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## Dean's Newsletter

J. Ralph Beard

*University of Georgia School of Law*

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# Dean's Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Law School Alumnus:

On October 14, 1986 I will have served as Dean of the School of Law for ten years. Counting my service as Acting Dean in 1972-1974, I will have served as administrative head of this Law School for twelve years, a span characterized by much change and development in the area of American legal education.

I have concluded that now is the appropriate time to announce my plans to step down as dean and return to teaching and research on a full-time basis. I have just celebrated my 61st birthday, so this seems to be as good a time as any to move from the administrative area and to devote more time to teaching and professional services.

A search will soon be underway for my successor. University Interim President Henry King Stanford will name an eight-member committee to screen candidates for the appointment. Two of the members of the search committee will come from among the ranks of alumni.

The new appointee will probably not take office until September or later in 1987, so you will still find me at this post for the coming year, at the very least. The months ahead will be a time for consolidating gains and adding the finishing touches to major projects and goals which were outlined in the Law School's self-study last year.

It will not merely be a time for consolidating gains, however. The other day I made a list of fourteen major funds development goals which I feel are reachable this year. We will also continue to move ahead on other fronts, including faculty recruitment, curriculum development, recruitment of quality students, expansion of the physical plant, and enrichment of the library collection.

It is the custom to reflect upon the year which has passed, and I do so with a feeling that comes from the realization that an important era in the life of the Georgia Law School is ending.

Dr. Fred Davison's leadership throughout his 19 years as president of The University of Georgia has immeasurably benefitted the School of Law. When he took office in 1967, he singled out the Law School as a center of excellence for the University. Since then, he has made certain that the resources were available to carry out the School's plans for achieving its potential for excellence.

The successes and set-backs of any given year help us to renew, and in some cases re-vamp, our methods of carrying out the tasks before us. This became apparent after we had a chance to absorb fully the findings of the report of the visitation committee of the ABA and AALS following its re-accreditation visit last year. We found that we were on the right track in virtually all of the areas in which a quality law school is measured.

The set-backs of the year must be recorded as well as the accomplishments, and we certainly cannot gloss over the problems created for this institution by the weeks of news media attention and internal dissension in the aftermath of the Developmental Studies controversy.

There is a developing climate of renewal of purpose for the University as a whole which is now underway, and the Law School is a part of it.

In startling contrast to the strife-filled events of the past few months, there is exceptionally good news in the area of private funding for the University. This has certainly been the case for the Law School. The year 1985-86 was the single-most successful year for new private funding in the history of The University of Georgia School of Law. It was successful beyond all the expectations that we had in beginning the year last August. Some perspective is in order.

In 1976, the cash contributions given to the School of Law in one year amounted to \$20,753. In the fiscal year which ended June 30, the Law School has received \$1,614,697 in new cash gifts . . . more than three times the amount given last year.

What is equally impressive is the number of donors and the amount assembled through the small or average-sized gift. At the end of June, \$154,227 had been given to the Law School Fund by 1,018 alumni and friends of the School. This is in contrast to \$107,032 given in non-capital gifts for all of last year by 526 donors.

The annual gifts program is 44% ahead in contributions and 94% ahead in number of donors as compared to last year. Credit for this last surge in giving can be attributed to the Class Challenge campaign which was initiated in the Law School last September. Forty class agents were enlisted, who then wrote or otherwise contacted their class members to encourage them to become annual fund donors. The goal was to increase the percentage of the alumni body who are active contributors. Our thanks goes to all of you who participated in the Class Challenge campaign. The new campaign for 1986-87 "kicks-off" during the end of October. Please be prepared to receive warmly an "asking" letter or call from a fellow classmate again this year.

## A Report on the Student Body

I always like to use as the centerpiece of the fall newsletter a report to the alumni on the newly-enrolled entering class. When these students reported for the fall semester on August 19, we found an auditorium full of bright and ambitious young people ready and eager to study law. The median LSAT score for the class is 38, which is the same as it was last year. This score is at the 84th percentile of all 1985-86 test-takers. Fewer than 15 percent of the nation's 175 law schools had a higher median LSAT score for their entering classes one year ago.

The median grade point average of the 211 entering students is 3.25, and 44 percent of the first-year class is female. The previous proportion of women students has averaged 35%. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of minority students who joined us this fall. We have an impressive LL.M. enrollment of 16 new students.

## Student Co-Curricular Programs

The year began with a visit from the Gray's Inn barristers in September who came at the School's invitation to engage in a series of "moots." The Georgia team not only entered into competition with the four-member British team, but also served as their guides and hosts in Athens, Atlanta and Savannah during their week-long stay. The visit firmly established a tradition of friendship which began when team members from the Georgia Law School were guests of the Gray's Inn chambers in 1983.

It was a year of victories for the Moot Court and Mock Trial programs. Both groups won their Intrastate Competitions; the Mock Trial team members were co-champions of their Southeastern Regional event, and they became the first team from the State of Georgia to advance to the national finals. The Jessup Moot Court team won the regional title and finished fifth in the nation in the final rounds held in April.

## Placement

The Placement Office achieved a new high in outreach this year. Altogether, 1968 employers were reached by or contacted the School, either through on-campus interviews or through consortium contact or resume forwarding. Compared to national statistics compiled at graduation, the employment rate for this school is 16% ahead of the average. This year's figure of 76% placed at graduation is an impressive jump ahead of the School's own record of 65%.

## Clinical and Graduate Studies Programs

The Prosecutorial Clinic moved from its base of operations in Clarke County to the Piedmont Judicial Circuit this year. This semester Rick Good, former editor-in-chief of the *Colorado Law Review* and deputy district attorney in Colorado, joined our staff as acting director of the program for this year.

The Legal Aid and Defender Society witnessed a significant increase in its case load this year. It continues to have the respect and acclaim as a model legal aid program throughout the state and



region.

The graduate legal studies program has been expanded to the point of requiring a director and clerical support. Professor Gabriel Wilner began the year as director of the program in addition to his teaching responsibilities. During 1985-86 the program had 19 LL.M. students representing ten nations. Wilner is now actively helping the graduating students with job searches as well as helping each student manage the curriculum requirements and make adjustments to living and studying in the United States.

#### Library

The Law Library was able to add almost \$70,000 to its acquisition budget and spend \$83,408 to install compact shelving as a result of contingency funds granted by President Davison to the Law School. The compact shelving expanded the linear foot capacity of the Library by eight percent.

The Library undertook the mammoth task of training all members of the first year class in the use of WESTLAW during the spring semester. The Library offers other specialized training and has generally expanded its public service programs. An extensive survey of the international reference needs of the *Georgia Journal* and the LL.M. candidates was undertaken in order to make sure that those materials are available as part of the reference collection.

Also, the gubernatorial papers of Carl Sanders were given to the archives of the Law Library this year. We will host a ceremony later this fall to acknowledge this truly significant gift.

#### Personnel Changes

Long-time Registrar Frank G. Polster retired in December, 1985. Immediately upon retirement, he took a part-time position with ICLE, and he helps with on-site conference management tasks.

Robert D. Peckham, who came to Georgia as Director of its Legal Aid and Defender Society in 1968, retired July 1, 1986 after building the legal aid and prisoner counseling programs into model programs emulated all over the country. Peckham also team-taught the trial practice course and a course in military law.

B. Thomas Cook, Jr. came to the Law School in 1972 as the first full-time director of the Prosecutorial Clinic. He built a reputation as an able and energetic prosecutor. He left to accept a position with the Atlanta firm of Chilivis and Grindler.

Additions to the staff included Dr. James Whitehead, Assistant Public Service Librarian, and Mrs. Fran Thomas, Public Information Director. Whitehead devotes time to helping patrons with computer research and other reference collection interpretation. Thomas has taken on the publications responsibility of the Law School.

As previously reported in last year's newsletter, the fund-raising activities of the Law School were boosted by the addition of Frank Brookins, whose services in soliciting Presidents Club members and deferred gifts are shared with the UGA Development Office.

A special note of appreciation goes to Robert D. Brussack, who is stepping down as Assistant Dean to return to full-time teaching. Bob handled the duties as "Dean of Students" most effectively during his four-year tenure. His desire to continue research and writing as well as prepare extensively for his classroom duties is certainly respected.

Associate Law Dean Ellen R. Jordan has been named acting associate vice president for academic affairs for the University. This September Sam Davis assumed the position of associate dean in the School of Law.

I hope that you will take a moment to review the calendar of events for the coming year. I single out one in particular that you will find interesting, and that is the Alumni Seminar in February. The theme for this year's session is the Bicentennial observance of the U.S. Constitution. Law alumnus Hamilton Lokey will serve as general chairman for the sessions and professor Milner Ball will serve as faculty chairman. Among other topics, the seminar will look at landmark constitutional law cases arising from Georgia.

Reflecting on the tribulations and rewards of my twelve years as dean of the Georgia Law School, the memories that will endure and be valued most are the friendships I have developed with the alumni of our school. I treasure the personal associations I have with so many of you and always will be grateful that the responsibilities of

the deanship allowed these relationships to develop.

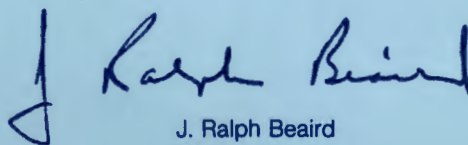
The deanship's requirements called for me to get out among the school's constituents and cement old ties while seeking new converts to the cause. I have enjoyed this aspect of the job more than any other since every meeting has presented an opportunity to develop new resources for the Law School. In truth, you have answered the call to support excellence out of love, loyalty and appreciation for your alma mater rather than as a result of salesmanship.

Your support has allowed your school to recruit the best students, and thereby I have had the special privilege of watching 22-year-olds mature into excellent professionals. It is my great personal pleasure when one of my student research assistants or an exceptional classroom performer is offered an outstanding job opportunity. To watch them advance in their careers through the years and gain the rewards due their talent and abilities is a source of tremendous satisfaction for me.

I close this newsletter with the wish that I will have the chance to greet each of you at some event, or in some communication, during the next twelve months. I hope you will decide that this is the fall that you will come back to our homecoming event or that you will not miss the Law Day celebration next spring, or both! These will be opportunities for you and me to share our mutual pride in a great Law School as well as opportunities for me to thank you for what you have meant to me during my stewardship.

If you have not been back to Athens for some time, or if you have made regular visits, make this a year of reaffirmation of your ties. I'll be looking forward to seeing each of you.

Sincerely,



J. Ralph Beard  
Dean  
September 20, 1986

Please join us for these special events:

- 1. Fall Sibley Lecture**  
September 25, 1986. The Honorable Abner Mikva, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.  
His topic: The appropriations power of Congress.
- 2. Fall Alumni Weekend**  
October 17-18, 1986. See the announcement on page 3 of the newsletter for details.
- 3. Georgia Alumni Breakfast**  
January 9, 1987, 8:00 a.m.  
Ritz-Carlton-Buckhead Hotel, Atlanta
- 4. University of Georgia Alumni Seminar**  
Theme: The Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution  
February 13-15, 1987  
Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens
- 5. Spring Sibley Lecture**  
March 31, 1987. The Honorable James R. Browning, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- 6. Law Day Weekend**  
April 24-25, 1987.
- 7. Law School Commencement**  
May 16, 1987, 11:00 a.m.  
North Campus Quadrangle
- 8. Annual Meeting - Law School Association**  
June 12, 1987, 8:00 a.m.  
Savannah - hotel to be announced.



**Special Event**

Class  
Challenge  
Campaign  
Representatives  
Friday  
4:00 p.m.  
Lumpkin House

**October 17 and 18  
at the Georgia Law School**

Closing Arguments of the  
Fall ATLA Mock Trial  
Intramural Competition  
Friday, 2 p.m. Courtroom

**Special Event**

Order of the Coif  
Introduction  
for  
Class of 1986  
Courtroom  
11:00 a.m.  
Saturday



**Law Alumni  
Fall Weekend**



**Social**

Reception  
Preceding  
Dinner at  
Georgia Center  
6:30 p.m.

**Entertainment**

Dinner and Musical Performance:  
Selections from "Hello, Dolly", "Pirates of  
Penzance," by UGA Jekyll Island theater  
performers: Georgia Center for Continuing  
Education; Friday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.  
\$16.00 per person

**Reservations**

Reservations may  
be made through  
the Alumni  
Programs Office,  
School of Law  
See reply card

**Pre-Game  
Lunch**

Social and  
Box Lunch

Law School Rotunda  
11:30 a.m. Saturday  
\$7.00 per person



**Georgia  
vs.  
Vanderbilt**



The Law School's  
Board of Visitors will  
meet on Friday at  
11:00 a.m. and the  
Law School  
Association Council will  
meet at 9:30 a.m. on  
Saturday. Room E.





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Reply Card - Law Alumni Weekend, 1986

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_ persons to attend the dinner and musical performance October 17.

Cost per person: \$16.00

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_ persons to attend the pre-game lunch on October 18.

Cost per person: \$ 7.00

Make checks payable to: Law School Association and mail to: Alumni Programs Office, School of Law, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.