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## Feb. 2011 E-newsletter Faculty Spotlight: Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90)

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## Faculty Spotlight: Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90)

News @ Georgia Law Feb. 2011 Faculty Profile

**Name:** Kellie Casey Monk

**Title:** Director of Advocacy

**Hometown:** Marietta, Ga.

**Law School/graduation year:** University of Georgia School of Law/1990

**Other degree(s)/institution(s):** A.B. in Criminal Justice/UGA/1987



### 1. What influenced your decision to go to law school?

- My undergraduate degree/major and my internship in the district attorney's office solidified my decision to go to law school. But I had always thought about it and do not remember wanting to do anything else.

### 2. What did you do before entering the legal teaching academy?

- I practiced law for 10 years in Atlanta in a general civil trial practice.

### 3. What made you decide to become the director of advocacy at Georgia Law?

- The position was created in 1999 at the law school. I was involved in the Advocacy Program when I was a law student, and it was the most educational and rewarding part of my education. I considered it my "dream job."

### 4. What do you enjoy most about your job? What is the most rewarding aspect of being a professor?

- I love working with the students and watching their talents in advocacy grow and develop. I also love the competitive atmosphere of the moot court and mock trial tournaments!

### 5. What type of influence do you hope to have on your students?

- I hope to help them develop confidence in their advocacy skills, recognize their own style and encourage them to be a trial lawyer.

### 6. How did you choose your legal specialty when you practiced law?

- I knew I wanted to work in the courtroom. I went to work for a litigation firm and eventually opened my own firm doing only trial work.

**7. What did you enjoy most about this area of law?**

- Being an advocate for another.

**8. What do you consider your greatest academic contribution?**

- My experience in trial work and the time I spend with the students.

**9. What is your favorite thing about living in Athens?**

- It is a wonderful and beautiful town, and it's a great place to raise my daughter. Some of my happiest memories of life were here in Athens in the 1980s, and it makes me feel young!

**10. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? What are your hobbies?**

- I enjoy spending time with my family - especially our five-year-old daughter and our three dogs. We enjoy going to football and basketball games here in Athens, and our favorite hobby is horseback riding!

**11. What do you consider your greatest accomplishment in life?**

- My five-year-old daughter.

**12. How do you stay up to date on legal issues and trends?**

- I stay in touch with former colleagues and students who practice law. I read new decisions decided by the Georgia courts and the United States Supreme Court, and I am always reviewing federal circuit decision splits for ideas for moot court problems!

**13. What book/resource do you find yourself referencing the most?**

- Mauet's Trial Practice Manual and any and all evidence books written by Professor Ron Carlson.

**14. What advice would you give to current law students?**

- Go to work for lawyers who will teach you how to practice law. A good mentor is as important as a good education, if not more important. And find out what you enjoy and be happy doing it. Money will never make you happy or fulfilled.

**15. If you could share an afternoon with anyone, with whom would you choose to spend it?**

- If I could spend one afternoon with anyone, it would be my mother who recently passed away.