

Class of 2008 Commencement

Graduation is always such a special time at Georgia Law. It's no surprise that family and friends play an integral role in the day's celebration. The following will provide you with a glimpse of some family connections at this year's ceremony.



▲ Jeb Butler (right) celebrates his recent graduation with his dad Jim (J.D.'77). Photo courtesy of Bob Brussack (J.D.'76).



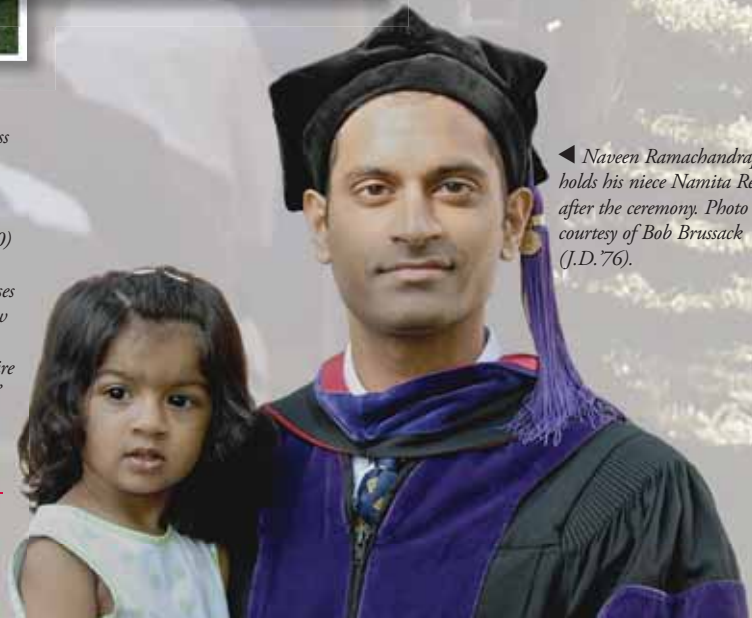
▲ Prospective graduates try to reach members of their family prior to commencement exercises.



▲ Lucy Pope Dodd, a fifth generation graduate from the School of Law, shares the day with her family. In 1860, her great-great-grandfather Middleton Pope Barrow was a member of the first class to graduate from the law school. Lucy's other family members who have graduated from the law school include: her great-grandfather Francis P. McIntire (B.L.'03), her grandfather Pope Barrow McIntire (LL.B.'47), her aunt Sarah Ellen McIntire Love (J.D.'80) and her sister Elizabeth Palmour Dodd Kanne (J.D.'00), who is also a fifth generation graduate. Here, Lucy (fourth from right) poses with her distant cousin and this year's keynote speaker John Barrow (fourth from left) along with: (l. to r.) Jeffrey Kanne, Alan Kanne, Palmour Holmes McIntire, Palmour McIntire Dodd, Pope McIntire Kanne, Elizabeth, and Zane Dodd. Photo by UGA Public Affairs' Paul Efland.



◀ Kristen Boyd is all smiles as she walks across the graduation platform receiving both a diploma tube and a welcome gift from the LSA. Photo by UGA Public Affairs' Paul Efland.



◀ Naveen Ramachandrappa holds his niece Namita Reddy after the ceremony. Photo courtesy of Bob Brussack (J.D.'76).

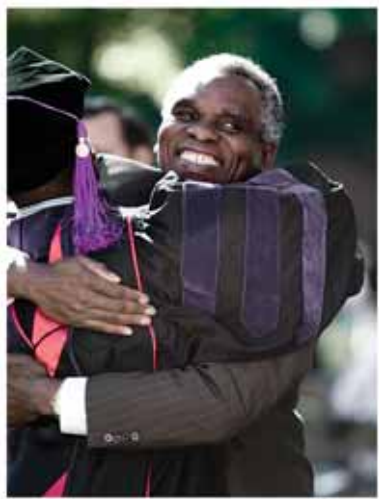
Background photo courtesy of Bob Brussack (J.D.'76).



▲ Legacy Gift Committee co-chairs Allie Scott (right) and Justin Jones (center right) present a check totaling \$68,856.96 to LSA President Steve Gilliam (J.D.'74) (left) and Dean Rebecca White. Sixty-one percent of the Class of 2008 pledged their financial support to Georgia Law setting a new Legacy Gift record for total dollar amount pledged by recent graduates. Photo by UGA Public Affairs' Paul Efland.



▲ Commencement is a great time for families to gather together and share in the tradition of Georgia Law. Graduate Susie Henson's family is an example of this and includes: (l. to r.) her uncle Kenneth Henson Jr. (J.D.'78), Susie, her grandfather Kenneth Henson Sr. (J.D.'47), her sister Catherine Henson (who will begin studying at Georgia Law in the fall) and her father Carlton Henson (J.D.'80). Photo by UGA Public Affairs' Paul Efland.



▲ A proud dad hugs his graduate. Photo by UGA Public Affairs' Paul Efland.



Congressman John Barrow, who delivered the keynote address, is pictured above with distant cousins and 2008 Georgia Law graduates Lucy Pope Dodd (left) and Kathleen Parker. Photo by UGA Public Affairs' Paul Efland.

Barrow delivers commencement speech

U.S. Congressman John Barrow delivered the keynote address at graduation. Although not a Georgia Law grad himself, many of his relatives graduated from Georgia Law, including a member of the law school's first graduating class in 1860 – Middleton Pope Barrow, who was Barrow's great-grandfather.

After relating his familial connection to Georgia Law, Barrow said, "The law has changed a lot [over the] years. But in all those generations (spanning back to Middleton Barrow), I don't think the law itself has changed as much, or that lawyers have done as much to change the world, as I've seen in just my lifetime. I know that lawyers can change the world, because I've watched them do it."

Barrow's message went on to emphasize the role of the law in the past, present and future.

PAST: "People did not always look to the law as a way to change the world. ... But my generation did have a different idea of what the law ought to be. The kids I went to law school with had all come through the '60s. We saw how lawyers had used the law to change society. And I got to see that up close. My parents were outspoken leaders in the movement to desegregate this university. But lawyers got the job done. ... So I know that lawyers can change the world, because I've actually seen them do it."

PRESENT: "If we are going to preserve what is good about the law – and change what is not so good – you are the generation of lawyers that is going to have to do it. And I can't think of a better trained, better prepared, or better looking generation to take that on."

FUTURE: "I haven't the foggiest idea what the next 30 years holds in store for you, except to predict that the process of specialization – of charging more for knowing more and more about less and less – will continue apace."

In closing, Barrow said, "A guy once complained to Oscar Wilde that opera just wasn't what it used to be. He said, 'You're wrong: the trouble with opera is that it's exactly what it used to be.' When we consider the role that lawyers have played in leading us through the changes that I've seen in just my lifetime, my wish for you is that the practice of law will always be, at least to some extent, exactly what it used to be."

– Compiled by Leigh Tenewitz