Dean's Scholars Program

Georgia State University College of Law

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The Dean's Scholars' Program at Georgia State's College of Law

Participating Firms:

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Georgia State University
College of Law
The Dean's Scholars' Program
We proudly introduce the Dean's Scholars:

Michael Mehrman
Noel Hurley
William Gaither
Keith Porterfield
Susan Hargus
Jeffrey Tucker
and
Tamara Baines
Michael J. Mehrman

Mr. Mehrman began Law School at Georgia State in the fall of 1991 in the night-school, part-time program. He has accelerated his education so that he will now graduate in 1994, just one semester behind a full-time schedule.

Mr. Mehrman currently works at Southern Engineering Company specializing in electric utilities in the areas of regulatory affairs and economic studies. He earned both his undergraduate and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. Mehrman’s comments:

My legal education has helped me immensely in my career as an electric utility consultant. Over the past three years, I have become increasingly active in regulatory and legislative activities on behalf of my clients. I’ve served as a member of the Transmission Task Force of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, participated in development of the Electricity Title of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. In addition, Southern asked me to lead an effort to develop international markets for our services and software products. After a year of intense effort, we anticipate receiving a grant (at the request of the Polish Government) from the U. S. Agency for International Development to install a training center in Poland.

The funding provided by the Dean’s Scholarship was instrumental in allowing me to pursue my education here, in Atlanta. I was seriously considering attending law school full-time elsewhere, or not at all. The night program at Georgia State has allowed me the best of both the working and academic worlds. It is a wonderful opportunity.
Mr. Gaither, originally from Thomasville, Georgia, is a part-time third year law student at Georgia State College of Law. He is currently employed by IBM Corporation as a software designer. He has a M.A. in English from the University of Georgia and an M.S. in Computer Science from Georgia Institute of Technology. His interest is in copyright and patent law. He is a member of the Law Review staff.

Mr. Gaither's wife, Suzanne Sellers Gaither, originally from Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, is a part-time third year law student at Georgia State as well. They have a twelve year old son, Jeff.

Mr. Gaither's comments:

I am a part-time (night) student and beginning my 5th semester at Georgia State College of Law. I would like to express my gratitude to the firms who contributed and to the School of Law for making this scholarship opportunity available to me. Although I have 5 semesters before I graduate, at this stage in my law school career I find that I have a clearer sense of direction and more control over my studies. In my encounters with students, faculty and administration, I feel grateful and excited to be attending law school here.
Mr. Porterfield is a native of Glendale, California. He graduated from Glendale High School and continued his education at Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science. After graduating with a BS in Electrical Engineering he worked for two years as a telecommunications engineer for Unocal Corporation. He then returned to Columbia and obtained his MS degree, focusing on voice and data networks. While attending law school Keith is currently employed by Oglethorpe Power Corporation where he is designing and implementing a statewide data communications network.

Mr. Porterfield's comments:

The Dean's Scholar program has been a tremendous benefit for me. Deciding to go to law school while simultaneously balancing the requirements of work and family was an extremely difficult decision. Having the additional financial burden substantially removed was a key factor in making and sticking with my decision. Attending Georgia State University College of Law has been extremely challenging, exciting, interesting, and tiring. I am extremely grateful to the firms that have funded this program, for making it possible through the assistance they have given me.
Susan Hargus

Ms. Hargus is a graduate of the University of Missouri. She was awarded numerous scholarships and honors while at Missouri. After graduation, she worked for six years as a senior consultant in Financial Institution and Litigation Support Services for Ernst & Young. She is currently a senior investigator with the FDIC/RTC in the damages determination and litigation support areas with responsibility for eighty institutions in the Southeast in addition to being a first year law student at Georgia State University.

Ms. Hargus' comments:

In my fourth year of higher education I was "burned out", but I did not give up my goal of law school. I decided to work for Ernst & Young because I could travel and gain work experience while I regained some enthusiasm for higher education. In 1992, I was selected as one of three professionals from Ernst & Young to serve as damage expert in a professional liability suit against the firm over an audit at a failed bank. I found the in-trial experience exhilarating and exhausting, but it confirmed my desire to pursue law as a career.

The Dean's Scholarship has allowed me to return to school in 1993-4 which was otherwise impossible for financial reasons. The opportunity that this scholarship provides to study law while applying my classroom study to "real life" litigation matters as a full time professional is unmatched by any school or scholarship program in the area. I deeply appreciate the forethought shown by the sponsoring firms in including part-time students who bring special skills to Georgia State University and to the profession upon graduation.
Jeffrey Tucker

A native of Atlanta, Jeffrey Tucker received his A.B. degree in philosophy from Duke University and earned an M.A. in Religion from the University of Chicago. Legal issues have long been an academic interest of his, but he decided to defer law school when the opportunity to study philosophical and religious questions while at the University of Chicago. Mr. Tucker has a strong commitment to community service, which he believes that legal training will enable him to pursue in concrete ways. He is now a first-year student in the College of Law, and he continues to pursue his scholastic and artistic interests as well.

Mr. Tucker's comments:

The Dean's Scholarship has permitted me to commence on a career of service to my fellow citizens and to my community. My experience in the first term of my legal education convinces me that I chose wisely both in pursuing law as my career and in choosing the Georgia State University College of Law. The students attracted by the dean's Scholarship will help the College of Law continue its rapid ascent in reputation and prestige, both regionally and nationally, and will contribute to making Atlanta a center for public legal education. I am grateful to the College and to the Scholarship's donors for making my participation in this task possible.
Tamara Baines

Ms. Baines is a recent honors graduate of Georgia State, with a B.A. in Political Science. Originally from the Bronx (N.Y.), she now lives in Atlanta and has consistently served as a math and reading tutor for younger students while maintaining an outstanding academic record herself. Justice Thurgood Marshall was her "idol," and she hopes to return to the Bronx as a positive role model for young people in her original neighborhood.

Ms. Baines' comments:

I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. It has enabled me to go to school full-time and not have to worry about how I am going to pay for my education. I chose to go to law school, because it provides me with the opportunity to learn so that I can benefit others who are in need of legal assistance. This scholarship is proof of how important it is to free students of some worries while they are in the process of accomplishing goals for the future. Hopefully, I will be able to "give back" to the community after I have completed my law degree.