1-1-2006

Dean's Report 2006

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*University of Georgia School of Law*

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Once again, I am pleased to present to you our Annual Report, which incorporates both my annual Dean’s Report and our Annual Donor Report, giving you a comprehensive look at the school’s activities over the past year.

During this period, the School of Law went through the American Bar Association/Association of American Law Schools reaccreditation process, which each law school undergoes every seven years. This process provided a much needed occasion to pause and reflect on our many accomplishments and successes, as well as an opportunity to think critically about where our law school is heading and the challenges and opportunities that await. We were pleased, but not surprised, by the ABA/AALS’ favorable report on our school.

I believe each law school has three primary pillars on which its success is based. These pillars are faculty, students and alumni. At Georgia Law, our faculty, our students and our alumni each play a critical role in adding to the rich foundation laid by those who came before us. The following will provide you with an update on each of these areas.

**Faculty**

One of our chief priorities last year was to hire additional faculty, and we were successful in attracting four new scholars to our staff – David A. Brennen, Julian A. Cook III, Fazal Khan and Sonja R. West. Both David and Julian served as visiting professors here last fall.

David, who was formerly the Palmer Professor of Tax Law at Mercer University and who has more than 10 years of university-level teaching experience, has worked as assistant general counsel for Florida’s Department of Revenue and as an associate with the law firm of Messer, Vickers, Caparello, Madsen, Lewis, Goldman & Metz in Tallahassee. David earned his bachelor’s degree from Florida Atlantic University and his law degree and Master of Laws in Tax from the University of Florida. He, naturally, will lead courses in tax law.

Julian most recently taught as an associate professor at Michigan State University and has nearly a decade of legal teaching experience. A former judicial clerk of Judge Philip M. Pro of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, his other experience includes several years as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice. Julian holds a bachelor’s degree from Duke University, a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He will instruct in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence.

Specializing in health law, Fazal came to Georgia Law with considerable experience in both the legal and medical fields. Previously, he served as a litigation associate for the Chicago firm of Jenner & Block and as a mock trial developer for the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence as well as held multiple teaching and research assistantships at the university level. Fazal obtained his
bachelor’s degree with honors from the University of Chicago, graduated *magna cum laude* from law school and earned his M.D., both from the University of Illinois, where he also served as book review editor of the *University of Illinois Law Review*. A former judicial clerk of U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens and the fifth former Supreme Court clerk on our faculty, Sonja previously served as the Hugo Black Faculty Fellow at the University of Alabama. She also clerked for U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Judge Dorothy W. Nelson and worked as an associate with the Los Angeles firms of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Davis Wright Tremaine. Sonja earned her bachelor’s degree with honors and distinction from the University of Iowa and her law degree with high honors from the University of Chicago, where she served as executive editor of *The University of Chicago Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. She will teach Media Law and Constitutional Law.

I am pleased to report Daniel M. “Dan” Bodansky, who is internationally recognized as one of the premier authorities on global climate change and the holder of the Woodruff Chair in International Law, assumed the associate dean for faculty development position vacated by Rusk Professor Peter J. Spiro earlier this summer. While Peter’s presence will be missed, I am confident Dan will help to further the law school’s academic reputation by working closely with the law school’s faculty, especially our junior faculty, to expand and promote scholarly activities.

In this vein, Dan worked with Peter this past spring to establish the International Law Colloquium Series, which brings leading international law scholars to Athens to present substantial works-in-progress. This initiative complements the Faculty Colloquium Series started last fall and brings notable scholars to the law school to promote legal dialogue and to foster and strengthen relationships with other top institutions. Both of these programs are made possible by the Kirbo Trust Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund, supported by Bruce W. (J.D. 1951) and Catherine Kirbo.

Scholarly research by the Georgia Law faculty continues to enhance our academic reputation. Once again, our professors enjoyed considerable success over the past year on the publishing front as evidenced by completed or forthcoming pieces from the Oxford University Press, the Harvard University Press, Aspen Publishers, LexisNexis, Thomson/West and the Foundation Press, among others. Some of the journals carrying recent work of the Georgia Law faculty are affiliated with the law schools at these leading universities and colleges – California at Los Angeles, Duke, Georgetown, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Washington, Washington and Lee, and Vanderbilt.

Additionally, Georgia Law has increased its participation with the Social Science Research Network and has partnered to provide ready access to works-in-progress and select completed pieces authored by our faculty. If you would like to receive periodic e-mail announcements with abstracts of the latest research written by Georgia Law faculty and links to the full text papers, please register at SSRN.com.

Some notable honors bestowed on the Georgia Law faculty during the last 12 months include: Prosecutorial Clinic Director Alan A. Cook (J.D. 1984) was named Advocate of the Year by the Domestic Violence Task Force of Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties.

Hosch Professor Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D. 1988) was selected as a senior fellow by UGA’s Institute of Higher Education for her work with the unit over the past several
years, which includes programs with Jilin University in China, the University of Zagreb in Croatia and the Education Law Consortium.

Associate Dean Paul M. Kurtz received the UGA Disability Resource Center Outstanding Faculty Member Award, which recognizes faculty members who go beyond what is legally required and demonstrate an exceptional attitude in teaching and working with students with disabilities.

Shackelford Distinguished Professor Walter Hellerstein was elected as a trustee of the American Tax Policy Institute, which fosters the improvement of the U.S. tax system by providing nonpartisan analysis and research on federal, state, local and international tax policy issues.

Callaway Chair Emeritus Ronald L. Carlson and Cobb Professor David E. Shipley were appointed charter members of the State Bar of Georgia Foundation of Freedom Commission, which was established to promote public understanding of the law and its role in society through an educational campaign.

Additionally, the Local Government Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia unanimously approved a resolution of appreciation for Carter Chair Emeritus R. Perry Sentell Jr. (LL.B. 1958), recognizing his 42 years of service to the section in presenting the changes in case law affecting local governments to the Institute of City-County Attorneys each fall.

On a sad note, I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing this summer of two well regarded former Georgia Law faculty – Robert D. Peckham, a leader in indigent defense who directed the Legal Aid and Defender Society (which would later become the Legal Aid and Defender Clinic) for nearly two decades, and Woodruff Chair Emeritus Louis B. Sohn, an eminent international law scholar who played an instrumental role in the development of the United Nations and taught at the law school for more than 10 years. I know you join me in offering condolences to Robert’s children, Richard and Nancy, and to Louis’ wife, Betty.

This fall, the law school welcomed several visiting faculty members. Former U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Theodore W. “Ted” Kassinger (J.D. 1978) is serving as the Carl E. Sanders (J.D. 1948) Political Leadership Scholar teaching International Trade Law and Policy, and Kim Van der Borght, a visiting professor from the University of Hull in England, is leading the classes International Trade Law, and Health and International Trade.

For the 2006-07 academic year, Matthew J. Festa is serving as a visiting assistant professor instructing classes in civil procedure and land use planning, while 2002 alumna Emily Hammond Meazell is teaching Property Law and Law and Science as a visiting assistant professor. Emily is occupying a one-year teaching fellowship aimed at assisting superior Georgia Law graduates with the transition into the legal academy.

This fall, our first Cousins Public Interest Fellow, Torin D. Togut, joined our staff. This fellowship program seeks to foster the creation of projects to provide civil legal services to indigent Georgians and will offer experienced practitioners the opportunity to focus on these needs, with support from the fellowship and the law school. While Torin’s two-year project will concentrate on special education issues, future fellowships may target other areas. Applications for the 2007-09 fellowship should be sent to Associate Professor and Fellowship Coordinator Alexander W. Scherr.

In the spring, we are delighted that Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox will join us as the Sanders Political Leadership Scholar and will teach two courses - Law and Politics, and Election Law. Additionally, Margaret E. McGuinness, a specialist in international law, will serve as a visiting associate professor from the University of Missouri at Columbia School of Law.

Curricular offerings at Georgia Law are typically enhanced by a number of high profile guest speakers and lecturers. This fall, we were fortunate to host U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on his third visit to campus since 2003.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas led an education law class while on campus this fall.
While here, Justice Thomas visited with numerous faculty and students, participated in constitutional law and education law classes, and held a Q&A session for students.

As part of a new lecture series coordinated by the Dean Rusk Center – International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies and UGA’s Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, former Solicitor-General of Hong Kong Daniel R. Fung talked about Chinese politics and economics.

The 101st Sibley Lecturer was the renowned legal and literary scholar Stanley F. lawn, who is currently the Davidson-Kahn Distinguished University Professor of Humanities and Law at Florida International University.

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson served as the 2006 graduation speaker, while the 24th Edith House Lecture was delivered by the winning attorney in the historic U.S. Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade, Sarah Weddington.

The 18th Annual Red Clay Conference focused on natural disaster planning and featured nationally recognized expert on environmental law and land use Rob R.M. Verchick, the Gauthier-St. Martin Eminent Scholar Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola University in New Orleans.

This past spring, the law school broke new ground with a new educational offering. What separates the Alumni Advocacy Series from other educational programs utilizing past graduates is this initiative’s sole focus on key elements for successful advocacy in the courtroom. The spring’s program featured presentations by Scott A. Farrow (J.D. 1988), Richard H. “Rick” Hill II (J.D. 1995), Donald F. “Don” Samuel (J.D. 1980), Andrew M. “Andy” Scherffius (J.D. 1974), W.G. “Bill” Scrantom Jr. (LL.B. 1955) and Gordon A. Smith (J.D. 1978).

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response by students, this program will be held each spring. Alumni Michael B. “Mike” Terry (J.D. 1987), Susan V. Boleyn (J.D. 1975) and N. Karen “Kay” Deming (J.D. 1978) already have signed on for the 2007 series.

I am pleased to report that in August we, once again, enrolled an excellent class. The entering class of 2006 consists of 232 students and boasts a median undergraduate GPA of 3.62 and a median LSAT score of 163, which ties a school record and reflects a score that places these students in the top 10 percent of test takers nationwide. Moreover, the top quarter of the class scored 164 or higher on the LSAT and achieved a 3.85 or better undergraduate GPA.

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<th>LSAT/GPA of the 2006 Entering Class</th>
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One-quarter of the entering class indicated they were members of a minority group, making this class among the most diverse in law school history. Of the 59 minority students enrolled, 37 are African Americans.
In terms of gender, 55 percent of this class is male and 45 percent is female. Although the Class of 2009 consists of residents from 19 different states who are graduates from 80 institutions, approximately 85 percent of the students consider Georgia their home state.

The University of Georgia continues to be our top “feeder” school with 87 graduates enrolled. Other leading schools from which our entering class received their undergraduate degrees are: the Georgia Institute of Technology (15), Emory University (8), Georgia State University (5), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (5), Furman University (4) and Vanderbilt University (4).

Fifteen practitioners have enrolled in the school’s Master of Laws program for 2006-07. These students are from 10 different countries including Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

Our students continue to have many co-curricular opportunities to enrich their legal education. The school’s three journals – the Georgia Law Review, the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law and the Journal of Intellectual Property Law – remain well regarded and publish scholarship of the highest caliber.

Georgia Law’s advocacy program is one of the best in the nation. This past academic year, our teams captured three national championships, the most since 1996-97 when the school won four such crowns.

The 2005-06 titles came in the National First Amendment Moot Court Competition, the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition and the Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Moot Court Competition. Additionally, Georgia Law captured all three trophies at the Intrastate Moot Court Competition.

The new advocacy season is currently underway, and I look forward to reporting our students’ future successes to you.

As our society becomes more and more globalized, opportunities for working and studying abroad are essential for producing the next generation of top lawyers. Earlier this year, the law school debuted two new learning programs – Georgia Law at Oxford and the Georgia Law Summer Program in China. Both of these initiatives received glowing appraisals from the ABA during their inaugural sessions.

The Oxford program is one of the few semester-long study abroad opportunities offered by American law schools and has a waiting list for the spring 2007 term.

The China program is unique in that it offers the opportunity for study in two of the country’s largest cities - Beijing and Shanghai. With an emphasis on commercial and trade law, students have been eager to participate and, of special note, enrollment is open to practitioners, who can also earn CLE credit.

Considered one of UGA’s largest international programs in terms of geographic reach, our International Externship Program can now place up to 30 students in a legal working environment in one of 15 different countries each summer.
Noting this initiative started five years ago with just two students placed in one country, this success is remarkable.

After completing three years of legal study, our students continue to make us proud. Virtually all (99 percent) of the members of the 2005 graduating class were “placed” nine months after graduation (the official reporting deadline of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP)). They obtained employment in a variety of legal settings throughout the state of Georgia and in 13 other states, the District of Columbia and Japan. The average starting salary for these recent alumni was $78,756.

I am also pleased to report Adam M. Conrad, a member of the 2005 class, is currently serving as a judicial clerk to the U.S. Supreme Court's Justice Clarence Thomas. He is the sixth Georgia Law graduate to secure a Supreme Court clerkship, and his selection places Georgia Law in an elite group of public law schools that have had at least six alumni to serve our nation’s highest court in this manner.

Additionally, 2005 alumna E. Ramsey Henderson joined the Office of Legal Career Services in November as assistant director. She replaced Anthony E. “Tony” Waller (J.D. 1993), who is now serving as assistant dean for career services at the University of Illinois College of Law. Ramsey will assist Director Beth S. Kirch with helping our students and alumni with their employment needs.

There are numerous ways to measure the educational quality of a law school. One way is to look at the “placement” rates at the time of graduation as well as at nine months out. For our most recent class, the Class of 2006, 87 percent were “placed” when they received their diplomas this past spring, an all time high for our school.

Please remember these employment rates do affect your law school’s rankings. As such, I ask that if you will be supplementing your legal staff to do so with a fellow Georgia Law graduate and, if possible, make your offer prior to May or February. I am confident you find a well-qualified candidate to suit your requirements with the assistance of Beth and Ramsey.

Our alumni remain a tremendous source of pride for our institution. After all, your professional and personal accomplishments as graduates of Georgia Law do much to confirm that you received a solid educational foundation during your time in Athens.

Two alumni who were recognized by the Law School Association for their achievements this summer were classmates Michael J. “Mike” Bowers (J.D. 1974) and Paul W. Painter Jr. (J.D. 1974). The pair received the alumni association’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award.

Currently a partner at Balch & Bingham and chair of the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission, Mike served as our state’s attorney general for more than 15 years. He has been named by Georgia Trend magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians” 10 times, most recently in 2006. Mike has actively participated in the LSA over the years, serving on its council from 1981 to 1985. He was also a member of the law school’s Board of Visitors from 1985 to 1987. Presently, he is serving a second term on the BOV.

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Paul is a partner in the firm Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams. During his 32 years of private practice, he has served as president of the Savannah Bar Association and the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association. He has also been the Georgia chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member and chair of the Board of Bar Examiners. For the last three years, Law & Politics and Atlanta Magazine have recognized him as one of Georgia’s “Top 100” lawyers. Paul, too, has been active in the LSA, serving as a member of its council from 1997 to 2004 and as president during 2002-03. He also was a member of the BOV from 2003 to 2006.

I am continuously grateful to the alumni currently serving on the law school’s advisory boards. These members provide me, and the school, with valued feedback and assistance as we move forward. Last year, J.D. Smith (J.D. 1971) led the BOV and Robert O. Freeman (J.D. 1972) directed the LSA. This year, James E. “Jim” Butler Jr. (J.D. 1977) chairs the BOV, and Eleanor Banister (J.D. 1980) presides over the LSA.

As I am sure you are aware, the university and the law school are in the midst of a capital campaign, titled Archway to Excellence. This fund-raising effort will fuel the achievements of Georgia Law in the future and will strengthen each of the pillars on which all of the school’s success is based. As such, the campaign supports student scholarships and activities as well as the school’s valued faculty in addition to uniting the graduates of Georgia Law, and our friends, in a common cause — our law school.

This spring, Chester C. Davenport (LL.B. 1966) made a $1.5 million pledge. This is the school’s largest single lifetime monetary commitment and will create the Chester C. Davenport Scholarship Fund. Chester and his classmates celebrated their 40th law school reunion in October, and many of his classmates made gifts to the law school in his honor.

Other gifts to Georgia Law totaling more than $100,000 over the past 12 months include: a gift to the Chaffin Distinguished Professorship in Fiduciary Law from Ethel T. and Verner F. Chaffin (LL.B. 1942) that will create the law school’s 12th endowed faculty chair – the Verner F. Chaffin Chair of Fiduciary Law; a pledge by Kenneth Klein (J.D. 1976) to support the study of international law by establishing an endowed scholarship; a fund for the Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union study abroad program, and the Dean Rusk Center; a pledge by Keith W. Mason (J.D. 1985) to establish a scholarship to support a law student who has graduated from UGA’s Terry College of Business and/or the School of Public and International Affairs; a gift from the estate of Frank Lumpkin to fully endow the Edith M. and Frank G. Lumpkin Scholarship; a commitment from Michael J. Sharp (J.D. 1991) to create the Michael J. Sharp Scholarship Fund; and support from the Thom and Irene Kirbo Charitable Trust.

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan became the first firm to sign on to the Georgia Law Firm Initiative with a combined gift of $250,000 that will name the courtyard at the law school the “Sutherland Courtyard.” James L. “Jim” Henderson III (J.D. 1976) led the way with a gift and was a driving force behind the firm’s commitment. Partners, associates and the firm itself have made five-year pledges to the law school as part of this endeavor.

To date, the law school has raised more than $14 million toward its campaign goal of $17 million and, during the...
last fiscal year alone, the law school received more than $5.4 million in gifts and pledges, making it our most successful fund-raising period ever.

I would personally like to thank all of you who have made Georgia Law one of your philanthropic priorities; you are identified in the pages of this Annual Report.

I do understand there are many pressures you face as you try to determine how to best allocate your resources. When doing so, I hope you will reflect on the strong educational foundation you received during your time at Georgia Law and remember the law school’s continued success will only increase your pride in your legal alma mater.

The fall semester is such a great time to visit Athens. With the start of an academic year comes a new energy and increased enthusiasm.

It is also time for reconnecting with many of you. Over the past several months, many of you attended our record breaking Homecoming BBQ (with more than 1,350 registrants), successful reunion events, our annual Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society (annual donors of $1,000 or more) Champagne Reception, and our Open House and 88th Birthday Celebration for Callaway Chair Emeritus Verner Chaffin.

While on campus, you may have noticed the last of our classrooms have been renovated. In 2002 and 2003, the entire law school complex underwent a technology upgrade with the installation of wireless Internet access and multimedia teaching equipment. However, only a few of the classrooms and the Sanders Reading Room in the Alexander Campbell King Law Library received a complete physical remake. This summer, the remaining classrooms have been rebuilt and now reflect a modern teaching and learning environment.

If you have not had the opportunity to see these changes, I invite you to stop by during school hours. I am confident you will be impressed not only with the physical appearance of your law school but also with the current people – faculty, students and staff – that occupy the space.

Georgia Law is a place you can be proud to call your alma mater, and I’m sure you will be glad you made the time to visit.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hanner White
Dean and J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law

In September, Georgia Law hosted an Open House for alumni and toasted Callaway Chair Emeritus Verner Chaffin (LL.B. 1942) on his 88th birthday.