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## Dean's Letter to the Alumni

J. Ralph Beard

*University of Georgia School of Law*

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This edition of the annual fall newsletter then, is an invitation to you to come share in the ceremonies initiating the construction of a new building.

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY  
LAW LIBRARY ANNEX  
Friday, November 16, 1979  
3:30 p.m.

Also, at a dinner that evening, the School of Law will receive the portrait of former Governor Ernest Vandiver in a special ceremony. The Vandiver portrait, given by alumni and friends, will be added to that of three other governors who are Georgia law graduates in our newly-established Hall of Governors.

I want to tell you about our entering class this fall. The Law School enrolled 232 first year students who came to us from an applicant pool of 1505. The class has an average LSAT score of 648 and average undergraduate grade average of 3.50. The class is 30% women and has 20 minority students.

Of the exceptionally well-qualified students admitted in recent years, one has become the University of Georgia's first law clerk on the United States Supreme Court. Benna R. Solomon, a 1978 graduate, is law clerk to Justice Byron White.

There is so much more to report about our educational program this fall, and you will be reading about it in the next issue of the *Georgia Advocate* which you will receive in November.

For the present, however, please note the following events on your fall calendar:

1. The John A. Sibley Lecture

for the Fall Quarter  
Wednesday, October 10, at 4:00 p.m.  
Law School Auditorium  
Guest Lecturer:  
Grant Gilmore  
Retired Sterling Professor of Law  
Yale Law School

2. Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Law Library Annex

Portrait Dedication - Governor Ernest Vandiver  
November 16-17, 1979

All alumni are invited to these events. Reservations may be made through Mrs. Gwen Wood, Assistant to the Dean (1-404-542-7959). The Law School Board of Visitors and Law School Association Council will hold meetings during the weekend.

3. Georgia Law Alumni Breakfast

The Law School Association meeting at the mid-year meeting of the State Bar of Georgia will take place Friday, December 7. It will be held at the Omni International Hotel in Atlanta at 8:00 a.m.

Dear Law School Alumnus:

This fall, the University of Georgia School of Law opens its doors to the 120th entering class of first year students. Many developments have taken place since that October day in 1859 when twenty-four young men enrolled in the state's first formal program of studies leading to a diploma in law.

Justice Joseph Lumpkin, Thomas R.R. Cobb and William H. Hull, sanctioned as incorporators of the new school by the Georgia General Assembly, conducted the first classes in Judge Lumpkin's office on Prince Avenue. A short time later, classes were transferred to the Ivy Building on the University campus. Then, with the aid of private money from alumni and friends, a building at the corner of Broad and Lumpkin Streets was acquired to provide larger and better facilities. The Law School occupied this building, the now demolished old Athenaeum Club, until 1932 when it moved into Harold Hirsch Hall - again a gift from alumni and friends.

All of you know the present structure, completed in 1967, and how its funding came through the combined efforts of a supportive governor, Board of Regents chairman and far-sighted dean in the early 1960's. The fall of 1979 will see the sixth structural change in the Law School physical plant when construction begins on our Law Library Annex. This annex, approved for funding by the Georgia General Assembly in February, will provide additional space necessary to completely shelve the 298,000-volume collection. It will provide much-needed student study space and conference rooms, and house audio-visual equipment.

This annex is, in fact, a gift from the people of Georgia, from informed alumni who made known the needs of the law school to the State's Board of Regents and the General Assembly.



4. The John A. Sibley Lecture

for the Winter Quarter  
Lecture Visit: February 21-22, 1980  
Guest Lecturer:  
Morton J. Horwitz  
Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

5. The John A. Sibley Lecture

for the Spring Quarter  
Lecture Visit: April 10-11, 1980  
Guest Lecturer:  
Ralph Winter  
Professor of Law, Yale Law School

6. Law Day, 1980

Law Day will be held Saturday, April 26, 1980. Events include the Law School Association Luncheon, the Law Day Exercises, the Student Bar Association Reception, and the banquet sponsored by the *Georgia Law Review* and the Moot Court Board.

7. Annual Meeting  
Law School Association

State Bar Annual Meeting  
Friday, June 13, 1980 in Savannah  
DeSoto Hilton Hotel at 8:00 a.m.

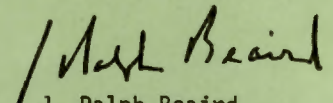
I hope that you will visit the law building on the Saturdays you are in Athens for the home

football games. Of particular interest is the newly-refurbished student lounge. The new furnishings are a gift of alumni contributors who responded to a special funds drive led by Pope McIntire, Class of 1947.

The Classes of 1939, 1966 and 1969 will hold reunions this fall. The 1966 and 1969 activities will take place November 3 after the Georgia-Virginia football game. The 1939 reunion will be held October 26. If you are a member of one of those classes and have not yet heard from the reunion coordinator, contact Gwen Wood.

A 15-minute color film which provides a capsule of the Georgia Law School and its current programs is available for showing to groups around the region. We will be glad to bring the film and a speaker to meetings of local bar groups and local or regional alumni gatherings. I look forward to working with Richard Bradley, Law School Association President, in the alumni activities of the year ahead. I enlist your help in making 1979-80 a momentous year for The University of Georgia School of Law.

Sincerely,



J. Ralph Beard  
Dean

JRB:jk

October 10, 1979

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University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602

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