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Justice Melton Returns to Athens

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Justice Melton returns to Athens

A little over six months ago, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed Georgia Law alumnus Harold D. Melton (J.D.’91) to the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Previously, Melton served as executive counsel to the Georgia governor, representing the state leader on legal issues covering the entire scope of state government. He also served in the Attorney General’s Office for nearly 12 years, where he worked in the fiscal affairs and business finance sections and was a senior assistant to the attorney general over the consumer interests section.

At the request of the Davenport-Benham Chapter of the Black Law Students Association, Melton returned to campus in late October. While on campus, he addressed the student body, attended a reception with faculty and students, and was given a tour to view some of the recent law school renovations.

During his address to students, he said some of the life lessons he has learned are:

1) Be where you are – Be prepared academically and professionally so you can take advantage of the opportunities before you and be faithful to the task at hand.
2) Work on your internal engine – What will separate you is who you are as a person. Who you are will make the difference. Your preparation is everything you have done all of your life.
3) Be idealistic – Great things have been accomplished by those who have been idealistic and committed to their principles.

Kirch wins AALS’ Kutulakis Award

The Association of American Law Schools has named Beth S. Kirch, the director of Legal Career Services at Georgia Law, as the 2006 recipient of the Kutulakis Student Services Award.

Presented annually, this award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an institution, administrator or law professor in the provision of service to students as exemplified by the late Peter N. Kutulakis of Dickinson Law School.

In support of Kirch’s nomination, current third-year student Palma E. Pustilnik wrote, “She is a dedicated volunteer, an enthusiastic supporter of public service at the university and in the community at large, and a warm and caring administrator whose door is always open. Beth is one of those very rare people who works tirelessly to help bring out the best in people and makes it look effortless.”

Georgia Law colleague Tony E. Waller (J.D.’90) said, “Her willingness to go to bat for student organizations with firms and lawyers is born out of her belief that law students, who learn the value of service in law school, will be lawyers who value service when they practice.”

Kirch has over 20 years of legal career planning and recruiting experience. She joined the Georgia Law staff in 1995 after working in the legal career services offices at Georgia State University and Emory University.

She also served as the recruiting coordinator at Neely & Player for three years and worked in the law library at Hurt, Richardson, Garner, Todd & Cadenhead.

The award was presented at the AALS’ Washington, D.C., meeting in January.