Lectures

Other Lectures and Presentations

 $University\ of\ Georgia\ School\ of\ Law$

Year 2006

Georgia Law Launches Learning Initiative

Office of Communications and Public Relations University of Georgia School of Law,

Georgia Law launches learning initiative backed by accomplished alumni

The School of Law broke new ground this spring by bringing alumni to campus for a new educational program targeted to law students. What differentiates the Alumni Advocacy Series from other educational programs is this initiative included a series of presentations from six accomplished alumni lawyers all focusing on key elements for successful advocacy in the courtroom.

"This is the first time a regular series of alumni presenters grouped around the common theme of advocacy has come to pass," Ronald L. Carlson, Callaway Chair Emeritus and one of the organizers of the educational initiative, said. "It stands as a notable effort to bring to students the wisdom of many of the best lawyers in Georgia and at the same moment to identify to the law school community the achievements of some of our most accomplished alumni."

Session topics were: using expert witnesses, creating successful exhibits, and arguing and winning appeals.

"The original concept for this educational series came from Dean Rebecca White, who asked me to spearhead the effort," Carlson said. "I am pleased to have played a role, with Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) and the alumni office staff, in bringing some of Georgia Law's talented graduates back to Athens to share their experiences and understanding of the practice of law with the next generation."



"Demonstrative Evidence - Winning Cases with Exhibits" featuring Andrew M. "Andy" Scherffius (J.D.'74), a partner with Scherffius, Ballard, Still & Ayers, and Gordon A. Smith (J.D.'78), a senior litigation partner at King & Spalding

Speaking on defense exhibits, Gordon Smith (J.D.'78) (left) said one should go through several versions of how to graphically depict something "to find the best delivery." Here, he discusses the finer points of using a timeline with assistance from Andy Scherffius (J.D.'74). Scherffius, who shared his thoughts on plaintiff exhibits, said the presentation of exhibits at a trial "has become an art and science of its own."



"Expert Witnesses: How to Prepare, Present and Cross-examine Them" featuring Donald F. "Don" Samuel (J.D.'80), a partner with Garland, Samuel, Loeb, and W.G. "Bill" Scrantom Jr. (LL.B.'55), a partner with Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford

Focusing on the civil side, Bill Scrantom (LL.B.'55) (left) told students to instruct their experts not to try "to sell" the case to the jury. "It's not their job," he said. While Don Samuel (J.D.'80), who spoke regarding criminal trials, said a decision to call an expert should be "based upon whether you should put up any defense at all"



"How to Argue and Win an Appeal" featuring Scott A. Farrow (J.D.'86), a partner at Troutman Sanders, and Richard H. "Rick" Hill II (J.D.'95), the hiring partner at Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial Rick Hill (left), who concentrated on oral arguments, said you have to have "absolute, 100 percent complete deference" for the bench and flexibility in presenting your argument. Regarding briefs, Scott Farrow (J.D.'86) said a key to success in preparing your brief is to write as much of one section at a time as possible. "It's too hard to get into the flow if you have to stop and start, stop and start."

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