

CLASS of 2012

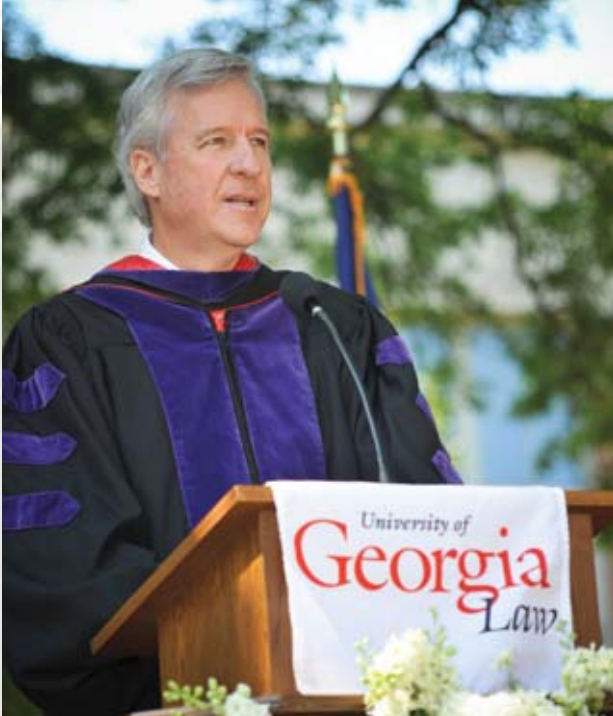


Photo by Dennis McDaniel

Going the distance

Serving as the keynote speaker at this year's Commencement was Judge Richard W. Story (J.D.'78) of the U.S District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Story congratulated the graduates on their momentous accomplishment of earning a law degree, but reminded them that this is actually only a step toward their ultimate goal of finding their way into the legal profession.

"It will be easy to become discouraged. It will be easy to question whether it is even worth it to continue the quest that you began three years ago," Story said. "[G]oing the distance will not only be worth it, it is essential to all of us that you take your place in this honorable profession that we call the practice of law."

Story explained that the health of our system of justice is critical to the health of our nation, and it is up to new lawyers to take up the mantle of the profession to assure that the dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is passed on for generations to come.

"People love to disparage lawyers and our entire system of justice. Yet, they often fail to see that it is the very system that preserves and protects their most basic freedoms," Story said. "In this democracy that we enjoy, the courts are the final defense when government seeks to abridge the rights of individuals."

And, Story added, the only way courts can function is through lawyers.

"Pursue your professional dream by whatever means you choose ... but never forget that you have a professional responsibility to protect the freedoms and rights of all people in this great land."



Watch Story's presentation online at www.law.uga.edu/multimedia-gallery-recent-events.



Photo by Dennis McDaniel

Presenting Law School Association President-elect Santhia Curtis (J.D.'91) (left) and Dean Rebecca White (left center) with a check representing the 2012 class gift of \$89,412 are Legacy Gift co-chairs Micah Engler and Rebekah McCorvey. This is the highest amount pledged since the program was started in 2000. Assisting the class in reaching its goal was an anonymous donor who matched the students' pledges, dollar for dollar.



With a crowd of more than 2,500 attending graduation, it is not always easy to find your friends and family. Here, Connor Magill waves to the other members of his party.



View more photos from this year's Commencement at www.law.uga.edu/photo-gallery.

COMMENCEMENT



Faculty participate in the festivities, celebrating with former students as they transition from 3Ls to Georgia Law alumni. Shown here is (l. to r.) Associate Dean Dan Coenen with recent graduates Jim Wilson, Alex Shalishali and Thomas Whitley.



Photo by Dennis McDaniel

Khaleedah Johnson is all smiles as she walks across the platform.



Part of what makes graduation so special is sharing it with family and friends. Here, Rachael Ivey (left) poses with her longtime friend Wei Wang after the ceremony.



Brittany Bolton (right) waits for the processional to begin with fellow classmates (l. to r.) Bailey Blair, Ben Brighton and Patrick Brooks.

Photo by Dennis McDaniel