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Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers, Inc.
*Adoption Education, Support, & Advocacy
for Georgia's Lawyers & Public*
www.gacal.org

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO GCAL

Thank you for your interest in the Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers. Please complete the following application form and submit it, with accompanying materials, to:

Justin Y. Hester
Membership Chair
Hester Outman LLC
450 S. Peachtree Street
Suite B
Norcross, GA 30071-2433
770-446-3645

Please include:

- a) Your Application,
- b) Signed authorization,
- c) Resume or CV,
- d) Three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes,
 - a. Letters should be from attorneys who are familiar with your work in adoption. These references may not include employees, clients (except for agencies), members of your firm or members of your family. You must include at least one current GCAL fellow and one Georgia Superior Court Judge or appellate Justice.
- e) A certificate of good standing from the GA Bar, and
- f) Your **Non-Refundable** Application Fee of \$75.00, payable to GCAL;

GCAL, Inc.
c/o Justin Y. Hester
Hester Outman LLC
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1. Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Firm Name: _____ No. of Attorneys: _____
Business Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
E-Mail: _____
Website: _____
Facebook Page _____

2. Your Firm's Practice Areas: _____

3. Your Practice Areas:

4. What percentage of your practice is adoption? _____%

5. Do you feel that you have gained specific expertise in a particular type of adoption? ___ If so, please explain _____

6. State(s) and Date(s) of Bar Admission(s) _____

7. Total Years in Practice: _____ Years Handling Adoptions: _____

8. Concurrent occupation(s) separate from law practice (including dates): _____

9. Total number of terminations of parental rights, relinquishments and/or adoptions (collectively "adoptions") you have handled as an attorney (including as GAL): _____ (if more than a hundred – just write 100+)

a) What percentage of the adoptions did you handle under the following code sections:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| O.C.G.A. 19-8-4 (State Agency): | _____ % |
| O.C.G.A. 19-8-4 (Private Agency): | _____ % |
| O.C.G.A. 19-8-5 (Independent): | _____ % |
| O.C.G.A. 19-8-6 (Stepparent): | _____ % |
| O.C.G.A. 19-8-7 (Family): | _____ % |
| O.C.G.A. 19-8-8 (Domestication): | _____ % |
| Contested/Litigated | _____ % |
| International | _____ % |
| Supplement to Final Decree | _____ % |

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Annulment of Adoption _____ %
Other (describe) _____ %

b) What percentage were agency finalizations only? _____ %

c) In what percentage of your adoption cases did you represent:

- 1) Birth parent(s) _____ %
- 2) Adoptive parent(s) _____ %
- 3) Governmental agency _____ %
- 4) Private licensed adoption agency _____ %
- 5) Child(ren) _____ %
- 6) Other (describe) _____ %

10. What number of adoptions have you worked on in the past two years:

a) How many domestic adoptions:

Current Year: _____ Last Year: _____ Interstate _____

b) How many international adoptions have you handled in the past two years, and between which countries?

Current year: _____ Last Year: _____
Countries: _____

Domestication only: _____ Full adoption process: _____

16. If you regularly represent (or handle adoptions involving) licensed adoption agencies, please provide the agency name, address, telephone number, email address and name of a contact person for each such agency:

17. Please provide names of up to three GCAL members with whom you have worked or consulted on any adoption related cases, and/or who may be familiar with your work in adoption matters: _____

18. Have you previously applied for admission to GCAL? _____
If yes, year and outcome of application: _____

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19. Have you been convicted of a crime within the last ten years, or do you now have any criminal charges pending against you? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case, by attachment, if necessary.

20. Have you ever been professionally disciplined, or do you now have pending any matter of professional discipline? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each matter.

21. Have you ever been sued for malpractice or professional negligence, including counterclaims? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case including jurisdiction, case number, date, nature of case, outcome or current status, along with any relevant documents.

22. Please give us a short narrative as to why you want to become a fellow of GCAL.

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AUTHORIZATION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements in this application for admission are true, accurate and complete.

I authorize any bar association, court, lawyer disciplinary organization or law enforcement agency to disclose matters pertaining to me to the Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers in connection with its investigation of my application for admission.

I hereby release, discharge and exonerate the Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers, its officers, directors, members, fellows, agents and representatives (collectively, GCAL), and any and all persons or agencies furnishing information in connection with this application, from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing of such information, whether communicated orally or in writing. I further waive any claims which may arise with respect to such information or its disclosure. I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the GCAL from any and all liability arising from or in any way related to its investigation, processing and decision making with regard to any admission application I make, have made, or will make in the future to the Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers, including this application.

I understand and agree that admission to the Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers is by invitation only and that applying for admission does not necessarily mean that the Board of Trustees will extend an invitation to me. I understand and agree that invitations for admission are within the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees, and that its decision is final.

Date

Applicant's Signature

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