Kurtz and Wooten receive Scroll Awards

Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Paul M. Kurtz and attorney Joel O. Wooten (J.D.'75) were presented with the Law School Association's highest honor – the Distinguished Service Scroll Award – in June.

Given at the alumni breakfast held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting, this award recognizes dedication and service to the legal profession and the law school.

Kurtz, who also holds a Hosch Professorship, will retire at the end of the 2012–13 academic year after almost 40 years of service to Georgia Law. He joined the law school faculty in 1975 as an assistant professor, and his core teaching load during his tenure primarily consisted of family law, criminal law and constitutional law (which was dropped when he became associate dean in 1991).

In addition to overseeing academic programming and student life at the law school, Kurtz is the co-author of *Family Law: Cases, Text, Problems* and author of *Criminal Offenses in Georgia*. He also serves as associate editor and is a board of editors member for *Family Law Quarterly*, where for many years he published his "Annual Survey of Periodical Literature."

Kurtz has long been active in the area of indigent defense and uniform state laws. He served on the 11-member Public Defender Standards Council from 2003 to 2009, and he currently represents Georgia in the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

He served two terms on the board of the UGA Athletic Association and served a number of terms on the University Council (the governing legislative body of the university), where he chaired its executive committee. He has been a UGA Senior Foundation Fellow, where he mentored recipients of the university's highest undergraduate scholarship. Additionally Kurtz chaired the Meigs Selection Committee that recently named the winners of the university's highest teaching honor.

A well respected lawyer and counselor, Wooten has served as managing partner of the Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer law firm since it was founded in 1988. This Georgia Law alumnus is a trial lawyer with experience as lead counsel handling all types of civil litigation including class actions, environmental cases, business litigation, product liability and trucking cases.

Very active in the legal community, Wooten has served in numerous leadership positions with the State Bar of Georgia, the Columbus Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and he was a founding member of the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest.

> "… this award recognizes dedication and service to the legal profession and the law school."

His law school service includes serving on both of the law school's alumni boards – the Law School Association Council (1997–99) and the Board of Visitors (present member). He served as chair of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents for the 2004–05 term and was a member of the board from 1999 to 2006.

Wooten was honored by the state bar with its Tradition of Excellence Award in 2000, by the ABA with its National Constabar Leader of the Year Award in 1993 and by GreenLaw with its Ogden Doremus Award for Excellence in Environmental Law in 2007. He has also been named one of *Georgia Trend*'s "100 Most Influential Georgians" and a Georgia Super Lawyer.

Robert P. Hall III: Advancing energy for a brighter tomorrow

Robert P. "Rob" Hall III (J.D.'85) has always been driven by a strong desire to serve others, and he believed a law degree would give him the ability to fulfill that desire on a larger scale.

"As I watched the leaders of my community, a number of those who were helping people had law degrees or had pursued college degrees and professional degrees, and I felt that by following a similar path I could be of some help to the broader community," Hall said.

After a two-year stint as an attorney in Savannah, Ga., Hall headed to Washington, D.C., to serve as legislative counsel to then-U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn.

In his next career move, Hall took advantage of an opportunity to work for the National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association, as its international trade counsel. There, he addressed international trade issues ranging from the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization Agreement to international labor standards and sweatshop prevention.

Hall then found employment in the energy industry, which later led him to his current executive counsel position with General Electric, where he leads the corporation's energy lobbying for the United States.

As "energy vendors," GE Energy builds power plants, cleans water with membrane technology and is heavily involved with renewable energy – solar and wind.

"We are trying to promote policies that help those industries along and also work with our customers to try to understand public policy impacts on them and on us, too, to do business," he added.

Recently, Hall has been working on understanding the phenomenon of shale gas – natural gas that has been discovered through new drilling techniques.

"We're trying to ensure that the laws that are there allow companies to continue to produce natural gas, which is great for the economy as it helps lower fuel costs and provides fewer emissions. Plus, natural gas is a cleaner fuel than other fossil fuels," he said.

Hall added that GE is also delving into the digital energy space and working on the power grid in terms of transmission and distribution.

However, he said lobbyists face scrutiny from the public and it can be difficult to successfully petition the government for change.

"In general, although there have been a very few rotten apples in the lobbying industry over the years, some members of the public have developed unfavorable opinions about all lobbyists, and that's really unfortunate," he said.

According to Hall, because of federal government budget constraints – true for anyone working in policy in D.C. – the energy industry faces challenges when attempting to implement innovative techniques for energy production.

"Anything that moves in Congress, they have to find new money to pay for it," Hall said. "We have to be creative about finding ways to shut down ineffective programs or move some money around from other places to try to do something to help us grow the economy. It's all about tax shifting, cost shifting or cost sharing."

Finding new money is a skill in which Hall prides himself, which translates into his community outreach.

"Through a lot of church and charity work I've done over the years, I've been a successful fundraiser," he said.

Hall led a campaign that raised $9 million to build a kitchen for Food & Friends, a D.C.-based organization that prepares and delivers more than 1,500 specialized meals and groceries per day – in conjunction with nutrition counseling – to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses.

"I'm very proud of having accomplished that," he added. "It's the singular, most significant thing I think I've done."

—Crissinda M. Ponder

Rishi R. Hingoraney: Lobbying for communicators

Rishi R. Hingoraney (J.D.'02) came to Georgia Law with a deep interest in international law, which is why he originally moved to Washington, D.C., after graduation. However, once he was there, he began to explore alternative career paths.

"I got a much better sense of the broad array of public policy careers that were available," Hingoraney said.

This exposure to public policy work landed him a job in media law.

Hingoraney started out conducting legislative research for an association management company, and their biggest client was the National Newspaper Association – a trade association of more than 2,000 community papers nationwide.

A short time later, he became a lobbyist on behalf of the NNA, working on First Amendment and small business issues on Capitol Hill.

"From that, I really gained an interest in the intersection between media law and technology," he added.

This enthusiasm led Hingoraney to a position with the Association of Public Television Stations, an organization whose membership was undergoing a digital transition during his employment. He helped APTS member stations get their content online and develop their mobile platforms, and he also worked on legislation dealing with transformative technology issues familiar to the mass communication industry.

This previous work experience blazed a trail for the National Public Radio lobbyist career Hingoraney enjoys today. He represents NPR and its 800-plus member stations before federal agencies and Congress by pushing the organization's legislative agenda forward and protecting stations from harmful legislation.

"The great thing about NPR is that I am able to marry my interests in new newsgathering efforts and new technology," Hingoraney said. "Our broadcast content reaches 34 million listeners a week, but we are also very aggressive about getting our content online and out through mobile platforms. I was able to put my experience from newspapers and from the public television folks toward helping NPR and our member stations in getting their content out on multiple platforms. It really is an exciting time."

Of the significant challenges facing the public radio industry, Hingoraney cites two major obstacles – one of them is preserving federal funding.

"We've been working with members of Congress to educate them about the importance of public radio and how important it is to have a federal investment in local stations," he said.

The other challenge is assisting stations with delivering their content via multiple platforms without the threat of copyright and intellectual property issues.

Distributing music through broadcast and online channels and placing content online can raise several "thorny and complex intellectual property issues," and these issues consume much of his time, according to Hingoraney.

He also works to help promote more wireless broadband deployment.

"In order to have a seamless audio experience through mobile platforms you need to have a really good mobile wireless network," he explained.

His advice to others looking to pursue nontraditional legal employment – it is okay to step outside of your comfort zone. In fact, he says one of his greatest accomplishments was being able to chart his own path after law school.

"Be prepared to do things that you weren't trained to do in law school and be prepared to do things for a little while that don't look like practicing law," Hingoraney added. "Eventually you'll realize that the skills that you've acquired in law school at Georgia will help you tremendously along the way.

"Law school taught me how to build an argument, how to anticipate my opponent's arguments and how to think on my feet," he said. "I think those are really, really valuable skills for a lobbyist to have."

—Crissinda M. Ponder

Joan E. Prittie: Helping victims of domestic violence

For Joan E. Prittie (J.D.'93), working in the field of domestic violence is a calling, despite its challenges.

"Domestic violence is an underreported phenomenon, and although there is much more recognition and understanding of it in today's climate than there has been in earlier years, that is still a main issue – trying to help people understand the prevalence and the significance," Prittie said.

Her first real exposure to domestic violence came when she worked as an attorney with the Prisoner Legal Counseling Project, which operated from 1972 to 1996. It was there she worked on the legal side of the issue by producing clemency petitions for battered women who had killed their abusers.

Seeing a great need in this area, she and PLCP colleague Maureen Cahill (J.D.'79), who is now the student services librarian at Georgia Law, began looking into the cases of women who were in Georgia prisons for harming or killing their assaulters – at the request of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence.

This work formalized into the Battered Women's Clemency Project, which received support from Georgia Law during the mid-1990s and allowed Prittie's team to recruit law students to assist with the investigation and preparation of the petitions.

Prittie credits this immersion in clemency work for her broad knowledge of domestic violence.

"I had to do a great deal of study in order to do that project, because I had had little experience or real knowledge of it prior to that," she said.

Unfortunately, a Supreme Court decision overruling an opinion regarding court access for indigent inmates caused the Prisoner Legal Counseling Project to close down.

When contemplating her next career move, Prittie decided to approach domestic violence from a different angle.

"I realized that one of the most gratifying aspects of the work that I did as an attorney for the prison project was often talking people out of utilizing the legal system," she said. "A lot of what I found to be particularly satisfying was not always the practice of law but, sometimes, the non-practice of law."

Knowing she wanted to be a part of the mission to prevent people from committing the crimes that led to prison sentences in the first place, Prittie looked for work in the nonprofit sector, which eventually led her to her current position as executive director of Project Safe.

This Athens-based organization, dedicated to preventing domestic violence, provides advocacy and systems change work, crisis intervention, education and prevention programs and ongoing supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

"I'm chief fundraiser and CEO and head of sanitation and repair," she said. "I work with a wonderful board of directors to oversee the direction of an organization that is multifaceted."

In 2010, she was recognized for her work at Project Safe with the Sunshine Peace Award. She was one of only 15 recipients across the nation to receive the award, which honors individuals who develop resources and facilitate the social change necessary to end violence against women and children.

Prittie said the challenges present in the domestic violence prevention field range from awareness and education – understanding why violence occurs and how to prevent it – to adequate federal and state funding.

"We have done a good job of criminalizing the behavior and providing for criminal sanctions, but that does not always do the trick," she said.

While she is proud of what Project Safe has accomplished during her 13-year tenure, Prittie recognizes there is more work to be done.

"We need to culturally look beyond criminal law to find 'What else is there?'" she said. "There are different causes to domestic violence, and so I think we need to continue to pursue partnerships between researchers and practitioners to really figure out a more nuanced understanding and, therefore, a more nuanced and comprehensive approach to trying to stop violence. We then need to work further with policymakers to implement those findings."

—Crissinda M. Ponder

2011 grads inducted into the Order of the Coif

Induction into the Order of the Coif is one of the highest honors one can receive from their law school. It signifies the highest academic achievement in the study of law and is awarded to those who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class.

The Class of 2011 Order of the Coif members are: (front, l. to r.) Austin Roberson, Lori Chriss, Ashley Frazier, Whitney Livengood, Meredith Macon, Texys Morris, (back, l. to r.) Patrick Schwedler, Jason Sheppard, Joshua Silk, Philip Thompson, Jennifer Virostko and Brendan White as well as (not shown) Julie Burke, Ryan Burke, Thomas Clarkson, Catherine Curlet, Tanner Ivie, John Little, Meredith Lee, Amanda McCallum, Charlotte Murphy, Andrew Pinson and Christopher Trant. Helping recognize this year's inductees were Associate Professor Erica Hashimoto (front, far left), Associate Dean Paul Kurtz (front, far right) and Dean Rebecca White (front, second from right).

A report from development

My decision to go to law school was based on my firmly held belief that all issues that are important in society ultimately become legal issues and that my desire to help others could best be accomplished by using a legal education to translate the hopes and fears of people into judicially cognizable language and, thus, be a lawyer.

My desire to attend Georgia Law was based on two facts: It was the best law school in Georgia and, as the state school, it was the only one I could afford.

In the spring of 1983, I graduated from our law school and returned to my hometown of Tifton, Ga., to practice law and to put into action my desire to help others solve their legal problems.

Today, in the spring of 2012, I have returned to our law school to work with our alumni and friends to raise the financial support that will be needed to educate the next generation of lawyers to take our place as stewards of the justice system. To help educate and prepare the lawyers of the future is the only reason that I could have been rooted out of my beloved Tifton – where I graduated from high school, where Leah and I raised our three children and where I have been an active attorney for almost 30 years.

Plain and simple – it takes money to help prepare the next generation of lawyers to whom we shall pass the baton of justice stewardship. That is why I am here. That is why I am asking you to help our law school. This is the place that taught you the critical and analytical thinking skills you have needed to become a success in your chosen profession. And, here are some important facts for you to consider:

1. The lottery-funded HOPE scholarship does not apply to law students.
2. Funding from the state cannot be used for scholarships.
3. In-state tuition and fees for law students (excluding books and living expenses) are almost $18,000 per year.

Please join me in giving back to our law school in one or more of the following ways:

- The most immediate and critical needs are gifts to the Law School Fund (aka the annual fund). Annual fund dollars raised this year are used next year for scholarships and other student-related support.
- A major gift is a one-time gift or a gift paid over several years that will fund a scholarship or other needed student-related purpose on its own. As the donor, you tell us how you want your money used.
- A planned gift comes from your estate assets or life insurance proceeds that will honor your legacy and continue to help students.

Many of you reading this article already understand the financial needs of the law school and realize that you have a duty to give back to the institution that sharpened and refined your skills to become the professional person you are today. To you, I say "thank you." To everyone else, I say "please join us in support of our law school and its students of today and tomorrow."

Our law school has been serving this state and the legal profession for more than 150 years. It is our turn to keep it strong if we expect great things of the next generation of lawyers to whom we will pass the responsibility of stewarding and shepherding our system of justice.

Please call or e-mail the development office today to discuss how you want to invest in the future of our law school and the lawyers it will produce.

—Senior Director of Development Gregory C. "Greg" Sowell (J.D.'83)

Law School Life

7th Annual Georgia Law Alumnae Evening

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86) (right) delivered the keynote address at this year's alumnae evening. During her presentation, she discussed the progress women have made in the legal profession but cautioned that there are still big issues out there that need to be addressed, such as human trafficking.

Among those enjoying the evening were 2009 classmates (top, l. to r.) Jahnisa Tate, Carolina Bryant and Suzannah Gill.

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

Photo by Dennis McDaniel

Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society

Georgia Law coordinates two functions each year in special recognition of its Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society members (annual donors of $1000 or more to the law school). Among those attending the fall Champagne and Strawberries Reception were U.S. District Court Judge Steve Jones (J.D.'88) (left) and Law School Association Council President J. Tom Morgan (J.D.'80) (right). Additionally, Herbert Short (J.D.'85) and his wife, Lisa, hosted the JHLS Spring Twilight Affair at their home in Atlanta.

Regional alumni receptions

Alumni in New York City and Washington, D.C., as well as those in the Georgia cities of Columbus, Macon and LaGrange, had the opportunity to gather and reconnect at Georgia Law regional events. Shown here at the home of Ken (J.D.'78) and Chris Henson in Columbus are: (l. to r.) Bunky (J.D.'60) and Cherry Pease, Mike Hipps (J.D.'75), Caroline Castle (J.D.'04) and Betty Hipps.

21st Annual Law School BBQ

The law school's BBQ always draws a crowd that ranges from newborns to old, familiar faces, and this year was no exception. Above, a trio of Georgia Law legends were photographed together – (l. to r.) Dean Emeritus Ralph Beaird, Carter Chair Emeritus Perry Sentell (LL.B.'58) and Callaway Chair Emeritus Verner Chaffin (LL.B.'42).

Georgia Law midyear events

For the second year in a row, Georgia Law held its midyear alumni reception and breakfast in the Classic City. Participating in the festivities were (l. to r.) Kevin Sweat (J.D.'10), Kristin Lowry (J.D.'07), Scott Lowry (J.D.'07) and Kevin Epps (J.D.'08).

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

Class Notes Notables

In an effort to provide Class Notes listings in a timely manner, this editorial section now only appears in its entirety in the law school's quarterly electronic newsletter, News@GeorgiaLaw, *and online. Below are some Class Notes "notables" from April 2011 to April 2012. For a full listing, please visit* www.law.uga.edu/alumni.

Luis A. Aguilar (1979) of Atlanta, GA, was sworn in for his second term as a member of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. **Wayne R. Allen** (1992) of Douglasville, GA, was elected by the Legislative Services Committee as legislative counsel for the Georgia General Assembly. **Hubert J. Bell Jr.** (1981) of Atlanta, GA, was appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court to a five-year term on the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution and was appointed by the president of the state bar to a third three-year term on the Investigative Panel of the State Disciplinary Board. **Lisa R. Blanco** (1998) of Atlanta, GA, has joined Energy Technology Ventures, a joint venture between GE, NRG Energy and ConocoPhillips, as general counsel and chief compliance officer. **Susan R. Boltacz** (1980) of Atlanta, GA, who is the group vice president and director of tax information reporting at SunTrust Bank, was appointed by the Internal Revenue Service as a member of its Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee. **Emmet J. Bondurant II** (1960) of Atlanta, GA, was selected to receive the 2011 American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics. **Valerie Caproni** (1979) of Washington, D.C., was appointed vice president and deputy general counsel, litigation and investigations for the global security company Northrop Grumman Corp. **George H. Carley** (1962) of Decatur, GA, plans to retire in July after more than 30 years of service on the bench. He will serve as chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court before stepping down, which will allow him to make history as being the first judge in Georgia to serve as presiding judge and chief judge of the state Court of Appeals and presiding justice and chief justice of the state Supreme Court. **Aaron Cohn** (1938) of Columbus, GA, the nation's longest serving juvenile court judge, retired in September at the age of 95 after more than 45 years on the bench. **Ertharin Cousin** (1982) of Chicago, IL, was appointed executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme. **J. Griffin Doyle** (1979) of Athens, GA, was named UGA's vice president for government relations. **Neil C. Gordon** (1979) of Atlanta, GA, was elected president of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. **Jack N. Halpern** (1975) of Atlanta, GA, received the Anti-Defamation League's Abe Goldstein Human Relations Award for his commitment to promoting economic development in Atlanta's minority business community as well as his long history of philanthropy in the Jewish community. **John P. Jett** (2008) of Atlanta, GA, was appointed to the national board of the Young Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association. **Weyman T. Johnson Jr.** (1979) of Athens, GA, was elected as chairman and president of the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation. **Stanley S. Jones Jr.** (1977) of Atlanta, GA, received the Sandy Brandt Volunteer Service Award from Mental Health America in recognition of his 40 years of dedicated service. **Steve C. Jones** (1988) of Atlanta, GA, was selected to serve as president of the UGA Alumni Association for 2011–13. **Mark A. Lewis** (1992) of Bozeman, MT, has been named the NCAA's executive vice president for championships and alliances. **Barbara Mendel Mayden** (1976) of Nashville, TN, has been nominated to serve on the American Bar Association's board of governors as a representative of the ABA Sections. **John C. Pridgen** (1975) of Cordele, GA, served as the 2011–12 president of the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia. **W. Scott Sorrels** (1984) of Alpharetta, GA, has received the 2011 Silver Buffalo Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest commendation that is given to individuals who contribute noteworthy and extraordinary youth service on a national basis.