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Dean's Letter to the Alumni

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Dear Law School Alumnus:

During the next few months I hope to meet a great many of our University of Georgia Law School alumni. I can then render a personal report, as new Law School Dean, concerning the present condition and future prospects of your law school. Until I can see you individually, I must rely upon this letter and upon our excellent "Georgia Advocate," edited by Miss Gwen Yawn, to furnish you information. I hope you will find this information interesting but I encourage you, nevertheless, to return to the School to see what we are doing. Come use the Library, talk to the faculty and students, attend classes and feel completely at home. Because you are pressed for time in which to do these things, I'd like to point out some special events this fall and winter which I hope may of you may have an opportunity to attend:

1. Homecoming Open House

Saturday, October 19th (Vanderbilt Game)
Coffee served in the Law School auditorium foyer with guidance around the building (from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.) by charming wives of the law students.

2. The John A. Sibley Lecture
for Fall Quarter

Thursday, November 14th at 4:00 p.m.
Law School Auditorium
Donald E. Santarelli
Formerly Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
"Promise and Performance in Criminal Law Enforcement"

3. Designation of the Talmadge Chair of Law
(honoring Talmadge Family of Georgia)
Saturday, November 30th at 11:00 a.m.
Rotunda of Law School

There will also be an opportunity to see your classmates at the Mid-Year Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia. The Georgia Alumni Breakfast will be held Friday, December 6 at 8:00 a.m. in Stouffer's Atlanta Room. You will receive further notice about this.

For the 1974-75 session, we have 27 faculty members, including your new Dean. Acting Dean

J. Ralph Beaird, who has done such outstanding work for the Law School in the past two years, has returned to teaching duties with special advisory responsibilities to the President of the University. Professors Richard V. Wellman (University of Michigan) and Vaughn C. Ball (University of Southern California) who were visiting last year, have accepted permanent faculty appointments, Professor Wellman as Robert Cotton Alston Professor of Law, a chair supported by the Charles Loridans Foundation of Atlanta, and Professor Ball as Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb Professor of Law. Professor Wellman's major academic interest is in Trusts and Estates. He has been the leader in developing the Uniform Probate Code and currently serves as Educational Director of the Joint Editorial Board, Uniform Probate Code. "Uniform Probate Code Notes" is now being distributed nationally from the University of Georgia Law School. Professor Ball's major academic interest is Evidence and he is also a national leader in developing aptitude testing for law school admissions. Associate Professor W. William Futrell joined the faculty this year from the University of Alabama. His major work is in the area of environmental law. Among his other activities, he participated recently in the President's Economic Summit Conference. Assistant Professors Emily C. Carsow, David E. Everson, Cym H. Lowell and Albert M. Pearson, III, joined the faculty this fall and have already demonstrated promise as effective teachers. Professor John B. Rees and Associate Professor Ronald Ellington returned from leave and Professor Charles L. Saunders, Jr., is now on leave as Deputy General Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service. Professor Robert C. L. Moffat is visiting the Law School from the University of Florida. Among his various courses are a much needed offering in Jurisprudence. Dean Ray Forrester of Cornell will visit us again during the winter and spring quarters of 1975.

When you consider the excellent faculty at work at the University of Georgia Law School prior to the present session, I think you will realize that with these new faculty additions, we are well on the way to building one of the most distinguished law faculties in the country. If we can continue to attract and hold professors of the caliber which we now have, we can expect to see in Athens a law school of genuine national distinction. I am sure all of us realize that the competition for the services of professors such as those we have attracted and others of similar merit is intense and that our development will not continue at its present pace unless public and private resources are devoted to the task.

We have 251 students in the entering class this fall of which 52 are women. The undergraduate grade point average for this class is 3.32 (roughly a high B) and the average law school aptitude test score is 623. With these academic credentials, almost all of our entering students will complete law school successfully. The great distractions and trauma of the late 60's and early 70's have passed and I believe our alumni will be favorably impressed by the interest of all of our law students in their studies and in their professional development. If you have an opportunity to do so, I recommend that you give one of these students, after their first or second year of law, a chance to show what he or she can do in a law office. I think you will be

pleased with the results, so rapidly do the students today develop their basic legal skills at the University of Georgia. Miss Gwen Yawn, our Placement Director, will arrange for a summer intern in your office if you are interested in this.

Our current total enrollment of 670 students means that we are somewhat pressed for space (as you will see if you can visit us). Our building was designed for 550 students with the necessary faculty and supporting facilities. We are now authorized by the Board of Regents to plan an annex to our building which will greatly relieve our space problems, although the project has not yet been funded. We expect to have this space within three or four years and are confident that the excellence of our training can be sustained in the interim. We wish to maintain our enrollment of approximately the number we now have and hope our alumni will continue to direct able students to us. We find especially helpful letters of recommendations by our alumni, especially when the alumnus writing has had an opportunity to observe the work of the applicant concerned. Our Admissions Office is now being reorganized. Mr. L. Woodrow Cone, with whom many of you have corresponded, and who has done excellent work for the Law School, has gone into private practice in Commerce. Mr. Roy William Detwiler has been named to the post of Assistant to the Dean and Admissions Director. Mr. Detwiler is a specialist in the field of public administration and is now working on his dissertation for a Ph.D. in that field. In addition to his function as Admissions Director, he will serve as Director of Personnel for the Law School.

Funding legal education for our students has now become our greatest fiscal problem. Not only are we dependent upon scholarships for attracting students of great ability who might otherwise go to such schools as Northwestern, Yale or Virginia, but we are much pressed to meet the needs of students currently enrolled

in the Law School. Our tuition has not been increased dramatically but the cost of everything else associated with legal education--textbooks, rent, food, transportation--has risen sharply. There are a great many of our students currently in financial difficulty who will be able to remain in school only with scholarship aid coupled with loans; and many of these, if they can remain in school, are going to be distinguished lawyers contributing to the state and country in the future. I think no money has ever been more wisely invested than that used in the education of a lawyer. This funding is an investment in the future of our profession and in the future of our legal system. I call to your attention this great need of the University of Georgia Law School in the hope that possibly you will, from time to time, be able to influence the application of charitable funds to the Law School fund of the Georgia Foundation from which many of our scholarships are drawn. Moreover, Justice Gunter, the President of our Law School Association this year joins me in requesting you to designate your personal contribution to the Law School this fall when you mark your University of Georgia Alumni Society pledge card. This will ensure that your contribution goes into the Law School fund of the Georgia Foundation. Without this designation of your contribution will certainly be put to good use by the University of Georgia but your money will probably not be usable for these desperately needed law scholarships.

May I say again how much I hope to welcome you personally to the Law School and to have an opportunity to visit you in your own communities in the not too distant future.

Cordially,

Neill H. Alford, Jr.
Dean

NHAjr:bse

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