

Fifth Georgia Law grad in seven years to be selected for Supreme Court clerkship

Georgia Law 2009 graduate Brian C. Lea will be heading to the U.S. Supreme Court this fall to serve as a judicial clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas, making him the fifth former Georgia Law student to be selected during the last seven years to clerk for the highest court in our country.



“This is a tremendous achievement for Brian, and we are extremely proud of him,” Dean Rebecca Hanner White said. “A U.S. Supreme Court clerkship is considered one of the most elite appointments a law school graduate can obtain. Brian’s selection is a testament to his outstanding academic ability and accomplishments, and I am confident he will do an exceptional job.”

White added, “Our students have had great success in recent years in being chosen for these very prestigious positions. It is gratifying to see their talent, hard work and dedication recognized and to know that the school provided them with an excellent foundation in the law.”

Lea graduated first in his law class, where he received numerous awards and honors for his academic achievements, served as an articles editor for the *Georgia Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

He served as a judicial clerk for Judge Ed Carnes of the U.S. Court of Appeals

for the 11th Circuit before joining DLA Piper as a litigation associate in the firm’s Atlanta office. He plans to remain with the firm until his October 2011 Term clerkship begins.

“I cannot think of a greater honor and privilege than clerking for our nation’s highest court,” Lea said. “I am humbled to have this opportunity and am thoroughly looking forward to working for Justice Thomas as he addresses the most important legal issues in our nation.”

Lea stated that this opportunity would not have been possible without the help and guidance of Carnes, White and Georgia Law professors Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge and Lonnie T. Brown, among others.

“Each of those people really stepped up to the plate to help me, and I am extraordinarily grateful,” Lea said. “I very much enjoyed my time at Georgia Law. The quality of the educational experience at the school is outstanding and the faculty regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty for students. It was a terrific three years.”

Lea’s clerkship will bring the total number of Georgia Law graduates who have clerked for U.S. Supreme Court justices to nine.

The other eight Georgia Law alumni who have served the highest court in this capacity are: Merritt E. McAlister (J.D.’07), clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens in 2009; Jason T. Burnette (J.D.’06), clerked for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. in 2007; Adam M. Conrad (J.D.’05), clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas in 2006; John H. Longwell (J.D.’99), clerked for Justice Stephen G. Breyer in 2005; Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.’88), clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun in 1989; Bruce P. Brown (J.D.’84), clerked for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1986; Glen M. Darbyshire (J.D.’84), clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1985; and Benna R. Solomon (J.D.’78), clerked for Justice Byron R. White in 1980.



Georgia Law scores well in sending grads to Supreme Court

Last fall, *The New York Times* examined the schools from which 2005-10 U.S. Supreme Court clerks obtained their law degrees. Georgia Law is listed third among public law schools and 11th overall.

1. Harvard University	54
2. Yale University	50
3. University of Virginia*	16
4. Stanford University	15
5. University of Chicago	12
6. Columbia University	10
7. Georgetown University	7
8. University of Michigan*	5
Northwestern University	5
New York University	5
11. University of Georgia*	4
George Washington University	4

*Public university.

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—Brian Lea (J.D.’09)

Two outstanding senior hires fill the Sibley and Woodruff positions

Joining the Georgia Law faculty this fall and bolstering its corporate and international law offerings will be Larry D. Thompson, former deputy attorney general for the United States and former senior vice president of government affairs, general counsel and secretary for PepsiCo; and Diane Marie Amann from the University of California at Davis.

As the Sibley Professor in Corporate and Business Law, Thompson will be teaching courses in the areas of corporate law and white collar crime.

No stranger to UGA, Thompson has been a visiting professor and guest speaker several times during the past decade and was confirmed as the second in command at the Justice Department while teaching a course at the law school during 2001.

As deputy attorney general, a post he held from 2001 to 2003, Thompson supervised the overall operations of the DOJ and led its National Security Coordination Council, its Corporate Fraud Task Force and its Enron investigation. Then, in 2004, he became responsible for the worldwide legal function of PepsiCo, one of the largest convenient food and beverage companies in the world, where he served through May 2011.

Previously, he worked as a partner in the Atlanta office of King & Spalding and served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. Thompson earned his bachelor's degree from Culver-Stockton College, his master's from Michigan State University and his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Amann will be joining the law school as the holder of the Woodruff Chair in International Law, where she will teach International Law and the Laws of War.



Amann (left) and Thompson (above)

Her research examines the interaction of national, regional and international legal regimes in an effort to combat atrocity and cross-border crime. She has published more than four dozen chapters and articles in English, French and Italian in numerous respected national and international publications.

While at UC Davis, where she taught since 1995, Amann served as the founding director of the California International Law Center.

Prior to joining academe, she served as a judicial clerk for Judge Prentice H. Marshall of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court, whose biography she is writing. She also practiced law as an associate at Morrison & Foerster and as an assistant federal public defender in San Francisco.

Amann earned her bachelor's degree with highest honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; her master's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles; her law degree *cum laude* from Northwestern University, where she served as note and comment editor of the *Northwestern University Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif; and her Dr.h.c. in law from the Universiteit Utrecht in the Netherlands.

Veterans Claims Court visits campus

This past fall, Georgia Law hosted a session of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

"This court plays a unique and important role in the judicial system by specifically focusing on veterans' rights," Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Paul M. Kurtz said.

"It is a great honor to welcome these judges to the School of Law," he added. "It is also a rare opportunity and a privilege for people in our community to have a chance to observe the workings of this court and sit in on a case."



Judge Mary Schoelen told an *Athens Banner-Herald* reporter that the Veterans Claims Court does a lot of outreach with the hope of interesting students in doing pro bono work for veterans.

The case heard in the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom involved a Vietnam War veteran who was refused benefits for post-traumatic stress.

The Veterans Claims Court has exclusive jurisdiction to provide veterans an impartial judicial review of final decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, an entity within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The court rules on matters involving administrative decisions on service-connected disabilities, survivor benefits, education payments, waivers of indebtedness and other benefits.

Litigation clinic creates new opportunities

Georgia Law students are now working on cases in federal appeals courts as part of the school's newest clinic, the Appellate Litigation Clinic. Its creation this past year brings the total number of service learning opportunities available to students to 12.

Overseen by Associate Professor Erica J. Hashimoto, this clinic operates as a small appellate litigation firm with students accepting appointments from the U.S. Courts of Appeals and the Board of Immigration Appeals to represent indigent clients. They then work in teams to draft briefs and handle oral arguments when necessary.

Hashimoto said the school started the clinic to give students the opportunity

to gain experience in an appellate setting while helping clients who might not otherwise receive any legal counsel.

"I think this opportunity is teaching our students how much work it takes to produce a quality brief and also how gratifying it is to see the progress from their work," Hashimoto said. "I want them to get a taste of real life practice and to learn how to provide quality representation."

Third-year student Catherine Henson Curlet said she decided to participate in the clinic for that exact reason.

"I wanted an opportunity to apply the foundation of knowledge I acquired in law school to the actual experience of representing a client on appeal," Curlet said.

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—Third-year student Catherine Curlet

This desire became a reality for Curlet when, as part of her work with the clinic, she received the chance to argue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"Working with a team of my peers as well as with Professor Hashimoto on an ongoing case has been incredibly rewarding," Curlet added. "I have learned so much, and I know it will make me a stronger advocate as I start my career as an attorney."

Coming soon . . . A significant transformation of the law school

To address the overcrowding of limited public and office spaces within the law school complex, the summer renovation project of Hirsch Hall and the 1967 expansion will involve enclosing the exterior passageway on the first floor, resulting in additional square footage for community and student spaces.

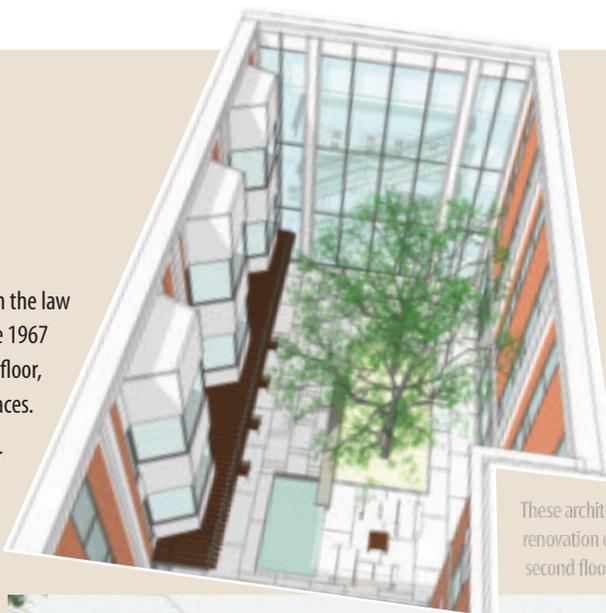
The Sutherland Courtyard also will be completely refurbished in order to make this exterior space more functional and appealing.

Interior views from the building will be opened up to the courtyard allowing for natural light throughout the area, and the south façade facing the courtyard will be replaced entirely with glass.

Additionally, a three-level grand stairway will be constructed just inside of this very large window to further create a sense of connectivity between the new interior space and the courtyard.

Plans call for the first phase of this construction to be completed in time for classes to begin in the fall.

Generous contributions from alumni and friends have helped make these enhancements possible. For information on how you can participate in this effort, please contact Director of Development Scotty G. Mann at 706-542-7985 or scottym@uga.edu.



These architectural renderings depict the renovation of the Sutherland Courtyard and the second floor of the law school's main building.



To view more architectural drawings, please visit www.law.uga.edu/renovation-2011.



Howard (left) and Lithwick (above)

Former Georgia lieutenant governor and noted legal journalist return to Athens to teach

Two returning high-profile guests topped Georgia Law's list of visiting professors for the spring semester.

Former Georgia Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard (J.D.'68) taught Law and Politics, while *Slate* magazine's Dahlia Lithwick taught a class titled The Media and The Courts.

"We were very honored and excited to have Pierre Howard and Dahlia Lithwick teaching courses at the law school this spring," Dean Rebecca Hanner White said.

"We strive to offer our students a strong and varied curriculum. I am confident that by studying under distinguished guests, our students gain valuable insights into the role of law in our society that they otherwise would not have experienced."

Serving as a Sanders Political Leadership Scholar, Howard has a long and distinguished public service record that includes representing the 42nd District of Georgia as a state senator for 18 years as well as serving as our state's lieutenant governor from 1991 to 1999 and as a municipal court judge in the city of Decatur.

After earning both his law and bachelor's degrees from UGA, Howard practiced law with his father before forming his own firm in 1976, four years after becoming a state senator.

In 1993, he joined Alston & Bird, where he practiced until 1999 and became a Senior Faculty Fellow at the UGA School of Ecology. In 2009, Howard was named to his current post as president of the Georgia Conservancy.

Lithwick, who served as the school's Edith House Lecturer in 2010, is a senior editor and legal correspondent for *Slate* magazine. She writes the "Supreme Court Dispatches" and "Jurisprudence" sections for *Slate* in addition to covering other legal issues.

Her work has also appeared in *Elle*, *The New Republic*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, the *Ottawa Citizen* and *The Washington Post* as well as on CNN.com. She is a frequent commentator for several National Public Radio shows, including "Talk of the Nation."

Lithwick earned her undergraduate degree *cum laude* from Yale University and her Juris Doctor from Stanford University. Additionally, she served as a judicial clerk for Chief Judge Procter Ralph Hug Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

The Sanders Political Leadership Scholar position is named for Georgia's 74th Governor and Georgia Law 1948 alumnus, Carl E. Sanders. It was created so law students could learn from individuals who have distinguished themselves as leaders in politics or other forms of public service.

"[B]y studying under distinguished guests, our students gain valuable insights into the role of law in our society ..."

—Dean Rebecca White

Students recognized nationally for excellence

Third-year student **Texys V. Morris** was one of two law students selected for an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship at the Georgetown University Law Center. This two-year program, which leads to a Master of Laws degree, is part of the school's Criminal Justice Clinic and trains recent law graduates in both the academic and practical aspects of courtroom advocacy through classroom instruction and the representation of indigent defendants in local courts.

Third-year student **Ashland J. Johnson** was selected for a two-year fellowship with the National Women's Law Center in the organization's Health and Reproductive Justice Department. Johnson was one of two law students to receive this fellowship after a nationwide application process. During the fellowship, Johnson will receive training in social justice advocacy and will focus on federal and state legislation that pertains to women's health and reproductive issues.

Third-year student **Erica M. Weber** won the FoxKiser Annual Writing Competition in Law, Science & Medicine. Her paper, titled "Deoxyribonucleic Acid TRIPS: Gene Patents in the United States and their Problematic Domestic and International Consequences," was unanimously chosen by the review committee for first place. This competition is designed to encourage multidisciplinary scholarly writing.

Second-year student **William R. Gignilliat** was named winner of the Hogan/Smoger Access to Justice Essay Contest for his paper "The Gulf Oil Spill: OPA, State Law, and Maritime Preemption." His article will be published in the *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law*.

Second-year student **Stephen R. Fivvre** earned second place for his paper "An Imprudent Proposal: The Case Against Restricting the CUT Method in U.S. Transfer Pricing" in the Federal Bar Association Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition. Fivvre's paper will be published in the *Report*, the FBA Tax Section's newsletter, and a revised version will be printed in the June 2011 issue of *The Federal Lawyer*.

Third-year student **Brendan H. White** earned a third place award in the Louis Jackson National Student Writing Competition in Employment and Labor Law. His article was titled "Discrimination v. Retaliation: What Level of Harm is Necessary to Establish a Cause of Action Under Title VII?" White is the third Georgia Law student to receive an award in this competition's 13 year history.