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Dean's Letter to the Alumni

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Dear Law School Alumnus:

One of the most rewarding aspects of being selected dean of the University of Georgia School of Law is the opportunity to work directly with the more than 3,000 Law alumni and friends. I pledge to keep in close touch with you regarding the direction in which the Law School is moving. This newsletter is the first of what I expect to be frequent communications with you regarding the status and activities of your school.

The process by which the dean was selected is, I am sure, of interest to you and I would like to add to the information contained in President Davison's letter of March, 1976. In January, University President Fred C. Davison met with the law faculty and requested them to recommend a procedure for the selection of a new dean. The faculty voted to recommend the following: 1) there would be one search committee, the voting majority of which should be law faculty members, and 2) the search for the new dean should be completed with a full-time dean named and prepared to take office not later than September 1, 1976. With these faculty recommendations in hand, the search committee was appointed. The committee began its recruitment and screening efforts in late February by soliciting applications through national professional media, by polling the membership of the Association of American Law Schools, and through the University System Applicant Clearinghouse. By July of this year, the committee had narrowed its list of candidates to four individuals. These names were forwarded to the President, who submitted his recommended appointment to the Board of Regents in late August. The Board confirmed the President's nomination at its October meeting.

Throughout the interim period from January to October, two people were responsible for keeping the Law School on a steady course, and the alumni, faculty, and students owe them a debt of gratitude for their capable leadership. One is Associate Dean Walter Ray

Phillips, who as Acting Dean saw to it that the quality educational program offered here never suffered. The other, President Fred C. Davison gave close personal attention to the School during this period of administrative transition.

Now, after several weeks into the new administration, here is a brief look at our program:

From 1126 applicants we have enrolled 210 students in the entering class this fall of whom 47 enrollees are women. The average LSAT score for this class is 633 as compared with 623 last year; the average undergraduate grade point average is 3.37 as compared with 3.31 last year. Our total enrollment is 619. Eleven per cent of our first year class is receiving scholarship aid. However, the disparity between available scholarship funds and the needs expressed by many qualified applicants increasingly affects our ability to retain some of our top applicants.

Though our faculty-student ratio also continues to be a problem, our full-time teaching staff of 22 professors, many of whom are nationally recognized in their subject fields, received two welcome additions this year. We are pleased to welcome Assistant Professors Larry E. Blount and Ellen R. Jordan. Professor Blount comes to Georgia from Columbia University where he earned the LL.M. degree in June, 1976. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan and earned the J.D. degree at the University of Cincinnati, where he clerked for two years in the City Solicitor's Office. He teaches corporations and tax.

Professor Jordan is also a Columbia graduate. She earned her J.D. degree there in 1972, and attended Cornell University as an undergraduate. Professor Jordan served a federal district judicial clerkship, worked with one of Manhattan's largest law firms and engaged in private practice in Maryland before entering law teaching. Her subject areas are contracts and sales. We are fortunate to have both these new professors to round out our course offerings in the commercial law field.

The John A. Sibley lecture series, funded by the Loidans Foundation of Atlanta, brought Professor Lawrence Friedman of Stanford University to the campus earlier this fall. Professor Friedman, the author of the only comprehensive listing of American law, lectured on the history of criminal law during his visit October 12-14. Other upcoming Sibley lecturers are:

1. WINTER QUARTER
THE HONORABLE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR.
Chief Judge, Middle District of Alabama
United States District Court
January 20, 1977
2. SPRING QUARTER
H. L. A. HART
Research Fellow and Professor of Law
Oxford University
April 14, 1977

I invite you to attend these informative programs. Each lecture will be held at 3:00 p.m. in

the Law Auditorium.

There are several other significant events for 1976-77 which I hope you will mark on your calendar. These are the scheduled law alumni meetings:

1. GEORGIA ALUMNI BREAKFAST
State Bar Mid-Year Meeting
Friday, December 3, 1976
8:00 a.m., Stouffer's Atlanta Inn
2. LAW DAY, 1977
Friday, April 29 and
Saturday, April 30
Law School Association Luncheon
Student Bar Association Reception
3. ANNUAL MEETING
LAW SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
State Bar Annual Meeting
June 3, 1977 in Savannah
8:00 a.m., Desoto Hilton

At the annual meeting last June, your Law School Association elected officers for 1976-77. Tom W. Daniel of Perry now serves as president and Norman S. Fletcher of Lafayette is president-elect. Professor Verner F. Chaffin continues as secretary and Upshaw Bentley as treasurer.

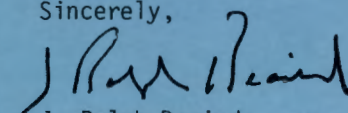
The Law School Association Council met recently here in Athens. Among the actions taken was a vote to support the Law School's efforts in creating and soliciting gifts for the Talmadge-Law School Endowment Fund, a proposed \$5 million corpus which will provide an annual source of revenue for enrichment programs. You will be receiving further information about this capital campaign later on.

The Council also developed some excellent plans for spearheading a greater effort for the Law School Fund of the University of Georgia Foundation, our on-going annual giving program. At the present time the Law School Fund receives annual income of approximately \$20,000 from 250 alumni contributors. Through diligent efforts and a priority commitment to private

funding development, we anticipate a threefold increase in the amount of annual receipts and number of donors within two years. Based on the demographic data available to us, we plan to develop a new "geographical agent" type of alumni contact. District chairmen will be personally calling on fellow alumni to earmark their UGA Foundation pledge cards for the Law School. We will, of course, need your assistance to launch this vital effort.

For your valued cooperation, it is imperative that you know why and how private money is spent in Law School programs. You also need to know if the School is using its state resources wisely, and if it is offering the best possible program of study for promising attorneys who are preparing to join your ranks. For this reason I have assembled a graphic presentation of our growth pattern, present status, and future plans. I want to bring this information to you personally through meetings and receptions throughout the state. In 1972 and 1973, while serving as Acting Dean, I brought several of our outstanding senior professors to receptions sponsored by alumni hosts in Macon, Columbus, and Savannah. These visits were the most memorable events of my tenure as Acting Dean, and I am eager to get out on the road once again to visit with you. I hope you will invite the University of Georgia School of Law to your area this year. I look forward to renewing acquaintances and sharing your pride in the leadership this Law School will provide for the State of Georgia in the coming years.

Sincerely,


J. Ralph Beard
Dean

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November 9, 1976

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