

Kurtz and Wooten receive Scroll Awards

Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Paul M. Kurtz and attorney Joel O. Wooten (J.D.'75) were presented with the Law School Association's highest honor – the Distinguished Service Scroll Award – in June.

Given at the alumni breakfast held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting, this award recognizes dedication and service to the legal profession and the law school.

Kurtz, who also holds a Hosch Professorship, will retire at the end of the 2012–13 academic year after almost 40 years of service to Georgia Law. He joined the law school faculty in 1975



as an assistant professor, and his core teaching load during his tenure primarily consisted of family law, criminal law and constitutional law (which was dropped when he became associate dean in 1991).

In addition to overseeing academic programming and student life at the law school, Kurtz is the co-author of *Family Law: Cases, Text, Problems* and author of *Criminal Offenses in Georgia*. He also serves as associate editor and is a board of editors member for *Family Law Quarterly*,

where for many years he published his “Annual Survey of Periodical Literature.”

Kurtz has long been active in the area of indigent defense and uniform state laws. He served on the 11-member Public Defender Standards Council from 2003 to 2009, and he currently represents Georgia in the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

He served two terms on the board of the UGA Athletic Association and served a number of terms on the University Council (the governing legislative body of the university), where he chaired its executive committee. He has been a UGA Senior Foundation Fellow, where he mentored recipients of the university's highest undergraduate scholarship. Additionally Kurtz chaired the Meigs Selection Committee that recently

named the winners of the university's highest teaching honor.

A well respected lawyer and counselor, Wooten has served as managing partner of the Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer law firm since it was founded in 1988. This Georgia Law alumnus is a trial lawyer with experience as lead counsel handling all types of civil litigation including class actions, environmental cases, business litigation, product liability and trucking cases.

Very active in the legal community, Wooten has served in numerous leadership positions with the State Bar of Georgia, the Columbus Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and he was a founding member of the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest.

His law school service includes serving on both of the law school's alumni boards – the Law School Association Council (1997–99) and the Board of Visitors (present member). He served as chair of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents for the 2004–05 term and was a member of the board from 1999 to 2006.

Wooten was honored by the state bar with its Tradition of Excellence Award in 2000, by the ABA with its National Constabar Leader of the Year Award in 1993 and by GreenLaw with its Ogden Doremus Award for Excellence in Environmental Law in 2007. He has also been named one of *Georgia Trends* “100 Most Influential Georgians” and a Georgia Super Lawyer.



“... this award recognizes dedication and service to the legal profession and the law school.”

