2008

25th Anniversary Gala Program

Georgia State University College of Law

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Cook & Connelly proudly supports

the Georgia State University College of Law

Congratulations on 25 years of excellence

We know the future is bright!
April 17, 2008

Friends:

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary Gala for the Georgia State University College of Law. On behalf of our students, alumni and faculty, I am honored that you join us this evening to celebrate our story, to toast our future, and pay tribute to the many public figures and community leaders who helped with our founding and success.

You are here because you believe in our college – both in the impact it has on legal education as well as in the influence it wields on today’s world. We are indeed proud of its impact and its influence, and prouder still of our remarkable students and alumni – many of whom you undoubtedly know and perhaps work with as associates, partners and advocates.

As many of you remember, the College of Law was established because it was clearly needed. Supporters of the College worked relentlessly for nearly a decade before the first students walked through the doors in 1982. How the College was born tells much about its personality and character today: creative and committed, passionate and public, talented and accessible. Indeed, this College of Law has reached 25 years of age with nothing short of a lawyer’s most desirable attribute: dogged determination.

This 25th Anniversary year has brought together hundreds of alumni, supporters, students, and faculty to again dedicate themselves to the purpose of our institution. This Gala is the capstone of this celebration and our way of thanking you – our public officials, our legal community, our founders, and our Board of Visitors, our alumni, and our many friends – for your support and stewardship of this thriving law school.

Enjoy this evening’s festivities and special guests, and raise your glasses to the Georgia State University College of Law.

With warm regards,

[Signature]

Steven Kaminshine
Dean
April 3, 2008

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Georgia State University’s College of Law anniversary gala. I’m pleased that you could join us this evening as we celebrate the college’s first 25 years.

When the law school first opened its doors in 1982, it took up just one floor in the Urban Life Building and had about 200 students. At that time, not everyone in Atlanta was convinced that Atlanta needed another accredited law school, so the college’s founders had to fight to earn the fledgling college a place in the community.

One of the college’s original professors, James Bross, said the idea of having a law school at Georgia State was considered a “grand adventure.” Now, 25 years later, that sense of adventure lives on.

The College of Law has educated thousands of highly respected attorneys, but it has also served the community, reaching out to help others with tax and health law clinics, as well as through externships that allow students to apply the lessons they’ve learned in the classroom to the real world. This sense of outreach is being particularly highlighted during the college’s 25th year with its pledge to complete 25,000 hours of pro bono service.

Tonight, please join me in applauding the College of Law for its success in setting the standard for the future of legal education. I have no doubt that the next 25 years will be just as memorable as the era we celebrate tonight.

Sincerely,

Carl V. Patton
President
April 2, 2008

GREETINGS:

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Georgia State University College of Law on its 25th anniversary.

The commitment and dedication this institution has shown to educating those wishing to practice law are things of which to be proud. The contributions of this college over the years have helped bring recognition to Georgia as one of the top providers of world-class education. Thank you all for enhancing and educating the citizens of this great state.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable evening as you celebrate this wonderful milestone in your school's history.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Message from the Mayor

April 17, 2008

Greetings:

As Mayor of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Georgia State University College of Law as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary.

Georgia State University College of Law is committed to promoting excellence in education through professional development and scholarship. The 25th Anniversary Gala focuses on thanking those who have been instrumental in the success of the College of Law. Your dedication ensures that Georgia State University College of Law continues its commitment to educating students and preparing future leaders.

I commend alumni, supporters, students and faculty for your role in making the College of Law a success. Your diligence and devotion to promoting excellence in leadership, community empowerment and networking awareness enriches the lives of students, and ignites their desire to become involved in our community. The City of Atlanta salutes your efforts and endeavors to mold and support our future leaders.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I extend best wishes to you for a successful occasion!

Sincerely,

Shirley Franklin
April 17, 2008

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to offer congratulations to the Georgia State University College of Law on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, a milestone marked by great academic achievement and unselfish commitment to the Atlanta community.

I was serving my first year as mayor of Atlanta when the law school opened in 1982, after years of debate among Georgia’s governors, legislators and academic leaders. Jesse Hill, a member of the Board of Regents at the time, was one of its champions and fought for the creation of the school amidst much political opposition. As a former mayor, I know the intricacies of higher learning, both academically and politically. The Georgia State law school overcame many obstacles with undying determination, and today, it still applies that passion to its work with students.

With many different backgrounds, students at the college inject their own experiences and cultures into the total fabric of the college. They offer divergent viewpoints that add excitement, breadth and meaning to their studies and enrich the quality of their education. All of them learn the importance of applying their new skills and training to the wide world around them, whether through defending the defenseless or resolving community disputes.

I offer my best wishes to Dean Steven Kaminshine and the students, faculty and supporters of the Georgia State University College of Law.

Peace and Blessings.

Ambassador Andrew Young
April 17, 2008

Steven J. Kaminshine
Dean
Georgia State University, College of Law
PO Box 4037
Atlanta, GA 30302-4037

Dear Dean Kaminshine:

It is with great honor that I congratulate the Georgia State University, College of Law on its 25th Anniversary.

Your law school has made tremendous strides since its establishment in 1982 -- testament to its strong academic and social record as well as to the insightful leaders who founded it. The law school's exceptional faculty members have distinguished themselves as experts in their respective fields of study. Moreover, I commend your commitment to providing your students with "real world" experience through the school's clinics and externships. With your record of service to the community and your commitment to professional development, it is no surprise that the law school has amassed a list of alumni known throughout Georgia and beyond.

As you and your colleagues focus on the law school's future development, I hope you will take time to reflect on your many accomplishments. I wish you continued success, and I look forward to joining you in celebrating the milestones yet to come.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
March 19, 2008

Dean Steven J. Kaminshine  
College of Law  
Georgia State University  

Dean Kaminshine:  

On behalf of the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents, congratulations on Georgia State University’s College of Law 25th anniversary.  

Since being sanctioned by the Board of Regents in 1981, the College of Law has been a valuable resource to Atlanta, the state of Georgia, the region and the USG.  

Offering aspiring lawyers a top-notch, affordable and full-or part-time education, the College of Law takes full advantage of its downtown location, making available to its students the opportunity to study and intern in prestigious law firms, state government and state and federal courts.  

And your birthday arrives with some significant national recognition: the Princeton Review ranks the College fifth in the country in the category of welcoming older students, while National Jurist ranks the college as a Top Five “best value” in the nation for law schools.  

Clearly, at 25 the College is making its mark nationally and is forging community partnerships. In this, the College reflects the spirit of Georgia State University, a spirit that involves the university with the community and the revitalization of downtown Atlanta.  

You, your colleagues and students are to be commended for the College’s Pro Bono Initiative during this 25th anniversary year and the goal to log 25,000 hours of donated public service. This example is the type of public service that truly adds value to the communities we serve.  

Again, you have our thanks for your past and present accomplishments, and our best wishes on this milestone date for many, many years of new and exciting contributions in the field of law.  

With warmest regards.  

Erroll B. Davis Jr.  
Chancellor
March 28, 2008

To the Georgia State University College of Law:

On behalf of the more than 39,000 members of the State Bar of Georgia, I am honored and privileged to extend congratulations on the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Georgia State University College of Law.

Without question, this institution of higher learning has produced many of the best and brightest legal minds in our state -- and the nation, for that matter -- over the past quarter century. As a result, we have a stronger State Bar membership that can better serve the people of Georgia and our justice system.

Now and in the future, the State Bar of Georgia is committed to supporting Georgia State University along with our other fine law schools in Georgia in your noble efforts to teach the law and train outstanding professionals who are capable of and committed to providing exceptional service in all areas of law practice. Please contact us whenever we can be of service.

To Dean Steven J. Kaminshine, the Georgia State Law faculty and staff, students, alumni and supporters, once again, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone anniversary, and best wishes for continued success in the years to come. Thank you for all you do to strengthen our justice system, which protects the rights and liberties of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Edenfield
President, State Bar of Georgia
Dear Dean Kaminshine:

On behalf of the Atlanta Bar Association, I salute the faculty, staff, administrators, students and alumni of the Georgia State University College of Law on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. This a milestone that gives everyone in the legal, business and civic communities cause for celebration, for we have all been enriched by the work of the College of Law.

From auspicious but modest beginnings, under the guidance of visionary leaders and with the support of its talented faculty and dedicated students, the College of Law has risen to national prominence, while never losing sight of its mission to serve both the traditional and the nontraditional student. From the boardroom to the courtroom, College of Law alumni have distinguished themselves, not only in the discharge of their professional obligations, but also in their unswerving commitment to community service and by their deeds, inspiring countless others to do the same.

With such an illustrious past, the College of Law is bound to achieve even greater heights in the years ahead.

With warmest regards and best wishes for continued success, I am

Very truly yours,

W. Ray Persons

March 25, 2008
March 17, 2008

Steven J. Kaminshine, Dean
Georgia State University College of Law
P.O. Box 4037
Atlanta, Georgia 30302-4037

Dear Dean Kaminshine:

On behalf of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, I would like to commend Georgia State for a quarter century of educating women lawyers.

I came to Atlanta about five years after Georgia State opened, and I have seen the school transform from a fledgling law school to a nationally-recognized educational institution. In my first year as a lawyer, one of my colleagues was a brand-new graduate of the law school. He was bright, talented, and clearly would be successful. At the time, Georgia State was not nationally recognized, but I never had any doubt from the moment I met Craig Dowdy that Georgia State would be an impressive school.

In just 25 years, Georgia State has become one of the top law schools in the country. I know I can credit some of the impressive faculty I have met, including you, Marjorie Girth, Mark Budnitz, Paul Milich, Eric Segall, Kelly Cahill Timmons, Mark Kadish, and Marjorie Knowles. The adjunct faculty are equally impressive, and I have memories of working with or speaking at seminars with Linda DiSantis, Richard Hendrix, Doug Isenberg, Skip Kazamarek, Shawn LaGrue, John Marshall, Jenny Mittelman, Tom Morgan, Mark Spix, and Derrick Alexander Pope.

For the last several years, I have been honored to serve as a master in the Bleckley Inn of Court, and I have had the privilege of meeting some of the impressive students as well.

One of the things I would most like to commend Georgia State for, though, is its commitment to women lawyers and faculty. From its inception, Georgia State has hired women, taught women, and promoted women. For the past 25 years, Georgia State has been committed to an ideal of equality that other law schools do not often reach. Georgia State is a fine institution, and on behalf of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, it is an honor for me to recognize the law school for its long commitment to women lawyers.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lee Wallace
President, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers
Message from Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

April 17, 2008

Greetings:

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Georgia State University College of Law on your 25th Anniversary. For twenty-five years, the GSU College of Law has educated and produced outstanding attorneys who have made a tremendous impact on the Atlanta legal community, the State of Georgia and beyond. The GSU College of Law is committed to providing an excellent, affordable, and distinctive legal education to a diverse student body; to promoting legal scholarship and service that enrich the legal profession and the communities it serves; and to capitalize on the unique environment in which the College is located. I commend Dean Kaminshtein and the faculty and staff of the College of Law for having succeeded in fulfilling your mission for the past twenty-five years.

The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys is proud to be affiliated with the College of Law as our membership includes attorneys, judges, law school professors and law students who are a part of the GSU College of Law Family. We look forward to witnessing all that the GSU College of Law will accomplish in the next twenty-five years as you continue in your legacy of providing an excellent legal education to future attorneys.

Once again, congratulations on this wonderful event and all of your success.

Sincerely,

Joy Lampley Fortson
Joy Lampley Fortson, President
Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

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Program

25th Anniversary Gala

Welcome
John T. Marshall, Esq.
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Introduction of the President of Georgia State University
Cathy Henson
Chair, Georgia State University Foundation

Welcome from Georgia State University
President Carl Patton

Master of Ceremonies
Sean Carter

Dinner is served

25 Years of Excellence
Dean Steve Kaminshine

Conversation with Georgia Governors
Roy Barnes  Joe Frank Harris  Carl E. Sanders

Tribute to College of Law Supporters
Dean Steve Kaminshine

Closing Remarks
Sean Carter
The Atlanta Law School Foundation congratulates the Georgia State University College of Law on 25 Years of Excellence in Law Education.
Sean Carter
Lawpsided Seminars, Mesa, Arizona

In nearly a decade of law practice after graduating from Harvard Law School, Sean Carter represented such clients as GNC, Experian, The Boston Beer Company, Homside Lending, Safelite Auto Glass, J. Crew and many others. In 2002, Mr. Carter left the practice of law to pursue a career as the country's foremost (and perhaps only) Humorist at Law.

Mr. Carter is the author of the first-ever comedic legal treatise -- *If It Does Not Fit, Must You Acquit?: Your Humorous Guide to the Law*. His syndicated legal humor column has appeared in general circulation newspapers in more than 30 states, including *The Los Angeles Times*. Mr. Carter also wrote a weekly humor column for lawyers that appeared in the ABA e-Report from 2003 to 2006.

As a legal commentator, Mr. Carter has appeared on local television programs and is a frequent guest on talk radio shows across the country. In 2003, the Radio-TV Interview Report dubbed Sean Carter as "America's Funniest Lawyer."

Mr. Carter is a frequent presenter for state and local bar associations, law firms, in-house corporate legal departments and law schools. Each year, he presents more than 100 humorous programs on such topics as legal ethics, stress management, constitutional law, legal marketing and much more.

Finally, Mr. Carter lives in Mesa, Arizona with his wife and three sons.
College of Law Making its Mark at 25

It was a topic about which everyone had an opinion. Not a legal opinion necessarily, but at least a well-honed point of view. You didn’t find much gray in the discussions about a law school at Georgia State.

“Whether or not the College of Law is a good thing probably depends on what day you talk to somebody,” said a senior university official at the time. “Either it’s great or they wish to hell they’d never heard of it.”

As far back as the early 1970s, Georgia legislators and academic leaders debated the pros and cons, the ups and downs. In the background waited an untold number of prospective students who needed this kind of law school – an institution that embraced not only traditional students, but students who worked full-time, who required evening instruction, and who were older and considering career changes.

The Georgia State University College of Law finally was sanctioned by the Board of Regents in 1981.

Founding Dean Ben F. Johnson Jr.’s steely determination propelled the college from the planning documents to the first floor of Georgia State University’s Urban Life Building in the fall of 1982, and the doors opened at last.

“I have been in the business a long time... I know what I am doing,” he said. “In a way we envy them (other law schools), but in another way we appreciate the opportunity to do things differently.”

And different it was. The college enrolled 200 students in its inaugural year. Many were part-time because they had full-time jobs during the day. Six professors taught them, and three of them – Lynn Hogue, E.R. Lanier and James Bross – still teach at the college today.

The college’s first seven graduates were hooded in December 1984 at a commencement ceremony keynoted by the late Dan Sweat, president of Central Atlanta Progress. Several months later, the first full graduating class was lauded in an Atlanta Journal editorial:

...A word of acknowledgement is due those who lobbied so long for a law school at Georgia State University in Atlanta ... The 39 students who were graduated Saturday have set an example ... Far from being a redundancy, Georgia State University Law School is and will be an asset to Atlanta’s legal and business interests.

At the end of its first decade, full-time faculty had grown to 31. Nearly half were women. More than 120,000 volumes filled the Law Library. Applications for admission exceeded 2,200 for only 180 slots. Yet, the exploding popularity of the college did not alter its institutional DNA.

“There’s a liveliness and willingness to try new things,” said Dean Marjorie Girth in 1992. “It’s kind of like Atlanta. If there’s a challenge, Atlanta goes for it. The law college is just like that.”
The challenge of being a young school only sharpened the College of Law's teeth. It was the first Georgia law school to win the prestigious National Moot Court Competition, held annually. Students brought home the Wagner Cup twice in three years. Others took notice, too. The Georgia Civil Justice Foundation funded the school's first endowed scholarship. Atlanta law firms teamed up to recruit top students through the Dean's Scholars Program. And, driven by the leadership of the college's second dean, Marjorie Fine Knowles, the college received full accreditation from the American Bar Association in 1990.

"It's accomplished a ton in a relatively short period of time," said Dean Janice Griffith in the college's 20th anniversary year in 2002. "It's never satisfied with the status quo. It's always looking to improve the quality of education and the services it provides its students. That's the sign of a high-quality law school."

Today, the Georgia State University College of Law is making bigger marks than ever. Its health law program is ranked 10th in the country by U.S. News & World Report, which also ranks the college at number 77 - the youngest law school to be placed in the Top 100. The Princeton Review says that the college ranks fifth in the category of welcoming older students. National Jurist ranks the law school a Top Five "best value" in the nation. The career information firm, Vault Inc., recently ranked the college as America's 11th most underrated law school.

"At 25, the College is making its mark nationally, while continuing its long-standing tradition of forging community partnerships," said current Dean Steven Kaminshine. "Students here thrive on the college's many opportunities for applied learning - what they learn in the classroom is brought to life through their work and contributions in the Atlanta community."

Our community does indeed benefit. The college consistently provides legal and professional skills to organizations that support civil rights and civil liberties, low-income families, neighborhood and community interests, legal advocacy, nonprofit causes and public education.

Could the first 25 years have been more memorable, more productive, or more meaningful? Probably not. The Georgia State University College of Law has reached maturity. It is entering its second generation of academic leadership. A new home awaits future students at the corner of Edgewood and Peachtree Center avenues.

And if past is prologue, as wise ones advise, then the future looks bright indeed.
Thank You to Those Who Have Contributed to 25 Years of Success

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As a proud sponsor of GSU Law's 25th Anniversary, Ashe, Rafuse & Hill, LLP congratulates GSU on its PAST and is committed to its success in the FUTURE. Since its founding, ARH has enjoyed a long-standing and beneficial relationship with GSU, its students, and graduates. We look forward to the OPPORTUNITIES for GSU based on its already solid foundation.
McKenna Long & Aldridge is proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Georgia State University College of Law.

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on its
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Congratulations on
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HBSS is proud to have 16 GSU College of Law Graduates
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OGLETREE DEAKINS is one of the nation's largest labor and employment law firms. Serving as advocates for management, the firm has a national reputation for legal excellence, and has more than 400 attorneys in 33 offices across the country, including Atlanta, Georgia.

Proud Supporters of the Georgia State University College of Law's 25th Anniversary
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Happy 25th Anniversary!

The attorneys of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, would like to send a heartfelt congratulations to Georgia State University College of Law on 25 great years.
A Special Thanks To Our Table Hosts

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Celebrating
25 Years
Board of Regents reaffirms earlier vote to start GSU College of Law. Ben F. Johnson Jr. named founding dean.

First class - seven students - graduates from college in December.

1981

1982

1984

1986

1987


College of Law students win first National Moot Court championship. Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series established.

Marjorie F. Knowles named second law school dean.

25 Memorable Years
"GSU law school. Good guys won."

AJC Editorial, September 1982
Memorable Years

1982
The College of Law opens. Atlantis Journal-Constellation editorial: "GSU law school. Good guys won."

1984
Regents reaffirm to start GSU of Law. Ben F Johnson Jr. named founding dean.

1986
First class - seven students - graduates from college in December.

1987
College of Law students win first National Moot Court championship. Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series established.

1989
College of Law gains full ABA accreditation.

1990
College of Law opens. Tax Clinic opens.

1991
Maryorie F. Knowles named second law school dean.

1992
College expands to four floors of Urban Life Building.

1994
10th Anniversary. Supreme Court Justice O'Connor visits college. 617 students, 35 faculty.

1995
College of Law gains membership in Association of American Law Schools.

1996
Henry Miller gifts endows first endowed professorship.

1998
College of Law gains full ABA accreditation.

2000
College endowment grows to establish several named scholarships.

2004
College establishes centers for the study of Metro Growth and Health, Law & Society.

2005
College establishes in-house clinic for low-income children (HELP).

2006
20th Anniversary. Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg visits college. 672 students, 40 faculty.

2007
University Foundation purchases land for new law building. 25th Anniversary. 670 students, 46 faculty.

Since its founding in 1982, the Georgia State University College of Law has made substantial differences in the lives of its students, the people of Georgia and America's legal community. Today, the college proudly maintains its 25-year-old personality: tough and determined, passionate and public, talented and accessible.
Some of our top lawyers graduated from Georgia State University College of Law.

Our relationship with the college dates back to the first graduating class in 1984.

These GSU-trained attorneys have helped Fisher & Phillips become one of the leading labor and employment law firms in the nation. With 200 attorneys in 19 offices we continue to recruit quality lawyers from quality institutions such as GSU.

We thank the College of Law for its continued dedication to legal education.

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