

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

SCHOOL OF LAW

1996-97 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1996-97

The University of Georgia School of Law enjoyed an outstanding year in 1996-97 and made significant further progress on all fronts.

U.S. News and World Report ranked the Law School as the ninth best public law school in the nation and as the second best state law school in the east. For four consecutive years, the Law School has consistently been ranked among the top 10 public law schools in the country and within the top 15% of all 179 accredited law schools. In 1996-97, our overall ranking improved from 27th to 26th in the country.

The 1997 edition of *The Princeton Review Student Advantage Guide to the Best Law Schools* reported that "Georgia's academic strength and bargain-basement tuition help explain the popularity of this excellent, inexpensive law school."

II. FACULTY

The ultimate beneficiaries of the Law School's continuing efforts to build the faculty are the students. The students gain by exposure to a variety of viewpoints from different scholars, having more one-on-one interaction with professors, and choosing from a broader course menu with more small intensive classes. In keeping with the mission of the Strategic Plan of the University to "commit to excellence in a teaching/learning environment dedicated to serve a diverse and well-prepared student body; to promote high levels of student achievement, and to provide appropriate academic support services," the Law School has

facility, as well as the Louis B. Sohn International Library and an international law collection of 3,200 monographs donated by Woodruff Professor Emeritus, Louis B. Sohn.

2. LAW LIBRARY

a. Budget

The budget of the Law Library was increased by \$100,000 in 1996-97. In addition to the budget increase, the Library also received the benefit of Law School funds for improving student computer labs. Vice President Key continued contributing \$25,000 to the Faculty Special Research Fund.

b. Technology

After many years of effort, the Law Library's on-line catalog, GAVEL, is complete. Final clean-up and tape loading were done early in 1997. The next stage of library automation will be adding an on-line circulation and security system, some portion of which we hope will be a part of the GALILEO 2 project.

c. Student Computing Lab

A new student computer lab was opened on the main floor of the Law Library near the Circulation Desk. Law Students now have use of two general purpose computer labs and two special purpose labs, for a total of more than forty work stations.

The addition of a full-time Computer Specialist has greatly improved the ability of Library staff to cope with constantly changing technology.

Students are allowed to "take advantage of new technologies to improve the quality and reach of its academic, research, and service programs." This, with the funding of technological equipment "provides students, faculty and staff with access to and education in the computing and communications technologies needed to support their activities."

These are both in keeping with the goal set out in Theme 6 of the University's Strategic Plan for 1995-2000.

VI. RESOURCES

1. ANNUAL FUND

Another goal established in the 1995-96 Annual Report was to further the development of additional essential public and private resources. In addition to the funds generated by the differential tuition plan, private donations to the Law School Annual Fund and the Endowment Fund have increased in recent years.

The Law School Annual Fund supports student scholarships, co-curricular programs and alumni programs. The projection for 1996-97 was \$350,000. However, actual contributions totalled \$397,000 and exceeded our goal by \$47,000. This represented an increase of \$66,000, or 20%, over the 1995-96 year. This is the second consecutive year that over 2,000 donors, or one-third of the alumni body, contributed to the program, and this is the largest amount donated to the Annual Fund in its history.

2. MAJOR GIFTS

Restricted and endowment gifts and pledges in 1993-94 were \$450,000 and increased to \$750,000 in 1994-95. In 1995-96, the total was \$1,500,000 (the result of two substantial gifts totalling \$700,000). The Law School Development Office closed new major gifts and pledges in 1996-97 totaling \$305,275 for Law School priorities, including the student loan repayment assistance program (LRAP), scholarship endowment and law library endowment.

VII. MAJOR GOALS ATTAINED

1. DEVELOPMENT OF KING'S INN MOOT COURT EXCHANGE

This past year saw the inauguration of a new international moot court exchange with King's Inns of Dublin, Ireland. The King's Inn exchange, which is to be held every other year, complements the Law School's existing moot court exchange program with Gray's Inn of London, England. The two programs will be offered in alternating years, enhancing the

international component of the educational experience of our student body. This exchange program will follow the theme set out in the University of Georgia Strategic Plan "to broaden the international perspective of teaching, research, service and co-curricular programs."

2. CIVIL CLINIC

A first-rate civil clinical program has been created and Alex Scherr is serving as the first faculty Director of Civil Clinical Education. Approximately 19 students are enrolled for Fall Semester 1997 to serve in civil clinic placements. The addition of this clinic strengthens the Law School curriculum in areas of substantive and skills courses. The Civil Clinic explores the life and mind of the lawyer in action, so as to develop a personal compass for the world after law school.

In the 1997 edition of *The Princeton Review Student Advantage Guide to the Best Law Schools*, it was noted that the UGA Law School has created a civil clinic to enhance its offerings in practical lawyering skills and expanded its advanced writing courses to make it an "excellent law school."

3. CONTINUED EXPANSION OF SIZE AND STRENGTH OF FACULTY

As noted under Section II. FACULTY, the Law School had a very successful recruiting year in the hiring of the Kilpatrick Chair Professor Charles R. O'Kelley, and Assistant Professors J. Randy Beck and Peter A. Appel for the 1997-98 academic year.

4. COMPLETION AND OCCUPANCY OF DEAN RUSK HALL

As referenced earlier in this report, Dean Rusk Hall was completed and occupied during the 1996-97 year.

5. LOUIS B. SOHN INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY DEDICATION

The Louis B. Sohn International Library, which is housed in Dean Rusk Hall, was dedicated on February 28. There was a portrait unveiling of Woodruff Professor Emeritus,