



School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Prepare.
Connect.
Lead.

Digital Commons @ University of
Georgia School of Law

Dean's Reports

Digital Archives

1-1-2010

Dean's Report, 2010

Rebecca White

University of Georgia School of Law, rhwhite@uga.edu

Recommended Citation

White, Rebecca, "Dean's Report, 2010" (2010). *Dean's Reports*. 4.
https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/dean_report/4

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 Dean's Reports 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.

REBECCA HANNER WHITE

Change is in the air. I am referring not only to the turning of the season and the welcoming of cooler temperatures but also to transformations being made at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Like any school with a long and distinguished history, Georgia Law has made steady changes and enhancements over its 150 years of existence.



This coming year the law school's primary building, Hirsch Hall, will be renovated. Above are renderings of what the Sutherland Courtyard area will look like after the first phase of this project.

To view more architectural drawings of the proposed changes, please visit www.law.uga.edu/RenovationBrochure.pdf.

However, I am particularly pleased to announce that this coming year the school's primary building, Hirsch Hall – which was dedicated in 1932 and expanded during the 1960s – will see renovations started. The first phase will primarily affect the ground floor and the Sutherland Courtyard, while the second and third phases will consist of a facelift for the remainder of the building's public spaces. The key goal of these modifications is to create a more productive learning and scholarly atmosphere for our students by constructing additional places that will facilitate faculty/student interaction, provide more locations for small group study, create additional student organization and faculty/staff office space as well as generally spruce up areas that basically look the same as they did after the 1967 expansion.

We are very excited about these improvements to the school's physical plant and the enhancements to learning they will afford. I invite you to find out more about the school's plans by visiting our website at www.law.uga.edu/RenovationBrochure.pdf.

FACULTY

In addition to the planned renovations, changes have been made to Georgia Law's accomplished corps of faculty. Earlier this year, we hired three professors, and five were promoted or granted tenure.



Associate Professor
Andrea Dennis

Joining Georgia Law from the University of Kentucky, Andrea L. Dennis is an associate professor who will lead courses in the areas of criminal law, evidence and criminal procedure. Previously, Andrea served as an assistant federal public defender in the District of Maryland, worked for the Office of the Corporation

Counsel and clerked for Judge Raymond A. Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Her J.D. is from New York University, where she was a member of the *New York University Annual Survey of American Law*.



Assistant Professor
Timothy Meyer

Specializing in international business transactions and international environmental law, Assistant Professor Timothy L. Meyer came to Georgia from the U.S. Department of State Office of the Legal Adviser. He also served as a judicial clerk to Judge Neil M. Gorsuch of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the

10th Circuit. He earned his law degree and doctorate in jurisprudence and social policy from the University of California at Berkeley, where he graduated first in his law class, was a member of the *California Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.



Assistant Professor
Logan Sawyer

Logan E. Sawyer III joined Georgia Law as an assistant professor teaching American Legal History, Legal Profession and Corporations. Previously, he held a Law Research Fellowship at Georgetown University and taught at the University of

Virginia. Logan also served as associate counsel for the Homeland Security Council at the White House and as a judicial clerk for Judge Jane R. Roth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit and Justice Robert F. Orr of the North Carolina Supreme Court. He earned his J.D. as well as both his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Virginia, where he served as the articles editor of the *Virginia Environmental Law Journal*.



Cleveland Distinguished
Chair of Legal Ethics
and Professionalism
Lonnie Brown

Lonnie T. Brown Jr. was named the new holder of the Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism. (This post was previously held by Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor and former Dean C. Ronald Ellington, who retired in 2009.) Lonnie, who teaches Civil Procedure, Legal Profession, Ethics in Litigation

and Conflict of Laws, joined the Georgia faculty during 2002. In 2004, he was appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court to a three-year term as a member of the Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board for the State Bar of Georgia and served as vice chair during his final year.



Associate Dean for
Faculty Development
& Post Professor Paul
Heald

Assuming the post of associate dean for faculty development, which was vacated by Woodruff Chair in International Law Daniel M. Bodansky earlier this year, is Paul J. Heald, who also holds the Post Professorship at Georgia Law. In his new role, Paul will work closely with the law school's faculty, especially junior professors, to expand and

promote scholarly activities. A Georgia Law faculty member since 1989 who specializes in domestic and international intellectual property law, Paul has been a visiting professor and an invited speaker at several leading law schools in the United States and around the globe.



Associate Professor
Usha Rodrigues

Usha Rodrigues, who became a member of the Georgia Law faculty during 2005, was awarded tenure earlier this year. She teaches Contracts, Business Planning and Non-Public Business Associations. Prior to coming to Athens, Usha was a corporate associate with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in

Reston, Va., and served as a judicial clerk for Judge Thomas L. Ambro of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit.



Managing Attorney of
the Mediation Practicum
Ellie Lanier

Eleanor "Ellie" Crosby Lanier, who has been affiliated with Georgia Law since 2005 as the managing attorney of the Mediation Practicum, was recently named a full-time, skills-based instructor to serve the growing needs of this program. Before coming to UGA, Ellie was a consulting attorney and mediation trainer for The Center for Social

Gerontology in Ann Arbor, Mich., which pioneered the use of elder mediation.



Director of the Law
Library Carol Watson
(J.D.'87)

In July, Carol A. Watson (J.D.'87) became the new director of the Alexander Campbell King Law Library, replacing longtime Director E. Ann Puckett who retired after almost 16 years of service. Carol is no stranger to UGA, where she earned three of her four degrees. She has also been a member of the law library staff for the past 23 years, during

which she served as associate director for information technology and supervised the law school's Computing Services Team.

Georgia Law faculty members continue to take their roles as both teacher and scholar most seriously. On the research front, I am pleased to report that journals of some of the nation's top law schools have published,

or will soon be publishing, articles authored by our faculty. These schools include: California at Berkeley, Case Western Reserve, Chicago, Fordham, George Mason, George Washington, Harvard, Northwestern, Stanford, Syracuse, Virginia, and Washington and Lee. Moreover, publishers such as Cambridge University Press, Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, Aspen Publishers, LexisNexis and Thomson/West have printed, or will soon be printing, books carrying the work of our professors.

Of special note are the numerous prestigious appointments/honors bestowed on the Georgia Law faculty during the past 12 months. A sampling of these follow.

Shackelford Distinguished Professor in Taxation Law Walter Hellerstein was named to *State Tax Notes'* "All-Decade State Tax Team," which included only 15 individuals nationwide and honored the "most influential people in the state and local tax world during the last 10 years."

Assistant Professor Fazal Khan is part of a team that was awarded a three-year National Institutes of Health grant to create an interdisciplinary center on the ethical, legal and social implications of epigenetics research. He will serve as one of the primary legal consultants for the center alongside principal investigators from Oregon Health & Science University.

Criminal Defense Clinic Director Russell C. Gabriel (J.D.'85) was awarded a grant to investigate the financial burden of prosecution on indigent defendants in the criminal justice system.

Associate Professor Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge was selected to serve as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Vienna School of Law for the 2010-2011 academic year.



Director of the Law
Library and Professor
Emerita Ann Puckett

Lastly, new Law Library Director Carol Watson was elected vice president/president elect of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Additionally, prior to Ann Puckett's retirement from the law school as professor and director

of the law library in July, she was inducted into the inaugural class of the American Association of Law Libraries Hall of Fame, which was created to recognize AALL members whose contributions to the profession and service to the association have been significant, substantial and longstanding. Ann made a similar impact at the law school. While her presence will be missed, we wish her and her husband, Dr. Thomas A. "Tom" Wilson, well in her retirement.



Former Associate Dean and longtime faculty member Gabriel Wilner

Another large loss for the law school was the unexpected passing of Associate Dean Gabriel M. Wilner on May 21, approximately one week after his participation in graduation exercises. A member of the Georgia Law faculty since 1973, Gabriel played many roles within the Georgia Law community – associate dean for graduate legal studies,

executive director of the Dean Rusk Center, director of the school's study abroad program in Brussels and faculty adviser for the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*. He also taught courses on international law, international legal transactions, European Union law, international commercial arbitration and transnational investment. In recognition of Gabriel's contributions, the school hosted a lecture during October in his memory, which was sponsored by the LL.M. Alumni Association. This presentation was delivered by Christof Siefarth (LL.M.'86), partner in the GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten law firm in Germany and longtime LL.M. Alumni Association president, who outlined 10 essential tools for being an international business lawyer. Additionally, the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* will dedicate Vol. 39, Issue 3, in memory of Gabriel. The law school community's loss is tremendous, and our thoughts continue to be with his wife of 40 years, Gisele.

Distinguished visiting professors, scholars and invited guests are used to expand the curricular offerings at Georgia Law and to enhance the intellectual atmosphere with a broader spectrum of thoughts and ideol-

ogies. This fall, we are hosting 1999 alumna Elizabeth Weeks Leonard who is a tenured full professor at the University of Kansas. Elizabeth is teaching Torts and Health Care Finance. Visiting professors also for this fall include the Delaware Court of Chancery Chancellor William B. Chandler III who is instructing a course on advanced corporations and the University of New Mexico's Erik F. Gerding who is teaching Corporations and Contracts.

Plus, in the spring, we will welcome former Georgia Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard (J.D.'68) as the school's Sanders Political Leadership Scholar, which is named for alumnus and former Georgia Gov. Carl E. Sanders (J.D.'48). Howard will lead a course in law and politics. *Slate* magazine's Dahlia Lithwick (who served as the Edith House lecturer earlier this year) will teach *The Media and The Courts*, while the Louisiana State University Law Center's William R. Corbett will teach *Employment Discrimination and Torts*.

Our 2010-2012 Public Interest Fellow is David J. Deganian who is focusing on the provision of education, advocacy and legal representation for low-income communities suffering from environmental degradation in their residential neighborhoods. David is the school's fifth fellow to participate in this program that fosters the creation of projects to provide civil legal services to indigent Georgians and to incorporate law students in the delivery of services.

Our invited lecturer and guest list reflects the school's solid scholarly reputation and represents the diversity and ever evolving areas of interest of our students and faculty.



Delivering the keynote address at graduation was former Acting Solicitor General of the United States Walter Dellinger.

Last year, our Sibley Lecturers were the University of Virginia's Frederick Schauer, who delivered a talk titled "When and How (If at All) Does Law Constrain Official Action?" and Yale University's

William Eskridge Jr., whose presentation discussed whether equal rights for gay people should give way to liberties for religious people.

The former Acting U.S. Solicitor General Walter E. Dellinger III provided the keynote address at graduation, and Assistant Surgeon General and Acting Deputy Director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ali S. Khan spoke about health strategies and global health security.

Discussing artist compensation in the European Union as well as the contractual structures that drive creative industries was Bournemouth University Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management's Director Martin Kretschmer, while the former Solicitor General of Hong Kong Daniel R. Fung addressed Sino-American relations in an age of economic turmoil.

Also, in October, financial crimes expert from the European Anti-Fraud Office Andrea Venegoni provided the law school community with an European Union perspective on financial investigations and the fight against fraud, while former U.S. Ambassador to Romania James C. Rosapepe and his wife, award-winning journalist Sheilah Kast, discussed the former communist country's transformation to a democratic society.

Conferences hosted during the past 12 months include: the 10th Annual Legal Ethics & Professional-



Former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland presented "We Are Public Interest" at the 5th Annual Working in the Public Interest Law Conference, which partnered with the 25th Annual EJF Auction.

ism Symposium titled Drawing the Ethical Line: Controversial Cases, Zealous Advocacy and the Public Good and featuring former U.S. Attorney General W. Ramsey Clark and former U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico David C. Iglesias; the International Human Rights and Climate Change Conference featuring Yale University's Thomas Pogge; the 5th Annual Working in the Public Interest Law Conference (which part-

nered with the 25th Annual Equal Justice Foundation Auction) featuring former U.S. Sen. J. Maxwell "Max" Cleland; and the 22nd Annual Red Clay Conference titled Three States, One River: Exploring the Tri-State Water Dispute and featuring Villanova University's Joseph W. Dellapenna as well as Davis, Pickren & Seydel Partner J. Rutherford Seydel II.

The Dean Rusk Center has also helped coordinate a series of conferences on nuclear security and related issues, starting with Legal Frameworks for Strengthening Nuclear Security and Combating Nuclear Terrorism held in Austria during January. This was followed by the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit: Expectations and Realities held on campus and November's Fallout: The Future of Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation, which was held in Athens as well.

This fall, we were pleased to host the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, which heard oral arguments in the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom, and the Robes in the Schools program, where judges shared their paths to the bench as well as strategies and tips for success in the legal profession. Several Georgia Law graduates participated in the latter program – Melodie Snell Conner (J.D.'86), Doris L. "Dee" Downs (J.D.'81), Stephen S. "Steve" Goss (J.D.'86) and Janet F. King (J.D.'80), as well as Georgia Law Adjunct Professor Patricia Barron.



Returning to Georgia Law to participate in the Robes in the Schools program were: (l. to r.) Dee Downs (J.D.'81), Janet King (J.D.'80), Melodie Snell Conner (J.D.'86), Steve Goss (J.D.'86) and Adjunct Professor Patricia Barron.

STUDENTS

Enrolling a smart, talented and diverse student body is rightfully one of the law school's strategic goals, and this year, once again, the first-year entering class set records. The Class of 2013's median Law School Admission Test score of 164 and the median undergraduate grade point average of 3.7 tied existing school records established last year, while the LSAT scores for the 75th and 25th percentiles of 166 and

ENTERING CLASS OF 2010 STATISTICS

	LSAT Score	Undergraduate GPA
75th Percentile	166*	3.8
Median	164*	3.7*
25th Percentile	162*	3.4

* Represents a school record.

162, respectively, were new highs. Furthermore, one-third of the class impressively scored in the top six percent of LSAT test takers nationwide, and likewise two-thirds of the class placed in the top 10 percent.

The 248 students composing the Class of 2013 studied at 100 undergraduate institutions, with the most common undergraduate schools being UGA (77), Emory University (8), Furman University (7), the University of Virginia (7), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (6), Clemson University (5), the University of Florida (5), Auburn University (4), the Georgia Institute of Technology (4), Mercer University in Macon (4), Morehouse College (4) and the University of Texas at Austin (4). Twenty-one percent of this class considers themselves a member of a minority group, and more than one-half of the minorities are African American.

This very bright group of students was recruited by the school's new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Paul B. Rollins and his team, which includes Director of Diversity Programs and Associate Director of Admissions Gregory L. "Greg" Roseboro (J.D.'87) and Assistant Director of Admissions Ramsey Henderson Bridges (J.D.'05). Paul's designation as assistant dean became effective earlier this summer and reflects his new role of overseeing the school's career services, student affairs and registrar functions. This change in

structure allows for a more integrated approach to the administration of student life at the school.

Furthermore, longtime Director of Student Affairs and Registrar Marc A. Galvin announced his decision to retire after 27 years of service to the law school on December 31. Marc joined the law school in 1983 as the associate director of admissions and became its registrar in 1986 and its director of student affairs during 1992, and then added facilities management in 2007. Of special note is the fact that well over half of the school's graduates were students during Marc's tenure as registrar. We wish Marc well as he embarks on his retirement but are pleased he has agreed to remain with the school on a part-time basis to see the institution through its planned renovations mentioned earlier.

The Master of Laws program also recruited an excellent class. Twelve individuals are currently enrolled in this one-year program that provides an individually fashioned curriculum in a variety of self-selected legal areas. This year's students are from the countries of Brazil, China, Guyana, Nicaragua and Nigeria, along with several from the United States.

Academic life at Georgia Law continues to respond to the needs and interests of the legal profession and the student body. Presently, the faculty is in the process of reviewing the first-year curriculum to ensure it is providing the best foundation for our future graduates to excel in the practice of law.



The Land Use Clinic is one of five new service learning programs created by the law school since 2002. Photographed above are students enrolled in the clinic who worked to reduce the local industrial impact on residents living in Newtown, a community located in Gainesville, Ga. Jamie Baker Roskie (J.D.'01) (in sunglasses) serves as the clinic's managing attorney. Photo by *The Gainesville Times*.

Similarly, upper-level course offerings have evolved. One recent trend is the provision of more hands-on courses. Georgia Law has expanded its service learning classes significantly in recent years. Since 2002, we have added five programs – the Land Use Clinic, the Mediation Practicum, the Special Education Practicum, the Corporate Counsel Externship and the Appellate Litigation Clinic, our newest initiative in which students aid in the representation of indigent clients in appeals to U.S. Courts of Appeals. The school now offers 12 service learning programs.

Last year, we officially launched the school's Business Law and Ethics Program to ensure our graduates are prepared to advise business clients, particularly in a transactional practice. Supplementing core classes and practice-based courses are experiential learning components such as the Corporate Counsel Externship and national negotiation competitions. Georgia Law's negotiation teams have already added to the school's reputation by winning a national championship during the program's second year of participating in national tournaments.

Of course, the school's advocacy teams continue to perform at a high level. For the 2009-2010 academic year, Georgia Law students captured a national title – at the Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition – and three regional/state trophies – at the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Southeastern Regional Competition, the National Moot Court Regional Competition (where they eventually finished as one of the top eight teams in the country) and the Intrastate Moot Court Competition. (This is our fifth consecutive year of capturing the state's top trophy!)

The desire for international learning is another growth area in legal education and in education more generally. During the last 10 years, Georgia Law has started two new study abroad programs – Georgia Law at Oxford and the Summer Program in China (with study taking place in both Beijing and Shanghai) – in addition to creating the Global Internship Program, which is UGA's largest international program in terms of geographic reach. Moreover, the longtime Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union was modified three years ago to qualify for ABA accreditation.



Students participating in Georgia Law's Summer Program in China.

Today's students shape and promote legal dialogue and debate by sponsoring conferences and speakers. Members of the school's three journals – the *Georgia Law Review*, the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* and the *Journal of Intellectual Property Law* – also contribute significantly to legal discussions by publishing articles from leading scholars. With approximately 35 student organizations (as compared to roughly 20 one decade ago), I am sure you can imagine the wide array of speakers, activities and viewpoints expressed at Georgia Law on any given day.

By far, the largest percentage of our graduates still go into private practice. For the Class of 2009, which reported a 99 percent placement rate within nine months after graduation (the official reporting deadline of the National Association for Law Placement), 65 percent went into private practice while 14 percent obtained judicial clerkships, nine percent found jobs in the government sector, five percent entered the field of business/industry, four percent pursued public interest work and three percent decided to continue their education. The average starting salary for these graduates was just over \$108,000.

I am pleased to report that our former students have had excellent success in recent years in obtaining federal clerkships. Earlier this spring, Georgia Law ranked second among public law schools and 10th overall for graduates in federal clerkships (based on the Class of 2008). Furthermore, this fall, *The New York*