

Top tax scholar joins faculty

Georgia Law is pleased to announce that Gregg D. Polsky will be joining the law school's faculty this fall as the Francis Shackelford Distinguished Professor in Taxation Law.

Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge said Polsky embodies the sort of world-class scholar and first-rate teacher who will help advance UGA's commitment to excellence.

His teaching expertise includes tax, private equity and an innovative course on business basics for lawyers. He is the co-author of the casebook *Federal Income Taxation: Cases and Materials*. His other key works include: "A Compendium of Private Equity Tax Games" in 146 *Tax Notes* 615 (Feb. 2, 2015), "Acqui-hiring" in 63 *Duke Law Journal* 281 (2013) and "Taxing Punitive Damages" in 96 *Virginia Law Review* 1295 (2010).

Polsky, whose work has been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal* and cited in *The New York Times* and other media outlets, said he strives to write and research in areas that

have significance with practicing lawyers and policymakers. "I want to research the issues that tax practitioners in private practice and in the government are thinking about so that my work will have real world impact," he said.

In part his specialty was established during his time as a Professor in Residence in the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in Washington, D.C. During the 2007–08 academic year, Polsky worked on a variety of projects, which stimulated his interest in the tax issues of private equity, venture capital and hedge funds.

He said his current research is not results oriented with a predetermined goal or result. "I just want to find the right conceptual and practical approach regardless of who benefits – the government or the taxpayer." He also likes the way that tax



law is so pervasive. "It affects everything – policy discussions, distributional issues, administrative concerns. . . . It is a fascinating puzzle, and I am looking to

promote good policy results."

Polsky regularly engages in consulting and expert witness activities relating to tax and business issues. He often incorporates these experiences into his classroom to put the lessons into real-life context.

Previously, Polsky was the Willie Person Magnum Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law. He has served on the law faculties of the University of Minnesota and Florida State University. He earned his J.D. and his LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida. Before joining the legal academy, he practiced tax and business law in the Miami office of White & Case.

New associate dean named

Alexander W. "Alex" Scherr has been named the school's new associate dean for clinical programs and experiential learning. In this role, he will work to enhance and advance the school's experiential learning offerings, which currently include 15 clinical and practical training courses and a wide range of simulation classes.

Scherr joined the Georgia Law faculty in 1996 as its first director of civil clinics. He has played a large role in the establishment of clinical courses at the law school, including the Atlanta Semester in Practice program, the D.C. Semester in Practice program, the Civil Externship, the Family Violence Clinic, the Mediation Practicum and the Community Health Law Partnership. He also served as program coordinator for the Public Interest Fellowship program, which ran from 2007 to 2012.

Scherr is a consultant for clinical programs nationally and regularly presents at national and regional clinical legal education conferences. He has played an active role in reforming American Bar Association standards for externship courses. He serves as a drafter of the Multistate Performance Test for the National

Conference of Bar Examiners and of the California Performance Test. He is a member of the Advisory Group for the Aspire Clinic, a multi-disciplinary clinic at UGA that includes legal services offered by students under his supervision.

Scherr is the co-editor of the leading text for externship clinics, *Learning From Practice: A Text for Experiential Legal Education*, 3d ed. He has served as president of the Clinical Legal Education Association, as chair of the American Association of Law School's Clinical Advisory Committee and as a member of the AALS Clinical Section's Executive Committee. He chaired the planning committee for the 2015 AALS Clinical Conference that had more than 700 participants and over 200 presenters.

