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HBO documentary focuses on public defenders' plight

By LEE SHEARER, The Athens Banner-Herald | Posted: Monday, July 1, 2013 12:01 am

ATHENS, Ga. - A former Athens rapper and University of Georgia law student is a star in a new documentary set to air on HBO.

But the documentary focuses less on his music and more on his fierce dedication to the impoverished defendants he represents as a Hall County public defender.

"If I don't do all I need to do, somebody's going to go to prison," said Trav Williams, one of three young public defenders profiled in director Dawn Porter's "Gideon's Army."

The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and is scheduled for HBO broadcast at 9 tonight.

Williams' job is seven days a week, but he doesn't mind so much. What he does, he believes, is civil rights work by protecting society's least powerful people.

One part of "Gideon's Army" shows a tattoo artist at work on Williams' back. If he takes a case to court and loses, Williams has his client's named tattooed on his back. So far, he's lost eight cases out of 25.

"I really enjoy it and wouldn't do anything else. It's not easy, but anything worth doing is not easy," said Williams, who released his first rap album in 2005, the same year he graduated from UGA law school.

He's also passionate about his music, but rap is for fun, one of the things that keeps him going in a crazy world.

"I just do it for love and for the opportunity it gives me to express myself," he said. "I try to keep a couple of things in my life that make sense and help me maintain my sanity. One is my music, and my work is another."

And in his work as a public defender, he's doing something he's wanted to do since he was a youngster growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where like many other young black males, he was routinely harassed by police.

"I always knew I wanted to be a public defender before I knew what a public defender was," he says in the documentary. "I love my job, I love my work, I love my clients, but there are things I hate. I hate how this country treats poor people. I hate how individuals treat poor people. So that's my hate that keeps me fighting."

Williams met Porter, a former corporate lawyer, when Porter visited Alabama's Gideon's
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Promise, which trains public defenders.

The names of both the movie and the training institute refer to the landmark 1953 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Gideon v. Wainwright, in which a poor Florida man, Clarence Earl Gideon, argued that the U.S. Constitution guaranteed that even poor people had the right to a fair trial. And to get a fair trial, a person needs a lawyer.

The Supreme Court agreed, but 50 years later, the ruling remains more promise than reality, according to Porter.

Authorities arrest about 12 million to 15 million people each year in the United States, far more than any other country in the world. The U.S., Porter says, also leads the world by a wide margin in the number of people behind bars - about 2.3 to 2.5 million at a cost of $74 billion per year.

Public defenders routinely have caseloads in the hundreds, too many to give effective representation to the poor and powerless they serve, argue Porter and Jonathan Rapping, president and founder of Gideon's Promise.

"The greatest civil rights abuses are happening today to poor people and people of color in the criminal justice system," Rapping says in the documentary.

In some states, 80 percent of defendants cannot afford a lawyer, said Rapping. In many places, most notoriously in Florida's Miami-Dade County, there are too few public defenders to effectively represent their clients. The average Miami-Dade public defender has a caseload of about 500 felony cases and 225 misdemeanor cases, all at the same time, according to the movie.

If Williams keeps on as a public defender, he might run out of space to tattoo clients' names on his back, but Williams isn't worried about that.

"As long as I'm a lawyer, I'm going to be a public defender," he said.

'Gideon's Army'

Airs 9 tonight

on HBO
With the installation of Jere W. Morehead as the 22nd president of the University of Georgia on July 1, UGA embarks on a transition in leadership that will impact the lives of many Georgians.

The UGA community alone consists of 35,000 students and nearly 10,000 faculty and staff. The university has a budget topping $1.4 billion and its economic impact on Athens has been estimated at more than $2 billion. As the first charted state university in the U.S., UGA has its resources and expertise deployed throughout the state.

UGA's impact is also global. UGA has permanent programs in Oxford, England; San Luis de Monteverde, Costa Rica; and Cortona, Italy. Its student body comes from locations reaching all edges of the globe.

From Abraham Baldwin, UGA's first president, to Michael F. Adams, who served for 16 years and took the title of president emeritus on July 1, the university has grown from a couple of buildings on North Campus to more than 750 acres in the Athens area. It is consistently ranked as one of the top public universities in the country.

President Morehead said he plans to continue that growth and build on the university's reputation. "I think the University of Georgia is a great institution. We reach out across this state, as we should as a land-grant institution, to serve the people of Georgia. We have substantially improved the quality of education on this campus," Morehead said. "The quality of students has never been higher. The quality of our faculty has never been better, but we can't settle for the status quo. If you settle for the status quo, you will begin to decline. So we have to look for ways, look for opportunities to improve this institution and that's what this administration will be focused on doing."

One of Morehead's first major changes was to the organizational structure of the university's administration. In May, he announced a new, flatter organizational structure that eliminated two senior vice president positions, keeping solely the senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. He plans to meet regularly with those reporting directly to him, as well as with the vice presidents and deans who will report to the provost, all in keeping with the goal to make UGA a better university.

"I think you do that by working in collaboration with others," Morehead said. "You can't do anything by yourself and so one of the things that I've always tried to do is make sure that I'm a good listener and that the people around me have an opportunity to have input, to be a part of the process of making something better."
The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia chose Morehead as the sole finalist for president in February. During the announcement of his selection, Chancellor Hank Huckaby said, "Having searched the country east to west, we found the person we wanted and needed right here on our campus, and that person is Jere Morehead."

Morehead has served UGA as senior vice president and provost since 2010. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 1980 from UGA. After working for six years as a U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice, Morehead returned to join the UGA faculty. He has 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. Morehead also is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business.

Upon the announcement of his appointment, Morehead said he plans to focus on the upcoming capital fundraising campaign, on increasing the number of need-based scholarships and on playing a larger role in the economic development of Georgia.

His top priority, though, is very clear: "You can anticipate that when anyone that comes to see me about an issue or has a proposal, I'm going to ask a couple of questions. Is this going to improve the educational quality of our students or is it going to raise the academic profile and stature of the University of Georgia? If it doesn't do one of those two things, then I think people will have a hard time convincing me it's something that we need to be spending our time doing.

"I will look for ways to make a great institution even better, and you will find in me-in everything that I do-a focus on excellence, a focus on how can the University of Georgia be an institution that does more than it has ever done before, does it better than it's ever done before, and does it in a way that will bring pride and respect from the citizens of Georgia and beyond."
Former Perdue lawyer named to State Election Board

State House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, has appointed a former governor’s executive counsel to the State Election Board.

Rebecca Sullivan, a member of the Political Law Group headed by Doug Chalmers Jr., will join the board in September. Gov. Sonny Perdue named Sullivan as his top lawyer in 2005, replacing Harold Melton after he became a state Supreme Court justice. During her time in the governor’s office, Sullivan advised Perdue on legislation including tort reform and an overhaul of the state’s indigent defense system. She also worked on water rights litigation between Georgia, Alabama and Florida as well as federal preclearance and litigation involving the state’s Voter ID law. Sullivan also is a former member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, to which she was appointed by Perdue. She earned her law degree from the University of Georgia and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2000. Prior to joining the governor’s office in 2004, Sullivan was an associate with Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson, where she practiced labor and employment law.
Arab Rappers Are Landing in Jail for Lyrics—Kind of Like American Rappers

By Erik Nielsen

For nearly three months earlier this year, Tunisian rapper Ala Yaacoubi—better known by his stage name, Weld El 15—was on the run. On March 22, just weeks after he released the video for his incendiary protest song "Boulicia Kleb" ("Police are Dogs"), he was charged with insulting and threatening police, tried in absentia, and sentenced to two years in jail. Fearing for his safety in the hands of authorities, Weld El 15 remained hidden, ducking security forces until he finally appeared in court on June 13 to face a retrial and, hopefully, a more lenient sentence for what he argued was merely an exercise of his "freedom of expression." The judge didn't oblige, upholding the two-year jail sentence and sparking a violent clash between protesters and police outside the courtroom. Weld El 15 has appealed the ruling, and a decision is due this month.
The Legacy of Rodney King Rap: Is the Rage Behind Ice Cube's The Predator Still Burning?

Over the last few years, scenes like this one have been playing out across the Arab world, where rappers have been central figures in protests against oppressive and corrupt governments. Indeed, just two years before Weld El 15’s trial, another Tunisian rapper, El General, was detained and interrogated for days after one of his songs criticized then-President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali. His arrest was one of the pivotal events that lent momentum to the Tunisian revolution and the broader "Arab Spring," as it exposed the extent to which regimes across the region were resorting to coercion and violence to remain in power. In Morocco, the arrest and eventual imprisonment of rapper El Haqed, who launched repeated attacks on the state with his lyrics, was equally important to galvanizing protesters during Morocco’s February 20 movement. In many other countries across the region, rap has been a soundtrack of revolution and change, too, but also one with potentially steep consequences for performers. Arrests are common, leading many artists to fear that their lyrics could land them in jail, or worse.

From our perch in the U.S., the birthplace of hip hop and home of the First Amendment, the travails of hip-hop artists in the Middle East and North Africa may seem surprising, archaic, and far removed from anything we might experience here. But if the last three and a half decades have shown anything about hip hop, it’s that the movement has rarely enjoyed the freedoms afforded to other forms of artistic expression.

This was particularly apparent when rap first began muscling its way into mainstream American culture. During these early days, examples of institutional resistance and brutality here at home abounded: the vicious 1983 murder of graffiti artist Michael Stewart by New York City Transit Police, part of the city’s broader "war on graffiti"; the relentless threats and harassment from law enforcement in response to NWA’s 1988 track "Fuck tha Police" and the anti-police songs that followed; and the arrests throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s of LL Cool J, Too Short, 2 Live Crew and others for obscenity when they would take the stage in cities across the U.S.

In these early cases and others, American artists, like the Arab world rappers of today, challenged the status quo and pushed the boundaries of art in a society unaccustomed to such brash and unapologetic musical resistance. The response was often to try and tamp down their efforts with law enforcement. More recent revelations that police departments across the country have dedicated hip-hop task forces that monitor and sometimes harass rappers—not to mention the ongoing police-driven venue resistance that often makes finding concert sites difficult—suggest that the American tradition of using police power to suppress hip hop lives on.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the widespread criminalization of rap lyrics, a topic I’ve written on in the past and that I routinely consult with defense attorneys about. Just as a number of rappers in the Arab world have been charged and imprisoned for violent, offensive, or threatening lyrics, so too
have an alarming number of American artists. These musicians may not be attacking the government, but the government is certainly attacking them. Take, for instance, Olutosin Oduwole, a student and aspiring rapper at Southern Illinois University. In 2007, when police found his car on the side of the road (it had run out of gas) they searched it and found a crumpled note under the console that mentioned a "murderous rampage similar to the VT shooting." Authorities pressed charges, accusing Oduwole of attempting to make a terrorist threat. Although some of the note was written in rhymed verse--and during the 2011 trial an expert witness, Professor Charis Kubrin of UC Irvine, testified that it was clearly a rap lyric--the jury was unmoved. They found Oduwole guilty, and the judge sentenced him to five years in prison--longer than Weld El ig, El General, and El Haqed combined. Oduwole served more than a year of that sentence before an appellate court threw out the verdict, arguing that a note stuffed under a car console, regardless of what it says, hardly amounts to a threat.

There are plenty of similar examples. Most recently, in May, police arrested 18-year-old high-school student and rapper Cameron D'Ambrosio for posting angry rap lyrics to his Facebook page in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings. The lyrics included the line "fuck a boston bombinb [sic] wait til u see the shit I do, I'ma be famous for rapping, and beat every murder charge that comes across me." Although it was clear to many outside observers, including representatives of the ACLU, that the lyrics were typical rap posturing that didn't amount to a legitimate threat, D'Ambrosio was nevertheless held in jail for over a month without bail. Only after the grand jury decided not to indict him was he released. In response to the case, Minneapolis rapper P.O.S. said if D'Ambrosio's lyrics could get someone locked up, "I'm probably fucked. Lines on my new record are far more explicit than that."

As a matter of fact, if P.O.S. ever runs into legal trouble, he could very well be "fucked," because prosecutors have repeatedly introduced rap lyrics into criminal trials as literal evidence of wrongdoing to persuade juries of a defendant's guilt. A 2004 training manual for prosecutors argues that "through photographs, letters, notes, and even music lyrics, prosecutors can invade and exploit the defendant's true personality." The problem, of course, is that the fictional character projected in a rap song--almost always signaled with a stage name--is often very far from the "true personality" of the artist behind it. The criminal persona found in many lyrics, especially those of the "gangsta" variety, is a genre convention, not a reliable portrait of the performer. Judges and juries don't always understand that, though, an ignorance prosecutors gladly "invade and exploit," giving them an overwhelming advantage in the case--what University of Georgia law professor Andrea Dennis describes as a "stranglehold."

Empirical evidence has shown that rap lyrics, particularly those in the "gangsta" style, are highly prejudicial--that they do indeed create a "stranglehold" for prosecutors. While high-profile artists like Lil Boosie, Snoop Dogg, and Beanie Sigel managed to escape conviction when their lyrics were used against them in court, lesser-known amateurs have been less fortunate. In case after case in which rap lyrics are presented to juries, defendants end up in jail, even when the evidence against them is questionable.

In one case I wrote about last year, Louisiana rapper Clyde Smith (stage name "G-Red") was pulled over by police, who subsequently found prescription drugs in his possession, including hydrocodone and Xanax. Despite the fact that Smith had prescriptions for everything, that no pills were missing from any of the containers, and that he had medical conditions justifying their use, he was charged with intent to distribute. At trial, the case against him was weak, but then the prosecutor showed jurors two of his YouTube performances in which he bragged about selling drugs. The jury convicted him, and because he had a prior criminal record, he was sentenced to a stunning 30 years in prison.
When we consider that rappers like Smith, D'Ambrosio, Oduwole, and many others here in America are being sent to jail for their music, the policing of artists in the Middle East and North Africa doesn't seem so distant or foreign. While it's true that Weld El 15, El General, El Haqed, and their counterparts across the region are often targeted for their distinctly political roles in high-profile revolutions, it's worth remembering that American hip hop performers continue to be engaged in a political struggle, too, over their right to practice their art freely. As rappers in the U.S. have known for some time, this freedom comes with caveats, a reality Ice T captured best in the subtitle of his 1989 album The Iceberg: Freedom of Speech...Just Watch What You Say!

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Tribune Deal Reminds Us of Banks' Power

BY Dan Freed  |  07/01/13 - 06:02 PM EDT

NEW YORK (TheStreet) -- JPMorgan Chase (JPM) is the second-largest stakeholder in The Tribune Company (TRBAA).

This isn't news in the technical sense. JPMorgan owned a 9% stake in The Tribune Company when it emerged from bankruptcy protection on Dec. 31, 2012, and some news reports even bothered to make mention of this fact at the time.

Still, chances are that if you told a regular follower of business news that JPMorgan is the second-largest owner of Tribune Co., you'd be met with surprise. Following Monday's announcement that the Tribune will pay $2.7 billion to buy 19 television stations, making it the nation's largest owner of commercial television stations, JPMorgan's stake becomes more significant. Oh, and of course JPMorgan is the main lender on the deal.

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While this is nice for JPMorgan, it makes us wonder about those supposed laws separating banking and commerce.

The bank holding company act in 1956, which was strengthened in 1970 said commercial companies can't own banks, explains Mehrsa Baradaran, University of Georgia law school professor who has written about the separation of banking and commerce.

This law stymied efforts by Wal-Mart (WMT) to get a banking charter in 2005, Baradaran says.

Nonetheless, an exception was created in Utah 1987 allowing the creation of "industrial loan companies" (ILCs). This exception has allowed companies including American Express (AXP), Target (TGT), Volkswagen and General Electric (GS), Goldman Sachs (GS) and Morgan Stanley (MS) to obtain
First it was grandfathered in and then it became a loophole," Baradaran says. However, Wal-Mart's application in 2005 was met with fierce lobbying from the banking industry, causing the FDIC to create a moratorium on ILCs.

The 2010 Dodd-Frank law reinstated that moratorium and, according to Baradaran "it [now] looks like no one will be able to get an ILC."

On the other hand, rules such as the 1933 Glass Steagall Act regulate what kind of businesses banks can own.

"This is very murky. It's very controversial, and it's constantly in flux," Baradaran says.

In 1933 it was very clear cut. Banks couldn't underwrite securities, engage in proprietary trading or sell insurance. Those laws were contested in the 1980s and were essentially thrown out with the 1999 Gramm Leach Bliley Act.

EXCLUSIVE FREE REPORT: We have identified the BEST dividend stocks so that you can maximize your income potential while avoiding many of the dividend pitfalls other investors make. Get your free report NOW.
Jere Morehead’s first day as University of Georgia president was more about introductions than ceremony, but there was plenty of symbolism in the appointments on his calendar Monday,

Morehead started off his day with an 8 a.m. breakfast in the Tate Student Center with student leaders.

From there, he went to the UGA administration building, where his staff had scheduled a reception. The office staff gathered to greet him and applauded as he walked in.

“I’ve been doing this a long, long time. It feels a little different this morning,” Morehead told his staff.

Morehead has worked in the UGA administration building for years, most recently as provost and vice president for academic affairs, the university’s chief operating officer.

Morehead also scheduled meetings Monday with the executive committees of the University Council, a key faculty group, and of the Staff Council, which represents the interests of the thousands of non-faculty staff at who work at UGA. In between, he had lunch with the deans of UGA’s 17 schools and colleges, recorded an interview for UGA’s public relations office, set aside time to make some telephone calls, and met with several hundred incoming UGA freshmen during an orientation session.

For the most part, the meetings followed similar formats: Morehead talked a little about his priorities and how he would evaluate proposals, then took questions.

The orientation session was different, though. There, Morehead was the one asking the questions.

Morehead filled the role of a faculty member in orientation, giving students some tips on how to succeed at UGA. He talked about Rhodes
Scholarship winner Deep Shah, Truman Scholarship and Marshall Scholarship winner Matt Crim and three other very successful students, then asked the students what lessons they'd take away from their UGA experience.

"Learn about the rest of the world," ventured one freshman.

"Explore different topics," offered another.

"Be a part of the community?" asked a third.

All important points, Morehead said, but he also cautioned them.

Get involved in campus life, Morehead said, but not too much.

"Don't get involved in too many things, but pick out a couple of things you're really passionate about," he said.

And get to know at least one faculty member each semester, he said. Stay in contact with them, build a relationship, and by the end of four years, there will be eight people they can count on for job references, mentoring and advice, not just now but throughout their lives, he said.

Morehead told each group his main focus as president will be an upcoming campaign to raise more than $1 billion in gifts to the university.

The campaign is critical to continuing UGA's upward arc in the academic world, he said. State support has dissipated over the past several years, and the university will have to raise its own funds for scholarships and to supplement professors' pay, he said.

A university's endowment "creates a cushion for excellence," he said.

Morehead always wants to see UGA's research funding go up, and a hoped-for new building will be important in realizing that goal.

No. 1 on the university's capital wish list is a "Science Learning Center," likely on South Campus, which will combine classrooms, study areas and laboratories for UGA science courses. Once the science learning center is built, space in existing UGA science buildings can be converted to lab space for faculty research, he said.

"If we want to be an even greater university, we have to grow our research enterprise," he said.

UGA also needs to raise more money for both needs-based and merit-based scholarships.

"We can't depend on the HOPE Scholarship to meet all needs for our students," he told students at breakfast. "The Office of Financial Aid needs to have more pockets it can go to."

As Morehead takes over for the departing Michael Adams, a raft of new
Morehead explains priorities as he assumes UGA presidency Monday...

administrators are also taking new jobs.

Gone along with Adams are Tim Burgess, the senior vice president for finance and administration, and Steve Shewmaker, executive director of UGA's Office of Legal Affairs.

Also departing is vice president for human relations Tom Gausvik, whose contract was not renewed.

Each of those jobs has been filled by an interim administrator, as has Morehead's old job as provost and vice president for academic affairs, now taken over by Libby Morris pending a search for a permanent replacement.

UGA's Terry College of Business also has an interim dean — former UGA president Charles Knapp, who reported to work Monday 26 years to the day after he came to work on the first day of his 10-year tenure as UGA president, said UGA vice president for public affairs Tom Jackson.

Morehead also soon will name a new vice president for student affairs to replace Rodney Bennett, who left that job at UGA to become president of the University of Southern Mississippi.

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UGA Foundation allocates more than $3.3 million in budget surplus to enhance academics

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ConcreteTigerTeacher

President Morehead desperately needs to learn how to tie a tie.

Look at that red "power tie" hanging way below his belt buckle.

I wish him good luck in raising UGA's endowment fund, because as of today it's rather minuscule for a university of its size. UGA's endowment is only like $750 million.

Better sell lots of Girl Scouts cookies!

Clemson 38, Georgia 24
Ready to grow

Morehead to focus on building UGA's endowment

By Kelly Simmons
simmonsk@uga.edu

As Jere W. Morehead officially steps into the role of president of UGA today, he does so with support from high-ranking state leaders and a challenge: to make an institution already recognized as one of the best public universities in the country even better.

Attracting and retaining top faculty and students from around the world, focusing on the core missions of the university—teaching, research and service—and diversifying the faculty and student body are high priorities, all of which will require additional funding.

"The most important thing I can accomplish as president is to substantially grow the endowment of the university," Morehead said in the weeks leading up to July 1.

In those weeks, Morehead has focused on streamlining the administration and meeting with students, faculty, state leaders and members of other institutions as he lays out his plan for UGA, which will include launching a capital campaign to raise $1 billion or more, depending on further analysis.

With just a few exceptions, he said, the heart of that campaign will be growing the endowment to support academic programs, faculty chairs and student scholarships.

"You're likely to hear me talk about those to alumni, about supporting our academic programs to make student support stronger than it is today," he said.

An insider, Morehead earned his Juris Doctor from the UGA School of Law in 1980 and has worked at the university since 1986, serving as a professor in the Terry College of Business, director of the Law School Advocacy Program, acting executive director of legal affairs, director of the Honors Program, vice provost for academic affairs, vice president for instruction and most recently provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

His understanding of the university and his engagement with students over the years—many who have stayed in touch with him for decades—were points in his favor when he was a candidate for the presidency.

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby, former senior vice president for finance and administration at UGA, worked closely with Morehead while both were at the university.

Morehead "is the right decision for UGA," Huckaby said as the board of regents confirmed its selection in February. "I have known and worked with Jere for many years and am delighted he will have this great opportunity to serve the university he loves so well. Our students will be in excellent hands under his leadership. Jere will bring the vision and energy essential to UGA advancing its land grant mission."

He also earned high praise from Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal.

"There are times when an organization needs to bring in an outsider to shake things up, but that's not the case at UGA," Deal said in a February statement about Morehead's selection. "The university has made tremendous strides under President Michael Adams over these last 16 years, and I think Jere's vision for the school will take it to the next level."

Morehead announced in May that he would change the structure of the senior administration so that... See PRESIDENT on page 4
Victor K. Wilson, executive vice president for student affairs at the College of Charleston, has been named vice president for student affairs at the University of Georgia, effective Aug. 1.

"The vice president for student affairs plays an integral role in creating a campus environment that enables our students to succeed academically, and I am delighted that Victor Wilson will assume this key leadership position," said UGA President Jere W. Morehead. "The broad scope of his experiences at a number of institutions, including the University of Georgia, makes him uniquely qualified to lead the Division of Student Affairs."

As vice president for student affairs, Wilson will report to interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Libby V. Morris.

"Victor Wilson brings a distinguished record of achievement in student affairs that demonstrates a commitment to the physical and emotional well-being of students," Morris said. "His expertise and vision will undoubtedly benefit the university as we refocus our efforts on student success and college completion."

Wilson joined the College of Charleston in 2004 as executive vice president for student affairs. In that role, he oversees a division that includes residence life and housing, public safety, student life, health services, counseling and substance abuse services, campus recreation, disability services, Greek life, the dean of students, and several additional units that offer services and programs for students. At the College of Charleston, he created the Higdon Student Leadership Center, implemented the college's first sexual misconduct committee and instituted the McNair Scholars Program to increase the number of Ph.D. recipients from groups underrepresented in graduate education. He also championed the creation of a drug and alcohol task force and oversaw the renovation and expansion of the student health center as well as the...
Victor K. Wilson named vice president for student affairs at UGA

Wilson served as associate vice president for student affairs at UGA from 1999 to 2004. In that capacity, he oversaw the Ramsey Student Center for Physical Activities, recreational sports, student activities and the Tate Student Center, as well as the Disability Resource Center. He also worked closely with minority services and programs, judicial programs, leadership programs and Greek life.

His career as a student affairs professional also includes appointments as assistant dean of students at Agnes Scott College and as director of new student programs at Northern Arizona University. He began his career in 1983 as director of orientation and assistant director of admissions at UGA.

“One of the most exciting things about this position is that it gives me the opportunity to contribute to the institution that, in so many ways, helped me become the professional I am today,” Wilson said. “I look forward to working with President Morehead, interim Provost Morris, other senior administrators and the outstanding professionals in the Division of Student Affairs to enhance the programs and services we offer to our students.”

Wilson is active in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and has served as president of the National Orientation Directors Association. At UGA, he served on the educational affairs committee of University Council, the UGA Athletic Board and the President’s Minority Advisory Committee.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in social work from UGA in 1982 and his master’s degree in student personnel in higher education from UGA in 1987.

Wilson succeeds Rodney Bennett, who in April took office as president of the University of Southern Mississippi. Tom Burke, associate vice president for student affairs at UGA, has been serving as interim vice president for student affairs.

The Division of Student Affairs works to enhance the learning environment at UGA by promoting an environment conducive to growth and discovery, fostering a sense of community and enabling all students to realize their potential. It includes the Office of the Dean of Students, which oversees the Center for Leadership and Service, Greek Life, International Student Life, the LGBT Resource Center, Multicultural Services and Programs, the Office of Student Conduct and the Tate Student Center. Other units that report to the vice president for student affairs include the University Health Center, University Housing, Recreational Sports and the Ramsey Student Center for Physical Activities, the Disability Resource Center, Student Affairs for Extended Campuses, Student Support Services and University Testing Services. To learn more about the division, see http://studentaffairs.uga.edu/.
Jere Morehead's day in: UGA welcomes President Morehead

President Morehead's first day

President Jere Morehead arrives in the Administration Building on his first day in office as President of the University of Georgia.

Morehead's first day also marks the beginning of an economic development office in Atlanta "as part of a restructuring of the university's economic development," according to an article in the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

As Morehead takes his position, Adams will assume the role of president emeritus, and will have an office located inside the Main Library.

As part of his position, Adams will "be on educational leave, the purpose of which is for him to prepare to return to the classroom, update his knowledge of his field, and enhance his teaching skills with modern techniques," said John Millsaps, associate vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia, in a previous Red & Black article.

"This will be his primary focus the next two years," he said.

According to a mass email sent to students on July 1, Morehead plans to "focus on our students and the core academic mission of the University" while he is the 22nd president of UGA.

"If our academic core is very strong, the entire university also will be very good," according to the email.
Ernst named to DeKalb ethics board

 Posted Tuesday, July 2, 2013 9:00 am

 Brookhaven lawyer and life-long DeKalb resident John Ernst was recently appointed to the DeKalb County Board of Ethics. The board serves to interpret the code of ethics adopted by the county, to apply sanctions to those in violation of the code and to issue issue advisory opinions defining appropriate behaviors according to community standards as reflected in that code.

 Ernst said in a statement that he was ready to take a more active role on the board in the wake DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis’ indictment for extortion and corruption.

 "We are at a crossroads in DeKalb County when it comes to the public’s trust in their elected and appointed officials," Ernst said. "My role on the ethics board will be to hold the DeKalb commissioners, the CEO, and those that they appoint accountable. I see no job more important right now in DeKalb."

 Ernst is an alum of Emory University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in history. He received a Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law. During his tenure in law school, John was a member of the prosecutorial clinic where he served as a prosecutor in the Athens-Clarke County District Attorney’s office and was a summer clerk for Judge John J Ellington, Georgia Court of Appeals.

 John opened his own law firm in 2005, where he specializes in real estate transactions, bankruptcy litigation and personal injury cases. He is licensed to practice before all Georgia Trial Courts, the Georgia Supreme Court and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the American Bar Association, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, and the American Association for Justice.
One nation under surveillance: America's history of secrecy

Chelsey Abercrombie | Posted: Wednesday, July 3, 2013 11:41 am

When Edward Snowden began his controversial release of information against the United States intelligence-gathering community in early June, not many of those who were incensed by the leaks understood their motherland's illustrious history of espionage.

“The modern U.S. intelligence apparatus began right after World War II, although the FBI stretched back to the 20s,” said Loch K. Johnson, a regents professor at the School of Public and International Affairs. “During most of that period, the early years, these agencies had very little accountability to Congress or even to the presidency. They were given carte blanche to defeat America’s enemies.”

While the technology of those bygone days was nothing compared to the fingertip-ready satellites and wireless connections of 2013, there was still abuse of what little surveillance technology that was available.

The Watergate scandal of 1972, in which President Richard Nixon was found guilty of wiretapping the offices of his political opponents, led to the first and only resignation of a U.S. president to date.

“In 1975, the whole world changed in that regard, because that year the Church Committee investigated the CIA, FBI, NSA, several agencies, and found they had been spying on American citizens,” Johnson said.

While the Church Committee’s investigation was prompted by allegations of foul play within Washington’s political elite, their findings reached far outside of the D.C. beltway, revealing that the government had spied extensively on Vietnam War protestors and that the FBI in particular had sought to ruin the lives of several civil rights activists.

At the time it was convened, the Church Committee was decried by many as unpatriotic.

In the wake of its findings, the government was pressured to impose certain oversights on all intelligence-gathering agencies.

“In 1978, the Congress passed a law and that law was called the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA. It required these intelligence agencies to obtain a warrant from a special court called the FISA Court in order to carry out eavesdropping or other forms of surveillance against suspected threats to American security,” Johnson said.
The existence of threats to American security hasn’t changed since the 1970s, just the names we call them by.

"Of course our enemies were mainly Soviets, and now they’re terrorists," Johnson said.

The U.S. policy on surveillance changed dramatically — along with the world — on Sept. 11, 2001.

The September 11 attacks, which resulted in the deaths of 2,966 individuals and currently stand as the bloodiest single attack on American soil in history, prompted the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. Critics insist the PATRIOT Act significantly weakened the restrictions on intelligence-gathering that were imposed by FISA.

"This whole policy really dates back to 9/11 and to the PATRIOT Act, which is an act that passed with the vote of almost everybody in Congress in 2001," said Donald Wilkes, a Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Georgia law school.

On Oct. 24, 2001, the Act passed in the House of Representatives 357 to 66, and passed 98 to 1 in the Senate the following day.

"I’m astounded by the hullabaloo," Wilkes said. "Everybody voted for the statute. Why are they acting now as if this is something that was foisted upon them without their knowledge?"

As in the case of the Church Committee, people who voted against the PATRIOT Act were regarded as unpatriotic.

"I felt it was overreaching and hardly anybody, according to several studies, actually read the PATRIOT Act before voting for it," Johnson said. "We were all worried at that time we could be hit by terrorists, and the next time it could be nuclear weapons. Fear can induce poor decision-making."

Poor decision-making soon became the rallying cry of those whose powers were strengthened by the PATRIOT Act’s provisions.

"I don’t know of any statute in American history that gave the government so much power of surveillance, search and seizure, that interferes with our privacy," Wilkes said. "This is what happens when you pass statutes like that."

On May 26, 2011, President Barack Obama signed the PATRIOT Sunsets Extension Act of 2011 into law, which only extended several key provisions of the original.

But in June 2013, everything changed for U.S. surveillance community again, when Edward Snowden, a former technical contractor for the NSA and CIA, worked with Glenn Greenwald of The Guardian to release classified information about how several government agencies were conducting rampant, warrantless searches — not on individuals suspected of terroristic
activities — but on average American citizens.

"The way it was done, according to Snowden, is that the NSA didn’t have to get a warrant. They could gather telephone and online information about anyone and everyone," Johnson said.

The NSA’s activities run directly counter to the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which specifically protects American citizens against warrant-less search and seizure.

On June 5, Snowden and Greenwald’s revealed that a FISA Court had ordered a division of Verizon Communications to provide metadata for all telephone calls within the United States and between the United States and overseas.

On June 6, the Guardian and the Washington Post revealed the existence of the PRISM program, an electronic surveillance apparatus which allows the operator to view all Internet traffic, including email and social media activity, on any computer in real-time.

"No one seems to understand [about the Patriot Act] that it wasn’t going to be terrorists that were going to be spied upon," Wilkes said.

According to Wilkes, recourse to keep personal data — including everything from text messages to Snap Chats to Facebook messages — hidden from the government is a downhill battle.

As of July 1, 2013, no Congressional committee has been convened to investigate infractions on the part of the intelligence-gathering community.

"There’s really not any prospect that the courts are going to do anything about it, because the Federal courts are stacked with judges that are pro-government, and they tend to approve of almost everything the government does on the theory it doesn’t violate the Bill of Rights," Wilkes said.

The exchange of rights for safety is the umbrella under which these rogue government agencies have escaped the scrutiny of oversight.

"The head of the NSA recently, when asked about this, said we’ve stopped five, ten, 15, 20, 50 terrorist plots people never knew about. That’s the type of argument that government officials make that nobody can refute," Wilkes said. "We don’t know whether or not that’s true or not. We can’t disprove it."

Despite the fact that government agencies have proven themselves capable of spying on political opponents even without streaming real-time data, Johnson still insists the intelligence-gathering community is largely nothing to worry about.

"These agencies, CIA, FBI and NSA, have for the most part proven trustworthy," Johnson said. "When they have done things that were questionable, it’s been at the request of White House."

In the digital age, the danger of warrant-less searches might hit closer to home than most UGA
students are willing to believe.

"I'm confident that the University probably has lots of secret information about students they don't know about," Wilkes said. "I certainly think that if the University has that info, it would end up in the hands of the NSA or other Federal surveillance agencies if they wanted or if they asked for it."

Students, on the other hand, have largely grown up in a digital (and terrorism-heavy) environment, and for the most part, don't see the same danger.

"I think it's good for security. It may be creepy, but it keeps people safe," said Jazmin Wormely, a third year public relations major from Fayetteville.

Some students believe it isn't the medicine but rather the dosage that can present the real hazard.

"I think it's been taken a little too far lately with this administration, and I think it's also very contradictory," said Caroline Cowart, a fourth year psychology major from Warner Robbins. "The Patriot Act was put in by the Bush Administration, and everyone went up in an uproar about it, and this administration is a totally different ballgame in that it's taken more extreme measures. The measure it's taken to now I don't agree with."

Many UGA students don't see themselves as potential targets of intelligence-gathering operations.

"I'm not that worried about it. My conversations aren't all that interesting. I wouldn't worry about them listening to mine specifically, like you're not gonna get anything interesting or concerning," said Aaron Gillis, a fifth year psychology major from Douglas. "I guess though it is kind of good that if someone was talking about [terrorism], I would want them to know about it."

Only time will tell if the potential complications posed by the intelligence-gathering community, PRISM and the USA PATRIOT Act will truly come to light.

Instead of slowing down, Wilkes only sees the potential of government surveillance to expand rather than contract in the wake of the recent scandals.

"The government will say you have to give us these powers as long as there is a terrorist threat, and I think that's going to be forever. There doesn't seem to be much likelihood of it slowing down," Wilkes said. "There will be more spying than you can imagine."
ATLANTA JC[REG]: CONTINUED HOLDING OF MENTALLY ILL INMATE RAISES LEGAL QUESTIONS

Jul 05 2013 06:51:16

By Andria Simmons The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 05—Eighteen months after he was arrested and three weeks after the charge against him was dismissed, Michael Lake remains incarcerated in the Cobb County jail.

A judge has ruled that the action that led to his jailing -- mailing a copy of his appeal of a temporary protective order against him to the woman with whom he was ordered to have no contact -- did not violate the order. He had a right to defend himself in court and appeal the order, according to the order issued by Cobb County Superior Court Judge Lark Ingram on June 14.

But Ingram opted not to release him after prosecutors strenuously objected. Prosecutors say they need more time to consider whether additional charges can be brought against Lake. They cite his mental illness and 20-year history of being obsessed with the woman he is accused of stalking as reasons for keeping him behind bars.

So Ingram remains in jail at least until another bond hearing July 18.

Lake's predicament illustrates the difficulty of handling people with mental illness in the judicial system, where courts have to balance the defendant's right to liberty while warding off the potential for future harm.

Statewide about 16 percent of the prison population and about a quarter of the jail population has need for mental health services. In Cobb County's jail, the percentage is about a third.

But University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson said the court's decision to continue holding Lake after his charges were dismissed may raise legal questions.

In rare cases, inmates may be held temporarily when prosecutors are contemplating filing new charges, or are considering having a mentally ill defendant involuntarily committed to a state institution, he said.

Lake's mother, Mary Lake, who is 67 and lives in Belgrade, Maine, is heartbroken about her son's prolonged incarceration. She feels he's been treated unfairly because he has a mental illness. Court records show Lake has been diagnosed with having overvalued ideation -- a type of obsessive compulsive disorder that makes him prone to fixating on a person or idea.

Lake said that while in jail he has also been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a developmental disorder that makes it very hard to interact with other people.

"It's no crime having a mental illness," Mary Lake said. "It's almost like they treated him like guilty before proven innocent."

Michael Lake, 34, of Smyrna, has no history of violence and has not made overt threats to harm Leslie Arsenault, the woman he is charged with stalking. Cynthia Counts, a media and First Amendment attorney who is assisting Lake for free, said that Lake has not seen the woman since high school, has not gone to her house or workplace and has not called her.

Arsenault, reached by phone this week, said that the attraction is far from harmless.

"He is sick and someone needs to realize that and someone needs to help him," said Arsenault. "I am very fearful for when he gets out."

His track record with her dates back to an 8th grade crush at their Scowhegan, Maine, school that -- by all accounts -- blossomed into an obsession.

Over the years, he has even set up websites devoted to her, asking people online to sign a petition to convince her to be his friend. He has also attempted to sell T-shirts, hats and mugs devoted to the cause, according to prosecutors. In 2011, Lake moved from Maine to Georgia to be closer to her.

Lake's mother said he is a harmless, mild-mannered (if a little eccentric) guy who never got over his first love.

"So when this girl was friendly towards him being a young teenager, he fell in love with her," Mary Lake said. "You know the magical feeling when you first fall in love? I don't think he ever got over that."

Arsenault said Lake became irrationally attached to her after they met in an eighth grade advanced math class. He was a brainy loner. She was friendly toward him, but did not really know him or spend time with him outside of school.

She said he seemed to become obsessed with her in high school and over the next 20 years engaged in the following troubling behavior:

-- Followed her around school. -- Sent a note to the yearbook committee in 1997 threatening to blow up the school if she didn't marry him by the time they graduated, prompting her mother to obtain a four-year protective order on Arsenault's behalf. -- Continued to email and call her sister and friends, trying to discern her whereabouts after she went to an out-of-state college in Philadelphia to get away from him. -- Sent her a 25-to-30-page letter on the day the
That was the last straw, according to Arsenault. She sought and obtained a one-year protective order effective Oct. 18, 2011.

Lake was arrested when, after drafting his own appeal of the protective order, he mailed a copy to Arsenault's house on Nov. 28, 2011. According to the arrest warrant, the appeal included copies of emails and blogs about Arsenault and resources available to help her with "what the suspect perceived as her paranoia."

Cobb County police said the mailing was a violation of a judge's order not to contact Arsenault.

However, Ingram's June 14 ruling to dismiss the indictment -- a year and a half after it was filed -- indicated that Lake was within his rights to file the appeal and was actually obligated by law to notify Arsenault, since she not then have a lawyer. The paperwork sent to Arsenault is an exact copy of the paperwork sent to the court.

Lake's mother said he challenged the protective order because didn't want it to show up in a background check. At the time, he was two weeks away from getting his second bachelor's degree in mathematics from Kennesaw State University and would soon be looking for work.

A state forensic psychologist who examined Lake last summer found him to be mentally incompetent to stand trial. He has since been found competent to stand trial. But prosecutors say they are still concerned about Lake's mental state.

Lake could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted of aggravated stalking.

"It is very tough," Assistant District Attorney Chuck Boring said. "The whole issue comes down to what contact is in violation of the temporary order and what is harassing and intimidating. Unfortunately, in these cases so many times, there's no good answer."

But Counts said that fear is not a good enough reason to continue to hold someone in jail.

She said most of what Arsenault claims happened 15 to 20 years ago is unsubstantiated by evidence the state has produced.

Lake's mother said prosecutors offered late last year to let Lake plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge, but he has so far refused. Counts believes it's simply because Lake views the world in black and white, and doesn't think what did was wrong.

Attorney Jeff Filipovitz, who heads the mental health section of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said Lake's situation is not unique. In many cases, the defendants' mental disorders impair them from advocating for themselves, and they wind up spending longer in jail than they otherwise would.

"The truth of the matter is the jails are becoming the new mental hospitals," Filipovitz said.

Arsenault has already obtained a new temporary protective order in anticipation of the possibility of Lake's release.

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-0- Jul/05/2013 10:51 GMT
Not yet a week into his presidency of the University of Georgia, Jere Morehead already has an administrative team penciled in for at least through the end of the calendar year.

Morehead filled the final slot at the vice-presidential level Tuesday, naming a former UGA administrator, Victor Wilson, as UGA’s next vice president for student affairs.

Wilson was an associate vice president for student affairs at UGA from 1999 to 2004, but left to become executive vice president for student affairs at the College of Charleston.

When he takes over his new job Aug. 1, Wilson will supervise many of the university units that most directly touch students’ lives, including the Office of Student Conduct, the Tate Student Center, the University Health Center, University Housing, the Office of the Dean of Students, and Recreational Sports.

Wilson replaces Rodney Bennett, who left UGA earlier this year to become president of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Morehead still has two top vice presidential slots to fill, but both those are covered at least through the end of the year.

Libby Morris, who was vice provost for academic affairs in the Adams administration, has now stepped into Morehead’s old UGA job as interim senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Morehead appointed a search committee in May to find a permanent replacement, announcing at the same time he hoped to see the search completed by the end of fall semester.

The committee is headed by University Librarian William Gray Potter, who also headed the search committee when Morehead landed the provost and academic affairs vice president job in 2009.
Longtime administrator and English professor Hugh Ruppersburg will fill in for Morris in the vice president for academic affairs slot.

Morehead’s vice president for finance and administration also carries an interim in front of his name. Ryan Nesbit, UGA’s budget director, is the interim replacement for Tim Burgess, who retired at the same time Michael Adams left the UGA presidency.

Morehead has not yet announced a search committee to find a new vice president for finance and administration, and said this week he hasn’t yet set a timetable to find a replacement for Burgess.

In March, Morehead announced another top administrative change, naming longtime UGA administrator Kath Pharr to be his chief of staff. Pharr had been an assistant vice president for finance and administration and since 2011 had oversight of UGA’s developing Health Science Campus in Normaltown.

The new faces aren’t the only changes as Morehead begins his UGA presidency.

Morehead also changed a couple of job titles and the flow of reporting in an administrative restructuring that took effect July 1.

Under Adams, there were three senior vice presidents — for finance and administration, for external affairs and for academic affairs. Now the only senior vice presidency is academic affairs, and more vice presidents will report directly to the president.

The vice presidents for finance and administration, for development and alumni relations, for government relations and public affairs now report to Morehead.

The vice presidents for instruction, research, public service and outreach, student affairs and for information technology will report to the provost.

After huge turnover last year, the leadership slots in the university’s 17 colleges and schools are now set for the next year.

Over the past several months Morehead appointed new deans for the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, for the School of Public and International Affairs, for the College of Education and for UGA’s new College of Engineering.

A search for a new dean for the Terry College of Business didn’t pan out, but Morehead found an extraordinary interim dean to take over for the next year -- Charles Knapp, who was UGA’s president for the decade before Adams came.

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Business Portfolio - July 7, 2013

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Staff Reports (41507)

BANKING

Jason Rooks, vice president and commercial lending officer with Flint Community Bank in Albany, has been elected to a leadership role with the Community Bankers Association of Georgia.

Rooks was chosen division vice chair at the group’s 35th annual leadership division convention and mini trade show recently in Amelia Island, Fla. Rooks also will serve as committee chair for PAC/PR fundraising.

Rooks serves on the Lee County Chamber of Commerce executive board, where he served as chairman in 2011-12. He is on the board of United Way and is a member of Albany Rotary Club.

Rooks and his wife, Amanda, have two children, Preston and Calley.

PROFESSIONAL

David Maschke, AIA, architect and owner of Maschke Associates, was a speaker/instructor recently at the state conference of the Building Officials Association of Georgia.

Maschke presented a two-hour continuing education program entitled Architects, Interior Designers and Building Officials. The program covered areas of the law and rules governing the practice of architecture and registered interior designers in Georgia and the working relationships and responsibilities of design professionals and building officials.

LEGAL

Thomas V. Duck III of Thomas V. Duck III P.C. in Albany has been elected to serve on the board of governors of the 45,000-member State Bar of Georgia.

Duck will serve in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit Post 2 seat on the board. He earned his law degree from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2005. He is a member of the State Bar’s Child Protection and Advocacy, Criminal and
Family Law sections and is an area vice president of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

The board of governors is the 160-member policymaking authority of the State Bar, with representation from each of Georgia's judicial circuits. The board holds regular meetings at least four times per year.

State Board of Workers' Compensation Judge Gordon R. Zeese of Albany has been honored with the 2013 Thomas R. Burnside Excellence in Bar Leadership award, presented during the annual meeting of the State Bar of Georgia.

Zeese, who was nominated for the award by the Dougherty Judicial Circuit Bar Association, earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1972. He recently completed his term on the State Bar of Georgia board of governors, representing the Dougherty Circuit.

The Thomas R. Burnside Excellence in Bar Leadership award is presented annually to an individual for a lifetime of commitment to the legal profession and the justice system in Georgia, through dedicated service to a voluntary bar, practice bar, specialty bar or area of practice.

Kenneth B. Hodges III of Rafuse Hill & Hodges LLP in Atlanta has been elected to serve on the executive committee of the 45,000-member State Bar of Georgia.

Hodges, a former Dougherty district attorney and Albany resident, focuses his law practice on commercial litigation, civil rights, government investigations and RICO matters. He spent 15 of his 22 years in the legal profession as a prosecutor, including 12 as district attorney of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. He was the Democratic nominee in the 2010 election for Georgia attorney general.

A past chairman of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia and past president of the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia and the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association, Hodges is a graduate of Emory University and the University of Georgia School of Law.

The board of governors of the State Bar elects six of its members to serve on the executive committee with the organization's officers. The committee meets monthly and exercises the power of the board of governors when the board is not in session.

MEDICAL

Cary Burcham has been named Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital's director of children's services. His responsibilities include NICU, pediatrics, pediatric specialty clinics and perinatal grant.

Burcham comes to Albany from Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa, Fla., where he served in numerous roles, including director of operations and administrative director of patient care services/CNO, director of quality/risk management and clinical analyst manager.
Burcham holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

He and his wife, Phillis, have one daughter, Danielle.
Savannah attorney Leamon "Lea" R. Holliday III left Georgia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering but never left the analytical mindset behind during his more than 40 years as a lawyer.

So when he expressed shock recently at being named the recipient of the Savannah Bar Association's Judge Frank S. Cheatham Jr. Professionalism Award, it was like Holliday — genuine.

"I didn't expect it at all," Holliday said.

Although others including his wife and law partners knew of the award, "Nobody told me and I'm so oblivious. It's kind of funny in a way."

That humility is key to understanding Holliday. It has been a hallmark of his legal career.

Also a hallmark has been the high regard in which his fellow attorneys hold him.

"He can disagree with you without being disagreeable," retired judge Ron Ginsberg, Holliday's law school roommate, told the lawyer group at the award ceremony.

The award is named for the late Cheatham whose career as a community leader, lawyer and longtime Chatham County Superior Court judge were marked by integrity, competence and fairness.

"This is the highest honor a lawyer in Savannah can receive," said attorney Patrick O'Connor, himself a former award winner.

Holliday is "an outstanding lawyer and a better person," O'Connor said. "He's one of the most highly respected lawyers in Savannah and has been for years.

"He cares about his profession and he cares about people and that's a good combination for a lawyer."

A 1963 graduate of Savannah High School, Holliday earned his undergraduate degree in 1967 from Georgia Tech. He graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia law school in 1970.

He joined the firm of Bouhan, Williams and Levy in January 1971 and helped it move into the Armstrong House adjacent to Forsyth Park, where he has practiced virtually his entire career.

That firm joined with the Inglesby, Falligant, Horne, Courington and Chisolm firm in January and remained in the same site. Holliday is now managing partner of the firm, the same position he held with the Bouhan firm but without the title.

There his clients have included Savannah Electric and Power Co. and its successor, Georgia Power; Union Camp and its successor, International Paper, among others.

He has represented the Savannah-Chatham school system since 1991.

Attorney James "Jim" Pannell, another Cheatham award winner, called Holliday "a bedrock" in the firms he has worked and is "one of those guys who can be trusted with anything."

"He represents his clients very well but at the end of the day in virtually every case the person or party respects him."

For Holliday, the profession fits his personality.

"The whole legal practice has changed significantly," Holliday, 67, said. "I think it is better because it is different. I like different things and different challenges.

"That's why the practice of law is a great thing. It is never static."
UGA Alumni Foundation hosts president's reception

MONDAY JULY 8, 2013, 4:22 AM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) – The University of Georgia Alumni association is preparing to host a welcome reception for the university's new president, Jere (JAYR'-ee) Morehead.

School officials say the alumni association's reception is being held Tuesday morning on the north campus. Morehead, the university's 22nd president, replaced former president Michael Adams, who stepped down June 30.

Morehead, who was unanimously chosen by the Board of Regents to serve as UGA president, is a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. Before serving as president, Morehead worked as provost and senior vice president of academic affairs.

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UGA alums to host reception for President Morehead

Brad Mannion | Posted: Monday, July 8, 2013 4:13 pm

The University of Georgia Alumni Association will host a reception for Jere Morehead, UGA’s 22nd president, at 10:30 a.m. on July 9 near the Abraham Baldwin Statue in front of the Old College building.

Along with a welcome ceremony for Morehead, the event will also include a tour of the Administration Building and the Gordon Jones Gallery, according to the UGA Master Calendar.

Morehead is an alumnus of UGA, having earned his juris doctor from the School of Law in 1980.
UGA alums to host reception for President Morehead - The Red and Black

July 10, 2013

UGA alums to host reception for President Morehead

http://www.redandblack.com/ugalife/campus/uga-alums-to-host-recep...
ORLANDO SENTINEL: FORMER MAYOR FAVORED FOOTBALL OVER LEGAL FIELD

Jul 09 2013 02:05:27

By Sara K. Clarke Orlando Sentinel

July 09--In the community of Daytona Beach, Baron "Bud" Asher wore many hats: that of a coach whose influence was felt by hundreds of young football players, a businessman who helped shape Daytona's oceanfront, and a politician who was a fixture in City Hall for two decades.

Asher died July 5 after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 88.

"In more ways than I can count, he changed the trajectory of my life," said Ernie Cook, an Ormond Beach physician who played football for Asher at Father Lopez Catholic High School and later served as his doctor.

Cook, a black player coached by Asher in the 1960s, said the "giant of a man" had a deep commitment to each of his players and never broke a promise. After one game in a rural area north of Jacksonville, Cook found himself, at age 16, surrounded by ax-handle-wielding men who were shouting racial slurs and death threats.

Asher jumped to his defense.

"I can remember him standing in front of me -- jumping in front of me -- and saying, "You will not touch him. If you do, you will have to come through me," Cook recalled Monday. "He put his life on the line for me, and that was the kind of man he was."

Asher was born May 27, 1925, in Atlanta and graduated from that city's Tech High. He served during World War II with a torpedo squadron in the Pacific aboard the USS Bunker Hill and USS Bennington. At the end of the war, Asher attended college and earned his law degree from University of Georgia. He was a lifelong supporter of the university, serving at one point as secretary of the Georgia Bulldog Club, his family said.

In 1954, Asher traded his law practice for a change of pace in Florida, where he became an assistant football coach at Stetson University in Deland and later a hotelier and owner of myriad businesses, including the Safari Beach Motel and various nightclubs in Daytona. He was referred to locally as the father of spring break after he helped foster the annual college pilgrimage to the "World's Most Famous Beach."

"When spring break was first getting started in the early '60s, the kids all went to [Fort) Lauderdale," said his son, Baron "Ron" Asher, of San Diego. But when Fort Lauderdale became overrun by thousands of college students and things turned a little sour, Asher and others in Daytona Beach made a bid for the business.

"They took a huge road trip, loaded up with brochures and postcards," his son said. The crew even dropped ping-pong balls advertising Daytona Beach onto college campuses from airplanes, sparking a spring-break tradition that continues today.

Asher served as an elected official for 20 years in Daytona Beach, including eight years as the city's mayor. He was sometimes warm and funny, at others cantankerous. When fellow city commissioners got out of line he was prone to snap "Shut up!" or declare he was "not going to take that crap," according to a 2002 profile of him in the Orlando Sentinel.

His critics complained that Asher created a "beer-can mentality" by promoting the city as a destination for spring breakers and other party crowds, rather than as a family vacation spot.

Before retiring as mayor in 2003, Asher said he was willing to give up politics -- but not football.

Asher loved football -- he played it, coached it and scouted players for colleges and NFL teams. In 2000, he was elected a member of the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

"I'll keep coaching as long as they think I'm useful," he said. "I think that, when I die, they'll have to drag me off a football field to put me in my coffin."

Asher was married to Dawn loviero Asher for the past 27 years. He also had a passion for Broadway musicals, and the two would perform the "Do You Love Me?" scene from "Fiddler on the Roof" together. His wife was a staunch supporter as he campaigned door-to-door for office in Daytona Beach.

"He did that 10 times in 20 years, and Dawn was with him every step of the way," his son said.

In addition to his son and his wife, Asher is survived by his daughter, Marybeth Asher-Lawson of Hong Kong; stepson Louis Fiore of Daytona Beach; stepdaughter Wendy Fiore Bentley of New Smyrna Beach; a brother, Eugene Asher of Atlanta; and five grandchildren.

Services, to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, are being handled by Lohman Funeral Home in Ormond Beach.

skclarke@tribune.com or 407-420-5664
Media advisory: Morehead’s welcome reception to be held July 9

July 3, 2013

Print

Writer: Stephanie Schupska

Contact: Cynthia Hoke

Athens, Ga. - The University of Georgia Alumni Association will host a welcome reception for President Jere W. Morehead on Tuesday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m. on North Campus.

Morehead, a UGA alumnus who received his juris doctor from the School of Law in 1980, took office on July 1 as the 22nd president of UGA.

The reception will be held at the Abraham Baldwin Statue in front of Old College and will include a presentation, light refreshments and self-guided tours of the historic Administration Building and Gordon Jones Gallery. Parking will be available in the North Campus parking deck.

Filed under: University News, Advisories, Institutional Initiatives
Community honors former Daytona Mayor Bud Asher

By Mark Lane
STAFF WRITER
Published: Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:50 p.m.
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 9:02 p.m.

ORMOND BEACH — A steady stream of politicians, former team members, business leaders and friends filed into Lohman Funeral Home from the early afternoon into the evening Tuesday to say goodbye to former Daytona Beach Mayor Baron Henry "Bud" Asher.

Photo Galleries

• Looking Back at Bud Asher

Asher, 88, died Friday of cancer.

He was mayor from 1995 to 2003 and had been reelected in 1997 by a better than 4-to-1 margin. Before that, he had been a Daytona Beach city commissioner from 1983 to 1995.

Asher also was an attorney, New Smyrna Beach municipal judge, hotel and nightclub owner, but was particularly remembered for his work as a football coach.

His body lay in an open casket for the gathering. On the lid's lining was emblazoned a large University of Georgia logo, the school where Asher earned his undergraduate and law degrees.

In a town starkly divided between Seminole and Gators, Asher was a passionate Bulldog football fan.

Behind the casket was a virtual wall of flowers.
On a table nearby were a folded flag, medals and plaques recalling his naval service in World War II aboard the USS Bunker Hill and USS Bennington in the Pacific.

Asher was a tail-gunner on a Grumman TBF Avenger, a torpedo bomber.

"He was just a bundle of energy," said former Mayor Glenn Ritchey of Asher's varied career and many enthusiasms.

Asher lived near Ritchey and the two were friends long before they entered local politics.

"He loved the community. We have lost a community icon," he said.

"Bud will always be remembered as a good community leader."

Larry Kelly, Daytona Beach's mayor from 1974-1993, also was in attendance and recalled the often-outspoken Asher "as the last bull in the china shop."

Community honors former Daytona Mayor Bud Asher

Dawn Asher, Bud Asher's widow, third from left, greets well wishes during a celebration of life honoring the former Daytona Beach mayor, hotelier...

News-JournalOnline.comJuly 9, 2013 9:02 PM

ORMOND BEACH — A steady stream of politicians, former team members, business leaders and friends filed into Lohman Funeral Home from the early afternoon into the evening Tuesday to say goodbye to former Daytona Beach Mayor Baron Henry "Bud" Asher. He was 88, died Friday of cancer. He was mayor from 1995 to 2003 and had been reelected in 1997 by a better than 4-to-1 margin. Before that, he had been a Daytona Beach city commissioner from 1983 to 1993. Asher also was an attorney, New Smyrna Beach municipal judge, hotel and nightclub owner, but was particularly remembered for his work as a football coach. His body lay in an open casket for the gathering. On the lid's lining was emblazoned a large University of Georgia logo, the school where Asher earned his undergraduate and law degrees. In a town starkly divided between Seminole and Gators, Asher was a passionate Bulldog football fan. Behind the casket was a virtual wall of flowers. On a table nearby were a folded flag, medals and plaques recalling his naval service in World War II aboard the USS Bunker Hill and USS Bennington in the Pacific.

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"Bud will always be remembered as a good community leader."

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"Bud will always be remembered as a good community leader."

Larry Kelly, Daytona Beach's mayor from 1974-1993, also was in attendance and recalled the often-outspoken Asher "as the last bull in the china shop."

He said although Asher was more widely known as a political figure, "his real legacy is what he did with youth." Mainly as a winning football coach.

A Mass of Christian burial is scheduled Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 201 University Blvd., Daytona Beach. Following the Mass will be an internment with military honors and a flyover at Daytona Memorial Park, 1425 Bellevue Ave.

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UGA President Jere Morehead on domestic partner benefits: ‘We’ve gone as far as we can go’

By Jim Galloway

Expect the University of Georgia to go no further on the issue of domestic partner benefits for employees without the approval of the Board of Regents or the Legislature, newly ensconced President Jere Morehead said Tuesday.

And you can consider that approval highly unlikely.

Morehead made his comments this morning in a first radio interview with Martha Zoller and Tim Bryant on WGAU (1340AM) in Athens. University officials have cited the lack of benefits for unmarried or gay couples as a competitive disadvantage, but Morehead pointed to a recent decision to extend employee-financed benefits.

Said Morehead:

“This is the first time that the university has been in a position to offer voluntary benefits. And the chancellor approved that proposal, because we’re not using any state dollars.

“The individuals that take advantage of the voluntary benefits – that’s being paid entirely by employees, through their own voluntary contributions.

“But candidly, with the restrictions that the state has on its health insurance plans, I think we’ve gone about as far as we can go on that issue here at the University of Georgia. I don’t see a path readily available for the institution to pursue that matter here....

“The Regents and the Legislature – they’re all well aware of the university’s position on this matter. We’ve made it clear that from a market-competitiveness standpoint, what we had proposed to do. But the state’s rules are the state’s rules.

“We don’t have a source of funding that’s entirely private, that’s not supported by state benefits or state employees. So I think this issue’s back in the arena of the Board of Regents and the state of Georgia.”

The issue was pushed last year by Morehead’s predecessor, Michael Adams. Some background by way of my AJC colleague Laura Diamond:
President Jere Morehead on domestic partner benefits:... | Polit... http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/political-insider/2013/jul/09/uga-presid...

There has long been discussion of offering these benefits, and the movement gained traction in September when the University Council called on UGA to provide money to offer voluntary benefits and health insurance to unmarried partners. The council is made up of faculty, administrators, students and staff who advise Adams on academics and other policy matters.

Adams also asked [Chancellor Hank] Huckaby about UGA developing and fully funding a health care benefits package for domestic partners. No state money would be used for it, Adams said.

Huckaby said that to comply with current law and policy, the program would have to be “truly private.” It would need to be “privately funded, privately insured, privately accounted for and privately administered,” he wrote. He suggested UGA work with its foundation to support that plan.

As a result, that benefits options “will, unfortunately, require further study,” Adams said in a statement.

Comments

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3 Comment(s)
Comment(s) 1-3 of 3

- Posted by atlperson at 2:58 p.m. Jul. 9, 2013
- Report Abuse

This is ALL ABOUT ECONOMICS not recognition or walking down the aisle. We can march all day and night, but we must demand accountability from our business and political leaders. I want tax equality; social security benefits survivor’s rights, etc. and everything that legally married heterosexuals are provided under law!

Case in point: According to the AJC today Delta Chief Executive Officer Richard Anderson, the chamber’s incoming chair, and his wife Susan combined for more than $15,000 in contributions for Deal. We have the business community only caring about their business interests and not ALL of the people of Georgia. Not only does Anderson and Delta give money to the GA Republicans, these Republican State leaders get many flight benefits also. And Sky Club access. On the backs of whom?

This is not anti-Delta. Delta support AIDS Walks, Gay Pride and even offer domestic partnership benefits. They ALSO have a business plan. But alas, Gay persons DO TOO. By giving to the anti-gay marriage Governor Nathan Deal, Anderson is perpetuating The Governor and the Georgia Republican Party and their policies of inequality and HATE. Good ole’ boys as we say.

YES this is very good for the pockets of Anderson, Delta and Governor Deal, BUT TERRIBLE FOR the economic prosperity and equality of GAY GEORGIANS.

DEMAND Richard Anderson and his legally married wife, Susan retract the $15,000.00 Governor Nathan Deal donation.

- Posted by NativeRedNeck at 2:59 p.m. Jul. 9, 2013
- Report Abuse

This is the red state of Georgia. Georgia will enter the 21st Century when pigs fly.
Jere Morehead: Billion Dollar Man?

By LEE SHEARER updated Wednesday, July 10, 2013 - 1:22am

New University of Georgia president Jere Morehead already has his hand out, asking for money.

"When you see me, hold your wallets close at hand," said Morehead, not quite joking as he addressed a crowd gathered on UGA’s North Campus near the statue of UGA founder Abraham Baldwin.

University fundraisers are planning a major fundraising drive with a new UGA president now in office. Morehead’s main task in the months ahead will be leading that drive, hoping to raise more than $1 billion, he told groups he met with in his first week in office. Morehead took over the UGA presidency from Michael Adams on July 1.

State financial support of the university has declined steeply over the past decade, and the university needs to raise private money to stay competitive, according to Morehead. UGA needs private money to boost professors’ pay through named chairs and professorships, and must raise money for needs-based and merit student scholarships.

More than 300 gathered for the outdoors event sponsored by the UGA Alumni Association. Many were UGA administrators, along with faculty and other UGA workers, retirees, a few students and community members, as well as alumni and members of UGA’s fundraising staff.

The line that formed to shake Morehead’s hand on his second week in office included retired political science professor Delmer Dunn and Kayla LaChance, one of the university’s outstanding Army ROTC cadets.

A $1 billion goal is an ambitious one at UGA, where fundraising totals have been at about $100 million for the past several years, a significant portion of that being donations to the UGA athletic department by ticket-buyers who pay extra to get better seats in Sanford Stadium.

At least one key person in the crowd thinks Morehead and UGA can make that $1 billion goal.

"Absolutely. It’s an imperative that we do that. We look forward to working with President Morehead," said businessman Trey Paris, a former
Jere Morehead: Billion Dollar Man? | Online Athens


president of the UGA Alumni Association.

“Jere’s institutional knowledge and history with the university make him ideally suited to lead this (capital campaign),” said Paris, who also is chairman of the University of Georgia Foundation’s development and public affairs committee. The foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that receives gifts on behalf of UGA and manages the university’s endowment. Its board of trustees, many of them UGA alumni, includes some of the state’s more influential people.

- Follow education reporter Lee Shearer at www.facebook.com/LeeShearerABH or https://twitter.com/LeeShearer.

UGA

PREV
The Georgia Review and “The Circus Train” have come to town

NEXT
UGA’s economic impact on local economy topped $2.1 billion in 2012

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37 current construction projects on campus (wild guess) and you need to raise money for. what was that again?

Curls

Wed., Jul 10 @ 7:39:09 am

1510 posts

Jere Morehead: Billion Dollar Man? --- nope, more like $1.95

swhitney

Wed., Jul 10 @ 8:20:12 am

4688 posts

“UGA needs private money to boost professors’ pay through named chairs and professorships, and must raise money for needs-based and merit student scholarships.”

This is a significant change from Adams who was all about buildings.

“State financial support of the university has declined steeply over the past decade”

This decline in support started long before the economic downturn (in the early 2000’s most faculty and staff went multiple years without pay raises). That’s why tuition has gone up as fast as it has in the last 10-12 years, the state used to contribute $3 for every $1 of in-state tuition, now it’s closer to $1 for $1, billions of dollars less each year for the USG than a decade ago. Adams found a way to fund buildings in spite of a
UGA community members fight decision on domestic partner benefits

Following the decision of the University of Georgia Foundation on June 21, affiliates of the school have taken action to help provide domestic partners of UGA employees with health benefits.

Headed by Ericka "Ricky" Roberts, an academic advisor in the UGA Honors Program and treasurer of Athens PRIDE, an online petition is available with the idea that enough voices may change the outcome and readdress the question.

"There is an opportunity for UGA to lead the way in making sure that all employees are treated equally and fairly," Roberts said in an email to The Red & Black.

"(C)andidly, with the restrictions that the state has on its health insurance plans, I think we've gone about as far as we can go on that issue here at the University of Georgia," Morehead said on a 1340 AM radio talk show. There is also a problem finding purely private money to fund this coverage, according to Morehead.

"We don't have a source of funding that's entirely private, that's not supported by state benefits or state employees," he said. "So I think this issue's back in the arena of the Board of Regents and the state of Georgia."

The petition is roughly 150 signatures under the goal of 2,500, but Roberts is hopeful that friends, faculty and students of the school will help "make history yet again."

"When UGA desegregated in 1961 other institutions in Georgia and throughout the Deep South followed the leader," Roberts said in the email. "Please implore UGA to once again end discrimination on our campus."

The petition can be found online at change.org/uga/fully-funded-domestic-partner-benefits-program-at-uga.

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The petition can be found online at change.org/uga/fully-funded-domestic-partner-benefits-program-at-uga.
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JURIST - Sidebar: Salinas v. Texas: The Fifth Amendment During Pre-Arrest Interviews

Legal professionals on current issues...

Salinas v. Texas: The Fifth Amendment During Pre-Arrest Interviews

JURIST Guest Columnists Hank Asbill, Brian Murray and Andrew Pinson of Jones Day argue that the Supreme Court's recent decision in Salinas v. Texas leaves a host of critical questions unanswered...

When we previewed the Supreme Court's oral argument in Salinas v. Texas this past March, we framed the plain-English question at stake like this:

The ubiquitous Miranda warning explains that "you have the right to remain silent." It then reminds you that when government agents ask you questions, anything you do say "can and will be used against you in a court of law." But what if you don't say anything? What if government agents approach you and ask you a question, and you refuse to answer? Can your silence in response to their questioning also "be used against you" in court if you're later prosecuted for a crime?

After the Supreme Court handed down a fractured 3-2-4 decision in the case last week, about all that is clear is the ultimate answer to that question: five justices agree that if law enforcement questions a defendant before he's arrested and he responds to any question with silence, then the prosecution may comment on and use that silence against the defendant at trial.

But the fragmented nature of the judgment affirming the judgment against Genovevo Salinas creates a significant wrinkle which, until ironed out in the lower courts (or the Supreme Court in future terms), raises important theoretical and practical
questions about the Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled self-incrimination in the context of pre-arrest police interviews.

The problem is this: while we know that prosecutorial comment on pre-arrest silence is now permissible at trial, we don't really know why. The two opinions spliced together to reach that judgment took such divergent approaches to deciding the question that this naked judgment is really all they share.

Justice Alito, joined by the Chief Justice and Justice Kennedy, took a narrow (and somewhat unexpected) route to that judgment grounded in the Court's rules about invoking the Fifth Amendment privilege. He started from the premise that a witness must expressly invoke the privilege to secure its protections. A witness does not expressly invoke the privilege, however, by "simply standing mute" in response to police questioning (like Salinas did). To be sure, he explained, the Court has recognized two exceptions to the express-invocation requirement: silence suffices to invoke the privilege for a defendant who declines to take the stand at trial (Griffin v. California), and where some form of official compulsion denies the witness a voluntary choice to forfeit or invoke the privilege (Miranda v. Arizona).

But neither of those "exceptions" apply to a voluntary police interview. Salinas, by remaining silent in response to police questioning, failed to invoke the Fifth Amendment privilege, and the prosecution was therefore free to use that silence against him during his criminal trial.

Justice Thomas, joined by Justice Scalia, agreed that a prosecutor may use "a defendant's precustodial silence as evidence of his guilt," but for a very different reason. Justice Thomas explained that even had Salinas invoked the privilege, it would have been a fruitless endeavor; the privilege simply doesn't apply to a "precustodial interview." Why? Well, those familiar with the Court's criminal procedure cases know that both Justices Thomas and Scalia adhere to the textualist view that the Fifth Amendment privilege only protects against government action that actually "compel[s]" a person "to be a witness against himself." Under this view, Griffin was wrongly decided because the threat of a prosecutor's adverse comments at trial does not "compel" anyone to testify. So too in the context of a precustodial interview.

Justice Thomas's reasoning is not controlling, and Griffin isn't in realistic danger (barring a significant shift on the Court). What's important is that Justices Thomas and Scalia concurred only in the judgment and conspicuously avoided opining on whether, assuming the privilege was available, Salinas's silence would have sufficed to invoke it. Thus, while five justices agree that Salinas couldn't rely on the privilege, only three think it's because he failed to expressly invoke it, and two think it's because the privilege wasn't available to invoke.

These non-overlapping grounds for decision make quick mincemeat of a Marks v. US analysis, which asks which "[m]embers who concurred in the judgments on the narrowest grounds" in order to determine the
holding of the Court in a fragmented decision. Justice Alito's rationale, although less sweeping than that of Justice Thomas, is by no means necessary to, included in, or logically entailed by Thomas's reasoning. (Indeed, Justice Thomas stated that Salinas's claim would fail even if he had invoked the privilege.) In short, with Salinas, the Court handed down a little more than a judgment sans rationale.

For everyone except Genovevo Salinas (whom, with five Supreme Court justices voting to affirm the judgment against him, is out of luck), this leaves a lot of questions. First, does the Griffin rule—which says the Fifth Amendment privilege proscribes prosecutorial comment on a defendant's refusal to testify—ever apply to pre-arrest, pre-Miranda interviews with law enforcement? Many thought the Court took the case precisely to answer that question. But all Salinas tells us is that the privilege doesn't extend to a witness who "stands mute" in response to a pre-arrest interview question. So a witness can ostensibly get past Justice Alito's reasoning in Salinas by invoking the privilege, but it remains to be seen whether he invokes non-imaginary protection by doing so. Justices Thomas and Scalia would say no, the four dissenters would say yes, and it's not clear what Justices Alito, Roberts, and Kennedy think; even if those three justices would agree that Salinas's silence failed as an invocation, it doesn't necessarily follow that any or all of them believe the protection of Griffin would have applied given an effective invocation.

Even assuming a majority of the Court would hold there is a privilege to invoke during a precustodial interview, other questions persist: what collection of words are required to invoke it? (Magic words?) Once "invoked," what happens? Do the investigators have to stop questioning? And taking a step into the real world, how is the typical witness who hasn't been advised of his rights (remember, this interview happens before Miranda requires that) to know that he needs to invoke the privilege and how to do so effectively? Should it matter that the typical witness will have no idea that he has to say something to exercise his right to remain silent, whatever protection that "right" entails before he's arrested?

Certainly it's not unusual for the Supreme Court to answer one question and leave the details to be worked out in the lower courts. But these are not mere details. What is a person supposed to do to maximize his protection against self-incrimination if approached by law enforcement for questioning? (And what should a lawyer tell her client to do in that situation?) Speaking, with its ever present risks of inadvertent incrimination, is still out. And Salinas puts silence on the blacklist too. The witness may or may not be able to invoke some degree of protection by "expressly invoking" it, however one does that. Or maybe not.

After Salinas, and before the Court brings clarity in a future case, perhaps the best policy is avoidance until arrest. If the cops knock at your door? Pretend you're not home. If they call? Let it go to voicemail. (Hopefully you have caller identification.) E-mail? Delete and ignore.
And if an officer ambushes you in public? Don’t make eye contact. Too late? Well, perhaps that’s the next case.

Hank Asbill is a partner at Jones Day with extensive first-chair jury trial and appellate experience, successfully defending individual and corporate clients for more than three decades against a broad spectrum of criminal and civil charges. Hank is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and an Advisory Committee member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ White Collar Criminal Defense College. He has served in the past as two-term director of NACDL, president and Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, and president of the D.C. Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He holds a J.D. from Georgetown University and an A.B. from Princeton University.

Brian Murray is the founding partner of Jones Day’s Issues & Appeals Practice in Chicago. Brian has extensive trial and appellate litigation experience, representing clients in complex litigation and class actions in federal and state courts across the country. He also teaches Complex Litigation at the University of Chicago Law School and serves on the Seventh Circuit Bar Association and the American Inns of Court Foundation Board. He is also a former law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia, and holds a J.D. and a B.S. from the University of Notre Dame.

Andrew Pinson is an associate at Jones Day, where he focuses on appellate litigation and complex trial litigation in a variety of substantive areas. He is a former law clerk to Judge Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and holds a J.D. and B.B.A. from the University of Georgia.


This article was prepared for publication by Stephen Krug, an associate editor for JURIST’s professional commentary service. Please direct any questions or comments to him at professionalcommentary@jurist.org

July 12, 2013
Savannah attorney Edward “Ted” Henneman Jr. does no trial work in his role as a partner in the HunterMaclean firm.

While that is usually a hurdle to fulfilling his pro bono commitment to the profession, Henneman has become a key figure in serving the needs of Savannah’s less fortunate through his leadership role with Step Up Savannah Inc./City of Savannah and its affordable housing trust fund effort.

Those initiatives have earned Henneman the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Project Award as the 2013 Business Commitment Pro Bono Business Law Award, which he will receive in October. He was nominated by the Savannah Bar Association as a “crucial partner” in the effort to establish a housing trust fund.

Henneman joined with Step Up and Georgia Legal Services in developing a long-term strategy to have the city of Savannah implement a housing trust fund with a $300,000 commitment from the city.

Access to affordable housing has been identified as a key factor in solving homelessness and poverty in Savannah where the problem often impedes those moving out of poverty.

Suzanne Donovan with Step Up called Henneman “a strong and stellar contributor to the advisory committee” in the trust-fund effort.

Henneman, 46, came to Savannah with his wife, native Savannahian Amy Parr, in 1994 after graduating cum laude from the University of Georgia law school and began his career handling real estate development and commercial finance matters. He said he got into affordable housing through a client and later found Step Up and its initiatives met his career expertise.

He conceded that for a non-trial lawyer, efforts at pro bono work are harder to find, but said the local opportunity, “Frankly ... was right up my alley.”

“I’m not just sitting on the (advisory) board,” he said. “I’m very active in the effort.”
As US-Cuba relations appear to thaw, diplomats find more freedom t...
As US-Cuba relations appear to thaw, diplomats find more freedom to travel.

In a discreet visit to Miami, there they met with U.S. companies that offer charter flights to the island and small groups of Cuban exiles to talk about the easing of regulations allowing Cubans to travel and other reforms.

Earlier this year, the chief of the Cuban Interests Section delivered the keynote address at a University of Georgia law school conference on the economic embargo against Cuba. Two other Cuban officials went to Tampa in March to attend an event promoting engagement between the U.S. and Cuba.

"In the past, they have not had much luck," said Wayne Smith, a former chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, and one of the hosts of the Tampa conference, titled, "Rapprochement with Cuba: Good for Tampa, Good for Florida, Good for America."

"The State Department usually said no," Smith said. "But in this case, it was, 'Yes.' And I would say a somewhat different tone. A more positive one."

The travel is part of a larger, slow-moving thaw between the two countries and comes as both prepare for a sit-down talk on migration issues on Wednesday. Cuba and the U.S. held talks last month on resuming direct mail service. A U.S. federal judge allowed a Cuban intelligence agent to return to the island in May. And Cuba recently decided to let an American doctor examine jailed U.S. government subcontractor Alan Gross.

Robert Pastor, director of the Center for North American Studies at American University, described the moves as "cautious steps."

"If the overall purpose is to find out whether the Cubans are interested in a serious relationship, I think we'll soon find the answer is yes," he said. "And then it will be better to proceed to some larger issues as well."

The U.S. and Cuba do not have embassies in each other's countries; diplomatic relations between the Soviet-era foes deteriorated after the 1959 communist revolution. But since 1977, both countries have operated Interests Sections under the legal protection of the Swiss embassies.

In the thick of the Cold War, both countries put restrictions on how far diplomats could move outside their respective capitals.

"I think there was a fear of espionage, so therefore, you want to keep your diplomats from traveling so widely that it's hard to follow what they may be up to," Pastor said.

The noisy objection of Cuban exiles, like their Nationalist Chinese and South Vietnamese predecessors, has little strategic or political significance now, and will have even less after the President acts. Normalization is a one way road that creates a path for serious Cuban American investment.
As US-Cuba relations appear to thaw, diplomats find more freedom t...

The President can open travel dramatically by granting general (no application required) licenses for all non-tourist purposeful travel by every American, just as he did for Cuban Americans, universities and religious organizations. This will allow lower cost self directed trips by families and friends who stay in private bed and breakfasts and use public transportation or rent cars.

He can end Cuba's unjustified inclusion in the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and stop the harassment of third country banks that take Cuba's dollars, leading Havana to remove their 10% fee on remittances and US visitor exchanges.

Serious negotiations can resolve problems of nationals imprisoned for violation of the other country's laws and address the issue of criminals who have received sanctuary in both nations.

Virtually any part of the embargo can be suspended by the President, allowing for example the sale of products from and purchases by the growing private and cooperative sector.

Further more is here, including the impact of the Snowden case:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/as-us-cuba-relations-appear...
Cuban, US diplomats increasingly allowed to travel

Article by: CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press
July 15, 2013 - 1:05 PM

MIAMI — For decades, Cuban and U.S. diplomats have faced strict limits on their travel within the Cold War enemy countries.

Cuban diplomats at the United Nations in New York cannot go 25 miles beyond Columbus Circle in Manhattan or past the Beltway loop circling Washington without the permission of the U.S. State Department.

U.S. Interests Section workers, meanwhile, must submit detailed itineraries to Cuban officials if they want to travel outside Havana.

Recently, however, Cuban and U.S. diplomats have been increasingly, and more easily, stepping outside the once nearly insurmountable fences.

On the island, U.S. officials privately say they've had an easier time obtaining permission to travel outside the allowed perimeter.

And last week, two consuls from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington made a discreet visit to Miami. There they met with U.S. companies that offer charter flights to the island and small groups of Cuban exiles to talk about the easing of regulations allowing Cubans to travel and other reforms.

Earlier this year, the chief of the Cuban Interests Section delivered the keynote address at a University of Georgia law school conference on the economic embargo against Cuba. Two other Cuban officials went to Tampa in March to attend an event promoting engagement between the U.S. and Cuba.

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In the thick of the Cold War, both countries put restrictions on how far diplomats could move outside their respective capitals.

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The State Department was aware of the Cuban diplomats' travel to Miami, according to a State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The department declined to provide any further details.
A telephone at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington rang busy. Cuban government officials often don’t respond immediately to requests for comment from foreign journalists.

Those who met with the diplomats said their visit was focused on practical matters such as passport renewals. Tessie Aral, the president of ABC Charters, said she was part of a meeting that brought together travel agencies that offer trips to Cuba.

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But the Cuban diplomats’ travel has also been almost exclusively to speak with groups that favor engagement with the island. In at least two of the meetings in Miami, the diplomats spoke about the desire for greater travel and exchange between Cuba and the U.S.

In a video posted online by an anti-embargo group in Miami, Consul General Llanio Gonzalez Perez told a group of about 20 people how Cuban-Americans might one day be able to invest and retire on the island. He said an increasing number of Cubans in the U.S. are traveling back and even trying to repatriate.

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The meeting was held in a room with curtains covering the door and windows. On one wall was a picture of former Cuban President Fidel Castro and the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez shaking hands, along with a small portrait of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara. Gonzalez was dressed in a peach-colored, short-sleeved shirt and black slacks.

Tony Zamora, a Bay of Pigs veteran who met with Gonzalez and a second Cuban diplomat, said they discussed a letter signed by more than 200 Cuban-Americans criticizing the Obama administration’s decision to keep Cuba on the terrorism sponsors list.

“They also talked, of course, about the possibility that one day they could have a consulate in Miami,” Zamora said.

Such talk is a noticeable shift from just 12 months ago, when anyone who left the island was considered a permanent emigre, said Arturo Lopez Levy, a Cuban economist and analyst who lectures at the University of Denver.

“The visit by Consul Llanio Gonzalez is also important because a visit to Ohio or a visit to Seattle doesn’t attract so much public attention like a visit to Miami,” Levy said.

Indeed, the diplomats’ visits to Tampa and Georgia generated little reaction.

In contrast, pro-embargo, hard-line members of the Cuban-American community in Miami began speaking out as soon as the video of the Miami-based consuls’ chat was posted online.

Ninoska Perez Castellon aired clips from Gonzalez’s talk with the Alianza Martiana on her radio show.

“I think it’s really shameful that the State Department would grant them the permission to come to Miami,” she said. “A lot of people were really upset about this.”

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Associated Press writers Peter Orsi in Havana and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Christine Armario on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/cearmario

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Cuban, US diplomats increasingly allowed to travel

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

For decades, Cuban and U.S. diplomats have faced strict limits on their travel within the Cold War enemy countries.

Cuban diplomats at the United Nations in New York cannot go 25 miles beyond Columbus Circle in Manhattan or past the Beltway loop circling Washington without the permission of the U.S. State Department.

U.S. Interests Section workers, meanwhile, must submit detailed itineraries to Cuban officials if they want to travel outside Havana.

Recently, however, Cuban and U.S. diplomats have been increasingly, and more easily, stepping outside the once nearly insurmountable fences.

On the island, U.S. officials privately say they’ve had an easier time obtaining permission to travel outside the allowed perimeter.

And last week, two consuls from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington made a discreet visit to Miami. There they met with U.S. companies that offer charter flights to the island and small groups of Cuban exiles to talk about the easing of regulations allowing Cubans to travel and other reforms.

Earlier this year, the chief of the Cuban Interests Section delivered the keynote address at a University of Georgia law school conference on the economic embargo against Cuba. Two other Cuban officials went to Tampa in March to attend an event promoting engagement between the U.S. and Cuba.

"In the past, they have not had much luck," said Wayne Smith, a former chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, and one of the hosts of the Tampa conference, titled, "Rapprochement with Cuba: Good for Tampa, Good for Florida, Good for America."
"The State Department usually said no," Smith said. "But in this case, it was, 'Yes.' And I would say a somewhat different tone. A more positive one."

The travel is part of a larger, slow-moving thaw between the two countries and comes as both prepare for a sit-down talk on migration issues on Wednesday. Cuba and the U.S. held talks last month on resuming direct mail service. A U.S. federal judge allowed a Cuban intelligence agent to return to the island in May. And Cuba recently decided to let an American doctor examine jailed U.S. government subcontractor Alan Gross.

Robert Pastor, director of the Center for North American Studies at American University, described the moves as "cautious steps."

"If the overall purpose is to find out whether the Cubans are interested in a serious relationship, I think we'll soon find the answer is yes," he said. "And then it will be better to proceed to some larger issues as well."

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Race, ‘reluctance’ are central issues in Zimmerman trial

Brad Mannion | Posted: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 6:19 pm

Concerning the fate of George Zimmerman — the man put on trial for the murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin — Donald E. Wilkes Jr. said the case centered around “reluctance.”

“To begin with, we all know there was a great reluctance in the part of the police to arrest him in the first place,” said Wilkes, professor emeritus in the University of Georgia School of Law. “There was reluctance on the part of the prosecutors to charge him because prosecutors are usually gung-ho about charging people who have killed unarmed persons and claimed self-defense.”

Wilkes, who spent 40 years at the law school teaching courses on criminal procedure and other various topics, said the trial itself led to a “predictable” verdict following surprising testimonies.

“The trial itself was very unusual — you had policemen testify in favor of the defendant. That almost never happens,” Wilkes said. “Police never testify in favor of the defendant if they can possibly avoid it. Of course, you just have the fact that the defendant was very well-funded — he got huge amounts of money from people who support him. When you factor all of this stuff in, it was not surprising at all that you had this verdict.”

Despite mixed reports of whether or not race was an issue, Wilkes said the issue, and demonstrations resulting in the verdict, have ties to former racial conflicts.

“It was the 500 pound elephant in the room that no one talked about,” he said. “It was surely to be expected...as there were when the police who beat up Rodney King were acquitted. I can understand why a lot of...people would see that justice wasn’t done in this case because the victim was black.”

The Justice Department is examining the case, attempting to put Zimmerman back on trial for taking away Martin’s civil rights as a result of the murder.

But ultimately, this effort would prove ineffective.

“There certainly are charges that could be brought, but I think it’s very doubtful it will be brought. It could happen, but don’t expect that,” Wilkes said.

What would be an effective method to put Zimmerman back on the stand, Wilkes said, is for the Martin family to take him to civil court and sue him.

“What could happen is that the family of Trayvon Martin is going to sue Zimmerman,” Wilkes said. “There might very well be a different verdict for civil action when it focuses on the evidence. If I were Trayvon Martin’s family, I would file a lawsuit today — I think that civil actions against
Zimmerman...is highly likely.”

Considering the “tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding,” Wilkes said money would not be a main concern for the Martin family.

“I don’t think filing a lawsuit, they are looking to get money from Zimmerman,” he said, “I think they want a court to decide that Trayvon Martin was unlawfully killed.”
Stevie Wonder boycotts Florida – and maybe Georgia, too

By Jim Galloway

If you want to see Stevie Wonder, you may to book a flight. From the Hollywood Reporter:

In the wake of the George Zimmerman acquittal, the singer said he would not be performing in the Sunshine State until its Stand Your Ground law is "abolished." He also said he would not be performing in any other state that recognizes the law, which some say contributed to Zimmerman's acquittal in the shooting death of Florida teen Trayvon Martin on Feb. 26, 2012.

"I decided today that until the Stand Your Ground law is abolished in Florida, I will never perform there again," Wonder said Sunday while performing in Quebec City. "As a matter of fact, wherever I find that law exists, I will not perform in that state or in that part of the world."

Georgia and Florida have similar stand-your-ground statutes, as my AJC colleague Rhonda Cook explained last year:

Georgia's Supreme Court wrote in 1898 -- and many times since -- there is no requirement that a victim of an attack first try to escape before using deadly force to stop an aggressor. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled also in
1898 that "a true man does not fly in the face of an aggressor who seeks to do him grievous bodily harm."

"That came to be known as the 'true man rule' and that has evolved into the stand your ground rule," said University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson.

It has only been in recent years that states have included those court decisions in their laws. Florida's adopted a stand your ground law in 2005 and Georgia in 2006, expanded upon the self-defense rights the courts have upheld for years. There are 23 other states with similar laws that allow for justifiable homicide with no requirement that the victim first try to escape; seven other states allow residents to defend themselves with deadly force in specific areas — such as at home in the car or at the workplace.

Comments

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10 Comment(s)
Comment(s) 1-10 of 10

Stand your ground was never mentioned by the defense or prosecution. Is this guy just blind to the facts? Will Stevie go play Chicago, a city that has seen 1000 young black men die since Trayvon? And not one of those murders was by a white Hispanic neighborhood watchman!

Thank heaven for small favors!

Why is Jim so concerned about the mindset of Stevie Wonder? He fails to tell us. Why not tell us about the mindset of all his other leftist friends? Don't they count too?

The liberal media and bloggers are going to go along with the extremists and fan these flames.
James Sibold, an attorney in Dunwoody for more than 25 years, died Sunday. He was better known as Jamie and for being an active Republican, rising to the chairmanship of the DeKalb Republican Party.

Sibold ran unsuccessfully for office twice, first in 1998 when he ran against two others for a vacant state House seat and then in 2010 when he challenged state Sen. Fran Millar in the primary.

“He had the greatest passion for politics of any Republican I’ve known,” said Millar.

Sibold traveled to New Hampshire and other states in 2008 to campaign for the eventual Republican presidential candidate, John McCain.

He was graduated from the University of California at Berkley and the University of Georgia School of Law.

Sibold leaves his wife, Karen, and two daughters. Funeral arrangements were pending as The Crier went to press.
Race, 'reluctance' are central issues in Zimmerman trial - The Red a...

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More about George Zimmerman
- ARTICLE: Zimmerman case reveals racism still prevalent
- ARTICLE: Zimmerman trial sensationalism overshadows important civil rights issues

More about Trayvon Martin
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- ARTICLE: "Trayvoning" Internet meme hits internet, reawakens shooting controversy

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- ARTICLE: Supreme Court case brings about re-sentencing for Eve Carson killer

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Immigration judges pushing for independence
Say department impedes timely, open operation

By Maria Sacchetti | GLOBE STAFF | JULY 17, 2013

US Attorney General Eric Holder spoke during a naturalization ceremony at the Department of Justice in May.

Federal immigration judges are urging Congress to liberate them from the Department of Justice, a dramatic bid for independence that could eventually open immigration court records to the public for the first time in US history.

As lawmakers debate immigration legislation, the judges have intensified lobbying efforts in Washington with phone calls, letters, and personal trips to the Capitol, armed
Federal immigration judges seek independence from Department of Ju...

with support from national legal organizations including the American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association.

The judges say the backlogged immigration courts need the freedom to control their own budgets, issue timely decisions, and prevent unfair treatment of judges — all things they maintain are not happening within the Justice Department bureaucracy.

"The DOJ has contributed to selling the Immigration Courts short rather than defending their independence or enhancing their stature," the judges' union, the National Association of Immigration Judges, said in a report given to Congress. "This has serious and insidious repercussions."

A move out of the Justice Department could also allow immigration judges to decide which court records be kept from the public, similar to regular courts.

The judges' call for independence comes as labor unions in the Department of Homeland Security, which runs enforcement and citizenship services, are calling on Congress to fix immigration laws and be more transparent to the public. Traditional court records are public but immigration court and arrest records are generally confidential to protect the immigrant's privacy.

"Somebody needs to flip the light switch on and make all of this stuff more visible," said Chris Crane, president of the National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council, which represents detention and deportation officers. "These people work for the taxpayers. Why should they be able to hide anything?"

The judges' lobbying is the latest sign of a glaring disconnect between the immigration officers on the front lines and the lawmakers in Washington who are charting their future in a sometimes haphazard effort to fix the nation's troubled immigration system and address the 11 million immigrants in the United States illegally.

The judges feel a sense of urgency because they fear that new immigration legislation — if it passes — could flood the courts with new cases. Their request for independence won little support from the Senate, which passed an immigration bill last month that ignored their request, but now the judges are targeting the House.

"It's just been impossible to get the attention that we need, and yet, it is so counterintuitive because we are such an essential part of the process," said immigration
A Senate aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said senators crafting the bill feared an independent court would be too costly. The future of the Senate bill is uncertain because House leaders have said they would not take it up and instead would focus on their own legislation.

The Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Justice Department agency that runs the courts, also raised concerns about the cost of an independent immigration court. The office and the Senate aide could not say how much the separate court would cost.

"The type of civil administrative adjudications that the Executive Office for Immigration Review conducts are designed to be handled within the structure of the department and it would take significant resources to create an agency separate from an executive branch cabinet officer, which we believe to be unnecessary at this time," Kathryn Mattingly, a spokeswoman for the office, said in an e-mail.

Though they wear black robes and preside over courtrooms, the judges are lawyers named by the attorney general, the nation's top prosecutor and the head of the Department of Justice. It took over the courts from the Department of Labor in 1940, amid national security concerns during World War II.

Immigration judges have slowly gained prestige over the years. In the earliest days they were merely hearing officers, but later they were required to be lawyers. In the 1970s, they were referred to as judges, a title that is now part of the law. In 1983, the Department of Justice created the Executive Office for Immigration Review to run the courts, giving the judges a measure of autonomy.

But the judges' union told Congress that the court's ties to the Department of Justice have damaged its credibility. In documents to Congress, the union recited a litany of conflicts, including the illegal recruiting of judges during the previous administration based on their political affiliations and the failure of the Justice Department to allow judges to hold people in contempt. The union said some judges have even faced discipline for issuing unfavorable decisions.

As of June, the courts had more than 300,000 cases pending, which the judges called a record high, including more than 8,000 in Boston, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.

At the same time, immigration judges say they suffer burnout, handling about 1,500
Marks, an immigration judge in San Francisco, said the Congressional Budget Office should determine the cost of an independent court before lawmakers dismiss the proposal.

In its proposal, the judges’ union urged Congress to use its power under Article 1 of the Constitution to create an independent court of judges named by the president to a fixed term and confirmed by the Senate. Those judges would not have lifetime tenure or the salary protections that regular federal judges have.

The judges modeled their proposal after the US Tax Court, created in 1969 amid similar concerns about conflicts of interest under the Department of Treasury. Though tax court judges’ decisions and records are generally public, professors said immigration court records would be open to the public only if Congress, or the judges, made it so.

Marks said it is likely the judges would follow the tradition of regular courts, limiting access only to cases that would endanger someone’s safety.

“We support the same amount of transparency that other courts receive,” she said.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association has also backed the creation of an independent court.

“If we’re going to put people’s futures in their hands then we need them to be a truly independent decision maker and not an arm of carrying out the policies of the Justice Department,” said Crystal Williams, executive director for the Immigration Lawyers Association.

Others doubted the House and Senate would change the immigration court system now, since they cannot even agree on the broader issue of immigration overhaul.

“I think it’s very unlikely,” said Kent Barnett, assistant professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. “I don’t know that we’re going to get something that would be a relatively major administrative change through this kind of gridlock in Congress.”

Maria Sacchetti can be reached at msacchetti@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @mariasacchetti

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Jamie Sibold, former chairman of DeKalb GOP, dies at 57

By Jim Galloway

Jamie Sibold, 57, the former chairman of the DeKalb County GOP and a big fan of U.S. Sen. John McCain during his presidential runs, has died of brain cancer. Below are details sent to the AJC by the family:

James Scott Sibold of Dunwoody, Georgia, passed away at the age of 57 surrounded by his loving family on July 14, 2013. James (Jamie) was born in San Mateo, CA, to Rosemary and Robert Sibold. He attended Hillsdale High School where he excelled in athletics. He began his college career at University of California, Berkeley and later graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law.

James ran a successful law practice in Dunwoody for 28 years which specialized in real estate closings. He was always interested in politics serving as Chairman of the DeKalb Republican Party, working on numerous political campaigns, and running for office himself.

He was Rotary Club member as well as a parishioner of All Saints Catholic Church. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 30 years, Karen and two college-age daughters, Marybeth and Natalie. He is also survived by his brother, Robin Sibold, his sister, Pamela Horn, and his mother-in-law, Jean Kammerer.

James fought a heroic fight against brain cancer but always maintained his sense of humor and courageous spirit! His strength and smile will be missed by his family and friends. Visitation will be held at Roswell Funeral Home in Roswell, GA on Thursday, July 18th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, July 19, 2013 at 10:30 am at All Saints Catholic Church in Dunwoody, GA with a private committal at Green Lawn Cemetery in Roswell, GA.

McCain sent out the following note this afternoon via Twitter:

RIP Jamie Sibold, former #Georgia GOP leader & one of my most dedicated supporters. My prayers are w/ his family.
UGA Alumni Association announces new executive committee president, officers

By UGA NEWS SERVICE published Thursday, July 18, 2013

The University of Georgia Alumni Association has announced Tim Keadle as the new executive committee president and Ruth Bartlett, Jennifer Chapman and Julie Reynolds as new executive committee officers.

On July 1, Keadle, a 1978 UGA graduate and founding partner of Atlanta-based CPA firm Porter Keadle Moore, began his two-year term as president of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors. Keadle succeeds U.S. District Court Judge Steve Jones, who will now serve on the executive committee as immediate past president. By virtue of his office, Keadle also joins the boards of the University of Georgia Foundation and the University of Georgia Athletic Association. He is a Barnesville native, and currently resides in Statham.

Keadle, who was unanimously elected by the board, says his priorities include strengthening the structure of the more than 110 Alumni Association chapters and assisting their volunteer leaders.

"I will tirelessly support UGA's new president, Jere W. Morehead," Keadle said. "I also plan to continue the success of our signature programs, such as the Bulldog 100 and 40 under 40. UGA Days, a collaborative effort with the UGA Athletic Association and Athletic Director Greg McGarity, will also be a top priority during my term."

The board also elected the following individuals to executive committee positions:

- Ruth Bartlett, a 1976 UGA graduate, will serve as vice president. Bartlett is a partner at Frazier & Deeter LLC in Atlanta.

- Jennifer Chapman will serve as treasurer. Chapman holds three degrees from the university, most recently completing her Juris Doctor in 2002. She is assistant professor of legal studies and accounting at Georgia Gwinnett College.

- Julie Reynolds, who graduated from UGA in 1981, will serve as secretary. Reynolds is the president of Reynolds Interiors, a design firm in Lawrenceville.
Deborah Dietzler, executive director of alumni relations, expressed her appreciation for the commitment of the executive committee members, as well as the members of the full board.

“No group of UGA alumni is more passionate in its support of the university than the Alumni Association Board of Directors,” Dietzler said. “I eagerly anticipate the proactive leadership of the executive committee and the resulting successes. It is truly a joy to work with these great Bulldogs.”

For more information about the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors, including a message from President Tim Keadle and a full roster of the board, see www.alumni.uga.edu/board.

UGA Alumni Association

The UGA Alumni Association supports the academic excellence, best interests and traditions of Georgia’s flagship university and its more than 280,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, see www.alumni.uga.edu.
UGA Alumni Association announces new executive committee president, officers

Athens, Ga. - The University of Georgia Alumni Association has announced Tim Keadle as the new executive committee president and Ruth Bartlett, Jennifer Chapman and Julie Reynolds as new executive committee officers.

On July 1, Keadle, a 1978 UGA graduate and founding partner of Atlanta-based CPA firm Porter Keadle Moore, began his two-year term as president of the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. Keadle succeeds U.S. District Court Judge Steve Jones, who will now serve on the executive committee as immediate past president. By virtue of his office, Keadle also joins the boards of the University of Georgia Foundation and the University of Georgia Athletic Association. He is a Barnesville native, and currently resides in Statham.

Keadle, who was unanimously elected by the board, says his priorities include strengthening the structure of the more than 110 Alumni Association chapters and assisting their volunteer leaders.

"I will tirelessly support UGA’s new president, Jere W. Morehead,” Keadle said. “I also plan to continue the success of our signature programs, such as the Bulldog 100 and 40 under 40. UGA Days, a collaborative effort with the UGA Athletic Association and Athletic Director Greg McGarity, will also be a top priority during my term.”

The board also elected the following individuals to executive committee positions:

- Ruth Bartlett, a 1976 UGA graduate, will serve as vice president. Bartlett is a partner at Frazier & Deeter LLC in Atlanta.
- Jennifer Chapman will serve as treasurer. Chapman holds three degrees from the university, most recently completing her Juris Doctor in 2002. She is assistant professor of legal studies and accounting at Georgia Gwinnett College.
- Julie Reynolds, who graduated from UGA in 1981, will serve as secretary. Reynolds is the president of Reynolds Interiors, a design firm in Lawrenceville.

Deborah Dietzler, executive director of alumni relations, expressed her appreciation for the commitment of the executive committee members, as well as the members of the full board.
“No group of UGA alumni is more passionate in its support of the university than the Alumni Association Board of Directors,” Dietzler said. “I eagerly anticipate the proactive leadership of the executive committee and the resulting successes. It is truly a joy to work with these great Bulldogs.”

For more information about the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors, including a message from President Tim Keadle and a full roster of the board, see www.alumni.uga.edu/board.

UGA Alumni Association
The UGA Alumni Association supports the academic excellence, best interests and traditions of Georgia’s flagship university and its more than 280,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, see www.alumni.uga.edu.

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JNC Names Four Finalists For Fulton State Court Vacancy

Greg Land
Daily Report
2013-07-18 00:00:10.0

After conducting interviews with 15 nominees on Wednesday, the Judicial Nominating Committee sent four names to Governor Nathan Deal from which he is expected to fill the vacancy on the Fulton County State Court left by the retirement of Judge Susan Forsling.

The four finalists are:

- **James M. Anderson III**, 61, is a member of Sandy Springs' Anderson & Ealick. He has served as a Sandy Springs Municipal Court judge since 2005 and as a Fulton County magistrate since 2010, and is president of the Georgia Council of Municipal Court Judges. The Atlanta native is a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and received an undergraduate degree in general management from Georgia Tech.

- **Carolyn "Tippi" Cain Burch**, 37, is a senior associate with King & Spalding's Business Litigation Practice Group. Born in Columbus, Burch is a 2001 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and received an undergraduate degree in political science from Auburn University.

- **Shondeana G. Morris**, 42, is a deputy district attorney with the Fulton County district attorney's Public Integrity Unit. An Atlanta native, Morris is a 1997 graduate of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law and holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Albany State University. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia.

- **Eric Richardson**, 48, is the deputy city attorney for the city of Atlanta. Born in Syracuse, N.Y., he is a 1994 graduate of Cornell University Law School, and received an undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of Rochester.

Deal is also considering a two-name short list to fill a seat on the Bibb County State Court created by the General Assembly early this year. On July 3, the JNC recommended it be filled by **Jeffrey B. Hanson**, managing partner for Sell & Melton, or Macon solo Thomas D. Mann.

—Greg Land
Johnson running tight ship in county public defender office

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

By Carlton Fletcher (1410)
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Leisa Johnson stares to her right, toward the courtrooms just outside her office walls, as she ponders the question.

Is it difficult, as Dougherty Circuit public defender, to plead the cases of defendants you know are guilty, often of incredibly heinous crimes?

"It's really not," Johnson says matter-of-factly. "Under the American justice system, every person is entitled to be zealously defended by competent legal representation. And while our system is not perfect, I believe it is one of the best in the world.

"But I also remember that, but for the grace of God I might be where many of those defendants are now. I have a lot of friends who grew up just like I did who died or prostituted themselves, but for whatever reason, God allowed me to get out. God had favor on me, or I could be one of those defendants."

Johnson has been the Dougherty Judicial Circuit's public defender since the state Legislature paved the way for such a position in 2003 with passage of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act. The statute allowed the state's judicial circuits to appoint a public defender. With the shift, the burden of funding indigent defense, which had rested solely on county governments to that point, was shared by the state and its counties.

A five-member committee was appointed in each circuit to select a public defender, who would be charged with setting up an office through which indigent defense in the county would be coordinated. In Dougherty County, that committee -- then-District Attorney Ken Hodges and attorneys John Vansant, Mark Phillips, Robert Beauchamp and Maurice King -- selected Johnson, who has remained at the position since.

"When Leisa came to Albany and applied for a position in the district attorney's office, I
immediately liked her," Hodges, now in private practice in Atlanta, said of Johnson. "I was impressed with her professionalism, and she turned out to be a very smart hire for me.

"When she applied for the circuit public defender position, I was a big advocate on her behalf. She got the job on merit, but I thought it was pretty significant that she was the first African-American female in the state to be selected as public defender. I knew she would represent her clients well and likewise represent Dougherty County well. I think the world of her and the job she's done."

Almost a decade into her tenure, Johnson is lauded by local officials for the work she and her staff do on behalf of the hundreds of indigent defendants who make their way through the county's court system each year. Despite the fact her office has cleared more than 23,000 cases since 2005, Johnson has managed to trim her office's budget from some $1.4 million to less than $900,000.

"My question when I consider this office's budget is 'How much does it actually cost to run an office like this?"' Johnson said. "I don't tolerate personal business being conducted out of this office; I will fire someone over that. We are responsible to the taxpayers of this county. I'm a property owner myself, so while I'm fair to my employees and make sure our clients get the best defense possible, we're going to be responsible to the people paying our salaries."

Obviously, the little girl who at 9 years old still couldn't read and was on her way to becoming an inner-city statistic before her Albany grandmother intervened has come a long way.

Raised just outside the nation's capital in Maryland, Johnson's grandmother in Albany discovered during one of Johnson's frequent visits that even at age 9, she could not read, didn't know her colors and couldn't distinguish her right hand from her left.

That same grandmother insisted that little Leisa come live with her at age 10, and for the next three years she had a retired teacher tutor Leisa. By the time she returned to Maryland at age 13, she'd caught up and then some. She graduated as valedictorian of her high school class and with high honors at the University of Maryland, College Park.

"I used to cry when I came to stay with my grandmother," Johnson says. "We'd visit her brother's farm in Eufala, Ala., and we'd all take baths in the same water and use an outhouse. There were all these mosquitoes we didn't have in Maryland, and we picked and ate vegetables that didn't come in a can.

"Adjustment was difficult for me, but I realized later I was exposed to a lot of good things. Being here changed my life."

Johnson earned a law degree at prestigious George Washington University and practiced civil law for 10 years before applying for a position in Albany. Then-district attorney Britt Priddy didn't hire Johnson, but when Hodges replaced Priddy in the office, he brought her on board as an assistant district attorney.

One of Hodges' other hires, Brigham Young University graduate Troy Golden, would
become close friends with Johnson and the first person she contacted when she became circuit public defender.

"I've never had a more loyal friend than Troy," Johnson said of her chief assistant. "I trust him with my life. I called him as soon as I was named to this position, and although he couldn't come right away, he's been with me since 2006. He's crucial to keeping this office running."

Johnson worked in the district attorney's office for four years before transitioning into private practice. She's only been on her own a little more than a year when the Georgia Indigent Defense Act passed and her name was one of those discussed as a candidate to fill the position.

Chief Superior Court Judge Willie Lockette was one of those who sang Johnson's praises.

"I'd been impressed with Leisa's professionalism in matters she advocated for the state before me," Lockette said. "I was impressed with her respect for the court, her knowledge of the law and the passion she carried for her profession. I definitely thought she would be a strong candidate for the circuit public defender's position.

"I think she has proven herself, and Dougherty County has been blessed to have her in that office. Her courtroom skills and her ability to motivate her staff in what can be perceived as a thankless job has been exemplary. In our country, everyone has a right to be defended not just by a lawyer but by a lawyer who is competent and able to provide a zealous defense. Leisa Johnson has done a yeoman's job of providing a high level of indigent defense, and that's not always been the case in Georgia and other states."

In the public defender's office, Johnson is responsible for hiring attorneys and staff who represent defendants unable to pay the cost of their day in court. In addition to Golden, assistant public defenders among the 15-person staff in the Dougherty circuit include Sandra Satchell, a graduate of the Rutgers School of Law; Betty Moore (South Texas College of Law); Kevin Armstrong (University of Georgia); Marcus Roberts (University of Georgia); Charles Arnold (Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University), and Randall Sharp (Florida Coastal School of Law).

Golden said the switch from prosecution in the district attorney's office to defense has not been particularly difficult.

"You learn all aspects of the law in law school, so you come into the profession prepared either way," the Albany native said. "I came to the public defender's office in January of 2006 primarily because of Leisa. We clicked when we worked together in the D.A.'s office, and I've always appreciated the focus she places on the rights of her clients, no matter the charges they face.

"Caseload is always an issue in this office; that and training young lawyers. I like the fact that any person -- poor, rich, black, white -- has an opportunity to get not just representation, but zealous representation, in our justice system. That's why I love this job."

The circuit public defender's office, whose attorneys each carry a typical caseload of 160...
clients at any given time, is budgeted to receive $819,562 from Dougherty County this year and $500,017 from the state. County Administrator Richard Crowdis said Johnson has worked hard to reduce her office's budget.

"We do not deal with the legal aspects of her work in the courts, but from a professional perspective I feel that the county made an excellent choice in Leisa," Crowdis said. "She works hard with her budget, and she has done an excellent job for Dougherty County of conserving and managing that budget.

"In my limited capacity of working with her, I've found her to be someone who can make the tough decisions, work efficiently and really take a hard-core approach to being a steward of taxpayers' money."

Johnson admits that her job can be a grind, with political overtones a particularly thorny additional burden.

"I've had people file false accusations against me, and I've had an elected official walk in and tell me, 'People don't want you here; you need to learn to play the game,'" Johnson says. "I told that person that neither he nor any person put me where I am, that God put me here for a reason. No matter what's happened in my life, I've never left the presence of God.

"God gave me the strength to take care of my dad when he was dying of cancer; I've been through a divorce that was directly related to this job, and I stayed weeks at a time with my mother when she was going through lung cancer. That's where my strength comes from. And until God decides this is not where I need to be, I'll continue to work on my clients' behalf."
New bankruptcy judge's investiture Monday

By Jan Skutch

An Augusta attorney, recently appointed the newest U.S. bankruptcy judge for the 43-county Southern District of Georgia, will have his investiture ceremony on Monday at the federal courthouse in Savannah.

Edward J. Coleman III, 56, was sworn June 27 on appointment by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to succeed Judge Lamar W. Davis Jr.

Davis took recall status in July 2012 and remains on the bench.

The investiture, to be presided over by U.S. District Chief Judge Lisa Godbey Wood and the district's sitting judges, is largely a formal ceremony to welcome a new judge to the district. Joel Dubina, chief judge for the 11th Circuit, will administer the oath of office to Coleman.

Coleman's wife of 31 years, Catherine Toole Coleman, and daughter, 23-year-old Emma Leigh Coleman, will present him with his judicial robe.

He will be headquartered in Savannah and, along with Davis, will be responsible for cases filed in Savannah, Dublin and Statesboro divisions. Coleman and his family will move to Savannah.

"It's an opportunity to serve not only the profession but also the court," Coleman said Friday. "It's like a second career for me."

Coleman has practiced law for 31 years since earning his law degree from the University of Georgia law school in 1982. Reared in Atlanta, he received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Emory University in 1979.

His Augusta-based practice included bankruptcy law, domestic relations and criminal defense work. Coleman's bankruptcy practice centered primarily on his duties as a Chapter 7 panel trustee where he served from 1994 until taking the bench.

A former law partner, James Walker Jr., has been a bankruptcy judge in the Middle District of Georgia since 1993.

Coleman was president of the Augusta Bar Association from January until he took the bench last month and has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia's board of governors since 2011.
Domestic partner benefits advocates ask if law or commitment holds UGA back

By LEE SHEARER updated Sunday, July 21, 2013 - 10:07pm

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby recently said Georgia's public colleges and universities can’t use state funds to pay for domestic partner benefits under current law and policy.

Huckaby suggested the University of Georgia Foundation might be an avenue for funding such benefits. But the foundation's executive committee last month said that employee benefits are not part of its mission. And though the foundation is a private, nonprofit corporation, it is too intertwined with the state to help to bring such benefits as health and life insurance to unmarried partners at UGA, they said.

With the foundation's and chancellor's statements, UGA administrators have gone as far as they can on that issue, university President Jere Morehead said in a recent radio interview.

But proponents of domestic partner benefits aren't giving up.

"We're working on a strategy," said Deirdre Kane, chair of UGA GLOBES, which advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities on campus. "We certainly were disappointed with the responses from Dr. Morehead and the foundation. But we don't think it's a dead end. It's not the end of the road."

Kane has met with people from other state universities, aiming to build a broader coalition, she said.

But first, they'd like a better explanation than those offered by Huckaby and Morehead about why UGA can't do it, said Kane and Janet Frick, the outgoing chair of the human resources committee on the UGA University Council.

Morehead and Huckaby said state law and policy prohibit the university from offering the benefits.

"I would like a more detailed explanation," Frick said. "That's the exact state law that would..."
Domestic partner benefits advocates ask if law or commitment holds...

Georgia law is very clear that the state won’t recognize same-sex marriage, but that’s not the question, she said.

“Health insurance is not a benefit of marriage, but of employment,” she said.

Jeff Graham, chairman of Atlanta-based Georgia Equality, is skeptical that state law really forbids domestic partner benefits. Like GLOBES, Georgia Equality advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied communities in the state.

“I am not aware of any legal prohibition,” Graham said.

Several Georgia cities have adopted domestic partner benefits, he said.

What’s missing is not legal authority, but the will to do it, said Ricky Roberts, a former GLOBES chair.

“I feel that if there’s a commitment here, it will get done,” she said.

Independent of GLOBES, Roberts last year began circulating an online petition in favor of domestic partner benefits at UGA. So far, nearly 3,000 people have signed.

Unmarried partners of UGA workers will be somewhat better off this year. Before former UGA President Michael Adams left office earlier this year, he approved so-called soft benefits for unmarried partners of UGA employees, things like dental insurance that are paid for by participants.

The benefits are available to those in both same-sex and opposite-sex relationships. In most settings, more unmarried opposite-sex couples are helped by domestic partner benefits than same-sex couples.

Last fall, the University Council overwhelmingly endorsed domestic partner benefits. Most people in the university community favor domestic partner benefits, and many students and younger workers are even embarrassed that they don’t exist at UGA, Frick said.

It’s simply unfair to prohibit partners from getting such fundamental benefits as health insurance, Frick believes.

The university’s stance also is putting UGA into a shrinking minority, making it tougher for UGA to compete for academic talent, she said.

“Frankly, the competition issue is getting harder,” Frick said.

“UGA is just far behind,” Roberts said.

A large majority of the universities to which UGA compares itself already have domestic partner benefits, she said. Among a group of 13 so-called aspirational universities, elite public universities Georgia would one day like to be compared to, only two, both in southern states, don’t already offer health benefits for domestic partners, Frick said.
Domestic partner benefits advocates ask if law or commitment holds...

http://onlineathens.com/uga/2013-07-21/domestic-partner-benefits-a...

Like Georgia, Florida doesn’t recognize same-sex marriage. But with news last week that Florida Atlantic University intends to offer full domestic partner benefits, all but two of the Sunshine State’s public universities now offer domestic partner benefits, she said.

“I am hopeful we can have a conversation that will include more people,” Frick said. “The big question to me is do we have an institutional commitment on this?

“This is a fixable problem we have been trying to get fixed for well over 10 years. We’d like to see some creative thinking.”

• Follow education reporter Lee Shearer at www.facebook.com/LeeShearerABH or https://twitter.com/LeeShearer.

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Tifton Gazette

July 22, 2013

Harry Mixon

CNHI

OCILLA — OCILLA — Harry Mixon, 84, of Ocilla, died Saturday, July 20, 2013, at his residence under the care of Hospice of Tift Area. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. today at Ocilla Baptist Church with the Rev. Rob Dowdle, and the Rev. David Barton officiating. His grandson, Dr. Brian DeLoach, will give the eulogy. Interment will follow at Brushy Creek Cemetery.

Mr. Mixon was born November 11, 1928, in Ocilla, to the late Warren and Martha Van Sutton Mixon. A 1946 graduate of Ocilla High School, he attended ABAC and South Georgia College. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Georgia as well as his juris doctorate from UGA Law School in 1959. Returning to his home, Mr. Mixon practiced law in Irwin County for almost 55 years, serving alongside his father, Warren, and later serving with his son, Warren. His wife, Lila, was also a fixture in the office of Mixon and Mixon. Mr. Mixon served eight years in the Georgia General Assembly and was very instrumental, along with his Ben Hill County counterpart Brad Dorminy, in locating the technical school currently known as Wiregrass Georgia Technical College in the community. A lifelong member of Ocilla Baptist Church, he was a former deacon and 50-plus year teacher of the Steadfast Seekers Sunday School class.

Mr. Mixon had a passion for Irwin County, its history and families, and was well known for telling stories of trials and happenings throughout the years. He was very involved in the community as a member of Ocilla Lodge No. 134, F&AM, a 50-plus year member of Hasan Shrine in Albany, and a member, past-president, and Paul Harris Fellow in the Ocilla Rotary Club. Mr. Mixon was a member of the Georgia Bar Association, the Tifton Bar association, and city attorney for Ocilla. In 2009, the Ocilla-Irwin County Chamber of Commerce bestowed upon him its highest award, the Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a former director of First State Bank and served on the advisory board of Planters First. Mr. Mixon loved reading, particularly his Bible and he enjoyed the beauty of nature and spending time at the farm, along with a deep love for his wife, children, grandchildren and extended family. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Harry Russell "Russ" Mixon; and three sisters, Coleen Mathis, Warrena Matthews and Virginia Claire Hurt.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lila Lee Mixon of Ocilla; daughter, Sharon and Lee DeLoach of Statesboro; son, Warren and Lisa Mixon of Ocilla; five grandchildren, Brook and Trey Drawdy, Brian and Holly DeLoach, Rob Mixon and his fiancé Brandy Harper, Ben and Therese Mixon, and Lea and Todd Pate; 10 great-grandchildren, Lee Drawdy, Lily Drawdy, Mixon DeLoach, Hayden Mixon, Destin Mixon, Dawson Mixon, Tate Melton, Fisher Mixon, Sailor Mixon and Fain Pate; as well as one niece and several nephews. The family suggests those desiring to send memorials in lieu of flowers may send them to Ocilla Baptist Church, P.O. Box 101, Ocilla, GA 31774, to the Brushy Creek Cemetery Fund, c/o Sherry Schalch, 537 Brushy Creek Road, Ocilla, GA 31774, or to Hospice of Tift Area, P.O. Box 747, Tifton, GA 31793.
By Ty Tagami The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 23—The hearings have ended in the case of the DeKalb County school board shake-up, and if the testimony was truthful, then at least some of the suspended members did nothing improper.

Witness after witness took the stand in proceedings that ended last week, asserting that one board member or another followed the rules and behaved professionally. The implication was that allegations brought by an accreditation agency were groundless.

That agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, judged that the school board was guilty of poor governance. It also alleged misdeeds by unnamed board members, but offered little to defend those assertions during the hearings, which started in June. SACS' opinions informed Gov. Nathan Deal's decision to suspend six board members in February and appoint replacements in March.

Now, parents and voters in DeKalb await a judge's recommendation and, ultimately, a decision by Deal on whether to reinstate suspended members or permanently remove them. Lurking in the background is a Georgia Supreme Court case that challenges the legality of the process and could restore the members to the seats they were elected to hold.

DeKalb's accreditation has been under threat since December, when SACS placed Georgia's third-largest school district on probation, alleging financial mismanagement, nepotism and meddling by the school board. Accreditation affects college and scholarship prospects, not to mention real estate values. So 98,000 schoolchildren and hundreds of thousands of DeKalb residents have a stake in the outcome.

In the reinstatement hearings, SACS was hampered by its own policy that guarantees anonymity for informers. The names of neither the accusers nor the accused appear in the pages of the damning report SACS released with its probation decision. Because of the anonymity, it is unclear what most individual board members are accused of doing.

Ken Bergman, the head lawyer for SACS parent company AdvancED, said on the witness stand last week that the interviews by him and the rest of the team that visited in October were never intended to produce evidence against individuals for use in such hearings.

"This is not an investigative act," he said. "This is a collegial act to determine the accreditation status of a school or school system." The team's role, he said, was "not to go ahead and make a determination as to whether or not the individual board members are responsible."

Of the six who were suspended, all but Nancy Jester petitioned Deal to reconsider. Jester is off the board now, but the remaining five — Pam Speaks, Sarah Copelin-Wood, Eugene Walker, Jesse "Jay" Cunningham and Donna Edler — will continue drawing their $18,000 salaries unless Deal rejects their requests. They each argued before a Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings judge that their individual culpability or innocence was crucial in determining their fitness for reinstatement.

And that, they said, was impossible to prove without an opportunity to examine whatever specific evidence SACS may have.

Consider this exchange in last week's hearing for Edler.

Her lawyer, E. Brian Watkins, grilled Bergman, demanding to know what Edler had done wrong.

Bergman's response: She served on a board that was deeply flawed and unworthy of full accreditation.

Watkins: And what could she have done to distinguish herself from that board beyond casting a minority vote, which she often did?

Bergman: She could have publicly censured the board for any wrongdoing she knew about.

Watkins: How do you know she didn't try?

"How," Bergman said, "would I have evidence of something she didn't do?"

Bergman had been sequestered earlier, when Edler had described in sworn testimony how she once tried to bring a censure action but was stymied by policy and the chairman. She said no one from SACS asked her about it, and Bergman could not refute that since his agency didn't keep the interview notes. (He said SACS couldn't afford the storage costs.)
Viola Davis, a longtime government watchdog, testified that she and other volunteers started a recall campaign soon after SACS placed the district on probation. They hit the streets with a petition, but for every signature they got they encountered eight to 10 people who wanted immediate action.

"A majority of the people wanted the governor to remove the board," she said.

The law requires the judge's recommendation to the governor -- and the governor's ultimate decision -- to answer a seemingly simple question: Would each board member's reinstatement be "more likely than not" to improve the school system's ability to regain full accreditation?

Evidence of past good or bad behavior may be relevant, but the opinion of the people who control the accreditation decision probably counts more. And both Bergman and AdvancED leader Mark Elgart told Judge Maxwell Wood that DeKalb's best chances for full accreditation are with the replacement board members handpicked by Deal.

But maybe the pending decisions by Judge Wood and the governor won't matter.

Walker has challenged the constitutionality of the law that authorizes Deal to remove the board, and the Georgia Supreme Court will render a decision by the fall.

Legal expert Ronald Carlson said his reading of the case suggests that the main legal question is not one of due process and evidence. It is whether the state constitution allows the General Assembly to make an accreditation agency's opinion the grounds for undoing the will of the voters.

Whether the state must prove individual wrongdoing seems a "side point," the University of Georgia law professor said. But he said it's difficult to anticipate where the court will focus. "As we learned from the U.S. Supreme Court case over Obamacare," he said, "sometimes the side argument carries the day."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Judge Maxwell Wood is expected to issue a recommendation to Gov. Nathan Deal within 30 days of the hearings, which ended last week. Deal will then decide whether he wants to reinstate some or all of the five suspended board members who petitioned him. If he reinstates any board member, the appointee to that post will be removed.

By fall, the Georgia Supreme Court must decide constitutional questions about the law authorizing the governor to remove board members over accreditation concerns. A decision in favor of former board chairman Eugene Walker could restore him and his five former colleagues to the board.

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Longtime chief Assistant District Attorney wins state award

by Kim Jarrett, Staff Writer

A Rome native and veteran of the Floyd County district attorney's office was honored as the Assistant District Attorney of the Year for Georgia offices with one to 10 district attorneys.

Martha Jacobs has served as a chief assistant district attorney since Leigh Patterson took office in 2003. She joined the office on Jan. 1, 1997, after serving as a law clerk for former Superior Court Judge Larry Salmon.

The award was announced at the summer conference of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, which is taking place in Jekyll Island.

The award is given by the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia. Patterson is president of the organization but did not serve on the committee that chose the winner.

"I'm just so proud of her," Patterson said. "She is just one of the kindest and caring people I know. She fights for our victims in such a way it makes me proud that I know her."

Jacobs is a graduate of Pepperell High School. She received her undergraduate and law degree at the University of Georgia. She is married to Joey Jacobs and has two children, Will and Katie, who attend Armuchee High School.

"I am pleased and honored to be recognized for my service as a prosecutor for the state of Georgia," Jacobs said on Sunday afternoon. "I am so thankful to be blessed with my family, my friends and my co-workers who have all been a part of my success I have achieved in my career. The award belongs to them as well."

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Lawyers: Why You Should Consider Public Defender Jobs

by marc on July 22, 2013

Public Defender Jobs

Many law students dismiss public defender jobs because of the low pay, long hours and difficult clients. Even if you feel this way, watch our interview with Travis Williams, as you’ll come away inspired. Travis is one of the public defenders featured in the HBO documentary *Gideon’s Army* (airing July 2013). His passion for his public defender career is evident on camera. Instead of including our usual short version here (it’s on YouTube under public defender jobs), we’re sharing with you a short video produced for the *New York Times* by *Gideon’s* filmmaker Dawn Porter (featuring music by my old friend and first music management client, Paul Brill). Travis doesn’t deny that his job is hard, but he is a “True Believer in Justice.” If you’re wondering what to do with a law degree, check out this interview.

TRUE BELIEVERS IN JUSTICE (from the *New York Times*)
(Short Version is here; Full Episode below)

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Public Defender Travis Williams
Title: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Hall County, Georgia
City: Gainesville, GA
Law School: University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, GA
College: Florida A&M in Tallahassee, FL
Other: Travis is featured in the award-winning documentary *Gideon’s Army*, airing on HBO throughout July 2013.
Public Defender Career

In the “True Believer in Justice” video above, you see Travis getting a tattoo of his client’s name after losing a case. This is just one part of his public defender career that we talk about in the full interview. We also talk about defending “bad people,” how to find public defender jobs, and dealing with low pay and law school loans. Because this interview on what to do with a law degree is so strong, I decided to let it go long—but to help you digest it all, I broke it down into chapters. Just hover your mouse over the triangles on the timeline if you feel the urge to jump around.

FULL EPISODE

Chapters

1. Intro + What Does a Public Defender Do – part 1
2. The Emotions & Stress of the Job
3. What Does a Public Defender Do – part 2
4. Typical Day
5. Comparison to TV & Movies
7. Travis’ Tattoos of Client Names
8. Clients of Public Defenders
9. What’s it like for a Newbie?
10. Who Best Fits This Path?
11. Pay for Public Defenders
12. Breaking in
13. Keys to Success
14. How Travis became a Public Defender
15. Most Rewarding Aspect of Public Defender Jobs

Join JD Careers Out There for more full-length career path interviews, transcripts and short professional development videos.

Are you interested in becoming a public defender? Let us know why or why not in the Comments section below.

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Top 10 in 10 honorees build solid careers [The Augusta Chronicle, Ga.]

July 26—The newest group of noteworthy young professionals in Augusta was recently recognized. Here's a look at where some past recipients of the Augusta Metro Chamber's Top 10 in 10 Young Professionals to Watch honors have landed.

The program, started by the chamber in 2009, highlights young professionals between the ages of 25 and 35 who are nominated by local business leaders. Each class is featured in Augusta Magazine, honored at a chamber luncheon and can compete in Georgia Trend's 40 under 40 competition.

To date, 50 young professionals in metro Augusta have been honored, and four recipients have won the 40 under 40 award. Those winners are Serotta, Maddocks Evans & Co. CPA's senior accountant Summer Finley Bell; Fort Gordon architect and project manager JaMia Jennings; Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art executive director Rebekah Henry; and Symphony Orchestra Augusta director Shizuo Z. Kuwahara.

Rhonda Oellerich Banks (2009)

As part of the inaugural group of young professionals given Top 10 in 10 recognition, Rhonda Oellerich Banks said she was honored to have been chosen.

At the time, Banks was working as the broker-in-charge for Keystone Home Realty.

"For me, it was just kind of a cool thing to be part of the first group," said Banks, now 35.

In 2011, and after a decade of working in the real estate business, Banks decided to switch careers and took on the role of directing alumni affairs at Georgia Regents University.

Banks graduated from Augusta State University, now Georgia Regents, in 2000 and was active in the alumni program.

As the director, she handles all alumni programming, manages the school's alumni magazine and leads funding efforts.

Banks said being part of the Top 10 in 10 list gave her visibility in the business world.

When the article on the young professionals ran in Augusta Magazine, Banks said, she got a call from an alumni representative at Georgia Southern University, where she received her master's degree in business administration, with an invitation to a reception featuring the college's business school dean.

"She called me the day it hit the stands," said Banks, a 1996 Evans High School graduate. "It did connect me with someone I probably wouldn't have connected with otherwise."

Dave Dunaway (2010)

Since his recognition as a Top 10 in 10 recipient, attorney Dave Dunaway has moved up at his law firm of Hull Barrett Attorneys.

"I've had the good fortune of being named partner at my law firm," said Dunaway, who is 35.
A 1996 graduate of Thomson High School, Dunaway joined Hull Barrett as an associate shortly after graduating from the University of Georgia's law school in 2003 and is approaching his 10-year anniversary with the company.

Dunaway deals mostly with real estate and construction litigation, insurance defense and government litigation.

Last March, Dunaway was selected to serve as the McDuffie County attorney. He also is involved with the Augusta Bar Association, serving as treasurer, in addition to several civic associations such as the Augusta Sports Council and Easter Seals of East Georgia.

Receiving the Top 10 in 10 designation is an honor Dunaway continues to cherish, he said.

Dunaway said he enjoys reading about the newest group of young professionals and their contributions to the community.

"Every year, I'm honored to see the recipients, just knowing their hard work," he said.

Kyle Masters (2011)

An opportunity presented itself last spring for construction project manager Kyle Masters that he couldn't pass up.

The 27-year-old was given a chance to move with his wife to New York City and work for real estate development and construction company Fields Development Group.

"I didn't move out of Augusta because I didn't want to be there," said Masters, who spent five years as assistant project manager at JE Dunn Construction Co. "It was just a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come live in New York.

The Hoboken, N.J.-based company specializes in mid-rise residential and mixed-use projects in the New York City area. It also has developed several condominium buildings in Jersey City and surrounding areas.

Masters, a native of Fort Mill, S.C., was involved in several local projects before making the move up North. He helped facilitate construction of the Augusta Convention Center parking deck and a MRI replacement wing at Georgia Regents Medical Center. He also worked on a steam-pipe replacement project on the GRU campus.

Masters said the Top 10 in 10 award assisted him personally and professionally by connecting him with community members.

"In the short period of time we were there, it changed a lot," said Masters, a Clemson University graduate. "It seemed like it changed a lot for the better. Being on that list let me meet some of the people that were really influential in driving that change."

Robbie Bennett (2012)

Robbie Bennett has seen an upward shift in his work responsibilities within the past four months.

In March, Bennett became the Columbia County Development Authority's new director after spending 3 1/2 years as the project manager at the Augusta-Richmond County agency.

"It's definitely an increase in responsibility," said the 34-year-old.

In his newest role, Bennett's duties include attracting new companies to Columbia County in addition to fostering relationships with existing ones. At the Augusta Economic Development Authority, he worked with Starbucks, Rural Sourcing, Rockwood Pigments and other manufacturing industries.

Bennett graduated from Silver Bluff High School in 1997 and earned a master's degree in
public administration at the University of South Carolina.

Bennett said he felt his inclusion in the Top 10 in 10 list put his name out in the community and united with him with other business people.

"It's very good to get to know other young professionals in roles similar to yours," he said.
State Applies for Appeal in Hill Execution

By Claire Simms
Updated: 3 days ago

ATLANTA — The Georgia Attorney General’s Office filed an application for appeal late Friday with the state Supreme Court in the case of Warren Lee Hill.

A Fulton County Superior Court judge granted Hill a stay of execution last week. Hill’s attorneys filed a motion for injunction with the Superior Court claiming a new state law could violate Hill’s Eighth Amendment right against cruel and unusual punishment.

The law allows the state to keep confidential the names of people and compounding pharmacies providing the lethal injection drug to Georgia.

Hill’s team argued the safety of a compounded drug cannot be guaranteed without that information. The state countered by saying that the lethal dosage of the drug is so high that Hill would pass away before any possible contaminants could cause harm.

University of Georgia Law School Professor Emeritus Donald Wilkes Jr. said this case has delayed Hill’s execution, but will not stop it.

"Under the claim he’s raised now, his execution can be prevented but only until such time as it’s determined that the drug they’re using is satisfactory or until such time, if it’s not, when a satisfactory drug can be prepared," explained Wilkes.

Hill’s council has 10 days to respond to the state’s application for appeal. The Supreme Court must decide within 30 days whether to allow the appeal.

Hill has been on death row since 1991 when he was convicted of murdering his cellmate.

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Tags: appeal | death penalty | Georgia | lethal injection | Supreme Court | Warren Lee Hill
Athens police cracking down on bogus 911 calls

By JOE JOHNSON  updated Sunday, July 28, 2013 - 10:18pm

Athens-Clerke police are cracking down on those who make bogus 911 calls.

They might have dismissed them in the past, but the calls have become too disruptive for dispatchers, who must deal with actual emergencies. The bogus calls also can send officers on wild goose chases.

"A lot of times people don’t think of the 911 dispatchers on the other side of those calls,” said Sgt. Christopher Nichols, who investigates bogus or harassing 911 calls for Athens-Clarke police. “These are people who are wasting the time and effort of dispatchers who have to deal with real emergencies."

On July 12, Nichols obtained a Superior Court judge’s order for a telephone company to release all records for a phone number that was used to make a prank call earlier in the month.

On July 5, "The caller gave an address in Athens-Clarke County and said 'thank you' and then disconnected the call without giving further information,” Nichols said in an affidavit in support of a search warrant for the phone records.

“(Officers) responded to the residence and determined there was no need for police services and the residents had not made the 911 call,” the officer stated in his affidavit.

While checking out the bogus call, the officers could have better used their time investigating or deterring actual crime.

Police send officers to each location where a 911 call originated, even if the caller says the call was made by mistake. That’s because police need to verify that there is no emergency, according to Nichols.

In family violence cases, for example, one party might call 911 only to have the phone snatched away by their partner who tells the dispatcher that the call was made in error, according to police.

That’s why it is standard practice for police to send two officers to investigate 911 hang-ups.
We don’t believe that’s the case here, but we need to find out the reason for that call,” he said. “If this is a case of someone abusing 911, they will be prosecuted.”

Athens-Clarke Police Communications Director Keith Kelley on Friday said dispatchers last year fielded more than 135,000 emergency 911 calls.

Some people misuse 911 by asking dispatchers about the weather, football game starting times and seeking other information, he said.

But police are aggressively tracking down callers who intentionally bother dispatchers or falsely report crimes.

Nichols is approaching his current investigation the same way he did when he was a detective with the robbery-homicide unit.

In obtaining a judge’s order for AT&T to produce phone records, he wrote in his affidavit, the records “will assist in the investigation by determining subscriber information and/or call patterns that will lead to the identity of the person making the 911 call” on July 5.

The last time Nichols made an arrest in connection with a 911 call was in 2011, when he charged a man with unlawful conduct during a 911 call. The man “did use vulgar, obscene or profane language with the intent to harass” the dispatcher, according to the arrest warrant.

The man died last year while his case was pending in court.

Another man last year was charged with multiple counts of unlawful conduct after he called different 911 dispatchers to harass them, complained about their service and “ranting about plum trees,” according to an accusation filed in Athens-Clarke County State Court.

A judge in March sentenced handed him a sentence of three years, with the first 11 months to be served in jail.

Probing bogus 911 calls is a continuation of a crackdown on people who waste police resources that began in 2010, when police saw an increase in the number of people filing false reports of crime.

Athens-Clarke police Maj. Clarence Holeman said at the time that detectives would begin aggressively pursuing people who waste time, money and manpower because false reports had become “epidemic.”

People invent crimes for lots of reasons, like pretending they were the innocent victim of a robbery when their money was snatched during a drug
deal. A University of Georgia law student reported she had been beaten, kicked and robbed as she walked home from her job after midnight, and after spending a month on the case, a detective learned she intentionally injured herself in a bid to win the sympathy of a husband who wanted a divorce.

When people falsely report so-called person crimes — rape, child abuse, assault, armed robbery and other violent offenses — they impact the entire police department, from patrol officers who take initial reports, secure crime scenes and look for witnesses and suspects, to members of the forensics unit, who find and collect physical evidence.

Investigators then might spend days and even months lining up interviews, pursuing leads and analyzing evidence only to learn that they've been duped.

"If we investigate a case and find it’s false, we will pursue it until we have enough to arrest someone," Holeman said, "because they are tying up a lot of people’s time, wasting a lot of money and equipment when we can be focusing on real crime."

• Follow criminal justice reporter Joe Johnson at www.facebook.com/JoeJohnsonABH or www.twitter.com/JoeJohnsonABH.
UGA Alumni Association announces 40 Under 40 Class of 2013

July 29, 2013

Print

Writer: Elizabeth Elmore
Contact: Julie M Cheney

Athens, Ga. - The University of Georgia Alumni Association has announced the 40 Under 40 Class of 2013. The group of young alumni will be celebrated at an awards luncheon Sept. 19 at the Georgia Aquarium.

Selected from a nominee pool of approximately 500 graduates, the program recognizes 40 outstanding UGA alumni under age 40.

Criteria for the 40 Under 40 program include the graduates' commitment to a lifelong relationship with UGA and their impact in business, leadership, community, artistic, research, educational and/or philanthropic endeavors.

Nominations were accepted from February through April. Several university administrators comprised the selection committee that reviewed each nominee.

"The 40 Under 40 program is important because it helps foster lifelong relationships between recent graduates and celebrates alumni who, at a young age, have found great success in their personal and professional endeavors," said Deborah Dietzler, executive director of alumni relations. "We are excited to share these outstanding individuals with the world."

This year's 40 Under 40 Class honorees, their graduation year, city, title and organization are:

- Kevin Abernethy, 1999, Atlanta, partner, Hall Booth Smith P.C.
- Laurie Barron, 1996, Newnan, principal, Coweta County School System
- Andy Barrs, 2002, Athens, managing partner, Principle Centered Investments
- Kimberly Black, 2001, New Orleans, transplant social worker, Ochsner Health System's Multi-Organ Transplant Institute
- Rodney Bullard, 2012, Liburn, executive director, Chick-fil-A Foundation
- Travis Canova, 2005, Columbus, special agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Jason Carter, 2004, Atlanta, attorney, Bondurant Mixson & Elmore LLP; State Senator 42nd district
- Charnetta Colton, 1999, Sandy Springs, pediatrician, Children's Healthcare Center of Sandy Springs
- Jinali Desai, 2007, Marietta, market health and wellness director, Wal-mart
- Angela Dotson, 1998 and 1999, Atlanta, partner, Habif, Arogeti and Wynne LLP
- Thomas Forsberg, 2000, 2010, Columbus, first vice president, SunTrust Bank
- Lindsey Groepper, 2001, Indianapolis, president, BLASTmedia
- Erin Hames, 2002, Atlanta, deputy chief of staff, Governor Nathan Deal
UGA Alumni Association announces 40 Under 40 Class of 2013

- Nathan Hardeman, 2005, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, executive director, Engadi Ministries International
- Brendan K. Hatcher, 1997, Falls Church, Va., diplomat, State Department
- Tosha Hays, 2007, Atlanta, director of product design, Spanx Inc.
- Ron Holt, 1997, Mountain Brook, Ala., CEO and founder, Two Maids & A Mop
- Jon Howell, 1999, Jefferson, president and CEO, Georgia Health Care Association
- Ashley Jones, 2001, Washington, D.C., chief of staff, Congressman John Barrow
- Jennifer Jordan, 2001, Atlanta, attorney, Bird Law Group
- Shunta Jordan, 1998 and 2003, Union City, teacher and debate coach, Pace Academy
- Timothy Murphy, 1996, Norcross, senior vice president, finance, RockTenn
- Kim Nogi, 2009, Atlanta, publicist, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- Robyn Painter, 1998, Decatur, staff attorney, Georgia Resource Center
- Emily Hanson Scofield, 1999 Charlotte, N.C., executive director, U.S. Green Building Council, North Carolina Chapter
- Kevin Scott, 2011, Kennesaw, co-founder, ADDO Institute
- Logan Smalley, 2006, New York, director of TED education, TED Conferences
- Irving Steel, 2008, Shanghai, China, founder/CEO, Original Life
- Mark Anthony Thomas, 2001, Cambridge, Mass., director and publisher, City Limits
- Raegan Tuff, 2009, Atlanta, senior public health analyst, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Albert Glover Way, 2008, Atlanta, assistant professor of history, Kennesaw State University
- Padgett "Pat" Wilson, 1996, Atlanta, chief operating officer, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Allen Yee, 99 and 2003, Atlanta, counsel, the Coca-Cola Company

For more information about the 40 Under 40 program and/or to view previous 40 Under 40 classes, see http://www.alumni.uga.edu/40u40.
UGA Today

UGA professor, chief magistrate judge to speak at BFSO’s Founders Award Scholarship Luncheon

July 30, 2013
Print

Writer: Matt Chambers
Contact: Mark Dawkins

Athens, Ga. - Patricia Barron, chief magistrate judge for Athens-Clarke County and a University of Georgia faculty member, will deliver the keynote address at UGA’s Black Faculty and Staff Organization’s 11th Annual Founders Award Scholarship Luncheon Sept. 16.

To be held from noon until 1:30 p.m. in Mahler Hall at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, the luncheon will be followed by an opportunity for attendees to network.

Tickets are available for purchase until Sept. 12. Prices are $30 per ticket or $240 for a table of eight. Proceeds from the luncheon directly benefit BFSO’s scholarship program, which awards a $750 scholarship to a current undergraduate, graduate and professional student at UGA.

"A lot of students who come to great universities, such as the University of Georgia, are very smart, but sometimes things aren’t there financially as much as they could be, and this scholarship provides some help," said Cedric Miller, president of BFSO. "So everything from this luncheon is going to a great cause."

Barron has served as chief magistrate judge since 2002. She has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since 1979 and has called Athens home for 24 years. She is the former president of the Western Circuit Bar Association in Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties. She most recently served as chairman of the board of directors of Athens Technical College and currently serves as treasurer of the board of directors of the Athens Tutorial Program Inc.

During the past 17 years, Barron has worked as an adjunct professor in the UGA School of Law, teaching a course to help students develop skills in interviewing, counseling and negotiations. Barron also has written a children’s book, Meet Judge Patricia Barron, to encourage children to pursue the field of law.

"Judge Barron is a faculty member of the University of Georgia, and she has done some phenomenal things," Miller said. "This is going to be a fantastic luncheon, one of the best yet."

Contact Mark Dawkins at m Dawkins@uga.edu or 404-542-9330 to purchase tickets or tables for the luncheon.

Filed under: University News, Diversity, Institutional Initiatives
ON THE MOVE: Swift Currie Adds Two; UGA Appoints Adjunct Law Professor

Meredith Hobbs
Daily Report
2013-07-31 00:00:07.0

Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers has added Roger Harris as a partner and Shannon Hinson as an associate from Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney to lead the firm’s medical malpractice team. The two litigators also handle legal malpractice, trucking cases and general liability and insurance defense.

Samantha Lemery has joined Carlton Fields as an associate from Fields, Howell, Athans & McLaughlin. Lemery practices in the firm’s national insurance group, which represents insurers and reinsurers in multiple lines of business, including property, casualty, directors and officers and other professional liability.

Ian Heap retired in July from the Chatham County District Attorney’s Office in Savannah. He spent most of his 19-year career there prosecuting cases for the Chatham County Counter Narcotics Team, a multiagency law enforcement organization, according to an announcement from the Chatham DA’s office. Heap has also worked as a prosecutor in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit in North Georgia. His wife, Meg Heap, was elected Chatham County DA last year. “Although Ian has no firm future plans, he has faith that the Lord will work all things together for His good,” the announcement said.

Susan Richardson, a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, has been named chair-elect of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership’s board of directors. The group aims to build and support a network of leaders who understand Georgia’s environmental challenges and seek to resolve them. Richardson practices environmental law.

Thompson Hine partner John Watkins has been appointed an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. Watkins, whose practice focuses on insurance coverage disputes and other complex business litigation, will teach a course on insurance law this fall, while continuing his practice. An alumnus of UGA’s law school, he graduated first in his class in 1982 and was a member of the Georgia Law Review.

"It is truly gratifying to be able to return to my alma mater and contribute to the curriculum at the School of Law," Watkins said in a statement from the firm. "Insurance issues permeate many aspects of the law, and the study of insurance law encompasses both academic and intensely practical issues. I hope my experience in this area will be of value to the students."

Watkins has recently represented a battery-recycling company over business interruption and environmental claims from a catastrophic property loss, directors of a failed financial institution over insurance coverage under a directors-and-officers policy, a developer over construction defect claims for a multifamily project and an engineering firm over coverage for claims arising from the design of an industrial project.