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Dean's Letter to the Alumni

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Dear Law School Alumnus:

As the University of Georgia School of Law commences its new academic year, I find it an appropriate time to extend greetings to our valued alumni.

You are probably interested in news of our alumni association activity, so I'll give a brief update on these matters before proceeding with an account of our academic program for 1975-76.

The Law School Association elected its officers for 1975-76 during the State Bar of Georgia meeting in June. Robert H. Smalley of Griffin will serve as President and Tom W. Daniel of Perry is President-elect. Verner F. Chaffin continues as Secretary and Upshaw Bentley of Athens as Treasurer.

The annual luncheon of the Association took place in Athens on May 3, 1975. About 150 alumni and guests attended. Lieutenant-Governor Zell Miller delivered the luncheon address and President William B. Gunter presented distinguished service scrolls to the Honorable Arthur K. Bolton and the Honorable Charles L. Gowen.

About this time last fall, Mr. Felton Jenkins of Atlanta was elected Chairman of the Law School Board of Visitors to succeed Judge Sidney O. Smith whose term expired December 31, 1974. Mr. Charles Kimbrell of Miami, Mr. J. Beverly Langford of Calhoun and Mr. Anton F. Solms of Savannah are new Board members.

The alumni events in the near future are:

1. Homecoming Open House
Saturday, October 4 (Clemson game)
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Coffee will be served in the Law School Auditorium foyer and members of the Law Dames organization will be available to guide visitors around the building.

2. Georgia Alumni Breakfast
December 5th at 8:00 a.m. in the 590 West Restaurant - 25th Floor, Stouffers Atlanta Inn during the Mid-Year Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia.

When you have suggestions concerning the Law School or when we can assist you in any way, give me a call at 1-404-542-7140; call one of your Association officers or a member of the Board of Visitors or, better still, deliver your message personally at Homecoming Open House or the Alumni Breakfast in December. The alumni of a law school are its investment in the future and we count on you for advice and support.

In the school year ending in June we had 670 students in the Law School. We enrolled 217 students in the first year class for the Fall Quarter, 1975 and of this number 61 are women. Our total enrollment this fall is 662. Approximately 15 percent of our students are residents from other states. Applications for admission to the Law School are decreasing and this reflects a national pattern. We find the qualifications of the applicants excellent but we are selecting students from a pool of decreasing size. In the class entering the first year this fall the average LSAT is 623, the same as last year and the average grade point average is 3.31 as compared with 3.32 last year.

We anticipate gradually decreasing the size of our entering class to permit more individual instruction, greater opportunities for clinical training, and greater opportunities for employment. Our student-faculty ratio this year is 27-1 which is not very good. A minimally acceptable level is 20-1 and a ratio of 15-1 is desirable if a great deal of individual attention is to be given the students.

New members of the faculty this year are Assistant Professor Paul M. Kurtz, who received his J.D. degree from Vanderbilt and his LL.M. degree from Harvard, and will teach Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Appellate Practice; Assistant Professor Gregory S. Alexander, who received his J.D. degree from Northwestern and will teach Contracts, Federal Courts and Jurisprudence; and Visiting Associate Professor Josef Rohlik, who received LL.B. and JUDr. degrees from Charles University in Prague and his LL.M. degree from Columbia, and who will teach Commercial Paper, Sales, Comparative Law and Eastern European Legal Systems. Mr. Thomas Kennerly Carroll of Atlanta is teaching one section of the Income Tax Course on a part-time basis. Mr. Carroll received his J.D. degree from Georgia in 1973.

On leave this year are Professor Charles L. Saunders who continues as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service; Professor Samuel M. Davis who is visiting the Washington and Lee Law School; Professor Donald E. Wilkes, Jr., who is on a fellowship in Law and the Humanities at Harvard; Professor Ira B. Shepard who is visiting the

University of Houston Law School and Professor John B. Rees who is on leave for medical reasons. Professor Verner F. Chaffin will be teaching half time this year as he works on a proposed revision of the Georgia Fiduciary Law.

We are relying increasingly on active practitioners to assist us in law school instruction. These practitioners bring to their classes experience direct from the "firing line" and are also stimulating colleagues. Thus, Mr. Edwin B. Fortson of Athens and Mr. James L. Edmondson of Lawrenceville currently offer Trial Practice. Messrs. Eugene Epting and Gary Blasingame of Athens offered a course in Legal Profession last year and again will offer the course in the Spring Quarter 1976. Mr. Denny Galis of Athens will collaborate with Associate Dean Phillips in a Legal Professions course for the Winter Quarter 1976. Mr. Larry McLeod of Athens offered an Estate Planning Seminar for the Spring Quarter 1975, Col. Edward Newton of Atlanta offered Patent Law in the same quarter and Mr. Charles Johnson, III, of Atlanta will offer an Anti-Trust Seminar in the Spring Quarter 1976.

Professor W. Ray Phillips was named Associate Dean as of September 1, 1975. Professor Beard was promoted to "University Professor" during the last academic year and Professor Donald Wilkes was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Georgia has an excellent law faculty but keeping the faculty we have and attracting new faculty members will be an increasing problem until the law school can receive stronger support from public and private sources. The ability of a Dean to maintain and build a law faculty is enhanced by the presence of several conditions. There must be a stimulating intellectual environment; and this is produced by adequate support for research and the presence of bright and alert students in the institution. The salary of faculty members must be sufficiently high to meet the competition of law firms and other law schools for their services. Merit in teaching and research must be rewarded. Money is not, as Lord Coke would put it, "the metwand

that transforms the institution," but if one does not have money the intellectual fabric of the law school and thus the quality of its graduates frays rapidly.

I must report to you that the Law School budget, along with the budgets of other schools in the University, was cut approximately 1.8 percent for the present year. There was no new public money for faculty positions although the trustees of the Lorida Foundation established the Shackelford Chair of Taxation in honor of the late distinguished Francis Shackelford of Atlanta. A search is now underway for an incumbent. Secretarial support for the faculty (badly needed) could not be expanded and funds for student research support of faculty members was greatly curtailed. This is not to suggest that the Law School was being singled out for adverse treatment but simply to observe that the Law School suffers when funding for the University of Georgia is reduced. The "Recession-Inflation" also took its toll. Scholarships, for example, went down from \$90,000 to about \$72,000 for the year although we were able to eliminate the large deficit in the Law School's "Various Account" in the University, upon which scholarships had been drawn in earlier years, the deficit standing at about \$11,000 in 1974-75 before it was eliminated.

When you mark your University of Georgia Alumni pledge card this fall, President Smalley of the Law School Alumni Association and I request that you indicate on the card that your contribution will go to the Law School Fund of the Georgia Foundation. This will help us in meeting some of the heavy expenses to which we are subject. We draw on the fund to support all of our alumni activities including the publication of the Georgia Advocate, so ably produced by Mrs. Gwen Wood (formerly Miss Gwen Yawn but now Mrs. Richard Barry Wood, the wife of the University's Director of Public Relations).

When you have an opportunity come by the Law School, visit classes, talk to the faculty and students and let us know how you think your Law School might be improved.

Cordially,

Neill H. Applegate

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