1-1-2013

01/2013 Newsclippings

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nvironmental and natural resources law?

Cosen's students need to be heavily mentored when they first enter the practice. She recommended that students network early with people in the field — not only for job connections, but also for input on what to focus their studies on.

"During your time in law school, get some level of practical legal experience," she said. "People hiring in this legal area are no longer willing to provide on-the-job training."

WHAT SKILLS ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS?

While not essential, a background in environmental studies or science is helpful to someone hoping to enter the field of environmental law. Prior work or volunteer experience is also beneficial. University of Idaho, for example, started a series of dual degrees that allow students to focus on the law and science.

"The types of problems in this field that people are facing right now require a solid understanding of the law, and the people and resources," Cosen said. "There is a real interest in problem solving."

Peter Reich, a professor at Whittier Law School, said lawyers need to have vision.

"You have to have a vision of what will happen in the future and not just focus on the factual situations," he said. "What will society look like 10 to 15 years down the road? We have to be a futurist and a policy person."

HOW SHOULD A STUDENT CHOOSE A LAW SCHOOL WITH THIS SPECIALTY?

Reich said it is important to find a school that offers a wide assortment of environmental law courses. Whittier Law School, which started an environmental program in 2012, requires students to complete required courses as well as electives to earn the certificate.

Review the course catalog to determine the number and variety of courses offered by the law school. Courses in international environmental law should be included in the school's offerings because environmental law issues very often involve more than one country. Whittier Law School also hosts a summer study abroad program in Mexico that covers environmental issues.

Further opportunities to gain hands-on experience in this field are important factors, which can help the student develop a broad base of knowledge in the field. Whittier Law School offers paid internships with a local nonprofit.

CARDOZO LAW

A LEADER IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Kukin Program for Conflict Resolution has been ranked as one of the top dispute resolution programs in the U.S. for over a decade. Students choose from dozens of mediation courses, and they participate in the Cardozo Mediation Clinic, the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution, various International programs, ADR competitions, the Dispute Resolution Society, and numerous externships.

Cardozo has long been a pioneer in the field of intellectual property law. Our faculty are leaders in every aspect of IP and information law, including international trade, Internet law, patents, and music and entertainment law. Students take classes in copyright, Internet, trademark, and patent law; they participate in the Indie Film Clinic, and the Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal is ranked the number one journal in arts, entertainment, and sports law in the country.
### Specialties

**A certificate** is an official designation on the diploma the student can earn.

**A center** is a professor-directed program with exclusive resources for the study of the subject matter.

**A clinic** is a professor-directed program where students can gain hands-on legal experience.

**An externship** is a school-organized opportunity to work in the field.

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### Choose Your Path

**PRELAW** magazine contacted every ABA-accredited law school to gather information on specializations. This is not a complete list, as some schools did not respond.

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**Vermont Law School**

*The nation's leader in environmental law and policy | www.vermontlaw.edu*
Asia and Australia

There are 30 study abroad programs across Asia — from Australia to Japan — with more than half in China.

There are two programs in Australia, which is far more expensive than mainland Asia. Sydney, recently named the favorite spot by Condé Nast Traveler, isn't a tough sell with its Harbour Bridge, the sails of the Opera House and Bondi Beach. Santa Clara University's program focuses on international refugee and immigration protection. American University's Melbourne program is held in the fall.

Head into mainland Asia and Santa Clara University offers programs in Singapore and Tokyo, where students can do internships in Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam or India.

Michigan State University also offers a program in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital and home to numerous temples and historical sites. Touro College of Law offers a program in Vietnam, and one in India where you can visit the Taj Mahal and study in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Both Fordham University and Mississippi College offer programs in Seoul, South Korea.

China

The number of programs in China has exploded in recent years, with 17 being offered this summer and two in the fall.

If it is informative classes on international business and intellectual property law, culture and cuisine you're after, China's your country. Just be wary of the culture shock you can expect to face — especially when it comes to technology.

"I've never been in a communist country before, and I'd never seen a disclaimer on the bottom of Google searches, filtering out results. You can't access YouTube or Facebook," said Pamela Westfall, who went to Stetson University's summer abroad program in China's third-biggest city of Tianjin. "You don't really appreciate it here in America because our access to information is unlimited, whereas in China it's completely restricted."

The mixture of civil law and socialist law in China, contrasted with the perspective from a U.S. law system, gets minds thinking. Despite the two countries having wildly different government and legal systems, they conduct international business between one another on a regular basis.

During free time on the weekends, stop by the Forbidden City in Beijing, the best preserved imperial palace in China and the largest ancient palatial structure in the world; or take a hike along the Great Wall, which spans across nine cities in northern China.

Cultural cuisine, like the Beijing duck, lets diners experience the famous way they cook the foul in China. Family-style dinners reflect how locals view their culture as a collective society, sitting around a lazy susan stocked with local delicacies.

Programs cover everything from the human rights to children's rights. But most focus on either the Chinese legal system or business law.

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<th>Country</th>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>American University</td>
<td>Arbitration, Environmental Law, Human Rights</td>
<td>Fall, Spring</td>
<td>Fall: March 1; Spring: Sept. 1</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Santa Clara University</td>
<td>Int'l Refugee &amp; Immig Protect. Law</td>
<td>June 2 - June 21; June 24 - Aug. 2 (Internship)</td>
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Immerse yourself in the legal landscape of another culture. This summer, Loyola University Chicago School of Law invites you to study with us in China or Italy—with an optional field study in France.

**BEIJING** • May 20–June 15, 2013 • LUC.edu/law/china

**ROME** • June 22–July 20, 2013 • LUC.edu/law/rome

Optional field study in Strasbourg, France • June 16–June 22, 2013
Columbus Ledger Enquirer

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Cleaner, safer energy available

Judge wrote new chapter in state judicial history

Published: January 2, 2013 Updated 16 hours ago

Before 2012 gets too far behind us we should acknowledge, with deepest respect, the passing last week of Ruth McCombs Maulsby, better known to people of this area as Judge Rufe McCombs. She died in retirement in Merritt Island, Fla., at 94.

That a woman of her generation would encounter the entrenched gender biases of an earlier era should come as no surprise. Certainly it didn't to the young Rufe Edwards, who as the only woman in her University of Georgia law school graduating class in 1942, was told by potential employers, "You're just what we're looking for, but we're looking for it in a man."

But if she wasn't surprised by such attitudes, she also wasn't deterred by them. After stints with the Department of Agriculture in Washington and as head of Columbus Legal Aid, and marriage to James McCombs, she ran in 1975 for the post of Municipal Court judge against three male opponents and won in a landslide, with more than twice the votes of the second-place finisher.

She was, at that time, the only woman in Georgia ever to win a first judgeship by election rather than by appointment. She would go on to serve in State Court and Superior Court judgeships before her retirement in 1993.

Her early experience as an attorney for indigent defendants clearly influenced her career and judicial philosophy. "I think the wealthy have a better chance of winning cases in our court system today," she said during her first campaign in 1975, "because they are more educated, understand the law better and are able to hire the better lawyer. I have seen the poor discriminated against in our court system."

But that philosophy was about judicial fairness and not a judicial agenda, according to former Columbus Mayor Bobby Peters, a longtime McCombs friend and now one of her successors on the Superior Court bench. Calling her a "trailblazer," Peters said McCombs was "a great judge who was fair to everyone. With her, there was no politics from the bench."

The first book ever published by successful author and Columbus native Karen Spears Zacharias was "Benched: The Memoirs of Judge Rufe McCombs" in 1997. On learning of the judge's death, Zacharias said McCombs "changed the course of the way Columbus did politics. Never part of the good ole boys' club, Rufe McCombs was relentless in her pursuit to make the world a better place for others, especially for young girls like I was once."

One of the judge's survivors, daughter Beth McCombs Creed, said that although her mother's judicial career was important, "it was family that meant everything to her."

Our condolences to the family and many friends of this extraordinary woman and jurist.
Governor plans 'close look' at Clayton sheriff

Related

By Rhonda Cook

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Gov. Nathan Deal's office declined Wednesday to say when he would start the legal process that could remove indicted Clayton County Sheriff Victor Hill.

State law gives the governor authority to seek the suspension of elected officials charged with crimes. Hill, who took office this week, is facing 32 felony charges. But the law doesn't give the governor any deadline, so he can act as quickly or slowly as he chooses on Hill.

In mid November, the Georgia Sheriffs' Association asked the governor to appoint two sheriffs and the attorney general to review Hill's ability to serve while defending himself against charges that he committed crimes when he was sheriff the first time. They asked the governor to do it as soon as possible in the hope that a decision on Hill's suspension could be made before he took office.

The governor declined to do anything until Hill had taken office.

With Hill in office as of Tuesday, the Governor's Office and the sheriffs association fielded calls Wednesday about what will happen now.

"I know there's tremendous interest in the Sheriff Victor Hill case now that he has taken office," Deal spokesman Brian Robinson aid in an email to media outlets. "The governor plans to take a close look at this particular case, as it is unique in its circumstances. The office will not be making any news on this issue today. I promise you that we'll have communications on this at some juncture in the near future, and you'll all know about it when it happens."

Terry Norris, executive director of the sheriffs association, said members had been calling his office as well.

"They're as confused about the law as anybody," Norris said.

Hill was indicted in January 2012 on racketeering, theft and other charges. He is accused of crimes when he was sheriff Jan. 1, 2005 through Dec. 31, 2008. Hill and his lawyers have insisted that the case was brought only because he had announced he was running again for the office he lost in 2008 to Kem Kimbrough.

Despite the criminal charges, Hill defeated Kimbrough in the Democratic primary and then won the general election in November in which his only opposition was a write-in candidate.

Hill did not respond to a message left at his office Wednesday. His office said he was out, "meeting with constituents."

According to state law, the governor must appoint three people — in this case the attorney general and two sheriffs — once he receives a certified copy of an indictment against a public official. The indictment was sent to Deal in mid November.

But the law does not say when he must name that committee, said University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson.

"Seems to me the wild card ... is how long the governor has to make that appointment," Carlson said. "It could be delayed for an extended period. There is nothing in the statute that says it cannot work that way."

Once the panel is named, the members have 14 days to make a recommendation. If the committee recommends suspension with pay, $104,000 a year, the final decision is the governor's.

If Hill is convicted, he will automatically be removed from office.

Norris said it's not unusual for a governor to take some time before naming a committee to look at whether a troubled sheriff should be suspended temporarily.

"I remain optimistic that Governor Deal will want to review the situation and act accordingly," Norris said.

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Dirty Divorce Tricks To Watch Out For (Stearns-Law)
COVINGTON -- U.S. District Court Judge Steve C. Jones, Northern District of Georgia, will be the guest speaker at the annual legislative prayer breakfast hosted by the Rotary Club of Covington and the Covington Kiwanis Club.

The breakfast is set for Friday, Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m., at the Turner Lake Complex. The event is open to the community and a light breakfast will be served.

Jones was nominated by President Barack Obama to become a U.S. District judge in 2011. He presides over cases that involve the U.S. government, the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, controversies between citizens of different states, and other matters.

Prior to his nomination to the district court, Jones served as a Superior Court judge in the Western Judicial Circuit (Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties). Jones was appointed to the Superior Court in 1995 where he presided over civil and criminal cases. In addition to his regular caseload, Jones also presided over the Western Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court Program, a program that integrates alcohol and substance abuse treatment with court supervision. Prior to his Superior Court appointment, Jones served as an Athens-Clarke County Municipal Court judge, assistant district attorney for the Western Judicial Circuit, and director of the Athens Child Support Recovery Unit.

Jones has offered his time and leadership to numerous academic, community, legal, and social organizations. He currently serves as president of the University of Georgia's Alumni Association, which includes memberships on UGA's Board of Visitors, Athletic Board, and Georgia Foundation. He also serves as president of the UGA Chapter of the National Football Foundation, College Hall of Fame.

Jones is a member of the Old War Horse Lawyer's Club and the Lawyer's Club of Atlanta. He is the former chair of the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission; the University of Georgia School of Law's Board of Visitors; and the Athens Area Community Foundation.

Jones has won many awards for his judicial and community service. In 1998, he was the recipient of the Chief Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service. In 2007, he received the Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by the Junior League of Athens and Athens First Bank & Trust. Also in 2007, he was named Omega Citizen of the Year by the Zeta Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Jones received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia. He is married to Lillian Kincey.

LOAD-DATE: January 4, 2013
Evans, Ga. - Dr. and Mrs. William Bruce Tannehill announce the engagement of their daughter, Meredith Catherine Tannehill to Mr. Steven Taylor Hooven son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Dwayne Hooven of Augusta, Georgia.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Davis Arey and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce Tannehill all of Salisbury, North Carolina.

Mr. Hooven's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hathaway Rhodes of Washington, North Carolina, and Mr. and Mrs. Earsel Woodrow Hooven, Jr. of Kernersville, North Carolina.

Miss Tannehill is a 2006 graduate of Greenbrier High School. She continued her education at The University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design. She is a member of Sigma Kappa sorority and the owner of Mish Mash Interiors in Evans.

Mr. Hooven graduated from Evans High School in 2008. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Georgia in 2012. He has applied to the University of Georgia School of Law for admission in the fall of 2013.

A May wedding is planned at Saint Paul's Church in Augusta.
Three Rublin Lublin Associates Named Partners at Firm

By: Esther Cho 01/03/2013

Rubin Lublin, LLC announced three promotions at the real estate default law firm. Victor Kang, Heidi Billington, and Tenise Cook were all named as new partners.

Previously, Kang was a supervising attorney and oversaw all aspects of the firm’s foreclosure department. He has worked at the firm since its 2009 inception. He earned his law degree from the University of Alabama.

Billington was also a supervising attorney in the firm’s foreclosure department. Both Billington and Kang will continue their roles in managing the department’s staff, process, and procedure creation and implementation. They will also ensure compliance with state laws in their new roles. Billington received her law degree from Mississippi College and has also been with the firm since 2009.

Cook was previously a lead associate in the firm’s real estate litigation department and specialized in title curative and title litigation matters. In her new role, she will assist senior partner Peter Lublin in the supervision of the litigation department in addition to her caseload. She first joined the firm in 2010. Cook earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law and is licensed to practice in Georgia and Tennessee.

“Each of these standout attorneys have helped mold the firm and are very deserving of this achievement,” said managing partner Glen Rubin. “We can certainly attribute the growth of the firm to the strong leadership, dedication, resourceful thinking and quality legal work of these three individuals. This is a fitting recognition for all their hard work.”

Rubin Lublin, LLC is a service oriented boutique law firm serving Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi.

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Two influential U.S. senators have asked the Interior Department to examine whether coal companies are dodging hundreds of millions of dollars in royalty payments on lucrative sales to Asia, citing a Reuters investigation into the matter.

The lawmakers who lead the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee want officials to find out whether miners are short-changing taxpayers when they tap the coal-rich Powder River Basin in eastern Montana and Wyoming.

The basin is mainly federal land and so taxpayers are due a share of those sales.

Any wrongdoing by the mining companies must be found out and punished, the lawmakers said in their letter, which was sent on Friday.

"If any violations of the law have occurred, companies should be required to cure any gap in royalty payments and, if misconduct has occurred, civil penalties should be levied," reads the joint letter from Democratic Senator Ron Wyden, the incoming committee chairman, and the panel's leading Republican, Senator Lisa Murkowski.

A spokesman for the Interior Department said that officials aimed to answer the senators' questions and tighten controls on coal royalties.

"The Department is committed to collecting every dollar due per provisions of existing law," said Patrick Etchart, a spokesman for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue within the Interior Department.
Powder River Basin coal, which supplies about 40 percent of U.S. demand, has typically gone to feed domestic power plants, and policymakers never considered Asian sales when they conceived royalty rules, Reuters reported in October.

The coal policies meant to keep domestic power cheap and abundant are now padding the bottom lines of companies such as Arch Coal Inc, Peabody Energy Corp and Cloud Peak Energy Corp at the expense of taxpayers, Reuters reported last month.

Arch Coal and Cloud Peak Energy declined comment. A spokesman for Peabody Energy said the company abides by existing royalty rules.

"The way that royalties are assessed is appropriate, and we remain compliant with the regulations," said Vic Svec of Peabody.

The senators cited Reuters reporting when they warned that coal miners may be selling to sister companies at artificially low prices to dodge royalty payouts.

Congress' investigative arm, the Government Accountability Office, has for months been examining the federal coal program. The Department of the Interior also has an open investigation.

"This is so obvious it shouldn't need to be said: Coal companies need to be paying taxpayers all of the money they are owed," Wyden said in a statement. "If regulators, or decades-old laws, are not doing enough to protect the public interest, our committee intends to find out, and to fix it."

Murkowski, a supporter of free energy trade, said she expects officials to protect taxpayers' stake in sales from federal land.

"Energy exports can create jobs, generate revenue, and improve our balance of trade," Murkowski said in a statement. "As we seek to maximize these benefits, we must be certain that coal exporters are following the rules."

The lawmakers noted that 118 million tons of coal have been exported from Western states since 2001. They urged officials to audit those years and look for abuses.

On the New York Stock Exchange, Cloud Peak Energy closed up 0.8 percent at $19.46 per share, Arch Coal was up 4.5 percent at $7.66 and Peabody Energy was up 2.3 percent at $27.24.

NATURAL GAS PRECEDENT?

While the industry says it is acting aboveboard, outside lawyers point to a natural gas precedent that they say indicates the issue is far from settled.

In the late 1970s, Marathon Oil Corp used a similar accounting system for royalties on natural gas that was produced in Alaska but sold to Japan.

A federal court eventually told Marathon to payout royalties based on the overseas value. Officials fined Marathon $10 million.

Peter Appel, a former Justice Department attorney, said the case shows that officials expect taxpayers
to get a taste of the true gains on exported fuel but that the matter should remain a civil, not a criminal, case.

"This seems to fall pretty squarely in the civil arena," said Appel, who prosecuted cases for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division and teaches at the University of Georgia School of Law.

(Reporting by Patrick Rucker; Editing by Andrea Ricci, Phil Berlowitz, M.D. Golan and Lisa Shumaker)

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MURFREESBORO - A devoted member of the Murfreesboro Noon Lions Club, Lion Keith Siskin, was recently appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to serve as the Circuit Court Judge, Division III, for the 16th Judicial District, which serves both Rutherford and Cannon counties.

Lion Siskin was sworn in Nov. 9 with the investiture ceremony held Nov. 30 in the historic Courthouse on the Square. Chancellor Robert Corlew served as presiding judge of the ceremony and Judge Donna Davenport administered the oath of office. Many members of the Murfreesboro Noon Lions Club were present.

Lion Siskin has served as a Juvenile Court Magistrate since 2004, presiding over both civil and criminal cases. He has been a member of the judiciary, his community and to the Lions Club. Lion Siskin formerly served as a member for approximately three years and first vice president of the Murfreesboro Lions Club prior to his admission into the Murfreesboro Noon Lions Club.

Lion Siskin is an alumnus from Vanderbilt University and the University of Georgia School of Law. After receiving his doctorate of jurisprudence, he clerked for the Honorable Robert Ewing Corlew III, who serves as the international director for the Lions Club and also a member of the Murfreesboro Noon Lions Club.
New York antitrust trial begins over credit card arbitrations

By
Published January 07, 2013 | Reuters

NEW YORK - Three of the largest U.S. credit card issuers headed to trial on Monday to defend accusations that they colluded to force customers to agree to settle disputes through arbitration rather than in class action lawsuits.

American Express Co, Discover Financial Services and Citigroup Inc face the allegations in two antitrust lawsuits filed by customers who had to sign arbitration agreements in order to get credit cards.

U.S. District Judge William Pauley in Manhattan is hearing the cases without a jury.

The trial follows a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2011. That case involved an AT&T Inc unit, and bolstered corporations' ability to require customers to arbitrate disputes over fees or other issues.

Arbitration puts more costs and burdens on individuals than if they collectively pursued claims in class actions, consumer advocates say.

No damages are being sought in the antitrust lawsuits, which were filed in 2004 and 2005, and consolidated for trial before Pauley in March.

Instead, the plaintiffs are asking the judge to order American Express, Discover and Citigroup to remove arbitration clauses from their cardholder agreements.

The plaintiffs also want an eight-year ban on arbitration clauses by the trio, which had 31.4 percent of outstanding credit card balances in 2011, according to The Nilson Report, a payment card industry newsletter.

In the first day of testimony on Monday, lead plaintiff Robert Ross from Pennsylvania said he did not view arbitration as a "fair venue" for consumers.

"If the average consumer was aware of the costs they'd have to bear in arbitration, they wouldn't do it," Ross said in response to questioning by a lawyer for American Express, Rowan Wilson of Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs will present evidence that big banks in 28 meetings from 1999 to 2003 discussed how to institute mandatory arbitration clauses, court documents show.

Within three years, all the banks imposed almost identical arbitration clauses that prevented cardholders from pursuing class actions, the plaintiffs claim.

Citigroup, Discover and American Express assert that they adopted the arbitration agreements independently.

They also contend that the plaintiffs have failed to show that arbitration clauses curb competition or cause injury under federal antitrust law.

"We include arbitration in our cardmember agreements because we think that it is an important part of American Express's overall approach to resolving any disputes with its cardmembers quickly and efficiently," American Express representative Marina Hoffmann Norville told Reuters.

Representatives for Discover and Citigroup declined to comment.

Four other banks--JPMorgan Chase & Co, Bank of America Corp, HSBC Holdings PLC and Capital One Financial Corp--settled claims in one of the lawsuits against them in 2010 by removing the arbitration clauses from their cardholder...
New York antitrust trial begins over credit card arbitrations | Fox Bus...

http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/07/new-york-antitrust-tri...

agreements for 3-1/2 years.

Those banks also agreed to pay the plaintiffs' lawyers $2.35 million in fees and expenses.

Following those settlements, credit card loans outstanding subject to arbitration clauses plunged from 95.1 percent at the end of 2009 to 48 percent a year later, according to a paper released in November by Peter Rutledge of University of Georgia School of Law and Christopher Drahozal at University of Kansas School of Law.

The settlements with the four banks are set to expire later this year, allowing them to again mandate arbitration.


(Reporting by Nate Raymond in New York; Editing by Martha Graybow and Richard Chang)

URL

Sally Quillian Yates joins AGAC

Atlanta Business Chronicle by Jacques Couret, Senior Online Editor

Date: Monday, January 7, 2013, 3:51pm EST


Yates joined the committee in May 2010 and has served on several subcommittees including civil rights, white collar fraud, and criminal practice and law enforcement coordination/victim/community issues.

The Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorneys started in 1973 to serve as the voice of the U.S. Attorneys and to advise the attorney general on policy, management and operational issues impacting the offices of the U.S. Attorneys.
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(Reporting by Nate Raymond in New York; Editing by Martha Graybow and Richard Chang)

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Georgia Law wins moot court competition

The School of Law recently took home top honors at the third annual Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition, capturing both first and second place against a field of more than 20 teams. Hosted by Mercer University, this is the second year in a row Georgia Law has won this national competition.

Third-year students Chandler L. Smith and Tim Dean comprised the winning team, while third-year classmates Nneka A. Egwuatu and Scott F. McAfee finished in the runner-up position. Additionally, McAfee was named the tournament's best oralist.
The University of Georgia School of Law’s student-edited legal journal, the Georgia Law Review, will present "Evidence Reform: Turning a Grotesque Structure into a Rational Edifice?" on Jan. 18 in the Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall, located on North Campus. During this daylong symposium, evidence scholars from across the country will discuss Georgia's new evidence code and will reflect upon the nation-wide evidence reform movement as a whole. The event is free and open to the public. However, due to limited capacity, pre-registration is encouraged.

"When its new Rules of Evidence went into effect on January 1, 2013, Georgia became the 44th state to adopt a new evidence code modeled on the Federal Rules of Evidence," conference co-organizer and third-year law student Clare Ellis said. "The symposium celebrates the modernization of Georgia’s evidence code by examining the broader reform movement from which it grew. We have asked contributors to comment upon the achievements and shortcomings of evidence reform in Georgia and elsewhere, with the hope of fostering discussion and debate about the past, present and future of evidence law."

The conference will include a keynote address by W. Ray Persons, litigation partner at King and Spalding and past chair of the State Bar of Georgia study committee on evidence reform. Persons will present an overview of the evidence reform process in Georgia and will provide insight into its impact on the day-to-day work of a trial lawyer.

For more information and to register, see www.law.uga.edu/georgia-law-review-symposia. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Attorneys interested in registering for Continuing Legal Education credits can do so the morning of the conference as long as they have their bar number and a check to pay for the credits.
HEADLINE: GEORGIA LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES EVIDENCE REFORM

BODY:

ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 8 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

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LOAD-DATE: January 10, 2013
hears oral arguments on a criminal death penalty case and a civil medical malpractice case. The justices normally convene at the State Judicial Building in Atlanta but conduct one or two special sessions outside the state's capital each year.

This is the fourth time since 1993 that the court has held oral arguments at Georgia Law, the last being in 2004.

"To see our state's highest court in action is a tremendous opportunity for our law school students," Georgia Law Dean Rebecca Hanner White said. "One can learn a lot from watching legal counsel and justices interact at this level, and we are honored to host such an event."

The cases being heard are Edenfield v. State (death penalty) and Shekhawat, et al. v. Jones et al. (medical malpractice).

In Edenfield, David Homer Edenfield is appealing the murder conviction and death sentence he received for the 2007 killing of 6-year-old Christopher Barrios Jr. in Glynn County.

In Shekhawat, two physicians with the Medical College of Georgia are appealing a Georgia Court of Appeals decision that found they were not entitled to sovereign immunity in the face of a lawsuit brought by the parents of an infant they treated who suffered a lifetime disability.

While in Athens, the court will also hold an admission ceremony, allowing licensed attorneys to become members of the bar of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Attorneys who would like to participate will need to fax in a completed admission form, which can be found at www.gasupreme.us/admissions, by Monday, Jan. 14. They will then need to bring the original form as well as a check for the $30 admission fee to the law school on Jan.16. Participants are asked to dress in court attire and arrive at the law school by 1:30 p.m. to check-in at the Hirsch Hall Rotunda. The induction ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. Those interested in staying to hear Edenfield v. State should call Suzanne Griffeth at 706/542-5190 to register as space is limited and seating priority will be given to law school students.

Members of the public interested in attending may call 706/542-5172 for more information. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com 

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Take a hike: Bridge at Sandy Creek Park offers new opportunities for trailblazers

By CHRIS WHITE published Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Whether it's a quick walk to burn a few calories on a lunch break or a marathon-length trek, the Athens area offers a variety of connected jogging and hiking paths, including a new connection at Sandy Creek Park.

The recently completed bridge at the park on Bob Holman Road, along the north border of Athens-Clarke County, completed a circuit around Lake Chapman, which now offers a roughly 7-mile path for hikers or adventurous joggers.

"It's certainly a little hilly at some points, but it's a good several miles," said Walt Cook, a retired University of Georgia forestry professor and park volunteer after whom the adjoining Cook's Trail is named. "A lot of people have already done the loop, I've done it, and it's a good hike."

To the south, Cook's Trail connects the park to Sandy Creek Nature Center through a wooded, 4.1-mile path, and the 3.5-mile North Oconee Greenway connects the nature center to downtown Athens and the University of Georgia campus.

There are plenty of places to park along the trail for a quick stroll, but all together, the connected trails offer a nearly marathon-length, 23-mile round trip for those interested in traveling from one end to the other and back.

"With the loop at Sandy Creek Park, in theory, you could walk from Dudley Park (at the south end), up the Greenway, up Cook's Trail and now around the lake for about an 11-mile stretch," Sandy Creek Park facility supervisor Dan Magee said. "There's a lot of flexibility with different lengths, too."

Sandy Creek Park had several trails that traversed the area around Lake Chapman, but until recently they were not connected. The bridge spans a wetland area, connecting the two main paths and completing the loop.
"We do get some runners, and it's a good run, but it's moderate terrain with a little bit of hills and with some rocky areas," Magee said of the stretch wrapping around the lake. "It's not really for beginning runners, but it's a good run for some of the advanced runners. ... We just ask that people who do want to run do it with a partner or check in when they get to the park so we know someone is out there."

The bridge will be formally dedicated with a ceremony on Jan. 26 and named for the late Ellen R. Jordan, who was an associate dean and associate vice president at the University of Georgia Law School and wife of former county commissioner Carl Jordan.

The connector is already open, though, and has seen some increased traffic.

"It's now double the amount of hikers we had before," Magee said. "It's not a huge number, but it's about double, and a lot of that is people 50 and above and a lot of senior using the trails."

Those less initiated can piecemeal portions of the trail, which individually offer plenty of recreation options for everything from a quick stroll to an afternoon hike. Starting with the Greenway at the southern end, paved portions are open to those interested in a short walk or jog, as well as bicyclists. Cook's Trail is a natural-terrain path open to hikers and joggers, as is the trail around Lake Chapman.

Parking is available at several locations along the connected route, including at Dudley Park behind Mama's Boy and at the university's Chicopee Complex lot on East Broad Street; along the Greenway at Riverside Park on Dr. Martin Luther King Parkway; at Sandy Creek Nature Center; and at Sandy Creek Park.

Visitors to Sandy Creek Park must pay $2 per person if entering in a vehicle, and children under 4 and seniors are admitted free.
Baker & McKenzie Elects New Partners in North America

Firm News
8 January 2013

Chicago, USA, January 7, 2013 – Baker & McKenzie has elected 19 new partners in North America. The elections were effective January 1, 2013.

"These individuals have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to our clients and to the Firm," said Philip Suse, Baker & McKenzie's North American Managing Partner. "We're very proud of this group and congratulate them on this important career achievement."

The Firm's newly promoted partners include:

Jenny Austin is a Partner in the Tax Practice, based in Chicago. She represents multinational companies in transfer pricing and other tax litigation matters. Her clients seek her advice from all stages of tax disputes — from audit and administrative appeal to alternative dispute resolution proceedings and litigation. She helps clients develop strategies for negotiating with the IRS during audits and represents them in contesting IRS determinations at the administrative level and in court. Ms. Austin received her B.S.B.A in Accounting and an A.B. in Germanic Language and Literature from Washington University. She also received her J.D. from Washington University School of Law and her LL.M. in Taxation from the New York University School of Law.

Mohamed Barakat is a Partner in the Corporate & Securities Practice, based in Chicago. He advises multinational companies on domestic and cross-border mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures, with emphasis on the Saudi Arabian market. Mr. Barakat also advises global investment banks on the rules and regulations governing several capital markets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other jurisdictions in the Middle East. Prior to joining the Chicago office, he spent three years in our Riyadh office. Mr. Barakat received his bachelors and masters from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law.

John Cunningham is a Partner in the Investigations and Business Crimes, Corporate Compliance, and White Collar Defense Practice Groups, based in Washington, DC. He represents an array of multinational clients, concentrating his practice on internal investigations, anti-corruption compliance, and white collar criminal defense. Prior to joining Baker & McKenzie, Mr. Cunningham served as a...
senior trial attorney with the US Department of Justice, practiced white collar criminal defense, clerked in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and worked as an investigative analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary and his J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. Mr. Cunningham also has an M.A. in US Legal History from George Washington University.

Hugo Dubovoy, Jr. is a Partner in the Corporate & Securities Practice, based in Chicago. He advises clients in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and general corporate and securities matters. Mr. Dubovoy has represented buyers and sellers in negotiated and contested public acquisitions, private acquisitions, divestitures and other strategic transactions. He has also represented issuers and underwriters in public offerings and private placements of equity and debt securities. In addition, Mr. Dubovoy advises clients on general corporate and securities matters, including corporate governance, fiduciary duty and disclosure issues, and strategic planning. Mr. Dubovoy has also represented incumbent directors and insurgent stockholders in proxy contests and other corporate control matters. Mr. Dubovoy received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was awarded the Kirkland & Ellis Minority Scholarship, and his B.A. from Loyola University, Chicago. Mr. Dubovoy is concluding his term as an Associate Director of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms.

David Gadsden is a Partner in the Litigation Practice, based in Toronto. He focuses on class action defense, product liability, business crime and fraud investigations and all manner of securities disputes. Mr. Gadsden has acted in numerous national class actions involving allegations of investment fraud and misrepresentation, price fixing, and negligent manufacture of consumer goods and medical devices. He also counsels on product liability, safety and recall matters and represents clients on business crime investigations and regulatory proceedings. Mr. Gadsden received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University and his LL.B. from the University of Western Ontario.

Denise Glagau is a Partner in the Compensation & Employment Law Practice, based in San Francisco. She assists public and private companies in offering their employee equity plans around the world. Ms. Glagau consults on plan design, tax considerations, securities filing and disclosure requirements, exchange control rules, labor law exposure, data privacy concerns and other compliance issues connected to offering employee equity plans in different jurisdictions. She also advises companies on the effects of mergers, reorganizations, spin-offs and other
corporate adjustments on their equity programs. Ms. Glagau received her B.A. from McGill University and her LL.B. from Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law. She also has a LL.M. in International Legal Studies from Golden Gate University School of Law.

Jacob Kaplan is a Partner in the Litigation Practice, based in New York. He represents foreign and domestic clients in international commercial litigation and arbitration matters, and has served as counsel in disputes concerning contract, energy, construction, commodities, financial services, insurance, intellectual property and other matters, including Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act and Uniform Trade Secrets Act cases. Mr. Kaplan received his B.A. from Yale University and his J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Kevin Maher is a Partner in the International Commercial Practice, based in Dallas. He has a broad-based business-transactional practice focusing on complex corporate and commercial matters, with an emphasis on cross-border transactions involving public and private companies, including joint ventures, acquisitions and reorganizations. Mr. Maher’s practice has a particular emphasis on cross-border franchising and distribution matters, advising many franchised brands in various industries (including the hotel, restaurant, car rental and retail segments) on their international expansion via franchising, joint ventures and direct operations. Mr. Maher also routinely represents clients in international real estate and finance matters relating to cross-border acquisitions, dispositions, leasing and credit transactions. He received his B.A. from the University of Dallas and his J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law.

Michele Maney is a Partner in the Corporate & Securities Practice, based in New York. She represents a broad range of strategic and institutional clients in connection with US and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture capital transactions, LBO's, divestitures and joint ventures. She also advises clients on general corporate matters. Ms. Maney received her B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Alain Mégiás is a Partner in the International Commercial Practice, based in San Francisco. He focuses on the planning, coordination, and implementation of multi-country corporate transactions and restructurings. Mr. Mégiás’ areas of focus include pre-transaction restructurings, spin-offs, multi-country post-acquisition integrations, tax-driven reorganizations, cash repatriation, and financing. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business from the Ecole Superieure Libre des Sciences Commerciales Appliquees, and a master’s degree (“DESS”) in Business and Tax Law with
honors from the University of Clermont-Ferrand School of Law before going on to receive his LL.M. from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Mark Mendl is a Partner in the Compensation & Employment Law Practice, based in Toronto. Mr. Mendl's practice focuses on all aspects of the employment relationship and he regularly advises clients on a variety of employment and labour matters, including executive employment and compensation matters, restrictive covenants, acquisitions and divestitures, terminations, large scale reductions in force and restructurings, human rights, employment standards, union applications for certification, collective bargaining, collective agreement interpretation, and discipline and discharge. Mr. Mendl has been involved in a number of significant, high profile cases that have been decided by the Supreme Court of Canada and the Ontario Court of Appeal. Mr. Mendl has donated his time to a number of pro bono matters for employees who did not have the financial means to retain the Firm and is a member of the Student Recruitment Team in the Toronto office.

Laura O'Rourke is a Partner in the Litigation Practice, based in Dallas. Her practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement. She represents public and private companies and their officers and directors in federal and state courts, and before federal and state securities agencies. Her representation includes the defense of state and federal securities class actions, SEC enforcement actions, federal and state court individual investor securities suits, as well as the defense of individuals and companies responding to SEC, FINRA, and State Securities Agencies' investigations and administrative proceedings. Ms. O'Rourke also represents clients in federal and state courts throughout the country in cases involving claims of breach of contract, common law fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, deceptive trade practices, and unfair competition. She received her B.A. from the University of Texas at Dallas and her J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law.

Daniel Ro-Trock is a Partner in the Corporate & Securities Practice, based in Houston. His practice focuses on corporate and securities law where he represents companies in domestic and multi-jurisdictional transactions, including mergers, equity and asset acquisitions and dispositions, public and private securities offerings, corporate governance issues, proxy solicitation, corporate restructurings, venture capital financings, executive compensation, general corporate and securities law matters, as well as the reporting obligations of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, NYSE Euronext and SIX Swiss Exchange. During his tenure with the Firm he also practiced in our Geneva office. Mr. Ro-Trock received his B.A. from Texas A&M University and his J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center.
Daniel Robyn is a Partner in the International Commercial Practice Group, based in San Francisco. His practice focuses on global corporate restructuring projects for public and private companies (including post-acquisition planning and integrations, spin-off transactions, and tax restructurings), foreign direct investment, and domestic and international commercial contracts involving sales, marketing, and distribution. In addition, he advises overseas companies on doing business in the US, including the start-up of business operations, product launches and product liability risk management, and serves as coordinating counsel in the defense of foreign companies against US product liability lawsuits. Mr. Robyn graduated from the University of Cologne School of Law (J.D. equivalent) in Germany and received his Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. After law school, Mr. Robyn worked in our Dusseldorf, Germany, office. He is admitted to practice in California and Germany.

Abraham Smith is a Partner in the Tax Practice, based in Miami, where he works on all facets of tax planning. He counsels individuals with undisclosed income from offshore accounts, including participation in the IRS voluntary disclosure initiatives. He assists foreign clients with real estate structures, including FIRPTA. He also advises clients on pre-immigration and expatriation issues. He earned an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida and a J.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Mr. Smith also earned a B.S. in Business Management from Brigham Young University.

Caryn Smith is a Partner in the Tax Practice, based in Houston. She represents a wide variety of multinational clients in all areas of federal income tax law, with an emphasis on international tax planning, transfer pricing, corporate and partnership taxation. Ms. Smith has been involved in designing and implementing tax efficient structures for domestic and foreign clients in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, planning tax-efficient supply chain and financing structures, repatriation planning, structuring intellectual property ownership, and assisting in global transfer pricing projects. She earned an LL.M. in Taxation from Northwestern University School of Law and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law. She also earned a B.B.A. in Finance from Texas A&M University.

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Florida.
SULLUM: Who is too unbalanced for guns?  
BY: JACOB SULLUM | Posted: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 7:46 pm

The day of Adam Lanza’s murderous assault on Sandy Hook Elementary School, Mike Rogers said stricter gun control would not be an appropriate response. The more realistic discussion, said the Republican congressman from Michigan, is how do we target people with mental illness who use firearms?

Last week, another Republican congressman, Howard Coble of North Carolina, agreed that it’s more of a mental health problem than a gun problem right now. And last Friday, when the National Rifle Association broke its silence on the Sandy Hook massacre, the group’s executive vice president, Wayne LaPierre, called for an active national database of the mentally ill.

Psychiatrically informed policies aimed at controlling people rather than weapons are popular in the wake of mass shootings, especially among those who rightly worry that gun restrictions will unfairly burden law-abiding Americans while failing to prevent future attacks. Yet treating gun violence as a mental health problem presents similar dangers.

An active national database of the mentally ill clearly would not have stopped Lanza, who used guns legally purchased by his mother. Even if he had bought the guns himself, it appears he would have passed a background check because did not meet the criteria for rejection.

Federal law prohibits gun ownership by anyone who has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been committed to any mental institution. Neither seems to have been the case with Lanza.

Acquaintances reported that Lanza might have had Asperger’s syndrome. That label, which soon won’t even count as a mental disorder anymore, is not much more informative than saying he was a shy, socially inept loner (which people who knew him also said).

It seems safe to assume that someone who murders randomly selected first-graders is psychologically abnormal, but that is not the same as saying that a specific mental illness explains his behavior. Given the subjective, amorphous nature of psychiatric diagnoses, we might as well say the devil made him do it.

In any event, mental health professionals are notoriously bad at predicting which of the world’s many misfits, cranks and oddballs will become violent. Over 30 years of commentary, judicial opinion and scientific review argue that predictions of danger lack scientific rigor, notes University of Georgia law professor Alexander Scherr in a 2003 Hastings Law Journal article. The sharpest critique finds that mental health professionals perform no better than chance at
predicting violence, and perhaps perform even worse.

So even if the mental-health criteria for rejecting gun buyers (or for commitment) were expanded, there is little reason to think they could distinguish between future Lanzas and people who pose no threat. Survey data from the National Institute of Mental Health indicate that nearly half of all Americans qualify for a psychiatric diagnosis at some point in their lives. That’s a pretty wide dragnet.

Should half of us lose our Second Amendment rights, at least for the duration of whatever mental disorder (depression, anxiety, addiction, inattentiveness, etc.) afflicts us? Assuming a prescription for Prozac, Xanax or Adderall is not enough to disqualify someone from owning a gun, what should the standard be?

Even under current law, mental illness can become a label for unconventional political beliefs. Remember Brandon Raub, the Marine Corps veteran who was forced to undergo a psychiatric evaluation in Virginia last summer based on his conspiracy-minded, anti-government Facebook posts?

The malleability of mental illness was also apparent at a 2007 debate among the candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination. After seeing a YouTube video in which Jered Townsend of Clio, Mich., asked about gun control and referred to his rifle as my baby, Joseph Biden said: If that’s his baby, he needs help. ... I don’t know that he is mentally qualified to own that gun. I’m being serious.

So perhaps excessive attachment to your guns should be grounds for taking them away. Biden, by the way, is in charge of formulating the policies the Obama administration will pursue in response to Lanza’s horrifying crimes.
Jan. 10--Lawyers representing the man sentenced to death in the kidnapping, molestation and murder of 6-year-old Christopher Michael Barrios Jr. will attempt to have the verdict reversed by the Supreme Court of Georgia when it convenes Wednesday.

David Edenfield of Glynn County was sentenced to death by lethal injection after being convicted Oct. 5, 2009, for his role in the death of the elementary school child, who was raped and strangled.

Christopher's body was found March 14, 2007, in a garbage bag on Canal Road, a week after he disappeared March 8, 2007, from the Canal Road Mobile Home Park, where he lived with his father.

Attorneys for Edenfield, led by James A. Yancey Jr. of Brunswick, plan to argue that Edenfield's conviction by a jury was based on several errors during the trial. They claim in briefs the only evidence introduced at trial that directly incriminated Edenfield was confessions he did not give voluntarily.

Edenfield made those statements, lawyers contend, based on the hope that if he told police their version of the truth, "(he) would be able to go home, stay out of jail to help his mother and obtain psychological help for (his adult son) George."

Additionally, David Edenfield's IQ of 83 would have made his mental deficiency obvious to officers when they questioned him, the lawyers contend.

Another error made by Superior Court Judge Stephen Scarlett, according to Edenfield's lawyers, was in the selection of a jury from Jeff Davis County, which they say was too close to Glynn County to avoid media saturation.

Lawyers had initially asked for a change of venue from Glynn County because of the vast media coverage generated by the crime. Instead, Scarlett ordered that jurors be selected from Jeff Davis County, about 100 miles from Brunswick, and conducted the trial in Glynn County.

They also contend another error was the refusal by Scarlett to remove a prospective juror who said he would not consider a life prison sentence because of the possibility a person convicted of child sex abuse could be released on parole.

The lawyers also claim a mistrial should have been declared when a prosecutor called Edenfield "an animal" during the trial.

Prosecutors note in the briefs they apologized for the "animal" statement -- made by then District Attorney Stephen Kelley, who is now a Superior Court judge...
-- and claim the comment "did not infect the trial with unfairness."

Lawyer Yancey declined Wednesday to comment on the case. "Given the gravity of the case, I don't feel that making a statement would be appropriate," he said.

The state, led by Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jackie Johnson, plans to argue that statements made by Edenfield before and after his arrest were properly admitted as evidence at the trial, according to briefs filed by prosecutors.

Police never promised anything to Edenfield, and there was "no suggestion by the officer that confessing to murdering a child could mean the defendant would be allowed to return to his former home," prosecution briefs state.

Prosecutors also state in their briefs the state properly tried Edenfield in Glynn County and followed proper jury selection practices.

Johnson could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Edenfield was convicted after his wife, Peggy Edenfield, agreed to testify against him and her son George in exchange for the state not seeking the death penalty against her. She was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

George Edenfield was found incompetent to stand trial, because of his mental condition, and is under evaluation at a state mental institution to determine if he ever will be tried.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case at the University of Georgia School of Law at Athens.
By Michael Hall The Brunswick News, Ga.

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The key to Constangy's success: 'Respect'

Robin H. Hensley, Special to the Daily Report

Daily Report
01-10-2013

Neil H. Wasser started working in the mailroom at Constangy, Brooks & Smith in high school and was just 16 when his grandfather, firm founder Frank Constangy, died. He joined the labor and employment firm after graduating from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1980 and was named chairman of the executive committee in 2006. The firm now has 23 offices and 130 attorneys. He recently talked to Robin H. Hensley about his views on marketing the firm.

You're the only member of your family besides your grandfather to practice law at the firm, and you were a teenager when he passed away. What did he teach you that influences the way you lead the firm 40 years later?

My grandfather taught me that you can learn a lot about a person from the way he treats a waiter in a restaurant. He carried that philosophy of respect not only to clients, but also to the firm's lawyers and staff.

Respect remains a part of who we are as an organization today. We help companies prevent workplace disputes—and we aggressively defend management's interests when problems arise. So, it also makes sense that we strive to create a workplace that fosters productivity and positive relations among everyone in our own offices. Each person at Constangy makes a contribution to our success, and it's incumbent upon me as a leader to always be cognizant of that fact and treat people accordingly.

What marketing activities for you or your firm do you feel are most beneficial?

This may sound simple, but investing in opportunities for our lawyers to meet people is our favored approach. Here's why—and I can't make this stuff up. I visit clients yearly and ask for feedback about our firm, our work product and our relationships. Clients say that what sets Constangy apart is our lawyers' "humility factor" and that "it's not all about egos." One GC even said, "Constangy lawyers have soul."

Advertising also has its place, and our website and employment law blogs reveal a personality that I believe distinguishes us.

Unique initiatives help get our name out too, like our annual Work-Life Balance Award. In this program, which we started in 2006, in-house counsel and human resources professionals from nominated companies receive recognition for excellence in work-life balance programming. To date, we have honored 10 companies for their visionary efforts on behalf of their own employees.

But the best use of marketing dollars is placing our lawyers face-to-face with decision-makers—whether it is in sponsoring a targeted industry conference, hosting a regional briefing, or visiting an existing client.

Do you employ any innovative strategies for training lawyers about marketing?
The attorney for a Glynn County man sentenced to death in the 2007 murder and sexual assault of 6-year-old Christopher Barrios told the justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia that he deserves a new trial.

The justices held oral arguments Wednesday at the University of Georgia Law School before an audience of 120 students and faculty during their annual visit outside Atlanta.

In October 2009, David Edenfield was convicted for helping his adult son, George, abuse and strangle the child who lived nearby in the same Canal Mobile Home Park outside Brunswick. He was convicted of murder, cruelty to children, three counts of child molestation and other charges and has been on Death Row ever since.

The Edenfields had moved from a home they owned in Brunswick to the mobile home park because it was one of the few places the son could live as a convicted child molester. According to prosecutors, the son said voices told him to kill the child, and
David Edenfield walked in on his son in the act and participated “to see what it felt like to kill someone.”

Christopher’s grandmother, Sue Rodriquez, lived just across a narrow road from the Edenfields’ mobile home. In walking between his grandmother’s home and his father’s home nearby, Christopher passed through the Edenfields’ yard, his family had said.

Wednesday, Edenfield’s attorney, James Yancey Jr., said there was nothing linking David Edenfield to the crime other than statements made to police by the older Edenfield, who has an IQ of 83.

However, his wife, Peggy Edenfield, also testified against him and admitted to helping hide the body.

“Mr. Edenfield told them what they wanted to hear,” Yancey said. “What he told them was not correct.”

Yancey argued that investigators made promises to a suspect they could tell had little intellect, and his statements should not be used to incriminate him because he was trying to please the officers in hope of being released.

“They focused on him because he was the least low-functioning adult present,” said Yancey, noting that Peggy Edenfield, their son and a friend also arrested but later cleared, all had low IQs.

But Assistant District Attorney John B. Johnson told the court that David Edenfield, who had prior experience with the law, never sought a lawyer nor asked to exercise his right to remain silent.

“You have to remember that this gentleman, and I use that term loosely, had a career in the National Guard. He was holding a job and had done so for years. And to qualify him as ‘low-functioning’ is a misstatement of the facts that are in evidence in this case,” said Johnson, the lead prosecutor in the case.

Focus on jury
Yancey also complained that the jury was biased by news coverage, even though they were drawn from Jeff Davis County about 100 miles away. Of the 80 prospective jurors who weren’t excused for having a moral opposition to the death penalty, 20 of them, or 25 percent, were dismissed because they had already made up their minds. He said a 1991 Supreme Court precedent said a change of a trial venue is required if news reports swayed as few as 21 percent of the prospective jurors.

Johnson argued that 156 people were summoned to be in the jury pool, and that the 20 Yancey cited amounted to just 13 percent of the larger number available, not 25 percent.

A third reason for a new trial, according to Yancey, was because the trial judge should have excused one specific juror as being biased because of his answers during jury selection. That would have preserved one of the defense team’s limited jury strikes, Yancey said.

Peggy Edenfield pleaded guilty to five counts of child molestation and was sentenced
to 60 years in prison. George Edenfield has been found incompetent to stand trial.

Christopher’s disappearance captured the attention of the nation. A week of extensive searching, a Georgia Department of Natural Resources ranger driving a road about two miles away spotted a black plastic bag in woods. He checked the bag and found Christopher’s nude and decomposing body.

The court gave no hint as to which way it will rule. A decision is expected in three or four months.

*Times-Union Georgia Editor Terry Dickson contributed to this report.*

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Court hears appeal of conviction in coastal Georgia boy's death

By KATE BRUMBACK
The Associated Press

District Attorney Stephen Kelley holds up a portrait of Christopher Barrios during his closing argument in the penalty phase of David Edenfield's trial in the Glynn County courthouse in Brunswick, Ga. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009. Edenfield was given the death sentence for the 2007 molestation and murder of six-year-old Christopher Barrios. (AP Photo/The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven)

ATHENS — Police in coastal Georgia coerced statements from a man accused in the 2007 rape and slaying of a 6-year-old boy, and the trial court that handed him the death penalty made numerous errors, the man's defense attorney argued Wednesday before the Supreme Court of Georgia.

David Edenfield was convicted in 2009 and sentenced to die for the slaying of Christopher Barrios in a trailer park outside Brunswick. He has appealed his convictions and death sentence to the state Supreme Court.

Defense lawyer James Yancey argued before the high court that Edenfield is a "low-functioning man" and that police got statements from him by making false promises. Yancey also argued his client didn't get a fair jury pool and that police had no physical evidence tying Edenfield to the crime.

Prosecutor John Johnson argued that Edenfield's incriminating statements were...
properly obtained, contested the idea that Edenfield is mentally impaired and said jury selection was carried out correctly.

Edenfield’s wife Peggy, son George and a family friend were all in the Edenfield trailer when police arrived to investigate Christopher’s disappearance. Yancey said Edenfield made self-incriminating statements after officers led him to believe he would be able to go home, stay out of jail to help his mother and get psychological help for his son if he told police what they wanted to hear.

They told him “the truth will set you free and a lie will place you in jail,” Yancey said.

Johnson argued transcripts of the conversations Edenfield had with police give no indication of such promises. Johnson also disputed claims of Edenfield’s mental impairment.

“To qualify him as low-functioning is a misstatement of the facts that are of evidence in this case,” Johnson said, citing Edenfield’s career in the National Guard, the fact that he held down a job and his 30-year marriage.

Yancey said the jury pool was tainted by pretrial publicity even though jurors were brought in from Jeff Davis County, about 100 miles from Glynn County where the trial was held.

The justices asked whether jurors’ views were tainted by having heard coverage or if they were simply aware of the case.

“Having heard about a case, what does that tell you about anything?” Justice David Nahmias asked.

Yancey also took issue with the fact that the trial court judge did not strike a prospective juror who said he could not consider a life sentence with the possibility of parole for someone convicted of child abuse.

Johnson countered that the prospective juror, who did not end up on the jury, eventually said that he could consider the three possible sentences depending on the facts of the case.

The justices questioned whether that was enough given that the facts of the case clearly involved the molestation of a child.

Christopher went missing March 8, 2007, from the Brunswick mobile home park where his father and grandmother both had homes. His body was found a week later by a roadside, wrapped in trash bags.

Edenfield’s family had moved into a home across the street from Christopher’s grandmother four months earlier. Police found one of Christopher’s toys, a Star Wars lightsaber, in Edenfield’s front yard. Edenfield’s grown son, George, was a convicted child molester.

The elder Edenfield confessed to the crime in a videotaped interview with a police detective the day after the boy’s body was found.

On the tape, Edenfield said he and his son molested the boy inside their home while
his wife, Peggy, watched. He said Christopher pleaded with them to stop and
threatened to tell his father and grandmother, prompting Edenfield’s son to begin
choking the boy.

Edenfield told police he placed his own hands on top of his son’s as Christopher
choked to death.

Peggy Edenfield was also charged in the case but agreed to testify against her
husband and son in exchange for prosecutors agreeing not to seek the death penalty
against her. She is serving a 60-year prison sentence.

Their son has been deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial.

The family friend pleaded guilty to minor charges.

Wednesday’s arguments were held at the University of Georgia School of Law in
Athens.
Six years after Christopher was murdered

SUPREME COURT HEARS WHY HIS KILLER SHOULD NOT DIE

By MICHAEL HALL
The Brunswick News

ATHENS - Lawyers for the killer, David Blanc, filed a motion yesterday in the Georgia Supreme Court Wednesday, asking the court to reverse the death penalty given to Blanc in the 6-year-old boy's murder.

Christopher was murdered on Oct. 6, 2009, in a church in Alpharetta. His 6-year-old nephew, Christopher Blanc, was sentenced to life in prison.

The trial of the case is set for March 2014, and in a previous appeal of the case, the court ruled that the jury's decision was based on the defendant's past history of violence.

The court is expected to hear arguments in the case on Wednesday, before the Georgia Supreme Court.

The trial is expected to last until Thursday, before the defendant is sentenced.

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The trial is expected to last until Thursday.
Jan. 17--ATHENS -- Lawyers for child killer David Edenfield told the Georgia Supreme Court Wednesday his conviction should be reversed and his life spared because the jury that convicted him was improperly selected and jurors heard evidence that should not have been admitted at trial.

Edenfield, of Glynn County, was sentenced Oct. 6, 2009, to death by lethal injection for his role in the March 2007 kidnapping, molestation and murder of 6-year-old Christopher Michael Barrios Jr. Christopher's body was found March 14, 2007, in a garbage bag on Canal Road in Glynn County, a week after he had disappeared from the Canal Road Mobile Home Park where he lived with his father.

During oral arguments to the court, sitting outside Atlanta at the University of Georgia School of Law Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom, Edenfield's court-appointed defense attorney, James Yancey Jr., contended that one juror should have been removed after saying he would not consider a life sentence with the possibility of parole in a case involving child sex abuse. He said the statement showed the juror had already made up his mind about the case.

Brunswick Judicial Circuit Assistant District Attorney John B. Johnson, however, contended that Glynn County Superior Court Judge Stephen Scarlett was correct in not removing the potential juror from the jury pool after stating his views on sentencing of child molesters during jury selection.

Johnson said that after further questioning, the potential juror told Scarlett he might change his mind, depending on the circumstances of a particular case. "He said he would consider it, depending on the facts of this case," Johnson said.

Presiding Justice Hugh P. Thompson told Johnson he did not necessarily agree but said he was at the hearing Wednesday to be convinced. Johnson responded by telling Thompson that child sex abuse was not the only charge against Edenfield, and that the totality of circumstances would ultimately be what decided how the juror felt about the case.

The exchange was one of several during the hearing, as justices sometimes interrupted lawyers mid-sentence to ask questions or make statements.

Yancey encountered his share of questions, as well.

While Yancey was arguing that the jury pool drawn from Jeff Davis County, about 100 miles from Brunswick, was tainted because people in it were too close to what he called saturated media coverage in Glynn County, Justice David E.
Nahmias asked several questions.

Jurors were selected at the courthouse in Hazlehurst, the county seat of Jeff Davis County, and heard the case in Glynn County, where they were sequestered.

"The excessive and extreme publicity in Glynn County tainted the jury pool," Yancey said, claiming the case was talked about often in rural and sparsely populated Jeff Davis County.

Yancey claimed 20 jurors, or 25 percent of the final 80 in the pool, were removed because of their prior knowledge of the case. Those 80 were almost half of the original pool of 156 potential jurors. Yancey said the other 76 were removed because they had heard about the case before reporting for jury selection.

Nahmias was not sold on Yancey's assessment of the situation. Unless what they had heard about the case was inflammatory or prejudicial, they did not have to be removed, the justice said.

"The fact that they've heard about it doesn't mean anything," Nahmias told Yancey.

Johnson argued the 20 jurors were the only ones removed because of a prior knowledge of the case. Of the entire 156, those potential jurors made up only a little more than 13 percent of the entire pool. Even after they were removed from the final 80, there were still plenty of unbiased jurors from which to choose, he said.

"Not one of the 60 that were left had any bias," Johnson said.

Nahmias told Johnson he would have liked to have seen those statements in Johnson's written briefs submitted prior to oral arguments.

The justices seemed to have difficulty wading through the sometimes convoluted arguments about jury selection and asked Yancey to give them a written explanation of the total circumstances within five days. Prosecutors will have another five days to submit a rebuttal.

Yancey also contended that Glynn County police targeted Edenfield as a primary suspect in the disappearance of Christopher because of his low intellect, with an IQ of 83. He claimed police fed him their version of the truth to get him to confess to the murder.

"They wanted him to tell the truth as they saw it," Yancey said. "Mr. Edenfield told them what they wanted to hear."

Yancey said police coerced Edenfield by telling him he would be able to stay home, be with his mother and not go to jail if he told the truth.

Nahmias asked Yancey when police made those statements. Yancey claimed then-Glynn County detective Marissa Tindale told Edenfield during early interviews in the investigation.

Edenfield confessed in a videotaped interview with police the day after Christopher's body was found.

On the videotape, which prosecutors played for jurors, Edenfield said he and his adult son, George Edenfield, molested the boy inside their mobile home while his wife, Peggy Edenfield, watched. He said Christopher pleaded with them to stop and threatened to tell his father, prompting George Edenfield to begin choking Christopher.

David Edenfield told police he placed his hands on top of his son's as
Christopher was choked to death, because he wanted to know what it felt like.

Johnson told the justices police never promised David Edenfield anything and let him go free after two interviews before he was later arrested.

Johnson also disputed claims about Edenfield's mental capacity.

"To qualify him as low-functioning is a misstatement of the facts that are of evidence in this case," Johnson said. To back up his assertion, Johnson cited Edenfield's career in the National Guard, the fact that he held a job and he was married for 30 years.

Yancey also argued that Scarlett should have declared a mistrial when then-prosecutor Stephen Kelley, now a Glynn County Superior Court judge, called Edenfield an "animal" in front of jurors. Prosecutors said Kelley apologized in court for the remark.

Peggy Edenfield was also charged with kidnapping and murder, but struck a deal with prosecutors to testify against her husband and son, and ultimately pleaded guilty. She is serving a 60-year prison sentence.

George Edenfield has been found mentally incompetent to stand trial and is under continuing evaluation at a state mental institution to determine if he ever can be tried.

Only six of seven justices heard arguments Wednesday. Justice P. Harris Hines was ill but will participate in a decision after listening to recorded arguments. The court will issue a ruling at a later date.
ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - Police in Brunswick coerced statements from a man accused in the 2007 rape and slaying of a 6-year-old boy, and the trial court that handed him the death penalty made numerous errors, the man's defense attorney argued Wednesday before the Supreme Court of Georgia.

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Prosecutor John Johnson argued that Edenfield's incriminating statements were properly obtained, contested the idea that Edenfield is mentally impaired and said jury selection was carried out correctly. Edenfield's wife Peggy, son George and a family friend were all in the Edenfield trailer when police arrived to investigate Christopher's disappearance. Yancey said Edenfield made self-incriminating statements after officers led him to believe he would be able to go home, stay out of jail to help his mother and get psychological help for his son if he told police what they wanted to hear.

They told him "the truth will set you free and a lie will place you in jail," Yancey said.

Johnson argued transcripts of the conversations Edenfield had with police give no indication of such promises. Johnson also disputed claims of Edenfield's mental impairment.
Convicted killer says statements coerced

Brunswick man appeals death sentence

By Kate Brumback
Associated Press writer
January 17, 2013

ATHENS — Police in coastal Georgia coerced statements from a man accused in the 2007 rape and slaying of a 6-year-old boy, and the trial court that handed him the death penalty made numerous errors, the man's defense attorney argued Wednesday before the Supreme Court of Georgia.

David Edenfield was convicted in 2009 and sentenced to die for the slaying of Christopher Barrios in a trailer park outside Brunswick. He has appealed his convictions and death sentence to the state Supreme Court.

Defense lawyer James Yancey argued before the high court that Edenfield is a "low-functioning man" and that police got statements from him by making false promises. Yancey also argued his client didn't get a fair jury pool and that police had no physical evidence tying Edenfield to the crime.

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Edenfield's wife Peggy, son George and a family friend were all in the Edenfield trailer when police arrived to investigate Christopher's disappearance. Yancey said Edenfield made self-incriminating statements after officers led him to believe he would be able to go home, stay out of jail to help his mother and get psychological help for his son if he told police what they wanted to hear.

They told him "the truth will set you free and a lie will place you in jail," Yancey said.

Johnson argued transcripts of the conversations Edenfield had with police give no indication of such promises. Johnson also disputed claims of Edenfield's mental impairment.

"To qualify him as low-functioning is a misstatement of the facts that are of evidence in this case," Johnson said, citing Edenfield's career in the National Guard, the fact that he held down a job and his 30-year marriage.

Yancey said the jury pool was tainted by pretrial publicity even though jurors were
brought in from Jeff Davis County, about 100 miles from Glynn County where the trial was held.

The justices asked whether jurors' views were tainted by having heard coverage or if they were simply aware of the case.

"Having heard about a case, what does that tell you about anything?" Justice David Nahmias asked.

Yancey also took issue with the fact that the trial court judge did not strike a prospective juror who said he could not consider a life sentence with the possibility of parole for someone convicted of child abuse.

Johnson countered that the prospective juror, who did not end up on the jury, eventually said that he could consider the three possible sentences depending on the facts of the case.

The justices questioned whether that was enough given that the facts of the case clearly involved the molestation of a child.

Christopher went missing March 8, 2007, from the Brunswick mobile home park where his father and grandmother both had homes. His body was found a week later by a roadside, wrapped in trash bags.

Edenfield's family had moved into a home across the street from Christopher's grandmother four months earlier. Police found one of Christopher's toys, a Star Wars lightsaber, in Edenfield's front yard. Edenfield's grown son, George, was a convicted child molester.

The elder Edenfield confessed to the crime in a videotaped interview with a police detective the day after the boy's body was found.

On the tape, Edenfield said he and his son molested the boy inside their home while his wife, Peggy, watched. He said Christopher pleaded with them to stop and threatened to tell his father and grandmother, prompting Edenfield's son to begin choking the boy.

Edenfield told police he placed his own hands on top of his son's as Christopher choked to death.

Peggy Edenfield was also charged in the case but agreed to testify against her husband and son in exchange for prosecutors agreeing not to seek the death penalty against her. She is serving a 60-year prison sentence.

Their son has been deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial.

The family friend pleaded guilty to minor charges.

Wednesday's arguments were held at the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens.
Top Georgia court to decide whether medical school faculty members are liable for malpractice

By Walter C. Jones
Morris News Service
Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 8:30 AM
Last updated Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 12:34 AM

ATHENS, Ga. — The appeal of two doctors will determine whether physicians on the faculty of the state's medical college, Georgia Regents University, are professionally liable for malpractice or protected from lawsuits by being state employees.

The justices of the Georgia Supreme Court heard attorneys from both sides plead their case Wednesday during a hearing at the University of Georgia Law School before 120 students and professors. The court usually holds one day of arguments outside of its chambers to give the public and students the opportunity to see it in action.

The case revolves around the treatment of a 5-day-old infant, Michael Jones, operated on in 2005 for a life-threatening twisting of the intestine. Michael is now 9 and brain damaged as a result of a period without oxygen, according to the suit against neonatologist Prem Singh Shekhawat and anesthesiologist Wayne Mathews Jr.

Both physicians claim that because they're on the faculty of what is now Georgia Regents University they are immune from lawsuits.

Attorneys for the boys' parents convinced the Georgia Court of Appeals that even though they are employed by the University System of Georgia, physicians' duty to their patients trumps their employee immunity.

Complicating the case is the relationship of MCG Health Inc. and Physicians Practice Group, two nonprofit corporations created by the university system. The doctors' attorney, Annarita Busbee, argued the companies merely provide support functions for the physicians, who are salaried employees of the state.

The family's attorney, Josh Wages, says the corporations were created to protect taxpayers, leaving the doctors liable for malpractice.

"It's a private corporation. It has the ability to sue and be sued," he said.

Justice Harold Melton, who was general counsel to the governor before his appointment to the court, disagreed.

"They are tied to the state. They cannot be divorced from the state," he said.

On an earlier case, the court ruled that the faculty of the state's medical school can be sued by a patient seen in a private practice.

Busbee said teaching doctors are required to take on risky patients both as a way to demonstrate techniques to medical students and as a state mission to care for everyone in need. Shekhawat and Mathews were on call when a physician at another hospital referred Michael to them, making them obligated to treat him in a way they would not have been in private practice, she said.

Ruling against the doctors, she warned, could discourage physicians from endangering their careers to fulfill that responsibility.

The court offered no hints about the outcome. It will issue its decision in three or four months.
By Michael Hall The Brunswick News, Ga.

Jan. 17--ATHENS -- Lawyers for child killer David Edenfield told the Georgia Supreme Court Wednesday his conviction should be reversed and his life spared because the jury that convicted him was improperly selected and jurors heard evidence that should not have been admitted at trial.

Edenfield, of Glynn County, was sentenced Oct. 6, 2009, to death by lethal injection for his role in the March 2007 kidnapping, molestation and murder of 6-year-old Christopher Michael Barrios Jr. Christopher's body was found March 14, 2007, in a garbage bag on Canal Road in Glynn County, a week after he had disappeared from the Canal Road Mobile Home Park where he lived with his father.

During oral arguments to the court, sitting outside Atlanta at the University of Georgia School of Law Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom, Edenfield's court-appointed defense attorney, James Yancey Jr., contended that one juror should have been removed after saying he would not consider a life sentence with the possibility of parole in a case involving child sex abuse. He said the statement showed the juror had already made up his mind about the case.

Brunswick Judicial Circuit Assistant District Attorney John B. Johnson, however, contended that Glynn County Superior Court Judge Stephen Scarlett was correct in not removing the potential juror from the jury pool after stating his views on sentencing of child molesters during jury selection.

Johnson said that after further questioning, the potential juror told Scarlett he might change his mind, depending on the circumstances of a particular case. "He said he would consider it, depending on the facts of this case," Johnson said.

Presiding Justice Hugh P. Thompson told Johnson he did not necessarily agree but said he was at the hearing Wednesday to be convinced. Johnson responded by telling Thompson that child sex abuse was not the only charge against Edenfield, and that the totality of circumstances would ultimately be what decided how the juror felt about the case.

The exchange was one of several during the hearing, as justices sometimes interrupted lawyers mid-sentence to ask questions or make statements.

Yancey encountered his share of questions, as well.

While Yancey was arguing that the jury pool drawn from Jeff Davis County, about 100 miles from Brunswick, was tainted because people in it were too close to what he called saturated media coverage in Glynn County, Justice David E. Nahmias asked several questions.

Yancey claimed 20 jurors, or 25 percent of the final 80 in the pool, were removed because of their prior knowledge of the case. Those 20 were removed because they had heard about the case before reporting for jury selection.

"The excessive and extreme publicity in Glynn County tainted the jury pool," Yancey said, claiming the case was talked about often in rural and sparsely populated Jeff Davis County.

Yancey claimed 20 jurors, or 25 percent of the final 80 in the pool, were removed because of their prior knowledge of the case. Those 20 were removed because they had heard about the case before reporting for jury selection.

Nahmias was not sold on Yancey's assessment of the situation. Unless what they had heard about the case was inflammatory or prejudicial, they did not have to be removed, the justice said.

"The fact that they've heard about it doesn't mean anything," Nahmias told Yancey.

Johnson argued the 20 jurors were the only ones removed because of a prior knowledge of the case. Of the entire 156, those potential jurors made up only a little more than 13 percent of the entire pool. Even after they were removed from the final 80, there were still plenty of unbiased jurors from which to chose, he said.

"Not one of the 60 that were left had any bias," Johnson said.

Nahmias told Johnson he would have liked to have seen those statements in Johnson's written briefs submitted prior to oral arguments.
"They wanted him to tell the truth as they saw it," Yancey said. "Mr. Edenfield told them what they wanted to hear.

Yancey said police coerced Edenfield by telling him he would be able to stay home, be with his mother and not go to jail if he told the truth.

Nahmas asked Yancey when police made those statements. Yancey claimed then-Glynn County detective Marissa Tindale told Edenfield during early interviews in the investigation.

Edenfield confessed in a videotaped interview with police the day after Christopher's body was found.

On the videotape, which prosecutors played for jurors, Edenfield said he and his adult son, George Edenfield, molested the boy inside their mobile home while his wife, Peggy Edenfield, watched. He said Christopher pleaded with them to stop and threatened to tell his father, prompting George Edenfield to begin choking Christopher.

David Edenfield told police he placed his hands on top of his son's as Christopher was choked to death, because he wanted to know what it felt like.

Johnson told the justices police never promised David Edenfield anything and let him go free after two interviews before he was later arrested.

Johnson also disputed claims about Edenfield's mental capacity.

"To qualify him as low-functioning is a misstatement of the facts that are of evidence in this case," Johnson said. To back up his assertion, Johnson cited Edenfield's career in the National Guard, the fact that he held a job and he was married for 30 years.

Yancey also argued that Scarlett should have declared a mistrial when then-prosecutor Stephen Kelley, now a Glynn County Superior Court judge, called Edenfield an "animal" in front of jurors. Prosecutors said Kelley apologized in court for the remark.

Peggy Edenfield was also charged with kidnapping and murder, but struck a deal with prosecutors to testify against her husband and son, and ultimately pleaded guilty. She is serving a 50-year prison sentence.

George Edenfield has been found mentally incompetent to stand trial and is under continuing evaluation at a state mental institution to determine if he ever can be tried.

Only six of seven justices heard arguments Wednesday. Justice P. Harris Hines was ill but will participate in a decision after listening to recorded arguments. The court will issue a ruling at a later date.

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Supreme Court decision a victory for some stem cell research

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"Once you have the recombination of the DNA between the egg and sperm, then you have a unique human being," Styer said. "It's not that there is absolutely no work that can be done on fetuses or embryos, but that research has to be done treating that fetus or embryo as a human being deserving of life."

Embryonic stem cells are pluripotent—they are capable of becoming many more different types of cells than adult stem cells—and researchers like Stice are interested in determining how that can be used to develop therapies for diseases where adult stem cells don't work, like macular degeneration.

"Those types of cells that give rise to some tissues, particularly neural cells, are difficult to get from other sources other than an embryonic stem cell source," Stice said. "But we have a project that has been ongoing with the Department of Defense for bone regeneration and our choice—what are the best cells we've found for doing that type of work—are adult cells. So it really depends on the application."

Some opponents of embryonic stem cell research point out that those projects have not resulted in any successful therapies while adult stem cells have.

Stice said adult stem cells have been researched longer, and that's a factor in their success. But he also said there is one embryonic stem cell therapy in clinical trial right now and another project that was dropped by its company because there was no funding—which Stice said is a major factor in the lack of successful treatments.

"At one point in time—and I think this is also true today as well—is that there's about 10 times the amount of federal funding for adult-source cells as there are for embryonic-sourced cells," he said. "And that's a key component of how we're going to be able to move forward."

Funding may have been one of the central issues in Sierra v. Sebelius. Shelley and Deitch use adult stem cells, and competition for grants would increase if more embryonic stem cell research was eligible.

"The argument that it's taking money away from good projects that could be done with adult stem cells is, I think, is not a valid argument," Stice said. "I believe that, especially in NIH, the peer review process takes care of those biases that may play a role, and I just don't think that it does play a role in funding decisions or in reviewers of grants."

He said getting support for research outside of the federal government is difficult for any kind of basic, fundamental research because pharmaceutical companies usually don't risk funding new drug or therapy until it's in Phase II clinical trials. Private foundations like the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research don't have the same funding capacity as the federal government.

Stice said most of his stem cell research now focuses on developing cells to test drugs to treat for diseases like Parkinson's and to help the body regenerate its own cells, rather than risk transplant cells being rejected.

While the Supreme Court decision is a judicial victory for embryonic stem cell researchers, they could take the argument to Congress and fight for an amendment with language that more clearly prohibits the use of embryonic stem cells, said Fazal Kahn, an associate professor of law.

"There's no way for them to come back at this issue through the judicial system," he said. "What they can attempt to do is kind of rewrite the law. They can still lobby Congress and they can pass another amendment that's more clearly restrictive than what the NIH is doing."

Obama's executive order gave NIH the power to interpret the amendment as long as it didn't make any decisions that were clearly arbitrary.

"It won't be pushed to the back," Stice said. "I think there will still be people feeling strongly one way or another on this. I think generally the general public understands that this is technology that could be very promising and..."
Supreme Court decision a victory for some stem cell research - The Roo...

we don't need to close the door if we do it ethically, morally, in a way that satisfies the vast majority of Americans. That's what we're doing.

These ethical quandaries may be less of an issue with the introduction of new technology, though.

Induced pluripotent stem cells have many of the same abilities as embryonic ones, but are created from adult cells, rather than an embryo.

"There can be some ethical problems, but in general it's an awesome technology that allows you to do a lot of the things that could be beneficial about stem cells on an adult cell," Styer said.

And aside from the ethical, the medical applications are also promising because a person's own cells can potentially be used for treatment.

"There is a big issue in the future, as we go to therapies using these cells, is their ability not to be rejected when they're transplanted," Stice said. "And the story's still developing as to how will these induced pluripotent stem cells might circumvent those problems."

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1/18/2013 12:34 PM
Governor taps Carla Wong McMillian to Court of Appeals

Kathleen Baydala Joyner

Daily Report

01-17-2013

Governor Nathan Deal has chosen Fayette County State Court Judge Carla Wong McMillian to be the newest judge on the state Court of Appeals.

McMillian, 39, is the first Asian-American judge on the appellate bench. She was appointed to the state court by Governor Sonny Perdue in 2010 and won re-election in July in a contested race.

Deal selected McMillian from a short list of candidates recommended by his Judicial Nominating Commission that also included Dougherty County Superior Court Judge Stephen Goss and Tift County State Court Judge Larry Mims. More than 75 people were nominated for the seat, 33 applied and 16 were interviewed.

Wednesday's appointment means Deal will have named one-third of the entire 12-member Court of Appeals. He tapped Judge Michael Boggs in 2011 and Judges William Ray and Elizabeth Branch in 2012. Deal last year also named Appeals Court Judge Keith Blackwell to the Supreme Court.

Deal appears to have broken a dry spell in female appointees to the appellate courts. When he announced his selection of Branch in July 2012, it was the first time a woman had been named to the Court of Appeals since Governor Roy Barnes appointed M. Yvette Miller in 1999.

Prior to her appointment to the state court bench, McMillian was a partner at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, where she represented automotive and motorcycle manufacturers in the areas of franchise and dealer litigation and defended accountants against malpractice actions.

McMillian earned her law degree from the University of Georgia and clerked for U.S. District Judge William C. O'Kelley in Atlanta. She also is on the boards of the Atlanta Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society and the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association.
GOV DEAL APPOINTS CARLA WONG MCMILLIAN TO GEORGIA COURT OF APPEALS

ATLANTA, Jan. 16 -- Gov. Nathan Deal issued the following press release:

Gov. Nathan Deal today appointed Carla Wong McMillian to the Court of Appeals of Georgia. McMillian fills the vacancy created by the resignation of the Hon. A. Harris Adams.

CARLA WONG MCMILLIAN

McMillian is a State Court judge within Fayette County. She is the first Asian-American woman elected judge in the state of Georgia. She was recognized by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association as one of the Best Lawyers Under 40 for 2012, and the National Diversity Council named her the “2010 Most Powerful and Influential Woman of Georgia.” She earned her bachelor degree from Duke University and law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. She and her husband, Lance, have two children and reside in Tyrone. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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-0- Jan 17/2013 09:02 GMT
Augusta native appointed to Georgia Court of Appeals

By Meg Mirshak
Staff Writer

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 10:18 AM
Last updated Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 12:31 AM

Augusta native Carla Wong McMillian was appointed Wednesday to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

McMillian was the first Asian-American woman elected to be a judge in Georgia, according to a news release from Gov. Nathan Deal's office. The appointment fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Judge Harris Adams.

McMillian graduated from Westminster Schools of Augusta in 1991, according to Augusta Chronicle archives. She was appointed to the State Court bench in Fayette County in 2010.

"I'm honored to be on the Court of Appeals," she said. "I think it will be an exciting new opportunity for me."

McMillian said leaving her current position is "bittersweet." She said she enjoyed directly serving a local community and ensuring laws were enforced.

In the Court of Appeals, McMillian said, she will work to make sure rulings are decided within proper time limits.

McMillian earned her bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. She lives in Tyrone, Ga., with her husband and two children.
Athens on death (row) watch: Capital murder case in Classic City's sights

The days Melissa Christian used to celebrate with her family are now some of the hardest: her two children's birthdays, the holiday season. February would have marked 17 years of marriage to Athens-Clarke County police officer Elmer "Buddy" Christian. Instead, one month later will be two years since the day she had to tell her children their father wasn't coming home from work.

"From October to March is some kind of anniversary that's going to be a hard day," Melissa told The Red & Black last week. "So there's lots of 'the hardest' I guess."

Four days after Elmer was gunned down while on duty in west Athens, the town became a captive audience when the accused killer, Jamie Hood, surrendered with a group of hostages on live television, like something out of a movie. It won't be soon forgotten.

"[My 4-year-old son] still thinks Daddy is somewhere, he knows Heaven, but he doesn't understand what that means. He just thinks he's somewhere and he isn't coming home for some reason. He doesn't get that he's not coming home because he can't come home," Melissa said. "He expects him to be home any day. He still looks for him. So on one hand it's really hard when he says things like that, on the other it means he is remembering him."

The drama has continued to play out through months of pretrial hearings in a case that could land Hood on death row. Hood has confessed to the crime multiple times, fired two defense teams and even accused one public defender of being a drug addict.

But the courts were able to grind through the process as Hood pled not guilty to the 70-count indictment last Friday, signaling the official start of what is likely to become a tumultuous trial.

"It seems like a circus every time we go," Melissa said.
Athens on death row: watch Capital murder case in Classic City's si...
federal government was forcing busing, was forcing racial integration, was forcing this and forcing that. Now they've outlawed the death penalty," Baurngartner said. "What's the country coming to? We have to stand up for what we believe in. And that was much stronger in the South then it was in other parts of the country.

But even in the South, the number of inmates executed each year is relatively small compared to the number of convicted murderers. According to Baumgartner, just about 1 percent of murder convictions come with a death sentence. But just 20 percent of those sentences are carried out. The other 80 percent are overturned on appeal or mitigated by some other factor.

"There's an 80 percent chance, that even if he's given a death sentence, he won't be executed. If he is executed it will be 20 years later," Baurngartner said. "So things just go on, drag on forever and it's very difficult to call it closure.

So even as lawyers gear up to take Hood's case to the courts, there doesn't seem to be any end in sight to this chapter in Athens' history.
Sophomore senators take over Senate judiciary committees

Kathleen Baydala Joyner

Daily Report

01-18-2013

The state Senate's decision to halve its judiciary committee into civil and criminal sections and the departure of the panel's previous chairman left openings this year for two sophomore lawyer-lawmakers to take leadership posts.

Senate leadership chose hospital lien lawyer Josh McKoon, R-Columbus, to head the new Judiciary Committee, which will focus only on the civil code. Southeast Georgia bankruptcy attorney Jesse Stone, R-Waynesboro, will helm the new Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, which will focus on the criminal code. Neither has chaired committees previously.

On the other side of the Capitol, the House of Representatives' judiciary panels have been split for years, and their leaders will remain—Reps. Wendell Willard, R-Sandy Springs, at the Judiciary Committee and Rich Golick, R-Smyrna, at the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

The new faces in the Senate follow the appointment of Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-Carrollton, to the Coweta Circuit Superior Court. He chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2011 to 2012, when it approved Georgia's tougher immigration law, the evidence code rewrite and an extensive criminal justice overhaul.

Ethics advocate

McKoon has garnered recent media attention and Tea Party support for advocating for stricter ethics rules, including a $100 cap on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers, which the Senate adopted as its rule earlier this week. He said he is diligently reading through bills to prepare for his chairmanship role. He also is sponsoring legislation that will be vetted by the other judiciary committee, namely a bill that would amend the state Constitution to allow the Georgia attorney general to convene special statewide grand juries.

McKoon is a partner at Crowley McKoon, which formed last August after civil litigation firm Day Crowley split and attorney Scott Crowley paired up with McKoon. McKoon said his work there primarily is helping hospitals secure liability liens on settlements so they can recoup unpaid claims.

He earned his law degree from the University of Alabama. Afterward he returned as an associate to Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford in Columbus, where he had clerked. After a few years, he went into practice with his father and then joined Day Crowley in 2010.

McKoon was tangentially involved in a legal fight among several cities and counties, including Columbus, and online travel companies including Expedia over taxes. He sponsored a bill in 2011 that would have exempted online travel companies from having to pay local hotel/motel excise taxes and local and state sales taxes. The bill failed to leave the Senate and did not resurface in 2012. Columbus settled its suit late last year.
McKoon represents Senate District 29, which includes Muscogee, Harris, Troup and Meriwether counties.

Small town lawyer

*Stone earned a joint masters of business administration and juris doctorate from the University of Georgia and was admitted to the bar in 1982.*

"I've had a pretty broad range of practice over the years—civil and criminal litigation, small town wills, all that kind of stuff," said Stone, of Merrill & Stone, where he specializes in Chapter 11 business and farm reorganizations. "Being in a small town has been a big help. When you practice in a small town, even when you have a specialty, you have to have a broader general knowledge."

Stone began his law career in Albany, where he worked for a firm that is now Gardner, Willis, Sweat & Handleman. Stone said his work was heavily weighted toward bankruptcy law, but the cases were evenly split between debtor and creditor representation. He also began taking court-appointed criminal cases, representing indigent defendants.

"They ran the gamut," Stone said. "I usually had about three or four cases a month."

In 1986, Stone moved to Swainsboro and started what is his current firm, which focused on bankruptcy law and debtors. He moved to Waynesboro in 2001, but his firm is still in Swainsboro.

"We filed the very first Chapter 12 in the state, when the law went into effect in 1986," Stone said.

Stone continued to take court-appointed cases, though the numbers were fewer because the state courts there had public defenders. He also started taking on federally-appointed criminal cases in the Southern District of Georgia and taught criminal justice courses at East Georgia College in Swainsboro.

"My criminal law experience means I don't have to learn from scratch how things work in the criminal justice system, even though that has not been the main focus of my practice," said Stone.

Prior to his election to the Senate in 2010, Stone was mayor of Waynesboro from 2003 to 2007. Stone represents the 23rd District, which includes Burke, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, McDuffie, Screven and Warren counties as well as parts of Columbia, Emanuel and Richmond counties.

Lawyers as leaders

Senators who are also lawyers head eight of the chamber's 27 committees. In the House, only five of its 39 committees are led by lawyer representatives. This is likely due to the lower concentration of lawyers in the House, where 28 out of 180 members are lawyers compared to 11 out of 56 in the Senate.

On the House side, Willard will remain chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which he has led since 2005. Willard, who is counsel for the city of Sandy Springs, succeeded into shepherding the evidence code rewrite through the Legislature in 2011, 25 years after the State Bar of Georgia began its push. This year, Willard intends to resume sponsorship of a bill that would rewrite the state's 42-year-old juvenile code. He earned his law degree from Atlanta Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1965.

Rep. Rich Golick, R-Smyrna, will stay on as chairman of the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, a role he has held since 2009. Golick began his law career while still in law school at Georgia State University as a committee legal aide in the state Senate in 1992. He is southeast regional counsel for Allstate Insurance, where he focuses on regulatory work.

Golick authored legislation last year based on the state's criminal justice reform council recommendations that created a statewide system of accountability courts and lowered sentences for some low-level, non-violent offenders. Golick also carried a bill in 2011 that reorganized the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, though he was unsuccessful last year in pushing for a constitutional amendment to dedicate fundings streams for indigent defense.
Gov. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., issued the following news release:

Holcomb has been in private, general practice since 1974. He practiced in Warner Robins for 34 years and is currently practicing at Dental Associates of Middle Georgia in Byron. He serves as chair of the Robins Regional Military Affairs Committee and the Joint Commission on National Dental Exams. Holcomb also serves as a medical forensic examiner for the Georgia Crime Lab. He served as president of the Central District Dental Society, the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Regional Testing Agency, and as chair of the Warner Robbins Cancer Society. He received the Honorable Fellow Award from the Georgia Dental Association and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Medical College of Georgia. Holcomb received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a dental degree from the Medical College of Georgia. He and his wife, Robin, have four children and five grandchildren. They reside in Kathleen.

Teresa A. MacCartney, Board of Directors of the Georgia Lottery Corp.

MacCartney was appointed as chief financial officer and director of the Office of Planning and Budget by Gov. Deal in October. She currently serves on the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority, the Employees Benefits Plan Council, and as secretary of the board of the OneGeorgia Authority. MacCartney earned a bachelor's degree in Science and a master's degree in Public Administration from Georgia Southern University. She and her husband, Andrew, have two children. They reside in Marietta.

Joseph M. Terrell Sr., Board of Public Safety

Terrell is the sheriff of Habersham County, elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. Prior to his election, he served as a deputy for Habersham County for 13 years. Terrell serves on North Georgia Technical College's Criminal Justice Advisory Board. He and his wife, Darlene, have two children. They reside in Clarkesville.

Jessie I. Pennington, Board of Public Safety (reappointment)

Pennington is the chief of police for Thunderbolt. Prior to this, she served as a major for the Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. Pennington worked for more than 37 years in law enforcement. She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the 168th Session and Session 19A of the Georgia Law Enforcement Academy. Pennington earned a bachelor's degree from Columbus University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Command College. She and her husband, Frank, have two children and one grandchild. They reside in Savannah.

Moses Ector, Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission

Ector retired from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation after 34 years of credible service in November 2001. Also in 2001, he retired from the DeKalb Police Department, where he was the homeland security director. He now serves
the citizens of his hometown, Hogansville, as the chief of police. Ector earned a bachelor's degree from Brenau College and a master's degree from Troy State University. He and his wife, Claretha, have two children and three grandchildren. They reside in Hogansville.

Josh N. Bonner, Georgia Real Estate Commission

Bonner is the chief executive officer of Southeast Properties, Inc. in Fayetteville. He was also commissioned in the U.S. Army and served active duty as a military intelligence officer. After leaving active duty, Bonner transitioned to the Army Reserves where he has served multiple tours in Operation Enduring Freedom as well as Operation New Dawn. He received his bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Georgia. Bonner and his wife, Michelle, have three children. They reside in Fayetteville.

Richard L. Hyde, Judicial Qualifications Commission

Hyde is currently employed by the law firm of Balch and Bingham and the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission, as chief investigator. He earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia State University. Hyde has two sons, and he resides in Atlanta.

Clint G. Bearden, Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority

Bearden is an attorney with the law office of David Ralston in Blue Ridge. He currently serves as a board member of the Dawson County Development Authority, the Dawson County Library Board of Trustees and as legal counsel to several local nonprofit organizations. Bearden earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife, Janey, have one son. They reside in Dawsonville.

Johnny Grant, Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority

Grant recently retired from the Georgia General Assembly where he served four terms representing the 25th Senate district. He is vice chairman of the Exchange Bank Board of Directors in Milledgeville and he is on the boards of several volunteer organizations in the Middle Georgia area. Grant has been associated with his family's retail jewelry business in Milledgeville and Sandersville for more than 40 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech as well as a master's degree in Public Administration from Georgia College. Grant and his wife, Carol, have three grown children. They reside in Milledgeville.

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LOAD-DATE: January 19, 2013

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January 18, 2013 Friday 3:26 AM EST

LENGTH: 521 words

HEADLINE: Georgia Law's Amann Appointed Special Adviser to International Criminal Court
BYLINE: Targeted News Service

DATELINE: ATHENS, Ga.

BODY:

The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

Diane Marie Amann, Woodruff Chair in International Law at the University of Georgia, has been appointed by International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda as her special adviser on children in and affected by armed conflict. In this role, she will support and advise on Office of the Prosecutor policies, training and awareness with regard to children in and affected by armed conflict. She also will represent the office at outside speaking engagements and contribute to the development of a wide support base for the work of the office.

Bensouda also announced the appointment of two other special advisers, Patricia Viseur Sellers and Leila Nadya Sadat.

"I am proud that these three highly respected academics have agreed to serve the office," said Bensouda. "Patricia Sellers, Leila Sadat and Diane Marie Amann have a wealth of experience between them. I have no doubt their contributions to the work of the office and the fight to end impunity for the world's worst crimes will be invaluable."

Amann joined the UGA School of Law faculty in 2011 from the University of California, Davis, where she was a professor of law, the founding director of the California International Law Center and a Martin Luther King Jr. Hall Research Scholar. She currently teaches public international law, international criminal law and the laws of war.

She has authored more than four dozen publications in English, French and Italian. Her scholarship focuses on the ways that national, regional and international legal regimes interact as they endeavor to combat atrocity and cross-border crime. A number of her articles have examined the recruitment of child soldiers, an issue that falls within the scope of her role as special adviser.

Prior to entering academia, Amann practiced law in San Francisco before state and federal trial courts and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. She was an assistant federal public defender, a solo federal criminal defense practitioner and a litigation associate at Morrison & Foerster. She also served as a judicial clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens and for Judge Prentice H. Marshall of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Amann holds a Doctorate Honoris Causa (Dr. h.c.) in law from Universiteit Utrecht in the Netherlands. She earned a juris doctor cum laude from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, where she served as a note and comment editor of the Northwestern University Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. She has a master's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a bachelor's degree in journalism, with highest honors, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Special advisers to the Office of the Prosecutor are persons with recognized expertise in their field. They provide advice by request or on their own initiative on training, policies, procedures and legal submissions. They work on a pro-bono basis.

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TNS MT93 130119-4173371 61MarlizTagarum
GOV. DEAL APPOINTS 9 TO BOARDS

ATLANTA, Jan. 18 -- Gov. Nathan Deal issued the following press release:

STEPHAN F. HOLCOMB, GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY (REAPPOINTMENT)

Holcomb has been in private, general practice since 1974. He practiced in Warner Robins for 34 years and is currently practicing at Dental Associates of Middle Georgia in Byron. He serves as chair of the Robins Regional Military Affairs Committee and the Joint Commission on National Dental Exams. Holcomb also serves as a medical forensic examiner for the Georgia Crime Lab. He served as president of the Central District Dental Society, the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Regional Testing Agency, and as chair of the Warner Robbins Cancer Society. He received the Honorable Fellow Award from the Georgia Dental Association and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Medical College of Georgia. Holcomb received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a dental degree from the Medical College of Georgia. He and his wife, Robin, have four children and five grandchildren. They reside in Kathleen.

TERESA A. MACCARTNEY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA LOTTERY CORP.

MacCartney was appointed as chief financial officer and director of the Office of Planning and Budget by Gov. Deal in October. She currently serves on the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority, the Employee Benefits Plan Council, and as secretary of the board of the OneGeorgia Authority. MacCartney earned a bachelor's degree in Science and a master's degree in Public Administration from Georgia Southern University. She and her husband, Andrew, have two children. They reside in Marietta.

JOSEPH M. TERRELL SR., BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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JESSIE I. PENNINGTON, BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY (REAPPOINTMENT)

Pennington is the chief of police for Thunderbolt. Prior to this, she served as a major for the Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. Pennington worked for more than 37 years in law enforcement. She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the 168th Session and Session 19A of the Georgia Law Enforcement Academy. Pennington earned a bachelor's degree from Columbus University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Command College. She and her husband, Frank, have two children and one grandchild. They reside in Savannah.
MOSES ECTOR, GEORGIA ATHLETIC AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION

Ector retired from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation after 34 years of credible service in November 2001. Also in 2001, he retired from the DeKalb Police Department, where he was the homeland security director. He now serves the citizens of his hometown, Hogansville, as the chief of police. Ector earned a bachelor's degree from Brenau College and a master's degree from Troy State University. He and his wife, Claretha, have two children and three grandchildren. They reside in Hogansville.

JOSH N. BONNER, GEORGIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

Bonner is the chief executive officer of Southeast Properties, Inc. in Fayetteville. He was also commissioned in the U.S. Army and served active duty as a military intelligence officer. After leaving active duty, Bonner transitioned to the Army Reserves where he has served multiple tours in Operation Enduring Freedom as well as Operation New Dawn. He received his bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Georgia. Bonner and his wife, Michelle, have three children. They reside in Fayetteville.

RICHARD L. HYDE, JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

Hyde is currently employed by the law firm of Balch and Bingham and the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission, as chief investigator. He earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia State University. Hyde has two sons, and he resides in Atlanta.

CLINT G. BEARDEN, LAKE LANIER ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Bearden is an attorney with the law office of David Ralston in Blue Ridge. He currently serves as a board member of the Dawson County Development Authority, the Dawson County Library Board of Trustees and as legal counsel to several local nonprofit organizations. Bearden earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife, Janey, have one son. They reside in Dawsonville.

JOHNNY GRANT, CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Grant recently retired from the Georgia General Assembly where he served four terms representing the 25th Senate district. He is vice chairman of the Exchange Bank Board of Directors in Milledgeville and he is on the boards of several volunteer organizations in the Middle Georgia area. Grant has been associated with his family's retail jewelry business in Milledgeville and Sandersville for more than 40 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech as well as a master's degree in Public Administration from Georgia College. Grant and his wife, Carol, have three grown children. They reside in Milledgeville. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: January 19, 2013
The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

Georgia's First Lady, Sandra Deal, observed hearings at the Athens Peer Court recently at the Athens-Clarke County Juvenile Court. Peer Court, a new innovation in juvenile justice in Athens, is a collaborative effort of UGA's J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, Street Law at the University of Georgia's School of Law, Athens-Clarke County Juvenile Court and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Fanning Institute-in collaboration with UGA law students-trains youth volunteers to serve as judges, bailiffs, advocates and jurors for the court. Since the program began in March 2012, 24 students from three area high schools have completed this youth leadership development program.

The court hears the cases of first-time offenders who accepts the charges against them and agrees to whatever sentence is decided by the jury. In the last year, 52 first-time offenders have chosen to have their cases decided by Athens Peer Court.

The court was the idea of Emily Boness, a public service assistant in the Fanning Institute. Boness participated in a similar court as a youth in Alaska led her to law school at UGA. In 2011, she approached Robin Shearer, judge for the Athens-Clarke County Juvenile Court, about the idea of creating a court and the judge was enthusiastic.

Three cases were heard the evening of Jan. 8-two shoplifting and one curfew violation. In addition to apologizing to those they had harmed and completing community service, all offenders were required to serve on the jury for the next Peer Court evening.

Once questions were answered, the jurors, advocates and offender filed into the packed courtroom. As the bailiff asked all to rise, Shambrelle Barnes, a 17-year-old Cedar Shoals High School student, entered and took her place at the judge's bench.

"I'm most proud of the kids learning a new way of thinking and the vocabulary to explain their reasoning," Boness said. "They could answer any question that Mrs. Deal and her staff asked."

Deal stayed through all three hearings and congratulated the students on a job well done at the end.

Peer court or teen court programs are common around the country, but this is the first such program in Athens and only the third or fourth in Georgia and the only one listed by the National Association of Youth Courts. The Governor's Office of Children and Families-Deal chairs its advisory board-has provided financial support to establish the Peer Court.

"My favorite peer court moment was when a former offender came to serve as a juror," Boness said. "At first she said, 'I can't believe I'm here.' But she ended up wanting to be the jury foreperson and I think she appreciated having input into the process."
"I think it's good to give people a second chance," said Shimobi Ojijuru, a 14-year-old Clarke Central High School student who served as bailiff that evening. "It gives offenders a way to enter society in a positive way."

Boness said she hopes to make mediation services available through Athens Peer Court and take the peer court idea to other communities around the state.

Boness also said that it hasn't been the case that offenders could get off too easily. She said the youth volunteers take their responsibility seriously, respecting the people and the process. Most people recognize the experience as a leadership development opportunity for the volunteers and as a way for first offenders to repair the harm caused by their crime, she said.

The next training for youth volunteers will take place beginning Jan. 22. It is open to students in grades seventh through 12th. For more information, see www.athenspeercourt.org.

J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development

The J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development is a Public Service and Outreach unit at the University of Georgia. Dedicated to building a better Georgia, the Fanning Institute strengthens communities and organizations through leadership development, training and education.

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LOAD-DATE: January 18, 2013

5 of 5 DOCUMENTS

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US Fed News
January 17, 2013 Thursday 11:04 AM EST

LENGTH: 637 words

HEADLINE: 1ST LADY SANDRA DEAL VISITS ATHENS PEER COURT

BODY:

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LOAD-DATE: January 19, 2013

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

Time of Request: Saturday, January 19, 2013 06:33:10 EST
Deal appoints nine to boards

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Governor Nathan Deal Office of the G...
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Dr. and Mrs. Richard James Wiesemann of Bowling Green announce the engagement of their daughter, Ranney Valla, to John Clayton Cheshire, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Alan Cheshire of Holmes Beach, Fla.

Ms. Wiesemann is a graduate of Bowling Green High School. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance, magna cum laude, from the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky. Ms. Wiesemann also attended St. Louis University School of Law, where she was awarded her Juris Doctorate degree, cum laude, and health law certificate. Ms. Wiesemann is currently the attorney professional development manager with the law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP in Atlanta.

Mr. Cheshire is a graduate of Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge, La. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies from Louisiana State University, with honors. He also attended the University of Georgia School of Law, where he was awarded his Juris Doctorate degree. Mr. Cheshire is the principal with the law firm J. Clayton Cheshire & Associates, P.C., in Atlanta, where he specializes in corporate governance and regulatory compliance.

The wedding will be June 15, 2013, at Broadway United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, with a reception to follow at Loving Chapel Stables in Franklin. Invitations will be sent.
UGA prof to advise International Criminal Court

Athens, Ga. — A University of Georgia law professor has been appointed a special adviser to the International Criminal Court.

UGA says court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has named Diane Marie Amann her special adviser on children in and affected by armed conflict. Amann will support and advice the prosecutor’s office on policies, training and awareness in that area. Amann is one of three new special advisers appointed.

Amann joined the faculty at the UGA School of Law in 2011 and teaches public international law, international criminal law and the laws of war. She came to UGA from the University of California, Davis, where she was a professor, the founding director of the California International Law Center and a Martin Luther King Jr. Hall Research Scholar.
UGA prof will advise international court

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  updated Tuesday, January 22, 2013 - 11:03pm

ATHENS — A University of Georgia law professor has been appointed a special adviser to the International Criminal Court.

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3991 posts

Congratulations to Professor Amann!
New Court of Appeals judge rode fast track to appointment

Alyson M. Palmer
Daily Report
01-22-2013

Many new judges confess to having longed for a place on the bench, but not Carla Wong McMillian, who was appointed to the state Court of Appeals last week.

She says she hadn't thought much about being a judge until some unpleasantness in her area of the state a few years ago created a trial court opportunity.

"I thought I'd be at Sutherland my entire career," says McMillian, referring to the Atlanta-based firm where she practiced for more than a decade.

But she and her husband, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School professor Lance McMillian, had settled in on the south side of the Atlanta area, close to where her husband grew up. And by 2010, things had gotten pretty ugly around the Fayette County courthouse.

Two superior court judges in the Griffin Circuit, Johnnie Caldwell Jr. and Paschal English, resigned that spring. Caldwell resigned after the Judicial Qualifications Commission started investigating allegations that the judge had made sexually inappropriate remarks to an attorney handling a divorce case before him. English resigned soon afterward, and an investigation by the circuit's district attorney and public defender concluded he had been having an affair with the senior supervising public defender and had ordered that all of her cases be adjudicated by him.

McMillian says she had never applied for a judgeship or met the governor, Sonny Perdue, but she was concerned about her county and its bench. She put in for the openings and made a short list of five. Perdue picked two others for the job, but one of them, W. Fletcher Sams, was Fayette's State Court judge, and the governor gave the opening created by Sams' promotion to McMillian.

Less than 2½ years later, Governor Nathan Deal has elevated McMillian to a coveted spot on the appeals court bench. It's a short trajectory for the 39-year-old Augusta native.

"I'm the first lawyer in my family," says McMillian. She says her late father was a laboratory technician at the Medical College of Georgia. Her mother stayed at home and now works at a Chinese restaurant in Augusta.

According to an application she completed for Deal's Judicial Nominating Commission, McMillian was valedictorian at her high school, Westminster in Augusta. She went on to Duke University, where she was an editor and associate publisher at the Duke Review, a conservative, independent publication. She says she intended to become a teacher, but a high school teacher encouraged her to explore the law, and she received a full tuition Woodruff scholarship to the University of Georgia's law school. There, according to her JNC application, she was an editor on the Law Review and graduated summa cum laude. (Her husband's online biography says he finished two places behind his wife.)
In the summertime, she tried out firms in Augusta, North Carolina and Texas, but by the time she finished a clerkship with U.S. District Judge William O'Kelley of the Northern District of Georgia, she had married and knew she wanted to stay in the Atlanta area. She says she previously had turned down a summer associate offer at Sutherland but joined the firm as a litigation associate in 1999.

She took up automotive franchise litigation—"I think I just got handed a file on the first day I was there"—and professional liability defense. McMillian made partner in 2007. She says one of the most interesting cases she handled at Sutherland was a trade secrets case in which she represented a software development company suing a former business partner; she says she second chaired the 2010 trial in a Texas federal court.

By the end of that year, McMillian was Fayette County's only State Court judge. As a single judge court, she says, the court wasn't affected much by the ethics problems plaguing the Superior Court. "We were pretty much up to date," she says. "It was very well run. ... I really didn't have any problems." A municipal court judge, Stephen Ott, challenged her election bid last summer, but McMillian won with 65 percent of the vote.

With an election win under her belt, McMillian put her name in for the appeals court vacancy being created by the retirement of A. Harris Adams. Last month the JNC interviewed 16 candidates, including several it had put on appellate court short lists for Deal for other vacancies.

But in the end it gave Deal a fresh crop of three names: McMillian and two other trial court judges, Judge Stephen Goss of Dougherty County Superior Court and Judge Larry Mims of Tift County State Court.

Several of Perdue's and Deal's appellate appointments had been notable for their youth and clear conservative credentials, with Deal being more apt to pick sitting judges. McMillian obviously has judicial experience and has similar conservative credentials, to an extent, having joined the local chapter of the conservative Federalist Society's board of advisers in 2011. An online search for campaign contributions by her doesn't reveal significant political ties—she gave $200 to Republican Senator Saxby Chambliss' re-election campaign in 2008 and $250 to Democrat and fellow Sutherland alumna Elena Parent's 2010 state House bid. Asked if she's been involved in any campaigns, McMillian replies, "Just my own."

"I think judges should apply the law and not make the law, and that's how I've conducted myself in Fayette State Court," she says.

"I don't know why the JNC decided to short list me, and I don't know quite why the governor decided to pick me," she continued.

Deal, who has made judicial appointments at a record pace, has faced criticism that he hasn't found enough women and minorities for the posts. As McMillian will be the state's first Asian-American appellate judge, the governor could deflect some of that heat.

Says McMillian, "I've always thought of myself as a lawyer who happens to be an Asian-American woman."

As of late last week, McMillian said she was waiting to hear from the governor's office about a swearing-in date so she could get to work.

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Diane Marie Amann is the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the Netherlands' Universiteit Utrecht (where she was the first U.S. woman to receive this degree since Eleanor Roosevelt).

Taking up arms: Professor will advise court about children affected by war

By Heidi Murphy
hmurphy@uga.edu

Early in her legal career, Diane Marie Amann was an assistant federal public defender in San Francisco. There she found a significant portion of her work involved transnational matters—defendants who were born in other countries, for instance, or cases that involved federal crimes alleged to have been committed in more than one country. Now Amann is a respected international law scholar, whom International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has just appointed as her special adviser on children in and affected by armed conflict.

While the technological revolution that we are experiencing is ever bringing the world closer to home, international law is nothing new, said Amann.

"(It's been) a huge component of the legal system for a long time, with the first treaties dating back thousands of years," she said. "For as long as countries have been trading with each other, or going to war against each other, there have been agreements or treaties.

"In the 1990s, international research on treaties, for example, had to be conducted by looking through musty books in the basement of libraries," she also said. "Now, with the Internet, all of this is easily accessible."

Litigators can readily access this information to use in legal arguments, reporters can refer to the data to ask questions and nongovernmental organizations can invoke various treaties and agreements in their efforts to hold violators of international norms accountable.

For instance, there are said to be hundreds of thousands of child soldiers throughout the world. Many more children are affected by armed conflict: They may suffer injuries, lose their homes and loved ones or be prevented from attending school. In her newly created one-year post as special adviser on issues related to children, Amann will work with the International Criminal Court prosecutor, who conducts and pursues cases against individuals accused of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. As the special adviser, Amann will "research how children have been affected by armed conflict and what society has done, and has failed to do."

Amann, who has specialized in international criminal law throughout her teaching career, said she looks forward to involving her students in her research.

"Law has a constant need to adapt to society as it changes," said Amann, who was a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. "As more people are taking into account global issues and activities and more people are traveling and conducting business around the world, our judges and lawyers have to be more knowledgeable about international issues.

"It has become an issue of not whether members of the legal profession need to adjust, but how," she added.
UGA Prof To Advise International Criminal Court

By Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — A University of Georgia law professor has been appointed a special adviser to the International Criminal Court.

UGA says court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has named Diane Marie Amann her special adviser on children in and affected by armed conflict. Amann will support and advise the prosecutor's office on policies, training and awareness in that area. Amann is one of three new special advisers appointed.

Amann joined the faculty at the UGA School of Law in 2011 and teaches public international law, international criminal law and the laws of war. She came to UGA from the University of California, Davis, where she was a professor, the founding director of the California International Law Center and a Martin Luther King Jr. Hall Research Scholar.

Tags: diane marie amann | international criminal court | University of Georgia | University of Georgia Law School |
I'd always wanted to be a lawyer, but unlike Travis Williams — the subject of this Op-Doc video — I never wanted to be a public defender. I didn’t understand how anyone could represent people who did terrible things. “Criminals” were not people I wanted to help.

Then, in 2009, while working in the legal department at A&E Television, I met Jonathan Rapping, the founder of what’s now Gideon’s Promise. He invited me to his client-centered legal training program in Alabama. At the start of training, Mr. Rapping asked each lawyer to articulate why he or she chose to become a public defender. One young man said he had a brother with Down syndrome, so he wanted to help people who could not navigate the legal system for themselves. Another said he had been arrested as a teenager, so he wanted to help kids like him who didn’t know their rights. Their stories moved me. I learned more about the true state of the criminal justice system during that week than I knew from all my years practicing law. I wanted other people to learn about what they were doing and so I decided to make this film.

I was horrified by what I learned about the criminal justice system. Innocent people, in prison for months or years, sometimes plead guilty to get out of jail; onerous sentences are too often given for minor crimes; people can lose civil rights, like the right to vote, as a result of criminal convictions. In America, a felony conviction can be a lifelong sentence because of this multitude of collateral consequences.

I also saw what a difference it made to have lawyers like Travis fighting hard for poor people’s rights. I saw him tell clients and their families that they were facing long sentences, outrageous bail terms or prison. But I saw him deliver even the worst news with compassion, and I saw him fight for every client. He’s inspired me to judge less and listen more, to try to put myself in the position of people who face a terribly structured system that often provides justice to neither the victim nor the accused. Thanks to Travis and the other young lawyers I met on this journey, I can proudly say I’m a “true believer” in their cause.

This video is part of a series produced by independent filmmakers who have received major support from the Ford Foundation and additional support from the nonprofit Sundance Institute.

Dawn Porter directed and produced “Gideon’s Army,” a feature documentary that is...
premiering at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and will be broadcast later this year on HBO. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the Georgetown University Law Center.
Chief judge likes 'real world'

Mark Niesse

Daily Report

01-23-2013

Pamela South knew there had to be something more to her life than writing training guides about welding.

The future chief judge of Gwinnett County State Court quit her job as a technical writer at Mississippi State University, packed her bags and enrolled at the University of Georgia School of Law at age 28, never looking back to her home state of Mississippi.

The abrupt career change set South on a path to the place she feels most comfortable—sitting on the bench.

"I thought, 'You know, I really want to be a little bit more in the real world,' because so much of what you do in academics seems geared for a really small group of people. It's very esoteric," South said. "I wanted to be in the courtroom. I liked the human drama unfolding."

She took over as chief judge this month because, having served 12 years, she's now the most senior judge on the six-member bench, following the retirement of Chief Judge Robert Mock Sr.

It's a career she didn't expect earlier in life after she earned a master's degree in English that led to the writing job. She didn't have any lawyers in her family or even understand exactly what they did, but she knew she liked reading and research.

As a judge, she said she is a student of the law who uses it as her compass.

"The way to ensure fairness is to follow the law. There's certainty in that," South said. "Everybody should know what the law is and, if you follow the law, you're trying to be fair."

South, 56, sees herself as a courtroom manager and a clock watcher who tries to balance making hearings efficient with giving each side enough time to make its case. She's not a stickler for procedure, but she strictly expects lawyers to be prepared and ready to go.

After law school, South worked for a small litigation firm in Covington before joining the Gwinnett district attorney's office. After a decade as a prosecutor, she was appointed as a magistrate judge before Governor Roy Barnes tapped her for a new state court seat in 2001.
In her role as chief judge, South said she'll closely monitor the growing needs of the court and attempt to improve communications with the county commission, county manager and finance department. Within a few years, she anticipates that the county might have to find ways to add space because the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center is already at capacity.

Besides her regular civil, misdemeanor criminal and administrative responsibilities, South is one of two judges overseeing the county's DUI treatment court. The accountability court attempts to treat and change behavior of drunk driving offenders rather than send them through the traditional criminal justice process.

South said the DUI court forced her to see criminal defendants differently.

"I have a greater belief in the capacity for people to change than I did when I started," South said. "I was one of these people who didn't know if people could really change. I thought all you're doing, you're just putting a fence up so they don't cross the line. But I have seen people really change. ... When you see people who do embrace what the court system can do and go on to be a better person, a better father or mother, it's very rewarding."

She tells offenders in DUI court the story of an elderly man who was arrested for drunk driving on the way home from his son's funeral. She felt sad for him, but then she learned that he was on probation at the time for a previous DUI, and that the latest arrest was his 12th DUI total.

South had no choice but to put him in jail and move him through the legal process, but she said the system had failed to get him the help he needed earlier in life. She said DUI court can provide treatment to prevent future problems like his.

Despite South's upbringing as an assistant district attorney, she doesn't have a reputation for favoring either side in both criminal and civil cases, said defense attorney B.J. Bernstein, a friend of South's who worked with her as a Gwinnett prosecutor.

"No one pigeonholes her," Bernstein said. "She's a quiet technician. In terms of temperament, every judge should have a temperament like her. She listens, but she also speaks with force."

South has been elected to state court three times—most recently in 2010—and she has never been opposed. She said she plans to stay on state court for the foreseeable future, calling it her "perfect job."

"I have enough friends here in the bar that, if they feel I'm not really doing my job or not treating people fairly, I'd hear about it long before an election. I haven't heard about it yet. I'll keep my fingers crossed," South said.
ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 23 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

Ertharin Cousin, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme, will visit the University of Georgia School of Law on Feb. 5 as the keynote speaker for the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law's conference.

Entitled "International Law in a Time of Scarcity," the daylong symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall. The symposium will address global policy in relation to the scarcity of resources. The event is free and open to the public. However, pre-registration is required by Feb. 1 for the conference lunch.

"We believe that the scarcity of resources, whether food, water, fuel sources or clean air, may be a defining reality for global policy in the years to come," said Katie A. Croghan, conference co-organizer and a third-year law student. "It is our hope that by bringing together leading policymakers and legal scholars, the conference will serve as a foundation for future policy and scholarship on the role of international law in scarcity issues."

During her keynote address, Cousin will explore projects addressing agricultural problems including cooperatives to produce more food and stimulate production, nutrition and education in the time from conception to the second year of life, and methods for helping communities deal with climate change.

Cousin, a 1982 Georgia Law graduate, has more than 25 years of national and international nonprofit, government and corporate leadership experience focusing on hunger, food and resilience strategies. As the leader of the World Food Programme since 2012, Cousin is responsible for helping the organization meet urgent food needs while championing longer-term solutions to food insecurity and hunger. Prior to this appointment, Cousin served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture and as head of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies in Rome.

During the conference, policymakers and scholars from law schools across the country will also address how best to conceptualize and define the problem of scarcity, the regulation of scarcity and its potential impacts, and how to work forward in addressing the problem from the current available solutions during various roundtable discussions throughout the day.

For more information or to register to attend, see http://www.law.uga.edu/gjicl-annual-conference-registration. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com
Head of UN World Food Programme to speak at U

By | Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) The executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme is set to speak at the University of Georgia's law school.

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Oregon Health & Science University, The Government of USA has issued the following news release:

Global Health Center Seminar: Epigenetics and environmental justice
When Wednesday, 1/30/2013, 12 - 1pm
Where VOLLUM M1441
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd
Portland, OR 97239
Event Type Lecture/Seminar
Series Title Conversations in Global Health
Subject Teaching

Presenter Dr. Fazal Khan, MD, JD, University of Georgia Law School
Campus Location Marquam Hill
Event Sponsor OHSU Global Health Center
Contact Person Name Cate Bishop
Contact Person E-Mail bishopca@ohsu.edu
Contact Person Phone 503.494.0387

More Information
This session is co-sponsored by the OHSU Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET)
Web Link www.ohsu.edu...

For more information please visit: http://www.ohsu.edu/

LOAD-DATE: January 25, 2013
He could also ending up costing far more than many of the other candidates seeking to replace former City Attorney Laurel Henderson, who resigned in protest over actions taken by the City Council -- including possible state Sunshine Law violations. The Clayton News Daily has learned Hecht told city officials in his application for the job that his services could cost as much as $245 per hour.

Henderson charged the city $150 per hour. Most of the other candidates for the city attorney job were expected to cost between $155 and $170 per hour of work performed for the city.

Those cost figures are what prompted Morrow Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Ferguson to push for Hecht's appointment to the position be contingent upon negotiating a lower hourly rate.

"We have to do something to get that brought down to a more reasonable rate," said Ferguson after the council's meeting Tuesday.

Further digging into the hiring of Hecht, who is also the attorney for the Morrow Downtown Development Authority, raises further questions about why the council hired him over other candidates seeking the job.

A score sheet, obtained by the Clayton News Daily through an open records request, indicates council members did not even think Hecht was the best candidate interviewed by council members. Mayor Joseph "J.B." Burke said the candidates were reviewed and assigned scores by himself, Ferguson and council members Jeanell Bridges and Bob Huie.

Tally sheets outlining the total scores for each candidate shows Jonesboro attorney Steve Fincher had the highest score with a total of 75 out of a possible 80 points. Fincher is the city attorney for College Park, Jonesboro and Lake City.

Forest Park attorneys Robert Mack and Joe Harris had the second-highest score with 65 points. They are the city attorneys for Forest Park.

Hecht and McDonough city attorneys Leigh Hancher and Jessica Whatley were tied for last place with scores of 58 points each.

Burke said while Hecht's hourly rate is $245, it would cost an extra $160 per hour for an associate attorney or paralegal.

Fincher's hourly rate is $170, and an associate attorney or paralegal would cost $135 per hour, the mayor said. He added Mack and Harris' hourly rate is $155 and associate attorney or paralegal's hourly rate is $140. The firm Hancher and Whatley work for, the Whalen Law Group, LLC, charges hourly rates between $150 and $350, said Burke.

Hecht's ties to the Morrow Downtown Development Authority has raised eyebrows.

As the authority's legal counsel, Hecht advised the DDA during the planning and creation of the city's failed Olde Towne Morrow development.

The authority, which officially oversees Olde Towne, spent more than $13 million in taxpayer dollars to build the development only to see it close after a year because of a variety of problems. It generated less than $10,000 during its operating life.

Through his DDA position, he also works for Morrow Planning and Economic Development Director Michael McLaughlin, who is involved in a prolonged feud with Burke. The council has an ongoing investigation into a grievance McLaughlin
filed against Burke after he was publicly criticized by the mayor in October.

"I found it very interesting, knowing who got the highest score and how much each attorney was going to cost us, that they suddenly went with Greg Hecht because he was the most expensive attorney by far, and because he has ties to Michael McLaughlin," said Burke.

The score sheet shows two members of the council gave Fincher 20 points, the highest number possible, while one council member gave him a score of 18 and another gave him a 17.

Meanwhile, two council members gave Hecht a score of 20, while another member gave him a 14 and the fourth reviewer gave him a 4.

Burke said he gave Fincher one of the 20s and gave Hecht the 4.

State Bar of Georgia records show Hecht is a graduate of the University of Georgia's law school and was admitted to the state bar on June 6, 1988. He is a member of the bar's local government law, real property law, labor and employment law, general practice and trial law, creditors' rights, corporate counsel and business sections.

Bridges and Councilman Virlyn Slaton said they supported Hecht's appointment earlier this week because of his work for the DDA and because he does not represent any other cities.

"I would like us to have somebody who has the time for us," Bridges said.

Fincher is also a UGA law school graduate and joined the bar April 4, 1980. The state bar has him listed as being a member of its local government law, school and college law, health law, eminent domain, dispute resolution and aviation sections.

Ferguson initially advocated Fincher's hiring, citing the attorney's lengthy experience representing cities in Clayton County. "With a specialty in municipal government, they develop an expertise that you would want," he said.

Robert Mack is a Georgia State University Law School graduate and joined the bar on July 6, 1993. His partner, Joe Harris, is an Emory University Law School graduate who joined the bar on Nov. 9, 1971. Neither is listed as being a member of individual sections of the bar.

Leigh Hancher is a Georgia State Law School graduate who joined the bar Nov. 2, 2002. Her colleague, Jessica Whatley, is a Cumberland Law School graduate who joined the bar on Nov. 9, 2009. They are members of the bar's local government law and general practice and trial law sections.

There is no record showing any of the candidates have ever been punished by the bar, according to the association's website.

GRAPHIC: Morrow Downtown Development Authority attorney Greg Hecht addresses the Morrow City Council Tuesday night. The council later appointed Hecht to be its new city attorney.

LOAD-DATE: January 25, 2013

3 of 3 DOCUMENTS

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The Augusta Chronicle (Georgia)
January 18, 2013 Friday

ALL EDITION

SECTION: METRO; Pg. B3

LENGTH: 185 words

HEADLINE: AUGUSTA NATIVE ON APPEALS COURT

BYLINE: Meg Mirshak Staff Writer

BODY:

Augusta native Carla Wong McMillian was appointed Wednesday to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

McMillian was the first Asian-American woman elected to be a judge in Georgia, according to a news release from Gov. Nathan Deal's office. The appointment fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Judge Harris Adams.

McMillian graduated from Westminster Schools of Augusta in 1991, according to Augusta Chronicle archives. She was appointed to the State Court bench in Fayette County in 2010.

"I'm honored to be on the Court of Appeals," she said. "I think it will be an exciting new opportunity for me."

McMillian said leaving her current position is "bittersweet." She said she enjoyed directly serving a local community and ensuring laws were enforced.

In the Court of Appeals, McMillian said, she will work to make sure rulings are decided within proper time limits.

McMillian earned her bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. She lives in Tyrone, Ga., with her husband and two children.

Reach Meg Mirshak at (706) 823-3228

or meg.mirshak@augustachronicle.com

LOAD-DATE: January 26, 2013
Carla Wong McMillian is sworn in Thursday to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Nathan Deal as her husband, Lance, holds the Bible.

She said she was sure her grandparents, who came to Augusta from China in the 1920s, "never imagined they'd have a granddaughter who's a lawyer, much less a judge."
Meg Daly Heap took office as Chatham County district attorney this month facing more than the usual staff decisions confronting a new boss.

She and her chief assistant, Greg McConnell, had about a month to prepare a group of eight prosecutors to attack major crimes prosecutions under the most significant scheduling change in Chatham County Superior Court in decades.

But Heap said she will be “up and running” when Chatham County Superior Court judges Michael Karpf and Timothy R. Walmsley kick off their major crimes division Feb. 4.

She has assigned four assistants to each judge. And she has filled all but one vacancy on her staff of 35 assistants.

“They have to be up and ready to go,” Heap said. “That’s what they’re working to do.”

She refers to the major crimes group as “the gunners — the hardcore prosecutors who take on the bad guys.”

They are among her most experienced assistants who will be required to try a case, frequently before juries, then almost immediately prepare to start another trial within days.

The major crimes division will tackle the county’s worst crimes.

Those include murder, armed robbery, rape, kidnapping with bodily injury, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery and treason, with a number of major drug trafficking cases thrown in.

Karpf, the court’s chief judge, said the court will place prosecutors and defense lawyers in court almost constantly, at least during the initial stages.

The court is perhaps the single greatest change in the local Superior Court system since 1985 when judges Frank S. Cheatham Jr. and Perry Brannen Jr. took over scheduling of criminal cases from the district attorney’s office, installing a fast-track case management system that reduced disposition times.

Walmsley, who joined the court early last year, said planning for the change has been under way for some time and that he and Karpf “are looking forward to it.”

“From our perspective (Heap) came into office with a plan in place. She’s hit the ground running, which is nice to see, from the court’s perspective.”

He and Karpf both have court scheduled to begin Feb. 4.

The court’s new schedule will assure the public that the process will help move cases along and that the court is addressing cases in a fair and unbiased manner, Walmsley said.

Heap’s challenge

For Heap, it involved arriving for her new role only to find dockets already set and office files in a state of disarray. Some prosecutors had been assigned to the new posts by her predecessor, but they weren’t always her choices.

“Nobody knew where the files were,” she said, describing assistant prosecutors running from “office to office trying to find files.”

Those problems have been put to rest, she said, and it is up to her new team to make it work.

“They are excited,” Heap said. “It’s really a heavy caseload. It’s stressful.”
She and McConnell began interviewing 57 candidates for job openings in December.

The emphasis, she said, was on trial experience: "Where they had been and what they’d been doing."

Once selected, the task became putting them into key roles.

She took office determined to “find people who had a passion for working with crime victims. ... I want people who’ve got the same passion I do.”

She brought back McConnell, a career prosecutor who left the office after 26 years in 2010 for a prosecutor’s job in the neighboring Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

He is her chief assistant and as such will oversee the day-to-day operation of major case prosecutions.

Isabel Pauley, another seasoned prosecutor who fled the local office in 2010 for the Atlantic circuit, is scheduled to return in April.

Heap also has reassigned a number of veteran prosecutors within her office, including Frank Pennington II, Christy Barker, Ann Elmore, Jerry Rothschild, Jennifer "Jenny" Parker Guyer and Michael Dennard.

A new hire, David Rhoden, was brought in to complete the teams.

The new teams

District Attorney Meg Heap has assigned four prosecutors each to Superior Court judge Michael Karpf and Timothy R. Walmsley in the major crimes division. They are:

Prosecutors assigned to Karpf

Name: Frank Pennington II
Age: 35
Hometown: Savannah
Education: Bachelor of arts in political science, Berry College (1999); Georgia State University College of Law (2004)
Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (2003, 2004-2013); internships at Atlantic Judicial Circuit District Attorney, DeKalb County Solicitor’s Office in Decatur and Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia in Atlanta
Achievements: Rape Crisis Center of Savannah Award for his work on behalf of rape and sex crime victims (2011)

Name: Jerry Rothschild
Age: 44
Hometown: Columbus
Education: Bachelor of arts in history and English, University of Georgia (1992); University of Georgia School of Law (1995)
Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (1995, 1997-2013); private practice with attorney William O. Cox in Savannah; (1994-1995); clerkships at Athens-Clarke County Legal Aid in Athens and law offices of Robert L. Wadkins, Columbus, Layfield, Rothschild & Morgan in Columbus
Achievements: Assistant district attorney work with Chatham-Savannah Counter-Narcotics Team led to the largest cocaine bust in Chatham County history

Name: Michael Dennard
Age: 53
Hometown: Lyons
Education: Bachelor of arts in political science, Morris Brown College (1981); University of Georgia School of Law (1984)
Achievements: Editorial and Managing Board of the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law, BALSA member

Name: Isabel Pauley (beginning April 1)
Age: 45
Hometown: Fort Monmouth, N.J.
Education: Bachelor of arts in rhetoric and communications with a minor in government, University of Virginia (1989); College of William & Mary’s School of Law (1992)
Professional experience: Atlantic Judicial Circuit assistant district attorney in Hinesville (2010-12); Chatham County assistant district attorney (2000-10); associate, Inglesby, Falligant, Horne, Courington & Chisholm law firm in Savannah and Ness, Motley, Loadholt, Richardson & Poole in Charleston (1998-99)
Achievements: Krucho & Fries Award for Academic Achievement in Labor Law and Employment Relations; handled tobacco litigation as part of the global settlement against tobacco companies; member of Family Violence Council and Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review; conducted extensive domestic violence training with Savannah-Chatham police; military prosecutor corps.

Prosecutors assigned to Walmsley

Name: Jennifer Parker Guyer
Age: 39
Hometown: Cordele
Education: Bachelor or arts in journalism, University of Georgia (1996); University of Georgia School of Law (1999)
Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (2000-13); assistant district attorney, Alcovy Judicial Circuit in Monroe (1999-2000); student prosecutor at Gwinnett Solicitor’s Office (1998-99)
Achievements: Chairperson, Savannah-Chatham Family Violence Council; past president, Savannah Jaycees; recognized by SAFE Shelter for work on behalf of victims of domestic violence; served as a coach and regional coordinator for the Georgia Mock Trial Program; served as trial advocacy faculty for the National College of District Attorneys; provided training on domestic violence and sexual assault for local law enforcement

Name: Ann Elmore
Age: 55
Hometown: Milwaukee
Education: Bachelor of arts in journalism, University of Georgia (1979); Mercer University School of Law (1985)
Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (1991-2013); assistant solicitor general (trial specialist), DeKalb Solicitor’s Office in Decatur (1987-1991); assistant state attorney, 18th Judicial Circuit in Sanford, Fla. (1985-1987)
Achievements: Assistant District Attorney of the Year, District Attorney’s Association of Georgia (2001); served on the Sex Assault Nurse Examiner Task Force; served on two Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council Management Study Committees; trainer for the National District Attorneys’ Association

Name: Christy Barker
Age: 46
Hometown: Chicago
Education: Bachelor of arts in American studies, University of Notre Dame (1988); University of Georgia School of Law (1992)
Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (1992-2013); clerkships/internships, Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta, Gwinnett County District Attorney in Lawrenceville and U.S. Attorney in Atlanta (1991-92)
Achievements: AmJur Award in Criminal Law, member of Joseph Henry Lumpkin American Inn of Courts, Savannah Bar Association’s Robbie Robinson Award
Chatham County DA Meg Heap ready to go with major cases

Name: David V. Rhoden
Age: 44
Hometown: Danville, Ill.

Education: Bachelor of science in finance, University of South Florida, Tampa, (1991); Southern Illinois University School of Law, Carbondale, Ill. (1998)


OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

While Meg Heap has re-ordered her prosecution staff, she was careful to remain true to promises made to focus on elder abuse and child sexual abuse prosecutions.

Assigned to those tasks were:

- Shalena Jones will move to handle domestic violence and elder abuse as well as special victims unit cases in Superior Court.
- Emily Puhala will cover all child sexual abuse cases from the major crimes division and sex offender registration violations and domestic violence in Superior Court.
- Maggie Hinchey will move from the Early Intervention Program in March to take over domestic violence cases in State Court.

The elder abuse prosecution drew Heap's special attention in what she called "bringing it back to life."

Former District Attorney Spencer Lawton Jr. obtained funds from the Chatham County Commission in December 2005 to form the position, which went fallow under Heap's predecessor, Larry Chisolm.

"It really is very much needed," Heap said.

Name: Shalena C. Jones
Age: 35
Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Education: Bachelor of arts, Spelman College, Atlanta, (1999), University of Georgia School of Law (2002)

Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (2010-13); attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Texas (2009-10); private practice, Law Offices of Shalena Cook Jones (2008-09); senior associate, Cruser & Mitchell, LLP (2005-08)

Achievements: President-elect of the Port City Bar Association

Name: Emily T. Puhala
Age: 31
Hometown: Wichita, Kan.

Education: Bachelor of arts in anthropology, bachelor of science in business administration, University of Kansas (2003); University of Georgia School of Law (2006)

Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (2006-13); internships, Chatham County district attorney and Elbert County District Attorney in Elberton (2005-06)

Achievements: Chairperson of Savannah-Chatham Child Abuse Protocol Committee, co-chair of Child Fatality Review
Chatham County DA Meg Heap ready to go with major cases | savannahnow.com/news/2013-01-26/chatham-county-da-meg-h...

Name: Margaret "Maggie" Hinchey
Age: 24
Hometown: Savannah
Education: Bachelor of arts in English with minor in education, The University of the South (2009); Mercer University School of Law (2012)
Professional experience: Chatham County assistant district attorney (2012-13); internships, Chatham County State and Superior Courts
Achievements: The Order of the Barristers National Honor Society, Chair of the Mercer Advocacy Council, International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award recipient

NEW ASSISTANTS
District Attorney Meg Heap has hired eight new assistants. In addition, David Rhoden and Isabel Pauley were hired and assigned to the major crimes division. The new assistants, and their assignments, are:

Name: Allison E. Bailey
Assignment: Chatham County Juvenile Court
Age: 40
Hometown: Americus
Education: Bachelor of arts in journalism, University of New Mexico (1994); University of New Mexico School of Law (1997)

Name: Stacey M. Goad
Assignment: State Court
Age: 33
Hometown: Ringgold
Education: Bachelor of arts in sociology, Georgia State University (2002); Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Central Islip, N.Y. (2007)
Professional experience: Clayton County Office of the Solicitor General, senior assistant solicitor general, Jonesboro (2009-12); internships, Clayton County District Attorney in Jonesboro, volunteer, Atlanta Legal Aid Society in Atlanta, Legal Aid of Suffolk County in Central Islip, N.Y., New York Civil Liberties Union in Melville, N.Y., Fulton County District Attorney in Atlanta (Crimes Against Women & Children Division) (2005-09)

Name: Mitchell C. Mobley
Assignment: State Court
Age: 37
Hometown: Atlanta
Education: Bachelor of arts in health science, Georgia Southern University, (1997); Mercer University School of Law (2008)
Professional experience: Assistant solicitor general, Fulton County Solicitor General in Atlanta (2010-12); apprentice, District Attorney, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney in DeKalb County (2009-10)

Name: Andre Pretorius
Assignment: Chief assistant, State Court
Age: 34
Hometown: Johannesburg, South Africa
Education: Bachelor of arts in political science (pre-law), Georgia State University, (2002); John Marshall Law School, Atlanta (2008)
Professional Experience: Assistant solicitor general, Hall County Solicitor General in Gainesville (2009-12); project/office manager, Detection Engineering Technology in Norcross (2005-08)

Name: Graham J. Penney
Assignment: State Court
Age: 31
Hometown: Lawrenceville
Education: Bachelor of science in biology, University of Georgia (2005); Mississippi College School of Law, Jackson, Miss. (2011)
Professional experience: Attorney, The McGarity Group in Buford (2012); staff attorney for Judge Warren Davis in Lawrenceville (2012); criminal investigator, Gwinnett County District Attorney’s office in Lawrenceville (2010-11); internships at Hinds County Youth Court in Jackson, Miss., and Gwinnett County District Attorney’s Office (2006-08)

Name: Lauren Purvis
Assignment: Superior Court
Age: 29
Hometown: Augusta
Education: Bachelor of arts in journalism/English, minor in philosophy, University of Georgia (2006); Georgia State University College of Law, Atlanta (2009)
Professional experience: Assistant solicitor general, Northeastern Judicial Circuit in Gainesville (2010-12); internships, Rockdale Judicial Circuit in Conyers, Toombs Judicial Circuit in Thompson (2009-08)
UGA provost named finalist for school president

Posted: Jan 28, 2013 4:47 PM EST
Updated: Jan 28, 2013 4:47 PM EST
Posted by Jennifer Banks - email

ATLANTA (CBS ATLANTA) - State officials have announced Jere Morehead, University of Georgia provost, has been named as the sole finalist for university president.

University System of Georgia officials made the announcement Monday, and say the state Board of Regents will make a final decision on selecting a president for UGA at a future meeting.

Michael Adams, the university's current president, is set to retire from his post at the end of June.

In a release, officials say Morehead previously served UGA as vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program and acting director of legal affairs.

Morehead, a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, has held a faculty appointment in the Terry College of Business, and serves on numerous state educational boards.

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University of Ga. provost sole president finalist

Published: January 28, 2013

By PHILLIP LUCAS — Associated Press

ATLANTA — The University of Georgia has named one of its longtime administrators as the sole finalist to be the school's president, state officials said Monday.

The Georgia Board of Regents will make the final decision on whether to hire Jere Morehead, who is a provost and the school's vice president for academic affairs. Officials must wait a minimum of five days before meeting to discuss a final decision and it is unclear when the next board meeting will be held, Board of Regents spokesman John Millsaps said.

Morehead said in a news release that he was "honored and humbled" to have been selected, and plans to comment further on the development after state officials and the university have completed the selection process.

When Morehead, 56, was named provost in 2009, current president Michael Adams praised his integrity, compassion and institutional knowledge of the university. Morehead previously served UGA as vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program and acting director of legal affairs. Adams is set to retire at the end of June.

"The Board of Regents and the search committee could not have found anyone more committed to the future of this place than Jere Morehead," Adams said in a statement.

Georgia's Republican senators, Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson - who both attended the University of Georgia - issued a joint statement Monday evening congratulating Morehead for being named as the finalist.

"I am confident that Jere will make terrific president and will lead UGA - my beloved alma mater - to continue to thrive as one of the nation's top public universities," Isakson said.

A panel conducted a nationwide search to replace Adams and House Speaker David Ralston said he had no qualms about a national search yielding a UGA insider.

"The search has been national in scope, as it should be, but I'm certainly thrilled that we are able to find a Georgian to put in that position," Ralston said.

Morehead is also a recipient of the Josiah Meigs Teaching Award - UGA's the highest award for educational excellence - and served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1980 to 1986. The Lakeland, Fla., native is a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia Law School, has held a faculty appointment in the Terry College of Business and serves on numerous educational boards.

 Associated Press writer Bill Barrow contributed to this report.

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UGa president search down to single finalist

By Phillip Lucas

ATLANTA | University of Georgia Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Jere Morehead has been named as the sole finalist for the school's president, state officials announced Monday.

The Georgia Board of Regents will make the final decision, but it isn't clear when the next board meeting will be held.

When Morehead was named provost in 2009, current president Michael Adams praised his integrity, compassion and institutional knowledge of the university. Morehead previously served UGA as vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program and acting director of legal affairs. Adams is set to retire at the end of June.

Morehead is also a recipient of the Josiah Meigs Teaching Award — which is the highest award UGA provides for educational excellence, and served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1980 to 1986.

Morehead, a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, has held a faculty appointment in the Terry College of Business, and serves on numerous state educational boards.

Board of Regents spokesman John Millsaps said Chancellor Hank Huckaby and Chairman William NeSmith were not available for comment Monday.

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One finalist for UGA president: Jere Morehead

2:40 PM January 28, 2013, by Maureen Downey

Jere Morehead will be the new president of UGA pending Regents approval. He already works for UGA.

Sounds like the University of Georgia has a new president:

From the Board of Regents:

Board of Regents Chair "Dink" Nesmith and University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby have announced the name of the finalist for the University of Georgia presidency, Jere Morehead.

Morehead is currently the senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost at UGA. He previously served as UGA's vice president for Instruction, vice provost for Academic Affairs, director of the Honors Program, and acting executive director of Legal Affairs.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Morehead is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business where he has had a faculty appointment since 1986.

In his current position, the deans of the various schools and colleges report to Morehead, as well as several vice presidents. Several other campus units report to the provost including the University Libraries, the Office of International Education, the Office of Institutional Diversity, the Office of Academic Planning, Honors Program, and the Museum of Art.

Morehead also serves as vice chair of the Georgia Athletic Association Board of Directors, vice chair of the UGA Research Foundation, a UGA Foundation Trustee, and a UGA Real Estate Foundation Trustee.

Morehead has published numerous books and scholarly articles on several legal topics ranging from export controls to jury selection, and he has served as editor-in-chief of the American

He is the recipient of several University-wide teaching awards, including the Josiah Meigs Teaching Award, the highest award the University provides for teaching excellence, the Richard B. Russell Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Teacher of the Year in the Terry College of Business, and the Tresp Teaching Award in the Honors Program.

He has served as a visiting faculty member at the University of Michigan and served as an assistant United States attorney with the Department of Justice from 1980-86.

He is a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law where he earned his J.D. degree.

The Board of Regents will take final action on the selection of the next president of UGA at a future meeting.

--From Maureen Downey, for the AJC Get Schooled blog

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Morehead named finalist for UGA presidency

The state Board of Regents picked an insider to possibly become the University of Georgia's next president.

Jere Morehead, now UGA provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, is the lone finalist named Monday by Board of Regents Chair Dink NeSmith and University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby to take over UGA's top post from Michael Adams.

Adams will step down July 1 after 16 years as the university's top administrator and fundraiser.

Morehead, 56, is a graduate of the UGA School of Law and might become the first UGA alumnus to attain the president’s positions since Fred Davison was named to lead the university in 1967.

Morehead joined UGA's Terry College of Business faculty in 1986. Adams tapped Morehead to succeed Arnett Mace as UGA provost and senior vice president for academic affairs in 2009.

In between, Morehead has been the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the business college, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program, acting executive director of the university's Legal Affairs department and vice president for instruction.

Adams hailed the choice of Morehead in a statement released Monday afternoon.

"This is a great day for the University of Georgia," he said. "The Board of Regents and the search committee could not have
found anyone more committed to the future of this place than Jere Morehead. He is someone who has given the overwhelming majority of his life to the University of Georgia and he will be a great and respected leader here for many years to come.”

Morehead released his own statement Monday afternoon.

“I am honored and humbled to have been selected by the chancellor, the chairman and the Board of Regents as the finalist for president of the University of Georgia,” he wrote. “I look forward to making further statements regarding this wonderful opportunity to continue serving the University of Georgia after the board completes its process in the coming days.”

UGA student body President Will Burgess, who served on the Regents search committee that helped pick Morehead, said he is also happy that Morehead will be the next UGA president.

“He’s just a genuinely good person, someone UGA can be proud of as the university’s highest representative,” Burgess said. “There were plenty of outstanding candidates, and for the provost to be named shows just how qualified he is.”

Morehead’s getting named the sole finalist took some by surprise, in part because he is an insider. But some see Morehead’s long history at UGA as a plus.

“I’m just really excited about having a local person selected for that job,” said Athens-Clarke County Mayor Nancy Denson. “Any time you bring in somebody brand new, there’s a pretty large learning curve.”

Area Chamber of Commerce President Doc Eldridge agreed with Denson’s sentiment.

“He knows Georgia, he knows the state, he knows Athens, and we know him,” he said.

“The transition will be so quick and easy because of existing relationships that have occurred over the years. It’s great news as far as I’m concerned.”

Born in Lakeland, Fla., Morehead moved to Atlanta with his family as a teen, then entered Georgia State University at the age of 16. He graduated from UGA’s School of Law in 1980.
Before joining the UGA faculty in 1986, he spent six years working for the U. S. Department of Justice. He was a visiting professor at the University of Michigan in 1996.

Morehead is also thoroughly familiar with UGA's intercollegiate athletics program and for years was the university's official faculty athletic representative.

As president, Morehead will be chairman of the UGA Athletic Association, the nonprofit corporation which runs UGA's college sports program. He will also be the chairman of the UGA Research Foundation.

Morehead has also been a coach of sorts himself. He has taught in both the school of law and the business college at UGA, and in the law school was advisor to the school's moot court teams, which won both national and world championships.

- Follow education reporter Lee Shearer at www.facebook.com/LeeShearerABH or https://twitter.com/LeeShearer.
U. of Georgia Insider Is Named Sole Finalist for Presidency

Jere W. Morehead, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Georgia, has been named the sole finalist to succeed Michael F. Adams as the institution’s president, the University System of Georgia announced on Monday. Mr. Adams announced last year that he would retire at the end of June. Mr. Morehead is a 1980 alumnus of the university's law school and joined the business-school faculty in 1986, according to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. The Athens Banner-Herald notes that he would be the first alumnus to become the institution’s president since Fred Davison was chosen in 1967.

Filed under: Leadership, University of Georgia

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Gustavus Adolphus College President Faces Questions About Leadership

Jack R. Ohle, president of Gustavus Adolphus College, is facing questions about his leadership as students and faculty members at the Minnesota institution have recently pressed for his resignation, according to the St. Peter Herald. Read More

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willynilly 1 day ago

I wish Mr. DeSantis, the author of this "blurb", had reported if there were other candidates for the position. Absent that information makes the current sole selection look like, smell like, a "Russian" selection - an attribution very unbecoming of an institution as prestigious as the University of Georgia.

1 person liked this

pchoffer 1 day ago

The arch post was a little misleading. Jere Morehead was not the only finalist. There
University of Georgia provost Jere Morehead named sole finalist for school president

By Associated Press, Published: January 28

ATLANTA — State officials have announced that University of Georgia provost Jere Morehead has been named the sole finalist for university president.

University System of Georgia officials made the announcement Monday. They say the state Board of Regents will make a final decision on selecting a president for UGA at a future meeting.

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UGA Provost Named Finalist For School President

Written by Associated Press (96) on Monday, January 28, 2013 05:05 PM. Posted in State

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Jere Morehead is now senior VP for Academic Affairs and provost

Morehead, currently the senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, previously served as UGA's vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the Honors Program, and acting executive director of legal affairs.

“I am honored and humbled to have been selected by the chancellor, the chairman and the Board of Regents as the finalist for president of the University of Georgia,” Morehead said in a new release. “I look forward to making further statements regarding this wonderful opportunity to continue serving the University of Georgia after the board completes its process in the coming days.”

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Morehead is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business where he has had a faculty appointment since 1986.

Currently, the deans of the various schools and colleges and several vice presidents report to Morehead. Several other campus units report to the provost, including the University Libraries, the Office of International Education, the Office of Institutional Diversity, the Office of Academic Planning, Honors Program and the Museum of Art.

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He is a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law where he earned his law degree.

The Board of Regents will take final action on the selection of the next president of UGA at a future meeting.
UGA names provost as lone finalist to succeed Adams

Published: January 28, 2013 Updated 19 hours ago

UGA provost Jere Morehead, who on Monday was announced as the sole finalist to replace outgoing president Michael Adams.

Robert Newcomb/UGA

By Seth Emerson — semerson@macon.com

ATHENS - It appears that the University of Georgia will stay in its family in the search to replace retiring school president Michael Adams.

Jere Morehead, currently the provost and vice president of academic affairs at UGA, on Monday was named as the sole finalist for the position, which is being vacated by Adams on June 30. Morehead has been the provost since 2009.

From a sports perspective, Morehead has served on the UGA athletic board since 1998, and from
UGA names provost as lone finalist to succeed Adams | Georgia Bull...

2003-08 served as the university's faculty athletic rep. In that role, he attended many meetings at the SEC and occasionally the NCAA level.

No other finalist was announced. In a news release, the school stated that the board of regents "will take final action on the selection of the next president of UGA at a future meeting."

Adams announced early last summer that he was retiring after more than a decade as school president. His reign was often a divisive one among football fans, who were angered when he did not let Vince Dooley stay on longer as athletics director. But Adams long played a key role in athletics at both the NCAA and SEC level, at one point aspiring to be the next president of the NCAA.

Adams will retain a role in the NCAA: Last week he was appointed to the NCAA's committee on infractions, along with former Michigan football head coach Lloyd Carr and former Georgia Tech men's basketball head coach Bobby Cremins.

Morehead has a law background, having graduated from UGA's law school in 1980. He worked at the U.S. Department of Justice for the next six years before returning to UGA. He has been a faculty member at the Terry College of Business since 1986.

In his position as provost, Morehead has also served as the vice chair of the UGA athletic association board of directors.

While Adams was known for his outspoken role in athletics, Morehead has taken a more low-profile position. Still, having worked alongside Adams for so many years, it isn't likely that Morehead - assuming he's confirmed as president - will take a drastically different tack in his handling of sports.

That said, Adams had largely deferred over the past few years to athletics director Greg McGarity, whom Adams gave a contract extension last year.
UGA provost Morehead sole finalist for president

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

By Associated Press (7442)

ATLANTA — The University of Georgia has named one of its longtime administrators as the sole finalist to be the school's president, state officials said Monday.

The Georgia Board of Regents will make the final decision on whether to hire Jere Morehead, who is a provost and the school's vice president for academic affairs. Officials must wait a minimum of five days before meeting to discuss a final decision and it is unclear when the next board meeting will be held, Board of Regents spokesman John Millsaps said.

Morehead said in a news release that he was "honored and humbled" to have been selected, and plans to comment further on the development after state officials and the university have completed the selection process.

When Morehead, 56, was named provost in 2009, current president Michael Adams praised his integrity, compassion and institutional knowledge of the university. Morehead previously served UGA as vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program and acting director of legal affairs. Adams is set to retire at the end of June.

"The Board of Regents and the search committee could not have found anyone more committed to the future of this place than Jere Morehead," Adams said in a statement.

Georgia's Republican senators, Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson — who both attended the University of Georgia — issued a joint statement Monday evening congratulating Morehead for being named as the finalist.

"I am confident that Jere will make terrific president and will lead UGA — my beloved alma mater — to continue to thrive as one of the nation's top public universities," Isakson said.

A panel conducted a nationwide search to replace Adams and House Speaker David Ralston said he had no qualms about a national search yielding a UGA insider.

"The search has been national in scope, as it should be, but I'm certainly thrilled that we are able to find a Georgian to put in that position," Ralston said.

Morehead is also a recipient of the Josiah Meigs Teaching Award — UGA's the highest award for educational excellence — and served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1980
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Associated Press writer Bill Barrow contributed to this report.
University of Georgia provost Jere Morehead named sole finalist for school president

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University System of Georgia officials made the announcement Monday. They say the state Board of Regents will make a final decision on selecting a president for UGA at a future meeting.

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UGA insider Morehead tapped as finalist for school president - Atlanta Business Chronicle

Jan 28, 2013, 3:04pm EST

UGA insider Morehead tapped as finalist for school president

Dave Williams
Staff Writer - Atlanta Business Chronicle

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents is looking inside The University of Georgia for the flagship institution’s next president.

Jere Morehead, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at UGA, was named Monday as the finalist to succeed retiring UGA President Michael Adams.

Morehead holds several other roles at the school in Athens, including vice chairman of the Georgia Athletic Association Board of Directors, vice chairman of the UGA Research Foundation, UGA Foundation trustee and UGA Real Estate Foundation trustee.

Previously, Morehead served as the school’s vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program and acting executive director of legal affairs.

Morehead graduated from the UGA School of Law in 1980.

The Board of Regents will take final action on Morehead’s selection to head UGA at a future meeting.

Adams is retiring at the end of June after 16 years in office.

Dave Williams covers Government

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What's this?
The School of Law will welcome Ertharin Cousin, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme, on Feb. 5 as the keynote speaker for the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law conference titled "International Law in a Time of Scarcity."

The daylong symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall and will address global policy in relation to the scarcity of resources. Although the event is open free to the public, pre-registration is required for those wishing to be served lunch during the conference.

"We believe that the scarcity of resources, whether food, water, fuel sources or clean air, may be a defining reality for global policy in the years to come," said Katie A. Croghan, conference co-organizer and third-year law student. "It is our hope that by bringing together leading policy-makers and legal scholars, the conference will serve as a foundation for future policy and scholarship on the role of international law in scarcity issues."

During her keynote address, Cousin will explore projects addressing agricultural problems including cooperatives to produce more food and stimulate production, nutrition and education in the time from conception to the second year of life and methods for helping communities deal with climate change.

Cousin, who is a 1982 Georgia Law alumna, has more than 25 years of national and international nonprofit, government and corporate leadership experience focusing on hunger, food and resilience strategies.

As the leader of the World Food Programme, a post she assumed in 2012, Cousin is responsible for helping the organization meet urgent food needs while championing longer-term solutions to food insecurity and hunger. Prior to this appointment, Cousin served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture and as head of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies in Rome.

During the conference, policy-makers and scholars from law schools across the country also will address how best to conceptualize and define the problem of scarcity, the regulation of scarcity and its potential impacts and how to work forward in addressing the problem from the current available solutions during various roundtable discussions throughout the day.

ON THE WEB
http://law.uga.edu/gjicl-annual-conference-registration
The next president of the University of Georgia will be an insider with extensive knowledge of the state's flagship university.

Jere Morehead, the university's current provost, was named the sole finalist Monday following a national search. He will replace Michael Adams, who is stepping down June 30 after leading the college for 16 years.

Morehead will take the helm of an institution consistently ranked as stellar, but which, nonetheless, faces financial challenges related to the state's economic struggles.

The UGA search committee interviewed nine candidates earlier this month, including five presidents. Morehead blew the others away because of strong interviews and his deep familiarity with the Athens campus and community, members of the search committee said. He has moved up the college's ranks since starting as a business professor in 1986. As provost, Morehead oversees instruction, research, public service and outreach, as well as student affairs. The deans of all the schools and colleges report to him.

"He knows how UGA works and it'll be an easy transition because he won't miss a beat," said Will Burgess, a member of the search committee and president of the student government association. "He's also a brilliant academic and a really good person."

Adams cheered the choice and said the regents could not have have found anyone more committed to the university's future. He tapped Morehead to serve as provost in 2010 following a national search.

"He is someone who has given the overwhelming majority of his life to the University of Georgia, and he will be a great and respected leader here for many years to come," Adams said in a statement.

The State Board of Regents has a habit of naming just one finalist for key positions. Chancellor Hank Huckaby was the sole finalist to lead the University System of Georgia.

And it's not unusual for colleges to select presidents from in-house. About one-third of college presidents were already working for the institutions, said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council of Education, an umbrella group for higher education.

The university's influence and that of its president extend far beyond the Athens campus. The college's research supports farmers and other businesses
across the state and country. Its graduates fill Georgia's boardrooms. And its reputation attracts new employers, making it a crucial economic driver for the state.

Rep. Earl Ehrhart, R-Powder Springs, has known Morehead for more than a decade and said the regents were correct in selecting him over candidates from Nebraska and Ohio.

"I like the idea that the man has years of experience with the university and has a lot of love for that campus and love for the people and state of Georgia," said Ehrhart, chairman of the House Higher Education budget subcommittee. "That's not transferable from state to state."

House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, saw Morehead's selection as a testament to his talent and less about his ties to the university.

Ralston has known Morehead since they attended law school at UGA and were on the same team in the moot court competition, in which students participate in simulated court proceedings --- everything from drafting a brief to oral arguments.

"I'm very pleased that we've gone through a national search, we've vetted and compared candidates from all across the country and the committee has come back to one of our own," he said.

While the hire still needs to be approved by the full State Board of Regents, that step is considered a formality because Morehead is the only one up for the position. The regents next meet Feb. 13, although under state law the board could vote as soon as Monday.

Morehead, 56, said he is "honored and humbled to have been selected" and will make additional statements after the regents vote.

He stands to inherit a university that is consistently ranked among the top 25 public colleges in the nation. The quality of students and faculty has increased annually and the college is rolling out new health and engineering programs.

But challenges --- especially financial ones --- remain as the state continues to rebound from the weak economy. Fundraising has become more important as UGA seeks money for student aid and for campus improvements. Also, the next president must work to raise the university's national research profile.

Morehead is known for working hard.

The Florida native moved to Atlanta as teenager and enrolled at Georgia State University when he was just 16.

He graduated four years later in 1977 and then entered the University of Georgia Law School. He had a law degree by the time he was 23.

Morehead now serves as vice chairman of the UGA Research Foundation and the Georgia Athletic Association.

Nelson Hilton, an English professor who is chairman of the University Council Executive Committee, said he was delighted with the selection and said the college has "no better friend than Jere Morehead."

Burgess, the student government association president, described Morehead as a "great advocate for students" who has an open-door policy for all of their concerns. He is confident that Morehead will fight for the college.
"As students we just want UGA to continue to rise so that our degrees keep being valuable," Burgess said. "He will protect everything UGA stands for."

Staff writer Katie Leslie contributed to this article.

UGA's next president

Jere Morehead is the sole finalist to serve as the next president of the University of Georgia. He has spent nearly half his career at the college.

Age: 56

Childhood: A native of Lakeland, Fla., who moved to Atlanta as a teenager with his family.

Education: He enrolled at Georgia State University when he was just 16 and graduated four years later in 1977. He was 23 when he earned a degree from the UGA School of Law in 1980.

Work experience: U.S. attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice from 1980 to 1986. He joined the UGA faculty in 1986 as an assistant professor in the Terry College of Business. After serving as a visiting professor at the University of Michigan in 1995, he returned to the UGA faculty in 1996 and joined the UGA administration in 1998, serving as vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the honors program, and acting executive director of legal affairs. He has been the provost since 2010.

Awards/honors: Editor-in-chief of the American Business Law Journal, Richard B. Russell Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Terry College of Business Teacher of the Year Award, and the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Award, UGA's highest honor for teaching excellence.

Memberships: Vice chair of the UGA Research Foundation, vice chair of the Georgia Athletic Association, and a trustee of the UGA Foundation and the UGA Real Estate Foundation.

Source: University of Georgia

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 2013

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US State News
January 28, 2013 Monday 11:49 AM EST

LENGTH: 394 words

HEADLINE: FINALIST NAMED FOR UGA PRESIDENCY

BODY:

ATLANTA, Jan. 28 -- The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia issued the following news release:

Board of Regents Chair "Dink" Nesmith and University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby have announced the name of the finalist for the University of Georgia presidency, Jere Morehead.
Morehead is currently the senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost at UGA. He previously served as UGA's vice president for Instruction, vice provost for Academic Affairs, director of the Honors Program, and acting executive director of Legal Affairs.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Morehead is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business where he has had a faculty appointment since 1986.

In his current position, the deans of the various schools and colleges report to Morehead, as well as several vice presidents. Several other campus units report to the provost including the University Libraries, the Office of International Education, the Office of Institutional Diversity, the Office of Academic Planning, Honors Program, and the Museum of Art.

Morehead also serves as vice chair of the Georgia Athletic Association Board of Directors, vice chair of the UGA Research Foundation, a UGA Foundation Trustee, and a UGA Real Estate Foundation Trustee.

Morehead has published numerous books and scholarly articles on several legal topics ranging from export controls to jury selection, and he has served as editor-in-chief of the American Business Law Journal.

He is the recipient of several University-wide teaching awards, including the Josiah Meigs Teaching Award, the highest award the University provides for teaching excellence, the Richard B. Russell Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Teacher of the Year in the Terry College of Business, and the Tresp Teaching Award in the Honors Program.

He has served as a visiting faculty member at the University of Michigan and served as an assistant United States attorney with the Department of Justice from 1980-86.

He is a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law where he earned his J.D. degree.

The Board of Regents will take final action on the selection of the next president of UGA at a future meeting. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com
LENGTH: 128 words

HEADLINE: Washington: Global Health Center Seminar: Epigenetics and environmental justice

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Oregon Health & Science University, The Government of USA has issued the following news release:

Global Health Center Seminar: Epigenetics and environmental justice
When Wednesday, 1/30/2013, 12 - 1pm
Where VOLLUM M1441
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd
Portland, OR 97239
Event Type Lecture/Seminar
Series Title Conversations in Global Health
Subject Teaching
Presenter Dr. Fazal Khan, MD, JD, University of Georgia Law School
Campus Location Marquam Hill
Event Sponsor OHSU Global Health Center
Contact Person Name Cate Bishop
Contact Person E-Mail bishopca@ohsu.edu
Contact Person Phone 503.494.0387

More Information

This session is co-sponsored by the OHSU Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET)

For more information please visit: http://www.ohsu.edu/

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 2013

2 of 2 DOCUMENTS

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LENGTH: 245 words

HEADLINE: HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT WILLIAM SCHABAS TO SPEAK AT UGA SCHOOL OF LAW

BYLINE: States News Service

DATELINE: Athens, GA

BODY:

The following information was released by the University of Georgia:

Writer:
Cindy Rice

William A. Schabas, an internationally respected expert on human rights law, genocide and the death penalty, will present a lecture on "Human Rights and Culture" at the University of Georgia School of Law Feb. 7 at 4:30 p.m. The event will take place in classroom J (room 347) in Hirsch Hall and is free and open to the public.

Schabas' lecture, which is co-sponsored by The Jane and Harry Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, will address the long-neglected association between human rights, culture and the arts.

Schabas is a professor of international law at Middlesex University in London and is chairman of the Irish Centre for Human Rights. His career includes serving as one of three international members of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2002 to 2004. He also worked as a consultant on capital punishment for the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime and drafted the 2010 report of the U.N. secretary-general on the status of the death penalty.

A prolific scholar, Schabas is the author of more than 20 books dealing in whole or in part with international human rights law. He has published more than 300 articles in academic journals, principally in the field of international human rights law and international criminal law. He is also editor-in-chief of Criminal Law Forum, the quarterly journal of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law.

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 2013
## ENDORAR OF EVENTS

### JAN. 31

**Happy Hour**, Sponsored by the Atlanta Bar Association's Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers Section, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at a location TBD. To register: [www.atlantabar.org or 404-521-0781.](mailto:www.atlantabar.org)

### FEB. 1

Statewide Satellite Program: "Defense of a Personal Injury Case." Co-sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia and General Practice Trial & Law Section. Six CLE hours including 1 professionalism and 6 trial practice. 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Georgia Public Broadcasting Studio, 260 14th St. N.W., Atlanta, broadcasting to sites throughout Georgia. For list of sites and to register, go to [www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886.](mailto:www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886)

### FEB. 2-3

**Divorce Practicum**, 12 CLE hours including 1 ethics. Approved by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Sponsored by Henning Mediation & Arbitration Service. Register at [www.hennningmediation.com](http://www.hennningmediation.com).

### FEB. 5

**Seminar:** "International Law in a Time of Scarcity." Sponsored by Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law. Guest speaker: Erinthan Cousin, executive director, United Nations World Food Programme. 8:30 a.m., Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall, University of Georgia, Athens. Event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required by Feb. 1 for conference lunch. For information or to register: [www.law.uga.edu/gjiclc-annual-conference-registration.](http://www.law.uga.edu/gjiclc-annual-conference-registration)

### FEB. 7

**Rebroadcast of Statewide Satellite Program:** "Defense of a Personal Injury Case." Co-sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia and General Practice Trial & Law Section. Six CLE hours including 1 professionalism and 6 trial practice. 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Feb. 1 seminar will be rebroadcast to sites throughout Georgia. For list of sites and to register, go to [www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886.](mailto:www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886)

### FEB. 7-10

**Civil Mediation Training**, 24 CLE hours including 6 trial, 2 ethics and 2 professionalism. Approved by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Sponsored by Henning Mediation & Arbitration Service. Register at [www.hennningmediation.com](http://www.hennningmediation.com).

### FEB. 8

**Seminar:** Georgia Auto Insurance Claims Law. Sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia. Ten CLE hours including 1 ethics hour. UGA Hotel and Conference Center at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, 1197 S. Lumpkin St., Athens. Register at [www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886.](mailto:www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886)

### FEB. 8-9

**Weekend seminar:** 58th annual Estate Planning Institute. Sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia. Ten CLE hours including 1 ethics hour. UGA Hotel and Conference Center at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, 1197 S. Lumpkin St., Athens. Register at [www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886.](mailto:www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886)

For a complete listing of events, visit [DailyReportOnline.com](http://DailyReportOnline.com)
As civil cases increasingly go straight to mediation, the door has opened for more international business-to-business disputes to be resolved through mediation and arbitration, with Atlanta among the first to hang a "y'all come" sign on legal doors.

Global commerce is no longer just the domain of the world's major corporations and even small businesses can find themselves in the middle of international business disputes. As the international markets' umbrella opens, so has the need for fair, quick and enforceable resolutions.

Increasingly—and for many reasons—corporations are opting for mediation and arbitration not just at home, but also abroad.

The numbers back up the trend. For instance, in 2005, 580 cases were filed with the American Arbitration Association's International Centre for Dispute Resolution, which administers international arbitrations. By 2011, that number increased to 994.

In addition, according to a 2012 memo from the American Bar Association's International Task Force in Legal Services, the U.S. exported more than $7.3 billion in legal services in 2009 (the latest available data). There was no figure available on the economic impact of foreign legal services coming into this country.

"International cases are very similar to civil cases in the United States," says Glenn Hendrix, president of the Atlanta International Arbitration Society—known as ATLAS—and managing partner of Arnall Golden Gregory. "You prefer to have the case before an arbitrator or a panel. You want to stay out of the courts."

So why is the alternative dispute resolution movement gaining such rapid momentum in the international arena? And how important of a player will the nascent ATLAS be on the international dispute resolution map?

Mediation and arbitration can ameliorate some of the unknowns that may keep in-house counsel—facing foreign courts—awake. The aim is to remove any home court advantage in a dispute between companies based in different countries and potentially with widely divergent judicial codes.

"It can be a little uncomfortable taking your case to a country whose laws may not be based on common law," says Valerie Sanders, counsel with Sutherland and an ATLAS board member.

"Definitely that's the case in business-to-business cases, such as licensing agreements, IP, mergers, where the court system in the other country may not have the same legal traditions as we have here. You want balance."

On the other hand, companies may be just as wary of established legal systems as they are of developing ones.

"No one outside the U.S. wants to go to court in the U.S.," Sanders says. "They hear about how the U.S. courts have
so many facets—criminal, civil, business-to-business. They may not have confidence in having a jury resolve a business dispute."

Facing a U.S. court can be a challenge for a foreign company not used to our system. "Everyone thinks that the U.S. is litigation crazy and that it's very expensive to go to court here," Sanders says.

"We have a lot more discovery here than in continental Europe. You just don't get all the requests for documents there as you do here. So if you are a foreign company going against a U.S. company and you are given the choice of going to court in the U.S. or going to mediation or arbitration in the U.S., most foreign companies would rather mediate or arbitrate in the U.S. than go to court here."

**Enforcement**

Another reason foreign disagreements are going to alternative resolution arrangements is that the judgments are more enforceable across borders.

Brian A. White, a partner at King & Spalding, believes that "one reason for this [increased international mediation] is that there is a comprehensive structure of treaties in place to facilitate the enforcement of international arbitration awards."

In other words, the victory may be sweet, but try collecting. "It is much easier to enforce the judgment, and any subsequent awards, from an international arbitration panel than it may be from a court, including a U.S. court," says Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge, a professor at the University of Georgia School of Law and the author of the forthcoming book *Arbitration and the Constitution*. "The issue ultimately becomes enforcement."

More than 140 countries have signed treaties, notably the New York Convention and the Panama Convention, governing arbitration and pledging that any award will be honored by all signees. By contrast, the United States has no treaties requiring enforcement of foreign court judgments.

So, if a U.S.-based company loses in international arbitration, it will be required to pay due to the treaties; that same company faced with the same decision but rendered in a foreign court can refuse to submit to the court decision and a U.S. court may upheld the company's decision not to comply.

"Let's say you are an American company involved in a dispute with a French company," says Rutledge. "You have the choice to go to an international arbitration panel—even in the U.S.—and know that the award will be honored. You don't necessarily know that a U.S. court will do the same with an international decision—or a French court."

Choosing arbitration also helps if one of the parties is "from a legal system that is maybe not based on common law or civil law," says Douglas H. Yarn, Georgia State University law professor and director of the school's Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. "A lawyer can tell their client that with arbitration they will have more confidence that someone is familiar with the law and that you are choosing the framework of rules."

Yarn also believes that arbitration allows for resolution of common matters.

"You have a lot of expertise to help settle matters and it makes for a more efficient resolution of disputes. It's faster. In the court system, someone wins and someone loses, but in arbitration and mediation, you are trying to come to some agreement," Yarn says.

"Of course, if it's a trademark issue and you're Coca-Cola, you'll fight to the death, but otherwise alternative resolutions is now de rigueur."

**Mixing legal systems**

White agrees that arbitration brings a coming together of different legal systems—or "flexible mechanisms"—that both parties, regardless of different cultural and legal backgrounds, can accept. "For example, it is common in arbitration to adopt certain procedural mechanisms that would be familiar to a lawyer from a civil law country such as comprehensive pre-hearing written submissions, while also making use of some aspects of the common law system, such as cross-examination of witnesses, that many lawyers from civil law countries would find unusual," he says.

One of the reasons why ATLAS may gain prominence is that Atlanta is under the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which by many accounts is very friendly to international arbitration and its interpretation of the rulings by the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA).
According to ATLAS, the Eleventh Circuit is:

- one of the few federal circuits to completely exclude "manifest disregard for the law" as a viable ground for vacating arbitral awards
- the only federal circuit to eliminate domestic arbitration laws as a basis for vacating international arbitration awards
- follows a "liberal approach" with respect to allowing arbitrators to determine arbitratability and
- recognizes that the arbitrator is the last decision maker except in very unusual cases.

"The Eleventh Circuit is very unique and it is the only circuit court in the country to take a narrow standard view that closes off the availability of a U.S. court to apply more taxing standards to awards," says Rutledge.

"The Eleventh Circuit is right. They are viewed as pro-business. The courts have gone too far in second-guessing decisions. And that's a huge competitive advantage when choosing where to arbitrate. It's important to know that you are in a district that the court will not throw out a decision and undermine the enforcement."

Although often in the original contract the parties will agree upon which arbitration panel or mediator will be selected in case of a dispute, Georgia takes that a step further, which is another incentive for companies to come to Georgia for mediation or arbitration.

The state is one of the few in the country that expressly permits foreign lawyers—or lawyers not licensed in any U.S. jurisdiction—to plead their case without having to get permission from the State Bar.

"Georgia allows foreign lawyers to participate, which is important for non-U.S. companies, and has been laying the groundwork for foreign lawyers participating for more than a decade," says Hendrix.

"We allow non-U.S. attorneys to get evidence, appear in court—participate. That sends a strong message."

Georgia also has a strong bench of mediators and arbitrators capable of handling complex business and international issues. "Certain arbitration institutions promise a required degree of quality for their arbitrators, a certain quality control," says Rutledge. "In addition, there is an expectation that there are experts in different industries—that if you have an international banking dispute that you will have an arbitrator who has a reputation in this area. Judge Birch, for instance, has a professional reputation that is attractive for foreign companies." (Stanley F. Birch Jr., a mediator and arbitrator at JAMS Atlanta Resolution Center, is a retired Eleventh Circuit judge)

According to Hendrix, Atlanta's future as a significant center of international arbitration is "not a pipe dream."

He cites many intangibles that factor into Atlanta's potential success. "You have the MLK Center, the Carter Center, CNN, Andrew Young. Atlanta is not just a city in the South; it is a multiracial city that has a history of tolerance and coming together. It's part of our brand."

And then there's the airport

Not surprisingly, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce believes strongly in ATLAS and says that the "sum of its parts," is what will make it a success.

"We have the resources and we had the vision to change our laws to make it more arbitration friendly," says Jorge Fernandez, vice president, global commerce. "We also cannot underestimate our airport. As we market our assets, more companies will choose Atlanta for their arbitration."

The city's pro-business reputation is solid as is its reputation as an international business center. "We have more to offer than Miami, which is trying to become the arbitration center for all things Latin and South American," says Fernandez. "Houston is the center for disputes involving oil and gas but we are an international distribution center as well as [a center for] supply chains and corporate services. ... ATLAS has had very successful conferences, which is also helping to market us."

As the area's reputation grows as an arbitration center, the cost of doing business will increasingly come into play. "You can arbitrate a case in London, Paris or Geneva and that sounds wonderful," says Sanders. "But then you can look at the costs and say, 'Let's go to Atlanta.'"
Atlanta, which has the third largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., also has a noticeable international business community. According to ATLAS, there are more than 2,400 international businesses from more than 40 countries in the area, including many, such as Porsche Cars North America, ING Americas, Ciba Vision, Novelis and Mizuno, that have their U.S. headquarters in the area.

"That is important for many reasons but it also provides a lot of networking among global in-house counsel as well as lawyers," says King & Spalding's White.

"The significant amount of foreign investment here makes the international community aware of Atlanta as a legal center and the message they get is that we are open, friendly and comfortable with arbitration."

GSU's Yarn has been working on legislation for alternative dispute resolutions in the state since the 1980s. At the time Georgia didn't even have a modern statute regarding domestic arbitration, so international arbitration wasn't even on the radar.

"Back then there were only a few attorneys in town who did international arbitration," he says. "King & Spalding had one attorney. Now they have an entire department. And they are not the only law firm with multiple international lawyers. When we had our initial meeting for ATLAS, the room was packed with lawyers from big firms. It's a very prestigious group of attorneys, mediators, business entities, politicians and academia."

ATLAS and the Chamber of Commerce believe that eventually an Atlanta arbitration center could be built and GSU has included an International Arbitration Center in its plans. "It was very important to have that arbitration center in our plans," Yarn says.

"International arbitration is not new," Yarn adds. "There have been cross-border dispute resolutions between entities going back to the Phoenicians. It's not an emerging trend. It's just that Atlanta is just now stepping up and joining."
The Second Amendment

The following statement, which UCLA law professor Adam Winkler and I crafted, was signed by more than fifty of the nation’s most distinguished constitutional law professors. The statement refutes unfounded claims that the Second Amendment precludes Congress from enacting legislation to reduce gun violence in the United States. Although these scholars hold widely divergent views on constitutional interpretation, and often fiercely disagree on a broad range of constitutional issues, they all agree on this question. The statement was submitted today to Congress in anticipation of the beginning of hearings on the proposed legislation.

Statement of Professors of Constitutional Law: The Second Amendment and the Constitutionality of the Proposed Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

Several proposed reforms to the nation’s gun laws, including universal background checks and restrictions on high-capacity ammunition magazines and assault weapons, are now pending before Congress. Concerns have been raised that these measures might violate the Second Amendment. We, the undersigned professors with expertise in constitutional law, write to address those concerns.

In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment, which provides, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,” guarantees an individual’s right to have a functional firearm in the home for self-defense. The Court’s decision in that case, District of Columbia v. Heller, struck down a D.C. law that effectively barred the use of any firearm for self-defense. The law is now clear that the government may not completely disarm law-abiding, responsible citizens. The Court also made clear, however, that many gun regulations remain constitutionally permissible. “Like most rights,” the Court explained, “the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited.” Writing for the Court, Justice Antonin Scalia explained that restrictions on “dangerous and unusual” weapons are constitutional and that “nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt” on laws that prohibit “the possession of firearms by felons or the mentally ill” or laws that impose “conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.”

In this sense, Justice Scalia recognized in Heller that, like other constitutional rights, the Second Amendment is not an absolute. The First Amendment, for example, provides that “Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech,” but the Supreme Court has long and consistently held that some types of speech -- for example, defamation, obscenity and threats -- can be regulated; that some people -- for example, public employees, members of the military, students and prisoners -- are subject to greater restrictions on their speech than others; and that the government can reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of speech. As Justice Scalia explained in Heller, the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment are likewise subject to appropriate regulation in order to enhance public safety.

In acknowledging the presumptive constitutionality of laws designed to prevent gun violence, including restrictions on who has access to firearms and what types of firearms they may have, Heller is consistent with the history of the right to keep and bear arms. The founding fathers who wrote and ratified the Second Amendment also had laws to keep guns out of the hands of people thought to be untrustworthy. Such laws were necessary to ensure that the citizen militia referenced in the Second Amendment was “well regulated.” In the 1800s, many states restricted the sale or public possession of concealable firearms. In the early twentieth century, the federal government restricted access to unusually dangerous weapons, such as machine guns, and states barred people convicted of certain felonies from possessing firearms. Laws such as these were routinely upheld by the courts, which recognized the legitimacy of legislative efforts to keep the most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people.

While the permissibility of any particular reform depends on its details, the reforms currently being considered by Congress are clearly consistent with the Second Amendment. We express no view on the effectiveness or desirability of the policies reflected in the various proposals, but we all agree that none infringes the core right identified by the Court in Heller.

Universal background checks, especially those conducted instantaneously through the National Instant Background Check System, do not impose a significant burden on law-abiding citizens. Yet background checks may provide an important safeguard against easy access to guns by members of criminal street gangs, other felons and the mentally ill. As with other rights that have eligibility criteria, such as the right to vote, the right to keep and bear arms is not offended by neutral measures designed to ensure that only eligible, law-abiding citizens exercise the right. Moreover, background checks imposed at the point of sale are typical of the “conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms” recognized by the Supreme Court in Heller.

Restrictions on the manufacture and sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines and assault weapons are also consistent
with the Second Amendment. In a recent opinion authored by Judge Douglas Ginsburg and joined by Judge Karen Henderson, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held that such regulations are consistent with the Second Amendment and with the Supreme Court's decision in 

Heller. The court of appeals recognized such weapons and magazines are not necessary for individual self-defense -- what Heller called the "core lawful purpose" of the Second Amendment. Restrictions on high-capacity magazines and assault weapons, the court of appeals held, do "not effectively disarm individuals or substantially affect their ability to defend themselves." The Second Amendment, like the First Amendment, does not prevent lawmakers from enacting reasonable regulations that do not seriously interfere with the core right guaranteed by the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has clearly held that the Second Amendment preserves the right of law-abiding citizens to have a firearm in the home for self-defense. As both the historical tradition of the right to bear arms and the Court's decision suggest, reasonable and limited measures to enhance public safety that do not unduly burden that right are consistent with the Second Amendment.

Signed,

Bruce Ackerman
Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science, Yale Law School

Albert W. Alschuler
Julius Kreeger Professor Emeritus, The University of Chicago Law School

Mitchell N. Berman
Richard Dale Endowed Chair in Law, The University of Texas School of Law

Ashutosh Bhagwati, Professor of Law
UC Davis School of Law

Joseph Blocher
Associate Professor of Law, Duke Law School

Lee C. Bollinger
President, Columbia University

Rebecca L. Brown
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Alan Brownstein
Professor of Law, Booschever and Bird Chair, UC Davis School of Law

Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Irvine School of Law

Dan T. Coenen
University Professor and Harmon W. Caldwell Chair, University of Georgia Law

Walter E. Dellinger III
Douglas B. Maggs Emeritus Professor of Law, Duke Law School

Michael C. Dorf
Robert S. Stevens Professor of Law, Cornell University Law School

Lee Epstein
Provost Professor and Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law, USC Gould School of Law

Richard A. Epstein
Lawrence A. Tisch Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

Daniel A. Farber
Sho Sato Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law

Owen M. Fiss
Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law and Professorial Lecturer in Law, Yale Law School

Charles Fried
Beneficial Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

Barry Friedman
Jacob D. Fuchsberg Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

Risa Goluboff
Justice Thurgood Marshall Professor of Law, The University of Virginia School of Law

Jamal Greene
Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

H. Kent Greenfield
Professor of Law and Law Fund Research Scholar, Boston College Law School
Carl M. Loeb University Professor and Professor of Constitutional Law, Harvard Law School

Mark Tushnet
William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

Jonathan D. Varat
Professor of Law and former Dean, UCLA School of Law

Keith Wehran
Ashton Phelps Chair of Constitutional Law, Tulane University School of Law

Adam Winkler
Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

*University affiliation provided for identification purposes only.*
Georgia law school applicants on decline

Karen Sloan and Mark Niesse
The National Law Journal
01-30-2013

The number of applicants to Georgia's five law schools has slipped this year, reflecting a trend seen in legal education across the country.

Applications are down by more than 20 percent at three Georgia law schools and by smaller amounts at two others, school officials told the Daily Report this week.

Nationwide, 27,891 people had applied for seats in American Bar Association-accredited law schools as of Jan. 18, according to the Law School Admission Council. That represented a 20.1 percent decline since last year, when the number of applicants fell by nearly 14 percent. If the trend holds through the final months of the admission cycle, law schools would see a 38 percent crash since their peak in 2010.

Applications dipped by about 25 percent at Mercer University School of Law, 23 percent at Georgia State University College of Law and 21 percent at the University of Georgia School of Law, compared with the same point in the admissions process last year.

The drop at Emory University School of Law was small by comparison, at 2.6 percent.

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School has received 11 percent fewer applications so far.

"It seems to be a uniform phenomenon," said John Marshall Dean Richardson Lynn. "It's happening to everybody."

Officials at the schools said there's still time for them to make up ground before the application process closes in a few months.

Georgia State has been gaining ground since November, when its number of applicants was down 31 percent compared with the previous year, said spokeswoman Wendy Cromwell.

"Historically, we've been slow starters," she said.

Law schools in the Southeast are faring slightly better than the rest of the nation. About 3,700 applicants had sought to get into law school, which represents an 18.6 percent decline compared with last year, according to LSAC.
"I am surprised by the extent of the decline," said University of St. Thomas School of Law professor Jerome Organ, who has been tracking law school enrollment and economic trends. "I had anticipated a decline, but possibly a more moderate decline than the last two years."

It looks like one for the record books: Upon seeing the application figures from LSAC, Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law professor Deborah Jones Merritt decided to research the last time U.S. law schools had attracted such a small applicant pool. She couldn't find records before 1983, but at no time during the past 30 years had the applicant totals slipped below 60,000. (There were 175 ABA-accredited law schools during the early 1980s; there now are 201.)

"I was pretty surprised when I looked back and saw the prospective applicant levels would bring us back to 1983," Merritt said. "There's a general sense people have that applications are cyclical, but I don't see any way for a quick rebound here."

It appears that the drop in applicants this year will be steeper than during the two previous years. At the present rate, between 53,000 and 54,000 applicants will vie for places in ABA-accredited schools this year, down from 68,000 in 2012.

Organ attributed the situation in part to the ABA's release last spring of detailed graduate employment statistics broken down by school. They showed that only 55 percent of 2011 law graduates had found permanent, full-time jobs that required bar passage within nine months. That may have persuaded some would-be law students to reconsider, he said.

"It's become clear that there is no chance of redemption for this cycle," said Sarah Zearfoss, senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid and career planning at the University of Michigan Law School. "The December LSAT sitting is already over and there is no reason to think that there will be a larger-than-normal February sitting."

February is the last opportunity for prospective applicants to take the Law School Admission Test in time to meet this year's application deadlines. During the December sitting, nearly 16 percent fewer people took the test compared with 2011.

Merritt said that most prospective law school applicants were starting their undergraduate educations during the Great Recession, as large firms were shedding associates and even partners in shocking numbers. That turmoil shattered the perception of the legal profession as a low-risk and lucrative career path. "I would be surprised to see applications go up again, unless there are major changes in the legal industry," Merritt said.

Just four law schools thus far have seen increases in applications, whereas 82 have seen declines of 30 percent or more, according to the LSAC. Another 62 schools have seen declines of between 20 and 29 percent, and 32 schools experienced declines of between 10 and 19 percent. The LSAC data do not identify which schools fall into those categories.

These declines have not been evenly distributed throughout the country. Law schools in New England have seen a relatively modest 14 percent reduction, whereas the Northwest, Mountain West, Midwest and Great Lakes regions have seen declines of 22 percent or more.

Fifteen of the 31 schools polled by the Midwest Alliance for Law School Admissions said their applications were down by 28 percent or more. Only one school has experienced an application volume within 5 percent of last year's total to date. The poll was confidential and did not report the admissions numbers for individual law schools.

Merritt said employment data provided by the nonprofit group Law School Transparency may have underscored that most law schools place graduates in jobs locally, encouraging prospective students to apply where they ultimately want to practice. Regions with major legal hubs may be more attractive now, she said.

The dearth of applications has become a touchy subject for admissions officers, Zearfoss said. "You almost don't want to ask other admissions deans about their numbers," she said. "It's delicate." In fact, a number of law school deans did not respond or declined to discuss their application figures.

**Limited options**

Law schools basically have two options at this point, Organ said. They can reach deeper into their applicant pools and take students with lower academic credentials, risking their U.S. News and World Report ranking; or accept smaller
classes by continuing to insist on higher LSAT scores and undergraduate grade-point averages—both of which are weighted heavily in the magazine's law school rankings.

Most schools will probably decide upon a combination of approaches, according to a survey of incoming class sizes and the academic credentials of this year’s crop of students at U.S. News’ top 100 schools, as reported on their websites. (The survey was conducted by officials at a law school who requested not to be identified, citing sensitivities about tracking competitor schools). About two-thirds of those schools are bringing in smaller classes this fall, and approximately half reported lower median LSAT scores.

The situation means admissions officials can't rely on traditional formulas for hitting their enrollment goals, Organ said. "It's a really fluid marketplace. The people you used to admit with a 162 LSAT score may not be there, because they got into a school 10 spots above you in the U.S. News rankings. The top schools may be down a little on their profiles, but they're still taking the top chunk of the applicant pool, and there are fewer people left for everyone else down the chain."

Michigan State University College of Law expects about 2,750 applications this year, down by 28 percent from last year, said assistant dean for admissions and financial aid Charles Roboski. The school plans to reduce its incoming class by as much as 10 percent, and will accept a larger percentage of applicants this year to hit its goal of 280 new students.

"I believe that we'll see more activity in the summer months as schools go to their wait lists, with the ripple effect that this has, and as schools make decisions regarding their classes," Roboski said.

Law schools face an even more pressing problem than merely filling their classes, said Washington University in St. Louis Law School professor Brian Tamanaha. He is the author of Failing Law Schools, a scathing critique of legal education in this country.

"The class of 2010 was really the peak enrollment year, and that class graduates this spring," Tamanaha said. "Although we had smaller entering classes in 2011 and 2012, having that larger class helped fill out enrollment. When that large class is replaced by a much smaller new class this fall, the cumulative effect will be quite significant."

Schools will need to make up for those lost tuition payments. Several have already cut staff, and faculty could be next. "Now we're going to see some program cuts," Tamanaha said. "Our situation will change quite dramatically."

Mental state of Midtown shooting suspect to be evaluated

By Marcus K. Garner

Former Midtown security guard Nkosi Thandiwe will be evaluated Wednesday night to determine if his mental state during a deadly July 15, 2011 shooting spree was so disturbed that a jury could find him “not guilty by reason of insanity.”

Thandiwe’s attorney made the last-minute request Wednesday after his client testified, admitting to fatally shooting Brittney Watts amid a trance-like state.

“It was almost like watching myself in action,” Thandiwe told a Fulton County jury on the second day of his murder trial. “I tell her to get out of (her) car. She screams. I fire. She drops to the ground.”

Thandiwe, 23, also confessed from the witness stand that he shot two other women that day – Tiffany Ferenczy and Lauren Garcia, who is now paralyzed from her injuries – before driving off in Watts’ car.

“My mind was blank at the time,” he said.

Prosecutors protested the redirection by Thandiwe’s attorney, Fulton public defender Wes Bryant. The tactic came just before the closing arguments were to begin.

“This court gave the defense (attorneys) plenty of opportunity to present this defense,” Fulton County Assistant District Attorney Linda Dunikoski complained to Superior Court Judge Kelly A. Lee. “We feel this is trial by ambush.”

Previous lawyers representing Thandiwe had him evaluated for mental fitness to stand trial but were unable to secure funding from the court or from the Fulton district attorney’s office for a mental health professional to interview the defendant and testify on his behalf about his mental state.
Mental state of Midtown shooting suspect to be evaluated

Dunikoski cited legal precedent when she argued that "evidence that a defendant does not remember or blacked out is insufficient to raise insanity" questions.

Typically, a defense attorney must notify the court during pretrial hearings of an intent to bring an insanity or mental illness defense.

But UGA endowed law Professor Ronald Carlson, reached by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution via email during the hearing, said Lee had two reasons to allow the change.

First, a judge can find "good cause" to permit the defendant to discuss the fact that he was out of his mind at the time of the crime.

Or, Carlson said, noting the more probable reason based on the facts of the case, courts are often more lenient in allowing proof of a disturbed mental state when it comes from the accused testifying as a witness, and the proof is not aimed at winning the trial outright on an insanity plea, but rather to reduce the offense.

"He told the jury he was not in his right mind," Carlson said of Thandiwe. "... in essence that he was in the grip of temporary insanity."

During his testimony Wednesday, Thandiwe suggested that his reason for even purchasing the gun he used in the shootings was to enforce beliefs he'd developed about white people during his later years as an anthropology major at the University of West Georgia.

"I was trying to prove a point that Europeans had colonized the world, and as a result of that, we see a lot of evil today," he said. "In terms of slavery, it was something that needed to be answered for. I was trying to spread the message of making white people mend."

He said the night before the shooting, he attended a so-called "Peace Party" intended to address his concerns about helping the black community find equal footing, but two white people were there.

"I was upset," Thandiwe said. "I was still upset Friday. I took the gun to work because I was still upset from Thursday night."

He even admitted to earlier that day getting angry enough on the job to shoot his supervisor.

"What my boss said to me ...," he told the jury, "that rage almost made me pull out my gun on him."

A collective groan went up from the victims' family members when Lee announced early Wednesday afternoon that she would allow a mental health expert to examine Thandiwe overnight and testify the next day as to whether there was sufficient evidence to add an insanity verdict to the jurors' choices.

She dismissed the jury early, first singling out two jurors who stopped at a TV news truck during lunch to ask what the station was covering at the courthouse.

The Channel 2 Action News reporter (whose employer is owned by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's parent company) told Lee in court that one of the jurors tried to pronounce Thandiwe's name to describe to which jury he was seated.

"You understand that you are not to talk to anybody about the case," Lee stressed to each of them, after dismissing the rest of the jurors.

At Bryant's request, Lee said a determination would be made Thursday morning about whether she should take any action against either wayward juror.

Proceedings will resume Thursday at 9 a.m.

More News

More from ajc.com

Squatter takes over Fla. mansion
Georgia Dome stabbing suspect says mob was "trying to take my..."
Detective: Midtown shooting suspect said, 'It was just that time'
Delta adding outdoor terraces to two airport

From around the web

Hopefully your great grandfather had a better death than Jack Daniels (Ancestry.com)
Walmart Heir Opens Wonderland (The New Yorker)
Stunning Pictures Of an 18K White And Yellow Engagement Ring (StyleBistro)
LENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB. 31
Lawyer Panel: "Show Me the Money! Financial Other Resources for Georgia's
an." Co-sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia and
Protection and Advocacy Section, Bar of Georgia. Six CLE hours including
professionalism and 1 trial practice. 7:30-9:30 a.m., with social mixer begin-
ning at 4 p.m. (location to be announced). Bar is at State Bar of Georgia head-
dquarters, 104 Marietta St. N.W., Atlanta. Register at www.iclega.org or call 770-

FEB. 31
Ethics Lunch. Sponsored by the Atlanta Bar Association's Atlanta Council of Younger
Lawyers, 1-5 p.m. at a location to be announced. Register at www.atlantabar.org
1-521-0761.

FEB. 1
Wide Satellite Program: "Defense of a Personal Injury Case." Co-sponsored by
Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia and General Practice Trial & Law
Section. Six CLE hours including 1 professionalism and 6 trial practice. 8:15 a.m.-4:30
p.m. at Georgia Public Broadcasting Studio, 260 14th St. N.W., Atlanta, broadcasting to
sites throughout Georgia. For list of sites and to register, go to www.iclega.org or call 770-

FEB. 2-3
Divorce Practicum, 12 CLE hours including 1 ethics. Approved by the Georgia Office of
Dispute Resolution. Sponsored by Henning Mediation & Arbitration Service. Register at

FEB. 5
Seminar: "International Law in a Time of Scarcity," Sponsored by Georgia Journal of
International and Comparative Law. Guest speaker: Ertharin Cousin, executive director,
United Nations World Food Programme. 8:30 a.m., Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall,
University of Georgia, Athens. Event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is
required by Feb. 1 for conference lunch. For information or to register: www.law.uga.
edu/gjicl-annual-conference-registration.

FEB. 7
Rebroadcast of Statewide Satellite Program: "Defense of a Personal Injury Case." Co-sponsored by Institute of
Continuing Legal Education in Georgia and General Practice Trial & Law Section. Six CLE hours including 1 professionalism
and 6 trial practice. 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Feb. 1 seminar will be rebroadcast to sites
throughout Georgia. For list of sites and to register, go to www.iclega.org or call 770-

FEB. 8
Civil Mediation Training, 24 CLE hours including 6 trial, 2 ethics and 2 professional-
ism. Approved by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Sponsored by Henning

FEB. 8
Seminar: Georgia Auto Insurance Claims Law. Sponsored by Institute of Continuing
Legal Education in Georgia. Six CLE hours, including 1 ethics and 3 trial practice.
7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Savannah Marriott Riverfront, 100 General McIntosh Blvd.,
Savannah. (Seminar will be offered in Atlanta, on March 1). Register at www.iclega.org
or call 770-466-0886.

FEB. 8
Seminar: Abusive Litigation. Sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia. Six CLE hours.
7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at State Bar of Georgia headquarters, 104 Marietta St. N.W., Atlanta.

Register at www.iclega.org or call 770-

FEB. 8
Seminar: Banking and Finance Law. Sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Legal
Education and the Business Law Section. Six CLE hours, including 1 ethics and 1 trial practice.
7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., State Bar of Georgia headquarters,
104 Marietta St. N.W., Atlanta. Register at
www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886.

FEB. 8-9
Weekend seminar: 58th annual Estate Planning Institute. Sponsored by Institute
of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia. Ten CLE hours including 1 ethics hour. UGA
Hotel and Conference Center at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, 1197 S.
Lumpkin St., Athens. Register at www.iclega.org or call 770-466-0886.

FEB. 13
Sponsored by Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia. Six CLE hours.
7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at State Bar of Georgia headquarters, 104 Marietta St. N.W.,
Atlanta.

For a complete listing of events, visit DailyReportOnline.com
Partners Group merges to expand nationally

Meredith Hobbs

Daily Report

01-30-2013

One of Atlanta's original legal recruiters, The Partners Group, has merged with a Chicago-based legal recruiter, Legalpeople.

Paul Talmadge Jr., who owns The Partners Group along with Cheryl Oliver and David Gruskin, said the merger is a way to expand his firm's national reach and add resources while retaining a personal approach to legal recruiting. "We've put together in size and breadth a company that can compete with any of the big companies and still do it our way as opposed to corporate America's way," Talmadge said.

The deal gives his firm entree into the Chicago, Dallas and Houston legal markets, where Legalpeople has offices. "Those are three of the top 10 law markets in the U.S. where we have no people or offices," Talmadge said.

In addition to Atlanta, The Partners Group has offices in Charlotte, N.C., Nashville, Tenn., Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Talmadge declined to disclose revenue figures, but said the combined firm has about 30 employees.

The firms established a parent company, Legal Partners, incorporated in Delaware, as a holding company for The Partners Group and Legalpeople.

The companies will continue to operate under their own brands in their respective cities and will maintain co-headquarters in Chicago and Atlanta, Talmadge said. "They are known brands. There's no use in changing something that's working."

Legalpeople's owner, Jim Kosciolek, said the pooled resources and similar, people-oriented cultures of the two firms made the merger attractive. "Our companies are really complementary. Culturally they're a super-easy fit and geographically they work great," he said.

"Legal recruiting is a fiercely competitive business. You need a lot of irons in the fire, a lot of relationships. So it helps to have as broad a base as possible," Kosciolek said.

"And it's fun," he added. "We've both been successful in our businesses and it's fun to have some people to share this with—to put some resources in new markets that we might be hesitant to do on our own."

Talmadge said his relationship with Kosciolek goes back to 1997, when he left his career as a lawyer to venture into the new world of legal recruiting. The other three owners are also lawyers.

Talmadge and Oliver opened an Atlanta office for legal recruiter Co-Counsel that year. Kosciolek had opened a Chicago office for the company.
"Cheryl and I have known Jim since the beginning," Talmadge said. "We all kind of grew up in the industry together and have the same culture. We’re really service-driven versus being sales people."

Talmadge and Oliver left Co-Counsel to start their own firm, The Partners Group, in 1999. Co-Counsel was acquired by Ajilon, which is part of the multinational staffing company Adecco, and in 2002 Kosciolek started Legalpeople.

As the firms grew, Kosciolek expanded into Texas, while Partners Group opened offices in Charlotte, Nashville and California, adding contract recruiting and document review services.

Talmadge said the deal had been a year in the making. They’d considered merging about five years ago, he added, but the timing was not right.

In 2011 Talmadge, Oliver and Gruskin bought out the interest of their investor, Mark Hawn. At that time, the company separated from sister company Paramount Staffing, also based in Atlanta, which provides support staff to law firms, medical offices and companies.

The staffing company and legal recruiter had joined forces at the beginning of 2008. Talmadge said the split was amicable and they continue to refer work to each other.

Meanwhile, Gruskin had gotten to know Kosciolek at industry meetings and become friends with him, Talmadge said. Gruskin initiated discussions about a merger after he and his partners bought out Hawn. The deal, which was a year in the making, was attractive to both sides because they did not compete in any of the cities where they had offices and would each gain an established presence in several top legal markets.

"Since we opened our own companies, the industry has matured to the point where if you just go to these cities as a newbie and try and throw your flag down, it’s tough sledding—unless you’ve got a major client there," Talmadge explained.

"There was no overlap, which was what made it beautiful," he said.

Kosciolek said The Partners Group’s presence in Atlanta and Los Angeles was a big draw. Now the partners are thinking about New York and Washington, the two biggest legal markets in the nation. "Those markets are hard to break into without existing clients and relationships," Kosciolek said, adding that the merger will allow the firms to pool resources and contacts in those cities.

"Right now we are just trying to integrate everything and pull it together, so we have a good first year," Talmadge said.

The Partners Group recruits lawyers for permanent and contract positions and assembles teams of contract attorneys for document review.

Legalpeople has focused on contract recruiting and document review. Kosciolek said he will tap into The Partners Group’s expertise to add recruiting for permanent positions to the offices in Chicago and Texas.

The merged firm has three document review centers—one in Atlanta operated by The Partners Group and two more in Chicago and Dallas operated by Legalpeople.

Document review is a busy area in the contract attorney world, Talmadge said. In a sign of how far-flung the practice of law has grown, he said The Partners Group housed a 60-lawyer document review project in Atlanta last year in which the two law firms were from San Francisco, the plaintiff was headquartered in France, the defendant was in Boulder, Colo., and the case was filed in Federal District Court in Texas.

James Andros at Carlton Fields in Atlanta advised on the merger along with a friend of Kosciolek’s, Gregg Griner, from the Boston office of Gunderson Dettmer.

Briefly

Anthony Boggs has joined Morris Manning & Martin’s tax practice as a partner from Bryan Cave. Boggs, who’s advised on tax matters for more than 20 years, will work with the firm’s corporate, real estate capital markets and other practices.

James "Beau" Hays and B. Emory Potter have joined Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan as partners from their firm,
Hays & Potter, bringing associate Alexander Yusupov with them. The group focuses on business collection, creditors' rights, bankruptcy and construction law.

Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan, a minority-owned firm based in Milwaukee, Wis., opened an Atlanta office in 2010 with three lawyers from the now-defunct Adorno & Yoss. The Hays & Potter lawyers increase Gonzalez Saggio’s Atlanta head count to nine lawyers.

Constangy, Brooks & Smith has added Opelika, Ala., lawyer Thomas Eden as a partner in its new West Point, Ga. office, which the labor and employment firm opened to serve manufacturing clients in the area. So far, the office has four lawyers.

“We are very excited to welcome Tommy back to Constangy as we expand in West Georgia and East Alabama,” said firm partner and executive committee chairman Neil Wasser in a statement. “He brings with him more than 20 years’ experience with automotive suppliers, as well as a nationwide workplace drug and alcohol testing practice.”

Eden began his career with Constangy in Atlanta before establishing a practice in Birmingham and then later starting an East Alabama and West Georgia practice from his hometown of Auburn. He will maintain an office in Opelika.

Jason Burk has joined Constangy’s Atlanta headquarters as an associate from Moore, Ingram, Johnson & Steele in Marietta. Burk focuses on workers’ compensation defense.

Eric Breithaupt has joined Stites & Harbison as a partner from Christian & Small in Birmingham, where he was also a partner and practiced for 18 years. Breithaupt handles bankruptcy and commercial litigation, including matters involving secured transactions, corporate governance and trade secrets. He has joined Stites & Harbison’s creditors' rights and bankruptcy group.

Litigator John Amabile has joined Schiff Hardin as counsel from Pursley Lowery Meeks. Amabile is a business litigator with experience in handling construction and business disputes for real estate developers, commercial property owners, contractors and builders. He also handles alternative dispute resolution.

Charla Hall, previously a senior assistant city attorney for the city of Atlanta, has moved to Raleigh, N.C., to join Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein as an associate in the public finance group. Hall is a former president of the Georgia Alliance of African-American Attorneys and a member of the 2009 class of the United Way of Greater Atlanta V.I.P. program.

Megan Taylor has joined Miller & Martin as a litigation associate from Jones Day. Taylor has worked on cases for clients in the airline, building products, energy, credit reporting and pharmaceutical industries, among others. She received her J.D. from Emory University School of Law in 2008, where she was a Robert W. Woodruff Fellow.

Will Gallagher has joined Savannah’s Hunter Maclean as an associate focusing on trusts and estates. Gallagher received his J.D. and an L.L.M. in tax last year from Villanova University School of Law, and earned a B.B.A. in accounting from Emory University in 2009, where he was on the golf team. A resident of St. Simons, Gallagher will work in the firm’s Brunswick office.

Litigation firm Hall Booth Smith has promoted Kevin Abernethy and Jo Jagor to partner. Abernethy has handled professional negligence and environmental suits and defended civil rights claims for the city of Atlanta. He serves as the chairman of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (formerly the state ethics commission) and is on the board of the Superior Court Clerks Retirement Fund of Georgia.

Jagor practices insurance defense, focusing on doctors, nurses, psychologists and other health care professionals as well as hospitals and nursing homes. She’s served on the board of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association since 2002.

Commercial real estate firm Hartman Simons & Wood has named Ryan Rivera a partner and Irene Vander Els a
senior counsel. Rivera represents developers and tenants in lease transactions and Vander Els handles real estate litigation, including foreclosure confirmations.

Ashley Halfman has been promoted to partner at Miller & Martin. Halfman is a corporate lawyer, advising clients in mergers and acquisitions and other corporate matters.

Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs has elected Darren E. Gaynor a partner. Gaynor is a litigator, focused on defending financial institutions and other corporations.

Arvind Reddy has become a partner at intellectual property boutique Thomas Horstemeyer. Reddy is a patent prosecutor, handling electronics, communications and mobile device technologies.

Jonathan Shils, a commercial real estate partner at McGuireWoods, has been elected president of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers for the 2013 term.

A second-year law student at the University of Georgia, Jenna Jackson, was crowned the new Miss University of Georgia on Jan. 19. The runners-up were UGA students majoring in marketing, journalism, political science and pharmacy. Jackson shared the "best interview" award with Utrophia Robinson, also a law student. She will compete in the Miss Georgia Pageant in June. The winner of that contest will go to the Miss America Pageant.
Another insider to get top leadership position in university system

EDITORIAL

When the announcement first came, it was a bit of a surprise. However after the news sunk in, it seemed like no surprise at all.

The announcement came Monday. The Georgia Board of Regents said the sole finalist to become the next president of the University of Georgia was Jere Morehead, now UGA provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

After a nationwide search, in which a committee interviewed at least nine candidates including university presidents and others, the regents selected the next UGA president from within the University of Georgia -- an insider. The full Board of Regents must vote on Morehead’s selection in February, but that will be a formality. Morehead will be approved and will succeed retiring Michael Adams July 1.

The insider pick of Morehead seems to be a popular selection. Reaction from Adams, university student leaders, regents, other educators, state politicians and Athens community leaders has all been positive.

“This is a great day for the University of Georgia,” said Adams. “The Board of Regents and the search committee could not have found anyone more committed to the future of this place than Jere Morehead. He is someone who has given the overwhelming majority of his life to the University of Georgia, and he will be a great and respected leader here for many years to come.”

“He knows Georgia, he knows the state, he knows Athens, and we know him,” said Athens Area Chamber of Commerce President Doc Ethridge. “The transition will be so quick and easy because of existing relationships that have occurred over the years. It’s great news as far as I’m concerned.”

Morehead, 56, is a graduate of the UGA School of Law and will become the first UGA alumnus to attain the president’s position since Fred Davison in 1967. Morehead joined UGA’s Terry College of Business faculty in 1986. Adams tapped Morehead to succeed Arnett Mace as UGA provost and senior vice president for academic affairs in 2009.

We like the selection of Morehead to head Georgia’s flagship university in the years ahead. We know of no one who knows more about the university. His long tenure at UGA will be a big plus for the new president.

The selection of this insider follows the selection of another insider, Hank Huckaby, who was chosen a couple of years ago to be chancellor of the University System of Georgia. These two insiders can work
hand in hand to improve the University of Georgia and the entire university system. They know their territory and have solid working relationships with lawmakers and other politicians, community leaders, students and citizens from around our state.
Morehead 'deeply committed' to UGA

Jere Morehead

Jere Morehead has been at UGA since 1986. Except that one time — 1995 — when he taught at the University of Michigan as a visiting professor. But he makes up for that by also having attended UGA for law school.

He's a pretty big Dawg fan. Jennifer Furr, UGA vice president for public service and outreach, used stronger words.

"I've never met anyone more deeply committed to this institution," she said of Morehead. "It's his life. He spends all of his time thinking about the University of Georgia."

SGA President Will Burgess said Morehead has "a love for this university that very few have."

David Williams, director of UGA's Honors Program, said he "lives and breathes UGA."

Morehead joined the UGA administration in 1998 and has held multiple positions including vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the Honors Program and executive director of legal affairs. He has been senior vice president for Academic Affairs and Provost since 2010.

Morehead began employment at UGA as a professor in the Terry College of Business in 1986. He was awarded UGA's highest teaching distinction, the Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, in his subject of Legal Affairs in 2001. He still holds this position.

He is a vice chair of both the UGA Research Foundation and the Georgia Athletic Association and a trustee of UGA and the UGA Real Estate foundations.

Distinguished Teaching Professor, in his subject of Legal Affairs in 2001. He still holds this position.
Morehead 'deeply committed' to UGA - The Red and Black: Ugalife...

In addition to his history with UGA, administrators said they felt his personality will translate well into an effective presidency.

"He's a details person — he really wants to understand the process," Frum said. "He's highly engaged with faculty and staff. He understands internal workings of this university as well as the workings of the state itself. I genuinely look forward to continuing to work with him."

Griff Doyle, vice president for governmental relations, said the continuity of bringing in someone who's already "well known and well respected" will be an advantage to UGA.

"Don't have enough good things to say about him, and that's from the heart," he said. "All of the public officials, both appointed and elected that I've spoken with at the federal, state and local level welcome him to this position with excitement and anticipation. He's an asset one for another."

Williams said he thinks Morehead "wins people over."

"He is extremely warm and personable. He's a gentleman," Williams said. "I think he wins people over. Not through artifice of words or anything, he's just genuine — and genuine in his commitment. He's an inspiring leader."

In this year's State of the School address, Adams said he hoped the next president would serve a long term like he did. The average term for a university president is six and a half years — Adams has been at UGA for 16 years.

Williams said he thinks Morehead's commitment to UGA will keep him around for a while.

"To my knowledge, Jere is fully at home," Williams said. "I don't see him going beyond this to do anything else. He's still interested in all three of our missions."

The future of UGA

Williams also pointed out Morehead's focus on UGA's "three primary missions" — academics, research and outreach.

"I don't think we could possibly have a president who embraces all three missions more than he," he said. "There's a temptation to see him primarily focused on the students, but he has without a doubt proven that he is interested in all three of our missions."

Morehead's background does emphasize his connection to academics. Burgess said Morehead's candidacy is "great" because of his "clear commitment to students."

"He's promised to meet with us over the transition to make sure he's continuing to address student issues through the process," Burgess said. "The best indicator of the future is the past and of the last two [UGA] administrations, the Provost has made his commitment to students a high priority."

Morehead's focus on the academic aspect of UGA encompasses more than addressing student issues. Burgess said:

"He's done such good work on the academic side of things to bring more value to our degree," he said. "I think that's where his real value is — he's well respected in academia so I think this will only be an upward trend in that sense."

David Lee, UGA's vice president for research, said Morehead's resume shows strength in commitment to undergraduates.

"One of the reasons that Provost Morehead is so highly regarded is because of his unambiguous commitment to undergraduates and their experience at UGA," Lee said. "It's really been the hallmark of his career."

He also has experience with faculty hiring initiatives, Williams said. He's also had experience as Provost both with external hires and promoting from within.

"If you get an external president, I think it's a truism that they want to bring in their own deans and vice presidents," Williams said. "We've got the advantage here of continuity. But I think Jere is also somebody who dares to take the steps necessary to move forward."

Williams said Morehead's weakness used to be research.

"He probably would point out himself that his weakness going into being Provost was the research mission..."
because he had not been exposed fully to all of what that means,” Williams said.

Now he’s a pro, Lee said.

“In his role as provost, he’s been extraordinarily supportive of the research agenda,” he said. “So I believe that it will certainly be part of his agenda to advance the university’s research reputation. I also expect there will be a strong focus on research and how we improve it and graduate education, which is really the heart and soul of our research enterprise.”

Frum said Morehead has a history of support of the public service mission too.

“In his role as Provost he has been incredibly supportive of the public service mission and the university’s role in state as the flagship land grant institution,” she said. “Provost Morehead is very interested in supporting us and engaging academic faculty in our mission across the state. I know he has as one of his promises making UGA as responsible as we can be to some of state’s key issues.”

Another key component to life as a university president is fundraising. Mac Corry, associate vice president for development, said “just because [Morehead] hasn’t been in a role that specifically had fundraising spelled out as part of the job description” doesn’t mean he doesn’t have experience.

“I would probably argue the point that he does have extensive fundraising experience particularly in his previous role as head of honors. He also engaged in fundraising as provost,” Corry said. “He has longstanding relationships that he’s built over years with some of the university’s significant supporters, and has been helpful in many ways over years in facilitating gifts even during his time as provost.”

Williams said Morehead’s focus on fundraising isn’t “in the bragging rights.”

“I think he sees fundraising as contributing to the primary missions,” Williams said. “He’s very interested in need based scholarships right now. He’s very interested in building endowments for professorships. He’s interested not in bragging rights but in the impact and effect of fundraising.”

As director of the Honors Program, Williams said he’s looking forward to see what Morehead will expect from them.

“I think that instead of him saying, ‘Oh let’s boost Honors,’ I think he sees Honors as something that can contribute to the whole.” Williams said. “We can harvest best practices from honors and harvest what honors does well and bring it to student body as a whole.”

Williams repeated the concept of contribution to the whole while talking about Morehead.

“I mean that sums it all up. Nothing’s in isolation. Everything’s contributing to this greater whole, and I think that’s what Jere’s focused on.”

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A senior assistant district attorney in the Cobb Judicial Circuit has been selected by Gov. Nathan Deal to fill a vacant seat on the Cobb State Court bench. Henry Thompson, a 44-year-old Carroll County native, earned his law degree from the University of Georgia law school in 1994. He started his legal career in the Athens-Clarke County District Attorney's Office. He first came to the Cobb County District Attorney's Office in 2000. Thompson then spent some time in private criminal-defense practice, but returned to the Cobb DA's office six years ago. He and his wife, Deana, live in west Cobb with their four children. ANDRIA SIMMONS

Acworth plans new police headquarters

Acworth is taking bids through Feb. 26 for architectural and engineering plans for a new police headquarters that will cost about $4.75 million. Chief Wayne Dennard said the department --- with 39 on staff --- has run out of room and will build adjacent to the current facility on Acworth Industrial Drive. Funding will come from the 2011 SPLOST. The jail will remain at the current building. TUCKER MCQUEEN FOR THE AJC

Youth baseball registration ends today

Early online registration will be available through Jan. 31 for Powder Springs Youth Baseball for ages 4 to 16.

A late signup penalty fee will be added after Jan. 31.

Teams will play at Powder Springs Park on Brownsville Road, where skills assessments will take place Saturday for registered players.

Information: psyb.com or email eisonjeremy@psyb.com or wade-baker@comcast.net

CAROLYN CUNNINGHAM FOR THE AJC

Marietta will host a police academy

The Marietta Police Department will host a Citizens Police Academy.

Participants will get an inside look at crime analysis, narcotics, special weapons and tactics, crime interdiction, traffic enforcement, community response, crime scene processing and more. There is no charge for the 10-week program, which begins April 8. Classes will be 6 to 9 p.m. every Monday. Information: Police Department, 240 Lemon St., 770-794-2364 or email at dsmith@mariettaga.gov ANDRIA SIMMONS

Kennesaw park will install fitness station
Life University in Marietta has given $35,000 for a fitness and body-weight training system at Swift Cantrell Park off Old Highway 41 in Kennesaw. The outdoor system, scheduled to be installed in the spring, will have five stations that can handle 14 users and two additional stations that offer low-impact exercises.

TUCKER MCQUEEN FOR THE AJC

Republicans to host breakfast meeting

The Cobb GOP will host its breakfast meeting from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the Cobb GOP Headquarters, 799 Roswell St., Marietta.

The program starts at 8:45 a.m.

Members of the Cobb County School Board will participate in a panel discussion to share and answer questions on their plans for quality education in the public schools.

Breakfast: $10, $3 coffee.


LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2013

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

Gov. Nathan Deal today announced the appointment of Henry R. Thompson as state court judge of Cobb County. Thompson will fill the vacancy created by the appointment of the Hon. Robert D. Leonard II to the Superior Court of the Cobb Judicial Circuit. The appointment will take effect upon swearing in.

Henry R. Thompson

Thompson currently serves as senior assistant district attorney within the Cobb Judicial Circuit. He earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University and his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife, Deana, have four children and live in Acworth.

LOAD-DATE: January 30, 2013
Gov. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., issued the following news release:

Gov. Nathan Deal today announced the appointment of Henry R. Thompson as state court judge of Cobb County. Thompson will fill the vacancy created by the appointment of the Hon. Robert D. Leonard II to the Superior Court of the Cobb Judicial Circuit. The appointment will take effect upon swearing in.

Henry R. Thompson currently serves as senior assistant district attorney within the Cobb Judicial Circuit. He earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University and his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife, Deana, have four children and live in Acworth.

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LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2013
Thompson currently serves as senior assistant district attorney within the Cobb Judicial Circuit. He earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University and his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife, Deana, have four children and live in Acworth. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com.