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### **UGA students' research papers to be spotlighted at national education law conference**

ATHENS, Ga.- The Education Law Consortium, an organization dedicated to the examination of education law and policy, will hold its inaugural national conference on Sept. 24-25 at the University of Georgia's Institute of Higher Education.

The conference will focus on significant issues in education law, ranging from academic freedom to school funding. Its centerpiece will be the presentation of papers by law and graduate students from across the country, including 19 students from UGA. Faculty members from law schools and graduate education programs nationwide will also serve as discussants and commentators.

The presenters, chosen as winners in a nationwide competition, will have their papers published in the Education Law and Policy Forum, an electronic journal set to launch within the next several weeks. This publication is the first online interdisciplinary journal for education law and policy and will serve as a comprehensive online resource for education law researchers at all levels, K-12 to higher education.

UGA winners are: Ashley Alderman, Amelie Bredas, Betsy Buchanan, Santana Flanigan, Robert Fortson, Wendy Furey, Marc Ginsberg, Melissa Hahn, Kathleen Hart, W. Jay Hughes, Erik Johnson, Alefia Mithaiwala, Kathy Pharr, James Radford, Christopher Ramsey, Alexis Rinehart, Suzanne Temple, Matt Thompson and Andrew Tuck. They will be joined by students from other institutions, including Northwestern University School of Law, the University of Notre Dame Law School, Georgetown University Law Center, Emory University School of Law, Suffolk University Law School, Rutgers School of Law-Camden, 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.

ELC co-director Anne Proffitt Dupre, J. Alton Hosch Professor at the UGA School of Law, says the goal of the conference is 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, I am confident we will accomplish this goal in addition to laying a solid foundation for future conferences."

J. Douglas Toma, an ELC fellow and an associate professor at the university's Institute of Higher Education, added, "The conference will 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 consortium provides ready access to non-partisan information, research and analysis to assist those setting education policy at the local, state and federal levels. The Education Law Consortium conference was funded by a grant from UGA's Committee for Applied Instructional Technologies. For more information, please visit the ELC's Web site at <http://www.educationlawconsortium.org>.

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