

Third alumnus selected as clerk to U.S. Supreme Court in three years



Jason Burnette (J.D.'06)

For the third consecutive year, a Georgia Law alumnus will serve as a judicial clerk with the highest court in the nation. Last fall, Jason T. Burnette (J.D.'06) was selected to serve as a law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. for the October 2007 term.

"Supreme Court clerkships are extremely competitive positions, indeed they are the most selective positions available to a recent law school graduate," Dean Rebecca H. White said. "Jason's appointment, which is the third in three years, puts the University of Georgia's law school among a very elite group of law schools that have had a number of graduates serve the court in this manner."

"We are delighted for Jason and feel that his appointment reflects the high caliber of education and training students receive at Georgia Law," White said. "This honor for a law student is the equivalent of a Rhodes Scholarship for a bachelor's degree candidate."

Burnette said he was encouraged to apply for the U.S. Supreme Court clerkship by law school faculty and was further inspired by 2005 Georgia Law alumnus Adam M. Conrad's appointment to serve as a judicial clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas for the 2006 term.

"I was amazed when I heard I

had been selected by Chief Justice Roberts. I was thrilled just to get the interview," Burnette said. "I am looking forward to having an inside view of the Supreme Court and seeing how it comes to reach decisions on the many difficult issues it addresses."

A native of Holly Springs, Ga., Burnette also earned his bachelor's degree in English from UGA. He is currently serving as a judicial clerk for Judge R. Lanier Anderson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

During law school, he served as editor in chief of the *Georgia Law Review*, participated in moot court competitions and served as a teaching and research assistant.

University Professor and Hosch Professor Dan T. Coenen, a former U.S. Supreme Court judicial clerk, taught Burnette in contracts and constitutional law classes. "Jason exemplifies everything that is commendable in a young lawyer – sterling character, concern for others, a searching mind, exceptional intelligence and an uninflated sense of self. I am delighted that Chief Justice Roberts saw in Jason the same extraordinary qualities that I witnessed over and over again during his time at the law school," he said.

Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.'88), also a Hosch Professor and a former U.S. Supreme Court judicial clerk, said this appointment will open many doors for Jason as he contin-

ues his legal career. "Jason will have a credential and an experience that very few others can match," she said.

By statute, each of the nine U.S. Supreme Court justices can have up to four clerks per term. A typical appointment is for a period of one year.

This clerkship selection brings the total number of Georgia Law graduates who have clerked for Supreme Court judges to seven. The other six Georgia Law alumni who have aided justices sitting on the nation's highest court are:

Benna R. Solomon, a 1978 graduate who clerked for Justice Byron R. White in 1980; **Bruce P. Brown**, a 1984 graduate who clerked for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1986; **Glen M. Darbyshire**, a 1984 graduate who clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1985; **Dupre**, a 1988 graduate who clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun in 1989; **John H. Longwell**, a 1999 graduate who clerked for Justice Stephen G. Breyer in 2005; and **Conrad**, a 2005 graduate who is clerking for Justice Clarence Thomas.

Burnette's appointment places Georgia Law among the top five public law schools in the nation for supplying clerks to the court for the 2000 to 2007 terms. Georgia Law follows the University of Virginia, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and the University of Texas in this ranking.

