Inaugural national education law conference features a dozen from Georgia Law



ELC Co-director and Hosch Professor Anne Dupre (J.D.'88) (back, center) leads conversation at the first national education law conference, which featured 12 former and current Georgia Law students.

The Education Law Consortium, an organization dedicated to the examination of education law and policy, held its inaugural national conference in September at the University of Georgia and featured a dozen former and current Georgia Law students.

The conference focused on significant issues in education law, ranging from academic freedom to school funding.

Its centerpiece was the presentation of papers by law and graduate students from across the country.

Faculty members from law schools and graduate education programs nationwide also served as discussants and commentators.

Georgia Law presenters were: Ashley P. Alderman (3L), Amelie N. Bredas (3L), Robert L. Fortson (J.D.'05), Wendy M. Furey (3L), Melissa A. Hahn (3L), M. Kathleen Hart (3L), Erik S. Johnson (J.D.'05), Alefia E. Mithaiwala (J.D.'05), James E. Radford (3L), Alexis L. Rinehart (3L), Suzanne E. Temple (J.D.'05) and Andrew J. Tuck (3L).

They were joined by students from other institutions, including the Northwestern University School of Law, the University of Notre Dame Law School, the Georgetown University Law Center, the Emory University School of Law, the Suffolk University Law School, the Rutgers School of Law-Camden, the Chicago-Kent College of Law, Brigham Young University, the University of Virginia, the University of Illinois, the University of Maryland and the University of Florida as well as graduate students from the University of Georgia.

The presenters, chosen as winners in a nationwide competition, have had their papers published in the *Education Law and Policy Forum (www.EducationLawConsortium.org)*, the first online interdisciplinary journal for education law and policy.

The journal will serve as a comprehensive online resource for education law researchers at all levels, K-12 to higher education.

Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.'88), ELC codirector and Georgia Law Hosch Professor, said the goal of the conference was to recognize outstanding student scholarship at the crossroads of education, law and policy as well as to provide a forum to discuss important issues in education.

"With such a strong field of presenters, we accomplished this goal and laid a solid foundation for future conferences," she said.

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J. Douglas Toma, an ELC fellow and an associate professor at the university's Institute of Higher Education, added, "The conference also let students and professors from all over the country see what a terrific community of learning we are fostering here at the University of Georgia."

The Education Law Consortium's mission is to provide ready access to non-partisan information, research and analysis to assist those setting education policy at the local, state and federal levels.

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