

Class of 2010 Commencement

Members of the law school community gathered on North Campus in May to celebrate a milestone commencement. This group of students, the Class of 2010, enjoyed the special privilege of receiving their diplomas 150 years after Georgia Law graduated its very first class in 1860. Photos from the day follow.



Legacy gift co-chairs Lauren Peel (left) and Kevin Sweat (second from right) presented a check totaling \$56,125 to Dean Rebecca White and 2009-10 Law School Association President Greg Sowell (J.D.'83) on behalf of the Class of 2010. Photo by Terry Allen.



Graduates (l. to r.) Caitlin Crist, Jessica Cox and Daniela Costan take their seats after the opening processional.



From left to right (standing) are classmates Joey Greene, Allan Galis, Jonathan Lowe, Jeff Starr, Johnson Bazzel, Jonathan Parente, Kevin Sweat and (kneeling) Charlie Bailey.

Blake Tillery hangs out with his younger brother Eric while waiting for the festivities to begin.



Arkesia Jenkins waves to the crowd.



There to congratulate Alice Henderson (left) was (l. to r.) her dad James (J.D.'76), her mom Elsie (J.D.'76), her sister Eleanor (J.D.'07) and family friends Martha Smith, Martha D. Reeves and Martha Reeves.



Joining Gail Evins (center) during the ceremony was her 15-month-old daughter Roxanne, with a T-shirt proclaiming "Mom and I Survived Georgia Law."



Showing off his hard earned diploma is Allan Galis.

Faculty members often take part in commencement, celebrating alongside their students' families and friends. Here, Reagan Bush (left) and Assistant Professor Matt Hall pose for a quick photo.



Dellinger stresses to graduates the importance of conversation and never giving up



PHOTO BY TERRY ALLEN.

In his commencement keynote address, former Acting Solicitor General of the United States Walter Dellinger spoke on the importance of the conversation that surrounds the law and on a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that took place nearly 56 years ago to the day.

“What I think about when I think about [*Brown v. Board of Education*] on the occasion of your graduation is how much a part of our national conversation law is. We are, as one of my colleagues and friends once noted, we are a community built on words. And words are all the Supreme Court has,

and words are what we use to construct our community.”

Dellinger explained that *Brown* put a challenge to the nation and made the whole system of racial segregation into a normative question of whether it was right or wrong.

“The Supreme Court has no purse. It has no army. It has no power in the end except the power of persuasion, and for a decade after *Brown* nothing happened, and yet everything happened. Nothing happened in terms of school desegregation, but the everything that happened was the initiation of a conversation.”

He said he believes it is this ability to talk to each other about our common future that has allowed the United States to be governed as a single nation for so long.

“The skills you have learned from the extraordinary faculty at the University of Georgia law school will equip you to be part of that ongoing conversation [and] to help build the future of a community that rests upon words and a common sense of understanding [of] what we are about as Americans.”

Dellinger also mentioned President Abraham Lincoln, “America’s greatest lawyer,” and challenged students to follow in his footsteps by using their lawyering skills in

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their public life in the same way they would in private practice.

“There is a seamless transition from [Lincoln’s] ability to use his lawyerly skills on behalf of the Illinois railroad to using those skills in his debates with Stephen Douglas, and I think it inspires all of us as to what you can do with the skills of a lawyer.

“It may be at night after work helping out with the PTA that you use your skills in trying to bring about resolution of conflict. Or that you use your skills ... to pursue justice, yet you can do it throughout your communities in ways large and small.”

Additionally, Dellinger encouraged the graduates to never give up despite the challenges they will face. “[President Lincoln] was a very defeated person at the age of 50. At 56, he was dead. In between, he changed the world.”

Georgia ties at national transactional law competition

Georgia Law received awards for the Best Buyer Side Draft and Best Overall Team at the inaugural Transactional Lawyering Meet held at Drexel University in Pennsylvania.

Third-year students Patrick S. Baldwin and Rachel K. Jones negotiated against teams from Washington and Lee University, Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania to advance to the finals, where they tied with Indiana University at Bloomington for the competition’s best team honor.

The Transactional Lawyering Meet is designed to be a “moot court” experience for students interested in transactional practice. It requires students to work in teams of two to draft a transactional document (a letter of intent) and to negotiate its provisions. Teams were judged by their success in achieving the goals of the parties to the transaction.

“This competition is an excellent way for law students to develop

essential skills that they will use in a transactional practice,” Business Law and Ethics Program Instructor Carol E. Morgan (J.D.’79) said. “I am excited about the growing opportunities in this area for our students to compete.”

The law school also took part in three other transactional based tournaments this year with outstanding results.

In the Robert R. Merhige Jr. National Environmental Negotiation Competition, second-year students Daniel C. Beer and Rishi P. Chhatwal placed as semifinalists. On the regional level, third-year student Anthony B. “Bin” Minter teamed up with second-year student Jennifer A. Potts to place fifth out of 24 teams at the American Bar Association Negotiation Competition. Additionally, third-year student J. Stephen Albright was first runner-up in the inaugural Hot Seat Tournament sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.