



School of Law  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Prepare.  
Connect.  
Lead.

## Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law

---

[Other Law School Publications](#)

[Digital Archives](#)

---

10-1-2005

### Dean's Report 2005

Rebecca H. White

*University of Georgia School of Law*

---

#### Repository Citation

White, Rebecca H. , "Dean's Report 2005" (2005). *Other Law School Publications*. 4.  
[https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/lectures\\_pre\\_arch\\_archives\\_other/4](https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/lectures_pre_arch_archives_other/4)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Digital Archives at Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Other Law School Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law. [Please share how you have benefited from this access](#) For more information, please contact [tstriepe@uga.edu](mailto:tstriepe@uga.edu).

# 2 0 0 5 D E A N ' S R E P O R T

It is with great pleasure that I provide you my annual *Dean's Report*, together with an in-depth look at our successful year in fund raising. After all, without your generous support of the University of Georgia School of Law, many of the accomplishments and successes detailed below would not have been possible. The decision to combine these two annual publications, the *Dean's Report* and the *Annual Donor Report*, was made to provide a more comprehensive look at the law school's activities to you, our treasured advocates and friends.

Earlier this year, the university publicly launched an ambitious fund-raising campaign, Archway to Excellence. The primary goal of this effort is to provide the resources necessary to allow the University of Georgia to achieve its fullest potential as one of our nation's top public research universities.

The law school, of course, is an integral part of the campaign. The law school's faculty and staff are excited about the challenges and opportunities associated with the campaign, as the fruits will enable us to provide our students, today and in the future, the tools needed to excel in the rapidly changing legal world and to add further value to what it means to be a graduate of our distinguished law school.

## FACULTY

Central to the academic success of every educational institution is its faculty. As you are aware, our corps of professors includes outstanding teachers who produce some of our country's leading legal scholarship.

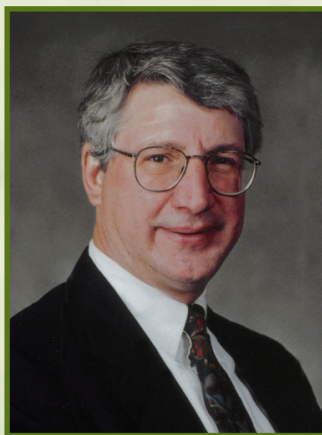
In recent years, the Georgia Law faculty has enjoyed considerable success on the research front. Books have

been published or are forthcoming from Oxford University Press, Harvard University Press, Random House, Aspen Publishers, LexisNexis, Routledge and Thompson/West. In addition, scores of articles have appeared in such leading journals as the *New York University Law Review*, the *Michigan Law Review*, the *Stanford Law Review*, the *Minnesota Law Review*, the *Northwestern Law Review*, the *Ohio State Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Law Review* and the *Virginia Law Review*, among many others.



Fulton County Daily Report - Alison Church

Dean and Hosch Professor  
Rebecca White



University Professor and  
Hosch Professor Dan Coenen

I am pleased to inform you that two of our professors now carry new titles. In the spring, Hosch Professor Dan T. Coenen was named a University Professor for serving as a change-agent in improving the quality with which UGA serves its missions.

This title is bestowed on one university faculty member each year, and it is a tremendous honor to have one of our own recognized in this special way.

This fall, Rusk Professor of International Law Peter J. Spiro was appointed to a newly created position – associate dean for faculty development. In this role, Peter will work with faculty members, especially Georgia Law's junior faculty, to advance

their scholarly productivity, which will ultimately strengthen the law school's academic reputation. One of Peter's projects has been the creation of the Faculty Colloquium Series, which provides a forum for the exchange of provocative and innovative legal ideas and aims to foster Georgia Law's relationship with other members of the legal teaching academy. This program is made possible through the Kirbo Trust Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund, supported by Bruce W. (J.D.'51) and Catherine Kirbo.

This year, seven of our professors were honored for their work by sources external to the law school. Dean Emeritus J. Ralph Beaird received ICLE's A. Gus Cleveland Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education, which acknowledges "Georgia attorneys who, through outstanding contributions to CLE, have made a profound difference" in the legal profession. (This is only the third time the award has been given since its creation in 1990.)

Callaway Chair Emeritus Ronald L. Carlson was presented the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association Lifetime Achievement Award for his "staunch support" of the justice system.

Hosch Professor Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.'88) landed a grant to create the nation's first online interdisciplinary student journal for education law and policy, titled *Education Law and Policy Forum*, as well as to establish a related conference.

Environmental Law Practicum Director Laurie A. Fowler (J.D.'83) was the recipient of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have contributed in significant and meaningful ways to the advancement of environmental education.

Assistant Professor Erica J. Hashimoto was selected as a Lilly Teaching Fellow, an appointment that recognizes excellence in teaching and provides

funding to strengthen course work, program development and scholarship.

Distinguished Research Professor and holder of the Rogers Chair of Law, Alan Watson, was presented with his sixth honorary degree in September – a Doctor of Laws from the University of Stockholm.

And, Associate Director of the Dean Rusk Center Dorinda G. Dallmeyer (J.D.'84), who retired from the law school in September, received a special recognition, in conjunction with the University of Georgia Press, from the Southern Environmental Law Center for *Elemental South: An Anthology of Southern Nature Writing*. She also won the advocacy category for one of her essays.

On a sad note, Alston Professor Emeritus Richard V. "Dick" Wellman, one of the mainstays of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and a longtime member of our law school family, passed away in June. Dick taught Trusts and Estates and Property Law at Georgia Law for 17 years before retiring in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Natalie; four daughters; two sons; a stepdaughter; three stepsons; 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I know the law school community greatly misses Dick, both personally and professionally.

This fall, our faculty was enhanced by the addition of four new assistant professors: Robert P. "Bobby" Bartlett III, John Neiman, Usha Rodrigues and Jason M. Solomon.

Specializing in business and contract law, Bobby joins Georgia Law from Fordham University, where he led courses in contracts and the private equity market as a visiting



Assistant Professor  
Bobby Bartlett



assistant professor. He earned both his bachelor's and law degrees from Harvard University, where he served as notes editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Bobby will teach classes in contracts and payment systems at Georgia Law.



*Assistant Professor  
John Neiman*

A former judicial clerk to Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court, John previously served as the Hugo Black Faculty Fellow at the University of Alabama, where he taught classes in federal courts and civil procedure. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and his J.D. from Harvard, where he was

the Supreme Court chair of the *Harvard Law Review*. Additionally, he clerked for Judge Paul V. Niemeyer of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. John will teach Torts and Law of Legislation.

Usha will instruct in the areas of contracts, business planning and business associations. Prior to coming to Georgia Law, she specialized in corporate law and technology transactions at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Usha clerked for Judge Thomas L. Ambro of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She earned her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, her master's from the University of Wisconsin and her law degree from the University of Virginia, where she served as editor in chief of the *Virginia Law Review*.



*Assistant Professor  
Usha Rodrigues*

Jason comes to Georgia Law from Harvard University, where he served as chief of staff to Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers.

He is a former judicial clerk to Judge Chester J. Straub of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Judge John Gleeson of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn. Jason obtained his undergraduate degree from Harvard and his Juris Doctor from Columbia University, where he served as notes editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. He will instruct in the area of torts and employment law.



*Assistant Professor  
Jason Solomon*

We have four visiting faculty this fall. From Case Western Reserve University, Olufunmilayo B. Arewa is an assistant professor who is teaching Venture Capital and Entrepreneurial Financing, and Trademarks. David A. Brennen, who holds the Palmer Professorship of Tax Law at Mercer University, is leading courses in corporate tax and the taxation of nonprofit corporations. Julian A. Cook III joins the law school as an associate professor, teaching Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. His home university is Michigan State. The fourth visitor is Eldred Professor of Law Michael J. Malinowski, who is from Louisiana State University where he co-founded the Program in Law, Science and Public Health. Michael is teaching in the area of health care law.

As usual, Georgia Law's curricular offerings are enhanced by a variety of guest speakers and lecturers. In the spring, we were fortunate to have former U.S. Sen. J. Maxwell "Max" Cleland join us as the Carl Sanders Scholar, a position named for our state's 74th governor. Cleland led a two-week minicourse, Law and Politics, which covered both domestic issues and international affairs.

The Federalist Society sponsored visits by the former U.S. Department of Homeland Security General Counsel Joe D. Whitley (J.D.'75), who spoke about the department and the U.S. Patriot Act, and Kenneth L. Connor, who served as counsel to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the *Bush v. Schiavo* case and shared his experience with the case that generated a lot of attention earlier in the year.



Former U.S. Solicitor General and 2005 Georgia Law Commencement Speaker Ted Olson

South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal served as the Edith House Lecturer, and former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore B. “Ted” Olson delivered the commencement address in May.

Additionally, one of Georgia Law’s premier lecture series, established in 1964 by the Charles Lorigans Foundation of Atlanta in tribute to the late John A. Sibley (B.L.’11), celebrated its 100th lecture in

October. Yale University’s Southmayd Professor Akhil R. Amar spoke on the ratification of the Civil War Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Fellow constitutional law scholar Sanford V. Levinson, from the University of Texas, delivered the 99th lecture in the spring.

Several conferences were hosted during the past 12 months. The *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* spearheaded a symposium on *The Limits of International Law* by Jack L. Goldsmith and Eric A. Posner, featuring these two internationally prominent authors and seven other top scholars who debated the relevance of international law. Rusk Professor Peter Spiro and Woodruff Chair in International Law Daniel M. Bodansky were instrumental in convening this conference.

Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism C. Ronald Ellington, together with Associate Professor Lonnie T. Brown, Jr., organized the Taking Your Case to the Court of Public Opinion – Strategic, Legal and Ethical Implications conference. Georgia Law hosts a legal ethics and professionalism forum every fourth year.

The Dean Rusk Center partnered with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and other key groups to facilitate a two-day symposium exploring the economic relationship between the United States and China.

Also, last spring, the Environmental Law Association’s Red Clay Conference focused on Georgia’s energy policy and future alternatives.

Recently, the law school conducted a thorough review of its curriculum. This review confirmed the School of Law is offering a solid foundation of courses that helps to prepare our students for the world beyond law school.

However, minor adjustments were made – changing a number of two-hour classes to three-hour classes and mapping out a three-year course cycle to allow students to plan their academic career.

Modifications were also made to accommodate the new ABA requirement that students must complete at least one course having “a substantial professional skills component.”

In addition, earlier in the year, slight alterations were made to the Criminal Defense Clinic classes due to the conversion of the UGA Legal Aid and Defender Clinic to the Western Circuit Public Defender Office. The School of Law still maintains a close relationship with this public defender office.



# STUDENTS

Our talented student body remains another point of distinction for the law school. The funding of student scholarships allows us to continue to enroll students who will enrich the intellectual atmosphere and learning experience at Georgia Law.

This year, we enrolled another stellar class. The Class of 2008, comprised of 210 students, boasts a median LSAT score of 163, which ties the record high and reflects a score that places these students in the top 10 percent of test takers nationwide. The median undergraduate GPA for these first-year students is 3.55. Furthermore, the top quarter of the class scored a 164 or higher on the LSAT and achieved a 3.80 or better undergraduate GPA.

Class of 2008	
S T A T S	
Median LSAT	163*
Median GPA	3.55
*ties a record high	

Nearly one-quarter of the entering class indicated they are members of a minority group, making this class one of the most diverse in law school history. Moreover, last year, *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* compiled a report examining the percentage of African-American students studying at our nation's 187 accredited law schools. Historically Black Colleges and Universities occupied the top five positions, while Georgia Law secured the 12th spot on the list.

The entering class includes 109 males and 101 females, and 77 percent claim the state of Georgia as home. The Class of 2008 includes graduates from 78 institutions. The schools supplying the largest number of students include the University of Georgia (71), the Georgia Institute of Technology (12), Emory University (7) and Georgia State University (6).

Auburn, Furman, Spelman, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest and the universities of Florida and Tennessee are represented by four graduates each.

In early September, during the fourth week of school, we enrolled four law students displaced by the disastrous impact of Hurricane Katrina – three from Tulane University and one from Loyola University. We anticipate all four will be at their home institutions for the spring semester.

The law school continues to offer a Master of Laws. This year, six legal professionals from five countries – China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India and Kazakhstan – will spend a year pursuing an individually-fashioned program of intensive research and related course work in specialized areas of the law as well as sharing their legal experience with other members of the law school community.

As you are aware, today's legal professionals are being tested more and more frequently on their familiarity with international issues. In addition to the school's successful LL.M. program, Georgia Law has been expanding its international curricular and co-curricular offerings. Since 2001, the International Externship Program has grown fivefold. This past summer, 11 students worked for entities in the countries of Belgium, Brazil, China, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, Guyana and India.



*The law school will debut an ABA-accredited semester study abroad at Oxford this spring.*

Furthermore, we are delighted our Georgia Law at Oxford Program will commence in the spring. This ABA-accredited semester study abroad initiative with Ohio State University will support 20 second- and third-year students.

The competitive advocacy season has just begun and, as usual, we anticipate our students' oral and writing skills will fare well against those from other schools. We finished the 2004-05 year with three first place oralist trophies and two first place brief awards, placed second and third in two different national tournaments – the ABA National Student Appellate Advocacy Competition and the National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition, respectively – and captured two regional championships in addition to earning several other individual and team honors.

Our students' success in the job market is one way of measuring the quality of education provided by Georgia Law. Nearly 98 percent of the Class of 2004 was placed by February, the traditional employment reporting deadline set by the National Association for Law Placement. The average starting salary for these recent graduates was \$77,507. Additionally, 84.5 percent of the Class of 2005 was "placed" by Commencement in May.

As a reminder, both of these placement statistics affect the law school's ranking among its competitors. If you plan to supplement your legal staff this coming year, please consider making your employment offer prior to graduation or before February and hire a fellow Georgia Law graduate.

## ALUMNI

Georgia Law's 8,200 alumni are a great source of pride for the law school. Many of you have distinguished yourselves as leaders, not only in the legal arena but also in our local, state and national communities.

Of special note is Harold D. Melton (J.D.'91), who was appointed earlier this year to the Supreme Court of Georgia. He joins fellow Georgia Law alumni Robert Benham (J.D.'70) and George H. Carley (LL.B.'62) in presiding on our state's highest court.

This summer, the Law School Association presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award, to John D. Comer (LL.B.'49) and J.D. Smith (J.D.'71). John currently serves as of counsel at Sell & Melton in Macon. He has held multiple leadership positions within the legal profession and has served as president of the Macon Bar Association, the Macon Legal Aid Society and the Georgia Academy of Hospital Attorneys. In addition, he has been a recipient of the Macon Bar Association's Lawyer of the Year Award and has earned a listing in the *Best Lawyers in America*.

Currently a Georgia Court of Appeals presiding judge, J.D. Smith was appointed to the bench in 1993. He is the court's immediate past chief judge and has served as a Superior Court judge and the chief judge of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit. He is a member



*Distinguished Service  
Scroll Recipient  
John Comer (LL.B.'49)*



*Distinguished Service Scroll  
Recipient J.D. Smith (J.D.'71)*

and past president of the Gainesville-Northeastern Circuit Bar Association and a member of the Atlanta Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia and the ABA. Presently, he is president of Georgia Law's Joseph Henry Lumpkin American Inn of Court and is chair of the Board of Visitors.



I am pleased to acknowledge the leadership of this year's alumni boards – as mentioned before, J.D. Smith heads the BOV and Robert O. Freeman (J.D.'72) directs the Law School Association Council. They follow S. Lark Ingram (J.D.'78) and James B. Ellington (J.D.'87), respectively, in managing the efforts of these very important groups that advise your legal alma mater.

Additionally Jeffery O. Monroe (J.D.'00) leads the Younger Law Alumni Committee, which is comprised of graduates who have been out of law school 12 years or less. Daniel B. Snipes (J.D.'95) previously chaired this group.



Earlier I mentioned the university publicly launched its capital campaign, Archway to Excellence, in April. Georgia Law is an integral part of this historical effort and intends to raise \$17 million to help provide the legal education our students will need to be successful. This means supporting the heart and soul of our law school – our faculty and our students. Due to the generous financial backing of our alumni and friends, the law school is already over halfway to its goal and has raised almost \$10 million.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, the law school raised over \$2 million, which represents an increase of over 25 percent from the previous year. And, as importantly, there was an increase in our alumni participation rate. These measurements speak to the sound investment Georgia Law is today and to the confidence you, our alumni and friends, have in the future direction of the law school.

Among the gifts totaling over \$100,000 received in the last 12 months are: a \$1 million pledge from James E. “Jim” Butler (J.D.'77) to fund multiple scholarships, a commitment from the Cousins Foundation, Inc., to support a public interest fellowship program, an estate gift from Inslee M. (LL.B.'35) and Betti Johnson to



*The 2005-06 James E. Butler Scholars are: (l. to r.) Kelly Culpepper, Jessica Rentz, Jessica Lawrence and Chase Samples.*

create the Inslee and Betti Johnson Scholarship and a donation from the Synovus Foundation to establish a scholarship to support outstanding students from our state. We are also grateful to Frank M. Swift (LL.B.'35), who has established charitable gift annuities that will ultimately benefit the law school, and to Michael J. Bowers (J.D.'74), who is spearheading an effort to create a professorship in memory of Arthur K. Bolton (LL.B.'43).

As evidenced above, our development team, aided by the law school's Capital Campaign Committee chaired by Dean Emeritus Ralph Beaird, has been very productive. Additionally, we expanded our fundraising staff this summer by two. Kittie C. Abell serves as our major gifts officer and is based in Atlanta. Previously, she was the director of development for the Schenck School in Atlanta. Margaret A. “Meg” Poitevint, our new gifts and stewardship officer, came to us from the university's central development office where she worked in donor relations.

I thank you for opening your doors to the new members of our development team, as well as our familiar ones, and for being interested in all of the good things happening here in Athens.

Last year, the law school debuted its Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society Educational Seminar Series and featured former U.S. Department of Homeland Security General Counsel Joe Whitley who spoke about the U.S. Patriot Act.



The second seminar featured five of Georgia Law's own – Associate Professor Lonnie Brown, Callaway Chair Emeritus Ron Carlson, Hosch Professor Thomas A. Eaton, Cleveland Chair Ron Ellington and Carter Chair in Tort and Insurance Law Michael L. Wells.

The law school looks forward to continuing this educational programming for alumni, which provides an opportunity to discuss current legal issues with experts in the area.

I was glad to see so many of you on campus in October for the school's 15th Annual Homecoming Barbecue and Reunion Weekend. A record crowd of just over 1,000 people was on hand Saturday. Events like these provide an excellent opportunity for us to reconnect with each other and to recall our shared experiences and the common bond that ties us together – Georgia Law.

Other popular alumni events held earlier this year were the 5th Annual African-American Alumni and Student Reception hosted by Samuel M. "Sam" Matchett (J.D.'84) at his law firm King & Spalding and the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society Spring Twilight Affair held at Edward T.M. "Ed" (LL.B.'65) and Judy Garland's home in Buckhead. It is wonderful to have alumni open their offices and homes for gatherings relating to the law school.

In closing, as this letter was on the printing press, the law school was visited by the American Bar Association/Association of American Law Schools reaccreditation team. Each law school undergoes this process every seven years.

As we prepared for the site visit, we discovered there were many, many positive developments since our last review and associated self study, several of which have been detailed in this *Dean's Report* and in previous reports. Additionally, we identified a number of areas



*At the JHLS Spring Twilight Affair are host Ed Garland (LL.B.'65) and guest Nora Clarke.*

of opportunity for future growth and for bolstering our academic reputation. Some of these opportunities are also highlighted in this letter; others you will learn about in the near future.

As always, I truly appreciate your support and dedication to the University of Georgia School of Law. Our law school already has a great legacy. The success of the Archway to Excellence Campaign will enable us to continue to build upon this solid foundation. I encourage you to lend your support as the law school moves forward in its pursuit of excellence.

Sincerely,

REBECCA H. WHITE  
Dean and J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law