

A Tribute to Larry Blount

By Associate Director of Admissions Gregory L. Roseboro (J.D.'87)

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On Sunday, May 2nd, the Georgia Law community was saddened by the sudden passing of our friend and colleague Associate Professor Larry E. Blount. The loss of Professor Blount, who joined the law school in 1976 as its first African-American faculty member, ends the tenure of not only an excellent legal scholar, but also one who served as a mentor and friend to countless of students and alumni over the past 28 years. The outpouring of sympathy from the community at large also points to the fact that Professor Blount's impact reached far beyond the walls of the law school and the university.

It has been said that Professor Blount could take a subject like tax, intimidating to many, and with wit and humor, bring it to life. Professor Blount challenged his students to look beyond the obvious and pull out of the gray areas of the law the principles that lay beneath the surface. His exams were looked upon as four hours of mental calisthenics that left one mentally drained but intellectually stronger.

However, for all of his intellectual abilities, the thing that stood out most about Professor Blount was his genuine concern for his students and those around him. He could be characterized as a “student's professor.” He spent many hours talking to students about issues relating to the law, as well as life. In a recent address to the Black Law Students Association, Professor Blount, who served as the group's faculty advisor for many years, stated he was not a meddler or an interloper as it related to issues or concerns of students, but that he was there to lend a listening ear and advice where it was needed.

This year, BLSA created the Larry E. Blount Award. Professor



Blount was at the banquet where it was announced that this award would be given annually to a third-year student who exemplified qualities of leadership and concern for others, while maintaining academic excellence. It was a fitting tribute to a man who has given so much to so many. We can only be happy that he had the opportunity to be recognized and thanked during his lifetime for his great service to the law school.

Professor Blount specialized in the areas of federal income tax, partnership tax, corporate tax, tax policy, and law and religion. His legacy includes instrumental work on the last major revision of Georgia's Constitution and the unification of the governments of the city of Athens and Clarke County. Other

interests of this scholar were tax policy and affirmative action issues.

A person very devoted to his community, Professor Blount's list of civic affiliations was lengthy. A few of these groups included: Leadership Athens, Leadership Georgia, the Governor's White House Council on Small and Minority Business, 4C Child Care Program, Morton Theater Corporation, Bridgeway Boys Home, Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Community Care Program, Clarke County NAACP, National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Jubilee Partners, Inc. In addition, he served as a spiritual leader for members of the Baptist community for nearly a decade.

Professor Blount passed away just 15 days prior to his 54th birthday. He is survived by his wife Sandra; three daughters, Carlene, Kendra and Erin; his mother; a sister; two brothers; and three grandchildren. We will miss him greatly. ■

Memorial gifts in honor of Professor Larry Blount are being accepted with plans of awarding a scholarship in his name in the near future.

Please send your gift to the UGA School of Law, Attn: Dean Rebecca White, Athens, GA 30602.

Checks should be made out to "UGA Foundation-Law School Fund" and identified for the "Blount Memorial Scholarship."