

# MERCER LAWYER

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17

MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

## Cathy Cox, '86, Returns as Dean

REFLECTS ON WHAT MAKES MERCER GREAT  
AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, P. 7

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INTERSECTION  
OF LAW AND  
HEALTHCARE  
P. 10

PROFESSORS  
BALDWIN AND COLE  
ENTER RETIREMENT  
P. 14

CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS ATOP  
COLEMAN HILL  
P. 18

2016 – 2017  
GIVING REPORT  
P. 21

INSIDE





## SCENE FROM MACON

A stunning view of downtown Macon from inside the Hay House showcases some of the many places of worship in the city.



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SCHOOL OF LAW

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# CONTENTS

## Features

### 7 The Road Back to Mercer Law for Cathy Cox

After two terms as Georgia Secretary of State and 10 years as president of Young Harris College, the '86 alumna returns to her alma mater, recalling the past and making plans for the Law School's future.



### 10 Mercer Law Alumni Shaping the Healthcare Field

In an industry that only grows more important as the population increases, Mercer Law graduates are vital practitioners of the nation's healthcare laws.



### 14 Beloved Faculty of Mercer Law Retire

Professors Anthony R. Baldwin and John O. Cole prepare to take leave of a Law School on which both have left indelible marks, nurturing lasting memories among grateful alumni.



FROM TOP: JOHN AMIS PHOTO, JOHN AMIS PHOTO, ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO  
OPPOSITE: MILTON HEARD PHOTO

## Departments

### 3 On the Docket

### 18 History Corner

### 20 Faculty News and Scholarship

### 21 Giving Report

### 25 Class Notes



# FROM *the* DEAN

Cathy Cox hit the ground running after starting her deanship on July 1, 2017. She has attended 11 alumni receptions, spoken at five different bar associations and completed multiple media interviews. One of her top priorities this year is raising money for the Law School. We sat down with Dean Cox to find out more about why this is important and how alumni can help their alma mater.

## **Q.** Why is raising money for the Law School a top priority?

**A.** The support of our alumni and friends is more important than ever! The decision to enroll smaller classes has obviously impacted our overall revenues, but through fundraising, we have the opportunity to enhance so many aspects of our legal education. First, we believe we can have a major impact on our Bar passage rate by offering cutting-edge programs to our students beyond the expensive bar review courses the students pay for themselves. With \$50,000 or more, we can provide programs to them that have proven highly beneficial at many other law schools. With additional funds for scholarships, we can enroll students who really want to be at Mercer Law but who cannot afford it. With funding to support our faculty's scholarship, we can continue to enrich the classroom experience our students get — while also enhancing our reputation around the country. We need stipends to support the experiential learning programs we offer our students. Our needs and opportunities are many!

## **Q.** Do alumni have to make a large gift to make an impact?

**A.** Absolutely not! Gifts in any amount can have a huge impact on the school. We care just as much about the number of alumni making gifts as we do about

the amount raised. Our alumni giving participation rate impacts the reputation of the school, which plays into competitive rankings such as *U.S. News and World Report*. A strong alumni giving participation rate shows law firms, foundations and prospective students that Mercer Law alumni truly believe in the school and value the quality legal education they received here.



## **Q.** You've mentioned wanting to start a class giving challenge. Tell us how that works.

**A.** We are launching a challenge to encourage a little friendly competition among our alumni. The Class Giving Challenge seeks to increase support for student scholarships and to increase the number of alumni giving to Mercer Law. All gifts to the Law School Annual Fund or to any Law School scholarship fund made between July 1, 2017 and April 4, 2018 — the end of Mercer's Annual Day of Giving — will count towards this challenge. Your class can win either by raising the most money or having the highest participation rate. We will have prize drawings during the challenge, and I plan to invite the winning classes to a celebratory dinner. It should be a lot of fun!

## **Q.** Are there additional ways alumni can give back?

**A.** Oh, yes! They can keep hiring our students for internships and our graduates for permanent jobs. Our alumni are also our best admissions recruiters. If you are talking to high school or college students who express an interest in the law, please encourage them to look at Mercer Law School. Additionally, our Office of Career Services always needs volunteers to speak to students about their careers, to conduct mock interviews, and to participate in our 1L informational interview program. You could also consider coming back to help judge a practice round of moot court, mock trial, negotiations or client counseling, or mentor students before the bar exam. We need our alumni to be involved!



## Mercer Law Welcomes Class of 2020

On Aug. 14, Mercer Law School welcomed 122 members into the Mercer Law Class of 2020. The entering class consists of 54 percent women, 26 percent students of color and 10 legacies. They came from 54 undergraduate institutions, represent 36 undergraduate majors and are from 13 different states. The class includes eight teachers, three paralegals, two deputy sheriffs, several writers for college newspapers, interns for the PD's office and DA's office, legislative interns, legal interns, three Eagle Scouts and a stand-up comedian. Additionally, members of the class have served in several branches of the military including the Navy, Marines and Army.

New students range in age from 20 to 38 with an average age of 24.

Many of the students have volunteered with different philanthropic and non-profit organizations such as the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the American Cancer Society. They have held leadership roles in their undergraduate institutions including fraternities and sororities, student government associations, student newspapers, the marching band and mock trial and pre-law societies.

This smaller entering class size allows first-year classes to remain in sections of 25 students. This fall, 1L students do not have a class with more than 50 students total. In the smaller class sizes, professors are able to work individually with students and provide personalized feedback frequently throughout the course.



## Mary Donovan Retires After 27 Years of Service

Mary Donovan served as assistant dean for student affairs for 27 years. Dean Donovan retired earlier this fall and plans to pursue her interest and work in mediation. Friends and colleagues from Macon and across the University gathered at the Law School for a reception on Sept. 6 to recognize her years of service to Mercer Law students.



## Project Equality Raises \$2,800 for Crisis Line and Safe House

Project Equality, Mercer Law's LGBTQIA student organization, hosted the Second Annual Drag Extravaganza on Oct. 5 at the Hummingbird Stage and Taproom to benefit Crisis Line and Safe House of Central Georgia. The owner of the Hummingbird, as well as the District Attorney of Macon-Bibb County, matched the fundraising total of the organization. Project Equality raised \$2,892 to support the local charity.

"LGBT people often face discrimination from safe shelters," said Project Equality president Sammy D. Hall Jr. "Project Equality supports Crisis Line and Safe House because of their outstanding reputation for supporting all people, regardless of sexual orientation/identity."



## Mercer Law Welcomes New Staff

### Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Jenny Wright

Jenny M. Wright, formerly the director of student judicial affairs and a seven-year employee of the student affairs office at the University of Tennessee, became the assistant dean of student affairs for Mercer Law School in September after Dean Mary Donovan retired. Wright, a Knoxville native, earned her B.A., *summa cum laude*, in political science with a concentration in public administration. She also holds an M.S. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and J.D. from the University of Tennessee.

While at the University of Tennessee, Wright served on the senior staff for the vice chancellor for student affairs, developed the university's Title IX policies and procedures, and was a lecturer in the college student personnel master's degree program.



STEVE SCHROEDER PHOTO

### Assistant Director of Career Services and Experiential Education Paula Feldmeier, '03

Paula Feldmeier joined Mercer Law as assistant director of career services and experiential education last spring. Prior, she spent nearly 12 years as assistant district counsel with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She joined the USACE through the Chief Counsel's Civilian Honors Program.

Feldmeier is a 2003 graduate of Mercer Law School. She earned her undergraduate degree in biology, with a minor in chemistry, at Georgia College and State University, and following law school she earned her LL.M. in Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy at the University of Denver. While in law school, she interned with the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council in Juneau, Alaska, the JAG Office at RAFB, and the EPA in Atlanta and again in Denver while earning her LL.M.



ROGER DENNEN PHOTO

## Office of Career Services Works with Alumni

One of the easiest ways to engage with the Law School is by reaching back to help law students. But did you know that the Career Services Office works with alumni on their careers as well? Here are a few ways we assist both current students and alumni:

**Hire Mercer!** If you have hiring needs, let us know. If you know of hiring needs at organizations other than your own, encourage them to reach out to Mercer, or tell us and we will reach out to them. Can you offer a student experience while he/she earns externship credit during the fall, spring, or summer (limited generally to government, nonprofit, and corporate counsel placements)? Let us know if your organization is hiring or can offer experience for academic credit.

**Share Your Expertise!** Even if you do not know of employment opportunities, share your career experiences by having coffee or lunch with a law student over an informational interview, participate in mock interviews, or speak to students in a class or on a panel about your career.

**Seeking a Change?** The Career Services Office frequently receives requests for candidate referrals and/or posts opportunities for employers seeking candidates with at least 2-3 years of experience. As an alumnus,

you have access to our job posting system, other job resources, and counseling services. We recently changed from Symplicity to BearBoard (powered by 12Twenty). BearBoard contains links to job resources and appointment scheduling if needed.

**Looking to Build Your Business?** We frequently receive calls for referrals. Make sure the alumni directory has your current employment information and, if you are on LinkedIn, join our alumni group. If you have a few years of experience, we can help connect you with services like [www.legalspark.com](http://www.legalspark.com), which works to connect legal consumers with attorneys for discrete, one-time questions or potential further representation.



JOHANNA PHOTO

For more information, visit [www.law.mercer.edu/career](http://www.law.mercer.edu/career) or contact the Office of Career Services at [careerservices@law.mercer.edu](mailto:careerservices@law.mercer.edu).



# Mercer Law Review Symposium Focuses on Innovation in Criminal Defense

The 2017 Law Review Symposium held on Oct. 6 focused on Disruptive Innovation in Criminal Defense. The symposium explored existing and imaginable innovations in criminal defense that would depart from, and ideally disrupt, conventional ways of doing things. The speakers examined and proposed innovations in individual representations, in the broad-scale delivery of legal services and at other levels. Additionally, it explored the legal, political and other barriers to innovation. Finally, the Symposium considered the implications of this inquiry for teaching and scholarship.



ROGER IDEN PHOTO

Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore, Troutman Sanders partner David Chaiken, Professor Jim Fleissner and Bibb County Superior Court Judge Verda Colvin, experts in their respective fields of criminal law, served as commentators to the speakers and their presentations. Senior Vice Provost for Scholarship and Macon Chair in Law Gary Simson served as faculty liaison for the Symposium.

The symposium was sponsored by Mercer Law Review, Mercer School of Law and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools. The program was recorded and will be shown in the spring for 6 CLE credit hours including 1 ethics hour and 1 professionalism hour. For more information on the CLE, contact Natalie Sundeen at [sundeen\\_n@law.mercer.edu](mailto:sundeen_n@law.mercer.edu).

## Speakers Included:

- **Bruce Green**, *Fordham University School of Law*
- **Susan Klein**, *University of Texas School of Law*
- **Laurie Levenson**, *Loyola Law School, Los Angeles*
- **Janet Moore**, *University of Cincinnati College of Law*
- **Ellen Podgor**, *Stetson University College of Law*
- **David Singleton**, *NKU Chase College of Law*
- **Elissa Steglich**, *University of Texas School of Law*
- **Donald Tibbs**, *Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law*
- **Steven Zeidman**, *CUNY School of Law*

## DACA Renewal Clinic Hosted at Mercer Law

Mercer Law School and the law office of Jennifer Moore hosted a free clinic for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries who needed to renew their DACA status by the Oct. 5 deadline. More than 18 law students, four faculty, and two recent law graduates volunteered to help individuals complete and file their applications correctly.

Mark Jones, professor of law and co-organizer of the clinic, said, "Mercer Law School is committed to teaching our students the value of supporting their local community and giving back whenever possible. This is one way in which our students are truly making a difference in the lives of others."

## Court of Appeals Visits Mercer

On Oct. 3, the Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia heard oral arguments in the first-floor moot courtroom at Mercer Law School. The annual visit provided an opportunity for students and the local community to observe the Court in action. The panel that heard cases at the Law School were all Mercer Law graduates: Judge M. Yvette Miller, presiding, Judge Sara L. Doyle and Judge Clyde L. Reese. Judge Miller is a double bear of Mercer, earning her B.A. degree in 1977 and J.D. in 1980. Judge Doyle graduated from Mercer Law in 1994 and Judge Reese in 1996.

COURTESY OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA



MILLER



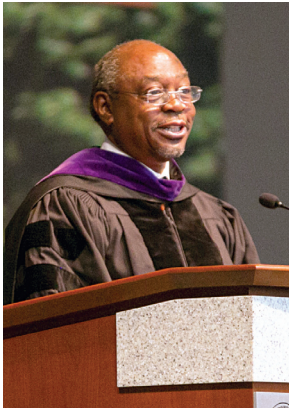
DOYLE



REESE



**O**n May 13 Mercer Law School awarded 120 Juris Doctor degrees. Six students received a joint J.D./M.B.A. degree and 19 earned a certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research and Drafting. The Honorable W. Louis Sands, Senior U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and 1974 graduate of the Law School, was the keynote speaker. Professor Karen Sneddon received the Reynold J. Kosek Jr. Excellence in Teaching Award, given annually during commencement to a member of the faculty by a vote of the graduating class. Also elected by the graduating students were the faculty hooders. This year, they were Professors Dick Creswell, Patrick Longan, Jim Fleissner and Michael Sabbath. In keeping with the Law School's legacy tradition, nine graduating students were hooded by a parent, spouse, sibling, or other relatives who are Law School alumni.



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## CLASS OF 2017 FINAL HONORS

*Because spring semester grades were not due until several weeks after graduation, honors were conferred in mid-June. They were as follows:*

### Magna Cum Laude

Mollie Davis, *valedictorian*  
Moses Tincher, *salutatorian*  
Adelyn Boleman  
Milinda Brown  
Erica Burchell  
Robert Childres  
Austin Gibson  
Chantal Peacock  
Mary Grace Rahm  
Kyle Timmons  
Roland Weekley  
Emily Wright

### Cum Laude

Emily Chiang  
Caitlyn Clark  
William Collins  
Stacie Corbett  
Talia Davis  
Nathaniel DeLoatch  
Benjamin Dinges  
Bruce Dubberly  
Whitney Edwards  
Amy Funk  
Michael Gay  
Sarah Gregg  
Sarah Illg  
Elizabeth Manley  
Mary Norman  
Kaylie O'Neil  
Christopher Phillips  
Joshua Pico  
Christopher Rhodes  
Savanna Roughen  
Ashleigh Smaha  
Riley Snider  
Jeremy Willis  
Warner Worthan



# FOLLOWING THE ROAD BACK TO MERCER

## *Cathy Cox Steps Into New Role as Dean*

**B**EING DEAN OF MERCER LAW SCHOOL IS A BIG ENOUGH JOB, BUT CATHY COX FACED AN EXTRA, UNIQUE CHALLENGE: BECOMING BOSS TO SOME OF THE VERY PEOPLE WHO, 32 YEARS AGO, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN LAUNCHING HER INTO A SUCCESSFUL LEGAL AND POLITICAL CAREER.

“Just to call them by their first name is a little awkward,” Cox says. “Professor Sabbath and Professor Creswell and Professor Cole have always been *that* to me, rather than *Mike*, *Dick* and *John*. But they are such wonderful, lovely gentlemen — in addition to great professors and intellectuals.”

The first Law School graduate since William Augustus Bootle in the 1930s to serve as dean, Cox spent her first months back on Coleman Hill taking stock, listening to faculty and staff, and holding



receptions around the state and in Florida, soliciting feedback from alumni. “I want them to know that the door is always open to their ideas,” she says.

While thinking about new directions for the Law School, she also spent the fall appreciating the core strengths that remain unchanged since she graduated in 1986.

At a September meeting with a prominent Georgia trial lawyer, “He commented, even though he is not a Mercer Law graduate, that he and his firm have had a better experience hiring Mercer graduates than even those from his own alma mater,” Cox says. “They’re ready to practice, and just light years ahead of other graduates in being able to hit the ground running, because we do such a good job here at Mercer.”

But those core strengths have to meet law students’ needs in the 21st century. Cox has been considering ways Mercer can improve and grow.

“There’s nothing that is really *not* on my radar right now. But obviously I have to prioritize. And nothing, and I mean nothing, is more important than bar passage right now.”

Reflecting a larger trend in law schools around the nation in recent years, Mercer experienced a slump in graduates’ bar passage in 2016.

“The graduates who took the bar in the summer of 2017 have benefited from new academic success initiatives we created to help students better prepare for the bar,” Cox says. The new initiatives are paying off, as the Georgia first-time test takers pass rate improved by



Dean Cox enjoys dinner with Judge M. Yvette Miller, '80, and Karla Sands, as part of the first annual alumni dinner hosted by BLSA's Alumni Council.

One area she wants to look at is helping Mercer’s students find new ways of using their law degrees.

“I see it already in our students. They don’t know much about the opportunities that are out there,” she says. At their age, “I had no idea what I might be able to do with a law degree. But it’s the most flexible and nimble of all professional degrees.”

The legal landscape was altered by the great recession, shrinking job opportunities and salaries, and shaking up time-honored career structures. “We owe it to our students to be more creative in looking for the places where they can go to work,” Cox says. “Basically, we are problem solvers. So what kinds of fields of work need great critical thinkers and problem solvers?”

As she looks ahead, Cox is mulling possible crossovers between Mercer’s medical and business schools and the Mercer Innovation Center — cross-pollinations that might yield cross-discipline or entrepreneurial opportunities or internships for law students.

After working as a young newspaper journalist for three years, Cox entered Mercer Law School and earned her J.D. After working for a time with a large Atlanta firm, she returned to her hometown, Bainbridge, to practice what she calls Door Law: “You do whatever comes through the door.”

The only female attorney in a 10-county region, she found herself in enormous demand among other women who wanted a female attorney for family law matters.

Starting in 1993, she was elected to represent Seminole, Early, Miller and Decatur counties in the Georgia House of Representatives, then relinquished her seat to serve as Assistant Secretary of State in 1996.

Though she had held that position for two years, she met pushback when she ran to be Georgia’s first female Secretary of State in 1998.

“There was not a week that went by that somebody didn’t say to me, ‘I’m just not sure a woman can do that job,’” she recalls. “My standard response was, ‘You know, it doesn’t involve heavy lifting.’



Alumni across the Southeast hosted receptions to welcome Cathy Cox as dean. Pictured here, Nathan Jolles, '87, along with Judge Sheryl Jolly, '83, and Clayton Jolly, '83, hosted a reception in Augusta.



They couldn't grasp that a woman could hold a major constitutional office. So I was constantly having to fight."

And she did, winning the election and serving two terms.

She then hoped to be another first, Georgia's first female governor. "I saw a noticeable change between 1998 and 2006 when I ran for governor," she says, "because it was rare in 2006 for somebody to question whether I could do the job."

Out loud, anyway. When she announced her candidacy in Bainbridge's town square, an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporter elbowed his way to the front of the crowd.

She primed herself for questions about her policy plans for the state. Instead, "He said, 'Cathy, what shade of blue is that suit you're wearing?'" she remembers.

"I said, 'Really, Jim?'"

The published story lauded her "powder-blue suit with a sparkling brooch" in its second paragraph. With a wry chuckle, Cox says, "In 2006, that was the description of my kickoff announcement, as opposed to the substance of what I was going to try to accomplish."

That's one "first" she didn't achieve, conceding the Democratic primary to Mark Taylor. But in October 2017, she moderated a panel between the current two female gubernatorial candidates for governor. Nobody now seems to question the legitimacy of having a woman in that job. "I hope I was a groundbreaker to wipe some of that out of the political discourse," Cox says.

From 2006 to 2016, she served as president of Young Harris College. Though living with her husband, attorney Mark Dehler, in tiny Young Harris was sometimes a little restrictive, she wasn't interested when the Law School's search committee first approached her about succeeding Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd.

But shortly before then, in 2015, she was given some leave time to serve on the legal team back in her hometown in a trial against Chrysler Jeep, centered on the tragedy of a four-year-old boy who burned to death due to placement of the gas tank. The winning case earned a \$150 million ruling against the car manufacturer, one of the largest verdicts in Georgia.

In that Bainbridge courtroom, Cox found herself working under a judge, Kevin Chason, who'd been one of her best friends at Mercer, and opposite attorney Diane Owens, another Mercer alum and current

trustee, "whom I've always had enormous respect for."

"It reminded me how much I really loved being a lawyer," Cox says. "So when the search committee came back and really leaned on me the second time, I said, 'That really is what I love the most of everything I've done in my life.'"

So, back to Mercer she came in July 2017.

Returning to Macon, she was surprised by the resurgence of downtown and its nightlife.

"My husband wasn't that familiar with Macon. The first time we went downtown to eat, he said, 'Wow, this is a lot like Athens.' There was music playing on the street and people were sitting outside, living downtown."

Unlike her student days, she can appreciate more easily what the city has to offer. Back then, she relied on cheap eats from Nu-Way Weiners and Len Berg's. "Truthfully, I didn't have a lot of money to enjoy Macon," she says. "But every now and then, as a member of the Law Review, we would get to have a special dinner at Natalia's."

Also, she could count on a handful of guys from the Law School, who shared a house and invited her to grill steaks for dinner every week, once they learned she had a knack for baking fresh bread.

"We would all watch 'Dallas' on TV. That was our rip-roaring, exciting, Friday

night adventure in Macon, Georgia. But I got one good meal a week, thanks to my buddies." As happens so often with many Law School alumni, those old classmates remain among her best friends.

Looking ahead, Cox sees challenges for the Law School that may depend greatly on alumni support.

"The recession hit this law school hard," she says. "To keep our standards up we have intentionally reduced the sizes of our classes, but what that translates into is reduced revenue, in a big way. So I'm going to be talking to our alumni about how we need to address that. We need more scholarships, faculty development funds, endowed chairs, clinical support funds, and more. These things are really, really important to the quality of education that we offer here."

For a complete version of *Mercer Lawyer's* conversation with Dean Cox, visit [law.mercer.edu/cathycoxinterview](http://law.mercer.edu/cathycoxinterview).



Dean Cox meets with current students to talk about their experiences, challenges and successes.

"I like to do strategic planning because it makes people think about who are we and what we want to be and how we can get there, in tangible steps."





# *The* INTERSECTION OF LAW *and* HEALTHCARE

As the population grows — from newborn babies to Baby Boomers living longer than previous generations — so does the need for healthcare. With that expansion comes a growing need for attorneys working in the field. Here are some Mercer Law School alumni working on the forefront of the industry. >>



# JULIA HALL MAGDA, '01

## Helping Patients Navigate a Complex Legal System Through Creation of MedLaw Partnership

**L**ife-or-death decisions come at you fast as a healthcare lawyer, much like they do for physicians. Julia Magda compares it to triage. But she has another, more lighthearted name for it. “We call it Curbside Consult,” she says. That’s when a provider needs legal answers or actions right away. “‘Can this family member withdraw life support?’ Or, ‘Is this form legitimate?’ Or, ‘Can we release these records, they’re standing in the lobby waiting — and we need an answer *right now!*’ That happens a lot, so it’s hard to forecast what your day is going to look like.”

A former partner at Sell & Melton, where she first began practicing healthcare law, Magda launched her solo practice in 2016. Around that time, a few events coalesced to give her an idea.

She’d read an article about a medical-legal partnership in Atlanta between Georgia State and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, then soon heard an NPR story about MLPs in her car. She thought, “Hmm, maybe this is God telling me something.”

She forwarded the article to Ken Banks, general counsel at Macon’s Navicent Health, and said, “I just want to put a bug in your ear.” Turns out, a Navicent board member was also involved in the MLP in Atlanta, “and he was similarly encouraging Ken to explore this,” according to Magda.

The result: MedLaw launched in October 2016 as a partnership among Mercer Law School, Navicent Health and Georgia Legal Services Program. It’s a team of legal, social and medical workers providing free civil legal services to qualified Navicent Health patients. MedLaw has one staff attorney, Tara McIntosh, from Georgia Legal Services, and the Law School provides externs each semester to work in the office.

Cases can include appointing guardians to make decisions for incapacitated patients, facilitating access to insurance including Medicare and Medicaid, completing advance directives and powers of attorney, addressing domestic violence, and more.

MedLaw’s initial goal was to handle at least 50 cases per year. By mid-year in June, it had taken in well over 30 already.

“Things are going really well,” says Magda, who also refers cases to McIntosh. “They’re getting into some really meaty cases and helping patients that have serious legal issues. It’s very

rewarding to see that.”

In one memorable case, a developmentally disabled female patient bounced from one nursing home to another and wound up living at Navicent for over a year. “The state more or less turned its back on her — not deliberately, she just fell through the cracks,” Magda says. “So we got MedLaw involved. Ultimately, the partnership was able to secure a government benefit sufficient to pay for an independent apartment, supervised by a local disability organization.”

“It was win-win for everybody,” Magda says.



CI SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Magda and husband Martin, a high school history teacher, have an 11-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son. In addition to her work in healthcare, she’s general counsel for the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce. Born in southwest Georgia, Magda studied economics as an undergrad at Mercer and then went straight to the Law School.

Recalling favorite professors, she names Jim Fleissner. “And we all loved [Reynold] Kosek, in hindsight,” she says. “At the time it was very hard.” But he was one of the professors who made her feel the way she did on commencement day.

“When I walked across the stage, I was ready to be a lawyer.”



# D'ANDREA MORNING, '07

## Making a Difference In Others' Lives Through Healthcare, Mentoring and Giving Back

**A**s an undergrad, D'Andrea Morning's parents sent her to New Orleans' Xavier University of Louisiana to study medicine. So they weren't completely thrilled when she decided she wanted to go into law instead. "But now, my mom is okay with it: 'At least you're working at a hospital, so you somehow found your way back to healthcare.'"

Vice president for corporate compliance and chief compliance officer for Atlanta's Grady Health System, Morning first became interested in healthcare law at Alston & Bird LLP, where she was a summer associate after her first and second years at Mercer Law School. After graduation, she joined the firm and was a senior associate before moving to Grady as a senior associate general counsel.

"I became sold on the multifaceted area of healthcare," she says. "It's never the same job every day, whether I was focused on assisting and defending my clients when I was at Alston & Bird, and any healthcare-related administrative issues for the state or federal health care agencies." She works on matters with the Department of Community Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, assists Grady in medical malpractice defense, manages Grady's compliance and regulatory matters and advises on fraud and abuse matters.

What brought her from Louisiana to Mercer Law School? One reason was its proximity to Atlanta, where she hoped to start her career. "What I loved about Mercer was that the class size was not so large that I wouldn't know my classmates," she says. "I liked that it

had such a great history of students doing well, with names like Griffin Bell and other greats."

Also, she felt welcomed. "When they recruited me, Mercer made me feel as though they really wanted me to come there," she says. "They felt that I could add value to the student body both as a

student and eventually as an alum. I felt as though Mercer was really going to cultivate me and help me become the best attorney that I could be."

With three Mercer classmates — Tara Jackson, '07, Latrice Latin, '07, and Jamila Wideman-Frazier, '08 — she formed the Atlanta nonprofit 4 Black Girls Inc. to mentor underserved African-American young ladies, starting around ages 11 or 12, through their later school years and onward through college.

"Currently we have four girls in the program," Morning says. "We have taken them to plays, we do self-esteem training, educational outings, all of those type of things."

She also remains active with the BLSA Alumni Council and spreads the good word about Mercer wherever she can, and tries to give back to the Law School whenever she's asked.

"If I get in my car and drive down to Macon and I'm on a panel

for an hour, that hour is just so powerful for me," she says. "I hope it's powerful for the students I speak to, because it allows them to see alumni who have gone on to work in different areas. It's important to be able to be that representation for students: 'She did it, and I know I can make it, too.'"





## SCOTT BAITY, '96

**Title:** Deputy General Counsel and will become Senior Vice

**President and Chief Legal Officer on January 1, 2018**

**Company/Organization:** Baptist Health System, Inc.; Jacksonville, FL

**Years Working with Healthcare:** 21



"In addition to the general corporate work I perform on a day-to-day basis, I work with the General Counsel, senior management, physician leadership and Boards of Directors to ensure that our not-for-profit health system remains compliant with the fraud and abuse laws, HIPAA and applicable IRS regulations, as well as myriad other regulatory requirements. In my role, I assist with mergers and acquisitions; prepare, review

and/or negotiate a high volume of agreements, including employment, managed care and construction agreements; support our IT department and Corporate Compliance program; resolve patient care matters and lead various internal investigations. As an in-house generalist, I'm required to take on most any type of matter involving my client except litigation."

## ROSS BURRIS, '01

**Title:** Shareholder

**Company/Organization:** Polsinelli, PC;  
Atlanta, GA

**Years Working with Healthcare:** 14

"I focus my practice on litigation and health care regulatory issues and represent a wide variety of health care organizations, including hospitals and health systems, long term care providers, ambulatory surgery centers and DME suppliers."



## GINA GINN GREENWOOD, '01

**Title:** Shareholder

**Company/Organization:** Baker Donelson, PC; Macon, GA

**Years Working with Healthcare:** 16

"I represent clients across the country in health regulatory, governmental investigations and cyber liability matters — specializing in HIPAA Privacy/Security/Data Breach Notification; EMTALA, and fraud and abuse matters pertinent to general/psychiatric hospitals, drug manufacturers, and other

health care entities. I was selected by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as an EMTALA legal expert providing oral testimony at the USCCR Hearings in Washington, D.C. and written testimony to the U.S. Congress and U.S. President."



## JAY D. MITCHELL, '88

**Title:** Senior Counsel

**Company/Organization:** King and Spalding, LLP; Atlanta, GA

**Years Working with Healthcare:** 20



"Prior to joining K & S, I was the Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary at Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta for 14 years and was with HCA as Senior Litigation Counsel in Nashville for five years. My practice focuses on the legal and regulatory issues faced by healthcare providers, payers, and vendors/suppliers. I also assist organizations with regulatory compliance and government relations in the ever-evolving healthcare area."

## STEPHANIE GODSEY SHEPHERD, '02

**Title:** Vice President

**Company/Organization:** Syncro Medical Innovations, Inc.;  
Macon, GA

**Years Working with Healthcare:** 1

"I am charged with marketing, exhibiting and obtaining new accounts for a new generation enteral feeding tube. Such tubes historically have been associated with rare but serious complications from tube misplacement in the trachea. The Gabriel® Feeding Tube with Balloon was developed by Dr. Sabry Gabriel with support from the United States Department of Defense. Its development accomplishes the stated goals of minimizing tracheal misplacement and facilitating early gastric feeding, both of which are crucial for critically ill patients."





# TONY BALDWIN



## *A Legacy of Service to Students and Alumni*

**W**hen you ask Mercer Law School alumni to cite a favorite professor, Tony Baldwin's name is usually among the handful they volunteer. Though he'll continue to teach through 2020, the much-loved professor has announced his phased retirement.

Born in Jamaica, Queens, Anthony R. Baldwin graduated from Boston University and Harvard Law School. In the 1970s he worked in the Labor Relations Legal Department of the New York City Mayor's Office, but the courtroom lost out to the classroom when he began teaching at North Carolina Central University School of Law, and subsequently at Albany Law School and Boston College Law School. Among other areas, he has taught Civil Procedure, Labor Law, Labor Arbitration, and Race and the Law.

Joining the Mercer faculty in 1988, Baldwin became the first African-American tenured professor — a belated milestone for the Law School.

At the 2017 Black Law Students Association's Empowerment Dinner, he delivered a speech on the theme, "Together We Rise."

Near the end, he said, "One of my proudest examples of Together We Rise, I think, is that black students and students of color, without regard to circumstances ... know that they can come to Mercer Law

*"I was in the first Labor Law class he taught at Mercer, and I leaned towards the management side. I got through Labor I and Labor II without a clue as to which way he leaned ... His studied neutrality in class was influential in helping me see, and appreciating, the opposing viewpoints."*

— Douglas H. Duerr, '89

*"He was the reason I got into labor and I owe Prof. Baldwin a tremendous debt of gratitude."*

*I mean this sincerely: I feel like I literally have not worked a day in my life. He has been a significant fixture in my life and a strong influence."*

— Marty N. Martenson, '89

*"Prof. Baldwin is one of the key reasons that I remained at Mercer Law School. I suffered some setbacks as a 1L student and I was prepared to walk away. Prof. Baldwin took me to the side and gave me such encouragement. He was so much*

*more than just a professor. I viewed him as my life line. He saw something in me, that at the time, I could not see in myself."*

— Tomieka R. Daniel, '02

*"When I think of Prof. Baldwin I am reminded of the faith and confidence he has in the students' ability to succeed in school and to have productive and rewarding careers after graduation. He was tough on us but he was also our biggest*



School and they can be what they want to be.”

That’s largely due to the ways he has advocated for their greatest potential, as students and as attorneys.

“He does amazing recruiting at mostly historically black universities and colleges,” said Hal Lewis, emeritus professor. “He almost single-handedly raided Hampton University’s best students for many years. They turned out to be absolutely splendid students with great success at the Law School and afterward.”

While his work in the classroom speaks for itself — or, at least, alumni are happy to speak of it (see below) — Professor Baldwin’s influence was just as significant in his students’ lives beyond the Law School’s halls.

“I’d like to highlight the surprising magnitude of Tony’s work with alumni,” says Lewis, who describes his former colleague as a man who nurtured students before they enrolled at Mercer, just as diligently as he did after they graduated. “He’s almost a one-man, parallel alumni office.”

While Baldwin is rightly admired for nurturing students of color, his work as faculty advisor to both the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition and BLSA, and his help creating the BLSA Alumni Council, are just parts of the complete picture.

“He’s sometimes pigeonholed as just working with African-American students or alumni,” Lewis says. “But he keeps in touch with former labor law students of all races. He has mentored a lot of labor students and used what contacts he has for placement with employees.



“I doubt that there is a faculty member in the history of Mercer Law School who has had as much personal influence on as many students as Tony Baldwin.”

“What’s really remarkable is how he follows their careers afterward.” For instance, Connie Min, ’01, recalls how Baldwin “put me in touch with attorneys when I was looking for a job as a 3L.” (He also attended her wedding.)

Professor emeritus Jack Sammons had a recent experience that testified to his colleague’s influence on alumni.

“About three weeks ago, I was walking through the Dartmouth campus when I heard this voice yelling, ‘professor, professor,’” he recalls. “I saw someone coming my way but didn’t recognize her.

“As she got closer she cried out, ‘How is Professor Baldwin?’ And, although she was probably close to 40 with a 13-year-old son trying to decide on soccer camps, I knew who she was. She was one of ‘Tony’s kids.’

“I doubt that there is a faculty member in the history of Mercer Law School who has had as much personal influence on as many students as Tony Baldwin.”

So when you talk to alumni, it’s clear that Baldwin is someone who will be missed, but is also somebody they feel is never very far away. His legacy will continue here long after 2020.

Speaking about the Douglass Moot Court team at the Empowerment Dinner, Baldwin told the crowd, “You saw how many people from BLSA are in and competing and part of the *fabric* of Mercer Law School. That’s what I always wanted to see. So at this point, at the point where I’m retiring, it’s good to see and know that that was achieved.”

*cheerleader. He cared enough to stay in touch over the years, to keep up with our careers and accomplishments.”*

— Maria Mateo Odom, ’97

*“There were professors who talked to us like students, but Tony spoke to us as if we were professionals. He made us feel we were all out to accomplish something together.”*

— Jennifer “Jen” Friedman FitzGerald, ’97

*“I never will forget what Prof. Baldwin has done for me. My professional triumphs in the last 20 years are validation of his ability to recognize promise. Who knew where I would be today, a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge; Prof. Baldwin knew.”*

— J. Christopher Smith, ’96

*“My Moot Court experience with him was empowering. He’d bring up flaws in presentation*

*and he was never less than compassionate. As far as arguments went, he would provide us with challenging but engaging questions so we could learn to speak extemporaneously with ease.”*

— Caitlin Miller, ’10

To read full versions of these tributes and to share your stories of Professor Baldwin, visit [law.mercer.edu/baldwintribute](http://law.mercer.edu/baldwintribute).



# JOHN O. COLE

## *Professor ‘Yes, and Not Yes!’ to Officially Retire This Fall*

**A**s an undergrad at Duke University, John Cole took a series of career aptitude tests. The counselor tabulated the results and announced his two likeliest professions. First was lawyer. Second? Undertaker. Handling the dead had no appeal, and law was not much more attractive to him at the time. “I had never known a lawyer, and looking up stuff in books didn’t interest me at all,” he says. “My interests were in broader fields, including philosophy and the social sciences.”

A few years later, having earned a Master’s in Economics and a joint Ph.D. in Economics and Philosophy of Science from Indiana University, Cole went to Brown University on a two-year post-doctoral fellowship teaching courses in the Economics Department and the Philosophy Department. It was during that period that he became restive in academia and decided to pursue a life of action in the law. He was already 31, but you’re never too old when something *clicks*.

He applied to the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, hoping to study under Anthony Amsterdam, then the leading professor of criminal procedure in the country with major work opposing the death penalty. During his first month as a 1L, “It was like, ‘Oh, *this* is what I’ve been waiting for,’” Cole says. “It combined all my general interests — in sociology, psychology, philosophy, ethics — into a discussion which makes a difference to people. It’s not just talk. It’s about, ‘This person is going to prison, or not.’”

Upon graduation, Cole received the Dean Jefferson B. Fordham award for the student in the law school who has made the most outstanding contribution during the year to the advancement of individual freedom and dignity.

After working in the Public Defender’s office as a student, he accepted a job offer there. After a couple of years, he spent a year clerking for Justice Roger DeBrunner on the Supreme Court of Indiana.

Then, deciding to return to teaching, he joined the Mercer faculty in 1972, attracted by the chance to teach two courses he coveted: Constitutional Law and Criminal Law.

“Georgia was like foreign land back then,” says Cole, who grew up in a suburb of St. Louis but most recently had been a northeasterner, in Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania Law School and in Providence, Rhode Island’s Brown University. Down in Middle Georgia, “Everything was clean, everybody was nice.”

And it was all changing, as the end of the ’60s crashed belatedly into Middle Georgia, along with a wave of Vietnam veterans, heading to college on the GI Bill. Some of his best students back then, he recalls, were returning veterans. In his spare time while at the Law School he worked as a criminal defense attorney, but

Professor Cole’s greatest contribution may be the 45 years of teaching Mercer Law students. He’d only planned to stay at Mercer for a year or so. But he never left.

Now, at the end of fall semester of 2017, he’s retiring.

“At the beginning of this year I said, ‘I’m 81, I’ve stretched it out a long time,’” he says with a rumble of a laugh. “Way longer than anyone else around here. I’ve been lucky and privileged, but it’s time to hang it up.”

Over his decades at the Law School, Cole served as interim dean, overseeing the move from tiny quarters on the main Mercer campus to the building on Coleman Hill. (See “History Corner” on page 18 for more on that). He was here for the adoption of the Woodruff Curriculum and for the inauguration of the Legal Writing Program. He’s watched the faculty, staff and student bodies grow in number.

“This is a great law school with great faculty, staff, librarians and administration, but the best part is, truly, the students that come through here year after year.” he says. “They, more than anything

“I’ve been so lucky to do what I’m doing.  
I love this. Few people have a life’s  
profession that they love every day.”



“This is a great law school with great faculty, staff, librarians and administration, but the best part is, truly, the students that come through here year after year. They, more than anything else, have motivated me and inspired me.”

else, have motivated me and inspired me.”

If he experienced a *click* on entering law school, outside the classroom something else did the same thing. He started riding motorcycles in grad school, but he wasn't a Sunday rider. He liked to take long treks, up to Montreal, Minneapolis, or Indianapolis to visit his best friend.

The epiphany struck him mid-life, when he was on one of those long hauls, driving in the Clinch Mountains one early morning, on route to visit his son at Oberlin College: “It was a little colder than I expected, and the fog was still around and I was coming down a mountain. And I thought, ‘Man, this is so much fun.’ And then, it just popped into my head: ‘It’s way more than fun. This is, like, it.’”

“I could never explain it, I never tried to talk anybody into doing it, either, because there’s some danger there, and I’ve been down four times,” he says, referring to accidents he’s had over the years with his BMW road bikes. “But it was just like heaven, just an amazing experience for me.”

He feels the same way about the Law School. “I’ve been so lucky to do what I’m doing. I love this. Few people have a life’s profession that they love every day.”

So he’s both excited and a little unsure of retirement, calling it “a blank slate.”

He has four grown children, six grandchildren, and his oldest son, a pathologist in Portland, Oregon, is encouraging him to move there.



ROGER DENDEN PHOTO

That might happen. On the other hand, he may stay in Georgia.

If so, “I’m looking at volunteering my services for criminal defense with the public defenders office, or maybe with the Innocence Project in Atlanta.”

Right now, he doesn’t own a road bike. Probably won’t get another, either. “I don’t think so, because of my age,” he says ...

“But when I retire, I keep thinking, ‘Ah, maybe ...’”





# MOVIN' ON UP TO COLEMAN HILL



Photographed above are the student lounge and first-floor courtroom in the late 1970's after the renovations required to transform the building into a Law School.

By Joseph E. Claxton, *Professor Emeritus*


The year was 1977. The nation was shocked to learn that Elvis had left the building — maybe. For Mercer University School of Law, however, there is absolutely no doubt that the salient event of 1977 was the movement of the entire institution from its longtime quarters in the Ryals and Langdale Buildings on Mercer University's main campus in Macon to a beautifully renovated structure standing on the peak of historic Coleman Hill. (The renovation was done by the Chris R. Sheridan Company.)

The move began on December 14, 1977, and within three days, virtually every trace of Mercer Law School had vanished from its previous location and reappeared on Coleman Hill in a building originally built and used by the Insurance Company of North America.

The move was made possible by the efforts of many committed supporters of the Law School, but none played as important a role as that of Robert L. "Bob" Steed. Bob Steed was one of the most devoted alumni in the history of Mercer Law School. He made a contact with a top officer of the Insurance Company of North America that resulted in a gift/purchase arrangement by which Mercer University acquired not only a wonderful facility for the Law School, but also paved the way for a bright and remarkable era in its history.

The acquisition of what was known 40 years ago as the INA Building justifiably received a great deal of attention, but there were other less high-profile decisions and actions that played a vital role in realizing the educational potential of the Law School's soon-to-be new home. Those decisions and actions required outstanding leadership inside the Law School, and two people beyond all others provided that leadership: Professor John O. Cole, who became dean *pro tempore* of





the Law School on July 1, 1977, and Professor Leah Chanin, director of the Law Library.

Early on, Professor Cole had recognized the unsuitability of other locations that were initial possibilities for the Law School's new site. Even more importantly, however, he led the Law School faculty in insisting on certain steps in connection with the renovation of the INA Building. When the actual renovation of the INA Building was pending, Professor Cole's focus on handling key matters in a way that would give genuine support to the School's educational mission was vital. The many alumni who know Professor Chanin will not be surprised to read that she was a forceful spokesperson in support of Professor Cole.

Some of the issues — and challenges — in the planning for the renovation seem a bit laughable in retrospect, but the way they were met had very significant, long-term, and positive implications for the Law School. One University administrator who had a reputation for knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing, argued that faculty offices should be separated, not by walls, but rather by large potted plants. Supposedly this approach would encourage faculty interaction — while, of course, costing less. The potted plants figuratively withered on the vine very quickly.

The original plan for the new law building provided for only two large classrooms, plus the first-floor courtroom. Every faculty member knew that at least three large classrooms were essential. Eventually, with strong internal leadership, a third large classroom was added to the renovation plans. Four decades of law students have known those classrooms by the wildly creative names of A, B and C. For almost all hours of every teaching day, all three of those classrooms are in use.

To this day, Professor Cole laughs about what he considers his greatest contribution to the renovation plan, but what he accomplished actually resulted in a great enhancement to student life. The same University administrator who was enraptured with potted plants believed that the student lounge should be modeled after a

McDonald's fast-food restaurant. That approach would have separated students into small groups, the worst possible arrangement for a student lounge and utterly lacking in aesthetic appeal. Professor Cole derailed that unfortunate idea — and a few thousand students never knew what a great benefit he had provided for them.

Professor Chanin had the great responsibility of personally organizing and supervising the move of the Law Library. An attempt was made to foist a "moving consultant" on Professor Chanin — a consultant who proved to be uniquely unhelpful. Professor Chanin sent that individual packing and turned to a law librarian from the University of Florida with extensive experience. The move went superbly, although with a few surprises. Only after the move began did Professor Chanin discover that some of the movers involved were state prisoners on work release. This discovery did not thrill Professor Chanin, but the prisoners turned out to be excellent workers. The only real glitch was that the movers shelved one section of books backwards. That shelving obviously had to be corrected, but no harm was done. Professor Chanin worked on the move for eight straight days and had the library, with all its equipment, in full operation by the time classes began in January of 1978.

As the last truckload headed to Coleman Hill at the end of the move, it was impossible for some Mercerians not to feel a tinge of sadness. Georgia Albritton, who at that time was serving as both the administrative assistant to the dean and the Law School registrar, sat on the steps of the Ryals Building facing Adams Street and quietly wept. Her husband was a graduate of the Law School, and much of her life was entwined with the Ryals and Langdale Buildings. Georgia Albritton could not help remembering the past, and those memories were good.

The first class ever taught on Coleman Hill began at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1978, in Classroom C. The course was called Commercial Paper & Bank Collections. Almost 100 students were enrolled in it. The teacher was a young man named Joe Claxton.



## Professor Ted Blumoff

### Recent Publications

*On Executing Treatment-Resistant Schizophrenics: Identity and the Construction of "Synthetic" Competency*, 52 Crim. L. Bull. 308 (2016).

*Rationality, Insanity, and the Insanity Defense: Reflections on the Limits of Reason*, 39 L. & Psychol. Rev. 161 (2015).

## Associate Professor Jessica R. Feinberg

### Recent Publications

*A Logical Step Forward: Extending Voluntary Acknowledgments of Parentage to Female Same-Sex Couples Who Conceive Using Sperm Provided in Compliance with Donor Non-Paternity Laws*, 30 Yale J.L. & Feminism (forthcoming 2017).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Whither the Functional Parent? Revisiting the Need for Equitable Parenthood Doctrines in Light of the Increasing Availability to Same-Sex Parents of Avenues to Obtaining Formal Legal Parent Status*, Feminist Legal Theory Program, Law and Society Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.

## Professor Jim Fleissner

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Living in a New Evidence World*, Georgia State Bar Annual Meeting, Jekyll Island.

## Associate Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore

### Recent Publications

*On Competence: (Re)Considering Appropriate Legal Standards for Examining Sixth Amendment Claims Related to Criminal Defendants' Mental Illness and Disability*, Tenn. Law Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

*Remedial Reading: Evaluating Federal Courts' Application of the Prejudice Standard in Capital Sentences from "Weighing" and "Non-Weighing" States*, U. Pa. J. Const. L. Online (forthcoming 2017).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Panelist, *Beyond Death Row*, Georgia State University School of Law, Atlanta.

Presenter, "What's a Life, Anyways? We're Born, We Live a Little While, We Die": Capital Punishment, Professional Identity, and Charlotte's Web, Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, Washington D.C.

### Honors, Awards and Activities

Distinguished Alumni Award for Faithful

and Creative Leadership, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

## Professor David Hricik

### Recent Publications

*Patent Ethics: Prosecution* (Lexis/Nexis 5th ed. forthcoming 2018).

*Will Patenting Make Sense in the New Regime of Weakened Patent Rights and Shorter Product Life Cycles?*, Vanderbilt J. of Entertainment & Technology Law (forthcoming 2017).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Professor Hricik gave more than 10 presentations across the country including presenting in California, Colorado, New York, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia. He also presented webinars for AIPLA and Syracuse Law.

## Professor Linda Jellum

*Ellison Capers Palmer Sr. Professor of Law*

### Recent Publications

*Mastering Administrative Law*, Carolina Academic Press (2nd ed. forthcoming 2017).

*Judicial Review*, in *Developments in Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice* (M. Tien, ed.) (2016; yearly book chapter) (co-authored with Richard Murphy).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Revisiting Yesterday's Rules: The Congressional Review Act, Agency Stays, and Beyond*, ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Teleconference, Washington, D.C.

*Educating Citizens on Rulemaking, Administrative Hearings and Other Administrative Procedures*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools' Annual Conference, Boca Raton, FL.

### Honors, Awards and Activities

Elected Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's Section on Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

Elected Treasurer of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools.

## Professor Stephen M. Johnson

### Recent Publications

*Advancing Auer in an Era of Retreat*, 41 Wm. & Mary Env't'l L. Rev. 551 (2017).

*Indestructible: The Triumph of the Environmental "Administrative State"*, U. Cin. L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

## Associate Professor Jeremy Kidd

### Recent Publications

*Fintech: Antidote to Rent-Seeking?*, 92(3) Chi.-Kent. L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

*Investment or Loan? Litigation Funding's Ongoing Debate*, *Litigation Finance Journal* (July 24, 2017), <https://litigationfinancejournal.com>.

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Presenter, *#FutureLaw 2.0, Fintech: Antidote to Rent-Seeking*, Duquesne Law School Federalist Society, Pittsburgh, PA.

Panelist, *Is the SEC's Insider Trading Regime Really Fair*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Boca Raton, FL.

## Professor Patrick Longan

*William Augustus Bootle Chair in Professionalism and Ethics*

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Moderator, *Professionalism for Judges and Attorneys*, National Association of Women Judges Annual Meeting, Atlanta.

Moderator, *Attorney Ethics*, National Association of Women Judges Annual Meeting, Atlanta.

*Professionalism and Attorney Well-Being*, United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia Professionalism CLE, Macon.

*Update on Legal Ethics*, State Bar of Georgia School and College Law Section CLE, Atlanta.

Panelist, *Exercises and Simulations for a First-Year Course on Professionalism, and Required/Elective, Number of Credits and Graded/Pass/Fail*, Holloran Center Workshop on First-Year Professionalism Programs, University of St. Thomas Law School, Minneapolis, MN.

## Professor David G. Oedel

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Constitution Day 2017 Supreme Court Review*, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville.

## Professor Teri McMurtry-Chubb

### Recent Publications

*Burn This Bitch Down!: Mike Brown, Emmett Till, and the Gendered Politics of Black Parenthood*, 17 Nev. Law J. 619 (2017).

*On Writing Wrongs: Legal Writing Professors of Color and the Curious Case of 405(c)*, 66 J. Legal Educ. 575 (2017).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Panelist, *The Changing Face of the War on Drugs: Mass Incarceration, Overcriminalization, and Evolving Drug Policy*, Wayne State University Law Review Symposium, Detroit, MI.

*The Passionate Protection of Blackness: Social Justice Advocacy in the Age of Repackaged White Supremacy*, BLSA Scholarship Symposium, Macon.

Panelist, *Diversity and Inclusion Inside and Outside the Classroom*, Association of American Law Schools New Law Teacher Workshop, Washington D.C.

## Professor Karen Sneddon

### Recent Publications

*Moot Court Handbook: Finding Educational Success and Competition Glory*, WoltersKluwer (2017) (Co-authored with Professor Suzanne Painter-Thorne).

*Tales from a Form Book: Stock Stories and Transactional Documents*, 78 Mont. L. Rev. 501 (2017) (Co-authored with Susan M. Chesler).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Tales from a Form Book: Stock Stories and Transactional Documents*, Sixth Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, Legal Writing Institute, Washington D.C.

## Scott Titshaw

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law*

### Recent Publications

*Conflicts of Interest and Waivers in Family Practice*, in *Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook*, 2016-17 Edition (American Immigration Lawyers Association).

*Conflicts of Interest and Waivers in Family Practice*, in 22 Bender's Immigration Bulletin 907 (2017).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Panelist, *Representation of LGBT Asylum-Seekers*, Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia CLE, Atlanta.

Panelist, *Laws and Crossing Borders*, National LGBT Bar Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Panelist, *Avoiding Family Feuds: Ethics in Family Practice*, American Immigration Lawyers Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.



# MERCER UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF LAW

# GIVING REPORT

## 2016 – 2017

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# CLASSNotes

## 1956

**W. Homer Drake Jr.** received the American Inns of Court Bankruptcy Inn Alliance Distinguished Service Award for his longstanding dedication to professionalism and civility. The award was presented at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges annual meeting on Oct. 10 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## 1963

**Robert A. Berlin**, president and founder of The New Decision Management Associates, Inc., has been elected chair of the Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Georgia, which supports, through education and facilitation, various methods for resolving legal disputes in ways other than litigation. He will serve in that capacity for one year.

## 1968

**Robert H. Baer** was featured in the "Our Veterans" column in the *Brunswick News*, crediting his service in the Army for giving him

a more worldly perspective that enabled him to obtain his law degree.

## 1972

**David F. Sipple** was included in Best Lawyers 2018 in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law. Sipple is a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

## 1974

**W. Louis Sands** was recognized for Professional Excellence: Lifetime Achievement by the *Fulton County Daily Report* for his lasting imprint on the legal community of Georgia.

## 1975

**John D. Barry**, an experienced civil litigator and retired Lieutenant Colonel, joined Spicer Rudstrom PLLC, a Chattanooga, Tennessee firm.

## 1977

**S. Hayward Altman** received the District Attorney of the Year Award from the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia during the

2017 Summer Conference sponsored by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia.

## 1979

### Class Correspondents:

**Danny Craig**, [dcraig@augustaga.gov](mailto:dcraig@augustaga.gov)  
**Mary Katz**, [mkatz@chrkglaw.com](mailto:mkatz@chrkglaw.com)

## 1980

**Virgil L. Adams** was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers on Sept. 21 at the annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec.

**C. Andrew Fuller** was reappointed to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. Fuller is the Chief Judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit Superior Court in Gainesville.

## 1982

**James E. "Jim" Elliott Jr.**, city attorney of Warner Robins, was inducted into the Georgia Municipal Association's Municipal Hall of Fame in June during its annual convention in Savannah. The Municipal Hall of Fame honors municipal officials who exemplify the best in public service and who, throughout their careers, have made extraordinary contributions to their communities and Georgia's cities.

**J. William Pierce Jr.** is listed as a leading U.S. attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending by the Chambers USA 2017 edition. Pierce's firm Glankler Brown, PLLC, based in Memphis, Tennessee, is named leading U.S. firm in real estate.

## 1983

**Jacquelyn "Jackie" Saylor** received the Atlanta Bar Association's Women in the Profession Section's 2016 Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for her commitment to excellence in both her professional and personal life, as well as her contributions to empowering women in the legal profession and the Atlanta community. Saylor was also elected the 2016-2017 treasurer of the Atlanta Bar's Estate Planning and Probate Section. In 2017, she again was chosen as a Georgia Super Lawyer in Estate Planning and Probate.

## 1987

**Anton F. Mertens** was recognized with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Leopold, signed by King Philippe, King of the Belgians, for his 20 years of service fostering close ties between Belgium and the state of Georgia. The Order of Leopold is one of three current Belgian national honorary orders of knighthood and is awarded by royal decree.

## REUNIONS & RECEPTIONS



CHEYLL KING PHOTO

Mercer Law School was pleased to host multiple reunions and receptions around the Southeast this year. Graduates from 10 to 50 years celebrated their time at Mercer with a reunion, and alumni from all graduation years helped us welcome **Cathy Cox, '86**, as Dean.



BILLIE FRY'S PHOTO



BILLIE FRY'S PHOTO



JOHN JAMES PHOTO



BILLIE FRY'S PHOTO



## CLASSNotes

**Ray S. Smith III** was appointed by Mayor Rusty Paul of the City of Sandy Springs to serve as chairman of the Municipal Court Reform, Judicial Selection and Legal Services.

### 1989

**Elizabeth K. Bobbitt** was named chief assistant district attorney for Towaliga Judicial Circuit, covering Butts, Monroe and Lamar counties.

### 1991

**Frank R. McKay** was reappointed as chairman of the State Board of Workers' Compensation by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. McKay will serve for an additional four years as chairman and as chief appellate court judge for the State Board.

### 1993

**Bryan L. Brendle** joined the American Horse

Council as director of policy and legislative affairs. In this capacity, Brendle will lead the public policy, government relations and advocacy efforts of AHC.

### 1995

**David Lee Cannon Jr.**, Blue Ridge Superior Court Judge, served in the Georgia Supreme Court on Tuesday, June 20, in place of Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, who recused himself in the appeal of *Summerour v. City of Marietta*. Judge Cannon is serving his second term in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

### 1996

**Class Correspondent:**  
Auden Grumet, [auden@atlantalawyer.org](mailto:auden@atlantalawyer.org)

**G. Scott Baity**, deputy general counsel for Baptist Health in Jacksonville, Florida, was awarded the First Chair Award for excellence in legal counsel for his significant contributions to the legal community. Baity was recognized in the category of Top Assistant General Counsel.

**J. Christopher Smith** was appointed judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court by California Gov. Edmund "Jerry" Brown on May 22.

### 1999

**Matthew C. Alford** successfully tried a plaintiff's case wherein a Troup County jury returned a \$2 million verdict. This is the largest personal injury verdict on record in the Superior Court of Troup County.

**Bryan C. Ramos** was selected to serve on the board of directors for Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta. AAAJ-Atlanta, together with its affiliates in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Washington D.C., has more than 100 years of experience addressing civil rights issues faced by underserved communities, including Asian Americans.

### 2000

**Class Correspondent:**  
William Noland, [william@nolandlawfirmllc.com](mailto:william@nolandlawfirmllc.com)

**Clanitra Stewart Nejd** received the 2017 Minority Leadership Development Award from the American Association of Law Libraries at the 110th AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in July. Stewart Nejd is a reference and instructional services librarian at the David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library at Northern Illinois University College of Law.

### 2001

**Class Correspondents:**  
Chad C. Hastings, [chastings@lesserlawfirm.com](mailto:chastings@lesserlawfirm.com)  
Michelle Pinto, [michellepintoesq@gmail.com](mailto:michellepintoesq@gmail.com)  
Laura L. Voght, [lvoght@attorneykennugent.com](mailto:lvoght@attorneykennugent.com)  
Susan Warren, [susanwarren@yahoo.com](mailto:susanwarren@yahoo.com)

**Jason W. Swindle Sr.** was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board on June 30. Swindle is the senior partner at Swindle Law Group, P.C.

### 2002

**Julianne Grow Glisson** was appointed Chatham County Administrator and Guardian for Chatham County Probate Court.

**Bradley M. Harmon** was named one of the Best Lawyers 2018 in the area of Litigation-Construction. Harmon is a partner at HunterMaclean in Savannah.

### 2003

**Nathan H. Harwell** joined Rinnai America Corporation as general counsel in 2015. Harwell established the company's legal department, decreased its legal spending, and focused on turning the legal department into a profit center. Harwell was recognized for his achievement as In-House Counsel by the *Fulton County Daily Report* Professional Excellence Award.

### 2004

**Class Correspondents:**  
Lauren Pierce Thomas, [lauren3003@gmail.com](mailto:lauren3003@gmail.com)  
Lauren Shurling Finley, [laurenshurling@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenshurling@hotmail.com)

### 2005

**Heather A. Calhoun** launched the Aaron's Women's Leadership Network with Brennan Stewart, a fellow corporate counsel. The program aims to attract, develop and retain female talent throughout the company and also raises funds for Atlanta-based Warrick Dunn Charities, which provides housing assistance to single mothers. Calhoun was recognized for professional excellence as In-House Counsel by the *Fulton County Daily Report*.

### 2007

**April Yvonne Herbert** joined the Macon Circuit District Attorney's Office. Herbert was previously with the Georgia Capital Defender in Brunswick.

## ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER 2017

On Friday, Feb. 24, Mercer Law School hosted the Third Annual Alumni Dinner in Atlanta. The event featured a cocktails reception and dinner attended by more than 350 alumni and friends. During the dinner, **Manley F. Brown, '64**, received the Outstanding Alumnus Award and **Paul A. Quirós, '82**, received the Meritorious Service Award.



SALDIVA JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



CHERYLL KING PHOTO

**Deron R. Hicks, '93**, authored his third book, *The Van Gogh Deception*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. It was recently cited in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the best new children's books. Hicks is currently associate general counsel at TSYS, a credit card processing company in Columbus. He previously served as president for Mercer Law's Alumni Board of Directors and is currently a member of the Board of Visitors.

## 2008

**Setteria Renea Brodnex** joined Toombs Judicial Circuit Staff of Prosecutors in February. Brodnex was most recently a staff attorney for the Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center and Children's Advocacy Center.

**Mitchell J. Thoreson** joined Conestoga Title Insurance Co. in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as underwriting counsel in June. Thoreson was most recently with Alford & Thoreson in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

**Christopher Yokom** was appointed Associate Judge for the Fulton County Juvenile Court on June 9.

## 2009

**Class Correspondents:**  
Cayce Myers, [marcuscaycemyers@gmail.com](mailto:marcuscaycemyers@gmail.com)

**W. Benjamin Bryant** was reappointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to the Technical College System of Georgia Board on June 30. Bryant serves as associate general counsel for InComm.

**Peter J. Harrison** joined Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, PC, practicing in the estate planning area. Harrison relocated to Chattanooga last fall after several years in Connecticut. He holds an LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center and serves on the board for the Chattanooga Estate Planning Council.

**Michael E. Mayo** was named partner at Martin Snow, LLP.

**M. Cayce Myers and Anne (Carroll) Myers, '09**, welcomed their daughter, Cayce Anne, on Aug. 31.

**Billy J. Nelson Jr.** was appointed solicitor general for the State Court of Long County by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66.

**Brooke C. Obie** won the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Self-Publishing Literary Award for her debut novel *Book of Addis: Cradled Embers*. Her novel also received the Phillis Wheatley Book Award for First Fiction.

**Kathryn L. Powers** and Stephanie Gallagher were married on April 8.

## 2010

**Class Correspondent:**  
Rizza Palmares O'Connor, [rizzapalmares@gmail.com](mailto:rizzapalmares@gmail.com)

**Charles V. Crowe** joined the firm of Warner, Bates, McGough, McGinnis & Portnoy in July as an associate practicing family law.

**Hays B. McQueen** joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover, LLP, as of counsel in April. McQueen joins the firm's corporate and transactional practice group.

**Matthew Wetherington** was named partner for The Werner Wetherington Law Firm. In just the last year, Wetherington has received over \$15 million in verdicts and settlements.

## 2011

**Class Correspondents:**  
Brian M. Jasper, [bjasper@wilkesmchugh.com](mailto:bjasper@wilkesmchugh.com)  
Bowen Reichert Shoemaker, [Bowen.Shoemaker@alston.com](mailto:Bowen.Shoemaker@alston.com)  
Jonathan L. Simpson, [jonathan.simpson.1@us.af.mil](mailto:jonathan.simpson.1@us.af.mil)

**Kristen Nicole Grush** graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy.

**Jason M. Wilbanks** and wife Judy announced the birth of Isaac Nathaniel on April 20.

## 2012

**Class Correspondent:**  
Justin Purvis, [justinpurvis10@gmail.com](mailto:justinpurvis10@gmail.com)

**Janene Browder** joined the Office of General Counsel of the Georgia Department of Community Health. Browder recently co-authored an article in the spring edition of *The YLD Review*, "Building Change from the Ground Up."

**Jonathan A. Fultz** joined Helton Law, LLC, a general practice firm in Cartersville.

**Norbert Daniel Hummel IV** married Christina Hoover on May 20 in Atlanta. Hummel was also selected by the *Fulton County Daily Report* as one of 30 Attorneys On the Rise. He joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Atlanta on April 24 practicing general liability,

and was elected the next secretary of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division for 2017-18.

**Darryl W. Lunon II** joined Pennsylvania State University in July as assistant general counsel, supporting the defense related research units which include the applied research laboratory and the electro-optics center. Lunon was most recently with the United States Navy Office of General Counsel, where he served as assistant counsel for the Naval Facilities and Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic.

**John M. McMichael** joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover, LLP, as an associate attorney in estate and asset protection planning.

**Daniel J. O'Connor** was appointed Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Vidalia by Mayor Ronnie Dixon, effective July 13. While serving in this part-time judgeship, O'Connor will continue to practice with the Law Offices of Bryant & Cook, P.C., in Vidalia.

**Alkesh B. Patel** graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy.

**Rahul Sheth** joined Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young, LLP, in Atlanta.

**Grant S. Tall** joined Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin, LLC, in March as a member of the workers' compensation litigation department.

**Randi M. Warren** graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy and was elected to a one-year term on the YLD Representative Council. Warren is an attorney in the litigation and dispute resolution practice at Taylor English.

## 2013

**Nathanael D. Brantley** was named partner at Dover Miller Karras & Langdale, PC, in Valdosta.

**Joel P. Purser** joined Beck, Owen and Murray in 2015 and practices primarily in the areas of civil litigation, insurance defense and local government representation.

## 2014

**Class Correspondent:**  
Jordan Quinley, [danielle.j.quinley@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.j.quinley@gmail.com)

**Harold E. Heck** is director of academic success for the University of Idaho College of Law in Boise. Heck was previously an academic success lecturer at Charlotte School of Law.

**Tyler D. Mashburn** graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy.

## 2015

**Class Correspondent:**  
Elizabeth Lambert Cox, [lambert.elizabeth.e@gmail.com](mailto:lambert.elizabeth.e@gmail.com)

**Elizabeth Lambert Cox** graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy.



# IN MEMORY

## 1950s

**William Leroy McMurray Jr., '50**, of Atlanta, April 13.

**Thomas Delano Maurice, '55**, of Savannah, Aug. 18.

## 1960s

**Charles T. Galloway Jr., '62**, of Covington, July 24.

**Thomas K. McWhorter, '62**, of Lawrenceville, Sept. 2, 2010.

**Ernest Wayne Wallhausen, '68**, of Naples, Florida, Aug. 9, 2016.

## 1970s

**Helen Berenthien, '70**, of Columbus, Aug. 25.

**Richard G. Nadler, '72**, of Warner Robins, March 27.

**Ronald Carey LeSueur, '73**, of Tallahassee, Florida, July 18.

**James J. Daly Jr., '74**, of Kathleen, July 4.

**Brenda Lord Freeman, '76**, of Austin, Texas, June 23, 2015.

## 1980s

**Jon P. Pensyl, '80**, of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, April 5.

**J. Edward Philman, '81**, of Bell, Florida, May 17.

**Barbara Currie Miller, '81**, of Mercer Island, Washington, Sept. 8.

**Albert Kirven Gilbert III, '83**, of Atlanta, June 13.

**Mara McRae, '83**, of Atlanta, March 14.

**Matthew Angelo Tavriles, '89**, of Orlando, Florida, Aug. 22, 2016.

## 2000s

**Michael David Sorkey, '03**, of Columbus, July 20.



## CLASSNotes

**Carrie E. Ferrando** joined Heldman Simpson Partners LLC in Washington D.C. Ferrando was previously with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**K. Shayda Kayhani** joined the Lawrenceville office of Seta, Martin, Trivett & Stubley as an associate attorney. Kayhani was previously the sole staff attorney at Enotah Judicial Circuit.

**Jason S. Knowles** joined the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office in September.

**Tiffany N. Watkins** joined Wargo French, LLP, in Atlanta as an associate attorney. Watkins previously served as law clerk to the Hon. W. Louis Sands, Senior U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

### 2016

#### Class Correspondents:

Kyle Owenby, [kyleowenby@gmail.com](mailto:kyleowenby@gmail.com)  
Jessica Canedo Wallace,  
[jcanedo16@lawmail.mercer.edu](mailto:jcanedo16@lawmail.mercer.edu)

**Natasha S.L. Banks** joined the labor and employment law firm of Fisher Phillips in its Atlanta office. Banks, who clerked for Fisher Phillips in the summer of 2015, represents clients in all areas, including employment discrimination and retaliation claims, wage and hour disputes, and employment policies and procedures. Additionally, she is part of the firm's global immigration practice group.

**Hannah Crook Hensley** joined the Piedmont Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office in June. She previously served as judicial clerk in the Toombs Circuit Superior Court.

**Bryce A. Linden** joined Hartley, Rowe & Fowler, PC, as an associate attorney and graduated from the George Washington University Law School with an LL.M. specializing in Environmental Law.

**Kyle C. Owenby** graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2017 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy.

**Morgan G. West** with husband Eric and daughter Charley Claire announce the birth of Lemon Louise on Sept. 18.



DOT PAUL PHOTO

Mercer Law's Black Law Student Association Alumni Council (BAC) hosted its first annual Alumni Dinner in October. The dinner recognized **Judge Louis Sands, '74**, as the first recipient of the Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award. The Award honors illustrious alumni who embody the spirit of Mercer BLSA's first faculty advisor: thoughtful, bold, and unmoved by the daily challenges of a black attorney in this profession. Pictured left to right: Professor Tony Baldwin, **Judge Louis Sands, '74**, Judge Shondeana Morris, '97, and Virgil Adams, '80.

# HOMEcoming TAILGATE 2017



C. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Mercer Law School alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered for food, drinks, networking, and corn hole for Mercer's Homecoming on Saturday, Nov. 4. Hosted by Mercer Law School, the tailgate was graciously sponsored by the Macon Bar Association and student organizations Phi Delta Phi, Phi Delta Alpha, Student Bar Association and Environmental Law Society.



MAGGIE CONERLY PHOTO



MAGGIE CONERLY PHOTO



MAGGIE CONERLY PHOTO



# THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

## *Support Mercer Law School Through a Tax-free IRA Contribution by December 31*

If you are 70½ or older, rather than simply take an IRA withdrawal this year, you can direct your IRA administrator to distribute a gift from your IRA to Mercer University School of Law. Congress recently passed a law that gives you the option to rollover a portion of your required minimum distribution (RMD) to charitable causes. While you must withdraw a certain amount of money from your IRA each year, the IRA charitable rollover gives you a way to avoid paying income taxes and still meet your RMD.

Any amount you transfer to a charitable cause counts against your RMD, and you can direct up to \$100,000 per year. You will pay no income taxes on the amount transferred. Because you are not claiming the transferred amount as income, you will not receive an income tax deduction for your gift.

Gifts to Mercer Law make a difference in the lives of students and the quality of legal training they receive. To support your alma mater, and save on your taxes, contact your IRA administrator or Mercer Law School at (478) 301-2232.

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# SAVE *the* DATE

## Mercer Law's Annual Alumni Dinner

Friday, February 23, 2018

InterContinental Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia

Details and registration at [law.mercer.edu/alumni](http://law.mercer.edu/alumni).

