



School of Law  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Prepare.  
Connect.  
Lead.

Digital Commons @ University of  
Georgia School of Law

---

Dean's Reports

Digital Archives

---

1-1-2012

## Dean's Report, 2012

Rebecca White

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

---

### Recommended Citation

White, Rebecca, "Dean's Report, 2012" (2012). *Dean's Reports*. 2.  
[https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/dean\\_report/2](https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/dean_report/2)

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](mailto:tstriepe@uga.edu).

# Dean's Report 2012

The past year at the University of Georgia School of Law has been one of significant progress. Our law school is moving forward on virtually every front in its important mission of educating the next generation of lawyers and leaders.

An instantly apparent change has been to the school's facilities. On the cover of this *Annual Report* is the law school's most recognizable space – the rotunda, which received a much needed facelift this past summer. This beautiful area now features black granite and white marble flooring – complementing the work completed last year in the north end of the school's primary building – and is much brighter due to the “opening up” of the cupola that now provides natural and enhanced lighting to this historic entrance.



The law school's rotunda was recently updated as part of a larger renovation of the school's facilities that included capturing approximately 4,000 additional sq. ft. of building space and creating the beautiful Sutherland Courtyard, which is now a popular gathering space for students and faculty.

Mehrsa came to Georgia from the law faculty at Brigham Young University, where she specialized in banking law and was named the 1L Professor of the Year. After earning her bachelor's degree *cum laude* from BYU and her law degree *cum laude* from New York University, where she served as a member of the *New York University Law Review*, she was an Academic Research Fellow at NYU and practiced law in the financial institutions group at Davis Polk & Wardwell.

Specializing in consumer law and administrative law, Kent previously taught as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. He also served as a judicial clerk for Judge John M. Rogers of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit and practiced law at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. He earned his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Centre College and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Kentucky, where he served as articles editor of the *Kentucky Law Journal* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

Georgia Law faculty members earning endowed positions this past year were Lori A. Ringhand, Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge and David E. Shipley.



Dean Rebecca Hanner White

An even more significant transformation, however, has been to our faculty. Since 2003, we have added 27 new members, which has resulted in a more vibrant and engaged scholarly atmosphere. Today, Georgia Law is a fundamentally stronger institution that has never before offered a greater variety of courses or student-teacher ratios more conducive to a high quality education. Our two most recent additions – Assistant Professors Mehrsa Baradaran and Kent Barnett – exemplify the quality of faculty that is strengthening our school.



Assistant Professor  
Mehrsa Baradaran



Assistant Professor  
Kent Barnett



Hosch Professor  
Lori Ringhand

Lori was awarded a J.Alton Hosch Professorship. Since 2008, she has led courses at Georgia Law in constitutional law, election law, and state and local government. The 2010 recipient of the school's Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching, she previously taught at the University of Kentucky and served as a visiting scholar at the Oxford Institute of European and Comparative Law. A widely published

scholar who has established herself as a leading theorist on the intersection of American politics and the operations of the U.S. Supreme Court, Lori is currently co-authoring a book exploring the role of U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on pending Supreme Court appointments and constitutional change in addition to a new casebook on constitutional law.



Talmadge Chair  
Bo Rutledge

Bo, who joined our faculty in 2008, is the new holder of the Herman E. Talmadge Chair of Law. His teaching and research interests include international dispute resolution, arbitration, international business transactions and the U.S. Supreme Court. A former judicial clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas and Fulbright Scholar, Bo has received multiple teaching awards and previously taught at the Catholic

University of America. He also worked for Wilmer Cutler & Pickering and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Austria. A prolific scholar who has delivered more than 30 presentations around the world, Bo is the author of the recently published book *Arbitration and the Constitution* (by Cambridge University Press) and co-author of the casebook *International Civil Litigation in United States Courts* (by Aspen Publishers).



Georgia Athletic  
Association Professor  
David Shipley

David, my predecessor as dean, was recently named the Georgia Athletic Association Professor in Law. He came to Athens in 1998 after serving as law dean and professor at the University of Kentucky and the University of Mississippi. His current teaching load includes: Copyright, Administrative Law, Civil Procedure and Remedies, and he is the co-author of the casebook *Copyright Law: Cases and Materials*. In 2010, he was named the UGA

Faculty Athletics Representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Southeastern Conference, where he supports the academic progress and success

of UGA's student-athletes, serves as secretary to the UGA Athletic Association Board of Directors and aids in monitoring compliance with NCAA rules and regulations.

Additionally, Harlan G. Cohen was awarded tenure, and Hillel Y. Levin was promoted to associate professor.



Associate Professor  
Harlan Cohen

Harlan, who specializes in international law, joined the Georgia Law faculty in 2007 and was promoted to the rank of associate professor last year. Harlan came to UGA from New York University, where he was a Furman Fellow. Earlier, he worked at the New York law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and served as a judicial clerk for Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit.

A rising star in his field, Harlan's scholarship focuses on international legal theory and history, global governance and U.S. foreign affairs law. Notably, earlier this year, he served as co-chair of the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law.



Associate Professor  
Hillel Levin

Teaching courses on administrative law, civil procedure, constitutional law and legislation, Hillel's former experience includes serving as an instructor and fellow at Stanford Law School. He also served as a judicial clerk for Judge Thomas J. Meskill of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit and specialized in complex litigation at Robinson & Cole. An active participant in the national academic dialogue in the area of statutory interpretation and the judicial process, Hillel's most recent article was published in the *University of Illinois Law Review*, and he has travelled to the Brooklyn Law School, Stanford University, Emory University and Villanova University, among other venues, to share his expertise.

Some other accolades and honors bestowed on Georgia Law's faculty during the past year include Kent Barnett being selected to present at the 2012 Yale-Stanford-Harvard Junior Faculty Forum, where he was one of only 17 early-career scholars nationwide invited to speak.

Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism Lonnie T. Brown Jr. received the law school's Student Bar Association Professionalism Award and was inducted into UGA's Teaching Academy, which promotes faculty leadership in teaching and learning, and he was also selected to serve as the principal substantive consultant for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia's Civil Local Rules Revision Project.

Harlan Cohen won the *New York University Journal of International Law and Politics* Peer Review Award, which recognizes the most significant contribution by an emerging young scholar published in the *JILP* during the academic year.

Criminal Defense Clinic Director Russell C. Gabriel (J.D.'85) received the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers President's Award for excellence in service as chair of the organization's Indigent Defense Committee.

Assistant Professor Matthew I. Hall was named a 2011-13 Lilly Teaching Fellow, a post that provides UGA tenure-track junior faculty an opportunity to enhance their pedagogy.

Associate Professor Erica J. Hashimoto received the law school's Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Lori Ringhand was given the Southern Political Science Association 2012 Neal Tate Award, which is reserved for outstanding papers in judicial politics.

Assistant Professor Logan E. Sawyer III was selected as a member of the 2011-12 UGA Teaching Academy Fellows Program, where he was one of only 19 early-career faculty members campus-wide chosen to be paired with members of the Teaching Academy who will serve as mentors to these junior professors.

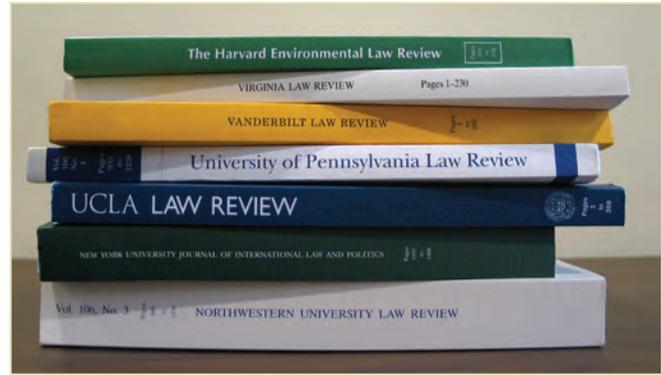
Martin Chair James C. Smith was appointed by the Uniform Law Commission to serve as co-reporter for the new drafting committee on the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Process and Protections Act.

And, Assistant Professor Christian Turner was awarded the law school's O'Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions to Furthering Faculty-Student Relations.

Moreover, two retired members of our faculty – Callaway Chair Emeritus Verner F. Chaffin (LL.B.'42) and Law Library Director Emeritus Erwin C. Surrency (J.D.'48) – both received notable honors – the American Law Institute's 50-year membership medallion and induction into the American Association of Law Libraries Hall of Fame, respectively.

On a related note, Sibley Professor in Corporate and Business Law Larry D. Thompson agreed to rejoin PepsiCo as executive vice president, government affairs, general counsel and corporate secretary late this past summer. He is currently on leave from Georgia Law for this appointment and plans to return to Athens in the spring to teach a course. He is also a member of the search committee for UGA's next president, as Michael F. Adams plans to step down at the end of this fiscal year.

On the scholarly front, our faculty has been very active. Over the past 18 months, articles written by our professors have been published, or will soon be published, in journals from some of the nation's top law schools.



These schools include: the University of California, Los Angeles; Duke University; Emory University; George Washington University; Harvard University; the University of Minnesota; New York University; Northwestern University; the University of Notre Dame; the University of Pennsylvania; Stanford University; Vanderbilt University and the University of Virginia. Select publishers that have printed, or will soon be printing, books carrying the work of our professors are: the Cambridge University Press, the Oxford University Press, the Yale University Press, Aspen Publishers, LexisNexis and Thompson/West.

While we have enriched our law school with outstanding new hires, we have said, or will soon be saying, goodbye to long serving members of our faculty.

Chaffin Distinguished Professor in Fiduciary Law Sarajane N. Love (J.D.'73), a specialist in trusts and estates, will retire January 1. She joined the Georgia Law faculty in 1984 and also taught courses in the regulation of pensions, employee benefits, women and the law, and estate and gift tax.

Distinguished Research Professor and Rogers Chair Alan Watson, who retired June 1, served on the Georgia Law faculty for 23 years and taught Comparative Law, Jurisprudence, Law in the Gospels and Western Legal Tradition. He was recently awarded the American Society of Comparative Law's Lifetime Achievement Award.

And, Professor Donald E. "Eugene" Wilkes Jr., who also retired June 1, joined our faculty in 1971 and specialized in the fields of criminal procedure, English legal history and postconviction remedies. Additionally, he is a leading expert on the writ of habeas corpus.

I thank these three colleagues for their contributions to the law school over the years, and I know you join me in wishing them well in this new phase of their lives.

Another pending faculty departure is that of Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Hosch Professor Paul M. Kurtz. Paul will retire at the end of this academic year after almost 40 years of service to the law school, with more than half of that term as associate dean. During his tenure, he taught Family Law, Criminal Law and Constitutional Law. Like the other retirees, Paul has

touched the lives of many in the Georgia Law community, and I know his mark in the classroom and beyond will remain long after his departure.

I would also like to remember the passing of two important law school figures – Law School Association Professor Emeritus John B. Rees Jr. and former Associate Dean and Director of Admissions John “Jack” Murray. Professor Rees passed away in September. He served on the Georgia Law faculty from 1959 to 2002 and taught Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws and Federal Courts. He also served as assistant dean from 1964 to 1969 and led the facilities committee that oversaw the design and construction of the law school’s 1967 expansion. Col. Murray passed away in August and taught at the law school from 1965 to 1976. His areas of specialty were workers’ compensation, contracts and criminal law. I know you join me in expressing sorrow to their surviving family members, especially Professor Rees’ wife, Elinor.

Each year, Georgia Law is able to enrich its curricular offerings by bringing in distinguished visitors to teach courses in their areas of specialty. For the 2012-13 academic year, Sally R. Weaver, previously with the University of Montana, is leading courses in legal drafting for transactional practice, contracts and unincorporated business associations.

For the fall semester, the University of Cincinnati’s Lin “Lynn” Bai is teaching Contemporary Issues in Business Law and Corporate Finance, the Southern Center for Human Rights’ Stephen B. Bright is instructing in the area of equal justice in the criminal justice system, the former Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery William B. Chandler III is teaching Advanced Corporations, Southern Illinois University’s Lucian E. Dervan is leading courses in criminal law and sentencing, and American University’s Robert L. Tsai is assisting with the law school’s Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice Program.

Joining us on campus this spring will be Texas Wesleyan University’s Michael Z. Green, who will teach Employment Law and Employment Discrimination, and Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz’s Urs Peter Gruber, who will lead a course in international sales law.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is one of the high profile speakers who presented at Georgia Law last year.

As I mentioned earlier, the intellectual vibrancy at Georgia Law is at an all-time high. This is an area that can be hard to measure, but a recent count reflected that no fewer than 450 outside speakers – including U.S. Supreme Court justices, other high-ranking government officials and approximately 200 professors from



Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal visited the law school last fall.

other law schools – have spoken at Georgia Law events over the past decade. This level of engagement with the broader legal community tremendously enriches the learning environment experienced by our students.

Some of Georgia Law’s more high profile speakers from the past 12 months or so include: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas (this was his fifth trip to Georgia Law since 2003); Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal; Georgia Supreme Court Justices Carol W. Hunstein, Harold D. Melton (J.D.’91) and David E. Nahmias; Georgia Court of Appeals Judges John J. Ellington (J.D.’85) and Keith R. Blackwell (J.D.’99) (who now serves on our state’s Supreme Court); U.S. District Court Judges J. Randal Hall (J.D.’82), Steve C. Jones (J.D.’88) and Lisa Godbey Wood (J.D.’90); U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia Edward J. “Ed” Tarver (J.D.’91); U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss; former Federal Bureau of Investigation General Counsel Valerie Caproni (J.D.’79); Georgia Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp; Georgia Senate President Pro Tempore Tommie A. Williams; and Georgia House of Representatives Minority Leader Stacey Y. Abrams.



International Court of Justice Judge Joan Donoghue served as the 108th Sibley Lecturer.



Delivering the 30th Edith House Lecture was General Counsel for Coca-Cola North America Leslie Turner.

Through the school’s endowed lecture series and conferences, several other distinguished guests delivered talks. These include International Court of Justice Judge Joan E. Donoghue giving the 108th Sibley Lecture and Coca-Cola North America General Counsel Leslie M. Turner delivering the 30th Edith House Lecture. The *Journal of International and Comparative Law* hosted an energy security conference, which featured U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner William C. Ostendorff. Moreover, our country’s first Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues David Scheffer spoke in March about his involvement in establishing international criminal tribunals, and U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Georgia Richard W. “Rick” Story (J.D.’78) delivered the commencement address in May.

I am very pleased that Georgia Law was able to host the American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting and Research

Forum last month – featuring United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and U.N. Legal Counsel Patricia O'Brien and U.S. State Department Legal Adviser Harold Hongju Koh – as well as the Junior International Law Scholars Association Annual Meeting in February, where emerging international law specialists had the opportunity to present and comment on works in progress. Having this kind of direct involvement with well respected associations and their influential memberships is invaluable for both our students and faculty, and I thank Woodruff Chair in International Law Diane Marie Amann, Associate Professor Harlan Cohen and alumnus Charles A. "Charlie" Hunnicutt (J.D.'75) for their work in bringing these meetings to Athens.

Other efforts bringing timely scholarly discussion to campus include the hosting of the 24th Annual Red Clay Conference, which addressed how to balance the long-term sustainability of Georgia's ecosystems with efforts to stabilize and improve the state's economy. The *Journal of Intellectual Property Law* organized a conference titled "Back to the Future: Global Perspectives on the Future of IP Law in the Next Decade." The Seventh Annual Working in the Public Interest Law Conference included topics ranging from judicial budget cuts to the sustainability of animal farming. A conference on current music industry business and legal issues incorporated a free legal clinic for musicians. Loyola University New Orleans' Robert Garda came to Athens to speak about the benefits of diversity for white students, while award-winning author Peter Godwin covered Robert Mugabe's dictatorship in Zimbabwe. Additionally, earlier this fall, our students organized the Second Annual Law and Politics Symposium, which explored criminal justice reform, legislative ethics reform and the future of transportation initiatives in our state.



The law school's Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice Program has made a number of prestigious opportunities available to Georgia Law students, such as getting to meet with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

As referenced, Georgia Law has never before provided a richer curriculum for its students. As a result of a recent faculty-wide study of upper-level courses and a

redesigned first-year curriculum, the variety of classes we currently offer has been expanded and enhanced, and there are more experiential learning opportunities available.

I am pleased to report we debuted our Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice Program this past spring. This very popular offering allows up to 15 second- and third-year students to earn course credit while living and working in our nation's capital for 14 weeks. Placements from the 2012 year include: the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Natural Resources Defense Council, to name a few.

This program joins the successful launch of the school's Mediation Practicum in 2005, as well as the creation of the Corporate Counsel Externship and the Appellate Litigation Clinic, which both started in 2010. Furthermore, we have three more opportunities under development – the Business Law Practicum, the Community Economic Development Clinic and the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic – bringing our total number of service learning programs to 14. These initiatives, plus the school's new Business Law and Ethics Program, are designed to provide our students with practical hands-on learning to better prepare them for the practice of law beyond their time in Athens.

Additionally, the provision of international learning opportunities continues to be a key area of focus. Georgia Law currently is one of the few American law schools offering a semester-long study abroad program, and I am especially pleased that this opportunity is in Oxford, England, with much of the teaching by law faculty affiliated with the prestigious University of Oxford.

The Dean Rusk Center for International Law and Policy, under the direction of C. Donald "Don" Johnson (J.D.'73), reworked the school's longstanding summer study program in Brussels last year to include a new component in Geneva, Switzerland. Don and the Rusk Center's new Assistant Director Laura Tate Kagel (J.D.'06) also oversee a successful summer study program at top law schools in China's two largest cities – Beijing and Shanghai.

Our very popular Global Internship Program, which continues to be UGA's largest in terms of geographic reach and currently provides more than 70 placements in more than 30 countries around the world, recently became a beneficiary of a UGA grant of \$100,000 from the Freeman Foundation to implement the Asia-Georgia Internship Connection – a campus-wide initiative to expand and transform existing student internship opportunities in East and Southeast Asia.



Georgia Law's Global Internship Program, which is one of the university's largest, has placed more than 225 students in work or study positions during the summer months in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America since its inception in 2001.

The desire to earn a law degree from Georgia Law is high. This stems from the quality of instruction, the strength of curriculum, the supportive and collegial atmosphere, the school's facilities and location on the university's historic North Campus, and the cost of attendance.

Georgia Law continues to be ranked a "best value" law school, and this benefits the school as it competes for our nation's very top students.

### Class of 2015 Statistics

|                 | LSAT Score | Undergraduate GPA |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 75th Percentile | 165        | 3.85              |
| Median          | 164        | 3.67              |
| 25th Percentile | 158        | 3.36              |

In recent years, the academic credentials of our entering classes have reached new heights, further strengthening the intellectual atmosphere at the school. I am pleased to share this year's entering class continues this tradition. The Class of 2015 boasts a median LSAT score and undergraduate GPA of 164 and 3.67, respectively. Furthermore, this median LSAT score represents the top 10 percent of test takers worldwide.

While the overwhelming majority of this class claims Georgia as home, these 188 students are residents of 27 different states, and they studied at 80 undergraduate schools. The most common being: UGA (48), the Georgia Institute of Technology (9), Clemson University (6), Georgia Southern University (6), Georgia State University (5), the University of Florida (5), the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (4) and Valdosta State University (4). Additionally, this class is majority female (52 percent), and 25 percent indicated they are members of a minority group.

Our Master of Laws program, composed of foreign legal professionals, includes students from the countries of Brazil, China, France, Germany and Indonesia. Of special note, one is a state judge in his home country of Brazil.

Another reason for Georgia Law's success on the student recruitment front is the quality of student life beyond the classroom. There are currently more than 35 active student organizations at the law school, and each provides a unique niche for our students in terms of learning, growing and outreach.

These groups and activities are in addition to the opportunities that exist through the school's three well regarded journals – the *Georgia Law Review*, the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* and the *Journal of Intellectual Property Law*. Notably, the members of the *Georgia Law Review* and the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* have undertaken the responsibility of publishing tribute issues in memory of the late Hosch Professor Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.'88) and the late Associate Dean Gabriel M. Wilner, respectively.

Georgia Law's advocacy program remains a source of great pride for the law school. This past year, national championship trophies were captured at two prestigious competitions – the Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition and the Mercer University School of Law Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition. Our American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition and Texas Bar Association National Trial Competition teams both won their regional tournaments, while our Intrastate Moot Court Competition team continued our school's dominance in this statewide contest, making it seven consecutive years that Georgia Law has won top honors. One last result to mention is from the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, where our students finished ninth out of 280 teams worldwide and recorded the second highest finish, behind Harvard, out of the 52 teams competing from the United States.



Georgia Law's 2011-12 advocacy season featured a number of impressive victories including capturing the top trophy at the Intrastate Moot Court Competition for the seventh straight year.

A relatively new area of competition – and also a successful one – for our students is in negotiations. Georgia Law students won the Robert R. Merhige, Jr. National Environmental Negotiation Competition this spring, and they finished among the top eight teams in the

nation at the Transactional LawMeet, a competition they won in 2010.

A continuing source of pride is our law school's track record of having its graduates selected for U.S. Supreme Court clerkships. Six of our graduates have been selected to serve as judicial clerks during the past nine years. They have worked for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Stephen G. Breyer, John Paul Stevens and Clarence Thomas. Significantly, this statistic rivals that of some schools that are typically ranked in the top dozen law schools in the nation.



Six Georgia Law alumni have been selected to serve as judicial clerks to U.S. Supreme Court justices during the last nine years.

We all know the current economic climate has presented its challenges, and nowhere is it more evident than in the area of employment. I am often asked, "How can I help the law school?" My reply is simple: If you have or know of job openings, please contact the Office of Legal Career Services. You know first hand the quality of education received here in Athens, and Georgia Law students continue to be interested in a wide range of practice areas and career opportunities. Director David P. O'Brien, Assistant Director Adam B. Land (J.D.'08) and Assistant Director Kristin Strunk Lowry (J.D.'07) stand ready to assist you in finding quality candidates to immediately contribute at your place of work. You can reach them at (706) 542-7541 or [lcs@uga.edu](mailto:lcs@uga.edu).

As just stated, Georgia Law is very proud of its graduates. With more than 9,200 living alumni, there is a multitude of reasons to celebrate what it means to be a member of the law school community.

Each summer's presentation of the Law School Association Distinguished Service Scroll Award provides the opportunity to recognize alumni and others in the Georgia Law family for their exceptional service and dedication to the legal profession and the school itself. This year's recipients honored at the alumni breakfast held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting were Associate Dean Paul Kurtz and 1975 alumnus and attorney Joel O. Wooten.



Presenting Associate Dean Paul Kurtz with his Distinguished Service Scroll Award was his former student and 1978 graduate Kay Deming.

Paul, who currently oversees academic programming and student life at the law school and is a J. Alton Hosch Professor, joined the Georgia Law faculty as an assistant professor during 1975. He is the co-author of *Family Law: Cases, Text, Problems* and the author of *Criminal Offenses and Defenses in Georgia*. He has long been active in the areas of indigent defense and uniform state laws. Paul, as shared earlier, will retire at the end of this academic year.

Joel, a trial lawyer with extensive experience as lead counsel in civil litigation matters, serves as managing partner of the Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer law firm. He has held several leadership positions with the State Bar of Georgia, the Columbus Bar Association and the American



Attorney Joel Wooten (J.D.'75) (left) was also honored this year with a Distinguished Scroll Award, which was presented to him by former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes (J.D.'72).

Bar Association and was a founding member of the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest. His law school service encompasses being a member of both of its alumni boards – including his present seat on the Board of Visitors. He also served as chair of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents (2004-05 term) and was a member of its board from 1999 to 2006.

The UGA Alumni Association presented Frank W. "Sonny" Seiler (J.D.'57) and his family with its Alumni Family of the Year Award in April. As I am sure you are aware, the Seilers are big university supporters, and they have been responsible for raising eight generations of Ugas, the university's beloved mascot.

Two graduates – Kathelen V. Amos (J.D.'82) and Julie E. Carnes (J.D.'75) – are being honored this academic year with their portraits being presented to the law school. I am delighted to see these outstanding alumnae recognized for their accomplishments in this important way. These paintings will be added to Georgia Law's marvelous portrait collection that includes distinguished alumni and famous Georgians; but notably, until Kathelen's and Julie's portraits, there has only been one painting of a female – Edith House, the co-valedictorian of the Class of 1925, which was the first class with women graduates.

The members of the law school's alumni boards – the BOV and the Law School Association Council – provide great guidance and counsel to me as dean of the law school. I would like to thank Kathelen Amos for serving as chair of the BOV, and J. Thomas "J. Tom" Morgan III (J.D.'80) for leading the LSAC last year and Santhia L. Curtis (J.D.'91) for her service as president this year.



Hosting this year's Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society Spring Twilight Affair were Herbert Short (J.D.'85) and his wife, Lisa.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Herbert J. Short Jr. (J.D.'85) and his wife, Lisa. They opened their home for this year's Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society Spring Twilight Affair, which is reserved for annual donors of \$1,000 or more to the law school.



U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86) served as the keynote speaker for the Seventh Annual Georgia Law Alumnae Evening in March.

Additionally, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86) delivered the keynote address at the Seventh Annual Georgia Law Alumnae Evening held in Atlanta. Sally spoke to fellow female law school graduates and provided a look at the progress women have made in the legal profession.

There are many other alumni, in fact too many to list here, who either hosted or helped to organize gatherings for members of the law school community during the past year, and they are in addition to

those who came back to campus to share their expertise with our students and faculty. These investments of time and energy are very valuable as they help us to reconnect with one another, to forge new alliances, to remember the difference Georgia Law has made in our lives and, importantly, to add to the legacy of our great law school.

The purpose of this *Annual Report* is to thank all of you, our alumni and friends, who financially contributed to the law school during the last fiscal year. All gifts, large and small, make a difference. They have helped to achieve much of the transformation and advances outlined in this letter, and without this private support, many of these efforts would have remained "good ideas to be implemented in the future" and not a reality.

This past year, more than \$3.5 million was raised for student scholarships, faculty support and other key initiatives, including the law school's building renovations. It was provided by more than 1,800 individuals, and I am pleased to share this included a record number – 450 – of Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society donors. Moreover, the Law School Fund, which primarily supports student scholarships, reached a record high of just under \$785,000. The Class of 2012 Legacy Gift of \$89,412 also provided a new benchmark for future graduates. (Of special note, the law school's Legacy Gift program has been so successful that it is being modeled by other units on the UGA campus.)



The Class of 2012 presented a Legacy Gift of \$89,412 to the law school. This is the highest amount pledged since the gift program was started in 2000. Assisting the class in reaching its goal was an anonymous donor who matched the students' pledges, dollar for dollar.

The Third Annual Firm and Corporation Alumni Challenge, which seeks to achieve 100 percent giving participation from Georgia Law graduates within an organization, was won by the Athens firm Fortson, Bentley and Griffin (Category A – for entities with more than 10 Georgia Law graduates) and the Columbus/Atlanta firm Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood (Category B – for organizations



with five to 10 Georgia Law graduates). More than 50 firms competed in this year's challenge, and 10 reached 100 percent alumni giving. For information on how your organization can join in this annual contest, please contact Phyllis R. Cooke at (706) 542-7637 or [cooke@uga.edu](mailto:cooke@uga.edu).

Significant leadership gifts of \$100,000 or more were made this past year by Kathelen Amos, the Thomas M. Kirbo and Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Trust as directed by Bruce W. Kirbo Sr. (J.D.'51), and Joey Loudermilk. And many gifts were made in memory of former professors Anne Proffitt Dupre and Gabriel Wilner in addition to fellow Georgia Law alumni Mark S. Etheridge (J.D.'99), Kenneth L. "Ken" Millwood (J.D.'75) and Barry Phillips (LL.B.'54).

Recently, U.S. District Court Judge Clay D. Land (J.D.'85) entered an order directing \$1.5 million of a *cy pres* remainder fund to Georgia Law to endow a new scholarship fund. Joel Wooten and James E. "Jim" Butler (J.D.'77) represented the class that obtained the class action settlement and were members of the Remainder Fund Committee which made recommendations to the court on the distribution of the funds. This scholarship account will provide financial assistance to deserving Georgia Law students "who have demonstrated an intention and commitment to dedicate a significant part of their professional career to the representation of individuals in civil matters who, due to their financial circumstances and the nature of their legal problem, would be unlikely to be able to privately retain legal counsel." I am extremely grateful for this important investment in our future lawyers.

Before closing, I want to share with you significant staff changes at the law school. Longtime Director of Business and Finance Elaine K. Mitchell will retire at the end of this month. Since 1985, Elaine has provided a valuable "behind the scenes" service. Her efficiency and extensive working knowledge of law school and university policies and procedures will be sorely missed.



Former Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Special Events Jill Coveny Birch retired in September after nearly 35 years of service to the law school.

After nearly 35 years of service to the law school, Jill Coveny Birch retired in early September. Jill touched multiple generations of Georgia Law graduates during her career, providing leadership for the placement, development and alumni offices during her tenure, and to many she has been an ever present face and name associated with the law school.

In February, Tifton attorney, 1983 alumnus and former LSAC President Gregory C. "Greg" Sowell joined our staff, replacing former Director of Development Scotty G. Mann.



Senior Director of Law School Advancement Greg Sowell (J.D.'83)

Upon Jill's departure, he assumed leadership of the Office of Alumni Programs and Special Events in addition to the school's development efforts. As Senior Director of Law School Advancement, Greg brings a unique perspective to his role at the law school. He is a passionate advocate for Georgia Law, and I know he will help the school to achieve its goals and aspirations.

New faces on Greg's team include Suzanne Griffeth, who joined the

law school as director of alumni relations last month. Suzanne previously worked in alumni and development at UGA's College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Also, Lara Pulliam, who started work at the law school in the very latter part of 2011 as stewardship manager, replaced Margaret A. "Meg" Poitevint. Before coming to the law school, Lara worked for UGA's Center for Continuing Education as an event coordinator.

I know you will join me in welcoming and assisting this group dedicated to the positive transformation taking place at Georgia Law.

Over the years, many of you have shown through your donations of time and money that you understand the need to support your law school. There has always been a direct correlation between private funding and the quality of a law school, and your financial support is more critical than ever as we continue to make important strides in every area affecting the provision of an outstanding legal education.

We at Georgia Law are determined to maintain and enhance your law school and your law degree at every opportunity. Thank you so very much for all you do and for how you represent the law school. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your dean.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Hanner White  
Dean and J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law