

School of Law in the News

The School of Law faculty provide expert opinions on a variety of issues. Some of the more prominent media seeking such commentary include: the Associated Press, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *BusinessWeek*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

The New York Times

Cheaters Never Prosper

Cheating on sales tax has become one of the latest issues in the slew of recent corporate controversies. Tax authority **Walter Hellerstein** lent his opinion to *The New York Times* regarding this issue, saying chain stores rarely engage in tax fraud. "The Gap is not going to do this for you over a pair of jeans," he said. "But the underlying problem is the same one that led Arthur Andersen to bless actions at Enron and some other companies, the idea that this is a good customer and we want to keep the client happy so we will do what we should not."

Controversial Computer Case

When Hewlett-Packard's chief executive Carly Fiorina took the stand to defend herself regarding her company's controversial bid to buy Compaq Computer, corporate law expert **Charles O'Kelley** was there to watch the court battle unfold. The *San Francisco Chronicle* quoted O'Kelley's comments on the star witness, Fiorina. "I think she was, from any lawyer's point of view, a near-perfect witness," O'Kelley said. "She was extremely well-spoken. She was passionate in defending her point of view. I thought she was a compelling witness in terms of presenting the story she had to tell." O'Kelley was also quoted in *BusinessWeek* concerning the Hewlett-Packard case.

BusinessWeek

War and Peace

Whether or not the United States will go to war with Iraq is a matter of grave national concern. International law authority **Daniel Bodansky** was quoted by the *Red & Black*

on the legal ramifications the conflict would have on our nation, saying international law requires an approval from the United Nations for the U.S. to wage war unless it is in self-defense. "Unless Iraq can be tied to the events of Sept. 11, this ground for war does not exist."

What Goes Up Must Come Down

With stocks on the decrease and costs on the increase, the economy is affecting more than just gasoline prices. "All sorts of insurance [sectors] are seeing their rates increase because of the collapse of the stock market and the whole economic mess," torts guru **Thomas Eaton** told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in an article about the increasing cost of medical malpractice insurance.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Slam Dunk!

All work and no play makes the U.S. Supreme Court justices want to kick back and shoot some hoops. Well, at least they have the opportunity to, should the urge arise, in their private basketball court on the top floor of the Supreme Court building. Former Supreme Court clerk **Dan Coenen** was quoted by the *Associated Press*, which was picked up by the *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*. "How much closer to basketball heaven can you get than that?" Coenen said.

Los Angeles Times

Anybody Home?

Public housing agencies across the country may lose millions in federal funding for vouchers that help the needy pay their rent due to the lack of affordable housing available. Even with subsidies, housing is still too expensive in some areas. Visiting assistant professor and public housing expert **Kristen Carpenter** expressed her opinion to *The Washington Post* concerning this controversial issue. "What this represents is giving up on a certain population. I think it's a cop-out," she said.

Washington Post

Child's Play

When a 15-year-old boy was convicted of felony murder after the child he punched in the back of the head later died of injuries, the case raised questions about Georgia's felony murder statute and whether or not it is proper to use an aggravated assault charge to bring about a felony conviction. Criminal procedure authorities **Ronald Carlson** and **Donald E. Wilkes Jr.** were both quoted by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* concerning the issues raised by this case. "Georgia's felony murder statute is antiquated," Wilkes said. "Every state except Georgia rejects the use of aggravated assault or aggravated battery as the underlying felony to support a felony murder conviction."

The Debate Rages On

The debate over what constitutes a rape is a controversial and sensitive topic. The definition of rape was recently tackled by Associate Dean **Paul Kurtz**, who was quoted by the *Augusta Chronicle* concerning the issue. "Not only is there a gray area, and not only is there a thin dividing line, but rape is something that divides something very awful and traumatic and damaging from something that is intimate and an expression of love," he said.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

It's All in Who You Know

Sometimes having connections to the president is not as advantageous as one might think. As the federal investigation into the Enron fiasco focused on key executives, including former Chairman Kenneth Lay, criminal procedure sage **Ronald Carlson** lent his expert opinion to *The Dallas Morning News* regarding the subject. "The connections that served Ken Lay so well politically backfire now because the Justice Department will go out of its way to prove it is not showing him any favors."

- Kristine Fortunato



Third-year students Broderick Grady and Rasheda Cylar are interviewed by a TV reporter regarding Thompson's visit.

Deputy Attorney General Visit Generates Excitement

U.S. Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson visited the School of Law again this fall. This time, he was on campus to educate law students about career possibilities in the Department of Justice. As his visit was one week after the 9/11 anniversary, the media was clamoring to speak with this key figure in the war against terrorism.

Thompson spoke to a room full of students interested in serving their country. Afterwards, he was interviewed by WSB TV, Atlanta's ABC affiliate. The reporter Mark Winne then interviewed three law students in addition to the Office of Legal Career Service Director Beth Kirch. Thompson and the three law students made the 6:00 p.m. news.

Thompson's last visit to UGA was in the spring when he served as guest speaker at the law school's 2002 Commencement Ceremony. He also served as an adjunct law professor in the spring of 2001, when he was appointed to his current governmental position.

Georgia Law Recruits the Most Academically-Superior Class Ever

This fall, the most academically-superior class in the distinguished history of the School of Law began their three year pursuit of a Juris Doctor degree.

The Class of 2005, consisting of 208 students, has a median grade point average of 3.65, a high established last year, and a median Law School Admissions Test score of 163, which tied a record at the law school set in the early 1990s. However, this

is the first time both of these high marks were hit in the same year. In addition, the top quarter of the entering class scored a 164 or higher on the LSAT and achieved a 3.81 undergraduate GPA or higher.

Dean David Shipley said the school is delighted with the caliber of this year's entering class. "This is the fourth straight year the credentials of our entering class have improved. Our admissions committee had a very tough job. Due to the downturn in the economy, we saw close to a 20 percent increase in applications. This required many more hours to review all applications and evaluate the candidates. They also worked closely with other faculty and our students, staff and alumni to recruit the very best students." Shipley said the school could have made the admissions team's job easier by accepting more students. "However, we want to keep our entering class size in the low 200s to ensure the quality of legal education we provide."

At orientation, this outstanding class was treated to a personal greeting sent via letter by Georgia Governor Roy Barnes (J.D.'72). "You are about to begin a wonderful experience, one that I started over 30 years ago. The study of law will never be complete. It will last for a lifetime. But it is the greatest experience anyone can undertake. The way you think and the responsibilities you assume hereafter will be changed because of the experience you are about to undertake," he wrote.

The School of Law is currently ranked as one to the top three public law schools in the Southeast and one of the top 12 public law schools in the nation.

Entering Class of 2002

At a Glance (Graduating Class of 2005)

Class Size 208

Gender

Male 51%
Female 49%

Ethnicity

African American 11%
Other Minority 8%
All Other 70%
Not Indicated 11%

Residency

Georgia Resident 75%
Non-Resident 25%

Average Age

24

States Represented

24

Institutions Represented

80

Most Common Undergraduate Institutions

University of Georgia (70)
Emory University (15)
Georgia Institute of Technology (7)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (7)
Vanderbilt University (5)

LSAT/GPA Profile

	75th Percentile	Median	25th Percentile
LSAT	164	163	158
GPA	3.81	3.65	3.30

Number of Applicants

Georgia Residents 1,069
Non-Residents 1,264



Hearing Georgia Court of Appeals oral arguments in the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom in early April are (l. to r.) Judge John Ruffin Jr., Presiding Judge Marion Pope Jr. (LL.B.'53) and Judge Anne Barnes (J.D.'83).

Georgia Court of Appeals Hears Oral Arguments at UGA

In early April, the School of Law hosted a Special Session of Oral Arguments of the First Division of the Georgia Court of Appeals in its Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom. Students and other interested parties from the general public were invited to sit in on the day's proceedings. The arguments heard were *Fineza v. State*, *McDonald v. State* and *Galardi v. Steele-Inman*. This session provided law students with a unique opportunity to see the Court of Appeals in action.

Sitting on the panel were two Georgia Law alumni, Presiding Judge Marion Pope Jr. (LL.B.'53) and Judge Anne Barnes (J.D.'83), in addition to Judge John Ruffin Jr.



White Joins UGA Provost's Office

On November 1, Hosch Professor Rebecca White assumed duties in UGA's Office of the Provost. She became interim associate vice president

for academic affairs and associate provost. In this role, she reports directly to Arnett C. Mace Jr., interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Her responsibilities include working on program priorities, budgets, revisions to the guidelines for promotion and tenure, various academic initiatives and extended education.

"Professor White is one of our most distinguished faculty members and possesses a wide array of talent," Mace said. "She is held in the highest esteem by her col-

leagues, students, staff and administrators throughout the university. I admire the many contributions she has made to the university and to her profession. I am delighted that she has agreed to serve in this interim role and look forward to working with her to advance the quality of programs at UGA."

Dean David Shipley said White's appointment is a great honor for her as well as for the School of Law to have a member of its faculty asked to serve in the university's administration.

- Written in part by Sharron Hannon

State Bar Visits Campus

Two of the leadership bodies of the State Bar of Georgia held their meetings at UGA this fall.

In September, the State Bar of Georgia's Board of Governors held its 188th meeting at the School of Law. State bar president James Durham (J.D.'83) presided over the meeting that was held in Dean Rusk Hall's Larry Walker Room. The BOG invited members of the law school's first-year law class to join them during a reception held that evening which provided a nice conclusion to the wrap-up orientation session the students had participated in earlier that afternoon. On Saturday, members of the Younger Law Alumni Committee joined the BOG for a pre-game tailgate party.

In October, the Georgia Law hosted the fall meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Durham again presided over the meeting. The next day, state bar executive committee members attended the law school's 12th annual Homecoming barbecue on the picturesque North Campus quadrangle.



Legal Aid and Defender Clinic Receives Top Honors

This summer, a major newspaper publishing company reviewed Georgia's indigent defense system and the school's legal aid clinic came out on top.

Attorney Stephen Bright of the Atlanta-based Southern Center for Human Rights, which helps represent the poor, said the Legal Aid and Defender Clinic is "as good as it gets" in Georgia.

The clinic, which handles nearly 4,000 misdemeanor and felony cases annually for Athens-Clarke and Oconee county defendants, was positioned as a model for other circuits to follow. Although the clinic's Director Russell Gabriel "resists" this suggestion, he acknowledges that the clinic is "several steps above some of the notoriously inferior systems in other Georgia circuits."

Russell was also quoted as saying, "We're not to the point where we're so unprepared that we're meeting defendants for the first time in court, but we're still struggling to do what we need to do and what we're obligated to do by law."

The clinic employs 13 lawyers, including six who work exclusively on felony cases. During the academic year, 20 second- and third-year Georgia Law students serve as interns, assisting the lawyers by making jail visits to interview clients, researching documents and talking to witnesses involved in the cases.

-Compiled from published reports by the Morris News Service

The Advocate Goes Online

Were you wondering when the *Advocate* would make its appearance online? In September, your law school alumni magazine made its online debut at www.law.uga.edu/news. Now you can visit the *Advocate* and download desired articles whenever you wish.

This is where alumni living abroad will now find the magazine. It is hoped alumni living outside the United States will find this method of keeping up with the activities of the Georgia Law community much more timely and effective. If you would like to share any comments regarding this new delivery method, please e-mail them to lawcomm@uga.edu.