

White permanently takes deanship

Rebecca Hanner White became permanent dean of Georgia Law on October 1, after serving in the position on an interim basis for 14 months. She is the 12th dean of the school and the first female to head the unit in its 145-year history.

UGA provost and senior vice president for academic affairs Arnett C. Mace Jr. said he and UGA President Michael F. Adams decided to appoint White to the position based on her outstanding performance in the interim role and strong support from the school's faculty, staff and alumni.

White, who also holds a J. Alton Hosch Professorship in the school, became interim dean July 1, 2003.

"Rebecca has clearly demonstrated that she has the necessary combination of professional competence and personal leadership skills to guide the law school's growth in the coming years," Adams said. "The school has made important advances under her leadership as interim dean, and we are delighted that she will continue to devote her energy, vision and commitment to attaining higher goals of academic excellence."



The 12th dean of Georgia Law, Rebecca White. Photo courtesy of Alison Church/Fulton County Daily Report.

Mace added that White's relationship with the school's faculty, students and alumni was an important factor in her appointment.

"Rebecca has the respect of her fellow faculty members as well as staff and students in the law school, and she has also won the confidence of Georgia's legal community, which is heavily comprised of Georgia Law graduates," Mace said. "This network of support will be extremely valuable as she works to strengthen instruction, scholarship and outreach in the school."

Prior to becoming interim dean, White was associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs. An authority in the

areas of labor law, employment law, employment discrimination and labor arbitration, she joined the law school faculty in 1989.

White received the Josiah Meigs Award, UGA's top teaching honor, in 2000, and law graduates have chosen her six times to receive the law school's Faculty Book Award for teaching excellence. She is a member of UGA's Teaching Academy and has been a senior teaching fellow and a senior faculty fellow for the Foundation Fellows program.

She is coauthor of a textbook and a treatise on employment discrimination, has written numerous articles for law reviews and is on the editorial board of the *Labor Law Journal*. Her scholarship is often cited in decisions by federal and state courts across the country.

White graduated first in her class from the University of Kentucky College of Law and served as a judicial clerk to Chief Judge George C. Edwards of the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. She practiced labor and employment law with the Cincinnati office of Dinsmore & Shohl for seven years before joining UGA.

- *Written in part by Larry Dendy*