A recent symposium co-hosted by the University of Georgia School of Law has added to the growing consensus that the U.S. patent system is in desperate need of reform.


“*Patent Failure* is a stunning new work of undeniable importance to anyone interested in intellectual property,” Georgia Law Post Professor and Conference Co-convener Paul J. Heald said.

“This conference explored the authors’ claims that the patent system has fallen short in providing predictable legal boundaries and examined the implications of those claims along with the authors’ suggested solutions.”

These include having patent claims that are transparent so innovators can obtain predictable information on boundaries as soon as possible, making patent claims and their interpretation clear and unambiguous, and improving the feasibility of clearance searches.

Key panelists who participated in the conference were: Robert A. Armitage, senior vice president and general counsel for Eli Lilly and Company; Robert M. Hunt, senior economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; Mark A. Lemley, Neukom Professor of Law at Stanford Law School; E.M. Scherer, Aetna Professor Emeritus at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government; and John A. Squires, chief intellectual property counsel for Goldman Sachs.

Heald said one of the unique things about this conference was that it brought together notable speakers from a variety of sectors involved in and affected by patent law.

“It allowed for great discussion and a more complete picture of the problem.”

As for a solution, Heald said everyone basically agreed the reforms mapped out by the authors in *Patent Failure* had a lot of merit and that change would take time.

Other sponsors of the March symposium included the Terry College of Business, the Terry College of Business Department of Economics and the University of Georgia Research Foundation.

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**Roseboro named director of diversity programs**

Gregory L. Roseboro (J.D.’87) was recently named director of diversity programs at the University of Georgia School of Law. This position represents an expansion of Roseboro’s current duties, as he will remain the associate director of admissions, a post he has held since 2000.

In his new role, Roseboro will focus his attention on the various diversity issues facing the law school as well as legal education in general. He will also be involved in student affairs, academic support, alumni relations and community outreach.

Key areas include helping to increase the diversity of students, faculty and staff in addition to developing new initiatives to support diversity and cultural differences at the law school as well as coordinating efforts with the university’s Office of Institutional Diversity.

Roseboro said this new position was created so he could dedicate more time to diversity related tasks, many of which he has aided with in the past.

“Our goal is to build upon what has already been established at the law school while simultaneously working to increase our involvement both campus-wide and in the legal community,” he added.

Roseboro initially joined the law school’s staff in 1994 as assistant director of admissions, student affairs and legal career services.

Roseboro earned both his bachelor’s degree and his law degree from UGA.