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.

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

“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.