



School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Prepare.
Connect.
Lead.

Digital Commons @ University of
Georgia School of Law

Other Law School Publications

Digital Archives

9-18-1984

Dean's Letter to the Alumni

J. Ralph Beard

University of Georgia School of Law

Repository Citation

Beard, J. Ralph, "Dean's Letter to the Alumni" (1984). *Other Law School Publications*. 238.
https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/lectures_pre_arch_archives_other/238

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Digital Archives at Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Other Law School Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law. [Please share how you have benefited from this access](#) For more information, please contact tstriepe@uga.edu.



Dear Law School Alumnus:

With the beginning of the Fall Semester on August 23, the Law School has embarked on what will surely will be a landmark year in its history. The 1984-85 academic year will be a time of celebration, evaluation, and continued progress.

The celebration, of course, will revolve around this fall's 125th Anniversary of the founding of the School of Law and the Bicentennial Celebration of the University of Georgia. Both events will provide special opportunities for you to renew your ties with the Law School. Among these special one-time events are:

1. University of Georgia Bicentennial Convocation
October 1, 1984. President Reagan is expected to speak at this convocation which will also include a colorful academic procession.
10:30 a.m. - Coliseum
2. Law School's 125th Anniversary Celebration
October 12-13, 1984. Solicitor General Rex Lee's Sibley Lecture will be at 3:30 p.m., October 12 in the Law Auditorium. (for other events see the announcement with this newsletter).
3. Re-opening of the Joseph Henry Lumpkin House and Presentation of Colonial Judicial Robes to the School of Law
November 4, 1984. The Lumpkin House, home of Georgia's first Chief Justice and co-founder of the Law School, has undergone extensive renovation with private funding given by the descendants of Lumpkin and the other justices of the first Georgia Supreme Court, Eugenius Nisbet and Hiram Warner, as well as other

700
private gifts. Memorial rooms will be designated at the 4:00 p.m. ceremony, followed by a tea reception. Earlier in the day, at 2:30 p.m., the Georgia chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists will present to the School three colonial judicial robes of the type worn by Georgia's judiciary when the colony was founded.
2:30 p.m. - Law School Courtroom

4. Session of the Supreme Court of Georgia
The Supreme Court will conduct a regular session in the Law School's courtroom at 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 5. The session, as was the one three years ago, will be a valuable learning experience for our law students.
5. Georgia Law Alumni Breakfast
January 10 (tentative) 8:00 a.m.
Atlanta - Hotel to be announced
6. U.G.A. "Night Around the World"
Founders Banquet, Coliseum
January 26, 1985. This is the high point, or actual birthday celebration, of the University's Bicentennial.
7. Edith House Lecture
Lecturer: Justice Shirley Abrahamson,
Supreme Court of Wisconsin
March 7, 1985
8. The John A. Sibley Lecture
for the spring semester
March 27, 1985
Lecturer: Sir Zelman Cowen, Provost of Oriel College, Oxford and former Governor-General of Australia.
9. Scholar-in-Residence Visit
by Professor Louis Loss, Harvard Law School
subject area: securities regulation
March 23-27, 1985
10. Law Day
April 20, 1985. Speaker to be announced.
11. UGA Bicentennial Exposition
April 27, 1985. This will be a campus-wide open house and fair to demonstrate the instruction, research, and service outreach of The University of Georgia. It will be an enjoyable day for the entire family.
12. Annual Meeting - Law School Association
June 14, 1985 8:00 a.m.
Hyatt Hotel- Savannah

Also, the law classes of 1969 and 1939 plan to hold reunions this fall. The 15th reunion will be held November 3. Joe Bruckner and Nat Slaughter head the planning committee. The 45th reunion, planned for October 13, is being arranged by Dean Covington. Contact these fellow graduates if you have not received a reunion notice.

The year ahead will be one of intense self-evaluation by the Law School. As you may recall, the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools review our educational

programs for compliance with accreditation standards every seven years. The last ABA-AALS inspection was in 1978. The inspection team will consist of faculty and administrators from other law schools as well as practitioners and judges. Prior to the inspection team's visit, various committees of faculty, staff, and students, headed by Associate Dean Ellen Jordan, will engage in a meticulous self-assessment of our programs, procedures, and activities. I have full confidence for a positive report by the inspection team following its visit. The 1978 ABA-AALS inspection team's report referred to the School of Law as "a law school ten years ahead of its reputation."

The last item that I wish to share with you concerns the level of quality we have continued in the School of Law's student body. As I have told many of you personally, the aspect of legal education which is undergoing the most dramatic change is the admission and enrollment of highly qualified students. The single factor of demographics is making a big impact on law school admissions; the "baby boomers" are already among you. There are significantly fewer students graduating from college and there are fewer undergraduate students interested in legal careers because of the perceived "lawyer glut." Questionable but highly publicized negative comments about the legal profession by spokesmen at other law schools and universities have also contributed to the decline in interest.

In business terms, the School of Law and all other law schools face a "shrinking market" for students. As reported to you in the Georgia Advocate (Summer 1984) some law schools this past year had application shortfalls of 20 percent or more under 1982-83 figures. Nationally, some 12 percent fewer students applied to fall 1984 law classes. Georgia steered away from the national trend in that its decline in applications was slightly over three percent from 1982-83 to the present. Despite some nervousness throughout this past year, we met all of our goals for admission. Enrolled is one of the finest first year law classes in the Southeast and what will probably be realized as among the finest in the nation.

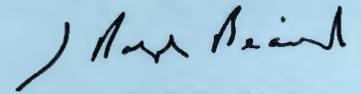
The fall entering class consists of 192 highly qualified J.D. candidates as well as 14 LL.M. candidates. The LSAT median for the J.D. candidates is 38 (84th percentile) which is the same as last year. The average undergraduate grade point average for the class is 3.3. The number of minority students enrolled is 11 percent of the class - one of our highest percentages ever. Another record is the percentage of females in the first-year class: Women make up 42 percent of the entering enrollment. You may also be interested to know that 74 undergraduate institutions around the country are represented in the first year class; we are always pleased when highly qualified Georgians come back home for law school.

Due in large part to the generosity of alumni and friends, 40 students in the first year class were awarded academic merit scholarships. While we are pleased to be able to offer what we

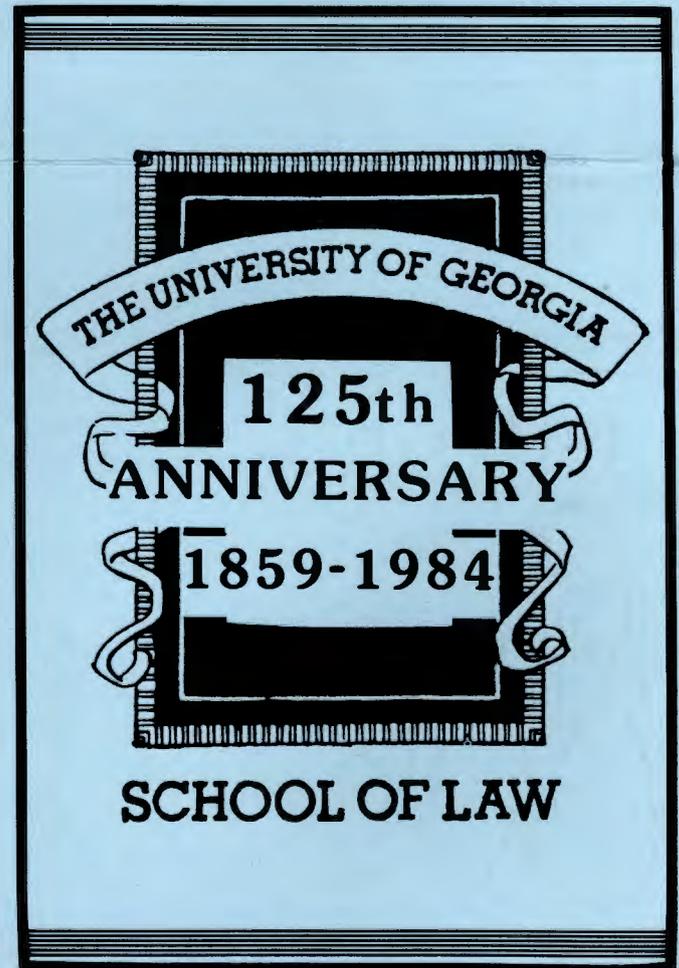
have to outstanding students, you know that I always seek more. I know of several occasions this past spring when I was disappointed to learn that an outstanding student accepted a scholarship to go elsewhere to law school because we are limited in the amounts we can offer.

I hope that you will continue to be personally involved in the activities of your Law School. This year you can celebrate the 125th Anniversary of success in legal education, take pride in a record of accomplishment, and continue to support the progress of our admission efforts through your positive advisement to prospective lawyers and your support of scholarship funding. Your help is needed to maintain our reputation of attracting the best qualified law students to Georgia.

Sincerely,



J. Ralph Beard,
Dean
September 18, 1984



**SPECIAL
EVENT**

**The John A. Sibley
LECTURESHIPS**

**SPECIAL
EVENT**

*Class of 1939
Reunion
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.
Charlie Williams'
Pinecrest Lodge*

Friday, October 12, 1984
John A. Sibley Lecture presented by
The Honorable Rex E. Lee
Solicitor General of the United States
Law School Auditorium
3:30 p.m.

*Order of the Coif
Induction
for
Class of 1984*

*Courtroom
10:45 a.m.
Saturday*

The Dean and Faculty of
The University of Georgia School of Law
invite you to join in the

**125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
LUMPKIN LAW SCHOOL 1859 - 1984**

SOCIAL

DINNER

LODGING

*Cocktails
Preceding Dinner
Convention Center*

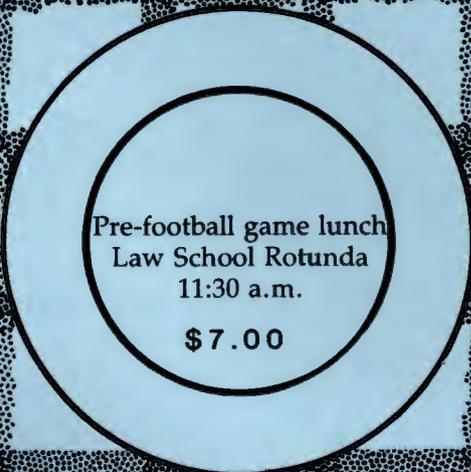
Dinner and Musical Comedy Performance:
"The Best of the Libel Shows: Decades Past"
Classic City Convention Center, Athens
6:30 p.m.

\$17.50 PER PERSON

*Lodging
headquarters
will be the
Holiday Inn
of
Athens*

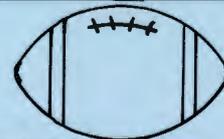
PRE-GAME LUNCH

**GEORGIA vs.
OLE MISS**



Pre-football game lunch
Law School Rotunda
11:30 a.m.
\$7.00

Saturday, October 13, 1984
Multi-Media Presentation on the
History of the School of Law
Law School Auditorium
10:00 a.m.



**Reply Card – 125th Anniversary Celebration
The University of Georgia School of Law**

Name _____

Address _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons to attend the Social Hour/Dinner/Comedy
Performance October 12.

Cost per person: \$17.50

(The Classic City Convention Center is located at 415 East Clayton Street, Athens.)

Please make reservations for _____ persons to attend the Pre-game lunch on October 13,
Law School Rotunda.

Cost per person: \$7.00

Make checks payable to: Law School Association and mail to: Alumni Programs Office,
School of Law, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.

School of Law
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage
PAID
Athens, GA 30602
Permit No. 390

4821070 811231
MR ERWIN CAMPBELL SURRENCY
420 HICKORY HILL DR
WATKINSVILLE GA 30677