11/2011 Newsclippings

Office of Communications and Public Relations
Guide to LL.M. programs

The chart on the following pages includes LL.M. programs in the United States that are open to foreign attorneys. They are also open to U.S. law school graduates, unless marked as foreign-only with a check.

We have sorted the schools geographically, starting with the Northeast and ending with the West.

If you wish to search by Practice Area, please visit www.nationaljurist.com/content/international-llm-news for an index.

Our website also includes greater detail on all LL.M. programs — for both foreign attorneys and U.S. graduates. You can also access this by scanning this code with your smart phone:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law School Name</th>
<th>Graduate Program Subject</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>App. Fee</th>
<th>T/F. Tuition Per Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta's John Marshall</td>
<td>Labor and Employment Law</td>
<td>Rolling admissions</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loyola University Chicago School of Law</td>
<td>Health Law</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>$50+</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Executive LL.M. In Taxation</td>
<td>Fall: June 1; Sp. Nov. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwestern Law School</td>
<td>Entertainment &amp; Media Law</td>
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<td>$40</td>
<td>$1400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stetson University College of Law</td>
<td>Elder Law</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>$372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Jefferson School of Law</td>
<td>International Taxation &amp; Financial Services</td>
<td>Quarterly admissions</td>
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<td>Intellectual Property</td>
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<td>Insurance Law</td>
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<td>University of Miami School of Law</td>
<td>Real Property Development</td>
<td>Rolling admissions</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$1390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LL.M. in U.S. Legal Studies

A New York City based LL.M. Program tailored exclusively for foreign law school graduates.

The program is open to outstanding foreign law school graduates interested in gaining eligibility to sit for the New York Bar Exam.

Office of Transnational Programs
St. John's University, School of Law
8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, New York, 11439
Tel: 718-990-8335, otp@stjohns.edu
www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/academics/llm/legalstudies

November 2011 | The National Jurist | 33
How to choose the
BEST U.S. LAW SCHOOL
for foreign attorneys

In a new book — LL.M. Roadmap — Professor George Edwards gives the skinny on law school rankings and reputations of LL.M. programs

International students seeking an LL.M. often say they want to attend the best U.S. law school. Some want to go to the highest ranked school that accepts them, or the school with the best reputation, or a top 10 or top 50 school.

But what is the best U.S. law school, the highest ranked school, or the school with the best reputation? Even if you easily identify the best, highest ranked, or best reputed school, is that school really the best choice for you? Should you be considering factors other than rank or reputation?

In short, I think it is better not to focus on the best law school, but to focus on the best law school for you. The best law school for you may not be the best school for another student. The best law school for you may not be the highest ranked, nor the most prestigious, with the best reputation, or the most popular or famous. The best school for you may not be in your favorite city or even favorite U.S. geographical region.

What school suits your academic, career, personal & financial needs?

You have educational, personal, professional, geographical, and other needs. What factors about a law school (and its LL.M. program) are most important to you? Are you concerned about: the law school’s name; whether it is attached to a prestigious university; whether it has famous alumni; whether it has a career office to help LL.M. students find legal jobs; whether it has good sports teams or fraternities; whether it has great professors and students; whether it permits LL.M. students to work on law journals; whether it offers your chosen specialization; whether it has a diverse student body; whether it permits LL.M. students to do pro bono legal work for poor clients; or whether it offers overseas internships for LL.M. students? Not all U.S. law schools, and their LL.M. programs, are equal. In Chapter 7, you can learn about factors you might want to consider in choosing where you will receive your LL.M.

Many of these factors may be important to you, but one factor may not be as important to you as another. They may all have different levels of importance to dif-

By George Edwards, professor of law at Indiana University — Indianapolis

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Law School Name</th>
<th>Graduate Program Subject</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>App. Fee</th>
<th>Nil Taken Per Credit</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>University of Connecticut School of Law</td>
<td>U.S. Legal Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Taft University, The Pfister School</td>
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<td>Nov 15; Jun 15; Mar 1 2012</td>
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<td>$43928/yr</td>
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<td>Feb 1 recommended</td>
<td>$70</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Columbia University Law School</td>
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<td>Cornell Law School</td>
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<td>$1320</td>
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<td>Family Law</td>
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<td>$44974/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>New York Law School</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
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<td>$1745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>New York Law School</td>
<td>Real Estate; Taxation</td>
<td>Fall: Aug 1, Sp: Dec 1 2012</td>
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<td>$1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>International Taxation</td>
<td>Dec 1 2012</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>New York University School of Law</td>
<td>International Taxation</td>
<td>Rolling admissions 2012</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Pace University School of Law</td>
<td>Comparative Legal Studies; Environmental Law</td>
<td>Rolling admissions 2012</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$1935</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>St. John's University School of Law</td>
<td>Bankruptcy Law</td>
<td>Rolling admissions 2012</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$1350</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>St. John's University School of Law</td>
<td>U.S. Legal Studies</td>
<td>Rolling admissions 2012</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$1935</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center</td>
<td>U.S. Legal Studies</td>
<td>Rolling admissions 2012</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$1425</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Emory Law offers graduates of U.S. and foreign law schools the opportunity to secure an LLM from one of the top law schools in the United States, located in the international and commercial hub of Atlanta. LLM students can choose from three broad tracks:

- A generalized program of study designed around your particular interests and expertise and drawing from the breadth of Emory's curriculum
- An LLM in one of six formal concentrations developed by the Emory Law faculty:
  - Transactional Law
  - Public Law and Regulation
  - Child Law and Policy
  - Human Rights Law
  - Vulnerability and the Human Condition
  - Law and Religion
- Emory Law's Joint LLM with Central European University, focused on International Commercial Law and International Politics

Limited scholarship assistance is available for applicants for fall 2012. To learn more, visit www.law.emory.edu/llm.
The University of Houston Law Center is a Tier One school with an LL.M. program that holds a worldwide reputation for excellence. Foreign-trained lawyers from every corner of the globe are attracted by our renowned faculty and one of the largest course selections in the United States. Students are able to design a general course of study or a customized curriculum built around specific interests and career goals in five distinct programs: Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Law; Health Law; Intellectual Property & Information Law; International Law; and Tax Law. Our two-semester program begins in August, and your home will be Houston, the nation's fourth largest city with an affordable cost of living and vibrant international connections.

The University of Houston Law Center is the perfect place to take your legal career to the next level. Learn more about our LL.M. program at www.law.uh.edu/llm.
For many attorneys around the world, the successful practice of law requires an understanding of the American legal system. The Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program at Michigan State University College of Law is designed to introduce foreign lawyers to the legal system of the United States and provide advanced courses in specialized areas of the law.

The LL.M. Program provides a rigorous yet flexible academic curriculum to advance the legal training of those who have completed their legal education in a foreign jurisdiction. An MSU Law LL.M. will prepare candidates to:

- Work in a multinational legal environment
- Create a program that is customized to professional goals and interests
- Qualify to take the bar examination in New York, California, and many other U.S. states
- Enhance career opportunities

During their preparation, candidates are guided by expert faculty members who have lived and practiced abroad, all while joining a thriving intellectual community of more than 4,000 international scholars representing 125 countries.

For more information or to apply, visit www.law.msu.edu/llm/als
it mean to be ranked No. 1 or to have the best reputation? What does it mean to be in the top 10 or top 50?

Should ranking or reputation matter? If so, should it be the ranking or reputation of the law school itself, of the specific LL.M. program, or of the university of which the law school and LL.M. program are part? Should you choose a school that has a high ranking over a school where you will thrive—where you can best achieve your academic, personal, professional and career goals? Again, you must decide what is best for you. What is best for you may not be best for another student. This applies to rank and reputation.

LL.M. candidates often gravitate toward schools they consider to be ranked high or that have the best reputations. Is it reasonable to rely on rankings or reputation when choosing an LL.M. program?

Is it reasonable to want the best, ranking-wise and reputation-wise, when choosing a cell phone, laptop, or other highly priced item to purchase? What enters into our mind when we are making such purchases? What influences our decisions? In addition to our most obvious and immediately evident desires, do we also look at our own personal needs and resources before we buy? There are many criteria to consider when choosing a car, laptop or LL.M. program. Ranking or reputation should be only part of the equation.

**Ranking versus reputation**

Though ranking and reputation, when spoken of, often go hand in hand as if they are in this complex globalized legal environment, an advanced degree in law provides an important advantage for practitioners throughout the world. Southwestern Law School gives you that advantage.

Southwestern offers LL.M. students unparalleled facilities in the vibrant cosmopolitan city of Los Angeles, internationally renowned faculty, individualized attention, and an extraordinary alumni network that spans the U.S. and beyond.

**LL.M. in ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA LAW**
The first LL.M. program in Entertainment and Media Law in the country featuring a broad range of more than 50 entertainment, media, sports and intellectual property law courses taught by leading legal experts in these areas. ✪ Online option!

**Contact:** Tamara Moore, Assistant Director, Donald E. Biederman Institute
Tel: 213.738.6602   Email: llmadmissions@swlaw.edu

**LL.M. in INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES**
A progressive, personalized LL.M. program that allows students to work closely with faculty to develop a course of study tailored to their own interests from a comprehensive selection of over 200 electives and core courses.

**Contact:** Anne Wilson, Special Assistant to the Dean
Tel: 213.738.5707   Email: llmprogram@swlaw.edu
MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.)
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - CLEVELAND OHIO

The Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees are a one-year, full-time program, designed to give graduates of foreign law schools an opportunity to study the United States legal system and international law and trade, and to become truly capable lawyers in the 21st century's global economy. Our LL.M. students have access to 170 Juris Doctor (J.D.) courses, as well as courses specifically designed for the needs of LL.M. students. Our students, who have come from 60 countries, form a close-knit community and become involved in law school activities with J.D. classmates. LL.M. students benefit from individual attention and guidance in a family atmosphere. We offer three LL.M. degrees and a summer law institute.

**LL.M. in United States and Global Legal Studies** — Focus on United States legal research, writing, and analytical methods with a flexible curriculum to meet each individual student's career goals. Students may earn certificates of concentration in several areas of law.

**LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law** — Focus on the doctrine and policy of United States intellectual property law, including patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets.

**LL.M. in International Business Law** — Focus on academic analysis and practical applications of United States business law as applied to international transactions.

**Summer Language and Law Institute** — Open to any foreign legal professional or international student, this intensive four-week training experience in Legal English aims to introduce students to the U.S. legal system.

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For more information, contact:
Adria J. Sankovic, Assistant Director
Office of Foreign Graduate Legal Studies
School of Law
Case Western Reserve University
11075 East Boulevard
Cleveland, OH, 44106-1769, USA
Phone 216/368-2083, Fax 216/368-2086
e-mail: adria.sankovic@case.edu
http://www.law.case.edu
similar and related, in fact they are quite separate and distinct.

RANKING, in theory at least, is based on systematic, methodical surveys that use objective criteria to determine how schools or programs fit into a quantifiable numerical hierarchy. The concept of ranking may be criticized for many reasons, including disagreement as to the criteria used to rank, the selection of the categories chosen to rank, methods used for measuring quality, and the opportunities to manipulate data surveyed in the ranking process.

REPUTATION, on the other hand, is more of a sense of how good or bad a school is perceived to be, how desirable or undesirable, or generally what people think about either the school itself or about the school as compared to one or more other schools.

A school may be ranked No. 1 (at the top) but may have a negative reputation. Likewise, it may be ranked near the bottom, but have an excellent reputation.

No official law school rankings
The ABA does not rank law schools, and neither does the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), nor any other bar or official law organization in the U.S. None of these groups rank J.D. programs, LL.M. programs, or any other programs at U.S. law schools.

Schools do not rank themselves officially (though some schools implicitly tout their subjective superiority). Indeed, there are no official rankings of any U.S. law school or any U.S. law degree program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Law School Name</th>
<th>Graduate Program Subject</th>
<th>Application Deadlines</th>
<th>U.S. Fee</th>
<th>Int'l Fee</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>$54</td>
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<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>University of Arkansas School of Law</td>
<td>Agricultural Law &amp; Food Law</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Florida State University College of Law</td>
<td>American Law for Foreign Lawyers</td>
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<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Florida State University College of Law</td>
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<td>Roll admissions</td>
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<td>St. Thomas University School of Law</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<td>University of Florida College of Law</td>
<td>International &amp; Comparative Law</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<td>University of Florida College of Law</td>
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<td>$30</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>University of Miami School of Law</td>
<td>International Law; with International Arbitration specialization; with U.S. and Transnational Law for Foreign Lawyers specialization; with Inter-American Law specialization; Ocean &amp; Coastal Law; Real Property Development; Taxation</td>
<td>Roll admissions</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Emory University School of Law</td>
<td>Child Law and Policy; Human Rights Law; Law and Religion; Transactional Law; Vulnerability and the Human Condition</td>
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<td>Loyola New Orleans College of Law</td>
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<td>Tulane University Law School</td>
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<td>$60</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
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<td>University of Tulsa College of Law</td>
<td>American Law for Foreign Graduates</td>
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<td>Vanderbilt University Law School</td>
<td>American and International Law</td>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>SMU Dedman School of Law</td>
<td>Master of Laws for foreign law school graduates</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>St. Mary's University School of Law</td>
<td>American Law; International &amp; Comparative Law</td>
<td>Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec 1</td>
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<td>Texas Tech University</td>
<td>U.S. Legal Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Texas Tech University</td>
<td>Energy, Environment &amp; Natural Resources; Health Law; Intellectual Property &amp; Information Law; Tax Law</td>
<td>Fall: Mar. 1; Sp: Oct 1</td>
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<td>University of Houston Law Center</td>
<td>Foreign Scholars Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>University of Texas School of Law</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>University of Texas School of Law</td>
<td>Global Energy, International Arbitration &amp; Environment; Latin American &amp; International Law</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LL.M. Program for Foreign Lawyers**

**FEATURES OF OUR PROGRAM:**

- Customized programs to meet individual needs
- 24 credit hours, including many elective options
- Faculty and staff committed to accessibility
- On-campus INTERLINK language center for convenient completion of English language requirement
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November 2011 | The National Jurist | 41
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In websites and other sources that purport to rank law schools, categories are chosen to review, including faculty-student ratio, entering class GPA and LSAT score, amount of money spent per student, law school diversity, and breadth of classes. Scores are assigned to each ranked item, the scores are then tallied, and ranks are assigned. Reviewers may include current students or graduates of law schools, but not necessarily of the law schools those students and graduates review.

U.S. News and World Report ranks law schools and their J.D. programs generally, but not LLM programs. Even if these law school rankings were valid, which many people within and outside the field dispute, there is no guarantee that a highly ranked law school would have an LLM program that was as highly ranked. Indeed, some would argue that there is not necessarily a correlation between the quality of a law school (and its J.D. program) and the quality of its LLM program and its specialized tracks. Though J.D. programs and LLM programs are linked, they are distinct degree programs which the ABA demands be treated separately. Schools with relatively low rankings tend to denounce the results, while schools that rate more favorably tend to trumpet their rank.

Law School Reputation

Reputation is not a ranking or rating scheme — it is based on impressions or feelings. What impressions do practitioners in your field have about your school or LLM degree program? Do they think highly of it? Do they think it is sufficiently rigorous and challenging? Do they think it produces good lawyers?

If you want to consider a school’s reputation, you may want to consider opinions...
of many individuals and groups based on your goals. If you are interested only in acquiring knowledge in an LL.M., then perhaps only your own personal opinion of the school is important. If you want to try to impress a particular prospective employer, you might want to choose a school that the employer holds in high regard. If you want to work in a particular field or city, look for a school that is highly regarded by prospective employers in that field or city.

Cash Cows and Diploma Mills
Some law school LL.M. programs in the U.S. have been criticized as being cash cows that deny international LL.M. students reasonable expected services because the LL.M. tuition revenue is diverted away from LL.M. programs.

A cash cow is a business model where a certain undertaking generates significantly more revenue than the expenses associated with that undertaking, and the excess revenue (profit) is used for other purposes within the organization. If an LL.M. program generates significant tuition and fees and diverts that income away from the LL.M. program, leaving the LL.M. program lacking resources needed to ensure that the school meets LL.M. students' reasonable expectations, then the cash cow label would apply. If the school fails to provide its LL.M. students with the services they reasonably need and want, then the students suffer. Eventually the school will suffer when it develops the reputation for treating its LL.M. program, and LL.M. students themselves, like cash cows.

An LL.M. program is not a cash cow if LL.M. revenues (or other funds) are used to build and sustain a high quality LL.M. program in which the school sets out to meet and does meet LL.M. students' academic, career and other reasonable expectations. Everyone expects LL.M. programs to provide appropriate resources to help LL.M. students achieve their ambitious, reasonable goals, and it should be no surprise that many schools do an exceptionally good job at helping their LL.M. students, going over and beyond. These are the types of schools that prospective students should choose—schools that have excellent track records fulfilling their goals. Unfortunately, some schools are cash cows and do not fulfill basic responsibilities vis-à-vis LL.M. students. Serious prospective LL.M. students should identify and avoid cash cows.

I emphasize that the cash cow moniker itself is not so much about the school's motivation as it is about how the school uses its LL.M. tuition and fee revenue. It is about whether or not the LL.M. program fulfills its pledges to LL.M. students.

Just because an LL.M. charges high tuition and fees or has revenues greater than expenses does not make that LL.M. program a cash cow. Schools are businesses, generally speaking are run like businesses, and like any other business would prefer to be profitable rather than in debt. An LL.M. program does not become a cash cow simply because high LL.M. tuition proceeds are used to help cover costs of other programs, such as the school's J.D. program. But there should be equity—fairness.

It is well known that LL.M. students pay a premium rate at some law schools, with tuition sometimes three or four times the amount that J.D. students pay. That is not the issue. The tuition differential may be likened to airplane or train travel, where passengers in one group are charged a rate

LL.M. Profile

Herbert Euler graduated with an LL.M. in international law from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla., in 2000, armed with a passion for international and commercial aspects of law. Now he's a senior legal counsel in the international "corporate loans" group of Commerzbank's central legal department in Frankfurt, Germany.

"My work is very international, and I deal with cross-border transactions on a daily basis," said Euler, as he was about to board a plane headed to London, where he frequently travels for work. "We apply German, but also English law, and draft our agreements in the English language."

Because of that, his employer seeks lawyers who have international degrees (MBA or LL.M.), know the international aspects of business law and are fluent in English.

"I would not have gotten the job offer from Commerzbank without my LL.M. degree from Stetson," he said.

After graduating from the University of Goettingen's law school in Germany in 1994, he stayed in the country as a law clerk at a court of appeals and an attorney in a mid-size law firm before packing his bags and heading across the ocean to the hot, palm tree-lined campus of Stetson.

After receiving his LL.M., he got a doctorate degree in law from the University of Goettingen law school.

In the real world, he got a slew of job offers from large international law firms like Linklaters and German corporate giants like Siemens and Deutsche Boerse. He picked Commerzbank out of the list since the work was directly related to his field of study.

Today he drafts bilateral as well as syndicated loans for large companies and banks to which Commerzbank is lending worldwide.

He also reviews and manages the legal aspects of large syndicated transactions governed by laws other than German law. He's also a point person when it comes to Islamic financings, working with the head of Commerzbank's Dubai branch. And he has negotiated "large-volume" transactions in Japan, South Korea, Russia and numerous western European countries.

"When a borrower is in default and we must enforce our rights in court, I will work with local lawyers and try to manage proceedings," he said.
significantly higher than the rate charged to another group, with the rate differential based on the differential nature of services promised and rendered. In the LL.M. or travel scenarios does it make sense to charge one group a high rate, use that profit for another group, in the meantime denying the high rate group their basic reasonable expectations? Would a person who pays for a premium fare for first class airline travel be happy if the economy or coach class passengers who paid considerably less received identical or even better service?

Some schools do not hide the fact that a principal reason, if not the principal reason, they created an LL.M. program was because such programs generate substantial tuition revenues with minimal expenses. Because LL.M. students and J.D. students take classes together, schools need not hire additional professors since most courses are offered already. Each LL.M. student may add $20,000, $30,000, $40,000 or more to the law school’s (or university’s) bank account but may cost the school a small fraction of that in expenses. How is that money used? Again, it is not the tuition level difference that creates the cash cow; it is the failure to reinvest the LL.M. tuition into the LL.M. program, or to adequately meet the needs and reasonable expectations of the LL.M. students who paid substantial tuition.

The concepts of cash cow and diploma mill are related. I do not suggest that cash cow LL.M. programs are all diploma mills that crank out worthless degrees. They are not. The U.S. has many excellent LL.M. programs that have been meeting international students’ reasonable expectations for many decades. Likewise, unfortunately, there are some LL.M. programs in the U.S. in which students’ reasonable expectations are not met.

How to identify, and avoid, cash cows and diploma mills
You can now identify a cash cow LL.M. program, one that devotes insufficient resources to assist LL.M. students with academic, professional, career, personal, professional or other assistance needed before the LL.M. students arrive on campus, during their LL.M. year, and after they graduate. Chapter 7 discusses criteria LL.M. students should consider when choosing an LL.M. program. A major factor is whether you believe that LL.M. program will be able to help you satisfy your goals, including whether the school devotes appropriate and adequate resources to LL.M. administration, career, academic assistance, alumni services and other services you believe you need.

It is not the school’s intention that is most critical, it is the school’s actions and the school’s record of success at satisfying the needs of its LL.M. students. Many if not most schools do decently or very well. Some do not. Sadly, some LL.M. students enroll in cash cow LL.M. programs without realizing it until they hear from friends at other schools, or through the LL.M. listserv or websites, how much better resourced other LL.M. programs are. By then it is too late. LL.M. Roadmap aims to help you choose wisely to avoid cash cows and diploma mills.

Visit llmroadmap.com for more information about the author, the book or to order “LL.M. Roadmap: An International Student’s Guide to U.S. Law School Programs.”

LL.M. Profile

Juan Blanco Davila, general counsel at Ferrero Group Latin America in Columbia’s biggest city of Bogota, owes where he is today to his LL.M. degree from American University Washington College of Law.

A typical day-to-day case may be tied to the IP strategies targeted to the trademark defense of Ferrero’s products, or the issues surrounding the Food Law activities within the various locations it operates. “This is an example of how this U.S. LL.M. can have such power to allow you to work in versatile environments,” he said. “It has been definitive in outlining the path to reach my career goals.”

In addition to his role at Ferrero, he teaches constitutional law at his alma mater, the Universidad Sergio Arboleda School of Law.

After graduating in 2001 from that school with a Bachelor of Laws, or the equivalent of a U.S. J.D. degree, he obtained a one-year postgraduate degree in administrative law from the school in 2003.

Four years later, he graduated from American University’s law school with an LL.M. in administrative law and a specialization in communication law and policy. During his time in D.C., he interned at the FCC’s International Bureau Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division.

He picked AU because he wanted a U.S. LL.M., not an international LL.M. in the U.S.

“I wanted a program that could offer valuable one-to-one relationships with highly qualified faculty,” he said. And he also sought out “an outstanding advanced program on U.S. law and a program that substantially contributed to the mastery of my legal knowledge in public law by introducing me into its practice.”

When he graduated, he was armed with an enviable educational résumé. He was flooded with various job offers. They included associate positions at some of the most reputable law firms in Latin America and legal director at a top provider of satellite communications products and services.
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California attorneys receive free MCLE credit in qualified courses. The LLM in Taxation meets the educational requirements to sit for the California state certified specialist exam in Tax. Chapman University School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association, and is a member of the American Association of Law Schools.

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Law School Name</th>
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<th>Application Deadlines</th>
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<th>HR Taken Per Class</th>
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<td>$25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GRADUATE DEGREES

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The National Jurist recognizes 60 schools that offer an affordable education with great job prospects and bar pass rates. Find out what these top schools are doing to help their students land jobs, pass the bar exam and keep debt low.

BY REBECCA LARSEN

Jenna Perkins, a Georgia native, went to the University of Michigan as an undergrad and then worked in New York for three years. But when it came time to apply to law school, friends in Atlanta urged her to check out Georgia State University College of Law.

"Everyone raved about the school and how affordable it was," she said.

It was enough to change her mind about staying in New York and return to her home state instead. And she hasn't regretted the decision. The second-year law student just clerked for a law firm in Atlanta and has been invited back for next summer.

For students like Perkins, value is more important in the law school selection process than other factors like its U.S. News & World Report ranking. U.S. News is a good indicator for prestige and helpful for students who want to land jobs at the nation's largest law firms. But the vast majority of law graduates will get jobs at smaller, regional law firms or in public service.

To identify the law schools that provide the best value, National Jurist looked at the most important exit numbers: the percent of graduates who pass the bar and the percent who get a job. We did not factor in what type of job or salary. The Best Value study is not designed to identify the schools where students can get their greatest return on investment or where they will earn the most upon graduation.

Instead, this study is designed to identify a quality legal education at an affordable price. As such, we weighed bar passage and job placement figures with tuition and average indebtedness upon graduation. Our goal: to find the law schools where graduates have an excellent chance of passing the bar and getting a job, without taking on a ton of debt.
<table>
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</table>
A- or B+. Georgia State University ranks each assigned with a letter grade of A, designate as a Best Value law school, Law School and Florida State University College of Law. We based the grades on a straight curve, with roughly 20 schools per letter grade.

This year, we modified our methodology to enhance fairness. In the past, a law school needed a better bar pass rate than its state average to be included on the list. This year, the magazine used a two-year average for both bar pass rate and percent of students employed, and it did not automatically exclude a school that did not meet the bar pass standard or a tuition or employment standard. As such, schools are penalized for low bar pass rates, but not excluded from the study.

The City University of New York School of Law is one school that benefited from these changes. In the past it was excluded due to a bar exam pass rate that was below its state average. This year it made the list, buttressed by a very low tuition and student indebtedness.

A total of 21 law schools that made the Best Value list this year were not on the honor roll last year. Seven of those 21 law schools have never been on the honor roll, which is being published for the fifth time since 2004.

Over the years, the rating has seen changes in the types of schools that make the honor roll. In 2004 and 2007, for example, there were more than 20 private schools on the honor roll. Last year there were 10. This year, only BYU, Faulkner University Jones School of Law and Willamette University College of Law made the list.

But there were six private schools that received a B and just missed the cut, including Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, and University of Tulsa College of Law.

But BYU was the only private school to earn an A. That is thanks to excellent placement and bar pass rates, and tuition that would make any state school envious. In 2010-11, it charged only $10,280 — less than one-third of what most other private schools charge. But there is a catch. To get that low tuition, you have to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which owns and subsidizes the school.

Still, while non-members pay a higher tuition — $20,560 — it is still low enough to rank the school sixth in our study.

"[Non-members] who [attend] are treated exactly the same in grades and education and are afforded all the benefits that Mormons are, including our outstanding career placement office," said Carl Hernandez, assistant dean of admissions. "They also have the advantage of going to school in a very distraction-free environment."

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law is ranked first in our study for the second year in a row. Like many state schools, it offers a low tuition — $13,310 for residents. Florida State, No. 3 in the study, also offers a low tuition for residents — $16,371.

But both law schools, as do most of the 57 public schools in our study, charge a lot more for non-residents. The average public school in the ranking charges $18,292 for residents and $32,060 for non-residents.

Many states over the last few years have struggled with financial problems and slashed support for higher education as a result. This has led to a surge in tuition at some schools, including the University of California law schools that now charge $38,000 to $44,000 for residents, and more than $50,000 for non-residents. Residents paid $22,000 to $24,000 five years ago and $10,000 to $11,000 in 2001.

But the public schools in our ranking have avoided California’s financial woes and still provide a great value.

Florida State, which moved up from No. 8 to No. 3 on our Best Value list this year, raised tuition in 2011, but not as much as it did in 2010.

"Most who start as non-residents wind up as in-state the second year," said Donald Weidner, dean of the university’s College of Law in Tallahassee. "And we’ve had no layoffs at law school. The budget has not been cut back."

Help with debt management and the bar exam

In view of rising tuition, Florida State is awarding more scholarships than ever before — about $3 million in 2011, including $2.1 million to the incoming first-year class to be awarded over three years.

Debt management programs are also increasing at many Best Value schools.
Darby Dickerson, the new dean of the Texas Tech School of Law in Lubbock, No. 20 on our Best Value list, has plans to start up a one-credit financial advocacy course to teach students how to read financial documents.

"It’s something that will help them now and later as attorneys working with clients," Dickerson said.

Florida State holds workshops on budgeting and debt consolidation.

"We do exit interviews with graduating students regarding their living expenses and bar study loans," Weidner said. "We encourage them not to work while studying for the bar. They graduate in early May and the bar exam is in July, so they don’t have much time. We want them to approach the bar as a full-time job and have a plan for getting ready."

The school also offers optional seminars on the bar exam dealing with how it’s structured and how to prepare. An elective survey course also covers some topics on the bar.

"People who take it generally have a better record on the bar than those who don’t," Weidner said.

Job help

This year, many schools on our Best Value list said they are increasing efforts to find jobs for students.

"In the past, the economic downturns did not affect the legal profession too much," said Steven Kaminson, dean at Georgia State. "But that’s not true since 2008 here. Our career office is pulling out all the stops to find jobs for graduates."

We’re greatly helped by being in Atlanta, of course. And we have a very comprehensive externship program that helps students get positions."

At Florida State, the law school helps students get ready for a job search beginning in their first year.

"In the first semester, we help them draft résumés and raise in their minds the idea of networking at Christmas time," Weidner said. "In the second semester, we work with them on where do they send their résumé, how to do a cover letter, do they email it or send it via mail. A significant number of students have work experience and know how to do this, but even some of those who do still don’t know how to emphasize their legal experience."

The school also helps significant “networking lunches” where a practicing attorney or judge comes in to have a box lunch every week with a dozen students.

Another school zeroing in on jobs is the University of Washington College of Law, ranked No. 16 on our Best Value list. Dean Kellye Testy said the school has an active alumni network of 9,000 former students, who often hire grads. Many alums from the University of Washington law school are originally from Japan, China, Korea and India. They often help in finding jobs abroad for J.D.s.

"There is an increasing demand for students interested in working in Asia, students with a wide knowledge of American law — even American graduates," she said. "There has also been a dramatic rise in federal and state clerkships that students are taking after they graduate. They fill those posts for a year or two and then go on to something else."

Rebecca Leah Levine, in her third year at University of Washington law school, is one of those out-of-staters who came to Washington and plans to stay — at least a while. She grew up on the East Coast and got her bachelor’s degree at Barnard in New York City, followed by a master’s in public health from Columbia University. Then she was attracted to University of Washington’s law school because of its public service program and lower cost. She received in-state tuition after year one. That was important because she already had debt from previous schools.

"I’m pretty open geographically," she said. "I might go back to the East Coast eventually. Seattle is definitely not a bad place to live."

She has secured a two-year court position in the state’s court of appeals for after graduation.
Where big firm partners went to school

A new study shows that most big firm partners went to local law schools

BY JACK CRITTENDEN

Hiring by national law firms is astonishingly local. That is the result of a comprehensive study that looked at where the partners at the nation's largest law firms went to law school.

And while Harvard Law School was, not surprisingly, the national leader in producing partners, their alumni represent only 5.6 percent of the 16,799 partners at the nation's largest 100 law firms. In addition, it was outperformed in its own backyard of Boston by both Boston College Law School and Boston University School of Law.

“The single most important finding is that hiring is local — intensely local,” said Ted Seto, a professor of taxation at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, and author of the study. “St. John’s University [School of Law] in New York does very well in the study, but it is not that highly ranked a school. Why? New York law firms look to New York schools.”

Seto, with the help of 10 research assistants, created a database of 48,103 partners nationwide. He then narrowed that pool down to partners who have graduated in the past 25 years from one of the nation’s 100 largest firms.

Nationwide, Harvard was followed by Georgetown University Law Center, New York University School of Law and University of Virginia School of Law. But the results are more meaningful, he said, when compared on a region-by-region basis. He ranked the top 11 regions. Boston College has 120 partners in Boston’s largest firms, compared to only 93 for Harvard.

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Boston College dean Vincent Rougeau says his school's heritage and alumni outreach strengthen ties to local law firms.
"Boston College has traditionally had a strong culture with the city," said Vincent Rougeau, dean at Boston College. "It is an ethnic town, and we were founded to educate Catholic ethnics who had been excluded from other institutions."

Rougeau, who graduated from Harvard, said that his alma mater offers connections all over the world. But he said Boston College has stronger ties to the local community. He said the school goes to great lengths to engage alumni and keep them members of an extended family.

Seto said that is exactly what places a school in his study at the top of a region.

"What the study shows for students is the extent to which law schools have established feeder relationships," he said. "It doesn't show that you would have a better chance for big firm prospects going to Boston College over Yale. What you can say is that Boston College has a good feeder relationship."

William Henderson, a law professor at Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, said the results of the study are similar to a study he did five years ago.

"There are alumni networks and local hiring that provide an entree to local schools," he said. "If you want to become a big firm partner you need to pay attention to those things."

He said his study found that students with high LSAT scores favor top 10 markets, and that they would choose a large market over a rural school, even if lower ranked.

"Students were trading down on law schools because University of Iowa is in the cornfields and Loyola Chicago is in the backyard of major law firms," he said.

Henderson said on campus interviews are dictated by three things — U.S. News & World Report ranking, the enrollment size of the law school and whether the school is in a major metropolitan market.

"To a certain extent, becoming a partner in a major law firm is an accident of geography," Henderson said.

Seto's study seems to follow the same guidelines when looking at the schools on a national basis. But Seto said students who have their heart set on practicing in a certain city should pay close attention to the regional rankings.

"If you know where you want to practice, go to school there," he said. "That is just absolutely critical. It is much better to go to Loyola Los Angeles than Vanderbilt if you want to practice in L.A."

He also said that the difference between schools in the rankings is not that significant. For example, American University Washington College of Law has 93 partners in the Washington, D.C., regional ranking and George Washington University Law School has 215. But he said you still have to graduate at the top of your class to get hired by a big firm.

"If your goal is to become a partner in Washington, D.C., go to American University or Georgetown over Loyola," he said. "But if you get a full ride [scholarship] at American and not George Washington, go to American. Graduate without debt and get a good shot at a big firm job."

Seto has studied U.S. News' rankings and has been critical of them in the past. He said they are not very useful and fail to provide caveats and explanations. He said even with his study students should be careful and not read more meaning into the numbers than they warrant.

For example, he said many students come to Loyola Los Angeles to pursue criminal law and are not interested in big firm jobs.

He said that when you look beyond the 100 largest firms to the next 150 in size, hiring becomes even more local. He decided to create the study primarily for law firms, to guide them on where to interview.

Harvard was the only school to appear on all 11 regional rankings. Georgetown appeared in nine, Columbia Law School and University of Michigan Law School in five.
Where Big Firm Partners Went to Law School

Tue, 11/01/2011 - 11:57am -- admin

An exclusive study of 16,799 partners at the nation's largest law firms shows that almost 50 percent come from 20 schools and 75 percent from 50 schools. But 148 law schools have at least one partner. The study was conducted by Professor Ted Seto at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and is published in the Journal of Legal Education.

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Categories:

Employment Insider

add new comment
LCG Promotes Two to VP

Published Wednesday, Nov. 02, 2011

ATLANTA, Nov. 2, 2011 -- /PRNewswire/ -- LCG Associates, Inc., an institutional investment consulting firm headquartered in Atlanta, promoted Amber N. Barrow, J.D. and Claire P. Chotiner, CFA to Vice President. Both employees are based out of the Atlanta office.

"This promotion reflects Amber and Claire's excellent work, dedication, work ethic, and success in what they do every day," said Edward F. Johnson, President and CEO.

Barrow has four years of industry experience. Her responsibilities include assisting with compliance as well as coordinating and tracking LCG's due diligence efforts.

Barrow is a member of the Georgia Bar and participates in the Young Lawyers Division. She obtained her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Georgia (UGA) and was the Secretary for the Black Law Students Association during her second year. Barrow interned at the Western Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office while in law school and was responsible for gathering evidence, locating witnesses, taking statements, and preparing memoranda as well as other legal documents.

Before pursuing her law degree, Barrow graduated cum laude with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Spanish from Spelman College. During her time at Spelman College, she was a member of Psi Chi, the Psychology National Honor Society; Alpha Lambda Delta, National Honor Society for First Year Students; and Golden Key International Honour Society.

Chotiner has 10 years of industry experience. Her responsibilities include investment strategy development, manager due-diligence, special research projects, and providing investment advice to clients. She started at LCG in 2007 as an Investment Analyst.

Chotiner was previously with Donaldson & Co. as a Client Service / Marketing Representative. She was responsible for providing client service for the Midwest and East Coast as well as developing new business opportunities. Before that role, Chotiner was a Sales Assistant at Donaldson & Co. where she supported the sales team through researching prospects, writing requests for proposals, and working on various projects. Chotiner began her career at Donaldson & Co. as a Reconciliation Representative.

She is a candidate for Level I of the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) Program. Chotiner is a CFA charterholder and a member of the CFA Society of Atlanta. She graduated magna cum laude from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia with a B.B.A.

LCG provides investment consulting services for corporations, utilities, endowments, foundations, not-for-profit organizations, healthcare organizations, and other institutional asset pools. Institutional investment consulting is our only business. LCG is independent and 100% employee-owned. For more information on LCG, visit www.lcgassociates.com.
LCG Promotes Two to VP - PR Newswire -

SOURCE LCG Associates, Inc.
Clayton cop's alleged killer indicted

By Marcus K. Garner
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

4:26 p.m. Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Accused cop-killer Veasna Jonathan Bun was indicted Wednesday in the death of Clayton County Sheriff's Deputy Richard "Rick" Daly.

But did going before a Clayton County grand jury erase the 17-year-old's entitlement to bond under the state's 90-day unindicted defendant statute?

"Yes," said Cobb County District Attorney Pat Head.

"No," Atlanta defense attorney Jackie Patterson countered.

Last week, Bun's attorney Lloyd Matthews requested his client be granted bond, despite having been denied bond by a Clayton magistrate judge, on the grounds that Bun had been jailed for more than 90 without an indictment.

"He's entitled," Matthews told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution last week, just before filing the request.

The bond hearing is scheduled for Nov. 11, more than a week after the indictment.

Head, however, said the hearing won't matter.

"It's not only that it's moot, the magistrate loses jurisdiction," he said. "There's no reason to have the hearing."

Patterson, who recently and unsuccessfully defended Devonni Benton in the murder case of Spelman College student Jasmine Lynne, begged to differ with Head's contention.

"It doesn't mean the Superior Court judge can deny him a bond," Patterson said. "It doesn't matter what they indictment him on, the judge must set a bond. There are no exceptions."

Bun, in trouble with the law since he was 10, was being sought by Clayton authorities the day of the July 20 shooting for an arrest warrant in a 2010 armed robbery.

Daly was among Clayton sheriff's deputies who initiated the traffic stop that afternoon as part of the routine for apprehending a fugitive.

When Daly approached the car Bun was in, the teen allegedly stepped from the passenger side and fired at the 25-year police veteran, killing him.
Bun fled the scene on foot, and an eight-hour manhunt followed with dozens of police agencies joining the search before the teen was caught.

That was more than 100 days ago.

Clayton County senior assistant district attorney Erman Tanjuatco said the case wasn't presented to a grand jury before the 90-day deadline because GBI had not completed its investigation of the shooting.

"Obviously, the completed investigative file is needed prior to our grand jury," Tanjuatco said via email. "Due to nature of this case, all agencies involved desire thoroughness over haste."

But the GBI disputed contentions that the agency held up any indictment.

"They can present it to a grand jury without a GBI file," spokesman John Bankhead told the AJC last week.

Now the question remains whether this violent offender should be allowed the chance at bailing out of jail.

UGA endowed law professor Ronald Carlson told the AJC this particular aspect of Bun's case will drive significant legal debate.

"However, the courts seem to be very strict on this 90-day statute, and very strict on enforcing it on its terms," Carlson said. "Justice delayed is justice denied."

In other words, Bun can still get bond, despite the indictment.

In his 1996 decision on the case of Kenneth Rawls, arrested on cocaine trafficking charges, Georgia Supreme Court Justice Norman S. Fletcher ruled that Rawls deserved to have bail after his 91st day in jail without being indicted.

"The language of this statute is unambiguous," Fletcher wrote. "If the state refuses bail to an incarcerated person, then the state must present its case to a grand jury for indictment within 90 days. If the state fails to do this, then bail is mandatory."

Patterson was correct and said Bun's attorney was doing his job.

"As a defense attorney, you have an obligation to get your client out of jail," he said.

Still, Matthews hedged his client's chances of seeing the outside of a jail cell.

"Even though he may be entitled to a bond, he might not necessarily be entitled to a bond that he can afford," Matthews said.
Thursday, November 03, 2011  
**Smith Moore takes 5 lawyers**  
*Move leaves Shapiro Fussell with 8 lawyers*  
By Meredith Hobbs, Staff Reporter

North Carolina firm Smith Moore Leatherwood has scooped up five lawyers for its Atlanta office from Shapiro Fussell Wedge & Martin.

Robert B. Wedge, who had been Shapiro Fussell's managing partner for 20 years, and G. Marshall Kent Jr. joined Smith Moore as partners on Tuesday. R. Milton Crouch and Jason A. Cooper joined as of counsel and Tracy A. Marion joined as an associate.

That increases the size of Smith Moore's local office to 26 lawyers. The firm has 170 lawyers.

The departures leave Shapiro Fussell with eight lawyers.

"They left as friends, and we wish them the best," said J. Ben Shapiro Jr.

Wedge, a litigator, spent 25 years at Shapiro Fussell. He said he moved to Smith Moore because he's handling a lot of insurance-related litigation in commercial and professional liability matters.

Smith Moore's 2007 combination with Carter & Ansley added a practice representing life, health and disability insurance companies in litigation to the Atlanta office—a core practice for the 13 Carter & Ansley lawyers who joined.

Wedge's practice consists of professional liability litigation as well as construction and other general litigation, and he works closely with Cooper. Wedge declined to name clients, but he has represented Office Depot in a lease dispute, and Hall Booth Smith & Slover in a suit against some partners who left the firm, according to court records.

"I think this positions us for the future," said Wedge. "It offers us support in the practice areas that this group specializes in."

Kent handles bankruptcy and creditors' and debtors' rights matters and commercial litigation. Marion works with him. Crouch is the only corporate lawyer of the four, handling tax, real estate and corporate matters as well as estate planning.

Wedge said the move will also afford him more time to focus on his trial practice because he won't have the administrative duties he did at Shapiro Fussell.

He added that several of the Smith Moore lawyers are personal friends. "I knew it was a very high-quality group. I've litigated with them and against them in cases and had a lot of respect for them," he said.
J. Robert Persons, who joined Smith Moore in the Carter & Ansley combination, was Wedge's moot court partner at the University of Georgia School of Law (where Wedge said they won a statewide moot court championship) and the two later practiced together at Hurt Richardson. Persons represents insurance companies in litigation.

Wedge also mentioned Edward M. Newsom and two other lawyers who'd joined Smith Moore from Carter & Ansley, H. Sanders Carter Jr. and Elizabeth J. Bondurant. "We've had several interesting cases representing co-defendants in years past," he said of Bondurant, adding that he also gave her some puppies from his black labrador retriever a few years ago.

Smith Moore's Atlanta managing partner, Lawrence J. Myers, said the Shapiro Fussell lawyers broaden the office's litigation capabilities and add corporate expertise. The Atlanta office's core practices are health care and litigation.

"We are very excited to have them on board," Myers said. "We are growing the practice here in Atlanta in a very challenging time."

He said the new hires are a significant addition to the office. "Some would think it is counter-intuitive to expand in this market. It is more a response to very good opportunities."

Myers said he'd like to continue building the office's health care and litigation practices and "down the road" add corporate and real estate practices, pointing out that it's a tough market for corporate and real estate right now.

Smith Moore has been expanding in the Carolinas as well. The Atlanta office, which the firm opened in 1998 with six lawyers from Hawkins & Parnell, was its first outside of North Carolina.

Smith Moore expanded into South Carolina in 2008 through a combination with Leatherwood Walker Todd & Mann in Greenville, and in April it opened a small Charleston office.
Coroner seeks permanent repository for death files

By JOE JOHNSON - joe.johnson@onlineathens.com
Published Saturday, November 5, 2011

The parents of a murdered University of Georgia student fought 10 years to convince authorities to release their daughter's death certificate.

And when authorities in January finally agreed to let them have the document, Tara Baker's family had to wait just a little longer.

That's because Clarke County Coroner Sonny Wilson didn't have it — the man who held the elected coroner's post before Wilson did.

Wilson decided then it was time to end the archaic practice in which coroners maintained custody of records of the deaths they investigated, even after leaving office.

"When I came into office, all the coroners had their own cases, which is a common practice in small- and medium-size counties," Wilson said.

"When (the) Tara Baker (decision) came up, I said all these records need to be kept in a centrally located place where they would be secure and available," Wilson said Friday.

Wilson has since tracked down and taken possession of coroner records from the three men who held the post before him — beginning with Tom Lord, who was elected coroner in 1984 and served three terms.

Charles Owens served as coroner for many years before Lord, but he died last year and Wilson doesn't know where Owens' records are, or those of any coroner that came before him.

"We'll never get everyone's files, but we'll certainly have all the files from Tom Lord on," Wilson said. "Coroners in Clarke County kept their own cases forever, and where the older records are, nobody knows."

In unsolved homicide cases, all the evidence investigators need is kept in police files and autopsy reports. But, if a case wasn't classified as suspicious, a person might have trouble finding out why a coroner didn't order an autopsy.

When he was elected coroner in 1996, Randy Garrett collected all of Lord's files, but when he was ousted by challenger Bobby Tribble in 2004, Tribble told Garrett he didn't want any old files.

"Bobby said he didn't want them because he didn't have enough space where he felt they would be secure, and the county wouldn't give him any storage space," Garrett said.

During his two terms in office, Garrett asked the county manager for a place where he could keep records, possibly in the Clarke County Courthouse, but the manager said there wasn't enough room.

In addition to having enough space to hold boxes and boxes of coroner's records — which not only include death certificates, but also autopsy reports, coroner's notes, death scene photographs and even insurance company requests — a storage room would also have to be secure.

"Wherever they are kept, the coroner should be the only one who has access because the files include information about open murder cases, and if that information was to leak out it would jeopardize investigations," Garrett said.

"There's some sensitive stuff in there."

Authorities had withheld Tara Baker's death certificate because, they said, it would include unusual details that only her killer would know. But after her father contacted the governor's office in January, a supervising medical examiner at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Crime Lab told Wilson to write it up vaguely, that the UGA law student died
in 1991 from "multiple injuries associated with homicidal violence."

While consolidating records at his office, Wilson has also spoken informally with the current county manager, who he said was receptive to finding somewhere to store coroner's records, according to Wilson.

A possible location might be Athens-Clarke police headquarters on Lexington Road, which is currently undergoing renovations.

"We're just trying to get to the point where everything's stored in one place and if the need arises, these cases can easily be obtained," "We just haven't had the funds to do that, but the day will come," Wilson said.
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
November 6, 2011 Sunday
Main Edition

LENGTH: 593 words

HEADLINE: Southern made; Treats for you, Spot

BYLINE: Linda Jerkins; For the AJC

HIGHLIGHT:

Unleash your credit card. Favorite finds this week are five treats for you and your top dog. Now go fetch.

BODY:

Let sleeping dogs lie

Your dog's bed can look as smart as your home's interior. It also can be comfy, without being a lumpy mess. That's what Mississippi State grad Woody DeWeese thought when he made a bed for his aging golden retriever and started Atlanta-based Woodson Miles Dog Outfitter last July. Modern colors and graphics set the custom beds apart from other pet cushions. So does the construction. The memory foam beds are covered with a waterproof liner and a stain-resistant, designer cover, which you can remove and wash. Customer favorites include the Babe Paley, with its stylish pattern, and the rugged WM Standard in navy, red and green. Beds start at $175 and come in small, medium and large sizes. Visit www.woodsonmiles.com.

Canine cards

In 2005, Marc Tetro moved to Atlanta to open his own design studio. In his Midtown workshop, the award-winning artist uses bold colors to create his distinct dog images. They appear on prints, buttons, pop-outs and greeting cards, the newest addition in Tetro's product line. Choose from a variety of breeds, including black Labs, bulldogs, pugs and Chihuahuas. Paper prints (in two sizes) are $15 and $20. Canvas prints, available in four sizes, range from $50 to $350. Buttons are $2.25. Shipped flat, the punch-out pop-up dogs are $10. The popular cardboard canines will sit, stay and never bark. Visit www.marctetro.com. For cards ($5), also check the new Sam Flax store, 1745 Peachtree St. N.W., in Atlanta.

Love on a leash

Dog collars are a must-have accessory. So why not choose a collar that is as unique as your dog? At Hollywood Styles, you can. At their Woodstock studio, Melissa and Michele Brown hand-make custom collars ($12 to $19) and leashes ($14 to $22) based on a pet's age and size. Choose a variety of collar ribbon colors and prints at www.hollywoodstyles.com and various pet stores in the greater Atlanta area. Hollywood Styles will be at the Decatur Holiday Marketplace Dec. 2-3 at Clairemont Elementary, 155 Erie Ave., Decatur.

Pooch portraits

It took John W. Golden about 15 years to develop the right style and look he wanted for his whimsical dog prints. At some point, the North Carolina digital artist hopes to have every recognized breed in his dog series, including mixes such as Labradoodles. So far, Golden offers more than 95 dogs with different colors and markings, covering more than 45 breeds. The 8-by-10-inch prints on archival paper are $18. But Golden, who lives in Wilmington, also offers larger
sizes and an option to personalize prints with a dog's name instead of breed. Prints also can be mounted on 3/4-inch wooden blocks. Visit www.etsy.com/shop/johnwgolden.

Face time

For a memorable gift, put your pet's face on a pillow. Using eco-friendly felt, UGA law school grad Elizabeth Newton hand-sews pillows in the likeness of your favorite pet. Using photos, the Atlanta native makes a sketch on paper and fabric. Then she cuts the colorful fabric and arranges the pieces to capture your pet's personality and physical characteristics. That's the fun part, she says. Newton adds a back to the portrait pillow and stuffs it with poly fill. Pillows run about $50 for in-stock designs. Custom designs are $65 and up. Visit www.pecanpillows.com or www.etsy.com/shop/pecanpillows.

Share your favorites

Do you have favorite finds from around the South that you give as gifts, buy for your home or rave about to friends? If so, please share them with us. Send suggestion to: ljjerkins@bellsouth.net In the subject line, write Southern Made. Include your name and a contact number.

'Scam Prof' bites the hand that feeds him

Professor wages a provocative (by design) campaign against the legal academy.
The professional and financial struggles of recent law graduates prompted University of Colorado Law School professor Paul Campos to take a closer look at the changing economics of a law degree — an inquiry that convinced him that law school is a raw deal for many.

Karen Sloan
November 07, 2011

Paul Campos had heard plenty of hard-luck stories from unemployed and underemployed law school graduates. Then one of them killed himself.

"I thought well of him, and I even helped him learn a few things worth learning," the University of Colorado Law School professor would write following the 2010 tragedy. "In the end I could do nothing for him — or rather I took part in a process that, it seems, led him down a path that ended in a very dark place."

The professional and financial struggles of recent law graduates had already prompted Campos to take a closer look at the changing economics of a law degree — an inquiry that convinced him that law school is a raw deal for many.

The suicide, Campos said, pushed him to abandon academic manners in favor of a full-throated, sometimes rude, assault on the system of legal education.

Campos hit upon a medium for this critique in August: a blog. He called it Inside the Law School Scam. "I've gotten considerable blowback from within legal academia because I'm speaking very frankly on these matters and, of course, I'm doing it in a way that deeply offends some people," he said. "But that's just the nature of the enterprise."

Campos was hardly the first to complain that law schools overpromise and underdeliver when it comes to high-paying legal jobs. The so-called "scambloggers," who take to the Internet to anonymously lambaste law schools, make essentially the same argument. So have a small number of law professors including Indiana University Maurer School of Law - Bloomington's Bill Henderson and Washington University in St. Louis School of Law's Brian Tamanaha.

Inside the Law School Scam offered something different: a no-holds-barred indictment of legal education from a law professor who has spent more than two decades teaching constitutional law, legal philosophy, property and legislative process.

The blog created a stir when it debuted and has since left its author in a curious position. Campos has been embraced as a champion by a contingent of disenchanted law graduates and condemned as a shameless attention-seeker by colleagues within the legal academy. The strong reaction demonstrated both a disconnect between some consumers and providers of legal education and the delicate balance would-be reformers must maintain if they hope to retain credibility within the academic establishment.

That his approach has been provocative was by design, he said, intended to shake legal educators out of complacency. This includes, for example, calling specific law deans "outrageously clueless" and "fantastically dishonest," or claiming that "there was already a massive oversupply of J.D. degree-holders relative to the market for legal
To his critics, however, these are sweeping generalizations, couched in an aggressively negative tone and unsupported by evidence. This, they argue, undermines any larger message Campos seeks to deliver.

"It's really disgusting to refer to legal education as a scam," said University of Chicago Law School professor Brian Leiter, himself the author of the blog Brian Leiter's Law School Reports and one of Campos' most ardent critics. "That's just ignorant ugliness." As for the suicide, Leiter considers it "tasteless" that Campos blogged about it because there was never proof that law school played a role. Campos, who has never identified the student, conceded that the circumstances were complex.

A QUESTION OF TONE

Beyond the personal animosity, some regular readers remain unclear about what Campos hopes to accomplish. "I think the blog was well positioned to get a quick response, but I think the tone limits his effectiveness in the discussions that are happening now," said University of Georgia School of Law professor Usha Rodrigues, who organized an online discussion of "Scam Prof," as Campos has come to be known. "It's branded him as an outsider."

Campos has made legitimate points about the need for more transparency in postgraduate job statistics, said University of Alabama School of Law professor Paul Horwitz, but those arguments are obscured by his decision to cater to the angriest voices in the law school debate. Inside the Law School Scam readers never hear about the reform discussions already happening within the legal academy, he said.

"His readership is extremist," Horwitz said. "It's useful to hear from these people, who are having extremely difficult personal experiences. But it's difficult to convince the angriest people that we aren't a bunch of villains. We also need to reach out to the people who don't hate law school but feel disengaged."

Few legal educators have publicly climbed on Campos' bandwagon, though he said he has received plenty of support privately. He never expected a warm reception, he said. "The kind of diagnoses I'm putting forward — I could sugarcoat it more, certainly, and that may be a wise thing to do. But, substantively, what I'm saying is extremely unpalatable to the powers that be. I really don't see how it couldn't be," he said.

Campos has written, for example, that law school administrators are indifferent to the financial and employment struggles of graduates; that they purposefully mask the reality of postgraduate employment; and that the easy availability of student loans sets graduates up for financial ruin.

Nothing went over with legal academics quite as badly as an Aug. 7 post accusing law professors of being lazy and recycling the same lecture notes they have used for years. Critics fired back that Campos was projecting his own shortcomings.

Inside the Law School Scam received a lot of attention when it debuted, especially because the author's identity at least initially remained a mystery. Campos outed himself after nearly a week, but not before several critics had guessed his identity. Media attention to the blog has waned, although, according to Campos, traffic has held steady, generating 300,000 visits since it was launched and more than 5,000 comments.

"I think this is a place for people to talk about subjects that are largely repressed," Campos said. "Very often, any conversation about this topic ends up being constrained by certain norms of legitimization. You basically can't call anything fundamental into question."

Still, a large number of site visits does not necessarily mean that the law school administrators with the power to make real changes are paying attention, Horwitz said. Among the administrators who say they don't read Inside the Law School Scam is Phil Weiser, the newly appointed law dean at Colorado. "I understand Paul's critique, and I accept his right to say it," Weiser said. "But I wouldn't have taken this job if I didn't believe we could provide our students with a high-quality education and provide them with opportunities going forward."

'SOME ANGER'

According to Weiser, the school has increased its investment in career services staff, including a new assistant dean responsible for reaching out to employers and promoting Colorado law students. Weiser has appointed Campos to a special task force examining the challenges facing law schools. He declined to discuss whether other Colorado faculty members have raised concerns over Campos' blogging, but professor Robert Nagel reported that his views haven't always been popular on campus.
"I think there's been some anger expressed occasionally at Paul," said Nagel, who credited Campos for his willingness to raise difficult questions. "He's taking some professional risks, and people have taken offense at some of what he has written."

Nagel recalled a faculty meeting last spring when Campos "carefully" raised several points of concern over graduate employment rates. When he was done, no one spoke in response, and the meeting moved on to the next item of business. "That's got to be uncomfortable," Nagel said.

Campos readily acknowledged that he has put himself in an awkward position. "Professionally, you can imagine, it's not a pleasant situation to be telling the people you work with on a daily basis that you have very serious problems with what you're doing here," he said. "People don't like that. To a certain extent, it makes you a pariah. How could it not?"

His crusade has taken an emotional toll, he added, leaving him questioning how long he can remain in his job. He said that he has opened himself up to the accusation of hypocrisy because he collects a paycheck from the very institution that he has so roundly criticized.

"The fact of the matter is that there is nothing that structural institutions that need reform would like more than for people like me within those institutions to just quit," he said.

"They think, 'Why don't you just quit so we can go back to our cozy little business where nobody was saying the kinds of things you're saying?' Of course they want me to quit."

Karen Sloan can be contacted at ksloan@alm.com.
Race influenced judge's homicide verdict

By CRISINDA PONDER on November 6, 2011

In April 2010, Raquel Nelson had one less toy to buy, one less mouth to feed and one less hand to hold.

After a family pizza night, Nelson and her three kids boarded a bus back to their Cobb County, Ga., apartment home. The bus dropped the African-American family off across the street from its complex, five lanes of highway between the two. It was getting dark and the nearest crosswalk was three-tenths of a mile away.

Nelson just wanted to get her kids home.

When A.J. — Nelson's 4-year-old son — broke away from her to run behind her oldest daughter and quickly cross the highway, Nelson and her 2-year-old daughter followed him. The three were stuck by a van whose operator was impaired from consuming beer and painkillers, according to Creative Loafing Atlanta. Nelson and her daughter were injured, A.J. was killed and Jerry Guy — the inebriated driver — sped away from the scene.

Guy was later caught and admitted to driving under the influence before the hit-and-run occurred. Despite two prior hit-and-run convictions, he served six months in prison, the equivalent to a slap on the wrist. He was released in October 2010.

Nelson, however, already grieving the loss of her son and recovering from injuries sustained during the accident, was charged with jaywalking, reckless conduct and vehicular homicide — the latter charge traditionally reserved for offenders operating a vehicle. She was sentenced to 12 months probation and 40 hours of community service, but was also offered a new trial.

"I can see nothing that she did wrong, except to jaywalk," said Camilla Watson, a professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. "It looks to me like the government was in the wrong in not putting a crosswalk near the bus stop."

The reckless conduct charge was dropped on Oct. 5, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported, but the judge refused to dismiss the other charges, preparing Nelson to face a new trial on Nov. 28.

Losing her son at the hands of an irresponsible driver is punishment enough — she will never get another chance to see him. She is forced to relive that tragedy every time she is placed in a courtroom and accused of bearing the responsibility of her child's death, when her intentions were to get her children out of the dark and into their home.

The charges Nelson still faces are harsh, unfair and should be dropped. She should not be dealing with the legal system at a time when the emotions attached to her son's death are still raw. Granted, she did jaywalk, but believed she took the best course of action in doing so. Still, the vehicular homicide charge should have never been a part of the equation. How can she face such a charge when she was not behind the wheel of a vehicle?

As an African-American woman and a single mother, the legal system has failed her. Had she been a person of means and not a woman of color, she would be left alone to grieve, and the unreasonable scrutiny she faces would not have received international attention.

"A lot of these cases of this type tend to be selectively prosecuted," Watson said. "If there was a district attorney sitting in here, they would have a fit, but that is a fast. I think it was just a matter of publicity behind it that the district attorney felt that he had to bring charges against her."

Georgia's legislation is flawed, and this reality has been reinforced in cases like these where the accused faces unfair charges and sentencing.

Genarlow Wilson, an African-American male, had consensual oral sex with a 15-year-old — he was 17 at the time — and was charged with aggravated child molestation. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison. After serving two years, the Supreme Court found his conviction unconstitutional. Because Wilson's sentence was clearly influenced by race, it attracted wide publicity and international outcry, and eventually transformed
Race influenced judge’s homicide verdict | The Red and Black

Georgia legislation.

Not only should the charges against Raquel Nelson be dismissed, the Georgia vehicular homicide statute should be amended. No one other than a motorist should be charged with “homicide by vehicle.”

I look forward to the day that a person’s race does not influence the legal consequences they may face, especially in the state of Georgia.

— Crissinda Ponder is a senior from College Park majoring in magazines

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UGA Grad

I look forward to the day that people stop using race to excuse criminal behavior and bad decision-making, especially in the state of Georgia.

Guest

I don’t really see how race affected anything at all in this case. I mean, you don’t even present any argument. You say, “this is what happened,” than “it’s because she was black.”

GuestDawg

D.A. Head made a poor decision in pursuing the vehicular homicide charge, but it wasn’t motivated by race. Both black and white attorneys in Atlanta and across the State have scratched their heads at this case, wondering why the D.A. is prosecuting a jaywalker on vehicular homicide charges.

Ms. Ponder is clearly interested in promoting fairness in the legal system, yet her interests would be better served by questioning the effectiveness of the D.A. in this case rather than playing the race card. Focusing upon the victim’s race, rather than the prosecutor’s competence, weakens her argument and alienates many of the folks who would tend to agree that the alleged criminal in this case is actually a victim.

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New attorney Carey Pilgrim was sworn in at the Polk County Court House in Cedartown Tuesday.

Pilgram attended law school at the University of Georgia and Auburn University. He will join the firm of McRae, Stegall, Peek, Herman, Smith and Manning LLP.
Wednesday, November 09, 2011

Brock Clay adds partner from Marietta boutique
By Meredith Hobbs, Staff Reporter

Labor and employment lawyer Charles L. "Chuck" Bachman Jr. has left Turner Bachman & Garrett, a Marietta boutique he helped found, for a partnership at Marietta's Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers.

Bachman said he wanted to concentrate on law, while his partners were focusing more on political work.


Bachman joined them from a partnership at Seyfarth Shaw, where he had practiced since receiving his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1999.

By moving to Brock Clay, Bachman said, "I am able to focus exclusively on law and be with others doing that—and have a little bigger platform. I went from a 600-lawyer firm to a three-lawyer firm. This isn't three lawyers and it isn't 600."

With his addition, Brock Clay has 31 lawyers.

Bachman, who lives in Marietta, said he helped launch Turner Bachman & Garrett because he liked the idea of a more entrepreneurial environment, practicing law with friends, and he wanted to give up the long commute to Seyfarth's Midtown office after starting a family.

The idea was to combine political work with lawyering. Garrett and Bachman also are members of government affairs firm Georgia360 Public Affairs, which they helped found.

Garrett said Bachman's move makes "a lot of sense for both Brock Clay and Chuck," since Brock Clay has a corporate practice to support Bachman's labor and employment work, adding that Bachman is "a great attorney and a good friend of mine."

Garrett described his firm as "solving political problems," whether through law, lobbying or campaigns, and said he hopes to continue its growth as a public policy firm.

He added that the firm also will be adding real estate and bankruptcy practices through a merger with another firm. Garret said the details are still being worked out and the firms will likely finalize the deal by next month.

Bachman said he has known several Brock Clay lawyers, including Clement "Clem" C. Doyle, since law school, and he thinks his new firm is the "right place with the right people." He said he gains more
resources for his labor and employment practice and is able to stay in Marietta. "I can have lunch with my wife and kids and see the kids' plays and other activities."

H. Scott Gregory Jr., the managing partner of Brock Clay, said Bachman will support the firm's growing education practice, which did $3.9 million of work for metro-area school districts in 2010, according to a recent public records study by the Daily Report.

Brock Clay has recently been hired by Atlanta Public Schools to provide labor and employment counsel regarding teacher terminations in the wake of the system's exposure for cheating on standardized tests. The firm represents several other school systems clients, including Fulton County, Cobb County, Marietta and Clayton County, said Gregory, and they have labor and employment issues as well.

Gregory said the firm's private sector clients include midsize companies that have encountered labor and employment issues with the recession.

Adding Bachman's labor and employment practice, said Gregory, "is a way to increase our commitment to full service with our education and corporate clients." He said Brock Clay had been doing some labor and employment work but that "Chuck brought a lot of expertise and jury trial experience with him."

He added that Bachman brings clients of his own, including Wellstar Health Systems and Airgas. "You can build on a labor and employment practice and grow it with someone like that," he said.

After three years as a criminal defense lawyer, David R. Willingham has landed a job as an assistant prosecutor in the Cobb County District Attorney's office.

When Willingham graduated from John Marshall Law School in 2008, he aspired to a career as a prosecutor. But the recession had hit, and he said local district attorneys' offices weren't hiring entry-level lawyers.

Willingham wanted to be a trial lawyer so he took a job with a Marietta criminal defense and plaintiffs' firm instead, Rickman & Blevins (at the time, Leonard Rickman & Holloway). "I figured it would give me good perspective if I ever became a prosecutor," he said.

Willingham added that he felt lucky to secure any sort of job at all coming out of law school in 2008. "I came out in the thick of it," he said. "I was very fortunate to land where I landed and with the people I did."

Willingham, a native Gwinnettian, said he didn't know a lot about Cobb County when he started practicing in Marietta but "fell in love with it."

"Marietta is an amazing place to practice law," he said. "All the lawyers know each other, and it's a very tight-knit community."

He added that he already knows all the other assistant DAs in Cobb as he's had cases with them.

Willingham estimated that about 75 percent of his criminal defense cases were DUIs and said he was able to try 12 cases before a jury, losing only one, prior to joining the Cobb DAs office in late September.
He said half his trials were DUIs, including a felony DUI case, and the rest were misdemeanors of various types.

Willingham thinks his time defending the accused has tempered his prosecutorial zeal. "It's made me a bit more judicious, instead of jumping to conclusions when I see a file," he said. "Being a defense lawyer and seeing how difficult it is—seeing the people, speaking to them and hearing their problems—has been good perspective. Good people do bad things sometimes and they deserve help."

Intellectual property firm Cantor Colburn has hired patent attorney Jeffrey L. Waters as an associate. Waters previously worked for Jones Day and focuses on mechanical and electrical engineering patents.

Burr & Forman has added three new associates to its Atlanta office. Tyler P. Stevens joined the firm's corporate practice after earning a law degree from Vanderbilt University. Ryan D. Thompson joined the creditors' rights and bankruptcy practices after clerking for U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Tamara O. Mitchell of the Northern District of Alabama. Thompson's law degree is from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

Katie E. Wolf joined the litigation practice after earning a law degree from Georgia State University. The Birmingham-based firm added 16 associates firmwide.

Decatur real estate litigation firm Williams Teusink has hired its first associate, David J. Metzger, after launching in 2010. Metzger earned a law degree from Georgia State University College of Law last spring and just passed the Georgia Bar Exam.

King & Spalding has elected eight new partners, effective Jan. 1, of whom four are in Atlanta. W. Austin Jowers is a member of the firm's financial restructuring practice. Michael E. Paulhus handles health care litigation; Ronni D. Solomon handles e-Discovery and tort litigation; and Kristina Kopf Thomas is in the real estate investment group.

Bryan Cave has elected three new partners in Atlanta, effective Jan. 1. They are: Terrence A. Childers in the firm's transactions and corporate finance & securities groups; Kimberly E. Civins in the private client group and Robert D. Klingler in the financial institutions group.

Chilton D. Varner, a senior partner at King & Spalding, has been chosen as president-elect of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Another senior partner at the firm, Richard A. "Doc" Schneider, has become a fellow of the invitation-only group.

Eric W. Anderson of Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs has been elected a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

R. Jason D'Cruz of Morris, Manning & Martin has been made a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.
University of Georgia president Michael Adams once again turned to a trusted team member as he named a new UGA vice president today, tapping J. Griffin "Griff" Doyle to become the university's next vice president for government relations.

As director of federal relations and in previous UGA positions, Doyle had already earned the trust of political leaders and others he will be working with as UGA's point man on relations with federal, state and local governments, Adams said.

"I have been contacted by U.S. Senators, and I believe a majority of the Congressional delegation — all unsolicited," said Adams this morning as he announced Doyle's appointment. "He brings a spirit of collegiality that I believe is as important in government relations as it has ever been."

Doyle has been UGA's director of federal relations since 2003 and replaces Steve Wrigley, who was named executive vice chancellor of the University System of Georgia in July after former UGA vice president Hank Huckaby became the university system's chancellor.

Doyle faces a quickly changing government landscape, one that will be shaped primarily by shrinking state and federal budgets, he said.

"We start from a position of strength," owing to UGA's strong reputation in the state and the nation, he said. "Under Dr. Adams' leadership this institution has taken on a national prominence that perhaps it did not enjoy before."

Doyle's immediate priorities will be getting ready for the upcoming session of the Georgia legislature, which will convene in January, and the next session of Congress.

The new vice president's top priorities with the legislature will be convincing lawmakers to appropriate adequate operating money for UGA and the university system, securing money from the state to build a new veterinary medicine teaching hospital, and if possible
to get raises for UGA faculty members and staff workers, he said.

With the federal government, his legislative priorities are as always research funding as well as the Pell Grant program and other forms of student financial aid, he said.

Doyle, a UGA alum with both undergraduate and law degrees from UGA, has been interim vice president of government relations since Wrigley left, and had been since 2003 director of federal relations. In a career of more than 30 years, he has also been a UGA associate vice president for economic and community development, associate director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and director of the university's Regional Economic Development Partnership.

Before Doyle came to UGA about 14 years ago, he had also held jobs as president of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, executive assistant to the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, regional director of government and community relations for the Fort Howard Corp., deputy chief of staff for former Georgia Gov. George Busbee and as assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

During Doyle's eight years as director of federal relations, the university received about $50 million earmarked for UGA from the federal government and $30 million more in other Congressional appropriations.

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Seabaugh, Edge to address CPAs meeting Nov. 15 in Peachtree City

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@newnan.com

Recently appointed state Deputy Treasurer Mitch Seabaugh and Newnan attorney and former legislator Arthur "Skin" Edge IV will speak at the Georgia Society of CPAs meeting in Peachtree City on Tuesday.

The Georgia Society of CPAs local Southside Chapter will host a networking meeting open to the local business community. The presentation will highlight current Georgia business taxes and political issues anticipated to be addressed in the upcoming Georgia 2012 legislative session.

Bankers, lawyers and business owners are invited to attend an enlightening presentation from the guest speakers and to network with the Southside Chapter's top CPAs.

Governor Nathan Deal appointed Seabaugh as deputy state treasurer in early October. Previously, he served as the local Georgia District 28 Senator from 2000 until his recent deputy treasurer appointment. During his second Senate term, his colleagues elected him Majority Whip. Seabaugh has served on many Georgia Senate committees including the Appropriations, Finance, Judiciary, Regulated Industries, Rules, and Reapportionment and Redistricting.

After graduating from Southern Arkansas University with a BBA majoring in Accounting, Seabaugh accepted a position as a controller with International Paper Company and relocated to Georgia. He is a Certified Public Accountant (license inactive). Seabaugh and his wife, Leah, have two children and reside in Sharpsburg where he has also been active in many local government and community activities.

Edge is the Georgia Society of CPAs Governmental Relations Consultant with GeorgiaLink Public Affairs Group. He frequently meets with the GSCPA State Officers, Board of Directors, Council, Sections and Society CEO Boyd Search about issues facing the CPA profession.

Previously, Edge also served in the Georgia State Senate from 1986 to 1996, including as Senate Minority Leader from 1992-1996. Edge has been named as one of "The 100 Most Influential People in Georgia" and one of "The Ten Most Influential People under the Gold Dome." He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the University of Georgia School of Law. Edge and his wife, Bambi, have three children and reside in Newnan.
The presenters will give a January 2012 Legislative Session preview that will include Georgia business taxes and current political issues.

For the meeting there is a 5:30 p.m. check-in and networking time, and at 6 p.m. a speaker presentation and dinner. The meeting and dinner are at the Peachtree City Wyndham Conference Center, 2443 Hwy. 54 West, 770-487-2000. Cost is $25 per person with reservations or $30 at the door.

In order to ensure an accurate head count, make your reservation including your guests directly to Chapter President Rich Hlozek (Email: rich@brownnelms.com) by Friday.
LexisNexis(R) Email Request (1825:317364424)

States News Service

November 10, 2011 Thursday

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HEADING: DEAL APPOINTS 11 TO BOARDS

BYLINE: States News Service

DATELINE: ATLANTA, Ga.

BODY:

The following information was released by the office of the governor of Georgia:

Ben E. Satterfield, Consumer Advisory Board

Satterfield is a sales manager with Allgood Pest Solutions in Lawrenceville. He has been in the termite and pest control business for more than 35 years. He merged his personal business, Mug a Bug Pest Control Inc., with Allgood Pest Solutions in 2006. He has served as chairman of the Gwinnett Recreational Authority and the Gwinnett History and Preservation Authority. Satterfield and his wife, Jolie, have five daughters and 14 grandchildren. They reside in Lawrenceville.

Cecil A. Bonner Jr., Consumer Advisory Board

Bonner is a retired state manager for St. Paul Insurance. He serves on the Canton Planning and Zoning Board, the Canton Main Street Program and the Canton Government Study Committee. Bonner earned a bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Karen, have one son, Christopher. They reside in Canton.

James F. Braswell, Board of Directors of the Georgia Lottery Corp. (reappointment)

Braswell is a partner in the certified public accounting firm, Lamb and Braswell, LLC, located in Macon. He currently serves as chairman of the board of the Georgia Lottery Corp. He is a founding board member and previous chairman of the Ronald McDonald House of Central Georgia. He has served on the board of trustees of the Subsequent Injury Trust Fund and as a longtime board member and past president of Vine-Ingle Little League. Braswell earned a bachelor's of Business Administration from Mercer University. He and his wife, Helen, live in Macon.

Pamela C. Griffin, State Board of Nursing Home Administrators (reappointment)

Griffin is a part-time speech-language pathologist with Dodge County Schools. She retired from Pulaski County Schools as the director of special education and the director of Pre-K in 2003. Griffin received a master's degree in Speech Pathology from the University of Georgia and a master's of School Administration from Valdosta State College. She and her husband, Ben, have two children and one grandson. They reside in Hawkinsville.

Elizabeth W. Knowlton, Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council

Knowlton retired as a senior archivist with the Georgia Archives in Morrow. She serves as vice president of the Metro Atlanta group of the Sierra Club and is an active member in the Lake Claire Garden Club. She volunteers with the Georgia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and with Charis Books, a women's bookstore in Little Five Points. Knowlton earned a bachelor's and
master's degree in English from New York University and a master's degree in Library Science from Atlanta University. She resides in Atlanta.

Jan H. Ligon, Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Ligon is an associate professor of social work at Georgia State University and a licensed clinical social worker. He currently serves on the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists. He is a past president of the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Ligon earned a bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Central Arkansas, a master's of Social Work and a doctorate of Social Work from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Ann, have one daughter and two grandchildren. They reside in Atlanta.

Nathan R. Merritt, Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council

Merritt is the director of real estate for North Georgia, Tennessee and North Alabama with Fairway Outdoor Advertising. He has worked in the outdoor advertising industry for more than 20 years and is a current board member of the Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia. Merritt attended Miller-Motte Business College before entering into the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Rene, have two children, Thaddeus (Tadd) and Brittany. They reside in Kennesaw.

Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, Board of Directors of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

Wynn-Dixon is an Atlanta native and mayor of the city of Riverdale. She serves on Gov. Deal's Transit Governance Task Force, the American Red Cross Minority Recruitment Board and the Securus House Executive Board. Wynn-Dixon is also involved with the board of directors of the National Association of Black Mayors. Wynn-Dixon earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Georgia State University and master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Georgia. She is the mother of four children and seven grandchildren. She resides in Riverdale.

John F. Kieffer, Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority (reappointment)

Kieffer is a small business owner with a career centered on construction and land development. He carries a professional contractor's license in residential and light commercial construction. He serves as chairman of the board for the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce. Kieffer previously served on the Forsyth County Commission, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority's Regional Advisory Panel and the Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Kieffer was past chairman of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. He earned a bachelor's in Architectural Engineering from Southern Polytechnic State University. He and his wife, Beth, have two children. They reside in Cumming.

Heath Garrett, Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

Garrett is a founding member of the law firm Turner, Bachman and Garrett LLC. He leads the Southeast office of the Stevens and Schreifer Group, a national media advertising firm. Garrett currently serves on the boards of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, the Council for Quality Growth and the Georgia chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He previously served as U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson's chief of staff, where he worked as the chief political strategist for Isakson's successful U.S. Senate campaigns in 2004 and 2010. Garrett's other political clients have included: Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens, Secretary of State Brian Kemp and the Georgia Republican Party. From 1996 to 1998, he served as a legal and policy adviser to Chairman Johnny Isakson and the Georgia State Board of Education. Garrett is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Georgia. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1995, where he served as an editor for the Georgia Law
Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Garrett and his wife, Lee, have three children. The family resides in Marietta.

Alisande C. Osuch, Consumer Advisory Board

Osuch is a retired Army veteran with more than 20 years of active duty in worldwide assignments. She has served on the board of directors of the Southeast Association of Facilitators, the Hands of Hope Free Medical Clinic and is a founding member and past president of the West Point Charitable Enterprises of Atlanta. Osuch earned a bachelor's degree in general engineering from the United States Military Academy. She is a graduate of Leadership Henry and the Coverdell Leadership Institute. She has two sons, Randall and Jacob. She resides in Stockbridge.

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LAW SCHOOL
Cobb EMC members see opportunity for change in board elections

By Janel Davis
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

11:55 p.m. Thursday, November 10, 2011

Whatever the outcome in Saturday's Cobb EMC elections, the Marietta co-operative is guaranteed to move forward with at least two new board members.

Six incumbents on the board, including two whose seats are up for election Saturday, have decided not to run again. Those leaving the board, which has traditionally seen little turnover, include its longtime chairman and vice chairwoman.

Saturday's election is the first of three rounds of elections for the electric utility's board as it tries to move away from its tarnished reputation stemming from a 2007 customer lawsuit and the indictment of its former CEO. The elections will also be closely watched by Georgia's other 41 electric co-ops as transparency initiatives pushed by new directors -- and possibly state lawmakers -- could affect their operations.

"Entities such as this watch each other and learn by example," said Ron Carlson, a professor emeritus at the University of Georgia who has studied Cobb EMC's saga. "I think the other co-ops will make sure they don't fall into some of the pitfalls that led to this eruption at Cobb EMC."

On Saturday's ballot are 14 candidates, including two incumbents, for the first four board seats. Two groups seeking change have endorsed a slate of candidates, and several others -- some who unsuccessfully sought those endorsements -- are running as independent candidates. All are talking about reform and transparency through a mix of open meetings, a forensic audit and even a customer bill of rights. Some of the new initiatives are likely with the dearth of incumbent members. All three incumbents up for re-election in the next round of elections in February have bowed out, and one incumbent is not seeking re-election in the final round in May.

"Our mission from the beginning was to replace the board," said Les Wilson, an organizer of the Cobb EMC Owners Association, one of three groups working for change at the co-op. Wilson's group of EMC customers has vetted and endorsed its own slate of candidates and has spent about $10,000 on radio and newspaper advertisements supporting them.

"We wanted to remove any lingering issues that could have or would have been involved with the previous board," he said. "We wanted the whole organization to have a fresh approach."

The fresh approach at the EMC that serves 171,000 customers has been long in coming. The elections
Cobb EMC members see opportunity for change in board elections

will change the makeup of a body that has been the same since R.J. Patel was appointed to the board in May 2010 to replace a deceased member. Before that, members had become fixtures on the board, with most serving more than 10 years and one member serving 32 years. And, earlier this year, Chip Nelson was selected as the EMC’s new CEO to succeed Dwight Brown, who had led the utility since 1993.

As Cobb EMC customers have pushed for change, the election has become a referendum on the incumbent board members, who many members see as being complicit in the business dealings that led to a 2007 lawsuit, Brown’s indictment on charges of racketeering, theft and witness intimidation, and decisions to hire Brown as a contractor after his retirement and to implement generous director benefits. In the months leading up to Saturday’s vote, the chatter at candidate forums, sidewalk rallies and community meetings has focused on hope and change.

Patel and incumbent Henry Balkcom are hoping members see their dedication to the utility and desire for more transparency as reasons to keep them on the board. Patel has repeatedly distanced himself and his short tenure from the issues involving the lawsuit. This week he announced endorsements from prominent Cobb business people and Kennesaw city leaders, and he told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that his re-election bid is fueled by his desire to serve the community.

For Balkcom, the decision to run is simple: “I’m not a quitter.” he said.

Despite their best efforts, those two members could be swept out of office by members with long memories.

“The things that these [incumbent] board members were letting go on kind of burns you a little. While I was barely able to pay my electricity bill, these people were paying [Dwight] Brown as a consultant,” Kennesaw resident and EMC customer Margaret Hogue said. “I’m going to vote for new blood.”

Cobb EMC board elections

Who’s running:

14 candidates, including two incumbents, are running Saturday for four of the 10 seats on the Cobb EMC board of directors

Area 1: (incumbent Don Barnett is not seeking re-election)


Area 6: (incumbent Al Fortney is not seeking re-election)

Patrick Longhi, attorney, longhilaw@comcast.net

Stewart Manley, retired Cobb County Tax Commission manager and a retired Navy captain

David Tennant, management consultant and engineer, www.windward.ws

Area 7:
Cobb EMC members see opportunity for change in board elections

Larry Baker, management consultant and professor
William Cominos, retired fire chief and electric industry manager
R.J. Patel (incumbent), residential and commercial cleaning company owner
Paul Phillips
Charles Spann, retired Cobb County police officer and Air Force veteran, www.cspannemc.com
Charles Swanson, printing business owner
Karen Thornburgh, health care industry auditor

Area 10:
Henry Balkcom III (incumbent), Quitman County Farm Bureau executive
Cheryl Meadows, retired airport executive and corporate secretary

Know before you go:
The first round of Cobb EMC board member elections is set for Saturday at Piedmont Church in Marietta.

Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A meeting will begin at 10 a.m. to allow candidates to address members. Election results will be announced after polls close and ballots are counted.

EMC members can vote for a candidate in each area.

A candidate must receive at least 50 percent of the vote in his particular area to win. A runoff election will be held Dec. 3 for areas in which no candidate receives at least 50 percent plus one vote.

What’s next
Feb. 18: Board member elections for Areas 2, 3 and 9
May 12: Board member elections for Areas 4, 5 and 8
Information: www.cobbemc.com

Find this article at:
Deal Appoints 11 to Boards

ATLANTA, Nov. 10 -- Gov. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., issued the following news release:

Ben E. Satterfield, Consumer Advisory Board

Satterfield is a sales manager with Allgood Pest Solutions in Lawrenceville. He has been in the termite and pest control business for more than 35 years. He merged his personal business, Mug a Bug Pest Control Inc., with Allgood Pest Solutions in 2006. He has served as chairman of the Gwinnett Recreational Authority and the Gwinnett History and Preservation Authority. Satterfield and his wife, Jolie, have five daughters and 14 grandchildren. They reside in Lawrenceville.

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Elizabeth W. Knowlton, Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council

Knowlton retired as a senior archivist with the Georgia Archives in Morrow. She serves as vice president of the Metro Atlanta group of the Sierra Club and is an active member in the Lake Claire Garden Club. She volunteers with the Georgia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and with Charis Books, a women's bookstore in Little Five Points. Knowlton earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in English from New York University and a master's degree in Library Science from Atlanta University. She resides in Atlanta.

Jan H. Ligon, Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Ligon is an associate professor of social work at Georgia State University and a licensed clinical social worker. He currently serves on the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists. He is a past president of the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Ligon earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Arkansas, a master's degree from Arizona State University and a doctorate from the University of Georgia.
He and his wife, Ann, have one daughter and two grandchildren. They reside in Atlanta.

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Merritt is the director of real estate for North Georgia, Tennessee and North Alabama with Fairway Outdoor Advertising. He has worked in the outdoor advertising industry for more than 20 years and is a current board member of the Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia. Merritt attended Miller-Motte Business College before entering into the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Rene, have two children, Thaddeus (Tadd) and Brittany. They reside in Kennesaw.

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Osuch is a retired Army veteran with more than 20 years of active duty in worldwide assignments. She has served on the board of directors of the Southeast Association of Facilitators, the Hands of Hope Free Medical Clinic and is a founding member and past president of the West Point Charitable Enterprises of Atlanta. Osuch earned a bachelor's degree in general engineering from the United States Military Academy. She is a graduate of Leadership Henry and the Coverdell Leadership Institute. She has two sons, Randall and Jacob. She resides in Stockbridge.

TNS C-paypan56 111111-mv45-3673434
Suspect in Clayton deputy's killing can't get death penalty, prosecutor says

By Marcus K. Garner
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
6:10 p.m. Thursday, November 10, 2011

Johnathan Bun allegedly killed a Clayton County sheriff's deputy.

Prosecutors thought he should go to death row if convicted. But a higher authority, and the luck of his birth date, will save the 17-year-old from ever having to face death by lethal injection.

"We wanted to seek the death penalty, but were precluded from doing so by the U.S. Supreme Court," Clayton's Chief Assistant District Attorney Erman Tanjuatco said Thursday in a statement.

In light of the apparently wanton fatal shooting of Deputy Richard "Rick" Daly, prosecutors and Clayton Sheriff Kem Kimbrough certainly believe the teen deserves it.

"We are out there everyday putting our lives on the line for the citizens we serve and protect," Kimbrough said. "We expect that when one of us loses our life, that the ultimate penalty is available."

On July 20, as Daly stopped Bun and a friend to arrest the teen wanted for an armed robbery, Bun stepped from the car and opened fire, authorities have said. Daly was fatally wounded.

The Supreme Court has said 17 is too young for capital punishment. Bun won't be 18 until May.

"The accused must be at least 18 at the time of the crime in order to be eligible for death penalty punishment," UGA law professor Ronald Carlson told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

A 1993 murder case involving 17-year-old Christopher Simmons set the stage for a Supreme Court ruling that Bun's defense now can cite to keep him alive.

Simmons and two younger teens broke into Shirley Crook's home in St. Louis County, Mo., tied her up and drove her to a bridge where they threw her into the Meramec River, killing the woman.

Simmons was tried as an adult and found guilty, and a jury sentenced him to death.

He appealed his sentence citing a troubled and abusive upbringing, but the decision held until the Missouri Supreme Court overturned the sentence in 2003.

The State of Missouri appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the Missouri court's decision, giving Simmons life in prison.

Among cases impacted across the country by this decision was the fate of convicted Beltway Sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, who was 17 when he and John...
Allen Muhammad went on a killing spree in the Washington, D.C.-area in October 2002. Malvo is no longer eligible for the death penalty.

Cobb County District Attorney Patrick Head said that Bun, a perpetual juvenile offender wanted at the time of the shooting for armed robbery, met several criteria for capital punishment in Georgia. The law only requires one.

"When somebody is just mean to the core, and you have the statutory aggravating circumstances, then you ask for the death penalty," Head told the AJC.

The criteria are:

-- The defendant knowingly created a grave risk of death of death for someone other than the victim. At least one other deputy was in the line of fire when Bun allegedly started shooting.
-- The murder was committed to avoid or prevent arrest. There was a warrant for Bun's arrest, and he allegedly ran away after the shooting.
-- The defendant has been convicted of, or committed, a felony involving violence.

Bun has been at the center of more than one instance of legal wrangling recently. Just weeks ago, his defense attorney filed a motion to grant his client bond, as the teen had been jailed more than the state-required minimum of 90 days without having been indicted.

A bond hearing scheduled for Friday was cancelled after a grand jury late last month filed formal charges, 11 days after the deadline.

Kimbrough said he is unhappy with the Supreme Court ruling about executions, but he has resolved to accept it.

"There is some resentment because of that," he said. "But at the same time, we all respect the law and we respect the fact that if we as a society have decided that someone under 18 is to be considered a child and can't be put to death."
LENGTH: 283 words

HEADLINE: Caption Contest Winner: Have a Seat...

BODY:

Earlier this week, we asked our readers to submit possible captions for this photo:

On Wednesday, you voted on the finalists, and now it's time to announce the winner of our most recent caption contest....

Just five votes separated our winner from the second-place finisher in this edition of the Caption Contest. It came down the second-most and fifth-most "liked" Disqus captions from our readers. But who takes home the coveted ATL t-shirt?

Without further ado, here's our winning caption:

New Cooley ranking factor: Aggregate cushioned surface area.

It just goes to show that you literally cannot fail with Cooley jokes, because they're usually so bad they're good (which, coincidentally, may be what the Cooley rankings are really all about).

And now for the backstory on these uncomfortable-looking couches. This photo was taken in the hallway at the University of Georgia School of Law. The school is currently being renovated, and the administration bought 12 of these luxurious loungers.

Our favorite quip from a tipster: "They have turned the hallways into a therapy room, a late-night lounge, a place to house unemployed alums, etc. - pick your flavor."

The couches were purchased for the low, low price of $8,856 a piece. And you wondered why your tuition went up by $1,000. Here's your explanation, folks. Students at UGA Law now get to sit on almost a year's worth of in-state tuition between classes. Hope that makes your ass feel special!

Thanks to everyone for suggesting comments and for voting. If you wrote the winning caption, feel free to email us, subject line "Caption Contest Winner," to claim your prize.

Earlier: Caption Contest Finalists: Have a Seat...

Caption Contest: Have a Seat...
Gov. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., issued the following news release:

Ben E. Satterfield, Consumer Advisory Board

Satterfield is a sales manager with Allgood Pest Solutions in Lawrenceville. He has been in the termite and pest control business for more than 35 years. He merged his personal business, Mug a Bug Pest Control Inc., with Allgood Pest Solutions in 2006. He has served as chairman of the Gwinnett Recreational Authority and the Gwinnett History and Preservation Authority. Satterfield and his wife, Jolie, have five daughters and 14 grandchildren. They reside in Lawrenceville.

Cecil A. Bonner Jr., Consumer Advisory Board

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TNS C-paypan56 111111-mv45-3673434

LOAD-DATE: November 11, 2011
Caption Contest Winner: Have a Seat...

By Staci Zaretsky

Earlier this week, we asked our readers to submit possible captions for this photo:
Caption Contest Winner: Have a Seat... « Above the Law: A Legal W...
For decades, Hall County native J.D. Smith has been a notable figure in the court system, not only in Gainesville but in the entire state.

Come Dec. 31, though, Smith will officially retire from his job as presiding judge in the Georgia Court of Appeals.

"I'm going to very much miss the people I've worked with here," he said Thursday during a special session that was held in his honor at the State Judicial Building in Atlanta. "I have so many close friends and so many wonderful memories of working here and on trial court based in Gainesville for the Northeastern (Judicial) Circuit."

Smith spent much of his early law career in Gainesville. After obtaining a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia's School of Law in 1971, he practiced law at Hulsey, Oliver and Mahar in Gainesville.

He was elected in 1984 to the superior court bench for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, where he served eight years. He moved further up the ranks in 1993 as he was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Although Smith will be retiring, he won't entirely be out of work.

"I'm going to be working in mediation and arbitration with a service that does that kind of work," he said.

Many lawyers and officials were on hand Thursday afternoon to honor Smith and witness the unveiling of a portrait that will be displayed in the Georgia Court of Appeals courtroom.

Among those in attendance was Gov. Nathan Deal, who also began practicing law in Gainesville.

"J.D. Smith is one of those rare individuals," Deal said. "He has given a lifetime to public service, and he and I go back to days when we were both young attorneys in Gainesville, Georgia."
Deal described Smith as being "diligent, tenacious ... and always prepared."

Many from Hall County attended the event.

"J.D. Smith is one of the finest superior court judges and Court of Appeals judges that I've ever had the privilege to practice before," Hall County District Attorney Lee Darragh said. "He's a very smart lawyer and excellent judge all the way around, in addition to being a very fine person."

Gainesville-based attorney Dan Summer recalled his very first trial as an assistant district attorney, at which Smith presided.

"I got a fair trial, and I've never had anything but all these years," Summer said.

U.S. District Judge Richard Story of the Northern District of Georgia served with Smith while each was a superior court judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit.

"I had a wonderful experience serving with Judge Smith on the superior court," Story said. "He was everything you heard described today in terms of integrity, example and friend."

With a large caseload and limited time, Smith commended the ability of the Court of Appeals to effectively rule on cases.

"I'm so proud that in spite of what's really an impossible mission, this court gets it right an overwhelming number of the time," Smith said.

Some of the people Smith said were most influential to him throughout his career were those not associated with court.

"This job, especially superior court, is such an intensely people job," he said. "You see people sometimes at their very best and sometimes at their very worst."

As a judge, Smith said it's important to remember nobody can be perfect.

"We live in a world of fallible, imperfect human beings, and no one is really good enough to judge fallible, imperfect human beings," he said. "Not one of us is truly up to the job, but we have the responsibility to do the best we can."
According to the U.S. Congress two hundred years ago by the "Alien Tort Claims Act", also known as the "Alien Tort Act" (Alien Tort Claims Act), for the only foreigner in any civil action involving infringement, breach of tort international law or U.S. treaties, the U.S. Federal District Court has first instance jurisdiction, in other words, foreigners can because the violation of international law and U.S. treaty violations, to the United States civil court, and demanded compensation.

* Alien Tort Claims Act's historical background and content *

U.S. Department of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of the former assistant secretary of state, international law professor at Yale University, Guo-chu explains here that international law is customary international law, the treaty is the United States and other countries, the United States treaties.

Guo Ju said: "The United States is that the treaties concluded by the U.S. President and other leaders signed the agreement, the agreement should be approved by national parliaments both in the United States, two-thirds of senators forgot to get the approval of customary international law is that the legal obligations of States based on actions taken and gradually developed the law."

University of California, Davis School of Law Professor William Dodge introduced the "Alien Tort Claims Act," the historical background: "In the 'Alien Tort Claims Act' passed five years ago, the United States have occurred with a French diplomats were attacked in the streets of Philadelphia's case. Most scholars believe that the U.S. Congress through the 'Alien Tort Claims Act', it may be precisely because of this case into account, was given by a foreign tort injury a claim of appeal and opportunities."

* Legal coverage and litigation in the form *

George Washington University Law School Professor Ralph Stein Hart further information on the coverage of this law: "'Alien Tort Claims Act' to ensure that non-US citizens or foreigners become victims of other violations of international law, the to the United States courts. At first, being foreigners and piracy attacks in the United States, foreign diplomats, according to the law to court proceedings and demanded compensation."

However, the "Alien Tort Claims Act," passed in 1789 after almost never been used. Until recent decades, as international issues of violations of human rights more and more attention, people are increasingly enabled this law, they tend to their leaders and human rights violations during his tenure in the U.S. use of torture or overseas company accused of a violation of human rights to sue in U.S. courts.

Professor William Dodge analysis that relate to "Alien Tort Claims Act," the lawsuit has gone through three historical stages. He said: "The first stage of the litigation primarily
involving torture, torture is a clear violation of international law. A U.S. federal district court made the unanimous decision to allow such action. The second stage of the proceedings began around 1995, during which foreigners sue U.S. companies in foreign countries in violation of human rights. The third stage is the U.S. government officials who ordered or made their litigation. "

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* The first case of the Alien Tort Claims *

Here we introduce under the "Alien Tort Claims Act," foreign government officials to prosecute human rights violations since the first case (Filartiga v. Pena-Irala). In 1978, Dolly and his father fled Fila Corti from Paraguay to the United States to seek political asylum, so they were shocked that the Paraguayan police chief также Ascension region also entered the United States. Yila La Fila Corti alleged retaliation against the Government of Paraguay in political activities, the use of torture 17-year-old killed his only son.

Dolly and his father had managed to Paraguay Fila Corti justice court, however, government lawyers were arrested after they fled to the United States. Father and daughter duo Fila Corti after notice to the USCIS, but also in the "Center for Constitutional Rights," lawyer's help, according to the "Alien Tort Claims Act" to torture, violation of international law on the grounds, to a New York federal district court Yi Lala, and murdered their loved ones asking for compensatory damages and punitive damages.

However, due to actions brought by citizens of another country's citizens of the country, and the plaintiff is to place outside the United States for crimes committed while asking for compensation, plus the United States court in the past have to do not have jurisdiction on the grounds refused to hearing such cases, therefore, can successfully sue is difficult to predict. Both sides in the dispute in this case the question is: "Alien Tort Claims Act" is to give the reasons for the plaintiff lawsuits. Cause of action is the plaintiff here that provide all the necessary evidence to enable the court not only agreed to accept the case, and the verdict and compensation.

Georgia State University Law School Professor Diane Oman

University of Georgia School of Law
Georgia State University Law School Professor Diane Oman

Georgia State University Law School professor Daianaman describes the position of the parties. She said: "Yi Lala party believes that 'Alien Tort Claims Act' does not provide for such cases the reasons for action, but only to give federal courts jurisdiction over the U.S. Congress passed a law still need to clarify the cause of action unless Congress then passed a law empowering the court to exercise jurisdiction, or the court can do nothing but party Fila Corti said, 'Alien Tort Claims Act' has been given to the court verdict on the power of these cases."

* The court’s decision to support the rights of victims *

Finally, the U.S. Federal District Court dismissed the case, it is that international law does not apply to another country, citizens of the State government how to deal with this problem, so "Alien Tort Claims Act," mentioned in the jurisdiction in this case does not to apply. However, the case appealed to the Federal Second Circuit Court of Appeals after the court overturned the lower court’s decision. Ruling that torture violates international law, the UN General Assembly as early as 1975 by the Declaration against Torture. The court also awarded plaintiff one...
thousand three hundred thousands of dollars in compensation.

Fila Corti case decision, the United Nations General Assembly in 1984 again by the Convention against Torture, the U.S. Congress also adopted in 1992, "the prohibition of torture victim protection law", the "Alien Tort Claims Act" was further added. Subsequently, many involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture, and so is a violation of international law, people under the "Alien Tort Claims Act" to committing the above crimes proceedings. Listeners, the legal window program to end here.
Teaching the teachers

New program from the Teaching Academy helps to mentor early-career faculty members

By Matt Weeks
mweeks@uga.edu

The metaphor wasn’t lost on Paige Carmichael. When she joined about two dozen other faculty members on the UGA Challenge Course for one of the first meetings of the new Teaching Academy Fellows program, she immediately drew the connection between the obstacles they had to overcome on the course and the hurdles faced by early-career faculty members.

“Going out on the ropes course was not my idea of fun, but it was wonderful. Here we had faculty members who’ve been named Meigs Professors and won other awards interacting on the intramural fields with brand-spanking new instructors and making themselves a team,” said Carmichael, a coordinator of the program and associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Veterinary Medicine. “It was a great learning experience for all of us.”

The Teaching Academy Fellows program links early-career faculty with seasoned mentors. Small groups of four or five early-career faculty members from diverse disciplines meet regularly with two Teaching Academy members to discuss topics both broad (those relating to being a member of the UGA community), and deep (those relating to the university’s instructional mission).

“One of the main goals of the UGA Teaching Academy is to foster a community of teaching scholars,” said Josef Broder, chair of the program’s executive committee and associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. “The Teaching Academy Fellows Program is designed to create this sense of community among our early-career teachers. The idea for the Fellows Program grew out a recommendation from the 2011 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium.”

The entire group meets about five times during the year to hear guest speakers from the Teaching Academy and collaborate on projects. It’s currently running as a pilot program for the 2011-2012 academic year thanks to generous support from the provost’s office and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

“I’m partnered with Karen Cornell, who is a surgeon in the veterinary college. And in our group, we have informal gatherings where the topics range from time-management balancing in terms of working with graduate students to handling large classes to working with students when you’re an adviser to a student organization,” said Trish Kalivoda, a TAF program coordinator and senior associate vice president for public service and outreach. “What I really think is powerful about this format is that you get to hear the differences amongst the variety of disciplines, but also the similarities. You’re able to learn from each other and share stories. You leave each of these meetings re-energized about why we’re here as a university and the sense of responsibility and reward of working with students.”

The program’s relaxed atmosphere contributes to its appeal, said Belinda Stillion Southard, an assistant professor in the department of communication studies.

“I like how informal it is,” she said. “There are so many things you do at a university where you’re evaluated or tested on how you do, it’s nice to have something where that’s not the goal.”

Instead, the program measures success in terms of knowledge gained, time saved and relationships created, according to Mark Huber, a program coordinator and senior lecturer in the department of management information systems.

“In my mind, a successful program is one where, in a do-more-with-less environment, we would be able to shorten the learning curve of teaching at UGA,” Huber said. “If we cut the learning curve down, we’ve freed up more time for faculty to do those other things that the university expects them to do. For us, success is not only helping a new teacher, it’s also helping new faculty have more time to do more in all aspects of their academic career. They still have to get grants; they still have to do research; they still have to have lives. So if we’ve saved them an hour, that’s success.”

Nominated by deans and department heads and selected by members of the Teaching Academy, 2011-12 fellows are Jennifer Atkinson, legal studies and real estate; Anna Maria Conner, mathematics education; Natasha Ganem, sociology; James Garrett, elementary and social studies; Timothy Gupton, Romance languages; Sonia Hernandez, forestry and natural resources; Bettina Love, elementary and social studies education; Bin Mei, forestry and natural resources; Shari Miller, social work; Nicolas Morrissey, art; David Okech, social work; Peter O’Neill, comparative literature; Neelam Poudyal, forestry and natural resources; Belinda Stillion Southard, communication studies; Nanette Spina, religion; Maria Viveiros, physiology and pharmacology; Lily Wang, statistics; Susan Wilde, forestry and natural resources; and Logan Sawyer, law.

The mentors are Paige Carmichael, veterinary medicine; Karen Cornell, veterinary medicine; Marcus Fechheimer, cellular biology; Christine Franklin, statistics; Nelson Hilton, Center for Teaching and Learning; Mark Huber, management information systems; Trish Kalivoda, public service and outreach; and Fran Teague, theatre and film studies.

ON THE WEB
www.uga.edu/teachingacademy/
Doyle named vice president for government relations

By Tom Jackson
tjackson@uga.edu

J. Griffin Doyle, who has served as UGA's director of federal relations since 2003, was appointed Nov. 10 to the position of vice president for government relations. Doyle has served as interim vice president since his predecessor, Steve W. Wrigley, was named executive vice chancellor of the University System of Georgia in July.

Doyle, who holds both bachelor's and law degrees from UGA, has more than 30 years' experience working in Georgia government, industry and education. Prior to becoming federal relations director, he was UGA's associate vice president for economic and community development. He previously served as associate director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and as director of UGA's Regional Economic Development Partnership.

Prior to joining UGA's staff, he was president of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, assistant commissioner and executive assistant to the commissioner of the Georgia Department of See APPOINTMENT on page 8
Greenberg Traurig Intellectual Property & Technology Practice Chair Alan Sutin Earns IAPP Privacy Credential
11.14.11

People: Alan N. Sutin
Experience: Intellectual Property & Technology

NEW YORK (November 14, 2011) — Alan Sutin, chair of Greenberg Traurig LLP’s Global Intellectual Property & Technology Practice, has been certified by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) as a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP). Sutin is a shareholder in the firm’s New York office and focuses his practice on significant commercial transactions and issues involving the development, acquisition, disposition and commercial exploitation of intellectual property, with a particular focus on the use by businesses of computer and communications technologies.

The IAPP is the world’s largest association of privacy professionals. The CIPP certification was established in 2004, and it has since become the preeminent credential in the field of privacy. The certification covers a wide variety of subject matter, including personal data protection laws, the regulation of marketing practices, data breach notification laws, and workplace privacy laws.

Sutin also represents a wide variety of companies in connection with IT and business process outsourcing arrangements, strategic alliance agreements, commercial joint ventures and licensing matters. He has a wide range of experience in Internet and electronic commerce issues and has been involved in many of the major policy issues surrounding the commercial development of the Internet. Alan has advised foreign governments and multinational corporations in connection with these issues and is a frequent speaker at major industry conferences and events around the world.

He received his B.A. from Emory University and J.D. from the University of Georgia School of law.

About Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Greenberg Traurig, LLP is an international, full-service law firm with approximately 1800 attorneys serving clients from more than 30 offices in the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia. In the U.S., the firm has more offices than any other among the Top 10 on The National Law Journal’s 2011 NLJ 250. In Mexico, the firm operates as Greenberg Traurig, S.C., and in the U.K., as Greenberg Traurig Maher LLP. Greenberg Traurig has a strategic alliance with the independent law firm, Studio Santa Maria with offices in Milan and Rome. The firm was Chambers and Partners’ USA Law Firm of the Year in 2007 and among the Top 3 in the International Law Firm of the Year at the 2009 The Lawyer Awards. For additional information, please visit www.gtlaw.com.
Earlier this week, we asked our readers to submit possible captions for this photo:

On Wednesday, you voted on the finalists, and now it's time to announce the winner of our most recent caption contest....

Just five votes separated our winner from the second-place finisher in this edition of the Caption Contest. It came down the second-most and fifth-most "liked" Disqus captions from our readers. But who takes home the coveted ATL t-shirt?

Without further ado, here's our winning caption:

New Cooley ranking factor: Aggregate cushioned surface area.

It just goes to show that you literally cannot fail with Cooley jokes, because they're usually so bad they're good (which, coincidentally, may be what the Cooley rankings are really all about).

And now for the backstory on these uncomfortable-looking couches. This photo was taken in the hallway at the University of Georgia School of Law. The school is currently being renovated, and the administration bought 12 of these luxurious loungers.

Our favorite quip from a tipster: "They have turned the hallways into a therapy room, a late-night lounge, a place to house unemployed alums, etc. - pick your flavor."

The couches were purchased for the low, low price of $8,856 a piece. And you wondered why your tuition went up by $1,000. Here's your explanation, folks. Students at UGA Law now get to sit on almost a year's worth of in-state tuition between classes. Hope that makes your ass feel special!

Thanks to everyone for suggesting comments and for voting. If you wrote the winning caption, feel free to email us, subject line "Caption Contest Winner," to claim your prize.

Earlier: Caption Contest Finalists: Have a Seat...

Caption Contest: Have a Seat...
Greenberg Traurig issued the following news release:

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LOAD-DATE: November 15, 2011
Gordon B. Trulock

Family-Placed Death Notice

TURLOCK, Gordon B. Gordon B. Trulock Born on August 7, 1924 in Whigham, Georgia, he was the son of Gordon B. and Jennie M. Trulock. He attended the University of Georgia where he received his BBA and LLB degrees. He began his business career with Citizens and Southern National Bank, which is now a part of Bank of America. At the time of his retirement, he was Executive Vice President - Commercial Loans at First Alabama Bancshares, now Regions Financial Corporation. Gordon married Lovetta Elizabeth (Betty) McIwain of Atlanta in 1952. They had two children Ruth Elizabeth (Beth) Trulock Carter and Catherine Marie Trulock, both of Atlanta. Following the death of Betty in 1984, he married Elizabeth (Lib) Rivers Tuck in 1986. In addition to his wife and daughters, his is survived by his grandchildren Victoria Elizabeth Carter and Jonathan Trulock Carter of Atlanta and his nephews Walter (Walt) James Dickson of Whigham, GA and Robert (Bobby) Trulock Dickson of Emerald Isle, NC. He is also survived by Lib's children Bennett Franklin (Frank) Tuck and family of Colorado Springs, CO and Madeline Tuck Waldrop and family of Atlanta, GA, all of whom he warmly included in his extended family. Gordon was a longtime member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church and member of the Gene Wilson Sunday School class. He served as a Sunday school teacher and as an Elder. A memorial service will be held at Peachtree Presbyterian on Wednesday November 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Kellett Chapel. Dr. Steve Huntley and Reverend Don Jordan will be presiding. Anyone wishing to make a memorial gift may send it to Peachtree Presbyterian Church. Reception to follow the service.

Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on November 15, 2011
County by county news for Wednesday

By Bob Howard
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
4:17 p.m. Tuesday, November 15, 2011

COBB

Cobb lawmaker challenge regional transit plan

Some members of Cobb County’s legislative delegation again challenged Cobb’s project list on Monday. Lawmakers, including chairman Rep. Ed Setzler, argued that Cobb’s initial plan for a $856 million rail line from the Cumberland to Atlanta wouldn’t help alleviate traffic. A revised $689 million plan for premium bus service up to Acworth, and some type of transit along the I-75/US 41 corridor hasn’t been popular either. Setzler, R-Acworth, called the plan a “$6.1 billion bait-and-switch” that was presented as a way to alleviate traffic congestion in metro Atlanta, but became more about economic development. Janel Davis

Austell resident to run for commission

Austell area resident Lisa Cupid has announced her candidacy for the Cobb County Commission. Cupid, a Georgia Tech engineering graduate and facilitator of the Austell Community Taskforce, is vying for the district 4 seat in southwest Cobb currently held by Woody Thompson. Cupid has lived in the south Cobb area for nine years.

In addition to Cupid, Michael Rhett, a sergeant in the Air Force Reserves who has a doctorate in education from the University of Georgia, has said he will run for the post. Janel Davis

Teens invited to carpentry workshop

Teens are invited to a free carpentry workshop and a free Thanksgiving luncheon on Saturday in Austell. The last one for this year, the carpentry class will begin at 10 a.m. at the South Cobb Recreation Center, 875 Six Flags Drive. Open to ages 14 to 18, the sessions are hosted by Serenity House Training and Development, Inc.

Information: 770-635-7790, serenityhousetraininganddevelopmentinc.org or serenityhousecc@yahoo.com. Carolyn Cunningham for the AJC

Meetings focus on communities’ plans

Residents in the Six Flags area are invited to a meeting on Thursday to discuss transportation infrastructure improvements and land use along Six Flags Drive. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the
South Cobb Recreation Center, 875 Six Flags Drive in Austell. Also Thursday, Vinings area residents are invited to a meeting about that community’s master plan. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Vinings United Methodist Church, 3101 Paces Mill Road in Atlanta. Information: 770-528-1679 or www.cobbcounty.org/dot Janel Davis

Special Olympics volunteers needed

Special Olympics volunteers are needed to teach basketball team skills for the Cobb Parks and Recreation Department. Information: Facility manager Wendy Collins, Ward Recreation Center, 4845 Dallas Hwy., Lost Mountain Park, Powder Springs, 770-528-8885. Carolyn Cunningham for the AJC

Dyslexia discussion for parents Nov. 19

Parents of children with dyslexia can learn about the condition and strategies to manage it at a discussion led by Brenda Fitzgerald, a board member of the Georgia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

Admission to the 3-hour event is $30. It’s at 9 a.m. on Saturday, at the School Box at Town Center, 50 Barrett Parkway, Marietta. Register at www.georgiaeta.com. Ty Tagami

GWINNETT

Gwinnett gets vote on Sunday sales March 6

Residents of unincorporated Gwinnett County will decide on March 6 whether to allow alcohol package sales on Sunday.

On Tuesday the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the vote the day of Georgia’s presidential primary.

If voters approve Sunday sales, they would be legal beginning next June 1.

Residents of 13 Gwinnett cities approved Sunday alcohol sales last week. David Wickert

Duwell to run for probate judge in 2012

Marlene R. Duwell, an 18-year court veteran, announced this week that she will run for a judicial seat upon the retirement of a probate judge in 2012.

Duwell was hired in 1995 and judicially appointed as Chief Clerk in 1997.

Duwell manages the daily administrative functions. She has also been appointed to hear hundreds of mental health cases, adult guardianships, guardianships of minors, and probate matters. A resident of Peachtree Corners, Duwell earned a law degree from the University of Georgia in 1993. Andria Simmons

Police investigate fatal shooting in Lawrenceville

Gwinnett County police are investigating a fatal shooting in a neighborhood near Lawrenceville. The incident happened in the 500 block of Simonton Ridge Trail, according to Gwinnett police Cpl. Edwin
Ritter. The victim, Jose De Manuel Alfaro, 18, of Lawrenceville, was found dead in the street around 11:30 p.m. Monday.

Alfaro did not live in the neighborhood, Ritter said. He said detectives were interviewing witnesses. Mike Morris

Ralston to address chamber today

Georgia House Speaker David Ralston will speak to the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the 1818 Club, 6500 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth. The cost is $45 for chamber members and $55 for non-members. Advanced registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome but will not be guaranteed a seat. To register, visit www.gwinnettcchamber.org/events. David Wickert

Gwinnett holds tree-lighting on Nov. 24

Gwinnett County will host a tree-lighting ceremony from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 24 at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 E. Crogan St., Lawrenceville. The free event will feature live music, kid's crafts, live entertainment and a visit with Santa. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. Santa arrives at 6:45 p.m. David Wickert

Ludwig Symphony Orchestra opens season

The Ludwig Symphony Orchestra will present an "International Gala Festival" for the opening of its concert season on 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Gwinnett Center’s Performing Arts Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth.

Tickets are $19 for adults, $17 for seniors and $10 for students. Call 770-623-8623 or purchase online at www.ludwigsymphony.org. Mea Watkins

NORTHSIDE

Fulton moves to start anti-smoking campaign

Fulton County’s Health and Wellness Department wants to use federal grant money to pay $65,000 to the Georgia State University Research Foundation for an anti-smoking media campaign. The goal is to convince businesses to prohibit smoking on their own, according to department Director Patrice Harris, not to push for a county-enforced ban as was tried unsuccessfully in DeKalb. The proposal is on today’s commission agenda. State law bans smoking in enclosed workplaces but exempts bars and restaurants where people under 18 cannot enter. Johnny Edwards

Milton wants grants to restore building

Milton officials will pursue grant money to refurbish and repair the historic Hopewell House, purchased earlier this year for $250,000. Local architect Lew Oliver told City Council members Monday the house needs more in structural work to bring it up to safety specifications. Depending on how extensive the work, project estimates run up to $200,000.

The 3,683-square-foot building sits on 3 acres near the corner of Hopewell and Birmingham roads and is
considered one of the oldest structures in Fulton County, dating back to the 1820s or 1830s. Patrick Fox

Class for teens to cook Thanksgiving dinner

A culinary class Saturday at the Sandy Springs Library will teach teens to whip up a Thanksgiving meal and "be a rock star in the kitchen." “Basic Cooking Skills for Teens: Thanksgiving Edition” starts at 2 p.m. at 395 Mt. Vernon Highway.

Registration: 404-303-6130. Johnny Edwards

Nature Center to host Craft Week Nov. 21

The Chattahoochee Nature Center will host Craft Week starting Monday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. for ages 4 – 12 years. Visitors will be able to reuse and recycle common items to make fun, take-home projects. General admission is $8 for adults, $6 for seniors, $5 for children 3-12 and free for children 2 and under and members. Information: visit www.chattnaturecenter.com or 770-992-2055 ext. 224 Sandra Marshall Murray

Sandy Springs to present new flood maps

Sandy Springs will its second presentation to review new flood risk maps. The maps include flood insurance rate maps used to help establish flood insurance premiums.

The presentation, to be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7, will show the extent to which parcels are at risk for flooding, taking into account changes in topography, land use and drainage patterns.

The meetings are at Sandy Springs City Hall Council Chambers, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500. Information: www.sandyspringsga.org, or 770-730-5600. Patrick Fox

Nature Center to host holiday shop on Dec. 3

The Chattahoochee Nature Center at 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, will host its annual holiday shop on Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the nature center will be free. Information: visit www.chattnaturecenter.org or call 770-992-2055 ext. 236 or email rgilbert@chattnaturecenter.org. Sandra Marshall Murray

ATLANTA

Groups hosts fair for homeless kids

On any given day in Georgia, there are an estimated 2,500 homeless children, according to Atlanta’s Children Shelter.

In effort to raise awareness about their plight, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta will join other organizations Saturday in hosting the 4-UTH Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Salvation Army Bellwood Boys and Girls Club in Atlanta. The event is free to homeless children, teens and families.

Other sponsors also include Covenant House, the Salvation Army, StandUp For Kids and the Urban League of Greater Atlanta Guild. Gracie Bonds Staples
Housing Authority chief receives honor

Mercy Housing Southeast’s president Charice Heywood presented Atlanta Housing Authority President and CEO Renee Glover with the Legacy Award on Nov. 9 at The Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta.

The award was in recognition of the creative innovative partnership between the two organizations that assists families in need by making affordable housing a reality and also helps to restore the regional economy. Kenneth Musisi

David Brooks to speak at synagogue


Brooks is the featured guest for the synagogue’s 2011 Eizenstat Family Memorial Lecture, which starts at 7:30 p.m. Information: 404-355-5222. Johnny Edwards

CAU Jazz Orchestra to perform Sunday

The Clark Atlanta Jazz Orchestra presents a “Tribute to our Ancestors”, a jazz orchestra performance on Sunday at 7 p.m. at Clark Atlanta University’s Davage Auditorium, 223 James P. Brawly Dr., Atlanta. Admission is $2.

The event includes a special performance by the Stephenson High School Dance Ensemble. Kenneth Musisi

DEKALB

DeKalb launches anti-smoking campaign

DeKalb County will unveil today a print advertising campaign focused on the dangers of second-hand smoke.

The county’s health department director and other elected officials will be at the Porter Sanford Performing Arts and Community Center at noon for the preview of Picture DeKalb Healthy campaign.

There also will be a display of students’ artwork that depicts their visions of a healthy, smoke-free DeKalb County. Rhonda Cook

Emory Lavista Parent Council to meet

The Emory Lavista Parent Council is scheduled to meet at 9:15 a.m. today at Evansdale Elementary School, 2914 Evans Wood Drive, Doraville. The group represents 16 DeKalb County schools with more than 10,000 students including the Druid Hills and Lakeside communities. The meeting will focus on curriculum changes and state mandates in education. The meeting is open to the public. Information: www.emory-lavista.org. Rich McKay

Students to release baby trout into river
Nine students from DeKalb County schools will help release thousands of baby or “fry” rainbow trout into the cold waters of the Chattahoochee River this morning. This is a culmination of a 12-week environmental project called “Small Fry To Go” in which children help raise trout from eggs smaller than a pea to two-to-three inch fry. Along the way, the children learn concepts of math, science and biology. Children from nine DeKalb elementary and middle schools are involved. The event starts at 10:30 a.m. at Paces Mill National Park, off Cobb Parkway. Rich McKay

DeKalb celebrates GIS day today

There will be food, contests and demonstrations for the public of DeKalb County’s geographic information systems, which will help officials digest census data, manage natural resource and analyze crime and business trends. The event is planned for today -- GIS Day -- from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Manuel Maloof Auditorium at 1300 Commerce Drive in Decatur. Rhonda Cook

Retired educators to meet Thursday

The Georgia Retired Educators Association in Decatur and DeKalb will host a discussion about current affairs at its monthly meeting this week.

Retirees from Decatur and DeKalb schools, both public and private, as well as retirees of other districts who live in the county, are welcome in the group. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Decatur First Christian Church fellowship hall, 601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur. Information: 770-498-9493. April Hunt

Youth symphony to perform today

The honors orchestra for DeKalb County Schools will perform today in the Cole Fine Arts Auditorium at Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston.

The DeKalb Youth Symphony perform locally three times a year and have held concerts in Europe and Canada. In the coming year, they will travel to Ireland to perform.

Today’s performance begins at 8 p.m. and is free, though donations are encouraged. Information: www.dekalbyouthsymphony.org. April Hunt

SOUTHSIDE

Fayette board to vote on revised school calendar

Fayette County Schools Superintendent Jeff Bearden and a 10-member committee are recommending a 2012-13 calendar that starts Aug. 13 and ends May 24. The revised calendar consists of 177 days for students and 185 days for teachers. Other staff will lose between three and five days. The resulting utilities, fuel and salary costs would save the county $3.3 million to help offset a projected $10 million deficit. The school board will vote on the measure in December. Bearden said, “I hope this is the only year we have to take this kind of measure.” Jill Howard Church

Fayette school board fills vacant slot
The Fayette County Board of Education unanimously chose Leonard Presberg to fill its vacant Post 5 seat on Monday.

Presberg is the chief financial officer of the Women's Medical Center in Tyrone. He has a law degree from the University of Richmond and a computer science degree from Oberlin College. His term will run through 2014. Jill Howard Church

Bulk waste accepted on Saturday

The Bulk Waste Amnesty Day for South Fulton residents is Saturday. Large items such as old refrigerators, furniture, and electronics will be accepted at no cost. Yard waste will only be accepted at Merk Road. Locations are in College Park at 3225 Merk Road from 8:30-4:30 p.m.; 5601 Stonewall Tell Road from 8-2 p.m.; and 2775 Creel Road from 8-2 p.m. Senior citizens or disabled residents can call 404-612-7400 for assistance prior to the date of the event. Kenneth Musisi

East Point mayor dinged on handbill issue

Visiting Judge Timothy Bumann found Mayor Earnestine Pittman guilty last week in East Point Municipal Court of violating the city's handbill ordinance and fined her $50. Pittman was cited for violating the handbill ordinance last spring when she distributed her newsletter throughout the city. John Thompson for the AJC

Eagles Landing student wins essay contest

Brook Amero, a seventh grader at Eagles Landing Middle School, is the Henry County winner of the 10th annual Clean Water Campaign/"I'm In" Essay Contest. Contestants wrote about problems and potential solutions to protecting the water quality and water supply in metro Atlanta. The contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, is open to students in grades 6-8 in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale counties. Nancy Badertscher

Time to sign up for Fayetteville parade

Main Street Fayetteville is now accepting applications for those wanting to be part of the Dec. 3 Christmas Parade.

The parade is open to individuals, groups, marching bands, floats, cars and trucks from families, businesses, organizations, schools and political groups. The entry fee is $10 for individuals and nonprofits, $20 for businesses and $60 for motor clubs, with a limit of 20 vehicles per club. The application deadline is Nov. 21; see www.fayetteville-ga.gov or call 770-719-4173 for information. Jill Howard Church for the AJC
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

**6 finalists named for Court of Appeals**

**JNC puts 4 judges and 2 attorneys on short list for Georgia Court of Appeals**

By Alyson M. Palmer, Staff Reporter

Four judges, a prosecutor and a litigator in private practice made the short list for Gov. Nathan Deal's first appellate appointment.

The Judicial Nominating Commission on Tuesday released the names for the governor's consideration in filling an upcoming vacancy on the state Court of Appeals. They are:

- Michael P. Boggs, a Superior Court judge in the Waycross Judicial Circuit;
- Elizabeth L. "Lisa" Branch, a partner at Smith, Gambrell & Russell in Atlanta;
- Donald P. Geary, chief assistant district attorney in DeKalb County;
- John C. Pridgen, chief judge for the Cordele Judicial Circuit Superior Court;
- Mary E. Staley, Superior Court judge in Cobb County; and
- Benjamin W. Studdard III, chief judge of the Henry County State Court.

Although the governor is not legally bound to select an appointee from the JNC's list, the announcement on the JNC's website says Deal will do so, with his office contacting candidates to schedule interviews.

The vacancy will be created by the departure of Presiding Judge J.D. Smith, who in September announced plans to retire from the court at the end of this year. Absent from the short list are any candidates from north Georgia, conspicuous given that Smith, like Deal, used to practice in Gainesville. The candidates are not all from metro Atlanta, however, as the Cordele and Waycross circuits are in the southern half of the state.

The JNC reported that it interviewed all 18 lawyers who applied for the job. Those passed over for the spot were: C. Robert Barker III, general counsel at Mueller Water Products in Atlanta; Scott L. Bonder, an Atlanta litigator who had launched a campaign for the state Supreme Court before Presiding Justice George H. Carley said he would retire in July; Ronald S. Boyter Jr., an assistant attorney general in the Torts/Litigation Section of the State Law Department; Laverne Lewis Gaskins, university attorney for Valdosta State University; N. Stanley Gunter, the former Enotah Circuit district attorney; Adam M. Hames, an Atlanta criminal defense attorney; Thomas D. Harper, a former State Farm outside defense counsel who turned to the plaintiffs' side earlier this year; Robert L. Moore Jr., a former prosecutor who is a real estate lawyer in Thomasville; Randolph G. Rich, a Gwinnett County State Court judge; Robert W. Smith Jr., an assistant district attorney in Fayette County; Larry L.
Taylor, a solo practitioner in Columbus; and Timothy N. Toler, an Atlanta construction lawyer.

Here are details on the finalists, largely gleaned from applications they submitted to the JNC:

Michael P. Boggs

Boggs, 48, was a Democratic member of the state Legislature before winning election to an open seat on the six-county Waycross Judicial Circuit Superior Court in 2004.

On his JNC application, Boggs, a Florida native, said he began college at Georgia Tech on a football scholarship but was injured and ultimately earned his degree from Georgia Southern College. He received his law degree from Mercer University.

His private practice in Atlanta and southeast Georgia included insurance defense and plaintiffs' work, real estate closings, and representing the state Department of Corrections as a special assistant attorney general. He said he once was the county attorney for Charlton and Brantley counties.

During his four years representing Waycross in the state House, Boggs wrote and saw passed legislation criminalizing the creation of "morphed" child pornography, or real images of children assembled through computer simulation.

As a judge, Boggs founded and presides over his circuit's drug court—a particular interest of Deal, whose son, Superior Court Judge Jason J. Deal, presides over the drug court in Hall County. When the elder Deal became governor, he put Boggs on the JNC, and later this year Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein appointed Boggs to the special tribranch commission that's examining ways to improve the state's criminal justice system. His JNC application file is thick with recommendation letters from judges and legislators.

In response to a question on the JNC application about his view of the role of law clerks, Boggs said he would "expect my clerk to share my conservative judicial philosophy."

Asked on the JNC applications about lawsuits in which he's been a party, Boggs disclosed he has been sued three times as a judge, explaining that each case was filed pro se by a disgruntled criminal defendant and was dismissed on motion.

Elizabeth L. "Lisa" Branch

Branch, 43, is a big firm lawyer with conservative credentials, having served in the administration of President George W. Bush and on the executive board of the Atlanta Lawyers' Chapter of the Federalist Society.

A graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina, the Atlanta native reported that she was Notes and Comments Editor for the Emory Law Journal and a member of Order of the Coif. Branch was a judicial clerk from 1994 to 1996 for Judge J. Owen Forrester of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

She started out her career at Smith Gambrell, where she had been a summer associate, rising through the ranks to become a partner there. She left the firm in 2004 to join the newly created Department of Homeland Security. From there, she moved to the Office of Management and Budget's regulatory affairs office, where she worked on federal regulations for a number of industries.
She returned to Atlanta and the Smith Gambrell partnership at the close of the Bush administration. She reported that in her current practice, she handles business litigation and government affairs matters. She said she represents clients in government investigations, appeals of adverse governmental rulings and complaints brought to ethics boards. Her practice includes federal and state campaign finance issues.

Her JNC application said she has been a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association and the National Rifle Association. Among her recommendation letters to the JNC is one from Seyfarth Shaw partner Erika C. Birg, a friend of Branch's from Emory who has served with her on the local Federalist Society's executive board.

Donald P. Geary

Geary, 55, is a Marine Corps veteran and longtime prosecutor who already has received an appointment from a Republican governor.

Born at Camp Lejune, N.C., Geary received undergraduate degrees from Coastal Carolina Community College and East Carolina University before becoming a pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1979. While on active duty, he received an M.B.A. from National University in San Diego and began legal course work at Southwestern University in Los Angeles. On his JNC application, he explained he had to start over due to insufficient credits when he began law school at Georgia State University in 1986, after he went into the reserves.

Following graduation from law school, Geary began a solo civil and criminal practice, but he was soon deployed to Saudi Arabia and Iraq as part of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Shortly after he completed his tour, Geary joined the Fulton DA's office, beginning a 20-year career as a prosecutor, first in Fulton, then Gwinnett and finally DeKalb. He became the DeKalb office's chief assistant in March 2006, under Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, and stayed on when Robert James, a Democrat who is on Deal's JNC, took over the office at the beginning of this year.

Asked by the JNC application to describe some of his more significant legal matters, Geary cited a triple murder case he tried to a death sentence in 2008.

Geary said on his JNC application that prior to joining the DeKalb DA's office, he usually did his own appellate work. He said as chief assistant he hasn't been the sole author of any appellate briefs but has been involved in the drafting of a few hundred.

Among the letters the JNC received in support of Geary was one from Fulton Superior Court Judge Craig L. Schwall Sr., who called Geary "a known conservative and a fellow member of the Federalist Society," and University of Georgia law professor Ronald L. Carlson, who is on the Georgia senators' committee reviewing names of potential federal judges at the behest of U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson.

Geary's resume said he's a member of the Gwinnett County Republican Party. Last year Perdue appointed him to the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission, which regulates boxing, martial arts and ticket brokers.

John C. Pridgen

Pridgen, 61, is a former district attorney who is now president of the Council of Superior Court
Judges.

Born in Macon, Pridgen received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia. His JNC application said he entered three months' active duty in the U.S. Army following his law school graduation, stationed in Virginia. He said he was honorably discharged as a captain in 1982.

Upon returning to Georgia in 1975, Pridgen entered private practice in Cordele, joining the office of Edwin T. Cotton. Pridgen later was a partner in a law firm in nearby Vienna.

Pridgen was elected district attorney for the Cordele Circuit in 1986. He was president of the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia from 1993 to 1994 and chaired the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia from 1997 to 1999.

Pridgen served as DA until Gov. Roy E. Barnes, a Democrat, appointed him to the four-county circuit's Superior Court in 1999. He became chief judge in 2005. Pridgen's two colleagues on the Cordele Superior Court nominated him for the Court of Appeals opening.

On his JNC application, Pridgen disclosed he was sued by disgruntled inmates as a prosecutor. Each case was dismissed, he reported.

Mary E. Staley

Staley, 58, has been a judge for most of her career since receiving her law degree from UGA in 1978.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., she attended college at the State University of West Georgia. The Cobb judge started out in the county district attorney's office, where she says she handled major felonies and appellate work. There she became friends with Debra H. Bernes, who would go on to serve on the Court of Appeals until dying of cancer last year. Among the materials received by the JNC is a letter from Bernes' husband, saying he wanted to make sure the committee knew how much Judge Bernes liked Staley.

After four years in the DA's office, Staley was elected to serve as a magistrate. Cobb voters went on to elect Staley to the State Court and Superior Court benches. She served as chief judge of the Superior Court from 2003 to 2004. As a Superior Court judge, she has on occasion sat on the state Court of Appeals and Supreme Court to replace judges who recused themselves. More recently, she became administrative judge for the district that covers 14 counties in northwest Georgia and a member of the executive committee of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

A 1993 capital murder trial before Staley received unusual recognition after appeals by the defendant claimed a juror gave the judge a penis-shaped chocolate gift at the end of the trial. In 2010 a divided U.S. Supreme Court demanded the case be re-examined in light of that incident and other concerns. But a federal district court judge this past summer ruled that Marcus Wellons' death sentence should stand, citing evidence that the jurors had taken their duties quite seriously. The judge added, "nowhere does the Constitution guarantee a jury made up entirely of smart people."

Staley said in her JNC application that as a magistrate she developed a community service program that now is part of the Cobb Superior Court's drug court, and more recently she developed that court's workshop for pro se litigants.
Staley acknowledged on her questionnaire that the Judicial Qualifications Commission has received election-related complaints about her. An application she submitted to the JNC for a 2009 opening on the state Supreme Court explained that in 1984 the JQC received a complaint about "improper campaign activity by court personnel." That matter, she said, "was dismissed with the direction that court personnel receive training as to what constitutes improper political conduct on their part."

She also reported that in 1998 she was accused of campaign regulation violations; she said the JQC "dismissed the complaint and suggested my campaign committee engage in fundraising exclusively."

Her prior JNC questionnaire also disclosed that a court reporter had sued her and others in federal district court in the 1990s, claiming a hostile working environment. Staley said in her questionnaire that she fired the court reporter for failing to keep office hours. The case was dismissed, and the dismissal was upheld on appeal. Staley was on short lists for Bush's two judicial appointments for the Northern District of Georgia; she lost out to then-U.S. Attorney William Duffey in 2003 and to Timothy C. Batten in 2005. Perdue's JNC put her on a short list of nine for the 2009 Supreme Court opening that went to David E. Nahmias.

Benjamin W. Studdard III

Studdard, 50, was also on the short list for the state high court seat. An Atlanta native, he practiced law for 14 years, including a stint as city attorney in Hampton, before winning election in 1998 to become the first judge of the Henry County State Court.

Studdard received his undergraduate and law degrees from Mercer. Studdard practiced with the firm then known as Smith, Welch, Studdard & Brittain, now known as Smith, Welch, Webb & White. In one of the cases Studdard handled in private practice, he represented the mayor of Hampton, whose re-election was challenged because the mayor had spent all of election day at City Hall, which was a voting site. Studdard noted that he won the case, although a court had said the mayor's actions were unwise.

Studdard noted a host of procedures he has instituted as chief judge of the court, including requiring indigent defendants convicted in his court to reimburse the county for the cost of their public defender if they are able to do so, via either cash or community service. The state Supreme Court, by a 6-1 decision in 2007, upheld that rule. He also took credit for a surcharge on civil filings and criminal fines that has resulted in an upgrade in court software.

As a judge, Studdard has chaired the State Bar committee that studied judicial selection issues. Studdard, who said 80 percent of his cases as a judge are criminal matters, also maintains an online subscription-based treatise on developments in Georgia criminal law. (His JNC application suggested he will stop this work if appointed to the Court of Appeals.) His current JNC file includes recommendation letters from a host of judges, legislators and local officials.

Studdard said on his JNC application that two complaints were filed against him with the State Bar while he was practicing, one by a client and the other by the husband of a divorce client. Both were dismissed, he reported.

According to the resume he submitted to the JNC, Studdard plays the tenor saxophone and appeared on "Jeopardy" in 2002.

The JNC
The JNC is chaired by J. Randolph Evans of McKenna Long & Aldridge and Pete Robinson of Troutman Sanders Strategies. Besides Boggs and James, the other members of the commission are Mary Paige Adams of Green & Sapp in Atlanta; Brunswick lawyer James A. Bishop; Thomas P. Bishop, general counsel for Georgia Power Co.; Christopher M. Carr, chief of staff for Isakson; Cornelia trial lawyer Dennis T. Cathey; King & Spalding partner Dwight J. Davis; Atlanta plaintiffs' lawyer Scott D. Delius; lobbyist and former state Sen. Arthur B. "Skin" Edge IV; Statesboro litigator James B. Franklin; Robert S. Highsmith Jr., who heads up Holland & Knight's Atlanta office; Douglas County DA J. David McDade; Savannah lawyer Patrick T. O'Connor; state Attorney General Samuel S. Olens; former state GOP general counsel Frank B. Strickland; Gainesville lawyer Daniel A. Summer and Augusta DA Rebecca A. Wright.
Alcohol in Athens: Underage citations, not arrests, more typical in counties outside Athens

By POLINA MARINOVA on November 17, 2011

Drinking a beer at 20 years old in surrounding counties will land you a ticket. In Athens Clarke-County, you’ll land a ticket straight to jail.

Before 2006, Athens Clarke-County was just like any other county — people would be issued a citation for underage possession of alcohol. But beginning in January 2006, anyone caught drinking alcohol before the age of 21 is fingerprinted and photographed in Clarke-County jail.

Christopher Adams, University alum and criminal defense attorney, said compared to neighboring jurisdictions, Clarke County stands alone.

"I practice all over North Georgia, and I can tell you I have never run into another county where that was the case," Adams said. "That seems to be the policy in Clarke County — not anywhere else."

A 'different treatment'

In a survey of other jurisdictions, county officials told The Red & Black that underage drinking offenders are typically issued a citation and only taken to jail when the underage possession of alcohol charge is paired with other charges.

"It is more than likely that person would be written a ticket and released to their parents than taken to jail," said Tracy Flanagan, Fulton County public affairs information officer.

Adams represents clients in counties such as Clarke, Oconee, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Walton, Barrow, Jackson, Rabun and Hall. He said none of the counties have an automatic go-to-jail policy.

"Not only do they issue citations but most counties will allow people to enter what is called a diversion program, where they can attend some educational classes, do community service and pay some fees," Adams said. "Then the charges would actually be dismissed and it wouldn't appear on the person's criminal history at all. That means someone could be charged over in Oconee County right next door and get a completely different treatment."

Beginning in 2006, University Police began taking students to jail solely on an underage possession of alcohol charge rather than issuing a citation for the offense.

"I don't think it's been particularly effective if the purpose has been to deter the offenses because the number of these cases has gone up significantly," Adams said. "Perhaps something else is driving it."

Factor 1: The revenue

And something else could be driving it — something monetary.

John G. Breakfield, attorney at Breakfield and Associates, said generating revenue could be a contributing factor.

"I went to college 20 years ago and I think in the last 10 years the enforcement has really gone up," Breakfield said. "I'm not sure if it's because of a concern about underage drinking or a revenue-type issue."

More recently, court fees have increased and the fees associated with attorneys have also risen.

"For the most part when I was in college, administrators and cops would look the other way," Breakfield said. "But now, it could potentially be a revenue stream. When the economy gets tougher, there are more arrests and citations that seem to be issued than there were before."
Factor 2: The internal pressure

But it's not just the police that cracks down on underage drinkers.

The significant role the University plays in Clarke County affairs could matter as well.

"I think that when the Princeton Review came out with the No. 1 party school title, we saw a direct correlation between that article and the number of arrests in Clarke County and the severity of the punishments immediately," Adams said. "We didn't get the same kind of blowback in the surrounding counties, so I can't think of any reason as to why the punishments were much more severe in Clarke County as opposed to the other counties except for the fact that they weren't proud of it."

But Clarke County has a close and dependent relationship with the University.

The Georgia Tech administration would not be as influential on the Fulton County Police, for instance.

"A lot of it has to do with publicity," Breakfield said. "I would imagine the administration wants to crack down on underage drinking. When you have UGA being named the top party school or football players getting arrested, there may be an internal pressure to do something about it whereas Atlanta has better things to do as far as crime goes."

A different time

But students didn't always live in fear that they would be taken to jail for having a beer downtown.

Prior to founding a law firm, Adams was a University business undergraduate and then came back to attend the UGA School of Law.

Back then, going to jail for underage possession of alcohol was unheard of.

"I never heard of anything being issued other than a citation if that was the case," Adams said. "If it was just an underage possession, it went anywhere from a citation down to a warning. When I came through, people were mostly given warnings than citations, to be quite honest with you."

Now, University students face the reality of having a criminal record before they even leave college.

"I haven't read anything or gotten word of any other locations that they're handling it the way Clarke County does," he said. "I just don't see the necessity in treating people differently than in other counties. And it's something that can directly affect people's ability in going to graduate school, law school and future employment."

Students at the University are fingerprinted and photographed for the same offense that Georgia Tech or Georgia State students can get out of by paying a citation.

"It seems like it's turned into more of a bureaucratic-type policy where everybody's gotta be punished for it, whereas some kids who aren't causing serious trouble are also punished," Breakfield said. "If jurisdictions just give a citation and don't arrest someone, they might be doing the kid a favor because it would be easier to hide some of that information and not have it show up on records later on."

Though numerous University students land in the Clarke County jail for underage drinking nearly every weekend, that is not the norm for students in the rest of the state.

"I don't suggest that authorities simply act as if it didn't happen," Adams said. "I just think it's really unfortunate that UGA students can be branded with that permanent scarlet letter for something that they won't be punished for as severely in other counties."
Governor appoints Marietta attorney to gov't commission
by Geoff Folsom
gfolsom@mdjonline.com
11.17.11 - 12:20 am

"The commission plays a vital role in ensuring that public officials, and all of us involved in the political process, maintain an open and honest approach to doing the people's business," Garrett said.

Garrett has served on the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, which oversees teaching credentials in the state, since August. He said the committee oversees some of the same ethical areas for teachers that the transparency commission does for public officials.

"They're kind of similar," he said. "As an attorney, you spend a lot of time with ethical compliance."

Deal said Garrett brings much more than just a legal perspective to the commission.

"He has experience in state and federal government — he has lived under the ethics laws — and more recently he's worked as a small businessman in the private sector," Deal said. "This job requires a person of fortitude, intelligence and discretion. I appointed Heath because I think he embodies those characteristics."

Garrett said he looks forward to serving.

"I am humbled and honored that the governor would think to put me on the commission," he said.

Garrett is a founding member of the law firm Turner, Bachman & Garrett, and heads up the Southeast office of the media advertising firm Stevens and Schreifer Group.

Garrett also serves on the boards of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, the Council for Quality Growth and the Georgia Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

He was formerly U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson's chief of staff during his 2004 and 2010 campaigns. His has also worked with Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens, Secretary of State Brian Kemp and the Georgia Republican Party.

Garrett graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1995, where he served as the editor for the Georgia Law Review.
ATHENS, Ga., Nov. 17 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

The University of Georgia School of Law recently won the top trophy at the eighth annual Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition and the second annual Mercer University School of Law Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition.

Held earlier this month in Buffalo, N.Y., the mock trial competition included 30 law schools from 16 states. Representing Georgia Law at the largest invitational mock trial competition in the country were third-year students William F. Carter, Chadrick A. Mance, Samuel E. Meller and B. Clarke Nash. In addition to capturing first place with his teammates, Nash won the Best Advocate Award. The team was coached by 2010 graduate Carlos J. Rodriguez.

In the Mercer Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition, third-year Georgia Law students R. Tyler Fisher and Miguel A. Trujillo secured first place. Trujillo also was named "best oralist" of the championship round. Held in October, this tournament included 22 teams from 17 law schools nationwide.

"It is such an honor to work with these students, and I am pleased that their hard work and preparation translated into remarkable success," said Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey Monk. "It is a great way to start our 2011-12 advocacy season." For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsydication@hindustantimes.com
Send To: MURPHY, HEIDI
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LAW SCHOOL
HERTY & BOCOCK DRIVE
ATHENS, GA 30602-6018
With the federal government racking up deficits of more than $1 trillion a year and lawmakers paralyzed by political differences, the House on Friday is taking up a proposed constitutional amendment that would force Congress to balance its budget.

The amendment, requiring that spending not exceed revenues in any given fiscal year, is essentially the same as one proposed the last time Republicans regained control of the House, in 1995. At that time it passed, with 72 Democrats joining 228 Republicans in voting yes. The measure fell just one vote short of getting the needed two-thirds majority in the Senate.

This time there are 242 Republicans, 12 more than in 1995, and, if every Republican backed the amendment, only 48 Democrats would be needed to come up with a two-thirds margin. But the outcome of the vote on Friday is far from certain.

The Democratic leadership is actively urging its members to vote against the amendment and the White House has come out strongly against it. Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland, who voted for the measure in 1995, is leading the effort to defeat it this time.

Hoyer said that in 1995 he didn't "contemplate the irresponsibility that I have seen fiscally" during the George W. Bush administration and in more recent months when "Republicans took America to the brink of default" over raising the debt ceiling.

He said the failure to pay for tax cuts and wars over the past 16 years led to "a substantial erosion in my own confidence of the willingness of the other party to respond on a responsible path" to a balanced budget.

Congress needs to work "to get our economic and fiscal house in order," said Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. "This is the exact wrong way to do it."

Rep. Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., the chief sponsor of the measure, said Americans "understand what it means to live within their means and they expect nothing less from the federal government. A balanced budget amendment to the Constitution is the only way to ensure that Congress curtails its spending on an annual basis."

The amendment is "the one thing that can absolutely change how things are done here in Washington," Rick Berg, R-N.D., said Thursday at a news conference of 16 GOP freshmen supporters.

The uphill battle faced by GOP supporters quickly became apparent when a senior Republican, Rules Committee Chairman David Dreier of California, announced that, unlike 1995, he would vote against the amendment. Dreier said
Congress alone has the power of the purse and proved, in the late 1990s, "that we have the will to balance the federal budget without touching that inspired document, the U.S. Constitution."

The balanced budget vote comes as the bipartisan debt supercommittee struggles to come up with at least $1.2 trillion in savings over the next decade. The debt ceiling agreement reached last summer both formed the supercommittee and required that the House and Senate vote on a balanced budget amendment.

To attract Democrats, Republicans opted for the Goodlatte version which does not, as many conservatives wanted, set a tight cap on government spending or require a supermajority to raise taxes. It does require a three-fifths vote by both chambers to raise the debt ceiling and a three-fifths vote to approve a deficit in any one year. Congress can also waive the amendment in times of serious military conflict.

The amendment does have the overall support of the so-called Blue Dogs, a 25-member group of fiscally conservative Democrats. "If it does not pass both the House and the Senate," said Blue Dog leader Mike Ross, D-Ark., "it speaks volumes about the dysfunction of the Congress."

But other Democrats pointed to dire predictions of what could happen if a balanced budget amendment were in effect. Some 275 labor and other mostly liberal groups wrote a letter to lawmakers saying that forced spending cuts or raised taxes needed to balance the budget when the economy is slow "would risk tipping a faltering economy into recession or worsening an ongoing downturn, costing large number of jobs."

Democrats also cited a report by the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimating that, if there is not an increase in revenues, the amendment could force Congress to cut all programs by an average of 17.3 percent by 2018. It said that would mean hundreds of billions in cuts in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The amendment would not go into effect until 2017, or two years after it is ratified, whichever comes later, and supporters say that would give Congress time to avoid dramatic spending cuts. A constitutional amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of state legislatures.

Another issue of contention is how the amendment would be enforced. Neil Kinkopf, a law professor at the University of Georgia School of Law, said in a report he wrote for the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy that there could be "catastrophic consequences" if Congress fails to resolve disputes over how to reach balance.

"This would mean judges would be required to order either spending cuts or tax increases. This prospect is so troubling that it has justly alarmed commentators across the political spectrum."

GOP freshman Berg argued that the ultimate source of enforcement, if Congress failed to act, would be voters. "Every two years the enforcement is at the polls."

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Judge spoke the honest truth — even if he was a Gator

Harris Blackwood
harrisblackwood@gmail.com
November 20, 2011

Judge J.D. Smith is hanging up his judicial robe at the end of the year. He has been serving on the Georgia Court of Appeals since 1993. For a decade before that, he served as a superior court judge in the Northeastern Circuit, which includes Hall and Dawson counties.

Earlier this month, I was invited to attend Judge Smith's retirement ceremony, which was being held a little ahead of his actual retirement because of the upcoming court calendar, followed by the holiday season.

Quite frankly, I had never attended a judicial retirement, much less one for a distinguished state-level jurist. There is something a bit funereal about these things (there really is, but I was also looking for a good excuse to use the word "funereal"). One of the speakers actually alluded to the scene in "Tom Sawyer" where Tom fakes his death to attend his own funeral.

Folks said nice things about Judge Smith and you would expect nothing less. Poultry czar Abit Massey, who spoke at Judge Smith's inaugural in 1993, spoke at his retirement, as well. I am planning to retire in 2025 and have already booked Abit as the opening act. For a man who has never retired, Abit makes a fine retirement speech.

J.D. Smith grew up in Gainesville, Ga., but for some reason he decided to go to college in Gainesville, Fla. People do things that are sometimes hard to understand or explain.

He did come back to the University of Georgia to earn his law degree. However, he is a Florida Gator, through and through.

It was appropriate that he was selected to be the presiding judge in a case involving gators ... real, live, eat-your-arm-off gators.

A man named Winston Wright wanted to operate a gator farm at his spread in South Georgia. He was eventually allowed to buy some alligators from a brood stock in Florida.

There were some local alligators from this state also living on his farm and had
been there for nearly 20 years. The DNR required him to keep the Georgia and Florida gators separated. In 1991, the Florida gators went through the fence and began cohabitating with the Georgia gators, and that's when the DNR told him he could not sell all 650 alligators to a firm that buys alligators.

The DNR seized his alligators and took them to the island of misfit alligators, or wherever you take alligators that have been bred across state lines.

In the appeal, the court sided with DNR.

Judge Smith, in the ruling, added a footnote that demonstrated a profound sense of humor that is sometimes lacking in today's judicial process.

Smith wrote, "Several times in this opinion, we refer to 'Georgia alligators.' We do so reluctantly and solely for the sake of convenience and brevity. We recognize that for literally millions of Georgians and Floridians, the term "Georgia Gators," or any approximation thereof, is an inherently offensive oxymoron. We apologize for any pain or distress caused by this unfamiliar and unfortunate juxtaposition."

Future generations of law students will hold the name of J.D. Smith in awe and reverence because he wrote the truth like we have never heard it before.

It belongs in the footnote hall of fame.

_Harris Blackwood is a Gainesville resident whose columns appear on the Sunday Life page and on gainesvilletimes.com/harris._
HIRES, PROMOTIONS

ALLISON HARDY CORDERO
New Job Title: Dental hygienist
Company: Premier Dental Designs
Duties: Patient/hygiene relations and care.
Education: Graduated from Armstrong Atlantic State University Dental Hygiene School

SANDI KLIMEK
New Job Title: Bookkeeper
Company: Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity
Duties: Responsible for daily financial functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, mortgage servicing, construction draw and financial reporting.
Related work experience: Two years corporate and nonprofit accounting as owner of SK Small Business Accounting in Savannah and Asheville, N.C.

LAUREN E. HELDRETH
New Job Title: Director of sales and marketing
Company: Holiday Inn and Suites Savannah Airport
Duties: Oversees and leads the sales department at the hotel. Builds and maintains relationships within the community. Works with local and national corporations to establish contracts and partnerships. She is also responsible for marketing all aspects of the hotel, as well as event marketing and promotions.
Related work experience: Director of sales and marketing for the Candlewood Suites Bluffton/Hilton Head.
Education: Bachelor’s degree in public relations from Georgia Southern University.

ROSE MCGUIRE
New Job Title: Case manager
Company: Union Mission
Duties: She will serve as an advocate for homeless individuals and families, fostering continued growth and recovery with an emphasis on providing long-term housing solutions.
Related work experience: McGuire has worked at Union Mission as an intern since 2009. She provided case management services to homeless adults suffering mental illness or substance abuse problems, as well as a range of disorders including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, victims of domestic violence and abuse.
Education: Bachelor of social work from Savannah State University and an associate in arts and sciences from Pierce College.

NICOLE GOODSTEIN
New Job Title: Director of Global Total Rewards
Company: Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.
Duties: Goodstein’s team is responsible for the strategy and design of Gulfstream’s global employee total reward programs.
and helping employees understand the compensation, benefits, wellness and international assignment programs and offerings. She ensures that the three groups she oversees — Compensation, Benefits and International Human Resources — work together to deliver value to Gulfstream’s 11,500 employees across 16 countries.

**Related work experience:** Goodstein worked as director of Global Benefits at Cisco Systems Inc., where she led key global initiatives focused on communication, cross-functional business planning and organizational effectiveness. She has worked in human resources for a number of companies, including the Ayco Company, Johnson & Johnson and the Coca-Cola Company.

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree in statistics from Rutgers University.

**THOMAS B. SAYERS**

**New Job Title:** Partner

**Company:** Bart, Meyer & Company LLP

**Duties:** He will continue to focus his practice in the areas of corporate law, estate planning, estate and gift taxation, trust and estate administration, and the representation of trustees, executors and administrators.

**Related work experience:** He has many years of experience as a practicing CPA in public accounting, including the preparation of corporate and fiduciary income tax returns as well as estate and gift tax returns and related issues.

**Education:** Graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law, and he received a bachelor of science degree in business from Indiana University.

**AMY R. HENDERSON**

**New Job Title:** Partner

**Company:** Bart, Meyer & Company LLP

**Duties:** She will continue legal representation of families emphasizing the areas of tax efficient wealth transfer planning and preservation, family partnerships, private foundations, nonprofits, guardianship and conservatorship law, family businesses, fiduciaries, and trust and estate administration.

**Related work experience:** She has practiced law in Savannah for over 9 years. She clerked for the Honorable Joel F. Dubina, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

**Education:** Graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law, where she served as the special works editor for The Alabama Law Review.

**CHESTER “CHIP” REED**

**New Job Title:** Head of NLAWS Produce At Home division

**Company:** NLAWS Produce

**Duties:** The Nlaws Produce At Home division will take service and products directly to consumers’ doorsteps.

**Related work experience:** Worked at NLAWS Produce from 2004-2009.

**Education:** Graduated from Johnson & Wales University.

**AMELIA MORGAN**

**New Job Title:** Sales representative

**Company:** NLAWS Produce

**Duties:** She will be responsible for all sales in the Beaufort and Charleston area.

**Related work experience:** Sales, advertising and marketing.

**LYNN BEAM**

**New Job Title:** Associate broker

**Company:** Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners

**Duties:** Beam specializes in the leasing and sales of industrial properties throughout Georgia and South Carolina.

**Related work experience:** His commercial real estate experience involves representing several high profile clients including CSX, Panasonic, Keebler, L’Oreal, Grinnell, SunTrust Bank, Wells Fargo, Ryder, The Athlete’s Foot, HD Supply and Ferguson Waterworks.

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee, active member of the National Association of Realtors, the Realtors Commercial Alliance of Savannah/Hilton Head and United States Green Building
Council, Savannah Chapter.

MELANIE GUNTER

New Job Title: Director of human resources

Company: SouthCoast Medical Group

Duties: She will develop HR policies and programs for the company including organizational planning, development, training, employee relations, compensation and benefits.

Related work experience: Gunter worked for 10 years in human resources management positions in the restaurant and construction industries.

Education: Bachelor's degree in human resources management from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla. Holds a Senior Professional of Human Resources (SPHR) Certification.

DENISE MCCOY

New Job Title: Project associate

Company: O'Brien & Gere

Duties: She will direct environmental projects for clients in the Southeast and is responsible for planning, directing and supervising major complex and diverse projects and is accountable for scope, schedule and budget as well as business development and client management.

Related work experience: McCoy has more than 14 years of professional experience with a focus on environmental project management; environmental investigation, remediation, and compliance; hazardous waste site assessments; and soil and groundwater assessment, remediation and monitoring.

Education: B.S. in geology from the University of Wisconsin.

J. GRIFFIN DOYLE

New Job Title: Vice president for government relations

Company: University of Georgia

Duties: He will oversee the university's liaison with federal, state and local governmental officials, with each area being under a director.

Related work experience: Has served as the University of Georgia's director of federal relations since 2003. Prior to becoming federal relations director, he was UGA's associate vice president for economic and community development. He previously served as associate director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and as director of UGA's Regional Economic Development Partnership.

Education: Bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Georgia.

HONORS/AWARDS

Sapp named to governmental debt committee

Honor/Award: Hilton Head Public Service District finance manager Larry Sapp has been named to the Government Finance Officers Association's national Committee on Governmental Debt Management.

Background: Sapp, a certified government finance officer, is active in the association's national and state chapters.

Real estate company honors staff

Honor/Award: Dee Dee Covington (Life Charter Member); Steffany Farmer, Jane Beare and Jeff Shaufelberger (2010 Charter Members); Michael Cherry, Charles Gilyard, Jenny Hearn, Marie Houben, Lyn McCuen, Renee Meyer, Wendy Reed and Karen Thomas have been named 3rd quarter Circle of Excellence winners by Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners.

Background: The Circle of Excellence is a Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners internal awards program established to recognize its agents.

Geriner receives Northwestern Mutual Forum membership

Honor/Award: Northwestern Mutual is honoring Savannah-based financial representative Richard Geriner Jr. with membership in its 2011 Forum group. Only 5 percent of Northwestern Mutual's more than 6,000 financial representatives are invited to attend.

Background: Geriner is affiliated with The Koch Group based in Savannah.
In a Nov. 18 story on a House vote on a proposed balanced budget amendment, Neil Kinkopf was erroneously identified as a law professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. He is a professor at Georgia State University College of Law.

The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

The University of Georgia School of Law recently won the top trophy at the eighth annual Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition and the second annual Mercer University School of Law Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition.

Held earlier this month in Buffalo, N.Y., the mock trial competition included 30 law schools from 16 states. Representing Georgia Law at the largest invitational mock trial competition in the country were third-year students William F. Carter, Chadrick A. Mance, Samuel E. Meller and B. Clarke Nash. In addition to capturing first place with his teammates, Nash won the Best Advocate Award. The team was coached by 2010 graduate Carlos J. Rodriguez.

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"It is such an honor to work with these students, and I am pleased that their hard work and preparation translated into remarkable success," said Director of...
'Occupy Athens' faces hostile community

By Lee Shearer
Morris News Service
Monday, Nov. 21, 2011 8:18 AM
Last updated 8:45 AM

ATHENS, Ga. -- The ranks of the Occupiers at the University of Georgia Arch dwindled to nothing for a while Saturday night, perhaps in part because of the regular abuse the protesters get from some passersby on busy weekend nights.

The last protester left shortly before 11 p.m. Saturday, driven off by a University of Georgia law student looking for an argument.

"I like Wall Street!" the law student told the lone Occupier, a long-haired young man playing the didgeridoo.

"When Wall Street is doing well, everyone is doing well!"

"I don't mean to be belligerent," said the law student, whose breath smelled of bourbon, after he watched the didgeridoo player walk quickly away cross Broad Street and fade into the downtown crowds.

"But any of these people could get a job. They could get one right over there," he said earnestly, pointing to the Five Guys burger restaurant across Broad Street.

Such angry confrontations and even violence are on the rise at the Occupy Wall Street outpost in Athens, say some of the shifting group of people who make up the weekslong occupation. Students, retirees, unemployed workers, homeless people and people with jobs who sympathize are among those who have tried to keep the occupation going 24 hours a day at the Arch.

"We are encountering violence every hour," said Gretchen Elsner, a freelance artist and designer wearing clothes she had designed and made herself as she held up a protest sign on Broad Street on Friday afternoon.

"I don't know why people are so hostile to us. It's not like I'm throwing Molotov cocktails or anything," she said.

They hear "Get a job," so often they started keeping a count, said Elsner, pointing to a board hung under the awning on the sidewalk in front of UGA's Hunter-Holmes Academic Building.

"That's just today," she said, pointing to a chalkboard with more than three dozen tallies under "Get a job." The hostility sometimes gets physical.

One night last week, Elsner saw one young woman, a drunk college student she thought, slap one of the female Occupiers.

"I got kicked in the back of the head," said occupier John Ahearn of Athens, who is looking for a job.

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And Nov. 11, the Friday night before the UGA-Auburn football game, someone slashed several of the Occupiers' tents, Ahearn and other Occupiers said.

The Occupiers don't always get abuse. Some people offer encouragement as they walk by, Elsner said shortly before a well-dressed man of about 50 stopped by Friday afternoon.

"I'm so thrilled with what y'all are doing. Don't give up, don't give in, just keep on going," he said.
Occcupiers face daily hostility

By LEE SHEARER - lee.shearer@onlineathens.com

Published Monday, November 21, 2011

The ranks of the Occupiers at the University of Georgia Arch dwindled to nothing for a while Saturday night, perhaps in part because of the regular abuse the protesters get from some passersby on busy weekend nights.

The last protester left shortly before 11 p.m. Saturday, driven off by a University of Georgia law student looking for an argument.

"I like Wall Street!" the law student told the lone Occupier, a long-haired young man playing the didgeridoo. "When Wall Street is doing well, everyone is doing well!"

"I don't mean to be belligerent," said the law student, whose breath smelled of bourbon, after he watched the didgeridoo player walk quickly away cross Broad Street and fade into the downtown crowds.

"But any of these people could get a job. They could get one right over there," he said earnestly, pointing to the Five Guys burger restaurant across Broad Street.

Such angry confrontations and even violence are on the rise at the Occupy Wall Street outpost in Athens, say some of the shifting group of people who make up the weekslong occupation. Students, retirees, unemployed workers, homeless people and people with jobs who sympathize are among those who have tried to keep the occupation going 24 hours a day at the Arch.

"We are encountering violence every hour," said Gretchen Elsner, a freelance artist and designer wearing clothes she had designed and made herself as she held up a protest sign on Broad Street on Friday afternoon.

"I don't know why people are so hostile to us. It's not like I'm throwing Molotov cocktails or anything," she said.

They hear "Get a job," so often they started keeping a count, said Elsner, pointing to a board hung under the an awning on the sidewalk in front of UGA's Hunter-Holmes Academic Building.

"That's just today," she said, pointing to a chalkboard with more than three
dozen tallies under “Get a job.”

The hostility sometimes gets physical.

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“I got kicked in the back of the head,” said occupier John Ahearn of Athens, who is looking for a job.

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Global Markets Offer Valuable Service but Little Disclosure

By STEVEN M. DAVIDOFF

Information is the lifeblood of capital markets. In the movie "Wall Street," Gordon Gekko demanded confidential information from a young would-be Master of the Universe, Bud Fox, played by Charlie Sheen. The value of stocks is based on information, which is why securities laws are intended to ensure that all investors have at least minimum amounts of information.

Private, closed markets like SharesPost and SecondMarket aid in the cause of market transparency, providing platforms to trade shares of companies that have yet to go public. At the same time, the limited amount of information available to investors in these markets raises some questions. Regulators, which have been looking at these markets, may be right to be concerned.

Both SharesPost and SecondMarket, to be sure, are aimed at sophisticated investors, who can buy shares in up-and-coming companies, mainly Internet start-ups, before their initial public offerings. The two markets have cut their teeth on connecting buyers and sellers in hot pre-I.P.O. tech companies like Facebook and Groupon.

Yet gaining entry to both markets is simple. Before trading or being allowed full access to the market's platforms, a user must first register and attest to being an accredited investor under the securities laws. This generally means that the user must have an individual income greater than $200,000 a year or a net worth of more than a million dollars. Lying on the Internet is easy, though, as anyone who has ever been on a dating site knows.

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The problem is that potential buyers sometimes have little information on which to base their purchase. Public companies are required to make copious disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission, including audited financials that are reviewed by the S.E.C. The agency recently prompted Groupon and Zynga to revise their accounting disclosures before their I.P.O.'s.

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The research provider is affiliated with the Global Silicon Valley Corporation, a publicly traded company that is active in purchasing shares on the private markets. G.S.V.C. is headed by Michael Moe, who is also a director of SharesPost.

Last spring, Global Silicon Valley Partners published a research note that estimated Facebook shares at $22.24 to $22.57 apiece, valuing Facebook at $52.3 billion to $53.1 billion. About this time G.S.V.C. purchased 225,000 shares of Facebook at $29.28, valuing Facebook at roughly $68 billion.

This raises conflict-of-interest issues because Global Silicon Valley Partners set a low valuation target at the same time its affiliates, Mr. Moe and G.S.V.C., were buying shares at a higher one.
In an interview, Mr. Moe said that Global Silicon Valley Partners was now defunct and that, though this was not disclosed in the research reports, Global Silicon Valley Partner's research was always independently prepared by Candlestick Advisers, a consulting and advisory firm based in India.

Mr. Moe said that there was no economic relationship between Candlestick and G.S.V.C. but rather a personal one between himself and Candlestick's owners. According to Mr. Moe, Candlestick is compensated by SharesPost for its research reports but neither he nor G.S.V.C. received money from Candlestick. SharesPost declined to comment on the relationship between Mr. Moe, G.S.V.C. and its research providers, instead referring me back to Mr. Moe. Candlestick Advisers did not reply to a request for comment.

It all raises questions about what exactly shareholders know and how they know it on these markets.

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*Steven M. Davidoff, writing as The Deal Professor, is a commentator for DealBook on the world of mergers and acquisitions.*
Advocates say state's sex abuse reporting law should be broadened

By Bill Rankin and Gracie Bonds Staples
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

4:51 a.m. Wednesday, November 23, 2011

Amid revelations that a number of officials failed to inform authorities about the Penn State child-abuse scandal, child advocates and prosecutors say Georgia's mandatory reporting law should cast a wider net to protect more children from being victimized by sexual predators.

The recent, highly publicized indictment accusing former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky of molesting children over 15 years has already resulted in more referrals to investigate possible child sex abuse, local child advocates said. It also has lawmakers looking into expanding the law and legal experts concerned about the potential cost and impact of such a scenario.

Under Georgia law, doctors and medical personnel in Georgia must report suspicions of child sex abuse, but most members of the clergy are not required to do so. School teachers and administrators must also report their suspicions, but many coaches are not mandated to do so.

Georgia's law lists 16 categories of professionals who must report suspicions of child sex abuse. The failure to do so can result in a misdemeanor conviction with punishment of up to one year in prison. The statute also allows -- but does not mandate -- anyone with reasonable suspicion of abuse to report it to authorities.

DeKalb County District Attorney Robert James said he believes that members of the clergy should be covered by the mandatory reporting law. He said his office has investigated two suspected cases of child sexual abuse at churches during the past year.

"Too often, we run into a wall of silence. It's very frustrating," James said. "In churches and other religious institutions, people do not have to tell about it because they're not mandatory reporters."

James said the law should also require anyone who assumes temporary custody and care of children be a mandatory reporter. This would mean individuals such as coaches, babysitters, martial arts instructors and camp counselors must report their suspicions, he said.

State Rep. Rich Golick, a Smyrna Republican who chairs the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, said lawmakers are now reviewing the mandatory reporting law and will meet with district attorneys next week to discuss the issue.

The Penn State controversy has already led to proposed legislation in Congress that calls for all adults to
be required to report suspicions of child sex abuse to law enforcement or child protective services. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., said his bill would require states to mandate such reporting in order to receive federal social services funding.

"If common sense doesn't dictate when and to whom an adult should report child abuse, this law will," he said. "The bottom line is simple: If you see something, say something."

Georgia prosecutors have effectively applied the mandatory reporting law. In 2005, for example, a former middle school teacher was convicted of failing to report signs of child abuse against an 11-year-old girl, who was later beaten to death by her father and stepmother in their Stockbridge home.

A number of metro parents expressed surprise the state's law does not apply to everyone.

"I'm appalled," said Buckhead resident Sylvia Williams, a 46-year-old mother of four. "If any adult is witness to a crime, which is what sexual abuse is, they're obligated to report it."

Kim Cunningham, a Sandy Springs mother of two, agreed.

"All adults should be morally bound for the protection of children," Cunningham said. "It just seems like something that all parents would insist on. Why limit it to certain groups? Why give everybody else a pass? Why not hold everybody equally accountable?"

Nancy Chandler, CEO of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, said people should be required to call 911 and let law enforcement know if they have suspicions of child sex abuse.

"If we could make all adults mandated reporters, I think that would go a long way to help people understand that we all have a responsibility to protect children," she said.

Based on recent referrals, Chandler said some good has come from the case against Sandusky.

"Parents are sitting down with their children and telling them if someone touches you, come tell me," she said. "I've been in this business for a lot of years and for me to turn on the news and hear about sexual abuse during a sports program is amazing. If something good can come out of this story, it's that people are talking about this. People are having those conversations with their children that they so desperately need to have."

Since news of the Sandusky case broke, Chandler said, her office has seen an uptick in referrals from law enforcement and the state Department of Family and Children Services for forensic interviews with children. "This is going on all over the country, not just Georgia," she said.

Sandusky is charged with molesting eight boys over a 15-year span. He recently told NBC he is innocent.

Alan Cook, the former district attorney for Walton and Newton counties, said Georgia's mandatory reporting law works well in that it requires allegations of child sex abuse to be turned over to trained professionals who know how to investigate such crimes.

But Cook, now a University of Georgia law professor, said he was unsure about proposals to require all adults to be mandatory reporters.
Advocates say state's sex abuse reporting law should be broadened

"When you have professionals with a certain level of training to recognize abuse and know what steps to take next, that's one thing," he said. "But bus drivers, clerks, street sweepers, they're not going to know what they're looking for. In fact, they likely won't even know such a law exists."

Amy Russell, deputy director of the National Child Protection Training Center in Winona, Minn., said if all adults are required to report their suspicions there needs to be enough funding to provide adequate training for that. There also needs to be more resources to handle an expected increase in reports, she said.

What's most important, Russell added, is for members of the public to be made aware of the consequences if they fail to report suspicions of child abuse to authorities. "Without being reported, a predator could become emboldened and continue abusing that child and then abuse other potential victims in the future," she said.

The allegations against Sandusky, once a revered former coach, are a case in point. "Sadly," she said, "these are the kinds of cases we see coming across our desk everyday."

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Those required by law to report suspicion of child sexual abuse:

- Doctors, nurses, dentists and hospital and medical personnel
- Licensed psychologists
- Professional counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists
- School teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists and social workers
- Child welfare agency and child service organization personnel
- Law enforcement officers and personnel

Find this article at:
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The problem is that potential buyers sometimes have little information on which to base their purchase. U.S.-traded public companies are required to make copious disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission, including audited financial statements that are reviewed by the S.E.C. to ensure compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. The agency recently ordered Groupon and Zynga to revise their accounting disclosures before their I.P.O.'s.
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Mr. Moe appears to be a Silicon Valley wonder who is seeding the ecosystem of the private markets. During an interview, he said there was no economic relationship between Candlestick and G.S.V.C.; instead it was a personal one between him and Candlestick's founder.

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G.S.V.C.'s public disclosure says Candlestick is a joint venture with Mr. Moe. While Mr. Moe denies any economic relationship, it does seem odd that Candlestick set forth a low valuation target at the same time Mr. Moe and G.S.V.C. were buying shares at a higher one.
SharesPost appears to be trying to do the right thing by putting more information out there. Given the lack of information on the companies itself, however, this is a crapshoot. And there needs to be more disclosure about these research providers that would explain their motivations and compensation.

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The S.E.C. thus faces a quandary. These private markets provide an increasingly desirable service as outlets to sell shares in companies that do not want to subject themselves to the increased regulation and scrutiny of being public. The ecosystem that Mr. Moe and these private markets are trying to build could be a valuable bridge for private companies seeking alternative paths to going public.

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Congress may also want to consider compromising by requiring companies with shares actively trading on these markets to disclose sufficient information to allow informed trading.

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HEADLINE: Private Markets Offer Valuable Service but Little Disclosure

BYLINE: By STEVEN M. DAVIDOFF.

Steven M. Davidoff, a former corporate lawyer, is a professor at the Michael E. Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University. His columns can be found at nytimes.com/dealbook. Follow @StevenDavidoff on Twitter.

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This is a more complete version of the story than the one that appeared in print.

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The problem is that potential buyers sometimes have little information on which to base their purchase. Public companies are required to make copious disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission, including audited financials that are reviewed by the S.E.C. The agency recently prompted Groupon and Zynga to revise their accounting disclosures before their I.P.O.'s.

SecondMarket changed its business model in 2010 to require companies to provide two years of audited financials and other information to potential bidders. The exception is Facebook, the most actively traded stock on SecondMarket. For Facebook, there is no information requirement. Shareholders fly blind, relying on anything they can glean from almost anywhere but the companies themselves.

SharesPost does not appear to provide the information that SecondMarket requires. SharesPost strives to fill this gap by arranging to have privately prepared research reports posted on its site. But without full information, the research providers cannot do any better than buyers in accurately pricing stocks. The result is volatility.

Facebook's value on SharesPost has fluctuated wildly. In January, Facebook shares traded at a price that gave it an implied market value of more than $141 billion. Less than one month later, Facebook shares traded at an implied value of about $71 billion. Four days later it was at about $87 billion. Since that time, Facebook shares have traded in a range that values the company at $73 billion to $87 billion.

This summer, Groupon was reportedly trading on the private markets at an implied market valuation of about $20 billion. Groupon is now trading at a value of about $13 billion.

The problem is not just overvaluation. In January, Bloomberg News reported that shares of LinkedIn were trading on the private markets at $30 a piece, valuing the Internet company at $2.51 billion. LinkedIn is now public and trading at a market valuation of about $6.7 billion.

SharesPost appears to provide more market information than SecondMarket. It posts all of the prices of its trades and has enlisted research providers to assist investors.

One of the largest research providers on SharesPost traditionally was Global Silicon Valley Partners.

Brad Flynt, a law student at the University of Georgia School of Law, has written an unpublished paper questioning the independence of Global Silicon Valley Partners.

The research provider is affiliated with the Global Silicon Valley Corporation, a publicly traded company that is active in purchasing shares on the private markets. G.S.V.C. is headed by Michael Moe, who is also a director of SharesPost.

Last spring, Global Silicon Valley Partners published a research note that estimated Facebook shares at $22.24 to $22.57 a piece, valuing Facebook at $52.3 billion to $53.1 billion. About this time G.S.V.C. purchased 225,000 shares of Facebook at $29.28, valuing Facebook at roughly $68 billion.
This raises conflict-of-interest issues because Global Silicon Valley Partners set a low valuation target at the same time its affiliates, Mr. Moe and G.S.V.C., were buying shares at a higher one.

In an interview, Mr. Moe said that Global Silicon Valley Partners was now defunct and that, though this was not disclosed in the research reports, Global Silicon Valley Partner's research was always independently prepared by Candlestick Advisers, a consulting and advisory firm based in India.

Mr. Moe said that there was no economic relationship between Candlestick and G.S.V.C. but rather a personal one between himself and Candlestick's owners. According to Mr. Moe, Candlestick is compensated by SharesPost for its research reports but neither he nor G.S.V.C. received money from Candlestick. SharesPost declined to comment on the relationship between Mr. Moe, G.S.V.C. and its research providers, instead referring me back to Mr. Moe. Candlestick Advisers did not reply to a request for comment.

It all raises questions about what exactly shareholders know and how they know it on these markets.

SharesPost appears to be trying to do the right thing by putting more information out there. Given the lack of information on the companies itself, however, this is a roll of the dice. And there needs to be more disclosure about these research providers that would explain their motivations and compensation.

This is also an illiquid market. Except for trades in Facebook, shares of other private companies appear to be infrequently bought and sold. Twitter and Zynga do not appear to be available for purchase on SecondMarket. The last trade in Zynga on SharesPost was on Sept. 9. Twitter appears to have traded only once this year on SharesPost. The lack of information combined with this illiquidity contributes to the volatility and mispricing of shares.

The S.E.C. thus faces a quandary. These private markets offer an increasingly desirable service by providing an outlet to sell shares in companies that do not want to subject themselves to the increased regulation and scrutiny that comes with being public.

But it is too often all or nothing in terms of information. Congress is considering a number of bills intended to make trading in these markets easier, and the S.E.C. is also reviewing its rules governing private markets. Congress may also want to consider enacting requirements for companies with shares actively trading on these markets to disclose sufficient information to allow informed trading. SecondMarket has already taken a step in the right direction but could do more and provide data on purchases and sales.

Investors will otherwise remain in the dark, gambling without information.

- Higher I.P.O. Price Values LinkedIn at $4.3 Billion
- As S.E.C. Watches, Secondary Market Seeks Transparency

LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2011
To complement this report on developments in global legal education, the Financial Times has compiled an listing of Master of Laws (LLM) degree programmes. Through the completion of a short questionnaire, law schools outlined their courses, the details of which are summarised below.

In the fourth year of this listing, 82 schools from 18 countries participated. In total, 379 programmes are offered by these schools, of which nearly 80 per cent can be studied part-time.

Specialised LLM programmes are becoming increasingly popular. Of schools that took part in last year's report, 12 have introduced new specialised courses this year, in addition to seven schools making their listing debut. New programmes range from an LLM in biotechnology, law and ethics at the University of Sheffield to the University of Pretoria's LLM in air, space and telecommunications law.

"The provision of more diverse courses is necessary to offer students the variety they demand," says Ioannis Kokkoris, associate professor at the UK's University of Reading. Overseeing the provision of three new programmes this year, he explains that schools must respond to a competitive market in postgraduate legal education through innovation and differentiation.

It is not only through new programmes that schools are expanding student choice. Of the 61 schools listed that offer general LLMs, most offer specialist optional modules within the course. As schools invest in diversifying their portfolio of courses, the number of students on LLM programmes is also rising. Among the 57 schools that also participated last year, an 8 per cent increase in student numbers has been reported.

Increased demand for LLM degrees comes in spite of average minimum tuition fees of
about $28,000 among listed schools. There is significant diversity between tuition fees on both sides of the Atlantic. UK schools’ fees average $12,000, while their US counterparts’ fees average almost $44,000.

Reflecting this disparity and the longstanding tradition of merit-based financial support, 33 of the 35 participating American schools offer prospective students scholarships.

John Riccardi, assistant dean at Boston University School of Law, which awarded merit-based scholarships to one-third of its LLM students last year, outlines the importance of “partial tuition waivers” for “international students not eligible for US federal loans”.

Skip Horne, director of graduate programmes at the University of San Diego School of Law, where a majority of LLM students are offered financial assistance, says: “Completing an LLM in the US is already an expensive proposition, particularly for international students, so anything that a US school can do to help defray the cost of tuition is welcome.”

While assisting capable students to access top schools, scholarships symbiotically assist schools in attracting the best students. Noting intense competition between schools, Mr Horne explains: “Scholarships give law schools one additional way to differentiate themselves from their peers.”

However, competition in the international market for talented students is not confined to the US. ISDE of Spain, which introduced four new LLMs in 2011, offered 94 scholarships last year. “It is through scholarships that we do not lose any student that needs support and is worth the opportunity,” says Juan José Sánchez Puig, executive director of ISDE.

Asked if student financial support has become more important in the prevailing economic downturn, Nathan Tamblyn, assistant professor of law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has no doubt. He asserts, however, that “there must always be scholarships, even in good times, until everyone who merits a place at law school can study”.

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Business school rankings from the Financial Times

Listings  Map  Directory

LLM 2011 Listing

Filter by Law Schools name
Filter table by entering Law Schools name or details

Add more information to your table  Show all available fields

- Full-time length  - Minimum fees
  (months)  (currency)
- Region  - Scholarships offered
-  - Specialist LLM programmes
-  - Website
-  - Number of specialist modules
-  - Part-time length
  (months)

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MBA Gym
Find out whether you've got what it takes at the FT's online MBA gym.

All listings
LLM 2011 Listing
LLM 2010 Listing
LLM 2009 Listing

http://rankings.ft.com/lawschools/llm-2011-listing
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Business school rankings from the Financial Times

http://rankings.ft.com/lawschools/university-of-georgia/llm-2011-list...

LLM 2009 Listing

University of Georgia
The University of Georgia School of Law
225 Herty Drive
Athens
Georgia 30602-6012
Tel: +1 (706) 542-5191

LLM 2011 Listing

View full listing

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Experts say health care reform is constitutional, but will Supreme Court agree?

By BLAKE AUED - blake.aued@onlineathens.com
Published Sunday, November 27, 2011

President Obama's controversial health care law is constitutional, Athens legal experts say, but they're not sure how the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on it next year.

Supreme Court justices said earlier this month that they'll take up a lawsuit filed by 26 mostly Republican state attorneys general, including Georgia's Sam Olens, seeking to strike down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010.

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta has ruled part of the law unconstitutional, but two other federal courts have upheld it and one threw out a similar lawsuit on technical grounds.

The Supreme Court will hear an unusual five-and-a-half hours of oral arguments on the law in March — an hour is usually alloted — and rule in June on the Atlanta lawsuit.

The court has four options, said Elizabeth Leonard, a health care policy expert at the University of Georgia School of Law. It can uphold the law. It can strike down only the individual mandate, the requirement that individuals buy health insurance or pay a penalty. It can strike down the whole law. Or it can refuse to rule because the individual mandate doesn't kick in until 2014, so no one has paid the penalty yet, she said.

While opponents say Congress can't force people to buy
Experts say health care reform is constitutional, but will Supreme Court... http://onlineathens.com/local-news/2011-11-27/experts-say-health-ca...

something, the law's supporters say the Constitution allows Congress to regulate interstate commerce and provide for the country's general welfare.

If the Supreme Court strikes down the individual mandate, Leonard predicted a "death spiral" of skyrocketing insurance costs.

"The problem is, it creates an incentive for people to wait until they get sick to get health insurance," she said. "It'll get more expensive and, eventually, it won't be affordable for anybody."

The conventional wisdom is that the high court will uphold the law, although it's an unprecedented expansion of congressional power, Leonard said.

"My opinion doesn't matter much, but I think there is a very, very strong case" in favor of the law, said Dan Coenen, the law school's associate dean. "The wrinkle is, no case quite like this has ever been decided."

It's hard to predict what the court will do, Coenen said.

"It's a very, very high probability that there are four votes (from liberal justices) to uphold the mandate," he said. "The real question is what about the other five, the so-called conservative justices and the swing justice, Anthony Kennedy."

Another aspect of the case deals with expanding Medicaid, the federal insurance program for the poor and disabled. That portion of the law is likely to be upheld because states can choose to accept federal funding and rules or not participate at all, Leonard said.

No matter how the Supreme Court rules, health care reform will be a key issue in the 2012 presidential campaign, UGA political scientist Audrey Haynes said. The losing side will make the ruling a rallying cry, further polarizing Republicans and Democrats and making a sliver of independents more important than ever, she said.

"Regardless of what the decision is, it's going to be an issue that
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Advocates say state's sex abuse reporting law should be broadened

By Bill Rankin and Gracie Bonds Staples
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

6:46 p.m. Sunday, November 27, 2011

Amid revelations that a number of officials failed to inform authorities about the Penn State child-abuse scandal, child advocates and prosecutors say Georgia's mandatory reporting law should cast a wider net to protect more children from being victimized by sexual predators.

The recent, highly publicized indictment accusing former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky of molesting children over 15 years has already resulted in more referrals to investigate possible child sex abuse, local child advocates said. It also has lawmakers looking into expanding the law and legal experts concerned about the potential cost and impact of such a scenario.

Under Georgia law, doctors and medical personnel in Georgia must report suspicions of child sex abuse, but most members of the clergy are not required to do so. School teachers and administrators must also report their suspicions, but many coaches are not mandated to do so.

Georgia's law lists 16 categories of professionals who must report suspicions of child sex abuse. The failure to do so can result in a misdemeanor conviction with punishment of up to one year in prison. The statute also allows -- but does not mandate -- anyone with reasonable suspicion of abuse to report it to authorities.

DeKalb County District Attorney Robert James said he believes that members of the clergy should be covered by the mandatory reporting law. He said his office has investigated two suspected cases of child sexual abuse at churches during the past year.

"Too often, we run into a wall of silence. It's very frustrating," James said. "In churches and other religious institutions, people do not have to tell about it because they're not mandatory reporters."

James said the law should also require anyone who assumes temporary custody and care of children be a mandatory reporter. This would mean individuals such as coaches, babysitters, martial arts instructors and camp counselors must report their suspicions, he said.

State Rep. Rich Golick, a Smyrna Republican who chairs the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, said lawmakers are now reviewing the mandatory reporting law and will meet with district attorneys next week to discuss the issue.

The Penn State controversy has already led to proposed legislation in Congress that calls for all adults to
Advocates say state's sex abuse reporting law should be broadened | ...  

be required to report suspicions of child sex abuse to law enforcement or child protective services. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., said his bill would require states to mandate such reporting in order to receive federal social services funding.

"If common sense doesn't dictate when and to whom an adult should report child abuse, this law will," he said. "The bottom line is simple: If you see something, say something."

Georgia prosecutors have effectively applied the mandatory reporting law. In 2005, for example, a former middle school teacher was convicted of failing to report signs of child abuse against an 11-year-old girl, who was later beaten to death by her father and stepmother in their Stockbridge home.

A number of metro parents expressed surprise the state's law does not apply to everyone.

"I'm appalled," said Buckhead resident Sylvia Williams, a 46-year-old mother of four. "If any adult is witness to a crime, which is what sexual abuse is, they're obligated to report it."

Kim Cunninghis, a Sandy Springs mother of two, agreed.

"All adults should be morally bound for the protection of children," Cunninghis said. "It just seems like something that all parents would insist on. Why limit it to certain groups? Why give everybody else a pass? Why not hold everybody equally accountable?"

Nancy Chandler, CEO of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, said people should be required to call 911 and let law enforcement know if they have suspicions of child sex abuse.

"If we could make all adults mandated reporters, I think that would go a long way to help people understand that we all have a responsibility to protect children," she said.

Based on recent referrals, Chandler said some good has come from the case against Sandusky.

"Parents are sitting down with their children and telling them if someone touches you, come tell me," she said. "I've been in this business for a lot of years and for me to turn on the news and hear about sexual abuse during a sports program is amazing. If something good can come out of this story, it's that people are talking about this. People are having those conversations with their children that they so desperately need to have."

Since news of the Sandusky case broke, Chandler said, her office has seen an uptick in referrals from law enforcement and the state Department of Family and Children Services for forensic interviews with children. "This is going on all over the country, not just Georgia," she said.

Sandusky is charged with molesting eight boys over a 15-year span. He recently told NBC he is innocent.

Alan Cook, the former district attorney for Walton and Newton counties, said Georgia's mandatory reporting law works well in that it requires allegations of child sex abuse to be turned over to trained professionals who know how to investigate such crimes.

But Cook, now a University of Georgia law professor, said he was unsure about proposals to require all adults to be mandatory reporters.
"When you have professionals with a certain level of training to recognize abuse and know what steps to take next, that's one thing," he said. "But bus drivers, clerks, street sweepers, they're not going to know what they're looking for. In fact, they likely won't even know such a law exists."

Amy Russell, deputy director of the National Child Protection Training Center in Winona, Minn., said if all adults are required to report their suspicions there needs to be enough funding to provide adequate training for that. There also needs to be more resources to handle an expected increase in reports, she said.

What's most important, Russell added, is for members of the public to be made aware of the consequences if they fail to report suspicions of child abuse to authorities. "Without being reported, a predator could become emboldened and continue abusing that child and then abuse other potential victims in the future," she said.

The allegations against Sandusky, once a revered former coach, are a case in point. "Sadly," she said, "these are the kinds of cases we see coming across our desk everyday."

--------

Those required by law to report suspicion of child sexual abuse:

Doctors, nurses, dentists and hospital and medical personnel

Licensed psychologists

Professional counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists

School teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists and social workers

Child welfare agency and child service organization personnel

Law enforcement officers and personnel

Find this article at:

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Three men will be prosecuted on charges of operating an illegal gambling operation across North Georgia and into Tennessee.

Dee Simon, David Longobardo and Joseph Mohwish all face charges under Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO.

These charges -- traditionally used against organized crime and sometimes against gang members -- never have been prosecuted in the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, according to several attorneys.

All three men will have a bench trial in Walker County Superior Court instead of a jury trial because of the nature of the charges, said McCracken Poston, Simon's defense attorney.

"It's fairly complicated issues," he said.

District Attorney Herbert "Buzz" Franklin didn't return calls seeking comment about the case.

A date hasn't been set, but attorneys said Simon, Longobardo and Mohwish could be tried as early as December.

University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson said RICO cases are more complex to prosecute because authorities must prove there was a pattern of illegal activity.

The Walker County Sheriff's Office first heard about a possible illegal gambling operation in September 2008 at a site called Pre-Paid Solutions, a police report shows.

When agents investigated the site on Wilson Road in Rossville, they discovered several illegal video poker and slot machines. After further investigation and talking with Mohwish, officers advised him to remove the machines, the report stated.

No further action was taken at the time, the report stated.

In January 2009, Dade County and state detectives began investigating another gambling site in Wildwood, Ga., also called Pre-Paid Solutions, after receiving several tips from Lookout Valley residents in Tennessee, an arrest warrant shows.

Dade County detectives went undercover, posing as gamblers, and began to play the machines, the report shows. First, detectives won $48 and were given a credit card that was activated with the amount from a local bank, the report states.

The detectives came back several times, sometimes winning money, other times losing, but every win was placed on a credit card, according to the report.

In February 2009, a search warrant was issued for the Wildwood location on U.S. Highway 11 and an employee confirmed that she spoke with another worker almost daily to arrange for money to be credited to players' credit cards, the report states.

Employees confirmed that Simon and Longobardo managed the businesses and they worked for Mohwish, according to the report.

Investigators also found documents and financial records linking Mohwish and Simon to other gambling businesses in the area.

Another search warrant showed illegal gambling activities at other locations, including Rossville, Wildwood, Ringgold and Dalton in Georgia and in East Ridge, the report states. Investigations at those locations also were conducted.

After the investigation, warrants were taken out in Walker County for all three men on March 4, 2009.
Judge wins Square Knot Award

Staff Reports (30547)

#ALBANY — Pataula Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Joe Bishop has been awarded the Square Knot Award by American Legion Post 30, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 30 and the Chehaw Council Boy Scouts of America.

Bishop is the first recipient of the Square Knot Award from the Chehaw Council or Squadron 30 of the Sons of the American Legion. The award is made in recognition of dedication and work to assist the furthering of the Scouting program in the American Legion. Bishop's years of dedicated service to the American Legion and to the Boy Scouts was acknowledged in a letter of commendation from National American Legion Commander Jimmie Foster.

An Eagle Scout with Troop 111 in 1973, the judge has served on the Chehaw Council Executive Board for more than two decades. He was scoutmaster for Troop 70 sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church in Dawson during the 1980s and was assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster of Troop 414 sponsored by Deerfield-Windsor School 1992-2005. During that period, 27 Scouts, including six sets of brother (including Bishop’s sons Matthew and Phillip) advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Bishop is a 1979 honor graduate of Valdosta State University and a 1982 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. He has served as a Superior Court judge since 1991 and has been chief judge of the Pataula Circuit since 1994, serving as president of the Council of Superior Judges in 2000. He is a Sunday school teacher at Sherwood Baptist Church and for 10 years the volunteer cross-country coach at Deerfield-Windsor School, where he is a past chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“No matter what I do,” Bishop said, “I will never do enough to repay the many men and women that invested so much in me and my family from the American Legion and the Boys Scouts. ... The American Legion and the Boys Scouts of America are great organizations because they teach citizenship, character and camping skills. The Legion and the Boys Scouts have given me an award for doing what I love to do.”

In addition to their two sons, Bishop and his wife, Carol Coburn Bishop, have a daughter, Sarah, who is a senior at Georgia State University.
New prosecutor drawn to Rabun

by Blake Spurney, Editor
11.30.11 - 11:06 am

New Assistant District Attorney Maggie Hastings is as passionate about Clemson University athletics as she is serving as a prosecutor.

The 26-year-old started working in the Rabun County office of the Mountain Judicial Circuit in October. Besides the 7-month-old son she and husband John are raising, her main hobby and interest is Clemson football or basketball and baseball when pigskin is not in season.

"I’m a fan of all college sports," she said.

Hastings became familiar with the Mountain Judicial Circuit when she did her prosecutorial clinic with Rick Bridgeman in the Stephens County office. She prosecuted three cases and did other duties under the Third Year Practice Act while she was a University of Georgia law student.

"Within a very short period of time, it was clear she fit in very well for us," District Attorney Brian Rickman said. "I don’t know if that’s a compliment to her or not. Everybody liked her for a lot of reasons from the get-go."

Hastings then worked as an administrative assistant in the Stephens County office. "She dove in head first, which says a lot about her character," Rickman said.

Eventually the drug prosecutor position opened up, and she handled drug cases in Rabun, Habersham and Stephens counties for about a year. Penny Robinson left the Rabun office in September, and Hastings replaced her.

"She’s got everything I look for in a prosecutor," Rickman said. "She’s honest. She’s hard working. She doesn’t care about politics. If she takes a position and it’s the right thing to do, she will not back down an inch."

Hastings said she jumped at the opportunity to work out of the Rabun County office because she liked the time she spent here as a drug prosecutor. She switched positions because she wanted to handle different types of cases and work with victims. She is still helping out as a drug prosecutor until George Christian, a federal prosecutor in Macon, takes the role full time in January.

"I like how it works in Rabun County," Hastings said. "It’s a gorgeous place, and the people are very nice. Everybody seems really easy to work with, and it’s really just a fun place to work."

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Hodges Joins Georgia Chamber Board

Ashe Rafuse & Hill, LLP, partner Ken Hodges has been appointed to the 2012 Board of Directors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

"I am honored to serve the state's largest business advocacy group," Hodges says. "As a former public servant and, now, as a business person and active community member, I welcome the opportunity to lend my voice and perspective to a myriad of issues that affect our great state."

Hodges is a partner in Ashe Rafuse & Hill's general litigation division. He is familiar to many Georgians as the 2010 nominee of the Democratic Party of Georgia for Attorney General after carrying 158 out of 159 counties in the primary. Hodges previously spent 15 years of his 20-year career as a prosecutor, including 12 as the District Attorney of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit.

"As evidenced by his lengthy public service as a district attorney, by his run for statewide office and by his work in the private sector, Ken has demonstrated his commitment to shaping the ongoing dialogue about public policy and business in Georgia. I look forward to working with him on the state's pro-business activities," says Edward S. Heys, Jr., 2012 Chair of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Heys is Managing Partner of the Atlanta office of Deloitte (www.Deloitte.com), an international organization focusing on audit, financial advisory, tax and consulting.

Hodges previously served on the Board of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce when he was District Attorney in that area, and chaired its subcommittee on education and was active on the legislative committee. He is an alumnus of Leadership Georgia, which is affiliated with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and served on the board of Leadership Georgia. Hodges has been active in many Georgia Chamber events throughout the years, including the Georgia Quail Hunt, which brings both international and stateside business leaders to Southwest Georgia. He also has been part of Chamber delegations which met with the legislators in Atlanta and in Washington, DC.

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest business advocacy organization. Its membership includes thousands of businesses of all sizes in every industry sector and every region of the state. Its mission and focus is creating and growing jobs in Georgia, advancing the state's economic competitiveness, and enhancing the business-friendly climate. www.GAChamber.com

Atlanta-based Ashe Rafuse & Hill, LLP (www.AsheRafuse.com) focuses on employment, civil rights, and commercial litigation nationally.

More information:

Kenneth B. (Ken) Hodges, III, spent 15 years of his 20-year career as a prosecutor, including 12 as the District Attorney of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. He has appeared before juries hundreds of times in both civil and criminal matters, supervised literally thousands of cases and argued before the Georgia Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of Georgia. Ken was the 2010 nominee of the Democratic Party of Georgia for Attorney General after carrying 158 out of 159 counties in the primary. He garnered more votes than any other Democratic candidate in the General Election. Ken now applies his distinguished trial skills in a practice focused on commercial litigation, civil rights, government investigations and RICO matters. He was District Attorney of the Year in 2002 in part due to his work as co-counsel in the case of State v. Sidney Dorsey. Ken received the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service for his dedication to public service from The State Bar of Georgia and the Eagle Award for outstanding work on behalf of victims of crime by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Georgia. He is a former Chairman of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, a past President of the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia, and past President of the...
Dougherty Bar Association. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia and served on its Board of Directors. Ken has been recognized by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of Georgia’s “40 Under 40” and by the Fulton County Daily Report as an attorney “On The Rise.” Ken received his B.A. from Emory University and his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law. Ken and his wife Melissa, and their two young children, reside in Buckhead. Notably, both children were born during Ken’s campaign for Attorney General; one was born during the primary and the other during the general election.

To find out more about the company in this article and to see if you have business connections, click below:

- Ashe, Rafuse & Hill, LLP

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Bald is beautiful for lawyer's ads
'My Bald Lawyer' Chandler Mason attracts attention—and clients—with humorous billboards
By Meredith Hobbs, Staff Reporter

In an increasingly crowded legal market, lawyers are casting about for ways to get noticed, trying their hand at LinkedIn, Twitter, blogging and other social media. But personal injury lawyer Chandler W. Mason has raised his visibility the old-fashioned way—with a big billboard and some humor.

Mason erected three billboards around Atlanta a couple of months ago with a photo of his chrome-domed visage and the message: "Injured? Don't pull YOUR hair out!" The billboards display his web address, MyBaldLawyer.com, and phone number in big type.

Mason and his wife, B. Louise Mason, who practice together at Mason & Associates, wanted to reach large numbers of prospective new clients in a way that is memorable and approachable. "People who are not in the legal industry have an impression of lawyers as unapproachable, these high priests of the law, if you will. We wanted to dispel that notion," he said.

"We want to communicate that we are accessible, approachable, competent and proud of our results. And that there's no great mystery in talking to a lawyer," he said.

Mason said he wanted to convey that he takes his work seriously without taking himself too seriously. "Striking that balance was the challenge," he said, adding that the idea was to appear informal, not cheesy. "We want people to be able to laugh and then remember it."

He said his wife came up with the "my bald lawyer" slogan while they were brainstorming ideas. "It instantly clicked," he said. "I had hair when I got married and no hair a year later."

One billboard is on I-85 almost directly opposite the Shallowford Road exit, facing northbound traffic heading toward Spaghetti Junction. Another is on I-75, north of Marietta toward I-575, and a third was initially near Memorial Drive and I-285 but moved to U.S. Highway 78.

Mason said the ad has been well-received. "A client I talked to today said he liked the billboard and wished me success," he said. "I hoped the message would be perceived in the way it was intended. I've been pleased that it has been."

He's also pleased that the ad has attracted attention from several legal and marketing blogs as well as comments on Twitter and Facebook. "It's gone viral," he said.

The billboards prompted the Masons to create a website for their firm to give people more information about the work they do, including a scrolling list of the types of cases they've won and the verdict amounts. Mason said a woman called him recently with a potential malicious prosecution case after seeing the billboard and learning from the website that he's handled such cases.

"She did enough reading to feel comfortable calling us, which is what we want," said Mason.

He declined to describe specific cases he's gotten from the billboard ads but said the number of calls has increased significantly since erecting them in mid-September and that he's signed up several new clients from the campaign.

Mason, 42, launched his own personal injury firm in Lawrenceville six years ago, handling auto collisions, premises and product liability cases, but not medical malpractice. He estimated that about 10 percent of his practice is other types of cases such as malicious prosecution, corporate disputes and fraud.

"If it fits our criteria, then we are willing to litigate and try it if we need to," he said.
After law school at the University of Georgia, Mason initially handled defense work and business litigation, working for Griffin Cochrane & Marshall, a construction litigation boutique that has become part of Sutherland, then Hawkins & Parnell. After five years at Fellows LaBriola, he started his own plaintiffs’ firm in 2005.

Mason said business until now has come mostly from referrals. He ran an ad in a local Gwinnett magazine soon after opening his firm, which drew a few responses, but that had been the extent of his marketing efforts.

He decided to advertise to get to the next level of cases. "Getting the message out to a broader audience allows us to be more selective," he said.

Mason is pleased enough with the response to his bald lawyer ad that he's decided to extend his initial four-month contract for 12 months.

He declined to say how much the billboards cost, explaining that his salesperson at CBS Outdoor swore him to secrecy, but said it is "a serious investment."

A CBS Outdoor salesperson would not say how much it costs to lease one of the company's billboards on I-85, but the company's public relations representative said the average monthly cost for a billboard in Atlanta is $5,000 to $10,000.

A local outdoor advertising broker, Denise S. Meng of Billboard Connection, said the retail rate for a billboard on the I-85 corridor is $4,000 per month—but can drop to about $2,000 for someone flexible about location and willing to have their advertisement move around, depending on empty billboard space.

Meng said the stretches of I-85 from the Pleasant Hill exit south to the Downtown Connector and of I-75 from I-575 to the Connector are "choice" Atlanta billboard locations.

"The traffic here in Atlanta is so bad that there's nothing to do but look at billboards," Meng said, adding that billboards are more popular for advertising than taxis and bus shelters, even though the latter are cheaper.

A bus shelter ad runs about $500 to $1,000 per month, she said, and any lawyers interested in seeing their face on the side of a MARTA bus can get a full-wrap bus ad for $3,500 per month.

Billboard exposure is measured in "eyes on impressions," or EOI—the number of times passersby are likely to notice an ad.

CBS Outdoor did not supply the eyes on impressions figure for Mason's billboard on I-85, but the weekly EOI for a billboard slightly north of it is 677,587 views, according to industry statistics. CBS Outdoor said the average weekly EOI for an Atlanta billboard is 500,000 to 600,000 views.

About 230,000 cars per day transit I-85 at the Jimmy Carter Boulevard exit, according to Meng, who cited DOT statistics.

Mason said the "vast majority" of callers from the ads that he's taken on as clients have come from the I-85 billboard, so he's rethinking where to put his ads. He said his initial thought was to cover the northern part of the city with the three billboards, since his firm's office is in Lawrenceville, with a satellite office by the Perimeter.

Right now the I-85 billboard is positioned to catch the eye of people commuting or returning home from a Braves game.

Mason said he might move his ad north of Spaghetti Junction to catch the I-285 traffic going to Gwinnett and add another billboard going south on I-85.

"It's a work in progress. We may go downtown," he said.

Tai Hyun "Alex" Shin has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough as an associate, handling debt finance and restructuring. Shin received a joint law degree and MBA from Emory University in May.

Alexander S. Clay has been elected a partner of Smith, Gambrell & Russell. Clay was previously counsel and practices real estate law, representing lenders and developers.

M. Diane Owens of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers has received the Meritorious Service Award from Mercer University. Owens recently completed a five-year term on the university's board of trustees and is the first woman in the school's history to serve as board chair.

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz has added its first office in Florida by acquiring an Orlando firm with six