June 2003

Summer 2003 Law Letter

Georgia State University College of Law

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On Thursday, February 13, 2003, the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg delivered the 32nd Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture. The event took place at the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts in front of a nearly full house of approximately 800 people.

Dean Janice Griffith introduced Justice Ginsburg by proudly stating the event was the centerpiece of the College of Law’s 20th Anniversary celebration. Dean Griffith emphasized how honored she was to introduce Justice Ginsburg because of her work in promoting women’s rights.

Justice Ginsburg took the stage to a standing ovation. Her speech, entitled “A Few Little Known Pages of Supreme Court History,” mainly concerned two women with ties to the Washington legal community—Burnita Shelton Matthews and Malvina Harlan. When Matthews first decided to pursue a legal career, that option was not a favorable one for women. She instead went to music school and then married a lawyer. After moving to Washington, D.C., where her husband was working, she enrolled in law school at National University, which is now George Washington University. During the day she worked at the Veterans Administration, and in the evening she attended law classes. On the weekends she picketed the White House in support of the women’s suffrage movement.

Matthews, after graduation from National University, pursued a career in eminent domain law, at one point winning what was at the time the largest condemnation award in the history of the country. Justice Ginsburg noted the property would eventually be put to good use, as it became the location of the United States Supreme Court. In 1949, President Truman nominated Matthews to the D.C. Court District where, as the first woman appointed to be a federal district court judge, she continued her advocacy of women’s rights by only hiring female court clerks.

Malvina Harlan was the wife of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan. Justice Ginsburg said, “Her ambition was her husband’s success.” Ginsburg’s favorite story about Malvina Harlan was the time Harlan took a purloined ink stand used by Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who had written the infamous Dred Scott Decision with that...
Dean’s Message

On September 13, 1982, the first classes of the College of Law met. Last September we commenced our twentieth anniversary celebratory year with a spirited party on the Urban Life Plaza that brought students, faculty, graduates, and friends together for conversation and cake under a tent. In October, the celebrations continued with Randall Kennedy’s visit to campus as our thirty-first Henry J. Miller Distinguished lecturer. Throughout the day Professor Kennedy tackled difficult questions posed to him about the role race plays in our society.

In November, President Patton joined us at a reception to congratulate our newest graduates. War stories from Professor Mark Kadish and Cooper Knowles, class of 1999, illustrated some pitfalls for our 2002 graduates to avoid. In January, the celebrations brought our students, faculty members, and graduates together for an indoor picnic and a basketball game. The game proved very exciting—Georgia State won by two points!

Throughout the year, we mixed our celebrations with intellectual discourse. The college did not forget its mission to be an intellectual hub for the discussion of the day’s most pressing issues. On January 31, a group of distinguished academic leaders joined us for the Law Review’s symposium on “The President’s Authority over Foreign Affairs.” A lively debate ensued over the proper balance to be struck between the exercise of congressional and presidential power in this area. The topic proved timely. Two months later the war with Iraq began.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s visit in February was undoubtedly the year’s highlight. Women, in particular, found this an occasion to celebrate the great strides they have made in the legal profession since the advent of the Women’s Movement in the late 1960s. Despite her stellar academic record, upon graduating from Columbia’s law school in 1959, Justice Ginsburg faced limited employment opportunities. In her Miller lecture, Justice Ginsburg celebrated the lives of two women, Malvina Harlan, the wife of Justice John Marshall Harlan, and Burnita Shelton Matthews, the first woman to serve on a United States District Court.

In April, we celebrated our profession’s commitment to public service and pro bono activities. We awarded Stephen Bright, the Director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, with the tenth Ben F. Johnson, Jr. Public Service Award. Devoting his life to the representation of indigent criminal defendants, Mr. Bright is a forceful and fearless advocate for death penalty elimination and the improvement of prison conditions. Our Student Bar Association members, under the leadership of President Erin Baird, engaged in many pro bono activities throughout the year. In just one of these endeavors, our students raised over $7,500 for the American Cancer Society’s Annual Breast Cancer Walk.

Let’s continue along our path of excellence for the next twenty years!

Janice C. Griffith
Protect and enhance the value of your degree with a contribution to 2003 Annual Fund

Last year, Georgia State University College of Law awarded $10,134 in scholarship dollars while UGA awarded $446,810; Emory awarded $693,012; and Mercer awarded $2,000,000 from its endowments. How did the other law schools do this? By building their scholarship endowment funds.

Our need to build private support is great. Your gift, no matter what the amount, helps the college build a strong case for support from the Atlanta community. When local foundations and companies decide to make a gift to a college or university, they always inquire about graduate participation in the annual fund. The national average for graduate participation in annual funds for public law schools is 20%. The College of Law needs at least 560 graduates to contribute at any level to meet the national average.

In celebration of the college’s 20th anniversary year, we are asking you to contribute to the 2003 annual fund and help us to achieve a 20% graduate participation rate. You can designate your gift to the 20th Anniversary Scholarship Fund. The goal is to raise $125,000 by June 30, 2003, to complete the endowment and provide $7,500 per year to an incoming student.

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Make your contribution today and join fellow law graduates who wish to protect and enhance the reputation of their degree and the law school. While the targeted goal is a contribution to the 20th Anniversary Scholarship Fund, a donation to any organization within the College of Law will have the same impact in helping the college reach both its financial and graduate participation goals. Please contact Christine Hill at 404-651-4360 or christinehill@gsu.edu if you have any questions about designation of your gift. Donations made to the College of Law without a designation go to the Excellence Fund that provides important unrestricted funds used to meet the areas of most need.

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Class of 2002 enjoys good employment stats

The College of Law is pleased to report another good employment year for graduates. The placement rate for 2002 graduates is 93%. The average starting salary is $72,344. The news is good for this class and we wish the class of 2003 similar success!

Attention 1988, 1993 and 1998 College of Law Graduates

Plans for your reunion event in the fall of 2003 are underway. Surveys will be mailed to you soon. If you’re interested in joining the host committee call Delita Marsland at 404-651-2040 or send an email to delita@gsu.edu.

NOTE TO GRADUATES
The Alumni Directory username is aludir, the password is welcome.

Check out the College of Law’s website at http://law.gsu.edu
College welcomes new faculty

Dean Janice Griffith and the College of Law is pleased to welcome two new additions to the faculty. Colin Crawford is joining the faculty from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Professor Crawford received his B.A. from Columbia University, a B.A. and M.A. from Cambridge University and his J.D. from Harvard University.

Professor Crawford taught political philosophy and history while at Harvard, where he also served as the Tutor in Law at one of Harvard’s undergraduate residences. After graduation, he spent a year working in Tokyo for an international securities firm. He returned to New York as an environmental litigator with White & Case and later worked at an environmental and land use firm with a strong public interest orientation. In 1992, he joined the faculty of Brooklyn Law School, where he taught property, writing and environmental law courses. He also did work for a number of non-profit organizations. His first book of narrative non-fiction, Uproar at Dancing Rabbit Creek: Battling Over Race, Class and the Environment, was published in 1996.

Wendy Hensel, a former visiting professor and writing instructor at the College of Law, has joined the faculty as a full-time professor of law. Professor Hensel received a B.A. from Michigan State University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1995. Hensel was an associate at Alston & Bird from 1996-1999. She was a judicial clerk to the Honorable Orinda D. Evans of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia, as well as an intern at the United States Supreme Court in 1991.


Summer Academy in International Commercial Arbitration Eyes National Expansion

Georgia State University’s successful foreign training program in international commercial arbitration, the Summer Academy in International Commercial Arbitration, is considering the possibility of expanding its student participation to a national level in the summer of 2004.

Professor E. R. Lanier, the director of the program, has noted that recent changes in the Board of Regents and Georgia State University policies regarding non-resident tuition have increased the interest of the College in including a substantial number of students from other law schools in the program. “It was a change long in coming,” Lanier commented, “but now the Board of Regents and the University permit non-resident students to participate in our program on essentially the same tuition basis as resident students. The focus of the program will remain on the Georgia State University law students,” Lanier continued, “but the addition of students from other law schools will make the program even more interesting and significant for our own people,” he added.

In the summer of 2003, the Summer Academy in International Commercial Arbitration will sponsor a 6 credit hour program in Austria, Italy, the Czech Republic, and Hungary during the period May 16 through June 15, and will visit arbitration courts in Vienna, Venice, Prague, and Budapest. “We have assembled this year an outstanding faculty, and we are particularly happy that former Chief Judge Dorothy Beasley, a member of the college’s Board of Visitors, will be with us. Robert Glenn of Savannah, one of the best-known mediators in the United States, will also take a turn behind the podium,” Professor Lanier observed. Dean Griffith will also join the program for a week in June.

Registration for the 2003 Summer Academy in International Commercial Arbitration remains open to interested students, and the tuition reduction is available in this current year for non-resident students. Cindy Perry (404-651-2078) has registration forms and information regarding the program.
Three “Pioneers” Meet on Common Ground

At a dinner in February honoring Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, she stood in a corner at the Commerce Club and chatted amiably with two pioneering women from Georgia’s judiciary.

To Ginsburg’s left was Senior Judge Phyllis A. Kravitch of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1976, the Savannah lawyer became the first woman elected to a Superior Court judgeship in Georgia.

In 1979, she became the first woman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals that covered the Southeast and just the third female federal appeals judge in history. Kravitch and Ginsburg became acquainted when Ginsburg was tapped for the D.C. Circuit. Judge Kravitch is a member of the College of Law’s Board of Visitors.

To Judge Kravitch’s left was former Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley, whose 1984 appointment to the Georgia Court of Appeals made her the first woman to sit on a Georgia Appellate Court. In 1992, Beasley convinced her colleagues to add the words “and women” to the court’s credo, engraved in marble above the bench which originally stated, “Upon the integrity, wisdom and independence of the judiciary depend the sacred rights of free men.” Judge Beasley is also a member of the College of Law’s Board of Visitors and a recipient of the Ben F. Johnson Public Service Award.

Their conversation came near the end of Ginsburg’s visit to Georgia State University College of Law, during which she lunched with professors, answered students’ questions and delivered a lecture to a packed Rialto Center for the Performing Arts.

Southern Center for Human Rights Director Receives Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award

The Ben F. Johnson Public Service award recipient for 2003 is Stephen B. Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights. Professor Bright teaches courses on the death penalty and criminal law at Yale and Harvard law schools.

The Southern Center for Human Rights is a public interest legal project based in Atlanta that provides legal representation to persons facing the death penalty and to prisoners challenging unconstitutional conditions in prisons and jails throughout the South. The center is also engaged in efforts to improve access to lawyers and the legal system by poor people accused of crimes and in prison, and to bring about greater judicial independence.

Bright has been director of the center since 1982. Mr. Bright’s articles in the areas of criminal justice, corrections and judicial independence include “Counsel for the Poor: The Death Sentence Not for the Worst Crime, but for the Worst Lawyer” which appeared in the Yale Law Journal. He has testified before committees of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and committees of the legislatures of Connecticut, Georgia and Texas. He served on an American Bar Association Task Force that studied capital punishment issues and made recommendations, ultimately adopted by the American Bar Association with minor modification by the U.S. Congress about how to improve the fairness of the process by which people are sentenced to death.
1985
Kathy Helms was named in Best Lawyers in America for the second straight year and is secretary for South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. She is a recent graduate of Leadership Columbia and is on the Board of Advisors for Children’s Chance, a nonprofit foundation that aids families of children with cancer. Ms. Helms is a co-founder of this organization.

1986
Penny A. Dudley was elected chairperson of the East Point Business and Industrial Development Authority. Her practice concentrates on commercial real estate transactions and corporate law.

1987
Eleni Pryles Kalisch is the first female section chief of government relations at the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

1988
Tracy Dean Masters has been recalled to active military duty for a period of one year to support operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

1989
Morgan Adams was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marines Reserve. He and his wife Kim McElwain are expecting their first child. He was elected to the Board of Governors of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association. The Law Firm of Morgan Adams is a firm of three with offices in Chattanooga and Atlanta.

1989
L. Sharon Roeble is senior manager of Air Mobility Business Ventures at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. She develops commercial sales proposals and negotiates international contracts for aircraft, support equipment and related services.

1990
Louis G. McBryon has become a partner at Macey Wilensky Cohen Wittner & Kessler, LLP.

1991
Sally G. Butler has been with the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office for over ten years. She is currently assigned to the Crimes Against Women and Children Unit and has a specialty in elder abuse prosecution.

1992
Craig Cleland recently joined Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart where he practices employment law.

1993
Carter Allen is president of CGA Technology Counsel, which has commenced a lecture series, “From Business Plan to Exit.”

The lectures feature Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia State University MBA schools and covers the path from starting your business to selling your business.

Karen M. Patton has started her own practice. She continues to practice general litigation with an emphasis in all phases of employment and civil rights litigation. She is also providing full service corporate representation for small business clients.

Curt Thompson is a staff attorney at the National Association of Government Employees. He was elected to the Georgia State House of Representatives and serves as the representative for House District 69 Post 1.

Robert E. Vest left his position as lead trial lawyer in the State Attorney’s Office to form the Law Offices of Robert E. Best, a criminal and civil litigation firm.

1994
Jessica Harper was named partner at Bodker Ramsey & Andres in Atlanta.

Meg Gibson is associated with Georgia Closing Association as a closing attorney for residential real estate. She is president of the Sandy Springs Bar Association and secretary-treasurer of the North Fulton Bar Association.

Timothy M. Klob has relocated to Grayson, Georgia, and continues to practice insurance defense. He also serves as a U.S. Army Reserve judge advocate with the First U.S. Army, Fort Gillem, Georgia.

John McDonald Ph.D., leading intellectual property partner at Kilpatrick Stockton, was appointed to the External Advisory Board of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, one of 11 programs funded by the National Science Foundation’s
Science and Technology Center initiative.

**Joanne Spotts** was appointed a special assistant U. S. attorney for civil immigration matters in the U.S. Attorney's Office for Maryland.

**1995**

**Greg Porter** is a partner at Savell & Williams.

**David J. Marmis** became a shareholder at Meadows Icher & Bowers. His practice focuses on the representation of homeowners associations, developers and others with land use disputes. He also works in the firm’s government operations group chaired by Michael Bowers.

**Jonathan A Pope** was elected as secretary of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and vice president of Georgia Trial Lawyers Association for the 7th District.

**Dan Turner** left Paul Hastings Janofsky and Walker and joined Ashe & Refuse as a partner focusing on employment litigation. He and his wife welcomed daughter Rachel Grace in January.

**1996**

**Lorraine Sanchez Hayes** has launched Sanchez Hayes & Associates, a law firm that specializes in working with organizations to respond to employment conflict early. The firm provides early case assessment services, preparation of EEO position statements, confidential investigations and consulting services related to alternative dispute resolution.

**Matthew R. Lawrence** is a partner at Young Thagard Hoffman Smith & Lawrence. The firm practices in the areas of general civil litigation, defense litigation, workers compensation defense and criminal defense throughout South Georgia.

1997

**Kristin Childers** was named trial lawyer of the year for 2002 in the DeKalb District Attorney's Office. She was awarded Atlanta magazine’s “Women Making a Mark” award for prosecuting child sexual and physical abuse in the Crimes Against Children Unit in DeKalb’s district attorney’s office.

**Rand J. Csehy** has joined the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office after three years as drug prosecutor for Forsyth County. He is assigned to the Major Narcotics Unit.

**April Hollingsworth** is practicing employment law in Salt Lake City at Strindberg & Scholnick. In December the firm won $2.5 million, the biggest sexual harassment verdict in Utah history for a single plaintiff.

**Jennifer Magis** teaches 7th grade social studies at Campbell Middle School. After prosecuting as an assistant district attorney in Cherokee County, she returned to Georgia State and earned a masters degree in education.

**Mark B. Williamson** has joined the firm of Burnside Wall Daniel Ellison & Revell as an associate.

**1998**

**Lisa M. Gable** is a partner with Robertson & Gable. She and her husband Carl welcomed their second child, Carter James, in June 2002.

**Paul Knowlton** moved to Stites & Harbison from Kilpatrick Stockton. His practice expanded from intellectual property to include products liability and construction related matters.

**Marcy Tucker** opened her own office this year in Snellville. She practices family law, wills and probate and juvenile court work.

**1999**

**Manjunath Gokare** has relocated his law office to its own building in Alpharetta, Georgia.

**Adam Princenthal** started his own firm this year, after practicing commercial litigation at Powell Goldstein Frazer & Murphy. He represents parties involved in all areas of civil litigation and citizens accused in criminal cases.

**Julie E. Windom** has been named general counsel to Senate President Pro Temp Eric Johnson, R-Savannah. She was a policy analyst for the Senate for the second half of 2002.

**2000**

**Dawn M. Jones** is associate general counsel for the Grady Health System, where she handles all aspects of litigation involving medical and nursing malpractice, contractual issues, and employment issues, as well as in-house matters.

**Brian Leslie**, an associate at Morris Manning & Martin, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Atlanta IT Alliance, working with state agencies and organizations on Georgia life sciences initiatives.

**Josh Liszt** is an attorney with Trey Inman & Associates, practicing in residential real estate with a specialization in real estate closings and refinancing.

**Nerrylle Manning-Wallace** is an associate attorney at Blackshear Walther Sloan Adair & Westmoreland. She specializes in residential real estate transactions, estates and probate, wills and trusts.

**Emily Smith** incorporated her own practice in 2002 and provides contract services for various real estate closing firms. She and her husband Brandon excitedly celebrated their daughter Abbigal’s first birthday in December.

**Don Thomas** formed his own firm after leaving Ray Sherman & Hatcher.

**2001**

**Jennifer C. Kane** is an attorney at Budd Larkner Rosenbaum Greenberg & Sade. She practices in the area of products liability litigation, specifically firearms litigation. This spring, she will be assisting at the trial of NAACP v A.A. Arms et al in the eastern district of New York and People v Arcadia Machine & Tool in the Superior Court of San Diego.

**Bill Kelley** is an associate at Vaughan & Evans.

**Annie King** and husband David welcomed daughter Riley, their first child, in August.

**Elizabeth Lynn Ray** recently completed 18 years with the Federal Aviation Administration in air traffic management. She is practicing law part time.

**2002**

**John Gee Edward** has begun practicing law as a sole practitioner in Valdosta, Georgia.

**David P. Lewen Jr.** is in the U.S. Army JAG Corp, stationed in Taegu, South Korea. He is Chief of Client Services where he supervises an office that conducts legal assistance and federal tort actions.

**Terri S. Sutton** is an associate at Smith Welch & Brittain, specializing in domestic relations.

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Send your personal and professional updates to christinehill@gsu.edu or P.O. Box 4037, Atlanta, GA 30302.
same ink stand, and placed it on
her husband’s desk so he would be
inspired when writing his dissent in
the equally infamous Plessy v
Ferguson decision. Justice Ginsburg
has been active in having Harlan’s
memoir, Some Memories of a Long
Life 1854-1911 published.

Justice Ginsburg ended her talk
by pointing out that Justice Sandra
Day O’Connor is celebrating her
22nd year on the Supreme Court as
she is celebrating her 10th year. She
knows that Harlan and Matthews,
whose footsteps Justice Ginsburg
followed by being appointed to the
D.C. Court of Appeals, would take
pride in the fact that two of the
nine Supreme Court justices are
women, a fact that would not have
been possible during their lifetimes.

WANTED:
Email addresses
Please send to
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Georgia State University College
of Law Ranks in Top 100

Georgia State University
College of Law was ranked
91st nationally by U.S. News &
World Report in its 2004 survey of
the best graduate schools. This is
the first time the magazine has
ranked the top 100 law schools
instead of only the top 50. Georgia
State is the youngest law school
on the list. This is quite an achieve-
ment for a 20 year old institution.

Georgia State University, a unit of the University System of Georgia, is an equal opportunity educational institution and is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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