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Dean's Report 2003

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Dean's Report 2003

December 19, 2003

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Earlier this year, I was asked to assume leadership of the University of Georgia School of Law when my predecessor, David E. Shipley, decided to return to the classroom on a full-time basis. Not only was I honored to be asked to take over the helm of our school, I was excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Since joining Georgia Law 14 years ago, I have watched this institution rise in stature among the nation's leading law schools. I am convinced the school has an even brighter future and am pleased to take a very active role in charting its course. Let me share with you what has me so optimistic.

Faculty

First, our faculty continues not only to be very focused and committed in the classroom, but our faculty's scholarly productivity is outstanding as well. For example, during 2002-03 alone, almost half of our faculty published books, with additional titles being completed as I write. Among this list are *Constitutional Law: The Commerce Clause* by Hosch Professor Dan T. Coenen, *Children and the Law: Cases and Materials* coauthored by Professor Anne P. Dupre (J.D.'88), *Trial and Error: The American Controversy Over Creation and Evolution* by Talmadge Chair of Law and Russell Professor of American History Edward J. Larson, *Securities Litigation and Enforcement: Cases and Materials* coauthored by Alston Chair in Corporate Law Margaret V. Sachs, *Federal Tax Practice & Procedure: Civil and Criminal* coauthored by Professor Camilla E. Watson, and the *Federal Postconviction Remedies and Relief Handbook for Practitioners* by Professor Donald E. Wilkes Jr. Additionally, during 2002, our faculty completed 18 book chapters and supplements, 56 articles, and 115 speeches, talks and presentations.

New titles have been earned by three of my colleagues. Anne Dupre was elevated to the rank of full professor. She joined Georgia Law's faculty in 1994 and teaches Education Law, Children and the Law, and Contracts. Alan A. Cook (J.D.'84) became the permanent director of the school's Prosecutorial Clinic. He was the state's Alcovy Judicial Circuit district attorney for 10 years prior to serving as the clinic's interim director for 18 months. David Shipley assumed the Thomas R.R. Cobb professorship in September. He was awarded this title in recognition of his dedication and service to our school during his five-year deanship.

In addition, several members of our faculty have received special recognition for their scholarly work. In this group are Caldwell Chair in Constitutional Law Milner S. Ball (J.D.'71), who recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Hamline University School of Law's *Journal of Law and Religion*; Carter Chair in Tort and Insurance Law R. Perry Sentell Jr. (LL.B.'58), who will receive the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association Lifetime Achievement Award in April 2004; and Distinguished Research Professor and Rogers Chair Alan Watson, who will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Belgrade this spring. Also, Associate Dean and Hosch Professor Paul M. Kurtz was appointed to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council charged with reworking Georgia's indigent defense system. This appointment followed his multi-year service on the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Indigent Defense.

This year, Georgia Law's teaching corps is being enriched by eight visiting professors: Washington and Lee's Associate Professor Darryl Brown, who teaches Criminal Law and Evidence; Indiana-Indianapolis' Professor James Nehf, who leads classes in contracts, commercial paper and consumer law; Georgia State's Professor Mary Radford, who instructs in the areas of estate and gift taxation; Florida's Professor David Smith, who teaches Trusts and Estates; Wisconsin's Professor Richard B. Bilder, who specializes in the area of international law; and Professor Elizabeth Weeks (J.D.'99), who teaches health law. Elizabeth is the first Georgia Law graduate in what we hope will become a permanent program aimed at facilitating our outstanding graduates' entry into the ranks of legal academia. Elizabeth had a very successful trip to the Association of American Law School's faculty recruitment conference in Washington, D.C., this fall and currently is exploring options at a number of different law schools.

Moreover, I am very pleased to announce the school's faculty will be further enhanced this spring by former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson. He will teach two courses, Corporate Criminal Investigation and Anti-Terrorism and Criminal Law Enforcement, which no doubt will be of considerable interest to our students. We are delighted they will have the opportunity to study these topics under such a distinguished expert. In addition, George T. Smith (LL.B.'48) will teach next spring as the Carl E. Sanders Political Leadership Scholar. Justice Smith, who is the only Georgian to have won contested elections in all three branches of the state's government, will teach Law and Politics, and former Governor Roy E. Barnes (J.D.'72) will lend his expertise to this class as a guest lecturer. In addition to these outstanding professors, we also are fortunate to have a talented corps of adjuncts sharing their knowledge with our students this academic year.

Legal study at Georgia Law continues to be supplemented by invited speakers and distinguished visitors. This calendar year, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas visited our law school twice. He first served as our commencement speaker in May, and he came back to campus last month for a lengthier and more personal visit with our students. Justice Thomas sat in on Professor Sentell's torts class and met with and fielded questions from numerous students and student groups during his time with us. Additionally, Yale University's Michael Graetz delivered the spring 2003 Sibley Lecture, the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy's Kathy Hall-Martinez gave the 2002-03 Edith House Lecture, and a panel of five law and political science professors discussed the international and anti-terrorism effort in the post-9/11 world at a seminar held on the second anniversary of September 11. Other guest lecturers included the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs Chief of the Treaty Section, Palitha T.B. Kohona; a member of the European Parliament, Manuel Medina Ortega; attorney Paul Smith, who argued the winning side of *Lawrence v. Texas* before the U.S. Supreme Court; and attorney David Lucas, who was the plaintiff in *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council*, decided by the Supreme Court in 1992.

Students

Our students are another area of great strength and pride for our institution. Our admissions team evaluated our largest ever applicant pool and, once again, enrolled a superb first-year class. This year's entering class is the most diverse in our school's distinguished history. We have the largest female class ever with 128 women, representing 49.8% of the student body. We also enrolled the highest number of minority students, 62, representing 24.1% of the class. Almost 40 of these students are African American.

Gaining admittance to Georgia Law continues to be a challenge. This year, we enrolled fewer than one out of every 10 applicants. The top quarter of this class has an impressive 164 LSAT score or better and an undergraduate GPA of 3.82 or higher. The median LSAT for the entire first-year class is 162 and the median GPA is 3.60. I am proud to say that over three-quarters of this group (77%) claim Georgia as their home state. The most popular undergraduate institutions represented by this class include the University of Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Emory University, Spelman College, Agnes Scott College, the University of Florida and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Additionally, the Dean Rusk Center -- International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies welcomed 20 Master of Laws students this fall. They hail from 13 different countries, including Argentina, Belgium, China, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Russia.

Once enrolled, our students continue to make us proud. Georgia Law's advocacy teams got off to a good start with a successful exchange with Gray's Inn of England. In October, we captured the Hulsey-Kimbrell moot court trophy for the fifth straight year by beating the University of Florida. And, last month, we won our fourth straight regional title in the National Moot Court Competition. Sponsored by the Atlanta law firm of Hawkins & Parnell, LLP, our team will now compete for the national crown in New York City in February.

The school's legal journals, the Georgia Law Review, Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law and Journal of Intellectual Property Law, are also making great advances. The publications hope to debut enhanced Web sites later this academic year with an emphasis on making more information available to Internet users. Importantly, they continue to publish scholarly articles and student notes that make significant contributions to the development of the law.

Georgia Law's clinical programs provide our students with real-life exposure to the legal world. The clinical work of our students is often held in high regard. One of the latest two honors bestowed on our clinics include a proclamation of praise for the Land Use Clinic's development of Georgia's first transferable development rights (TDR) ordinance. The ordinance was part of a master plan to preserve 40,000 acres of natural, historic and scenic resources while accommodating growth and ensuring that landowners receive value in exchange for protecting their land. Designed to protect the Chattahoochee Hill Country, this management plan received the 2003 Georgia Planning Association Award for Outstanding Plan Implementation. Additionally, the Environmental Law Practicum was presented with a certificate of recognition and appreciation for its efforts from the Georgia Water Coalition.

The Class of 2002 was very successful in gaining employment, particularly in light of the challenging economic environment. Nine months after graduation, the standard reporting deadline for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), 98.2 percent of the class was employed with an average starting salary of \$73,330. These graduates reside in 18 different states. As for our most recent graduating class, the Class of 2003, 72.5 percent had received offers prior to obtaining their diplomas. The Office of Legal Career Services continues to work with the remainder of this class to attain 100 percent employment nine months after graduation. If you know of anyone seeking a quality new attorney, please be sure to notify the Office of Legal Career Services. I am confident there is a qualified Georgia Law graduate available to suit his or her needs.

One new employment initiative implemented this year was an early interview week called "August in Athens." Nearly 50 employers took advantage of the opportunity to come to campus in the late summer to interview Georgia Law students prior to the start of classes. Over 130 students participated and were pleased to interview without having to juggle their interviews with class attendance. Feedback on this new program was positive from participating interviewers and students alike. Of course, for those firms choosing not to come to Athens in August, on-campus interviews were scheduled during the academic year as in years past.

Alumni

In June, Sibley Professor of Corporate and Business Law Julian B. McDonnell and alumnus John H. Mobley II (J.D.'53) were honored for their commitment to Georgia Law and the legal profession. Julian retired this past summer after a distinguished teaching career at the law school. During his 30 years as a professor, he authored or coauthored five books and was the principal drafter of the Georgia Financial Institutions Code, enacted in 1974, and the Georgia Article Nine Revision, enacted in 1978. At the ceremony, the creation of the annual Julian McDonnell Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Commercial Law was announced. Funding for

this endowed award was provided by members of the law school community, including many alumni. An attorney for over 50 years, John Mobley was recognized for his dedication to the broader legal community. He is referred to as the “dean of the public finance community” and is known for mentoring fellow lawyers in the area of local government law. John, a senior partner with Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan in Atlanta, is a member of the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar, the Lawyers Club of Atlanta and the State Bar of Georgia. He has also served on the executive committee of the Southern District of the Securities Industry Association. He is the only non-investment banker to ever hold such a position.

The Law School Association welcomes nominations for the 2004 Distinguished Service Scroll Award. Please feel free to nominate someone you feel is worthy of recognition. Forms can be found in the next issue of the Advocate, which will be distributed in January, and on the law school's Web site at www.law.uga.edu/alumni.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2002-03 leaders of the law school's alumni boards. Last year, the Board of Visitors was chaired by Steve C. Jones (J.D.'88), the Law School Association Council was led by Paul W. Painter Jr. (J.D.'74), and the Younger Law Alumni Committee was directed by Melisa A. Ferris (J.D.'98). Their excellent work will be continued this year by alumni leaders Jerry B. Blackstock (J.D.'69) of the BOV, Julia W. Lumpkin (J.D.'90) of the LSAC and Douglas R. Kertscher (J.D.'94) of the YLAC.

Importantly, the University of Georgia is in the initial stages of a five-year capital campaign, and several alumni have agreed to serve on Georgia Law's Archway to Excellence fund-raising team. Chaired by Dean Emeritus J. Ralph Beard, the school will seek to raise at least \$17 million to enrich the legal education we provide our students. Other members of this committee are: Elizabeth B. Chandler (J.D.'88), G. Sanders Griffith (J.D.'77), Molly M. Howard (J.D.'79), Charles A. Hunnicutt (J.D.'75), A. Felton Jenkins (LL.B.'65), Samuel M. Matchett (J.D.'84), John Mobley, William M. Scaljon, professors Perry Sentell and David Shipley, and me. Staff who will be integral to the school's efforts include the development office team of Jill Coveny Birch, Ron Hill, Phyllis R. Cooke and Janet Sikes. If you would like to play a role in advancing your law school, please feel free to contact any of the committee members listed above or the law school's development office at (706) 542-7639.

Lately, a number of events have brought alumni and friends back to campus. Homecoming and Reunion Weekend was a great success with nearly 900 Law Dawgs taking part in the weekend's festivities. The classes of 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1993 each had separate, private gatherings to allow classmates the time to reminisce. I am pleased so many of you took the time to reconnect with your alma mater and your friends.

In October, Georgia Law rededicated its Alexander Campbell King Law Library. As I am sure you are aware, the library recently completed a major renovation, courtesy of a \$3.2 million appropriation by the state legislature. This renovation included physical changes – new tables equipped with lamps and power outlets, chairs, carpeting and wall covering as well as a reconfigured reference and checkout area – and technological advances – an online catalog system, state-of-the-art security system, wireless Internet access and self-checkout system. Many alumni were present for this wonderful occasion, including former Governor Roy Barnes who served as the keynote speaker. Also in attendance was former Governor Carl E. Sanders (J.D.'48) for whom the library's main reading room has been named, UGA President Michael F. Adams and several current members of the state's House and Senate. An open house was held the day after the rededication, providing the opportunity for alumni and friends to have a personally guided tour of the renovations.

Last month, alumni turned out for a tribute dinner and portrait unveiling for former Dean David Shipley. I know David was touched by your show of appreciation for his five years of service and dedication to the law school. The next time you are on campus, I invite you to view his portrait, which is now hanging in the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom with the portraits of other fine leaders of our great institution.

Since assuming the deanship of Georgia Law on July 1, I have enjoyed meeting and getting to

know you and your fellow alumni. Several of you have invited me to visit your city, firm, bar association or civic group. I appreciate these invitations and plan to accept as many appointments as my schedule will accommodate. To date, I have been to the Georgia cities of Atlanta, Columbus, Gainesville, Macon, Marietta, Rome, Savannah and Statesboro as well as Chattanooga, TN; Jacksonville, FL; and Washington, D.C. Furthermore, I am already scheduled to visit Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Savannah and Valdosta in the coming year. I welcome additional opportunities to become more familiar with you, the broader legal population and other sectors of our community.

I am continually amazed at the dedication and commitment of Georgia Law's alumni. Recently, the Office of Legal Career Services invited graduates to come back to campus and share their employment experiences with our current students. As a result, approximately 55 graduates will return to Georgia Law this academic year to meet and provide advice to our students. Alumni will also give one-on-one career advice through pre-scheduled meetings on the day of their visit. This sort of candid dialogue is immensely valuable to our students as they evaluate different fields of practice. Thank you for the time you are investing in them.

Staff

Other positive news to share with you includes the elevation of two staff members to new positions. Long-time senior administrator Jill Birch was awarded the title of executive director of development and alumni programs, and Anthony (Tony) E. Waller (J.D.'93) was named the associate director of legal career services. Jill's promotion will allow Georgia Law to take advantage of her in-depth knowledge of the law school and to employ a more coordinated and effective approach in the closely related areas of alumni affairs and fund raising. Tony's advancement reflects the excellent work he has done in the area of legal career services.

In addition, the law library has added two new librarians – James Donovan, who replaced the retired Sally C. AsKew (J.D.'87) as reference/public services librarian, and Sharon Bradley, who joins us from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. I am confident these new librarians will complement our already excellent library staff. In addition to a year filled with many changes, the law library passed a significant milestone this past year. It now manages more than 505,000 volumes and volume equivalents plus thousands of resources available via the Internet.

Before closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of one of Georgia Law's most treasured faculty members, Brock Professor of Professional Responsibility L. Ray Patterson. Ray was laid to rest in early November at the age of 74 after a brief struggle with lung cancer. I know you join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to his wife, the former Laura Adelyn Davis; two daughters, Adelyn Patterson Hilado and Ida Patterson Dorvee; two sons-in-law; four grandchildren; two sisters; and brother. Ray was a renowned scholar in the areas of copyright and legal ethics. I am sure he would want us to remember him fondly and to continue with our mission of educating the legal leaders of tomorrow.

In closing, please know that I want only the best for this institution. I intend to draw on the advice and support provided by you, our loyal alumni and friends; my distinguished faculty colleagues; the school's dedicated staff; and our bright student body to elevate this school to an even higher status among the nation's top law schools. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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

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