Students as Lawyers

Clinical Education at the College of Law

New HeLP Clinic Joins Nationally Recognized Tax Clinic

COL Student Helps Free Man Wrongfully Imprisoned 22 Years

Donor Generosity Sets New College Fund-Raising Records

Health Law Program Ranked in Top 10
The development of practice skills is not just the work of clinics and externships. Nearly 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The Georgia Innocence Project helped win the release of a man (Pete Williams) forced to serve students to intern with leading agencies, non-profits and members of the judiciary. With and the continuing success of our nationally recognized Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. You I invite you to read about the promise of our newly opened HeLP Legal Services Clinic preparing students for the varied demands of professional legal work. In the pages ahead, we feature in this one success story to share in any one feature of this blend the teaching of legal doctrine and analysis, and skills.

Traditional classroom teaching, whether by lecture, Socratic dialogue or role play, can only go so far in meeting these diverse objectives. A critical part of legal education must include learning by doing. That observation, though obvious and intuitive, is not fully embraced by today’s law schools. The Carnegie Foundation’s recently completed two-year study of legal education, Educating Lawyers, concludes that in contrast to medical schools and most other professional education, “most law schools give only casual attention to teaching students how to use legal thinking in the complexity of actual law practice,” and that this unbalanced emphasis “can create problems as students move into practice.” The report urges law schools to move toward a more-balanced, integrated program that better blends the teaching of legal doctrine and analysis, and skills.

Like most law schools, the College of Law has not yet achieved this desired balance, but with the opening last January of our second in-house live client clinic, we devote the cover feature of this Law Letter to “Students as Lawyers,” and the progress we are making in preparing students for the varied demands of professional legal work. In the pages ahead, I invite you to read about the promise of our newly opened HeLP Legal Services Clinic and the continuing success of our nationally recognized Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. You will also read about our extensive Externship Program and the opportunities it offers our students to intern with leading agencies, nonprofits and members of the judiciary. With so many outstanding students, there are always several success stories to share in any one year. We feature in this Law Letter the work of 3L Cliff Williams, whose efforts with the Georgia Innocence Project helped win the release of a man (Pete Williams) forced to serve nearly 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

The development of practice skills is not just the work of clinics and externships. Co-curricular opportunities such as Moot Court and Trial Advocacy programs also feature “students as lawyers,” with students engaged in legal representation in simulated advocacy settings. The Law Letter shares with you the latest news of our student teams, and their continuing successes and victories in advocacy competitions with other law schools throughout the country.

The Carnegie Report on Educating Lawyers is a call for all law schools to examine their skills curriculum and the way students are prepared for practice. As we get ready to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and begin the five-year journey toward a new law building at the nearby SunTrust Plaza, we are well positioned to undertake the kind of review the Carnegie Report envisions. In this way, we will continue to advance our mission as a law school committed to bridging theory and practice.
With the spring semester of this year, there have come changes in the ranks of associate deans here at the College of Law.

At the end of fall semester, Dean Anne Emanuel stepped down as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to resume her demanding work as the official biographer of legendary 5th Circuit Judge Elbert Tuttle.

“Dean Emanuel was slated to make this transition over a year ago, and again this past summer, but being the incredible person she is, agreed to delay the transition until the end of the fall,” explained Dean Steven Kaminshine. “I cannot tell you how fortunate the COL has been in having Dean Emanuel to oversee the academic side of our operation. We all have benefited immeasurably from her deft touch, her judgment, her advice, her discretion, her candor and her capacity to take on an unfair load.”

Dean Kaminshine also announced that Professor Kelly Timmons has been named the new Associate Dean of Students, effective at the end of spring semester.

“Dean Timmons has ‘unofficially’ already begun taking on some of her new responsibilities,” Dean Kaminshine said. “A former Professor of the Year here at the COL, she is an outstanding student advocate and valuable resource at the College.

“Join us in congratulating Dean Sobelson and Dean Timmons on their new appointments, and in thanking Dean Emanuel for her unfailing fondness and dedication to this law school,” he added.

Ely Abbott Joins COL as Director of Alumni Giving

Although not a native Georgian, Abbott is no stranger to the Peach State. His wife, Farrar, is a special needs teacher from Columbus, where her mother is a Georgia State alumna, and her father is Judge Robert G. Johnston III of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Superior Court.

“We are delighted to have Ely as part of our development team at the College of Law,” said Director of Development Barbara Waters. “His work at Georgetown Law was very impressive, and we welcome his enthusiasm and expertise for the many opportunities at hand here at Georgia State in our Development and Alumni Relations office.”

COL alums and friends are invited to contact Abbott by phone at 404.651.2040 or by e-mail at eabbott1@gsu.edu.

Sobelson and Timmons Named New Associate Deans

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Abbott comes to Georgia State from Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as Associate Director for the Annual Fund and coordinated the Law Center’s Law Firm Challenge, a peer-to-peer solicitation program designed to increase alumni participation.

A graduate of the University of Montana at Missoula, Abbott grew up in Montana on the Flathead Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. Before his career in educational development began, he was a political fundraiser for two U.S. senators.

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The College of Law welcomes a new addition to the Development and Alumni Relations department – Ely G. Abbott is on board as our new Director of Alumni Giving.

Ely Abbott

The Law Letter
Clinical Education at the College of Law

New HeLP Clinic Joins Nationally Recognized Tax Clinic

In our popular culture, as often defined by television, the images we see of clinical teaching usually depict medical interns in lab coats trailing a lead doctor during medical rounds. We all know of the teaching hospital. Less heralded but increasingly as important is legal education’s version of clinical training – students as lawyers, in business attire not lab coats, but like their medical counterparts, representing real clients with real problems, under the watchful supervision of highly skilled faculty.

A recently published report from the Carnegie Foundation, Educating Lawyers, underscores the importance of such clinical training programs in preparing students to practice law, while chiding law schools about the need to do more – that while law schools need not emulate the business of teaching hospitals, they would do well to tailor more of their curricula to direct skills and professional training.

This past year the College of Law has made important strides in this direction by opening a second in-house live client clinic, the HeLP Legal Services Clinic, that now operates alongside our much-acclaimed Tax Clinic. While the subject matter of the two clinics differ, they have much in common with respect to the real-world skills training and direct client contact they offer COL students.

About The New HeLP Legal Services Clinic

Children’s health is often challenged by many social and legal problems that their families face, especially when they live in poverty. With the opening of the COL’s HeLP Legal Services Clinic in January 2007, law students will now provide representation to help address the underlying conditions that harm children’s health and well being.

Housed in freshly renovated space on the sixth floor of the law school, the new HeLP Legal Services Clinic provides a supportive environment for law students to develop practical lawyering skills in substantive legal fields related to children and families. The clinic’s name, and the cases referred to it, come from the “Health Law Partnership” (HeLP), a two-year-old innovative, interdisciplinary community collaboration with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and the Georgia State College of Law. This community collaborative operates free legal services clinics at two metropolitan hospitals, Children’s at
College of Law Tax Clinic Continues to Draw Acclaim

The Tax Clinic at the College of Law opened to rave reviews in 1992 and continues to win applause from students, the bar and the low-income taxpayers it serves. Recently received reports prepared independently by the I.R.S.’s National Taxpayer Advocate’s Office and by the Tax Section of the State Bar of Georgia give the COL Clinic extremely high marks as an outstanding lawyer skills educational program, which addresses an otherwise unmet need in the Atlanta community.

The Clinic has been a consistent recipient of grants from the I.R.S. As a result of the I.R.S.’s Clinical Grant Program, an all-day audit of the Clinic was conducted by the I.R.S.’s National Grant Program director. In the findings from that audit, the director concluded the College’s Clinic “is an excellent Controversy Clinic.” Furthermore, he stated there were “no issues of concern identified during the visit.” Following the audit, the Clinic’s grant for 2007 was renewed at an elevated amount of $86,000.

Similarly strong words of praise were contained in a practice review that the Clinic invited the Tax Section of the Atlanta Bar Association to conduct. The Section report was prepared after interviews with the Clinic staff, students, and local senior I.R.S. officials and after examining the Clinic’s internal procedures, including its case management system. The evaluators conclude, “the Clinic is performing at an extremely high level.” The report also contains four observations:

1. The Clinic provides students with valuable hands-on experience with the actual practice of law.
2. The Clinic provides high-quality representation and assistance to low-income taxpayers.
3. The Clinic provides significant assistance in efficient, fair tax administration.
4. The Clinic distinguished the Georgia State College of Law among its peers and serves as a model for other clinics.

These reports confirm earlier appraisals of the Clinic. Since its formation 15 years ago, the Clinic has received national recognition for its services from the late Sen. Paul Coverdell. Because of its reputation as a model clinic, it was visited by the former Commissioner of Internal Revenue and by senior members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate’s Finance Committee and General Accounting Office.

“Working with the I.R.S., we have resolved some 2,000 controversies for low-income clients,” said Tax Clinic Director Professor Ron Blasi. “Over the years the Clinic has involved hundreds of students, resulting in clients not having to pay well over $800,000 in federal income taxes. Our focus has always been on dispute resolution – not litigation – as a much more efficient way of resolving disputes without sacrificing anything for those we serve. We are pleased that the Clinic, and our students, are very successful.”

Most importantly, the low-income taxpayers served by the Clinic sing its praises. Indicative of the feelings of the thousands of taxpayers the Clinic has served over the years are the following client comments received recently:

“The Tax Clinic saved my life! (The student) was excellent. She kept me up on everything. I thank you very much for your help.”

“The Tax Clinic was my only hope to get the help I was entitled to for my dependents. They did a great job and service to those who really need it. Thanks.”

“My wife and I appreciate the polite and professional manner, along with on-time communication (the student) has expressed. And the Tax Clinic has provided a great service to the community.”

Egleston and Children’s at Scottish Rite, and it serves hundreds of children and their families whose incomes are below 200% of the federal poverty line.

With the addition of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic at the COL, HeLP is now able to expand its coverage to three venues. For the COL, the new clinic enables the law school to offer a second in-house clinic and thus expand the skills training opportunities available to law students. Students enrolled in the new clinic have the opportunity to develop such basic skills as client interviewing, counseling and representation; negotiation; research and drafting; and case management.

“As important as the free legal services are to HeLP’s clients, this new live-client clinic at the law school also offers a model interdisciplinary educational program,” explained Professor Charity Scott. Cont’d. on Page 6
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who directs the Center for Law, Health & Society and serves as Director of the Clinic. “We envision HeLP as an opportunity to expose future lawyers to community-based collaboration with health professionals and to address the socio-economic needs and legal rights of children and families, especially those from under-served and disadvantaged communities.”

The HeLP offices based at Children’s hospitals handle a wide variety of cases such as guardianship, Medicaid, housing, Social Security, family law, education and employment issues. HeLP staff attorneys at the hospitals, who are hired by the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, refer cases appropriate for law students to the new COL HeLP Clinic.

Law students meet weekly in formal classes with their clinical faculty to cover substantive and procedural law, as well as Clinic administrative procedures and lawyering skills in general. Students also meet weekly with their assigned supervisor to discuss and evaluate their assigned cases. Students are required to be in the clinic a minimum of seven hours per week. They are paired in teams of two and are assigned individual, ongoing cases to handle under the supervision of the Clinic’s two Associate Directors, Assistant Clinical Professors Sylvia Caley and Lisa Bliss.

Support for HeLP and the new Clinic has come from the generous donations of private donors and foundations. The three partners have assembled a strong Advisory Council, which meets monthly and has formed five committees to assist HeLP with its educational mission, fund raising, pro bono legal services, ethical considerations and public relations. The Advisory Council is broadly interdisciplinary, with leading professionals from the legal, healthcare, social work and academic communities in Atlanta.

A Student Viewpoint on the Benefits of Clinical Education at the College of Law

“As students, we often read and discuss various legal issues and techniques. But it takes having actual clients with real problems to understand what attorneys do … and understand the dynamic environment of the legal system.

The Tax Clinic provides an excellent opportunity for all students – even those who are intimidated by tax – because it focuses on foundational skills that all lawyers need to develop including interviewing, negotiating, problem solving and research. In the Clinic, students have their own clients under controlled supervision, and we learn how to solve real issues through actual experience.

The Clinic is a wonderful instructional tool because it allows students to practice law with a certain degree of comfort knowing other practicing attorneys and experts are there to assist, counsel, work with a client, supervise and educate.”
Sick kids who live in poverty have more than just medical problems. Intertwined with their medical issues are social and legal conditions that can complicate their health and worsen their well-being.

Law students enrolled in the HeLP Legal Services Clinic now handle cases that arise in this context. But how do these cases present themselves? Consider a recent example:

A young child has chronic asthma, and during one particularly severe attack she is admitted to one of Children's hospitals. Her mother tells a HeLP attorney that she worries her daughter’s asthma has gotten worse in recent months because of the increasing presence of mold in their subsidized housing.

The child’s mother has complained to the landlord on numerous occasions, as well as to the housing authority, and no one has done anything about it. Over the past several months, the child has been admitted several times to the hospital’s intensive care unit because of severe asthma.

The HeLP attorney visits the apartment. The attorney - Sylvia Caley, is the Director of the overall HeLP project and is an Associate Director of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic at the law school. Upon investigation, Professor Caley discovers the mold infestation is dangerously extensive - so bad that it triggers her own asthma condition.

She assigns the case to a HeLP staff attorney, Joann Yoon, who presents the case to the housing authority and successfully negotiates a new apartment for the family.

“While this case originally presented as a severe medical problem requiring hospitalization for the child,” said Professor Caley, “its long-term solution required a lawyer to address the underlying housing problem to keep the child healthy and out of the hospital.”

This is a typical case for HeLP attorneys and Georgia State law students who have enrolled in the newly opened HeLP Legal Services Clinic.

Exterions Offer Valuable Experiences for College of Law Students

For many students and alumni, the Externship Program at Georgia State Law stands out as the high point of their law school careers. This academic year alone, more than 200 students will perform legal work at over 40 sites around Atlanta, offering exposure to a variety of areas of law and practice settings. Students report that the training they receive and the work they engage in is exciting, challenging and equivalent to that offered to junior-level attorneys.

Many third-year students externing at the U.S. Attorney’s Office and other prosecutorial placements, for example, have the opportunity to represent clients in misdemeanor, felony and civil trials taking place in state and federal courts. Students externing as clerks for federal and state judges, moreover, have the opportunity to review pleadings, attend trials and assist with dispositive motions pending before the court.

Students value externship placements not only for the experience they gain but also the professional contacts that they develop. Many students walk away with professional mentors that last well beyond the semester of employment. Such connections are invaluable personally and of great assistance professionally in the first years post-graduation.
COL Student Plays Key Role in Release of Wrongly Imprisoned Man

Georgia State College of Law student Cliff Williams was a youngster in Atlanta when Willie O. “Pete” Williams was wrongfully imprisoned in Fulton County almost 22 years ago.

But in late January, the third-year law student’s work with the Georgia Innocence Project has helped result in the freeing of Pete Williams, a man who throughout his imprisonment staunchly maintained his innocence.

The release of Pete Williams, who in 1985 was sentenced to a 45-year prison term for rape, has made major headlines. After some 20 years of incarceration, he wrote a heartfelt letter to the Georgia Innocence Project in 2005, asking for their help. Since its founding in 2002 by College of Law alums Jill Polster (‘01) and September Guy (‘01), the Georgia Innocence Project has worked for the release of those wrongfully sentenced to prison by utilizing advances in DNA testing.

“The number of innocent people in prison is impossible to quantify,” Cliff Williams observed. “America has the fairest criminal justice system in the world, but people fall through the cracks. That’s why I am so grateful to have worked with an organization like the Georgia Innocence Project, which makes sure those individuals do not go unnoticed.

“An unrivaled and relentless commitment to our clients is the only way to safeguard against tragedies like this from occurring again,” he continued. “The persistence and diligence of Michael Schumacher’s (Pete Williams’ trial attorney) representation are what allowed the Georgia Innocence Project to prove Pete’s innocence. Watching him walk out of the Fulton County Jail as a free man was the highlight of law school, if not my entire future career.”

A University of Georgia undergraduate with a major in finance and a minor in political science, Cliff Williams decided to attend law school at Georgia State for a variety of reasons. And he credits his experience working with the Georgia Innocence Project as a guiding factor in his future.

“The College of Law is an incredible school with a talented faculty, many of whom have extensive litigation experience,” Cliff Williams said. “Working with the Georgia Innocence Project during law school has helped guide my career path significantly. I definitely want to pursue a career in criminal defense, hopefully starting in a public defender’s office somewhere in Georgia.”

Cliff Williams noted his biggest influences have come from a collective group of mentors and faculty members including Judge John J. Ellington of the Georgia Court of Appeals, Aimee Maxwell (’87) and Lisa George of the Georgia Innocence Project, and COL professors Mark Kadish and Paul Milich.

“Rarely have I seen such a combination of native talent and passion for the law,” commented COL alum Maxwell, the executive director of the Georgia Innocence Project. “Cliff’s commitment to Mr. Williams’ case was unwavering. He truly exhibits the finest qualities of our profession. Our intern working on this case before Cliff was Ashley Tyson-Mackin (‘06), now a COL alum. Then for months Cliff worked with two volunteer lawyers on the case, Bruce Harvey and COL alum Sandra Michaels (’87), to finally present the case to the judge in the motion for the DNA testing. The judge swore Cliff in before the hearing and later complimented him on the presentation.”

According to Professor Andi Curcio, co-director of the COL Externship Program, the student’s hard work showed commitment to the case, and to the cause.

“Cliff Williams is a wonderful example of how our students learn and are shaped through their experience with organizations that are doing important legal work ...”

Andi Curcio
Professor and Co-director
COL Externship Program
student spotlights

Congratulations To Competition Teams On Banner Year

STLA Teams Make History With Outstanding National and Regional Title Wins
College of Law students won the 10th Annual William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition this past November in Atlanta. The competition is hosted by the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the State Bar of Georgia each fall as an annual criminal mock jury trial competition for U.S. law students. Only 18 schools from across the country are invited to compete in this well-known competition named in honor of the late Judge William W. Daniel of the Superior Court of Fulton County. Georgia State’s winning mock trial team included Elinor Hale, Jason Waters, Jordan Jewkes, Emily Ahlquist, Suzanne Lee, Zach North and Josh Sutton. Hale was also named Best Advocate for the competition. Coaches for the team were Alison Burleson, chief assistant solicitor general in DeKalb County, and Brian Fortner, assistant district attorney in Douglas County.

This semester the COL’s STLA teams continued their winning ways, becoming the first law school in the South to win both the American Bar Association National Trial Competition (NTC) Regional and the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Regional mock trial competitions in the same year.

GSU won the NTC regional tournament in February at the DeKalb County Courthouse. Team members included Mitch Freehauf, Tiffany Bartholomew, Keith Hayasaka, Anjel Burgess and Cal Leipold. Coaches were Tom Jones and Cheryl Champion-White. In March the COL mock trial team won the AAJ Southeast Regional Tournament in Atlanta. Team members included Aaron Kappler, Jackie Couturier, Leanne Defoor and Matt Burke. Coaches were Joe Burford and COL STLA alum Lance LoRusso (’99).

BLSA Team Wins Region, Then First Runner-Up Nationally
The College of Law’s BLSA Trial Team brought home top honors at the 36th Annual National Black Law Students Association Southern Regional Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in Miami Jan. 17-21. The Georgia State team included 3Ls Stacey Hornsby, March Konan, Kairi Smith and Deah Warren. The team was coached by 3L Katonga Harris and attorney Adrian Britt of Travelers Indemnity Insurance Company, a former Clayton County Assistant District Attorney. The team bested 31 other groups from the Southern Region of the United States. They went on to compete at the national championships here in Atlanta in March. The competition was comprised of the top two teams from all six regions across the country. The College of Law team took First Runner-Up honors overall at the national level.

COL Team Wins National Bioethics Mock Trial Competition
The College of Law won the 1st Annual NCCU Bioethics Mock Trial Competition Nov. 11 in Durham, North Carolina. The competition was hosted by North Carolina Central University’s Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Law Institute as an annual civil mock jury trial competition for U.S. law students, focusing on issues in bioethics and pharmaceutical law. Competitors this year came from law schools all over the United States. The COL team was the only team to win every competition round, and won jury verdicts in every round, whether representing plaintiff or defendant. Georgia State’s mock trial team included Katonga Harris (3L), Ernessa Brawley (2L), Sherrie Brady (2L) and Lyndie Freeman (3L). Freeman was also named Best Advocate for the competition. The team was coached by Georgia State 3L Deah Warren and was sponsored by the Georgia State Student Health Law Association.

College of Law Boasts Best Advocates Galore
In the past academic year, Georgia State’s College of Law trial teams have boasted FOUR Best Advocates during competitions … an impressive feat, indeed!

Elinor Hale, A. Andre Hedrick and Tana Brackin took top advocate honors during fall Student Trial Lawyer Association mock trial competitions, and Lyndie Freeman was named Best Advocate during the National Bioethics Mock Trial Competition.
A fantastic crowd helped make this year’s Public Interest Law Association (PILA) Auction the most successful in the history of the event.

More than 380 COL students and their guests gathered at the Georgia Freight Depot in downtown Atlanta for the 2007 auction, raising nearly $18,000 in the process.

Funds raised during the annual auction finance the PILA fellowship program, which assists law students during work programs in the public sector each summer. Last year the auction allowed the program to fund four full-time and three part-time positions.

Mardi Gras spirit filled the air as guests perused silent auction items and enjoyed jazz music during the 15th annual event. Auctioneer Patrick Kunes led the bidding on items including a pair of AirTran tickets, a heart-shaped cake, a pair of battery-powered socks and the chance to be dean for a day … among many others. Through the assistance of hundreds of donations, volunteer support, a dedicated event team and, of course, generous bidders, the auction was deemed a tremendous success.

The 2007 auction boasted an increase in guest capacity and was held in conjunction with the COL Alumni Reunion also under way at the Depot that evening. The pairing offered a unique opportunity for alums, faculty and students to celebrate and raise funds for PILA. A fun-filled tradition during PILA Auctions, “Professor Karaoke,” was handled dutifully by this year’s winner, Associate Dean Kelly Timmons.

Hats off to the 2007 auction event team, led by Katharine Fields with assistance from Mazie Lynn Causey and members of the PILA Auction committee, and PILA faculty advisor Professor Lisa Bliss for a job well done!

College of Law student Aisha Saeed was recently named the recipient of a prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship, making her the COL’s first fellow from this distinguished organization for legal education.

The Equal Justice Works Fellowships Program was created in 1992 to address the shortage of attorneys working on behalf of traditionally under-served populations and causes. Each year some 350 law students and graduates compete for fellowships, with only 50 recipients named.

Applicants find an area of need in the community they wish to work in and create a comprehensive program to address unmet needs. The applications are evaluated by Equal Justice Works, with the most promising projects then sent to sponsors, who select deserving proposals for two-year funding.

“As a former teacher, I am acutely aware of the manner in which Georgia schools don’t meet the educational needs of low-income, chronically ill students,” Saeed explained.

“My fellowship project is designed to improve educational services and support to this population. I will provide legal representation, education and advocacy on behalf of children with chronic illness by working with the COL’s Health Law Partnership (HeLP).”

The outcomes of Saeed’s project include: improved access to education for these children; improved understanding by parents, health providers and educators of the needs of ill children; improved school policies for these children; and development of best practices for addressing their educational needs.

Equal Justice Works Fellowships seek to develop the public interest law leaders of the future, whether they continue to work in the nonprofit arena or become pro bono advocates in the private bar. Saeed’s Equal Justice Works Fellowship project is being sponsored by the national labor and employment law firm of Ford & Harrison LLP. Her fellowship begins this September and runs through 2009.
Mardis Gras-Themed Reunion Brings Classmates Back Together

The Georgia Freight Depot in downtown Atlanta took on a Mardi Gras theme for the College of Law’s annual Alumni Reunion Celebration held Feb. 17.


This year’s reunion coincided with the highly successful 15th annual Public Interest Law Association (PILA) Auction, which also took place at the Depot that evening. Alums on hand were able to bid for great items to benefit PILA’s summer stipends, ensuring COL students the opportunity to work in public interest organizations.

COL’s Newly Minted Lawyers Reception and Second Swearing-in Ceremony Held Nov. 15

A crowd of more than 250 witnessed Georgia State College of Law alum, the Honorable Cynthia J. Becker (’87), swear in 2006 graduates during the 8th Annual Newly Minted Lawyers Reception Nov. 15 at The Commerce Club.

For only the second time, the event featured a swearing-in ceremony for law graduates, making the reception memorable for the new attorneys, their guests, alumni, faculty and staff present.

Dean Steven Kaminshine welcomed attendees, who were also greeted by Dawn Jones (’00), president of the Graduate Leadership Council, which hosted the event.

The new lawyers were then introduced to various alumni initiatives including the Graduate Health Network by James R. Westbury (’94), the Intellectual Property Law Initiative by Jeff Kuester (’93), the Oglethorpe Legal Society by James Hurt Jr. (’03) and the Cobb County Alumni Group by Michael Manely (’89).

DiSantis Steps Down As City of Atlanta Attorney

Linda K. DiSantis (’88) left her position as City of Atlanta Attorney this past December. The COL Board of Visitors member had served as city attorney since 2002 with an impressive track record of excellence. Her work transformed the city’s Law Department into a well-respected legal department serving all the civil legal needs of the mayor, city agencies and city council.

Prior to her service as the city’s chief legal officer, DiSantis was a vice president and managing attorney for UPS, and an attorney at Alston & Bird. She has launched a consulting firm — The DiSantis Consulting Group, LLC — that focuses on assisting organizations in translating legal and/or business advice and decisions into meaningful actions for the organization. The recipient of numerous honors in the legal field, DiSantis is the first COL graduate to receive the College of Law’s prestigious Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award, an accolade she received in 2006 for her commitment to public service throughout her life and career.
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Georgia State University College of Law
Winter/Spring 2007

speakers&scholars

Metro Growth Center Visiting Scholars Address Global Growth

The Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth hosted three international professors in residence at the College this semester as part of a spring speaker series. The professors presented public lectures as part of the Metro Growth Center’s “2007 Spring Lectures on Managing Global Growth and the Law.” The professors also lectured in classes for COL students during their visits.

Daniel Bonilla, Professor of Law at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, spoke on “Legal Education in Latin America – Public Interest Law Clinics in Latin America: A Tool Against Legal Formalism.” His talk in January was co-sponsored by the Hispanic Law Students Association.

Raymond Young, Esquire, a partner at Lidstone, Young, Anderson (Barristers & Solicitors) and Adjunct Professor of Law and Planning at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., offered a presentation on “Lingle and Kelo: Right at Home in the Great White North.” His lecture in February was co-sponsored by the International and Comparative Law Society.

Maria Magdalena Kenig-Witowska, Professor of Law at the University of Warsaw in Poland, addressed “Metropolitan Growth Management: A Polish Perspective.” Her lecture in March was also co-sponsored by the International and Comparative Law Society.

Loury Presents 39th Miller Distinguished Lecture

Glenn C. Loury, the Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences at Brown University, delivered the 39th Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series at the College of Law Oct. 9. The topic for Professor Loury’s lecture was “Relations Before Transactions: A New Paradigm for Racial Discrimination Theory.” Once again, the popular luncheon and lecture format for the Miller Series saw a standing-room-only crowd in attendance for the midday event.

Professor Loury is a prominent social critic and scholar, having published over 200 articles in journals of public affairs in the U.S. and abroad on the issues of racial inequality and social policy. An academic economist, Professor Loury holds a B.A. degree in Mathematics from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. He held faculty positions at Northwestern, the University of Michigan, Harvard and Boston University prior to joining Brown University. He has been a visiting scholar at Oxford, Tel Aviv University, the University of Stockholm and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

The Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series at the College of Law is supported by the Charles Loridans Foundation, Inc.
Almost two dozen deans and other administrative officials of law schools from across the People’s Republic of China gathered at Georgia State University’s College of Law in January for a day-long seminar on administrative issues in legal education in the United States.

Present at the sessions of the seminar were representatives from:
• East China University of Politics and Law
• Department of National Judicial Examination of the Ministry of Justice in the People’s Republic of China
• Law School of Inner Mongolia University
• Law School of Hunan University
• Dongbei University of Finance and Economics
• Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics School of Law
• Law School of Yantai University
• Graduate School of Northwest China University of Politics and Law

“The College of Law is no stranger to foreign visitors,” noted Professor E. R. Lanier, long-time director of the College’s Summer Academy in International Commercial Arbitration. “Since our earliest days, this law school has been a magnet for international interests and activities. This visit by a large group of Chinese law deans is a record in terms of numbers, however, and underscores a growing interest here in legal education in Asia.”

Chinese law deans visit the COL with Professor E.R. Lanier

This past fall the College of Law hosted the first eminent foreign scholar as a visiting professor in intellectual property. And along with that, came an ever-growing global perspective in IP at the COL. Joining us in Atlanta for the semester was Dr. Ronan Deazley, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Birmingham School of Law in Edgbaston, Birmingham, U.K., and an internationally known copyright scholar.

Dr. Deazley is the author of two recent books, *On the Origin of the Right to Copy: Charting the Movement of Copyright Law in Eighteenth Century Britain* (HART Publishing 2004) and *Rethinking Copyright: History, Theory, Language* (Edward Elgar 2006). While at Georgia State, Dr. Deazley co-taught an advanced seminar in international intellectual property law with Professor Michael Landau. He also made presentations to the College of Law faculty and worked closely with students on research papers.

Dr. Deazley returned to the College of Law to speak along with 10 other scholars from the United States and Europe at the GSU Law Review Symposium Mar. 23.
Georgia State’s Health Law Program Ranked Among Top 10 by U.S. News & World Report

The health law program at Georgia State University’s College of Law has been ranked 10th in the country by U.S. News & World Report in their “America’s Best Graduate Schools 2008” edition, which hit newsstands last month.

The Center for Law, Health & Society advances the key role that law plays in promoting society’s health, and is the only nationally ranked health law program in the southeast. Law Professor Charity Scott, the director of the center, has developed Georgia State Law’s health law program over many years, culminating in the formal establishment of the center in 2004. According to Professor Scott, “health law provides a forum to bring together a host of disciplines and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration across the community.”

In other recent ranking news, the College of Law continues to be among U.S. News and World Report’s Top 100 Law Schools, currently ranked at 82nd (up from 97th last year). Georgia State is still the youngest law school to be ranked among the Top 100 by the publication. In addition, the College of Law was ranked 60th place among a new ranking of law schools sponsored by the Consus Group. Finally, in a new ranking by Vault Inc., the College of Law at Georgia State is ranked as the 11th Most Underrated Law School. Vault, a media company that provides career information, asked 500 recruiters at some of the nation’s top law firms to pick 25 law schools they felt produced excellent graduates but didn’t always get proper acknowledgment. Vault surveyed hiring partners, corporate counsel and recruiting managers to devise their list.

Law Review Symposium Focuses on International Intellectual Property Law

“IP International: Intellectual Property for the Global Marketplace” was the theme of the 2007 Law Review Symposium at the College of Law. The Mar. 23 event featured IP scholars and attorneys from across the U.S. and around the world.

The day-long symposium took place at the Georgia State University Student Center Ballroom, with morning and afternoon sessions. The public symposium presented by the Law Review also counted as CLE credit for Georgia Bar Association members.

According to Law Review Symposium Editor Nichole Hair, the overall theme was based around both international and domestic aspects of modern intellectual property law.

“The topics for the symposium focused on intellectual property and its involvement in a variety of international issues,” Hair said. “Topics included human rights, software and computer patents in Europe, software and computer patents in the United States, art-related issues in intellectual property, and challenges that new information technologies are posing for public policy and traditional legal regimes both in the U.S. and across the globe.”

College of Law Professor Michael Landau assisted the Law Review in organizing the symposium and served as moderator for most of the panel sessions.

The symposium keynote speaker was Pamela Samuelson, a professor at the University of California at Berkeley with a joint appointment in the School of Information Management and Systems and the School of Law. She is also Co-Director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology. Professor Samuelson has written and spoken extensively about the challenges that new information technologies are posing for public policy and traditional legal regimes, and she is an advisor for the Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic at Berkeley.
COL Admissions Receives $10,000 LSAC Minority Outreach Grant

In January, College of Law Director of Admissions Dr. Cheryl Jester-George received a $10,000 minority outreach grant from the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). The grant supported a two-and-a-half day program in February that focused on outreach to high school students to promote interest in higher education in general, and law school in particular. Called Pathways to the Future (PTTF), this collaborative program was conducted with Georgia American Bar Association accredited law schools.

Participating students met with law professors, members of the bench and bar, as well as members of other professions. They also toured college and law school campuses in Atlanta, Athens and Macon. The 44 students who took part were able to obtain information about educational and career opportunities available beyond high school. Discussions included information on the admissions process for undergraduate, graduate and professional colleges, and financial aid. Additional conversations encouraged students to consider legal studies.

Princeton Review Ranks College of Law 5th in U.S. For Welcoming Older Students

Georgia State ranks fifth in the nation for being one of the most welcoming law schools for older students. So said the latest edition of The Princeton Review’s “Top 170 Law Schools” this past fall. The 2007 edition rankings of the publication are based on the average age of entry of law school students, and student reports of how many years they spent out of college before enrolling in law school.

“We are very pleased with this ranking from The Princeton Review,” noted Dean Steven Kaminshine. “We are of course welcoming of all our students, but it is not surprising our older students, many of whom are in our part-time program, are especially appreciative of the opportunities we provide. We take great pride in our part-time program, and work hard to offer part-time students a full and rich law school experience.”

Georgia State University President Carl V. Patton announced Nov. 10 that the Georgia State University Foundation, Inc. will purchase the SunTrust Bank Atlanta property adjacent to the campus. The $52 million purchase of the two-block area includes the 26-story office tower at 25 Park Place, a three-story bank building, a six-story annex building, a four-story vacant building and an eight-story parking deck. SunTrust will lease the property back from the University for up to five years.

“As Georgia State continues to grow,” Patton said, “the need for more space has become crucial. The acquisition of the SunTrust property will help alleviate the tremendous shortage the University has in office and classroom space.”

Patton also announced that, pending Board of Regents approval, the eastern portion of the site will be developed as a professional center for the University’s College of Law and J. Mack Robinson College of Business. The center will include buildings for law and business, a classroom building and an auditorium.

College of Law Dean Steven Kaminshine said the announcement represents a transformative opportunity for the law school and the University.

“The College of Law needs a new and identifiable building befitting its status, and the SunTrust site offers an excellent location for this undertaking,” Kaminshine commented. “Configuring the site as a shared complex for both law and business will offer new and important opportunities for interaction and collaboration between our two colleges.”

Architectural rendering of the College of Law building in Georgia State’s new professional education center, which will be home to both the law school and the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.
College of Law Development Efforts Set New Fund-Raising Records

Under the new leadership of Development Director Barbara Waters, COL supporters helped the College set new fund-raising marks in 2006. Overall giving to the College, alumni participation rates and individual class gifts all increased over previous years. New gifts and pledges of $887,000 surpassed last year’s total of $175,000. Alumni participation reached an all-time high of 23%, capping three successful programs—an e-mail outreach, a class gift effort and a law firm campaign.

The Class of 2006 earned bragging rights—58 percent made a contribution to the Patricia Morgan Scholarship before graduating, while the Class of 2005 followed closely with 48 percent giving.

A spirited contest among Atlanta law firms resulted in 12 firms reaching their goal of 100 percent giving from fellow law alumni. In an unexpected record, the GSU Foundation tracked the highest number of online gifts ever made to the University as an influx of several hundred electronic gifts for the College of Law marked the final days of the 2006 fiscal year.

Many of the college’s fund-raising volunteers belong to the 50-member Graduate Leadership Council, which is charged with conducting the peer-to-peer campaign in law firms and other organizations for the college, as well as serving as class agents. Ninety-four percent of the Graduate Leadership Council made individual contributions as well.

In 2006 faculty, staff, alumni, students and friends strongly supported the Patricia T. Morgan Scholarship as the College continued to build endowment for this fund in memory of a beloved professor who taught at the College from 1998 to 2002.

Endowment was completed for a new scholarship, the F.A. O’Daniel Scholarship, thanks to the generosity of alumnus Keith O’Daniel, Class of 1991, and the F.A. O’Daniel Foundation. This scholarship supports the education of a law student who has been a recognized student athlete and leader in his undergraduate years. The College of Law now boasts a total of 14 scholarships programs; the largest is the Atlanta Law School Foundation, which in 2006 provided 18 full tuition and fee scholarships to law students.

Two new professorships were also announced in 2006. The Bobby Lee Cook Professorship in Law, established by renowned attorney Bobby Lee Cook with plans to generate support for a fully endowed chair, will ensure continued outstanding teaching and scholarship at the law school. In recognition of the important work of the college’s Tax Clinic in serving low-income citizens, the Mark and Evelyn Trammell Chaired Professorship in Tax Law is being created through the generosity of the Mark and Evelyn Trammell Foundation and alumnus Tim Trankina. The Tax Clinic also received a grant for $85,000 from the Internal Revenue Service for the 2006 academic year.

The Intellectual Property Initiative is experiencing tremendous growth and serves Atlanta businesses and law firms as a resource for the exchange of ideas, information, best practices and networking. Raising over $91,000 in 2006 and over $220,000 since its inception in 2004, the group hosted an IP Celebration, the first IP Hot Topics Panel and a successful second Southeastern Intellectual Property Job Fair. An important new initiative, the Corporate Intellectual Property Roundtable, brought over 50 businesses to GSU’s Student Center in April and signified the first collaborative effort of the University’s College of Law and Robinson College of Business. The IP Founders group now numbers nearly 65 supporters whose gifts range from $100 to $10,000.

With a strong alumni base of support, now numbering 3,500, the goal of the College, is to stay connected with its graduates and to continue to build support for a college that has in Dean Kaminshine’s words, “sprinted into its second generation.”
Alumni participation reached an all-time high of 23%.

Gifts to the College of Law support quality academic programs, scholarships, student activities and faculty teaching and research. This report gratefully acknowledges all donations received between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

We strive to produce a complete and accurate report. Please report any inadvertent errors or omissions to: Georgia State University College of Law, Office of Development, P. O. Box 4037, Atlanta, GA 30302, 404.651.4360 or lawdevelopment@gsu.edu.

### FELLOWS

<table>
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<td>Miles J. Alexander and Elaine Alexander</td>
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<td>Alston &amp; Bird</td>
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<td>Arnold Foundation, Inc.</td>
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<td>Martha Baum Carlton ('86)</td>
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<td>Linda K. DiSantis ('88) and George Robert Kerr</td>
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<td>David H. Flintz</td>
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<td>David H. Gambrell</td>
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<td>Arthur Augustine Gardner ('88)</td>
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<td>Thomas James Guzzo ('98)</td>
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<td>W. P. Jensen</td>
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<td>Ben F. Johnson III</td>
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<td>David Victor Johnson ('89) and Deana L. Johnson</td>
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<td>Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP</td>
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<td>W. Scott Petty ('90) and Kathryn Y. Petty</td>
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### DEAN’S CLUB

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<td>Randall Lee Allen ('86)</td>
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<td>R. Lawrence Ashe, Jr. and Kathy B. Ashe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold W. Askins III ('06) and Kathleen S. Askins ('06)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta Bar Association</td>
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<td>Scott M. Bailey ('96)</td>
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<td>Dorothy Tosh Beasley</td>
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<td>Barry Brager and Elina Brager</td>
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<td>Calvin Ray Wright ('95)</td>
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### BENEFACTORS

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### SCHOLARS

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<td>State Bar of Georgia</td>
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### ADVOCATES

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<tr>
<td>Isabel Mary Alcoce ('94)</td>
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<td>Mauricia Jane Allen ('02) and Robert Anthony Ambrose ('01)</td>
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<td>Jason Edward Bring ('98)</td>
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<td>Tyler Jennings Browning ('00)</td>
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<td>Marial L. Ellis ('99)</td>
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<td>Creighton Prommer ('05)</td>
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### DEAN’S TRUST

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<td>State Bar of Georgia</td>
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The Class of 2006 set a student-giving record with 58 percent contributing to the Patricia Morgan Scholarship.

William Marshall Sanders ('99)  
Caroline Brooks Seay ('94)  
Meredith Linde Shearer ('92)  
Bashir Sheikh-Ali ('94)  
Karen Bender Singer ('93)  
Gregory Scott Smith ('92)  
Michael Todd Smith ('92)  
Ronald J. Stay ('97) and  
Lisa Stay  
Rose Dooley Stewart ('91)  
Bradley Eugene Straw ('97)  
Strickland Brockington Lewis, LLP  
Christopher John Sullivan ('06)  
Aarti Surtani  
Alex Suor ('06)  
George B. Taylor, Jr. ('94)  
Allison Robin Teal ('05)  
Eric C. Thorstenborg ('87)  
Allison Blair Chance ('97)  
Stephen R. Chance ('95) and  
Erik Reynolds Chance  
Charles W. Chesbro ('87)  
Charles W. Chesbro Attorney At Law  
Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
Sumita Chowdhury-Ghosh ('00) and  
Shubha Ghosh  
Sheila Kessler Chrzan ('92) and  
David S. Chrzan  
Lindsey G. Churchill ('03) and  
James T. Churchill  
Mark James Cicero ('93)  
Kimberly Evelyn Civins ('01)  
Anthony Craig Cleveland ('92)  
Wendi L. Clifton ('01)  
Augustus Bonner Cochran III ('94)  
Lisa Singer Cohen ('98) and  
Kendall Cohen  
Linda Ann Collett ('05)  
Noshay Lynette Collins ('05)  
Larry Colton  
Chere E. Cookrinis ('96)  
Joseph Louis Cooley ('05)  
Christina M. Correa ('90)  
Robert Joseph Coursey ('98) and  
Sharon Reeves Coursey ('98)  
John Andrew Creasy ('96)  
Glenda Kraft Cucher ('01)  
Leigh Fahl Cummings ('02) and  
John Milton Cummings  
James Hoof Curry ('96)  
Kenny Rixner Curry ('92)  
Theresa Thi Dau ('06)  
David N. Bryman, PC  
Mawuli Malcolm Davis ('02)  
Victoria Melissa Davis ('97)  
Kean J DeCarlo ('97)  
Delores Foundation  
Carolina Del Brok-Perez ('95)  
Valerie Cason Dickerson ('00)  
Lawrence Alan Dietch ('90)  
Sheri T. Donaldson ('97)  
Lori V. Douglas ('91)  
Teresa J. Duncan-Elbel ('92) and  
Eric Elbel  
Mitch Durham ('86)  
Andrew Donald Egan ('05)  
Julie S. Elgar ('05)  
Melissa Jewell Elliott ('04)  
Scarlett Elliott ('05)  
Sierce Elliott ('05)  
Denise Steiner Esserman ('93)  
Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort  
David J. Farnham ('86)  
Sally Anne Farrar ('01)  
James T. Farrell ('88)  
Joseph Patrick Farrell ('97)  
Debbie W. Flesch ('93) and  
James Ronald Flesch  
Carlie J. France ('99)  
Baron Jay Frankie ('96)  
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In recognition of the important work of the college’s Tax Clinic, the Mark and Evelyn Trammell Chaired Professorship in Tax Law is being created through the generosity of the Mark and Evelyn Trammell Foundation and alumnus Tim Trankina.

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A Special Thanks

We are especially proud of the support of the following faculty and staff of the College of Law this past year who donated to the law school through the university’s annual fund and staff campaign.

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and
Jennifer Jane Crick (’04)
Camilla Moore (’96)
Irene M. Morgan (’99)

† Indicates deceased donor
COL Study-Abroad Programs are Summer Success Stories

The College of Law’s two summer study-abroad programs continue to attract students interested in international study in Europe and South America.

The College’s Summer Academy in International Commercial Arbitration (SAIICA), is among the oldest continuously operated foreign study programs offered by an American law school in Europe. Established in the framework of a consortium with Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, in 1993, the Academy offers participating students the possibility of gaining six credit hours during the course of its program, which takes place annually between mid-May and mid-June.

Based in Linz, the participants of the Summer Academy are hosted annually by the international arbitration courts operating in Prague, Czech Republic; Venice, Italy; Budapest, Hungary; and Vienna, Austria.

SAIICA has recently been re-accredited by the American Bar Association, and will retain its accreditation until 2013. Approximately 50 students will journey to Europe for this summer’s program. Professor Ray Lanier is the Summer Academy director.

The College’s innovative South American study-abroad program is now in its third year. The Summer Legal and Policy Study in Rio de Janeiro is an interdisciplinary program offering courses in international and comparative human rights, corporate, trade, environmental and public health law and policy, and in cross-cultural resolution.

The Rio summer study program, which is a project of the College’s Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, is fully accredited by the American Bar Association. It is conducted in consortium with the Seattle University School of Law and The University of Tennessee College of Law.

Students can earn six credits or three credits, depending on modules participated in. The program is designed with student flexibility and variety of courses and learning opportunities, and is completed between mid-May and mid-June.

The Rio program features all lectures in English, with Brazilian speakers drawn from law, government and civil society. Courses are taught in collaboration with faculty from Rio’s top universities, and the program includes a mixture of learning experiences. Professor Colin Crawford is the program director, and this year more than 60 students will participate in the Summer Legal and Policy Study in Rio.

Intellectual Property Gains Momentum

The College of Law’s Intellectual Property alumni advisory group has helped the COL co-sponsor several important IP events and programs during the past year.

Beginning last fall, the law school and the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State entered a unique collaborative partnership to begin hosting Corporate Intellectual Property Roundtables. These events serve as a forum for exchange of ideas, best practices, information and networking exclusively for in-house executives in the IP law community. Some 50 companies are represented at roundtable events, now meeting 10 times annually for focused discussions on particular areas of IP in corporations.

The roundtables will be highlighted this fall by the first Corporate IP Institute to be hosted at the COL Oct. 23-24 featuring IP experts from corporations across the country.

Throughout the year, the IP alumni group assisted the College in co-sponsoring “Hot Topics” luncheon programs for practitioners and students interested in IP law. Topics included online advertising and trademark disputes, copyright law and media distribution, among others.

In April, the College co-sponsored the third annual IP SpringPosium at the Georgia Aquarium, offering a one-day program focused on updates in IP law. Coming up July 31 is the third annual Southeastern IP Job Fair, also hosted at the COL, at which top firms from around the region will recruit talented Georgia State students interested in pursuing IP law.
Edmundson is Visiting Fellow at Oxford

College of Law faculty member Bill Edmundson, professor of law and philosophy, returned last fall from a prestigious stint as a visiting fellow at Oxford University in the U.K.

Professor Edmundson was the H.L.A. Hart Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Ethics and Philosophy of Law for Trinity term 2006. He was affiliated with University College, the oldest college at Oxford, and his fellowship included housing, meals and an office overlooking picturesque Christ Church Meadow in the heart of the busy city of Oxford.

While at Oxford, Professor Edmundson attended numerous seminars and lectures, gave three talks at Oxford and one at Cambridge University on topics including reasoning and obligation, moral responsibility and the duty to obey the law. Although Professor Edmundson had no teaching duties, writing was on the agenda during his Oxford visiting fellowship.

In addition to his recent fellowship, Professor Edmundson was named the recipient of the second annual Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship to recognize faculty excellence in scholarly research.

Cunningham Named to Prestigious Society

Professor Clark Cunningham was admitted to membership in The Society of Writers to Her Majesty’s Signet last May in recognition of his work with the Glasgow Graduate School of Law and the College of Law of England and Wales.

He is only the second American to become a member of The Society, which is charged with custody of the royal seal of the British monarchy and believed to be the oldest professional association of lawyers in the world.

With the Glasgow Graduate School of Law and the College of Law of England and Wales, Professor Cunningham’s work is leading to fundamental changes in the way client interviewing is being taught in Great Britain.

Curcio Awarded Fulbright Grant in China This Spring

Professor Andi Curcio has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at South China Normal University in Guangzhou, [formerly Canton] China this semester.

Professor Curcio is teaching civil procedure and torts to Chinese law students. As part of the Fulbright Scholar program, Professor Curcio is lecturing on torts, civil litigation and procedural issues at universities throughout China. She will be accompanied for the spring semester by her daughter, Amelia, who was adopted from China in 1998. The pair left for China in late February, and will return in early July.

“Actually, my daughter is the reason I applied for the Fulbright program,” Professor Curcio explained. “While we are in China, she will be attending school there. It will be an exciting experience for both of us.”
In 1986
Susan H. Colussy, program director for immigration services with Catholic Charities, was awarded an Emory Public Interest Committee’s Inspiration Award in February. The award is presented to four attorneys annually who demonstrate a passionate commitment to public interest law.

Richard C. Reuben authored a book this past fall entitled Corporate Governance: A Practical Guide for Dispute Resolution Professionals, which was published by the American Bar Association. Reuben is an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. A senior fellow at the law school’s Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution, and vice chair of the Ombuds Committee of the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

In 1987
Joy C. Hawkins was appointed to the Georgia Career and Technical Education Advisory Commission by Gov. Sonny Perdue last fall. Hawkins is the vice president of regional education for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and served as the deputy chief operating officer for Gov. Perdue. She is a member of the Georgia Child Support Commission, the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement’s Coordinating Board and the Metro Atlanta Corporate Volunteer Council. Hawkins also serves as the business representative on the Ombuds Committee of the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

Eleni Pryles Kalisch, Federal Bureau of Investigation congressional affairs director, left the agency recently to accept a position in the private sector. Kalisch began her FBI career in 1995 as assistant general counsel at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. She joined the FBI’s Office of Public and Congressional Affairs in 1998 as special counsel and in 2000 became the first section chief of the Government Relations section. In 2003, she was appointed assistant director for the FBI’s newly defined Office of Congressional Affairs. Prior to joining the FBI, Kalisch served as counsel to the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. She also previously served as an assistant district attorney in DeKalb County.

In 1989
Anne Lewis, a partner at Strickland Brockington Lewis LLP, was featured in Atlanta Woman magazine last fall in an article entitled “Legal Eagles – 20 Who Soar Above the Competition.” Lewis’ practice focuses on representation of public utility clients on regulatory matters before the Georgia Public Service Commission, state agencies and municipal bodies. She also represents clients in various public policy and legislative matters, education and employment issues. In addition, Lewis serves as chief deputy general counsel to the Georgia Republican Party.

In 1990
Barry Herrin is now a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He earned the fellowship by completing a fellow project, and was recognized during a convocation in Chicago Mar. 18.

In 1991
Tammy M. Griner was honored as Georgia’s Juvenile Court Attorney of the Year at the 7th Annual Child Placement Conference last November in Augusta. She was married this past June to Dr. M. Kevin Barlow.

Melissa Anne Maye accepted a position with the Office of the State Appellate Defender in Ottawa, IL, this past January.

In 1992
Anthony Morris was recently appointed to the Fulton County Arts Council. He was nominated for the position on the 15-member council by Fulton County Commission Chair Karen Handel. Morris is a partner in the law firm of McKenna, Long & Aldridge, LLP, and co-author of Peachtree Battle, the longest-running play in Atlanta theatre history.

David van der Griff accepted a position as legislative advocate with the California Hospital Association (CHA) in Sacramento, CA, in December. CHA is the statewide leader representing the interests of hospitals, health systems and other healthcare providers in California. He will focus on managed care, and labor and employment issues. Prior to joining CHA, van der Griff was a policy adviser to California State Assembly member John Laird.

In 1994
Scott Frank was featured on the cover of Intellectual Asset Management magazine, a U.K. publication that focuses on intellectual property value for business. Frank was highlighted in the December/January edition for his work as the president of BellSouth’s Intellectual Property Group, which in less than 10 years became a model for achievement and profitability. Frank’s new title is president of AT&T Intellectual Property.

In 1995
Marilyn Hamilton accepted a position last July as attorney-advisor with the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (formerly Office of Hearings and Appeals) of the Social Security Administration, in Charleston, WV. The Office of Disability Adjudication and Review administers the hearings and appeals program for the Social Security Administration.

Jonathan A. Pope was elected as the 2006-2007 president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia last year. In 2000, Pope became a partner of Hasty Pope & Ball, LLP, with a trial practice in wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases. In 2004, he was named by Georgia Trend magazine as one of its “Top 40 Under 40.” In addition to his trial practice, Pope is the Solicitor General for the City of Canton, a former two-term president of the Blue Ridge Circuit Bar Association and a member of the board of directors of the Cherokee County YMCA.
1996

Lorraine Sanchez Hayes recently relocated The Concensus Group, a practice group of Sanchyes Hayes and Associates, LLC, from Marietta to the south side of Atlanta near Peachtree City. Prior to launching The Concensus Group, she was at associate at Troutman Sanders and served as corporate counsel for UPS and The Home Depot.

Kym (Stout) Smiley has served as special counsel for Wheeler Trigg Kennedy LLP in Denver, CO, since 2004. Her practice includes employment, commercial and product liability litigation. She and her husband Brian have two daughters, Katelynn (3) and Lauren (2).

1997

Thomas E. Bowen was elected to the District 6 seat (Stone Mountain area) of the DeKalb County School Board last November.

Kevin King was made partner at Sutherland Asbill Brennan this past December.

Tom Mazzotti was elected shareholder in Greenberg Traurig’s litigation practice group, focusing on products liability defense and medical malpractice defense. In 2005 and 2006, he was selected as one of Georgia’s Rising Star Super Lawyers. Tom and his wife Jennifer live in Sandy Springs with their three children, Mary Elizabeth, Caroline and Thomas.

1998

Nowell Berreth has been elected as a partner in Alston & Bird’s litigation and trial practice group, focusing on agribusiness and fiduciary litigation. In 2005, he was selected as one of Georgia’s Rising Star Super Lawyers. Tom and his wife Michelle live in Atlanta with their two daughters.

Christopher Chan moved to the Atlanta office of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP this past November.

Robert J. Coursey III was elected as a partner at Fisher & Phillips LLP, a national labor and employment law firm, in January. Coursey was also named a 2006 Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star.

Matthew Ferguson was recently appointed to lead the Reznick Group’s expansion of its national renewable energy practice. A principal of the firm, Ferguson is responsible for growing the practice and advising clients on energy-related transactions. In this national role, he is based in the Reznick Group’s Tysons Corner, VA, office. Previously Ferguson served as director and general tax counsel for UPS.

Mary R. Hawk became a principal and shareholder of Porges, Hamlin, Knowles, Prouty, Thompson & Najmy, PA, in Bradenton, FL, this past December. She continues her practice in commercial litigation and appeals. She and her husband Michael have a five-year-old son, Erik.

1999

Joyce Gist Lewis was named a shareholder at the firm of Casey Gilson Leibel P.C. last year.

2000

John Merritt left Troutman Sanders last year to establish Berger, Merritt & Samuels, P.A., in Atlanta. The firm specializes in the area of commercial and business litigation with an emphasis on corporate bankruptcy matters.

2001

Michele Giddens was sworn in as a newly licensed member of the State Bar of Texas last November. She is employed in San Antonio.

Robert A. Hodges was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2007 edition. He is an intellectual property attorney with Needle & Rosenberg, P.C., where he leads the firm’s biotechnology practice. He holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and serves as patent counsel to technology companies and research institutions.

Cynthia Matthews Daley opened the law firm of Daley, Koster & LaVallee, LLC, which she established last fall in Atlanta with Paul Koster and Matthew LaVallee. Daley serves as a magistrate judge in Carroll County in addition to her private practice. Daley has been a featured speaker on discrimination, fair labor standards and issues impacting the legal profession. She serves on the Georgia State University College of Law Graduate Leadership Council.

2002

Stephanie Dyer left Powell Goldstein to start her own Atlanta law firm with Simon Bloom as a partner in the new firm, The Bloom Law Firm, LLP. The firm, which opened its doors in March, is a real estate development and civil trial practice boutique. The firm’s focus will continue to be complex civil litigation, with a particular emphasis on real estate disputes.

2003

Chay Sengkhounmany and his wife Ouday announced the birth of a son, Eli Manivong Sengkhounmany, Jan. 29 in Murfreesboro, TN. Sengkhounmany is an immigration attorney for the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Immigrant Legal Clinic.

2004

G. Lamar Smith Jr. joined Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP last fall as an associate in the firm’s workers’ compensation defense practice.

Robert A. Walker Jr. joined the intellectual property and litigation law firm of Merchant & Gould as an associate attorney last year. At Merchant & Gould, Walker practices intellectual property law with an emphasis on patent prosecution relating to electrical systems. Formerly a manager of engineering with Snapping Shoals EMC, Walker also holds an MBA from Georgia State’s Robinson College of Business. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and is a registered professional engineer with the State of Georgia.

2005

Stewart David Bratcher was married to Elizabeth Anne Koppany last November. He is employed by the Cherokee Judicial Circuit as an assistant district attorney for Calhoun and Cartersville.

2006

Christine Chen was selected for the Consumer Union’s Esther Peterson Fellowship. She will hold the position for 2006-07 at the Consumer Union National Office in Washington, D.C. The Esther Peterson Fellow receives hands-on experience and training in advocacy on consumer issues at the federal legislative and administrative level. The fellowship is named after one of history’s leading consumer, women and labor advocates, Esther Peterson. Peterson advised three presidents (Kennedy, Johnson and Carter) on consumer policy issues and represented the international consumer movement in a leading advocacy role at the United Nations.
College of Law Alumni Named 2007 Georgia Super Lawyers

The 2007 edition of Georgia Super Lawyers magazine is presented by the publishers of Atlanta magazine annually, rating state lawyers by strenuous criteria useful to consumers of legal services. The publication provides unbiased, credible ratings for choosing legal counsel, with candidates selected for the list among the top five percent of all lawyers in the state (which translates into the top 100 lawyers in Georgia).

Candidates are evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement during a rigorous selection process involving considerable polling and peer assessment.

This year’s COL alumni who were selected among the top attorneys in the state include:

Ronald J. Freeman Sr. (’85)  
Johnson & Freeman LLC, Atlanta

Mark V. Hanrahan (’96)  
Toler & Hanrahan LLC, Atlanta

Christine A. Koehler (’95)  
Koehler & Riddick LLC, Lawrenceville

COL Board of Visitors Members Also Recognized Among the Best

Members of the Georgia State College of Law Board of Visitors also scored tops in the Georgia Super Lawyers ratings. They include:

John T. Marshall, Powell Goldstein, Atlanta  
(2nd highest-rated lawyer in Georgia)

Miles J. Alexander, Kilpatrick Stockton, Atlanta  
(3rd highest-rated lawyer in Georgia)

In addition, Board of Visitors member Beth Tanis of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan of Atlanta was named to the Top 100 list and prominently featured in the Georgia Super Lawyers 2007 edition.

Another accolade for a Board of Visitors member this year went to Miles Alexander, who was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for the State Bar of Georgia’s Justice Robert Benham Community Service Awards for his outstanding contributions to the Atlanta community. The award was presented during a ceremony by former Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Benham and Court of Appeals Presiding Judge G. Alan Blackburn. The honor is the highest recognition given by the award selection committee reserved for a lawyer or judge who has demonstrated an extraordinarily long and distinguished commitment of volunteer participation in the community throughout his or her legal career.
Mark Budnitz made a presentation at a University of Georgia faculty colloquium on his study of the need to regulate prepaid telephone cards. The Loyola Consumer Law Review published an article he co-authored based on that study. The Journal of Consumer and Commercial Law published an article he wrote on recent developments in “Payment Systems Law.” He lectured on that subject at the national Consumer Rights Litigation Conference in Miami. At the invitation of the Federal Reserve Board’s Consumer Advisory Council, he made a presentation on the need for uniform rules to govern consumer payment systems. Professor Budnitz also became a member of the board of directors of a new national consumer organization, Americans for Fairness in Lending.

Clark Cunningham co-authored with Gregory Todd Jones and two Scottish law professors “Vying What Clients Think: Standardized Clients and the Assessment of Communicative Competence,” published in 13 Clinical Law Review 1 (2006). His work with the Scottish legal profession expanded with his appointment as academic consultant to the Society of Writers to Her Majesty’s Signet in the development of a new specialty accreditation program for lawyers. In November 2006, he presented a paper on India’s Supreme Court in London, England, at an international conference on Comparative Constitutional Traditions in South Asia. In December 2006 he made a presentation on “Innovative Approaches to Teaching Legal Ethics” and chaired a session on “Using the Internet to Promote Justice Education” at the National University of Argentina for the 4th Worldwide Meeting of the Global Alliance for Justice Education. He organized and chaired the Second Annual Workshop of the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism, held December 15-17, 2006 at the Red Top Mountain Lodge near Atlanta. In September of 2006, Professor Cunningham completed his service as a member of the Fulton County Criminal Justice Blue Ribbon Commission, when the commission presented seven major recommendations for improving the criminal justice system to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

Andi Curcio’s article, “Civil Claims for Uncivilized Acts: Filing Suit Against the Government for American Indian Boarding School Abuses,” was published in 4 Hastings Race and Poverty Law J. 45 (2006). Professor Curcio is spending this spring semester in Guangzhou, China, where she is a Fulbright Fellow teaching civil procedure and tort law to Chinese students at South China Normal University.


Anne Emanuel visited Beijing, Guilin and Shanghai, China, in October 2006 as a member of an ABA Criminal Justice Delegation. Professor Emanuel appeared on the WAIB show “In Focus” in an interview segment about the ABA Death Penalty Moratorium Assessment Report. She also appeared on Community Forum, 91.9-FM WCLK, Dec. 9, 2006, discussing the issue of no-knock warrants with State Rep. Billy Mitchell and Dr. William Boone of Clark University. On Dec. 1, 2006, she gave the inaugural address for the Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan “Elbert P. Tuttle Courtroom,” and on Dec. 12 she joined death penalty exoneree Shareef Cousin and Dr. Pamela Leonard on a panel at the First Iconium Baptist Church to discuss “Innocent on Death Row: An Examination of the Death Penalty.”

Marjorie Girth served as a panelist discussing “Ethical Quagmires in Bankruptcy Practice After BAPCPA” at the American Bankruptcy Institute’s 2006 Southeastern Bankruptcy Workshop. She also continues to serve on the American Law Institute’s Consultative Group for the Restatement 3d of Restitution and the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force of the Federal Reserve Board of Atlanta.

Bill Gregory gave a presentation on “Malpractice and Fiduciary Breach” at the North Atlanta Tax Council Feb. 9, 2006.

Janice Griffith was a speaker at a conference on emergency preparedness for disasters sponsored by The Working Group on Property, Citizenship and Social Entrepreneurism of the Syracuse University College of Law. During the past year Professor Griffith served as chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on State and Local Government. She coordinated with the chairs of the Property and Real Estate Transactions Sections to produce a workshop at the AALS annual meeting in January entitled “The Katrina Workshop: Redeveloping a Region After a Mega Disaster.” Professor Griffith served as a moderator of this workshop.

Wendy Hensel was an invited speaker at the Hastings Law Journal’s National Disability Law Symposium in San Francisco, California, Feb. 3. She presented a summary of her latest article, “Sharing the Short Bus: Disability and Identity Under the IDEA,” which will be published in the Hastings Law Journal this summer. Professor Hensel’s article “The Disabling Impact of Wrongful Birth and Wrongful Life Actions,” which appears in the Harvard Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, was recently included in SSRN’s Top Ten download list for “Disability Law.” SSRN (the Social Science Research Network), is an extensive database of law and social science articles used to support scholarly research.

Gregory Todd Jones was Visiting Research Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods in Bonn, Germany. His recent scholarly works have been published in the Tennessee Law Review, the Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy, the Clinical Law Review, the Journal of Business Ethics, the Journal of Behavioral Decision Making and the American Journal of Public Health. He also contributed two chapters, on negotiation and game theory, to The Negotiator’s Fieldbook published by the ABA Press. He presented his research at numerous venues, including invited talks at the Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research and the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods. He was a panel chair at the meetings of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution.

Julian Juergensmeyer was the leader of the Rutgers University & U.S. Department Of Housing and Urban Development-sponsered Atlanta focus group on “Land Use Regulations and Affordable Housing,” held at the College of Law this past November. He made presentations about the issue of impact fees at the National Impact Fee Roundtable held in Arlington, Virginia, in October of 2006. He was one of the three instructors for the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Community Planning Academy’s Workshop on “Impact Fees: Principles and Practice,” held in Atlanta Dec. 5, 2006. Professor Juergensmeyer’s paper, “Development Impact Fees 2006: A Year in Review,” was published in APA Planning and Environmental Law, Vol. 59, No.2, p.3 (2007).

Steven Kaminshine gave a presentation on “Disparate Treatment as Theory of Discrimination,” at the First Annual National
Colloquium of Labor and Employment Law Scholars," held at Marquette Law School in October of 2006. He has been invited as a panelist to speak on "Employment Discrimination Law 15 Years after the Civil Rights Act of 1991," at the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Association of American Law Schools this July.


Neil Kinkopf gave a briefing on Capitol Hill for members of Congress, congressional staff and the media on the subject of congressional power over war. Professor Kinkopf has made presentations on the National Security Agency's Domestic Surveillance Program at the University of Miami Law School, at the annual convention of the American Constitution Society and at the Georgia Bar Association's annual Supreme Court Update Program. He also presented a paper at a symposium at the William and Mary Law School on the subject of presidential signing statements. This paper will be published in the William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal. Professor Kinkopf published several papers on the subject of presidential power, including articles in the print and online editions of Harvard Law & Policy Review. In addition, a paper on presidential signing statements appears at http://www.acslaw.org/node/2965, and a briefing paper entitled "The Congress as Surge Protector," can be viewed at http://www.acslaw.org/pdf/Kinkopf-Surge.pdf.

Michael Landau authored updates to the Copyright and Trademark materials in West’s Federal Administrative Practice Handbook as well as several book chapters and two articles in various IP publications. Professor Landau was an invited speaker at several conferences in the United States and Europe, including conferences at Michigan State, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Florida, University of Pittsburgh and John Marshall Law School (Chicago). This past January, Professor Landau was a panelist on the subject of “Termination Rights and Copyright Law” at the first meeting of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. at the Princeton Club in Manhattan. Over the course of this year, Professor Landau was interviewed by several media outlets (Forbes, CBS, MSNBC, Yahoo and the AJC), on a variety of IP topics including Digital File Sharing and the auction of newly disclosed papers of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Paul Lombardo served as Chairman of the Panel on Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences study to determine the feasibility of establishing a National Twin Registry for the investigation of genetic and environmental contributions to complex diseases. He was Co-Principal Investigator on a National Institutes of Health Human Genome project during a symposium to mark the Centennial of Indiana’s 1907 eugenical sterilization law in April. Professor Lombardo has been invited to provide ongoing advice for the traveling version of the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum Exhibit, “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race.” He made a presentation at the October Annual Meeting of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities in Denver on “What Non-Lawyers Need to Know about Health Law.” He gave the keynote address: “A History of American Eugenics – On Using a Dirty Word, in Context,” at a November conference on Eugenics and Emerging Technologies: Bioethics in the Shadow of Auschwitz held at the National Press Club. In September, he was interviewed by the Chicago Tribune for two nationally distributed articles on the history of eugenic legislation.

Charles Marvin is serving as Chair of the U.S. Advisory Group on Adjudication of the American Bar Association Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Task Force that is preparing, in coordination with European Union lawyers working in Brussels, a comprehensive report and eventual book on European Union Administrative Law. He also continues to serve as Vice-Chair for Eastern European Law on the European Law Committee of the ABA Section of International Law, and as an external thesis advisor and reviewer for students at the Riga Graduate School of Law in Latvia.

Paul Milich received the Third Millennium Medallion Award from the Georgia Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Professor Milich has presented over 50 programs to Georgia's judges over the last 12 years. He recently presented programs on Georgia evidence for the Superior Court, State Court, Juvenile Court and Probate Court Judges, as well as judicial law clerks. Professor Milich published the 2007 edition of his Courtroom Handbook on Georgia Evidence (Thomson-West) and he continues his efforts as Reporter for the State Bar of Georgia Evidence Study Committee promoting the adoption of a new set of evidence rules in Georgia.

Mary Radford is currently serving as a Visiting Professor at the Phoenix School of Law for the spring 2007 and fall 2007 semesters. She recently published her revised volume of Bogert, Bogert, & Radford, Trusts & Trustees (Thomson-West), as well as her 2006 update of Redfearn: Wills & Administration in Georgia. Professor Radford’s article on “Current Developments in Georgia Fiduciary Law” was published in December in the Mercer Law Review. Professor Radford gave several presentations on Georgia fiduciary law and guardianship law and continues to serve as the Reporter for the Trust Code Revision Committee of the Fiduciary Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia. This spring she began her duties as Secretary of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Professor Radford will be the first Academic Fellow to serve as an officer of ACTEC, which is a national organization comprised of 2,600 practitioners and law professors who are selected for membership based on their expertise and achievements in the field of trust and estates law.

Charity Scott served on the Planning Committee for the annual conference of the ABA Health Law Section, at which she also moderated and organized two workshops in February, one on conflict resolution in health care settings and the other on legal and ethical issues in end-of-life decision making. She helped to organize and facilitate a day-long workshop in January on communication skills and conflict management in health care for the Healthcare Ethics Consortium of Georgia. As Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, she assisted in hosting a non-partisan series of community stakeholder meetings at the law school on reform of Georgia’s advance directives, for which proposed legislation is under current consideration by the General Assembly.

Ronald Wheeler served as both an associate editor and contributor to a new publication entitled Sexual Orientation and the Law: A Research Bibliography. This bibliography was a collaborative project undertaken by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues of which Wheeler is a member.

Doug Yarn has started a blog on alternative dispute resolution in Georgia to provide more up-to-date news and commentary on the rapidly developing law. In October, he hosted a conference on the biological roots of trust and reconciliation and is writing a book on the topic. He has been collaborating with colleagues at Oxford and Cambridge to develop conflict management programs in higher education in the U.K. In January, the program received a substantial grant from the English government.
The 2007 Annual Fund
CAMPAIGN ENDS JUNE 30
TO GIVE ONLINE: http://law.gsu.edu/alumni

Save The Dates

Celebrate

THE COL’S 25th ANNIVERSARY:

Sept. 28, 2007  Alumni 25th Anniversary Luncheon
& Open House
GSU Student Center Ballroom

Mar. 11, 2008  Justice Sandra Day O’Connor
42nd Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecturer

Apr. 17, 2008  25th Anniversary Celebration Gala

Additional Information On All Anniversary Events Coming Soon!