Faculty achievements

A COMMITMENT TO INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

SERVING STATE AND SOCIETY

Community HeLP Clinic secures ruling to benefit disabled persons

Under the direction of Associate Professor Jason A. Cade, the school’s Community Health Law Partnership Clinic achieved a significant administrative legal victory that could have far-reaching implications beyond their initial client who experiences a disability.

In a December 2017 ruling, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture stated that the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services did not provide reasonable accommodations — required under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act — for the clinic’s disabled client when applying for aid through the SNAP (food stamps) program. The USDA gave DFCS three months to implement system-wide procedures for tracking requests for reasonable accommodations, resolving grievances and ensuring that all frontline agency staff received civil rights training including ADA/504 compliance.

According to Cade, who was recently granted tenure, this resolution will benefit many persons with disabilities throughout Georgia.

Scherr brings national clinical conference to Athens

In March, approximately 140 externship teachers, career services professionals and administrators from over 100 law schools from around the globe came to UGA for Externships 9. Titled “Coming of Age,” the conference marked the 20th anniversary of the first externships conference held in 1997 at the Catholic University Washington College of Law.

Organized by Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning Alexander W. “Alex” Scherr, the conference featured more than 40 different learning sessions exploring issues relevant to educating law students in for-credit externships. Presentations addressed five key themes: foundations and innovations in externship pedagogy, defining and developing one’s role within a law school, the impact of externships on law schools and communities, research and scholarship on externships, and fostering student awareness of the public dimension of their roles as lawyers.

MAKING THE NEWS

Burch continues to lead on class actions and mass torts

Elizabeth Chamblee Burch, the holder of the school’s Charles H. Kirbo Chair of Law, is one of the country’s leading authorities on class actions and mass torts.

She currently has a book titled Mass Tort Deals: Backroom Bargaining in Multidistrict Litigation under contract with the Cambridge University Press. Burch is also the co-author of the casebook The Law of Class Actions and Other Aggregate Litigation (with the late Richard Nagareda and others).

Burch’s work has been published in respected journals such as the Boston University Law Review, the Cornell Law Review, the New York University Law Review, the Vanderbilt Law Review, the Virginia Law Review and the Washington University Law Review, among others.

During the last year, she has been featured in Forbes, Law 360, Reuters, Bloomberg, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal as well as on National Public Radio on topics such as third-party financing arrangements, judicial handling of multidistrict litigation, plaintiffs’ attorney leadership appointments and the payment of lawyers’ fees in multidistrict proceedings. She has been quoted regarding the Equifax data breach, the GM ignition switch cases, the Johnson & Johnson talc proceeding, the NFL concussion settlement and the states’ opioid lawsuits.

Ringhand receives prestigious Fulbright award

Hosch Professor Lori A. Ringhand received a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award to spend a semester as a visiting professor at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland during the spring of 2019. Ringhand’s Fulbright research will explore the different approaches to campaign finance regulation taken by the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Fulbright Scholars Program supports U.S. scholars and students working and studying abroad, and strives to promote international understanding and cooperation across communities and academic disciplines. The Fulbright Distinguished Chair Awards are considered the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program and are awarded to eminent scholars who have a significant publication and teaching record.

Additionally, Ringhand has been selected from among UK Fulbright award recipients to present a 2019 Fulbright Gresham College Lecture.

Previously the associate dean for academic affairs, Ringhand is the eighth School of Law faculty member to be awarded a Fulbright grant. She follows Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge and former Dean Rusk Center Associate Director Maria Eugenia Giménez (LL.M.’89) and former professors Edward J. Larson, Thomas J. Schoenbaum (two-time recipient) and Maxine S. Thomas in addition to the late Milner S. Ball (J.D.’71) and the late Gabriel M. Wilner.
Baradaran’s book receives PROSE Award Honorable Mention

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives & Hosch Associate Professor Mehrsa Baradaran’s book The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap was awarded the 2018 PROSE Award Honorable Mention in the Business, Finance & Management category. The PROSE Awards annually recognize the very best in professional and scholarly publishing by bringing attention to distinguished books, journals and electronic content.

The Color of Money is Baradaran’s second title printed by the Harvard University Press. How the Other Half Banks was published in 2015.

An expert on the “underbanked” and banking law, Baradaran is a frequent speaker to national and academic audiences and is often quoted in national and international media. She has presented to the Congressional Black Caucus and at Brigham Young University, Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of California, Irvine; the University of Miami; the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University.

Since being appointed associate dean for strategic initiatives earlier this year, she has been concentrating on diversity and inclusion efforts at the law school as well as national and international faculty scholarship recognition.

Mayson publishes article in the Yale Law Journal

Sandra G. “Sandy” Mayson, who joined the law school’s faculty last fall as an assistant professor, recently published “Dangerous Defendants” in one of the country’s most prestigious journals – the Yale Law Journal.

The article examines the important issue of bail reform. According to Mayson, reformers aspire to untether pretrial detention from wealth (the ability to post money bail) and condition it instead on statistical risk, particularly the risk that a defendant will commit crime if he remains at liberty pending trial. This raises the question of what degree of crime-risk justifies preventive restraint. She posits that one way of thinking about that question is to ask whether the answer is different for defendants than for anyone else. Her article argues that, for purposes of restraint for dangerousness, there is no clear constitutional, moral or practical distinction between a defendant and a non-defendant who are equally dangerous; and thus there is no basis to conclude that the risk standard for such restraint should be different for defendants than for anyone else.

Mayson has also published articles in the Stanford Law Review and the Notre Dame Law Review.

West honored with Stonecipher Award

In the fall of 2017, Brumby Distinguished Professor in First Amendment Law Sonja R. West was selected for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Stonecipher Award, which recognizes the best media law and policy article published during the previous year. She was honored for her article “The ‘Press’ Then and Now,” published in 77 Ohio State Law Journal 49 (2016).

Specializing in constitutional law, media law and the U.S. Supreme Court, West’s work has been published in numerous law reviews and journals including the Harvard Law Review, the California Law Review, the Michigan Law Review, the Northwestern University Law Review, the UCLA Law Review and the Washington University Law Review.

West has presented on the role of media in America at the Defense Research Institute and on the First Amendment at the National Press Club, which was broadcast on C-SPAN. She is also frequently cited in national media outlets.

Students honor four faculty

Four faculty members were honored by the 2017–18 School of Law student body. They are: (l. to r.) Georgia Athletic Association Professor David Shipley with the O’Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations and selected as graduation marshal, Associate Professor Kent Barnett selected as graduation marshal, Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism Lonnie Brown with the Student Bar Association Professionalism Award and Associate Professor Nathan Chapman with the Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching.