

Second Cousins Public Interest Fellow focuses on incarcerated mothers



Alex Scherr, Georgia Law associate professor and coordinator of the Cousins Public Interest Fellowship program, talks with Julie M.T. Walker, Georgia Law's second Fellow, about her plans to assist incarcerated mothers with legal matters regarding the care of their children.

This past fall, the School of Law welcomed its second Cousins Public Interest Fellow, Julie M.T. Walker. The Cousins Public Interest Fellowship offers experienced lawyers the chance to provide civil legal services to needy Georgians while engaging law students in the process.

As a Cousins Fellow, Walker is given two years to develop a civil legal service project and to work with a host organization that will potentially continue to support the project once the fellowship term has ended. Walker's host organization is the Civil Pro Bono Family Law Project (CPB-FLP).

Walker's program will offer education and legal representation to incarcerated mothers who wish to provide their children with safe and secure care. Specifically, she hopes to help these women assure safe caretaking for their children without permanently losing custody or visitation rights during imprisonment.

"When a mother is incarcerated, she is often subjected to a proceeding to terminate her parental rights," Walker said.

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— 2007-09 Cousins Public Interest Fellow Julie M.T. Walker

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She also plans to offer services that will help the mothers become better parents, so as to help them regain custody of their children once they are released.

Working with the CPB-FLP, the program will go into the three Georgia women's prisons and give legal education seminars to incarcerated mothers informing them of their parental rights and some of the legal proceedings they may face involving their children.

Then, they will break into groups and individual mothers will be consulted on their specific problems and questions.

Georgia Law students participating in the program will help present the main seminar and then assist in the one-on-one consultations. The students may also help pro bono attorneys representing the mothers to assure stable and secure custody for the children.

Before the fellowship, Walker worked in private practice focusing on tax and estate planning. She also served as a traffic court judge in Atlanta, Ga., for 10 years and as a senior tax attorney with the Internal Revenue Service for 18 years.

While her project as a Cousins Fellow does not directly relate to her career in the law, she said indigent defense of incarcerated mothers is something that is close to her heart, and she has spent the majority of her free time working toward a solution.

"This work has become my passion for the last nine years," Walker said.

"I see the Cousins Public Interest Fellowship as a way to further pursue this passion and to raise awareness about this important problem."

Walker follows 2006-08 Fellow Torin D. Togut whose project focuses on assisting children with disabilities and their families in navigating the "educational maze" in securing a free appropriate public education.

Applications for the 2008-10 fellowship should be sent to School of Law Associate Professor and Fellowship Coordinator Alexander W. Scherr.

U.S. Air Force judge advocate general speaks on career



In October, Maj. Gen. Jack L. Rives (J.D.'77), the judge advocate general (TJAG) of the U.S. Air Force, spoke at the School of Law regarding his career in the military and his current appointment as head of the Air Force legal team.

Rives explained to students the many possibilities available through the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps including: prosecuting and defending clients in a variety of felony cases, handling international law cases and agreements, working on a variety of civil law claims, serving as a trial judge or an appellate judge and advising in the area of operational law.

"It really is a pure legal job, and it is a great opportunity," he said.

As TJAG, Rives is responsible for overseeing more than 2,200 judge advocates, 350 civilian attorneys, 1,400 enlisted paralegals and 550 civilians in the corps worldwide. He also provides advice to the Air Staff on all legal issues.

"We have a superb client. The Air Force does not do things perfectly, but we try to do things as effectively as possible. When we mess up we will admit it, we will apologize, and we will investigate and try to take the right sort of corrective actions so it does not happen again," Rives said.

Prior to his current appointment, Rives served as deputy judge advocate general and as the staff judge advocate at Air Combat Command headquarters. He has also served as a wing staff judge advocate, as deputy legal counsel to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as commandant of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School and as the first chief of the Air Force Executive Issues Team. He received his commission in 1974 through the Air Force ROTC program and then began active duty in 1977, after graduating from UGA with both his bachelor's and law degrees.



Vice president of European Parliament speaks at Rusk Center events

Diana Wallis, vice president of the European Parliament, visited the School of Law this past November as part of back-to-back events sponsored by the Dean Rusk Center and the Georgia Society for International and Comparative Law.

First, Wallis joined other American and European private international law experts to explore new European Union legislation on the law applicable to torts and to compare it to approaches in U.S. law during a day-long colloquium.

Their discussion, titled "Colloquium on Rome II: the 2007 EU Regulation on the Law Applicable to Non-contractual Obligations – European and American Perspectives," will be published by the Dean Rusk Center in its 30th Anniversary Paper Series.

Presenters included: Wallis, the law school's Kirbo Chair in International Law Gabriel M. Wilner, Powell Chair Emeritus Russell J. Weintraub of the University of Texas School of Law, Dean and Professor Symeon C. Symeonides of the Willamette University College of Law, and Dean and Professor Johan Meeusen of the University of Antwerp Law School.

The next day, Wallis delivered a speech titled "Who Runs Who: Does Europe Follow the U.S., or the U.S.

Europe, on Major Policy Issues?" which was co-sponsored by UGA's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts as part of the Willson Center – Dean Rusk Center Annual Lecture Series. Her presentation will also be published by the Dean Rusk Center as part of its 30th Anniversary Paper Series.

In her presentation, Wallis explored some of the similarities and differences in how the European Union and the United States have handled various global issues including the war in Iraq, terrorism, the death penalty and recent changes in the environment and climate.

"One of the things that has always been important to me, both as an elected parliamentarian and indeed even before as a lawyer, is the importance of global exchange and interchange between various peoples and various countries," Wallis said.

"I believe that when we look at one another's achievements and use this sort of comparative approach we can learn from that, and we can learn much," she said.

While never really answering the question "who runs who?" Wallis did suggest that it is really more of a give and take between the European Union and the United States and, if we are willing, we could learn a great deal from one another.

"The European Union has a story to tell ... about how we have moved forward based on particular values [and] how we have been able to develop a method of governance that allows us to share resources and to protect resources for future generations."



Georgia Law adds three new professors; other personnel changes

This past fall, the School of Law added three new faculty members, each of whom comes to the University of Georgia with impressive experience and skills that will further enhance the delivery of the school's broad and challenging curriculum.

Below you will find brief biographical descriptions on these new scholars as well as information regarding other staffing changes at the school.



Harlan G. Cohen joined Georgia Law as an assistant professor specializing in international law.

Previously, Cohen was a Furman Fellow at the New York University School of Law and researched national security law, international law and legal history. He has also worked as an associate at the New York law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and served as a judicial clerk for Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. Cohen interned in the U.S. Attorney's Office and for U.S. District Court Judge Shira A. Scheindlin, both in the Southern District of New York.

He earned a dual degree in history and international studies from Yale University before receiving an M.A. in history. In 2003, he graduated *magna cum laude* from the New York University School of Law, where he served as the articles editor of the *New York University Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.



Lisa Milot joined Georgia Law as an assistant professor teaching Property, Trusts and Estates, and Taxation of Non-profits.

Milot comes to Georgia Law with a considerable amount of private practice experience. For the past five years, she practiced with the tax firm Ivins, Phillips & Barker in

Washington, D.C., where she was a special partner in the tax and estate planning group. Previously, she served as an associate in the business group at Cooley Godward Kronish in Reston, Va.

Milot earned her bachelor's degree from New College and her master's degree in social anthropology from New York University. In 2001, she received her Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia, where she served as articles editor of the *Virginia Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

After teaching at the Fordham University School of Law as a visiting assistant profes-



sor, **Christian Turner** joined Georgia Law as an assistant professor teaching property and land use law.

Previously, he served as an associate at the Wiggin and Dana law firm in Connecticut and as a judicial clerk for Judge Guido Calabresi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. He also interned at the White House Council on Environmental Quality in 2000.

Turner graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in mathematics in 1993. He earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 1999 before graduating from Stanford University with his Juris Doctor in 2002. At Stanford, Turner served as president of the *Stanford Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.



Eleanor Crosby Lanier joined Georgia Law as the managing attorney of the Mediation Practicum, the school's newest service learning program, which trains students to become Georgia court-related mediators.

A registered mediator and arbitrator with the State of Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution, Lanier previously served as a

consulting attorney for The Center for Social Gerontology in Ann Arbor, Mich., and as managing attorney for the Georgia Senior Legal Hotline.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Vassar College, her master's from UGA and her J.D. from Emory University.

Visiting Professors

Thomas R. Hurst served as a visiting professor from the University of Florida College of Law for the fall semester and taught courses on energy law, and agency and partnership.

Hurst has been on Florida's faculty since 1974 and currently is a S.T. Dell Research Scholar. Previously, he practiced as an associate at the firm Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee, Wisc., and also served as an attorney in the Office of the Solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.

Hurst graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University with his J.D. after earning his bachelor's degree *cum laude* from the University of Wisconsin.

Teaching in the areas of civil procedure and employment discrimination, **Harold S. Lewis Jr.** has joined Georgia Law for the 2007-08 academic year as a visiting professor from Mercer University School of Law, where he is the holder of the George Chair and has been a faculty member since 1977.

Previously, he was a faculty member of the Fordham University Law School, practiced for five years with the New York firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and served as a law school extern to Justice Matthew O. Tobriner of the California Supreme Court.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia College and his J.D. from Stanford.

Tara J. Melish is serving as a visiting assistant professor teaching constitutional law and torts during the spring semester.

An expert in using international procedures to protect human rights, Melish has served as staff attorney and legal advisor

to the Center for Justice and International Law, as associate social affairs officer in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and as Mental Disability Rights International's U.N. representative in the drafting negotiations of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Additionally, she has served as a judicial clerk to Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

Melish earned her bachelor's degree from Brown University and her J.D. from Yale.

Specializing in tax law, **Mark W. Cochran** joined Georgia Law for the spring semester as a visiting professor from St. Mary's University to instruct in the areas of corporate tax and partnership tax.

Cochran has taught at St. Mary's since 1985. He has served as the professor-in-residence for the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel and worked for Boulton, Cummings, Connors & Berry in Nashville, Tenn.

He earned his bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* from UGA and his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif. He holds an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida.

Staff Changes

Other new additions to the School of Law include **Trina Steele Olidge** (J.D.'97) who joined the development staff this past fall as a major gifts officer. She will be based in Atlanta, replacing Kittie Abell, who left the school in late July. Olidge previously served as assistant dean for community and external affairs at Tulane University Law School. She will bring a unique perspective to the law school's fundraising efforts as an alumna.

Suzanne R. Graham has joined Georgia Law as the cataloging services librarian for the Alexander Campbell King Law Library. Before coming to the law school, Graham served as a monographs original cataloger for UGA Libraries. She has also worked at the University of Southern Mississippi Library and the University of Alabama Library.

Ramsey Henderson Bridges (J.D.'05) has moved from the assistant director position in the Office of Legal Career Services to

the Office of Admissions where she will also hold the title of assistant director. Bridges will assist the school in recruiting the best and brightest to attend Georgia Law.

Kyle L. Martin (J.D.'02) has joined the Office of Legal Career Services as assistant director. Martin holds a joint J.D./M.B.A. degree from UGA. Previously, he was a technology manager in the Technology Commercialization Office of the UGA Research Foundation.

Also joining the Office of Legal Career Services is **Tricia J. Hackleman**. She is working a half-time schedule. Hackleman holds a law degree from the University of Cincinnati and comes to Georgia Law from the Gwinnett County Probate Court, where she was a staff attorney.

Promotions



Julian A. Cook III joined the Georgia Law faculty in the fall of 2006 as an associate professor and was recently promoted to the rank of full professor. He came to the School of Law with nearly 10 years of legal teaching experience and instructs in the areas of criminal procedure, evidence and criminal law.

Previously, Cook served for several years as an assistant U.S. attorney in Nevada and the District of Columbia. While a federal prosecutor and a member of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, he was responsible for the handling of an array of criminal matters, including felony narcotic, white-collar and various arrest-generated cases during the trial and appellate stages. He also served as a judicial clerk for Judge Philip M. Pro of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

Cook earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University, his Master of Public Administration from Columbia University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia.

In the Alexander Campbell King Law Library, **Carol A. Watson** (J.D.'87) was promoted to librarian IV. Additionally,

Watson is serving a two-year term as vice-chair of UGA's Information Technology Management Forum, which provides the university with expertise on IT management and leadership issues. Currently, she supervises the law school's Computing Services Department, provides legal reference services using electronic and print resources, and develops pages for the school's Web site.

Maureen A. Cahill (J.D.'79) and **Wendy E. Moore** have both been promoted to librarian III.

Cahill has worked for the law library since 1997 in a variety of roles including serving as the reference/collection management librarian, acting as the library's liaison for the *Journal of Intellectual Property Law*, helping to maintain the school's Web site, conducting library tours and aiding with the development of a user's guide for the law library.

Moore began working at the law library in 1999. As the acquisitions librarian, she oversees the ordering and receiving of all library materials and supervises the staff of the Acquisitions/Serials Department. She also chairs the collection development team, in addition to serving as a member of the library's steering group, systems team, acquisitions/cataloging team and facility team.

Farewells



After 26 years of service, **Giles W. Kennedy**, who has directed the Office of Admissions since July 1981, retired

in December. During his tenure at Georgia Law, Kennedy played an instrumental role in the enrollment of more than 25 classes and roughly 5,900 students.

John C. Neiman, who joined the School of Law faculty in 2005 as an assistant professor, left the school to return to private practice. He taught in the areas of torts and law of legislation.

UGA study impacts Fulton County Office of the Child Advocate Attorney

The results of a recent study are changing how the Fulton County Office of the Child Advocate Attorney operates.

UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government conducted the study as part of a consent decree in the federal civil rights lawsuit *Kenny A v. Perdue*. The study assessed the number of children a child advocate lawyer can represent and still provide constitutionally adequate representation.

The *Kenny A* lawsuit addressed whether Fulton and DeKalb counties were assuring adequate representation of children in "deprivation" cases, in which the Division of Family and Children Services sought to protect children from abuse and neglect.

In February 2006, the U.S. District Court ruled that the children in these counties had a right to counsel. As part of the consent decree that ensued, Fulton County contracted with the Vinson Institute to study caseload and practice pressures in the Fulton County Office of the Child Advocate Attorney.

Karen Baynes, an associate director at the Vinson Institute, led the study team, which included School of Law Associate Professor

and Director of Civil Clinics Alexander W. Scherr.

The review centered on a six-week time study of child advocate attorneys' work and an in-depth review of 10 years of caseload data. It included focus groups with child advocates, file reviews, court observations and consultations with many different role players in the juvenile court system.

"This study assessed the relationship between caseload or practice pressures and the quality of representation," Scherr said. "The study team had to translate the constitutional mandate for adequate representation into recommendations for the size of staff and the number of children represented by each attorney."

The study concluded that existing caseloads did not permit child advocates to meet the standards of practice set by the parties to *Kenny A*. It also found that both internal office reforms and changes to juvenile court practice further affected the ability of child advocates to meet those standards.

Without any changes to the office or the court, the team recommended a caseload of

only 80 children per attorney, roughly half of the current caseload.

As office and court practices improve, the study suggested the caseload could increase to a maximum of 120 children per attorney with all reforms in place.

"The team's tiered recommendation represents a distinctive approach to assessing adequacy of representation. No lawyer practices in isolation," Scherr said.

"This study acknowledges the importance of office organization and external practice pressures on the ability of an individual attorney to represent clients capably and ethically."

The results of the study have received close attention, not only throughout Georgia but across the nation, as other states are trying to cope with the increasing demand for a coherent and professional approach to the representation of children in deprivation cases, according to Scherr.

The parties in *Kenny A* accepted the study results without argument. Fulton County is now implementing the study, under the supervision of a court-appointed monitor.

Faculty Colloquium Series

Scholarly research and dialogue are important pursuits for law faculty. This activity is enriched through discussions of cutting-edge legal scholarship with academic peers.

Georgia Law's commitment to a provocative and innovative scholarship agenda is reflected in the quality of the school's Faculty Colloquium Series, which brings notable legal academics from around the country to Georgia to share their latest research. It is made possible by the Kirbo Trust Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund.

2007-08 Speakers

Mitchell N. Berman
University of Texas

Dorothy A. Brown
Washington and Lee
University

Christopher J. Brummer
Vanderbilt University

**Thomas A. Eaton
& David B. Mustard**
University of Georgia

Brandon L. Garrett
University of Virginia

Anup Malani
University of Chicago

Bernadette A. Meyler
Cornell University

Shari Motro
University of Richmond

Camille A. Nelson
Saint Louis University

Randal C. Picker
University of Chicago

David Arthur Skeel
University of Pennsylvania

Ahmed E. Taha
Wake Forest University

Douglas H. Yarn
Georgia State University