9-1-2010

09/2010 Newsclippings
Office of Communications and Public Relations

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/media_archives/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases, Media Mentions, Graduates in the News & Faculty Highlights at Digital Commons @ Georgia Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Media Archives by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Georgia Law. Please share how you have benefited from this access For more information, please contact tstriep@uga.edu.
With tuition up and lawyer salaries stagnant, it's more important than ever to choose a law school that delivers a good value. We crunched the numbers to identify the cream of the crop for value.
With tuition up and lawyer salaries stagnant, it's more important than ever to choose a law school that delivers a good value. We crunched the numbers to identify the cream of the crop for value.

BY REBECCA LARSEN

Even though Jennifer Keegan had gone to Florida State as an undergraduate, she wasn't ready to enter law school at the same university without looking around at other places.

"I had a long list of 15 schools including private schools and schools outside the state, because I like trying new things," she said. "But when I looked at all the factors — actual cost, the amount of career placement, the bar passage rate — I crossed many of the places off my list. FSU had all the things I wanted at an incredibly good cost."

She's now a first-year law student at Florida State.

Kara Wilder, also a first year, was accepted at nine law schools she applied to and thought she wanted to leave Georgia for New York or California. But then she experienced sticker shock. Her first year at one of the other schools could have cost her more than $70,000. She chose Georgia State University instead, where she thinks she can save at least $30,000 a year in expenses. She also said Georgia State was ranked at about the same level academically as other schools she was considering.

More than ever before, law students should be concerned about the value of a J.D. Tuition and cost-of-living expenses have been rising quicker than entry-level salaries for lawyers. The recent recession has slowed hiring, making it a challenge for graduates with large debt loads.

To help prospective students, preLaw magazine has crunched the numbers to identify the best value law schools. This year's list has 60 Best Value schools, with each assigned a letter grade of A, A-, B+, B or B-. The schools that received an A are also ranked — with Georgia State at the top.

Law schools make the Best Value rankings if they meet three criteria: Their bar pass rate is higher than the state average; their average indebtedness after graduation is below $100,000; and their employment rate nine months after graduation is 85 percent of the class or higher. We then weight the schools using the same three factors plus in-state tuition costs. (See sidebar on how we did the rankings for more details.)

Although most schools are publicly funded, 11 of the 60 schools this year are private, including Brigham Young University and Phoenix School of Law, a school that received full ABA accreditation in June.

The Best Value study is not designed to identify the schools where students can get their greatest return on investment. While such a 'financial investment' approach may be important for some, this ranking is designed for students who want a quality legal education at an affordable price.

The vast majority of law school graduates either work for a small, regional law firm or in public service. This ranking identifies the law schools that provide the best value for those graduates.

For example, The University of Connecticut's tuition is approximately $20,000, while Yale Law School, just down the road, is more than $48,000. The median private starting salary for each school ($120,000 for UConn and $160,000 for Yale) would suggest that Yale is a better return on investment. But that is only true if the student is interested in landing a job at one of the nation's largest law firms.
## 2010 Best Value Law Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>School's bar passage rate for first-time test takers</th>
<th>Statewide bar passage rate for first-time test takers</th>
<th>Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation</th>
<th>Median private sector starting salary</th>
<th>Median public service starting salary</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Average Indebtedness (2008)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Georgia State University</td>
<td>94.19%</td>
<td>89.27%</td>
<td>97.30%</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$51,000</td>
<td>$11,838</td>
<td>$22,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Brigham Young University</td>
<td>91.15%</td>
<td>85.58%</td>
<td>98.70%</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$50,250</td>
<td>$9,960</td>
<td>$66,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. University of Louisville</td>
<td>87.96%</td>
<td>83.08%</td>
<td>93.50%</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
<td>$14,632</td>
<td>$26,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln</td>
<td>92.85%</td>
<td>88.64%</td>
<td>90.50%</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$44,100</td>
<td>$12,154</td>
<td>$49,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. University of Kansas</td>
<td>95.14%</td>
<td>89.17%</td>
<td>85.10%</td>
<td>$62,500</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
<td>$14,478</td>
<td>$39,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. University of New Mexico</td>
<td>92.05%</td>
<td>91.59%</td>
<td>93.30%</td>
<td>$61,000</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
<td>$12,620</td>
<td>$51,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. University of Mississippi</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>88.00%</td>
<td>90.50%</td>
<td>$21,350</td>
<td>$90.121</td>
<td>$60,121</td>
<td>$52,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Florida State University</td>
<td>86.87%</td>
<td>80.76%</td>
<td>95.10%</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
<td>$14,739</td>
<td>$49,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. University of Memphis</td>
<td>93.10%</td>
<td>88.10%</td>
<td>88.20%</td>
<td>$59,281</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$13,710</td>
<td>$49,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Florida International</td>
<td>88.00%</td>
<td>80.70%</td>
<td>92.00%</td>
<td>$14,800</td>
<td>$58,119</td>
<td>$13,118</td>
<td>$53,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. University of Tennessee</td>
<td>89.66%</td>
<td>88.10%</td>
<td>91.30%</td>
<td>$76,250</td>
<td>$48,750</td>
<td>$99,034</td>
<td>$61,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. University of South Carolina</td>
<td>90.97%</td>
<td>81.83%</td>
<td>91.00%</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td>$14,487</td>
<td>$50,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Northern Illinois University</td>
<td>96.08%</td>
<td>90.94%</td>
<td>87.70%</td>
<td>$14,487</td>
<td>$50,850</td>
<td>$16,020</td>
<td>$55,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. University of Kentucky</td>
<td>93.70%</td>
<td>83.08%</td>
<td>93.70%</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$15,500</td>
<td>$14,448</td>
<td>$65,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. University of Georgia</td>
<td>98.85%</td>
<td>88.83%</td>
<td>96.50%</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$14,450</td>
<td>$56,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. University of Alabama</td>
<td>97.15%</td>
<td>88.96%</td>
<td>87.70%</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$83,750</td>
<td>$15,194</td>
<td>$54,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Texas Tech University</td>
<td>86.60%</td>
<td>84.50%</td>
<td>90.50%</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$44,687</td>
<td>$14,350</td>
<td>$65,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Louisiana State University</td>
<td>80.95%</td>
<td>67.32%</td>
<td>91.90%</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
<td>$47,100</td>
<td>$9,461</td>
<td>$67,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. University of North Dakota</td>
<td>87.33%</td>
<td>87.03%</td>
<td>81.20%</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
<td>$47,100</td>
<td>$9,461</td>
<td>$67,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. University of Florida</td>
<td>88.69%</td>
<td>81.47%</td>
<td>87.30%</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
<td>$44,500</td>
<td>$14,228</td>
<td>$63,509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See page 31 for how we did the ranking and honor roll*

---

### JUSTICE is BLIND

You, however, should keep your eyes wide open when searching for a law school.

**Weigh the evidence.**

University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law:

- Ranked among the nation\'s TOP BEST VALUE* law schools.
- Houses Tennessee\'s Only Access and Diversity Summer Admission Law Program.
- Located in a beautifully renovated, state-of-the-art building on the National Register of Historic Places.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**  Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

See more by visiting us at www.mymemphislaw.org

If for any reason your eyes are closed, you can be sure that Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law is one of the law schools that you should consider.
## 2010 Best Value Law Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>School's bar passage rate for first-time test takers</th>
<th>Statewide bar passage rate for first-time test takers</th>
<th>Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation</th>
<th>Median private-sector starting salary</th>
<th>Median public-service starting salary</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Average indebtedness (2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>89.53%</td>
<td>84.03%</td>
<td>92.90%</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$56,000</td>
<td>$19,225</td>
<td>$73,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland State University</td>
<td>90.30%</td>
<td>88.09%</td>
<td>89.50%</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
<td>$16,764</td>
<td>$61,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple University</td>
<td>89.11%</td>
<td>86.69%</td>
<td>88.90%</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$17,226</td>
<td>$78,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td>91.53%</td>
<td>82.49%</td>
<td>92.30%</td>
<td>$115,000</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$20,895</td>
<td>$74,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Connecticut</td>
<td>92.31%</td>
<td>88.28%</td>
<td>92.20%</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$52,025</td>
<td>$30,374</td>
<td>$65,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Houston</td>
<td>91.34%</td>
<td>84.54%</td>
<td>96.00%</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
<td>$67,400</td>
<td>$31,029</td>
<td>$70,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City</td>
<td>97.62%</td>
<td>92.33%</td>
<td>88.70%</td>
<td>$62,500</td>
<td>$43,800</td>
<td>$16,242</td>
<td>$75,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nevada-Las Vegas</td>
<td>81.48%</td>
<td>76.94%</td>
<td>93.60%</td>
<td>$78,000</td>
<td>$56,000</td>
<td>$18,838</td>
<td>$55,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>89.82%</td>
<td>82.65%</td>
<td>90.30%</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
<td>$16,014</td>
<td>$63,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
<td>96.27%</td>
<td>92.80%</td>
<td>88.60%</td>
<td>$52,250</td>
<td>$45,040</td>
<td>$16,976</td>
<td>$65,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Toledo</td>
<td>88.78%</td>
<td>87.12%</td>
<td>95.00%</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$42,500</td>
<td>$19,137</td>
<td>$74,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>86.68%</td>
<td>74.40%</td>
<td>93.60%</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
<td>$22,267</td>
<td>$69,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>99.31%</td>
<td>91.79%</td>
<td>96.20%</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$47,500</td>
<td>$16,426</td>
<td>$67,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne State</td>
<td>95.90%</td>
<td>82.13%</td>
<td>86.00%</td>
<td>$23,713</td>
<td>$65,180</td>
<td>$21,646</td>
<td>$75,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of William and Mary</td>
<td>90.90%</td>
<td>83.50%</td>
<td>92.30%</td>
<td>$21,466</td>
<td>$65,180</td>
<td>$21,646</td>
<td>$75,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faulkner University</td>
<td>93.44%</td>
<td>89.03%</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$30,380</td>
<td>$74,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Mason University</td>
<td>88.46%</td>
<td>82.70%</td>
<td>96.80%</td>
<td>$145,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$20,556</td>
<td>$89,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University-Bloomington</td>
<td>93.89%</td>
<td>86.69%</td>
<td>92.50%</td>
<td>$97,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$24,891</td>
<td>$91,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyola University New Orleans</td>
<td>67.39%</td>
<td>67.32%</td>
<td>91.90%</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$65,500</td>
<td>$32,166</td>
<td>$50,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>90.30%</td>
<td>88.09%</td>
<td>93.50%</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td>$22,433</td>
<td>$79,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers - Newark</td>
<td>86.85%</td>
<td>84.69%</td>
<td>93.00%</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td>$23,676</td>
<td>$73,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Colorado</td>
<td>93.28%</td>
<td>83.29%</td>
<td>92.70%</td>
<td>$82,500</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$25,399</td>
<td>$74,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
<td>93.06%</td>
<td>89.66%</td>
<td>94.60%</td>
<td>$92,500</td>
<td>$47,250</td>
<td>$21,432</td>
<td>$81,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine</td>
<td>91.53%</td>
<td>90.74%</td>
<td>87.30%</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td>$20,702</td>
<td>$72,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>90.05%</td>
<td>85.51%</td>
<td>94.00%</td>
<td>$109,999</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$23,762</td>
<td>$81,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>83.82%</td>
<td>78.53%</td>
<td>89.40%</td>
<td>$72,500</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$22,328</td>
<td>$77,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>90.63%</td>
<td>86.69%</td>
<td>90.40%</td>
<td>$102,500</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$25,098</td>
<td>$83,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas</td>
<td>89.00%</td>
<td>84.50%</td>
<td>94.60%</td>
<td>$27,177</td>
<td>$80,322</td>
<td>$29,080</td>
<td>$78,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamette University</td>
<td>84.89%</td>
<td>78.20%</td>
<td>94.10%</td>
<td>$50,625</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$29,080</td>
<td>$78,393</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A-**

**B+**

**B-**

*Bar passage rate, employment and tuition data derived from the Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools 2011 edition

*See page 31 for how we did the ranking and honor roll**
But if the student's goal is to work in the public service, then UConn's median starting salary is $52,000, while Yale's is $59,000 for public service. In that case, UConn is the better value law school.

Ranked at the top
The top Best Value Law School on our list for 2010 is Georgia State University College of Law, which ranked fourth last year. Second is Brigham Young University’s J. Reuben Clark Law School, which also ranked second last year, and third is University of Louisville’s Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. Most schools in the Top 20 are located in the Midwest and Southeast with some in the Southwest.

Almost all of our 60 Best Value schools are public, as they have been in the past. But due to rising economic problems in state government, funding for higher education is being cut, and new tuition rates this fall are sometimes higher than the figures used on our list. If you are an applicant lucky enough to live in a state with fewer budget problems, a public law school will generally cost less, and you will probably end up with less debt.

Even if you go out-of-state and face tuition that can often be double what in-staters pay, most public schools let students change to in-state status after the first year. That’s true at top-ranked Georgia State and at the University of New Mexico and Northern Illinois University, as well as others in our Top 20. At the University of Kansas and the University of Louisville, it’s much harder to be declared an in-state student, according to school officials. Florida State allows the switch and counsels students on how to do it, as there are strict rules to follow. If you’re interested in trying an out-of-state public school, check out policies carefully in advance so you won’t be disappointed later.

Lower tuition often means less debt to repay after graduation. Average indebtedness of Georgia State graduates in 2008 was $22,129, and only about 69 percent of the class borrowed. Debt is often a function, as well, of the cost of living in the area where you go to law school, which may be the case with many of our Top 20 law schools.

Brigham Young University, although private, receives funding from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to help keep tuition low, its law school dean James Rasband said. Less than 5 percent of the school’s 450 students are non-Mormons.

“We are very welcoming to students of other faiths,” Rasband said. “But many of them find it difficult to adhere to our honor code requirement of no tea, coffee or alcohol. Our tuition this fall will be $10,580 for Mormon students—and $20,500 for those not of our faith. But even so, it’s an awfully good deal.”

Costly tuition vs. job prospects
But what about the old theory that the more costly the school, the more prestige it has, and the more likely it is that a law student can land a high-prestige, high-paying...
job? In today's job market that may be less and less likely to hold true.

"The amount of debt doesn't drive the kind of lawyer you will become," said Steven Kaminshinc, dean of the Georgia State University College of Law. "You're not compelled to take on debt. I understand that people often say you get what you pay for, but I think they also know that you can have a private school that is not of the same quality as a public one. That's why we're getting high-quality students. Why pay four or five or six times when you can get as good an education here?"

"Value is a total package; it means different things to different students," said Jennifer Rosato, dean of the Northern Illinois University College of Law, a school that is new to the Top 20 list this year. Her school is the only public law school in the Chicago metropolitan area; all the other schools are private.

"Our tuition is less than half that of the private schools," she said. "And students now are really looking at what's going to be their indebtedness. They can do well and get a quality education at NIU; it's worth it."

One benefit her school is proud of, as are others in the Top 20 list, is its small size. NIU's law school has about 320 students in all.

"We have a very warm atmosphere with 21 full-time faculty and professors," Rosato said. "There are very small classes. Professors are always available; they know the students well, and they know them by name."

Although low tuition and smaller debt are important to graduates, students' ultimate objective is landing a great job. The Top 20 schools on our Best Value list stress that they work hard to help graduates find jobs and offer strong career services programs on campus.

Help in your job search

"We start talking to students about being proactive in their job search during their second year," said Stephen Mazza, interim dean of the University of Kansas School of Law, which ranked fifth on our Best Value list. "They can't wait until the last minute. The days of 100 percent getting a job at graduation are gone forever — if they ever existed."

The KU law students who found jobs recently went to the same mix of the same private and public employment as ever, he said, but some are going to smaller law firms in places that wouldn't have been their first choice.

"But then again," Mazza said, "the days of everyone graduating from Georgetown and going to D.C. or New York to the firm of their choice isn't the case anymore either."

Placement services are strong at Florida State University's law school, which ranks
eighth on our Best Value list, Dean Donald Weidner said his school, located in Tallahassee, has placement programs that target both full- and part-time students.

A key tactic in placement is helping students interact with alumni who could help find jobs for them. Students are invited to all alumni receptions. Alums and sometimes various bar groups do special sessions with students.

"We've started what we call Networking Noshes with students, featuring a particular alumni or practitioner who shares box lunches with a group of students," Weidner said.

"We have increased interaction with various sections of the Florida Bar to introduce our students," he said. "We're very proactive in generating new opportunities, and we've made inroads with the national security agencies, including the CIA and FBI, in order to seek out opportunities.

"We're in a capital city of a very popular state, so we have a lot of internship programs and quite a few opportunities for students to get their feet wet," he said. "We try to do everything we can to be welcoming to employers. We're moving into video conferencing interviews to make it more cost-effective to interview our students. We have a resume referral service so employers can pick from a group of resumes."

Do job interviews make you nervous? At Florida State, the school has students suit up for mock four-minute interviews with an attorney, after which their performance is critiqued by other lawyers. Then the student tries it all over again.

Because of changes in the economy, said Walter Pratt, dean of the University of South Carolina School of Law, his school's career services department has been holding programs for students thinking of going out on their own to practice law.

"Members of the state bar have come here to talk to them about opening their own practice," Pratt said. "We're trying to set up a monitoring system for young lawyers to give them advice, and we're bringing in accountants to show them how to keep track of their finances."

Small schools can sometimes do better when it comes to placement. Kevin Washburn, dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, sixth on the Top 20 list, said that since his school has only 340 students and 115 third years, "It's also easier to help place students in jobs."

In helping students get jobs, said Rashand of Brigham Young, his school draws on the help of a huge network of attorneys from all over the country. The school also has a nationwide externship program.

Whether we're talking about Georgia State, Kansas, Northern Illinois, New Mexico, or any of the Top 20 law schools, most students find their jobs in the region where they went to law school, as is true of
most law schools. What that means is that when you choose a law school, it might be well to consider whether it's in an area where you want to spend a few years, if not your entire career. That doesn't mean you're locked in, of course.

"Students from KU go all over the country," Mazza said, "But historically, we've had a connection with Kansas City where many of our students work for law firms. But as the economy has contracted, we've had to expand our geographic area."

"Most of our graduates stay in New Mexico," Washburn of New Mexico said. "Out-of-state students often end up staying here."

About 70 percent of the University of South Carolina law school graduates stay inside the state. 30 percent go outside for their first jobs, Pratt said.

What has helped in job placement at the University of Louisville is the school's requirement that every student have 30 hours of public service as a condition for graduation, said Dean Jim Chen.

"A significant number have made connections that led to jobs when they were in those public service positions," Chen said. "Someone might have a public service placement in Legal Aid and then might later become a staff lawyer there. Or students might work in a divorce clinic and find out that they have skills in family law which leads them to work in a firm specializing in that area. The objective is for them to get out of the classroom and engage with a community network of alumni."

He also said that the school's students generally stay in the area after graduation, taking jobs in Louisville, Nashville, and Indianapolis, for example.

"But a significant number do go far, far away — Delaware, Pennsylvania, Alaska and to markets across the United States," Chen said.

What about passing the bar? The bar passage rate for first-time test takers is above the 90th percentile for almost all the Top 20 schools, with Georgia State students scoring slightly above the 94th percentile. But law school officials are quick to point out that since they choose a great first-year class to start with, students are likely to study hard, catch on quickly and do well on the bar. Although classes sometimes include discussions of questions of law that might be on the locally administered bar exams, schools do not offer bar review classes and generally expect students to take those reviews on their own.
"I would say our strong performance on the bar exam is a reflection primarily of the students that we admit," said Kaminshine of Georgia State. "They're mature and have a strong, broad overall program. We have no special bar preparation courses. We give our students a terrific foundation, and they have a significant work ethic. They consistently perform at the top of the state."

"Our expectation is that all our students will pass the bar exam," said Mazza of the University of Kansas. "But we want them to be well-rounded lawyers who can go beyond answering multiple choice questions on an exam correctly."

Chen of Louisville echoed that view. "We have a highly competitive admissions process, and we wind up with a class that's very carefully chosen," he said. "They have the ability to succeed in the practice of law."

But even so, Louisville and other schools point out that they provide a high quality learning environment with outstanding and friendly professors who are dedicated to the success of their students — on the bar exam itself and in a lifetime of the practice of law.

How we did the rankings

Law schools make the Best Value rankings if they meet three criteria: Their bar pass rate is higher than the state average; their average indebtedness after graduation is below $100,000; and their employment rate nine months after graduation is 85 percent of the class or higher. We then weight the schools using the same three factors plus in-state tuition costs.

Tuition and indebtedness are the most heavily weighted criteria in our computation — accounting for approximately 45 percent each. Employment is approximately 7 percent and bar pass rate is 3 percent. As a result, law schools with lower tuition tend to rank better. But because many schools have similar tuitions, the employment and bar pass data help differentiate an A school from an A- school.

For bar pass data, employment and tuition, we used the most current data from the ABA, which can be found in the current Official Guide to Law Schools. For average indebtedness, we used data from U.S. News & World Report.

While bar pass data is difficult to compare, due to students taking the exam in different states, we use the average state percent and compare that to the actual pass rate. Thus, a school with an 80 percent pass rate, and 78 average state rate, will fare better than one with an 85 percent pass rate and an average state rate of 85.

There were five law schools this year that missed the bar passage cutoff by less than 2 percent. These schools would have made our ranking otherwise and so we have assigned them a B- in our grading system.

Six schools that were honored last year did not make the cut this year, including the top-ranked school, North Carolina Central University. Unfortunately, North Carolina Central's law school saw its employment rate drop from 87 to 82.6 percent. At the five other schools that are also not on the new list, the bar pass rate dropped below the state average. ·

How we did the rankings

Law schools make the Best Value rankings if they meet three criteria: Their bar pass rate is higher than the state average; their average indebtedness after graduation is below $100,000; and their employment rate nine months after graduation is 85 percent of the class or higher. We then weight the schools using the same three factors plus in-state tuition costs.

Tuition and indebtedness are the most heavily weighted criteria in our computation — accounting for approximately 45 percent each. Employment is approximately 7 percent and bar pass rate is 3 percent. As a result, law schools with lower tuition tend to rank better. But because many schools have similar tuitions, the employment and bar pass data help differentiate an A school from an A- school.

For bar pass data, employment and tuition, we used the most current data from the ABA, which can be found in the current Official Guide to Law Schools. For average indebtedness, we used data from U.S. News & World Report.

While bar pass data is difficult to compare, due to students taking the exam in different states, we use the average state percent and compare that to the actual pass rate. Thus, a school with an 80 percent pass rate, and 78 average state rate, will fare better than one with an 85 percent pass rate and an average state rate of 85.

There were five law schools this year that missed the bar passage cutoff by less than 2 percent. These schools would have made our ranking otherwise and so we have assigned them a B- in our grading system.

Six schools that were honored last year did not make the cut this year, including the top-ranked school, North Carolina Central University. Unfortunately, North Carolina Central's law school saw its employment rate drop from 87 to 82.6 percent. At the five other schools that are also not on the new list, the bar pass rate dropped below the state average.

For average indebtedness, we used data from U.S. News & World Report.

While bar pass data is difficult to compare, due to students taking the exam in different states, we use the average state percent and compare that to the actual pass rate. Thus, a school with an 80 percent pass rate, and 78 average state rate, will fare better than one with an 85 percent pass rate and an average state rate of 85.

There were five law schools this year that missed the bar passage cutoff by less than 2 percent. These schools would have made our ranking otherwise and so we have assigned them a B- in our grading system.

Six schools that were honored last year did not make the cut this year, including the top-ranked school, North Carolina Central University. Unfortunately, North Carolina Central's law school saw its employment rate drop from 87 to 82.6 percent. At the five other schools that are also not on the new list, the bar pass rate dropped below the state average. ·
of a case.”
This spring Ricco joined Jackson Lewis LLP in Long Island, a law firm with a strong emphasis in the labor and employment area. She works in the affirmative action practice group, which advises employers about diversity, Equal Employment Opportunity regulations and other labor issues.

“We’re proactive problem solvers, looking for problems before they’re really there,” she said. “I like working with clients on a long-term basis and getting to know them.”

What has really inspired her, Ricco said, is that “labor law applies to everyone. We all spend so much time in our lives working. I like how people-driven this area of law is, how people interact in the workplace and the role that employers play in people’s lives and how employees affect employer’s businesses.”

Where to study Labor & Employment Law

Albany Law School
California Western School of Law
Chicago-Kent College of Law
Golden Gate University School of Law
Hofstra University School of Law
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
Marquette University Law School
Massachusetts School of Law
New York Law School
Northern Kentucky Univ. College of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law
Seattle University School of Law
Southwestern Law School
Thomas Jefferson School of Law
University at Buffalo Law School
University of Minnesota Law School
University of Toledo College of Law
University of Virginia School of Law
University of Wisconsin Law School
Williamette University College of Law

Yvette Retamozo, who grew up in a small farm town in the Monterey, Calif., area, always knew she wanted to work in a job that had a global scale.

“I wanted to do something that would have an impact on the world, and I was interested in the economics and business side of things,” she said.

That all culminated in her taking a job last fall as an attorney in the global affairs division of the Boeing Co. in Washington, D.C.

As a teenager, she had spent her junior year in high school in Brazil as an exchange student. She had spoken some Spanish while growing up, but had to pick up Portuguese that year.

After earning her bachelor’s degree at California State University, Monterey Bay, she entered the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville because of its international program and its Caribbean Law Clinic, in which students study the legal systems and processes of the Commonwealth Caribbean area and then assess legal problems confronting individual countries.

“In 2008, when I was in the clinic, the attorney general of Jamaica presented us with an issue to investigate involving multi-lateral treaties and extradition issues. Seven of us worked on the issue and traveled to Jamaica to present our report,” Retamozo said.

Attorney generals from the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and the Cayman Islands also participate in the clinic at the school, depending on the semester. Students prepare their reports with the help of law school faculty. The research that students do typically involves comparing how international law or the law of a particular country addresses a particular question; students then offer possible solutions.

After getting her J.D. in 2009, Retamozo passed the Washington, D.C. bar exam and found her job at Boeing.

“I made the decision to move to D.C. because I knew there would be many amazing opportunities here on a global scale,” she said.

Retamozo suggested that students interested in international work should seek out practical experience, including externships, and study a foreign language.
## Where to study

### International Law

| University of Georgia School of Law | University of Virginia School of Law |
| University of Kansas School of Law | University of Washington School of Law |
| University of Miami School of Law | University of Wisconsin Law School |
| Univ. of Missouri-Columbia School of Law | Vanderbilt University Law School |
| Univ. of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law | Vermont Law School |
| University of Pittsburgh School of Law | Willamette University College of Law |
| University of Toledo College of Law | Yale Law School |
| University of Tulsa College of Law | |

**Albany Law School**

**American Univ. Washington College of Law**

**Arizona State University College of Law**

**Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law**

**California Western School of Law**

**Case Western Reserve School of Law**

**Catholic University School of Law**

**Chicago-Kent College of Law**

**DePaul University College of Law**

**Duke University School of Law**

**Florida Coastal School of Law**

**Florida State University College of Law**

**Fordham University School of Law**

**Franklin Pierce Law Center (soon-to-be Univ. of New Hampshire School of Law)**

**George Mason University School of Law**

**Georgetown University School of Law**

**Golden Gate University School of Law**

**Hamline University School of Law**

**Hofstra University School of Law**

**Loyola Univ. College of Law, New Orleans**

**Loyola Law School, Los Angeles**

**Marquette University Law School**

**Mississippi College School of Law**

**New York Law School**

**Northwestern University School of Law**

**Pace Law School**

**Saint Louis University School of Law**

**Santa Clara University School of Law**

**Seattle University School of Law**

**Southwestern Law School**

**Suffolk University Law School**

**Syracuse University College of Law**

**Temple University Beasley School of Law**

**The John Marshall Law School**

**Thomas Jefferson School of Law**

**Thomas M. Cooley Law School**

**Trinity Law School**

**Tulane University Law School**

**University of Arizona College of Law**

**University at Buffalo Law School**

**University of California Davis School of Law**

**Univ. of California Berkeley School of Law**

**UCLA School of Law**

**University of Connecticut School of Law**

**University of Florida College of Law**

---

**TOURO LAW CENTER** graduates are prepared to practice and driven to succeed. Our hands-on curriculum and collaborative relationships with the federal and state courthouses next door give Touro Law students the edge in developing legal skills necessary to apply theory in the real world.

**Touro Law Center: Where the practice of law begins.**

Call 631.261.7000 or visit www.tourolaw.edu
Bishop Eddie Long | B.J. Bernstein a media-savvy courtroom competitor

By Jeremy Redmon
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

12:22 a.m. Thursday, September 23, 2010

Editor's note: The two men who are suing Bishop Eddie Long, claiming that he had sexual relationships with them, are represented by Atlanta attorney B.J. Bernstein.

Bernstein is perhaps best-known for her successful representation of Genarlow Wilson, a Douglas County teenager who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for having consensual sex with a minor female. He was released after serving two years.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution published this profile of Bernstein in July 2007 as the Wilson case went to the Georgia Supreme Court.

Before B.J. Bernstein begins her frequent news conferences, she slowly and clearly spells her name for reporters covering the child molestation case against her client, Genarlow Wilson.

She warns a television cameraman when he is blocking the shot of a competitor. And Bernstein, who tops out at 5 feet, obligingly stands on an equipment box rather than force TV reporters to lower their microphones.

She is the feisty defense lawyer taking on Douglas County prosecutors, the Georgia attorney general's office and the state courts themselves, all through a sophisticated media blitz. She set up a Web site, www.wilsonappeal.com. She hired a media relations company. With her help, the case has continued to attract national news media attention. Wilson's story has appeared on CNN and ESPN and in The New York Times.

Bernstein is seeking to free Wilson from prison, where he has spent more than two years of a 10-year sentence for receiving oral sex from a 15-year-old girl when he was 17. His sentence, Bernstein argues, is cruel and unusual punishment for a teenager who had consensual sex with another teen, though the age of legal consent in Georgia is 16.

Her media-savvy approach has invited criticism as well as attention.

"There does appear to be more of an attempt for publicity and future book and movie deals and limousines and Web sites and publicists, that you begin to wonder whether or not Genarlow is the highest priority," said state Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson (R-Savannah), who has been outspoken in his criticism of Wilson. "When you have a case, you try it in court. When you don't have a case, you try
"That is what is going on."

Bernstein said she is not seeking publicity for herself, saying she is trying to highlight what she asserts is an injustice in Wilson's case so it won't happen again.

"Letting the world know about what is happening to Genarlow Wilson," she said, "is the only reason we have a shot at saving Genarlow Wilson and protecting other kids."

Intense focus pays off

Brenda Joy Bernstein wasn't always so outspoken. She said she was shy, even "nerdy," growing up in Columbia, the daughter of an insurance agent and a nursing teacher. She said she rarely dated and wasn't popular in high school, focusing on academics instead of cliques. She skipped her senior prom so she could attend a model United Nations conference, a forum for students to debate international issues.

"It wasn't like I had a date," Bernstein said with a laugh.

Bernstein said she got hooked on the law in the eighth grade after she participated in a mock trial with the help of a real judge. She found she enjoyed explaining complex issues in public.

Paul Kurtz, who taught criminal law to Bernstein at the University of Georgia in 1984, said Bernstein's media campaign probably played a role in a Monroe County judge's decision last month to grant Wilson's appeal and order him freed from prison.

Attorney General Thurbert Baker is appealing that judge's decision to the Georgia Supreme Court, which has scheduled a hearing in the case for 10 a.m. today.

After she graduated from law school in 1987, Bernstein went to work as a prosecutor for about 6 1/2 years. She spent most of that time in Gwinnett County, working under then-District Attorney Tom Lawler and his successor, Danny Porter. For about two years, she worked on a special team assigned to child-molestation cases, invaluable experience that she said has helped her in Wilson's case.

Bernstein eventually opened her own law firm with $10,000 her parents set aside for her wedding. That wedding never happened, she said, because she hasn't met the right man. She lives alone in a Midtown apartment, doting over two cats, Jaedon and Yo-yo. The sometimes combative lawyer melts when she describes how the two furballs spoon with each other in her bed.

That soft side carries over to the people she represents, particularly the younger ones.

"I definitely pay more attention to them more," she said. "I think that may be a little bit of mothering showing up in there. . . . Maybe because I was nerdy and not the cool kid, I can understand a little bit when they are a little out of place. And so it makes it easier to talk to them."

Bernstein's intense focus on her work paid off before she met Wilson, helping her snag several high-profile clients, including the platinum-selling rapper Da Brat, who faced charges of aggravated assault in connection with an early-morning brawl at a Buckhead nightclub in 2000. Bernstein also landed
on TV as a legal commentator before she picked up Wilson as a client, discussing everything from Scott Peterson's murder trial to pop music star Michael Jackson.

Bernstein said she learned how to deal with the news media from veteran Atlanta criminal defense attorney Steve Sadow, who represented former Gold Club owner Steve Kaplan in his sensational racketeering trial in 2001. Bernstein shared an office with Sadow for eight years and considers him her mentor, saying he showed her "the balancing act between the public interest in needing to know about a case and making sure that a client was able to be fairly dealt with by the courts."

Sadow praised Bernstein's grasp of the law and her ability to connect with people.

"I give her better than 50-50 odds," Sadow said of Bernstein's chances of winning Wilson's case before the Georgia Supreme Court. "I put my money on her."

Wilson's mother, Juannessa Bennett, hired Bernstein after hearing about her from Wilson's trial attorney. Bernstein said she has been representing Wilson for free. A separate attorney not working on the case is administering a legal-defense fund for Wilson to which donors have contributed more than $10,000 during the past year. Some of that money has gone to pay the media-relations firm assisting Bernstein in the case.

"She is doing a great job," Bennett said of Bernstein this month after attending a rally for her son at the Douglas County Courthouse in Douglasville. "Her heart is definitely in this case. "I don't think I could have picked anybody to do a better job."

Sen. Johnson and others have been critical, saying Bernstein's chances of winning Wilson's freedom are extremely slim and that she should accept a plea deal Douglas County District Attorney David McDade is offering.

Wilson would get a 15-year sentence with five years in prison including credit for time served. And he would be able to avoid registering as a sex offender, McDade said.

"She is interested in publicizing the case for her own personal gain," McDade said. "She has lost sight of what is best for her client."

University of Georgia professor Donald E. Wilkes Jr., an outspoken critic of Baker's handling of the case, said Bernstein's argument -- that 10 years in prison for consensual sex is cruel and unusual punishment -- has precedent in Georgia.

In 1997, the Georgia Court of Appeals ruled that it was cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a man to 12 months in jail and fine him $1,000 for criminal trespass. McDade may have followed the letter of the law in prosecuting Wilson, but, Wilkes said, "Constitutional rights always trump statutes."

Bernstein says she has discussed McDade's plea deal with Wilson and that he will accept nothing more than a misdemeanor.

So the fight will continue.
"This is not about me getting famous," Bernstein said. "It is just the stupidest thing I have ever heard. If people believe that, so be it.

"I have to be a lawyer, and after this is over, I am still a lawyer."

Staff writers Steve Visser and Jeffry Scott contributed to this article.

Find this article at:
Home sweet home
Heather Benham helps people buy a place of their own
by Allyson Mann (MA '92)

Heather Benham hasn't forgotten her first visit to Athens' homeless shelter.
"What I saw that shocked me was how many families were there," she says. "They had jobs, and they had kids in school that were doing well, and they were living at the shelter because something had happened to where they were living."

At the time, Benham (JD '03, MHP '03) was a UGA graduate student volunteering for the School of Law's legal clinic. Her experiences at the homeless shelter spurred her interest in housing issues, and she served as a summer intern for the Athens Land Trust, a nonprofit community land trust with a dual mission of preserving natural resources and creating affordable housing. That was 2002, and she joined ALT full time the next year after finishing her degrees in law and historic preservation.

Now ALT's housing director, Benham oversees new construction—as many as eight houses a year—and renovation projects. For each project, she checks her waiting list to find the client whose needs will best be met by a particular project. In addition to working with architects, attorneys, bankers, clients and contractors, Benham's job requires that she navigate complex property issues, historic preservation standards and Earthcraft certification—a residential green building standard for the Southeast. Sometimes she chooses paint, flooring and fixtures for the homes, tasks that she takes seriously because she wants to make sure the new owners approve.

"That's actually what the contractors always tease me about," she says. "You're not going to live in this house. Why do you care so much about every little detail?"

Benham "has a great eye for design and aesthetics," says ALT Executive Director Nancy Stangle (MEd '79). "She gets the credit for how nice our houses look."

More important is Benham's commitment to helping her community.
"She's very creative in coming up with ideas and ways to help people and make projects work, and she's very dedicated," Stangle says. "I'm sure she passed up many opportunities to make a lot of money as a corporate attorney to work at a nonprofit that's trying to maintain the quality of life we have here in Athens. She works to help people have a better life."

Jackie Roberts is a homeowner now, thanks to Benham. Roberts completed ALT's homebuyer certification class several years ago, but delayed buying a home because as a single mother with three children she was concerned about taking on extra responsibilities. She was planning to move into another apartment, but Benham called to ask if she was still interested in buying a house.

"I probably would have put it off had she not contacted me," says Roberts, administrative manager at UGA's Vinson Institute. "I thought the timing was just perfect when she reached out and called me, so I just took that as a sign that it's time to go for it. She was definitely the factor that helped me make the decision."

Over time, and with Benham's reassurances, Roberts became more comfortable with the idea of home ownership.
"I was just excited when I saw the colors go up on the outside of the house—it was a thrill a minute. Every other weekend I went by just to look at the house and see as it developed from one stage to the next. I guess you could say I was like a house stalker," she says, laughing.

The night before the April ribbon cutting at her new home, Roberts found Benham working in her yard.
"She was out there by herself, and it was maybe 6 or 7ish in the evening. I'm like, 'Oh my God, I can't believe you're out here working.' She had planted a little flower bed at the bottom of the staircase, which I fell in love with."

Benham's dedication shows in all aspects of her work, whether she's landscaping, choosing fixtures or simply listening to a client's concerns, Stangle says.

"She relates very well to people—all people, of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds," Stangle says. "That's another aspect of her job that's really important because she's able to get to know our potential homeowners very well. They relate very well to her, and she gets to know them and what their needs are."

Often what they need is a little extra help navigating the process of becoming a homeowner. Benham and ALT are able to provide that assistance.
"It seems like a lot of what things come down to is whether you have a backup support system to help you get a leg up or if you don't," Benham says. "I had help from my family—that's how I got my first house. If you don't have that, then it's hard to get in the game."

Get More
Athens Land Trust
www.athenslandtrust.org
"Scholars have long understood that the instability of power has ramifications for compliance with international law. Scholars have not, however, focused on how states' expectations about shifting power affect the initial design of international agreements," scientists writing in the Harvard International Law Journal report.

"In this paper, I integrate shifting power into an analysis of the initial design of both the formal and substantive aspects of agreements. I argue that a state expecting to become more powerful over time incurs an opportunity cost by agreeing to formal provisions that raise the cost of exiting an agreement. Exit costs—which promote the stability of legal rules—have distributional implications. Before joining an agreement, an 'ascendant' state will therefore often require either a greater share of the benefits from cooperation, or a reduction in exit costs through the use of formal provisions such as withdrawal clauses, sunset clauses, and provisions affecting the legality of an agreement. I analyze how states determine which concessions to make in order to reach agreement with an ascendant state," wrote T. Meyer and colleagues, University of Georgia.

The researchers concluded: "This analysis helps explain a number of puzzles in the international legal literature, such as why states with poor compliance rates are sometimes observed to join international agreements at the same or higher rates than states with good compliance rates; why weak agreements often evolve into more constraining agreements; and why multilateral agreements are more likely to have low exit costs than bilateral agreements."


Additional information can be obtained by contacting T. Meyer, University of Georgia, School Law, Athens, GA 30602, USA.

The publisher of the Harvard International Law Journal can be contacted at: Harvard Law School, Publications Center, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

Keywords: City: Athens, State: GA, Country: United States, Law Reviews This article was prepared by Politics & Government Week editors from staff and other reports. Copyright 2010, Politics & Government Week via VerticalNews.com.
Jackson Lewis LLP Adds Two Attorneys in Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA -- Jackson Lewis LLP (www.jacksonlewis.com), one of the country's largest and fastest-growing workplace law firms, announced that two prominent attorneys have joined the firm's Atlanta office, expanding the firm's professional resources and enhancing the depth of experience there. Tracie Johnson Maurer has joined as Of Counsel and Erin L. Payne as an Associate. Both attorneys were formerly with the Atlanta law firm Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Jeffrey M. Mintz, Managing Partner of the firm's Atlanta office, said, "We are delighted that Tracie and Erin elected to join our growing team in Atlanta. They have practiced together many years and bring to us both their expertise and a wealth of meaningful, practical experiences counseling employers with respect to a wide range of issues. Both have earned an outstanding reputation in the workplace law field, and we welcome the support they will provide. I am confident their contributions in Atlanta and throughout the region will be significant."

"We could not pass up this wonderful professional opportunity to join Jackson Lewis and its well-established workplace law practice," said Ms. Maurer. "We expect to provide effective and efficient counsel to our clients due to the firm's deep resources, specialization and extensive national footprint."

Ms. Maurer counsels clients on state and federal compliance issues as well as best practices for dispute avoidance, and she frequently conducts training seminars for managers, supervisors and employees on various employment law issues. Ms. Maurer has represented employers before numerous governmental agencies, including The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Georgia Department of Labor; Florida Commission on Human Relations; South Carolina Human Affairs Commission; Ohio Human Rights Commission; Tennessee Human Rights Commission; New York State Division of Human Rights; Virginia Council on Human Rights; California Fair Employment & Housing Division; City of Champaign (IL) Human Relations Commission; and City of Alexandria (VA) Office of Human Rights; the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor; and the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

She regularly litigates cases before state and federal courts of Georgia, and in federal courts of Florida, Colorado, Illinois, and Missouri.

Ms. Maurer is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She received her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as Executive Chairperson of the Moot Court Board; President of the Black Law Students Association; and was elected to the Order of the Barristers and the Lumpkin Inn of Court.

Ms. Maurer has been named to "Who's Who in Black Atlanta;" selected as a "Rising Super Lawyer;" served on the board of directors for Literacy Volunteers of America; and chaired the University of Georgia's Younger Lawyers Alumni Committee. She is a member of the Legal Redress Committee of the Atlanta Chapter of NAACP; the legal columnist for The Atlanta Tribune magazine; and she frequently serves as a guest speaker at schools, community and other civic organizations.

Ms. Maurer is admitted to practice before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia, the Georgia Supreme Court, and the Georgia Court of Appeals. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Ms. Payne represents employers in all aspects of employment litigation and counseling including defending claims brought under Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the whistleblower provision of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, and other federal and state employment statutes. Her experience includes representing employers in matters pending before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, state courts, and federal courts. Ms. Payne also has pursued claims for breach of restrictive covenants, breach of fiduciary
duties, tortious interference with business relations and trade secret misappropriation.

Ms. Payne graduated summa cum laude from the University of Georgia and was a First Honor Graduate, as well as a member of the Honors Program. She received her J.D. with honors from Emory University School of Law where she was the Executive Notes and Comments Editor for the Emory Law Journal and elected to the Order of the Coif.

Ms. Payne is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to practice before all of the state courts of Georgia, including the Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

About Jackson Lewis

Founded in 1958, Jackson Lewis is dedicated to representing management exclusively in workplace law with almost 650 attorneys practicing in 46 cities nationwide. Jackson Lewis has a wide-range of specialized practice areas, including: Affirmative Action and OFCCP Diversity Planning; Disability, Leave and Health Management; Employee Benefits, including Complex ERISA Litigation, Workplace Privacy and Executive Compensation; Global Immigration; Labor, including Preventive Practices; Litigation, including Class Actions, Complex Litigation and e-Discovery; Trade Secrets, Non-Competes and Workplace Technology; Wage and Hour Compliance and Workplace Safety Compliance. In addition, Jackson Lewis provides advice nationally in other workplace law areas, including: Reductions in Force, WARN Act; Corporate Governance and Internal Investigations; Drug Testing and Substance Abuse Management; International Employment Issues; Management Education, including e-Based Training; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Public Sector Issues; Government Relations; Corporate Diversity Counseling and University and Professional Sports.

Additional information about Jackson Lewis can be found at www.jacksonlewis.com.
Charges dropped for sick illegal immigrant

AJC Exclusive: Inmate’s medical bill reaches $400,000 while in Douglas County custody

By Craig Schneider
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

10:40 p.m. Thursday, September 2, 2010

An illegal immigrant charged with trafficking cocaine worth millions of dollars suffered a massive stroke in the Douglas County jail earlier this year and ran up $400,000 in medical bills that were charged to the county.

Authorities in Douglas decided to dismiss the charges against Luis Luna Baro, 71 -- in large part because the county didn’t want to cover his bills anymore, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has learned.

"He was an illegal alien," District Attorney David McDade said. "He did not have legal status to be in the United States, and the taxpayers were going to be asked to pay for his care. Is justice served by dismissing charges when the man has basically been sentenced by God? ... I think so."

Baro's case is an extreme example, but city and county jails all over metro Atlanta face the same challenge: paying medical expenses for illegal immigrants who happen to be lodged in the jail when they get sick, or who bring chronic illnesses to jail with them. Local law enforcement officials say Douglas County did the right thing and saved its taxpayers a whopping bill.

Contacted by the AJC, immigration attorneys, however, have questioned whether county officials bent the law to save money and abandoned an inmate who the lawyers said was the county's responsibility.

These issues elicit strong opinions across metro Atlanta.

"We are paying too much for exactly this kind of thing," said Don Nash, 54, of Canton, who works in home improvement. "They just keep coming. ... We end up paying for it."

The country, Nash said, needs to tighten both its borders and its immigration policies.

Joseph Rosen, a Roswell attorney who represents immigrants, said it isn't right for authorities to drop charges simply to save taxpayer dollars.

"I really don't think you dismiss criminal charges for anything other than prosecutorial reasons," Rosen said.

Baro's situation came to light a few weeks ago when the Douglas County Commission granted the sheriff's office money to replenish the fund for inmate medical costs.
Baro, described as a mid-level dealer with a record of trafficking and possession, was responsible for putting together the metro Atlanta drug deal, said Jack Killorin, director of the Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area unit.

Killorin said Baro bought about 20 pounds of cocaine that would have been worth between $10 million and $20 million on the street, depending on how it was cut.

Baro, an illegal immigrant from Cuba living in Miami, was driving through Douglas County in November. Atlanta is a major supply point for Mexican drugs to reach Miami, rather than the other way around, said Killorin, whose unit tracks drug dealing to uncover major sources.

Baro and an alleged accomplice, Jose Arturo Vega, were traveling in separate vehicles when they were stopped in Douglas County on Nov. 9.

Authorities pulled over Vega's gray Volkswagen Passat on a tinted-window violation on I-20. An officer noticed that Vega became increasingly nervous during the stop. Then the officer spotted some tooling on the screws to the rear seat. He asked for Vega's permission to search the vehicle, and Vega signed a document permitting it.

Under the rear seat, the officer found 10 kilo-sized packages of cocaine, according to authorities. Each was the size of a brick and weighed two pounds.

Baro was not carrying drugs in his vehicle; he allegedly was supervising the operation, Killorin said. When Baro was arrested, he was denied bond.

In the spring, Baro had his stroke and was in a coma for two weeks before undergoing several surgeries.

Stan Copeland, Douglas County's chief sheriff's deputy, said he looked into the possibility of deporting the illegal Cuban immigrant, but was told it couldn't be done.

Deporting Cuban immigrants is difficult for several reasons, according to Barbara Gonzalez, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman. Cubans generally have an easier time becoming legal immigrants. Once they reach U.S. shores, they can apply for legal status after a year. A Cuban immigrant can't become legal if he or she has a criminal record.

But deporting Cuban immigrants is difficult, because Cuba often won't approve the paperwork, Gonzalez said.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, said the days of granting Cuban immigrants easy access to legal status in this country should end. He said the policies were rooted in the Cold War.

"Cuba is no longer an outpost for an aggressive foreign empire," said Krikorian, whose group supports tighter controls on immigration. "It is just another sorry Third World country."

Because Baro was in Douglas custody when he had the stroke, the county was responsible for the bill. Baro was paralyzed over much of his body and was not expected to recover his movement. He probably needed to be in a nursing home, Copeland said.
The sheriff's office had a catastrophic insurance policy in place for inmates. It held the county responsible for a $100,000 deductible and covered up to $500,000. Baro's bills were closing in on the cap. Once the costs exceed that, the bill would fall to the county.

Copeland said there were other reasons for dropping the charges beside the rising medical tab, notably the fact that Baro was so incapacitated he couldn't defend himself.

McDade, the DA, said he did the right thing in dropping the charges. Other metro Atlanta sheriffs have supported the Douglas prosecutor's action.

Gwinnett Sheriff Butch Conway estimated that inmates who are illegal immigrants cost Gwinnett taxpayers up to $500,000 a year in medical costs. He said all inmates cost the county $6 million in medical costs annually. When an inmate is set to run up a big county medical tab, the sheriff's department looks for alternatives.

"If circumstances allow it, we try to release them," Conway said. "I've got to look out for the taxpayers."

Col. Don Bartlett of the Cobb County Sheriff's Office said if an inmate becomes incapacitated to the point that prosecution can't go forward, the sheriff could ask the prosecutor to drop the charges or work out a bond that allows the inmate to leave the system. At the same time, if an inmate has committed a serious crime, needs major surgery and will recover, the department often pays the medical bill, allows the inmate to recover and moves forward with the case, Bartlett said.

Considering few inmates have their own health insurance, Rosen said the county likely shifted the costs to some hospital, which will pass it on to other patients and taxpayers through indigent care costs.

Charles Kuck, a University of Georgia adjunct law professor, said bending the rules to remove an inmate from a county's responsibility can border on medical abandonment.

"Just because he's illegal, the county doesn't get away with not taking care of his medical care," said Kuck, who also is an immigration attorney.

The charges against Baro were dropped on May 14, six months after his arrest. Insufficient evidence was the reason cited on the arrest warrant.

The next day, Baro was released from the hospital into the care of family members, said Sandra Jerkins, Douglas sheriff's department records supervisor.

It was now up to those family members to find medical care for Baro.

Staff writer Alexis Stevens contributed to this article.
"Scholars have long understood that the instability of power has ramifications for compliance with international law. Scholars have not, however, focused on how states' expectations about shifting power affect the initial design of international agreements," scientists writing in the Harvard International Law Journal report.

"In this paper, I integrate shifting power into an analysis of the initial design of both the formal and substantive aspects of agreements. I argue that a state expecting to become more powerful over time incurs an opportunity cost by agreeing to formal provisions that raise the cost of exiting an agreement. Exit costs—which promote the stability of legal rules—have distributional implications. Before joining an agreement, an 'ascendant' state will therefore often require either a greater share of the benefits from cooperation, or a reduction in exit costs through the use of formal provisions such as withdrawal clauses, sunset clauses, and provisions affecting the legality of an agreement. I analyze how states determine which concessions to make in order to reach agreement with an ascendant state," wrote T. Meyer and colleagues, University of Georgia.

The researchers concluded: "This analysis helps explain a number of puzzles in the international legal literature, such as why states with poor compliance rates are sometimes observed to join international agreements at the same or higher rates than states with good compliance rates; why weak agreements often evolve into more constraining agreements; and why multilateral agreements are more likely to have low exit costs than bilateral agreements."


Additional information can be obtained by contacting T. Meyer, University of Georgia, School Law, Athens, GA 30602, USA.

The publisher of the Harvard International Law Journal can be contacted at: Harvard Law School, Publications Center, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

Keywords: City:Athens, State:GA, Country:United States, Law Reviews This article was prepared by Politics & Government Week editors from staff and other reports. Copyright 2010, Politics & Government Week via VerticalNews.com.
Save money: Hire professionals in training

Legal aid 9/3/10

Anyone who's ever hired a lawyer knows that legal bills can add up fast, especially at $100 or more per hour. But around the country, most law schools offer clinics where you can save money on legal aid.

The University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Ga., is typical, representing clients through a dozen clinics on criminal and civil matters such as domestic violence, special-education concerns and dispute mediation.

Elsewhere, law schools frequently offer help on issues such as estate law and civil litigation.

According to Alexander Scherr, associate professor and director of civil clinics at the University of Georgia School of Law, clients pay no fees for the help they receive. However, obtaining representation by a clinic can depend on a range of factors, including the type of case and the clinic's resources. So, prospective clients are advised to contact schools in their area to see if they offer relevant legal aid and whether they will take the case.

Related Links:
- How to save on produce
- Frugal wedding secrets
- Locked out? Try this fix
- 5 frugal tips for 50-somethings

Related Articles:
- Group buying saves money
- Make frugally fun
- Tips for gifts on a budget
- Emulate the rich: Be frugal
SECTION: Pg. 5

LENGTH: 516 words

HEADLINE: Hive of activity for next generation at ITC

BODY:

IN THE CITY 2010 is reaching out to the next generation of music industry executives by running a programme of educational events designed to appeal to those looking for an entry point into the business.

The In The City Hive will cover topics including artist management, music publishing, understanding the media, songwriting and studio production.

Events already confirmed include The Musicians' Union Guide To Doing It Yourself, which examines self-releasing a record; The Music Managers' Panel, looking at how to start out in management; and My Generation, Next Generation, in which Drowned in Sound founder Sean Adams and journalist Rebecca Nicholason discuss the digital and cultural trends of the passing musical generation and examine what is next on the horizon.

In The City director Yvette Livesey told Music Week at ITC 2009 that the event's audience was already getting younger as more students attended. However, while ITC has previously offered a student discount on tickets, the appearance of the Hive marks a major move into the educational market.

"In The City has always adopted the twin tenets of education and inspiration and we have decided this year to put in a place a bespoke programme tailored to the specific needs of young people looking to learn about and get into the music industry," Livesey explains.

"The In The City Hive will bring together a range of respected and successful industry professionals to inspire delegates and give them the tools to start their journey into the industry."

The Hive will run during the main ITC convention in Manchester on October 13-14. Taking place at The Malmaison Hotel, it will be a separately ticketed event from the main convention, with passes priced at £60, including free entry to all In The City Live events. A special ticket for students, including accommodation, will cost £150 for the main ITC event.

Other confirmed panels for the ITC Hive include:

* Write It, Record It, Mix It - a producers' masterclass from Access To Music and JAMES, the educational arm of the Association Of Professional Recording Services and the Music Producers Guild;

* The Insiders Guide To The Media. Ray Paul, one the founders of 1Xtra, presents a workshop discussing the different roles of the media;

* The Untapped Goldmine: The Importance Of Publishing;

* The Northern Song Collective Songwriting Masterclass;

* Learning How To Sell Yourself: The Art Of Networking;
* The CMU Seminars.

Meanwhile, REM manager Bertis Downs is booked to appear in conversation with former Warner Music chairman Rob Dickins at the main ITC conference.

Downs has represented the band since early on in their career and also teaches occasional courses on entertainment and music law at the University of Georgia Law School.

Further panels announced for the main event include What's The O2, examining the telecoms company's live venue sponsorship deal; A Question of Sport, in which artist manager John Arnison will quiz a panel of sports executives to find out what the music business can learn from the sports world; and 21st Century ticketing.

Copyright: UBM Information Ltd.

LOAD-DATE: September 2, 2010
A Well-Traveled Path From Ivy League to Supreme Court

By ADAM Liptak
Published: September 6, 2010

Justice Clarence Thomas recalled the reaction from "self-proclaimed smart bloggers" when he looked beyond the Ivy League to hire law clerks from Creighton, George Mason, George Washington and Rutgers for the Supreme Court term that started in 2008.

"They referred to my clerks last year as TTT — third-tier trash," he told students at the University of Florida in February. "That's the attitude that you're up against."

Justice Thomas's hiring was certainly out of step with that of his colleagues. About half of the law clerks who have served the justices since Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joined the court in 2005 attended two law schools — Harvard and Yale. Another quarter attended just four others — Virginia, Stanford, Chicago and Columbia.

In remarks to law students at American University Washington College of Law last year, Justice Antonin Scalia was unapologetic about this trend.

"By and large," he said, "I'm going to be picking from the law schools that basically are the hardest to get into. They admit the best and the brightest, and they may not teach very well, but you can't make a sow's ear out of a silk purse. If they come in the best and the brightest, they're probably going to leave the best and the brightest, O.K."

Justice Thomas said he took a different approach. "I have a preference, actually, for non-Ivy League law clerks, simply because I think clerks should come from a wide range of backgrounds," he said. "I don't have that pedigree. I'm not part of this sort of new or faux nobility."

Justice Thomas, who grew up poor in rural Georgia, attended Yale Law School, as did Justices Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Sonia Sotomayor. The other justices all attended Harvard Law School, though Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg transferred to Columbia and graduated from there. Justice Ginsburg has said that she has chosen clerks based in part on recommendations from David Sencer, a former clerk of hers who is now dean of Columbia Law School, and from
Justice Elena Kagan when she was dean of Harvard Law School.

For the term starting next month, Justice Thomas hired clerks from Duke, Texas, Virginia and Yale. All were ranked among the nation’s 15 best law schools by U.S. News & World Report.

Todd C. Peppers, who teaches public affairs at Roanoke College and is the author of a book about Supreme Court clerks, said the justices should work harder to broaden their hiring.

“This is the golden ticket,” Mr. Peppers said of a Supreme Court clerkship. “If you’re constantly handing out golden tickets to people from Harvard, Yale, Stanford and N.Y.U., you’re closing off these opportunities to 98 percent of the other law schools and law students. Why not give a nod to academic diversity?”

A version of this article appeared in print on September 7, 2010, on page A17 of the New York edition.

Get the full newspaper experience, and more, delivered to your Mac or PC. Try it FREE for 2 full weeks.

Related Searches
Supreme Court
Get E-Mail Alerts
Harvard University
Get E-Mail Alerts
Yale University
Get E-Mail Alerts
Law Schools
Get E-Mail Alerts

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM

BUSINESS

TRAVEL

WORLD

OPINION

Redefining What ‘Home’ Means
A Room for Debate forum on whether the collapse of the housing market will change the way we live.

집 has

MUSIC

OPINION

Few Words and a Whole Lifetime Pictures
The Stone: Experiments in Philosophy

2 of 2 9/8/2010 11:52 AM
Bright Star: Ramsey Bridges

By LUANNE BYRD - Athens Banner-Herald
Published Monday, September 06, 2010

The days of sidebars, briefs and depositions as a practicing attorney are gone for Ramsey Bridges.

As the assistant director of admissions at the University of Georgia's School of Law, Bridges now is working on a new case - reviewing the applications of aspiring law students and promoting the school as well as Athens.

"Part of my job is to sell this city," Bridges said. "I live here and this is my community. I went to school here and it's neat to work at and give back to a school that I had such an incredible experience at."

Initially pursuing a degree in large-animal medicine, Bridges soon realized that her four-legged friends were more of a hobby than a career. With six generations of attorneys in her family, it's not surprising that she followed in their footsteps and ended up in law school.

Participating in the Athens L.E.A.D. program this year, Bridges was excited to learn more about Athens, its projects and how she could help and get involved.

Recalling the times she traveled with her mother as a child to deliver meals to the elderly, Bridges now volunteers her time with the Athens Community Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program, completing her route every Friday during her appointed lunch hour.

"I'm a big people person. I love meeting new people," Bridges said. "I plan to stay in Athens and raise my family here." Her first baby is due in September.

About Bridges

Age: 30

Profession/place of work: Assistant director of admissions, University of Georgia School of Law

College background: Bachelor's degree in English literature, Vanderbilt University, J.D., University of Georgia School of Law

Your first paying job: Working in a horse barn

Childhood ambition: Large animal veterinarian or country music star
SECTION: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL NEWS

ACC-NO: 20100906-AH-Bright-Star-Kevin-Lang-0906-20100906

LENGTH: 526 words

HEADLINE: Bright Star: Kevin Lang


BODY:

Sept. 06--Before moving to the Athens area six years ago and joining the law practice of Fortson, Bentley and Griffin with its 16 attorneys, lawyer Kevin Lang had worked with an Atlanta firm that boasted 470 legal professionals.

The workload and substance of his practice hasn't changed much, though, said Lang who works in transactional law, handling business deals for commercial real estate projects and people who buy and sell businesses.

"I like negotiated deals ... mergers and acquisitions," Lang said.

The move to Athens was more a choice of lifestyles for him.

He and his wife, who both attended the University of Georgia, wanted to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city.

"My wife and I both went to school here, and we decided Athens was our top choice."

Since settling in to his new job and home, Lang has continued to work hard, putting in 60 to 70 hours a week.

When he's not working, he's spending time with his wife and two young children or he's volunteering with the board of directors of the UGA Alumni Association or the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, where he provides legal counsel.

His association with the Food Bank has been highly rewarding, he said.

"It's been a great experience. The food bank does a remarkable job of getting food to people on a very efficient basis," he said. "It serves a lot of people."

He's also a graduate of the L.E.A.D. Athens, a community leadership program headed up by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce.

About Lang

Age: 34

Profession/place of work: Attorney, Fortson, Bentley and Griffin, P.A.

College background: Bachelor's degree in finance, University of Georgia, 1998; J.D., UGA School of Law, 2001

Your first paying job: Cutting the grass at home
Childhood ambition: To play on the PGA Tour

Community involvement: Board of directors for Food Bank of Northeast Georgia Inc.; board of directors for UGA Alumni Association


Favorite pastime: Golf

Favorite movie: "Forrest Gump"

Favorite musical group: R.E.M.

If you were the chief elected official of your community what immediate changes would you make? I would focus my attention on economic development, including attracting clean industry (including biotech companies) to build facilities in Athens-Clarke County.

How would you address poverty in a county like Athens-Clarke where the poverty rate is so high? We need more skill-based jobs in our community. I don’t think we are going to see much of a change in the poverty rate until those living in poverty have an alternative to minimum and low-wage jobs. If the jobs are available, they will be filled by those interested in developing the requisite skill sets.

To see more of The Athens Banner-Herald or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to http://www.onlineathens.com/. Copyright (c) 2010, Athens Banner-Herald, Ga. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For more information about the content services offered by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services (MCT), visit www.mctinfoservices.com, e-mail services@mctinfoservices.com, or call 866-280-5210 (outside the United States, call +1 312-222-4544).

LOAD-DATE: September 6, 2010
after her first high school chemistry class. It wasn't until she completed her anthropology degree at the University of Georgia and realized she didn't want to be a professor, that she decided to pursue a law degree.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I knew a law degree couldn't hurt me," Landreth said.

After earning her law degree in 2001, she interned with the Georgia Supreme Court in Atlanta before taking a job clerking in the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County.

In 2003, former Solicitor General Ralph Powell recruited her to his team of attorneys to prosecute misdemeanor cases in state court and in the Athens-Clarke and Winterville municipal courts.

She really found her element in municipal court.

"Once I got to municipal court, I thought this is where I want to be," Landreth said.

In 2006, after giving birth to twins who were in the NICU for three months, she resigned her position, but was lured back in 2009 by Powell's successor, C.R. Chisholm, who promised she could stay in municipal court.

"I love municipal court and love traffic cases ... it's a very fast-paced court with a high volume of cases and requires a high level of organization, which I excel at," she said.

She takes a lot of work home and works every weekend, but that allows her flexibility in her schedule and more time with her children and husband, she said.

About Landreth

Age: 33

Profession/place of work: Attorney in the Athens-Clarke County Solicitor's Office

College background: Bachelor's degree in anthropology, the University of Georgia, 1998; J.D. from UGA School of Law, 2001

Your first paying job: Clerk in a family-owned pharmacy

Childhood ambition: To become a physician

Community involvement: Attending local festivals and events, and shopping at locally-owned businesses


Favorite pastime: Running and cycling


Favorite musical group: Willie Nelson, Erasure, "Flashdance" soundtrack, Cowboy Junkies

If you were the chief elected official of your community what immediate changes would you make? The first thing I would do (assuming time, money and resources were not obstacles) is conduct a thorough and searching audit of all governmental departments. As with any big business or corporation,
inefficiencies exist, for which the community suffers. I don't say this to be
critical, but merely to point out that there is always room for improvement and
a thorough audit would provide a starting point for any changes that might
benefit the community at large.

How would you address poverty in a county like Athens-Clarke where the
poverty rate is so high? For some folks, it's a matter of being willing to work,
but for an overwhelming number of individuals, working 40 or more hours a week
is not providing the income necessary to adequately finance their lives. I don't
have an answer to this, but did read a really interesting book on the topic
several years ago by Barbara Ehrenreich called "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not)
Getting by in America."

To see more of The Athens Banner-Herald or to subscribe to the newspaper, go
Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For more information
about the content services offered by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services
(MCT), visit www.mctinfoservices.com, e-mail services@mctinfoservices.com, or
call 866-280-5210 (outside the United States, call +1 312-222-4544).

LOAD-DATE: September 6, 2010

3 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2010 Athens Banner-Herald
Athens Banner-Herald (Georgia)
Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

September 6, 2010 Monday

SECTION: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL NEWS

ACC-NO: 20100906-AH-Bright-Star-Adam-Land-0906-20100906

LENGTH: 499 words

HEADLINE: Bright Star: Adam Land


BODY:

Sept. 06--The Colorado Navy recruiter who met Adam Land in the days following
the Sept. 11 terror attacks nudged him to Navy fighter planes. His decision to
join resulted in Land's arriving in Athens.

"I wanted to be a cryptologist, be a Navy computer geek, basically," Land
said. "They asked me if I wanted to be a pilot. I was surprised. I thought you
had to look like all the guys in 'Top Gun,' be short and have perfect eyesight ...
you just have to fit in all the planes you're flying."

His officer and flight training spanned the next three-plus years. Aircraft
carrier qualifications stopped his advance.

"I was 80 percent of the way through," Land said. "It was real disappointing,
but the way I look at it, I wouldn't trade anything for the way things have
worked out."

The GI Bill, along with his wife, Jacqueline, being from Atlanta, resulted in
Land relocating to Athens where he attended the University of Georgia Law School
The couple’s new mission: To establish roots for daughters Emmeline, 4, and Julia, 1. (The couple is expecting their third child in March.)

Land is an attorney with Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C., and recent graduate of L.E.A.D. Athens. His group studied how to connect the health department’s WIC (Women, Infants and Children) recipients with local vendors.

Additionally, Land is a mentor to an at-risk youth through the Clarke County Mentor Program. He credits a fellow law school student with inspiring him to help young people soar, too.

"He was one of the first mentees, that was 20 years ago and he still meets with his mentor once a week," Land said. "I thought that was kind of neat."

About Land
Age: 33

Profession/place of work: Attorney, Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C.

College background: Bachelor's degree in finance, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1999; J.D. from the University of Georgia, 2008.

Your first paying job: A runner at a public relations firm

Childhood ambition: Astronaut

Community involvement: Clarke County Mentor program, L.E.A.D. Athens


Favorite pastime: Spending time with my children

Favorite movie: "The Big Lebowski"

Favorite musical group: Widespread Panic

If you were the chief elected official of your community what immediate changes would you make? I would pass an ordinance requiring Chick-fil-a to be open on Sundays.

How would you address poverty in a county like Athens-Clarke where the poverty rate is so high? I would find ways to improve the high school graduation rate and lower the teen pregnancy rate.

To see more of The Athens Banner-Herald or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to http://www.onlineathens.com/. Copyright (c) 2010, Athens Banner-Herald, Ga. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For more information about the content services offered by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services (MCT), visit www.mctinfoservices.com, e-mail services@mctinfoservices.com, or call 866-280-5210 (outside the United States, call +1 312-222-4544).
Local law firm honored for giving to UGA
by Lydia Senn

Since graduating from the University of Georgia school of law in 1984, Andy Davis has remained active in mentoring young law school graduates and supporting the university.

Davis is one of nine attorneys at the Rome-based Brinson, Askew, Berry, Seigler, Richardson and Davis, LLP to graduate from UGA’s law school.

The firm has been awarded the Dean’s Trophy from UGA. Phyllis Cooke, director of annual giving for UGA, said the 100-percent award goes to law firms with five or more UGA graduates who all donate to the law school, and Brinson, Askew and Berry is the first firm to ever reach such an achievement.

The award recognizes the firm’s 100-percent donor participation. The firm will be awarded with a special ceremony today.

“We are excited because this award recognizes the law firm, but also the school,” Davis said.

The firm will be awarded with a reception and a special trophy presented to them at their office on West First Street by law school dean Rebecca Hanner White.

“It’s a nice honor,” Davis said.

Davis said the number of attorneys from the firm who chose to support the school through annual giving puts them in the ranks of larger firms with more partners and associates. Nearly half of the firm’s 19 lawyers got their law degree from UGA.

“I think this makes a statement that we support the school,” Davis said.

The firm has also worked to mentor young lawyers, not just graduates from UGA, as a part of State Bar of Georgia requirements.

post a comment

comments (0)

no comments yet
The 3-minute interview: Russell Edwards

September 7, 2010 by JEN INGLES
Filed under Variety

Russell Edwards, a Democrat and graduate of the University’s School of Law, is vying for a chance to represent Georgia’s 10th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is running against incumbent Rep. Paul Broun Jr.

Edwards recently shared with The Red & Black his views on running against an incumbent, how best to serve our district’s interests in Washington, D.C., and how the outcome of this election could affect University students.

EDWARDS

Why do you want to represent Georgia’s 10th District?

I want to represent our district because I love all that it has to offer. We have beautiful mountains in north Georgia, fantastic cultural offerings in Athens, and wonderful schools throughout the district. However, we are underserved by our incumbent congressman. He does nothing to support the University of Georgia or any other part of our community. Last year, the University of Alabama received 10 times more federal funding than UGA simply because our incumbent congressman does not direct any government research funding to us. If you’re unhappy with tuition hikes and program cutbacks, get involved with our campaign to strengthen UGA and send responsible leadership to Washington.

What is your strategy for competing with an incumbent who has raised more money than your campaign?

We have remained competitive in fundraising against our opponent, having raised money from nearly 500 individual donors. Our campaign is a people-powered movement with the vast majority of our support coming from individuals within the 10th District. The incumbent’s campaign — currently nearly $100,000 in debt — is being funded by out-of-state PACs [political action committees] and major corporations. This stark difference in support proves that the incumbent has made enemies with his refusal to support UGA and the greater community. It’s not all about money though — we are building a broad coalition throughout the district to move us forward beyond the useless rhetoric of hate, and we encourage students to join us.

What did you enjoy most about your time at the University’s School of Law?
The law school is a great community of professors, staff and students. I enjoyed plugging into the Athens activist community and coordinating with important groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center. The SPLC leads the fight against bigotry in our country by suing hate groups, like the Ku Klux Klan, when they commit acts of violence. However, the SPLC is also currently tracking our incumbent congressman and has profiled him as one of the top five enablers of hate crimes in our nation. If you find this as appalling as I do, I encourage you to get involved in our campaign.

Why should University students registered in the 10th District vote for you?

I believe in fully supporting UGA and restoring responsible leadership for our district. Not too long ago, I attended UGA, and I recognize the need for a new generation to step up and lead our community. I ask all students to register to vote in our community and join me in shaping our future. Please contact Sarah Morris, our campus coordinator, at dawgsforrussell@gmail.com and join the Dawgs for Russell Facebook group.

Tags: Russell Edwards

Studying Learn how you can study less and still get better grades.

- eNews & Updates

  Sign up to receive breaking news as well as receive other site updates!

  Enter your email address: GO

- Featured Video
The University of Georgia School of Law will host judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on Sept. 21 as they hear a case. The hearing will take place in the law school's Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom, located in Hirsch Hall, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is open to the public.

"It is a great honor to welcome these judges to the School of Law," Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Paul M. Kurtz said. "The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims plays a unique and important role in the judicial system by specifically focusing on veterans' rights. It is a rare opportunity and a privilege for people in our community to have a chance to observe the workings of this court and sit in on a case."

The Veterans Claims Court has exclusive jurisdiction to provide veterans an impartial judicial review of final decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, an entity within the Department of Veterans Affairs. It rules on matters involving administrative decisions on service-connected disabilities, survivor benefits, education payments, waivers of indebtedness and other benefits. For more information about the court, see www.uscourts.cavic.gov.

Writer: Cindy H. Rice, 706/542-5172, cindyh@uga.edu

***

Contact: Paul Kurtz, 706/542-7140, pmkurtz@uga.edu

Copyright Targeted News Services

TNS MJ88-JF78-100909-2994869 StaffFurigay

LOAD-DATE: September 9, 2010
Gov. Sonny Perdue, R-Ga., issued the following news release:

Governor Sonny Perdue announced today the following executive appointments. Brief biographies are provided below:

Board of Commissioners of the Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund of Georgia

Kevin D. Abernathy, 34, Atlanta - Abernathy is an attorney in the Atlanta office of Hall Booth Smith & Slover. He served as Deputy Legislative Counsel and Special Deputy Legislative Counsel to Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Abernathy earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from Georgia State College of Law.

Board of Corrections

M. Ashley Paulk, Jr., 65, Hahira - Paulk is chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and president of Valdosta Electric and Shiloh Farms. He is a member of the board of the Boy Scouts of America and is chairman of the board of Guardian Bank. In 2006, he received the International Rotary Award. He served as Lowndes County sheriff for sixteen years. Paulk and his wife, Ginger, have five children and nineteen grandchildren.

Board of Directors of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

Ken Stewart, 60, Marietta - Stewart is the senior advisor for industry strategy at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is treasurer of the American Forest Foundation, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Historical Society and the board of directors for the Langdale Company. He is past commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Stewart earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and a law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law. He and his wife, Linda, have one son.

Edward M. Tate, 34, Atlanta - Tate is the campaign manager for U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson's re-election campaign. He is the director of the T.R. Miller Mill Co., Inc. He served as deputy executive counsel and deputy chief operating officer for Governor Sonny Perdue. Tate earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.
Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission

Timothy A. Wall, 30, Brooklet - Wall is a therapeutic recreation specialist and a graduate assistant at Georgia Southern University. He is an associate instructor of the Professional Tennis Registry at the Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department. Wall earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University.

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

Boyd L. Austin, Jr., 47, Dallas - Austin is the mayor of the city of Dallas and the dean of chief elected officials and constitutional officers in Paulding County Georgia Municipal Association. He serves as the vice chairman of the North Georgia Water Planning District and is a member of the board of directors of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. Boyd earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia.

Georgia Music Hall of Fame Authority

David Barbe, 46, Athens - Barbe is the co-owner, president and chief engineer of Chase Park Transduction Recording Studios and is a free-lance recording engineer. He is a member of the board of directors for Nucl's Space in Athens and a member of the board of directors for Athens Little League Baseball. Barbe earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Amy, have three children.

Rob J. Gibson, Jr., 51, Savannah - Gibson is executive and artistic director of the Savannah Music Festival. He is the founding director of Jazz at Lincoln Center where he worked for ten years. He served as a member of the faculty of The Juilliard School. He helped create and co-produce the Peabody Award winning series "Jazz from Lincoln Center" for national public radio. Gibson earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Amy, have three children.

R. Kirby Godsey, Ph.D., 74, Macon - Godsey is chancellor of Mercer University. He served as president and CEO of Mercer for 27 years. He is chairman of the Board of Birch Communication and a director of NewTown Builders, LLC. He is a member of the board of directors of the Rome Chamber Music Festival in New York and the Peyton Anderson Foundation in Macon, Georgia. Godsey earned a bachelor's degree from Samford University, a master's degree and a doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a master's degree from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. from Tulane University. He and his wife, Caroline, have four children and five grandchildren.

Robert S. Highsmith, Jr., 39, Atlanta - Highsmith is a partner at Holland & Knight where he practices legislative, administrative, and regulatory law, government relations and litigation. He serves as the national team leader for the firm's State Capitals Team, and leads their Georgia Government Relations Practice. He is past Deputy Executive Counsel for Governor Sonny Perdue. Highsmith earned a bachelor's degree from Yale and a law degree from the University of Georgia's School of Law. He and his wife, Kristi, have four children.

Claire F. Hillard, Ph.D., 52, Albany - Hillard is a member of the music faculty of Darton College. He serves as music director and conductor for the Albany Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of the Georgia Council for the Arts Music Panel and a professional affiliate member of the American Symphony Orchestra League. Hillard earned a bachelor's degree from Calvin College, a master's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He and his wife, Meri Beth, have three children.

Copyright Targeted News Services
AMERICUS, Ga., Sept. 8 -- Georgia Southwestern State University issued the following news release:

Georgia House Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) is the featured speaker at a Georgia Southwestern State University convocation Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. Set in Jackson Performance Hall, the convocation is free. The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

Ralston was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1992 and served until 1998 when he won the Republican nomination for attorney general of Georgia. In 2002, Ralston was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives to serve the citizens of the seventh district, which includes the counties of Fannin and Gilmer and part of Dawson. On January 11, 2010, Ralston was elected Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives.

As a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Ralston has served on the following committees: Appropriations, Rules, Transportation, Governmental Affairs, Judiciary (vice-chair) and Judiciary Non-Civil (chair). Ralston's support in the House was a key component for Georgia Southwestern to secure state funding for its Health and Human Sciences Complex. Groundbreaking for the complex is scheduled for 2012.

"We are excited about the Speaker's visit and grateful to Representative Mike Cheokas for making his visit possible," said GSW President Kendall Blanchard. "Representative Ralston's leadership has already made a difference in the state legislature. His influence was important to the University's getting $6.5 million this year for the construction of Phase I of the Health and Human Sciences Complex. We appreciate his support of Georgia Southwestern and look forward to his comments at this special convocation."

Ralston was born in Ellijay where he graduated from Gilmer County High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and State University and later a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Aside from his legislative duties, Ralston is an attorney in Blue Ridge. His civic activities include participation with the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce, the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association and the Blue Ridge Lions Club.

Ralston and his wife, Jane, have two children, Elizabeth and Matt. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: September 9, 2010
ATHENS, Ga., Sept. 8 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

The University of Georgia School of Law will host judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on Sept. 21 as they hear a case. The hearing will take place in the law school's Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom, located in Hirsch Hall, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is open to the public.

"It is a great honor to welcome these judges to the School of Law," Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Paul M. Kurtz said. "The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims plays a unique and important role in the judicial system by specifically focusing on veterans' rights. It is a rare opportunity and a privilege for people in our community to have a chance to observe the workings of this court and sit in on a case."

The Veterans Claims Court has exclusive jurisdiction to provide veterans an impartial judicial review of final decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, an entity within the Department of Veterans Affairs. It rules on matters involving administrative decisions on service-connected disabilities, survivor benefits, education payments, waivers of indebtedness and other benefits. For more information about the court, see www.uscourts.cavc.gov. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: September 9, 2010
Sept. 09--The new Altamaha Riverkeeper will arrive on the Georgia coast next month, packing two degrees from the University of Georgia.

Sonja Cox has been named the new Altamaha Riverkeeper, a position held by former commercial crabber James Holland until his retirement in May, the environmental organization based in Darien with the same Altamaha Riverkeeper name it gives its top director announced Wednesday.

She will begin her job in mid-October.

A native of Athens, Cox graduated magna cum laude from the Grady School of Journalism at UGA and graduated cum laude from the UGA School of Law, according to the organization that advocates for environmental protections in the Alamaha watershed.

Cox has had courses in environmental law, natural resources law, local government law and land use law.

A former assistant district attorney, she started her own legal practice in residential and commercial real estate. Her background includes litigation experience with several Atlanta law firms.

In her most recent job, she was county attorney for Douglas County. It's where she gained an understanding of local, state, and federal environmental laws, watershed protection regulations and general water policy issues, as well as an understanding of the workings of state and local government, the organization said.

Cox should feel right at home in the wetlands of Coastal Georgia. The riverkeeper organization describes her as a person who loves the outdoors.

She particularly enjoys hiking and water-borne paddling, it said.

"The Riverkeeper is the kind of job I've always wanted to do, what I've always dreamed of, and been working toward," Cox said in a prepared statement.

"It's the culmination of all my career and professional dreams. I welcome the chance to dedicate myself to something I care passionately about and I am excited to bring my career and life experience to the job.

"There has never been a more critical time to work to protect and conserve our natural resources and the environment."

Founded in 1999, the Altamaha Riverkeeper was the 27th Waterkeeper Alliance organization in the United States and the second such organization in Georgia.
To see more of The Brunswick News or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to http://www.thebrunswicknews.com/. Copyright (c) 2010, The Brunswick News, Ga. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For more information about the content services offered by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services (MCT), visit www.mctinfoservices.com, e-mail services@mctinfoservices.com, or call 866-280-5210 (outside the United States, call +1 312-222-4544).

LOAD-DATE: September 9, 2010

2 of 6 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2010 HT Media Ltd.
All Rights Reserved
US State News

September 9, 2010 Thursday 7:00 PM EST

LENGTH: 937 words

HEADLINE: GOV. PERDUE ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

BODY:

ATLANTA, Sept. 8 -- Gov. Sonny Perdue, R-Ga., issued the following press release:

Governor Sonny Perdue announced today the following executive appointments. Brief biographies are provided below:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS' RETIREMENT FUND OF GEORGIA

Kevin D. Abernathy, 34, Atlanta - Abernathy is an attorney in the Atlanta office of Hall Booth Smith & Slover. He served as Deputy Legislative Counsel and Special Deputy Legislative Counsel to Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Abernathy earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from Georgia State College of Law.

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

M. Ashley Paulk, Jr., 65, Hahira - Paulk is chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and president of Valdosta Electric and Shiloh Farms. He is a member of the board of the Boy Scouts of America and is chairman of the board of Guardian Bank. In 2006, he received the International Rotary Award. He served as Lowndes County sheriff for sixteen years. Paulk and his wife, Ginger, have five children and nineteen grandchildren.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Ken Stewart, 60, Marietta - Stewart is the senior advisor for industry strategy at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is treasurer of the American Forest Foundation, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Historical Society and the board of directors for the Langdale Company. He is past commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Stewart earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and a law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law. He and his wife, Linda, have one son.

Edward M. Tate, 34, Atlanta - Tate is the campaign manager for U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson's re-election campaign. He is the director of the T.R. Miller Mill Co., Inc. He served as deputy executive counsel and deputy chief operating
officer for Governor Sonny Perdue. Tate earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

BRAIN AND SPINAL INJURY TRUST FUND COMMISSION

Timothy A. Wall, 30, Brooklet-Wall is a therapeutic recreation specialist and a graduate assistant at Georgia Southern University. He is an associate instructor of the Professional Tennis Registry at the Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department. Wall earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University.

GEORGIAENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Boyd L. Austin, Jr., 47, Dallas - Austin is the mayor of the city of Dallas and the dean of chief elected officials and constitutional officers in Paulding County Georgia Municipal Association. He serves as the vice chairman of the North Georgia Water Planning District and is a member of the board of directors of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. Boyd earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia.

GEORGIAMUSIC HALLOF FAME AUTHORITY

David Barbe, 46, Athens - Barbe is the co-owner, president and chief engineer of Chase Park Transduction Recording Studios and is a free-lance recording engineer. He is a member of the board of directors for Nuci's Space in Athens and a member of the board of directors for Athens Little League Baseball. Barbe earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Amy, have three children.

Rob J. Gibson, Jr., 51, Savannah - Gibson is executive and artistic director of the Savannah Music Festival. He is the founding director of Jazz at Lincoln Center where he worked for ten years. He served as a member of the faculty of The Juilliard School. He helped create and co-produce the Peabody Award winning series "Jazz from Lincoln Center" for national public radio. Gibson earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Caroline, have three children.

R. Kirby Godsey, Ph.D., 74, Macon - Godsey is chancellor of Mercer University. He served as president and CEO of Mercer for 27 years. He is chairman of the Board of Birch Communication and a director of NewTown Builders, LLC. He is a member of the board of directors of the Rome Chamber Music Festival in New York and the Peyton Anderson Foundation in Macon, Georgia. Godsey earned a bachelor's degree from Samford University, a master's degree and a doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a master's degree from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. from Tulane University. He and his wife, Joan, have four children and five grandchildren.

Robert S. Highsmith, Jr., 39, Atlanta - Highsmith is a partner at Holland & Knight where he practices legislative, administrative, and regulatory law, government relations and litigation. He serves as the national team leader for the firm's State Capitals Team, and leads their Georgia Government Relations Practice. He is past Deputy Executive Counsel for Governor Sonny Perdue. Highsmith earned a bachelor's degree from Yale and a law degree from the University of Georgia's School of Law. He and his wife, Kristi, have four children.

Claire F. Hillard, Ph.D., 52, Albany - Hillard is a member of the music faculty of Darton College. He serves as music director and conductor for the Albany Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of the Georgia Council for the Arts Music Panel and a professional affiliate member of the American Symphony Orchestra League. Hillard earned a bachelor's degree from Calvin College, a master's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He and his wife, Meri Beth, have three children. For any query with respect to this article or any
Governor Perdue Announces Executive Appointments

ATLANTA - Governor Sonny Perdue announced today the following executive appointments. Brief biographies are provided below:

Board of Commissioners of the Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund of Georgia

Kevin D. Abernathy, 34, Atlanta - Abernathy is an attorney in the Atlanta office of Hall Booth Smith & Slover. He served as Deputy Legislative Counsel and Special Deputy Legislative Counsel to Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Abernathy earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from Georgia State College of Law.

Board of Corrections

M. Ashley Paulk, Jr., 65, Hahira - Paulk is chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and president of Valdosta Electric and Shiloh Farms. He is a member of the board of the Boy Scouts of America and is chairman of the board of Guardian Bank. In 2006, he received the International Rotary Award. He served as Lowndes County sheriff for sixteen years. Paulk and his wife, Ginger, have five children and nineteen grandchildren.

Board of Directors of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

Ken Stewart, 60, Marietta - Stewart is the senior advisor for industry strategy at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is treasurer of the American Forest Foundation, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Historical Society and the board of directors for the Langdale Company. He is past commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Stewart earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and a law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law. He and his wife, Linda, have one son.

Edward M. Tate, 34, Atlanta - Tate is the campaign manager for U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson's re-election campaign. He is the director of the T.R. Miller Mill Co., Inc. He served as deputy executive counsel and deputy chief operating officer for Governor Sonny Perdue. Tate earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission

Timothy A. Wall, 30, Brooklet - Wall is a therapeutic recreation specialist and a graduate assistant at Georgia Southern University. He is an associate instructor of the Professional Tennis Registry at the Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department. Wall earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University.

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

Boyd L. Austin, Jr., 47, Dallas - Austin is the mayor of the city of Dallas and the dean of chief elected officials and constitutional officers in Paulding County Georgia Municipal Association. He serves as the vice chairman of the North Georgia Water Planning District and is a member of the board of directors of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. Boyd earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia.

Georgia Music Hall of Fame Authority
David Barbe, 46, Athens - Barbe is the co-owner, president and chief engineer of Chase Park Transduction Recording Studios and is a free-lance recording engineer. He is a member of the board of directors for Nucl's Space in Athens and a member of the board of directors for Athens Little League Baseball. Barbe earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Amy, have three children.

Rob J. Gibson, Jr., 51, Savannah - Gibson is executive and artistic director of the Savannah Music Festival. He is the founding director of Jazz at Lincoln Center where he worked for ten years. He served as a member of the faculty of The Juilliard School. He helped create and co-produce the Peabody Award winning series “Jazz from Lincoln Center” for national public radio. Gibson earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Caroline, have three children.

R. Kirby Godsey, Ph.D., 74, Macon - Godsey is chancellor of Mercer University. He served as president and CEO of Mercer for 27 years. He is chairman of the Board of Birch Communication and a director of NewTown Builders, LLC. He is a member of the board of directors of the Rome Chamber Music Festival in New York and the Peyton Anderson Foundation in Macon, Georgia. Godsey earned a bachelor’s degree from Samford University, a master’s degree and a doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a master’s degree from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. from Tulane University. He and his wife, Joan, have four children and five grandchildren.

Robert S. Highsmith, Jr., 39, Atlanta - Highsmith is a partner at Holland & Knight where he practices legislative, administrative, and regulatory law, government relations and litigation. He serves as the national team leader for the firm’s State Capitals Team, and leads their Georgia Government Relations Practice. He is past Deputy Executive Counsel for Governor Sonny Perdue. Highsmith earned a bachelor’s degree from Yale and a law degree from the University of Georgia’s School of Law. He and his wife, Kristi, have four children.

Claire F. Hillard, Ph.D., 52, Albany - Hillard is a member of the music faculty of Darton College. He serves as music director and conductor for the Albany Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of the Georgia Council for the Arts Music Panel and a professional affiliate member of the American Symphony Orchestra League. Hillard earned a bachelor’s degree from Calvin College, a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He and his wife, Meri Beth, have three children.
UGA to host veterans appeals court hearing

Associated Press - September 9, 2010 4:14 AM ET

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - The University of Georgia’s law school will host a hearing for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims this month.

The court hears appeals on cases involving service-connected disabilities, survivor benefits, education payments, waivers of debt and other veteran benefit programs.

The hearing is scheduled for Sept. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Hirsch Hall on campus. It is open to the public.

Online:

University of Georgia: http://www.uga.edu

Copyright 2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Mr. Clinton For Candidate Thurmond

"I think in the end people have to judge on performance based on what somebody has done and I am very proud of the record we have. I served in the House, the Georgia Senate, the US House and now the US Senate. I'm proud of what we have done for Georgia."

Wednesday night, Mr. Thurmond spoke at the annual Founders' Award Scholarship Luncheon of UGA's Black Faculty and Staff Organization.

According to the Athens Banner-Herald the candidate hinted that even if his opponent prevails in November, this race might not be his last run for elected office.

Mr. Thurmond recounted the first time he ran for office in 1982, running for a seat in the state legislature against longtime Athens political fixture Hugh Logan.

"Nobody thought I could win," Mr. Thurmond said - a claim he's heard again in his campaign for the U.S. Senate.

The young leader did lose to Logan in 1982, and again in 1984 - but in 1986, he won.

Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond is the son of a sharecropper who couldn't read or write.

He grew up in Clarke County, played football at

Mr. Thurmond has been a supporter and friend of the Clinton's for years.

For a dinner ticket - attendees will have to pay $1,000 dollars a plate.

If you would like your picture taken with the former President prepare to "donate" $2,400 dollars.

According to the latest filings, Senator Isackson raised $1,000,000 dollars adding to a political war chest of $8,000,000 dollars.

Mr. Thurmond showed $117, 000 dollars.

According to one poll, The Rasmussen, Senator Isackson held a 55% to 41% lead.
Clarke Central, graduated from UGA Law School and became the first African-American man to win state wide office in Georgia.

Also in the race for U.S. Senate, Libertarian Chuck Donovan, a former Marine.

Mr. Donovan released a television commercial this week critical of Senator Isackson.

Former Congressman and Presidential candidate Bob Barr has endorsed Mr. Donovan's senate bid.
"Expanding Your Genealogical Horizons, Using Easily Accessible Resources to Increase your Success" is the theme for the Georgia Genealogical Society's Fall Seminar on Oct. 2.

The meeting will be at the National Archives-Southeast Region in Morrow beginning at 9:30 a.m., with registration until 4:30 p.m. Michael Page, of Emory University, will speak on using GPS Technology and maps to help locate historic sites and graves; Laura Carter of the Athens-Clarke Public Library System will speak on using PINES and WorldCat to locate materials in distant libraries and using Interlibrary Loan and other means to access them; and Crystal Chastain Baker of the UGA Law School will speak on "Heir Property and the Importance of Genealogy in this Process."

She will be followed by three professional genealogists --- Joye Lett Quinn, Nathan Mathews and Barbara Smallwood Stock --- speaking on what is involved in hiring a genealogist.

The cost is $25 for members, $35 for nonmembers; lunch is on your own. To register, send your check before Sept. 24 to the Georgia Genealogical Society, P.O. 550247, Atlanta, GA 30355-2747. For more information, check www.gagensociety.org or call Ronda Sanders at 770-531-9277 (evenings). The first 28 people to register will each receive a 15-minute, one-on-one consultation with a member of the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Decatur lecture

The history of Decatur's founding in 1823 to the present will be the subject of the DeKalb History Center's Lunch and Learn Seminar at noon Sept. 21 at the Old Courthouse on the Square, the center's headquarters. Walt Drake, an attorney, former Decatur mayor and local historian, will speak. Participants are invited to bring a lunch to eat during the program. Also available at this event will be the new picture book on Decatur written by Joe Earle and published by Arcadia Publishing of Charleston. For more information on the event and the book, see www.dekalbhistory.org or call 404-373-1088, ext. 23 to speak with archivist Jill Sweetapple.

Computer society

The Genealogical Computer Society of Georgia continues to meet monthly on the second Saturday at the Roswell Family History Center, 500 Norcross St., Roswell, from 9 a.m. until noon. The group has an informative program each month related to genealogical topics, not always on computer-related issues. It's well worth attending and joining. To learn more, email webmaster@gencomputer.org or search Google for the society.

Contact Kenneth H. Thomas Jr. at P.O. Box 901, Decatur, GA 30031, or the website www.gagensociety.org.
Police demand quieter streets: Ordinance stops drums

September 12, 2010 by DREW HOOKS
Filed under Crime & Courts, Documents, Featured, Multimedia, News

Every fall, Bulldog fans make their pilgrimage to Athens for the near-religious event held at Sanford Stadium. The streets of downtown are filled with football patrons visiting the shops, restaurants and bars that help make Athens' downtown great.

Intermingled with the hum of cheering crowds is the melody of street performers competing for tips. One of these performers is bucket drummer Chris Harris, also known as "The Bucketman." But this football season, thanks to a noise ordinance violation, he may be silent.

Harris, a resident of Tampa Bay, Fla., has traveled to Athens every fall for the last 10 years in order to perform for the crowds downtown. His parents live in Covington, and he stays there during the fall in order to save money.

Drummer Chris Harris has been silenced following a citation. Courtesy of CHRIS HARRIS

Street performing is how he makes a living to help support his wife and baby, and he travels all over the Southeast to perform at different festivals and events.

On Sept. 4, the opening game against Louisiana-Lafayette, Harris was ticketed by Athens-Clarke County police for a noise violation. This is the first ticket Harris has received in Athens.
Harris said he was playing on the corner of College Avenue and Clayton Street downtown when a couple of police officers walked up to him and informed him he was violating a noise ordinance. They gave him a ticket, and told him he would have to leave.

Harris said the noise ordinance is unfair to him and is in violation of his First Amendment rights.

“All street performers have protection in freedom of speech,” Harris said. “There are court cases that have set precedence protecting street performers.”

Harris’ claim was further confirmed by University law professor Randy Beck.

“The First Amendment protects freedom of speech which includes street musicians,” he said. “Governments can set limitations on the time, place and noise level of performing music as long as they are not discriminating against a performer because of lyrics or style.”

A noise violation is defined by the Athens-Clarke County Code of Ordinances as producing a plainly audible sound that can be heard more than 300 feet away between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. For the remaining hours, sound heard 100 feet away is prohibited.

Harris said the ordinance is too vague and it is not systematically enforced.

“I haven’t been too loud for them for the past 10 years. Why did they decide to ticket me now?” Harris said.

Harris is not the only Athens musician to be ticketed.

Saturday, Athens-Clarke County Police issued a ticket to another street performer in the same area where Harris was ticketed. Jason Elder, 31, was playing his guitar, harmonica and a cymbal attached to his shoe. He was cited and told police “there was no way he could play his music and stay within the guidelines of the ordinance.”

But Harris may not be packing up his buckets just yet.

He is seeking legal counsel in order to fight his citation.

However, this might be hard for Harris because of the exactness in time and distance of his specific case, Beck said.

“Right now, I will just have to pay the fine,” he said. “It’s too much trouble to fight without a lawyer.”

Police Report

Tags: Chriss Harris, Drew Hooks, Noise Ordinance, The Bucketman
Dunwoody woman tried again for murder

Dunwoody woman tried for murder again

Lona Scott admits she pulled the trigger eight times.

But no knows if she gunned down her husband in self defense or murdered him to gain control of his $5 million estate. No, one, but her.

During opening statements of her murder trial Tuesday, Assistant District Attorney John Melvin told jurors not to believe Lona Scott's contention that she feared for her life because her husband said he was going to kill her and then charged at her. She killed him in rage because he was hiding his considerable assets from her during their divorce, he said.

"When you shoot a naked man to death and he's unarmed, it's called a crime," Melvin told the jury. "It's murder."

Scott's lawyer, Brian Steel, countered that his 5-foot-4, 120-pound client was defending herself when her barrel-chested, 6-foot, 200-pound husband came at her shortly after 3 a.m. on March 4, 2008.

"Lona didn't want to die," Steel told jurors. "He was agile. He was fast. He was powerful."

This is the second time this year a DeKalb County jury is being asked to decide whether this is a case of murder or justifiable homicide. In February, a jury deadlocked on the murder charge and prosecutors are trying Lona Scott again.

Atlanta attorney Richard Deane, the former U.S. attorney here, said both sides have advantages in a retrial.

If jurors who heard the first trial informed the defense they had serious doubts about an important facet of the case or had questions that were never answered, the defense can build on that in the next go round, Deane said. Similarly, if jurors saw a significant weakness in the case, the prosecution can figure out how to address it this time.

University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson said that because Lona Scott testified during the first trial, prosecutors can build their case in anticipation of what she will say this time.

"And it will have potentially impeaching material if she strays from her testimony in the first trial," he said.

Lona Scott grew up with a twin sister in Ohio and moved with her family to Georgia, attending Parkview High School. A former gymnast, she excelled at taekwondo and helped with home renovation. She was pregnant with her first child when she and Cliff Scott married in February.
Clliff Scott, an engineer, was good with his hands, trained in martial arts and lifted weights almost daily. He typically rose at 3 a.m. to go to work and spent so much time on the job that he often slept in a makeshift apartment above his office off Moreland Avenue.

It had been the Scotts’ plan for Cliff Scott to earn as much money as possible and for her to raise their two daughters, Steel told the jury. But in October 2006, he said, Lona Scott found out that her husband had been having an affair. When she confronted him and told him to leave, he put her in a chokehold and threw her to the floor just as their daughter came into the room and cried out, Steel said.

A bitter divorce case ensued. In August 2007, the couple brokered a reconciliation agreement. Cliff Scott would deposit $1 million into her personal bank account and sign over the title of their $900,000 home. In return, she would let him return home and give him the chance to earn back her trust.

The couple got along fine over the next few months, Steel said, until Lona Scott filed a contempt motion, charging that her husband had not deposited the money into her account or signed over the home.

His mistress, Rhonda Arnold, a respiratory therapist, testified Tuesday that Cliff Scott called her three days before his death and told her about the contempt motion. He said he was soon leaving to the Bahamas for six months, she testified.

“He was moving his money, as much as he could, outside the United States,” Arnold said.

While he was gone, she said, the house would go into foreclosure, Arnold testified.

Arnold, who did not testify at the first trial, said she and Scott first met in 1998 and were intimate two weeks before the Scotts’ marriage. After that, she and Scott continued to talk almost daily for months and later began having an affair, she said.

She testified that Scott often complained to her about his wife’s lavish spending. He said he once had to put his wife in a headlock because she had been attacking him, Arnold said.

On March 3, 2008, Cliff Scott came home for the last time. Angry about the contempt motion, he was so rough with Lona Scott in bed she went to sleep with their younger daughter down the hall, Steel said. But she returned to the bedroom when he woke up and demanded more sex, which she refused, Steel said.

Melvin told jurors that was when Scott executed her husband. She likely fired one shot in his upper left chest and then two in his elbows, he said. As her husband fell and knelt before her, Lona Scott shot him in the head and then twice more in the upper back as he lay on the floor, Melvin said.

Steel disagreed, saying the forensic evidence will be consistent with his client’s testimony, that she fired the shots while he was charging at her.

In February, Lona Scott testified that after her husband reentered the bedroom, she told him their marriage was over. Like he’d done before, he put her in a chokehold, only to release her when she screamed out he would wake their 5-year-old daughter, she testified.

Lona Scott told jurors she grabbed her .22-caliber semi-automatic target pistol from a drawer next to her bed and retrieved her purse and car keys so she could take their daughter and leave. But Cliff Scott cornered her and said that because she was now holding a pistol, he had permission to kill her, she testified.

When he charged, she said, she fired once, striking him in the chest. Cliff Scott staggered but then charged again, so she opened fire again, she said.

Otherwise, she testified in February, “I’d be dead right now.”
HEADLINE: Pro & Con; Should a federal judge throw out a lawsuit by 20 states that claims President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul is unconstitutional?

BYLINE: For the AJC

Yes

Fazal R. Khan, professor specializing in health care law and policy at the University of Georgia School of Law

Twenty states have challenged whether the federal government can require individuals to carry health insurance or face a tax penalty. Opponents argue that refusing to buy insurance is not commercial activity and therefore outside federal authority. Legally these cases should be dismissed as Congress has two separate constitutional bases to pass this law, the powers to regulate interstate commerce and to tax.

Not buying health insurance is a decision that affects interstate commerce. In 2008, uncompensated care tallied $56 billion. This is not "free" care, it is paid for through higher premiums and taxes. Further, uncontrolled employee health benefit costs definitely put American corporations at a competitive disadvantage.

Lastly, taxes are often used to incentivize behavior (e.g., sin taxes). Without a mandate, people could game the system and only buy insurance once they got sick as new reforms guarantee issue to all and ban denials based on pre-existing conditions.

No

David G. Oedel, constitutional law professor at Mercer University School of Law, is deputy special attorney general for Georgia in its lawsuit against the federal health care law

Critics question whether the lawsuit has legal merit. It's true that congressional powers — whether to regulate commerce, to tax, or to spend — have often been left unchecked by the courts. But there must logically be some point at which constitutional limits are reached; where the doctrine of limited congressional power becomes real again.

The Constitution gives Congress discretion to regulate interstate commerce. It does not, however, give Congress the power to make citizens enter markets for health care services that they choose to avoid. The Constitution also is supposed to restrain the federal government's ability to spend in ways that strip the states of their integrity. Health care reform, however, forces states into a no-win situation: They have no practical option but to accept the often-clueless design of Medicaid, and spend large parts of their own budgets on it, just to continue the flow of federal funds to the poor.

Justice Benjamin Cardozo warned in 1937 that the use of the spending power would become unconstitutional at some point when and if the federal pressure on the states turned into compulsion. That time has arrived, and its face is health care reform.

Compiled and edited by Tom Sabulis, tsabulis@ajc.com

GRAPHIC: Photo: Fazal R. Khan, professor specializing in health care law and policy at the University of Georgia School of Law David G. Oedel, constitutional law professor at Mercer University School of Law, is deputy special attorney
general for Georgia in its lawsuit against the federal health care law

LOAD-DATE: September 16, 2010

**************** Print Completed ****************

Time of Request: Thursday, September 16, 2010 06:45:38 EST

Print Number: 2821:242013406
Number of Lines: 89
Number of Pages: 1

Send To: MURPHY, HEIDI
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LAW SCHOOL
HERTY & BOCOCK DRIVE
ATHENS, GA 30602-6018
The University of Georgia School of Law is participating in the "Robes in the Schools" program, which brings together a panel of judges to share their experiences, give advice and answer questions from students interested in the legal profession. The program will be held in Hirsch Hall, classroom B, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Sept. 30.

Chief Judge Patricia Barron from the Magistrate Court of Athens-Clarke County is participating in the program along with five Georgia Law alumni: Judge Janet F. King from the U.S. Magistrate Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Melodie Snell Conner from the Superior Court of Gwinnett County, Judge Doris L. "Dee" Downs from the Superior Court of Fulton County, Judge Susan B. Forsling from the State Court of Fulton County and Judge Stephen S. Goss from the Superior Court of Dougherty County.

"We are extremely proud to host this program with six impressive judges, five of whom are our alumni," Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Paul M. Kurtz said. "I'm sure that students will gain a new appreciation for and a better understanding of the legal profession in general and the role of a judge in particular."

The six-judge panel will speak to students about their paths to law school and the bench and share strategies and tips for success in the legal field. The program will be moderated by Georgia Law Hosch Professor Julian A. Cook III.

This program will be one of more than 40 presentations that will take place at law schools, colleges and high schools throughout the metropolitan Atlanta area and in select counties throughout the state of Georgia on Sept. 30. It is sponsored by Just the Beginning Foundation, which strives to develop and nurture interest in the law among young persons from various ethnic backgrounds underrepresented in the legal profession and to support their continued advancement. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: September 16, 2010
UGA cops swarm law school after mistaken gunman sighting

By Ty Tagami and Chip Towers
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

5:18 p.m. Thursday, September 16, 2010

ATHENS -- University of Georgia police responded with guns drawn to a campus center Thursday, but the report of a gunman there turned out to be false, UGA officials told the AJC.

"You yell 'gun' on a college campus and you're going to get some police," said campus Police Chief Jimmy Williamson. He said as many as 20 patrolman and detectives, some toting rifles, rushed to the Dean Rusk Center -- part of the law school -- after someone reported seeing a gunman there.

It turns out that people thought they'd seen a former graduate student who allegedly threatened a professor, Williamson said. The alleged threat is being investigated, added the chief. He will not identify the individual unless charges are filed, possibly Friday.

UGA spokesman Tom Jackson told the AJC that police determined that the alleged gunman already was in jail.

They reached that determination after arriving at the law school, Williamson explained. "The one we thought was the gunman wasn't even there," he said. "The rifles were out, so I'm sure people might have thought it was a SWAT team."

The chief said the individual who was thought to be a gunman was sitting in jail for violating a bench warrant, meaning he probably failed to appear in court. Williamson said he did not know what charge the person was facing but said it was unrelated to Thursday morning's scare or the alleged threat.

He said he was not bothered that a rumor led to the deployment of his officers. "I'd much rather have that happen than them not call us," he said.

Find this article at:
Attorney Phaedra C. Parks is in hot demand these days. She's been invited to speak, sit and appear in everything from classrooms to boards to television. Recently the Georgia-based lawyer was invited to speak to a group of entertainment law students at The University of Georgia School of Law in September. She has also been invited to serve another 2 years on the prestigious board of Georgia's Law School Alumni Council. The university is widely recognized as one of the 50 best law schools in the nation. As a board member one of her many duties is to help choose the best students to attend the school as well as award scholarships to deserving recipients. Parks believes action speaks louder than words and doesn't hesitate to roll up her sleeves and get involved. "Everyone deserves an opportunity to succeed as everyone deserves the right to good counsel," she shares. Every year Parks donates at least $10,000 of her own money to schools and hardworking underprivileged future lawyers.

Having made a name for herself as an attorney, the TV network Bravo just announced that the southern intellectual beauty has become the latest to join the cast of their hugely popular TV show, the Real Housewives of Atlanta. The show is in its third season. The program returns on October 4, 2010 at 9PM ET/PT.

Phaedra Parks is an entertainment attorney and television show producer (BET's The Tiny and Toya Show). She is the Managing Partner of The Parks Group, P.C., an Atlanta-based boutique law firm. Her practice areas include Entertainment Law, Civil and Criminal Litigation.

Parks served as a legal analyst for NBC and Fox News regarding the Michael Jackson trial and has been featured and recognized nationally on Entertainment Tonight, Celebrity Justice, EXTRA, Court TV and the local news for her handling of several high profile clients and cases. She has also been featured in numerous media publications, which include Newsweek, People, JET, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, The New York Times and more.

Keywords: Entertainment, Phaedra Parks. This article was prepared by Entertainment Newsweekly editors from staff and other reports. Copyright 2010, Entertainment Newsweekly via VerticalNews.com.

LOAD-DATE: September 8, 2010
Georgia capital cases in Supreme Court's crosshairs

Associated Press
Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 10:51 AM
Last updated 9:06 PM

ATLANTA - The U.S. Supreme Court has stepped into four Georgia death penalty cases in the last year or so, and it could yet again intervene — this time over a defendant who said he languished in jail because the state couldn't pay his lawyers.

It's the latest test for Georgia's justice system, which has come under scrutiny in recent years. The state's new public defender program has had funding trouble ever since the $3 million Atlanta courthouse shootings trial, and the Georgia Supreme Court has been criticized for not reviewing death penalty appeals closely enough.

In this case, Jaime Ryan Weis, who is accused of killing a 73-year-old woman, argues there was a "complete breakdown" in the system when he sat in jail without an attorney for more than two years. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide after a closed-door conference Sept. 27 whether it wants to intervene.

"It's especially surprising because this Supreme Court is not an anti-death penalty court," said Donald E. Wilkes Jr., a University of Georgia Law School professor who specializes in death penalty cases. "Maybe they think that Georgia is giving the death penalty a bad name, if that's possible."

But Weis' case may not be as simple as he claims. Prosecutors said Weis was never without legal representation, though they concede his lawyers were limited by a funding shortfall.

"The Georgia Supreme Court properly determined there was not a systemic breakdown in the indigent defense system in Georgia," Beth Burton, a senior Georgia assistant attorney general, said in arguments.

Weis was charged in the February 2006 killing of Catherine King, by blunt force injuries and two gunshot wounds to the head during a robbery. He has pleaded not guilty.

Two private attorneys were appointed to represent him, but when the state couldn't afford to pay them, a judge ordered two public defenders even though they said they had overwhelming caseloads.

After Weis refused to work with them, appellate attorneys from the Southern Center for Human Rights took up his case for free, and argued his right to a speedy trial was violated.

The Georgia Supreme Court rejected the speedy trial appeal in March in a 4-3 ruling, finding that Weis played a key role in the delays. His new attorneys then asked the U.S. Supreme Court to step in.

The case has taken a toll on Weis. He has attempted to commit suicide three times, and his attorney Steven Bright said Weis has told the judge several times he wanted to give up the legal fight and go to trial, only to change his mind.

"He can't sleep. He's a nervous wreck. And amid all this uncertainty, not having a lawyer just made everything worse," said Bright, the president of the Atlanta-based center. "Even for a normal person facing the death penalty, being able to talk to a lawyer about our legal plight would be critical. But for somebody who is mentally ill, to go without a lawyer is agonizing."

Weis' attorneys blame the funding shortfall on the Georgia Legislature's decision to divert $30 million raised from court fines and fees from the public defender system to the state's general fund.

Weis' dilemma is the most immediate in a string of capital cases scrutinized by the nation's highest court, which sent a warning of sorts in October 2008 when Justice John Paul Stevens wrote a scathing opinion that said the Georgia Supreme Court carried out an "utterly perfunctory" review of a death penalty case.

In the most high-profile case, the court in August 2009 granted death row inmate Troy Davis a rare hearing to test his claims that he was wrongly convicted of the 1989 slaying of an off-duty police officer. After the hearing, a federal judge ruled the new evidence amounted to little more than "smoke and mirrors," but his attorneys are appealing and the case could again wind up before the nation's high court.

The top court also asked a federal appeals court in May to review the case of Lawrence Joseph Jefferson, a death
row inmate convicted of beating a co-worker to death in 1985 with a tree limb.

Jefferson claims his lawyers failed to investigate a traumatic head injury he suffered as a child.

A month later, the Supreme Court ordered Georgia judges to consider claims that DeMarcus Ali Sears' defense lawyers mishandled his death penalty case. Sears was sentenced to death for kidnapping and then raping and killing 59-year-old Gloria Wilbur.

Perhaps the most unusual cases, though, came in January when a divided U.S. Supreme Court ordered the appeals court to review a 1993 Georgia death penalty case because of allegations that a juror sent raunchy gifts made of chocolate to the judge and a courtroom bailiff at the end of the trial.

The court ruled 5-4 to set aside an appeals court ruling that upheld a death sentence against Marcus Wellons, who was convicted and sentenced to death for raping and strangling a 15-year-old.
Report of gun at UGA turns out to be mistaken

By JOE JOHNSON - jojohnson@onlineathens.com
Published Friday, September 17, 2010

Heavily armed police officers swarmed North Campus at the University of Georgia on Thursday morning on a mistaken report that a man brandished a gun in a law school building, UGA police said.

People who called in the report apparently were skittish after a former student threatened a law professor two days earlier, and someone thought he or she saw that man in the law school’s Dean Rusk Center shortly after 10:30 a.m., according to police.

The campus rumor mill got going, and the story morphed from a person seeing the former student into a report that the former student was packing a gun, UGA police Chief Jimmy Williamson said.

“It was basically people talking about the situation between the student and faculty member, and it grew on us,” Williamson said. “We’re living in a time when people are ultra-sensitive.”

Although officers responded to a false alarm, the police chief said people who phoned in did the right thing.

“I think everyone acted in good faith, and I applaud those people for calling,” he said. “I’d rather for us to respond to an emergency and find out it’s not an emergency.”

The former student at the center of Thursday’s scare last attended the law school during the summer session, Williamson said. He phoned a professor Tuesday and left a “specific message threatening to do him bodily harm,” he said.

Athens-Clarke police picked up the former student on criminal warrants in an unrelated matter Wednesday and booked him into the Clarke County Jail.

“We called the jail to find out if he had been released, and when we found out he was still there, that kind of relieved the situation for us,” Williamson said.
Ga. capital cases in US Supreme Court crosshairs

By GREG BLUESTEIN
The Associated Press

11:17 a.m. Friday, September 17, 2010

ATLANTA — The U.S. Supreme Court has stepped into four Georgia death penalty cases in the last year or so, and it could yet again intervene — this time over a defendant who said he languished in jail because the state couldn't pay his lawyers.

It's the latest test for Georgia's justice system, which has come under scrutiny in recent years. The state's new public defender program has had funding trouble ever since the $3 million Atlanta courthouse shootings trial, and the Georgia Supreme Court has been criticized for not reviewing death penalty appeals closely enough.

In this case, Jaime Ryan Weis, who is accused of killing a 73-year-old woman, argues there was a "complete breakdown" in the system when he sat in jail without an attorney for more than two years. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide after a closed-door conference Sept. 27 whether it wants to intervene.

"It's especially surprising because this Supreme Court is not an anti-death penalty court," said Donald E. Wilkes Jr., a University of Georgia Law School professor who specializes in death penalty cases. "Maybe they think that Georgia is giving the death penalty a bad name, if that's possible."

But Weis' case may not be as simple as he claims. Prosecutors said Weis was never without legal representation, though they concede his lawyers were limited by a funding shortfall.

"The Georgia Supreme Court properly determined there was not a systemic breakdown in the indigent defense system in Georgia," Beth Burton, a senior Georgia assistant attorney general, said in arguments.

Weis was charged in the February 2006 killing of Catherine King, by blunt force injuries and two gunshot wounds to the head during a robbery. He has pleaded not guilty.

Two private attorneys were appointed to represent him, but when the state couldn't afford to pay them, a judge ordered two public defenders even though they said they had overwhelming caseloads. After Weis refused to work with them, appellate attorneys from the Southern Center for Human Rights took up his case for free, and argued his right to a speedy trial was violated.

The Georgia Supreme Court rejected the speedy trial appeal in March in a 4-3 ruling, finding that Weis played a key role in the delays. His new attorneys then asked the U.S. Supreme Court to step in.

The case has taken a toll on Weis. He has attempted to commit suicide three times, and his attorney
Steven Bright said Weis has told the judge several times he wanted to give up the legal fight and go to trial, only to change his mind.

"He can't sleep. He's a nervous wreck. And amid all this uncertainty, not having a lawyer just made everything worse," said Bright, the president of the Atlanta-based center. "Even for a normal person facing the death penalty, being able to talk to a lawyer about our legal plight would be critical. But for somebody who is mentally ill, to go without a lawyer is agonizing."

Weis' attorneys blame the funding shortfall on the Georgia Legislature's decision to divert $30 million raised from court fines and fees from the public defender system to the state's general fund.

Weis' dilemma is the most immediate in a string of capital cases scrutinized by the nation's highest court, which sent a warning of sorts in October 2008 when Justice John Paul Stevens wrote a scathing opinion that said the Georgia Supreme Court carried out an "utterly perfunctory" review of a death penalty case.

In the most high-profile case, the court in August 2009 granted death row inmate Troy Davis a rare hearing to test his claims that he was wrongfully convicted of the 1989 slaying of an off-duty police officer. After the hearing, a federal judge ruled the new evidence amounted to little more than "smoke and mirrors," but his attorneys are appealing and the case could again wind up before the nation's high court.

The top court also asked a federal appeals court in May to review the case of Lawrence Joseph Jefferson, a death row inmate convicted of beating a co-worker to death in 1985 with a tree limb. Jefferson claims his lawyers failed to investigate a traumatic head injury he suffered as a child.

A month later, the Supreme Court ordered Georgia judges to consider claims that DeMarcus Ali Sears' defense lawyers mishandled his death penalty case. Sears was sentenced to death for kidnapping and then raping and killing 59-year-old Gloria Wilbur.

Perhaps the most unusual cases, though, came in January when a divided U.S. Supreme Court ordered the appeals court to review a 1993 Georgia death penalty case because of allegations that a juror sent raunchy gifts made of chocolate to the judge and a courtroom bailiff at the end of the trial.

The court ruled 5-4 to set aside an appeals court ruling that upheld a death sentence against Marcus Wellons, who was convicted and sentenced to death for raping and strangling a 15-year-old.

Online:

http://www.supremecourt.gov/

September 17, 2010 11:17 AM EDT

Copyright 2010, The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Atlanta Firm Disbands Due to Judicial Aspirations

Meredith Hobbs
Fulton County Daily Report
09-17-2010

Two partners' decisions to pursue judgeships and a lease that expires in December have prompted the four partners in Atlanta's Holland Schaeffer Roddenbery Blitch to dissolve the litigation firm founded by Charles M. Kidd in 1971. The firm will disband at the end of the year.

David N. Schaeffer is running for an open seat on the Georgia Court of Appeals, and James D. Blitch IV is pursuing an appointment for a vacancy on the State Court of Fulton County, which came open after the state court's chief judge, A.L. Thompson, resigned on Sept. 6.

Gwenn D. Holland and Tina S. Roddenbery will form their own shop, Holland Roddenbery, in January. Holland handles primarily family law as well as trusts and estates and business litigation. Roddenbery's practice is all family law.

"This is the end of our firm together, after almost 40 years," said Shaeffer. The firm updated its name from Kidd & Vaughan to Holland Schaeffer Roddenbery Blitch at the beginning of 2009 after the retirement of Woodrow W. Vaughan Jr. Kidd died of cancer in 1994.

"At this point in our careers, especially with my attempt to move onto the bench, it makes sense to separate out our practice areas," Shaeffer said. His practice, like Blitch's, is business litigation and personal injury.

"To some degree that's sad, but I am very supportive of Tina and Gwenn. I wish them all the luck and success in the world, and we will always be great friends," added Shaeffer, who has spent his career at the firm, since 1981.

Despite the crowded field, Shaeffer said his plan is to be a state Court of Appeals judge next year. "I feel like it's going very well," he said of the race. The five other candidates for the post are Decatur, Ga., lawyer Christopher J. McFadden, Atlanta lawyers James A. Babalola, Antoinette "Toni" Davis and Adrienne Hunter-Strothers and Enotah Circuit District Attorney N. Stanley Gunter.

Blitch said he decided to pursue an appointment for Fulton County State Court after learning last month that Thompson would be resigning. "I have for a long time had quiet aspirations to serve as a trial court judge," he said.

"At the same time, I am also excited about other opportunities in front of me to continue my business litigation practice. I am actively pursuing those opportunities as well, not knowing at this time whom Gov. Perdue will choose to appoint," added Blitch, who's practiced with the firm for 10 years.

"All the partners are equally excited for each other and our futures," he said. "We all are very close and have the highest respect for each other."

Roddenbery said she and Holland are looking at office space in Atlanta's Buckhead district. Lucy M. Martin, an associate from Holland Shaeffer, is joining them. They plan to hire another associate, two paralegals and a secretary-receptionist.

The move will be a big change, since the two have spent their entire careers at their current firm downtown. Kidd hired Holland in 1977 and then Roddenbery in 1987. Both had clerked there while in law school.

Holland and Roddenbery said their partners' judicial aspirations and the end of their lease sparked the decision to move to Buckhead from their current location at 191 Peachtree Street. "It was the perfect opportunity to practice together," said Holland.

Buckhead is a more convenient location for their clients, Roddenbery said, adding that only a couple of family lawyers still practice downtown and most have migrated to the north side of town.

Holland and Roddenbery started out as general civil litigators and their practices evolved into family law over the years.
Roddenbery said that when she joined the firm in 1987 from the University of Georgia Law School, she was the only associate for four partners, so she worked on all their cases.

"Charles Kidd was a tremendous trial lawyer," she said. He passed on a lot of family law cases to her, she said, which is how she developed her practice. "It's been a wonderful experience. I've been fortunate," Roddenbery said.

Holland, who is the most senior of the Holland Shaeffer Roddenbery Blitch partners, became the firm's first female lawyer after Kidd hired her for a clerkship in 1976 while a student at Emory University School of Law. "He was an incredible mentor," she said. "And people who practiced against him adored him and respected him."

An unexpected turn of events caused Kidd to bring her on. Holland recalled that he had visited his alma mater, the University of Virginia Law School, to interview prospective new lawyers. He'd put only men on his interview list, and the law school's administrators asked him why he wasn't considering any women. Women couldn't be litigators, Kidd told them.

Holland said UVA Law temporarily suspended him from interviewing on campus, which was upsetting to the proud UVA graduate. To get back into UVA's good graces, she said, Kidd hired two Emory law students as clerks -- a man to do the litigating and her to handle the other work.

Holland said her clerkship caused Kidd to change his mind about women's litigation capabilities, and he hired her as an associate. She became a partner in 1984 and has been there ever since. "At one point he went around bragging that 50 percent of his partners were women," she recalled fondly.

All four partners are active in the legal community. Schaeffer is the past president of the Atlanta Bar Association, and Blitch currently serves as the chair of the Atlanta Bar's litigation section.

Roddenbery is the past chair of the State Bar of Georgia's family law section and has been a member of the bar's board of governors since 1995. She is also a member of the board of trustees of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and involved in her children's schools, serving on the boards of Trinity School and The Schenck School.

Holland is the program chair for The Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law American Inn of Court and on the editorial board of "The Mortmain," the newsletter of the Atlanta Bar's estate planning and probate section. She has also served several terms on the board of her synagogue and is an avid hiker.
ATLANTA - The US Supreme Court has stepped into four Georgia death penalty cases in the last year or so, and it could intervene again - this time over a defendant who said he languished in jail because the state couldn't pay his lawyers.

It's the latest test for Georgia's justice system, which has come under scrutiny in recent years. The state's new public defender program has had funding trouble ever since it spent $3 million in 2008 defending Brian Nichols, the man convicted of killing a judge, court reporter, sheriff's deputy, and federal agent during a 2005 rampage at an Atlanta courthouse. And the Georgia Supreme Court has been criticized for not reviewing death penalty appeals closely enough.

In this case, Jamie Ryan Weis, who is accused of killing a 73-year-old woman, said there was a "complete breakdown" in the system when he sat in jail without a lawyer for more than two years. The US Supreme Court could decide after a closed-door conference Sept. 27 whether it wants to intervene.

"It's especially surprising because this Supreme Court is not an anti-death penalty court," said Donald E. Wilkes Jr., a University of Georgia Law School professor who specializes in death penalty cases. "Maybe they think that Georgia is giving the death penalty a bad name, if that's possible."

But Weis's case may not be as simple as he asserts. Prosecutors said Weis was never without legal representation, though they concede his lawyers were limited by a funding shortfall.

"The Georgia Supreme Court properly determined there was not a systemic breakdown in the indigent defense system in Georgia," Beth Burton, a senior Georgia assistant attorney general, said in arguments.

Weis was charged in the February 2006 killing of Catherine King, slain by blunt force injuries and two gunshot wounds to the head during a robbery. He has pleaded not guilty.

Two private lawyers were appointed to represent him, but when the state couldn't afford to pay them, a judge ordered two public defenders even though they said they had overwhelming caseloads.

After Weis refused to work with them, appellate lawyers from the Southern Center for Human Rights took up his case for free, and said his right to a speedy trial was violated.

The Georgia Supreme Court rejected the speedy trial appeal in March in a 4-to-3 ruling, finding that Weis played a key role in the delays. His new lawyers then asked the US Supreme Court to step in.
Weis has reportedly attempted suicide three times.

"He can't sleep. He's a nervous wreck. And amid all this uncertainty, not having a lawyer just made everything worse," said Steven Bright, his lawyer and president of the Atlanta-based center.

"Even for a normal person facing the death penalty, being able to talk to a lawyer about our legal plight would be critical. But for somebody who is mentally ill, to go without a lawyer is agonizing."

Weis's lawyers blame the funding shortfall on the Georgia Legislature's decision to divert $30 million raised from court fines and fees from the public defender system to the state's general fund.

Weis's dilemma is the most immediate in a string of capital cases scrutinized by the nation's highest court, which sent a warning of sorts in October 2008 when Justice John Paul Stevens wrote an opinion that said the Georgia Supreme Court carried out an "utterly perfunctory" review of a death penalty case.

LOAD-DATE: September 18, 2010

******** Print Completed *********

Time of Request: Sunday, September 19, 2010 06:35:53 EST

Print Number: 2841:242470737
Number of Lines: 55
Number of Pages: 1
Athens native Cox is new riverkeeper

Published Sunday, September 19, 2010

Athens native Sonja Cox is the new riverkeeper for The Altamaha riverkeeper. She will be replacing founding Riverkeeper James Holland, who retired in May.

Cox graduated magna cum laude from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia and graduated cum laude from UGA’s School of Law, where she studied courses in environmental law, natural resources law, as well as local government law and land-use law.

Her professional career includes work as an assistant district attorney, a solo legal practice in residential and commercial real estate, and litigation experience at several large Atlanta firms. Her most recent job was assistant county attorney for Douglas County.

Comments - Please Read Before Posting:

We love our readers at OnlineAthens.com, so we’re giving you a soapbox. In return for giving you a place to speak your opinion, we simply ask you to adhere to a few guidelines. We expect our commenters to have lively discussions, but racist, hate-filled, harassing or libelous comments will not be tolerated. Please read our Terms of Service for full guidelines. Comments are not edited and don’t represent the views of the Athens Banner-Herald.

Our commenting Web site is AthensTalks.com

Most Popular Articles

UGA police say manager stole $218K
Urologist accused of drugging, raping patients
Athens doctor facing rape charge
Depot dead after arrest in evidence inves
After noise citations, some sidewalk music
Country come to town
The red and black in a competition to see ...
 Vet school expansion could begin in a year
Tight ends patiently waiting for chance
A rocking farewell for the Navy School

PHIL Hughes HONDA

HURRY IN TODAY! 
Come test drive an All New Accord, Civic or CRZ.

RATES AS LOW AS 1.9%
APR Available...
FOR 60 MONTHS ALL NEW 2010 AND 2011 ACCORDS

Owner
The 2010 Honda Accord
706-549-3530 • 3200 Atlanta Highway

TOP JOBS

Drivers/Owner
Operators $2,000 No Hassle Sign-On Bonus...

Mechanic Position
Position involves general machining...

University of Georgia Tifton Campus Program Coordinator...
RESEARCH NEWS

By Denise H. Horton

When a parent who is in the military is deployed, adolescents need to know who they can count on, according to findings by researchers at UGA and Virginia Tech. “Families that have a parent deployed confirmed was the pivotal role of parents in helping their children cope. Consequently programs targeted at youth need to also account for their family relationships.”

The study, conducted in 2008, included interviews with 85 adolescents ranging in age from 11 to 18, many of whom were attending Operation Homefront's Heroes Camp in 2007. The participants were deployed. How the participants learned of the pending deployment, their interactions with their parents prior to, during and following deployment, the support of extended family members, and how family roles evolved were all discussed by the participants. Adolescents who seemed to have coped best with deployment tended to

Double duty

UGA research shows predictability, authenticity crucial for adolescents of deployed military parents

By Denise H. Horton

When a parent who is in the military is deployed, adolescents need to know who they can count on, according to findings by researchers at UGA and Virginia Tech. “Families that have a parent deployed confirmed was the pivotal role of parents in helping their children cope. Consequently programs targeted at youth need to also account for their family relationships.”

The study, conducted in 2008, included interviews with 85 adolescents ranging in age from 11 to 18, many of whom were attending Operation Homefront's Heroes Camp in 2007. The participants were deployed. How the participants learned of the pending deployment, their interactions with their parents prior to, during and following deployment, the support of extended family members, and how family roles evolved were all discussed by the participants. Adolescents who seemed to have coped best with deployment tended to

Double duty

UGA research shows predictability, authenticity crucial for adolescents of deployed military parents

By Denise H. Horton

When a parent who is in the military is deployed, adolescents need to know who they can count on, according to findings by researchers at UGA and Virginia Tech. “Families that have a parent deployed confirmed was the pivotal role of parents in helping their children cope. Consequently programs targeted at youth need to also account for their family relationships.”

The study, conducted in 2008, included interviews with 85 adolescents ranging in age from 11 to 18, many of whom were attending Operation Homefront's Heroes Camp in 2007. The participants were deployed. How the participants learned of the pending deployment, their interactions with their parents prior to, during and following deployment, the support of extended family members, and how family roles evolved were all discussed by the participants. Adolescents who seemed to have coped best with deployment tended to
Gwinnett's largest law firm adds new partner

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (September 21, 2010) - Andersen, Tate & Carr, P.C., Gwinnett County's largest full-service law firm, is pleased to announce that it has elected R. Matthew "Matt" Reeves as a member of the firm.

"Matt Reeves fights tenaciously for his clients in court, but he also finds the time to make meaningful contributions to our community and the legal profession," says Tom Tate, managing partner of Andersen, Tate & Carr, P.C.

Matt Reeves is a veteran business, real estate, and probate litigation attorney at Andersen, Tate & Carr, P.C. He is the President-Elect of the Gwinnett County Bar Association and was counsel to the House Judiciary Committee during the 2008 Georgia General Assembly. Matt graduated with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law and Mercer University. He and his wife, Suzette, have three young children and reside in Duluth. Reeves is optimistic about the future of Gwinnett County and the firm, in part because he interviewed with the firm as a law student the week after September 11, 2001 and remembers witnessing the post-9/11 recovery in the area after extremely dark days.

Andersen, Tate & Carr, P.C. has 26 attorneys and is known for its full-service approach to legal services. The firm's attorneys handle a wide range of legal matters including civil litigation, real estate, business law, corporate finance, employment law, estate planning and probate, family law, personal injury and criminal defense. As a full-service firm, Andersen, Tate & Carr is equipped to comprehensively address any issue with a team approach. More information about the firm is available online at www.atclawfirm.com.

E-mail: weeklypub1@comcast.net

powered by: Dragonfly Servers Network
Back to Top
Sept. 21—For the first time in 16 years, Brunswick Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Amanda Williams heard Monday from an opponent who says she can do a better job from the bench.

The challenge came from Mary Helen Moses, an attorney who entered the public spotlight in her role as co-counsel in the effort to block the expansion of the Glynn County Jail in downtown Brunswick. Moses said changes need to be made to make the court system more efficient and transparent to alleviate the current backlog of cases.

Six weeks out from the Nov. 2 election, Williams, 63, and Moses, 57, spoke to a crowd of about 60, mostly seniors, at a candidates' forum on St. Simons Island hosted by Residents United for Planning and Action, a nonprofit, grassroots community action group. The Brunswick Judicial Circuit includes Glynn, Appling, Camden, Jeff Davis and Wayne counties.

Both candidates gave a five minute opening speech that highlighted their personal and professional backgrounds and explained why they decided to run for the judgeship.

Williams, a longtime resident of Glynn County with 20 years of judicial experience, talked about her role in bringing drug courts to the circuit in 1998.

She cited an audit, which said drug courts saved the state $169 million during a three-year period and that every dollar spent on drug courts saved $7.

"In the drug court program, what you try to do is give people a way to learn how to stay clean and sober and away from drugs," Williams said. "You try to get lifestyle changes you try to get them to have a job, safe housing, get education and G.E.D.s and give back to the community, and end up being taxpayers instead of tax users, and hopefully change lives."

Meanwhile, Moses, who studied at the University of Georgia School of Law and the Georgetown University Law Center and has more than 32 years of experience representing plaintiffs and defendants before federal and state trial and appellate courts, said her time practicing in places across the country from New York to Florida gives her insight into how to improve the local courts.

"We need to institute some kind of technology to make our courts more user friendly and give them more transparency about where cases are going and how they are getting there," said Moses, a Glynn County resident since 1999, who has also taught law.

Moses voiced concerns with the way drug courts are handled. Particularly, she
took issue with "the lack of discretion" that mandatory sentencing and minimum bail imposes.

"Judges are generally supposed to exercise discretion in terms of setting bond and in terms of sentencing," Moses said.

"A rigid rule to be followed is not appropriate."

Williams defended the mandatory minimum sentences and stressed that they only apply for those who refuse the option for treatment or someone dealing drugs.

That approach, Williams argued, creates an "environment to make drug addicts want to come into our system and get the help that they need."

To see more of The Brunswick News or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to http://www.thebrunswicknews.com/. Copyright (c) 2010, The Brunswick News, Ga. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For more information about the content services offered by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services (MCT), visit www.mctinfoservices.com, e-mail services@mctinfoservices.com, or call 866-280-5210 (outside the United States, call +1 312-222-4544).

LOAD-DATE: September 21, 2010
honor and pleasure for all of us at Jefferies. His wisdom and counsel supported our strategy and our actions, and we thank him for all he has given us," said Brian P. Friedman, Chairman, Executive Committee. "We welcome Mike Sharp to Jefferies and look forward to continuing to build our firm with his guidance and leadership."

Mr. Sharp joins Jefferies from WilmerHale, where he had been a partner in the Securities Department since March 2009 and focused on securities litigation and enforcement matters related to that firm's broker-dealer and financial-services practices. Prior to that, Mr. Sharp spent 12 years at Citigroup, where he served as General Counsel for Global Wealth Management, Consumer Banking and Global Cards.

Mr. Sharp has been involved in nearly all aspects of the financial-services industry. After earning his MBA from Cornell University, Mr. Sharp traded US Treasury Bonds and related instruments for seven years before getting his JD from the University of Georgia Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. Following a clerkship on the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Mr. Sharp was a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore for five years before joining Citigroup.

Jefferies, a global securities and investment banking firm, has served companies and their investors for more than 48 years. Jefferies & Company, Inc. is the principal US operating subsidiary of Jefferies Group, Inc. (NYSE: JEF: www.jefferies.com ), and Jefferies International Limited is the principal UK operating subsidiary. Jefferies International Limited, a UK-incorporated company, is authorised and regulated by the UK Financial Services Authority.

CONTACT: Jefferies
Tom Tarrant, 203-708-5989
ttarrant@jefferies.com
or
Desiree Maghoo, 44 20 7029 8085
dmaghoo@jefferies.com
or
CJP Communications
Josh Passman, 212-279-3115, x203
jpassman@cjpcom.com

URL: http://www.businesswire.com

LOAD-DATE: September 22, 2010

********** Print Completed **********

Time of Request: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 06:45:20 EST

Print Number: 1823:243082090
Number of Lines: 111
Number of Pages: 1
Jeffries Group Inc. announced today that Michael J. Sharp has been named Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary. He will assume these positions for both Jefferies Group, Inc. and its principal operating subsidiary, Jefferies & Company, Inc. effective November 26, 2010. Mr. Sharp will replace Lloyd H. Feller, who will retire at the end of the year following eight years of service in the position.

"Lloyd Feller has played an integral role in what has been a very dynamic period in our industry during which our firm experienced significant growth and development. His contributions are many, and we deeply appreciate his tireless efforts," commented Richard B. Handler, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Jefferies. "We are very pleased to welcome our new partner, Mike Sharp, who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to Jefferies at this critical time of ongoing growth and change for our firm and our industry. His extensive and varied background in the securities, investment banking and broker-dealer communities will be invaluable to our capitalizing on future opportunities," added Mr. Handler.

"Working with Lloyd Feller these past eight years has been an exceptional honor and pleasure for all of us at Jefferies. His wisdom and counsel supported our strategy and our actions, and we thank him for all he has given us," said Brian P. Friedman, Chairman, Executive Committee. "We welcome Mike Sharp to Jefferies and look forward to continuing to build our firm with his guidance and leadership."

Mr. Sharp joins Jefferies from WilmerHale, where he had been a partner in the Securities Department since March 2009 and focused on securities litigation and enforcement matters related to that firm’s broker-dealer and financial-services practices. Prior to that, Mr. Sharp spent 12 years at Citigroup, where he served as General Counsel for Global Wealth Management, Consumer Banking and Global Cards.

Mr. Sharp has been involved in nearly all aspects of the financial-services industry. After earning his MBA from Cornell University, Mr. Sharp traded US Treasury Bonds and related instruments for seven years before getting his JD from the University of Georgia Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. Following a clerkship on the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Mr. Sharp was a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore for five years before joining Citigroup.

Jefferies, a global securities and investment banking firm, has served companies and their investors for more than 48 years. Jefferies & Company, Inc. is the principal US operating subsidiary of Jefferies Group, Inc. (NYSE: JEF: www.jefferies.com), and Jefferies International Limited is the principal UK operating subsidiary. Jefferies International Limited, a UK-incorporated company, is authorised and regulated by the UK Financial Services Authority.

Jefferies

Tom Tarrant, 203-708-5989
ttarrant@jefferies.com
Georgia Equality announces endorsements in upcoming election

BY DIANA BAGBY
TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2010 7:00

Georgia Equality announced today some of its endorsements in the Nov. 2 election, saying it would make more endorsements in the near future.

"The endorsed candidates below have demonstrated their support of the LGBT community and they need your support now," said Jeff Graham, executive director of Georgia Equality, in a press release about the endorsements.

Graham said Georgia Equality is still accepting surveys from judicial candidates and statewide candidates in certain races and will make additional endorsements in the near future.

All information about the candidates is taken from the Georgia Equality press release announcing its endorsements:

Joan Garner: District 6 - Fulton County Commission
http://www.garnerforcommissioner.com

"I am honored and humbled to have the early support of Georgia Equality, which serves an important function for the LGBT community and for the community at large," says Garner in a statement, who is running for the seat currently held by Nancy Ballard, who after 23 years on the Commission has announced her decision not to seek a sixth term. "This endorsement recognizes that my work with the LGBT community and broader communities can be extended, representing all of us in addressing the crucial issues of Fulton County, including public safety, public health, transportation and more."

Joan Garner is a long time community leader and non-profit executive. In addition to her non-profit leadership career within organizations supporting social justice, Garner's more than 20-year civic resume includes 12 years of direct service to Fulton County, on the boards of the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library, the Library's Foundation and on the Fulton County Arts Council (on which she continues to serve). As long ago as 1999 she served on the transition team for Mayor-elect Maynard Jackson, who later appointed Garner a senior adviser on gay and lesbian issues; in doing so, he set a precedent of gay community input directly at the mayoral level. Recently, she advised Mayor Kasim Reed's transition efforts.

"One of the reasons I entered this race is to ensure that this diverse community continues to prosper," Garner said in the release, "and that it does so with the active participation of people from all walks of life across District 6 and beyond. I look forward to accomplishing that in partnership with Georgia Equality."

A Washington, D.C., native, Garner has been in Atlanta since 1978, making her home in various neighborhoods across the district. She now resides in the historic Old Fourth Ward neighborhood with her partner of 11 years.

Garner defeated Kesha Waltz in a runoff for this seat in the Democratic primary and faces no Republican opposition on Nov. 2. She will become the first openly gay Fulton County Commissioner.

Maryline Blackburn - State House District 34

http://www.votemarylineblackburn.com/home

Maryline Blackburn has lived in Georgia for the past 24 years. She has volunteered with organizations such as Go Red for Women, Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Alliance, Lifespan, Senior Resource Centers, March of Dimes, Smyrna Senior Citizens, Chastain Horse Park Therapeutic Program, Habitat of Georgia, Hands on Atlanta, the American Red Cross and many others. She has worked in sales, marketing, management fields and is currently recording her fourth album.

In 1984, she competed in and won the Miss Alaska Pageant where Sarah Palin was the second runner-up. Maryline then went on to represent Alaska in the Miss America Pageant, where she won a finalist talent award and was asked to tour with the Department of Defense (DOD) and USA Traveling, featuring

[Related Most read Recent comments]

Sen. Reid in Thompson's visit to 'Fox News': 'It's not enough'

Recent comments
- Sen. Jim Webb says 'It's not enough'
- Sen. Reid in Thompson's visit to 'Fox News': 'It's not enough'
- Sen. Reid in Thompson's visit to 'Fox News': 'It's not enough'
- Sen. Reid in Thompson's visit to 'Fox News': 'It's not enough'
- Sen. Reid in Thompson's visit to 'Fox News': 'It's not enough'

[Add your comments here]
Georgia Equality announces endorsements in upcoming election

Bob Hope:
Stacey Evans: State House District 40

http://www.staceyevans.org

"I am thrilled to receive the endorsement of Georgia Equality and I'm proud to stand with them as we work toward equality for all Georgians," Evans said in a statement. Evans was born and raised in Ringgold, Ga., and was the first person in her family to graduate from college and earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia. Stacey is a litigation attorney with Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein and lives in Smyrna with her husband, Andrew.

She is chair of the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition and is a member of the Board of Directors of Communities In Schools Marietta/Cobb County and the Cobb Library Foundation. She is also a state committee member of the Democratic Party of Georgia, a member of the Cobb County Democratic Party and the Cobb County Democratic Women, immediate Past Chair of Georgia’s WH List, a past president of the Young Democrats of Georgia, and a former Board member of Red Clay Democrats.

She is a member of LEAD Atlanta Class of 2007, the Georgia State Bar Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy Class of 2009, and the Atlanta Women’s Foundation Destiny Fund Class of 2006. In 2004, Stacey was recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle in its article, "Up and Comers/Under 40 and Rising: 30 of Atlanta’s Most Promising Stars" and is a member of the Class of 2008 of Outstanding Atlanta.

"Stacey is running for office because Georgia families deserve a Legislature that puts them first and shares their priorities to protect and create jobs and improve the State’s education and transportation systems and she promises to make these her priorities in the Legislature," the press release states.

Darshun Kendrick: State House District 94

http://www.kendrickforgeorgia.com/index.html

Darshun Kendrick was born in Atlanta and raised in South DeKalb County. She attended DeKalb County public schools and graduated from Towers High School in Decatur in 2000 at the top of her class. During that time, she interned part-time for then-Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney at her district office in downtown Decatur. After graduating from Towers, she attended Oglethorpe University on a partial scholarship and double majored in political science and communications, graduating cum laude in 2004.

She attended the University of Georgia School of Law and obtained her law degree from that university in May of 2007. She passed the Georgia bar in November of 2007 and began working as a civil litigator at a small downtown Atlanta law firm. She is the communications director for Young Democrats of DeKalb and is now the owner of Kendrick Law Practice based in Lithonia where she practices business law exclusively. She is actively involved in the business community in DeKalb and Rockdale counties.

Recently she has been working with Lithonia city council members and local business owners to revitalize the Lithonia Business Association. Additionally she works with the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce to service business owners. She is a member of the DeKalb Chamber, DeKalb Bar Association, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, and Decatur Business Association. She has been a member of Divine Nine Fraternity, Incorporated, located in Jonesboro.

Steffini Bethea: State Senate District 106

http://www.steffinibethea.com

Steffini Bethea attended the University of Houston where she majored in biology and has lived in Gwinnett County for more than 10 years.

She worked over 10 years in pharmaceutical sales, culminating as a manager of multiple sales territories in the Metro Atlanta area. In 2004 she went into business full time with her husband, Dr. Sheldon Bethea, and opened ChroLife Wellness in Snellville. Together they have been guest speakers on health and fitness issues and participate in numerous community and national programs. "As joint owner of a small business, Steffini has a unique understanding of the hard work and dedication it takes to build a business and the need to have support for entrepreneurs," according to the press release.

Bethea lives in the Dogwood Plantation neighborhood in Snellville. She has four children, Yuri 18, Andrew 16, Nilou 12, and Sara-Elisabeth 5.

She served as president of the League of Women Voters of Gwinnett County and was a research intern at the State Capitol. She is also an active Public Policy Committee member for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. She was an elected delegate to the Presidential Nominating Convention in Denver in 2008. She and her family are members of New Home Faith Ministries Church in Lilburn.

Georgia Equality supports these incumbents:

John Eaves: Chairman Fulton County Commission

http://electjohneaves.com

"I am honored to receive the endorsement of Georgia Equality. As a county and a state, we are strengthened by our diversity, and I will continue to do all I can to support the LGBTQ community," said Eaves in a statement.

As chairman of the Fulton County Commission, Eaves chairs a commission comprised of seven members who govern the county. Fulton County is comprised of 14 municipalities and is the most populated county
in Georgia, serving as home to an estimated population of 1.1 million residents. The 2010 operating budget is $908 million.

He is a graduate of Morehouse College with a major in mathematics and earned a master's degree in Religion from Yale University and a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina.

Prior to becoming chairman of the Fulton County Commission, Eaves served as Senior Program Officer of the Southern Education Foundation. For seven years Eaves led the Atlanta Regional Office of the Peace Corps as a regional manager. Under his leadership, the Atlanta office moved up from the rank of 10th in volunteer recruitment to fourth.

While attending Morehouse College, he was a program coordinator and big brother for Volunteers for Youth, an organization that paired college athletes with middle school youth. He also registered people to vote, volunteered in local political campaigns, was a coach tutor and a counselor for Upward Bound at Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University.

Mike Jacobs: State House District 80

http://repjacobs.com/

During the 2010 legislative session, state Rep. Jacobs authored and passed a stronger anti-bullying statute and was instrumental in passing legislation that will allow gay and lesbian couples to make medical decisions for their partners. Jacobs also sponsored a successful amendment that allows partners who are named in an advance medical directive the right to hospital visitation and to ride along in an ambulance in an emergency. For these efforts, Georgia Equality awarded Mike its Allen Thornell Political Advocacy Award earlier this year.

Jacobs has pledged to fight any effort to ban adoptions by gay and lesbian couples. "I will not hesitate to stand in front of that train," he said.

"Mike, a Republican, has been a stalwart ally of the LGBT community," according to the press release.

He is serving his third term in the Georgia House of Representatives. His committee assignments are Insurance, Judiciary, MARTA Oversight, and Rules. He is the Vice Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and chairs one of its two subcommittees.

Jacobs received his law degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he served as Executive Articles Editor of the Georgia Law Review. Mike earned his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University.

He and his wife, Evan, live in northern DeKalb County between Brookhaven, Chamblee and Dunwoody. They have two children and are expecting their third in February.

Stephanie Stuckey Benfield: State House District 85

http://benfieldforcon.com/index.cfm

Stephanie Stuckey Benfield currently represents House District 85, which includes neighborhoods in Avondale Estates, Candler Road, Columbia Drive, Fembank, Forest Hills, Knelwood, Midway, Oakland, South Decatur, Waldworth and Wisona Park.

Stephanie was a partner and family law practitioner in the Decatur law firm of Stuckey and Manheimer, LLC until the birth of her son in 2002, when she took a break from the law to be a stay-at-home mom. Prior to starting her own practice, she was a public defender. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Georgia in 1989 and graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1992.

Her father, Billy Stuckey, represented the 8th District of Georgia for 10 years in the U.S. Congress, and her grandfather, Williamson Sylvester Stuckey, served in the Georgia Legislature and founded the Stuckey's candy store chain which is still a family-owned and operated business.

She is married to Robert H. Benfield, Jr., a local trial attorney. They are active members of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the Emory campus where they were married. She and her husband are the proud parents of a 4-year-old son, Robert, and a 20-month-old daughter, Beverly.

Curt Thompson: State Senate District 5

http://makingyourvoicecount.com/

Curt Thompson is a lifelong resident of Gwinnett County. Born in Decatur, Ga., in 1968, his family lived in Lilburn near Lake Lucerne, and he graduated from Shiloh High School in Lithonia. After law school, he moved to Norcross. In April of 2006, Curt was married to his wife Sascha. They currently live in the Gwinnett portion of Tucker.

At Shiloh High, Curt was a National Merit Scholar. He went to American University in Washington, D.C., majoring in International Studies and Broadcast Journalism. After graduating, Curt went to law school at Georgia State. He passed the Bar in 1993 and has practiced law since then, representing government employees (including firefighters and police) and service workers. Curt currently practices law in Tucker serving a variety of business and private clients with a focus on administrative and corporate law.

Thompson has been active in civic affairs as varied as his neighborhood garden club, petitioning for speed bumps, and opposition to certain rezoning applications. He worships at Chattahoochee Friends
Meeting in Norcross and All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Other affiliations include Gwinnett County Habitat for Humanity, the Sierra Club, Gwinnett Cooperative Ministries, AID Gwinnett, and the Gwinnett Philharmonic.

He has long been involved in the Gwinnett County chapter of the Democratic Party of Georgia. He ran for office in 2002 and won for the then newly-created District 69. In 2004 he ran for the state Senate, District 5. In both campaigns his message to voters was, "Your Voice Counts!"

State Sen. Thompson is a member of numerous committees in the Georgia Senate including the Committees for Appropriations, Special Judiciary, Economic Development and Defense and Military Affairs.

He currently serves as the president of the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement Association; the group's goal is to form a community improvement district to promote revitalization efforts in the Jimmy Carter Blvd., Indian Trail, and Buford Highway corridors. He hosts an open-invitation monthly gathering called the "Citizen Advisory Forum," allowing members of his community and others to communicate with him directly, regarding issues which most matter to them. In addition, Thompson has learned to speak Spanish to better serve the Spanish speaking members of his district.

Steve Henson: State Senate District 41
http://www.stevehenson.net/index.htm

State Sen. Steve Henson is a Democrat representing State Senate District 41 since 2003 and formally represented Senate District 55 from 1991-1999.

He holds the position of Secretary of the Special Judiciary Committee. He is also a member of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Natural Resources and the Environment, and Health and Human Services Committees. Sen. Henson has the distinction of being the past Chair of the DeKalb Democratic Party.

A DeKalb resident for over 30 years, Henson graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelors degree in Economics. He is a vocational administrator and teacher at Henson Training Institute and an officer and member of numerous community and civic organizations such as: Tucker Jaycees, Stone Mountain Exchange Club, DeKalb Lung Association, League of Women Voters, PRISM, Georgia Advisory Council for the Mentally Ill, Georgia Epilepsy Board and others.
Federal court's in session at UGA

By JOE JOHNSTON - johnston@onlineathens.com
Published Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Law students packed a University of Georgia courtroom Tuesday when a panel of federal judges convened to hear oral arguments in an actual case.

Judges with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims frequently travel from Washington, D.C., to hear cases, and UGA was their latest stop.

"We do a lot of outreach with the hope we will interest students in doing pro bono work" for veterans, Judge Mary Schoelen said before the hearing.

The give-and-take between attorneys and judges resonated with Eric Nelson, a first-year law student who hopes to donate time to needy veterans.

Nelson listened intently as attorneys argued and fielded judges' questions in the case - an appeal by a Vietnam War vet who was refused benefits for post-traumatic stress.

"I want to do some sort of public-interest work as an attorney, and that’s one of the reasons I came - to get an idea of what’s out there," Nelson said.

Although UGA’s law school has hosted the state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals several times over the years, Tuesday was the first time judges from a federal court presided over an actual case in the school’s Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom.

"The opportunity for students to see real lawyers make real arguments in real cases is invaluable," said Paul Kurtz, the law school’s associate dean for academic and student affairs.

Students have to make appellate court arguments in their first year of studies, and this week they got to see firsthand how attorneys not only argue, but are peppered by judges with questions about facts and the law.

"For many students, to get up on your feet and make arguments is a daunting task, and to see real appellate arguments in action helps to teach and underscore what their instructors will be telling them about how to do it," Kurtz said.

The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is one of the more obscure federal courts, created by Congress in 1988.
Senators propose 3 for federal bench

GEORGIA'S SENATORS REJECT most of Democratic advisory committee's proposed nominees.

R. ROBIN MCDONALD
mcdonald@alm.com

GEORGIA'S TWO REPUBLICAN U.S. senators have recommended a partner at Troutman Sanders, a Cartersville lawyer who is president of the State Bar of Georgia, and a federal magistrate judge to the White House for two open judgeships on the U.S. District Court here.

U.S. Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson have recommended that the White House consider U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda T. Walker, Troutman Sanders partner Mark H. Cohen, and Cartersville attorney S. Lester Tate III, president of the State Bar of Georgia, for two open slots in Georgia's Northern District, according to six people with knowledge of the process, none of whom would speak for attribution to the Daily Report.

The trio were recommended after Georgia's Republican senators
See Bench, page 9

Law school grad says Obama didn’t answer his ‘American dream’ question

KAREN SLOAN | sloan@alm.com

A GROWING NUMBER of disgruntled law school graduates have taken to the Internet to anonymously vent their frustrations about high debt and poor job prospects.

Not Ted Brassfield. The recent Indiana University Maurer School of Law-Bloomington graduate took his concerns to the most powerful person in America: President Obama. Brassfield, 30, laid out his financial problems for the president during a town hall meeting about the economy held Monday in Washington, televised by CNBC. Brassfield explained that he’s drowning in law school debt and doesn’t have the means to
Senators propose three names for federal bench

Bench, from page 1

rejected all but one of the recommendations for the Northern District bench made by a Democratic nominating committee headed by McKenna Long & Aldridge partner and former U.S. Rep. George W. "Buddy" Darden, the Daily Report learned while conducting more than a dozen interviews for this story with people familiar with what has been—and remains—a largely secret process.

Chambless and Isaksen have largely taken charge of recommending candidates for federal judicial seats in Georgia since the Office of White House Counsel told the two Republican senators that President Barack Obama doesn’t intend to put forth any nominations in the state that he opposes, sources with knowledge of the nominating process tell the Daily Report.

Nominating judges traditionally has been a function of each state’s senators, with responsibility usually assigned to the senator who shares a political party affiliation with the president. But Georgia is one of a handful of “orphan” states that have no Democratic senators. Shortly after Obama’s election, the Democrats in Georgia and U.S. House delegations tried to assume control of recommendations for federal judicial posts by forming a committee to vet and recommend candidates to the White House, Cohen, Walker, and Tate worked on the Democratic committee sent to the White House in 2009, according to the newspaper’s sources.

Darden did not return calls from the Daily Report for this story, but the newspaper has learned that he was in Washington this week seeking testimony from the White House or Georgia’s Democratic congressmen as to whether his committee should reconvene and what role, if any, it should have in the ongoing nominating process.

Earlier this year, a six- man ad hoc committee of Georgia lawyers and judges that had previously advised Chambless and Isaksen on judicial nominations during George W. Bush’s administration reconvened at the senators’ request to vet Georgia Democrats’ federal judicial picks.

The senators’ committee has approved only one of 11 candidates—Atlanta attorney Amy M. Totenberg—put forward for the Northern District vacancies by the Democratic advisory committee, the Daily Report has learned. The committee approved a second candidate for the Northern District bench—Clarke County Superior Court Judge Steve C. Jones—who was on a state list of names the Democratic advisory committee had recommended for a single vacancy in the state’s Middle District. Both Totenberg and Jones were to be nominated by the White House for federal judicialships in Georgia.

Totenberg’s nomination is pending, and she appeared last week at a confirmation hearing in front of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington.

Jones is still waiting for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary committee.

Chambless’ appointees to the ad hoc senators’ advisory committee are Macon attorney Frank C. Jones, a former partner at King & Spalding in Atlanta who is currently representing Gov. Sonny Perdue in a challenge to new federal health care reform law; Atlanta attorney William U. Norwood III of Pope, McClaren, Kilpatrick, Morris & Norwood, and H. Arthur McLane, a senior judge in the Superior Court of the Southern Judicial Circuit in Valdosta, committee members confirmed last spring.

Isaksen’s appointees are Donald E. Carlson, a professor at the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens; Marietta attorney Robert D. Ingram of Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, a former president of the State Bar of Georgia and a member of the state Judicial Qualifications, Internship, and Stateboro attorney and former State Bar president James B. “Jimmy” Franklin of Franklin, Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes & Math, Carlson told the Daily Report earlier this year.

Nominating judges traditionally has been a function of each state’s senators, with responsibility usually assigned to the senator who shares a political party affiliation with the president. But Georgia is one of a handful of states that have no Democratic senators.

For the two remaining open federal judicial slots on the Northern District bench, the senators’ committee scoured several lists of candidates that Darden’s committee had interviewed for multiple positions on the bench, who was interviewed but did not make the Democratic committee’s short list, according to the Daily Report’s sources. The senators’ advisory committee also called Tate’s name from the Darden committee’s list of interviewees, according to the newspaper’s sources. Tate was interviewed by Darden’s committee as a candidate for U.S. attorney of the Northern District—a slot that eventually went to former First Assistant U.S. Attorney Sally Quinn Yates.

The senators’ committee also has recommended Cohen, who has served as a special assistant state attorney general under both Democratic and Republican governors in Georgia but who had not applied to Darden’s committee, according to the newspaper’s sources.

Reached at his Cartersville office this week, Tate told the Daily Report, "I don’t think it would be appropriate for me to comment." Tate also has handled criminal defense cases and defended the board of directors and chairman of the Cobb Electric Membership Corporation in a member derivative suit alleging board mismanagement, breach of fiduciary duty and self-enrichment. That suit was settled in 2008.

Despite the settlement, the member plaintiffs appealed the case to the Georgia Court of Appeals in 2008, alleging that the EMC board had violated the settlement order requiring the board to make its election process more democratic. The Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the member plaintiffs. The case currently is awaiting a ruling on a writ of certiorari by the State Supreme Court.

Before his election as president to the State Bar, Tate served as the State Bar’s treasurer and was appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court to the Bar Disciplinary Board’s Investigative Panel, which he later chaired. Tate also was elected by the federal judges of the Northern District to the Federal Defender Board, which oversees the federal public defenders’ office, where he also served a term as president.

Tate graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1987 after earning an undergraduate degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1982. Prior to attending law school, he worked for U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn and, later, for Darden, then a U.S. representative, as Darden’s press secretary.

Walker, who turns 50 on Friday, has been a U.S. magistrate judge in Atlanta since January 2000, a post to which she was appointed by a vote of the Northern District judges. When Walker was appointed U.S. magistrate, she became the first female African-American to sit on the federal bench in Georgia.

Prior to that, Walker served both as a deputy county attorney and, for a year, as county attorney for Fulton County. A 1989 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Walker earned her undergraduate degree at Southern University in Baton Rouge in 1985. After law school, Walker clerked for U.S. District Senior Judge G. Ernest Talwai, who was appointed to the bench by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

Walker has been involved as a magistrate in some of the district’s highest profile cases, including the federal investigation of rapper Clifford "T.I." Harris home. Walker signed the search warrants for Harris’ home in 2007 during the illegal firearms investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
In the literature on "new governance" forms of regulation, the blurring of traditional boundaries is a pervasive but largely implicit theme. This Article makes this theme explicit, and argues that the capacity to blur boundaries is one of new governance's signature strengths," scientists writing in the journal Wisconsin Law Review report.

"New governance regulation frequently blurs the roles of regulatory actors, the stages of regulation, the modes of regulation, the functions of a regulatory regime; and the structure of the regulatory regime. The Article applies this lens to a series of case studies, and demonstrates how industry attempts at preemptive self-regulation have created opportunities where new governance forms of regulation could have emerged," wrote J.M. Solomon and colleagues, University of Georgia.

The researchers concluded: "Turning prescriptive, this Article calls attention to the political and strategic dynamics around attempts to regulate new domains, and calls on policymakers and scholars to embrace the blurred boundaries of new governance approaches as a possible approach that combines the best of state-centered and self-regulatory forms of governance."


Additional information can be obtained by contacting J.M. Solomon, University of Georgia, School Law, Athens, GA 30602, USA.

The publisher of the journal Wisconsin Law Review can be contacted at: University Wisconsin Law School, 975 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706, USA.

Keywords: City:Athens, State:GA, Country:United States, Law Reviews This article was prepared by Politics & Government Week editors from staff and other reports. Copyright 2010, Politics & Government Week via VerticalNews.com.
The University of Georgia School of Law's Dean Rusk Center presents "Tackling the Crisis: An EU Perspective on Financial Investigations and the Fight Against Fraud," featuring financial crimes expert Andrea Vonegoni who will deliver this lecture on Oct. 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall.

Vonegoni has extensive experience in both international and European law and specializes in economic and monetary crimes. He is currently a national detached expert at the European Anti-Fraud Office in Brussels, Belgium, where he serves as a legal adviser. His work focuses on administrative investigations involving allegations affecting the European Union budget and cases concerning serious financial misconduct of EU officials.

Previously, he was an international prosecutor in the criminal division of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo's Department of Justice. While there, Vonegoni prosecuted high-profile corruption cases investigated by international and local police forces.

"We are honored to host such a distinguished guest as Mr. Vonegoni and to explore the fight against fraud," Director of the Dean Rusk Center C. Donald Johnson said. "It is a serious problem affecting many nations that needs to be addressed, and I am confident that he will provide us all with unique insights as well as potential solutions to this wide-spread problem." For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com
Whitfield native gets 4-H Green Jacket Award
(http://daltondailycitizen.com/local/x1327127127/Whitfield-native-gets-4-H-Green-Jacket-Award)

Submitted by the Georgia 4-H Foundation
(http://daltondailycitizen.com)

Georgia 4-H recently honored the 2010 Green Jacket Award recipient, Randy Nuckolls, at the 68th Annual Georgia 4-H State Congress.

The Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award was created in 2008 to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of the Georgia 4-H program. A green 4-H blazer is presented each year during the State 4-H Congress, along with an etched glass award.

Nuckolls, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of the McKenna, Long & Aldridge law firm, represents clients on public policy matters and has served for many years as the Washington counsel for the University of Georgia. He is a former Whitfield County 4-H'er from Tunnel Hill. He served as a Rock Eagle 4-H Camp counselor in the 1970s.

Nuckolls has continued his support of Georgia 4-H since moving to Washington after graduating from the University of Georgia School of Law. His exemplary record includes his service of nearly 25 years on the Georgia 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees, which he has made a priority in spite of residing in the Washington area. During his stint as foundation chair, Nuckolls led Georgia 4-H to new levels of accountability and fund development.

He served as legislative counsel for former U.S. Sen. Herman Talmadge and was later chief counsel and legislative director for former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn. He has remained involved in many Georgia activities, serving on the boards of the Georgia Agribusiness Council and the State Bar of Georgia. He served as president of the Georgia State Society in Washington and as chairman of the Atlanta-based Society of International Business Fellows. He currently serves on the Board of Visitors of the School of Public and International Affairs at UGA.

Welcome to our online comments feature. To join the discussion, you must first register with Disqus and verify your email address. Once you do, your comments will post automatically. We welcome your thoughts and your opinions, including unpopular ones. We ask only that you keep the conversation civil and clean. We reserve the right to remove comments that are obscene, racist or abusive and statements that are false or unverifiable. Repeat offenders will be blocked. You may flag objectionable comments for review by a moderator.

Add New Comment

Type your comment here.

Showing 0 comments

Sort by Oldest first
by RSS

Subscribe by email

Subscribe

comments powered by DISQUS
Nuckolls has served on all four Georgia 4-H Gala committees and has been a champion in Washington for not only 4-H but all of Cooperative Extension, the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the University of Georgia. He has received UGA's College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni Award and the state and national award from the Cooperative Extension Agents professional society for his support of cooperative extension agents and programs.

Nuckolls is a personal donor to the Georgia 4-H Foundation, and he recently crafted and presented proposals in Washington resulting in the receipt of significant federal dollars to enhance the 4-H Centers on Jekyll Island and Tybee Island. His interest in Georgia 4-H has continued through his support of the Georgia 4-H Washington intern program by helping place interns in jobs on Capitol Hill and by raising funds to support the 4-H intern program.

Nuckolls is married to former Whitfield County 4-Her Suzanne Griffin, also of Tunnel Hill. Randy and Suzanne have two children — Emily, a UGA graduate now working as alumni director of UGA’s Warnell School of Forestry, and Caroline, a senior at New York University in New York City.

The state winner in the Georgia 4-H Citizenship Project receives a scholarship named in honor of the Green Jacket Award winner. Past recipients of the Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award include Gov. Sonny Perdue and Commissioner Mike Beatty of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

As a program of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Cooperative Extension, Georgia 4-H is part of the nationwide Extension network and serves nearly 156,000 youth in Georgia each year.

The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished through “hands on” learning experiences focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation and citizenship.

For more information about the programs offered by Georgia 4-H please visit www.georgia4h.org or call (706) 542-4H4H.

The Daily Citizen, Dalton, GA 308 S. Thornton Ave. Dalton, GA 30720
Roy Barnes mixes Southern charm, shrewd intellect

By SHANNON McCAFFREY - Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Roy Barnes learned life lessons helping out at his father's general store in Mableton. It was a spot where locals gathered to talk about the issues of the day as they picked up shoes, tractor parts and animal feed in what was a mostly rural enclave of south Cobb County.

It was where Barnes learned to spin a yarn. And also where he became hooked on politics.

Barnes has gone on to an adult life largely spent in public office. Now, eight years after voters turned him out as governor after a single term, the 62-year-old Democrat is angling for a comeback.

It's a tough order under any circumstances - the last Georgia governor to win re-election after being ousted was Eugene Talmadge in 1946. And Democrats seem to have the wind in their face this election year. In a Republican-leaning state like Georgia that makes the climb even steeper.

To win, Barnes must run not just against GOP opponent Nathan Deal but against the national Democratic Party establishment and President Barack Obama, whose approval ratings in Georgia trail the national average.

With his rumpled hair and folksy drawl, Barnes can turn on the backstopping Southern charm. But he's also a shrewd trial lawyer and politician. And while he calls himself a "poor of country lawyer," Barnes - who's been a banker, a lawyer and a politician - is also a millionaire.

He has a net worth of $16.6 million.

"I'm a capitalist through and through, and I make no apologies for that," he says, adding that he also believes people "should pay their fair share" in taxes.

Barnes may have grown up on a modest dairy farm, but lives these days in a sprawling Victorian home in Marietta. He hasn't given up his farming roots completely; several cows roam a pasture adjacent to his home. His three children and six grandchildren all live nearby.

Barnes worked six days a week and Sundays were for church so there wasn't much time for family travel. When he got out of his father's pickup truck at the University of Georgia in the 1960s, it was his first time in Athens.

Barnes blazed through his undergraduate studies and went straight into the University of Georgia Law School.

In college he was a Republican, saying he was turned off to the state's ruling Democratic Party by then-Gov. Lester Maddox's hardline segregationist views.

After earning his law degree, Barnes returned to Cobb County and took a job as a prosecutor in the Cobb County District Attorney's Office. He married his first love, Marle, a school teacher.

Barnes was elected to the state Senate in 1974 at 26, the youngest person to serve in the chamber. He became known as smart and ambitious. In the mid-1980s, Barnes and four of his state Senate colleagues became known as the Gang of Five. They angered top officials by bypassing the traditional seniority system and introducing their own version of bill sponsorships, referred to as "the daredevil movement."
Listening in

A USA-Today article about how new media such as cell phones and Internet social networking sites are redefining the concept of eavesdropping quoted W. Keith Campbell, professor and department head of the social psychology program.

“It’s a generational and cultural change,” said Campbell. “That old image of sticking your ear to a keyhole—we don’t need to do it anymore. Our personal lives are much more open.”

Oil seep

An MSNBC article focusing on the nature of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill quote UGA marine scientist Samantha Joye.

“What we found today is not a natural seep,” Joye said. “The near shore sediments contained grayish muddy clay and a thin layer of orange-brown oil at the surface. Oil seeping naturally would create an oily stain throughout the sediment cores, but these samples only had oil at the top. The oil obviously came from the top, not the bottom.”

Extinction predictions

An article about predicting the extinction of species carried in India’s Daily News and Analysis quoted UGA ecologist John Drake. The article focused on Drake’s research.

“We have shown that critical slowing down can happen in populations—that is all. The real world is a lot ‘noisier’ than the lab. Using early warning signals to predict approaching tipping points could eventually be a powerful tool for conservation planning, though, and for better

UGA welcomes new faculty

Below is an alphabetical listing of new tenured and tenure-track faculty who have arrived at the university this semester.

They are in departments spread across 13 schools and colleges plus the Faculty of Engineering.

The information was supplied by the Office of Faculty Affairs, which acts as a liaison between the university and the USG board of regents on matters related to faculty appointment, promotion and tenure.

For more information about that office, see the Key Links section of the Provost’s Office website: provost.uga.edu.

**Timothy Adams**
Professor, Hugh Hodgson School of Music

**Sophia Tambudzai Anong**
Assistant Professor, Housing and Consumer Economics

**Berrak Bahadir**
Assistant Professor, Economics

**Daniel Bara**
Professor, Hugh Hodgson School of Music

**Gary Michael Baxter**
Professor, Large Animal Medicine

**Ellen Evans**
Associate Professor, Kinesiology

**Vanessa Ezenuw**
Assistant Professor, Odum School of Ecology

**Frank Flanders**
Assistant Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

**Lorgia Garcia-Pena**
Assistant Professor, Romance Languages

**Bridget Garner**
Assistant Professor, Natural Resources

**Stephanie Lunden**
Assistant Professor, English

**Cody Mars**
Assistant Professor, Economics

**Christina Marsh**
Assistant Professor, English

**Bin (Richard) Mei**
Assistant Professor, Forestry and Natural Resources

**Timothy Lanier Meyer**
Assistant Professor, Law

**Jessica Mueller Rodell**
Assistant Professor, Management

**Valija Cynthia Rose**
Assistant Professor, Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy

**Kathryn Jill Rucker**
Assistant Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

**Tina Salguero**
Assistant Professor, Chemistry

**Pera Santecce**
Assistant Professor, Law
Bugs approaching
Wayne Berisford, an entomology professor emeritus at UGA, was quoted in an article about the declining population of Georgia-native eastern hemlocks due to an insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid, in *Nursery Management and Production* magazine.

"Hemlock woolly adelgids are working their way to the western extension of the state," said Berisford. "They haven't occupied all of the possible range yet, but they are approaching."

The Washington Post

Vine finds
An article in The Washington Post about how the recent excess carbon in the Earth's atmosphere may explain the current bumper crop of poison ivy quoted Jacqueline Mohan, an assistant professor at UGA's Odum School of Ecology.

"Vines are particularly adapted to take advantage of higher CO₂ in the atmosphere," said Mohan, since they "can increase their rate of photosynthesis to make more green leafy tissue," which allows them to grow more and put out even more leafy tissue. Trees, on the other hand, "have to devote much of their photosynthetic carbohydrate to creating woody, non-photosynthetic support tissues such as trunks and branches, which do not lead to further increases in photosynthesis."

Seeking forgiveness
A Chattanooga, Tenn. *Times-Free Press* article about how the Georgia's governor's race quoted UGA political scientist Charles Bullock. He was asked about the role teachers may play in the election, which he said may be problematic for former governor Roy Barnes.

"I think [Barnes] has a sense of that, too, and that's why he's seeking their forgiveness," he said. "What is unknown is the degree to which those apologies are being accepted."
SECTION: METRO NEWS; Pg. 1b
LENGTH: 494 words
HEADLINE: In Brief
BYLINE: Peralte C. Paul, Ernie Suggs, David Wickert; Staff

BODY:

ATLANTA

GSU's law school ranked No. 1 in value

National Jurist magazine, a publication aimed at law school students, ranked the College of Law at Georgia State University No. 1 in value, up from its fourth-place ranking last year.

Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School ranked second, unchanged from last year, while the University of Louisville's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law ranked third.

The University of Georgia School of Law, the only other school from the Peach State to make the list, ranked 15th. The magazine based its selection on Bar passage rates, tuition costs, average student debt after graduation and post-graduation employment rates. FERALTE PAUL

ATLANTA

Some ticket scofflaws will be given amnesty

Responding to a computer virus that attacked Atlanta's Municipal Court systems this summer, any unpaid parking tickets issued by the Atlanta Police Department between July 17 and Sept. 14 will be granted amnesty for late fees if paid by Dec. 31.

However, this order does not apply to parking tickets issued by PARKatlanta, the city's contracted parking enforcement unit. Tickets issued electronically by PARKatlanta's enforcement personnel were not affected and PARKatlanta's payment systems have been and are functioning properly, city officials say.

So, late fees on PARKatlanta tickets remain valid and will continue to be enforced. To determine whether a parking citation was issued by the APD or by PARKatlanta, log on to http://atlantaga.gov/government/courts/sampleparkingtickets 11-19-0.aspx. ERNIE SUGGS

GWINNETT COUNTY

Business development group wins award

A coalition of Gwinnett County governments and businesses has won international acclaim for its economic development efforts.

Partnership Gwinnett this week will accept the International Economic Development Council's Award of Excellence for best multi-year economic development program for a community of more than 500,000 people.
The international group's chairman said Partnership Gwinnett is at the forefront of the economic development profession and its practices can be replicated elsewhere.

The partnership focuses on marketing county assets like schools, roads and parks to companies that might relocate here. It has marketed Gwinnett County and metro Atlanta overseas and in this nation's Rust Belt.

Though it doesn't take full credit, the partnership recently announced Gwinnett County had seen more than 9,200 new jobs from 112 business relocations and expansions since 2007.

Led by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Partnership Gwinnett is a coalition of 160 governments and businesses.

DAVID WICKERT

OBITUARIES

Committed to church, God, troubled children

For more than 31 years, Virginia Sanders served as chairman or co-chairman of the United Methodist Children's Home auxiliary, a volunteer corps that manages annual flea markets. B5

VENT OF THE DAY

I'm a firm believer in the fact that municipal, county and state department heads should have term limits. More Vent, B2

LOAD-DATE: September 29, 2010
Savannah attorney Toby Buttimer killed in Statesboro wreck

By Jan Skutch
Created 2010-09-29 00:18

Summary:
Savannah attorney Edward M. "Toby" Buttimer Jr. was killed Monday night in a two-car wreck near Statesboro, a Georgia State Patrol official said Tuesday.

Jan Skutch

Savannah attorney Edward M. "Toby" Buttimer Jr. was killed Monday night in a two-car wreck near Statesboro, a Georgia State Patrol official said Tuesday.

The 42-year-old attorney was driving a 2009 Toyota Corolla south on Lakeview Road in Bulloch County about 7:45 p.m. when his car was struck in the passenger's side by a 2006 Nissan Exterra driven by Tammy Ann Johnson, 49, of Gwinn, Mich., said Craig Minor, chief communications officer with the GSP Post 45 in Statesboro.

Visitation: 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1707 Bull St.
Rosary: 6 p.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart
Funeral Mass: 11 a.m. Friday at Sacred Heart
Burial: Catholic Cemetery
Fairhaven Funeral Home, Hubert C. Baker Chapel.

Buttimer was partially ejected from his car, Minor said.

His father, attorney Edward M. Buttimer, said Tuesday his son was returning to Savannah after an appointment with a client when the wreck occurred.

An autopsy was scheduled Tuesday, Buttimer said.

Johnson was taken to East Georgia Regional Medical Center in Statesboro, where her condition was unavailable Tuesday.

Blood tests and charges are pending, Minor said.

Minor said the wreck is being investigated by the GSP's Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team 4.
Those teams investigate all prosecutable fatalities, he said.

That report, which he said will be quite detailed, will take some time to complete, he said.

"It can be months before their report is ready," Minor said.

Toby Buttimer was a 1986 graduate of Benedictine Military School and a 1991 graduate of Armstrong Atlantic State University.

He earned his law degree in 1995 from the University of Georgia law school.

He practiced law with his father in The Buttimer Law Firm, handling real estate and business matters.

He was a past president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Monsignor Daniel J. Bourke, Division One.

He had a 10-year-old son, Conor. Fairhaven Funeral Home, Hubert C. Baker Chapel, will handle funeral arrangements.

Edward M. "Toby" Buttimer Jr. [1]

Mapping

Show Map:

0

713209338
Tue, 2010-09-28
9
1285779770

Source URL: http://savannahnow.com/news/2010-09-29/savannah-attorney-toby-buttimer-killed-statesboro-wreck

Links:
NEWSTEX WEB BLOGS
Copyright 2010 Corporate and Securities Blog
Corporate and Securities Blog

September 30, 2010 Thursday 5:26 PM EST

LENGTH: 3171 words

HEADLINE: Nominate Your Favorite Blogs for Top Business Blog Honors

BYLINE: @lnstaff.com (Corporate & Securities Law Community Staff)

BODY:

Sep. 30, 2010 (LexisNexis delivered by Newstex) --

Each year, LexisNexis (NYSE:ENL) honors a select group of blogs that set the online standard for a given industry. This year, we've expanded Top Blogs to our Business Law Communities. We've been fortunate to host the content of a number of distinguished legal professionals who have shared their insights and expertise with our Community, and through the process of seeking what we consider to be "top blogs," we have discovered many more.

The Top Blogs campaign on the LexisNexis Corporate & Securities Law Community and the LexisNexis UCC, Commercial Contracts & Business Law Community will move ahead in several phases. We'll start by taking nominations during a comment period that starts today and ends on October 8. We've gathered a list of initial nominees, which are listed below, and we welcome our Community members to make additional nominations and support their favorite blogs. We'll select the top 25 based on our review of the sites and comments from our Community members. After we announce the Top 25 Business Law Blog honorees, we'll ask our Community to vote for Top Business Law Blog of the Year.

To "talk up" or nominate your favorite Business Law Blog, you'll need to be a registered Community member and be logged in. If you haven't previously registered, follow this link. Registration is free and does not result in sales contacts. Once you are logged in, scroll all the way to the very bottom of this page. You should see a comment box. ***Don't forget to click on the verification link in the email that will be sent to your registration address ~ you won't see the comment box without performing that step! ***

Add a comment to vote or nominate your favorite blog, and that's it! If you are having problems with the registration or voting process, please contact us at lisa.mcmanus@lexisnexis.com. I'm the Communities Manager, and I want to make sure that everyone gets to vote!

We'd also appreciate your help with spreading the news about our top blogs campaign. Please tell your colleagues and your online groups and networks that our Business Law Communities are seeking nominations for the Top 25 Business Law Blogs so they can participate in our recognition event. After all, it's only thru input from different segments of the industry that we can continue to maintain the value and quality that our Community relies upon when it searches our Top Blogs for insight and information.
NOMINEES FOR THE LEXISNEXIS BUSINESS LAW COMMUNITIES'

TOP 25 BUSINESS LAW BLOGS FOR 2010

The D&O Diary
Published by Kevin M. LaCroix

Kevin LaCroix writes a periodic journal that contains items of interest from the world of directors & officers liability, with occasional commentary.

Connecticut Employment Law Blog
by Daniel A. Schwartz

Daniel Schwartz of Pullman & Conley, LLC blogs about news and noteworthy developments in the Labor & Employment Law Field.

M&A Law Prof Blog
By Brian JM Quinn

Boston College Law School Professor Brian JM Quinn provides commentary and insights regarding Corporate Takeovers, Mergers and Acquisitions, as part of the Law Professor Blogs Network.

Compliance Building
By Doug Cornelius

Doug Cornelius blogs about compliance and business ethics, focusing on compliance issues applicable to real estate private equity firms, with occasional posts about social media, web 2.0 and knowledge management.

SEC Actions
By Thomas O. Gorman

Tom Gorman, of Porter Wright's Washington, DC office, writes about SEC investigations, Civil and Criminal Enforcement Actions, Class Actions and Internal Investigations.

Delaware Corporate and Commercial Litigation Blog
By Francis G. X. Pileggi

Francis Pileggi of Fox Rothchild LLP offers Delaware business litigation case summaries primarily from Delaware's Chancery Court and Supreme Court, and provides commentary.
FCPA Compliance and Ethics Blog
By Thomas Fox

Tom Fox blogs about the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, FCPA compliance, indemnities and other forms of risk management, tax issues faced by multi-national US companies, insurance coverage issues and protection of trade secrets.

Virginia Business Litigation Lawyer
By Lee Berlik

Lee Berlik of BerlikLaw writes about intellectual property, real estate litigation, employment matters, copyright and trademark issues, and business litigation including fraud, conspiracy and partnership disputes.

SEC Tea Party
By Robert Fusfeld

A compilation of writers provide commentary on SEC Administrative Opinions.

The Business Law Blog
By Wesley Deaton

Wesley Deaton practices in North Carolina and blogs about general business law matters, the economy, partnerships and foreclosures.

Corporate Tool
By Josh King

Josh King provides commentary on Mergers and Acquisitions, corporate deal-making, the legal profession and other aspects of corporate life.

Corporate & Securities Law Blog
By Sheppard Mullin

The attorneys of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton LLP blog about current developments and information pertaining to Corporate and Securities Law.

USA Inbound Deals
By Sullivan & Worcester

Commentary on mergers, acquisitions and investments by foreign businesses.
Startup Company Lawyer
By Yoichiro Taku
This blog discusses all aspects of incorporating and starting a company and is sponsored by Wilson, Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

InHouseBlog
Albish Publishing
In-house counsel legal news for members of corporate legal departments. For general counsel and corporate counsel since 2005.

The Business Law Blog
By Daniel J. Ryan
A blog about law, start ups and small business by Daniel J. Ryan of the Trinity Law Group.

DealLawyers.com Blog
By Broc Romanek
Attorneys from the Mergers and Acquisitions community share information and discuss current actions in the blog "for acquisitive minds."

Alston & Bird Securities Litigation Blog
By Alston & Bird's Securities Litigation Group
This blog offers discussion about current developments regarding securities laws, regulatory activity, corporate governance issues, important cases, news items, legislative developments, and other trends in this area.

Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance
By Harvard Law School Program on Corporate Governance
A recognized source for insights and site seeking to facilitate research and public discussion about the latest developments in corporate governance and financial regulation.

Investor Relations Musings
by John Palizza
A blog devoted to the practice of investor relations; the interplay between Wall Street analysts and corporate investor relations professionals.
TheCorporateCounsel.net
By Broc Romanek and Dave Lynn

The CorporateCounsel.net is self described as the practical Corporate & Securities Law Blog.

Corporate Finance Law Blog
By Davis Wright Tremaine

Blog and articles by the attorneys at Davis, Wright Tremaine, featuring recent court decisions and information about regulatory and statutory developments impacting business.

Corporate Law and Governance
By Robert Goddard

U.K. based Senior Lecturer at Aston Law, part of Aston Business School, blogs about important developments, news and provides other corporate law and governance insights.

FCPA Professor
By Mike Koehler

A forum devoted to discussing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by Mike Koehler, Asst. Business Law Professor at Butler University.

Fraud Bytes
By Mark Zimbleman and Aaron Zimbleman

This blog discusses auditing, fraud examinations and auditors' detection of financial statement fraud.

Indian Corporate Law Blog
By Multiple Authors

A blog providing a periodic review of topics related to corporate and business law that impacts India.

10Q Detective
By David Phillips

In this blog, David Phillips sees it as his job as the "10Q Detective," to dig through businesses' 8-K and 10-Q SEC filings, looking for financial statement 'soft spots,' (depreciation policies, warranty reserves, and restructuring charges, etc.) that may materially impact Quality of Earnings.
The 10b-5 Daily
By Lyle Roberts

News and events related to securities class action litigation. Lyle Roberts provides commentary on securities matters.

Race to the Bottom
By J. Robert Brown, Jr.

Race to the Bottom is a faculty and student collaborative blog that provides analysis of the laws and regulatory measures governing today's corporations.

The Conglomerate
By Multiple Authors

Seven Law Professors blog about business, law, economics and society, including Gordon Smith, BYU Law School, Christine Hurt, Univ. of Illinois College of Law, Vic Fleischer, Univ. of Colorado Law School, Fred Tung, Emory Law School, Lisa Fairfax, George Washington Univ. Law School, David Zaring, Wharton School Legal Studies and Business Ethics Department, and Usha Rodrigues, University of Georgia School of Law.

WSJ Law Blog
By The Wall Street Journal

This is the Wall Street Journal's on-line publication dedicated to current legal issues, pending litigation and the legal industry.

Commercial Law Blog
By Multiple Authors

Compiled commentary by Jennifer S. Martin, L. Ali Khan, Jason J. Kilborn, Robyn Meadows, Marie T. Reilly, Marc L. Roark, Keith A Rowley, Steven Semeraro, Anthony Schutz and Jim Chen discussing a variety of Commercial Law related topics.

Credit Slips
By Multiple Authors

A blog on all things about credit, bankruptcy, consumers, and financial institutions. Nine academics claim to use the blog to discuss and debate issues not just for specialists but for anyone who cares about creating good policies in these areas.

Business Law Prof Blog
Re The Auditors.com

By Francine McKenna

Specialized news site about the business of the Big 4 audit firms. Stories explore the role, responsibility and regulation of the audit/accounting industry in the global capital markets in an independent, objective, and usually critical way.

Alston & Bird Mergers & Acquisitions Blog

By Alston & Bird's Corporate Transactions and Securities Practice

This blog focuses on current issues and events relating to merger and acquisition activity in the U.S. and around the world and discusses a wide range of domestic and international business, regulatory and litigation issues in this arena.

Perkins Coie Merger Viewpoints

Publisher, Scott B. Joachim

Commentary on middle-market private equity and mergers and acquisitions from Perkins Coie's Private Equity Group.

The Corporate Library Blog

By Nell Minow, Paul Hodgson, Dr. Kimberly Gladman, Corp. Lib. Research and Ratings Teams

The Corporate Library Blog is designed to engage readers in a conversation about current events and trends in corporate governance, risk analysis and sustainable investing.

Boardmember.com & The Tally Sheet

By T. K. Kerstetter

Boardmember.com is a resource for senior officers and directors of publicly traded corporations, top private companies, and Global 1000 firms. The Tally Sheet is written by Eric W. Hilfers of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, LLP and discusses financial reform, compliance and related issues.

Corporate Compliance Insights

By Multiple Authors

Corporate Compliance Insights is a knowledge-sharing forum designed to educate and encourage informed interaction within the corporate compliance community.
By Multiple Authors

Commentary and analysis of business law issues, from several contributors including Professor J. Scott Colesanti of Hofstra Univ. School of Law, Prof. Joshua P. Fershee of the Univ. of North Dakota School of Law, and Prof. Stefan J. Padfield of the Univ. of Akron School of Law.

WSJ Deal Journal

Lead Writer, Michael Corkery

Deal Journal is an up-to-the-minute take on the deals and deal makers that shape the landscape of Wall Street, including mergers and acquisitions, capital-raising, private equity and bankruptcy.

Truth on the Market

By Geoffrey Manne and Multiple Authors

A group of law professors and economists who write about business law topics including antitrust, industrial organization and corporate law/corporate governance.

Mean Street

By Evan Newmark

Opinion and commentary about business and Wall Street.

Consumer Law & Policy

Coordinators, Deepak Gupta and Jeff Severn

Consumer Law and Policy is the blog sponsored by the Public Citizen's Consumer Justice Project.

ScotusBlog

Editor, Tom Goldstein

The stated goal of the Supreme Court of the United States Blog is to comprehensively cover the work of the Supreme Court. The blog strives to be an impartial journalistic entity providing objective information and limited commentary.

Risk Metrics Corporate Governance Blog

By Risk Metrics Corp.

This is the risk and governance and securities litigation blog of Risk Metrics and is designed to offer ongoing and timely posts on risk and governance topics.
Uniform Commercial Code Litigation
By Robinson & Robinson LLP

Focusing on new developments in litigation involving the Uniform Commercial Code. A resource for lawyers who litigate issues involving the UCC. Share tips, strategies, legal theories, successful rulings, and recent developments in lawsuits concerning any aspect of the UCC.

UCC Food Industry-Food Liability Law Blog
By Ken Odza and Rick Goldfarb

Discussing emerging legal threats to the food industry including recalls, insurance issues, environmental and commercial litigation.

The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel
Publisher, Martha Driver

The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel is dedicated to serving the interests of corporate counsel by providing information about substantive developments in the law and ways to enhance delivery of legal services, supporting corporate counsels' goals, and encouraging organizations serving corporate counsel.

Northwest Business Litigation Blog
By Ater Wynne LLP

The Northwest Business Litigation blog is a resource for in-house counsel, business executives, human resource managers and others who monitor litigation and legal issues affecting businesses.

Commercial Contracts Prof Blog
By Franklin G. Snyder

The official blog of the Association of American Law Schools section on contracts, a group of law professors provide Uniform Commercial Code legislative updates and discuss recent contract law and breach of contract litigation.

North Carolina Business Litigation Report
By Mack Sperling

Mack Sperling of Brooks Pierce LLP reports on judicial decisions of significance to businesses and shareholders.

Workplace Prof Blog
By Richard Bales & Multiple Authors

Law school professors teaching employment law, labor law, discrimination law and related courses provide daily information and updates and discuss pertinent news and legal developments in these areas of law.

New York Small Business Law
By Imke Ratschko

This blog features discussions about shareholder agreements, operating agreements, limited liability companies, founder agreements, buying and selling business and other general business law topics.

Ohio Practical Business Law
By Teri Rasmussen

Guidance and insights into business law topics for both attorneys and non-lawyers.

Nancy Rapoport's BlogSpot
By Nancy Rapoport

This blog discusses governance in higher education, businesses, and in law firms, bankruptcy ethics, popular culture & the law, current corporation news and professional responsibility generally.

Indiana Commercial Foreclosure Law
By John Waller

A blog dedicated to parties that foreclose commercial mortgages, enforce liens and collect business debts.

Small Business Trends
By Anita Campbell

Small Business Trends updates you on trends affecting the small business market.

U.S. PIRG
By Ed Mierzwinski

U.S. PIRG, the federation of state Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), stands up to powerful special interests on behalf of the American public.
ProfessorBainbridge.com
By Stephen M. Bainbridge
Self-described as "the vocational and avocational journal" of a Corporate Law Professor.

California Corporate & Securities Law
By Keith Bishop
Keith Bishop, a partner with the California law firm Allen Matkins, covers California securities laws and regulations, corporate governance, the California Department of Corporations, the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the California Secretary of State, pending legislation and rule making, quirky California laws, and other topics.

No Funny Lawyers
By Jim Thomas
A human view of law for human-owned businesses, Jim's blog covers legal issues relevant to privately-held companies in a straight-forward, and sometimes even humorous, fashion.

Securities Law Prof Blog
By Barbara Black
Covers corporate law news, issues and regulatory developments relating to securities law.

The Emerging Business Advocate
By Seaton M. Daly III
Dedicated to addressing current issues that affect emerging companies in a global economy.

New York Business Law
By Frederic R Abramson
The blog covers New York Business law, legal issues relating to social media and civil litigation.

Hedge Fund Law Blog
By Bart Mallon
Devoted to the dissemination of basic hedge fund information for hedge fund managers, hedge fund start-ups and hedge fund investors.
New York Business Litigation and Employment Attorneys Blog
By David S. Rich
Features questions and answers about business litigation and employment law and updates and commentary on national, New York, and New Jersey developments in these same areas of law.

What About Clients
By Dan Hull
News and ideas for doing business globally.

Conference Board Governance Blog
Editor, Gary Larkin
Worldwide business insights from the Conference Board.

Corp Gov Net
By James McRitchie
Designed to facilitate the ability of institutional and individual shareholders to better govern corporations, enhancing both corporate accountability and the creation of wealth.

Marks on Governance
By Norman Marks
Internal Auditor’s governance perspectives column.

PLI Securities Law Practice Center
By Kara O’ Brien
The Securities Law Practice Center provides the latest securities news, analysis and resources, featuring frequently updated content covering the latest developments in the securities field.

Marler Blog
By Bill Marler
Bill Marler discusses food industry and food-borne illness litigation and the issues surrounding it. He has testified before Congress as well as State
legislatures and is a frequent writer on topics related to food-borne illness.

LFNP Blog
By Arthur Ryman
This blog specializes in non-profit law and the challenges faced by non-profits.

Business Law Post
By Arina Shulga
This blog focuses on legal aspects of operating new and growing businesses.

Hedged.biz
By Bryan Goh
A look at investments, hedge funds, economics and finance.

Reverse Merger Blog
By David Feldman
Insights on reverse mergers, SPACs, other alternatives to traditional initial public offerings, the small and microcap markets and the economy.

Jim Hamilton's World of Securities Regulation
By Jim Hamilton
This blog describes itself as commentary and musings on the complex, fascinating and peculiar world that is securities regulation.

BD Law Blog
By Joel Beck
News, updates and thoughts regarding broker-dealer and investment adviser regulation and legal and compliance issues in the U.S.

The feature of top blogs on this site does not constitute an endorsement. Any information or opinions of featured top blogs are not necessarily endorsed by LexisNexis® or its affiliates. Use of this site is subject to additional Terms and Conditions.

Newstex ID: LNXN-5482-49273531
NOTES: The views expressed on blogs distributed by Newstex and its re-distributors ("Blogs on Demand®") are solely the author’s and not necessarily the views of Newstex or its re-distributors. Posts from such authors are provided "AS IS", with no warranties, and confer no rights. The material and information provided in Blogs on Demand® are for general information only and should not, in any respect, be relied on as professional advice. No content on such Blogs on Demand® is "read and approved" before it is posted. Accordingly, neither Newstex nor its re-distributors make any claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained therein or linked to from such blogs, nor take responsibility for any aspect of such blog content. All content on Blogs on Demand® shall be construed as author-based content and commentary. Accordingly, no warranties or other guarantees will be offered as to the quality of the opinions, commentary or anything else offered on such Blogs on Demand®. Reader's comments reflect their individual opinion and their publication within Blogs on Demand® shall not infer or connote an endorsement by Newstex or its re-distributors of such reader's comments or views. Newstex and its re-distributors expressly reserve the right to delete posts and comments at its and their sole discretion.

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 2010

******** Print Completed ********

Time of Request: Saturday, October 02, 2010 06:32:23 EST

Print Number: 2842:245030402
Number of Lines: 217
Number of Pages: 1