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## Letter to the Law Alumni of The University of Georgia

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*University of Georgia School of Law*

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## *Letter To the Law Alumni of The University of Georgia*

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AS the last letter written to our alumni was before the war, this letter is prompted by the desire to give you a picture of your School in these post-war days.

To all but the most recent graduates the present School of Law is in some respects quite a different place from the School of Law you knew. Throughout the country law schools have become filled with wave after wave of returning veterans, oftentimes putting an almost overwhelming burden on the faculty as well as classroom, library, and housing facilities. The situation here at The University of Georgia has paralleled these nationwide conditions.

This fall there are 338 students enrolled in the School of Law. Seventy per cent of these are veterans. There are 141 first year students, 113 second year students, 79 third year students, and 5 special students, and it seems that the peak in enrollment has not yet been reached. The student body is largely composed of mature men and women whose educational goals were interrupted by the war. The great majority are applying themselves to their work here in a manner such as merits confidence that they will become worthwhile additions to the profession.

During the school year 1947-1948 the LL.B. degree was awarded to 124 candidates. Of the graduates standing the Georgia Bar Examination in June, 75 per cent passed. The percentage of successful applicants over the State was 31 per cent.

The Honor Code, unanimously adopted by the student body in 1930 and administered by the students, continues to function extremely well. It requires that a law student shall act honorably in all relations of student life. Through the years there have been some infractions of this Code, though fortunately few in number. It is worthy of note that even with the large influx of students since the conclusion of the war there has been no noticeable increase in problems coming under the jurisdiction of the Honor Court.

The members of the faculty have met the problems brought about by the dislocations of a long war, and a marked increase in enrollment, with real courage. In addition to their teaching duties they have given much time to legal work for the University, writing for legal periodicals, annotating the Restatements of the Law, and speaking before various educational, professional and civic groups. Since we have a student body four times the size of that before the war some additions to the faculty became necessary. We now have eight full-time members of the faculty and six part-time members.

Some of the faculty are well known to many of you — Professor Robert L. McWhorter, Professor Thomas F. Green, Jr., and Professor Sigmund A. Cohn. During the past year Professor David Meade Feild and Professor James J. Lenoir,

both of whom had taught here before the war as Visiting Professors of Law, joined the faculty. Professor Charles J. Hilkey came here this fall from Emory as Visiting Professor of Law. Associate Professor William M. Henderson, a graduate of this School, who recently completed graduate work in law at Harvard University, and Mr. Lawrence B. Kelly, Instructor in Law, who is also a graduate of this School, are members of the faculty. Mr. Abit Nix, Mr. James Barrow, Mr. Harrison A. Birchmore, are Part-time Instructors, and Judge Henry H. West is a Lecturer. In February 1948 we experienced the loss by death of Professor Henry A. Shinn, an able and beloved teacher who had served on the faculty since 1934.

The Student Editors of the *Georgia Bar Journal* contribute reviews of recent cases to each issue of the *Journal*. This work should prove of definite value to the bar of the State. It is helpful to the students in giving them the opportunity for research and the development of skill in legal writing.

Our physical accommodations here have been severely taxed since demobilization by the armed forces. The main Law Building, Harold Hirsch Hall and Alexander Campbell King Memorial Library, designed to meet the needs of some one hundred and fifty students, was soon overcrowded. Some classes had to be held in the courtroom and in other buildings on the campus, and the reading room in the library was inadequate. However, the Administration came to our assistance and we now have another building—the Law School Annex—located on the north of and adjacent to the main Law Building. This was formerly the residence of the late Professor Charles M. Strahan. It has been renovated, painted, and altered so as to provide an additional

classroom, several small reading rooms, two offices, and other facilities. The assignment of this building for use by the School of Law has materially lightened the burden on our space in the main Law Building. You will be pleased to know that Harold Hirsch Hall, one of the most beautiful law buildings in the country, of which all of us are justly proud, has been kept in very satisfactory condition considering the passage of time and the large number of students who have been here. The library has continued to serve the needs of students and faculty, though here also we have been severely handicapped through lack of space. It is necessary that an additional tier of stacks should be added to the stackroom in the near future so as to enable us to house an ever-growing library.

Two excellent portraits have been added to the large collection now at the Law School. A valuable portrait of the Honorable Joseph Henry Lumpkin, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the first professor of law at the University, and one of the three founders of the Law School, was presented to the School of Law by Mrs. Ronald Ransom of Atlanta, Georgia. Another fine portrait, recently presented to the University by friends of the late Marion Smith, has been loaned to the School of Law. Mr. Smith was a distinguished attorney and devoted alumnus. It is fitting that his portrait has been placed in the School of Law opposite that of a portrait of his grandfather, General Thomas R. R. Cobb, one of the founders of the Law School.

The University community has had its share of troubles with the housing shortage. The School of Law is fortunate in having a fine three-story brick dormitory located on Lumpkin

Street opposite the main campus. This dormitory accommodates some sixty students, is equipped with the usual furnishings, and has in the library adjoining the living room a complete set of State Reports, the Code and miscellaneous treatises. While this dormitory is not large enough to house all law students desiring such quarters, it still helps fill a real need. For many years there has persisted a belief that law students can profit by living together in the same quarters, and this belief has often been put into practice with desirable results. We feel that much good can result from law students being housed together, talking law and living law somewhat apart from the distractions encountered by students in a crowded university.

From time to time it is found advisable to revise the curriculum so as better to equip students for their careers at the bar. Several steps have recently been taken to bring the curriculum to a point where it more nearly meets the needs of the students.

The program for first year students consists of certain basic courses and has undergone little change. There has been added a course entitled Legal Method, designed to acquaint beginners in the law with the nature of the subject, the techniques used by common law judges and lawyers, the sources of law, value of precedents, the logical bases of legal reasoning, and the use of the reports and other legal materials. In connection with this course we have had the cooperation of the Department of Philosophy, several lectures in logic being given by professors from that department. It is believed that this course will enable students to approach the many problems in the study of law with a clearer insight into the nature of those problems.

In courses offered to second and third year students the growing importance of public law has been recognized. Courses are offered in Labor Law, Government Regulation of Business, Administrative Law, and Constitutional Law.

We are endeavoring to offer third year students a larger variety of courses. This gives them some latitude in selection and also results in smaller classes in which the student receives more individual attention.

The course in Taxation has been expanded and revised into two courses, which are taught so as to correlate the accounting and legal approaches to Federal income tax problems. It is recognized as being impossible for the practitioner to handle tax matters without some ability to intelligently examine and interpret the financial status of both the individual taxpayer and the corporate finance structure.

Legal Accounting, a course not offered during the war, has again been placed in the curriculum. Designed primarily for students who have had no previous training in accounting, it provides a helpful background for courses in Corporations, Taxation, Trusts, and Estates. Professor Harold M. Heckman, head of the Accounting Department in the College of Business Administration, and a member of the Georgia Bar, devotes one-third of his time to the School of Law.

Real Estate Transactions was introduced last year and expanded this year. This course places emphasis on the practical aspects of abstracting, title insurance, real estate sales and loans on real estate.

Since procedure and its manifold problems are of such vital importance to the lawyer, we continue to place considerable emphasis on this as-

pect of the law. The courses in Georgia Practice, Practice Court, and Appellate Procedure are designed to acquaint students with the intricacies of our procedural law. A course in Appellate Briefmaking has been provided, which should prove of real value to students.

It is more apparent than ever before that the lawyer should have some knowledge of economics and of the corporate system within which so much of modern business life moves. He should be somewhat acquainted with accounting principles, the corporate financial structure, and taxation as it affects various types of business organizations, before he enters law school. In short, it is almost imperative that the lawyer of today have a rather thorough understanding of the conduct of modern business. The records of our graduates taking the combined course in Business Administration and Law, heretofore arranged by the School of Law and College of Business Administration, justify our action.

As has been our practice in past years, we from time to time invite distinguished judges, lawyers, and law teachers to visit the School. We believe students are benefitted by being brought into contact with these gentlemen and hearing what they have to say. Judge Henry H. West, Judge of the Superior Courts of the Western Circuit, delivers a number of special lectures during each year on the Georgia court system, procedure, and legal ethics. Plans have been perfected to have Professor Elliott E. Cheatham deliver a series of lectures in the School of Law next January. Professor Cheatham, a native Georgian, is a graduate of The University of Georgia and is now Professor of Law at Columbia University School of Law.

A representative of the Association of American Law Schools and of the Section on Legal

Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association last year conducted an inspection of the School of Law. His report commended the School for its excellent scholastic standards.

For some time it has been felt that we should organize a Georgia Law School Association. Such an organization could do much to promote the interests and usefulness of the School, and to advance the cause of legal education. We believe that the spirit of mutual helpfulness should not diminish after you have left the Law School but rather should grow stronger as the years go by. This plan has the approval of the University Administration. Your views on this matter will be appreciated.

The legal profession, like many other professions, is overcrowded. It must be borne in mind, however, that during the four war years the law schools were practically empty. We feel that now, as always, there is a place for the well trained law school graduate.

The School has had the thorough cooperation of the Authorities of the University.

In conclusion, the caliber of the students and the spirit of the School inspire confidence that these young people will perform with credit their duties in a noble profession. In a world where countries seem to be periodically controlled by tyrants, it has been the high privilege of lawyers to point the way to a greater freedom: Equal Justice Under Law.

When you are in Athens for "Homecoming" on Saturday, November 27, we hope you will visit the Law School.

J. ALTON HOSCH, *Dean.*

Athens, Georgia.  
November 1948.