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Desegregation Trumps No Child Left Behind Law

*Judge refuses to dodge issue, rules
on conflict between Constitution, policy*

By R. Robin McDonald

A federal judge in Georgia has ruled that in cases where a key component of the U.S. Education Department's No Child Left Behind policy conflicts with court-ordered school desegregation, desegregation must take precedence.

[Read the story](#)

There's no business like Law Business



From left, Amanda Farahany, La'Keitha Daniels, Adele Vespa, Amy Abrames and Lori Ann Haydu break out their tap shoes in a Rockettes-inspired number for the Atlanta Bar musical.

Jamila Jones

By Meredith Hobbs

Broadway's loss is the Atlanta Bar Association's gain. This year's Atlanta Bard musical, "A Courthouse Line VI: No Business Like Law Business," showcased the acting, singing and dancing talent of more than 50 lawyers in front of a capacity crowd at the Rialto Theater last weekend.

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Attorney Loses Client And Bid for Big Contingency Fee

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By Scott Simonson

To Atlanta lawyer Joseph H. King Jr., it just wasn't fair. He worked eight months on a personal injury case, then saw his clients hire a new attorney, who hatched a \$995,000 settlement and earned a \$331,600 fee.

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Miers' Credentials Have Some Conservatives Worried

By Tony Mauro

WASHINGTON—President Bush virtually guaranteed last week that his nominee, Harriet Miers, will be a rock-solid conservative vote on the U.S. Supreme Court.

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COMMENTARY

Bottom Line: Firms Won't Change Until They Have To

It was my privilege earlier this year to participate in the Raise the Bar Colloquium sponsored by the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association. Our ambitious goal was to "reclaim the soul and redefine the bottom line of the legal profession."

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[Commentary \(10/06/05\): What's Really Going on in the Judith Miller Case](#)

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DAILY REPORT

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Tuesday
October 11, 2005

News Archives

Tuesday, October 11, 2005

There's no business like Law Business

Meredith Hobbs

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Broadway's loss is the Atlanta Bar Association's gain. This year's Atlanta Bard musical, "A Courthouse Line VI: No Business Like Law Business," showcased the acting, singing and dancing talent of more than 50 lawyers in front of a capacity crowd at the Rialto Theater last weekend.

Local ingénue Teresa Bonder starred as the demure Nelle Tortonberger, who tires of her role as a partner at Kneiss & Cozee and lands a gig as an anchor for Courthouse TV, where she is rechristened Elektra Tort and transformed into a buxom platinum blonde.

As Francy Graceless, Nelle's rival at Courthouse TV, Susan Atkinson turned in an over-the-top sendup of "CNN Headline News" host Nancy Grace. Kevin Weimer played Graceless' scheming sidekick Will O'Really to gleeful perfection, and Jeff Lewis acquitted himself attractively as Nelle's co-anchor, the self-absorbed hunk Aston Blackstone.

Adele Vespa and Les Wharton displayed both aplomb and chemistry as, respectively, the jaded producer and director of Courthouse TV.

The story follows Nelle as she trounces Graceless in the ratings but is disillusioned by the glibness and glitter of TV law. She misses her old firm—and mild-mannered ERISA lawyer David Suitor, played by the subtly charming Jason Poulos, who showed talent as a singer and guitarist in a touching solo rendition of "She Still is the Woman for Me."

Poulos also showed amazing biceps in a cameo as an Arnold Schwarzenegger-like judge who officiates an on-camera gay marriage between two Courthouse

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TV staffers. The flamboyant bride, Brian Johnson, put the "I" in Gay Pride. Matt Martin was equally endearing as his husband.

It's difficult to single out performances in this show of memorable cameos, but a couple of singers deserve special mention.

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Ruth Michels, as Nelle's best friend at the law firm, and Kisha Parker, as Kelly Clarkson competing for a judgeship on "American Idol Judges," both showed impressive vocal chops. Greg Presmanes as a demented Zell Miller may not have helped the former senator's book sales but had the audience rolling in the aisles.

And criminal defense attorney Don Samuel defended his crime in iambic rhyme as Dr. Seuss, representing himself on charges that his recommendation of eating green eggs and ham had led to food poisoning.

Director David Schaeffer elicited vivid performances from a cast that needed little coaxing—while also playing a friendly cameraman who shows Nelle the ropes at Courthouse TV. This year's book, by Weimer, Vespa, Schaeffer and Holly Loy, managed even more scurrilous witticisms than last year's—plus some amusing ERISA humor.

The show was dedicated to the late Judge Rowland W. Barnes, a longtime participant in "A Courthouse Line" who was murdered in the March 11 shootings at the Fulton County Courthouse. His wife, Claudia, appeared in the show, displaying rare versatility as Hillary Clinton, a makeup girl and a bailiff with rhythm. Part of the proceeds from the show went to a law school scholarship in Rowland Barnes' name at Emory University. r

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