School of Law welcomes new profs

Melissa J. Durkee joins the School of Law faculty as an associate professor this fall. She will teach in the areas of international, transnational and business law.

Prior to coming to Athens, she was an associate law professor at the University of Washington, where she was presented awards two consecutive years for her scholarship, and a third year for her support of student journals.

Her research focuses on new forms of global governance, particularly interactions between government and business actors that affect the content and success of international legal rules. Durkee’s scholarship has been published in prestigious journals such as the Yale Law Journal, the Stanford Law Review, the UCLA Law Review, the Virginia Law Review and the Columbia Human Rights Law Review. She also served for three years as managing editor of AJIL Unbound and has held a number of leadership positions in the American Society of International Law.

Before entering the legal academy, Durkee was an associate at the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, where she specialized in international litigation and arbitration. She also served as a judicial clerk for Judge Sidney H. Stein of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She served as an associate-in-law at Columbia Law School from 2011 to 2013.

Durkee earned her law degree from Yale Law School, where she served on the editorial boards of the Yale Law Journal and the Yale Journal of International Law.

Lindsey Simon joins the law school faculty this fall as an assistant professor, after serving as a visiting faculty member earlier this spring. Her research focuses on the bankruptcy system, drawing concepts from bankruptcy structure and procedure to address broader institutional design challenges. Her course load will include Bankruptcy, Secured Transactions and the Bankruptcy Practice Seminar.

Previously, Simon was an associate at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, where her practice involved a mix of commercial litigation and corporate restructuring matters. She also taught as an adjunct professor at the Georgia State University College of Law.

A former judicial clerk for Judge Beverly B. Martin (J.D.’81) of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Simon earned her law degree magna cum laude from the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, and her Bachelor of Music magna cum laude and Master of Education from Vanderbilt University.