By Kevin Jeselnik, JL

Jury still out on looming budget cuts' impact on College of Law

Largely due to the foresight of the university's leadership, Georgia State anticipated the approximately $265 million budget cut that Governor Sonny Perdue drew up for Georgia's fiscal year 2011 budget and took action to factor that cut into the school's own budget. Unfortunately, no amount of foresight could have anticipated the state legislature's late February request that the University System look into ways to absorb an additional $300 million - more than doubling what was expected. Unfortunately, no amount of foresight could have anticipated the state legislature's late February request that the University System look into ways to absorb an additional $300 million - more than doubling what was expected. As quickly as those at the Capitol hoped, the legislature is exploring every money-saving option at its disposal, however unpleasant some proposals may be. Most students have been exposed to the shocking numbers first bandied about by major media outlets in early March: A $34 million cut to Georgia State University's budget! A 77 percent tuition hike! 622 existing paid positions eliminated!

Jury still out on looming budget cuts' impact on College of Law

Read the exclusive story on the Bobby Lee Cook event on page 12.

By Madeleine Patton, JL and Diane Kim, 2L

Setting the record straight with the Career Services Office

The CSO responds to student concerns, explains its benefits and limitations

Months ago, when I began my article series comparing objective facets of Georgia State University and Emory's law schools, Diane and I came up with a short list of topics we wanted to cover. Originally, the Career Services Office (CSO) was not a part of that list. However, after hearing stories and reading emails to The Docket regarding the CSO and their recent performance, Diane and I decided to throw away our other ideas and address the students' concerns.

We picked the issues about which students expressed the most concern to bring to the CSO. While we uncovered some surprising issues, one thing we discovered is how dedicated Vickie Brown (Director of Career Services), Ray English, Esq. (Associate Director) and our administration are to helping students find their destined career paths.

Communication

For those who took the survey, the opinions were overwhelming: the CSO did not communicate adequately with students, and as a result, students missed important deadlines, job opportunities, meetings, etc. We brought this dilemma to the CSO, and the answer was simple, yet surprising.

The CSO has three main vehicles of communication: monthly newsletters, weekly “Quick Hit” emails, and Symplicity. Understandably, all three methods involve either individualized or mass emailing. When the survey revealed that many students were not getting these emails, it quickly became the most alarming issue that we discovered. Initially, English and Brown were quite confused and baffled by these concerns.

They explained how they used Symplicity for all of their communications; the school has removed “not spam.” Efforts to forward CSO emails from Windows Live to other student accounts is also futile. Furthermore, some students were not aware that Symplicity is the main vehicle for communication, and if they did not set up their accounts and specify an email address, they would not receive correspondence.

Percentage of CSO activities in which students participated
Rise in bicycle traffic stirs efforts to make Atlanta more bike friendly

By Jane Stebbins, J1L

With the current economic and environmental climate, bikers are becoming more and more common on the streets of downtown Atlanta. As an alternative to driving, biking is healthier for your wallet, your waistline and your body— as long as you can avoid getting hit by a car.

Director of the University's College of Real Estate, Jane Stebbins studies the problem of bicycle infrastructure in Atlanta, and is currently working on the bike friendliness of the city. "We have already been through the exercise of finding a balanced approach to the problem, not to go to one extreme of the spectrum," she said. "We have already been through the exercise of finding a balanced approach to the problem, not to go to one extreme of the spectrum," she said. "We have already been through the exercise of finding a balanced approach to the problem, not to go to one extreme of the spectrum," she said.

Actual budget cuts may not be as bad, admin assures

BUDGET CUTS cont'd from page 1.

These numbers were taken as fact and disseminated rapidly across the state as soon as they came out of the initial joint Senate and House of Representatives sessions before which Governor Sonny Perdue has indicated that any additional cut is actually likely to be much less than $300 million, but the final number is presently unknown. According to GSU College of Law Dean Steven Kaminshine, "It is reasonable to speculate about how the final decision will impact students at the GSU College of Law. According to Kaminshine, tuition increases are typically centrally directed so that they raise base rates and affect students in every college at all levels. For now, all parties are waiting to see the final numbers before the specific sacrifices are fully known. The severity of the cuts depends upon whether state tax collections improve and whether the legislature embraces any of the Governor's proposed alternative streams of revenue, ranging from new fees for health care institutions to an increased tobacco tax. More information will come to light in late April, after the state legislative session is complete and the decisions on the fiscal year 2011 budget are final.

Becker emphasized the uncertain nature of the problem. "The reality is we still don't know what the number is going to be," he added. "The quality of the education that students get cannot be compromised. Protecting the quality of the education that students get cannot be compromised. Protecting the quality of the education that students get cannot be compromised."

Kevin Jeselnik is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in journalism and spent his time between college and law school as an editor of various trade publications covering the commercial real estate industry. Kevin is the Associate Editor of The Docket.

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From The Docket Online: competition recap

**Recounting some of the successes of STLA and Moot Court**

By Andy Hagenbush, 2L

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**Moot Court Advances to Final Round in Regionals for ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition**

Robert Castner, Candis Jones, 2L, and Casey Viggiano, 2L, sacrificed their spring break and practiced three times a week for six long weeks to participate in the Regional ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition. And they didn’t waste the opportunity.

On Monday, March 16th through Sunday, March 14th, the GSU College of Law team competed against 31 other schools and advanced all the way to the final round. Along the way, they grabbed the 5th best brief award and Viggiano was awarded the 5th overall best oralist. Both of these awards are even more impressive considering the quality and quantity of teams competing at the tournament.

COACH KYLYNE FARMER, 3L, and assistant coach Christopher DeNeve, 2L, assisted the team during their six long weeks of preparation.

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**GSU College of Law STLA Team Win South East Regional NTC, Advance to Finals in Dallas**

The Georgia State University Student Trial Lawyers Association has done it again.

In the first three preliminary rounds, the team dispatched Chapman, Cleveland-Marshall, and Oklahoma. After a re-seeding, the GSU College of Law team ranked fourth overall and faced 13th seed Gonzaga. Georgia State’s team defeated Gonzaga and advanced to the final round.

Unfortunately, the team just missed the top four team cut-off to advance to the national competition when they lost to 12th seed Oklahoma.

Despite the missed opportunity to advance to nationals, the team had a lot to celebrate in South Beach for the next few days. After all, the competition was over their spring break, and they certainly earned the time on the beach.

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**Unstoppable: STLA sends TWO teams to final round of ABA Regionals**

In an unprecedented showing of litigation domination, the GSU College of Law saw both its A team and B team ranked in the final round in the 2010 Student Trial Advocacy Regional tournament presented by the American Association for Justice (AAJ).

Two previous winners of best advocate awards this year, Lawyer Ashley McMahan, 3L (Best Advocate – William competition), and Lawyer Sam Nicholson, 3L (Best Advocate – Michelle competition), worked with witnesses Braxton Davis, 2L, and Madeleine Peaks, 2L, to form one of the finalist teams.

They earned a spot in the final round by beating Mercer in their semi-final match up.

The second team, represented by Mindy Park, 3L, John Early, 3L, Adam Kimerickle, 3L, and Kristi Pearson, 3L, worked double duty as witnesses and attorneys for Georgia State and represented the campus’s best students.

Stefan, who served as Chair of its Commercial Real Estate Practice Team. Industrial and Office Properties.

Abe Schear is a partner with Atlanta-based Arnall Golden Gregory, where he serves as Chair of its Commercial Real Estate, Leasing and Finance, and as Chair of the firm’s Israel Team and its Cross-Border Practice Team.

Recently, The Docket spoke with Mr. Schear about what a student needs to succeed in the field of commercial real estate law.

In your own words, please describe the legal field in which you practice?

Commercial Real Estate Attorney, Abe J. Schear

“Real estate comprises a number of trees in the legal forest. I primarily operate in the leasing office and retail real estate space, and specialize in related areas of retail practice pertaining to development and acquisitions.”

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**Better Know a Legal Profession: Comm. Real Estate**

An interview with Abe J. Schear; Partner, Arnall Golden Gregory

By Kevin Jeselnik, JL

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“Commercial real estate is different from litigation, where you have winners and losers. Here, you have finished deals or dead deals. The skills you need are old-fashioned: you need social skills, and the ability to communicate effectively in all ways, especially orally.

Abe Schear is a partner with Atlanta-based Arnall Golden Gregory, where he serves as Chair of its Commercial Real Estate, Leasing and Finance, and as Chair of the firm’s Israel Team and its Cross-Border Practice Team.

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**Did you know that now as a law student what you would tell yourself as a JL, 2L, 3L?**

I would have embraced more business courses.

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**How has your field changed recently?**

Well, the market today is better than it was a year ago. Obviously, the real estate industry was impacted by the downturn over the past few years. But most companies have accepted where they are today and are moving forward. Essentially, the economy, and the commercial real estate industry with it, has moved from running very slowly to moving too slowly, and we’re just starting to get back up to a proper speed. There are a lot of pent-up deals from 2009 as well as new deals in development that will be a boon over the coming years.

Is Atlanta or the southeast an ideal place to practice this field?

Over the next 20 to 30 years, Atlanta should be an excellent market. The city will continue to grow. If you look at its skyline, almost every major building has been built since most of your classmates have been alive, and there are many more buildings to come. This is a real estate city, and the beltline and advanced in mass transit will be a boon over the coming years.

Real estate is a cyclical business, and it’s always evolving. The ability to comprehend potential changes in the short-term is a key skill you will need to acquire. Young lawyers must have that. Not a legal concept, your skills have to go beyond that in real estate development. **The Docket Online needs writers!**

Interested in blogging or writing an opinion article?

Is there news you want to report on or your law society is doing something interesting?

Submit to The Docket Online!

law.gsu.edu/thedocket
CAREER SERVICES cont'd from page 1.

The CSO immediately contacted the IT department. Unfortunately, there is no way for the IT department to change all of this. Gazing at all students with some sense of mass to fix this problem. Two basic solutions have been proposed for the immediate future. First, the CSO will send out a mass email to the students on a widely publicized date. Students who do not receive this email will be shown how to set up their Symplify account and spam folders to ensure email communications do not get lost again. Second, the CSO will be working with the IT department on various emailing methods that will avoid getting caught by spam filters (e.g., uniform font, longer emails, matching the server name with the email address). Next, students explained that they had issues with the Symplify layout. Unfortunately, Symplify is a product that the school purchased, and it is used by many campuses around the country. As valuable as Symplify would love to manipulate it to make it more user friendly and intuitive, that will not happen until they have a larger budget. But for every student the Symplify administration took on the task of a 12 year old girl. "While clipart or fancy fonts are appropriate on some occasions, the overwhelming consensus among our students were that they were superficial and distracting. Thus, the Symplify administration has taken on a new coordinator. Ideas that are being considered are simplifying weekly emails and a clean monthly calendar-style meme with directions on where to go to find additional information.

Employment

To quote an insightful 2L, "the community is what it is right now; [the CSO] is not to blame for dismal employment." However, Brown and English explained that students’ lack of interest in traveling outside the perimeter and metro area has dissuaded some employers from posting jobs at the GSU College of Law. Thus, students must be willing to travel outside the perimeter and need to start checking Symplify on a regular basis (if you are looking for a job, do it daily). If students do not use Symplify as one of their main job search tools, it will lose its potential effectiveness.

The CSO realizes how important our alumni connections are in supplying students with job opportunities. Therefore, the CSO created the EASE program, which used the Georgia Bar website to send out mass emails to all GSU College of Law alumni, asking them to post jobs for students on Symplify. More support from our Alumni would appease students, place them in jobs and even help increase the law school’s prestige.

While there was some gripping around rank-related details, this is something the CSO cannot control. If an employer insists, whether through the CSO, Symplify or otherwise, that they will only accept applicants in the top 10 percent of the class, the CSO cannot change that. Brown even mentioned that at times they have forwarded resumes of students who were not within the rankings specified, because she felt they were good candidates. A common complaint was that "the CSO seems only focused on the top of the class, and less interested in students in the middle." When asked about this, English explained that she understands the students' concern, and stated that they do focus on the middle of the class. He said students in the middle of the list are the ones who need the most help, which is why many of the jobs posted on Symplify do not specify class rank. If possible, I hope to research and fix this problem. But for now, the choice of who to interview and hire lies with the employers alone.

Additionally, many students commented that the new job fair system is "Ray English is an amazingly nice, attentive and supportive person. I cannot say enough good things about him. The only shame is that there is not twenty of him to go around." - Robert Bexley, 2L

arrange other networking events. Furthermore, our CSO also has students working part-time with the law school’s administrative work. Our office may be smaller than the other CSO offices, but with unparalleled professionalism and creativity and tenacity, Brown and English have created a commendable system to assure that every legal employment avenue has been explored.

Alumni connections

Many students wondered why we did not have a centralized alumni database available to students to find an attorney in a specified practice area, and get advice. However, GSU has lists of its alumni, and has refused to allow students to use that to contact alumni based on practice area. The University’s response is that if the GSU College of Law alumni is sent emails by current students, they will be annoyed and remove themselves from the University contact list. However, many students disagree and have found very few GSU alumni who found questions to be a waste of their time.

The good news is that the administration has taken a stand. The alumni portal is getting a major overhaul within the next month. Once the new portal is up, all GSU College of Law alumni will be contacted and create and update their profiles, including their practice areas. Through the alumni portal, we will no longer have to go through the centralized alumni database. While students will not have direct access to the alumni database, until they are alumni (schools rarely allow this), the CSO will have access to the alumni database.

In the meantime, students can visit the Georgia Bar website, and choose to search the directory of practicing attorneys based on what law school they attended and their practice area. This is what Brown and English were forced to do when collecting contact information to implement the EASE program.

Student participation

One excellent service that is offered by our CSO is career mapping and individual student participation in the firm’s job fair. Vickie works tirelessly finding employment.

"Fickie works tirelessly and endlessly to support the students. I have yet to meet another individual who is so passionate about helping students achieve their dreams." -from student survey

The CSO’s efforts. Nationally, 75% of all law firm jobs that students get at graduation are in firms that have between 2-11 attorneys. The majority of these firms are in the immediate Atlanta area, centralized around our school’s location. The CSO’s long-term goal is to make the GSU College of Law the premiere school for that small firm market. Hence, the addition of the Solo Practitioner Job Fair and the Be Your Own Boss Network,NALP, the National Association for Legal Placement, the organization of which all CSOs of ABA-approved law school are a member, recognized the stellar efforts of the GSU College of Law, which manages a CSO in a shifting environment, and asked them to speak to a national audience. These organizations report confirm that the law school’s CSO offers far more services and opportunities than the average law school CSOs.

Office size, Budget

The current university budget is $12 million, but over the next year, the University system may have to cut between $265-$565 million in expenses. Thus, increasing permanent staff over the next year is most likely out of the question. However, Dean Steven Kaminshine stresses that when there is a necessity and a pressing student need, the university will do everything that it can to address this.

The Docket Staff member who has open doors and is always willing to sit and evaluate the ideas and they welcome your questions. Madeleine Patton is a first year law student. She received her undergraduate degree from Emory. Madeleine writes exclusively for The Docket. Online in her acclaimed "GSU vs. Emory" series of articles.

Diane Kim is currently a 2L member of the Law Review. She is the Opinion Editor on The Docket and an Appellate Fellow at the Georgia Capital Defender. When she is not knee-deep in law school, you can find her volunteering at Buckhead Church.

Conclusion

The major cause of research for this article, we realized that all parties involved had plenty to say and are more than willing to listen to all sides. The CSO wants to stress that there needs to be an open dialogue between the CSO and stu-dents. We need to bring our concerns to the GSU College of Law via email, the suggestion box, fora or even in quick office visits. After a long discussion with The Docket, and evaluating the survey results, the CSO is listening to your ideas and they welcome your questions. GSU has great, hard-working, marketable students. Our CSO has truly dedicated, hard-working individuals whose passion is to help their students find their own life passions. The administration has hired a new director and is always willing to down with students and listen.
Subsidized education a privilege, not a right

By Daniel Hudson, 2L

As many are aware, the Georgia General Assembly is facing severe budget constraints this term and is considering astoundingly ruinous cuts on higher education. Though it is important to understand why these cuts are being made, it is more important to understand that this would have happened despite the political majority in the state legislature. In contrast to the protests that this party or that party created the situation, I, for once, do not blame the politicians. I blame the students.

We, as students, have a vested interest (read: interest, not right) in low-cost education. The University of Georgia College of Law is consistently one of the cheapest law schools in the nation and has been cited by U.S. News and World Report as one of the “Best Values,” perhaps in part due to this education.

Its insensitivity, however, does not detract from the value of our degree. Students have no basis for claiming that they are paying a fair tuition for an education that will open doors to the highest levels of compensation for anything less than far better than a job.

So, what is market fair value for a JD from a public university? According to the ABA, the average in-state tuition for public law school was $26,456. For private law schools, it was far higher. In-state tuition for the COL is $10,296. That’s a phenomenal deal, and fact, Georgia subsidizes its universities far more than other states. In 2005, Georgia

Law Students need to learn to take breaks, spend time with family and to smell the flowers

By Sara Adams, 2L

I know we are looking forward to graduation and the sense of experience that anticipation. Law school has been hard work, with late hours and full schedules that we will be happy to see end of. Unfortunately, I know this niggling feeling that things are not going let up once we graduate. Unfortunately, I have this nagging feeling that you, it is an open source operating system. I agree that this position creates difficulties by dissolving business models whose additional purpose of modern communications technologies. Without a set of established user freedoms can greatly inhibit the functioning of businesses and any modifications be covered under the same agreement. Any modification and sharing is allowed, so long as the knowledge gained is re-contributed to the general pool.

Law School needs to support open source computer platforms to stay on cutting edge of technology

By Paul Pichtner, 1L

I am a free software advocate. In a world where software is a commodity, the expense of mundane, software freedom is the right to do what you please with the device you have and to have the right to share what you learn about the thing it can do with others.

I oppose DRM (“digital rights management”) technology. The profit motive of companies and consumers that desire low cost. Consumers should be free to have and share whatever files they like on their computers. I agree that this position creates difficulties by dissolving business models whose continued existence rely on controlling advances in technology.

I believe that the lack of software and user privacy greatly inhibit the functional purpose of modern communications technologies. Without a set of established rights of accessing computers and data transfer, the Internet, as developed, will cease to exist and the ability to control the devices we use to connect to that system influences that directly.

I use GNU/Linux and I imagine a few of you know what that means. For the rest of you, it is an open source operating system

Each and every senator is a beautiful snowflake

By Andrew Fleischman, 2L

Say what you will about the Roman Senate. It was filled with stuffy old pedants, endless speeches, and the constant risk of regicide. There are good things, when it invaded stuff, it invaded modern. Today, centuries after the Roman Senate, suffragettes its members into helpless baby blizzards.

They have no fear of the Charles Summer-style beatings that toughened the House of Reps into lean-ank pork dispensers. Though they may not go as any significant rate. It is also true that we should bear that burden, not the taxpayers at large.

We do not have a right to demand that others pay for it. Instead of blaming the government, we should urge the university to eliminate waste and prioritize spending before raising tuition for unnecessary expenditures.

Danielle is a full-time 2L, mother of a toddler, Vice-Chair of The Libertarian Party of Atlanta, and Secretary of the Federalist Society. Her statements are her own and should not be construed as representative of any affiliation.

Lawmakers are in a bind.

by Andrew Fleischman, 2L

What you say about the Roman Senate. It was filled with stuffy old pedants, endless speeches, and the constant risk of regicide. There are good things, when it invaded stuff, it invaded modern. Today, centuries after the Roman Senate, suffragettes its members into helpless baby blizzards.

They have no fear of the Charles Summer-style beatings that toughened the House of Reps into lean-ank pork dispensers. Though they may not go as any significant rate. It is also true that we should bear that burden, not the taxpayers at large, that any modifications be covered under the same agreement. Any modification and sharing is allowed, so long as the knowledge gained is re-contributed to the general pool.

This is not to say that there are no standards, mind you. The structure of the various development teams is similar to a peer-review system, ensuring that any code included in verified releases (structured as distributions, which include various programs and access to as many as are available on repositories) are mostly free.

Enough!

There are many places to read about this longstanding debate over the pros and cons of free software by more eloquent history teachers and historians of the issue. I'll try to keep it brief and do not demand time to breathe, there's something inside me that needs to burst out to the world. Even with the crisp delivery of total nonsense.

No one says “good job” for taking a deliberate pause in law school. We always celebrate awards and internships—and we should, because they certainly are great accomplishments—but fighting for deliberate moments, that should also be honored.

So, to you students out there who choose to paint your Sundays with cartoons and your kids (or even by yourself) on Saturday mornings instead of studying: good job.
Every year The Docket recognizes students who have shown exceptional leadership, fellowship, and general achievement as a law student. These students have distinguished themselves and are deserving of recognition by their peers. To show our appreciation for all that these exceptional students have brought to the GSU College of Law student community, The Docket honors them as “Students on the Move.”

**Beth Bachman, 2L**

As President and Co-Founder of the Be Your Own Boss Network (BYOB), Co-Founder of a musical marketing firm, Groovemuse, VP of Entertainment for the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and Co-Producer of her own television program, “We Speak!,” Beth is one of the few law students that can juggle her academic load with her other passions in life. As the Co-Founder of BYOB, she focused on assisting law student become solo practitioners or founding their own firm, and being committed to opening her own firm eventually. Beth would eventually open her own small firm. Although Beth is still torn between her passion for health law and entertainment law, she knows the best place for her is in her own law firm.

**Sara Adams, 2L**

Sara graduated from Indiana University in 2006 with a BA in Linguistics and received her MA in Applied Linguistics from Georgia State in 2008. Sara is currently the Secretary and webmaster of the SBA and is on Law Review. Sara also manages the office of her husband’s family owned plumbing company, Aaron Plumbing, in Suwanee. In her spare time, Sara volunteers at church leading a small group of kindergartners on Sundays. Sara loves working at the HeLP Clinic, because she wants to go into poverty law when she gets her degree. She’d like to work with underprivileged clients—helping them assert their rights and solve their problems. Prof. Bliss finds that Sara “approaches her work with a smile, a sense of humility, and a willingness to help others.”

**Dylan Bess, 1L**

Dylan Bess earned his BS in Organizational Management at Claflin University in 2008. For Dylan, leadership and service have always gone hand in hand, manifesting themselves in his academic, spiritual, social, and professional lives. Dylan has served as president of his church’s ministry for men, where he had the opportunity to improve living conditions for seniors, volunteer at an elementary school, and develop a mentoring program for young men. Dylan has also maintained membership in Oberoi Psi Phi Fraternity, an international fraternity of 17,000 active members whose focus is on social action programs. In 2003, he was elected to the international board of directors as one of its youngest members, and ascended to the organization’s third-highest ranking office in 2004. This summer he will be working for the EEOC through GSU’s externship program.

**Bob Quinn, 3L**

Bob Quinn achieved GSU College of Law immortality when he and his mock trial team brought home the regional championship trophy from the NTC tournament this spring. The team went on to compete in the national tournament in Dallas, Texas. Having already earned his MBA, Bob hopes to parlay his success in mock trial to real trials as a lawyer specializing in business litigation. He gained additional litigation experience at the Cobb County DA’s office in the trial division and as a law clerk at Holzer, Holzer, & Fistel. In addition to STLTA, Bob is active in the Business and Law Society, and serves as president of the Federalist Society. Despite his busy schedule, Bob somehow finds time to teach his nephew baseball and serve as a Counselor at Y. E. A. Summer Camp.

**Eric Coffelt, 2L**

Eric Coffelt graduated Magna Cum Laude from Mercer University with a major in criminal justice. Eric is now a member of STLTA, PILA, and has served as vice president of the Criminal Law Association while also serving as a GRA. He has interned with both the Appellate and Trial Divisions of the Georgia Capital Defenders. He plans to be a public defender because he says it is the most important job in the system. For Eric, no matter how dangerous an individual defendant is, letting the government violate someone’s rights or break the law is more dangerous. At the end of the day, a good defense attorney protects the rights of the client by holding the government to its legal burden. Professor Gabel commends him, for “grasp of both scientific and legal principles is a talent that usually takes years of practice beyond law school.”

**Mindy Park, 3L**

Mindy Park has a degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. As an undergraduate, Mindy was on the Tech mock trial team and a member of the Undergraduate Judicial Cabinet. While Mindy was at Tech, her mock trial team won regionals, their division at nationals, and came in second place in the country. Prior to law school, she was an 8th grade Algebra teacher. She enjoys trial and appellate advocacy and would like to be a litigator or prosecutor after law school. She is on Mock Court, STLTA, and played the flute in the GSU wind orchestra this past semester. Professor Cornelius Stephens holds Mindy in high regard, saying that “Mindy was awesome in Contracts. She was my ‘go to’ student.”

**Naeem Ramatally, 1L**

After graduating from Florida State University in 2005, Naeem Ramatally put in a few years in the working world before making the move to Atlanta to get an MBA. Instead, Naeem changed his mind and chose to earn a J. D. Naeem is the 1L full-time Senator for the SBA and Secretary for the Asian American Law Students Association. For the SBA, he is on the Law Week and fund raising committees, and plans to run for Secretary in the upcoming election. For the AALSAA, Naeem played a part in organizing its charity date auction that raised more than $2,000 to benefit Hanna’s House, a local women’s shelter. Naeem can also be found giving tours of the College of Law to potential students for his part-time job in the Student Affairs Office. Neaem hopes to work in a medium to small-size firm. Dr. Cheryl Jester-George says that Naeem “exhibits great character that exudes integrity, loyalty, and dependability.”

**Francine Acevedo, 2L**

Francine Acevedo graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she received a certificate in European Union Studies and a dual degree in International Affairs and Spanish. While at Tech, Francine was a varsity cheerleader and interned at the Canadian Consulate’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Before law school, she volunteered at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society working on special education cases and was chosen as a Georgia Law School Consortium Fellow, through which she attended courses at the University of Georgia. Last summer, she received a grant from Emory Law School to help rewrite Georgia’s Juvenile Code. Currently, she is a law clerk and translator/interpreter at a law firm in Norcross.

**Janet Hardman, 2L**

Janet Hardman went to Emory for undergrad, earning a degree in psychology. Janet spent five years at the American Arbitration Association and a few more years at Drew Eckel & Farnham as paralegal/legal assistant. Janet is the President and Co-Founder of the Labor & Employment Law Society, VP of RWA for Most Court and she also volunteers with Jennifer Ann’s Group. She also has an externship with Judge Goger at Fulton Superior Court, which has only strengthened her interest in litigation. Dean Sobelson praises Janet’s motivation and leadership abilities. “Janet strikes me as a hard worker, who is more than happy to go the extra mile to get the most she can out of school and associated activities. She and I had some discussions about some student activities earlier this year, and I was really impressed with her drive, her maturity and her appreciation for the difficult choices we have to make in these lean budget times.”
Sheldon had a childhood dream of becoming a comic book super villain ("because they have more fun and live a more luxurious life"). Once he realized that was not a career option, he headed to UGA to get a degree in finance. After graduating in 2008, Sheldon started at GSU College of Law. He is a member of both STLNA and Moont Court and is currently interning at the Georgia Court of Appeals with Judge Barnes. For Moont Court, he competed in the Leikowitz Trademarks Competition and competed as a witness in the William W. Daniel National Invitational for STLNA. He finds himself most drawn to business litigation and was nominated for one of the funniest people in law school. Outside of law school, he is movie connoisseur and golfer, although he is finding that law school interferes with that.

Madeleine is from the Atlanta area and went to Emory University, where she spent her time as a researcher at the Emory Autism Center, head of New Student Orientation, and participated in Club Gymnastics. She worked at a law firm for 8 months before coming to the GSU College of Law. Now, Madeleine writes for The Docket and frequently volunteers at the Atlanta Humane Society. In her free time, she works out, studies, and plays with her puppy, Blitzor. At the moment, Madeleine is interested in intellectual property and patent law, but only time will tell where her true law interests lie. Prof. Jennifer Chioravoa speaks very highly of Madeleine, saying, "What's unique about Maddy is she embraces learning. She has the perfect combination of innate intelligence coupled with a conscientious work ethic."

Sarah Scott graduated from Furman University with a B.S. in Earth & Environmental Science. She then spent two years in Guatemala with Peace Corps, working in eco-tourism. At GSU, she is involved in a variety of law societies, including HSBA, LSRI, EPWM, and ELSC. She is also working with Prof. Crawford on the Environmental Law Capacity Building Project in Latin America. On the weekends, she can be found in the law library working behind the reference desk. Sarah’s future plans include a career relating to environmental law or creating an NGO. She hopes to make pro-bono work a cornerstone of her practice, and she has graduated with the highest GPA. "Sarah has so far exceeded expectations that I can’t praise her enough. She anticipates project needs, takes initiative to get things done, is fast, efficient and smart and incredibly nice, all at once. She is, in a word, outstanding."

Brian is a great example of the part-time student’s tendency to be a Renaissance man. He earned his bachelor's degree at Wofford College in South Carolina, double majoring in History and Philosophy. He served in the Army on active duty for 4 years, went to the reserves and left as a Major in the military intelligence branch. Brian went to graduate school at Wake Forest University where he got his M.A. in Anthropology, and State University of New York at Binghamton (Ph.D. Anthropology), studying historical archaeology. Brian did his dissertation research on the slave quarters of President Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Plantation, outside of Nashville. He went on to work as an archaelogist for years and currently works for a national environmental consulting company, directing their cultural resources practice in the eastern U.S. In 2004, Brian was elected as a Georgia State Representative for House District 100, where he still serves.

Ed Hecht, 1L, convinces SBA to provide GSU College of Law a new refrigerator and microwave

By Andrew Hagenbusch, 2L

"I'm not the kind of guy to just sit around and complain," explained Ed Hecht. "If I see something that needs to be fixed, I take action.

For any student who regularly brings his food to school, the fruits of Ed’s efforts are readily apparent: a brand new replacement fridge and new microwave located outside classroom 230.

Like many students, Ed brings his food to school in the morning, drops it off in the student fridge, and uses the microwave to warm it up at lunch. And just like many of his fellow students, Ed noticed that the fridge was not keeping food cold and the wait for the microwave was always very long. But unlike the rest of the students, Ed decided to take action. Ed decided it was time to fix the fridge and add a second, new microwave.

Before asking the SBA for a new fridge, Ed decided to gather evidence of the problem with the existing refrigerator. He knew it was warm, but wanted to have specifics to present to the SBA, so he placed a thermometer in the fridge and took a picture of the reading. It never got colder than 52 degrees. Ideally, a fridge should stay between 35 and 45 degrees. At 52 degrees, the thermometer was reading in the clearly-marked red “unsafe” zone, which could potentially allow food to spoil.

Before arguing for a new microwave and fridge in front of the SBA, he tracked down his 1L SBA student senator, Dylan Bess.

"Dylan thought I might have some trouble getting funding for another microwave and a repair on the refrigerator," Ed explained.

Despite his concerns, Dylan arranged for Ed to present his case in to the SBA board. In front of a panel of seven or eight representatives, including Associate Dean of Student Affairs Kelly Timmons, Ed presented his argument. Ed was encouraged by the adage that a picture is worth 1000 words. After viewing the picture, the SBA board was fully aware that the fridge was unsafe. They decided to fund a new refrigerator!

Because the existing fridge had been used for over 16 years, the SBA decided it was only a matter of time before something else failed. So, they told Ed to purchase a new refrigerator with SBA money.

During the same meeting, Ed also made the case for a second microwave oven. The SBA approved the purchase of a new microwave, largely because the added benefit exceeded the relatively low cost of the microwave.

After the SBA gave Ed the green light for the kitchen upgrades, Ed arranged for the delivery of the new refrigerator. The process was not without its hurdles, as Ed discovered when the maintenance crew tried to install a door handle on the new fridge. No door handle could be locked. So the door had to be drilled into the door and side of the fridge for the Hasp. The last screw ruptured a refrigerant line while it was being drilled into the fridge.

After some negotiation with the University about covering the cost, Ed made a second trip to the store and purchased another new, working fridge. The lock on the fridge was also deemed unnecessary because of the risk of another “frigicide.” The fridge was finally installed and Ed received a reimbursement check within two to three weeks of submitting his receipts.

The second microwave was installed on the shelf immediately above the old microwave and has significant less waiting time.

Ed had some advice for other students hoping the SBA will help out with an obvious problem. "Come prepared to present options or different solutions to the SBA. You need to state your case and give them the costs associated with the solutions you offer." Ed had one suggestion for all the student senators, "Don't just sit and complain, take action."
All in a year’s work for the GSU Law Review

Students publish Peach Sheets, Symposium, Notes, Articles

By Josh Lott, 2L

As the end of another school year approaches, members of the Georgia State University Law Review have again been reflecting on their many scholarly contributions to the legal community. Although it has been a most tumultuous year of high quality work, our 2L members are already busy laying the groundwork for next year’s transition.

Currently, the Articles Editors are making their final selections of lead articles, a marathon of a process, but one that ensures only the most engaging and relevant topics are chosen for publication. Our Symposium issue will explore the recent Supreme Court decision of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, and we recently announced a nationwide call for authors’ papers on the subject.

We added a new Online Editor board position to implement much needed modern updates to our journal (Law Review 2.0) will soon be initiated with the help of tech guru and law librarian Pam Brannon. Unfortunately not long, our Student Writing Editor is busy with the nuts and bolts of this summer’s Law Review Writing Competition – be on the lookout! 

Many 1L students have recently been asking: What is law review and why do employers care about membership? We hear you each year, the law review publishes the academic works of students, authors, and professors from across the country. Every student knows that a certain role in editing articles and ensuring that the final product is worthy of publication. Although challenging in scope, this editing process sharpens the analytical and writing skills of members. It is rigorous yet rewarding, not unlike a military-style boot camp for the legal mind. Members gain a high level of precision and clarity in their writing that no other course in law school can offer. In short, employers know that when “law review” is on a candidate’s resume, they are looking at a highly skilled potential employee. The most prestigious part of the law review, however, is that each member will also be a published author by the time they graduate!

In their first semester, members are required to research and write a Note on a prescient topic in a way that no scholar has explained. Members have completed numerous articles on topics that ranges from the writings which provides a challenging and rewarding creative writing experience. Although only some of the student Notes will be selected for publication, all law review members will be published in the annual Peach Sheets issue. The Peach Sheets are devoted entirely to the legislative history of new laws passed by the Georgia Assembly.

In the spring of their 2L year, law review members track and document hearings on significant bills moving through the legislative process. The final work is compiled and published in the following year’s legislative history. Peach Sheets are often cited as authority in judicial opinions and are the only written source of legislative history on new laws in Georgia. Our law review members are currently track highly contentious changes to Georgia’s gun laws, evidence rules, and child prostitution criminality, to name a few.

On behalf of all current 2L law review members, we want to thank the graduating members for their patience, guidance, and direction this past year. Good luck out there in the real world!

As for the current 1L class, we can’t wait to see your submissions in the writing competition this summer. We look forward to congratulating you on your well deserved membership and guiding you through your chosen writing topics this fall.

STLA provides advantage for future litigators

Trial Advocacy program gives students edge over competition

By Will Smith, 3L

At a recent speaking engagement at the College of Law, Jeff Jackson, Bedford, Superior Court Judge in Fulton County, commended the College of Law’s efforts to provide its students with real-world, practical experience. In today’s market this advantage sets GSU alumni apart from the herd.

One of the College’s most notable and practical programs is its Trial Advocacy Program, spearheaded by the Student Trial Lawyers Association, or STLA. STLA was formed in 1985 by adjacent professor Tom Jones, a career prosecutor with the Fulton County District Attorney’s office. The purpose behind STLA was to provide future lawyers with the skills and techniques used in the courtroom. Tom’s strategy was simple and effective; he took actual practicing attorneys to act as coaches for the students. While other mock trial programs simply used senior students as coaches, Tom’s method ensured that the teams were getting the benefit of real-world experience.

Today, STLA boasts one of the most distinguished mock trial programs in the region. Among the awards filling the shelves of STLA’s overcrowded display cases are eight national championships, fifteen regional championships, and sixteen awards for overall best advocate. After both trials the jurors were impressed to discover that I was still a law student. Many of the jurors thought I had been practicing law for several years. I credit Tom Jones and his program with providing me with the skills, confidence, and experience that enabled me to make such a positive impression. While every law school class has helped me on my path to becoming an attorney, my experience with STLA has been the most rewarding and beneficial.

I think you will never litigate, the experience gained in this program will set you apart from your peers. Students who wish to try out for STLA must be a second or third year student in good standing and have a minimum GPA of at least 2.3. Tryouts are held in September. Students are required to give an opening or closing argument based on a hypothetical fact pattern. Additionally, third year students must contact a director and cross examine a witness.

If you want more information on the program please contact President Will Smith or Vice President Mollie Bumpers at gusula1@gmail.com.

I encourage all students to come to the STLA information sessions at Noon and 5 p.m. on April 17th.

Moot Court offers marketable oral, written skills

By Stephanie Stewart, 2L

In order for Moot Court to grow and continue to be competitive, it needs a large group of talented students to try out by participating in the summer competition. Every year Moot Court hosts an oral advocacy competition in the summer that they use as their primary method of selecting students. This year one of its main goals is to increase participation in the summer competition. One student who tried out last summer reported that it was one of the best decisions she ever made.

Moot Court focuses on oral advocacy, but it also helps students become better brief writers. Moot Court allows you to develop speaking and writing skills in small groups, which is perfect for students who enjoy learning and developing their skills with others.

Generally, students compete with two other members. They will be responsible for a team brief and they will each help another with their oral argument presentations. Members participate in competitions that take place all over the country.

Moot Court members also get to interact, collaborate and rehearse their arguments with practicing attorneys and professors. Students who have participated agree that competing in a Moot Court competition is one of the most exciting learning experiences in law school. It also provides its members with several writing and oral advocacy workshops that provide real-world training from professors and practicing attorneys while preparing members for competitions.

Legal employers, particularly large law firms, love students who have participated in Moot Court because students on Moot Court have spent time perfecting the analytical, research and writing skills that practicing attorneys must have. Employers know that Moot Court members have been learning to form and communicate legal arguments for a year or more. For students who have already spent a lot of time in law school on these tasks, that’s less time the

Moot Court wishes to congratulate all the 1Ls for their impressive performances in the RWA oral argument rounds.

Students in the RWA oral argument rounds.

VFs of Appellate Advocacy Shane Peagler (far left) and Kylee Farmer (center) along with President Jon Page (far right) congratulate the winners of the 2009 Summer Competition, Eli Bennett and Keena Patel.

...(Back row, left to right) Matt Jones, Will Smith, Laura Coates, Sherrill Caso...
Interview with Sylvia Howard, law library gatekeeper
By Jan Sansot, 2L

We see them every day; quietly doing their job and keeping us safe. Seen and yet unseen, the security officers guard the most treasured (and also hated) area: the law library. So often we pass by the security desk, whisking out our ID cards without a second thought, or perhaps even irritated at the “inconvenience.” But what is it exactly that these officers do? I recently had the opportunity to talk with one of our beloved security staffers, Sylvia Howard.

What is your official title?
Security officer.

So, are you an employee of the school? No, we’re with the police department. Time with my kids and grandkids. Lunch and learn.”

Lime.

What could we, as law students, do to make your job better? We can’t see everything, and sometimes a panhandler or someone will sneak in and it would be helpful if you just made us aware of that. Or if you see someone in the bathroom smoking or something, just let us know.

Working to keep us and the premises safe, these security officers work long hours to simply be there if and when something goes wrong. Panel. That’s what they do.

Harry Woodworth, 1L

I enjoy the initial panels that the SELS put on. Orientation was just pretty good too.”

Blake Staten, 3L

“I enjoyed the initial panels that the SELS put on. Orientation was just pretty good too.”

Raymond Garrett, 1L

The financial literacy series — those were bad ass.”

Courtney Spicer’s purse because of a planted packet.”

Kristen Spiese, 1L

The SBA/PAD Halloween Party, because I got to be Prince Harry.”

Harry Woodworth, 1L

“The SBA/PAD Halloween Party, because I got to be Prince Harry.”

Blake Staten, 3L

“All the LSRE events I put on.”

Carmela Orsini, 2L

“The SELS BMI Music Publishing event. It was interesting because there were attorneys and managers, so it gave a good look at the real entertainment industry.”

Tricia Smith, 2L

“The SBA Welcome Back Party in the spring. It was just good to see everyone after coming off a nice break. During the fall one everyone can be a little depressed about school starting back up.”

Ashley McMahen, 3L

20 Questions for Professor Tanya Washington
Compiled by Kevin Jeselnik, 1L

What is your favorite...
(13) What pets do you have? None
(14) Who is your favorite Supreme Court Justice? Of all time... Justice Marshall who understood that the true value of the law lies in the extent to which it improves the human condition. Of the current Justices, Ginsberg, because there were attorneys and managers, so it gave a good look at the real entertainment industry.”

Tricia Smith, 2L

(16) What kind of law would you be practicing if you weren't practicing law’s next great minds at GSU? "The SBA Welcome Back Party in the spring. It was just good to see everyone after coming off a nice break. During the fall one everyone can be a little depressed about school starting back up.”

Ashley McMahen, 3L

(18) Who is your hero? My Mom.
(19) What outlook, motto or strategy helped you pull through the stress and pressure inherent in the law school experience? "Peace to all the non-believers.”
(20) What is the key to happiness in 5 words or less? “Do what you love!”
Athena’s Warehouse wants your Barrister’s Ball dress
By Madeleine Peake, 2L

For most of us, high school prom was an unforgettable experience. Prom meant dressing up, going to dinner, and dancing the night away.

Last weekend, the students of GSU Law re-created this experience at Barrister’s Ball. After Barrister’s Ball, some of us can now say that we have attended two or even three "proms" in our lifetime.

Because of this, we are lucky. Every spring, girls in Atlanta are unable to attend their high school proms because they cannot afford a prom dress. Athena’s Warehouse (AW), an Atlanta based non-profit group, is dedicated to making sure this does not happen. AW provides low-income high school girls with prom dresses, and they invite you to donate your Barrister’s Ball dress to their charity.

AW began with a few women who wanted to make a difference “begging their friends and family to donate dresses,” said Kristen Carlson, AW volunteer.

Before long, AW grew to become an organized non-profit, partnering with Atlanta high schools to provide prom dresses to girls in need.

AW requires that every girl who receives a dress contributes a few hours of her time to community service.

Last month, the girls that received dresses donated their time to Open Hand. Open Hand helps Atlantans prevent and manage chronic diseases through “comprehensive nutrition care,” which involves home-delivered meals and nutrition education. Open Hand’s goal is to empower people to live healthier, more productive lives.

During their trip to Open Hand, the high school girls packaged a portion of the 5,000 meals that are distributed daily to senior and chronically-ill Atlanta residents. In total, the girls contributed 135 hours of service to Open Hand.

“My favorite part [of AW] is working with the high school girls . . . especially when we went to Open Hand” Carlson said. “It is really fun to see them truly enjoy giving back to others.”

This year, AW hosted its first “adult prom,” Head Over Heels, to raise money to dry clean the hundreds of dresses donated.

“We had a high turnout coupled with an increased awareness to what we are all about,” Carlson said. “It proved that for the same price of a cover at a club you could have a blast with just as much dancing and drinking all while giving to a good cause.”

Head Over Heels raised over $4,000, with all of the proceeds going to cleaning costs for dresses for girls at Maynard H. Jackson High School, Grady High School and Cross Keys High School.

Most of us are years out of high school, however, the idea of prom is fresh in our minds after Barrister’s Ball. Ladies of GSU Law, I urge you to think back to high school and how excited you were to have the perfect prom dress.

“For each dress that is donated, you are giving a girl a chance to go to prom that may not be able to go otherwise,” Carlson said. “It is a simple thing, but very meaningful.”

Please donate your Barrister’s Ball dress to AW and make a difference in young girl’s life.

Madeleine Peake maintains the Pro Bono Page and the Pro Bono Calendar.

Pro Bono Calendar

Students who are looking to get out of the law library for a few hours and help the community this semester are in luck! Pro Bono projects are happening all over Atlanta and they provide a wonderful opportunity for students to improve their resumes while giving back to the greater Atlanta area. Need more of an incentive? GSU College of Law offers graduates who have completed 50 hours or more of pro bono service “pro bono distinction” at graduation. The Docket has compiled a calendar of upcoming pro bono projects; however there are always more becoming available . . . take a study break and start working towards your “pro bono distinction” today!

Please see The Docket Online calendar at law.gsu.edu/thedocket/calendar for more info on these pro bono opportunities.
Dear Carli:

I have been in a relationship for quite a few years now, and am waiting for a proposal. We have discussed the possibility of marriage and he tells me he wants to marry me. I'm getting to the point where I want to issue an ultimatum, what do you think?

Where's My Bling?:

Depending on the type of person you are with, an ultimatum could be a good thing. Some men are just terrified of commitment and being with one woman for the rest of their lives, and need to be scared into making the right move.

On the other hand, it is important for you to make sure you are reading the signals right. He may just not be ready for marriage, or may not want marriage at all. There are some factors that you need to weigh before making the ultimatum:

1) Look at his past, and see what kind of relationship his parents have. A lot of times men from broken homes have a harder time making the ultimate commitment because they do not have a great example to look towards.

2) Does he ever bring marriage up by himself or does it only happen when you bring it up? He may be telling you he wants to marry you to not rock the boat. Try not mentioning it for a while. If you are bringing up marriage too much or dropping too many hints, he may get turned off to the idea. Men want the proposal to be their idea and not be pushed or bullied into it.

3) Is he settled in his career? A lot of men don't want to enter into a marriage until they are on their way to being stable in their career, because they see themselves as a provider and they want to be equipped to provide for you.

4) Do you promote him having a life outside of the relationship? Make sure that you both have healthy friendships outside of your relationship; if you get mad every time he wants to go do something, he will be more likely to feel trapped.

5) How are other parts of your relationship? Do you want to marry him just to be married, or do you really have a wonderful relationship and want to spend your life with him?

6) If you have been together for a really long time, it is different from just one or two years. Also if you met when you were young, it may take more time because you are growing up together.

7) How old you and he are makes a big difference. The older men and women get, the more their biological clocks start ticking, especially for women. You want to make sure he either marries you or lets you go while you are young enough to utilize your feminine wiles on other men.

8) Have you lived together? This could be a plus or a minus. Sometimes when you are living with a man, they feel comfortable and confident – to the point where they think you are there to stay and they don’t have to propose. However, living together can give a man that extra push so they realize that they love every aspect of you, even the weird ones that only a person you live with would know about.

9) Make sure you can live with the result of the ultimatum if you give it. Once you give the ultimatum, he will either propose or you will be breaking up. You need to consider the fact that you may be breaking up, and make sure you can live with that result.

Ultimata are an interesting beast. On the one hand you do not want to wait forever to get a proposal. On the other hand, do you really want to force someone to marry you? Backing a man into a corner is a dangerous thing. Marriage is such a huge commitment, it seems that if the man you are with has not already proposed and he understands how you feel about being married, he may never be willing to fully commit.

However, one of my friends had been with her (now) fiance for 4 years, and was getting ready to ultimatum him, she was so frustrated waiting for a proposal. He finally proposed, just before she gave him the ultimatum. He had the ring for a year and was just trying to plan the perfect proposal and the perfect timing. Proposing is a scary thing, and sometimes men need a little more time to prepare for it then women would like!

Marriage is not for everyone. Some couples live happily ever after together and never say their vows to each other. I also highly recommend the book, “He’s Just Not That Into You.”

Only you know your relationship, and whether an ultimatum would be effective or helpful towards promoting a good relationship between you and your boyfriend.

- Carli
Talking with the real Matlock. Bobby Lee Cook
By Courtney Spicer, 2L

"Your generation is very lucky," he said. "There is much more at your disposal. We didn't have trial advocacy teams or the Trial Bar," 60-year veteran trial lawyer Bobby Lee Cook addressed a crowd of 150 GSU College of Law students, faculty, alumni and friends on April 5th. Known for his blistering cross examinations and brilliant closing arguments, Cook is widely regarded as one of the preeminent criminal defense attorneys in the country. He is also reportedly the basis for the famed television show "Matlock," in which an aging Andy Griffith – perennially dressed in a grey suit – charmed the jury and inevitably exposed the real culprit, exculpating his client in the process.

Dressed impeccably in a grey suit, Cook spoke eloquently of the past, present and future of the law and of his legal practice. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1949, long before the landmark cases with which we are all familiar - Gideon v. Wainwright, Miranda v. Arizona, Brady v. Maryland, and Mapp v. Ohio – were decided.

In Georgia, women and African-Americans were not permitted to serve on a jury; the police could conduct searches without probable cause and without a warrant, and the evidence seized could be used at trial. Back then, Georgia was the only jurisdiction in which a criminal defendant could not give sworn testimony, and in which his attorney could not conduct a direct examination of him. Moreover, the police were not required to inform arrestees of their right to counsel and silence.

He addressed the differences between current legal education and his time at Vanderbilt after World War II. "I think I made a damn good choice," he said. 404.471.1655

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