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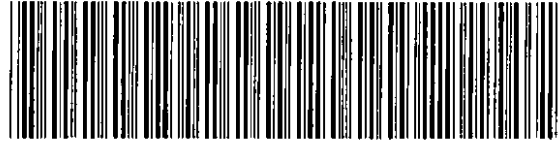
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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

05/12/2011 AM 8:39

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## COVER LETTER

Department of State  
Division of Corporations  
P. O. Box 6327  
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Gainesville Area Trial Lawyers Association, Inc.

**SUBJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for :

☒ \$70.00  
Filing Fee

☐ \$78.75  
Filing Fee &  
Certificate of  
Status

☐ \$78.75  
Filing Fee  
& Certified Copy

☐ \$87.50  
Filing Fee,  
Certified Copy  
& Certificate

**ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED**

FROM: Zachary West  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Printed or typed)

805 NW 13th Street  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Gainesville, FL 32601  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip

352-654-1996  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone number

zw@zachwestlaw.com  
\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

FILED  
2011 JUN 12 AM 8:39  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.**

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
GAINESVILLE AREA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

The undersigned subscribers, each a natural person competent to contract, hereby associate themselves together for the purposes of filing Articles of Incorporation in order to form a corporation not-for-profit within the meaning of Section 501(c)(6) Internal Revenue Code (1954) as amended and under Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes.

**ARTICLE I – CORPORATION**

The name of the corporation shall be GAINESVILLE AREA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a corporation not-for-profit, and the initial corporate address is 2630-A NW 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32606.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of this corporation, a not-for-profit professional association, is to:

- (a) Encourage and promote the progress and development of laws in the State of Florida and in the United States.
- (b) Improve the quality of the judiciary and the Bar of the State of Florida, promote justice and protect individual rights.
- (c) Teach the art of advocacy by holding seminars, supplying lectures, publishing literature, encouraging the publication of articles and other writings, teaching the effective presentation of cases in trial before the Courts, juries, and arbitrators.
- (d) Resist and oppose corruption and inefficiency in the administration of justice.
- (e) Recognize and make appropriate awards to persons who have made distinctive contributions to the progress of Florida or Federal law or the teaching of the arts of advocacy.
- (f) Maintain the honor and dignity of the legal profession.
- (g) Promote knowledge and understanding of the legal profession.
- (h) Cultivate professional ethics among its members and the Bar of the Gainesville, Florida area.

### **ARTICLE III – POWERS**

The corporation shall have the power to do all lawful acts necessary or desirable to carry out its purposes, consistent with the provisions of Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes and Section 501(c)(6) of the I.R.C.

### **ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS**

All provision of this Certificate of Incorporation shall be subject to amendment consistent with the provisions of Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes, by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

A membership in this corporation shall be open to all persons duly licensed to practice law who:

1. Are members, in good standing, of the Florida Bar.
2. Are of good moral character.
3. Pay the established dues for members of this corporation.
4. Satisfy all other membership criteria contained within the provisions of the corporate bylaws, including scope of law practice and strict adherence to confidentiality requirements.
5. Are unopposed for membership by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS**

The corporation shall have a President, Vice President (who shall also be considered the President-elect), Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other offices as may be provided in the bylaws. A person may not hold more than one office. Officers shall be elected for one-year terms at the first meeting of the Board of Directors as provided in the bylaws, but shall hold office until their successors are elected or appointed. The President-elect shall automatically become President upon the expiration of the terms of the President. Election of officers shall take place at

the annual meeting of the membership to be held at a time and place to be specified by the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VII – DIRECTORS**

The business and property of this corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors who will hold office for one-year terms and who will be elected by the membership at the annual meeting of the membership to be held at a time and place to be specified by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of this corporation shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than ten (10) members. The initial interim Board of Directors, whose names and addresses are as follows:

Alexandria Avera  
2814 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32608

Carey Meldon  
703 N Main Street, STE A  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Landon Stinson  
2630-A NW 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32606

Zachary West  
805 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Maria Youngblood  
703 N Main Street, STE A  
Gainesville, FL 32601

#### **ARTICLE VIII – TERM OF CORPORATION EXISTENCE**

This corporation shall exist perpetually unless dissolved according to law.

#### **ARTICLE IX – SECTIONS**

The Board of Directors may establish or combine sections and committees for carrying on the business of the corporation, each within the scope of activity as defined by its bylaws, which shall not be inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws of this corporation or any amendments thereto. Section and committee bylaws or amendments thereto shall become effective only when approved by the Board of Directors, and shall:

1. Be within the objects of this corporation as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, or amendments to either.
2. Contain a definition of its scope of activity.
3. Provide for a chairperson of the section and an advisory committee.
4. Provide for an annual meeting to take place immediately following the annual meeting of this corporation as prescribed by its Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE X – ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the membership of this corporation shall be held as specified in the bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE XI – BYLAWS**

Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or rescinded by the Board of Directors and thereafter by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the membership. Proposals to adopt, amend, or rescind the bylaws may be initiated either by the Board of Directors, or any two (2) members in good standing, provided that, in either case, notice of any such proposal must be filed with the Secretary at least thirty (30) days before, and the Secretary, in turn, must give notice to the membership at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which point any such proposed amendments to the bylaws are submitted to the membership. The Secretary's notice to the membership may be either by publication in the corporation's newsletter or journal, if any, or by electronic or regular mail.

#### **ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of the corporation, any assets remaining thereafter shall be conveyed to such organization or organizations, as shall be selected by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors, provide however, that such organization or organizations shall be exempt under Section 501(c)(6) of the I.R.C.

### **ARTICLE XIII – INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered agent and registered office shall be: Landon Stinson, 2630-A NW 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32606.

### **ARTICLE XIV – INCORPORATORS**

Alexandria Avera  
2814 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32608

Carey Meldon  
703 N Main Street, STE A  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Landon Stinson  
2630-A NW 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32606

Zachary West  
805 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Maria Youngblood  
703 N Main Street, STE A  
Gainesville, FL 32601

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT OF REGISTERED AGENT**

Having been named Initial Registered Agent to accept service of process on the corporation at the Initial Registered Office designated in these Articles of Incorporation, I hereby accept such status and consent to act in this capacity and agree to comply with all the requirements of law pertaining thereto.

DocuSigned by:

*Landon Stinson*

C57385B4D270436

Landon Stinson

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned subscribers have executed these Articles of

Incorporation on 6/5/2023.

DocuSigned by:

*Alexandria Avera*

12F78C3FD59E4F5

Alexandria Avera

Incorporator

DocuSigned by:

*Carey Meldon*

1287AF68F15486

Carey Meldon

Incorporator

DocuSigned by:

*Landon Stinson*

C57385B4D270436

Landon Stinson

Incorporator

DocuSigned by:

*Zachary West*

6E23A82C736944F

Zachary West

Incorporator

DocuSigned by:

*Maria Youngblood*

F1BE5C4E24E6420

Maria Youngblood

Incorporator