Student Briefs

2002 Order of Barristers

The Order of Barristers is a national honor society that recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence in an advocacy program (moot court, mock trial or both). These third-year students are selected each spring prior to their graduation. The barristers for 2002 are:

Jeffrey S. Ward
Emily Hammond Meazell
D. Clinton Pridgen
Drew D. Baiter
Lauren E. Sheridan
Ryan P. Reavis
Shalena Cook Archibald
Andrew E. Goldner
J. Robert McNiff
Caroline P. Rogers

2002-03 Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court Pupils

Established in 1987, the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court is an organization of 60-70 people dedicated to improving the quality and the level of professionalism in trial advocacy. The American Inn of Court is modeled after the English Inns of Court system used to train barristers. There are hundreds of Inns in the United States, many of which are affiliated with a law school. The JHL Inn of Court has three levels of membership: masters, barristers and pupils. The masters are some of the best trial lawyers in the state. Barristers are attorneys with two-eight years of experience. The pupils are select third-year students at Georgia Law. For 2002-03, they are:

Joshua B. Belinfante
Melissa F. Davis
Corey M. Stern
DaVida S. Sams
E. Walker Stroud
Megan E. Jones
Peter M. Jones
Nicholas G. Walter
Tracey L. Wagner
R. Matthew Reeves
Ryan T. Strickland
Tiana S. Mykkeltvedt

2002 EJF Fellowships

The Equal Justice Foundation was established in 1987 by students at the School of Law to encourage students to explore careers in public interest law. As its primary mission, EJF provides summer fellowships for students who want to work for a public interest organization but who would not otherwise be paid. Below please find those who received fellowships for 2002.

Mary E. Cobbs
Jerry B. Daniel
Clete D. Johnson
Carmen V. Lyles-Irving
Heather M. Benham
Timothy S. Walls

Clerking for a Living

Nearly 30 third-year students and recent graduates of Georgia Law have been successful in securing federal judicial clerkships in which they will gain valuable experience.

Graduates of the Class of 2002 who are currently "clerking for a living" are: Jennifer Chapman - Judge Clay D. Land (J.D.'85), M.D., GA; Bryan A. Dykes - Judge Curtis L. Collier, E.D.,TN; Emily H. Meazell - Judge Richard W. Story (J.D.'78), N.D., GA; Melissa A. Kotun - Magistrate Judge G. R. Smith (J.D.'78), S.D., GA; Gregory B. Mauldin - Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat, 11th Cir., FL; Nitin A. Sathe – Senior Judge Phyllis A. Kravitch, 11th Cir., GA; Lauren E. Sheridan - Judge Susan H. Black, 11th Cir., FL; Heather C. Siegel - Judge Frank M. Hull, 11th Cir., GA; Amy R. Stewart - Judge William T. Moore Jr. (J.D.'64), S.D., GA; Kevin J. Tallant - Judge Thomas W. Thrash, N.D., GA; Brian C. Vick - Judge Joel F. Dubina, 11th Cir., AL; Ben Vinson - Judge W. Brevard Hand, S.D., AL; Kyle G. Wallace - Judge R. Lanier Anderson, 11th Cir., GA; and Laura H. Wheaton - Judge John F. Nangle, S.D., GA.

In the fall of 2003, Erik Figlio (J.D.'02) will begin a clerkship with Judge Joel F. Dubina of the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Current third-year students, from the Class of 2003, who will clerk upon graduation are: (back, l. to r.) Allen Yee - Judge Avant Edenfield (LL.B.'58), S.D., GA; Jake Larkins - Judge Harold Murphy (LL.B.'49), N.D., GA; Jason Alloy – Senior Judge Phyllis Kravitch, 11th Cir., GA; Jeffrey Calabrese - Judge Karon O. Bowdre, N.D., AL; Associate Professor Peter Appel, chair of the Faculty Subcommittee on Judicial Clerkships; (front, l. to r.) Tiana Mykkeltvedt - Judge Richard W. Story (J.D.'78), N.D., GA; Rebecca Bishop – Chief Judge Dudley Bowen (LL.B.'65), S.D., GA; Taylor Hanson - Judge Ashley Royal (J.D.'74), M.D.,GA; and Sarah Schindler - Judge William L. Garwood, 5th Cir., TX. Not pictured are: Michael Cates - Chancellor William B. Chandler, DE Chancery Ct., DE; Eston Wycliffe Orr Jr. - Chief Judge Orinda D. Evans, N.D.,GA; Hillary Smith - Judge Duross Fitzpatrick (LL.B.'66), M.D., GA.; Ryan Teague - Judge James L. Edmonson (J.D.'71), 11th Cir., GA; Michael Walter - Chief Judge R. Lanier Anderson, 11th Cir., GA; and Rebecca Wasserman - Judge Stanley Francis Birch Jr., 11th Cir., GA.

Dean's Ambassadors Group Established

This past spring, law students aspiring to assist the law school's administration in promoting a positive image of the school formed a new organization, the Dean's Ambassadors. You will see this group interacting with alumni in the following ways: serving as hosts at events such as Homecoming and reunion weekends, conducting tours of the school and greeting interviewers on campus. They will also assist with first-year orientation and Open House for prospective students. This newly established group currently has over 65 members.

Angie Whiddon: Ahead of the Game

For a first-year law student, Angie Whiddon has plenty of law experience under her belt. She has already worked in a law firm, interned at the state Capitol and worked for the governor of Georgia, all before applying to law school.

From Ashburn, Whiddon credits her hometown's state representative, Ray Holland (J.D.'77), as the biggest reason she chose to study law. "During Christmas break my freshman year, I went to ask him if I could volunteer my time in his office, without pay, to try and get some experience and see if law was what I wanted to do," she said. He hired her (with pay) and she continued to work there part-time until she transferred to the University of Georgia from Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton.

Once at UGA, Whiddon's law experience continued. "When I transferred after my sophomore year, Mr. Holland suggested that I apply to participate in the House Committee intern program at the Capitol," she said. She was chosen for the House Education and House University System committees. Following another year of school, Whiddon returned to the Capitol to intern in the Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, before being hired to a full-time position in the Scheduling Office.

"My official title was assistant scheduler," Whiddon said. "All invitations for Governor Barnes to attend events were handled through our office. We coordinated the governor's calendar and worked out the logistics of his travels." She also served as a legislative liaison, in charge of notifying legislators when Governor Barnes would be visiting their district for events as well as fielding legislator requests for meetings with the governor.

Whiddon said one of the most exciting events she participated in while working in the governor's office was volunteering in former Vice President Al Gore's motorcade during his campaign for the presidency. "We were given vans to drive and went through several security searches before we were instructed to drive directly out onto the runway at Hartsfield Airport to await the arrival of Air Force II," she said. "It was a very strange feeling to be out there and see no planes coming in or out of the airport and blue lights flashing as far as the eye could see."

Whiddon's previous employment is paying off for her now as she is in her first year of studying law. "I returned to school with a purpose and a fresh outlook, ready to tackle what is turning out, as expected, to be one of the greatest challenges of my life," she said. "It's helpful to me that I have seen the 'real-world' side of things," she added. "It's easier for me to step back and see the big picture when I am wading through all of those cases [for class]." Whiddon also credits her family for the support and encouragement they have shown her while she "follows her dream."

Although Whiddon has not decided what area of law she wants to go into once she graduates, she will be well prepared for whatever lies ahead. "I have found over the years when there is a big decision to make, it's best to wait and see what opportunities open up for you before making a choice too hastily," she said. She is interested in returning to public service and is even considering going into politics later in her career, "for a change of pace!"

- Kristine Fortunato

Jason Carter: A World of Wisdom

Ask his wife Kate and she'll tell you what second-year law student Jason Carter can't stand. "I can't leave the tap running," he said with a laugh. "In my house, if the water is on for more than a few seconds, I have to turn it off." This is due in part to the fact that Carter spent two years of his life with people who had to carry water daily from a river to their stick and mud huts in Lochiel, a tiny South African town near the border of Swaziland.

Carter went to South Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1998 to upgrade the underperforming schools in the area by helping teachers introduce a new, post-apartheid curriculum. Following the advice of his grandfather, former President Jimmy Carter, to "keep a journal," he documented his experiences in what would later become the book *Powerlines: Two Years on South Africa's Borders*, published by National Geographic this past June.

The inspiration behind the book's title came from the utility lines running over Carter's town, bringing electricity to wealthy white communities on either side while bypassing the poor black residents of Lochiel. The book explores the contrasts between these "two South Africas" and reveals a country trying to heal from the effects of apartheid.

Carter said he wanted to write *Powerlines* because South Africa was such an exciting place with so much to offer. "Not enough gets said about the positive influence that paying attention to Africa can have on our community here [in the United States]," he said. "The people there are so amazing, despite their poverty and everything else they have to overcome." Carter was able to make strong connections with the people of Lochiel in part because he is fluent in Zulu, the local language.

Carter joined the Peace Corps because he said he has always been interested in Africa and people who live in a place so different from America. "You get a new perspective of the United States when you join the corps because everything is so different in other countries." It also runs in the family. Carter's great-grandmother, Lillian Carter, was 68 years old when she volunteered with the Peace Corps in India. "There isn't anyone who wouldn't benefit from the Peace Corps," Carter said. "You make it what you want it to be. For me, it gave me time to settle down and find out what direction I wanted my life to take."

The time spent in South Africa influenced Carter's decision to attend law school. "Having been in the Peace Corps, you see the effect law has on communities around the world. It has an enormous impact," he said. President Carter also had a hand in his grandson's pursuit of a law degree. "I go to my grandfather for advice all the time," Carter said. "He encouraged me to go to law school, and especially Georgia Law, because of the significant role it has played in this state's history."

Although Carter does not plan on writing any more books, his law career looks bright. He hopes to obtain a clerkship with a federal judge and join a large firm someday. He and his wife Kate have been married for 18 months.

- Kristine Fortunato

Vincirena Palmore: Willing to Serve

Immediately after the September 11 incident, Vincirena Palmore, a third-year law student and a U.S. Navy reservist, knew she could be called into active duty to aid in the war against terrorism, and on Halloween afternoon she was. "The chief from the reserve center called me up and said, 'Lt. Palmore, you've been recalled up to active duty,'" Palmore said. "I was shocked. But I wasn't afraid to go," she explained. "That's the whole point of being in the reserves."

Palmore joined the Navy immediately after her high school graduation, describing enlisting as something she had always wanted to do. While in the Navy, Palmore earned a scholarship to attend George Washington University, where she met her husband, Malcolm (also a third-year student at the School of Law). Following graduation, she received a commission as a naval officer. She spent the next four years as one of only a handful of women assigned to two naval ships. "The ships I was on normally didn't have more than 20 women in a crew of 2,000 men. The first ship I was on only had seven women! Three thousand men, seven women!" Palmore said. "It was a lot of fun though. I've done a lot of traveling. I've probably been to 15 different European countries."

Just like her decision to join the Navy, Palmore said, "I had always wanted to go to law school." So after six and a half years in the service, she enrolled in the University of Georgia School of Law. Her husband, also an officer in the Navy, gained admission to Georgia Law one year later.

Then Sept. 11 happened and the call came in. Once stationed at the Little Creek Amphibious Base in Norfolk, VA, Palmore worked for an admiral with 21 ships under his command. "The admiral's job was to keep track of all his ships, find out what they were doing, and when they were due to come back," she said. "And I was the person who had to brief him twice a week on everything he needed to know." Although the job was intimidating at first, Palmore said she grew more comfortable with it as time went on. She described the admiral as "a pretty nice guy. As long as I knew what I was talking about, he was happy." Her other duties included scheduling VIP tours and burials at sea.

Palmore said her biggest challenge about being recalled into service was not knowing what to expect. "Now that I look back in retrospect, everything was fine. But just not knowing back then [was the biggest challenge]. Nobody knew anything," she said. "I think [Malcolm] took it worse than I did. A lot of times when you're traveling, I think it's the person who is left behind who worries more, because you're there and you're living it and you know how things are going." The two have been married for seven years.

Although serving her country put her a semester behind in school, Palmore maintains a positive attitude. "I think everything happens for a reason," she said. "I was due to graduate this past May and I wasn't looking forward to graduating without a job. One of the positive things that came out of this is that it gave me time to sit down and do my applications and actually get a job lined up." Palmore will be joining the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps after she graduates in December. Although she will miss the Navy, she is excited about the new opportunities that Air Force JAG will provide.

- Kristine Fortunato

"I was shocked. But I wasn't afraid to go," she explained. "That's the whole point of being in the reserves."

- Vincirena Palmore

At the first JHL pre-game reception on August 31, LSA Immediate Past President Dana Miles (J.D.'80) and Virginia McGuffey (J.D.'76) share a few words.

JHL Members Treated to Pre-Game Receptions

In appreciation of the monetary support Joseph Henry Lumpkin donors provide the School of Law ($1,000 or more each year), the Law School Association began hosting private pre-football game receptions. At these receptions, JHL members were treated to light fare and libations on the Dean's patio 90 minutes prior to kickoff. As the season progressed, more and more JHL members joined the fun.