U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stevens: History seen through the eyes of the beholder

Historical truths can be colored by human fallacy, making them a tenuous guide for lawyers and judges, according to retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

Stevens, the third-longest serving Supreme Court justice, spoke to a near-capacity crowd at the UGA Chapel about originalism and history as the keynote speaker at the Georgia Law Review’s conference titled “The Press and the Constitution 50 Years after New York Times v. Sullivan.” He shared his concerns about a philosophy that attempts to determine the intent of what the framers of a law or provision meant when a text was adopted.

“History is, at best, an inexact field of study, particularly when employed by judges,” he said.

Giving a truly Southern example of historical recollection versus reality, the nonagenarian jurist described a trip he took with his family from Chicago to Florida in 1939. The Stevens family stopped in Atlanta, he said, and went to the theater to see the recently-released film “Gone with the Wind.”

Stevens said he has a “vivid but apparently somewhat inaccurate memory” of a nonexistent scene in the film showing the devastation of Atlanta at the hands of Union General William T. Sherman that caused such an emotional response in the Georgia crowd it left the then-college student “afraid even to whisper a comment lest [his] accent reveal the fact that Yankees were in the audience.”

His reminiscence shows that the flaws in his recollection “demonstrate that even eyewitness testimony about historic events may be inaccurate,” Stevens said.

The discrepancy in historical views is evident in other areas as well, he explained, citing the presidential election of 1876. In William Rehnquist’s book about the election, the Supreme Court justice noted Southern Democrats kept Republican voters away from election-day polls with intimidation and threats of violence. However, Southern historian C. Vann Woodward did not mention those problems in his own writings about the election.

Stevens also noted there are other moments in history with “gaps in our knowledge about the real decision-making process” and described the historical records of New York City and Kansas City when Tammany Hall and the Pendergast Machine were in control as “undoubtedly incomplete.”

“When areas of uncertainty apply to the work of the most distinguished and best-qualified historians, lawyers and judges who are not specially trained in that field must exercise caution whenever they are asked to apply a so-called jurisprudence of original intent to the process of interpreting the Constitution,” he told the audience.

While original intent isn’t to be discounted, the former justice cautioned it should be tempered.

“A jurisprudence of original intent, while always relevant and important, can play only a limited role in the court’s adjudication of constitutional issues,” he said.

Using Brown v. Board of Education as an example of the study of original intent, Stevens noted the framers of the 14th Amendment would not have considered school desegregation as one of their goals, despite what the justices of 1954 decided.

“A study of the original intent of the framers of the 14th Amendment will not identify an interest in desegregating public schools as one of their principle concerns,” he said. "Nevertheless, the Equal Protection Clause, a role by which the states are governed, imposes a duty to govern impartially that is broad enough to prohibit racial segregation in public schools.”

Stevens also weighed in on the Supreme Court in its current incarnation, saying he believed it has not lost its ability to effectively make decisions.

“I think it’s made a number of decisions that are incorrect, but I do think it’s still a very intelligent, functioning institution,” he said.

The day-long conference also included three panel discussions regarding courts and freedom of the press in the 50 years since New York Times v. Sullivan.
Symposium focuses on judicial ethics

The 14th Annual Legal Ethics and Professionalism Symposium, hosted this year at Georgia Law, was titled “Who Are They to Judge? – Ethical and Professional Issues Facing the Bench” and focused on the increasing ethical challenges encountered by judges in light of changes in their jobs and the legal profession more generally.

The symposium had an impressive lineup of judges, attorneys and professors on hand to discuss civility in the courtroom, judicial elections and investigations into alleged judicial misconduct.

Associate Dean and Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism Lonnie T. Brown Jr., who organized the event, said the impetus for the theme of the symposium was “the growing perception that more and more judges were behaving badly.”

Maintaining civility in the courtroom is paramount for lawyers and judges, who have an “obligation to do it right,” said David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and one of the conference’s keynote speakers.

Sentelle urged lawyers and judges to consider how they personally would like to be treated.

“When litigants, officials, criminal defendants, witnesses and victims see attorneys behaving like uncivilized barbarians in the very temple of law and order, we can hardly expect them to display better behavior than the examples the lawyers set,” he said.

Several other panelists also offered their thoughts on the behavior of members of the judiciary.

“Being a judge is like doing your life’s work in a fishbowl, everybody’s watching you from every angle,” said M. Gino Brodgon Sr., former State Court and Superior Court judge in Georgia.

He urged jurists to refrain from poor behavior, especially on social media, and shared advice he received when he was first appointed to the bench.

“Never accept anything from a lawyer except arguments, cases or advice,” he said. “Never let anyone take a picture of you with a drink in your hand or your arm around anyone who’s not your wife or your family and don’t say things to lawyers in court that you wouldn’t say to your mama.”

It isn’t just behavior in courtrooms that concerned conference participants.

Yale University’s Crawford Lecturer Lawrence J. Fox, a Pennsylvania resident, noted some of the issues he’s witnessed, including seeing judges receive money for Christmas gifts. He also acknowledged that judges have received kickbacks from private incarceration facilities and run election ads that undermine one another.

“I think the bigger problem for the judiciary is not the lack of discipline but what I call the background stuff that’s going on that isn’t discipline-related but is causing a crisis in confidence in America in this particular institution,” he told the audience.

Former Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court Marsha Ternus, who also served as a keynote speaker, focused on her experiences in a controversial judicial election.

After Ternus and her six fellow Supreme Court justices unanimously ruled to legalize gay marriage in Iowa, special interest groups spent more than $1 million to oust her and two other justices who were facing a retention election in 2010. Citing “a retaliatory element in the campaign against us,” Ternus questioned to whom judges should answer.

“These messages suggest to judges that judges should be more concerned about public opinion and their own retention than about the consistent application of legal principles,” she said.

“Ironically, one criticism that was never voiced throughout the 2010 campaign against us was that we had erroneously applied the law.”

The politicization of judicial elections can have a negative effect on how the public sees courts, too. Most voters, Ternus said, think that contributors to judicial elections have a great deal of influence on judges’ decisions.

She concluded that the trend toward politicizing America’s courts “threatens the very foundation of our system of justice.”
Examining Georgia’s public defender system

The year 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of Gideon v. Wainwright, where a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court held that due process requires that states provide defense counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases.

In honor of Gideon, the law school held a conference titled “Honoring Gideon’s Promise, Rallying Gideon’s Army.” The event focused on Georgia’s public defender system, which was created by Georgia’s Indigent Defense Act of 2003.

The struggle to give those who live in poverty adequate legal representation and ensure fairness in the criminal law system is a long and difficult road, according to panelists at the conference.

Russell C. Gabriel (J.D. ’85), the director of the law school’s Criminal Defense Clinic and organizer of the event, explained that the Gideon case is to criminal justice what Brown v. Board of Education is to segregated schools, “except that the states have taken much longer to fully appreciate the mandate of Gideon.”

Panelists included the heads of public defender offices in Savannah, Albany, DeKalb County and Athens; recent law school graduates working in public defender offices; indigent defense advocates and a documentary filmmaker. Panels covered topics including the challenges of new public defenders adjusting to practice; organizational, training and caseload issues faced by public defender offices; and the struggles facing Georgia’s public defender system as a whole.

Circuit public defenders showcased the geographic, structural and funding diversity of public defender offices across Georgia. Panelists explained that while the state funds approximately 35 percent of indigent defense representation, individual counties fund 65 percent. However, this varies widely and constituent counties in some circuits fund as much as 90 percent of indigent defense programs, but in other circuits fund as little as 10 percent.

Leisa Johnson, the circuit public defender for the Dougherty Judicial Circuit, started the public defender office there pursuant to the 2003 Indigent Defense Act. She noted a number of improvements that have resulted from the move to a dedicated public defender office, including a more aggressive pursuit of appeals. Johnson said successful appeals in and of themselves are not her goal, but effective legal representation is. She stressed the importance of defendants knowing they are receiving fair treatment. “I’m not looking for reversals,” she said. “I just want to follow the law, so we try one case at a time.”

Stephen Bright, the president and senior counsel of the Southern Center for Human Rights and a visiting professor at the law school for the last two years, discussed the need for independence of public defender programs from prosecutors and judges. He noted that while the Attorney General’s Office is the chief prosecutor for the state, it also represents the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council in litigation challenging the agency’s execution of its statutory and constitutional mandate. “How do you get the government – that’s trying to convict people and imprison them and execute them – to hire more lawyers to defeat that?” Bright asked.

Attendees also screened the award-winning 2013 HBO film “Gideon’s Army,” which followed three public defenders in the South. The documentary showed the extended hours, lack of pay and volume of work facing public defenders. One of the lawyers featured in the film is Georgia Law 2008 alumnus Travis A. Williams. The film follows Williams, an assistant public defender in Hall County, Ga., as he and a client — accused of armed robbery — navigate the legal system. Also a conference panelist, Williams said, “This is tough work. This is grueling work. You’re dealing with people that society has forgotten about.”

The producer and director of “Gideon’s Army,” Dawn Porter spoke about reactions to the film, saying it had helped some public defenders see themselves differently. Porter, herself a lawyer, said the often-negative attitude toward public defenders can affect the way public defenders feel about themselves and their jobs. “To see themselves celebrated is something new,” she said.

One of the conference’s featured speakers, Ilham Askia, explained she is not a lawyer. She is, however, the executive director and co-founder of Gideon’s Promise, a nonprofit that offers training and mentorship for new public defenders, particularly in the South. Askia spoke about her own personal experiences, including the incarceration of each of the male members of her family, her marriage to a public defender and the vision of effective, client-centered legal representation by public defenders that led to the creation of Gideon’s Promise.

“We cannot continue to let poor people be treated the way they are in this country,” she said.

Portions of this article were taken, with permission, from articles on the conference written by Katheryn Hayes Tucker for the Daily Report and by Lee Shearer for the Athens Banner-Herald.
The freedom of the Internet can expose government and business vulnerabilities, according to several experts who discussed cybersecurity at a recent Georgia Law conference.

Organized by the Dean Rusk Center for International Law and Policy, the "Cybersecurity and National Defense: Building a Public-private Partnership" conference brought together senior level government officials as well as leaders from the corporate sector and academia to discuss cybersecurity law and policy issues.

The panelists discussed the national security risks that cyber issues present to both the public and private sectors.

Quentin E. Hodgson, chief of staff for cyber policy with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, explained that from a Department of Defense perspective, the government has to be ready to defend and operate in the event of a cyber attack.

"Although we've been accused of a lot, we are certainly not trying to militarize cyberspace," he told attendees.

He also noted that the controversy surrounding former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden has caused the department to reassess how it operates.

"How do we address the very real needs the United States government has to collect intelligence — but also to consider privacy — [while considering] what impact it has when we're thinking about particular targets of intelligence?" Hodgson asked.

"That's something I think, although it didn't happen the way we wanted it to, certainly has opened up the conversation in a way I think is healthy," he said.

The collection of information is actually "sort of an understood concept," said Jamil Jaffer, a senior Senate staffer and director of George Mason University Law School's Homeland and National Security Law Program. However, the Internet has changed what countries are actually collecting, he added.

Jaffer used China as an example of a country which gathers data on the United States. However, he said, China has moved from just collecting information about the government to targeting American corporations as well.

"[China is] stealing our core intelligence property — the very thing that drives the American economy," he said.

Clete D. Johnson (J.D.'04), the chief counsel for cybersecurity for the Federal Communications Commission, addressed the unusual nature of these cybercrimes, describing the Internet as a "global commons."

He explained that the lack of borders is a major challenge when dealing with legal issues. The intangible nature of the Internet means that threats do not just come up against military forces anymore, but rather they can be thousands of miles away and still wreak havoc, he said.

"The people who are attacking us in cyberspace don't have to physically be within our borders," Johnson elaborated. This requires "a new paradigm of collaboration" between entities, he said.

Victoria Woodbine, of the Foreign and Security Policy Group at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., also explained that "the crucial bit in this is partnerships. Partnerships with industries, partnerships with governments, partnerships with academia, but also that international angle as well," she said.

Andrea Matwyshyn, assistant professor of legal studies and business ethics at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School and a senior policy adviser at the Federal Trade Commission's Office of Policy Planning, noted that these are online susceptibilities that affect governments and businesses separately and together.

"Vulnerabilities come in two flavors and impact both government agencies and entities and companies as well as, obviously, the consumer base," she said.

Adam Golodner, partner and leader of the global cybersecurity and privacy group at the law firm Kaye Scholer and former director of global security and tech policy at Cisco Systems, stressed the importance of different agencies working in tandem.

"We have an interest, as do people who care about the Internet, of having interoperable standards," he said, adding that it is important to look at existing multilateral and global institutions and how they can affect both cybersecurity and the Internet.

Working together to tie up those loose ends in cyberspace is important, said Jacob Olcott, principal at Good Harbor Security Risk Management, but not without difficulties.

"It is impossible to identify any sort of unifying theory of public/private partnerships or relationships," he said.

Olcott explained that there are a multitude of relationships the government has with the private sector — from supportive to punitive — and that "it's an evolving relationship."

He shared that the two groups work together in several ways to secure cyberspace, including direct information sharing with the private sector as well as joint criminal investigations and infrastructure assessments in addition to facilitating collaborations between business industries.
26th ANNUAL RED CLAY CONFERENCE

Conference explores meeting point of public health and environmental law

Georgia Law’s 26th Annual Red Clay Conference, titled “Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Conversations from Environmental Law and Public Health Perspectives,” addressed the intersection of public health and environmental law. University of Maryland School of Law Professor and Center for Progressive Reform President Rena Steinzor was the event’s keynote speaker.

JUDGES TALK DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH

Three judges visited Georgia Law in November to discuss diversity on the bench. State Superior Court Judge Gail Tuscan (left), Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Carla Wong McMillian (J.D. ’98) and J.S. Magistrate Judge Justin Amund served on the panel, which was sponsored by the Asian Law Student Association, the Davenport-Benham Black Law Student Association, the American Constitution Society and the Women Law Students Association.

GJICL CONFERENCE DEBATES NEW ROLES OF CORPORATIONS

This year’s Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law conference, titled “The New Roles of Corporations in Global Governance,” hosted Bennett Freeman (right), senior vice president for sustainability research and policy at Calvert Investments, as the keynote speaker. Other discussions centered on how corporations have, in recent years, begun to play a significantly larger role in international governance.

SCOTUSBLOG HEADS, JOURNALISTS VISIT UGA

Journalists and legal professionals from SCOTUSBlog, the first blog to win a Peabody Award, visited UGA to discuss covering the nation’s top court. “SCOTUSBlog: Supreme Court Coverage and Cases,” hosted by Georgia Law and the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, focused its discussions on the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term, the rise of SCOTUSBlog as a preeminent source of information about the Supreme Court and the role of digital media in Supreme Court coverage. Participants were: (l. to r.) SCOTUSBlog Editor Amy Howe, National Law Journal Supreme Court Correspondent Tony Mauro, Georgia Law Associate Professor Sonja West, SCOTUSBlog Publisher Tom Goldstein and NBC News Justice Correspondent Pete Williams.

WIPPI CONFERENCE

Ninth annual WIPI conference

The student-organized Working in the Public Interest Conference focused on several different topics in its ninth year, including the Voting Rights Act, military tactics used by law enforcement, suburban poverty, prison privatization and public assistance. Georgetown University Law Center Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic Director Abbe Smith delivered the keynote address. WIPI conferences aim to explore practical approaches to lawyering that can promote social justice and human rights for all.

FORMER GOVERNOR SPEAKS AT LAW AND POLITICS SYMPOSIUM

The Third Annual Georgia Association of Law & Politics Symposium brought together a few of Georgia’s leading legal minds and political luminaries to discuss critical issues facing our state and nation. Former Gov. Roy E. Barnes (J.D. ’72) (right) presented the keynote address, and panel discussions were held on Georgia’s glass ceiling, its new juvenile justice code and its federal judicial nomination process.
It’s important to find your own version of success, according to Home Depot executive Teresa Wynn Roseborough, who presented Georgia Law’s 32nd Edith House Lecture titled “It’s Time to Try Defying Gravity: One Woman’s Thoughts on Having it All.”

Roseborough, who serves as executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for The Home Depot, said she has “broken almost every rule in the book” on how women should achieve professional success.

“I have cried at work. I smile a lot, and I hug the people I work with,” she said. “I talk about work at home and home at work.”

Everyone has their own lives and roles outside of their work; she explained, and for lawyers, their jobs are not just a 9-to-5 commitment. Legal work is “largely executed at the behest of others” and sensitive to time.

However, “don’t accept that the way things are, are the way things have to be,” she said, encouraging women to imagine a world where more females are in leadership roles.

Roseborough encouraged women to be daredevils and “defy gravity” in their efforts to be successful on multiple fronts by visualizing the world and asking how to change it.

“How can we create a fantastic learning environment that produces more leaders?” she asked. “How can you change the things in our environment that might hold women down?”

She also noted the importance of advocating for other women and finding those who will be honest in their opinions.

“When we speak openly about the successes of others, in a weird way, we elevate ourselves,” she said. “So it’s one way we contribute to our own success by noting the success you see in others.”

While building up one another is important, honest assessments are sometimes warranted and can help change and improve a person’s focus, she added.

“Find the people around you who are willing to tell you the things you don’t want to hear,” she said, and use their honesty for the better.

Ultimately, Roseborough said, one should “pursue and achieve” her own definition of success.

“You have to decide what success means for you and in your life,” she said. “If what you achieve is success in the eyes of others, but not a success in the warmth of your heart or happiness to your soul then you really haven’t achieved anything of value.”

Roseborough previously served as deputy general counsel for MetLife, as deputy assistant attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice, and as a judicial clerk for Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court and for Judge James Dickson Phillip of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia, her master’s degree from Boston University and her law degree with high honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the North Carolina Law Review.

The Edith House Lecture is sponsored by the Women Law Students Association in honor of one of the first female graduates of Georgia Law. House, a native of Winder, Ga., was co-valedictorian of the law class of 1925, the first to graduate women.

The Sibley Lecture Series, established in 1964 by the Charles Loridans Foundation of Atlanta in tribute to the late John A. Sibley, is designed to attract outstanding legal scholars of national prominence to Georgia Law. Sibley was a 1911 graduate of the law school.

Civil rights the focus of 110th Sibley Lecture

If all the world’s a stage, then the differences between civil and constitutional rights are like the final acts of a Shakespearean comedy and tragedy, according to Haas Professor Robin S. West, the director of the Georgetown University Center for Law and Humanities.

In her role as the fall semester’s Sibley lecturer, West discussed civil rights jurisprudence, contrasting these rights, which were made into law in the historic 1964 Civil Rights Act, with constitutional rights over the last 50 years.

Civil rights are natural rights, she said, by the “virtue of one’s humanity” and his or her membership in a society.

These rights are different from constitutional rights, she explained, in that civil rights are rights of entry, while constitutional rights are “rights of exit.”
Civil rights give an individual the right to public education, maternity leave, affordable health care and protection against violence, while constitutional rights give the individual the chance to homeschool children, to have an abortion, to opt out of health insurance or to own a firearm and use it as self-defense.

These constitutional rights are “tragic” by nature, West said, like in a Shakespearean tragedy, which often leaves the characters of the play dead on stage.

“In constitutional tragedies, all those dead individuals, as well as those who killed them, are shrouded in rights,” she added.

Civil rights, then, are more comedic in tone, she explained.

“In the last of these legal comedies, not just the individual but the communities in which they live are all on stage celebrating the civil rights that unite and support them,” she said. “There’s nothing Dionysian and nothing romantic about any of it.”

Citing the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin and the consequent arrest and trial of his shooter, George Zimmerman, West said there may have been multiple violations to Martin’s civil rights, due to expanded self-defense and “stand your ground” laws. These civil rights altering laws “expand the scope of justified lethal force to include the scenarios in which a combatant is in fear of his life regardless of who or what triggered the fight that put him there,” she said.

“Some measure of public civic violence is now fully permitted that was fully criminal a very short time ago,” West said, noting that Martin’s right to physical security and the state’s obligation to protect it were violated.

“We’ve shrunk the scope of the civil rights we’ve protected, and we’ve constitutionalized various rights to kill each other,” she said, adding that minority communities may possibly see more carnage from these moves.

The right to safety is perhaps the most “quintessential civil right,” West said. “Yet somehow we’ve lost the civil rights underpinning of our right to be protected by the state against private violence.”

Sibley Lecture explains ‘inexcusable wrongs’

Tort law, which enables victims to hold their wrongdoers accountable, can refuse to acknowledge excuses in a way that criminal laws do not, said Harvard University’s Goldston Professor of Law John C.P. Goldberg, who presented “Inexcusable Wrongs” as Georgia Law’s 111th Sibley lecturer.

In order to understand the difference between tort and criminal law, Goldberg said that a clear definition of an excuse is necessary.

Using an example of one person shooting another, Goldberg explained the differences between denial, justification and excuses.

If the shooter said he was holding the gun but someone bumped into him, causing the weapon to fire, he would be denying responsibility, Goldberg said.

He added that justification would be if the shooter admitted he shot the victim but only did so because his own life was threatened, while also noting there are laws in place to allow such a reaction.

An excuse, though, would offer an explanation as to why a wrong was committed. For example, Goldberg said if the shooter shot the victim because he was told his own child was kidnapped and would be harmed unless he committed the crime, he could use the excuse of duress.

While the victim in that instance was “totally innocent,” one can understand why the shooter did the wrongful act.

“Sometimes we can’t expect people to do the right thing,” Goldberg said. “There are some times when it’s just too hard to do the right thing. It doesn’t make it right, but it makes it understandable.”

Tort law does not subscribe to the same forms of lenience or relief that can be found in criminal law, Goldberg said, even if evidence shows the wrongdoer was under some form of pressure.

“There’s very compelling evidence that at least on the nominate excuses like duress and provocation, tort law just doesn’t care about it,” he said. “You can go ahead and argue until you’re blue in the face as a tort defendant that you were under duress and it won’t help you a bit if the judge is following the formal docket.”

According to Goldberg, the very etymology of the word “tort” — coming from the Latin word meaning “to twist” — shows that the laws are based on someone harming another.

“Torts are wrongs — conduct that is twisted, that is not right, that is not straight,” Goldberg said. “Every tort is a violation of a legal directive that defines unacceptable conduct.”

Tort wrongs are a special kind of wrongs, he added.

These laws “empower victims,” he said, and “the whole point of tort law is to allow the twisted victim to untwist, to make things straight, to make things right.”

When tort law is violated, it is because someone did not live up to a standard of conduct expected for everyone, Goldberg explained. Torts give “victims a response, an opportunity to address further wrongdoing.”

These laws give victims a chance to respond to their wrongdoer, and in doing so, “the idea is when the law is in the business of defining this kind of wrong, for this kind of purpose, excuses are understandably left out of the story,” he said.
Invited lecturers with an international law focus

The Dean Rusk Center for International Law and Policy hosted several guests this past academic year that brought an international perspective to the university.

Karima Bennoune, international human rights expert and University of California, Davis, School of Law professor, discussed Muslim fundamentalism during the fall. Her talk was based on her recently published book Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism, which addresses resistance to fundamentalism through accounts of interviews of more than 280 people of Muslim heritage, many of whom have channeled their resistance through various forms of artistic expression.

Middle Eastern scholar Ramin Jahanbegloo spoke on democracy and nonviolence in Iran during the spring. An associate professor and the holder of the York-Noor Visiting Chair in Islamic Studies at York University in Toronto, Canada, Jahanbegloo is the recipient of the 2009 Peace Prize awarded by the Association for the United Nations in Spain for his extensive academic works in promoting dialogue between cultures and his advocacy for nonviolence. Among his 24 books in English, French and Persian are: India Analysed (Oxford University Press), Talking Politics (Oxford University Press) and The Gandhian Moment (Harvard University Press).

William V. Roebuck Jr., the deputy assistant secretary for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs and Georgia Law 1992 alumnus, presented “From Law School to Diplomacy in Libya: Threading a Path Through the Foreign Service” during March. He joined the Foreign Service in 1992 and has held a wide variety of positions both in Washington and in the Middle East, including that of chargé d’affaires for Libya. Prior to joining the U.S. State Department, Roebuck served as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, teaching English in Cote d’Ivoire.

Congressman David Scott came to campus in January and presented on international finance, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. He is currently serving his sixth term representing Georgia’s 13th Congressional District, which includes six Atlanta-area counties—Cobb, Clayton, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton and Henry. Scott presently serves on the Financial Services Committee, the Agriculture Committee and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Transnational Law Program strengthens international reputation

One of Georgia Law’s newest international initiatives is the Transnational Law Program, which allows partnering foreign universities to bring their law students to Athens for one week of study focused on requested areas of international or domestic law.

The program debuted last spring with 13 law students from the University Mauricio de Nassau in Brazil.

This year, one Brazilian student was joined by 10 students from the Dominican Republic in classes covering international law, human rights law, environmental law, U.S. constitutional law and U.S. criminal law.

Dean Rusk Center Director C. Donald “Don” Johnson (J.D. ’73) said international partnerships and exchanges like the Transnational Law Program strengthen the law school’s reputation in the international arena. “These opportunities allow the law school to showcase its faculty, students and facilities to the international community as well as to partner with international educational institutions to facilitate relationships and broaden scholarly discussions.”

IN MEMORIAM

Georgia Law expresses sympathy to the family and friends of the former members of the law school community who passed away during the academic year.

Security Officer H. Kimball “Kim” Barron died on February 15 at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife, Betty Hollis Baron, and sons Michael John and Richard Lynn and four grandchildren.

Longtime Dean’s Office secretary Clair Riley Drew passed away on December 24 at the age of 71. She worked for former Associate Dean Paul M. Kurutz and the late Woodruff Professor of International Law Louis B. Sohn, among others. She is survived by her husband, Donnie, daughters Kimberly and Kerri, and four grandchildren.

Former Director of Development Ronald D. “Ron” Hill passed away on February 26. He worked at the law school from 2002 to 2004. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and sons Justin and Jordan.

Former Legal Aid Clinic Director Adrienne R. McFall died on March 1 at the age of 63. She led the clinic from 1991 to 1994. She is survived by her son Nicholas and two grandchildren.

Former Public Services Librarian José “Fico” Rodríguez, who worked in the Alexander Campbell King Law Library from 1967 to 1990, passed away on August 19. He is survived by his wife, Antonia; daughters Adriana, Rocio and Laura; son José; and seven grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.