

Darden and Jones honored with DSS Award

Atlanta attorney George W. “Buddy” Darden III (J.D.’67), senior counsel with McKenna Long & Aldridge, and Judge Steve C. Jones (J.D.’87) of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia were named this year’s Distinguished Service Scroll Award recipients.

This accolade is the highest honor given by the Law School Association and recognizes outstanding dedication and service to the legal profession and the law school.

A former U.S. Congressman, Darden has been an attorney with McKenna Long & Aldridge since 1995. His practice focuses on public policy and public finance and includes advising clients on conducting business with the state of Georgia and the federal government as well as developing strategy for legislative and government affairs issues.

While in private practice, he has served as an adviser and lecturer on behalf of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and has participated in programs concerning issues of national defense and ethics in Turkey, Senegal and Indonesia.

Additionally, he was a presidential appointee to the board of directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a government agency that provides political risk insurance and loans to help U.S. businesses in emerging markets and developing nations worldwide.

Darden has also been active at the state level and was an original member of the legal team representing Georgia in its water allocation negotiations with Alabama and Florida.

Prior to joining McKenna Long & Aldridge, Darden represented Georgia’s 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for six terms. During his tenure in Congress, he served on the House Armed Services Committee, the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (ethics).

He also served as a member of the Georgia General Assembly and as district attorney for the Cobb County Judicial Circuit.

He has been recognized in the “Most Influential Georgians” listings appearing in *Georgia Trend* magazine, and *JAMES*



Darden



Jones

Magazine named him one of “Georgia’s Most Influential People” twice. Additionally, he was honored by the State Bar of Georgia with its Tradition of Excellence Award in 2010.

A strong advocate for Georgia Law, Darden has served as a firm agent for the school since 2009 and as a member of its Board of Visitors from 1999 to 2002.

Jones was sworn in as a U.S. District

Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia in March 2011 after being nominated by President Barack Obama for the appointment earlier that year.

Previously, Jones served as a Superior Court judge in the Western Judicial Circuit of Georgia for 16 years. During that time, he also presided over the Western Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court, a judicial program that integrates alcohol and substance abuse treatment with court supervision.

His legal experience also includes working as an Athens-Clarke County Municipal Court judge from 1992 to 1995, as an assistant district attorney for the Western Judicial Circuit from 1987 to 1991 and as the director of the Athens Child Support Recovery Unit from 1978 to 1985.

Throughout his career, Jones has offered his time and leadership to numerous academic, community, legal and social organizations. He currently serves as president of the UGA Alumni Association – which includes memberships on UGA’s Board of Visitors, its athletic board and its foundation – and as president of the UGA chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Additionally, he served for three years as a member of Georgia Law’s Board of Visitors, which he chaired during the 2002–03 year. Jones is also the former chair of the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission and the Athens Area Community Foundation, and he has served on the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Commission on Equality and on its Domestic Violence Committee.

Jones has won numerous awards for his judicial and community service including the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service, co-sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism; the Gate City Bar Association’s Outstanding Jurist Award; and Leadership Georgia’s E. Dale Threadgill Community Service Award, among others.

Law School Life

JHLS Spring Twilight Affair

Hosting the 2013 Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society Spring Twilight Affair (for annual donors of \$1,000 or more) were Ed Garland (J.D.'65) (second from right) and his wife, Judy (not shown). Among the guests enjoying the evening were: (l. to r.) 1984 graduates Mike and Risè Weathersby as well as Margaret Blackstock.



Photo by Dennis McDaniel



State Bar of Georgia Midyear Meeting alumni reception

Georgia Law alumni gathered in January at Duane Morris for a reception during the State Bar of Georgia Midyear Meeting in Atlanta. Pictured above are: (l. to r.) Tyler Smith (J.D.'93), Steve Gilliam (J.D.'74), Amy Burton Loggins (J.D.'99) and Leigh Martin May (J.D.'98).



Regional alumni events

This year, Georgia Law alumni from across the nation had a chance to come together and reconnect at several regional events. These gatherings were made possible by the generous support of alumni in each city and took place in Dallas, New York City, Chicago, Nashville and Washington, D.C. There were also several events hosted throughout the state of Georgia in the cities of Columbus, Savannah, Atlanta, Marietta, Athens and Gainesville. Above, (l. to r.) Michael Ruppersburg (J.D.'06), Tony Lehman (J.D.'98), Sachin Varghese (J.D.'09), Anna Howard (J.D.'10) and Sonny Poloche (J.D.'08) pose for a quick photo during a reception held at JAMS in Atlanta during February.



LL.M. Alumni Association welcomes new members

Christof Siefarth (LL.M.'86) (center), past-president of the law school's LL.M. Alumni Association, came to Athens during April to greet LL.M. Class of 2013 candidates and to present them with travel grants to help offset the costs they incurred while coming to Athens from their home countries.



Portrait ceremony for Chief Judge Carnes

Chief Judge Julie Carnes (J.D.'75) of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia was honored this spring with the unveiling of her portrait. The painting will be added to the school's distinguished collection that includes famous Georgians, former deans and faculty members as well as accomplished alumni. Celebrating with Carnes at the event were: (l. to r.) her husband, Steve, her daughter, Kelly, and her sister, Lindsay.



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

Photo by Dennis McDaniel

Order of the Coif

Each year, the Georgia Law community gathers together to recognize the outstanding achievements of its students and faculty during Awards Day. Honors range from outstanding performance in an individual class to induction into the school's Order of the Coif, which is one of the highest academic accolades a recent law school graduate can receive as membership is reserved only for those who finish in the top 10 percent of the class.



For a complete list of this year's award recipients, please visit www.law.uga.edu/news/17163.



Class of 2012 Order of the Coif inductees include: (front, l. to r.) Jackson Allen, Amanda Seals Bersinger, Bailey Blair, Hillary Chinigo, Isabella Edmundson, (back, l. to r.) Eric Garber, Robert Gignilliat, Hillary Miller, Ali Sabzevari, Jessica Samford and Mark Silver. Also receiving this honor, but not photographed, were: Jennifer Case, Daniel Eggerman, Azadeh Golshan, Lennon Haas, Amanda Holcomb, Kate Lawson, Nicole Paschal, Amanda Powell, James Purcell, Erica Svoboda, Ryan Tuck and Frederick Vaughan.

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@Georgia Law, and online. Below are some Class Notes "notables" from April 2012 to April 2013. For a full listing, please visit www.law.uga.edu/alumni.

N. Harvey Weitz (1966) of Savannah, GA, received the Distinguished Service Award from the State Bar of Georgia. **David T. Emerson** (1976) of Douglasville, GA, was selected to serve as president of the Council of Superior Court Judges for 2012–13. **Susan Warren Cox** (1978) Statesboro, GA, was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers as a fellow. **Don L. Waters** (1978) of Savannah, GA, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. **James E. Brim III** (1979) of Gainesville, GA, was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers as a fellow. **Philip C. Smith** (1979) of Cumming, GA, was appointed to the Superior Court for the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit. **J. David Dantzer Jr.** (1981) of Atlanta, GA, was named managing partner for the New York office of Troutman Sanders. **Nathan B. Pride** (1981) of Jackson, TN, was elected as Circuit Court judge for the 26th Judicial District of Tennessee. **Louisa Abbot** (1982) of Savannah, GA, was selected to serve as president-elect of the Council of Superior Court Judges for 2012–13. **Mary K. Polson** (1982) of Fort Walton Beach, FL, was elected Circuit Court judge for the 1st Judicial Circuit of Florida. **David P. Darden** (1983) of Kennesaw, GA, was elected president of the Council of State Court Judges. **J. Randolph Evans** (1983) of Atlanta, GA, was selected as chairman for the Republican National Lawyers Association. **Sally Quillian Yates** (1986) of Atlanta, GA, was named vice chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorneys. **Ural D.L. Glanville** (1987) of Atlanta, GA, was promoted to Brigadier General by the U.S. Army. **R. Keith Miles** (1987) of Dacula, GA, was appointed to the Gwinnett County Magistrate Court. **Christopher W. Phillips** (1988) of Savannah, GA, was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates. **Alan J. Prince** (1989) of Dunwoody, GA, was named managing partner of King & Spalding's Atlanta office. **William M. Ray II** (1990) of Lawrenceville, GA, was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals by Gov. Nathan Deal. **Kenneth B. Hodges III** (1991)

of Atlanta, GA, was elected to serve on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia. **Barbara Ellis-Monro** (1992) of Atlanta, GA, joined the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. **Timothy Mann Jr.** (1992) of Atlanta, GA, joined Georgia Gulf Corp. as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary. **William V. Roebuck Jr.** (1992) of Arlington, VA, was appointed the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Libya. **Elizabeth Hemphill Stewart** (1993) of San Jose, CA, has joined Tela Innovations as vice president and general counsel. **Suellen W. Bergman** (1996) of Marietta, GA, was promoted to senior counsel, energy HQ at GE Energy. **M. Keith Siskin** (1997) of Murfreesboro, TN, was appointed Circuit Court judge for the 16th Judicial District of Tennessee. **Carla Wong McMillian** (1998) of Tyrone, GA, was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals. **Keith R. Blackwell** (1999) of Smyrna, GA, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia by Gov. Nathan Deal. **J. Clay Fuller** (1999) of Suwanee, GA, was appointed a Magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. **Charles J. Bethel** (2001) of Dalton, GA, was appointed a Senate floor leader for the 152nd Georgia General Assembly. **Chris D. Phillips** (2002) of Atlanta, GA, was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates. **Michelle H. Homier** (2003) of Canton, GA, was elected as a State Court judge for Cherokee County. **Anbar F. Khal** (2004) of Laguna Niguel, CA, was promoted to senior patent counsel for Oakley. **Brandon Honsalek** (2011) of Alpharetta, GA, has joined Renew World Outreach as chief information officer and general counsel.

Alumnus featured in award-winning Sundance Film Festival documentary

Georgia Law alumnus Travis A. Williams (J.D.'08), who currently works as a public defender in Hall County, Ga., was featured in a documentary titled "Gideon's Army." The film, which follows the personal stories of Williams and two other public defenders in the southern United States, examines challenges facing our country's criminal justice system. This documentary premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival in January and has already received numerous honors including an editing award at Sundance. HBO will air the program in July.

Closing Argument

\$55,000+

As set by the Board of Regents, that's the going rate for three years of in-state tuition and fees at the University of Georgia School of Law. That's a far cry from the roughly \$1,000 per year it cost me in tuition and fees when I graduated from Georgia Law 30 years ago.



We compete for the best and brightest students. Often times, the key factor determining where a student chooses to attend law school is the real cost of tuition after receiving scholarship assistance. We want to enroll these students. **YOU CAN**

HELP. Likewise, we do not want our students to graduate with large debt loads. **YOU CAN HELP.**

I am asking you to join me and all of the other graduates of this law school to do your part – however large or small that may be – to make a positive impact on the next generation of lawyers.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Make a contribution each year to our annual fund – known as the Law School Fund. This is the largest single source of scholarship dollars for our students. Each year, the Law School Fund is overseen by a group of dedicated alumni volunteers known as the Law School Association Council. The LSAC sets the LSF budget each year; and, it is reviewed and approved at the association's annual gathering held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting.
- Make a leadership commitment payable all at one time or over a stated number of years. These gifts will be applied dollar for dollar as you direct – to scholarships, to faculty support or to co-curricular activities such as moot court and mock trial.

- Make a planned gift. Remember the law school in your last will and testament. Assign a life insurance policy to the law school – or a portion of a policy. Likewise, assign a retirement account or some other financial instrument to the law school. Again, all to be used as you direct.
- Re-engage with us. Attend alumni regional events. Attend the annual BBQ. Time for a class reunion? Call us and we can help you get it organized.
- Be a mentor to one or more of our law students. Would you be willing to talk with law students who are interested in practicing in your geographic region or who are interested in your field of legal expertise? Let us know and we will put you in touch with the people to make it happen.
- Hire our graduates. They are bright. They are hardworking. They are eager to learn. Somebody along the way helped you. Pay it forward to the next generation of civil soldiers.

Some of you know I practiced law for 29 years in my hometown of Tifton, Ga., until I returned to the law school last year. Although the daily grind of a law practice can be a challenge, it is a wonderful life and a true calling. The only reason I made such a radical career change is because I wholeheartedly believe it is critically important that all of us who graduated from this law school join together to help the next generation of lawyers. It's good for the value of your diploma. It's good for your law practice as you've got a ready source of smart and dedicated young lawyers to join you. And, it's the right thing to do.

You may say, "Well, nobody has ever asked me to give." Here it is – I am asking. **PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING BACK TO OUR LAW SCHOOL.** Your tax deductible contributions can be made payable via check to the University of Georgia Foundation, with "law school" written on the memo line, and mailed to the law school using the self-addressed envelope in this issue of the *Advocate* or you may give online at www.law.uga.edu/giving.

Please call me if I can be of service to you. And, thank you again for all you do for our law school.

—Senior Director of Law School Advancement
Greg Sowell (J.D. '83)

ELLINGTON'S CASES AND MATERIALS ON GEORGIA PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Two generations of Georgia Law students have taken Georgia Practice from Professor Emeritus Ron Ellington using teaching materials he authored. Many alumni report they keep their "red books" in their law offices and still consult them.

cases and pertinent reference notes will be available for sale to Georgia Law alumni. Proceeds will go to the school's Law School Fund in support of scholarships.

The materials are three-hole punched for ease of use and placement in your own binders and will be shipped directly from the publisher for \$124.95 plus shipping and handling.

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Joey Loudermilk: Building a legacy of ethics

Georgia Law alumnus Joey M. Loudermilk (J.D.'78) remembers exactly where he was when he decided he wanted to practice law.

His freshmen year of college, he heard a news report about a labor dispute on the radio driving home from work. The president at the time, Richard Nixon, had put together a team of lawyers to study the law to determine if he had the authority to end the labor strike.

"That just really struck me as the law must be such a fascinating area, and so I made up my mind on the spot as I was in my car," Loudermilk said. "From that point forward, as a 19-year-old freshman in college, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer."

As soon as he graduated from law school, Loudermilk was offered a job at a small private practice in his hometown of Columbus, Ga., where he worked for five years. Then, in 1983, the opportunity presented itself to serve as the head of a local insurance company's newly formed legal department.

"Although I certainly didn't know everything about practicing law at that point, I felt like I had pretty much done everything that I could do in a small practice, and so I was looking for a challenge," he said.

He found that opportunity at Aflac, and he has now been with the company for 30 years. Today, Loudermilk is the Fortune 500 entity's executive vice president and general counsel, which includes handling its legal and political affairs.

"I think the thing I enjoy most is putting together a team of key people, whether it's dealing with litigation or potential legislation, to handle different areas so that we can get a successful result," he said. "I analogize it to being a baseball manager: making sure you have the right line up, you have the right people, employees, the right pitching staff and winning the game."

He is also passionate about his role as the insurance giant's chief ethics officer and is the first executive officer to welcome new employees at orientation.

"I think it's critical, in all areas of the law, but especially in corporate America, that attorneys as officers of the court set the

standard and be beyond reproach as it relates to ethics," he said.

"I think that is just a responsibility of our profession, and I think as lawyers we need to lead the way on that."

Loudermilk was asked to head the ethics portion of Aflac's leadership development program several years ago to enforce the importance of proper behavior at Aflac, and these programs have

helped the company achieve recognition as having high standards in regard to ethical conduct. Since 2007, the company has appeared in *Ethisphere* magazine's "The World's Most Ethical Companies" list and is the only insurance company in the world to be included for six consecutive years.

"That's something we are very proud of here," Loudermilk added.

Despite the many milestones he has seen Aflac achieve during the past three decades, he says there are always new obstacles to address as the business law landscape continues to evolve.

"There's no question that the greatest challenge right now is the dramatic increase and complexity in the business world, especially due to increased regulation," he said. "And with respect to Aflac in particular, it's all the new regulations involving health care."

This complexity not only creates new challenges for those already practicing business law, but Loudermilk said it also alters the dynamics for those wanting to become corporate lawyers.

"The advantage that I had when I was starting out was that I was a general practitioner and had five years of experience in all kinds of areas of the law," he said. "Now, the best advice I

could give is for someone to develop a niche or a specialty that would be attractive to a corporation. For example, specializing in information technology or labor law," he said.

While Loudermilk might not have started out with a specific focus or specialty, after a long and distinguished career, he hopes that he is remembered for one.

"I would like to leave a legacy of ethics, not only with the lawyers here, but also the company," he said. "I think that's very important. If that is what I am remembered for, then I would consider my career a success."

—Nina Kamber



"I think it's critical ... that attorneys as officers of the court set the standard and be beyond reproach as it relates to ethics."

Kiran Ahuja: Following her passion

Kiran A. Ahuja was always interested in public service and serving the underprivileged.

"I believe in doing what you're passionate about, what moves you and what you feel is purposeful," she said.

After graduating from law school in 1998, she was selected for the Attorney General's Honors Program in the U.S. Department of Justice and worked in the Civil Rights Division for a few years.

"During that time I tried to establish strong networks with national and local civic organizations," she said. "A part of that was getting involved in the Asian American community in Washington, D.C."

After leaving her DOJ position, she became the first executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, a multi-issue advocacy organization, and stayed with the organization for five years doing policy work.

"I think doing that and building relationships with a lot of the national leaders across the country and increasing my knowledge about the issues set me up fairly well for when I applied for my current position," she said.

Ahuja presently serves as the executive director of both the White House Initiative and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The White House initiative and commission were re-established through an Executive Order in 2009 by President Barack Obama to increase access and participation of underserved Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in a range of federal programs.

"We try to tap into the issues that mean a great deal to our diverse community," she said.

Ahuja manages the operations of both the initiative and the commission and meets with community leaders, speaks at events and coordinates with White House senior officials and other agencies to push forward the initiative's agenda.

"It has been a privilege working for this administration and serving a community that I have gotten to know and care about," she said. "I just love the fact that we are very open and accessible and that we are trying to support this idea of transparency and accountability in government."

So far, the initiative has held more than 200 events and has reached more than 30,000 people.

"I think part of our success is that we have a great team," she said. "And, we've created some systems within our initiative that are replicable for other administrations and agencies."

Currently, Ahuja and her team are working with other government agencies to analyze the process faced by Filipino WWII veterans who are seeking compensation, to ensure that all applications receive a thorough and fair review.

The Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, set up a compensation fund for the veterans. To date, more than 18,000 claims have been approved, but some Filipino veterans have been impeded from filing claims or believe their claims were improperly denied.

"We created an interagency effort to try and figure out what have been the impediments," she said. "What I've heard from Filipino veterans is that it is not so much about the money but about recognition by their country for their service."

Another issue being addressed is education, particularly when it comes to making sure stereotypes of certain groups do not hinder the ability for them to grow and prosper.

"One perception is that all AAPI students do really well in school, but that's not necessarily the reality," she said. "If there is a perception that a community is doing well, then the belief is that there is nothing we should be doing to ensure that this community gets the resources and services that it needs."

Although the AAPI community Ahuja represents is a small one (slightly less than 6 percent of the U.S. population) in relation to other minority groups in the United States, the 2010 U.S. Census indicated that the AAPI community was the fastest growing racial group in the country over the past decade.

"I think it's very important for our government to understand the needs of its diverse populations, whether it is challenges for small businesses or addressing a range of health issues," she added.

"I am proud that I am helping to make a difference and that my work is bringing various agencies and the White House together to better the lives of AAPIs, who otherwise may get lost in the shuffle or go unheard regarding important issues."

—Nina Kamber



"We try to tap into the issues that mean a great deal to our diverse community."

Natalie Woodward: Not backing down

Natalie S. Woodward, a partner at Woodward & Stern and a 2002 Georgia Law alumna, is not one to back down from a case she feels passionately about.

"If I feel someone has been wronged or harmed in some way, whether it's a personal injury case, a defamation case or a constitutional case, I'm going to try my best to do something about it," she said.

This has meant taking on some cases that are not always popular and might not be financially rewarding, such as a public corruption case in 2010 involving a former police chief.

"Although many people agreed with me that a gentleman had been wronged, that he had been arrested in a manner that was not fair and was not constitutional, no one really saw the financial repercussion being worth the effort," she said. "However, I felt like it was an opportunity for us to do the right thing, regardless of whether or not there was going to be a financial reward."

Ultimately, the jury agreed and awarded \$1 million in damages.

Woodward said working on cases that intrigue and challenge her has been one of the many advantages of operating her own firm, which she opened more than five years ago with her partner, and fellow Georgia Law graduate, Corey M. Stern (J.D.'03), a decision she considers a "win-win" situation.

"I thought of it as less of a risk because I looked at it from the mindset of what's the worst that could happen," she said. "You go out, start your own law firm, do it for a few years, and if you decide it doesn't fit your lifestyle, you can always go back to practicing law at another firm. No matter what happened, I wasn't afraid of it."

When Woodward graduated from law school, she worked at a firm in

Rome, Ga., where she practiced insurance defense representing large companies and municipalities. She then moved to Atlanta to practice with a medical malpractice defense firm where she gained extensive courtroom experience.

However, when Stern called her with the proposal to start their own shop, she knew she needed to take the opportunity.

"We were interested in having a diverse practice and having our own firm provided that freedom," she said.

While she handles a wide variety of cases, she has taken a special interest in trying cases involving injuries to children. Recently, she took a defamation case involving cyberbullying.

"I think that case appealed to me for the same reason that some of the other cases that I had taken involving children appealed to me," she said. "The child was the one who had done everything right, was completely, 100 percent as far as everything was concerned, a total and complete victim."

In the case, a child was bullied through false information that was published online.

"From my vantage point, I had seen so many stories in the news of kids acting out to harm themselves after being hurt emotionally by other kids, and it just seemed like the system had not found any way to even address it," she said. "It was basically a problem that was not being offered a solution."

The goal of the lawsuit was to shut down the page on the basis of defamation.

"I don't think every bullying case is a lawsuit, and I don't think every bullying case should be a lawsuit," she said.

"However, if you knowingly publish something harmful about a person, then there are repercussions for that. In this case, we wanted to show there is no more safety if you're looking to harm someone by using the Internet than if you publish it in the paper."

Woodward added that the Web poses a challenge to the legal system in regard to how to handle information that is put online, and it is an important multilayered process to determine when it is the appropriate time to legally intervene.

"I do think the law is trying to adjust to the technology and will continue to evolve as technology evolves and we should accept that," she said. "But that also requires some level of responsibility on the lawmakers to address issues when there are holes in the law."

With each case that she handles, whether it deals with public corruption or defamation, Woodward aims to get results that will help improve the overall legal system.

"I really enjoy when the system works the way it's supposed to," she said. "I think all lawyers get a chance to redefine, for their clients and for society, what it means to be an attorney."

—Nina Kamber



Photo by Jamie Hopper

"I really enjoy when the system works the way it's supposed to."