

Georgia Law enrolls academically talented and diverse first-year class

An academically gifted and diverse group of students began the three-year pursuit of a law degree at Georgia Law in August.

The Class of 2008, comprised of 210 students, boasts a median Law School Admissions Test score of 163, which ties the school's record high and reflects a score

that places these students in the top 10 percent of test takers nationwide. The median undergraduate grade point average for these first-year students is 3.55. Moreover, the top quarter of the class scored a 164 or higher on the LSAT and achieved a 3.80 or better undergraduate GPA.

Nearly one-quarter (23.8%) of the entering class indicated they are members of a minority group, making this class one of the most diverse in law school history. Of the 50 minority students enrolled in the Class of 2008, 33 are African Americans.

THE CLASS OF 2008 AT A GLANCE

Class Size 210

Gender
Male 52%
Female 48%

Ethnicity
African American 16%
Other Minority 8%
Non-Minority 76%

Residency
Georgia Resident 77%
Non-Resident 23%

States Represented 21

Institutions Represented 78

Most Common Undergraduate Institutions

(number of students)

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.

LSAT/GPA Profile

	75th Percentile	Median
LSAT	164	163
GPA	3.80	3.55

“We are confident these newly enrolled students will excel in their studies and become future leaders in the legal profession regionally, nationally and internationally.”

- Director of Admissions Giles Kennedy

“Each year, we strive to enroll a highly qualified first-year class,” Georgia Law Director of Admissions Giles W. Kennedy said. “This year, we reviewed nearly 2,600 applications, and the admissions committee spent a significant amount of time reading files and paying close attention to the strengths and accomplishments of each applicant. We are confident these newly enrolled students will excel in their studies and become future leaders in the legal profession regionally, nationally and internationally.”

He added, “Georgia Law’s strong academic reputation, backed by some of the best legal scholars in the nation, combined with its affordable tuition make Georgia Law an excellent place to earn a law degree.”

Georgia Law is currently ranked as one of the top four public law schools in the Southeast and as one of the top 14 public law schools in the nation.

Spiro becomes inaugural associate dean for faculty development



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, Spiro 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. He will also work closely with the law school’s communications office to heighten the awareness of faculty activities and accomplishments.

Specializing in international law, the constitutional aspects of U.S. foreign relations, and immigration and nationality law, Spiro joined the Georgia Law faculty in 2004 after serving in a similar teaching and administrative capacity at Hofstra University for 10 years.

Previously, he was a judicial clerk to Justice David H. Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Stephen F. Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

He has served as director for democracy on the staff of the National Security Council (a White House position), as an attorney-adviser in the U.S. Department of State’s Office of the Legal Adviser and as a resident associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In 2002, he was ranked among the top 20 legal scholars entering the field since 1992 on the basis of citation frequency.

Justice Melton returns to Athens

A little over six months ago, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed Georgia Law alumnus Harold D. Melton (J.D.'91) to the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Previously, Melton served as executive counsel to the Georgia governor, representing the state leader on legal issues covering the entire scope of state government. He also served in the Attorney General's Office for nearly 12 years, where he worked in the fiscal affairs and business finance sections and was a senior assistant to the attorney general

over the consumer interests section.

At the request of the Davenport-Benham Chapter of the Black Law Students Association, Melton returned to campus in late October. While on campus, he addressed the student body, attended a reception with faculty and students, and was given a tour to view some of the recent law school renovations.

During his address to students, he said some of the life lessons he has learned are:

1) Be where you are – Be prepared academically and professionally so you

can take advantage of the opportunities before you and be faithful to the task at hand.

2) Work on your internal engine – What will separate you is who you are as a person. Who you are will make the difference. Your preparation is everything you have done all of your life.

3) Be idealistic – Great things have been accomplished by those who have been idealistic and committed to their principles.



Georgia Law faculty enjoyed the opportunity to talk with newly-appointed Georgia Supreme Court Justice Harold Melton when he was in Athens. Pictured here are (l. to r.) Associate Professor Lonnie Brown, Melton, Dean Rebecca White and Associate Professor Randy Beck.



Melton shares a few words with second-year students Enjoliqye Aytch (left) and Lauren Bellamy prior to his question and answer session with students.

Kirch wins AALS' Kutulakis Award



The Association of American Law Schools has named Beth S. Kirch, the director of Legal Career Services at Georgia Law, as the 2006 recipient of the Kutulakis Student Services Award.

Presented annually, this award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an institution, administrator or law professor in the provision of service to students as exemplified by the late Peter N. Kutulakis of Dickinson Law School.

In support of Kirch's nomination, current third-year student Palma E. Pustilnik wrote, "She is a dedicated volunteer, an enthusiastic supporter of public service at the university and in the community at large, and a warm and caring administrator whose door is always open. Beth is one of those very rare people who works tirelessly to

help bring out the best in people and makes it look effortless."

Georgia Law colleague Tony E. Waller (J.D.'90) said, "Her willingness to go to bat for student organizations with firms and lawyers is born out of her belief that law students, who learn the value of service in law school, will be lawyers who value service when they practice."

Kirch has over 20 years of legal career planning and recruiting experience. She joined the Georgia Law staff in 1995 after working in the legal career services offices at Georgia State University and Emory University.

She also served as the recruiting coordinator at Neely & Player for three years and worked in the law library at Hurt, Richardson, Garner, Todd & Cadenhead.

The award was presented at the AALS' Washington, D.C., meeting in January.

Georgia Law creates study abroad opportunity in the Far East

Georgia Law will be expanding its foreign study abroad opportunities with the addition of a three-week program in China.

Partnering with two of the country's top institutions of higher education, Tsinghua University in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai, the Georgia Law Summer Program in China will be unique as it offers the opportunity for study in two locations.

The program will offer an introduction to Chinese law, with an emphasis on commercial law, for up to 30 rising second- and third-year law students from ABA-approved law schools.

C. Donald Johnson (J.D.'73), chief architect of the educational program and director of the Dean Rusk Center, said the initiative will address a major need among attorneys in the United States – the lack of knowledge of the Chinese legal system.

As part of the program, Johnson will teach a one-hour course on U.S.-China trade issues under the World Trade Organization. He is uniquely qualified to teach this class, as he was the chief textile negotiator, with the rank of ambassador, when he assisted in negotiating China's accession to the WTO in 1999 and has remained involved with other Chinese trade issues over the past several years.

Other courses will be taught in English by Chinese law professors.

Additionally, students from the University of Georgia will be offered the opportunity for an externship with a law firm in China at the end of the program and will be based in Shanghai, Beijing or Hong Kong.

Pending ABA approval, the Georgia Law Summer Program in China will start this summer, while the law school's semester study abroad program at Oxford will debut this spring.

Georgia Law in the news

Dual citizenship grows in popularity

Increasing numbers of Americans are seeking the perks of a second passport, some because of emotional ties and others for reasons of convenience in work and travel. "It's absolutely clear there's been a dramatic increase over the last 15 years," immigration law professor Peter J. Spiro commented in *USA Today*. The number of dual citizens in the United States is now in the millions.

Rare grand jury empanelled in laptop case

A Cobb County (Ga.) plan to distribute laptop computers to thousands of students and teachers has become the topic of an unusual special grand jury investigation after Cobb citizens complained school officials lent unfair favor to Apple Computer in both the bidding process and in the awarding of an estimated \$88 million contract. "Special grand juries have seldom been created in Georgia since they were authorized in 1974," criminal law and prosecution specialist Alan A. Cook said in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, placing this case on par with only a handful of others.

Montana – the new R.V. sales capital of America

Motor home travelers across the country are flocking to Montana to purchase their luxury R.V.s as the vehicles are not subject to sales tax and registration fees are minimal. While some see this activity as tax evasion, tax law authority Walter Hellerstein told *The New York Times* it is perfectly legal. "It's not fraud to play whatever games the law allows you," he said.



Professor Ed Larson (right) poses on the set of the Emmy and Peabody Award winning "The Daily Show" with host Jon Stewart (left).

"Monkey trial" revisited

The infamous *Scopes* trial has again been brought into public eye in light of its 80th anniversary this past summer as well as the debate in a Pennsylvania school system, which teaches students the controversial principles of Darwinism. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and evolution guru Edward J. Larson called the *Scopes* trial a "1920s version of the O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson trials of today" in an article for the *National Post*. Larson was also quoted in such publications as the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek* and the *Boston Globe*, and appeared on "NBC Nightly News" and Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" regarding the topic.

King of pop faces conviction

The much-talked-about trial of pop star Michael Jackson dominated the media this past summer after a string of allegations regarding his suspected "inappropriate behavior" with several children led to his indictment. In an article for *ABC News*, trial law expert Ronald L. Carlson said despite the defense facing pitfalls related to a failed lawsuit by former employees of Jackson's Neverland Ranch, testimony from celebrity pals such as Macaulay Culkin would "go a long way to persuading jurors" of his innocence, a statement which proved to be accurate.

-Kristin Kissiah

The New York Times

ABC NEWS