School of Law in the News

The School of Law faculty continues to provide expert commentary on a variety of issues. Some of the more prominent media seeking such commentary include: *the New York Times*, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, *National Public Radio*, *New York Newsday*, *the Los Angeles Times* and *the Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land

To make land development laws easier to use, a proposed change to eliminate a second public hearing each time a landowner wants to transfer development rights is on the table. Land use law authority **Laurie Fowler** was quoted by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* saying, "A number of local governments have expressed to me they're willing to use this tool to protect either farmland or water quality and are unwilling to do so unless this provision is removed."

List of Problems

Currently, convicted sex offenders are required to register with their hometown sheriff's department, but some lawmakers want to put their pictures in the local newspapers. In the *Athens Banner-Herald*, Legal Aid and Defender Clinic Director **Russell Gabriel** said, "The trouble of only knowing the fact of the conviction is it can be misleading. It's taken in the worst possible way. It seems to me it could destroy the life of someone who poses no threat to others."

Throwing His Weight Around

Just how much influence does the President have on the U.S. Supreme Court? When interviewed by WSB-AM Radio in Atlanta, constitutional law expert and former Supreme Court clerk **Randy Beck** said, "Justices of the Supreme Court have life tenure. So even if they know the President might like them to come out a particular way on a particular case, there are systems in place to make sure that that doesn't unduly influence their decisions."

Torts in Court

These days, people can find all sorts of excuses to sue companies for huge punitive damage awards. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce is pushing for tort reform in the state legislature to protect companies from these potentially damaging lawsuits. In the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, torts guru **Tom Eaton** said, "You will be very hard pressed to find in a tort context significant punitive damages. The cases where you do find big punitive damage awards are business disputes."

Happy Anniversary?

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, granting women across the nation the right to have an abortion. Professor **Sarajane Love** commenting to the *Athens Banner-Herald* on the future of the decision said, "There is a reasonable chance that one of the current justices that would vote in favor of retaining *Roe v. Wade* will retire while [President George W.] Bush is president." This could change the make up of the court and potentially reverse this important decision.

Positive Publicity?

Rarely do defense attorneys let their clients be interviewed by reporters, so when lawyers allowed a man accused of murder speak to journalists, *New York Newsday* asked criminal procedure sage **Ron Carlson** to explain the benefits of this unusual strategy. "One potential advantage would be to publicize before the trial the shoot-to-wound or accident defense and seize the opportunity to precondition the community to this defense of unintentional homicide," he said.

Redrawing the Lines

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and the state's Attorney General Thurbert Baker are squaring off over who has the constitutional authority to make legal decisions for the state. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* turned to constitutional law expert **Dan Coenen** for clarification on the issue. There is no "simple answer" concerning the "separation of powers, [and] there is something to be said for both the governor's and the attorney general's positions on this issue," he said.

The New York Times

Taxes, Taxes and More Taxes

States want to begin collecting sales tax from online purchases, but first they need to coordinate their sales tax systems to convince Congress it won't be an unfair burden on retailers. Concerning this controversial change, tax law professor **Walter Hellerstein** told the *New York Times* those in favor of collecting online sales tax would be able to convince 10 states to join the cause, but "roughly half the states" would be needed to successfully lobby Congress. He was also quoted on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" regarding online retailers like Wal-Mart and Target beginning the collection of taxes on their online sales.

Defend Yourselves

As Georgia's failing indigent defense system undergoes reform, Indigent Criminal Defense Reform Commission Reporter and Associate Dean **Paul Kurtz** told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* the proposed reformation legislation that includes public defenders running for election is flawed. "One of the pillars of the [commission's] report was the notion of a uniform system monitored by a single entity, the state board. It would seem difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile the notion of an elected public defender with the uniformity of quality which is so sorely lacking today," he said. Kurtz was also quoted by the *Los Angeles Times* and National Public Radio regarding this issue.

- Kristine Fortunato

Los Angeles Times

EXCLUSIVE RANKINGS AMERICA'S BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT

Georgia Law Climbs One Notch in the Rankings

The School of Law climbed one spot in the famed rankings published by *U.S.News & World Report* each April. The school is now ranked 31st overall and tied for 11th among public legal institutions. Dean David Shipley said he was pleased the law school had risen in the rankings and was ranked 11th among the nation's public law schools and fourth in the Southeast.
"I am particularly pleased we increased in standing on nearly every objective category including the bar passage rate and job placement statistics. These figures have a direct correlation to the quality of the education we provide at the University of Georgia School of Law," he said.

Other categories in which the law school saw improvement are overall ranking and the LSAT scores of entering students. "These rankings confirm that we remain one of the most selective public law schools in the nation. For the 2003-04 academic year, with a record number of applicants, the admissions process will be even more competitive," Shipley said.

Ranked with the School of Law at 31 are Brigham Young University, Fordham University, the University of California-Davis and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The law school was the only UGA unit to climb in this year's America's Best Graduate School Rankings.

Alumni Assume New Positions at Georgia Law

The School of Law is pleased to announce the promotion of Associate Professor Anne Dupre (J.D.'88) to the rank of Professor of Law. The University System of Georgia Board of Regents announced the change in April after gaining the approval of her colleagues at the law school.

Dupre joined the law school faculty in 1994 and teaches education law, children and the legal system, contracts, and remedies. A former public school teacher, her recent scholarship includes a casebook, *Children and the Law: Cases and Materials* (LexisNexis), which was coauthored with Professor Martin Gardner. She has spoken on issues such as civility and academic freedom, student misconduct and school discipline, family and educational privacy, First Amendment and public schools, and Title IX and sexual harassment at numerous national academic law conferences.

She is one of three School of Law faculty members who have served as judicial law clerks to the U.S. Supreme Court. She clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun following her clerkship with Judge J.L. Edmondson of the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. She also worked as an attorney with the Washington, D.C., firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge before teaching at UGA.

Dupre earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island and a Juris Doctor from the School of Law, where she graduated first in her class and served as editor-in-chief of the *Georgia Law Review*.

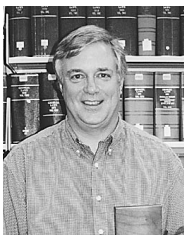
In January, Alan Cook (J.D.'84) received the nod to become the permanent director of the school's Prosecutorial Clinic. He served as the clinic's interim director for 18 months prior to this promotion.

Cook brings a wealth of trial experience to this position. He served as the elected district attorney in the Alcovy Judicial Circuit for 10 years, being first elected in 1990 and re-elected in 1992 and 1996. He has tried over 100 jury trials including 19 homicide cases (including six capital cases) and 36 child sexual abuse cases. He continues to serve his former circuit as a special assistant district attorney handling select appellate cases.

He frequently lectures on the topic of prosecuting child sexual abuse cases at conferences sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Cook earned his bachelor's degree in political science *summa cum laude* from UGA, where he graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors. In 1984, he earned his law degree *cum laude* from the School of Law.

Eaton Recognized for Research



In April, Hosch Professor of Law Tom Eaton became the first law professor to be presented with an UGA Creative Research Medal. Eaton received this honor for his work with another UGA professor, Susette Talarico. Together they conducted the most systematic and in-depth study of tort litigation in any state. Tort cases have long been debated among insurance companies, consumer advocates and the public. In their research, Eaton and Talarico considered public policy questions, such as whether the rate of filing suits is increasing and the frequency and size of jury awards, based on their analysis of more than 27,000 Georgia tort cases. Counter to popular opinion, their findings show tort cases usually involve simple disputes, fewer than five percent go to trial, defendants prevail in jury trials as often as plaintiffs, and when plaintiffs do prevail awards tend to be modest and rarely punitive.

Creative Research Medals are given to UGA faculty for outstanding research or creative activity on a single theme undertaken in the past five years at the university. The UGA Research Foundation presents them annually.

A Revolution in Seeking Employment

The way for law students to find a job has been revolutionized. The traditional method of having a paper resume, reviewing job postings on a bulletin board and telephoning to arrange interviews has become a thing of the past. The School of Law's Office of Legal Career Services, with the assistance of the school's computer services team, has implemented a new and much more efficient way for a law student to find his/her dream job.

Starting with job postings and interview opportunities, these details are now contained in an electronic database that is updated in real-time (whenever a change is made), accessed through the Internet and is available wherever one might have access to a computer. In addition, a law student can store up to 10 different resumes in the database so he/she will have tailored versions readily available for a variety of positions. When a student sees an interesting listing or job interview opportunity, he/she can opt to have his/her desired resume forwarded to that employer. Resumes are forwarded using a technology that maintains special formatting and fonts that are often contained in today's resumes.

For on- and off-campus interviews, a student can forward their preferred resume and check online to see if they have been chosen for an interview. (Students are also notified of their selection by e-mail.) Once selected, a student can then schedule their preferred time from a special "appointment diary" located on the law school's Web site. A student can also cancel and change interview times as necessary online.

In addition to automating the process of applying for jobs and scheduling interviews, the Office of Legal Career Services and its Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Professor Anne Dupre, have implemented a number of new initiatives for students seeking employment. They include:

- August in Athens – This early interview week will be held prior to the start of school allowing students to interview with their minds completely on the task at hand versus trying to balance securing a job while attending classes and studying. This program also eliminates potential problems a student may have when interview and class times conflict. Over 40 employers have signed up to participate in this new initiative later this year. This program will provide a competitive advantage for participating employers by allowing them to reach students early.
- Big Apple Legal Recruiting Conference – New York City-area employers seeking legal professionals will interview students from 19 law schools around the nation, including Georgia Law.
- Atlanta Legal Hiring Conference – Spring-hiring employers from the Southeast have the opportunity to interview students from 13 select law schools from six southeastern states.
- Prosecutors' Interview Program – This initiative is held in conjunction with the Georgia Prosecuting Attorney's Council Educational Conference granting those interested in becoming a prosecutor the opportunity to meet and be interviewed by several potential employers in one place.
- Mid-Atlantic Legal Recruiting Conference – This conference provides Washington, D.C.-area employers the opportunity to interview students from six top tier schools.
- 1L Weekends – In a casual environment on campus, employers have the opportunity to meet first-year students. Friday is reserved for an informal mixer with optional interviews scheduled for Saturday.
- Faculty Perspectives on Legal Hiring Seminar – This seminar allows students to seek guidance and information on a variety of legal practice areas. Also, students learn that the faculty supports them during this sometimes difficult and stressful job-seeking period.
- Faculty Outreach Letters and Reception – In January, members of the faculty write personal letters to third-year students seeking jobs offering them encouragement and assistance. Additionally, an informal reception is held during the spring semester to bolster the spirits of students who have not yet found legal employment.
- Introduction Letters to Alumni - The Office of Legal Career Services writes personal letters to alumni living in a far away geographic area to which a student wants to move. These letters introduce the student, their desired practice area and when they plan to relocate.
- City/Regional Events – This relatively new scheme has produced good results. Accompanying Dean David Shipley on his trips to visit alumni around the state and region are students and resumes. This affords potential employers the opportunity to meet students and/or obtain resumes for future legal openings.
- Career Consultant for a Day – This program allows students to meet with Law Dawgs wanting to share their occupational experience by offering students an informal atmosphere to ask candid questions about the legal world and different employment options.

All of these schemes complement the long list of successful programs the Office of Legal Career Services has offered for many years and should further assist Georgia Law students in successfully gaining employment.

If you would like more information to participate in one of these initiatives, please call (706) 542-7541 or visit the law school's Web site at *www.law.uga.edu* and click on Career Services. Remember, there is also a section for alumni seeking a change in their career.

Professors Dan Coenen (center) and Anne Dupre (right) discuss career options with a student during a faculty/student reception. Both Coenen and Dupre serve on the Faculty Placement Committee with professors Peter Appel, Randy Beck, Lonnie Brown, Alan Cook and Paul Kurtz.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR 2002 LAW GRADUATES

Final employment figures for the Class of 2002 were reported to the National Association for Law Placement in March, nine months after graduation. This is the standard reporting date.

Total Graduates	229
Total Reporting Employment Status	227
Employed	95.6% of known
Private Practice	68.2% of employed
Business/Industry	6.0% of employed
Government	11.1% of employed
Judicial Clerkships	11.1% of employed
Public Interest	1.8% of employed
Academic	1.8% of employed
Advanced Degree Programs	2.6% of known
Unemployed, Not Seeking	0.9% of known

Class of 2002 graduates obtained employment in 18 different states, including Washington, D.C., with an average starting salary of $73,330.

Kurtz Completes Service on Indigent Defense Commission

In December 2002, the Chief Justice's Commission on Indigent Defense issued its full report to the Georgia Supreme Court with recommendations to improve the fairness of the Georgia courts. Associate Dean Paul Kurtz served on this committee in the leadership role of reporter.

The commission's report called on the state to assume the responsibility of paying for indigent defense and to establish and enforce basic standards for indigent defense programs. The commission concluded the state is failing to meet its constitutional duty to protect the rights of indigents and to fund their defense. The report recommends Georgia's indigent defense system be reorganized on the basis of the state's 49 judicial circuits instead of its 159 counties. This new system, to be phased in over a three-year transition period, would be administered through a Georgia Indigent Defense Board representing all regions of the state.

Commission Chair Charles Morgan said Kurtz was a "stalwart" of the commission. "His humor and grace helped us survive many long hours, not to mention his patience with our comments on his various drafts. We were not certain how a prominent law professor would react to being on the 'receiving end' of 'suggestions' from his colleagues on the commission." Morgan proceeded to say Kurtz did an outstanding job as reporter.

In April, the majority of the commission's recommendations were enacted by the state's legislature. ■