09/2012 Newsclippings
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WHY I give

“When the lights were down—then, selectively lit again, the minimalist music of Philip Glass was heard. The dancers began their movements—and—I was transformed—at one with the performers... These words express what it means to me to participate as a member of the audience... I am always somehow lifted to another realm of being... It is vibrant. It is vital to existence.”

— Ethel Tison Chaffin (MA '81) in a letter to Bala Sarasvati, Jane Willson Professor of the Arts and CORE Dance Company director, after attending a dance performance.

Want to give? Go to www.externalaffairs.uga.edu/os/makegift.
2012 40 Under 40 Awards Luncheon
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Celebrate the 2012 40 Under 40 honorees and nominees at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta. The 40 Under 40 recognizes the university's outstanding young alumni.

For more information, visit alumni.uga.edu/40U40.

For more information:
Athens area events: Wanda Darden at warden@uga.edu or (706) 542-2251
Student programs: Julie Cheney at jcheney@uga.edu or (706) 542-2251
Atlanta programs: Rosemary Brown at robrown@uga.edu or (404) 814-8820
Chapters: Meredith Carr at mcarr@uga.edu or (404) 814-8820
Parents and Families: Diane Johnson at djohnson@uga.edu or (706) 542-2251

To learn more about the UGA Alumni Association or find a chapter or club in your area, go to www.uga.edu/alumni.

Lisa Ryan Howard (ABJ '92) of Brooklyn, N.Y., received the Henry W. Grady Mid-Career Alumni Award at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication annual Alumni Awards Luncheon in May. She was most recently publisher of Billboard.

Della Garner Ream (AB '92) competed for the title of the Inaugural Ms. World International 2012 in August. Katy Arrowood (BSFCS '94) of Athens was named director of the Clarke County School District's Athens Community Center Academy. Jay Gemes (ABJ '94) of Columbus opened Jay Gemes State Farm on March 1. Scott Grant (ABJ '94) and Lisa Grant (BSEd '02) of Gainesville, Ga., welcomed their second daughter, Rebecca Belle Grant, Jan. 15. Chad Johnson (AB '94) of Thomasville was promoted to managing director of electronic communications and social media for Flower Foods, where he is responsible for company websites and providing social media guidance.

Stephen Jones (BFA '94) of Marshallville was elected a director at large by the general membership of the Georgia Professional Photographers Association Inc. Jones runs Creative Pro Studio and has been a member of the GPPA since 2008. Lt. Col. Matthew D. Williams (AB '94) was appointed base commander at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

Mark Bullock (ABJ '95) of Montgomery, Ala., was promoted to evening news anchor at WSFA 12 News. Patrick B. Webb (ABJ '95) joined the Atlanta office of Burr & Forman LLP as counsel in the firm's banking and real estate practice group, where he focuses on all aspects of commercial real estate including loan transactions, leasing and real estate development, financing and investing. Nathan Franklin (BSEd '96) of Loganville was appointed the Walton County Board of Education's new assistant superintendent. He was previously principal at Loganville High School. John C. Sexton (BFA '96) of Lawrenceville was promoted to senior marketing design specialist at AtHomeNet, a website design and development company in Suwanee. Paxton Poitevint (BBA '97) of Bainbridge graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. Greg Asman (BBA '98) of Atlanta joined CNN as vice president of research and analytics for CNN Digital, where he provides research strategy, analysis services and methodological oversight for CNN's Digital Network. Ashley Sharee Harris (ABJ '98, AB '99) of Atlanta took the oath of office June 13 as the newest appointee to the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. Harris serves as the lawyer representative on the commission. Trey Prophater (BBA '98) of Atlanta has joined White Horse Advisors as business development associate, where he will focus on advising clients and...
New, more detailed employment data shake up our annual rankings of the schools that provide the most bang for the buck. Find out who's up and who's not.

BY MICHELLE WEYENBERG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Average Debt for 2011 Grads</th>
<th>TUITION</th>
<th>Cost of living</th>
<th>Two-year Bar Pass Avg</th>
<th>Two-year Bar Pass State Avg</th>
<th>Weighted Employment Rate</th>
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65.4 percent for the same data set, its worst placement rate since 1994, and 9 points lower than 2008.

But the NALP data the ABA used in the past, for its Official Guide to Law Schools, consisted of an overall-employed number that included non-legal jobs, part-time positions and temporary placements. That more expansive definition resulted in 149 schools with an employment rate at 85 percent or higher last year.

The new data allowed The National Jurist to look under the hood, so to speak, and assess the true health of placement on a school-by-school basis for its annual Best Value Law Schools rankings. The final numbers do not look as good. Only 18 law schools have a weighted employment rate above 85 percent this year.

That has led some schools to drop in the rankings. The most noted example is Brigham Young University - J. Rueben Clark Law School, which ranked No. 2 last year with a 93.3 percent employment rate. It dropped out of the top 20 this year with a 69 percent weighted employment rate.

To determine the weighted employment rate, The National Jurist gave full weight to full-time, long-term bar passage-required employment. It calculated all
BEST VALUE: HOW WE DID THE RANKINGS

Our Best Value Rankings, being published for the sixth time since 2004, is designed to find the law schools where graduates have the best chance of passing the bar and getting a legal job, without taking on a ton of debt.

This study does not attempt to assess a school’s reputation and academic selectivity or focus on any metrics that would encourage schools to engage in wasteful spending. Instead, it is designed to assist the majority of students who will practice at small- or mid-sized law firms or in public service.

To identify the law schools that provide the best value, The National Jurist looks at the most important exit numbers: the percent of graduates who pass the bar exam (15% of study) and the percent who get a job (35%). We weigh these numbers against tuition (25%), cost of living (10%) and average indebtedness upon graduation (15%).

For bar passage, we use a school’s two-year average, and compare it against the two-year state average. We also look at the raw score, believing that a school is succeeding with a 90 percent bar pass rate, even if the state average is 95 percent. The data are taken from the ABA-LSAC Official Guide to Law Schools, 2012 and 2013 editions.

For employment, we use the ABA’s official employment statistics. These new data breaks employment into 12 different categories and we weighted each category from 100% to 0% to calculate a weighted average. Bar Passage Required:

- Full-time, Long Term is counted at 100%.
- Bar Passage Required:
  - Full-time, short term 70%
  - JD Preferred: Full-time, Long Term 70%
  - Professional position:
    - Full-time, Long Term 60%
- Bar Passage Required:
  - Part-time, Long Term 50%
  - JD Preferred: Part-time, Long Term 40%
  - JD Preferred: Full-time, short term 40%
- Bar Passage Required:
  - Part-Time, short term 30%
  - Professional position: Part-time, Long Term 30%
  - Professional position: Full-time, short term 30%
  - JD Preferred: Part-Time, short term 10%
- Non-Professional position: Full-time, Long Term 10%

All other categories received no value.
The American Bar Association and the Law School Admission Council recently made strides to improve the transparency of key statistics that have fed much of the rancor against legal education — pre-law entry credentials and postgraduate employment statistics. The ABA also handed down its first-ever fine, against the University of Illinois College of Law for reporting misleading LSAT data.

Some of legal education’s most vocal critics are pleased with the ABA’s direction.

“What has improved substantially is the amount of disclosure and accountability,” said Kyle McEntee, executive director and co-founder of the watchdog group Law School Transparency. “I think the media attention on the poor ethical practices of law school is impacting the way people perceive law school and perceive the value of a degree.”

This summer, the ABA and LSAC agreed to oversee a new process that requires law schools to provide the ABA with the names, grades and LSAT scores for each new student, instead of the percentiles previously required. LSAC will then confirm the accuracy of the data.

Spurring the change, both Villanova University School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh’s law school have recently changed their practices.
tuitions and debt are up overall.

St. Mary’s University School of Law is one of only two private schools on the list this year, its first time to make the cut. Southern Illinois University School of Law is the highest new entry onto the list, premiering with an A-. Other new schools include Cleveland State University, Texas Southern University, and North Carolina Central University, which returns to the list after a few years away.

Off the list: The University of New Mexico School of Law (No.7 last year), The University of South Dakota School of Law (No. 13 last year), University of Washington School of Law (No. 16 last year), Southern University Law Center (No. 17 last year) and 14 law schools that received an A- or B+ last year.

When the ABA released the employment data, it created a stir over the fact that almost 5 percent of graduates were employed by their law school.

Notre Dame Law School reported the highest: 22.6 percent of its graduating class. It was followed by Boston University School of Law and University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. The George Washington University Law School reported the most graduates employed in real numbers — 80.

The rules were “not so much to attack those internal employment programs but to shed the light of day on them,” said Donald Polden, dean at Santa Clara University School of Law and chairman of the ABA’s Standards Review Committee from 2008-2011.

He said the ABA was well aware of the gamesmanship of a few law schools, and that any self-disclosure system “is inherently going to have flaws and problems with it.”

Linda Key, assistant dean of admissions at University of Missouri — Columbia, said she’d like to see a distinction in the employment data for graduates who do actual legal work for a law school’s general counsel.

Not every graduate who is employed by a law school is pushing papers, she said.

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<th>Two-year Employment Rate</th>
<th>Weighted Employment Rate</th>
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</table>
Higher hopes for fall recruitment season

On the eve of the fall recruitment season, law school placement directors were expecting to see slight improvement from the prior year.

"Word on the street from career service offices is that fall recruiting remains fairly flat and resembles last year — numbers are not down, but they're not seeing big visual jumps either," said James Leipold, executive director of the National Association for Law Placement.

NALP's annual report on law firm recruiting indicated that last year 39 percent of American Bar Association-accredited schools reported an increase of 5 percent or more in the number of employers on campus. About 29 percent reported consistent numbers and almost one-third reported a decrease of 5 percent or more.

But some schools are reporting bigger gains.

Susan Guindi, assistant dean for career services at The University of Michigan Law School, said it has seen a significant improvement in employer participation. "It looks lot better this year," she said. "We've got almost 20 percent more employers. The increase might be because last year firms only recruited for one of their offices, where as this year up to three of their offices are interviewing students."

She said some of the reasons for progress include an improving economy and reaching out to different employers.

Other good news is the offer rate — the percent of employers who offer summer associates a full-time position — is going up. For the class of 2012 graduates, who were summer associates in 2011, the offer rate rose 4 percentage points, to 91.4 percent. It had been as low as 69.2 percent in 2009.

But schools are still worried about the long-term outlook for hiring by the nation's largest law firms.

"I think there was an increase last year [in big firm hiring], and it's questionable whether that will continue to increase much this year based on the fact that the firms aren't increasing their sizes of the summer classes," said Michael Keller, who is the assistant dean of career and professional development at Indiana University Maurer School of Law — Bloomington.

Keller and Leipold both said the smaller class sizes are a noticeable trend likely to continue.

"There are questions as to the long-term health of the [on campus interview process] simply because organizations are able to recruit in so many other ways," which I don't think would be a bad thing in the long run," Keller said. "I think it would be a healthy thing and maybe level the playing field all the way across the board."

Indiana University-Bloomington placed 13.8 percent of its 2011 graduates at the nation's largest law firms — firms that employ 101 or more attorneys. That figure ranked the school 28th out of 199 ABA-accredited schools.

Columbia Law School ranked first with 61.4 percent of its class employed at firms with 101 or more attorneys. University of Michigan was 13th on the list with 34 percent.
Hill Will Be Speaker At Friday's Luncheon

Senior Judge William Ralph Hill will be speaking at Trenton United Methodist Church Men's Luncheon on Friday at noon.

The quarterly event is hosted by Trenton UMC and everyone is welcome.

Judge Hill attended Furman University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history before attending the University Of Georgia School Of Law. He graduated in 1968 and passed the Georgia State Bar exam that same year.

He served in the U.S. Army from April 1968 until June 1970. While on active duty he served a tour of duty in Southeast Asia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal. When released from active duty in 1970 he had attained the rank of Captain.

In 1971, he came to the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit to serve as the first assistant District Attorney, prosecuting criminal cases in the Superior Courts of Dade, Walker, Catoosa and Chattanooga counties.

In 1973, he opened his office in the general practice of law in LaFayette as a trial lawyer. He served eight years on the Board of Governors of the State Bar and was a member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. In 1994, he was appointed as a Superior Court Judge of the Lookout Mountain Circuit where he served until his retirement on Jan. 1, 2009.

Judge Hill is a member of the Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church that is a member of the PCA. He is a member of the Dade County Camp of the Gideons International that distributes Bibles and New Testaments in 189 countries across the world.

Beginning in 1992, he felt called to go on and serve on short term evangelistic mission’s trips to Brazil, Russia, the Ukraine, Uganda, Tanzania and Cuba.

He and his wife Sylvia have been married for 39 years and have two children; a son, Larry, who has four children and a daughter, Brennan Griffin, who has three children.

After their retirement in 2009, they felt led by the Lord to serve as second career missionaries with Mission of the World to plant a church in a borough of London, England. They served there for two years until September 2011, when they returned to their home in Hinkle, Georgia on Lookout Mountain.

Visitor Comments

Submit A Comment
UGA 'finally' using 'good' tool to monitor students' degree progress

Many students and advisers are responding well to DegreeWorks, a web-based tool that has taken the place of the Degree Audit Reporting System to monitor student progress toward degree completion this year. One of these students is Paco Payne, a senior nutrition science major from Canton.

"I like DegreeWorks," Payne said. "It's really made it easier for me and my adviser to see what classes I still need to take in order to graduate and it is linked directly with the [University] Bulletin so I can see what the class is too. It's way better than DARS. That program was just contuing." 

DegreeWorks combines the degree requirements and the coursework completed into an easy-to-read worksheet that helps see how courses completed count toward degree requirements.

The program is a component of a new student information system based on Banner software licensed by Ellucian. It is still in its early developmental stages, and the next stage will include adding enhancements to the system.

"It's actually very exciting," said University Registrar Jan Hathcote. "We are working on a generic calculator so if you need to calculate a major GPA, it will show the courses you have taken and you can push the ones you think are in your major, and it will calculate it for you. It's a prototype right now, and it's doing fairly well, it should be launched soon."

The program already reports each student's overall GPA, but the enhancement will allow students to choose courses and calculate a GPA based on the selection.
Another enhancement will be helpful for athletes.

"We have to calculate if they have reached certain milestones towards their degree so we can see if they are eligible to play their sports," Hathcote said. "We want to try and get that done on their audit so they don't have to do it by hand,"

The third feature is an academic planner that will allow advisers to plan a student's entire schedule for their duration at the University.

"It will keep a rolling schedule for you that will adapt to the classes you choose," Hathcote said. "We have an advisory group coming the end of September to prioritize some other enhancements too."

Hathcote said DARS was written 20 or 30 years ago in a computer language that is no longer supported, and there has been times when it has gone down. As of June, all undergraduate programs at the University have been using DegreeWorks in place of DARS.

DegreeWorks has not yet been implemented in the University College of Veterinary Medicine, School of Law, or the Graduate School.

Brandon Fris, an academic adviser in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, said he has been using DegreeWorks for about a year alongside DARS.

"I think the biggest positive for DegreeWorks is how user-friendly it is," Fris said. "It's broken down specifically, and it's very clear. That's the biggest difference between it and DARS. It's relatively new and it's taken awhile for people to get used to it, but it keeps getting better and better, and that's exciting. It's a great resource for students, and that's why we like it so much."

Fris said advisers are making a point to show each student their DegreeWorks and teach them how to access it using their student ID.

"We want to empower them to also use the technology on their own and to double-check themselves," Fris said.

Ryan Diffley, a junior international affairs major from Grayson, said upon transferring to the University in the spring, Diffley's adviser initially provided him with the printout from DARS.

"When DegreeWorks came out, it was more interactive and user-friendly," Diffley said. "I'm happy with the switch. Hopefully, it'll keep students on track, keep students from taking unnecessary courses and free advisers from trivial questions. UGA is finally using a good program."

More about DARS
- ARTICLE: DegreeWorks now available to all undergraduate students

More about DegreeWorks
- ARTICLE: DegreeWorks now available to all undergraduate students

More about UGA
- ARTICLE: UGA named a 'public Ivy' school
- ARTICLE: Our take: Resumes to brighten, admissions to tighten as UGA named 'Public Ivy'
- ARTICLE: SGA welcomed Missouri to SEC 'with open arms'
- ARTICLE: UGA student arrested after being caught in bush
- ARTICLE: UGA student arrested after climbing up wall behind Whiskey Bent

More about Students

Calendar

September 2012

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9/10/2012 10:08 AM

2 of 4
Tribune publisher dies after two-year battle with cancer

by Joe Kirby
TCT Editorial Page Editor
09.08.12 - 08:38 pm

Otis A. Brumby Jr. served nearly a half-century as publisher of the Marietta Daily Journal and Cherokee Tribune. During those decades, he oversaw the transformation of the MDJ from a small-city newspaper into the award-winning flagship of a metro-wide chain of suburban papers; used those publications as “bully pulpits” for lower taxes and against political corruption; crusaded successfully for stronger “Sunshine Laws”; fought passionately for education reform; and was a widely respected kingmaker in state and local politics. Brumby, who was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer nearly two years ago and had waged a strenuous fight against it since then, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday at age 72, surrounded by family and friends.

Said former Gov. Roy Barnes of Marietta, “I can think of no single person who’s had bigger impact on Cobb County and this state than Otis. He excelled as a community leader and in education reform. And I think that a giant oak has fallen that will be very difficult to replace.”

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Thomas Jr.’s son Otis Sr. had founded the weekly Cobb County Times in 1916 and acquired the MDJ in 1951.

The publisher and his young family, which also included daughter Bebe in addition to Otis, lived on then-rural Terrell Mill Road just south of Marietta.

Despite growing up around the newspaper, Otis Jr. had planned on a legal career. After graduating from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., with a major
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http://www.cherokeetribune.com/printer_friendly/20090740

in political science and a minor in economics, he earned a law degree from The University of Georgia in Athens (where his roommates included future famed criminal defense lawyer Ed Garland, banking tycoon James Blanchard of Synovus and prominent architect Wyck Knox of Augusta).

But shortly afterward he returned to Marietta in 1965 as assistant to the publisher (a training period that also included a lengthy stint as a “cub” reporter) and two years later was named publisher.

He wasted little time making his mark. In 1969 he launched the Neighbor Newspaper group, which ultimately grew into a chain of 27 free suburban weeklies circling metro Atlanta, with satellite offices in each county feeding copy back to Marietta.

“Otis Jr. was still in his 20s when he made the visionary decision to start the Neighbor newspapers,” retired Kennesaw State University history professor Tom Scott, Ph.D., told the MDJ. “In the competitive world of modern reporting, with so many alternatives to print journalism, it’s hard to see how the MDJ could have been so profitable without the mass circulation of those suburban newspapers.”

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Added former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, “Otis was consistently one of the strongest voices for more efficient government, for smaller government and for creating new jobs. He was a passionate advocate for the development of northside Atlanta. Just look at the amount of what in his youth was farmland that now is full of homes and factories and schools. He was integral to the growth of Cobb.”

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Continued Isakson, “When the publisher of your hometown paper and your personal friend has a passion for open government and you’re an elected official, if you don’t embrace that concept too, you won’t last very long.”

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It’s notable that the three Georgia elected officials who arguably worked the hardest and most successfully to strengthen the sunshine laws — Barnes, Olens and Isakson — had something in common.

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“He chose to send them to public school when he could have afforded to send them to any private school in the country,” observed former U.S. Rep. Buddy Darden (D-Marietta).

Brumby was fond of quoting former Mayor Joe Mack Wilson’s observation that the city school system “is the glue that holds Marietta together.”

Brumby was fascinated by politics, an interest honed when he served in the 1950s as congressional page for his cousin, U.S. Sen. Richard B. Russell in Washington, D.C. (Brumby went on to graduate from The Capitol Page School in Washington.)

"Other than his family, which he was more proud of than anything, I think he was most proud of his days as a page for Richard Russell,” recalled syndicated columnist Matt Towery of Vinings. “He didn’t have as many pages as the other senators, and not many could say they paged for him. And that relationship helped form many of his views on politics and life.”

Russell was one of the most powerful senators and was the intellectual force behind the Southern bloc that then controlled the seniority-driven body. Russell also was a confidante of both then-President Dwight Eisenhower and then-Senate Majority Leader (and future President) Lyndon B. Johnson. The young Brumby would recall in later years that he was routinely designated by Johnson to answer his personal phone on the floor of the Senate.

Cobb and Georgia politics in that era were overwhelmingly Democratic. But Brumby took the reins of the MDJ just as Cobb’s previously next-to-nonexistent Republican Party was first beginning to stir. Fueled by an influx of residents from other parts of the country into east Cobb, the county GOP would be a force to be reckoned with by the early 1980s.

“Otis always thought that a strong two-party system was in the best interest of the state,” said Isakson, who first ran for office in the early 1970s. “And being part of the minority party early in my career, he gave us the chance to make our case. He didn’t prop us up, but he made sure the access was there. We had a chance, and in a lot of communities, you never did.”

Added Gingrich, who in those days represented a district on the southside of
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"It's hard for folks now to remember how dominant the liberal voice of the Atlanta newspaper was back in the 1970s, and how exciting it was to have Otis and his newspaper as a conservative voice. And it was great for our morale, too. Later, when I was Speaker, I always felt like he had my back."

But Brumby's personal politics remained somewhat amorphous. He endorsed and gave financial contributions to candidates of both parties. Although personalities sometimes figured into the equation, for him the bottom line usually was not party label but whether the candidate was suitably conservative, especially on fiscal matters.

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It's hard to be a crusading journalist without making one's share of enemies, and Brumby made his share — and then some. But he not only was possessed with bulldog tenacity when it came to following a story, but also with the rare gift of retaining the friendship and respect of those who were momentarily feeling the heat.

"He doesn't have a single friend who didn't have a disagreement with him, but we all learned to put those behind us," Darden said. "And he had the ability to move forward. We didn't always agree, but it didn't come in the way of what I consider one of my closest friendships in my entire adult life."

Said Isakson, "I'll be the first to say we didn't agree on everything, but I learned that it was best to focus on what we agreed about and move on."

Numerous others told the MDJ the same thing, including Barnes.

"Johnny and I are two of his close friends and he'd hammer both of us from time to time, but we understood what he was doing," he said. "As I used to kid him, I never forget that you're first and foremost a newspaper man. The ink flowed
through his bones and blood. But we remained friends. That is a unique ability, to continue to have a close relationship. I knew his secrets and he knew mine. He never betrayed a confidence of mine or vice-versa. But at same time I understood he had a job to do. …

“In my world, loyalty is the coin of the realm, and Otis was loyal to me and I was loyal to him. That does not mean there would not be criticism. But in the end, we remained friends. He told me once that Johnny and I were the only ones that understood completely what the press needs to do and has to do.”

Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon said he understood the awkward position Brumby would sometimes be in.

“Being an editor and living here locally has got to be a tough job.”

***

There were two sides to Otis Brumby — the one as the publisher that the public saw, and the private one as a man utterly devoted to his community, to his church, to various other charities and, above all, to his family.

He is survived by his wife Martha Lee, daughters Spain Gregory, Lee Garrett, Betsy Tarbutton, Anna Brumby and son Otis Brumby III; 10 grandchildren; and his sister, Bebe Brumby Leonard.

The late Mr. Brumby was a trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation, the Arch Foundation of UGA and the Kennesaw College Foundation. He represented the Seventh Congressional District on the state Board of Transportation from 1985-90. He endowed a professorship in First Amendment Law for journalism and law students at UGA in 2004. He was for decades an avid member of the Marietta Kiwanis Club, serving as its president; and past president of numerous professional organizations.

He remained an avid UGA football fan, and often remarked that there was nothing like enjoying a game at Sanford Stadium “with 100,000 of your closest friends.”

He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church of Marietta.

“Otis was a faithful and generous churchman and he served where he was needed, whether helping plan the church’s future or ushering and greeting newcomers on Sunday morning,” said pastor the Rev. Sam Matthews. “I witnessed profound gestures of kindness and consideration from him, gestures that most of us would be challenged to match.”
Former Congressman Darden, a fellow member, noted Brumby’s steady giving to the church, and quoting the Book of Matthew, said, “If you want to find out where someone’s mind is, look where his treasure is.”

Former Georgia Supreme Court Justice Conley Ingram sat in the pew just ahead of the Brumbys for years.

“He did the smallest job to the greatest job at our church,” he said. “He was a greeter at the door, or took up collection, but you could always count on him to be there.

“His life was one of love and dedication to his family and his church and to the First Amendment and to UGA. He was a great friend, and he never tried to take credit for the many things he did for our community. He was a great family man and a great church man and above all, a loyal friend. It’s not going to be the same without him.”

Many of those who shared their reminiscences for this story remarked on the contrast between Brumby’s muscular journalistic presence and his personal preference for staying out of the spotlight.

“For all his greatness, the greatest thing about him was that he was so humble,” Towery said. “He could be tough in the business place, but when he got out in public, he was shy. You couldn’t get him to talk about himself in front of other people.”

Remembered Barnes, “To have held the position of influence he did in this community, he was one of the most humble guys I’ve ever been around. He never overstated his influence or importance.”

Brumby also was recalled by Barnes and others as a terrific storyteller.

“He had a lot of fun in him,” he said. “A lot of those who didn’t know him didn’t realize what a great sense of humor he had.”

Brumby’s middle name, “Arnoldus,” had been passed down through the generations, and he joked to an editor this summer in mock surprise that, “I offered it to all my kids to use as a name for their children, and none of them wanted it!”

And Brumby, whose hairstyle and sartorial choices were nowhere close to “cutting edge,” could be self-deprecating, too.

“He used to jokingly call himself ‘the Marietta Square,’” Towery said. “But he wasn’t just ‘the Marietta Square.’ He was Cobb County. And life without Otis Brumby is not going to be as much fun.”

Added Isakson, “I’m going to miss my friend Otis.”
A private burial will be held at Dawson Cemetery Wednesday at 10 a.m. followed by a memorial service at the First United Methodist Church of Marietta at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Avenue Marietta, GA 30064 or the Georgia Press Educational Foundation 3066 Mercer university drive Atlanta, GA 30341. Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta is in charge of arrangements.

Additional reporting by Jon Gillooly.
Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record an 8-page eulogy that appeared in the Marietta Daily Journal on Sunday of this week.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Marietta Daily Journal, Sept. 8, 2012]
Journal Publisher Dies After Two-Year Battle With Cancer
(By Joe Kirby)

Otis A. Brumby Jr. served nearly a half-century as publisher of the Marietta Daily Journal. During those decades he oversaw the transformation of the MDJ from a small-city newspaper into the award-winning flagship of a metro-wide chain of suburban papers; used those publications as "bully pulpits" for lower taxes and against political corruption; crusaded successfully for stronger "Sunshine Laws"; fought passionately for education reform; and was a widely respected kingmaker in state and local politics. Brumby, who was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer nearly two years ago and had waged a strenuous fight against it since then, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday at age 72, surrounded by family and friends.

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Thomas Jr.'s son Otis Sr. had founded the weekly Cobb County Times in 1916 and acquired the MDJ in 1951. The publisher and his young family, which also included daughter Bebe in addition to Otis, lived on then-rural Terrell Mill Road just south of Marietta.

Despite growing up around the newspaper, Otis Jr. had planned on a legal career. After graduating from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., with a major in political science and a minor in economics, he earned a law degree from The University of Georgia in Athens (where his roommates included future famed criminal defense lawyer Ed Garland, banking tycoon James Blanchard of Synovus and prominent attorney Wyck Knox of Augusta).

But shortly after he returned to Marietta in 1965 as assistant to the publisher (a training period that also included a lengthy stint as a "cub" reporter) and two years later was named publisher.

He wasted little time making his mark. In 1969 he launched the Neighbor Newspaper group, which ultimately grew into a chain of 27 free suburban weeklies circling metro Atlanta, with satellite offices in each county feeding copy back to Marietta.

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Brumby's newspaper, with its emphasis on short stories and readability, became a model for the industry. When Gannett began laying plans for what would become USA Today, it sent a team of editors to spend a week in the MDJ newsroom studying the Marietta newspaper model.

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A similar rule of thumb determined whether to editorially support various proposals floated by local officials. The main criterion was whether the project or referendum made financial sense for taxpayers. "As a politician, I'll miss the question that I've heard over and over, both in Cobb and in the state Capitol: 'What does Otis think about this?'" Tumlin said.

"It's hard to be a crusading journalist without making one's share of enemies, and Brumby made his share--and then some. But he not only possessed bulldog tenacity when it came to following a story, but also with the rare gift of retaining the friendship and respect of those who were momentarily feeling the heat. "He doesn't have a single friend who didn't have a disagreement with him, but we all learned to put those behind us," Darden said. "And he had the ability to move forward. We didn't always agree, but it didn't come in the way of what I consider one of my closest friendships in my entire adult life."

Said Isakson, "I'll be the first to say we didn't agree on everything, but I learned that it was best to focus on what we agreed about and move on."

Numerous others told the MDJ the same thing, including Barnes.

"Johnny and I are two of his close friends and he'd hammer both of us from time to time, but we understood what he was doing," he said. "As I used to kid him, I never forget that you're first and foremost a newspaper man. The ink flowed through his bones and blood. But we remained friends. That is a unique ability, to continue to have a close relationship. I knew his secrets and he knew mine. He never betrayed a confidence of mine or vice-versa. But at same time I understood he had a job to do. In my world, loyalty is the coin of the realm, and Otis was loyal to me and I was loyal to him. That does not mean there would not be criticism. But in the end, we remained friends. He told me once that Johnny and I were the only ones that understood completely what the press needs to do and has to do."

Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon said he understood the awkward position Brumby would sometimes be in.

"Being an editor and living here locally has got to be a tough job."

There were two sides to Otis Brumby--the one as the publisher that the public saw, and the private one as a man utterly devoted to his community, to his church, to various other charities and, above all, to his family.

He is survived by his wife Martha Lee, daughters Spain Gregory, Lee Garrett, Betsy Tarbutton, Anna Brumby and son Otis Brumby III; 10 grandchildren; and his sister, Bebe Brumby Leonard.

The late Mr. Brumby was a trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation, the Arch Foundation of UGA and the Kennesaw College Foundation. He represented the Seventh Congressional District on the state Board of Transportation from 1985-90. He endowed a professorship of First Amendment Law for journalism and law students at UGA in 2004. He was for decades an avid member of the Marietta Kiwanis Club, serving as its president; and past president of numerous professional organizations.
He remained an avid UGA football fan, and often remarked that there was nothing like enjoying a game at Sanford Stadium "with 100,000 of your closest friends."

He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church of Marietta.

"Otis was a faithful and generous churchman and he served where he was needed, whether helping plan the church's future or ushering and greeting newcomers on Sunday morning," said the Rev. Sam Matthews, pastor. "I witnessed profound gestures of kindness and consideration from him, gestures that most of us would be challenged to match."

Former Congressman Darden, a fellow member, noted Brumby's steady giving to the church, and quoting the Book of Matthew, said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Former Georgia Supreme Court Justice Conley Ingram sat in the pew just ahead of the Brumby's for years. "He did the smallest job to the greatest job at our church," he said. "He was a greeter at the door, or took up collection, but you could always count on him to be there. His life was one of love and dedication to his family and his church and to the First Amendment and to UGA. He was a great friend, and he never tried to take credit for the many things he did for our community. He was a great family man and a great church man and above all, a loyal friend. It's not going to be the same without him."

Many of those who shared their reminiscences for this story remarked on the contrast between Brumby's towering journalistic presence and his personal preference for staying out of the spotlight. "For all his greatness, the greatest thing about him was that he was so humble," Towery said. "He could be tough in the business place, but when he got out in public, he was shy. You couldn't get him to talk about himself in front of other people."

Remembered Barnes, "To have held the position of influence he did in this community, he was one of the most humble guys I've ever been around. He never overstated his influence or importance."

Brumby also was recalled by Barnes and others as a terrific storyteller. "He had a lot of fun in him," he said. "A lot of those who didn't know him didn't realize what a great sense of humor he had."

Brumby's middle name, "Anoldus," had been passed down through the generations, and he joked to an editor this summer in mock surprise that, "I offered it to all my children to use as a name for their children, and none of them wanted it!"

And Brumby, whose hairstyle and sartorial choices were nowhere close to "cutting edge," could be self-deprecating, too. "He used to jokingly call himself the Marietta Square," Towery said. "But he wasn't just the Marietta Square. He was Cobb County. And life without Otis Brumby is not going to be as much fun."

Added Isakson, "I'm going to miss my friend Otis."

A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Marietta.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Avenue Marietta, GA 30064 or the Georgia Press Educational Foundation 3066 Mercer university drive Atlanta, GA 30341. Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, this is a poignant eulogy of many of the accomplishments of one of my best and personal friends, Otis Brumby, Jr. I could read all of his accomplishments if I wanted to. There are times we are called on to offer eulogies on the floor of the Senate because we have to or because it is appropriate. There are times we give eulogies for great past leaders of our State, but on rare occasions, such as the one I have today, we do it for someone for whom we have tremendous respect, love, and compassion.

To Otis Brumby, Jr.'s wife Martha Lee, his daughters Anna, Betsy, Lee, Spain, his son-in-law Heath, and his son Otis Brumby III, my love and compassion goes out to each of them during their tragedy.

Wednesday morning I will return to Marietta, GA, to be part of the memorial service to honor Otis Brumby. I thought it would be better to talk about the Otis Brumby I knew rather than the one the papers are writing about. To me he was the epitome of a journalist, a father, a friend, and a husband. Otis Brumby, Jr. got his start in some ways on the floor of the U.S. Senate because in the late 1950s his father arranged for him to page for Richard B. Russell, who, as all of us know, was really the master of the Senate before Lyndon Johnson when he was leader, later Vice President, and finally President.

Otis Brumby learned a lot in this Chamber and on this floor. He has told me what it was like before the cameras were here back in the good old days when there was camaraderie and friendship in the Senate. He also told me about the difficult days of the civil rights era, and particularly as a son of the South and what that meant to him.

He came back to Georgia. After graduating from high school, he went to the University of the South in Sewanee, and then earned a law degree from the University of Georgia. He then headed to his passion, the law, but he didn't make it. Instead he made it to the Marietta Daily Journal as a cub reporter for his father's newspaper. At the age of 27 he was a floor manager and assistant publisher for the paper. He offered his expertise at a very young age.

At the age of 29 he came up with a unique concept. He said people would like to see their kids' pictures in the paper. They like to have stories about their sports victories. They like to have lots of pictures and stories--but just to them--and not all the fodder that might go with it. He started what became known as the Marietta Daily
Johnny Isakson, United States Senator from Georgia

Journal and the Neighbor Newspaper Group. He created 27 neighborhood newspapers and all 27 of them were weekly.

They were so successful that when Gannett decided it was going to try to do a national paper called USA Today, they sent a team of investigators for 7 days to the Marietta Daily Journal to investigate their template, the way they published their paper, their meat and potatoes. Quite frankly, a lot of credit for USA Today goes to the newsroom at the Marietta Daily Journal and the brilliance of that young 29-year-old reporter who later became a publisher of that newspaper.

Otis Brumby died last week of prostate cancer and the effects of prostate cancer. He suffered for 2 years, and that has been a tragedy. But the tragedy for all of us is that he is gone; he has left a mark on our State, county, and community that can't be easily replaced.

Although he had an affinity for politics, he never served. When called on by Governors for appointments, he took them; first as State board of education chairman and later as board of education chairman for the Marietta public school system. A very wealthy man because of his success and investments, Otis Brumby never sent his children to private schools that he could afford because he believed the public schools needed to be the best, and he thought he would send his children there as a role model. And he did. They all were superstars in their schools whether in academic or athletic. Their father Otis supported those public school systems as a leader, a mentor, and a board member.

To Marietta, GA, Otis Brumby was just about everything. He was its conscience, benefactor, and leader, and from time to time he was its protagonist where he would promote discord and a lack of harmony in order to come up with the right decision.

I can tell my colleagues, as a politician, when he wrote about someone and they heard they were in the paper, the first thing they did was grab the newspaper. In fact, there is a column he wrote called “Around Town” that appeared every Saturday morning in the newspaper—a pretty thin part of the paper, but it was a one-page discourse on what politicians in the county were up to. On Saturday morning every politician in Marietta, GA, and Cobb County, GA, went to their mailbox and got their Marietta Daily Journal. They didn't want to see what the football score was; they wanted to see what Otis Brumby had said about them during the previous week. He was the conscience of all the politicians in the community. He was the leader in the community, and he was the benefactor of the community. He made it a much better place.

Otis was not a Republican nor was he a Democrat. He was, if anything, a populist, but he had a fiscally conservative bent to him. Unlike a lot who commentate on politics, Otis put his money where his mouth was. He wrote checks to local politicians and to people in the U.S. Senate. There wasn't a party bent to him, but there was always a fiscally conservative bent.

In fact, I will tell my colleagues when I first ran for office in Cobb County in 1974, we didn't have any Republicans. I ran as a Republican because I was a fiscal conservative. Everybody told me I was crazy. They were right; I got beat. But Otis Brumby took an interest and wrote about the campaign and some of the things we talked about and some of the things they tried to do. He propped me up long enough to get a chance to stand on my own two legs. Sure, he would knock me down from time to time—and some of those times I deserved it—but he gave me a chance. He gave everybody a chance. He was one of those journalists who would comment on what someone did, but he gave them the strength to do what was right.

Wednesday morning I am going to the funeral of my dear friend. I miss him already and will miss him more as the days go by. I love him and his family for all they have done for me, my community, and my country. So at one of those rare times when we come to the floor to eulogize, this time for me it is personal but this time for America we have lost a son, a journalist, a patriot, and I have lost a best friend.

May God bless Otis Brumby and his family, his grandchildren, and our community.

I yield the floor.
LATE MDJ publisher Otis A. Brumby Jr. loved journalism, and was especially fond of "three-dot" journalism, i.e., columns with lots of names and brief, punchy items, separated by three dots (also known as an ellipsis). "Names are news," he liked to remind the newsroom.

Mr. Brumby was laid to rest this week after a nearly two-year fight with prostate cancer, and was remembered at a jam-packed funeral at First United Methodist Church of Marietta. So in his honor, we bring you a "three-dot column" about his funeral, loaded with names, names and more names, and lament only that he is not among us this morning to enjoy reading it. And apologies in advance to those who were there but whose names are not included below. It's a big church.

AS EXPECTED, the funeral attracted a "Who's Who" of Cobb and Georgia figures. Among them were U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) and wife Dianne; U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-Marietta), former Gov. Roy Barnes and wife Marie, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle; Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens and Marietta Mayor Steve Tumlin in the sanctuary. Cobb Commission Chairman Tim Lee wound up seated in the "overflow" room watching on a big-screen TV as part of a crowd of 150 or so.

Others among the 1,100 or so in the sanctuary included University of Georgia President Dr. Michael Adams and retired UGA Coach Vince Dooley; Kennesaw State University President Dr. Daniel Papp; Marietta City Schools Superintendent Dr. Emily Lembeck and husband Harry.

ALSO ON HAND were former Congressman Buddy Darden and wife Lillian of Marietta, Federal Judge Tom Thrash of Vinings, Georgia Supreme Court Justice Harris Hines of Marietta, Harold Melton and George Carley; retired Georgia Supreme Court Justice Conley Ingram; Cobb Superior Court Judges Greg Poole, Rueben Green, Lark Ingram, Tain Kell, Adele Grubbs and Rob Flumoy, and Cobb District Attorney Pat Head, Probate Judge Kelli Wolk and Clerk of Court-elect Rebecca Keaton.

Others included Lockheed VP and Site General Manager Shan Cooper, retired Lockheed VP Lee Rhyant, Georgia Public Service Commissioner Stan Wise of east Cobb, banker Kessel Stelling, Cobb County Manager David Hankerson, Cobb Commissioners Bob Ott and JoAnn Birrell, former Commissioner Joe Lee Thompson, Sheriff Neil Warren, Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood and Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon, Marietta City Councillmen Philip Goldstein, Johnny Sinclair and Anthony Coleman, former state Sen. Chuck Clay, City Police Chief Dan Flynn, state Reps. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs) and David Wilkerson (D-Austell), state Sen. Judson Hill (R-east Cobb), Cobb NAACP head Deanne Bonner, Cobb Chamber of Commerce leaders Tony Britton and David Connell, and Cobb GOP Chair Joe Dendy and predecessor Scott Johnson.

VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE STAFF of the MDJ was in attendance, with the newspaper
office having shut down for much of the day. The MDJ’s usually ink-stained press crew, headed by VP Production Joe Fernandez, came to work early that day in order to get the press prepared for later, then cleaned up, dressed “to the nines” and attended the funeral en masse.

Others included retired MDJ syndicated columnist Bill Shipp, Associate Editor Bill Kinney and son Dr. Bill Kinney Jr., Roswell Street Baptist Pastor Emeritus the Rev. Dr. Nelson Price and wife Trudy, columnist Dick Yarbrough and wife Jane, columnist Judy Elliott and husband Paul, columnist Don McKee, attorney Greg Litchfield and MDJ Lifestyle editor Sally Litchfield, MDJ VP of Operations Harris Kettles and Associate Publisher Jay Whorton.

Also present were Insider Advantage columnist Matt Towery, Atlanta newspaper figure Elliott Brack, former Larry Munson sidekick and broadcaster Loran Smith, Community Newspapers chain head Dink Nesmith, Georgia Press Association executive director Robin Rhodes, former MDJ VP & general manager Terry Smith and Georgia Trend publisher Neely Young, who got his start with the MDJ many moons ago ....

THE COBB SCHOOL BOARD took a two-hour break in its work session on Wednesday to allow those members who so chose to attend the funeral. Among those spotted in the crowd were Chairman Scott Sweeney, former Chair Alison Bartlett and Kathleen Angelucci. Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa was among those watching in the “overflow” room. Cobb schools communication chief Jay Dillon was also an attendee, as were board-watcher Wanda Becker and former board Chairman Dr. Teresa Plenge. Standing in for former board member Lindsey Tippins was son Nathan Tippins.

Elsewhere in the crowd were retired First Marietta UMC Assistant Pastor the Rev. Sam Storey, former Marietta UMC Pastor Dr. Charles Sineath, retired INVECSO North America CEO and Carter Center Board member Hubert “Herky” Harris, Marietta City Attorney Doug Haynie, retired Caraustar exec and fundraiser extraordinaire Bob Prillaman, Cobb EMC suit co-plaintiff Butch Thompson and son Jud, banker Joe Daniell and Strand Theatre impresario Earl Reece.

Others were Brumby’s former law school roommates Eddie Garland and James Blanchard and such longtime friends as Bill Srinth Sr., and Hap McNeel, who told Around Town afterward that he had just completed his final chemo treatment for the pancreatic cancer he is fighting ...

LOCAL ADVERTISING exec Henry Hine afterward pointed out in an email to AT that the eulogies were spot-on but would have been even better had they mentioned “all the opportunities Otis Jr. gave to so many young advertising and journalism students. Otis helped shape Atlanta’s ad and journalism community.”

Indeed he did, as evidenced by the number of MDJ alums at the service, from recently departed reporter Katie Ruth Camp, through former chief photog Damen Guarnieri and reporter Stephanie Sonnenfeld Stinn (both now at Lockheed) to long-ago Neighbor Managing Editor Bill Reynolds, now in his seventh year of a battle with lung cancer. A quarter-century ago he hired a young reporter who on Friday penned the column you are now reading ...

Filling several aisles reserved for Brumby’s fellow Marietta Kiwanians were the likes of Lamar Cheatham, Ed Hammock, Kee Carlisle, Scott Chadwick, Johnny Walker, Bobby Therpe, Matt Flournoy, Robert Westbrook, Charlie and Marcia Crowder, Dan Buyers, Devan Seabaugh, Alice Summerour, Nathan Wade, Carole Morgan, Dr. Felton Hagood and the Marietta Housing Authority’s Ray Buday and Liz Cole ...

AMONG THOSE SERVING as ushers were attorney John Salter and MDJ sales rep Tara Guest. Guest noted afterward that she went down front to tell Lt. Gov. Cagle he’d have to “slide over” to make room for UGA’s legendary Coach Dooley.

“I was afraid that Otis would fire me from the grave if he found out I’d made Vince Dooley sit in the back” she quipped ...

MR. BRUMBY was eulogized by his son, new MDJ publisher Otis A. Brumby III, who got a laugh by noting that as the youngest of his parents’ five children and the only boy, “I was easy, but raising four girls took a team effort.” On a more serious note, he recalled that after his father’s cancer was diagnosed, doctors told him to get his affairs in order and encouraged him to “visit Portofino or the South of France while he still had some time left. My father looked at me and said, ‘I’ve been to both of those places, and besides, there’s no place in the world I’d rather be than Lake Allatoona or the Georgia Coast or Cobb County. ‘O,’ let’s get back to work.’” ...

Pastor Sam Matthews in his eulogy referred to Ben Bradlee, the Watergate-era editor of The Washington Post.

“He wrote that the key to a great newspaper was a great owner. Period. Great owners bring to the table a love for news, a love for answers, and a love for a piece of the action. That was Otis Brumby,” he said ...
OTIS BRUMBY JR leaves big shoes behind to fill, but "Around Town" is looking forward to doing its part to continuing that love for the news, love for answers and love for a "piece of the action."

Will Miss Mr. Brumby | September 15, 2012

We owe him a lot for providing a forum for us in the general public to express our opinions. Thank you, Mr. Brumby.

Reply

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Soldier’s Testimony Key Against Militia

By Ellen Reinhardt

ATLANTA — A law professor at the University of Georgia says this week’s indictments of four former Fort Stewart soldiers and another man strengthens the case against a so-called anti government militia. But one soldier’s testimony will be key to the prosecution.

Five more men have been indicted, accused of break-ins and auto thefts to fund an anti-government militia. Four Fort Stewart soldiers have already been charged in the plot.

Prosecutors say the soldiers planned to kill the President, take over Fort Stewart, and poison apple crops in Washington State. Four are accused of killing a former soldier and his girlfriend to cover up the plot.

Private First Class Michael Burnett has pleaded guilty to murder and gang activity and agreed to testify.

UGA law professor Ronald Carlson says that strengthens the prosecution.

He says "His testimony in my view will be critical. He is purportedly one of the insiders in this group. He’s turned state’s evidence. Of course it’s important that his credibility be viewed as sound by the jury when this case comes to trial." Carlson says the case keeps getting more bizarre.

“That’s the most bizarre set of homicides this year in Georgia, because they say it was accomplished by military people whom we have a lot of confidence in. This has fueled speculation by the public about how broadly militia activity goes within the military,” he says.

Four of the men indicted this week are former soldiers.

The Army says such a plot is extremely rare, and authorities are confident there are no unknown subjects.

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Goals met, Judge Watson White re-retires at 91

Daily Report
09-17-2012

It's been 16 years since Judge Watson White retired from the Cobb County Superior Court, but he's continued to come to work as a senior judge, developing a courthouse specialty of entertaining jurors reporting for duty.

Now White, 91, has retired again, because of failing health. He announced it two weeks ago.

"Mentally, he's still sharp, but at 91 his body is just worn out," said his son, Daniel White, an attorney with Haynie Litchfield & Crane.

Watson White is a veteran of World War II, during which he was a tank driver. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, he became a member of the State Bar of Georgia in 1950. He moved to Marietta and took a job in management at Lockheed until he saved enough money to open his own law office, his son recalled.

White practiced law until 1968, when he was elected to an open seat on Cobb County State Court. Ten years later, he won an open seat on the Cobb County Superior Court. The day he took office, Jan. 1, 1979, was his 58th birthday — and the day Daniel was born.

"I was fortunate to have achieved my ambition," Watson White said in a phone interview from his home. "My highest goal was to be a superior court judge."

Lawyers who tried cases before him remember his knowledge of the law and his sharp wit. He sometimes subdued demanding attorneys by asking them, "What do you think this is, a hot dog stand?," Marietta plaintiff's lawyer Matthew Flournoy recalled. "You don't just get your order and walk away."

White retired from superior court at the end of 1994 after handling two years of pre-trial work for the Fred Tokars murder-for-hire case, his son said. It was a difficult decision. Murder trials were White's favorite part of the job, but he knew the stresses of a death penalty case. So he decided to open his seat for the election of a younger judge. Jim Bodiford was elected to White's seat and tried the Tokars case in 1995.

"I hated to retire and do something I didn't want to do," White said. So he didn't. Since then, as one of four senior judges, White has handled uncontested divorces, trial substitutions and swearing in jurors. But the way he did it was like no one else, his colleagues said.

White's standard introduction of himself to the Monday morning jury pool became something of a show at the courthouse, said Cobb County Clerk of Superior Court Jay Stephenson. White defined for the jury a senior judge as one who has been "put out to pasture." Stephenson recalled White saying, "The court administrator allows me to come in and handle matters of short duration that don't require me to stay awake for long."

"I try to make them feel relaxed," White said. "You cannot hurt anybody by poking fun at yourself."

White's technique was useful as well as entertaining, according to Court Administrator Tom Charron. "Jurors aren't too happy when they come in on Monday morning. Some are probably less happy than sometimes criminal defendants. His sense of humor was
so disarming it put them at ease," Charron said.

Along with humor, White liked to give jurors compliments. Charron said one of White's customs was to tell the pool, "Only the most upright and upstanding citizens are chosen for jury duty. That is a sore spot with me since I've never been summoned."

It was not uncommon for White, after a few minutes with the jurors, to receive a standing ovation when he left the bench, said Charron.

Charron said he and White recently reminisced about cases that Charron, as Cobb district attorney in the 1980s and 1990s, tried before the judge. "He has the greatest memory of legal issues and cases," Charron said. "He remembered more of the specifics than I did."

White expressed to friends two goals for his tenure as a senior judge: work until he was 90, which he achieved last year, and swear in his son as a lawyer. That second goal was met in 2005 when he swore in his son, who also graduated from UGA's School of Law. Daniel White has a general civil practice with an emphasis on government. Another lawyer came with the package: his daughter-in-law, Evelyne "Katie" White, who worked first with Brock Clay and then as a public defender. She's now working full time with the couple's five children.

"He loves the law and he has the most integrity of anyone I know," said Nancy White, the judge's wife of 36 years. They have five children. "And," she added, "he has a better memory than I did at 25."

**TO HELL AND BACK:**
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To RSVP/register online: click **HERE**.
Ladies and gentlemen, we have a new Uga!

Russ, the lovable English bulldog that has served as interim mascot was finally named Uga IX Saturday before Georgia Bulldogs kicked off its second home game of the season against Florida Atlantic at Sanford Stadium.

Fans cheered and barked as University of Georgia President Michael Adams collared Russ with the red, spiky dog collar that officially made him the new Georgia mascot. The Seiler family, who owns the English bulldog line that the original Uga came from, looked on.

Russ has served as interim mascot for 25 games over the last four seasons, but now will be known simply as Uga IX. He is the brother of Uga VII and was never groomed to be a full-time mascot.

“We’ve done it lots before and it’s the same every time — very emotional,” Frank W. “Sonny” Seiler, the Savannah attorney who owns Russ, said.

Seiler said that he never anticipated there being a Uga IX after the tradition was started while he was a second-year law student at Georgia. He also said that Russ is in excellent health as far as they know for a dog his age.

“He knows what it’s like when he puts on his jersey and comes into the stadium,” Seiler said. “He’s very excited.”

Fans from near and far came to see the new Uga being crowned. Some carried signs celebrating Russ, had Uga IX painted on their faces and some even carried stuffed Bulldogs to the game.

Keith Cheek and his son, Wade, from Hartwell, visited Uga’s home on the sidelines and took pictures before pre-game festivities.

“It’s a big tradition at Georgia; it’s real exciting when they get a new one,” Cheek said.

Follow reporter Karah-Leigh Hancock at
In Russ We Trust: Uga IX named in pre-game ceremony | Online Athens

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ShoNuff
RATING: +4
Sun., Sep 16 @ 8:26:22 am
Russ you earned it! Damn good dawg.

boiledpeanutsbrother
Sun., Sep 16 @ 10:37:15 pm
Who's uglier, Adams or that tick-infested canine? 😃
wooo-hoo
bwahahahahahaha 😃

STATE OF DENIAL
Mon., Sep 17 @ 11:22:09 am

IN RUSS WE TRUST
I thought the NEXT phrase to go on coins would be

IN ALLAH WE TRUST --

OBAMA THE PROPHET

BTW
A Muslim in Arabic means "one who gives himself to God," and is by definition, someone who adheres to Islam. By contrast, a Moslem in Arabic means "one who is evil and unjust" when the word is pronounced, as it is in English. Moslem with a z.

SOURCE -- http://hnn.us/articles/524.html

edited Mon., Sep 17 @ 11:32:44 am

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Hot market for Supreme Court clerks

Tony Mauro

The National Law Journal

09-17-2012

After a history-making year at the nation's highest court, last term's Supreme Court law clerks are stepping into jobs at big law firms with jaw-dropping hiring bonuses of $280,000 or more.

With associate salaries at $150,000 or more at many large firms, that makes for a first-year investment approaching $500,000 per law clerk (not counting other bonuses or benefits). Put another way, clerks will earn more than twice the salaries of the justices they worked for. Not bad, given that ex-clerks are ethically barred from doing Supreme Court work for two years.

In spite of that, and the uncertainties of the economy, the competition for law clerks' services was brisk after the term ended in June, with law firms forking over the bonuses largely without complaint. The hot market appears to reflect the unique appeal of high court clerks more than the afterglow of a term in which the Supreme Court was in the national spotlight. The bonuses add even more luster to a Supreme Court clerkship as a credential without parallel.

"There was really intense competition this summer," said Hogan Lovells partner Neal Katyal, who was one of several top advocates recruiting last term's clerks. Katyal recalled that during a 12-day vacation in Italy, he was on the phone every night with one of several candidates or with a law firm colleague discussing potential hires. Hagan Scotten and Frederick Liu, both clerks to Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. — who once headed Hogan's appellate practice — have decided to join Hogan, Katyal said. "These are extraordinary people."

So far, Jones Day is the numerical market leader, hiring five of last term's 39 clerks (each sitting justice has four, and the three retired justices have one each.) "We are thrilled to have five" clerks from last term, says appellate partner Beth Heifetz. "And there are a couple of offers outstanding, so it is five and counting."

Jones Day hired two of Justice Samuel Alito Jr.'s clerks: Anthony Dick and Ryan Newman. Brian Lea, who will work in the firm's Atlanta office, was recruited from the chambers of Justice Clarence Thomas. Christopher DiPompeo, who clerked for Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., and Jeffrey Johnson, clerk to Justice Elena Kagan, round out the Jones Day hires so far.

Are the five clerks worth the $1.4 million in hiring bonuses? "We think it is a fabulous investment that pays off," Heifetz says. She hastens to note that "we have fabulous lawyers at Jones Day who did not clerk at the Supreme Court." But overall, she added, the former clerks "bring a high level of ability and experience to appellate work and show curiosity about the law, the ability to come up with great, innovative arguments, and a fine-tuned sense of what the justices are looking for."

Heifetz said the fact that two Jones Day partners — Michael Carvin and Greg Katsas — argued in the landmark Affordable Care Act cases in March may have helped draw the clerks to her firm. "Visibility always helps," she said, noting that partner Michael Fried also argued a case last term. Their participation illustrated another Jones Day tradition: key Supreme Court work is not handled just by one superstar at the firm. The work is spread around.

And the two-year bar against arguing at the high court gives the former clerks time to hone their appellate skills. Appellate lawyers at Jones Day become involved in litigation at the earliest stages, Heifetz said, so "there is plenty of work to go around."
Lisa Blatt, head of Arnold & Porter's appellate and Supreme Court practice, is also not fazed by hiring clerks who have to stay away from Supreme Court work for two years. "After the two years, they are a tremendous resource."

Hogan Lovell's Katyal agrees that the investment is worthwhile. At the firm whose appellate practice was made famous by E. Barrett Prettyman Jr. and John Roberts Jr., Katyal says his goal is to "train the best oral advocates of the next generation." He added, "I want our firm to be known as the incubator of young legal talent."

With the two-year bar on Supreme Court practice, Katyal said his priority will be getting the former clerks into lower courts quickly, and to mentor them as well.

Katyal said he was especially happy that he was able to hire Scotten, one of Roberts' clerks last term. Scotten won two Bronze Stars in the U.S. Army, and was first in his class at Harvard Law School.

"Every year it's a dogfight," said Dupree. "The whole Supreme Court clerk recruiting process is the law firm equivalent of the Bachelor or the Bachelorette television shows. Fortunately, we've had our fair share of roses." He noted that two terms ago, Gibson hired six clerks straight out of the Supreme Court.

In part because of the high hiring bonus, Dupree said "we're very up front" in making it clear to recruits that "it's a long-term investment and we are hiring you with the hope that you'll be with us for a meaningful period of time."

The heady market for law clerks has its critics. "It's an alarming amount of money, and, at some point, one wonders what the law firms think they are purchasing," said Todd Peppers, author of two books about Supreme Court clerks. "Of course, they are getting top-notch lawyers. But they are still green and relatively untrained lawyers." He worries that the bonuses might increase pressure on former clerks to violate their pledge to the court of confidentiality by giving clients "an insider's view."

Anecdotally, there is talk of some law firms sitting out the Supreme Court clerk market altogether, though they are hard to find. "The bonus has gotten large enough that even when you amortize it out, it's a noticeable figure," said one leading advocate who declined to be named.

Seth Waxman, head of the appellate and Supreme Court practice at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, also questioned the hiring market for Supreme Court clerks, in part because once they are hired, some leave for other pursuits before the investment bears fruit.

"As an economic matter, to pay $280,000 for someone who works for one or two years is not a very satisfactory proposition," Waxman said. "A lot of firms want them as trophies." Waxman said he is courting several clerks from last term, but he does not make the salary determinations.

Heifetz and Dupree say they have not encountered the "take the money and run" problem with their Supreme Court hires. Said Heifetz, "We haven't found Supreme Court clerks leaving earlier or unexpectedly. Maybe it's because they are enjoying working with the firm."

How did the bonus reach $280,000, after years of lingering at $250,000? The leap actually took place last year, though it took full hold this year — and has even gone to $285,000 at some firms. The story circulating among Supreme Court advocates is that Sidley Austin's Chicago office offered a $280,000 hiring bonus to a promising former clerk last summer. Word of the higher amount quickly spread, and other firms, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, boosted their hiring bonuses to meet the market.

Asked about the story, Sidley's Supreme Court veteran Carter Phillips said it was only partly true. The unnamed clerk in question told a Sidley recruiter that another firm had offered him $280,000, and Sidley agreed to match it.

"So Sidley did not initiate the increase, but we caused it to apply everywhere," Phillips said. Sidley has hired two clerks who worked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg last term: Benjamin Beaton and Jennifer Clark.

Phillips has also grumbled about the big bonuses in the past, echoing the concern that former clerks may be tempted to use the money to pay off student debt, then head off to academia. But Phillips appears to have mellowed somewhat on the subject.

"If you choose the right people they are definitely worth it, but it is a huge bet now," said Phillips. Recalling that when he helped launch Sidley's Supreme Court practice in the 1980s, he proposed a $5,000 hiring bonus for former clerks, Phillips added, "I confess that it was easier that first time."

Addition of A+ may not raise GPAs, still draws student support - The...http://www.redandblack.com/news/addition-of-a-may-not-raise-gpas-st...
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students from other universities applying to graduate schools. Udutha said.

Paul Rollins, the associate dean for administration at the University Law School, said the addition of an A+ weighted at a 4.0 would not make a significant difference for law school applications.

"In the situation where the A+ and the A both have numeric values of 4.0 and wouldn't affect the cumulative GPA any differently, the difference would be minimal, if any," he said. "If the A+ had a higher numerical value, say 4.3, and raised the overall GPA for the student, then that would have some effect.

At the University Law School, students have the ability to earn a 4.3-valued A+, but the University official transcripts do not make the distinction, Rollins said.

He said he does not know how the addition of a 4.0-valued A+ would affect applications to other graduate programs, but he said it wouldn't hurt.

"In terms of whether or not it is going to make a tremendous difference in whether students get admitted to law school, my sense of it is it makes little difference," he said. "But it would have no detrimental effect at all.

The Red & Black interviewed approximately 15 University students of various majors and years in school, and all supported the prospect of adding the A+.

Justin Glaze, a junior consumer economics major from Conyers, said the addition of the A+ is a good idea.

"It doesn't sound like it would hurt anything, and it would benefit people trying to get into law school," Glaze said. "I don't see any downsides."

Cody Ashe, a sophomore genetics major from Waynesboro, said he doesn't feel it will make any difference for some students.

"For our undergrads, I don't think it makes that much of a difference unless you are applying to grad school," he said.

Ashe said he feels the A+ would still be helpful overall, which Burgess agreed with.

"I think that anything we can do to make sure our students are on a level playing field to graduate and professional schools is really something the administration should look into," he said.

Udutha said in his research, there is a trend toward getting an A+ in schools with the plus-minus system. The University not having the A+ puts students at a disadvantage when compared to students at universities that do.

He said he believes the administration will be just as receptive to the idea as students like Glaze.

"Basically what we have been told is if it something we believe in, we should pursue it," Burgess said. "We have been really appreciative that the administration has been willing to listen so far."

Udutha said he is hopeful the A+ will be a part of the grading scale at the University in fall 2013.

"I talked to President Burgess about this and he had spoken to Fiona Liken, who is on the University Curriculum Committee, and apparently they are pretty receptive," he said. "They are ready to push this through."

Udutha said the next step for the A+ to be added is for the idea to be presented to the University Council Curriculum Committee.

"If they approve it, it goes before the entire University Council, and if the Council approves it, then President Adams has to approve it, and it would go into effect next year," he said.

Udutha said the addition of the A+ would only affect future grades. It would not be retroactive.

Ashe said the A+ being added to the grading scale is still a good idea even though it won't change past grades.

"It is still what is best for the future," he said. "Just because it doesn't help you with what you did before is no reason not to vote for it. It will help people after you."

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HEADLINE: Hogan Lovells Adds Five New Intellectual Property Partners in Silicon Valley and San Francisco.

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BYLINE: Targeted News Service

DATELINE: SAN FRANCISCO

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Athletic Association Professorships

By Mickey Y. Montevideo

Five faculty members have received Athletic Association Professorships endowed by UGA's Athletic Association.

The professorships were awarded to John Grable, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, department of housing and consumer economics; Robert Grafstein, School of Public and International Affairs, department of political science and associate dean; Gerald Henry, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, department of crop and soil sciences; Harold Mulherin, Terry College of Business, department of banking and finance; and David Shipley, a School of Law professor of civil procedure, copyright, administrative law and remedies and a former dean of the law school.

The UGA Athletic Association has funded a total of 14 professorships since May 2006, as a demonstration of its commitment to academics.

"We take great pride in funding these professorships," said Greg McGarity, director of athletics. "Our faculty serve as the backbone of our entire enterprise, and we are fortunate to be able to assist the university in this manner."

Grable joined UGA in August and is focusing his research on the financial risk tolerance of consumers and developing and testing financial therapy models through the ASPIRE (Acquiring Strategies for Personal Improvement and Relationship Enhancement) Clinic. Specifically, his scholarship looks to find a link between stress management and better financial outcomes for consumers.

Grafstein is an expert in tax policy and Social Security. An associate dean and professor of political science, Grafstein has conducted research and written extensively on such topics as the politics of economic policy and the Social Security program. Most recently, he studied the politics of social security programs in the U.S. and China as well and the FairTax program. He is the author of numerous articles and the books *Institutional Realism and Choice-Free Rationality*, and he currently is co-editing a book comparing U.S. and Chinese politics.

Affiliated with UGA since 1976, Grafstein has served as an assistant professor, associate professor, professor and head of the department of political science at UGA. In addition, he oversees the Maymester in China Study Abroad Program, a leadership role he has held since 2005.

Henry joined UGA in May. His scholarship focuses on environmental turfgrass science with an emphasis on plant/pest/environment interactions. Henry specifically studies physiology, ecology, weed science, pathology, fertility and management, and he has dedicated his research to providing support for golf course, home lawn and athletic field turf management. He recently received a three-year grant from the U.S. Golf Association to examine management impacts on carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas
emissions of golf courses and a two-year grant from the Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation to identify the physiological response of Bermuda grass to a soil moisture gradient.

Mulherin's research interests are in mergers and acquisitions, organization of markets, corporate governance and corporate control. On the faculty in the Terry College since 2006, he was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in mergers and acquisitions in Italy, and he has served as co-editor of the *Journal of Corporate Finance* since 1998.

Prior to joining the Terry College, Mulherin served in academic positions at Clemson University, Dartmouth College, Pennsylvania State University and Claremont McKenna College. He has held corporate positions at the Getty Oil Co., the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Shipley joined the Georgia Law faculty as dean and professor of law in July 1998. He led the school through the completion of a strategic planning process, a $3.2 million renovation of several classrooms and the law library's Carl E. Sanders Reading Room, a school-wide technology upgrade, the creation of the director of advocacy position, the establishment of a new clinic and the successful passage of an American Bar Association site inspection. He stepped down as dean in June 2003 to return to the classroom. He teaches civil procedure, copyright, administrative law and remedies, and he helped establish the law school's semester abroad program at England's Oxford University in 2006.

In 2010, he was named the UGA faculty athletics representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Southeastern Conference. His responsibilities include working with the Athletic Association to support the academic progress and success of UGA's student-athletes, serving as secretary to the Athletic Association's board of directors and monitoring compliance with NCAA rules and regulations.

Prior to joining the faculty at UGA, Shipley was dean and professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law (1993-98), dean, director of the Law Center and professor at the University of Mississippi School of Law (1990-93), and associate dean for administrative affairs and professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law (1989-90). Additionally, he has served as visiting professor at William & Mary (1983-84) and Ohio State University (1986-87).

He practiced law with Tillinghast, Collins & Graham for two years in Providence, R.I. Shipley earned his bachelor's degree in history from Oberlin College and his law degree from the University of Chicago, where he was executive editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*. 
Five years later, the firm asked Ebel to serve as its pro bono partner, which led to her unusual practice as a family lawyer within a large corporate firm.

Long Aldridge wanted a signature pro bono project, said Ebel. She and Debbie Segal, then the head of Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, decided that it should be serving as guardians ad litem in contested child custody cases.

Ebel learned some family law so she could coordinate the guardian ad litem project. And then Holyfield, one of the firm’s clients, needed a lawyer to handle his divorce.

"I don't think Evander ever knew that it was my first divorce case," she said.

That 1990 case piqued Ebel’s interest in family law. "I enjoyed it. I felt like I was doing something with a purpose — that I was not just moving a pile of money from left to right and then two years later back to the left, which is how I was viewing business litigation," she said.

She started getting referrals for other divorces and within a few years her practice had become entirely family law.

Over her career Ebel has handled divorces, prenuptial agreements and other family law matters for a string of high-profile clients, including Braves player Otis Nixon, Usher’s former wife Tameka Foster, Big Boi of OutKast and Sinead O’Connor, plus a number of business executives.

But Ebel’s practice was always an anomaly at McKenna and became more so as the firm expanded. “As the firm grew and grew and grew into this mega-firm, people who represented individuals did not make sense there," she said.

"It worked for a long time, but a different atmosphere is needed for family law," Ebel added, noting that she always met with her clients in her office, surrounded by photos of her own family, rather than in an empty conference room, as has become the custom at large firms.

Ebel joined Marietta firm Browning & Smith in February, after 27 years at McKenna. She said she’d become friends with Thomas Browning, another family lawyer, many years ago, when she was the guardian ad litem in a contentious divorce between two rabbis in which he was involved. “Tom is a wonderful person and a great lawyer," she said.

She formed her own firm with Keon, another longtime colleague and friend, at the beginning of the month.

"It made sense to partner together," said Keon, who has been a solo practitioner since 2010, when her law partner of 22 years, Stephen Land, opened his own practice in Alpharetta.

Keon said having a law partner is beneficial, since the two can share ideas and cover for each other when one is on vacation or sick.

She added that the two share a hands-on approach to their practice. "When someone hires me, they get me. I use paralegals for many functions, but for depositions, negotiations and trials, you get me."

Keon said she and Ebel also handle the same kinds of cases, representing mid- to high-net worth individuals.

After 37 years of working for someone else, Ebel said she’s enjoying the entrepreneurial aspect of having her own firm. "When the client pays, they pay me — instead of me getting a check from the firm. Getting paid yourself for work you have done is a nice feeling," she said.

Briefly

M. Hakim Hilliard, a partner at McKenna Long & Aldridge, will become the new chief of staff for DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis, effective Oct 1. He replaces Jabari Simama, who left to become the president of Georgia Piedmont Technical College. Hilliard, a former assistant city attorney for the City of Atlanta, practices state and local government law with a focus on land use and zoning, licensing and permitting, economic development incentives and procurement.

State Representative Wendell Willard, R-Sandy Springs, and Glenda Sullivan have dissolved their law partnership, Willard & Sullivan, which was located in the Ravinia office complex near Perimeter Mall, to go in different directions. Willard, the city attorney for Sandy Springs, moved his solo practice next to Sandy Springs’ city hall on Roswell Road, and Sullivan, who practices family law, joined Bogart & Bogart on Powers Ferry Road as of counsel. Shane O’Connor, a construction litigator, also joined Bogart & Bogart as of counsel.

A. Jarrod Jenkins has joined Krevolin & Horst’s litigation practice as an associate. Jenkins received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 2010, along with an M.P.A. from UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs, then clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Marc Treadwell of the Middle District of Georgia.
40 outstanding alumni under 40 honored - The Red and Black: News: ... http://www.redandblack.com/news/outstanding-alumni-under-honored/a...

CET THE LATEST:

September 21, 2012
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Welcome:

The Alumni Association plans to recognize 40 "outstanding" University graduates under the age of 40 at the second annual 40 Under 40 Luncheon Thursday at the Georgia Aquarium. The 40 honorees exemplify excellence in "philanthropic endeavors," commitment to the University and holding up the three Pillars of the Arch, wisdom, justice and moderation.

"We're looking for people that embody all three of those areas or those kind of characteristics," said Deborah Dietzler, executive director of the Alumni Association. "They're representing the University of Georgia with excellence in their workplace and in their communities, and they are also active and engaged alumni."

A committee of prominent people across the University chose 80 nominees out of a pool of a possible 400 nominated by their peers at the University or in their workplace between February and mid-April, Dietzler said.

A "smaller" selection committee of more senior level administrators and the president of the Alumni Association then shrank the selection down to 40 by assigning each finalist a "number assessment" based on the stated criteria.

"All of the people on the selection committee send their information back in here to the Alumni Association," Dietzler said. "We put all of that information into a spreadsheet and through that numerical process, we generate the list of the top 40 in terms of who's gotten the highest scores in the selection committee."

Each honoree will receive recognition as well as a commemorative plaque for their achievements at the luncheon.

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Daily Calendar

Friday

21 Today

International Coffee Hour
Fri, Sep 21, 11:00 am EDT
Memorial Hall

St. Jude Children's Hospital Benefit w/ Save Grand Canyon, Jason Marcum
Fri, Sep 21, 7:00 pm EDT
Nowhere Bar

The Whigs Album Release Show
Fri, Sep 21, 8:00 pm EDT
Georgia Theatre, Athens
University class of 2010 graduate and nominee Christie Haynes told The Red & Black she's honored to be a part of 40 Under 40 Class of 2012.

"It's so humbling because the list is truly full of amazing people inside and outside of Georgia," she said. "They're in businesses and nonprofits — you name it. And I love the University of Georgia very much, so it means the world to me to be on this list."

The 40 Under 40 awards began last year to commemorate outstanding young alumni who had not yet had time to garner the kind of notoriety as older alumni but have still made a mark "very shortly after leaving the University," Dietzler said.

"It generated the need to compliment some of our other recognition programs like our alumni awards, the alumni merit award and the alumni family of the year award," she said. "Those type of awards are generally given to people who are much older and have a lot more of their work-life behind them."

The number of initial nominees has remained at approximately 400 alumni between this year and last year, but Dietzler said the 39 out of 40 finalists expected to attend the luncheon is a four-person increase from last year.

But Dietzler said the 39 out of 40 finalists expected to attend the luncheon is a four-person increase from last year.

Peter Dale, an honoree from the University's 1999 graduating class, said he would not have missed the luncheon. "There's actually a number of people who I haven't seen since college who are also attending," he said. "I'm actually really excited about reconnecting with them."

Dale found work as a chef after graduating from Grady College as a public relations major. He now owns The National restaurant on Hancock Avenue.

Dietzler attributes his success in large part to his education at the University. "It was really kind of invaluable for me in many ways," he said. "Even though I graduated in journalism, I got a really well-rounded education that allowed me to go into any field from journalism to cooking."

Dale said his training in public relations helps him to connect with local farmers whose products he uses in his partially local, partially Mediterranean dishes at The National.

Like Dale, Haynes said she feels as though her double major in political science and history helped her to become the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau in Dawson County. "The skills you learn in the political world help you in the chamber world," she said. "Really it was the interning and working for different politicians that helped me most at [the University]."

Both Dale and Haynes said they feel connected to the University and honored to be a part of the 40 Under 40 program.

"What can you not love about UGA?" Haynes said. "Really, though, if you know me, people will tell you I'm kind of obsessed."

The 40 Under 40 Class of 2012 are listed by name, class year and hometown:

Lisa Blanco, 1995 and 1998, Atlanta
Heather Kaney Burge, 2003, Atlanta
Thomas J. Callaway, 2001, Athens
Andrew Childers, 1999, Atlanta
Dhruti Contractor, 2000 and 2001, Grovetown
Peter Dale, 1999, Athens
Brian Dodson, 2002, Tacoma, Wash.

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Calendar

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Homes

I am subleasing my room at University Apartments for Spring
$395
Updated:
© Updated: September 14

Condo for Rent, 3 bedrm/2.5 bath, new hardwood floor on
$900
© Updated: September 14

9/21/2012 12:23 PM
Outstanding alumni under 40 honored - The Red and Black: News: UGA student reportedly breaks into apartment, found in 'bed in the missionary position'

Top cornerback recruit Langley reconsidering Georgia

Football Notebook: Chase Vasser shows off ability, long locks in season debut, nicknamed 'Clay Matthews'

Top-recruit Reggie Wilkerson gets knocked out of high school game

A DAY WITH RUSS: The world through the eyes of Georgia's newest Uga (w/video)
Gov. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., issued the following news release:


"Governor Deal is a steady, strong leader with a vision for a prosperous Georgia and it has been my honor to work with him on important legislative initiatives over the past two years," said Coomer. "To be given the responsibility of helping move his constitutional, conservative agenda forward in the state House is an assignment I take very seriously. I look forward to doing my part to ensure Georgia remains the best place in the world to work, live and raise a family."

Christian A. Coomer serves as the Representative for Georgia's 14th State House District, which is comprised of portions of Bartow and Floyd counties. He served four years on active duty in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps before opening his own law practice in Cartersville. Coomer has served as a member of the boards for several nonprofit organizations including the Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter, Adairsville Church of God and North Bartow Toys for Tots. Also, he is, or has been, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Optimists, Civitans, Exchange Club, Bartow County Bar Association, NRA, Georgia Carry, Advance Adairsville, Georgia Right to Life, Company Grade Officers Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Bartow County Republican Party and others. Coomer earned a bachelor's degree from Lee University and a juris doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife, Heidi, have two sons. They reside in Cartersville.
The following information was released by the office of the governor of Georgia:


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LOAD-DATE: September 20, 2012
GOV. DEAL APPOINTS COOMER AS HOUSE FLOOR LEADER

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The September 22, 2012 Saturday ALL EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A6

LENGTH: 304 words

HEADLINE: SEVERAL WONDERFUL LIVES;
MULHERIN SHINED AS SOLDIER, LAWMAN, LAWYER, JUDGE AND SOLID CITIZEN

BYLINE: Augusta Chronicle Editorial Staff

BODY:

"Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

- Clarence the angel,
in It's a Wonderful Life

Judge Bernard J. Mulherin Sr. had a wonderful life. In fact, he could be said to have had several.

He will be most remembered as an eminently fair and caring Superior Court judge who inspired even his fellow jurists to be better judges and people.

Such a legacy would be enough for most of us. But this man was so much more than that.

An Augusta native, Mulherin was the proverbial gentleman and scholar, a cum laude graduate of University of Georgia's school of law, who served his country as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army infantry. He also was a decorated FBI agent.

He might have retired as one of this area's finest lawyers, and indeed had a 20-year stint at Hull, Towill, Norman, Barrett & Johnson. But he was appointed to the court in 1980, where he excelled at perhaps the bench's most trying type of case: family law.

The reason: his extraordinary feel for people, particularly children - the same concern that led him to repeatedly take carloads of at-risk youths to college football games over the years.

As if that weren't enough, just prior to his appointment to the bench he'd been an exceptional and respected member of the Augusta City Council.

Away from the bench, the thoughtful judge was a distinguished member and tireless leader of innumerable organizations dedicated to bettering our community and world, including his beloved St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church and many others.

He was a senior judge, a lifetime appointment, at his death Monday.

May it be said of Bernard J. Mulherin Sr. that he not only had a wonderful life, but many wonderful lives, all spent making his hometown a better place.

It's a final judgment we would all wish for ourselves.
His place in history assured, U.S. District Senior Judge Horace Ward has retired from the Northern District of Georgia bench — where he has sat since 1979, when he became the first African-American appointed to a federal judgeship in Georgia.

Ward's federal judicial career has stood as "a constant visible reminder of the power of the rule of law in ensuring equal rights," said Chief Judge Julie Carnes.

"He will always be remembered as a trailblazer in the civil rights movement," she said. "He had the courage to challenge a social order that limited the opportunities of its black citizens."

A Morehouse College honors graduate with a master's degree from Atlanta University, Ward was instrumental in desegregating the University of Georgia. He was the first African-American to sue for admission to an all-white college in Georgia when, as a prospective law student in 1950, he first challenged UGA's refusal to admit him. After earning a law degree from Northwestern University in 1959, Ward joined a team of renowned civil rights lawyers who won the right for two African-American students — Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter — to desegregate UGA in 1961.

"His tenaciousness in attempting to be admitted to the University of Georgia law school paved the way for the later integration of Georgia's public colleges," said Carnes, who earned both her undergraduate and law degrees at UGA. "Judge Ward was a constant and visible reminder of the power of the rule of law in ensuring equal rights to all its citizens and of the importance of citizens and judges who insist that it do so."

Ward told the Daily Report recently that his appointment by President Jimmy Carter to the federal bench was "the crowning achievement in my legal career."

The retiring judge said his decision was prompted by his recent 85th birthday and a recognition that he had spent 50 years in public service — as the second African-American in the state's history to be elected to the Georgia senate; as a Fulton County State Court judge; as the first African-American to become a Superior Court judge in Georgia; and, finally, as a federal judge.

Ward also practiced law with civil rights attorney Donald Hollowell and served as both an assistant county attorney in Fulton County and an assistant city attorney in Atlanta before embarking on his judicial career.

In a lecture at UGA in 2000, Ward called his unsuccessful fight to secure admission to the law school "a long and hard struggle" that played out over the course of a decade.

"I am proud to have played a role first as an applicant to the University of Georgia law school and then as a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the officials at the University of Georgia," Ward told the Daily Report, "although we didn't win that case."

U.S. District Judge Frank Hooper dismissed Ward's case on the eve of trial in 1957, declaring it moot because Ward was, by then, a first-year law student at Northwestern. Hooper never ruled on the merits of the case.
Said Ward’s biographer, UGA professor and Dean of Social Work Maurice Daniels: "I think it took a great deal of courage to challenge the system of segregation at the time that he did because, in essence, he was challenging the governor, he was challenging the General Assembly, he was challenging the Board of Regents, he was challenging the University of Georgia. It took a great deal of courage for him and others to pursue the course of dismantling the cherished system of segregation in this state.”

When Ward filed his civil rights suit against UGA, Gov. Herman Talmadge had won office on a campaign promise that there would be no desegregation of Georgia’s public schools and colleges. Talmadge would hire his personal attorney, B.D. “Buck” Murphy, to assist UGA and the state attorney general in fighting Ward’s suit.

More than two decades later, as a U.S. senator, Talmadge would greenlight Carter’s nomination of Ward to the federal bench. Ward said that when he was sworn in as a federal judge in December 1979, he took his oath in the same courtroom where his case against UGA had been litigated.

Daniels said Ward demonstrated perseverance as well as bravery in his fight to desegregate UGA. And, he observed, "I can honestly say that he never showed any kind of animosity or any kind of negative feeling with respect to those who placed obstacles and barriers in his path.”

What Ward demonstrated, instead, Daniels said, was "an ability to forgive and look to the future and not hold hostility for what has occurred in the past.”

"It's remarkable and extraordinary to be able to have that sense of forgiveness,” he continued. "He has made a great contribution to the cause of social justice and human dignity.”

"I stand, and many others stand, on his shoulders,” he said.

Carnes said Ward "has been more than a civil rights icon.”

"Having been treated with hostility by many lawyers and judges as he was trying to make his way in the world, he could have become bitter and responded in kind once he enjoyed power,” she said. "He never did so. He treated all with whom he came in contact — litigants, lawyers and colleagues — with kindness, charity and patience. Through his graciousness and decency, he has quietly imparted the power of good will and civility. We in the Northern District of Georgia have been privileged to serve with him.”

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Best-value law schools

UGA placed fifth on a list that measured how likely a law school’s graduates were to pass the bar exam and obtain legal position without incurring a lot of debt. The top 10 universities whose law schools made the list are:

1. Alabama
2. Georgia State
3. LSU
4. Nebraska
5. UGA
6. Kentucky
7. Montana
8. New Mexico
9. UNC-Chapel Hill
10. Wisconsin

Source: National Jurist

Janet Beekley
UGA welcomes new faculty

Below is an alphabetical listing of new tenured and tenure-track faculty who have joined the university since the previous listing was published in Columns a year ago. It includes some faculty scheduled to arrive in January.

This information was provided by the Office of Faculty Affairs, which acts as a liaison between the university and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents on matters related to faculty appointment, promotion and tenure.

David R. Agrawal
Assistant Professor, Economics

Christine Loren Albright
Assistant Professor, Classics

Nicholas Allen
Professor, English

Meghan Armstrong
Assistant Professor, Romance Languages

Ford Ballantyne IV
Assistant Professor, Ecology

Mehrsa Baradaran
Assistant Professor, Law

Kent H. Barnett
Assistant Professor, Law
Surprising level of acquittals found in pro se criminal cases

Katheryn Hayes Tucker

Daily Report

09-25-2012

A defendant's decision to represent himself in a murder trial now playing out in a Marietta courtroom may not be as risky as the judge and attorneys watching think, according to a University of Georgia School of Law professor who's researched the fate of pro se felony defendants.

The murder trial of Waseem Daker is in its third week and running on a delayed pace due to the unusual nature of a defense put on by the accused that has included rambling cross-examinations of key witnesses for the prosecution.

"A murder trial with DNA evidence is especially hard to win [for the defense], even for a really good lawyer," said Associate Professor Erica Hashimoto, whose research on self representation runs counter to conventional wisdom. Daker's decision to represent himself in his murder trial "may not be the worst choice," the professor said.

Delta flight attendant Karmen Smith was found dead in October 1995, stabbed, strangled and buried under the covers of her own bed. Her son, Nicholas, was found stabbed 16 times, bleeding and not breathing, but he survived after being rescued by the boyfriend of Smith's housemate's baby sitter, according to trial testimony. Daker was convicted in 1996 of stalking the housemate and served 10 years in prison for that crime. But Daker was not arrested for the murder of Smith and the assault on her son until 2009, when the state said newly available nuclear DNA testing allowed them to match a hair found on the victim's body - under her shirt, to the defendant. Since his arrest, Daker has fired multiple defense attorneys and spent most of the time representing himself. He decided in February to hire the father-and-son defense team of Michael and Jason Treadaway, using that decision to delay his trial. Then he fired them when the trial began — and tried unsuccessfully to have it delayed again.

Daker is probably a better candidate than most defendants to represent himself, Hashimoto said, because he is intelligent, educated and has a strategy for his defense. Early in his opening statement, he told the jury he has two bachelor's degrees — in psychology and sociology — and a masters in psychology. He also said he intends to show law enforcement officers mishandled DNA evidence and that other people had threatened the victim. He told the jury that, by the end of the trial, they won't know who killed Smith, but they'll know it wasn't him.

Hashimoto, who formerly represented criminal clients for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Washington, teaches classes in criminal law, evidence, sentencing and the legal profession. She analyzed a database of felony state court cases in large urban counties and found that 22 percent of pro se defendants who went to trial were acquitted of all charges. The percent of represented defendants who were acquitted was exactly the same.

The professor also reviewed a database of federal cases and found that 7 percent of pro se defendants were acquitted, compared with 16 percent of represented defendants. But she found that pro se defendants went to trial at a much higher rate than represented defendants because more represented defendants plead guilty and avoided trial. Given that difference, she said, pro se defendants don't do significantly worse in federal court, either.

justice referred to the professor's research as "really fabulous," and said it surprised him.

Her research might also surprise others. Cobb County Superior Court Judge Mary Staley warned Daker that representing himself is "dangerous" and "risky." Defense attorney Jason Treadaway — who was fired and then ordered by the judge to serve as backup counsel — said the decision is "not good for anyone." Circuit Public Defender Randy Harris said, "No lawyer wants to see a defendant represent himself. I wouldn't represent myself."

Harris also noted that every defendant has the right to be represented by an attorney. "That's how the system works," he said.

The system also allows the accused the right of self-representation and the right to confront the accuser. This right was recognized by the judge and by the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Jesse Evans, who told the court that granting Daker's motion would ease some concerns about a possible appeal.

"The court's been very clear that there's a constitutional right to represent yourself," Hashimoto said. But, until her research, courts did not have the benefit of data to show the outcome.

The presence of a backup counsel for a pro se defendant is not a constitutional right, but it's a good idea, Hashimoto said. It's helpful to the pro se defendant, and it helps preserve the integrity of the trial on appeal. Staley provided Daker with backup counsel and put the instructions on the record.

Serving as backup counsel is harder than trying the case, said Hashimoto. The backup counsel has to visit the defendant every night in jail and offer advice, which may well be ignored, then sit and watch what looks like an out-of-control train. She served in that role as a public defender in three federal court felony trials. In one, the defendant was acquitted. In another, the defendant was convicted — which surprised no one because the crime was on video recording. But he was sentenced to time served. In the third case, the defendant asked her to step back in and take over after openings, and he was convicted.

Self-representation may actually improve the defendant's perception of the fairness of the trial, according to Hashimoto. "That's worth a lot," she added. "It's not the lawyer who goes to prison. It's the defendant."

Pro se defendants may actually be more focused on making their own choices than on winning. In Daker's case, Hashimoto said, "He may be more OK with being convicted, if he's had the opportunity to present the defense he wants."

When he asked to fire his defense counsel, Daker said they had "diverging strategies." The price the defendant pays for the ability to choose his own strategy comes out of his appeal options if he is convicted. "He's giving up the ineffective assistance of counsel appeal," Hashimoto noted.

What the defendant is getting is control, she said.

"The only decisions that are really for the client are whether or not to go to trial and whether or not to testify," she said. "But all of the decisions that are made along the way are generally entrusted to lawyers."

For example, she said, what questions to ask in cross-examination would be the lawyer's decision. It's also an example of how to a defendant, control may become more important than winning, she said.

Daker seemed to prove this point in his cross-examination of the murder victim's housemate, Loretta Spencer Blatz. Daker seemed determined to go over the details of his 1996 trial for stalking Blatz, which ended in his conviction. At one point, he asked her whether she was controlling him. She answered, "Are you kidding?" Instructed by the judge to answer yes or no and then explain, Blatz gave a detailed account of how the defendant had controlled and manipulated her.

The two became acquainted playing on the same paintball team in 1994. At first they were friends and she tried to be a "big sister" to him, she testified. She was 30. He was 17. But she became concerned about his talk of suicide and contacted his parents to seek help for him. As she tried to step back, he became more insistent that she talk to him, sometimes calling her home 50 times a day and even breaking into her home and waiting in her bedroom for her, she testified. In cross-examination aimed at discrediting her, he gave the jury details of the bizarre events leading up to the stalking conviction, for which he served 10 years in prison.

She testified that he broke into her apartment repeatedly, stealing personal items and then taunting her with them later, threatening to publicize her journals, disclose her lack of a college education and embarrass her with the doctors for whom she worked. She said he stole her lingerie, then periodically hung bras and panties on her doorknob for her to find when she returned. She said she arrived at times to find him in her closet wearing her underwear or standing naked in front of her mirror. He handed her more than 30 pages of police reports and challenged her to find some of those accusations, asking her why she didn't report certain details to the police. She answered that there were too many events to name, that her intention was not to send him to jail but to stop the harassment. She said she would have taken the stalking far more seriously from the start, if she had known where it would lead. Tearfully she answered, "I didn't know you were going to kill Karmen and stab Nick."

The questions Daker asked were clearly "not the way a lawyer would do it," Hashimoto noted.

For example, at one point Daker demanded that Blatz give the date and time on which he allegedly threatened to kill her. This gave her the opening to respond, "Which time?" Then she added, "The time with a gun or the time with a knife? ... There were two
switchblade incidents."

Even Daker's question about her accusation that she found him in her bedroom wearing her underwear elicited a "Which time?" response. "The time you were in my closet or the time you were naked in front of the mirror wearing garter hose?"

Daker's effort to discredit the witness seemed to support the prosecution's theory of obsession and revenge and brought out the fact that he had agreed to psychiatric treatment in order to avoid jail before the murder.

He asked her why she told police about one incident in which he threatened her on a Friday, Oct. 13, 1995, shortly before the murder. Putting a copy of a 1995 calendar on a giant screen in the courtroom, he said, "Isn't the real reason you remembered it was Friday the 13th is that, nine months earlier, on Friday the 13th in January, I lost my virginity to you?"

Her answer: "Are you out of your ... I remembered Friday the 13th because it was creepy that you were out of the psychiatric hospital and calling."

Exchanges such as this might further the defendant's interest in control of questioning and strategy, but they're not likely to win over jurors, Hashimoto said.

Daker's case is even more difficult than most murder trials because there are surviving victims - Blatz and her daughter, plus Smith's son - to be cross-examined and to arouse the sympathy of the jurors. It's an uncomfortable experience for the witnesses and the jurors, she said. It presented challenges for the judge, who has to balance the goal of giving the defendant a fair trial with the need to protect witnesses.

Daker kept Blatz on the stand for cross almost the entire day of the first Friday of the trial. At the mid-afternoon break for the jury, the judge asked him how much more time he needed. "I don't think I'll get through today," he said, suggesting he would bring Blatz back the next week. The judge instructed him to make a list of topics he still wanted to cover, give them to her after the 10-minute break, cover them and then stop.

"I have a right to control this courtroom," Staley told Daker. "I have a responsibility to control this courtroom."

After the break, Daker didn't have the list. The judge pushed him to give her the topics, and she wrote them down. The jury came in, Blatz returned to the witness stand, and Daker covered the topics. At about 4 p.m., Daker ran out of questions but hesitated to let the witness go, asking the judge "that she be kept on call and not excused in case I need to call her back."

The judge shut down that effort. "You've had your chance to question her," Staley said. Then the judge turned to the witness and said, "You're excused."

Misty-eyed, Blatz thanked the judge and left.
FALCONS HONOR LUIS AGUILAR THROUGH NFL HISPANIC HERITAGE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Posted 3 hours ago 9/25/12

By Staff

The Falcons have selected Luis Aguilar, a commissioner at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, as the recipient of the NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award.

The Atlanta Falcons have selected Luis Aguilar as the recipient of the NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award.

The NFL and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) have partnered for the second annual NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Awards during the 2012 celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The awards recognize the contributions of Hispanic leaders in each NFL market.

The Falcons will honor Aguilar on September 30 at their Hispanic Heritage game against the Carolina Panthers.

Aguilar is a Commissioner at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He was named in 2009, 2010, and 2011 to the NACD Directorship 100, the Who’s Who of the Boardroom. Since 2009, he has been elected annually by Latino Leaders Magazine as one of the top 101 most influential Latinos in the U.S. Prior to becoming a Commissioner, he was regularly named as one the Best Lawyers in America, and named as one of Georgia’s Super Lawyers. In 2005, he was named as member of the year by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has served on various boards, including Leadership Atlanta, Girl Scouts Council of Northwest Georgia, Inc., Georgia Hispanic Bar Association, Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and The Latin American Association. Aguilar is a graduate of the University Of Georgia School Of Law, and received a master of laws degree in taxation from Emory University.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund of Atlanta will receive a $3,000 donation in Mr. Aguilar’s honor.

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A bar of their own: Korean-Americans stand up in Atlanta

Meredith Hobbs

Daily Report

09-26-2012

In a sign that Atlanta's Korean-American legal community is gaining critical mass, a group of lawyers of Korean descent have launched the Korean-American Bar Association of Georgia.

One impetus for forming the new bar association is to mentor younger lawyers, said Jeong-Hwa Lee "June" Towery, a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, who helped organize the group.

"For a few years I have been wanting to put the Korean-descent attorneys together for mutual support, information exchange and networking," said Towery, who is KABA Georgia's president.

"The main thing is the mentoring," she added. "Typically these are the first attorneys from their families and they don't have the exposure to lawyers. They can have a hard time adjusting to the big firm environment."

Towery said about 45 lawyers and law students came to KABA Georgia's first meeting in late August. About half the lawyers who attended were small practitioners serving Korean individuals, she said, and the other half work for corporate firms.

"The response was incredible," she said, noting that a lot of law students attended, including some who had driven to Atlanta from the University of Georgia in Athens.

Towery estimated that there are more than 100 lawyers and law students of Korean descent in the Atlanta area, with about 50 Korean lawyers in Gwinnett, where there is a large Koreatown, and another 30 or more in corporate Atlanta firms.

"There is a general feeling of trying to help people out," said Han Choi, a partner at Ballard Spahr, who is the new group's vice president. "We're trying to make sure younger Korean-American lawyers get some opportunities to meet people."

He and Towery said major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, New York, Washington and Chicago already have KABAs.

In Atlanta, the Georgia Asian-Pacific American Bar Association has been around since 1992, but until now there has been no bar association specifically focused on the growing Korean legal community.

Sara Hamilton, KABA Georgia's treasurer, just graduated from Emory University's law school in May and is working for national labor and employment firm Littler Mendelson. She said Towery and Choi, whom she met through the Asian law student association at Emory, have been mentors to her and she wants to do the same for law students.

"I hear how [older Korean-American lawyers] entered a tough profession like this without a mentor and I can't imagine doing this without June and Han," said Hamilton, who is of Korean descent and grew up in a small town in Oregon. She developed an interest in Korean culture after living in Korea after college.
Steve Park, a native of Korea who moved to the United States at 14, said he's an example of the benefit of having a mentor. Park is a seventh-year associate in corporate finance at Nelson Mullins and works with Towery. He is up for partnership this year, which he attributed to "Ms. Towery looking out for my development," by advising him on marketing himself, providing service to the right clients and other professional development issues.

Another KABA Georgia member, Alex Shin, who is a first-year corporate associate at Nelson Mullins, said he knew several Korean-American lawyers already—and after the KABA Georgia launch is "finding out there are a lot more than I thought."

Shin, like Park, was born in Korea and came to the U.S. at 14. "My mentorship with Steve and Ms. Towrey has been huge so far in my short career," he said. "I'm still learning the ropes."

While most of the new bar association's members are lawyers and law students of Korean descent, the organizers emphasized that the group is open to anyone with an interest in Korean culture.

An increasing number of South Korean companies are doing business in the Southeast, including auto manufacturers Kia and Hyundai.

Park said the Kia plant in LaGrange and the Hyundai plant in Alabama have created a boom for Korean business locally. He represents Korean banks from New York that are financing deals for Korean companies starting U.S. operations. Many of them are parts suppliers to Hyundai and Kia, Park said.

The U.S. subsidiary of Doosan Infracore, a construction-equipment maker that owns Bobcat, is headquartered in Atlanta and electronics maker Samsung also does business here.

Choi said the free trade agreement between the Republic of Korea and the United States, which went into effect in March, could stimulate more business between South Korean and U.S. companies in manufacturing and electronics, as well as other areas that are "not quite ripe," such as biotech and health sciences.

The Korean-American lawyers said helping Korean clients negotiate cultural differences is an important part of the job.

Towery, who advises Korean companies in setting up U.S. operations, said she's seen situations where misunderstandings have caused deals to fall apart.

"Korean culture is very different from U.S. culture," said Towery. "A lot of the Korean managers in charge of mergers and acquisitions sound fluent in English but only understand 50 to 70 percent of what's being said. They go away thinking what they want to think."

When they see the deal terms on paper, she said, they might feel misled. She recalled one situation where a Korean client believed the manager of economic development for an Alabama county had lied to him.

Towery said "emotions ran high and there was a lot of finger-pointing." She said she was able to sort out the misunderstandings and the Korean business is now a major project for the county.

Park said cultural differences in body language also can create misunderstandings. "Koreans like to nod in meetings. To Americans, that means agreement. To a Korean, it's just politeness, a way of saying 'I hear you,' and not 'I agree with the terms that you just explained.'"

"There can be a lot of frustration and disconnect," Hamilton said, adding that she's seen this with the three Korean clients she is working with at Littler.

Hamilton said Korean businesspeople are surprised by U.S. employment law, because there's nothing like it in Korea. She explained that in Korea, there is not a culture of suing one's employer, adding that in a country where 99 percent of the population shares the same ethnicity, it is uncommon to sue for discrimination.

Sun Choy of Freeman Mathis & Gary is KABA Georgia's other vice president besides Choi. Helen Kim Ho, the executive director of the Asian American Legal Advocacy Center, is secretary.

KABA Georgia's next meeting will be toward the end of the law school semester, said Towery. For more information, check the group's Linkedin page or contact Park at steve.park@nelsonmullins.com.

Briefly

Wayne Elowe has joined Greenberg Traurig as a shareholder from Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton. Elowe is a corporate lawyer with experience doing deals internationally, particularly in China. Greenberg Traurig's local managing shareholder, Ernest Greer, in a statement cited Elowe's cross-border transactional experience as a way the firm is positioning itself to help clients globally. The 1,750-lawyer firm has 35 offices in the U.S., China and Europe.
Atlanta City Council member Aaron Watson has joined Barnes & Thornburg as of counsel. Watson, the Post 2 at-large city council member since 2010, will work with the firm’s governmental services and finance department. Watson’s past experience in city government includes posts as commissioner of the Atlanta Housing Authority and chairman of the Atlanta Board of Education. He’s also served as a board member for the Atlanta Development Authority. Watson previously ran his own firm, Attache Public Affairs, practicing corporate finance law.

W. Brooks Stillwell has been named the new city attorney for Savannah, succeeding James Blackburn, who is retiring at 86, after 42 years in the position. Stillwell, a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah, will resign from the firm, where he’s practiced for 41 years, to accept the new post, but he will maintain a limited private practice, according to a statement from HunterMaclean. Stillwell is a director and secretary-treasurer of the Savannah Economic Development Authority and World Trade Center of Savannah. He served as a city alderman from 1974 to 1991, including a year as mayor pro tem.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough has added six laterals to its Atlanta office since June, as deal work starts to revive. All are in its corporate practice except Patricia Britton, the former general counsel of Porsche Cars North America. Britton joins the firm’s automotive team as a partner, focusing on auto franchise litigation.

Nelson Mullins’ local managing partner, Michael Hollingsworth II, said the other lawyers—four associates and an of counsel—were recruited because demand for M&A work is up in the lower middle-market, especially for early stage companies. "The sub-$100 million market is booming," he said.

"There is a lot of M&A volume in the lower middle and middle market—deals that don’t require leverage," Hollingsworth explained. "A lot of the balance sheet money is getting deployed this year."

Four lawyers joined Nelson Mullins’ local M&A team in June. Holly Elizabeth Stroud, who’s of counsel, was previously senior counsel for mergers and acquisitions for GE Energy. Katelyn Fredericks, an associate, joined from Troutman Sanders after receiving her law degree in 2010 from the University of Georgia. Roger Mitchell, an associate, joined from Paul Hastings. He is a 2009 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. Paul Rothstein, another associate, joined from Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker in Birmingham, Ala. He also received his law degree in 2009 from the University of Georgia.

In August, Nelson Mullins added Anne Tyler Hamby as an associate in its employee benefits practice. She joined from King & Spalding.

Rita Sheffey, a partner at Hunton & Williams and past president of the Atlanta Bar Association, is president-elect of the Lamar American Inn of Court for Emory University School of Law. She was re-elected to the National Conference of Bar Presidents’ Metropolitan Bar Caucus Executive Committee.
ATLANTA -- His place in history assured, U.S. District Senior Judge Horace Ward has retired from the Northern District of Georgia bench -- where he has sat since 1979, when he became the first African-American appointed to a federal judgeship in Georgia.

Ward's federal judicial career has stood as "a constant visible reminder of the power of the rule of law in ensuring equal rights," said Chief Judge Julie Carnes.

"He will always be remembered as a trailblazer in the civil rights movement," she said. "He had the courage to challenge a social order that limited the opportunities of its black citizens."

A Morehouse College honors graduate with a master's degree from Atlanta University, Ward was instrumental in desegregating the University of Georgia. He was the first African-American to sue for admission to an all-white college in Georgia when, as a prospective law student in 1950, he first challenged UGA's refusal to admit him. After earning a law degree from Northwestern University in 1959, Ward joined a team of renowned civil rights lawyers who won the right for two African-American students -- Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter -- to desegregate UGA in 1961.

"His tenaciousness in attempting to be admitted to the University of Georgia law school paved the way for the later integration of Georgia's public colleges," said Carnes, who earned both her undergraduate and law degrees at UGA. "Judge Ward was a constant and visible reminder of the power of the rule of law in ensuring equal rights to all its citizens and of the importance of citizens and judges who insist that it do so."

Ward told the Daily Report recently that his appointment by President Jimmy Carter to the federal bench was "the crowning achievement in my legal career."

The retiring judge said his decision was prompted by his recent 85th birthday and a recognition that he had spent 50 years in public service -- as the second African-American in the state's history to be elected to the Georgia senate; as a Fulton County State Court judge; as the first African-American to become a Superior Court judge in Georgia, and, finally, as a federal judge.

Ward also practiced law with civil rights attorney Donald Hollowell and served as both an assistant county attorney in Fulton County and an assistant city attorney in Atlanta before embarking on his judicial career.

In a lecture at UGA in 2000, Ward called his unsuccessful fight to secure admission to the law school "a long and hard struggle" that played out over the course of a decade.

"I am proud to have played a role first as an applicant to the University of Georgia law school and then as a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the officials at the University of Georgia," Ward told the Daily Report, "although we didn't
U.S. District Judge Frank Hooper dismissed Ward's case on the eve of trial in 1957, declaring it moot because Ward was, by then, a first-year law student at Northwestern. Hooper never ruled on the merits of the case.

Said Ward's biographer, UGA professor and Dean of Social Work Maurice Daniels: "I think it took a great deal of courage to challenge the system of segregation at the time that he did because, in essence, he was challenging the governor, he was challenging the General Assembly, he was challenging the Board of Regents, he was challenging the University of Georgia. It took a great deal of courage for him and others to pursue the course of dismantling the cherished system of segregation in this state."

When Ward filed his civil rights suit against UGA, Gov. Herman Talmadge had won office on a campaign promise that there would be no desegregation of Georgia's public schools and colleges. Talmadge would hire his personal attorney, B.D. "Buck" Murphy, to assist UGA and the state attorney general in fighting Ward's suit.

More than two decades later, as a U.S. senator, Talmadge would greenlight Carter's nomination of Ward to the federal bench. Ward said that when he was sworn in as a federal judge in December 1979, he took his oath in the same courtroom where his case against UGA had been litigated.

Daniels said Ward demonstrated perseverance as well as bravery in his fight to desegregate UGA. And, he observed, "I can honestly say that he never showed any kind of animosity or any kind of negative feeling with respect to those who placed obstacles and barriers in his path."

What Ward demonstrated, instead, Daniels said, was "an ability to forgive and look to the future and not hold hostility for what has occurred in the past."

"It's remarkable and extraordinary to be able to have that sense of forgiveness," he continued. "He has made a great contribution to the cause of social justice and human dignity."

"I stand, and many others stand, on his shoulders," he said.

Carnes said Ward "has been more than a civil rights icon."

"Having been treated with hostility by many lawyers and judges as he was trying to make his way in the world, he could have become bitter and responded in kind once he enjoyed power," she said. "He never did so. He treated all with whom he came in contact -- litigants, lawyers and colleagues -- with kindness, charity and patience. Through his graciousness and decency, he has quietly imparted the power of good will and civility. We in the Northern District of Georgia have been privileged to serve with him."

LOAD-DATE: September 27, 2012
Longtime UGA Law Professor John Bartow Rees, Jr. died peacefully early on Wednesday, September 26th, after a long illness. He and his wife, Elinor Myers Rees, came to Athens as newlyweds in 1959 and raised their family here.

Dr. Rees was born on March 27, 1931, in Brooklyn Heights, NY. He grew up in Westport, Connecticut, and then attended Hobart College and the University of Virginia Law School.

In the course of his 45 years at the University of Georgia, Dr. Rees won several awards for his excellence as an educator, including the 1997 Distinguished Service Scroll Award from the UGA Law School Association.

Dr. Rees came to the University of Georgia after teaching for a short while at UVA and for many years specialized in Conflict of Laws, Federal Courts, and Civil Procedure. He was also instrumental in the law library renovation in the 1960's, when he served as Associate Dean.

In service to the Athens community, Dr. Rees helped St. Joseph School weather a period of crisis in the late 1960's by helping devise an investment plan to stabilize finances for the parochial school.

In his spare time Dr. Rees enjoyed reading, furniture-making, photography, and collecting woodworking planes and rare-edition books. His children fondly remember his dry sense of humor and his strong sense of fairness.

In addition to his wife, Elinor, Dr. Rees is survived by: his brothers, James and Christopher Rees; five children, John, Mary, Jenifer, David, and Richard; and four grandchildren, Sara and Jack Rees and Joseph and Elinor Rees-Hill.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 28th, with visitation starting at 2:00 p.m., at the Lord & Stephens Funeral Home, West Chapel, 1211 Jimmy Daniel Rd., Bogart, GA. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the University of Georgia, John B. Rees, Jr. Law Library Book Fund.
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Lord & Stephens West is in charge of arrangements. www.lordandstephens.com

Published in Athens Banner-Herald on September 27, 2012
began Wednesday when the board of directors named Otis A. Brumby III publisher and his sister, Lee B. Garrett, general manager.

The two will oversee all operations for the Journal, Cherokee Tribune and Neighbor Newspapers.

Otis A. Brumby III joined the Journal in 2006 as general manager and became executive vice president in 2009, handling day-to-day operations for all newspapers. Garrett joined the company in 1999 and has served in several positions, most recently as director of human resources.

In their new roles, the two will follow their father, Otis A. Brumby Jr., who died Sept. 8 after a battle with cancer. He was publisher for 45 years and established the Journal as one of the major voices in Georgia journalism and was widely heralded for establishing the weekly Neighbor Newspapers, a chain of 21 newspapers that cover nine metro Atlanta counties. Under his direction, the Cherokee Tribune went from a three-day-a-week publication to five days a week, and the company developed two popular magazines, Cobb Life and Cherokee Life, and a state-of-the-art online edition.

Otis A. Brumby Jr. followed his father as publisher, the late Otis A. Brumby Sr., who founded the Cobb County Times in 1916 and merged with the Marietta Daily Journal in 1951.

"Our father and grandfather firmly believed that a strong, independent local news source is critical for a community to thrive," Otis A. Brumby III and Lee B. Garrett said. "We are honored and humbled to be part of the third generation to serve the readers and the advertisers, and we reaffirm their commitment to the First Amendment, real journalism, robust editorial debate and transparency in government at all levels."

Brumby is a graduate of the University of Georgia and UGA School of Law. Garrett is a graduate of Davidson College and the UGA School of Law. Both graduated from Marietta High School.

Brumby and his wife, Ashley, live in Marietta with their two daughters, Libby and Margaret. Garrett and husband Heath also live in Marietta with their three children, Mattie, Heath and Brumby.
Today is the last day on the Cobb County Superior Court bench for Judge George Kreeger, who is retiring after 33 years, but he plans to hold on to his favorite part of the job: presiding over the Cobb County Drug Treatment Court.

"It's one of the things we do that you can feel good about," said Kreeger of the adult felony drug court he started 10 years ago. Kreeger asked Governor Nathan Deal for senior judge status in order to keep his drug court responsibilities.

Kreeger said the drug court program has built an 85 percent success rate with the hundreds of participants over the past decade, which means that only 15 percent have been arrested again.

"It's cost effective," he said. "We're diverting those folks from the state system. They're working and paying taxes."

At one of the regular Monday morning drug court sessions this month, Kreeger spoke individually with each participant, offering encouragement, asking questions, noting accomplishments. Kreeger, known to be a man of few words, seems to have a knack for encouraging drug court participants to open up.

"Good," he said to one participant who had broken her silence in group therapy for the first time that week. "Do it again."

"Keep working with your sponsor," he said to another participant. "That'll cause you to grow in your recovery."

"Keep taking life one day at a time," he said to another. "And work on re-establishing some family relationships. This program will help you with that."

Briefly at the end of the session, he dealt with the few who'd broken the rules—which include passing drug screens, working, going to counseling and group therapy and staying out of trouble. The punishment was obvious, since they were in prison clothes. But he gave them a warning that they risk being dropped from the program if they have another infraction.

"It's not going to be good," he said.

The judge then met new participants, whose placement in the program was negotiated by the team of law enforcement officers, counselors and probation officers who work with the court.

One participant still had to clear the hurdle of bonding out of jail on a felony meth charge. She stood before the bench in a
jail jumpsuit, shackles and a waist chain. "Always be on time. Always be where you're supposed to be," he told her. "I'll be the one making decisions about your case. I'll know more about you than someone else presiding would."

Just before deputies led her out, he said, "When you get back, I'll shake your hand and welcome you to the program."

Continuity is crucial to the continuing success of the program, said Cobb County Superior Court Administrator and former District Attorney Tom Charron. "We're going to miss him, but we're real glad he's staying with us for the drug court. Stability is very important in that program."

Kreeger is the most senior member of the superior court bench after Judge Dorothy Robinson, who is retiring at the end of this year. "He's our rock of stability," said Judge Adele Grubbs. "We hate to see him go."

His colleagues aren't the only ones sorry to see Kreeger step down. In a letter to the Judicial Nominating Commission recommending one of the four candidates now on a short list to replace Kreeger, William Gentry—former Cobb County Bar Association president and a partner with Gentry, Smith, Dettmering, Morgan, Schnatmeier & Collins—identified Kreeger as one of his favorites. He praised the candidate he was recommending as having "the traits that made Judge Kreeger such a great judge."

The nominee Gentry was recommending is Cobb County State Court Judge Robert Leonard II. The others on the short list are: Cobb County State Court Judge Maria Golick; Cobb County Juvenile Court Judge Juanita Stedman; and Troutman Sanders partner Mark VanderBroek.

"He lets lawyers try their case, which lawyers appreciate and respect. When you try the case, he's listening to every word," said Gentry when asked about Kreeger's traits as a judge. "He always does the right thing, and he's always fair."

Kreeger is also remembered for what he doesn't do.

"I've never seen him be discourteous to anyone: lawyer, litigant, nonparty, witness," said Gentry.

"He may not believe them, he may not like what they're doing, but he always treats them with courtesy."

He doesn't interrupt, push, direct or ever embarrass lawyers, Gentry said. "He asks questions, yes, but he doesn't push to move the case along. He's letting you call the pace, call the tempo of the case and try it the way you want to try it."

Former Congressman Buddy Darden, a partner at McKenna Long & Aldridge and a former roommate of Kreeger's from bachelor days shortly after University of Georgia Law School graduation, called Kreeger "a paragon of proper judicial demeanor." Darden also took note of what Kreeger is known for not doing.

"He's never sought headlines or attention. He's never had the slightest bit of controversy. He never criticizes. Never gets involved in courthouse politics," Darden said. "He never loses his temper." Kreeger is not known for talking much, he added. "There's not a lot of frivolity. He's not a backslapper or a hand shaker. He's all about doing the job."

And by so doing, Darden said, "He has really been an ideal judge."

Kreeger, now 71, practiced law for 13 years, the last 11 as a partner in Tate & Kreeger, and also served in the Georgia House of Representatives for eight years before going on the bench. He was appointed to the Cobb County State Court in January 1979 by Governor George Busbee and served there for five years. In 1984, Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed him to the superior court.

Kreeger said he decided the time had come to retire this month mainly because he has family travel plans and events he doesn't want to miss. One is the opening of an art exhibit in Lexington, Va. The artist, who teaches at Washington and Lee University, happens to be one of his three daughters.

He said he figures the trick to retirement is this: "You want to do it while you can still enjoy it."
Otis A. Brumby III becomes publisher; Lee B. Garrett named general manager

by Jon Gillooly
jingillooly@cherokeetribune.com
09.28.12- 01:39 am

A new era leadership of the Cherokee Tribune and Marietta Daily Journal began Wednesday when the board of directors named Otis A. Brumby III publisher and his sister, Lee B. Garrett, general manager, in Brumby.

The two will oversee all operations for the Cherokee Tribune, Journal and Neighbor Newspapers.

Otis A. Brumby III joined the newspapers in 2006 as general manager and became executive vice president in 2009, handling day-to-day operations for all publications. Garrett joined the company in 1999 and has served in several positions, most recently as director of human resources.

In their new roles, the two will follow their father, Otis A. Brumby Jr., who died Sept. 8 after a battle with cancer. He was publisher for 45 years and established the Marietta Daily Journal as one of the major voices in Georgia journalism and was widely heralded for establishing the weekly Neighbor Newspapers, a chain of 21 newspapers that cover nine metro Atlanta counties.

Under his direction, the Cherokee Tribune went from a two-day-a-week publication to five days a week, and the company developed two popular magazines, Cobb Life and Cherokee Life, and a state-of-the-art online edition.

Otis A. Brumby Jr. followed his father as publisher, the late Otis A. Brumby Sr., who founded the Cobb County Times in 1916 and merged with the Marietta Daily Journal in 1951.

“Our father and grandfather firmly believed that a strong, independent local news source is critical for a community to thrive,” Otis A. Brumby III and Lee B. Garrett said. “We are honored and humbled to be part of the third generation to serve the readers and the advertisers, and we reaffirm their commitment to the First Amendment, real journalism, robust editorial debate and transparency in government at all levels.”

Brumby is a graduate of the University of Georgia and UGA School of Law. Garrett is a graduate of Davidson College and the UGA School of Law. Both graduated from Marietta High School.

Brumby and his wife, Ashley, live in Marietta with their two daughters, Libby and
Margaret Garrett and husband Heath also live in Marietta with their three children, Mattie, Heath and Brumby.
US Senior Judge retires after a historic career

Fulton County Daily Report
Published Friday, Sep. 28, 2012

ATLANTA -- His place in history assured, U.S. District Senior Judge Horace Ward has retired from the Northern District of Georgia bench - where he has sat since 1979, when he became the first African-American appointed to a federal judgeship in Georgia.

Ward's federal judicial career has stood as "a constant visible reminder of the power of the rule of law in ensuring equal rights," said Chief Judge Julie Carnes.

"He will always be remembered as a trailblazer in the civil rights movement," she said. "He had the courage to challenge a social order that limited the opportunities of its black citizens."

A Morehouse College honors graduate with a master's degree from Atlanta University, Ward was instrumental in desegregating the University of Georgia. He was the first African-American to sue for admission to an all-white college in Georgia when, as a prospective law student in 1950, he first challenged UGA's refusal to admit him. After earning a law degree from Northwestern University in 1959, Ward joined a team of renowned civil rights lawyers who won the right for two African-American students - Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter - to desegregate UGA in 1961.

"His tenaciousness in attempting to be admitted to the University of Georgia law school paved the way for the later integration of Georgia's public colleges," said Carnes, who earned both her undergraduate and law degrees at UGA. "Judge Ward was a constant and visible reminder of the power of the rule of law in ensuring equal rights to all its citizens and of the importance of citizens and judges who insist that it do so."

Ward told the Daily Report recently that his appointment by President Jimmy Carter to the federal bench was "the crowning achievement in my legal career."

The retiring judge said his decision was prompted by his recent 85th birthday and a recognition that he had spent 50 years in public service - as the second African-American in the state's history to be elected to the Georgia senate; as a Fulton County State Court judge; as the first African-American to become a Superior Court judge in Georgia, and, finally, as a federal judge.

Ward also practiced law with civil rights attorney Donald Hollowell and served as both an assistant county attorney in Fulton County and an assistant city attorney in Atlanta before embarking on his judicial career.

In a lecture at UGA in 2000, Ward called his unsuccessful fight to secure admission to the law school "a long and hard struggle" that played out over the course of a decade.
"I am proud to have played a role first as an applicant to the University of Georgia law school and then as a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the officials at the University of Georgia," Ward told the Daily Report, "although we didn't win that case."

U.S. District Judge Frank Hooper dismissed Ward's case on the eve of trial in 1957, declaring it moot because Ward was, by then, a first-year law student at Northwestern. Hooper never ruled on the merits of the case.

Said Ward's biographer, UGA professor and Dean of Social Work Maurice Daniels: "I think it took a great deal of courage to challenge the system of segregation at the time that he did because, in essence, he was challenging the governor, he was challenging the General Assembly, he was challenging the Board of Regents, he was challenging the University of Georgia. It took a great deal of courage for him and others to pursue the course of dismantling the cherished system of segregation in this state."

When Ward filed his civil rights suit against UGA, Gov. Herman Talmadge had won office on a campaign promise that there would be no desegregation of Georgia's public schools and colleges. Talmadge would hire his personal attorney, B.D. "Buck" Murphy, to assist UGA and the state attorney general in fighting Ward's suit.

More than two decades later, as a U.S. senator, Talmadge would greenlight Carter's nomination of Ward to the federal bench. Ward said that when he was sworn in as a federal judge in December 1979, he took his oath in the same courtroom where his case against UGA had been litigated.

Daniels said Ward demonstrated perseverance as well as bravery in his fight to desegregate UGA. And, he observed, "I can honestly say that he never showed any kind of animosity or any kind of negative feeling with respect to those who placed obstacles and barriers in his path."

What Ward demonstrated, instead, Daniels said, was "an ability to forgive and look to the future and not hold hostility for what has occurred in the past."

"It's remarkable and extraordinary to be able to have that sense of forgiveness," he continued. "He has made a great contribution to the cause of social justice and human dignity."

"I stand, and many others stand, on his shoulders," he said.

Carnes said Ward "has been more than a civil rights icon."

"Having been treated with hostility by many lawyers and judges as he was trying to make his way in the world, he could have become bitter and responded in kind once he enjoyed power," she said. "He never did so. He treated all with whom he came in contact - litigants, lawyers and colleagues - with kindness, charity and patience. Through his graciousness and decency, he has quietly imparted the power of good will and civility. We in the Northern District of Georgia have been privileged to serve with him."
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McClendon joins Guardianship Office Board

By CASSIE JACOBY  
cjacobylakewalesnews.com  
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Imagine being sick, alone and broke. Not having enough money for medical care, especially if you have no one to help you, is a frightening thought.

Those fears are a reality for many elderly, disabled and indigent. That’s one reason Lake Wales attorney Jay McClendon, a partner with Jim Weaver and Jason Penrod in the firm of Weaver, McClendon & Penrod, LLP, agreed to serve on the board of directors of the Guardianship Office of the Tenth Circuit. The non-profit organization provides guardians who oversee and obtain proper medical care for individuals who would otherwise have no one.

McClendon has a special place in his heart for the elderly. In addition to commercial and real estate litigation, homeowners’ and condominium associations, construction law, probate and bankruptcy, elder law is a primary focus of his firm.

“Jason’s practice is entirely elder law,” McClendon explained. “With half of my practice and two-thirds of Jim’s practice in the estate planning side of elder law, being on this board is a good fit.”

A recent winner of the Carl F. Durso Excellence in Business Award for demonstrating excellence as a business, employer and a community partner, McClendon and his firm appreciates the recognition by the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce for the firm’s work.

“It’s both frustrating and challenging. Every client has a unique set of preferences and needs. There’s no magic thing for everyone. Our job is to figure out what’s available that best meets each client’s needs and there are a zillion trade-offs in that process,” he said. “The unexpected generosity among professional guardians who are willing to take extra cases for free or low fees is heartwarming. At the end of the day, it’s satisfying to know that we’re all trying to do our best for the people who need the most help.”

A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of Georgia School of Law, McClendon was admitted to practice in 1986 in both Florida and Georgia. After beginning his legal career in Pensacola, he returned home to Lake Wales to raise his five children in a friendly, rural community where many guardian angels quietly help their neighbors.

“A lot of the needs in our community are being met off the books, off the record, out of sight,” McClendon added. “Many of our neighbors are quietly doing great things right under your nose, but you’ll never know it or hear about it. In a perfect world, that’s how it should be.”

Active in his church, McClendon is on the board of the Lake Wales Historic Society and the Lake Wales Main Street, and has served on the board of trustees of the Lake Wales Medical Center and is past president of the local Kiwanis Club. Additional members of the Guardianship Office board of directors are founders Peggy DeVivo and Shannah Butcher, national and state certified guardians; Kevin Campbell, Florida Fiduciary; Patty Dangelico, Above & Beyond Compassionate Care, LLC, Brad Dantzler, Raymond James, Winter Haven; William Heineken, Heineken & Associates, S.T. “Pat” Patrick, Patrick Enterprises, Inc.; and Shirley Whitney who serves as the community, public relations and fundraising coordinator.
Funded through private funding from organizations, grants, individuals and fundraisers, the charity will have its first "Party in the Barn" on Oct. 26 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the North 40 Dantzler Farm in Winter Haven. Guests will be invited to sit around the fire in the fire pit, enjoy live music, food and drinks. A silent auction will sell thousands of dollars in items.

Call Peggy DeVivo at 863-875-4809 or Shirley Whitney at 863-644-4145 for information.
Back in action; Evans woman celebrates recovery

Byline: Chris Gay Staff Writer

BODY:

Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney. Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney. Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney.

Nikki Boudreaux repeated the names out loud 10 times, 100 times. More. Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney.

Before doctors cut into her skull to remove a golf ball-size portion of her brain, Boudreaux repeated the cadence: Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney. Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney.

An occupational therapist for more than two decades, the woman with the iron will knew recovery from her stroke - and nine-hour brain surgery - would be much more difficult than the Half Ironman she completed 10 days earlier. Though it would take time for her body to heal, she wanted her brain to remember one thing - the names of her family members - so she kept repeating the names of her husband of 20 years and their children in order of their ages.

"If I was going to forget anything," she said, "I was going to remember my family's names."

Saturday marked the anniversary of Boudreaux's arteriovenous malformation rupture, a brain hemorrhage she miraculously survived. She will celebrate her life today when she competes with Todd in the ESi Ironman 70.3 Augusta. Nikki will open the race with a 1.2-mile swim, Todd will bike the 56 miles and Nikki will finish the 13.1-mile run.

"It was quite an ordeal," Todd Boudreaux said. "She feels like she's got a good part of her life back."

Life seemed normal for the Evans couple after they competed in the 2011 Augusta Half Ironman. They met each other in the mid-1980s at Alleluia Community School, and their relationship remained strong after graduation. She graduated from the Medical College of Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia's law school.

They soon got married and had their first child, Jack. After a brief stay in Macon, Ga., they returned to Augusta.

Starting to race

For years, each remained in good shape, working out at the gym and attending fitness classes. Nikki stayed busy with her job and shuttling her children around town. Three years ago, before she turned 40, Boudreaux participated in her first Augusta Half Ironman.

Months later, Nikki's neighbors mentioned wanting to compete in the 2010
Augusta Half Ironman. They needed a runner, and she quickly accepted. Then, Todd decided to put in a team eight weeks before the race. Nikki's team won against her husband's team.

A year later, Nikki and Todd each decided to compete in the entire race. They learned how to swim. They bought their own bikes. Their races went well - Nikki finished at 6:35:47, while Todd came in at 6:55:18.

On the Wednesday after the race, Nikki went to the doctor for a routine checkup. She walked out of the office with no problems detected, but, then again, she had never had any health issues.

The next day, she went to a fitness class. Normally clumsy, she noticed 45 minutes into the hourlong class that her coordination was much improved. Then, her head began hurting. She became light-headed and dizzy. She walked into the main part of the gym to get some air. Her friends grabbed a doctor, who happened to be working out. He asked her some basic questions: What's your name? What day is it? Who's the president?

She couldn't respond. He called for an ambulance.

"I remember sitting there touching my head and I had a horrible headache. My head was killing me," she said. "I remember people saying things. I remember people asking me questions. I don't remember anything after that point."

At the hospital

The 42-year-old Boudreaux was taken to the Doctors Hospital emergency room. In the ambulance, she said, "I've got to finish this race." In her mind, she was competing in the Half Ironman. She still had one more lap to go.

At the hospital, a CT scan revealed the AVM rupture - massive bleeding on the brain. Doctors gave her anti-inflammatory medicine to reduce the swelling and get her stabilized. She was taken to University Hospital, where doctors waited to let her brain recover from the initial trauma while the medication worked. In the week leading up to surgery, she began to improve. She regained some feeling on her right side. Her vision in her right eye became clearer. Her speech became better.

When it came time for surgery, there were no guarantees she would emerge with improved mental and physical faculties. In the waiting room the day of the surgery, Nikki waited with head pain and a cold towel on her face. Then, she began reciting the names: Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney.

Doctors worked nine hours to remove the AVM, extract a blood "ball" that had formed and remove a large portion of brain tissue that became damaged when the bleeding occurred. The surgery was a success, and the day after Nikki recalled the names she repeated before undergoing the procedure.

Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney.

Nikki's recovery

After surgery, the Boudreauxs were told she would spend a month in intensive care before spending another month in a regular hospital room. Then, she would spend six months in an inpatient rehabilitation facility.

Three days after surgery, she got out of bed and walked laps around the floor. She continued walking every day with someone holding her IV bag. She even fed herself, grabbing her right hand with her left arm, forcing it to work. The physical therapists soon told her they were of no more help.

One week after surgery, she defied the odds. While she still needed speech
therapy, Boudreaux was released to go home. Much of her recovery was attributed to being in peak physical condition.

Before she left the hospital, she said she was going to participate in the 2012 Augusta Half Ironman.

"I just knew," she said, "this was going to help me get myself back together."

For about five months, she needed someone with her 24 hours a day. Eventually she began taking walks around the neighborhood and the Augusta Canal. Two months after surgery, her doctor approved her to participate in a spin class at the gym.

In follow-up appointments, Nikki kept asking for clearance to compete in this year's Half Ironman. She kept getting rejected. Six months after surgery, she and Todd presented one final proposal: What if she swam, Todd biked and she ran? She received the OK.

Today, she will compete.

"It's a personal goal for this year," she said. "This one is a celebration, because I lived."

She has almost fully recovered from the incident. She has lost some sight in her right eye. Her speech has recovered, though she sometimes has trouble finding the right word. She still has a little weakness on her right side, but for the most part she's back to full strength.

"Had she not been in as good a condition as she was - the best shape of her life - she would not have recovered as well as she has," Todd Boudreaux said.

Moving on

The cause of the AVM remains uncertain. She said she was fortunate to be at the gym when it happened. Had she been home alone or driving down the road, she might not be here today.

"What if she were somewhere where they hadn't immediately sent her to the hospital?" her husband asked. "What if this would've happened during the Ironman and the medics would've thought she was just dehydrated and exhausted? It's frightening to think of all those 'what if' scenarios."

At first, speculation was the AVM was caused because of Nikki competing in the Half Ironman. Her neurologists said if that had been the reason, it would've occurred during the race.

"It's just one of those things," Todd said. "It just picked that day to go."

As soon as registration opens for next year's competition, Todd said she'll be one of the first signed up. Nikki said it's "killing" her that she's not competing in all three legs of the Half Ironman this year.

"I will be here every year," she said. "And I will do the entire thing. I won't do a relay again."

While Nikki Boudreaux has many friends in the area and many in the triathlon community, it's the four closest to her heart she treasures most. Todd, Jack, Ashley, Courtney.

"I'm very grateful I have my wonderful kids and my husband," she said. "This hasn't hampered my spirit. I'm still very happy."
Reach Chris Gay at (706) 823-3645
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