
LIQUOR AND PREMISES
LIABILITY, INJURY
LAW, LIABILITY
LITIGATION



Steven Leibel

Steven Leibel was responsible for having the City of Jasper's liquor law ordinance struck down as being unconstitutional in 2005. He has represented liquor license holders before state and local regulatory bodies.

Steven Leibel received the "2006 Super Lawyer" honor for outstanding achievement for the third year in a row.

If you need help with liquor law regulations, licensing or hearings, please call Steven Leibel at

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GEORGIA LAW

By Steven Leibel

In my opinion

Steven Leibel of Steven Leibel P.C. gives his view regarding Georgia DWI Courts

As a municipal Court Judge, I am always interested in creative solutions to today's problems with drugs and alcohol. Municipal Courts are often charged with the responsibility of determining appropriate sentences for those who are caught DUI/DWI in city limits. It is often too late to do anything for those who are habitual violators. These persons have been through the system many times throughout the years, and they have failed rehabilitation and creative sentencing. These persons are those who need incarceration to protect the citizens from them.

I have been an advocate of alternative type sentences and close monitoring of those who have an alcohol problem. This is particularly true in the case of young people who are starting out along the road of habitual violators. As a city judge I often see the beginnings of alcohol addiction and drug related problems as related by young people. It is for those beginning violators that alternative sentencing is most in order. In the past I start by questioning the young violator with his/her parents present. I look to see whether in the past these persons have engaged in risky behavior, including taking unusual chances and with flaunting the law. I generally start by making young offenders report their feelings and thoughts to me on a monthly basis. I also require that they get in touch with their own sense of mortality by writing their own obituary with a copy to mother and dad. I find that by personalizing their risky behavior I can oftentimes make young drivers aware of how dangerous their behavior was, and how it could affect them and their parents. Obviously, we require that each offender be tested to determine psychological issues which bear on their possible addiction. These tools assist not only the Judge but the provider of services in helping bring forth a plan of resolve for each offender.

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The role of the judge cannot be underappreciated. Each judge and solicitor has great discretion in the framing and approval of sentencing, particularly in voluntary plea agreements. I have seen numerous creative solutions from house arrest to the wearing of a placard, to the publishing of letters of apology.

The owners and operators in our business should encourage their elected officials to support the efforts of the court in its commitment for responsible use of our products.

Send your bar and retail-related questions to Steven Leibel of Steven Leibel P.C. at steven@leibel.com or call 706 867-7575.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this column is general information and not designed to be and should not be relied on as your sole source of information. Each fact situation is different; the laws are constantly changing. If you have specific questions regarding a particular fact situation, we urge you to consult with legal counsel.