

11th service learning opportunity created at Georgia Law

Students at Georgia Law can now explore the practice of law from the perspective of an in-house counsel through the school's newest service learning offering, the Corporate Counsel Externship.

This course is designed to benefit not only students interested in an in-house career but also those who will work in law firms and deal with in-house counsels as their primary client contacts.

Those enrolled in the externship are placed with a corporate legal department to gain hands-on experience.

They also attend a weekly seminar to further develop skill sets such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, legal analysis, problem solving and drafting.

Off-site organizations participating in the program include: Acuity Brands, Aflac, the American Cancer Society, AT&T Advertising Solutions, the Asbury Automotive Group, Atlanta Public Schools, Cox Communications, Crawford & Company, the Federal Reserve Bank, InterContinental Hotels Group, St. Mary's Hospital and Yahoo!, among others.

The course was created in conjunction with Georgia Law's recently formalized Business Law and Ethics Program.

It is headed by former National Service Industries President Carol E. Morgan (J.D.'79).

The purpose of this program is to ensure law students are prepared to advise business clients in a dynamic and global economy.

In addition to learning about the complex laws and regulations affecting business organizations, students participating in the Business Law and Ethics Program gain an understanding of business practices and principles as well as ethical issues confronting today's corporate leaders.



Annual Red Clay Conference explores tri-state water dispute

The ongoing dispute between Alabama, Florida and Georgia over water allocation from the Chattahoochee River was examined at the 22nd Annual Red Clay Conference.

Topics included the grass-roots movement by the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders to reach an agreement, an assessment of Atlanta's role in the dispute, an outlook on the environment in 50 years should no compromise be reached and alternative solutions to the conflict.

"The tri-state water dispute impacts our generation and generations to come," conference co-chair and second-year law student Kathleen E. Nelson said. "Because of this, we wanted to create a forum where practitioners, academics and citizens of the Southeast could come together and explore potential solutions."

Suggested resolutions by panelists ranged from using existing water supplies more efficiently and recycling wastewater into drinking water to pursuing a longstanding claim that the border with Tennessee is incorrectly drawn and should be moved north to include the Tennessee River.

Keynote speakers Joseph W. Dellapenna, a professor at the Villanova University School of Law, and J. Rutherford Seydel II, a partner at Davis, Pickren & Seydel, also examined the issues in their respective presentations titled "The Tri-State Water Dispute: Is There a Way Forward?" and "Are We Tapped Out Yet? Think Globally, Act Locally."

Other participants included representatives from the Tri Rivers Waterway Development Association, the Lake Lanier Association and Apalachicola Riverkeeper; attorneys specializing in a variety of environmental law areas; and environmental policy, renewable energy and water resource scholars.

"By taking so many different views into account, this conference provided a full examination of the tri-state water allocation dispute and hopefully laid the groundwork for forward progress in this critical area of sustainability," Nelson said.

The Red Clay Conference is entirely student organized by members of Georgia Law's Environmental Law Association. It was established to increase public awareness of environmental issues through a series of educational presentations and open forum discussions. ELA's mission is to advance sound environmental policy, encourage discussion and raise awareness among attorneys and lawmakers here in Georgia and throughout the Southeast.