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Dean's Report 2002

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Dean's Report 2002

December 18, 2002

Dear Alumni and Friends:

If you have ever remodeled a couple of rooms in your home or built an addition, then you have a good idea of what this past summer was like for students, faculty and staff at the University of Georgia School of Law. Our facilities were noisy, dusty and messy from the first Monday after graduation exercises in May until we welcomed the new first-year class on Friday, August 16. Some cosmetic work remains to be done on our remodeling, but all of you will be impressed with what we were able to accomplish with the \$3.2 million we received during the 2001 state legislative session.

We made major renovations to several classrooms. F and J, the two large classrooms in Hirsch Hall, have new carpet, wall covering and chairs. The old desks have been replaced and every seat is wired for power. In addition, these rooms now have windows! Room K in Rusk Hall was remodeled like F and J except for the windows. The auditorium is now two large classrooms (A and B) each seating 110 students. These rooms have new carpet, wall covering and chairs as well as custom-made desks with every seat wired for power. Each of these rooms is equipped with a smart podium and projection equipment. This state-of-the-art technology has also been added to the rest of the law school's classrooms.

All of the books, tables and chairs in the library's main reading room were relocated during the summer so the carpet and wall covering could be removed and holes drilled through the room's concrete floor. Wires were run through these holes to provide power at each of the reading room's new tables. The main reading room now features a new wall covering and carpet in addition to a reconfigured reference area. Some other substantial improvements made during the summer are not easy to see, but they are just as important. The library now has an online circulation system as well as an innovative radio frequency security system. The gates for the system are located at the library's entrance and the system is triggered by a tiny chip and barcode placed in each resource that identifies it in the circulation system. In addition to these technological enhancements, the entire law school campus, as well as the adjacent Herty Field, has wireless Internet access.

While we survived the trials and tribulations of these renovations and improvements, we recruited a wonderful first-year class and welcomed several great additions to our faculty and staff. First, let me tell you about our students.

Students

We have always had superb students, but they keep getting better and better. Our new Juris Doctor students have impressive academic credentials and are impressive as individuals. Five years ago, in 1998, our median LSAT was a very solid 160 and, at 163 in 2002, it is even better today. At the 90th percentile nationally, this 163 ties our best ever. For those of us who took the LSAT in a different era, 163 is equivalent to 41 or 680. The 75th percentile for this class is 164 and the 25th percentile is 158, up two points from last year. In 1998, our median GPA was 3.51 and, in 2002, it is up to 3.65. The median GPA for our entering class is one of the best in the nation. The 75th percentile for the new class is 3.81 and the 25th percentile is 3.30. Just think a quarter of our entering class came to Georgia Law with a final undergraduate GPA of 3.81 or better! Several years ago, our median GPA was 3.34 and now almost three-quarters of our new

recruits are ahead of that. We have very bright students and, on paper, this crop of 1Ls has the best credentials in the school's history.

The Class of 2005 is composed of 208 students – 75% are from Georgia, 49% are women, and minorities make up 19% of the class including 23 African Americans (11%). These students come from 80 colleges and universities including 70 from UGA, 15 from Emory, seven from Georgia Tech and seven from UNC at Chapel Hill. We are proud of the number of institutions represented by our first-year class. Anyone who says an applicant is at a disadvantage for admission to the School of Law if he or she attends UGA as an undergraduate is mistaken. It has been, and remains, our largest feeder school. Given the steadily improving quality of UGA's undergraduates as well as students from other schools in the University System of Georgia, this is good news for Georgia Law.

You might be asking why we are doing so well with entering student credentials. One reason is the applicant pool has grown here and nationally. We have enjoyed a 39% increase in applications since 1999, from 1,680 to 2,333. Nationally, the increase is nearly 20% for this period. Due to the economy, there is no doubt the pool will go up even more this year. Incidentally, to get our class of 208 students, we admitted 480. This is only 21% of our applicant pool and makes us one of the most selective public law schools in the United States. A second reason for our excellent entering class is we are recruiting effectively. We try to be personal and friendly in our approach with prospective students and admitted applicants. Third, we are spending much more on scholarships and tuition waivers than in 1998-99 – a 72% increase. As you are aware, we have to rely on donations for scholarships (no state funding can be used and the HOPE Scholarship is not available for professional schools). Well over half (64%) of this year's Law School Association budget is allocated to scholarships.

On the international front, the Dean Rusk Center -- International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies enrolled 15 Master of Laws students including a Russian Muskie Fellow. This group hails from 12 different countries including Argentina, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Israel, New Zealand and Sweden.

Once students are enrolled, we support them in many ways in addition to teaching, including being advisors, attending their events and increasing expenditures on student activities and organizations. This budget area has realized an increase of 49% since 1998-99. In 2001-02, more than \$570,000 was spent on programs and activities including moot court and mock trial, our three journals and student organizations. As a result of this support, the school enjoyed more great success in our advocacy programs in 2001-02 after a banner year in 2000-01. These programs have wonderful leadership from Kellie Casey (J.D.'90) as well as strong and enthusiastic faculty and alumni support. We should continue the trend this year as we are off to a very good start with a win over Florida in the annual Hulse-Kimbrell Competition and a win in the regionals of the National Moot Court Competition. Our national team, sponsored by the law firm Hawkins & Parnell, will compete in the finals in New York City next month. The resources devoted to students enable the school to publish three excellent student-edited journals. All three are being published on schedule and include many quality articles, notes and comments. Student support is also exhibited by the good health of our many student organizations such as the Student Bar Association, Black Law Students Association, Women Law Students Association, Equal Justice Foundation and Environmental Law Association. All of these organizations are thriving.

Our students are successful on the Georgia bar examination and in the job market. Our first-time and overall passage rates on the July administration of the bar were the best in the state at 94.3% and 92.8% respectively. Congratulations to the Class of 2002! On the employment front, we had 98.3% of our May 2001 graduates employed nine months after graduation, and 78.6% of our May 2002 graduates had already secured jobs by the time they received their diplomas. Our goals include improving the percentage placed at graduation to above 80% and shooting for 100% employed when we report to the National Association for Law Placement nine months after graduation. These targets will be a challenge in this slow economy. You can assist the school by hiring several of our recent graduates and/or some of our third-year students.

Finally, I want to emphasize that our current students are giving back to the law school. I am very pleased to report that 53% of last May's graduating class of 224 students made a donation or pledge to the school as part of their class gift. This percentage is much higher than any other class including the relatively small classes that graduated in the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s.

Faculty

We cannot have a top law school without an excellent faculty to teach outstanding students. We had a strong faculty at Georgia Law, and it became even stronger because we were successful in our recruitment efforts last year. We hired Daniel M. Bodansky to fill the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Chair in International Law. He joins us from another outstanding public law school, the University of Washington, and is an internationally regarded expert on climate control issues. His law degree is from Yale University and he will be teaching international law, international environmental law, and foreign affairs and the Constitution. Assistant Professor Lonnie T. Brown Jr. joins us from the University of Illinois College of Law. Before teaching, he was a partner at Alston & Bird in Atlanta. He is a Vanderbilt University graduate and is teaching civil procedure and legal profession.

Another new member of the faculty this year is Visiting Assistant Professor Kristen D.A. Carpenter. She is on the faculty at the Stetson University College of Law. Her law degree is from Emory University, and she practiced with Alston & Bird before getting her LL.M. from Yale University. She is teaching evidence and contracts as well as a seminar. Pennie Peck and Travis M. Trimble are new legal research and writing instructors. Ms. Peck is a graduate of Southern Methodist University who practiced in Austin, Texas, and Atlanta. Mr. Trimble is a Georgia Law graduate (J.D.'93) who practiced at Anderson Walker & Reichert in Macon.

Two members of the faculty were appointed to endowed positions this past spring. Ed Larson is the Herman E. Talmadge Chair of Law. He holds a joint appointment with the history department, where he is department chair and the Richard B. Russell Professor of American History. Sarajane Love is the first holder of the Verner F. Chaffin Professorship of Fiduciary Law. This endowed position was established by a very generous gift from Mrs. Ethel Chaffin in honor of her husband, Callaway Chair Emeritus Verner Chaffin. Professor Love teaches trusts and estates, women and the law, and a pension and benefits course. In addition, associate professors Peter Appel and Randy Beck were promoted and awarded tenure in the spring. Both teach property. Associate Professor Appel also teaches environmental law and natural resources law, and Associate Professor Beck also teaches constitutional law and trusts and estates.

Many of you know UGA's Provost Karen A. Holbrook became president of Ohio State University earlier this fall. Arnett C. Mace Jr., dean of UGA's Warnell School of Forest Resources, was named interim provost. He has turned to the School of Law for excellent assistance. He named Hosch Professor Rebecca White as acting associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs. Professor White's temporary appointment was effective November 1 and will continue until a new provost is named. Our students will miss her outstanding teaching during the spring semester, but the entire university will be well served with her in a top administrative position.

We have a very productive faculty. In 2001, they published 47 books, book chapters and book supplements as well as 47 law review articles. They gave more than 100 lectures, talks, CLE presentations, and symposia during the year. Some of the works coming out in 2002 include Constitutional Remedies by Hosch professors Tom Eaton and Mike Wells, Evidence: Teaching Materials for an Age of Science and Statutes by Callaway Chair Ron Carlson, Real Estate Transactions by Martin Chair Jim Smith, Environmental Policy Law by Rusk Professor Tom Schoenbaum and Children and the Law: Cases and Materials by Associate Professor Anne Dupre. In addition, new articles will appear in fine journals such as the William & Mary Law Review, Tulane Law Review, Maryland Law Review, Georgia Law Review and Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law.

We will have a wonderful opportunity to further improve our faculty when we are able to fill our

new Carl E. Sanders Chair of Political Leadership. This endowed position is being established with a \$1 million pledge made by Governor Sanders (J.D.'48) last summer. This is the second largest gift made by an individual in the school's history.

Curriculum

We have made several enhancements to the curriculum including the establishment of new joint degree programs with the School of Health and Human Performance and the School of Public and Inter-national Affairs. The first is a J.D./Master of Education in Sports Studies designed for students who want to specialize in "sports law" and represent professional athletes. The other program is a J.D./

Master of Public Administration that takes advantage of UGA's highly ranked public administration program. In addition, we have had a great expansion of our clinical offerings since the mid-1990s. Today's students have many opportunities to develop "hands-on" lawyering skills in our well-established Legal Aid and Public Defender Clinic for Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties (directed by Russell Gabriel, J.D.'85) and our Prosecutorial Clinic (directed by Alan Cook, J.D.'83). We added Civil Externship opportunities in Athens and around the region several years ago along with a Family Violence Clinic in downtown Athens. We have an Environmental Practicum (the Etowah Initiative), our innovative Public Interest Practicum and a new Land Use Clinic that we are operating in cooperation with the College of Environment and Design. If the School of Law can do any faculty hiring this year, we will seek to add depth in intellectual property, health care, and land use and environmental policy.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Dean Rusk Center -- International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies. We celebrated this fall with a series of lectures. The speakers included Yntema Professor Emeritus Eric Stein from the University of Michigan Law School who spoke about the World Trade Organization and the European Union, University Professor Emeritus Louis Henkin from the Columbia University Law School who lectured about human rights, Director of Strategic Planning for the United Nations Secretary-General Abiodun Williams who presented the U.N.'s role in peace building, and European Parliament member Manuel Medina Ortega who delivered a speech on the impact of the United States on the development of European Union policy. Other distinguished speakers at the law school this fall include Professor John C. Nagle from Notre Dame Law School, Lord Gordon Slynn from the House of Lords, Professor Ruth Colker from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, and Harvard University Law Professor Arthur R. Miller who presented the 95th Sibley Lecture. Professor Miller also was the keynote speaker at the law school's conference on Discovery Abuse and Professionalism in November. This special conference was organized by Ron Ellington, Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism. The conference's proceedings will be published in the Georgia Law Review.

Other News

The school's alumni boards are currently led by Steve C. Jones (J.D.'88), chair of the Board of Visitors; Paul W. Painter Jr. (J.D.'74), president of the Law School Association, and Melisa J. Anderson (J.D.'98), chair of the Younger Law Alumni Committee. These three follow C. Read Morton Jr. (J.D.'73), Dana B. Miles (J.D.'80) and Tracie Y. Johnson (J.D.'96) respectively. We trust that these new leaders will carry on the terrific work of their predecessors.

By now all of you should have received the School of Law's annual report of donors for the 2001-02 fiscal year. We had a very good year with development and alumni relations. The highlight of the year was the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Law School Association. A black-tie gala was held at the Georgia Governor's Mansion on June 1. More than 200 alumni and friends of the school, all members of the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society, attended this wonderful event hosted by Governor (J.D.'72) and Mrs. Roy Barnes. The previous night, the pair hosted the 30th reunion for the Governor's graduating class, the Class of 1972. This was a great occasion as were events like our annual Homecoming BBQ before the Vanderbilt football game, the school's reception at the State Bar of Georgia's annual meeting on Amelia Island attended by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and the LSA breakfast at the same convention where Judge Frank Cheatham (J.D.'48), of Savannah, was presented with the association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award. If you

know someone who is worthy of this special recognition, please nominate them by filling out the Distinguished Service Scroll Award Nomination Form in the soon to be published issue of the Advocate or visit the law school's Web site at www.law.uga.edu.

Our total fund raising for the 2001-02 fiscal year was \$1,602,285, a 68% increase over the previous year. This sum included a record \$552,909 given to the Law School Fund and Hirsch Hall Fund, representing an improvement of \$53,874 (11%). There was also a record 216 members of the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society. These donors make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the School of Law. The highlight of our fund-raising year was, of course, the major gift by former Governor Sanders to establish the Sanders Chair of Political Leadership. Almost half of this \$1 million commitment has already been given to the school, and we hope that other alumni will follow this sterling example of supporting Georgia Law. For those donating at the JHL level this fiscal year, another exclusive black-tie affair is being planned for the spring. Details will be forthcoming.

I could be called a Pollyanna by failing to say anything about the budget challenges facing the law school and all other public higher education institutions in Georgia. Due to the recession and steadily declining tax revenues, all of the schools, colleges and units of the University System of Georgia have made substantial budget cuts in the past year. The law school is feeling the impact of these reductions in many areas, especially in trying to maintain the law library's collection and full range of services in addition to being able to move forward on filling several faculty positions. As a result, our student/ faculty ratio is higher than it ought to be and our upper level curriculum is not as strong as it was just one year ago. We have weathered financial difficulties in the past, and I am confident we will get through this current crisis without losing momentum. Needless to say, the challenges we are facing with the state budget make your contributions to the School of Law more important than ever before. I hope you will invest in our educational enterprise. The return on your investment will be excellence in everything we do at Georgia Law.

The last development news I want to share with you is Ron Hill has joined our staff as director of development and Phyllis Cooke has been promoted to director of annual giving. Ron comes to Georgia Law with considerable development experience from Florida State University and Georgia Southwestern State University. He is looking forward to meeting you, our alumni and friends, and I know that you will welcome him to the law school community.

To aid in the timely delivery of news and information to alumni, the law school will be putting all alumni publications (future Dean's Reports, Annual Donor Reports, Advocates, etc.) online. This should be extremely beneficial for alumni living abroad. With the use of this new delivery method, the school will discontinue its foreign mailings. Please be sure to bookmark and visit the law school's Web site (www.law.uga.edu) often to keep current on law school news.

I am trying to get out to see alumni as much as possible again this year just as I have in the past four years. I have prepared a PowerPoint presentation about the "state of the law school" as well as the progress on our strategic plan to enhance our stature as one of the nation's finest public law schools. If you would like to schedule an appointment for me to give this presentation, please call me and I will make every effort to show it to you, your colleagues, and other UGA law alumni where you work and live.

I look forward to seeing you in 2003. Hopefully, you will be able to attend the Law School Association cocktail reception and breakfast to be held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Midyear Meeting in Atlanta on January 9 and 10. Thank you for your continued support of Georgia Law.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley
Dean and Professor

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