

5-1-2016

## May 2016 E-newsletter Alumni Spotlight: Timothy C. Batten Sr. (J.D.'84)

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### Recommended Citation

Communications and Public Relations, Office of, "May 2016 E-newsletter Alumni Spotlight: Timothy C. Batten Sr. (J.D.'84)" (2016). *Profiles of Members of the Law School Community*. 64. <https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/profiles/64>

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## Alumni Spotlight: Timothy C. Batten Sr. (J.D.'84)



**Name:** Timothy C. ("Tim") Batten Sr.  
**Title:** U.S. District Court Judge, Northern District of Georgia  
**Employer Name:** U.S. Judiciary  
**Location:** Atlanta and Newnan, Georgia  
**Number of years in this position or with this employer:** 10  
**Georgia Law graduation year:** 1984  
**Other degrees / institution / year:** B.S. / Georgia Tech / 1981

### 1. Why did you choose to attend the University of Georgia School of Law?

The school enjoyed a very good reputation, particularly for those of us who wanted to practice in Georgia after graduating. Plus, it was moderately priced.

### 2. Who was your favorite Georgia Law professor? Why?

Paul Kurtz. He could take a case and tell a story with it. He was very bright and he did not hold it against you if your judicial/political philosophy differed from his.

### 3. What is your most memorable experience from your time at Georgia Law?

There wouldn't be one particular experience so much as a pattern of meaningful and rewarding relationships with wonderful colleagues in my class.

### 4. Where was your favorite place to study during law school?

The law school annex. The place had nice furniture, conducive for a 15-minute power nap.

### 5. What was your favorite thing about living in Athens?

I enjoy the easiness and feel of a small town.

### 6. What advice would you give to a current law school student?

Focus not only on school work but also on building relationships, which often last a lifetime.

### 7. Please briefly describe your current position.

I am a United States District Judge, nominated by President George W. Bush in 2005 and confirmed by the Senate in 2006. I preside over a wide variety of criminal and civil cases.

### 8. What do you enjoy most about your job? What is the most rewarding aspect?

The best part of the job occurs when, following rigorous or prolonged research, I get what I am certain is the right result in one of my cases. I do not experience this feeling with every case, but it is very gratifying when it happens.

### 9. What made you decide to be a judge?

I believe that I have an instinct for justice, and I felt the tug at my heart from very early in my career.

### 10. What do you do to handle the stress of your work? How do you relax after a stressful day?

I'm used to the stress because I was a trial lawyer for 22 years before moving to the bench. As for relaxation, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Beth, and our six kids.

**11. What advice would you give to someone working in your field?**

Find a way to leave the stress at the office when you go home every day. The weight of the cases is a heavy burden to bear.

**12. What do you enjoy doing during your free time? What are your hobbies?**

I love watching my kids' sporting events. As for hobbies, I have been playing the piano my whole life and I enjoy cooking.

**13. If you could share an afternoon with anyone, with whom would you choose to spend it?**

Without a doubt, Teddy Roosevelt. He was a true overcomer of hardship and a great president.

**14. What would you consider your greatest accomplishment in life?**

Being married to the woman I love for 29 years.

**15. How do you stay up to date on legal issues and trends?**

I read the *Daily Report* and all published cases from the 11th Circuit and all Supreme Court cases.

**16. What book/resource do you find yourself referencing the most?**

*The Chicago Manual of Style* and *Thinking Like a Writer*.

**17. When you look out your office window, what do you see?**

Georgia's beautiful gold-dome capitol.