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SCHOOL OF LAW

Law conference will focus on nuclear security

By Curry Andrews
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The School of Law, its Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law and the Dean Rusk Center will host a conference titled "Fallout: The Future of Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation" on Nov. 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall. The conference is free to attend and open to the public, and no pre-registration is required.

This daylong event will evaluate the U.N. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and will include in-depth discussions on the future legal framework for nuclear non-proliferation, balancing nuclear energy and security, and emerging nuclear threats.

"The most recent revisions to the U.N. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty could have serious impacts on the effort to contain the spread of nuclear technology," said C. Donald Johnson, director of the Dean Rusk Center. "We are pleased to sponsor such a timely and relevant conference to examine this global topic."

The conference will include a keynote address by Larry D. Johnson, former United Nations assistant secretary general for legal affairs and current Columbia Law School adjunct professor. Previously, Johnson was the legal adviser of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Also providing insights into the matter will be notable speakers from around the country, including former and current employees of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N., the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Defense Department, the U.S. State Department and the Energy Department.

"We are excited and honored to have leading legal scholars, practitioners and policymakers come and offer their expertise," said David S. Ballard, executive conference editor of the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law. "Nuclear non-proliferation is an important issue that everyone needs to be paying attention to as it not only affects our generation, but generations to come."

ON THE WEB
law.uga.edu/gjicl-2010-conference

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Historic soft drink fountain finds new home at College of Pharmacy

By Sheila Roberson
roberson@rx.uga.edu

Soda fountains were a common sight in 1950s general stores, lunch counters and pharmacies—but now the College of Pharmacy has its own operational soda fountain thanks to a recent donation by Coca-Cola Enterprises of Atlanta.

The historic soda fountain, measuring more than 10 feet wide by 10 feet tall, features a mirrored frame, marble counter tops and a marble dispensing unit; 13 silver dispensers with flavorings ranging from sarsaparilla, strawberry and vanilla to Coca-Cola, once mixed the syrups with soda or ginger to make a carbonated drink.

Valued at $15,000, the soda fountain was manufactured by the Liquid Carbonic Co. in 1907 and was operated for many years at the Brightwell stores in Maxey's before eventually being moved to Coca-Cola Enterprises in Atlanta.

Laura Brightwell, vice president of public affairs and communications at Coca-Cola Enterprises, is a direct descendent of the Brightwell family. She helped officiate the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the soda fountain in the college’s new alumni suite and related what her grandmother had told her about the history of the soda fountain.

It is fitting that this historic soda fountain was manufactured in 1907, the same year that pharmacy students first entered the pharmacy school and the year that our first full-time dean, Robert C. Wilson, was hired," said Svein Øie, dean of the pharmacy.
Fulton elections chief guarantees speedy voting results

By Marcus K. Garner
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

6:53 p.m. Monday, November 1, 2010

Fulton County’s election director promises there won’t be any protracted waits for election results on Tuesday.

That’s a bold statement coming from an office with a history of delays, significant miscues and allegations of ballot tampering in recent elections.

“By 11:30 p.m., we’ll be finished,” said Barry Garner, hired 15 months ago from Florida. “That’s my pledge.”

Barring any major problems, Garner plans to have results online within 15 minutes after the polls close, beginning with absentee ballots.

This would be a major change from the Fulton election of two years ago, when a ballot-counting delay prevented the immediate release of results of several close races, including a U.S. Senate contest between Democratic challenger Jim Martin and Republican incumbent Saxby Chambliss, the eventual winner.

For the 2008 presidential election, Fulton County election staffers needed an extra 53 hours after the polls closed to count absentee ballots. That involved crews twice being sent home because of exhaustion, violating state election rules.

The county was billed more than $300,000 in overnight shipping expenses for sending nearly 4,000 absentee ballots at the last minute to voters whose applications went unopened until just days before the election.

In the runoff for last year’s Atlanta mayoral election, supporters of eventual runner-up Mary Norwood claimed that 1,300 illegal ballots were sent in, casting suspicion on the entire county-run process.

Even in recent weeks, Garner’s office twice had to admit to sending absentee ballots with incorrect precinct information to more than 200 voters.

Garner was resilient in taking full responsibility for last month’s errors, defending the elections office’s record in the mayoral race and looking ahead to a successful run Tuesday night. The Secretary of State office, which oversees elections, has taken notice.
"Fulton County is definitely showing improvement in election administration," Secretary of State elections director Wes Tailor said. "There are currently no widespread issues regarding their management of elections procedures."

Months of training for Fulton's Election Day staff of more than 2,100 and a new $973,277 computerized ballot-processing machine that sorts and keeps track of returned absentee ballots has bolstered Garner's confidence in his system.

"Fulton County has been accused of not counting absentees, and of being the last to report absentees," Garner said. "This time, we're going to run our absentees first."

Third-year law student Jennifer Pridgeon of Sandy Springs opted for early voting over filing an absentee ballot this time because her absentee ballot arrived late for the 2008 presidential election.

"I'm still not sure my vote counted," said Pridgeon, who was at the University of Georgia.

Delores Lattimore, a Fulton poll worker, was among voters last month who received absentee ballots with the wrong congressional district candidates. When it happened a second time, she notified elected officials and the media.

"My concern was that there might be more people who got ballots like mine and they might have mailed it in without noticing what was wrong," Lattimore said.

Garner said he has safeguards in place to ensure every vote is counted. The Relia-Vote machine purchased earlier this year by the county is one solution.

Garner will hold people accountable for their actions, and has been posting the number of absentee ballots that have been mailed out, received and processed through the Relia-Vote system.

He said 234 absentee ballots mailed out with misprinted precincts accounted for just 1.5 percent of the 16,000 ballots sent in October.

Garner was deputy elections supervisor in Miami-Dade County during the 2008 elections, which handled more than 900,000 voters. Hired by Fulton's five-member election board in July 2009, he is no less enthused in dealing with Fulton, which has two-thirds fewer voters than the Florida county.

"If you plan properly, election day should be the easiest day of the year," he said.

Find this article at:
Q&A with Paul Broun and Russell Edwards

November 1, 2010 by Staff reports

Are you ready to cast your vote? To help you make your choice at the polls, The Red & Black asked the two candidates for the 10th Congressional district questions about their plans and histories. Take a moment to look over their responses, and don’t forget to vote before the polls close at 7 p.m.

Why should a student vote for you?

RUSSELL EDWARDS: Right now the incumbent, Paul Broun Jr., does nothing to support the University of Georgia. In 2010, the University of Alabama received ten times more Congressionally-vetted research funding than UGA. We need to send a representative to Congress who will support UGA and make sure the university receives the funding it needs to thrive.

PAUL BROUN: Currently, each man, woman, and child owes $42,000 for their share of the federal debt. Both Democrats and Republicans have failed to make tough budget decisions, and instead, charged the bill to your credit card. If we continue to ignore our national debt, UGA students will be left with less freedom and less opportunity than previous generations before them. I have fought against unaffordable legislation and introduced a balanced budget amendment that would stop Washington from punting tough decisions to future generations.

Do you have any affiliation with the University?

EDWARDS: I’m proud to be a Georgia Bulldog! I’m an alumnus of the University of Georgia School of Law and a former president of the UGA Law Democrats. Athens is a great city and the University of Georgia is among the top schools in the Southeast. I greatly enjoyed my time at the law school.

BROUN: I graduated from UGA with a B.S. in Chemistry in 1967. Go Dawgs!

What can you do from Congress to help the University and Athens?

EDWARDS: It starts with bringing money back to the University. Research institutions like the University of Georgia can drive new economic growth in the surrounding community and create 21st century jobs. We have the potential to be a leader in bio-technology business and research. With the research at UGA and Medical College of Georgia and training programs at Athens Technical College, we already have the infrastructure in place to build these industries, but we need to give them proper support.

BROUN: The University of Georgia equips students with valuable knowledge and experience. However, with Georgia’s unemployment at 10 percent, I understand students are worried about finding a job after graduation. My goal is to help businesses have the dollars, through lower taxes, to create new jobs so UGA graduates can put their hard-earned degree to use. I support legislation, such as my JOBS Act (H.R. 4100), that would provide incentives for businesses to create jobs.

What are specific initiatives you have that concern students?
EDWARDS: I think supporting the University of Georgia is a big step in the right direction. Bringing additional funding to the University will expand opportunities for students through programs like CURO. But, in the end, it comes back to jobs. Every student here wants to be able to graduate and find a job — so working to create more jobs in our District is my top priority. By increasing funding for our universities, by easing burdens on small businesses and by improving infrastructure through projects like the Brain Train to Atlanta, we can take concrete steps to grow the economy in our community and bring more jobs to Northeast Georgia.

BROUN: Almost every piece of legislation I sponsor concerns students. As a strict defender of a constitutionally-limited government, my goal is to ensure today's politicians do not leave students with the out-of-control debt Washington has created. My legislation to create jobs, rein in out-of-control spending and preserve Americans' God-given freedoms are designed to protect students' economic and political freedom.

What was your most memorable college experience?

EDWARDS: The law school is a great community of professors, staff and students, and I have too many fond memories there to choose just one, but I enjoyed plugging into the Athens community and coordinating with historic legal groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). 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.

BROUN: Georgia football has always been exciting for me. While the stakes are always high, the 1966 game was especially exciting since Florida's quarterback, Steve Spurrier, had recently won the Heisman trophy. I will never forget the energy within the Bulldog Nation when the Dawgs pulled a 27-10 upset and killed Florida's chances for the SEC Championship title.
The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

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"We are excited and honored to have leading legal scholars, practitioners and policymakers offer their expertise to our conference," Executive Conference Editor of the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law David S. Ballard said. "Nuclear non-proliferation is an important issue everyone needs to pay attention to as it not only affects our generation, but generations to come."

For more information about the conference, see www.law.uga.edu/gjicl-2010-conference.
Campaigns & Elections

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2010 10:28:00 PM

Olens bests Democrat Hodges in Ga. AG race

BY JESSICA KARMASEK

ATLANTA (Legal Newsline) - Republican Sam Olens has defeated his Democratic opponent, Ken Hodges, in the race for Georgia attorney general.

The Atlanta Journal Constitution showed Olens, the former Cobb County Commission chairman, as the projected winner at 11 p.m. Tuesday, with 73 percent of the state's precincts reporting. Olens had 54 percent of the votes and Hodges with 43 percent. Libertarian candidate Don Smart had 3 percent of the votes.

After serving as a district commissioner, Olens was elected chairman of the Cobb County Commission in August 2002. In December 2004, he was elected chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

A graduate of Emory University School of Law, Olens received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the American University in Washington, D.C.

He has practiced law in Georgia for more than 25 years, representing clients in both state and federal courts.

Hodges, a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and Emory University, served as a district attorney for 12 years and was re-elected in both 2000 and 2004 by wide margins.

Hodges had faced a tough primary matchup with Rob Terliva. An attack ad featured the mother of a shooting victim pleading with voters not to vote for Hodges because he did not secure a grand jury indictment against the shooter, who was a cop. Read more here.

The two candidates were vying for the seat left open when incumbent Thurbert Baker decided to launch an unsuccessful campaign for governor.

From Legal Newsline: Reach Jessica Karmasek by e-mail at jessica@legalnewsline.com.

Filed Under: Campaigns & Elections

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Tuesday, November 02, 2010
Cancer did not define Alston partner's life
By Jane Thorpe, Special to the Daily Report

My beloved friend and law partner Laura Lewis Owens died of breast cancer on Sunday morning, Oct. 24, 2010, one year to the day after she and her sister, Susan Ellis, completed a 60-mile walk for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure. She was 50 years old.

Laura fought breast cancer for eight years with humor, grace, attention to detail and physical courage. She was the most tenacious, unshakeable, determined, dogged, persistent—some might even say occasionally stubborn—person I ever knew. She was so successful at fighting breast cancer that her friends were convinced that she would defeat her recent metastasis as she had all of the others. Three weeks before she died, one of my partners asked me when she would be back at work. He was not being insensitive; he knew Laura.

Breast cancer, however, did not define Laura's life. Her family and her profession did. Laura was mother to Sarah Anne Owens, a brilliant freshman at Woodward Academy. Laura attended to and cared about every detail of Sarah Anne's life: her writing, fencing, horseback riding, theater, piano, dance, singing, movies, friends and travel—to Thailand, to Montana, to Cumberland Island. How I loved it when Laura shared pictures of Sarah Anne: a sweetly sleeping little girl on a porch swing at her church camp meeting in North Georgia, the black-and-white picture on Laura's desk of Sarah Anne in ballet shoes at the piano and the snapshots of Sarah Anne skating without poles.

Laura was an apple that did not fall far from its North Georgia tree. Her father, Baptist minister Rev. Furman Lewis, and mother Jeanette, her sisters, nieces and nephews and cousins form an extraordinary family. I met many of them before Laura's memorial service in Clarkesville, where the ladies of her father's former church generously served a Southern bounty of sweet and unsweet tea, ham and chicken, green beans, lima beans, sweet potato casserole, coconut cake and many, many pies. Everyone had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Laura's life. This family provided fierce and loving care for Laura in Laura's own home, even though Laura's mother also suffers from breast cancer.

Laura was a product liability litigator, nationally respected for her defense of mass torts, class actions and particularly for her work on electronic discovery. She was sought after as a speaker. I remember one talk where she compared problems with electronic discovery to a rattlesnake that had crawled onto her driveway. She dispatched the rattlesnake by driving her heavy Volvo over and over it. She suggested that the legal profession should deal with the excesses of the electronic discovery rules in a similar, efficient manner.

Laura cared deeply for her colleagues and the staff of Alston & Bird and all of her many clients. She served in its administration as a practice group leader and mentored many. I will miss walking the short walk down the hall to her office to sit on her green sofa to discuss the finer points of a cross examination of an expert witness, a sentence in a brief, or the best way to begin an oral argument.

In a secular age, Laura did not hide the light of her faith under a bushel. She was a devoted member of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, where she sang in the Glenn Chancel Choir. Though she met each challenge or injustice in her personal and professional life with a flinty implacability, she never lost her cool discernment or respect for others, including her opponents, and always worked for a graceful resolution. Her faith compelled her to work for the needy and the poor. She served on the board of the Devereux Treatment Network for at-risk children. She built Habitat Houses. She raised money for breast cancer.

Here is what I saw her do in June of this year, a time when she was suffering from terrible headaches. Laura collected all of the materials, ribbons, crayons and other necessary things to make beautiful coloring books for children of women at Metro Women's Prison. Then after attending a play Sarah Anne wrote and performed in, she spent the evening assembling the books. This project took until about midnight. The next day she spent the day at the prison, serving breakfast and lunch and coloring the books with the children. This was Laura, through and through. She took the admonition of the Gospel of Matthew literally—she fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, took care of the sick and visited those in prison. Those around her knew that in so doing, she encountered Christ. Her faith shined through her like light through stained glass.

If you were lucky enough to be Laura's friend, you know who you are. She made her love obvious. Although she well knew my musical limitations, for example, she talked me into going with her to choir practice one holiday season so that I would
have the experience of being in the middle of the magnificent Glenn choir as it sang Rachmaninoff. (She did advise me not to sing, just to move my mouth; good advice that took some of the pressure off.) When my grandmother and mother were sick, it was Laura who appeared in the hospital waiting room with something for me to eat and who asked me if I would like to say a prayer. When my grandmother died, it was Laura who got in a car and drove to Hazard, Ky., for her funeral. What angel in your life does these kinds of things?

And it is impossible to think of Laura without thinking of another Alston lawyer, Lisa Farmer, who died of pancreatic cancer two years ago. Laura and Lisa had a friendship akin to that of David and Jonathan—cooking risotto, planning Lisa’s baby shower, writing briefs and each fighting terrible illness together and laughing in the face of it all. Laura had many friends—who streamed through her hospital room and house all of this summer and fall.

What I realized the week of her death is that Laura turned a terrible illness into an opportunity to live and love to the hilt, every single day. I hope her life will inspire us all to do the same.

Laura Lewis Owens was a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. Her family asked that memorial donations be made to either Susan G. Komen for the Cure (www.komen.org) or the Arch Foundation, Office of Development, University of Georgia, 225 Herty Drive, Athens, GA 30602.
Yee Family Legacy at the University of Georgia

In 1999, Allen Yee graduated with honors from the University of Georgia with a degree in biology, an acceptance letter into medical school and memories of the best four years of his life. Allen’s typical enthusiasm and zest for school were challenged as he attended medical school and his mother’s health declined. So he left medical school and returned home to spend some precious days with her.

During this time of reflection, Allen decided to return to the University of Georgia and focus his career goals to study law. On the eve of his entry into law school, Allen’s mother passed away. The following week, Allen entered his first law classes and worked hard to stay focused. As difficult as that initial year was for Allen, the compassion of his professors, the rich traditions of UGA, the memories of his undergraduate years and his new passion for law helped to get him through the tough times and enabled him to embark on a very successful legal career.

With support from his younger brother and sister-in-law, also University of Georgia graduates, Allen made his first estate plans which included a generous family legacy gift to the Arch Foundation for the benefit of the University of Georgia School of Law. Allen feels “that all of the success in my life is based from my time spent at UGA. The University provides an environment in which to thrive. From the academic and cultural opportunities to the leadership and management skills, the life lessons learned gave me the ability to succeed and become the person I am today.” Allen’s desire for others to have the same positive academic and social experience is the vision for this legacy gift.

If you are considering creating a legacy gift, Allen recommends “you think back to your experiences, and evaluate what is meaningful to you.” He also recommends that “you work with a gift officer to help you craft the language and structure of your gift to ensure your legacy will be as you envision.” Allen looks forward to his nieces and nephews one day being dedicated and loyal graduates of the University of Georgia. Allen’s mother would certainly be proud of her son, his accomplishments and the legacy he is creating.
Questions? Contact Mary L. McCormack at 706-542-8138 or mmccorma@uga.edu.

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The information in this website is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult an attorney.
Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to income tax apply to federal taxes only. Federal estate tax, state income/estate taxes or state law may impact your results.

Contact Us | Gift & Estate Planning Home
ATLANTA, Nov. 4, 2010 /PRNewswire/ -- Amy E. Loggins, assistant vice president and employment counsel for Crawford & Company, recently was presented with the Jonathan A. Silber Outstanding Committee Member of the Year Award from the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) for individual excellence, leadership and major contributions made by a member of an ACC committee.

The ACC is the world's largest organization of in-house counsel, with more than 26,500 members in 75 countries. The award recognizes Loggins' contributions to the ACC, the Employment and Labor Law Committee (which consists of more than 5,400 members), the legal profession generally and in-house practice specifically. She also received the award for her contributions to the community through volunteer work and pro bono activities.

"Amy has skillfully and effectively guided labor and employment issues for our global organization for a number of years. She brings great commitment to her work, including her work for the ACC, which we support," said Allen W. Nelson, general counsel and chief administrative officer for Crawford. "I congratulate her for gaining this important recognition from her peers in the ACC."

In the past year, Loggins prepared and submitted the ACC's Comments regarding regulations proposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA). The Comments, which were directed to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), explained the impact of the proposed regulations on U.S. businesses.

She also coordinated a meeting for ACC members with EEOC commissioners to discuss the impact on U.S. businesses of the proposed regulations for the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act and the ADAAA. In addition, she made a number of presentations on the topics of employment law, social media, diversity and in-house counsel ethics.

Loggins serves on the board of directors for the ACC - Georgia chapter and as chair of the Employment and Labor Committee. In addition to community volunteer work, she is a pro-bono mediator for the EEOC and represents Crawford on the Labor Relations committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Loggins joined Crawford in 2004 after serving as a trial attorney with the EEOC in Atlanta and an associate at the law firm of Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese, also in Atlanta. She received her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law and a bachelor of science degree with honors from the University of Georgia.

About Crawford

Based in Atlanta, Ga., Crawford & Company (www.crawfordandcompany.com) is the world's largest independent provider of claims management solutions to the risk management and insurance industry as well as self-insured entities, with a global network of more than 700 locations in 63 countries. The Crawford System
Solutions(SM) offers comprehensive, integrated claims services, business process outsourcing and consulting services for major product lines including property and casualty claims management, workers compensation claims and medical management, and legal settlement administration. The Company's shares are traded on the NYSE under the symbols CRDA and CRDB.

SOURCE Crawford & Company

CONTACT: For more information or a photo of Amy Loggins, Stephanie Zercher, +1-404-300-1908 (office), or +1-954-401-0230 (cell), stephanie_zercher@us.crawco.com

URL: http://www.prnewswire.com

LOAD-DATE: November 5, 2010

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HEADLINE: Crawford’s Amy Loggins Presented with Association of Corporate Counsel Award.

BODY:

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LOAD-DATE: November 9, 2010
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LOAD-DATE: November 6, 2010
A federal judge blocked Oklahoma officials Monday from implementing a voter-approved referendum that singles out Islamic religious law, or Shariah, as a threat to the state.

Chief Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange, of U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City, set a Nov. 22 hearing to consider whether the Save Our State Amendment violates the U.S. Constitution. Until then, she issued a temporary restraining order preventing the state Election Board from certifying State Question 755, which passed by 70% on Nov. 2.

The measure directs state courts to ignore "legal precepts of other nations or cultures" and specifically forbids consideration of "international law or Sharia Law."

A Muslim activist in Oklahoma City, Muneer Awad, filed suit last week, alleging the measure violated the First Amendment, which forbids government from promoting an "establishment of religion" or interfering with "free exercise" of religion.

The measure "would enshrine disapproval of Islam in the state constitution," said Mr. Awad, 27 years old, in an interview. He is executive director of the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. In addition, he said, the provision could invalidate his will, which refers to Islamic teachings on the distribution of property.

Although no Oklahoma court is known to have cited Islamic law, the measure's backers say they fear that state judges might someday turn to it.

"The future of our children and grandchildren is at stake," a co-sponsor, Republican state Sen. Anthony Sykes, said in an interview last week.

Mr. Awad, who said he was born in Michigan and attended the University of Georgia's law school, called that "ridiculous."

Under the Constitution, "any time a religion prescribes something that conflicts with public policy, our [U.S.] laws prevail," he said. "This applies to Christian and Jewish law as well."

It's unclear how the Save Our State Amendment would alter Oklahoma court proceedings.
Neither the laws of foreign countries nor international law, which concerns dealings among nations, ever have been binding on state or federal courts. The Constitution authorizes the federal government to make treaties, which, like acts of Congress, are the "supreme law of the land," binding state judges and superseding state constitutions.

State and federal judges occasionally cite in their opinions nonbinding materials for context or to illustrate points. References to Shakespeare and Bob Dylan, as well as to the courts of other nations and international courts, have been used in this way.

In a 2005 Supreme Court opinion that concluded it was unconstitutional to execute juvenile offenders, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that "the opinion of the world community, while not controlling our outcome, does provide respected and significant confirmation for our own conclusions."

Write to Jess Bravin at jess.bravin@wsj.com
Other Opinions News

- Jones: It’s not about race, it’s about white supremacy!
- Stoddard: Popcorn
- D.A. Corner: Gators, Bulldogs face off – in court
- Learned: Fayette County sales tax and the Gators
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- Denhart: We veered, then we groveled
- Karlin: No more campaign ads; Tea Party wins and Pain stands tall
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- Wynter: The name is Dr. Fischer Ford
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- Trouble: Give me back the American Dream
- Eaves: Sorry, Persue in review
- Stoddard: Helpful hints
- D.A. & Corner: Judge Sans hears his first case
- Wynter: With a flip of a switch
- Holt: Saying “Jesus” is enough
- Moore: You don’t throw our trash far enough away!
- Denhart: Halloween versus Election Day: Which one is scarier this year?
- Karlin: O’Conner’s flight, Ramsey’s seizure and some facts to remember
- Reader: Who cleans the windows of glass houses?
- Amerson: The choice for governor is an easy one
- Stoddard: Pat intends
- D.A. & Corner: Just one of those days
- Wynter: The view from my window and other things
- Holt: Young singer Laura Dodd truly is one-semester
- Moore: Similar names, appearances make identity task tough
- Denhart: Going multi-polar with our leadership
- Karlin: My solution to health care reform question
- Trouble: Rich or poor; and result the same
- Thank you Bobby Cox (and thank you, Dad)
- Stoddard: Double jeopardy, F.Y.I
- D.A. & Corner: Investigators perform neutrality behind the curtain

D.A. Corner: Gators, Bulldogs face off – in court

By Scott Balford

Every fan of the University of Georgia knows what happens on the last Saturday in October. Georgia and Florida clash on the football field. But, unknown to the fans, in their decorated yachts on the St. Johns River and the red and black Winnebogos streaming down I-95, the schools also clash in another arena. The courtroom.

You see, for the last 30 years the law schools for the University of Florida and the University of Georgia have competed in a moot court rivalry. In most court, law students pretend that they are arguing an appellate case. It’s a big deal to the schools. This particular event, the Halsey-Kimbrell Moot Court Competition, is for bragging rights that only Gators and Bulldogs could appreciate.

I know this because my son, David, was one of two students from UGA to compete.

Some of you may know David. He was the guy in the pickup truck with my sign on it going door-to-door in the last two campaigns to help his dad. Often, he carried his autistic brother along for the ride.

Or you may remember him from his days at Sam’s Mt. Sean Bennett coached the debate team to several championships. He spent countless hours with David, offering pointers and constructive criticism. Thanks to Sean, David graduated as a State Champion in oratory problems.

Or you may have taught David in grammar school. School teachers have made many positive contributions to our family.

I’ll never forget the day David came home from first grade mad as a hornet. That was unusual. He was usually very cheerful.

“What’s wrong, David?” I asked, with a disgusted look on his face he answered, “They say I need speech therapy. I don’t need speech therapy.”

Fast forward to the present. The odds are stacked against Georgia. One of Georgia’s competitors was a recent substitution to the team and had only prepared for two weeks. The other once needed speech therapy.

D.A. & Corner: The Halloween that almost didn’t happen

Moore: You don’t throw our trash far enough away!

Georgia brought home the coveted Halsey-Kimbrell cup.

Thanks for indulging me while I brag about my son. As you can see, I’m very proud of him.

Now, if only the football team would get physical therapy.

Ballard is district attorney for the Griffin Judicial District, which includes Fayette, Upson, Spalding and Pike counties.

We Welcome your Comments

Please understand we believe if you are going to comment you should be bold enough to identify yourself. Please fill out the form below and your comments will be submitted. Comments will be edited for vagueness. Please provide either your email address or telephone number so we can verify the source.

Name: 
Email: 
Telephone: 
Title: 

Comments:  

Submit:
The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

Writer: Curry Andrews, 706/542-5172, lawprsttu@uga.edu

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Judge Susan H. Black of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit presided over the hypothetical Supreme Court case Weatherbie v. Georgia, which concerned the constitutionality of freedom of speech being applied to students' online communications and whether a state act providing tuition vouchers to students for private schools is prohibited by the First Amendment.

In addition to Black, four other federal judges helped to score the contest. From the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia were Chief Judge Lisa Godbey Wood and Judge B. Avant Edenfield, and from the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida were Senior Judge William Terrell Hodges and Senior Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger.

This year’s victory improved UGA’s overall record for the tournament to 19-8-2. The win brought the coveted Hulsey-Kimbrell trophy back to Athens after spending a year in Gainesville, Fla., following Florida’s win in last year's competition.

For further information on the advocacy program in UGA’s School of Law, see www.law.uga.edu/advocacy

LOAD-DATE: November 12, 2010
Robert J. Lipshutz, who as White House counsel to President Jimmy Carter played an important behind-the-scenes role in negotiations leading to the Camp David peace accords, died Saturday at a hospice near his home in Atlanta. He was 88.

The cause was a pulmonary embolism, said his wife, Betty.

Mr. Lipshutz was a strong supporter of Israel in the White House. During the 12 days of negotiations at Camp David in September 1978 between President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, he was a conduit between Mr. Carter and American Jewish leaders. The talks led to the peace treaty signed by Egypt and Israel in 1979.

"His insights played a key role in many White House initiatives and decisions, including the success of the Camp David peace accords," Mr. Carter said of Mr. Lipshutz in a written statement.

While working in the White House, Mr. Lipshutz also played a significant role in the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Mr. Lipshutz was a prominent Atlanta lawyer when he met Mr. Carter in 1966. At the time, Mr. Carter was a state senator seeking to unseat Gov. Lester Maddox, a segregationist. Mr. Carter lost the Democratic primary, but four years later, Mr. Lipshutz supported him in his successful run for governor. Mr. Carter appointed him to the Georgia Board of Human Resources and its Commission on Compensation.

When Mr. Carter defeated President Gerald R. Ford for the presidency in 1976, Mr. Lipshutz was his campaign treasurer. The new president then named him White House counsel, a post he held for three years.

Shortly after his appointment, Mr. Lipshutz's advocacy helped prompt the president to commute to eight years the 20-year sentence of G. Gordon Liddy, allowing the last of the original Watergate conspirators still in prison to be paroled. The White House said it was acting "in the interest of equity and fairness, based on a comparison of Mr. Liddy's sentence with those of all others convicted in Watergate-related prosecutions."

Mr. Lipshutz also had a key role in reversing the Justice Department's original decision to support a challenge to affirmative action in the case of Allan Bakke, a white applicant to a University of California medical school who contended that such racial preferences were unconstitutional. Mr. Lipshutz helped draft a revised policy that was essentially accepted by the United States Supreme Court. On June 28, 1978, the court ruled 5 to 4 that affirmative action was constitutional but that it could not be based on racial quotas.

Mr. Lipshutz also pushed for appointing more African-Americans and women to positions in the administration and to judgeships. And in April 1978, with
Stuart E. Eizenstat, the president's chief domestic policy adviser, Mr. Lipshutz wrote a memorandum to Mr. Carter calling for a presidential commission on the Holocaust, with the mission to memorialize the six million Jews and millions of other victims of the Nazis.

He later wrote the presidential executive order creating the commission, headed by Elie Wiesel, that led to the opening of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993.

Robert Jerome Lipshutz was born in Atlanta on Dec. 27, 1921, to Alan and Edith Gavronski Lipshutz. He graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1943 and served in the Army in World War II.

Mr. Lipshutz's first wife, the former Barbara Levin, died in 1970. Three years later, he married Betty Beck. Besides his wife, he is survived by four children from his first marriage, a son, Randal, and three daughters, Judy, Wendy and Debbie Lipshutz; two stepchildren, Robert and Nancy Rosenberg; and nine grandchildren.

URL: http://www.nytimes.com

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Robert J. Lipshutz (PHOTOGRAPH BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
Georgia defeats Florida in moot court competition

November 12, 2010 by UGA News Service
Filed under News, Student Groups

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Recent Terrorist Threats Lead to Nuclear Discussion

FRIDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2010 17:15  RACHEL GARRETT

ATHENS - [watch] With Iran, North Korea, and terrorist organizations, nuclear proliferation is once again at the forefront of American policy discussion. Students from the International Law Journal organized a panel discussion about the future of nuclear security and non-proliferation.

David Ballard is a third year law student who decided that the issue of nuclear non-proliferation would be a fitting topic for the annual international law conference.

"There's been a lot of development in nuclear weapons non-proliferation over the course of the past year. It's been a very eventful year on that front," says Ballard.

The panel included professors from other law schools, former Department of Defense counselors, and lawyers with an emphasis on nuclear energy. The topics covered ranged from the legality of non-proliferation to evaluating the sanctions and monitoring regimes of it. One law student gained new perspective on the issue.

"The balance between nuclear power source for useful, peaceful energy with the balance on the other side of nuclear weapons. I really heard from these experts. That's really a diplomatic effort," says Hally Espy, a second year UGA law student.

One panelist says the conference is timely because the country is dealing with nuclear issues on a regular basis.

"Every time you see the interception of another device that's being sent to America to cause harm, as we just saw here recently. You have to be asking yourself, are we doing everything we can to make sure that device is not something that is even more catastrophically dangerous," says panelist Jack Beard, a professor at UCLA Law School. Bears also is a former Associate Deputy General Counsel.

Panelists said they hoped the meeting would give law students a better foundation about non-proliferation.

The conference was put on entirely by students on the Journal for International and Comparative Law.
HEADLINE: GEORGIA DEFEATS FLORIDA IN MOOT COURT COMPETITION

BODY:

ATHENS, Ga., Nov. 12 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

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For further information on the advocacy program in UGA's School of Law, see www.law.uga.edu/advocacy. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: November 13, 2010
Runoff to decide District 5 rep

By BLAKE AUED - blake.aued@onlineathens.com
Published Sunday, November 14, 2010

A runoff for an Athens-Clarke Commission seat pits intown voters against suburban and rural ones.

ATHENS-CLARKE COMMISSION DISTRICT 5
(Nonpartisan)
Jared Bailey
Age: 51
Address: 145 Marsh Court
Education: BBA in business management; associate's degree, marketing management
Profession: Executive director, AthFest Inc.
Political experience: Member, citizen advisory boards
Campaign website: www.jared-acc5.com
David Hudgins
Age: 53
Address: 160 Bel Air Drive
Education: BBA, University of Georgia, law degree, University of Georgia
Profession: Attorney
Political experience: Ran for Clarke County Board of Education, 1996
Campaign website: None

AthFest Executive Director Jared Bailey and Dave Hudgins, a lawyer and county planning commissioner, were the two candidates left standing in District 5 after the Nov. 2 election. Early voting for the Nov. 30 runoff begins Monday, and any District 5 citizens eligible to vote Nov. 2 can vote in the runoff.

In the general election, Bailey cleaned up in the Cobbham and Boulevard neighborhoods, winning almost two-thirds of the vote. But in precincts northwest of the Athens Perimeter, Bailey, Hudgins and builder Tom Ellis were evenly matched.

Overall, Bailey finished first with 39 percent of the vote to Hudgins' 33 percent.

Hudgins said he hopes people who voted for Ellis will come back to the polls for him. He is also courting intown voters in an effort to make up the gap, he said.

"I didn't reach out to them in the general election as much as I should have, so I plan to do that," he said.

Bailey said he only now is starting to campaign door to door because he was busy organizing a half-marathon earlier this fall.

He attributed his strength in the urban parts of the district to his roots in the community and Hudgins' record on the planning commission voting in favor of unpopular developments such as a fraternity house on South Milledge Avenue and a large gas station near residential Colima Avenue.

"Some of that has to do with the fact that my opponent's voting record on neighborhood protection upset some people in (precinct) SC," he said.

Hudgins has defended his votes by saying he is committed to protecting neighborhoods, but...
...must balance competing interests and considers each request on its merits.

Bailey, 51, has lived in Athens since 1977 and served on numerous economic development, arts and social-services groups. He is a former bar owner who also has worked for the nonprofit Community Connection and the Athens-Clarke Economic Development Foundation, but now runs AthFest full-time. As commissioner, he says he wants to preserve greenspace and alleviate poverty.

Hudgins, 53, moved to Athens at age 9, attended Clarke Central High School and worked in construction to put himself through the University of Georgia law school. He says he would protect neighborhoods and the environment while also encouraging economic development to ease the tax burden on homeowners.

Both candidates said they are hoping for a high turnout, but the race is not drawing much attention.

"A lot of people don't seem to notice there is a runoff," Bailey said. "It's kind of surprising."
Cheryl Sanders of Brentwood was perplexed that the Nov. 2 election ballot asked her whether the Tennessee Constitution should guarantee the right to hunt and fish.

Taken aback, she voted yes. "I didn't know they didn't have the right to hunt and fish," she said.

Her husband later told her that he voted no. Why write the activities into the state constitution?

Whatever their reasons, Tennessee voters overwhelmingly favored adding hunting and fishing to the constitution, alongside the rights to religious freedom and a fair trial. What difference the change might make could take years to show up, but possibilities include more lawsuits challenging the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's regulations.

For John Birmingham, the protection was called for.

"What are you gonna do?" said Birmingham, a South Nashville retiree. "You gonna have someone up there in Washington tell you you're not going to hunt anymore? It's sad you have to put that in the constitution."

More than 1.4 million votes were cast on the issue, just 10 percent fewer than in the governor's race, and 90 percent voted yes.

Ironically, Tennessee hunters are few in relation to the general population. Slightly more than 11 percent of Tennesseans are licensed to hunt, a rate that has remained fairly steady for more than 25 years.

Fishermen, many of whom also are counted among the hunters, are more numerous but still account for less than 20 percent of the population, according to a TWRA tally of license holders.

Little opposition

The issue had virtually no organized opposition that gave the public any reason to vote against it, said political analyst Pat Nolan.

"Those who were strong supporters knew it was on the ballot," he said. "I think most of the public didn't know one way or the other, and it didn't appear to create any problem - at least on the surface - to anyone. So they voted yes.

"A lot of people, even if they don't hunt or fish themselves, don't have anything against the idea."

Birmingham said he didn't believe anyone was trying to prohibit hunting and
fishing, but he backed the move as a cautionary measure at a time when firearms are under attack by liberals.

The longtime hunter, who was wearing a camouflage jacket as he watched Thursday's Veterans Day parade, said the strong vote probably resulted from having so many sportsmen in the historically conservative state.

"Up there in New York, it might not have passed," he said.

Heidi Hogan, a Brentwood mother and wife whose husband hunts, said she had known the issue would be on the ballot, and she voted yes.

But familiarity with the amendment proposal before entering the voting booth wasn't universal. Fred McLaughlin, a Nashville financial adviser, said he voted yes.

"I don't know why," he said with a shrug and laugh. "I really didn't understand the amendment ... but I think we should be able to hunt and fish."

Other states approve

Similar amendments, part of a push nationally by the National Rifle Association, won in Arkansas and South Carolina, though one in Arizona failed. Ten states already had such amendments.

The issue has arisen as hunting groups have grown concerned over animal rights groups and the political clout of an increasingly urban populace.

It remains to be seen whether the amendment will lead to people saying they don't need a hunting or fishing license because it's a constitutional right, or whether it could have an impact on state gun laws, Nolan said.

Georgia passed a similar amendment in 2004 and little has come of it, said Peter Appel, an associate professor at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Each time TWRA comes up with new regulations on hunting or fishing, the amendment gives more of a platform for a court challenge. Judges would decide whether a regulation is reasonable, he said.

"It's more a hassle and expense than an interference with what the wildlife agency wants to do," he said.

Most groups probably wouldn't bother to challenge TWRA in court, but when financial interests are large, they could.

Commercial fishermen have consistently warred with TWRA over a prohibition on selling fish from Watts Bar Lake, where environmental officials say toxic substances are present in some species. They also oppose the limits on paddlefish, which the TWRA says are in danger of being overfished.

The fishermen say TWRA is wrong about the fish in Watts Bar or wrong about the paddlefish, which are valuable for their eggs that are processed into caviar.

A group with a large financial stake such as this might find new momentum with the amendment, Appel said.

The Tennessean received no response to a call and e-mail to a representative of commercial fishermen to ask for comment.

Wildlife Federation glad

The overwhelming vote here pleased Mike Butler, executive director of the
Tennessee Wildlife Federation.

"It struck a chord. This is who we are," he said, adding that some still feed their families in this way.

"People, for better or worse, were able to see that in other states there have been efforts that have been successful to remove certain aspects of hunting and fishing."

This year, Butler noted, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals sent a letter to the president of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and other schools calling for eliminating fishing teams, saying fishing was cruel. And a few years ago, the state legislature, without scientific reason, decided to ban hunting of albino deer.

The federation raised $50,000 to promote passage of the amendment and paid for nine billboards statewide, with four in Nashville.

Butler said Tennessee's amendment is worded to avoid undermining TWRA, with revisions made over six years. Hunters and fishermen pay license fees for TWRA to manage the state's wildlife, and they don't want costs to rise because of lawsuits.

"We spent a whole lot of time and sweat working to make sure that language did pretty much everything it could to prevent that sort of thing from happening," Butler said.

"We got the language right, and that was really, really important."

Contact Anne Paine at 615-259-8071 or apaine@tennessean.com
Fowler receives environmental award

Athens Banner-Herald
Published Sunday, November 14, 2010

Laurie Fowler, associate dean of the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology, recently received the Ogden Doremus Award for Excellence in Environmental Law from the nonprofit public interest legal group GreenLaw.

Fowler currently serves as associate dean of the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology and as environmental practicum director in the UGA School of Law. She also is a member of the conservation ecology and water resources faculties.

Fowler's current research centers on water protection strategies. She was among the first in the state to recognize the impact that local land-use policies have on water quality and to develop and promote model ordinances and incentive programs to manage growth and avoid adverse impacts. These models have been used extensively in Georgia as well as in other states and countries.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Sunday, November 14, 2010

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Our commenting Web site is AthensTebks.com.

Our magic computers detect that you are not logged in or registered with us. User registration is required before posting comments. Use the form below to log in.

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William A. Coates, a founding shareholder of Roe Cassidy Coates & Price, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers at the 2010 annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Coates is a 1971 graduate of the University of South Carolina and a 1974 graduate of the USC School of Law. He concentrates his practice on commercial and corporate litigation, white-collar criminal defense, government investigations, as well as health care environmental and real estate litigation.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough partner Steve Morrison and former Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman Hal Stratton will discuss the CPSC's enhanced powers under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act during a webcast on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. The webcast is sponsored by the Product Liability Committee of DRI - The Voice of the Defense Bar.

The panelists will discuss how businesses and manufacturers are impacted by the act, compliance issues and consumer complaints. They will also discuss the CPSC's public database of consumer product incident reports that will debut in March 2011, which will allow consumers, safety groups, health-care professionals and others to submit complaints of injuries to the CPSC.

Attorney Joshua S. "Josh" Whitley joined Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd's Charleston office as an associate attorney this fall, following a judicial clerkship with Judge Dennis W. Shedd of the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Whitley's practice includes all aspects of the litigation process. Previously, he clerked at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd's Charleston office during both summers of law school. Additionally, he served as a student law clerk at Santee Cooper, South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility.

The Berkeley County native obtained his J.D. from the William & Mary School of Law in 2008, where he was a member of Order of the Coif and Order of the Barristers. During law school, he and a colleague won the Gourley National Trial Competition, and he was honored as best advocate of the competition. He was also a member of the William & Mary Moot Court team, where he was ranked No. 1.

Whitley received his B.A. in government and business economics, summa cum laude, from Wofford College in 2005. The Phi Beta Kappa society member served as president of the student body during his senior year. While at Wofford, he was elected to all three of the honor societies and was named the Government Departmental Award winner.

He is admitted to practice in South Carolina, U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court, South Carolina. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar, Charleston County Bar Association, Wofford College Terrier Club Board of Directors and is a voting member of the Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce.

Smith Moore Leatherwood attorney Kurt M. Rozelsky has been elected to the
American Board of Trial Advocates.

"Rozelsky's extensive trial experience and commitment continues a longstanding tradition of firm involvement with trial work and ABOTA," said Tod Hyche, managing partner of the firm's Greenville office.

A member of the firm's litigation practice, Rozelsky primarily represents insurance companies and business entities in litigated matters. The majority of his practice is devoted to tort and commercial litigation, including the defense of transportation accidents, products liability and business disputes. He also advises numerous companies on risk management and safety issues. Rozelsky is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Georgia School of Law.

The Charleston law firm of Buist Moore Smythe McGee turns 40 this month. On Nov. 16, 1970, two of the oldest law firms then in Charleston (Buist, Buist, Smythe & Smythe and Moore, Mouzon & McGee) came together to create Buist, Moore, Smythe & McGee.

The firm's founders were Henry Buist, B. Allston Moore Sr., Augustine T. Smythe, Henry B. Smythe Sr., B. Allston Moore Jr. and Joseph H. McGee. They began their partnership at the newly renovated offices at 5 Exchange St. Four decades later, the address is the same, but Buist Moore Smythe McGee has grown to 44 attorneys and 43 legal support staff.

LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2010
UGA Ranks 4th For Fulbright Scholars

MONDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2010 11:03 JEFF DANFRE

ATHENS - The University of Georgia is the fourth-highest ranked producer of Fulbright Scholars for the 2010-2011 academic year.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA:

Athens, Ga. – The University of Georgia shares the distinction of being the fourth-highest-ranked producer of Fulbright Scholars for the 2010-2011 academic year. Diane Edison, Jared Klein, Peter Rutledge and Richard Siegesmund have received Fulbright Scholar grants to study abroad during to lecture and conduct research.

“A Fulbright Scholarship is a signal accomplishment for a faculty member, and I congratulate these UGA recipients on being recognized among the best in the world in their disciplines,” said UGA President Michael F. Adams. “For UGA to have four Fulbrights in this cycle and to be ranked among the leaders in this class speaks to the quality of the faculty and their dedication to their disciplines and to their students. This is yet another indication that America’s first public university is among her very best today.”

Edison, a professor in the Lamar Dodd School of Art in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, is lecturing and conducting research at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria. She will be there until March. Her project is entitled, “Portraiture Redefined: Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Influences on Teaching Pedagogy.”

“I am interested in the work of the Bulgarian artist Vladimir Dimitrov, whose heroic portraits transcend the genre with a folk tradition that is comparable to the universal language of contemporary portraiture,” said Edison. “Additionally I am collaborating with colleagues at the New Bulgarian University through team teaching.”

Klein, the distinguished research professor of linguistics, classics, and Germanic and Slavic languages in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, has been named recipient of a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Humanities and Cultural Studies. He will use the award to teach and conduct research at the University of Vienna from March-July, where he will lead two courses: the stylistics of the Rigveda, the ancient Indian collection of Sanskrit hymns sacred to Hindus, and Indo-European Discourse Structure. He also will work on his book Stylistic Repetition in the Rigveda.

“With this award I hope to disseminate my ongoing research into the stylistics and discourse structure of the Rigveda to an audience at a major center where these studies are pursued,” said Klein. “I will also use the time to work on a monograph on interstanzic repetition in the Rigveda and a book to be titled Stylistic Repetition in the Rigveda.”

Rutledge, an associate professor in the School of Law, will lecture and conduct research at the University of Vienna, in Austria from March-June. His project is entitled, “Dispute Resolution and the Constitution.”

“It is a great honor to join the ranks of UGA faculty who have received Fulbright awards. The process is highly competitive, and the award would not have been possible without the strong support of Dean Rebecca White at the Law School and her counterparts at the University of Vienna,” said Rutledge. “I look forward to using the award to conduct original research in the relationship between constitutional law and alternative dispute resolution.”

Siegesmund, an associate professor and co-chair of art education in the Lamar Dodd School of Art, is lecturing and conducting research at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland until December. His project is entitled, “Applied Arts-Based Research in Schools and Communities.”

“In addition to working with students from all disciplines within the National College of Art and Design, I will interact with a variety of groups including secondary art educators and museum professionals. I will also lecture in locations throughout Ireland, as well as England and Scotland,” said Siegesmund.
Since 1946, the U.S. Government-sponsored Fulbright Scholar program has provided faculty and professionals with an unparalleled opportunity to study and conduct research in other nations.

These faculty members are among the more than 294,000 American and foreign university students, K-12 teachers, and university faculty and professionals who have participated in one of the several Fulbright exchange programs. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

For more information, see the Council for International Exchange of Scholars website at http://www.cies.org/.
UGA ranked fourth highest producer of Fulbright Scholars

Athens, Ga. - The University of Georgia shares the distinction of being the fourth-highest-ranked producer of Fulbright Scholars for the 2010-2011 academic year. Diane Edison, Jared Klein, Peter Rutledge and Richard Siegesmund have received Fulbright Scholar grants to study abroad during to lecture and conduct research.

“A Fulbright Scholarship is a signal accomplishment for a faculty member, and I congratulate these UGA recipients on being recognized among the best in the world in their disciplines,” said UGA President Michael F. Adams. “For UGA to have four Fulbrights in this cycle and to be ranked among the leaders in this class speaks to the quality of the faculty and their dedication to their disciplines and to their students. This is yet another indication that America’s first public university is among her very best today.”

Edison, a professor in the Lamar Dodd School of Art in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, is lecturing and conducting research at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria. She will be there until March. Her project is entitled, “Portraiture Redefined: Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Influences on Teaching Pedagogy.”

“I am interested in the work of the Bulgarian artist Vladimir Dimitrov, whose heroic portrait transcends the genre with a folk tradition that is comparable to the universal language of contemporary portraiture,” said Edison. “Additionally, I am collaborating with colleagues at the New Bulgarian University through team teaching.”

Klein, the distinguished research professor of linguistics, classics, and Germanic and Slavic languages in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, has been named recipient of a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Humanities and Cultural Studies. He will use the award to teach and conduct research at the University of Vienna from March-July, where he will lead two courses: the stylistics of the Rigveda, the ancient Indian collection of Sanskrit hymns sacred to Hindus, and Indo-European Discourse Structure. He also will work on his book Stylistic Repetition in the Rigveda.

"With this award I hope to disseminate my ongoing research into the stylistics and discourse structure of the Rigveda to an audience at a major center where these studies are pursued,” said Klein. “I will also use the time to work on a monograph on interstanzaic repetition in the Rigveda and a book to be titled Stylistic Repetition in the Rigveda.”

Rutledge, an associate professor in the School of Law, will lecture and conduct research at the University of Vienna, in Austria from March-June. His project is entitled, “Dispute Resolution and the Constitution.”

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The Telegraph

Lives Remembered

Featuring a champion of Indian literature, a baseball star, and a Canadian politician known as 'Landslide Dave'

Sparky Anderson  Photo: CORBIS

6:32PM GMT 16 Nov 2010

Siddhartha Shankar Ray

Nov 6, aged 90. Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1972 to 1977, Governor of Punjab from 1986 to 1989 and later Indian ambassador to the United States. Also served as minister of education in Indira Gandhi's first government. In West Bengal he was instrumental in the suppression of the Naxalite-Maoist uprising, although his decision to give the police a free hand attracted some criticism. Helped persuade Indira Gandhi to proclaim a state of emergency in 1975 in response to political unrest. Served as ambassador in Washington from 1992 to 1996.

Robert Lipshutz


Indian train crash: 60 killed as trains collide (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/7899036/Indian-train-crash-60-killed-as-trains-collide.html)


Nov 6, aged 88. White House counsel to President Jimmy Carter from January 1977 to October 1979. Earned a Law degree from the University of Georgia and served in the US Army for three years during the war. Later opened a private law practice in Atlanta. Helped to organise Carter's election campaign for the governorship of Georgia. Later assisted the President on many important issues, including the Camp David peace negotiations between the Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat and the Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin.

Purushottama Lal

Nov 3, aged 81. Indian writer, teacher and translator. Earned a Master's in English Literature from the University of Calcutta in 1953. Three years later he founded the publishing house Writers' Workshop. Lectured on Indian literature at universities in Britain, America and Australia, and taught at St Xavier's College in Calcutta for more than 40 years. Translated the English version of the Mahabharata – the world's longest poem. Also wrote verse, literary criticism and children's stories. Was a delegate from India to the 1966 PEN International Writers' Conference in New York. Awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government in 1970.

Major JEM Ruffer

Oct 27, aged 98. Gunnery officer on the cruiser Norfolk, one of only two ships present throughout the action that ended with the sinking of the Bismarck. Was on the ship's bridge when Admiral Wake-Walker, having just witnessed the destruction of Hood and Prince of Wales turning away beaten, announced that Norfolk would engage Bismarck and "try and cripple her". News then came that Bismarck was about to be attacked by aircraft from the carrier Victorious, news which undoubtedly saved Norfolk. At the end of the war Ruffer commanded Churchill's bodyguard at Potsdam. Postwar he ran a travel agency – Ruffer Travel. He also opened a shooting school, wrote fortnightly for the Shooting Times for some 25 years, and was author of The Art of Good Shooting.

David Steuart
Nov 5, aged 94. Long-time Liberal Party functionary in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Born at Moose Jaw, he became mayor of Prince Albert for two terms in the 1950s. Later he represented the constituency of Prince Albert-Duck Lake in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, and served as provincial minister of health during the premiership of the Liberal Ross Thatcher. Earned the ironic nickname "Landslide Dave" because many of his narrow election victories had to be settled through a recount.

Sparky Anderson

Nov 4, aged 76. Baseball player and manager who was the first man to lead a team from each of the Major League's two divisions to victory in the World Series. As a player he competed in minor league baseball, though he had one season playing for the Major League team the Philadelphia Phillies in 1959. Baseball's top division is split between the American and National Leagues; in 1975 and 1976 Anderson led the National League's Cincinnati Reds to the crown, and in 1984 won the title with the American League's Detroit Tigers. Named American League Manager of the Year in 1984 and 1987. Managed for 26 seasons before retiring at the end of the 1995 season; five years later he was inducted into professional baseball's Hall of Fame.

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UGA Faculty Have Little to Say About Incarceration Rates

It's not news that America locks up more of its citizens than any other nation—almost 1 percent of the U.S. population is behind bars. Decades of "tough-on-crime" legislation (Georgia has some of the toughest, with its "two-strikes-and-you're-out" law) that legislators can't seem to resist passing have taken away sentencing discretion from judges and made prisons a growth industry. Hard sentences doled out to juveniles tried "as adults" have filled the juvenile detention centers, leaving no room to lock up first-time offenders who need to be warned off of crime, a local juvenile judge has said.

Five out of six U.S. prisoners wouldn't even be locked up if they were in Canada, which imprisons a much smaller proportion of its people. Are Americans just prone to crime, or what? Probably not—even with declining crime rates (since the early 1990s), incarceration rates kept climbing. Are the effects of such policies on families, on individuals made unproductive and unemployable, on government budgets—a matter of concern to people in the legal and criminal-justice fields?

At the University of Georgia, apparently not much. Law school faculty contacted by Flagpole would speak only guardedly on the subject—or not at all. Flagpole sought comments from the dean of UGA's law school, the director of the School of Public and International Affairs, and the director of UGA's Criminal Justice Studies program, all three declined to respond. Law Professor Dan Colemen—who serves on a local task force to streamline criminal justice proceedings—called the high incarceration rate "extremely troubling." Among attorneys, he said, "this is one thing that I think is on people's minds...I think there's a lot of concern." But for legislators, "If you want to get elected, there's a strong premium to not appearing to be soft on crime...it's easy to pass criminal laws, it's hard to repeal them."

"Is the very high U.S. incarceration rate discussed in law classes? "It kind of depends on the class," said Professor Erica Halpern, who teaches criminal law. "We certainly discuss incarceration rates in her class on sentencing, she said. But are the rates too high? "You'd be much better off asking that question of the legislature," which passed the drug and mandatory sentencing laws that have driven the rates up, she said.

To Jenni Austin, director of the Athens Justice Project (which works with indigent defendants), there is "a direct link between poverty and incarceration." Defendants who have no money also have little access to legal representation or bail, she said, "so a lot of folks are getting locked up." "What's more, Georgia makes it hard to clear an arrest record (even without a conviction), Austin said, and employers are slow to hire anyone with a criminal history. But "if you don't allow access to employment, then what is the individual going to do?"

John Hule
November 17, 2010

Justices Are Long on Words but Short on Guidance

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — In June, the Supreme Court issued a decision on the privacy rights of a police officer whose sexually explicit text messages had been reviewed by his employer. Ever since, lower court judges have struggled to figure out what the decision means.

The case “touches issues of far-reaching significance,” Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote. Then he explained why the court would decide none of them. A definitive ruling should be avoided, he said, because “it might have implications for future cases that cannot be predicted.”

Justice Antonin Scalia went along with the decision, but he blasted his colleagues for “issuing opaque opinions.”

A month later, Judge Frank M. Hull of the federal appeals court in Atlanta complained that the privacy decision featured “a marked lack of clarity,” and was almost aggressively unhelpful to judges and lawyers.

The Supreme Court under the leadership of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. is often criticized for issuing sweeping and politically polarized decisions. But there is an emerging parallel critique as well, this one concerned with the quality of the court’s judicial craftsmanship.

In decisions on questions great and small, the court often provides only limited or ambiguous guidance to lower courts.

And it increasingly does so at enormous length.

Brown v. Board of Education, the towering 1954 decision that held segregated public schools unconstitutional, managed to do its work in fewer than 4,000 words. When the Roberts court returned to just an aspect of the issue in 2007 in Parents Involved v. Seattle, it published some 47,000 words, enough to rival a short novel. In more routine cases, too, the
court has been setting records. The median length of majority opinions reached an all-time high in the last term.

Critics of the court’s work are not primarily focused on the quality of the justices’ writing, though it is often flabby and flat. Instead, they point to reasoning that fails to provide clear guidance to lower courts, sometimes seemingly driven by a desire for unanimity that can lead to fuzzy, unwieldy rulings.

The privacy decision that angered Justice Scalia was unanimous. So was a decision in March, on mutual fund advisers’ fees, that was, nevertheless, vague enough that both sides plausibly could and did claim victory.

Writing for the court, Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. told lower courts little more than that the law requires that “all relevant circumstances be taken into account” in deciding whether advisers’ fee arrangements were proper. He acknowledged that this guidance “may lack sharp analytical clarity.”

One measure of whether unanimity is authentic is the number of separate opinions in nominally unanimous decisions. This last term set a record for such opinions, known as concurrences, in which justices join or vote with the majority but also issue their own opinions to express qualms about some aspect of the majority’s approach.

But divided decisions can be maddeningly vague, too, of course.

A decision in May striking down life-without-parole sentences for juvenile offenders who did not kill anyone said only that states must provide “some meaningful opportunity to obtain release.” In dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas wondered what that could possibly mean.

A decision last year that required a judge to step aside from a case involving a coal executive who had spent millions to help elect the judge left many questions unanswered about when recusal is required. How many questions? Chief Justice Roberts, dissenting, listed 40.

In a pair of civil procedure decisions in 2007 and 2009 that have been cited many thousands of times, the court gave trial judges more authority to throw out cases early based on, in the words of the later decision, their “experience and common sense.”

That standard, Arthur R. Miller wrote last month in The Duke Law Journal, is “shadowy at best” and has caused “confusion and disarray among judges and lawyers.”

**Unanimous in Name Only**
Chief Justice Roberts, who has led the court for more than five years, early on expressed his preference for unanimous opinions even as he seemed to recognize a potential cost in providing guidance to the lower courts.

"The more cautious approach, the approach that can get the most justices to sign on to it, is the preferred approach," he said in 2006.

As it happens, his project has not been particularly successful. Two of the Roberts court’s five terms ranked among the top 10 since 1953 in the average number of dissenting opinions per case, according to an analysis by Lee Epstein of Northwestern University and Andrew D. Martin of Washington University in St. Louis. None of 19 terms overseen by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist from 1986 to 2005 made the top 10.

But it is in the area of faux unanimity that the Roberts court is really making its mark.

In the last term, there was at least one concurring opinion in 77 percent of unanimous rulings. That is a record.

Concurrences present the bench and bar with a particular difficulty.

“A dissent tends to be a clear signal that this is one justice who is not on board with whatever scheme his or her brethren are concocting,” Sonja R. West wrote in The Michigan Law Review in 2006. “Things become murky” where concurrences are involved, she went on, as “closer inspection is needed to fully understand the justice’s position.”

Concurrences, except when they provide the court with a crucial vote, are not binding. But it is a rare judge or law clerk who pays them no heed, as they can explain, limit or amplify aspects of the court’s decision.

At his confirmation hearing, Chief Justice Roberts said he would put a premium on clarity and accessibility.

“I hope we haven’t gotten to the point where the Supreme Court’s opinions are so abstruse that the educated layperson can’t pick them up and read them and understand them,” he said.

In a forthcoming study, two political scientists used linguistic software to analyze the complexity of the usage and concepts in some 5,800 Supreme Court opinions from 1983 to 2008. “Unanimous opinions are the most complex,” the study, by Ryan J. Owens of Harvard and Justin Wedeking of the University of Kentucky, found, while majority opinions in 5-to-4 decisions are the clearest.
The clearest writers on the court were Justices Scalia and Stephen G. Breyer, and the most complex was Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

But every single justice in the study wrote clearer dissents than majority opinions. That is almost certainly because dissents tend to be more direct and personal. The more votes an opinion needs to command, the more likely it will read as if written by a committee.

**When More Can Be Less**

The court decides perhaps 75 cases a term these days, down from about 150 in the mid-1980s.

Yet the number of words per decision has been climbing. The Roberts court set a record last term, issuing majority opinions with a median length of 4,751 words, according to data collected by two political scientists, James F. Spriggs II of Washington University in St. Louis and Ryan C. Black of Michigan State. The lengths of decisions, including the majority opinion and all separate opinions, also set a record, at 8,265 words.

In the 1950s, the median length of decisions was around 2,000 words.

The opinions in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the January decision that lifted restrictions on corporate and union spending in candidate elections, spanned 183 pages and more than 48,000 words, or about the length of “The Great Gatsby.” The decision — ninth on the list of longest majority opinions — was controversial, but the questions it addressed were not particularly complicated.

Long opinions are perilous, said Edward H. Cooper, a law professor at the University of Michigan. “The more things you say, the more chances you have to be wrong and the more chances you have to mislead the lower court,” he said.

There was a time when justices were keenly sensitive to keeping it short. Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. wrote a memorandum to his law clerks in 1984 saying that “a frequent and justified criticism of this court is that opinions are too long” and “are overburdened with footnotes.” This can, he said, “leave lower courts and lawyers in doubt as to the law.”

These days, the writing emanating from the court can be bureaucratic and unmemorable.

“They just don’t make great movie lines the way they used to,” said Fred R. Shapiro, an associate librarian at Yale Law School and the editor of The Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations. “They also don’t make great Supreme Court passages the way they used to.”
With the declining docket, justices have more time to hone their writing. But the available evidence suggests they rely on their clerks to produce first drafts, which the justices then edit.

"Although today’s Supreme Court opinions are no more poorly written on average than opinions from the era in which the justices wrote their own opinions, there is nonetheless a loss when opinions are ghostwritten," Judge Richard A. Posner of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit wrote in The New Republic in 2006. "Most of the law clerks are very bright, but they are inexperienced; and judges fool themselves when they think that by careful editing they can make a judicial opinion their own."

Delegating actual drafting to law clerks who are typically just two years out of law school, critics say, can be an abdication of judicial authority or at least an invitation to uneven and ambiguous prose.

A forthcoming study from two professors at the University of Toronto tried to identify the amount of ghostwriting on the court by developing software to analyze how justices’ writing styles varied from opinion to opinion and term to term.

"A justice who wrote her own opinions would presumptively possess a less variable writing style than a justice who relied heavily on her law clerks," wrote Jeffrey S. Rosenthal and Albert H. Yoon, the authors of the study.

The opinions of Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Scalia and Breyer were less variable in this sense, and those of Justices Thomas, Ginsburg and Kennedy more so. The highest level of variability among justices who served since 1941 was in the opinions of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who retired in 2006.

Two Seventh Circuit judges known to write their own opinions, Judge Posner and Chief Judge Frank H. Easterbrook, have variability rates much lower than those of any current member of the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court opinions can also be a sort of pastiche, with passages borrowed from the parties’ briefs. Using antiplagiarism software, Pamela C. Corley, a political scientist at Vanderbilt, found in a 2007 study in Political Research Quarterly that about 10 percent of the prose in majority opinions from the three terms that concluded in 2005 came from the parties’ briefs.

Not every decision is opaque, but even clear and unanimous decisions these days can provoke caustic concurrences.
In February, for instance, the court considered whether police officers could resume questioning a man who had invoked his Miranda rights more than two years before.

By a 9-to-0 vote, the justices said yes. Justice Scalia, writing for seven justices, added that the court should do more than merely decide the question before it.

"Law enforcement officers need to know, with certainty and beforehand, when renewed interrogation is lawful," he wrote.

How long, then, must the police wait after they have released a suspect? Two weeks, Justice Scalia said, sounded about right.

Justice Thomas concurred, but he quarreled with Justice Scalia. "To be sure," he wrote, "the court's rule has the benefit of providing a bright line." But he said picking two weeks out of the air was arbitrary and unprincipled and could just as easily have been "0, 10 or 100 days."

Justice John Paul Stevens, on the other hand, would have said only that two years was enough time in the case before the court.

**Head Scratchers**

In the privacy case that infuriated Justice Scalia and mystified Judge Hull, City of Ontario v. Quon, the Supreme Court ruled that a California police department had not violated the constitutional privacy rights of a member of a SWAT team when it audited the text messages on a pager the city had issued him.

Justice Kennedy took the unusual step of accepting three important points in the case only for the sake of argument, and he spent much of his opinion explaining that the court had taken pains to decide as little as possible.

"Cellphone and text message communications are so pervasive that some persons may consider them to be essential means or necessary instruments for self-expression, even self-identification," Justice Kennedy went on. "On the other hand, the ubiquity of those devices has made them generally affordable, so one could counter that employees who need cellphones or similar devices for personal matters can purchase and pay for their own."

Given that, he said, the case should be decided on grounds so narrow that the decision would have almost no precedential effect. "The judiciary risks error by elaborating too fully on the Fourth Amendment implications of emerging technology before its role in society has become clear," he wrote.
In his concurrence, Justice Scalia decried this approach.

 "Applying the Fourth Amendment to new technologies may sometimes be difficult, but when it is necessary to decide a case, we have no choice," he wrote. "The-times-they-are-a-changin' is a feeble excuse for disregard of duty."

 Many scholars say there is an important place in Supreme Court jurisprudence for incremental rulings, purposeful ambiguity and the delegation of discretion to lower court judges.

 "If the goal is to clear up any conflict in the lower court opinions, then you may want a clearer opinion," Professor Spriggs said. "But a real bright line may create some injustices in the system."

 The lines in many Roberts court opinions are faint.

 Consider Philip Morris USA v. Williams, an important 2007 decision on punitive damages, in which Justice Breyer gave lower courts guidance about how to present juries with evidence concerning harm to people not involved in the case. He said juries may consider that evidence in assessing the reprehensibility of the defendant's conduct but not to punish the defendant for harm caused to others.

 Even Justice Breyer's colleagues had trouble making sense of the distinction.

 "This nuance eludes me," Justice Stevens wrote in a dissent.

 Justice Ginsburg, joined by Justices Scalia and Thomas in a second dissent, asked what a jury was supposed to do on hearing an instruction based on the majority opinion. "The answer," she wrote, "slips from my grasp."
Smooth confirmation hearing for judge

The full senate must now OK nominee Jones for federal bench

By BLAKE AUED - blake.aued@onlineathens.com
Published Thursday, November 18, 2010

**Western Circuit Superior Court Judge Steve Jones** sailed through a confirmation hearing Wednesday for a federal judgeship.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted to recommend that the full Senate confirm Jones and three other nominees after the 90-minute hearing, which was broadcast over the Internet.

Sens. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., and Al Franken, D-Minn., questioned Jones about the felony drug court he started in 2004. The special court offers first-time drug offenders the opportunity to enter rehab under strict supervision in lieu of prison time.

Fewer than 20 percent of drug court participants commit another crime within two years after finishing the program, Jones told the committee.

"What we're trying to do is stop the drug problem so they don't become recidivists," he said. "It's been very successful, in my opinion."

A state audit showed that drug courts are less expensive than imprisonment, Jones said. Setting up similar courts around the country could help reduce the national debt, Franken said.

Sessions asked Jones whether he supports legalizing marijuana in light of the recent failed California proposition.

Jones said he would follow court precedents and enforce the laws passed by Congress.

"I will follow the law as far as drugs," he told Sessions. "I will agree with you that supervision of individuals on drugs helps them tremendously."

The threat of prison is a key tool for judges to convince drug users who are arrested to kick the habit, he said.

Sessions also asked nominees whether they support federal sentencing guidelines. Jones said he does because they "bring about confidence in our courts and help us reach a reasonable sentence."

Jones submitted a 66-page questionnaire and supporting information on his career prior to the hearing. Senators said they had few questions after reading the material.

Jones also was bolstered by endorsements from Georgia's two senators, Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson. No judicial nominee from Georgia has received more bipartisan support than Jones, Chambliss told the committee.

"He is going to make an outstanding federal judge," Chambliss said.

President Obama nominated Jones in July for U.S. District Court judge in the Northern Circuit of Georgia. The post has been vacant since 2008, when Orinda D. Evans became a part-time judge.
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Jones, 53, has been a Superior Court judge for Clarke and Oconee counties since then-Gov. Zell Miller appointed him in 1995. The 1987 University of Georgia graduate previously served as a prosecutor and Athens-Clarke Municipal Court judge. He has presided over more than 25,000 civil and criminal cases and been active in the community, serving as chairman of the anti-poverty group OneAthens and on the boards of many other organizations.
Amy E. Loggins, assistant vice president and employment counsel for Crawford & Company, recently was presented with the Jonathan A. Silber Outstanding Committee Member of the Year Award from the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) for individual excellence, leadership and major contributions made by a member of an ACC committee.

The ACC is the world's largest organization of in-house counsel, with more than 26,500 members in 75 countries. The award recognizes Loggins' contributions to the ACC, the Employment and Labor Law Committee (which consists of more than 5,400 members), the legal profession generally and in-house practice specifically. She also received the award for her contributions to the community through volunteer work and pro bono activities.

"Amy has skillfully and effectively guided labor and employment issues for our global organization for a number of years. She brings great commitment to her work, including her work for the ACC, which we support," said Allen W. Nelson, general counsel and chief administrative officer for Crawford. "I congratulate her for gaining this important recognition from her peers in the ACC."

In the past year, Loggins prepared and submitted the ACC's Comments regarding regulations proposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA). The Comments, which were directed to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), explained the impact of the proposed regulations on U.S. businesses.

She also coordinated a meeting for ACC members with EEOC commissioners to discuss the impact on U.S. businesses of the proposed regulations for the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act and the ADAAA. In addition, she made a number of presentations on the topics of employment law, social media, diversity and in-house counsel ethics.

Loggins serves on the board of directors for the ACC - Georgia chapter and as chair of the Employment and Labor Committee. In addition to community volunteer work, she is a pro-bono mediator for the EEOC and represents Crawford on the Labor Relations committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Loggins joined Crawford in 2004 after serving as a trial attorney with the EEOC in Atlanta and an associate at the law firm of Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese, also in Atlanta. She received her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law and a bachelor of science degree with honors from the University of Georgia.
Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C. Names Rebecca L. Crumrine as Shareholder

November 19, 2010

ATLANTA -- Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C. (DMQ) is pleased to announce that Rebecca L. Crumrine has been named a shareholder in the firm. Crumrine joined DMQ in 2005 and practices in the firm's family and domestic law section. She represents clients in all aspects of family law, including divorce, legal separation, paternity, legitimation, child custody, and pre-nuptial agreements.

Crumrine is active in various professional and civic organizations. She is a member of the executive committee of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia. Crumrine is chair-elect to the DeKalb County Bar Association Family Law Section, and is also a member of the Atlanta Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She serves on a child support task force as a liaison to the Georgia Legislature, and is currently an adjunct professor of domestic relations at John Marshall Law School. Crumrine also serves on the board of the Historic Oakland Foundation, Neighbor In Need, and on the Woman's Advisory Board of Breathru House. She is a Leadership DeKalb graduate, class of 2010. Previously, she served as a judicial extern for Chief Judge Dudley Bowen in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

Born in Rochester, New York and raised in Augusta, Georgia, Crumrine earned a Bachelor of Arts from The University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. in 1991 and was a member of the Order of the Gownsman. In 1994, she received a Master's in Education from the University of Georgia, cum laude, and was a member of the Kappa Delta Epsilon Honor society. In 2001, she received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. Since 2007, Crumrine has been recognized annually as a Super Lawyers Rising Star: recognition bestowed upon no more than 2.5% of all lawyers in the State of Georgia who are either under the age of 40 or have practiced less than 10 years.

About Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C.

Founded in 1969, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., is a full-service Atlanta law firm with a proven and distinguished record. Clients receive the benefit of decades of combined experience from highly specialized attorneys practicing in multiple areas of law. The firm has comprehensive litigation and transactional practices with particular expertise in business and commercial litigation, corporate law, domestic relations and family law, estate planning and probate, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and taxation. For more information please visit www.dmqlaw.com

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Byline: Lynn Lofton

Burr & Forman, LLP

Dorsey R. Carson Jr., managing partner of Burr & Forman of Jackson, is building a reputation as a leader in law and community service. His legal areas of expertise include construction law and commercial litigation groups, representing developers, owners, general contractors, subcontractors, sureties, architects and engineers within the construction industry.

Last June, he and Cheri T. Gatlin were recognized by Chambers USA as a "Leader in their Field" in construction litigation for Mississippi. A graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Georgia School of Law, he has practiced with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia, the Southern District of Illinois and the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

As a law student and a young associate, Katrina L. Dannheim has been mentored by Carson.

"I have learned from Dorsey how to represent clients firmly and fairly, even in tough situations," Dannheim said. "More importantly though, he has taught me that the law is about compassion. Dorsey is not afraid to accept a client who needs help, even if the reward is not monetary."

That giving spirit leads Carson to volunteer with several non-profit organizations, including Meals on Wheels. Every other month he and his wife cook and deliver meals for 24 inner-city elderly residents.

"I believe in giving back to the community with helping those who come from environments where they are not blessed financially, but use their talents for the greater good," he said.

An associate at Burr & Forman, Eric F. Hatten has experienced first hand Carson's commitment to improving the lives of others. "I believe he is the type of guy who literally makes a difference in the lives of people he cares about," he said. "Dorsey is friendly, honest, welcoming, enthusiastic and dedicated to the practice of law and the community."

Another legal associate, Bradley B. Vance, said, "I have witnessed Carson's dedication to the practice of law and his unwavering compassion and commitment to the various charitable organizations in the Jackson community. I have seen his work affect many people's lives for the better and improve their quality of life."

Carson looks to his mom as a role model. "She's a very mild mannered, quiet lady, but has a strong demeanor and unwavering foundation of beliefs," he said.

More on Dorsey Carson Jr.:
Age: 39

Birthplace: Jackson

Family: Wife, Susan; daughter, Hays Elizabeth

Hobbies: Traveling, kayaking, sailing, mountain hiking, scuba diving, music, art

Currently donates time to: Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Stewpot, Preserve Sight Mississippi

Lawyer to have lunch with: Thomas Jefferson.

Best lawyer movie: "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Fantasy job: National Geographic photographer

Favorite place to travel: Central America

First job: Mowing lawns; wave pool lifeguard at camp

LOAD-DATE: November 28, 2010

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

Time of Request: Sunday, November 28, 2010 06:36:11 EST

Print Number: 2842:255598881
Number of Lines: 53
Number of Pages: 1
ATLANTA - The two candidates remaining in the six-person race for an open seat on the Court of Appeals already know their way around the Atlanta courthouse.

Toni Davis worked there 14 years as a staff attorney for the Supreme Court, and her opponent Chris McFadden has spent so much time there arguing cases before the Court of Appeals that he co-authored a book on its procedures. Now voters must choose which of them to give a job there.

Their colleagues who know their work offered their opinions in a survey for the State Bar of Georgia. Of the 751 who said they knew Davis, 43 percent judged her "well qualified" to sit on the appellate bench, but of the 1,884 who knew McFadden, 60 percent gave him the top grade.

Of course lawyers won't be the only ones deciding the outcome since any registered voter can participate in the Nov. 30 runoff, even those who didn't vote Nov. 2. Other groups are also weighing in, such as the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, which is siding with McFadden, and the new group Georgia Women Vote started by Democratic blogger Amy Morton, which is supporting Davis.

For her part, Davis says she doesn't vote based on a candidate's sex, race or religion and wouldn't expect voters to. As a judge, she is only interested in bringing her legal logic to her view of cases, not represent some group on the bench.

"I am not looking to bring any feminine qualities to the court," she said.

She was an English major who discovered in her first year of teaching disabled students that she was more cut out helping people as a lawyer. She likes the solitary research and scholarship involved in weighing legal questions.

"I am truly a nerd," she joked.

Since leaving her job at the Supreme Court, she's been in private practice with a small firm where most cases are for clients wanting to file lawsuits, and most settle before going to trial. Of the three or four each year that go to trial, she handles the appeals.

McFadden worked almost exclusively with appeals for the last 25 years on a variety of cases, civil, criminal and domestic. Since his book was first published in 1996, he gets a lot of calls from other lawyers seeking advice on their appellate cases.

"I have been told by the DeKalb County Courthouse that it is the most stolen book in the law library," he said.
Beyond the book, he has worked with other lawyers to craft both part of the law and a rule that govern appeals.

"I have been working for many, many years to help the court of appeals be more effective and work in a more efficient way," he said.

He ran in 2008 and came in fourth. His practice is in Decatur, but he lives in Griffin because his wife is a professor at nearby Gordon College.

Like Davis, McFadden declines to state an opinion on cases, vowing instead to keep an open mind and to judge each according to the facts and the law.

walter.jones@morris.com, (404) 589-8424

COURT OF APPEALS ELECTION
Nonpartisan


CHRIS McFADDEN Age: 53 City of residence: Griffin Education: University of Georgia law school, 1985 Occupation: Appellate lawyer Experience: 25 years of appeals work Campaign website: www.mcfaddenforappeals court.com

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 2010

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

Time of Request: Saturday, November 27, 2010 06:36:04 EST

Print Number: 2821:255552109
Number of Lines: 57
Number of Pages: 1
Camilla native excels at UGA

Blake McDaniel will soon complete requirements for law and business degrees at the University of Georgia.

Posted: 12:00 AM Nov 21, 2010
Reporter: Carlton Fletcher, metro editor
Email Address: carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.
ATHENS — Blake McDaniel’s dad, Robert, always kidded his young son about his future career choice.

“My father told me while I was growing up that I should be a lawyer because I contradicted everything he said,” laughed Blake McDaniel, who is in his final year of study for dual juris doctor and MBA degrees at the University of Georgia.

Mere months away from making that fateful decision, McDaniel should have no shortage of options when he finishes his career at Georgia.

With degrees already in international business and German, and pending law and master’s in business administration degrees on his resume, the Mitchell-Baker High School graduate appears on the fast track to a future for which he will write the script.

“I’ve got the applications out there,” McDaniel said during a recent break from his job with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, another oh-by-the-way item for future employers to consider. “I’ll take the bar exam at the end of July, so the first month and a half to two months post-graduation I’ll spend studying for that.

“By the time I complete the exam, I hope to have a job secured.”

McDaniel has masterfully juggled work, study — including impressive study-abroad trips — and his on-campus duties during a college career that is nothing if not spectacular. He got the taste for world travel in high school when he participated in a study-abroad program in the Netherlands and has since completed similar international externship programs in Germany and China while at UGA.

He was named the winner of the prestigious Monroe Kimbrel Scholarship for 2010-11, an award that not only came with a tuition grant, but also provided for an internship at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

“I feel kind of lucky because I guess they liked what I did there,” McDaniel said of the work experience with the Federal Reserve bank. “I worked in their legal department over the summer of the internship, and they’ve kept me on during the school year in their retail payment department.

“The job has given me an opportunity to focus on both areas of my studies.”

Not that McDaniel’s work experience is the typical 9-to-5 grind. In addition to his work load, he’s enrolled in three law classes, two business courses and an undergraduate course in Chinese.

“A lot of places that I’ve looked at (for possible future employment), speaking Chinese has popped its head up as a useful skill to have,” McDaniel said. “And since my externship in China, I’ve become very interested in the language.

“Language was really the one barrier that made the three weeks in Beijing and the three weeks in Shanghai a challenge for me.”

The multitasker is also executive conference editor of the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law, president of the Georgia Society of International and Comparative Law and co-organizer of the annual business-law symposium hosted by the Terry College of Business and the UGA School of Law.
Adapt your recipes to contain healthier ingredients, but don’t surprise your guests with a dish you have just tweaked. Test these dishes prior to the celebration day.

Crawley said one key to sneaking in healthier foods is not to tell people that you have adjusted the recipe. If they know the dish is lower in fat or sugar, they may not give the food a chance and will expect it to taste bad, even if it doesn’t.

After dinner, don’t serve dessert right away. Let the food settle so your stomach has a chance to feel full.

In between dinners and parties, make healthy eating choices, and make sure you don’t skip physical activity. Half an hour to an hour of physical activity daily will reduce stress, decrease the risk for depression and keep you in shape.

“Weight gain for the average person is only a pound or two during the holidays,” Crawley said. “But people don’t get rid of that extra weight afterward, and that is what adds up over the years.”

Source: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Major decisions
The 10 most popular majors for fall 2010 and the number of graduate, undergraduate and professional students accepted into the major are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>1,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>1,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>818</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>736</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>722</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>670</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>International Affairs</td>
<td>605</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<td>9.</td>
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<td>595</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>587</td>
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Source: 2010 UGA Fact Book

TERRY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Business college climbs to 36th in survey of nation’s top full-time M.B.A. programs

The full-time M.B.A. program at the Terry College of Business is ranked 36th nationally and 15th among public business schools by Bloomberg BusinessWeek. It is Terry’s best-ever numeric ranking in BusinessWeek’s biennial survey of the top graduate programs in business.

Strongly positive survey responses from corporate recruiters propelled Terry’s climb in the 2010 ranking. BusinessWeek’s corporate poll comprises 45 percent of a business school’s total score. Recruiters were asked in a survey to rate the top 20 programs based on the perceived quality of graduates and their company’s experience with previous and recent M.B.A. hires. Terry ranked 10th nationally in the corporate poll, the only public business school rated higher was the University of Michigan.

“During the economic downturn and in the recovery, we have been committing more resources and attention to the early career successes of our graduates,” said Robert Sumichrast, dean of the Terry College. “That has included expanding the staff in the Career Management Center, and their hard work on behalf of M.B.A. students is paying off.”

—David Dodson

MCG/UGA Medical Partnership receives $50,000 gift

Athens-based Benson’s Inc. has donated $50,000 to the Arch Foundation for UGA to support the Medical College of Georgia/University of Georgia Medical Partnership. Pictured at the Nov. 2 signing of the fund agreement on campus are (from left) Ed Benson of Benson’s Inc., UGA President Michael F. Adams, CEO Larry Benson and Arnett C. Mace, Jr., special assistant to the president. The gift is the first to the university for the Medical Partnership, which enrolled its first class of 40 students in August. In 2012, the partnership is scheduled to move to a 58-acre campus in Athens that will be known as the UGA Health Sciences Campus and will house the UGA College of Public Health and other health-related programs.

9/11 memorial trees

By April Reese Sorrow
aprilr@uga.edu

Four years ago, Bartlett Tree Experts, an international tree company, was asked to care for the trees that will bring life back to the World Trade Center Plaza.

More than 400 white swamp oaks and sweetgum trees were relocated to a New Jersey nursery to be groomed for placement at the 9/11 memorial. Only 386 will eventually call the site home. Data collected from the trees will help experts determine which trees will be best suited for the memorial.

To help Bartlett care for the trees, which will be cast into the global spotlight, the company enlisted the help of the UGA Consortium for Internet Imaging and Database Systems, or CIIDS, which created a database system to track the trees’ care.

The system monitors and stores important information like watering schedules; pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer applications; pruning; weed control; tree height and diameter; and fall color. It also includes a sensor system that reads the soil moisture and temperature in the root ball of each tree.

“You essentially have the history of the tree at your fingertips,” said Sherri Clark, principal developer with CIIDS.

“If a tree has suffered some storm damage or its soil was too dry, you can see it. This information is important when selecting trees to move to the site.”

Weekly reports are automatically generated by the system and e-mailed to stakeholders.

“We have so many parties involved in this project, we needed a central repository for all the information,” said Mike Sherwood, Bartlett inventory solutions manager. “Having a central place for people to get the information was identified as needed early on. We were happy with our other CIIDS products. So we approached them for help.”
ATHENS - [watch] A University of Georgia Law professor thinks that the states have won the first round in their push to overturn the nation's new health care law. 34 U.S. senators including Georgia's Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson have filed an amicus brief in a Florida court detailing how the Healthcare plan is unconstitutional.

WNEG's Amelia Hines has more on how the final decision may come down to one U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Ron Carlson, a professor at the University of Georgia's School of Law, says that the 21 states that have co-signed on a brief attacking the health care reform bill have made a step in the right direction in getting what they want.

"That's a pretty daunting attack--21 states joining in with their attorneys general to say that this is unconstitutional legislation."

The senators have filed their amicus brief or a friend of the court brief with Florida U.S. District Court Judge Robert Vincent. "Before a judge who is thought to be somewhat sympathetic to their position and who is hostile to ObamaCare."

The federal court challenge focuses on the constitutional concerns over the requirement to purchase health insurance and punishment for not purchasing that insurance.

Although this amicus brief has been filed in a Florida U.S. District Court, it is likely just the first step to get the ball rolling so that the case eventually reaches a U.S. Court of Appeals in the 11th Circuit and then goes onto the U.S. Supreme Court.

Carlson says that once it reaches the Supreme Court, the final decision will likely be left up to the swing vote by Justice Kennedy. "It will likely be a 5-4 decision."

The amicus brief addresses two points. One deals with the nation's commerce clause. "The federal government has very little control and power over state citizens except when they engage in interstate commerce. And, that's what the ObamaCare legislation hangs its hat on--Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce. The problem is, very little doctor to patient interchange occurs interstate."

Secondly, the brief states that the individual mandate that everyone purchase health care by 2014 is unprecedented. "The senators say that never before in the history of this country has the federal government mandated that an individual citizen must buy a private product."

Carlson says that whatever the courts decide, it will be done before 2014 when the law takes effect.
Kittrie speaks at University of Georgia Law School

November 23, 2010

Professor Orde Kittrie was a panelist on the topic, "Emerging Nuclear Threats: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Various Sanctions and Monitoring Regimes," at the University of Georgia School of Law on Nov. 12 in Athens, Georgia.

The panel was part of a symposium titled "Fallout: The Future of Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation." The symposium was sponsored by the Dean Rusk Center, the University of Georgia School of Law, and the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law, which plans to publish articles based on the symposium proceedings.

Other panelists included Dave Jonas, General Counsel, National Nuclear Security Agency; Charles Allen, Deputy General Counsel for International Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense; and Larry Johnson, former United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Legal Affairs.

Kittrie's teaching and research focus on international law, especially nonproliferation and sanctions, and criminal law. Kittrie has testified on nonproliferation issues before both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and recently served as one of 12 members of a special Congressionally created committee to make recommendations on how to better prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Prior to joining the law faculty, Kittrie served for 11 years in the U.S. State Department, including as lead attorney for nuclear affairs.

Judy Nichols, judy.nichols@asu.edu
Office of Communications, College of Law
480-727-7895

Kittrie speaks at Georgetown University
Kittrie addresses symposium at American University law school
Kittrie discusses proliferation threats at Fordham conference
Kittrie speaks at American Bar Association annual meeting
Furuhashi teaches at Inter-American University in Tijuana

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Campus Mail: 480-965-502
Phone: 480-965-502
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Arizona State University issued the following news release:

Professor Orde Kittrie was a panelist on the topic, "Emerging Nuclear Threats: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Various Sanctions and Monitoring Regimes," at the University of Georgia School of Law on Nov. 12 in Athens, Georgia.

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Contact: Judy Nichols, Judy.Nichols@asu.edu

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The Daily Citizen (Dalton, Georgia)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

November 24, 2010 Wednesday

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

ACC-NO: 20101124-DW-Appellate-court-candidate-asks-voters-to-look-at-her-record-1124-20101124

LENGTH: 517 words

HEADLINE: Appellate court candidate asks voters to look at her record


BODY:

Nov. 24--The holiday season may not be the best time to get voters to the polls, but Georgians still have two statewide offices to fill, and they'll go to the polls again on Tuesday to decide runoff races for the Georgia Supreme Court and the state Court of Appeals.

"I hope that people do come out to the polls," said Antoinette "Toni" Davis, who finished first in a six-way race for the Court of Appeals. Davis faces fellow attorney Chris McFadden, who finished second in that race, in the runoff.

Davis spoke to The Daily Citizen during a visit to Dalton on Tuesday.

"The appellate court is sort of mysterious for many voters. They don't quite understand what it does. But when you explain what the court does, the range of issues it handles, they become very invested. Every week the court issues decisions that affect their individual rights, their businesses, their communities," said Davis. "The Court of Appeals addresses most of the criminal issues out there. The Court of Appeals has probably the largest caseload of any court in the country. They handle approximately 3,000 appeals a year."

A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Davis taught legal writing and research at that school for two years before joining the state Supreme Court as a staff attorney, where she worked for 14 years.

"That was a wonderful opportunity. I loved the work. I loved the exhilaration of figuring out the issues and researching the law and applying the law and the facts to reach a decision," she said. "One of the things I learned there was to take complex issues and explain them in very simple terms."

Davis said she believes it is vital that citizens, including other judges and attorneys, understand why courts reach their decisions.

Davis has been in private practice for the past 16 years, where she has successfully litigated cases before both the Georgia Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

"I've never run for anything in my entire life. But it's something I'd really love to do, to serve the people," she said.

Davis, who lives in Marietta, boasts endorsements from a number of former judges on both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

"I hope that voters will take the time to look at my record and that of my opponent and see who is the most experienced," she said.
All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. next Tuesday.

As of Tuesday afternoon, fewer that 10 people had voted in early voting in Murray County, which began Nov. 19, according to elections officials. They say holding the election will cost between $8,000 and $10,000.

Whitfield County Registrar Kay Staten said 17 people had voted as of Tuesday morning in Whitfield. She could not immediately say how much the election will cost. Early voting ends today.

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And don't forget to vote!  

Source URL: http://chronicle.augusta.com/opinion/editorials/2010-11-28/and-dont-forget-vote

Augusta Chronicle Editorial Staff  
Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010

You may feel electioned-out. But there's one last bit of work -- and it will take you a matter of seconds.

Many of us will simply be asked Tuesday to finalize two judicial races that weren't settled on Nov. 2 -- one for the Georgia Supreme Court and one for the Georgia Court of Appeals.

We hope you will take the few seconds it requires to vote in the runoff election -- and that you will vote for Supreme Court Justice David Nahmias and for Court of Appeals candidate Antoinette "Toni" Davis. We have chatted with these two fine folks at length, and can tell you that Georgia will be well-served indeed by both of these scholars.

Justice Nahmias was No. 2 in his class at Duke University, and a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, as well as a member of the prestigious Law Review. He has been a law clerk not only at the U.S. Court of Appeals, but at the U.S. Supreme Court itself.

It gets better.

He was recruited to work at a law firm by John Roberts himself -- now chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He went on to work as a prosecutor at the U.S. Attorney's office in Atlanta -- and at the Justice Department in Washington, where he headed up investigations after 9-11.

Mr. Nahmias was ultimately named U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia by President Bush, which he was until Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed him to the Georgia Supreme Court in 2009.

Yeah, he's a keeper.

Likewise, Antoinette "Toni" Davis, who was the University of Georgia School of Law director of legal research and writing, has earned impressive endorsements from former Chief Justice Harold Clark, former Justice Hardy Gregory, Jr. and former Chief Justice Norman Fletcher. These gentlemen know of which they speak: She was an attorney for the Supreme Court of Georgia for 14 years, and her co-workers have first-hand knowledge of her work ethic, fairness and legal acumen.
It's a privilege to elect our judges and justices. Let's do it right. Please vote for Justice David Nahmias and Antoinette "Toni" Davis on Tuesday.
Four in the running to replace Jackson judge

By Merritt Melancon - merritt.melancon@onlineathens.com

Published Monday, November 29, 2010

The governor's Judicial Nominating Committee next week will interview the four Jackson County attorneys in the running to fill the unexpired term of former State Court Judge Jerry Gray, who died unexpectedly last month.

While the attorneys have different backgrounds, they all cite a desire to serve the public as their main motivation for seeking the part-time judgeship.

Jefferson attorneys Donna Golden Sikes, Scott Tolbert and Nick Primm and Commerce attorney Jeff Perry all have submitted applications to the nominating committee. The committee will recommend a candidate for Gov. Sonny Perdue to appoint to the post before the end of the year.

A fifth attorney, Ronnie Hopkins, expressed interest in the position, but later removed his name from consideration after finding out he would have to resign from his longtime post as chairman of the Jefferson City Board of Education, he said last week.

Gray, who had held the part-time judge post for more than a decade, died after a short hospital stay in October, and judges from other jurisdictions have handled the cases in his court since then.

The nominees to take the Jackson County State Court bench have a range of experiences.

Sikes has practiced law in Jackson and surrounding counties since 1991. She clerked for Gray when he was a public defender in Jackson County and while she was attending law school at the University of Georgia.

"He was my mentor," she said.

Since then, she has developed a family law, general civil and criminal defense practice, and in 2008 ran an unsuccessful campaign to serve as district attorney for Barrow, Jackson and Banks counties.

Perry serves as chairman of the Jackson County Planning Commission and has practiced law in Commerce since 2003. He works with the Perry Law Firm, which his father founded, handling a mix of family law, criminal defense and civil cases.

"I think that there are (four) fine individuals who have put their names in the hat, and I respect each one of them," Perry said. "And I feel, at this point, that I am the most qualified and would love to serve the citizens of Jackson County, not only as the chairman of the planning commission, but also as a State Court judge."
Primm started his own private criminal defense practice in 2007 after working for more than five years as an assistant district attorney in Jackson County under former District Attorney Tim Madison. Primm resigned in 2007 as authorities confirmed that Madison had been stealing from the Banks County District Attorney's office.

Primm believes his time as a prosecutor and defense attorney has given him a well-balanced view of the courtroom.

"I don't think it would be a bad requirement for every judge to have prosecution and defense experience," he said. "It gives you a perspective; you understand both sides of the coin. So I am glad that I've gotten this exposure, and I do think it would help me be more fair and just as a judge."

Tolbert has practiced law since the 1990s and works with bankruptcy, DUI, criminal defense and family law cases. He did not return telephone calls seeking comment for this story.

The nominated attorneys all have said they maintain some part of their private practice, but have said the judge's job would come first. They agree the job ideally would become full time to match the court's growing caseload.

The State Court judgeship is legally a part-time position, but Gray and State Court Solicitor Don Moore essentially ran the court full time to keep up with the number of cases. They had asked Jackson County commissioners to make the judge's and solicitor's jobs full time, but commissioners never agreed.

"I think that depends on whether the court can be run properly on a part-time basis," Sikes said. "If it requires me to pretty much to do it full time to keep the court going smoothly, then that's what I'll do."

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Monday, November 29, 2010
Robert E. Lee taught me a lesson

Ronda Rich
southswomen@bellsouth.net
November 29, 2010

The other day I ran into General Robert E. Lee, along with his wife, and his arch nemesis, General Ulysses S. Grant.

I had just finished a speaking engagement at the TRR Cobb House in Athens, (Mr. Cobb, among many accomplishments, co-founded the University of Georgia Law School. He died at Fredericksburg defending the Confederate Constitution that he had authored).

I was clicking down the solid wood steps of his original home when I stopped six steps from the end. There were, in authentic costumes, folks who portray these important historical figures. They had come a visiting from South Carolina and Kentucky, eager to see the home place of Mr. Cobb.

Engaged in conversation with the curator of the Cobb House, Sam Thomas, they were spouting off all kinds of intriguing trivia. I sat down on the steps quietly, just to listen.

Oh, there was lots of good stuff I could share including General Lee's pronunciation that Grant's wife and Jefferson Davis's wife (president of the Confederacy) became best friends after the war ended. But here's what intrigued me most and had me asking questions: The mourning attire of widows during the Civil War period.

General Lee patiently explained that during the first year of deep mourning, the widow wore solid black and dark veils. The second year in "light" mourning, she discarded the veil and could add white to the top of her dress.

The third year was "half" mourning and a re-introduction to society. Most widows never remarried and some wore black for the rest of their lives.

"That wasn't true about Dolley Madison," I spouted off, newly informed by a PBS special of her remarriage quickly following her first husband's death.

He raised a grayed eyebrow and tightly replied, "She was a Yankee."

All that got me to thinking about the mourning periods in today's society. Of
course, all the "black only dresses" have been discarded for many decades but it seems like most women still do a proper job of mourning their fallen husbands. Most wait an appropriate period before they re-emerge in the dating scene.

But men? Now, that's another story. I'm only basing this on what I have seen from men in a certain age group. My sister and I have a friend, widowed for several years, whom we have been trying to find someone for her to date for a couple of years. The pickings had been so poor that we finally took to scouring the obituaries.

"I found the perfect widower!" I announced excitedly. Once I listed his attributes and qualifications, my sister agreed.

"But, listen," I continued. "We need to wait six months before we approach him. We want to be respectful. They were a close couple."

That plan failed like Lee's trip to Gettysburg. In three months, that man was engaged and not looking back. The next eligible widower that came up, I decided that we would decrease the waiting period to three months before we approached him and suggested an introduction.

Within weeks, that man, grief-stricken though he had been, had taken up with a widow and no casserole was going to pry them apart. Like General Lee at Appomattox, we surrendered.

My sister called. "You know, I have about decided that if we're going to find someone for Becky like this, we're gonna have to go to the funeral home and catch 'em before someone else does! Just walk up to the casket and ask them."

We thought that was funny until we found out that some women actually do that. So, we've given up on obituaries and widowers. Too much competition.

From now on, we'll just go down to the courthouse and dig through the divorce filings. It appears that women aren't nearly as interested in the ones who just gave away half of what they had.

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