

**A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF**  
**FRANK W. "SONNY" SEILER**  
**ADOPTED BY THE SAVANNAH BAR ASSOCIATION**

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CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

March 14, 2024

WHEREAS, the Members of the Savannah Bar Association wish to observe the passing of member Frank W. "Sonny" Seiler. He died on August 28, 2023, after an amazing 90-year life.

Born February 20, 1933, Sonny Seiler devoted his entire life in service to his profession as a Savannah attorney, to the State of Georgia, and to the University of Georgia.

Mr. Seiler attended Porter Military Academy in Charleston, South Carolina, and the University of Georgia, where he earned a BBA, with a major in Finance, and a Doctor of Laws degree. While at the University of Georgia, he served as President of Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Interfraternity Council, and Gridiron. He was also Captain of the varsity swimming team, a founding member of the Greek Horsemen, and a member of Sphinx and the Blue Key Honor Society. As a second-year law student, Seiler and his wife Cecelia brought their white, English bulldog to a University of Georgia football game in 1956, and that dog, named Uga, thereafter, became the official mascot of the University. Seiler and his family have raised each of the continued line of mascots for 67 years, including the present "Uga XI." During that time, the Georgia mascot has received national acclaim many times, including being named as the "Nation's Best College Mascot" by Sports Illustrated, which pictured him on its cover.

Seiler graduated from the U.S. Infantry Officer's School, Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1957 and honorably served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army and as an officer in the Georgia National Guard, 230th Field Artillery.

Upon completion of his service, Seiler returned to Savannah and joined the firm of Bouhan, Lawrence, Williams, Levy & McAlpin, now Bouhan Falligant. He practiced law at the firm for fifty-seven (57) years, specializing in a broad range of complex litigation, including insurance defense, medical malpractice, and products liability. But the case he is probably most famous for involved the defense of local antiques dealer, Jim Williams, which would be immortalized in John Berendt's novel, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. The bestseller was made into a movie directed by Clint Eastwood and Mr. Seiler was cast as the judge in the film.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Seiler served the State Bar of Georgia in many capacities: As a member of the Governor's Commission of Appellate Judicial Selection; member, State Judicial Nominating Commission; member, State Judicial Council; member, State Disciplinary Board; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Georgia Institute of Continuing Legal Education; Chairman, State Court Reporter Standards Board; Chairman, annual convention of the State Bar of Georgia in 1962, 1963, 1965, 1968-1970, and President of the State Bar of Georgia 1972-73.

Mr. Seiler also served in many varied civic capacities. He served as President of the University of Georgia Alumni Society, member of the Board of Directors of the Athletic Association, and Chairman of the Law School Board of Visitors. In addition, he was Director of the State Board of Directors of the Atlantic Coast Conservation Association and a member of the Savannah Organizing Committee for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. He was recipient of the Significant Sig Award, which is given to Sigma Chi Alumni members whose exemplary efforts and achievements have positioned them at the highest levels of their fields and which is bestowed on less than one percent (1%) of the membership. Among many honors, the University of Georgia School of Law presented Seiler with the Distinguished Service Award, and in 2001, he and his wife, Cecelia, received the UGA Alumni Association's highest recognition, the Alumni Merit Award.

Seiler loved the outdoors and spent hours tending his garden and fishing in the tidal creeks surrounding Savannah. He cherished his German heritage and was a charter member of the German Heritage Society and Past President of that organization. He loved to travel and was an avid history buff. He was a former curator of the Georgia Historical Society and a board member of Bonaventure Historical Society. His passion for learning extended beyond law and history. He enjoyed literature and poetry and would recite Thomas Carlyle, W. B. Yeats, and columnist Lewis Grizzard with ease. In 2002, he co-authored the book, "Damn Good Dogs," with Kent Hannon, a history of the University of Georgia's mascots.

Above all, Sonny was devoted to his family, whom he loved dearly and unconditionally.

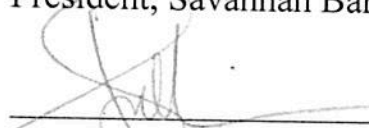
In the words of Chief Justice P. Harris Hines, Chair of the Judicial Council of Georgia, "Sonny Seiler has brought honor, prestige, and pride – and more than a little celebrity – to the practice of law and to the Judicial Branch of Georgia. We commend and thank him and express our deepest gratitude for his service to the Bar, to the City of Savannah, and to all the citizens of this State."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in witness of the respect and warm personal regard in which Attorney Frank W. "Sonny" Seiler was held by each member of the Savannah Bar Association, this resolution is unanimously adopted by the assembled members and spread upon the minutes of this regularly scheduled meeting held on the 14th day of March, 2024, and be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County for its records, and to his beloved family.

This 14th day of March, 2024.



Richard A. Sanders, Jr.  
President, Savannah Bar Association



Julia H. Sullivan  
Secretary, Savannah Bar Association