

Georgia Law captures national moot court trophy



At the First Annual Emory National Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition are: (l. to r.) Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) and third-year students Jennifer Blakely, Cameron Hawkins and Shunta Harmon.

The University of Georgia School of Law won the First Annual Emory National Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition in October.

Third-year law students Jennifer S. Blakely, Shunta R. Harmon and Cameron D. Hawkins took first place against teams from other schools such as the University of Virginia, the University of California-Hastings, Mercer University and the New York Law School, to name a few.

"It is always great to start the season with a win, especially in a national competition," Georgia Law Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) said. "It makes it

extra special that this was a new competition and our law school will be recorded as the first to ever win it."

The case argued by the team involved issues surrounding the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Equal Protection Clause.

Judges for the final round of the competition included: Judge Martha C. Daughtrey of the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, Senior Judge Jane R. Roth of the Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit and Senior Judge A. Wallace Tashima of the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

Georgia Law scores victory in Hulse-Kimbrell competition

The University of Georgia School of Law won the 27th Annual Hulse-Kimbrell Moot Court Competition, defeating the University of Florida in late October on the eve of the yearly Georgia-Florida football showdown.

Third-year law students Rebecca M. Thornhill and Tully T. Blalock comprised the school's winning team.

"Securing this win over Florida with a set of arguments that the panel defined as 'some of the finest ever heard in the history of the competition,' made all of the hard work and preparation that Rebecca and Tully put into this tournament so worthwhile," Georgia Law Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) said. "The victory is even sweeter as both of Georgia's teams emerged from the weekend as winners."

Thornhill and Blalock argued the case *United States v. Matthew Mazzarella* before a distinguished panel of judges including: Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit; U.S. District Court Senior Judges Anthony A. Alaimo and B. Avant Edenfield (J.D.'58), both from the Southern District of Georgia; and U.S. District Court Judge Timothy J. Corrigan and Senior Judge John H. Moore II, both from the Middle District of Florida.

With this year's victory, the School of Law continued its domination of the Hulse-Kimbrell competition with a record that now stands at 18-7-2.

School of Law wins national mock trial invitational; advances to national tier in National Moot Court tournament

The University of Georgia School of Law recently won the William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition, a first for the law school in this tournament and the second national title captured by the school's Advocacy Program this academic year.

Third-year law students Kristen P. Boyd, Kevin E. Epps, Scott R. Grubman and Adam L. Hebbard comprised the winning team and were coached by School of Law Prosecutorial Clinic Director Alan A. Cook (J.D.'84).

The case argued was *State v. Pamela Scott*, a murder case in which Scott was accused of killing her husband but claimed self-defense.

Additionally, the School of Law finished as a finalist in a National Moot Court Competition regional tournament, qualifying the team to advance to the national round, which will be held in New York during late January.

Representing Georgia Law in the national round will be third-year law students James E. Butler III, Naveen Ramachandrappa and Alexandra H. Yeager, the same trio which finished as finalists in the regionals.

Each year, more than 150 law schools compete in the regional rounds throughout the United States for a chance to be one of 28 teams to argue at the national tier of the tournament.

"Both our mock trial and moot court programs are performing extremely well," Georgia Law Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) said. "We are very proud of all of our students and the hard work they put into these competitions. To have two national championships, a regional title and the opportunity to win another national trophy so early in the season is phenomenal. We are off to a tremendous start this year."

LAW SCHOOL LIFE

Hosch Annex Renovation

This past summer, the J. Alton Hosch Law Library Annex underwent renovations and now matches the Carl E. Sanders Reading Room of the Alexander Campbell King Law Library with new tables and carrels equipped with task lighting and built-in electrical outlets.



Georgia Law Students Working Abroad

The Global Internship Program (formerly the International Externship Program), where students work and study abroad during the summer months, is currently UGA's largest international offering in terms of geographic reach. Pictured below are 16 of the participants from this past summer who worked in countries such as Argentina, Belgium, Chile, China, India, Guyana, Ghana, Jordan, Papua New Guinea and Romania.



England Mock Trial Competition

Participating in the final round of the 2007 J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition were: (back, l. to r.) jurors C.R. Chisholm, Harold Melton (J.D.'91), Jeff Kwastel (J.D.'03), Advocacy Director Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) and Jason Saliba; (middle, l. to r.) jurors Harris Hines, Steve Jones (J.D.'87), Dean Rebecca White and Dean Emeritus Ralph Beard; (front, l. to r.) second-year students and competition finalists Amer Ahmad and Jahnisa Tate, Assistant Professor Erica Hashimoto (who served as presiding judge), and second-year students and competition winners Dan Huynh and Michael Eshman.



Talmadge Moot Court Competition

The 2007 Talmadge Moot Court Competition final round participants included: (back, l. to r.) tournament judges J.D. Smith (J.D.'71), John Ellington (J.D.'85), Harris Hines and Michael Terry (J.D.'87); (front, l. to r.) second-year students James Derrick, Robert Thomas (who was named the tournament's best oralist), Amanda Brooks and Sachin Varghese. Brooks and Varghese won the competition.



First-year student Gail Evins pauses to have her picture taken during the Class of 2010 Family & Friends Visitation Day. ▼

Family & Friends Visitation Day

At lunch, first-year students and their friends and families ▲ listened to Dale Schwartz (J.D.'68), whose daughter Laine (J.D.'00) also graduated from Georgia Law, offered them advice as a parent, a lawyer and as a former student. In his remarks, he said, "The practice of law is not about money. It's about doing things for people."





Jolee Porter: From powerless child to empowered law student

For first-year law student Jolee Porter, her decision to embark on a career in the law began the day of her adoption.

During her childhood, Porter dealt with biological parents who struggled with drug addiction, forcing her in and out of foster homes. At the age of seven, her transient lifestyle changed for the better when she was adopted by a family in Cobb County, Ga.

Porter believes the governmental framework that facilitated her foster care, and eventually her adoption, helped her to avoid a potentially negative future and gave her a respect for the law that she still carries with her today.

"I have always benefited from the structures set in place by the law. As a powerless child, the law ensured the protection of my rights and moved me into the safe haven of foster care and then adoption," Porter said.

While this was a contributing factor in her decision to attend law school, she also wanted to remain in Georgia, as she knew the state had also affected her life in a positive way.

"I'm really fortunate to have been born in the state of Georgia because the state has done so much for me. Whether it was getting me out of a difficult and unhealthy environment or even allowing me to go to college for free through [the] HOPE [scholarship], I don't feel like I would be where I am without this community and, as a result, I want to give back to it."

As an undergraduate student at UGA,

Porter worked for three years as a resident assistant in Brumby Hall, helping freshman women stay on track and lending them advice and encouragement. She said she loved living with so many people and found joy in watching her residents grow.

"They change so much during their first year."

Balancing this 24/7 job with school never proved to be a problem as she left the university as a First Honor Graduate, achieving a cumulative GPA of 4.0 while earning bachelor's degrees in both Spanish and English.

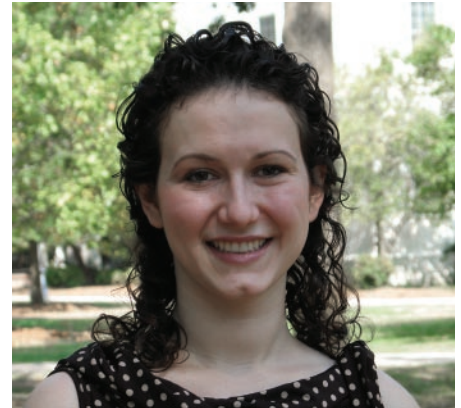
These accomplishments as an undergraduate helped her to not only be accepted into the School of Law, but also to become a recipient of Georgia Law's James E. Butler (J.D.'77) Scholarship, which is awarded to law students who have demonstrated a record of "academic excellence, significant personal achievement, and a strong desire and commitment to practice public interest law and to serve the public good."

Porter is currently trying to make the transition from undergraduate to law school less stressful by finding time to maintain relationships with friends and family and by jogging five times a week to "clear her head."

While Porter is still unsure of what realm of the law she would like to specialize in, she hopes to work in public interest law and to continue helping those who feel powerless.

"If there are people who are not empowered to stand up for themselves, whether they are young children, the elderly or individuals who cannot speak English, the law and the people that stand for the law, whether it be attorneys, the legislature or judges, must work to help them overcome the barriers that inhibit their equality."

Georgia
Law



Terressa Davis: Archaeology and law, the perfect match

Most children have dreams of becoming a police officer, doctor or firefighter when they grow up. However, for second-year law student Terressa M. Davis, who grew up in Macon, her lifelong ambition has centered around the field of archaeology.

After a teacher assigned Davis, who was 10 at the time, a project on the developing country of Cambodia, Davis immediately fell in love with the nation's rich history and vowed to do all she could to protect it.

This led her to major in archaeology as an undergraduate at Boston University, where she was awarded the Archaeology Department Prize for Excellence.

After graduation, she decided to live out her dream of helping Cambodia and moved to the country to work as project coordinator for Heritage Watch. While studying the looting of archaeological sites and creating and managing educational programs to inform the public about the importance of archaeology, Davis developed the desire to attend law school.

"I realized that there's not going to be anything left for archaeologists to study in Cambodia unless the lawyers go and protect it."

However, moving back to the United States to attend the School of Law proved to be a challenge, as her years of travel had given her a sense of freedom and independence. To counter this, Davis said she began incorporating international work into her studies.

Last summer, Davis participated in the law school's Global Internship Program and

worked in Papua New Guinea, an opportunity she feels she would not have gotten “anywhere else in the country.” Through this program, she not only became the third generation in her family to work in Papua New Guinea, following in the footsteps of her grandfather and uncle, but she also created and developed the idea to publish the country’s court decisions online.

Papua New Guinea, the last colonized country in the world, had not published in print its court decisions since 2000, which left the nation without a standardized common law and severely disrupted the administration of justice, according to Davis.

As the only American working on the project, Davis arrived in the country to aid an international team in publishing the decisions. However, she soon realized that a print publication was not enough.

“For the judgments to have full effect and be available to everyone in the country, they needed to be published online in a free, easily searchable, easily accessible database.”

Davis is currently working on putting this idea into motion and will work on behalf of the Dean Rusk Center to create the new database. When complete this summer, she will train Papua New Guinea’s judiciary, including members of the Supreme Court and the national courts as well as other court personnel and lawyers, on how to use the database.

Other undertakings for Davis outside of her internship include heading up the Database of Historical and Archaeological Regulations for the Management of Antiquities Project, which is establishing the first comprehensive print treatise and online database of legislation affecting the management of heritage resources in Southeast Asia, and continuing her work with Heritage Watch to help train the police and the judiciary in heritage legislation in Cambodia.

In the future, Davis plans to stay involved with international projects and combine her expertise in the law with her interest in international development.

“A law degree is such a flexible thing and is useful in so many situations. With it, I know I can make a positive impact anywhere in the world.”



Harvey Daniels: Active inside the classroom and out

Two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun.

Harvey Daniels III, a third-year law student from Chattanooga, Tenn., is all too familiar with the McDonald’s recipe for the famed Big Mac, as he spent his high school years as a manager of one of the renowned fast food eateries.

Working at McDonald’s for five years was beneficial because many of his experiences there dealt with conflict resolution and, thus, helped prepare him for a career in law.

Daniels’ interest in the law, however, can be traced back years before his days at the restaurant, starting from the time he religiously watched Ben Matlock and Perry Mason on television with his mother.

While Daniels is the first in his family to attend college, and subsequently law school, his parents always emphasized academics.

“My family has always encouraged me to get as much education as possible, and they have made it possible for me to excel academically,” Daniels said.

Although grades have been a major focal point for Daniels while in school, both as an undergraduate and law student, he has found the time to take advantage of the many co-curricular and extracurricular offerings.

While at Xavier University of Louisiana, he was the team manager for both the cross country team and the women’s basketball team, along with being president of the Philosophy Honor Society.

At Georgia Law, he currently serves as Thomas R.R. Cobb Professor David E. Shipley’s teaching assistant for Civil Procedure, a position offered to him as a result of his grades, and is also a member of the law school’s Honor Court and the Davenport-Benham Black Law Students Association.

As part of the Honor Court, he is one of three third-year law students who act as student judges hearing allegations of honor code violations.

With BLSA, he has been part of a committee that schedules and organizes various academic success workshops on topics ranging from how to take notes to how to prepare for finals, and even organizes mock exams for all law students.

Daniels knows these workshops are vital to students because “at the end of the day, no matter how many opportunities are available, you can’t take advantage of the opportunities if you aren’t academically successful.”

For Daniels, he has seized several opportunities the law school has provided. During his time here, he has been able to meet and converse privately with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and was given his first international experience as one of 12 Georgia Law students selected to participate in the Georgia Law at Oxford program, the school’s recently introduced semester-long study abroad offering at the famed university.

After graduation in May, he will work at Burr & Forman where he has interned the last two summers.

Daniels is interested in practicing securities law and growing smaller businesses but would also like to work one-on-one with corporate management, doing consultation work and advising clients.

He plans to continue his tradition of involvement after law school and become active in the Atlanta community.

“When thinking about graduation and the benefits that come with being an attorney, I think of the proverb ‘to whom much has been given, much will be required.’ I think that becoming an attorney will give me access to resources that I must share with my community and with future law students.”

All profiles written by Leigh Tenewitz.