

AWARDS DAY 2005



Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Norman Fletcher (J.D.'58) (l.) received the Equal Justice Foundation Award for Outstanding Public Interest Attorney. Here he is standing with EJF President Satara McPherson and EJF Faculty Adviser and Associate Professor Alexander Scherr (r.).



Georgia Defense Lawyers Association board member Jo Jagor (l.) presented the Willis J. "Dick" Richardson, Jr., Student Award to Megan Kreitner.



Ethel Chaffin (center) poses with the recipients of the Verner F. Chaffin Award for Excellence in the Study of Fiduciary Law - Marisa Huttenbach (to Chaffin's immediate left) and Daniel Hart (to Chaffin's right).

Huttenbach's mother Muriel and Hart's wife Becky and son Jackson also smiled for the camera. Additionally, this pair was awarded the CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in Trusts & Estates. Huttenbach was presented with the Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund Award for Excellence in the Study of Real Estate Law as well.



Immediate Past-president of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association David Bell (J.D.'77) (l.) presented the Ronald Carlson Award for Excellence in the Study of Evidence to Amanda Bates.

Other recipients:

Outstanding Performance in Criminal Law, Fall Semester 2004

Patricia J. Brooks, Anuj Desai, Bret R. Hobson and Charles A. Leyes

Outstanding Performance in Civil Procedure

Jason T. Burnette, Eric K. Glidewell, Meredith A. Stein and Kristin M. Timm

Outstanding Performance in Contracts & Sales

Wilson G. Barmeyer, Jason T. Burnette, Leland H. Kynes, Catherine L. Morrison and Bobby J. Olds

Outstanding Performance in Legal Research & Writing

Patrick D. Blake, SoRelle B. Braun, Jason T. Burnette, Cynthia M. Griffin, Benjamin P. Harper, M. Kathleen Hart, Tristan B. Morrison, David S. Poline, Lee Anne Thompson and Tremesha S. Willis

Outstanding Performance in Property, State Bar of Georgia Real Property Section Award

Wilson G. Barmeyer, Jason T. Burnette and M. Kathleen Hart

Outstanding Performance in Torts, Class of 1933 Torts Award for Excellence

Wilson G. Barmeyer, Donna J. Barnett, Douglas L. Clayton and Jordan A. Wolff

Donald P. Gilmore, Jr., Memorial Award for Excellence in the Study of Employment Law

Noah P. Peeters

ABA and BNA Award for Excellence in the Study of Employment Law

Vita E. Zeltser

State Bar of Georgia Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor Law/ABA and BNA Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor Law

Noah P. Peeters and Brennan A. Posner

State Bar of Georgia Award for Excellence in the Study of Employment Discrimination

Danielle A. Logan

ABA and BNA Award for Excellence in the Study of Intellectual Property Law

Leah L. Weinberg

Atlanta Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Lawyers Section Award for Excellence in ADR

Thomas F. Hollingsworth III

Georgia Municipal Association Award for Excellence in the Study of Municipal Corporation Law

Christopher A. Cosper

John C. O'Byrne Award for Excellence in the Study of Taxation

R. Brent Drake

Outstanding Prosecutorial Clinic Student

Eric C. Crawford

American Bankruptcy Institute Medal

Jennifer B. McDowell

The Double Dawg Society Tyler Brown Memorial Award

C. Knox Withers

Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn and Dial, LL.P., Awards

Erik S. Johnson, Outstanding Moot Court Advocate; Kimberly D. Grant, Outstanding Mock Trial Advocate

Kerry Harike Joedecke Memorial Award for Excellence

Brian P. Watt

Julian McDonnell Award for Excellence in the Study of Commercial Law

Brennan A. Posner

Edward D. and Carol J. Spurgeon Public Service Fellowship

Bianca N. Jaikaran

2005 Equal Justice Foundation Fellowships

Shariyf Muhammad, Amanda L. Patterson, Palma E. Pustilnik, A. Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, Laurie F. Richardson and David T. Schaefer

National Order of the Barristers

William R. Claiborne, Sonali Garg, Kimberly D. Grant, Charmel L. Gauden, Amelia A. Godfrey, Erik S. Johnson, Megan R. Kreitner, Jadun O. McCarthy, Brian P. Watt and Matthew W. Willis

LSA Award for Greatest Improvement in Academic Standing

Shannon A. McGhee (First to Second Year), Michael W. Gowen and David E. Tooley (Second to Third Year)

LSA Award for Highest Academic Average

Adam M. Conrad (Class of 2005) and Jason T. Burnette (Class of 2006)

West Publishing Company Awards for Outstanding Academic Achievement

Clark R. Calhoun and R. Brent Drake (Class of 2005), and Wilson G. Barmeyer and Jennifer R. Saffold (Class of 2006)

William King Meadow Award

Erik S. Johnson

Ellen Jordan Award for Public Interest Law and the Shelley B. Knox Award for Outstanding Public Interest Student

Rhiannon L. Brusco

Jessie and Dan MacDougald Memorial Award for First Honor Graduate Class of 2004 and the Isaac Meinhard Award for Highest Academic Average Class of 2004

Noah P. Peeters

CALI Excellence for the Future Awards

Civil Procedure - Jason T. Burnette, Eric K. Glidewell, Meredith A. Stein and Kristin M. Timm; Constitutional Law I – Jason T. Burnette; Constitutional Law II – Adam M. Conrad;

Contracts & Sales – Wilson G. Barmeyer, Jason T. Burnette, Leland H. Kynes, Catherine L. Morrison and Bobby J. Olds; Corporations – Tamika R. Montgomery, Vita M. Salvemini and Jordan A. Wolff; Criminal Law – Patricia J. Brooks, Anuj Desai, Bret R. Hobson and Charles A. Leyes; Criminal Procedure I – Jadun O. McCarthy; Criminal Procedure II – Rhett S. White; Evidence – Jason T. Burnette and R. Brent Drake; Federal Income Taxation – Shane A. Lord, Andrew J. Tuck and Rhett S. White; Legal Profession – Heather H. Stone and Aaron L. Walter; Legal Research & Writing – Patrick D. Blake, SoRelle B. Braun, Jason T. Burnette, Cynthia M. Griffin, Benjamin P. Harper, M. Kathleen Hart, Tristan B. Morrison, David S. Poline, Lee Anne Thompson and Tremesha S. Willis; Property – Wilson G. Barmeyer, Jason T. Burnette and M. Kathleen Hart; Torts – Wilson G. Barmeyer, Donna J. Barnett, Douglas L. Clayton and Jordan A. Wolff

2005 Student Bar Association Faculty Book Award for Excellence in Teaching

C. Ronald Ellington

2005 Student Bar Association Professionalism Award

Lonnie T. Brown, Jr.

2005 John C. O'Byrne Memorial Award for Furthering Faculty-Student Relations

David E. Shipley



International externs for this summer are (l. to r.) first-year students Michelle Wyant, Erin Brown, Daniel Ludlam and Jeff Gibson; second-year students Laura Tate Kagel and Jonathan Sharpley; and first-year students Anna Mackowiak, Jessica Lawrence and Rebekah Rashidfarokhi. Not pictured are third-year student Andre Barbic and first-year student Kate McDonald.

Going global

Georgia Law students are venturing beyond our country's borders in search of summer work experience. Since 2001, the number of students taking advantage of these opportunities through the law school's International Externship Program has grown fivefold. This summer, 11 students will work for four to eight weeks in eight different countries including Belgium, Brazil, China, Germany, Ghana, Guyana and India.

As we move to a more global society, lawyers with international or transnational experience will be better prepared to face the daily challenges of legal practice. As such, Georgia Law is pleased with the growth of the program - both in interest by prospective foreign host institutions and students, according to Dean Rusk Center Associate Director María Eugenia Giménez, who is coordinating the initiative with the center's Director C. Donald Johnson (J.D.'73).

The organizations that will be hosting Georgia Law students this summer include the European Centre for Economic Law in Brussels, Zhong Xin Law Firm in Shanghai, Haniel Corporation in Duisberg, the Ghanaian Supreme Court of Justice in Accra and the Guyana Attorney General's Office in Georgetown (sponsored by the Atlanta office of Kilpatrick Stockton).

Advocacy season highlights



Georgia Law fielded two teams of oralists for the ABA competition. Showing off their awards are (l. to r.) Michael Caplan, Richard Maxwell, Carl Jones, Brendan Krasinski, Stephanie Anderson, Elliott Stiles and James Radford. Not pictured: Candice Blain and Darren Hickman.



Erik Johnson (l.) and Brian Watt swept the regional round of the National Moot Court Competition.



Holding her Thurgood Marshall Best Advocate trophy is Veronica Richardson. She is surrounded by teammates (l. to r.) Tunde Ezekiel, Jadun McCarthy and Joseph Colette.



This year's ATLA team included (l. to r.) Charmel Gaulden, Megan Kreitner, Will Claiborne and Erik Johnson.

Georgia Law's acclaimed advocacy program 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, and captured two regional championships in addition to earning several other individual and team honors. Tournament highlights follow.

Team finishes second at ABA Competition

For the first time, a Georgia Law moot court team made it to the final round of the American Bar Association National Student Appellate Advocacy Competition, and the team finished second out of 187 law schools.

The team – comprised of second-year students Stephanie C. Anderson, Michael A. Caplan and W. Elliott Stiles – also won the Third Best Brief Award in the competition. Caplan was named the competition's Sixth Best Oralist.

Third-year students Brendan G. Krasinski, Darren C. Hickman and Richard L. Maxwell

coached the team, which advanced to the national round after capturing the regional crown.

While at the regional competition, this competing trio received the Second Best Brief Award.

Georgia has strong showing at Thurgood Marshall Tournament

A team of four Georgia Law students finished third at the National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition.

The quartet of second-year students Veronica L. Richardson and Ayotunde "Tunde" O. Ezekiel and third-year students H. Joseph Colette and Jadun O. McCarthy advanced to the national tournament after taking the second place trophy at the regional competition.

While at the regional event in February, Richardson captured the Best Advocate Award.

Third-year student Charmel L. Gaulden coached the team, which was sponsored by the law school's Davenport-Benham Black Law Students Association.

Dynamic duo sweeps regional National Moot Court Competition

Third-year students Erik S. Johnson and Brian P. Watt won all three categories in the regional round of the National Moot Court Competition. The pair, sponsored by the Atlanta law firm Hawkins & Parnell, won Best Team and Best Brief awards. Also, Johnson was named the tournament's Best Oralist.

This was the fifth consecutive year that Georgia Law captured the regional title in this competition.

Georgia finishes ATLA tournament as semifinalists

Georgia Law had a strong performance at the Association of Trial Lawyers of America Regional Tournament finishing the competition as semifinalists. The team, composed of third-year students Charmel L. Gaulden, William R. Claiborne, Megan R. Kreitner and Erik S. Johnson, argued a civil case involving an alleged assault by a bar bouncer.

Class of 2005 Commencement

Graduation is always a special time as it brings friends and family together at a time of great celebration. This year's Georgia Law commencement was no different. Approximately 200 students received their Juris Doctors and 11 Master of Laws candidates were recognized.



◀ Sonali Garg gets help with her graduation hood from second-year law student Mary Rae Phelps.

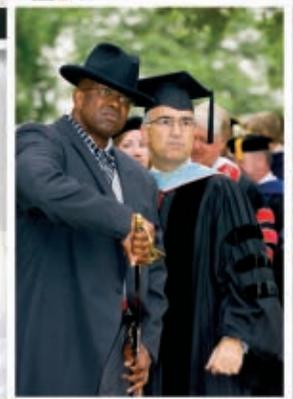


◀ Legacy Chair Tracy Rhodes proudly helps Law School Association President Jim Ellington (J.D. '87) hold a sign boasting the 85% participation rate, the highest ever, in the class gift. Together, the Class of 2005 pledged a total of \$15,000. Photo courtesy of The Picture Man.

Daniel and Katie White wave ▶ to their infant daughter and family prior to the ceremony.



Athens-Clarke County ▶ Sheriff Ira Edwards (l.) draws his saber in preparation to lead the graduation procession while School of Law Marshal Marc Galvin listens intently for the musical cue to start the march. Photograph by Paul Efland.



◀ Former U.S. Solicitor General Ted Olson's address instructed graduates how NOT to succeed in their professional careers. He said, "Success has a very short half-life, so if you want to start down the path toward failure, you don't have to do much except to let up on the accelerator and start to coast.



◀ Eagerly waiting for their turn to walk across the stage are (l. to r.) Amanda Bates, Melissa Barnes and André Barbic.



◀ Family members got into the spirit and held up signs congratulating their graduate.



... It is remarkable how thoroughly an organization can succeed if its members cheer on and help one another. It is equally amazing how swiftly an enterprise can be undermined, demoralized and sabotaged by a few acts of selfishness, envy or back-biting." In conclusion, he said, "The bad news for virtually all of you who wish to fail is that in your case, you will have to work hard to do so. You are talented, hard-working and resourceful or wouldn't be here today." The full text of Olson's speech can be found online at www.law.uga.edu/news/advocate.

◀ Sporting dad's graduation tam, Roseanne McDermott gets a hug from her father Gary.





Nicholas Rohlfling: Actor, father, law student

Before coming to Georgia Law, first-year student Nicholas H. Rohlfling spent 10 years in New York City living out his childhood dream – to be an actor.

Rohlfling got his first acting role at age 11 when his mom took him to an audition.

“At 11, I felt like a star,” he said. “Little did I know the amount of tables that I would eventually wait in pursuit of being a star.”

Rohlfling attended a community college for one year before pursuing his acting career in New York City, where he secured roles in plays, musicals, films and TV programs. But acting jobs were scarce after the events of September 11, and Rohlfling got called for jury duty on a murder trial. It was then he first started to think about becoming a lawyer.

“Serving on the jury was fascinating,” he said. “I felt so humbled by the process and the system. I was intrigued by the precision with which lawyers think and the way they analyze things.”

Once Rohlfling decided to study law, he had a major obstacle to overcome – he had to return to undergraduate school after being away for a decade. He and his family moved to Tennessee so Rohlfling could attend The University of the South, where he completed three years of undergraduate school in only two years.

Rohlfling, the father of a 4 year old and a 16 mo. old, had a busy first-year law school schedule – one that included waking up at 4 a.m. to study. Managing his time between law school and his family was a big challenge for him during his first semester, he said.

However, during his second semester, he faced the opposite challenge – being away from his family. His wife, who is an actress, took their two children to Europe with her while she was on tour in a musical. Being without the support of his family made the semester difficult, he said.

Not surprisingly, Rohlfling has an interest in entertainment law. “It is kind of a natural attraction for me to go back to [entertainment] in a different capacity,” he said.

But he has not ruled out acting again. “Acting has been a part of my life for such a long time that it’s just in me,” he said.

While in law school, Rohlfling wants to gain experience with oral advocacy – perhaps by participating in Georgia Law’s acclaimed

“Obviously, there’s a lot more to oral advocacy than being able to say your lines. But, I am certainly comfortable being in front of people and talking.”

- Nicholas Rohlfling

advocacy program. He said he hopes the confidence he gained through acting will help him in the courtroom setting.

“Obviously, there’s a lot more to oral advocacy than being able to say your lines,” he said. “But, I am certainly comfortable being in front of people and talking.”

His acting experience has also helped him with being questioned in law class, he said.

“What I often notice in classrooms is that it is just hard for some people to speak [out loud],” he said. “It is an intimidating situation, especially when you have a legal scholar asking you these questions. Performing has given me the confidence to at least speak loud enough so everyone can hear me, even if what comes out of my mouth is completely wrong.”

- Julie Camp



Michele Kim: Getting involved

When second-year student Michele J. Kim came to Georgia Law, she quickly got involved in the law school community.

She played active roles in the Dean’s Ambassadors group and the Student Bar Association her first year and is still involved with those bodies this year. As the “go-to girl” in both groups, she has helped to organize the Student Bar Association’s annual Barrister’s Ball, 1L Brief Party and 1L Open Memo Party and to raise money for the Patterson Chair and Equal Justice Foundation auction.

This year, she is president of the Dean’s Ambassadors and vice president of the Student Bar Association.

“I really like to be involved,” she said. “It helps me to do better in my classes. I do not think you have to sacrifice your social life to get good grades. It is possible to achieve a balance.”

Kim, whose brother Jin H. Kim (J.D.’00) attended Georgia Law, also works 10-15 hours per week in the law school’s admissions office, where she often talks to prospective students.

“I try to give them the student perspective on law school,” she said. “I have really enjoyed my Georgia Law experience, and I like to make sure that people know that whenever they leave.

“One of the most important things I tell people who are thinking about going to law school here is that Georgia Law is challenging, but it is not the law school horror story that you read about in books. Coming to Georgia Law is honestly the best decision I have ever made. I love it here.”

She is also helping Assistant Professor Lorie Johnson with research about a recent U.S. Supreme Court bankruptcy ruling, which was released while Kim was working for Judge John S. Dalis (J.D.'77) of the Southern District of Georgia U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Kim was interested in the decision when she first heard about it and knew Johnson taught in the area of bankruptcy, so she approached the professor about conducting research on the case.

The court ruling concerns interest rates and how much can be charged when some-

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- Michele Kim

one files for bankruptcy, which is of particular interest for Kim because her UGA undergraduate degree is in business.

Her project involves investigating whether or not bankruptcy courts will follow the new ruling and what effect it will have. Once completed, this semester-long assignment will serve as Kim's upper-level writing requirement.

Kim said the project is helping her to improve her legal research and writing as well as to understand bankruptcy law more.

By working with Dalis last summer, she was also able to see bankruptcy law from a different perspective.

"The first year in law school, they teach you to think like a lawyer," she said. "There, I got to learn how to think like a judge. It was an experience that I will never forget. The experience pulled together everything I learned during my first year of law school."

- Julie Camp



Will Claiborne: Loving the courtroom

Through Georgia Law's Prosecutorial Clinic, third-year student William R. Claiborne has already gained real trial experience. Claiborne began his Prosecutorial Clinic class work in the January of his second year of law school. Then, last summer, he became a legal assistant in the Western Judicial Circuit district attorney's office and has since played a role in both a murder trial and an armed robbery trial.

In the armed robbery case, Claiborne gave the opening statement, did half of the voir dire and conducted direct examinations of the arresting officer and the three victims. "It was incredible getting the chance to argue to a jury and stand up there and introduce the gun and mask into evidence," he said. "There is no way to learn that sort of stuff without actually doing it."

Although he did not present to the jury during the murder trial, he assisted in preparing the case for trial and with strategy during the trial.

"Sitting there second-chair on a murder trial was amazing," he said. "I was along for the ride and understood the entire trial as it developed."

In addition to those experiences, Claiborne has played a role in grand jury presentments and preliminary, motion and probation revocation hearings.

Claiborne has also tested his oral skills as a member of the Georgia Law mock trial program. He made it to the semifinals in the J. Ralph Beard Closing Argument Mock Trial Competition. Last year, he and his part-

ner won the J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition. He served as vice-chair of the mock trial executive board this year and was on the school's Association of Trial Lawyers of America team for the last two years.

"I love [Georgia Law's advocacy program]," he said. "Even though it is not a real trial situation, it gives me the opportunity to hone my advocacy skills, argue objections and give closing arguments. Mock trial is written to be a balanced case, so it is supposed to demonstrate a person's skills as an advocate."

"I love [Georgia Law's advocacy program]. Even though it is not a real trial situation, it gives me the opportunity to hone my advocacy skills, argue objections and give closing arguments."

- Will Claiborne

Additionally, last fall, Claiborne was selected as a pupil for the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court, comprised of the school's premier advocates.

Claiborne also has a significant amount of political experience, which includes being vice president of the Georgia Law Democrats, time spent at the state capitol, helping with statewide campaigns and two years of work for former U.S. Sen. Zell Miller in Washington, D.C. While Claiborne wants to remain active in politics after he graduates, he said he does not want to pursue his own political career right away.

"It is not something that I would see myself doing straight out of law school," he said. "But, it is definitely something I could see myself doing in the future."

After graduating, he will be working for the Savannah firm McCorkle, Pedigo & Johnson. He will specialize in family law litigation, an area of law that will have him in the courtroom frequently.

- Julie Camp