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Dean's Letter to the Alumni

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Dear Law School Alumnus:

There is something about September that puts one in a reminiscent mood. Those days of lecture halls, casebooks and law classes don't seem very far away, do they? As the School of Law opens its doors to the 119th entering class, I thought it to be an appropriate time to relate to our alumni and friends some plans for special events and activities to take place throughout the 1978-1979 academic year.

First, let me tell you why this is going to be, in my opinion, a banner year for the School of Law. We have an exceptionally well qualified first year class of 220 students which were selected for admission from a group of 1350 applicants. These students come to us with an average LSAT score of 649 and an average undergraduate grade point average of 3.45.

In the blueprint for progress developed by the Law School two years ago, one of the first priorities listed was the reduction of the student-faculty ratio. Through a program of vigorous faculty recruitment made possible by the funding support of President Davison, the School has rapidly moved from a faculty of 25 in 1975-76 to one of 32 in 1978-79.

What is significant here is the caliber of the faculty recruited. The brightest young tax professor at the University of Chicago, already the co-author of a major casebook, is now on our faculty. Walter Hellerstein was Editor-in-Chief of the Chicago Law Review. Also joining us is James Ponsoldt, formerly an appellate attorney with the anti-trust division of the U.S. Department of Justice and former associate with Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton and Garrison of New York. Another new faculty member, Michael Wells, comes to us from the Washington, D.C. law firm of Covington and

Burling. Milner Ball, a former Georgia Law Review editor-in-chief, returns to Athens from a senior professorship at Rutgers. Ball, who was a part-time instructor at the Law School last year, worked with the Rusk Center in publishing its first monograph on the law of the sea. Another Georgia graduate returning to his alma mater to teach is Robert Brussack, first honor graduate of the Class of 1976. Brussack clerked for Judge Lewis Morgan of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and taught at the University of Houston before becoming an assistant professor here.

Returning to the faculty from a year's visit at the University of Virginia is Professor Greg Alexander. Professors Mack Player and Emily Calhoun will be visiting this academic year at the University of Hawaii and the University of Colorado respectively.

Our visiting professors for this year form an impressive group. Corwin W. Johnson, the Liedtke Professor at the University of Texas and co-author of a casebook on property, will visit during the winter and spring quarters, as will Professor Luke K. Cooperrider of Michigan and Peter Coogan of Harvard, who taught on the Georgia faculty two quarters last year. Dennis Thompson, an international law professor from England, will teach during the fall quarter.

You will receive a more complete report of our educational program plans for 1978-79 in the next issue of the Georgia Advocate alumni magazine which you will receive in early November.

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

1. The John A. Sibley Lecture

for the Fall Quarter
Thursday, October 19, at 3:00 p.m.
Law School Auditorium
Guest Lecturer:
Francis A. Allen
Edson R. Sunderland Professor of Law
University of Michigan

2. Judge Lewis R. Morgan Dinner
Homecoming Weekend

Alumni are invited to attend the dinner honoring this Georgia law graduate who is taking senior status after a distinguished career on the federal bench. Attorney General Griffin Bell will be the banquet speaker. Reservations may be made through Mrs. Gwen Wood, Assistant to the Dean (1-404-542-7959). This is the Homecoming Weekend, and the Law School's Board of Visitors and Law School Association Council will hold meetings.

3. Georgia Law Alumni Breakfast

Law School Association meeting at the Mid-Year Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia

Friday, December 1, 1978
Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Spanish Room,
Atlanta - 8:00 a.m.

Also keep in mind these other activities
which have been arranged for the winter and spring
quarters, 1979:

4. The John A. Sibley Lecture

for the Winter Quarter
Thursday, April 5, at 3:00 p.m.
Law School Auditorium
Guest Lecturer:
Professor Stanley S. Surrey
Harvard Law School

5. The John A. Sibley Lecture

for the Spring Quarter
Thursday, May 24, at 3:00 p.m.
Law School Auditorium
Guest Lecturer:
Professor Gerald Gunther
William N. Cromwell Professor of Law
Stanford Law School

6. Law Day, 1979

Law Day will be held Saturday, April 28,
1979. Events include the Law School
Association Luncheon, the Law Day Exer-
cises, the Student Bar Association
Reception, and banquet sponsored
by the Georgia Law Review and Moot
Court Board.

7. Annual Meeting
Law School Association

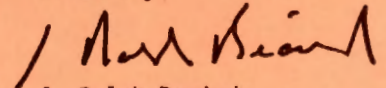
State Bar Annual Meeting
Friday, June 8, 1979 in Savannah
DeSoto Hilton Hotel at 8:00 a.m.

I hope you will visit the law building on
the Saturdays you are in Athens for the home foot-
ball games. The building will be open so that you
can stop by on your way to and from the stadium.

The Classes of 1941 (entering class) and 1968
have planned reunions this fall. Mrs. Gwen Wood,
Law School Alumni Relations Director, will be
pleased to assist any other groups in arranging
such activities.

I had the good fortune of visiting with
numerous alumni groups throughout Georgia and
surrounding areas last year. I am making plans
to visit with new groups and hope to make it an
annual habit to meet with established ones in
the cities and towns where our alumni population
is concentrated. I enlist your help in making
1978-79 a momentous year for The University of
Georgia School of Law.

Sincerely,



J. Ralph Beard
Dean

JRB:mb

September 20, 1978

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