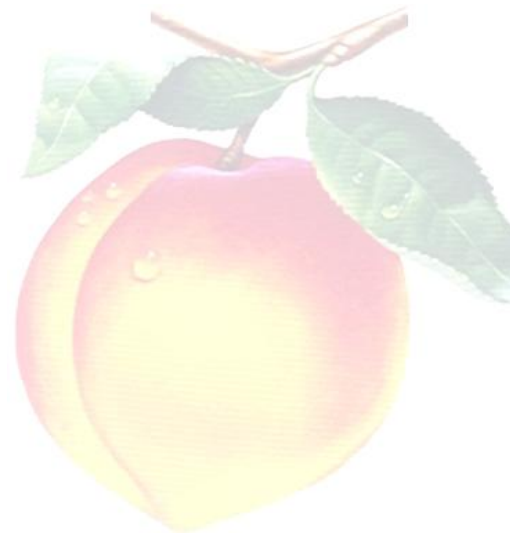
JONES LAW, LLC is opening in Dawsonville, GA in September 2007

Please call (678) 947-4687 or visit us at www.JonesLawLLC.com for a comprehensive list of the firm's practice areas or for more information.

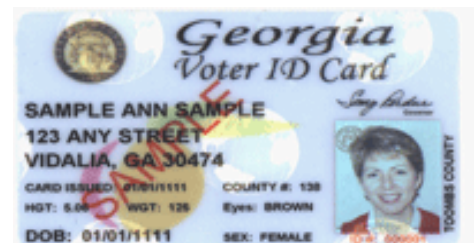
Recent Developments in Georgia Law

US District Judge Harold Murphy of the Northern District of Georgia lifted a stay of the controversial Georgia voter ID law Thursday, enabling the law to go into effect during Special Elections on September 18. Murphy found that the voter ID law does not impose a significant burden on an individual's right to vote, and that preventing voter fraud serves a greater public interest. In 2005, Murphy granted an injunction on enforcement of an earlier version of the law, and last year granted an injunction against enforcement of an amended version, stating that law created too much of a burden for some voters. In his latest ruling, Murphy applauded the state's effort to inform voters of the law and notify them of how to obtain free identification cards in order to vote, effectively removing much of the barrier created by the law.

In July, Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel announced that the state will begin enforcing the voter ID law during Georgia's September 18 Special Elections, and the state filed a motion to lift the stay on enforcement of the law. In June, the Supreme Court of Georgia dismissed a challenge after finding that the plaintiff lacked standing because she had not and could not be harmed by the voter ID law. The court's decision came in the appeal of a September 2006 superior court ruling that the controversial law was not required under the Georgia constitution and would disenfranchise otherwise qualified voters, who generally have no use for a state-issued ID.



SAMPLE VOTER ID CARD



For more info, visit www.gaphotoid.com or <http://sos.georgia.gov/elections>

Local Watch



Gold Rush Days

Dahlonega Town Square
 Dates: 10/20/2007- 10/21/2007 Price: Free
 Parade, Arts, Crafts, Food, Entertainment

Wauka Mountain Fall Festival

5850 Brookton Lula Rd, Gainesville
 Date: 10/20/2007 Time: 3:00pm-6:00pm
 Price: \$.25/ticket (\$15 registration for car show)
 Car Show, Entertainment & More

40th Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival

Dawson County
 Date: 10/27/2007 thru 10/28/2007 Price: Free
 Arts, Crafts, Food, Entertainment


WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET HIRED IN GEORGIA

Unless you and your new employer enter into a written contract which spells out how long the initial term of your employment is to be and your rate of compensation, and which lists specific circumstances that will serve as grounds for your discharge or termination, typically you will be entering into an "at will" employment relationship. In Georgia, this means that an employer can fire you for any reason at any time.

The exceptions to this general rule are few and far in between. At various points, Georgia courts have refused to apply exceptions based on "public policy" (arguing that allowing an employer to act in a certain way would be against the best interests of the public and create unfavorable policy), "promissory estoppel" (based on the theory that an employee relied on an employer's promises and then incurred certain losses as a result of the employer's refusal to hold up his or her end of the bargain), and the "implied contract arising from personnel policy/manual/handbook" exception. Unless an employer fires you in violation of a specific law prohibiting your termination, Georgia courts will seldom recognize a private cause of action against the employer. In certain circumstances, however, you may be entitled to unemployment compensation.

Please note, this section is designed to serve as an informative summary and should not be construed as legal advice applying to any particular situation. Employment law can be complex and it is important to seek qualified legal advice should you have any questions or concerns.

Caught in the Act: Criminal Blunders!

BOSTON, MA— **Announcing the sale of pot out of a dorm window** is probably not a good idea when two police officers are within hearing range. Two former Northeastern University freshmen are facing charges after prosecutors said one of them leaned out his dorm window on Sunday and loudly told a woman in the dorm opposite his that he and his roommate were selling pot. Two plain clothes Boston officers in the building overheard the conversation, made their way up to a second floor dorm room where they arrested the two 18 year-old students after finding about four ounces of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, including a scale, and several bottles of alcohol in the room, the Suffolk district attorney's office said. The students were arraigned on charges of possession of a class D substance with intent to distribute in a school zone, possession of alcohol by a minor, and conspiracy to violate the state's drug laws. Courtesy of 

DESOTO, MI- **Naked Man Does Hula, Steals Beer from Store.** Three eastern Missouri men were willing to go to extreme lengths to get some beer. That's the accusation after an incident in the early hours of August 18th at Fish's Quick Stop in De Soto. Store clerk Vicky Gaines says a masked man walked in and began doing the hula dance. Police say the plan was for the naked dancer to create a distraction while another man took a case of beer from the store. It didn't work. Gaines called police. As the naked man and his accomplice joined a third man in a car, a customer got their license plate number. All three were caught a few days later. The men, ages 19 to 23, face charges of shoplifting and indecent exposure. Courtesy of 