Class of 2007 Commencement

Commencement is a special day for the law school community, especially for members of the graduating class. Photographs from the day follow.

Legacy Gift Committee co-chairs Preston Meche (right) and Enjolique Aytch (center) present a check totaling $27,160.85 to Dean Rebecca White and LSA President Eleanor Banister (J.D. ’80) (not pictured). Fifty-six percent of the Class of 2007 pledged their financial support to Georgia Law. The total dollar amount pledged by those most recent graduates represents an all-time high for a Legacy Gift. Photo by UGA Public Affairs’ Dot Paul.

As is tradition, Hosch Professor Tom Eaton announced the name and was the first to congratulate his son, Andrew, on earning his Juris Doctor from Georgia Law during the ceremony. Hosch Professor and University Professor Dan Coenen (left) served as honorary marshal. Photo by UGA Public Affairs’ Dot Paul.

Leif Howard is wearing a sash reading $1 million, which denotes the fact that he was selected by his classmates to be the first to earn seven figures. Photo by UGA Public Affairs’ Dot Paul.

The Ludlam family now boasts three graduates of Georgia Law – (l. to r.) Tom (J.D. ’04), Dan and Jim (J.D. ’02).

Adjunct Professor Steven Shi (J.D. ’77) (center) poses with two fellow Marines who are also new graduates of Georgia Law – John Thomas (left) and Brian Magee.
Georgia Supreme Court Presiding Justice Carol Hunstein delivered the keynote address. She told graduates they have been given the knowledge they will need to serve the legal profession, their clients, their community and their nation.

“You can be leaders, not just in the practice of law, but in every aspect of our country. Please use those skills well.”

She went on to add that “life skills are as important in the practice of law as they are in other professions or vocations” and to “cultivate them.”

Some of the desired skills identified by Hunstein included:

- Develop time-management skills. – “Know your priorities and work toward balance in your life.”
- Learn to listen.
- Create good relationships with your colleagues, staff and clients.
- Be politically savvy.
- Always take pride in your work. – “The practice of law isn’t just about billable hours but about serving your client and the law to the best of your ability.”
- Be involved in community service. – “You will be tomorrow’s leaders. Not just in the legal profession, but in your communities. So, get involved.”
- Learn to compromise. – “You have to be flexible. You’re not going to win every case or prevail in every argument. Be prepared to compromise for the sake of the legal system and for your client.”
- Find balance. – “Don’t forget that there is more to living than just the practice of law.”
- Have a sense of humor.

Additionally Hunstein said, “I believe the practice of law is an honorable profession. It is a search for truth – for justice. It is the application of legal knowledge and experience to the resolution of disputes and problems. I firmly believe that lawyers are the champions of democracy. Lawyers and judges are vital to the protection of individual rights and liberties that Americans hold so dear.”

Photo courtesy of The Picture Man.