



School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Prepare.
Connect.
Lead.

Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law

[Other Law School Publications](#)

[Digital Archives](#)

1-1-1929

Sylvanus Morris, 1856-1929, Dean of the Lumpkin Law School

University of Georgia

Repository Citation

University of Georgia, "Sylvanus Morris, 1856-1929, Dean of the Lumpkin Law School" (1929). *Other Law School Publications*. 339.

https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/lectures_pre_arch_archives_other/339

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Digital Archives at Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Other Law School Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of Georgia School of Law. [Please share how you have benefited from this access](#) For more information, please contact tstriepe@uga.edu.



SYLVANUS MORRIS
1856-1929
Dean of the Lumpkin Law School

IN 1870 two young men, one the son of a distinguished Oglethorpe county family and one the son of illustrious Virginia ancestors, entered Georgia as roommates. Nearly sixty years later they ceased in death their connections with their Alma Mater, a connection which brought two distinguished careers into the service of the University. The two friends and fellow-teachers were Chancellor David Crenshaw Barrow and Dean Sylvanus Morris.

Like his illustrious compeer, Dr. Morris was a warm friend, one whose every act was done with true sympathy, even though he often gave the gift or did the deed with a touch of friendly irony. His associates and his students remember his many whimsical comments, always spoken with that humor which made him an entrancing conversationalist. His mind was filled with reminiscences of Athens and her people, and a stroll about town as he chatted of the city and its yesterday gave a splendid understanding of Southern culture, which he knew so well.

Graduates of the Lumpkin Law school testify to the thoroughness of his scholarship and the power of his teaching method. He knew the common law of England just as he knew his Bible, and he saw in both the principles of philosophical justice. In his thinking and in his writings there was a concise honesty that showed the influences of wide Biblical reading and careful legal study. From his students he required an exactness of knowledge, a logic of thinking, and a clearness of expression which showed how well he knew the demands of his profession. Many, many stories are told of his patience with the accurate worker.

Under his guidance the Lumpkin Law school grew in numbers, in faculty, in equipment, and in reputation—distinct compliments to his educational ideals.

His honesty and fearlessness in living, thinking, and teaching can be best summarized in the motto he gave the law school: "Know the Truth; the Truth shall set you free."