

MERCER LAWYER

BLSA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

NURTURING CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY,
BLSA WELCOMES ALL TO LEARN ABOUT AND
APPRECIATE DIVERSITY, P. 7



ROGER BENDEN PHOTO

JUSTICE CLARENCE
THOMAS SPEAKS AT
COURTROOM DEDICATION
P. 3

PROFESSOR CHRIS
WELLS RETIRES
AFTER 29 YEARS
P. 24

SALLY YATES 2019
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER
P. 28

MIDDLE GEORGIA
ACCESS TO JUSTICE
INCUBATOR PROGRAM
P. 32

20
19

MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

INSIDE



SCENE FROM MACON

Gabrielle Clifford, '19, Anthony Perez, '20, and Teresa Pardinias, '20, enjoy the Society Garden, Macon's newest spot in Ingleside Village, which is an indoor/outdoor beer garden and wine bar offering a casual, eclectic, family and dog-friendly space. The Garden features live music by local and regional artists every weekend, yoga pop-ups, a Macon Maker's Market every first Saturday of the month, ceramic and art workshops and more!

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CONTENTS

Features



CURRENT BLSA MEMBERS DURING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER.

7

BLSA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Founding BLSA members Virgil Adams, '80, and Judge Yvette Miller, '80, and other alumni, discuss the founding of Mercer's BLSA Chapter in 1978-79 and the key influence BLSA has had in the diversity efforts, even today, for Mercer Law School.



FROM TOP: ROGER IDENDEN PHOTO, MATT ODOM PHOTOGRAPHY
OPPOSITE: REBEKAH HOWARD PHOTO

12

Mercer Law Alumni Entrepreneurs

Mercer Law alumni use their skills globally as entrepreneurs and innovators. Hear from several alumni who are using their law degrees to run successful businesses.

Departments

3

On the Docket

17

Student Profile

18

History Corner

20

Faculty Essay

22

Faculty Profiles

26

Faculty News and Scholarship

29

Class Notes

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni,

We have just wrapped up our academic year, presenting Juris Doctorate degrees to 129 graduates, who are now diligently preparing for the Bar Exam at the end of July. This year marks our 146th year of producing lawyers who are prepared to practice law and committed to serving their communities and the legal profession.

We had an exciting year, which you will read about in the following pages. Our spring semester was highlighted by the dedication of our first-floor courtroom to legal legends Griffin Bell, '48, and Frank Jones, '50. The dedication ceremony featured U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as the keynote speaker, and he spent a full day with the Law School community, holding a class for third-year students and answering their questions for almost two hours.



Our Law Day celebration in April featured Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton, following a morning in which the full Georgia Supreme Court held arguments in our newly named Bell-Jones Courtroom (including a case argued by our own professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore for our Habeas Project). We unveiled beautiful portraits of two more legendary alumni, Judges Louis Sands, '74, and Yvette Miller, '80, that afternoon, both of which were commissioned by our BLSA Alumni Council, and wrapped up the day with our annual Lawson Moot Court Competition for first-year students, complete with Justices Mike Boggs, '90, and John Ellington benching the competition.

Nearly all of our returning students are now working in exciting, legally-related jobs this summer – opportunities that many of you have helped to provide them.

We are grateful for all that you do to support the Law School. As we begin to approach our 150th anniversary, we are working on a new strategic plan to help guide us into this new era. We hope this strategic plan will give us an opportunity to continue to excel in the areas we have strengths, and find ways for us to improve and take advantage of the opportunities before us. We welcome your thoughts, feedback and suggestions during this process and hope that you will continue to be in touch with the Law School – through sharing news on social media, attending events and reunions, mentoring students, hiring students, and letting us know how we can better serve you. We need your help and support and look forward to hearing from you in the upcoming year!

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Cox, '86
Dean and Professor of Law

Mercer Law School Names Courtroom After Noted Alumni Griffin Bell and Frank Jones

Dean Cathy Cox announced the establishment of the Griffin B. Bell and Frank C. Jones Fund for the Enhancement of Advocacy Education and Programs in February 2019.

"Griffin Bell and Frank Jones are Mercer legends," said President William D. Underwood. "They stand among the finest lawyers in the history of American jurisprudence. I am grateful to their former colleagues, great lawyers in their own right, and fellow law alums Dwight Davis, Paul Quirós and Doc Schneider for establishing this endowment to benefit future Mercer lawyers."

The fund, created by Mercer Law alumni Davis, '82, Quirós, '82, and Schneider, '81, and others, will be used to support and enhance advocacy education and programs. This includes both curricular and co-curricular activities such as trial practice, moot court, mock trial, client counseling and negotiation teams and competitions.

Additionally, the Law School named the first-floor courtroom the Griffin B. Bell and Frank C. Jones Courtroom in honor of Bell, '48, and Jones, '50, in a ceremony on March 11.

"We are deeply grateful for the support our dedicated alumni and friends are providing by creating this fund, which will allow us to strengthen our litigation and advocacy programs and better prepare our students for practice upon graduation," said Cox.

"Griffin Bell and Frank Jones were titans of the Trial Bar for more than 50 years and the epitome of the ethical servant leaders that Mercer strives to produce," said Davis. "Those of us who were fortunate to serve with and learn from these two giants felt it was most fitting to name the main courtroom at the Law School in their honor. It is our hope that future generations of lawyers will be inspired by the lives of Griffin Bell and Frank Jones and follow in their footsteps."



LEAN VETTER PHOTO

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Speaks at Courtroom Dedication

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Clarence Thomas provided the keynote address as Mercer University School of Law dedicated its first-floor courtroom in honor of noted alumni Griffin Bell, '48, and Frank Jones, '50, on Monday, March 11.

During his remarks Justice Thomas said, "It is unsurprising to me that Mercer Law School produced such skilled practitioners as Judge Bell and Frank Jones. Mercer actually teaches its students how to be lawyers – something that too many law schools seem to forget or overlook these days. Mercer trains its students with a keen recognition that after three short years they will be fully expected to actually practice law. Mercer thus provides its students with the building blocks that good lawyers must develop to succeed in the practice of law. This is evident even in their decision to dedicate this courtroom to these two outstanding lawyers, two outstanding men."

Prior to the Bell-Jones Courtroom dedication, Justice Thomas spent the afternoon with third-year students in a Q&A session. He also spent time greeting and talking to faculty, staff, alumni and other members of the community following the dedication.



LEAN VETTER PHOTO

Law Day Celebration and Portraits Unveiling

Mercer Law School celebrated Law Day on Friday, April 12, with numerous activities including hosting the Georgia Supreme Court for oral arguments, honoring two distinguished alumni and presenting the annual first-year Lawson Moot Court Competition.

The Supreme Court of Georgia heard oral arguments in the morning, which included Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore arguing on behalf of a client in Mercer Law's Habeas Project. The visit provided an opportunity for students and the local community to observe the Court in action.

Additionally, the Law School unveiled two new portraits – one of Judge Louis Sands, '74, and one of Judge Yvette Miller, '80. Sands served as Senior U.S. District Court Judge in the Middle District of Georgia, and Miller serves as the first African-American female chief judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals.

The portraits were commissioned by the Black Law Students Alumni Council and painted by artist Steve Moppert. The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and friends of the University also generously supported the commission of the portraits.

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Georgia Supreme Court gave the Law Day keynote address. During his address he discussed the role of the rule of law and why it was fitting to honor Judge Miller and Judge Sands: "We honor the dignity that they bring to the practice of law, to the litigation process, to the role of judges in bringing peace and stability to our local communities."

The day concluded with the final round of the annual first-year Lawson Moot Court Competition – a longstanding intraschool competition exclusively for first-year students. Judges for the competition included Georgia Supreme Court Justices John Ellington and Michael Boggs, '90, Dwight Davis, '82, third-year

student and moot court chair Leesa Guarnotta and third-year student and 2017 winner of the competition Lois C. Weldon. First-year students Christopher Wood and Jordan Popkin were finalists with Wood securing the King & Spalding Cup and winning the competition.



LEAN VETTER PHOTO



LEAN VETTER PHOTO



GERWIG-MOORE



JELLUM

New Associate Deans Named

Beginning July 1, Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore moves into the role of associate dean for academic affairs, and Professor Linda Jellum fills the law school's newly created position of associate dean for faculty research and development.

"I am excited about working with both Professors Gerwig-Moore and Jellum to strengthen and enhance our academic programs and the scholarly work of our faculty," said Dean Cathy Cox. "Both of them share Mercer Law School's commitment to students and to excellence in legal education, and will bring new ideas and perspectives to our efforts to better prepare students for today's legal workplaces."

Mercer Wins Law School Legal Food Frenzy Competition

Mercer University School of Law successfully claimed the 2019 Attorney General's Cup and retained its title as champion of the eighth annual Legal Food Frenzy, a competition to help feed the hungry in Georgia. This is the fourth year in a row, and sixth time overall, that Mercer has won the title.

Mercer came out on top of the friendly yet competitive contest against the state's other law schools by raising more than \$4,500 and gathering 100 pounds of food for the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank, which provides an equivalent of 18,346 meals. Five schools competed this year and collectively raised \$13,000 for Georgia's food banks.

Advocacy Round Up

Mercer Law Team Places in Final Four at National Ethics Trial Competition

Mercer Law's mock trial team placed in the top four at the National Ethics Trial Competition held in Sacramento, California, March 14-16.

Second-year students Tyler Sims, Sarah Rawlings and Marissa Merrill and third-year student Aurora Kirbo participated in the 12th annual competition at the McGeorge School of Law.

The National Ethics Trial Competition is the only law school-sponsored competition to combine an ethical and civility component as part of the scoring. During the competition, Mercer Law Students were challenged to exercise their knowledge and skills of professional trial work while maintaining high ethical standards of the legal profession. The participants were judged by distinguished members of the judiciary from California and argued in the Robert T. Matsui U.S. Federal Courthouse in Sacramento.

The team was coached by Robert Cabe, '14, and Carolee Jordan, '17, along with third-year student coaches Kourtney Chester and Phillip Abshire.

In total, 19 schools from across the country competed against one another, and Mercer Law reached the semifinals of the competition.



Mercer Law School Team Reaches Finals of Intrastate Moot Court Competition

Mercer Law School's team of third-year students Stef Ramirez and Caroline Scalf were finalists at this year's Intrastate Moot Court Competition hosted at Emory University. All five law schools in Georgia field two teams each in this annual competition.



Ramirez and Scalf advanced to the final round and lost by a 2.1-point margin to the University of Georgia. They also were recognized for having the second-best brief score in the competition.

The third-highest brief score was awarded to the team of second-year students Autumn DeLee and L'Zandra Jones. While they did not advance to the finals, they earned high praise from the judges in all their competition rounds. Third-year students Olivia Warner and Caitlin Wise served as student coaches for the competition.



Mercer Law School First-Year Student Ja'Lon Smith Receives Inaugural Judge Clyde Reese Book Award

Mercer Law School recently awarded its first-ever Judge Clyde Reese Book Award, established by Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Clyde Reese, III, '96, to help a first-year minority student with the costs of books.

This year's recipient, Ja'Lon Smith, said he was extremely grateful to have received the award. "The book award was a tremendous blessing," said Smith. "This second semester of my 1L year brought about new experiences and brand new courses. The award helped to provide much comfort in my efforts to gather adequate materials needed to succeed in my classes."

Reese, who currently serves on the Law School's Board of Visitors, established the Judge Clyde Reese Book Award in honor of his parents. The award provides \$1,000 for a deserving minority student, selected by the school, to help defray the cost of books.

"Mercer Law School set me on a career path that has led to my being an appellate court judge," said Reese. "No part of my career would have been possible without the foundation I received from Mercer Law School, its faculty and administration. I had always wanted to establish this kind of assistance for a first-year minority student. I remember how expensive law books were and the struggle to juggle finances in that first year."

Mercer Law School Hosts Annual Closing Argument Competition

Mercer Law hosted its annual first-year Closing Argument Competition on Friday, March 15. The competition began with 56 first-year students and concluded with Davis Lackey coming in first place and Victoria Nease placing second and reaching the final round.

The Hon. Howard Simms of the Macon Judicial Circuit Superior Court served as presiding judge, and Neil Halvorson, adjunct professor and assistant district attorney for the Macon Judicial Circuit, served as moderator.

The Closing Argument Competition is an intraschool competition exclusively for first-year students. Beginning 2018-19, the competition also serves as the students' opportunity to try out for Mercer's nationally-recognized mock trial teams.

Additionally, the following 11 individuals served as jurors for the competition:

- Christy Childers, '05, Partner, Childers & McCain, LLC
- David Cooke, '96, District Attorney, Macon Judicial Circuit
- Jim Fleissner, Professor of Law, Mercer University School of Law
- Virginia Josey, '16, Attorney, Noland Law Firm, LLC
- Scott Key, Partner, Miller & Key, P.A.
- Michael Mayo, '09, Partner, Mayo-Hill
- Kristen Quinton, '04, Supervising Attorney, Macon Judicial Circuit Public Defender
- Megan Tuttle, '14, Assistant Public Defender, Macon Judicial Circuit
- Lauren Wilmer, '18, Staff Attorney, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Rick Waller, '94, Chief Public Defender, Macon Judicial Circuit
- Ché Young, Assistant District Attorney, Macon Judicial Circuit

The competition was sponsored by Childers & McCain LLC and Reynolds, Horne & Survant.



ROGER DEIDEN PHOTO



HANNAH KOCLIGHTER PHOTO

AWLS Charity Gala & 5K Raises Funds to Support Community and Students

Mercer Law's Association of Women Law Students (AWLS) hosted its 21st annual Charity Gala and Auction on Saturday, March 23 (photo above). The gala raised \$15,000 to benefit the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia's Women's Domestic Violence Program. Over the past 20 years, AWLS has raised more than \$215,000 to support local charities.

Additionally, AWLS hosted the annual Lauren Giddings 5K in fall 2018, which raised \$8,347.61 for the Lauren Giddings Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship was awarded to four third-year students to help with bar exam expenses.

Mercer Law Student Cited in Decision by Federal Court

Michael Berthiaume, a 2019 graduate and member of the *Mercer Law Review*, was recently cited in a decision by the U.S. District Court for Idaho.

In an opinion delivered by Judge Candy M. Dale in February, Dale cited Berthiaume's comment twice concerning the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) in *Ely v. Bd. of Trs. of the Pace Indus. Union-Mgmt. Pension Fund*.

Berthiaume's original comment, *First Rock to the West, Straight on 'Til Morning: Westrock Draws Potential Roadmap to Substantive Challenges of ERISA Rehabilitation Plans Under Section 1132*, was published last summer in the *Mercer Law Review*.

MERCER BLSA *Celebrates* 40 YEARS



The inaugural members of the BLSA Mercer Chapter commemorate their founding with this picture taken in 1978.

THIS YEAR MERCER CELEBRATED THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHAPTER OF THE BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (BLSA) – OR 41ST, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU DO THE MATH.

In 1977, 2L Marie Wilson Lindsay began working with Forrest Mosten, the Director of Clinical Programs, to start recruiting more African-American students, like herself, for the Law School. It was then that she learned of the National BLSA, founded nine years before, and with fellow student Charles Mathis, a 3L, she set about founding a Mercer chapter. She served as its de facto president in that somewhat informal first year.

That same year was the first one at the Law School for M. Yvette Miller, '80, now presiding judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals. An undergrad at Mercer, where she had twice served as class president, including her senior year, Miller was accustomed to the relatively diverse mix of races on the main campus. So she was surprised to find a very different scenario at the Law School.

Her 1L class included only five African-American students (she was its sole female). There were only seven in the entire student body.

"When I stepped onto the Law School campus in 1977, it felt like a throwback to the '60s or something," Miller says. Her parents had been very involved with the civil rights movement of that decade, "And it felt like some of the stories I heard from them still seemed to be very relevant at the Law School."

While the demographic change was significant for Miller, her 1L classmate Virgil Adams had arrived from the historically black university Albany State, so the abrupt change to a nearly all-white school was significant, but not unanticipated. Nor was it problematic.

"We had no issues I can recall that were attributable to race," says Adams, of Macon's Adams, Jordan & Herrington, P.C. "Obviously I made friends with a bunch of white students, and I'm sure some

"Professor 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. Professor Baldwin took me to the side and gave me such encouragement throughout my matriculation at Mercer Law School."

people may have had their own particular viewpoints, but there were no problems that we actually had to deal with. Pretty much everybody was concentrating on trying to get through and graduate."

There wasn't any racial animus from his professors, either. "Some of them were tough, but hell, they were tough with everybody."

One of those professors, new then to the Law School himself, was Jack Sammons, who was asked to serve as BLSA's initial faculty advisor. At the time, of course,

there were no African-American professors on the Law School faculty, and never had been.

"I have to give Jack a lot of credit for being a voice of wisdom when we didn't know exactly what to do," Miller says. "We noticed – it was certainly very apparent to me – that there was really no diversity in the law school faculty



Professor Anthony R. Baldwin was the first African-American faculty member at Mercer Law School.

and very little in the law school classes. So Virgil and I started talking about how important it was to get some faculty members who had walked the journey that we were walking."

The first goal, though, was to diversify the student body.

In their second year at the Law School, Adams became BLSA president and Miller the vice president. Miller recalls with surprise that, at the time, the Law School was not in the habit of recruiting students from the main campus.

In a bit of good timing, Miller was named Miss Macon after competing in the Miss Macon Pageant, an award that came with some scholarship money, something she appreciated. "Mercer was not cheap," Miller laughs. The role also offered her greater opportunities to advocate for changes at the Law School.

"It gave me better exposure for meeting lawyers and being a representative while trying to educate the faculty and the dean about the need for Mercer to recruit African-American students, since it was not being done at the undergraduate school."

Meantime, BLSA set about bringing in students of color from farther afield. "We got a grant from the Law School that allowed us



Eve L. Simmons, '82, (front center) served as the 1994 Empowerment Dinner keynote speaker. Simmons is the first Mercer lawyer to serve as president of the National Bar Association.

to go to some of the historically black colleges and universities in the area,” Adams explains. BLSA members went to Fort Valley, Albany State, the Atlanta University Center and Alabama’s Tuskegee University. “We invited students who were interested in law school to come to Mercer during a minority recruitment day and sit in on classes.”

That evening, at what would eventually become the annual Empowerment Dinner, BLSA presented an award to local attorney Thomas Jackson, who would go on to become Macon’s first black judge. The evening also included a guest speaker, someone professor Hal Lewis recommended, having worked with him at a labor law firm in New York: Tony Baldwin.



The Honorable W. Louis Sands '74, (seated at right), was recognized by the BLSA Alumni Council as the inaugural Tony Baldwin Trailblazer awardee at a dinner in October 2017.

“He came down and we thought, ‘Maybe this would be a guy that we can convince Mercer to bring on board,’” Adams recalls. “It didn’t develop at that point, but that was the beginning of that process of his coming to Mercer.”

Baldwin would not become the Law School’s first African-American professor, though, until 1988, a full decade after the founding of the BLSA chapter. But once here, he became a bedrock of the student group.

“Professor Baldwin is one of the key reasons that I remained at Mercer Law School,” says Tomieka R. Daniel, ’02. “I suffered some setbacks as a 1L student and I was prepared to walk away.

“[Professor Baldwin] saw things in potential law students that went far beyond traditional indicators and found depth and value from the perspective of the individual’s life experience juxtaposed to their academic promise.”

Judge Miller Receives the Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award & Establishes BLSA Scholarship

Mercer BLSA and BLSA Alumni Council recognized Judge Yvette Miller with the 2018 Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award. The Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award is awarded annually to distinguished Mercer alumni who continue to make strides and create paths for diversity in the legal profession.

Miller has broken down numerous barriers for minorities and women in the legal profession, including being the first African-American female to serve as assistant district attorney in Fulton County and to practice law in the Brunswick Judicial Circuit.

Additionally, she was the first African-American woman to serve as director judge of the Appellate Division on the State Board of Worker’s Compensation, to serve on the Georgia Court of Appeals, and to serve as chief judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals.

She remains committed to giving back and nurturing attorneys through her involvement in civic and professional organizations as well as her commitment and support of Mercer Law School.

In fall 2018, Judge Miller established an endowed scholarship for students at Mercer Law School to promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. The scholarship will provide assistance for law students with financial need, with a preference for students who are active in the Law School’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) chapter.

“Judge Miller has been one of my great friends and ‘sheroes’ in the law for a long time,” said Dean Cathy Cox. “Her impressive professional history reflects her commitment to excellence through empowering her colleagues and future legal professionals. The Judge M. Yvette Miller Scholarship is a testament to Judge Miller’s dedication and devotion to future Mercer lawyers, and will significantly support their best efforts to become innovative leaders in the legal profession.”

“Judge Miller is one of Mercer’s most accomplished graduates and has been a great role model for our undergraduate and law students,” said President William D. Underwood. “She has been generous with her time and her resources, and this endowment gift is yet another indication of her affinity for the institution and concern for Mercer law students. We are deeply grateful to her.”

“With this endowment, I am creating opportunities for deserving law students to receive scholarship monies to assist with tuition,” said Judge Miller. “My life has been so enriched by my journey as a student at Mercer University. For this reason, I have always given back to Mercer not only financially but also through my time and talents. Subscribing to the ultimate philosophy that to whom much is given much is expected, I want my legacy to include empowering the next generation of Mercer lawyers who are prepared to impact the state of Georgia and our country.”



PAULA HELLER PHOTO

BLSA Alumni Council officers: Magistrate Judge Robbin K. Shipp, '96, president; Superior Court Judges Shondeana Morris, '97, vice president, and Eric K. Dunaway, '96, former vice president of BLSA.

BLSA Milestones

1972

Jerry Boykin
First African-American student to graduate

1973

The Honorable Mary Alice Buckner
First African-American female to graduate

1978

BLSA Mercer Chapter was founded
E. Marie Wilson Lindsay '79, Inaugural President
Prof. Jack L. Sammons, Inaugural Faculty Advisor

1988

Professor Anthony Baldwin
First African-American faculty at Mercer Law

1991

Professor Joan Ruth Tarpley
First African-American female faculty at Mercer Law

2000

Evelt Simmons becomes first alumna to serve as
National Bar Association President

2003

First Empowerment Dinner

2016

BLSA Alumni Council Established
Tiffany N. Watkins, '15, Inaugural President

"It's more important than ever that you have an organization that's focused on minority students who can support each other, who can identify with each other and encourage each other. As a law student, you want to open yourself to diversity, to the world we live in."

Professor Baldwin took me to the side and gave me such encouragement throughout my matriculation at Mercer Law School. After getting over the fear that I had of him as my professor, I got to appreciate him as the BLSA advisor. Professor Baldwin became my mentor and a very present father figure that I knew I could count on to always tell me the truth, whether I wanted to hear it or not."

Likewise, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge J. Christopher Smith, '96, cites Professor Baldwin and BLSA as instrumental in his education and career: "It is difficult to express in mere words the impact that Professor Baldwin has had in my professional development. His work with the admissions office and urging greater diversity among the student body was the primary catalyst to how I arrived at Mercer. He saw things in potential law students that went far beyond traditional indicators and found depth and value from the perspective of the individual's life experience juxtaposed to their academic promise."

BLSA remains a vital force at the Law School. Anyssa Williams, '20, served as the group's most recent vice-president and worked with the dean of students to help BLSA present a high profile to incoming students during orientation week, alongside other minority groups at the Law School.



ROGER DENNEN PHOTO

The BLSA Mercer Chapter displays their 2018 Small Chapter of the Year Award.



Zandra Hall, '15, Natasha Banks, '16, Ebony Brown, '16, and Vernon Strickland, '06, at the Annual BLSA Alumni Council dinner, October 2017.

"BLSA implemented an orientation specifically around cultural competency to instill greater awareness and commitment to diversity, to foster a community of respect, inclusion, equality, and unity, and to articulate and promote the educational, professional, political, and social needs of all students," says Williams. "Whether you identify with the LGBTQ community, an older, wiser law student, a woman, an African-American, a Pacific Islander or Asian, Caucasian or Hispanic, BLSA wants you to know that there is a place for you here at Mercer Law School."

Not surprisingly, the focus in 2018-19 of all the BLSA chapter's events has been a celebration of the 40-year anniversary. A greater emphasis was also placed on increasing alumni participation and interactions with current Law School students.

"BLSA is one of the biggest organizations on campus, in terms of funding and membership," 2018-19 BLSA president Abriana Horton, '19, says. "The school supports us, but we also got there through alumni support. Our celebration this year is all about the alums, because they are the ones who have given back to BLSA, and we want them to be involved even in our day-to-day activities."

For the record, Horton estimates that most Law School classes average around 18 African-American

students, and there were 19 in her graduating class. That's a big improvement from the seven total of 1977-78, but there is always room for more.

Despite increases in Law School diversity among students and faculty, BLSA remains as vital as ever after 40 years. It not only nurtures connection and community among students of color, it welcomes all the Law School's class members to learn and appreciate diversity.

"It's important because, unfortunately, there still aren't that many African-Americans and women that are in the legal profession," Miller says. "There are far more today than there were then, but still our numbers are not so great, and young students, when they come to law school, they may or may not have ever known a black lawyer. They need to have some type of support in their endeavor to pursue this higher degree."

"BLSA is sort of the glue that helps these students feel more connected and tied to the legal community, and it also works to make certain that they don't fall through the cracks."

"It's still an extremely important organization," Adams agrees. "People may disagree with me, but unfortunately, if you look at the current climate we are in, we've come a long way, but there are attempts to turn the clock back. It's more important than ever that you have an organization that's focused on minority students who can support each other, who can identify with each other and encourage each other. As a law student, you want to open yourself to diversity, to the world we live in."



Mercer's 2018-2019 BLSA members celebrate their heritage during spirit day in November 2018.

MERCER LAW ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS



Many Mercer Law alumni follow the well-trodden path from classroom to law firm or courtroom. Others have used their degree and legal skillsets to spark unexpected entrepreneurial careers.

Meet some of them. >>

STEBIN HORNE, '00

Law Degree Navigates Innovation for Multiple Companies

By Jayla Moody

Stebin Horne, '00, says he uses his Mercer Law School education every day. He doesn't practice law or work in politics, but he runs multiple businesses.

After practicing real estate law in Macon for almost 10 years, Horne branched out to become an entrepreneur. He is the co-founder of Classic Overland, a Land Rover Defender restoration company, and the entrepreneur behind the Kudu Safari Braai grill, a South-African inspired open grill.

"Just about every class that I took in some way or form has helped me to guide my businesses and help to grow them as quickly as I have," Horne says.

Horne grew up in Macon and completed his undergraduate degree in 1997 at the University of Georgia. He returned home to attend Mercer Law School.

"It always felt like something that I was supposed to do, he says. "There's a tremendous number of my family members that went to not only law school, but Mercer Law School."

Horne's father was one of them, and this wasn't the only way he followed in his dad's footsteps.

After graduation, Horne stayed in his hometown to practice real estate law with his father at their firm, Horne & Horne.

"My father had been practicing real estate law in Macon for a very long time and needed the help," he says.

From 2000 to 2008, Horne was also elected to Macon City Council and served on the Macon Water Authority. In 2008, the recession had a huge impact on the family business.

"It caused me to look for opportunities outside of real estate law to make a living," he says.

He was spending six months in South Africa getting to know his wife's family when he was inspired to start a business and create a product to bring back home. He saw the opportunity to build Classic Overland with his brother-in-law, Gerhard Du Toit, and hometown friend and successful entrepreneur, Stewart Vernon.

Classic Overland works to bring meticulously restored, vintage



MATT ODOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Land Rover Defenders, with state-of-the-art accessories, into the United States.

Horne also created a grill inspired by a cooking style in South Africa.

The Kudu Safari Braai is the first residential cooking system that can grill, sear, fry, boil, steam, roast and smoke over an open fire. "It's been a very strong and healthy business for me," he says.

With creation of the grill, Horne became a part of the first class of Mercer Innovation Center fellows, a fellowship that provides local entrepreneurs with housing, office space, paid interns, access to university facilities and \$20,000 for their businesses.

"We have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Bon Appetit*, *Garden & Gun*, *Vogue* and *Esquire*," he says. "In just a short period of time, I can easily follow the impact of where both Mercer University and Mercer Law were responsible for all of that happening for me."

BO CHAMBLISS, '02

Moving Seats from General Counsel to President

By Jayla Moody

Bo Chambliss always knew he wanted to go into business. Before enrolling at Mercer Law, Chambliss graduated from Mercer's Stetson School of Business and Economics in 1999.

Chambliss says Mercer was an easy decision because of the smaller class sizes and the kind of relationships he was able to build during his undergraduate career.

"One of my favorite parts of Mercer was that I got to know a lot of the professors on a personal level," he says. "It was an open door policy. Everybody was always willing to help out."

Chambliss always had a goal of owning his own business, but he enjoyed the idea of practicing law, too.

"My dad was an attorney, so I looked up to him and always thought in the back of my mind that law school would be a good idea," he said.

After graduating law school, Chambliss worked for The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Chicago Mercantile Exchange, doing government relations work.

"I still had the idea of somehow getting into the business world," he says. "I had a good opportunity present itself to come work for the Georgia Theatre Company, so I came here and started out as a General Counsel, and after about a year, moved into the president's role."

The Georgia Theatre Company is a medium-sized, family-owned circuit of movie theaters based in St. Simons Island. They have 25 venues, mostly in Georgia.

"I rarely do the same things two days in a row," Chambliss says.

His role has allowed him to start a couple of businesses of his own in the restaurant industry. Chambliss owns five Mellow Mushroom franchises. He bought the Macon location and reopened it in mid-2018.

Chambliss also owns Certified Burger and Beverage, a restaurant in St. Simons Island. He plans to continue to open more of these.

Chambliss says one of the biggest things he took away from Mercer Law is, first, that law school makes you think about things in different ways.



"The second thing is how to work hard," he says. "Law school is a lot of work and a lot of time spent reading."

Chambliss says these skills helped him in starting his own businesses.

"You have to commit to it, and you have to put a lot of time to it to make it work," he said.

He took as many business-related classes as he could while in law school, so he uses his Mercer Law education everyday. And he says he's looking forward to opportunities to connect his businesses to Macon and Mercer:

"Hopefully, we can do a Mellow Mushroom tailgate at one of the Mercer football games."



BRYAN SCOTT, CLASS OF 1998

President of Worthwhile Pursuits, LLC

I never aspired to be an entrepreneur, but God gave me an idea, and with confirmation from my wife, Julie, we started making plans to build Worthwhile Pursuits, LLC. Find Me Funzy the Fox® comes with a cute stuffed fox and a children's book. It's a 7-day unique hide-and-seek game that parents and other loved ones can play with their kids. Being an attorney has proven to be invaluable in my role in the business, from negotiating and drafting contracts to considering the legal implication of the choices before us.



JASMIN A. (MORRIS) ROBINSON, CLASS OF 2016

Founder and Lead Law School Coach of Jas Talks Law, LLC

Entrepreneurship chose me! Literally. As a law student, I traveled twice to my alma mater, Hampton University, to volunteer at the Mercer Law graduate fair table. During my visits, I hosted (and continue to host) pre-law workshops entitled "Jas Talks Law." While waiting on my bar results, I served as a Mercer Law seasonal recruiter and, simultaneously, found my passion: advising and coaching future lawyers, who, like me, are diverse and/or the first lawyer in their family. As such, I started coaching future lawyers, as a hobby, to enhance diversity in the legal field, which eventually led to four workbooks, two online courses, and one-on-one coaching services, such as editing and reviewing personal statements. From overcoming self-doubts (because of my lower LSAT score) to my participation in BLSA, and finally, learning the value of discipline and graduating with honors I personally believe that a Mercer law degree is invaluable to future lawyers lacking guidance, strategy, and support. As a result of my experiences and passion, my future lawyers have received over \$1,000,000 in law school scholarships, some of whom now attend (or will be attending) Mercer Law. Go, Bears!



MARIE BRYAN HANNON, CLASS OF 1997

CFO/Owner of C. Parks Catering & Events

After graduating from Mercer Law School, I worked in a law firm doing tax law. I enjoyed the work, but I discovered my passion when one of my friends asked me to go into business with her and take over her family catering company. I love the excitement and creativity of catering and design and the exhilaration of a new and different challenge every day that comes from the food industry. However, my law degree has been a tremendous asset over the years and has helped me in multiple situations. Most importantly it helped teach me how any business must function in order to be successful and make a profit. My business partner, Chef Laura Rogers, and I rebranded Carole Parks Catering as C. Parks Catering & Events, and are now a one-stop-shop for all of Atlanta's event needs: from lighting to drapery, furniture to floral arrangements, and most importantly, the best catered food that can be found.



MERCER LAW STUDENTS Attend Oxford Consortium for Human Rights



L-R: Maggie Conerly, Molly Lustig, Dr. David Ritchie, Cat Jenkins and Janelle Russell

Every year, four students and faculty advisor Professor David Ritchie attend The Oxford Consortium for Human Rights. In 2018, students Janelle Russell, Maggie Conerly, Molly Lustig, and Cat Jenkins were selected out of many applicants for a unique program to study human rights issues with internationally renowned scholars at one of the world's top universities.

Mercer-Oxford Scholars participate in an intensive weeklong workshop at Oxford's Magdalen College, concentrating on contemporary issues in humanitarian law and human rights. The workshop is limited to 40 students from around the world and, as such, is an exclusive and career-impacting experience for participants.

The program's focus is on understanding the particularity of diverse experience, varied approaches to international legal instruments and the impact of community action on global politics. The goal is to help students build a foundation for recognizing the complexity of such issues in a world where cultural, historical and political contexts vary dramatically.

"Being a member of the Mercer team at Oxford was, by far, the best experience of my scholastic career," says Jenkins. "The lectures were not only presented by world-renowned experts but were so engaging that I gained a deeper understanding of topics, which also led me to reconsider previously held ideas."

Specific seminars included the international legal framework regulating armed drones, war and reconciliation in Rwanda, the psychology of moral diplomacy, the human costs of war in Afghanistan, and international humanitarian law.

The students returned seeking to put some of what they learned at Oxford into action at Mercer.

"Our group was inspired when we learned about the Global Women's Narrative Project (GWNP) started by Dr. Lyn Boyd-Judson at the University of Southern California's Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics," Lustig says. "The GWNP empowers women by collecting and sharing personal narratives from women all around the world. Our group agreed that this project would be extremely successful in Macon." The students hope to coordinate with Boyd-Judson in bringing the GWNP's first sister chapter on the east coast to Mercer.

"I believe someone has to take the initiative to make sure the forgotten narratives of these powerful women are made mainstream," Russell says.

"The work we did at the consortium instilled principles in each of us by the foremost scholars and leaders in the field of international human rights that will help guide us to be better advocates for those we represent one day," says Conerly, who will begin her LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University's Washington College of Law this fall.



KYLE WILLIAMS, '19

From Apple Employee to Equal Access Advocate

Q. Tell us why you decided to come to Mercer Law School.

A. I came to visit Mercer because of a conversation I had with two alumni while I was working at Apple. I'd met lots of lawyers during my time there, and picked their brains to get an idea of what I could expect as a law student. The two Mercer graduates had nothing but amazing things to say about the Law School. Each of them went out of their way to offer any assistance that they could, people I had only met minutes earlier. I thought, *There is something about a place that makes busy people this willing to help.*

When I scheduled a visit at the law school, I still remember the day I met Dean Sutton and Professor Tim Floyd. They made this nervous outsider feel welcome. Professor Floyd asked me questions during his class, and discussed the subject matter with me afterwards. His students went out of the way to strike up a conversation. After that, I knew I wanted to go to law school here.

Q. What was it like to work at the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney for the summer?

A. Exhilarating! I worked prosecuting gang felonies and was deeply involved in the casework and courtroom. I got to sit third chair on two capital cases and was asked for my input as to questioning of witnesses, presentation of evidence, etc. During my second summer, I was fortunate to practice under the Third-Year Practice Act. This afforded me the opportunity to stand-up and represent the State of Georgia in open court.

Q. You recently had a paper published that you wrote with Professor David Hricik.

A. Professor Hricik is one of the smartest people I know. When given the chance to co-author an article with him, I

jumped. The writing process is meticulous, and you never really feel like you've got it where it needs to be. You always want to find that golden piece of research or that silver bullet of a case that sends the article over the top. I wanted to do a good job for Professor Hricik.

Q. This year, you were named an Equal Access to Justice Scholar. Why is equal access to justice important?

A. I grew up poor. Unfortunately, being poor sometimes means not getting your just due under the law. The lack of equal access to affordable legal services in poorer and marginalized communities is often overlooked. I hope to use my law degree to give back to these communities by volunteering my time to talk about the importance of knowing your rights.

Q. What is one of your fondest memories as a student at Mercer Law?

A. Getting my grades back after my first semester and having the realization that I can do this — I'm good enough, and I made the right choice.



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

Williams will be working at the firm of Moore Ingram Johnson & Stelle LLP in Marietta after graduation.



WILLIAM HANSELL FISH: A MAN OF HONOR

May 12, 1849 – December 8, 1926

By Joseph E. Claxton, *Professor Emeritus*

The Mercer University School of Law has endured for 146 years. Any academic institution which has enjoyed such a long life has been the beneficiary of the talents and treasure of many outstanding men and women. Some of those individuals become institutional icons, revered by one and all. Over the decades, however, even the most significant among them tend to fade from memory. Written records are locked away or lost. Contemporaries die. Another generation or two passes and gradually the contributions of all but a select few “unforgettable” figures are obscured by the impenetrable fog of time.

Of all the fading Mercer icons, none is more deserving of another turn in history’s limelight than William Hansell Fish, who spent the last three years of his life in service to the Law School after decades in judicial roles. Today, Fish’s name is preserved in the Law School only as the designation of a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta (PAD), a law fraternity. Very few alumni or current students have any knowledge of the contributions made by Fish to the Law School, much less to the legal profession as a whole and, indeed, to the entire state of Georgia.

Fish was born to legal royalty in 1849. His father, George Washington Fish, was one of the most successful attorneys in Macon and later in Oglethorpe, a booming railroad terminus in post-Civil War Georgia. Even after the calamity of that war, the Fish family had the resources to send young William Hansell to college at the University of Georgia. He then enrolled in the already prestigious University of Virginia School of Law.

In 1871, however, a terrible tragedy struck the Fish household. George Washington Fish became the victim of a political and personal quarrel when he was shot and murdered from ambush as he walked down a street in Oglethorpe. His son withdrew from the University of Virginia and became a lawyer by “reading the law” back home in Georgia. In later years, William Hansell Fish acknowledged that he entered the legal profession primarily as a



consequence of family expectations. For many young lawyers, that motivation produced regrettably poor results. For Fish, however, his professional commitment to the law was complete, regardless of its origins.

During the 1870s and 1880s, Fish made steady progress as a lawyer. In 1877 he became a judge of the County Court of Macon County, a position which allowed him to hone his legal skills by practicing in other courts. In 1891, he was selected by the General Assembly of Georgia to a judgeship in the Southwestern Judicial

Circuit – in modern terminology, a superior court judgeship. Fish's great leap to prominence, however, came in 1896.

During that year, the Georgia Constitution was amended to add three new positions to the State Supreme Court. The Democratic Party held a special convention to nominate three candidates for those slots, which, in a state thoroughly dominated by Democrats, was tantamount to election to the court. The convention was completely controlled by lawyers and judges, who were viewed as likely to name the three most qualified candidates. William Hansell Fish was one of the nominees, and even though for the first time seats on the Supreme Court were subject to a vote by the people, that vote was only a formality. Fish assumed a seat on the court, and in the wake of deaths among its members, he found himself appointed by the incumbent governor to the role of chief justice in 1905.

Throughout his service on the Supreme Court, Fish was its unchallenged intellectual star. Unfortunately for him, he did not have a political bone in his body. When finally subjected to a serious electoral challenge in 1922, even the strong support of the bench and bar could not save him. Professor Emeritus Jack Sammons, my long-time colleague at Mercer, wrote a very interesting (and often quite humorous) piece in honor of the Supreme Court's sesquicentennial. That piece includes the following text:

There's Chief Justice Fish, . . . who is said to have written more opinions than any other judge in all of human history. He lived an almost cloistered life until the age of seventy-two when he was opposed for reelection by Richard "Plain Dick" Russell. Usually chief justices won easily, but Russell was no ordinary man. Like much of his famous family, he lived by the maxim that . . . the "same worm that eats the pauper eats the prince." Suddenly Fish was thrown into very public hand-to-hand combat for his seat, and he was no match for the wily Russell. Fish accused Russell of turning the selection of the head of the judiciary into a football game, (a criticism that was to no avail).

When he left the Court in January of 1923, William Hansell Fish had a wonderful personal and professional reputation. He also was old, unwell, and utterly lacking in wealth or income. Mercer Law School suddenly emerged as Fish's professional salvation when he was offered its deanship, but Fish in turn brought the Law School something that it very much needed: the absolute, unqualified respect of the bench and bar. For three years, Chief Justice – now Dean – William Hansell Fish was indispensable to the Law School simply by being the person that he was. In 1925, Fish's beloved wife, Mary, died in their home on Arlington Place in Macon. Fish forged ahead, continuing to teach after becoming dean emeritus in late 1926. On Dec. 8, 1926, while teaching a class in Sherwood Hall on Mercer's campus, William Hansell Fish collapsed at the podium and died at the age of 77. He was a man of honor who completed a life of service by setting the best possible example for students almost 60 years his junior.



Mercer's current Phi Alpha Delta Fish Chapter, named after Dean Fish, hosts many events throughout the year including an annual holiday party.

Why I Write



BY DAVID HRICIK



When I was asked to write this, I said, “What about me would the readers care about?” My directive: *Just write something interesting.*

Interesting? Well, many drafts later, let’s see how long I hold your attention....

A year ago, a publisher asked me to write a new Remedies casebook, one that had a practice- and bar-oriented approach. That request appealed to me because I believe, strongly, that today’s market demands that our students graduate with the skills of a second-year associate, and I also work hard on bar passage issues.

So, I agreed to write the book... in eight weeks. I met that deadline, and the publisher had professors review it and they liked it.

Me? I hated it. It wasn’t what it could be. I started revising. I kept revising. I taught from the working draft in the spring of 2019. (Thank you, guinea pigs!) Then I revised it again. The final reviews are in: they love it... or they hate it because it’s not like the other books.

It is the hardest book I have written. More than once, I thought: “Why am I doing this? I’m tenured, have written dozens of law review articles, given hundreds of speeches, and written many books. My blog posts get cited to the Supreme Court. I don’t need to do this.” This was hard and often frustrating writing. “Why am I writing this book?”

When I asked myself that question one day, I recalled a quote from a favorite author, Jorge Luis Borges. In *The Book of Sand*, Borges explained he did not “write for a select minority, which means nothing to me, nor for that adulated platonic entity known as ‘The Masses.’” Instead, he “wrote for myself and for my friends, and I write to ease the passing of time.”

I do not write for a “select minority” if that means other law professors. I co-authored an article explaining my view as to why

an “academic” view of “scholarship” often misses the target of graduating practice-ready students. Let me explain that, because I think you’ll find it interesting, especially if you don’t remember remedies casebooks.

A lawyer identifies what claims can be based on the client’s facts. A claim limits the available remedies. A client with no claim has no remedy, and if money damages are “adequate,” she isn’t going to get equitable relief. Every remedies casebook begins with “equitable relief” and then more briefly covers “damages.” It frustrates me that casebooks don’t approach remedies like lawyers do – probably because I think like a lawyer, not like a professor. So, my book is not being written for a select minority, and certainly not for the masses. (And if you think it’s for the money, I’ll be lucky if I make minimum wage!)

And to state the obvious: When students succeed, Mercer succeeds.

Like Borges, I write for myself. It may sound strange, but I learn by writing. I learned in law school that it is only by writing that I truly comprehend a subject. Back then, I had to outline a course to understand it – I read cases, and then thought hard about relationships of different subjects and ordered and structured the course. Since then, I have co-authored or authored books on statutory interpretation, property, civil procedure, and ethics in patent practice – and hundreds of papers – and I did so to learn. I did so for myself.

Borges wrote fiction for his friends, I imagine to entertain them. I am writing non-fiction for my students, many of whom I think of as friends, and while some of the cases are funny, no one would call it “entertainment.” But it is for them because, for years, graduates have told me that the approach I use to teach remedies helped them pass



LEAH YETTER PHOTO

the bar. The book continues that effort and focuses on substantive and procedural law that students need to know for the bar – and practice. If knowing how to “think like a lawyer” was ever enough, it no longer is, and whatever that *meant*, it *means* something very different today than it did a few years ago, and will mean something entirely different in a couple of years, as technology disrupts our profession. To state the obvious: When students succeed, Mercer succeeds. I am writing my Remedies book to bridge a chasm between existing books and what is on the bar and what remedies means in practice.

If I have kept your interest so far, indulge me two last thoughts. First, in preparing to write this column, I realized that nine different Mercer students have co-authored articles with me: Chase Scott, Amy Falkingham (now Pille), Prashant Patel, Natasha Chrispin, Seth Trimble, Zach Thomas, Sasha Geczi, Kyle Williams, and Asya Morgan. The first article I co-authored with one of you published in 2004; the latest was published in 2018 and describes artificial

intelligence services that draft legal documents. (If you need further proof of the need to, in effect, graduate second-year associates, there it is.)

I enjoyed those. I hope each of you did, too, and that you also learned how to write and edit better, and were able to hone the crucial skills needed for collaborative writing. With machines already writing first drafts of many legal documents, the value-add that my students must bring is by revising, editing, and collaborating by distance. Virtual law firms, flexible work arrangements, and collaborative and efficient writing is critical, and will be more so shortly. I plan to write with you some more.

Second and in closing, like Borges, I write to ease the passing of time. I get joy from learning. This column did that and eased the passing of time in another way: it allowed me to post-pone starting the “final” major revisions to the Remedies book, and gave me a break from my latest book, taking over *Georgia Law of Torts* from Charles Adams.

SARAH GERWIG-MOORE

Merging Justice with Education

She was only a 19-year-old Emory law student when Sarah Gerwig-Moore walked into a prison's steel-and-concrete jaws.

"I was scared the first time, scared about what my client would be like," she says. "Almost immediately, I found my clients were not scary after all"

In 2006, Gerwig-Moore joined Mercer Law School faculty, where she was promoted to full professor last summer and will become Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in July. Her teaching and scholarship interests include constitutional criminal law, law and literature, and experiential public service learning. When she arrived at Mercer, she further developed a clinic she'd first taught in 2005 as an adjunct at Emory. The Habeas Project provides pro bono representation in *pro se* cases pending before the Supreme Court of Georgia and in other cases presenting pressing constitutional issues.

Gerwig-Moore and Mercer Law students have represented more than a 100 clients since 2006, making Habeas one of the busiest appellate clinics in the nation. While the Supreme Court is the source of most of their cases, Gerwig-Moore typically gets a letter every day, direct from a prisoner seeking representation.

"Obviously, some of my clients have done terrible things, but almost to a person they are remorseful," she says. But people are still people – and some are innocent. "It's unnatural to meet with a person who's in a cage, but beyond the case and the legal issues,



STEVE SCHRÖDER PHOTO

I think at many law schools there is a false and unhealthy dichotomy between clinical law teachers and so-called podium law teachers, Mercer doesn't actually make that distinction, which is really important and one of the reasons why I'm happy to be at Mercer working with students who want to help promote justice in the world.

the things we talk about are things anybody wants to talk about: concerns about the outside world or their family members."

She considers the clinic her proudest achievement. "It is completely part of my identity," she says, "although it is exhausting." And sometimes, emotionally devastating.

In 2016, she was lead counsel seeking to overturn the death sentence of Joshua Daniel Bishop. For Gerwig-Moore, the case was personal: she'd been a sixth grade classmate of Bishop, who went on to live a hardscrabble childhood, sometimes sleeping under bridges in Milledgeville.

All appeals and the clemency petition were denied, and Gerwig-Moore watched her long-ago friend die. "I've had plenty of heartache – divorce, loss of friends, illnesses, etc.," she says. "But losing that case, when I felt the responsibility was mine – and when I felt so much hope about winning – that's the worst thing that's ever happened to me."

While she teaches first-year Criminal Law and Georgia Criminal Practice and Procedure, in her new role as Associate Dean and leading strategic planning for the Law School, a new director is taking the reins of the Habeas Project in August. Brian Kammer, former executive director of the The Georgia Resource Center – a non-profit that provides free representation to death sentenced prisoners in Georgia in state and federal habeas corpus proceedings – will work closely with her to transition into the role of director. She will remain involved in the cases although her role has changed.

Habeas arose from working as a law student for Jim Bonner, former director of the Appellate Division of the Georgia Public Defender Council, who sent her to meet with imprisoned clients while he worked from the office. It really was meant to just be a part-time job during law school, and what it turned into was "accidental," Gerwig-Moore says.

So, to an extent, was joining academia.

"I never saw myself as a law teacher. I always saw myself as an in-the-trenches person," she says. "I didn't know about this brand of law professors that had one foot in academia and one foot in practice – which really appealed to me. But Emory didn't have a criminal law clinic when I was there."

Luckily, as a new Mercer faculty member, she was able to learn the ropes from established professors who were also former clinicians, like Emeriti Deryl Dantzler and Jack Sammons. She was also taken under the wings of Tim Floyd and her Sue 'N the Bastards bandmates, Chris Wells and Dick Creswell. (She's the ad hoc group's lead singer.)

While at Emory, Gerwig-Moore also earned a Master of Theological Studies at the Candler School of Theology in 2002, in addition to her J.D. Her work with Habeas could be seen as a legacy of the sense of service instilled in her by her parents. Now retired, her father worked for the Macon Housing Authority, then spearheaded adaptive reuse of neglected Macon-area buildings for public housing and mixed-income residents. Her mother, an oncology nurse, acted as a birth coach to unwed pregnant women, disowned by their families but welcomed as temporary tenants in the Gerwigs' own home.

That parental sense of service likewise focused Gerwig-Moore on the civic wellbeing of her hometown (her sister, too, works in local public service). She has served two terms on the Macon-Bibb County Planning and Zoning Commission (one term as chair), and was founding co-chair of the College Hill Corridor Commission, which has significantly revitalized the neighborhood between Mercer's main campus and the Law School on Coleman Hill.

Gerwig-Moore spent a month last summer in South Africa, which she first visited in 2000 for a semester abroad, inspired by the mentorship of Desmond Tutu, who was in residence at Emory while she was there. Revisiting South Africa, she took along her sons Dean, 15, and Eliot, 14, familiar to many current and graduate law students. "They've grown up in the law school hallways," she says. "A couple of classes of students called my kids the Lost Boys because they were always running around, faces painted with highlighters."

As a full professor, Gerwig-Moore is planning to enliven future academic articles she writes with references, familiar to her classroom students, to popular works of literature she enjoys, like *Charlotte's Web* and the *Harry Potter* books. "Who knows?" she says. "Those pieces may fall flat. But these are creative ways to describe how we experience the law—and that's so much of what scholarship entails."

Either way, she sees Mercer as a law school that allows its faculty to stretch, try new things, and not get pigeonholed. "I think at many law schools there is a false and unhealthy dichotomy between clinical law teachers and so-called podium law teachers," she says. "Mercer doesn't actually make that distinction, which is really important and one of the reasons why I'm happy to be at Mercer working with students who want to help promote justice in the world."

CHRIS WELLS

Hiking, Cycling, Backpacking and Playing Guitar into Retirement

After three decades at Mercer Law School, Associate Professor Donal Christopher Wells is retiring – though his outdoor adventures, and the occasional musical gig, will likely continue. Chris shared a few memories with us.

Before joining academia, you worked for Hughes Hubbard & Reed in New York and L.A. Your biggest case was for Ford Pinto criminal defense.

In 1977, the Grimshaw case held Ford liable for burn injuries in a rear-end collision of a Pinto. The \$128 million verdict (the largest such verdict in history) rested on a myth that persists today: that Ford had refused, based on cost-benefit analysis, to do an inexpensive fix. That verdict was later reduced to \$6 million because of numerous trial errors. Nonetheless, it triggered an avalanche of fuel tank fire cases against Ford.

Ford asked HH&R to coordinate the civil cases around the country and to accurately document the Pinto design process from inception. My mentor, Mal Wheeler, assembled a small Pinto team, and we built a library of every iota of Pinto-related information. We discovered the Grimshaw trial story was false—no such management decision, no Pinto cost-benefit analysis, etc. This was a case, to paraphrase Jonathan Swift, where the lie had traveled halfway around the world while the truth was putting its shoes on. We had to catch up.

Just as we were finishing the defensive strategy for local counsel around the country, three teenagers in Indiana died in a Pinto fuel tank fire, rear-ended by a Chevy van at a 60 mph. The driver hadn't even braked because he was using his beer to douse a marijuana fire in his carpeting. The prosecutor made a deal with him to testify in a planned Ford reckless homicide case.

Ford asked HH&R to take the case. We asked Jim Neal to be lead trial counsel; he had never lost a trial in his career.

Mal asked me to handle all the law, to master Indiana criminal

practice. We went to trial in Winamac in winter 1980. The 13-week trial had many moments of drama, poignancy and even humor. My wife, Miranda Pratt, helped by suggesting a crash test using the safest-fuel-tank-car to see if it would have survived the impact. It didn't. Once the jury found in our favor, the Pinto cases settled quickly.

Why did you leave Hughes Hubbard?

I loved practicing at HH&R and I could have had a good career there. But Miranda and I wanted to start a family, and our choice was either hire a nanny or find new careers. We were lucky enough to find teaching positions at West Virginia University. After seven years there, Mercer lured us southward.

What would you call your greatest accomplishment, generally, and at the law school?

Joe Claxton would want me to say being a hog farmer in Iowa (true). Every success I've had has been due to others, from my education and law practice, to climbing mountains, playing in rock bands, becoming a classroom teacher, an associate dean, a father, a husband. I am very grateful for my family, friends, colleagues and students to keep life interesting.

Let me highlight one remarkable Mercer Law accomplishment, a group effort. Years ago I started taking teams to the Vale Corporate Law Moot Court Competition in Delaware, essentially the national championship for business law. The preliminary rounds were often judged by expert lawyers and the finals by Delaware Supreme Court and Chancery Court judges. In the dozen years Mercer Law entered teams, we made it to the finals eight times, but we always lost in the final round. In 2016 we finally won. I had coached many of the brightest and hardest working students Mercer Law has ever seen, who learned that Edison's recipe for genius — 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration — works for lawyers.



MIRANDA PRATT PHOTO, SUMMIT OF MOUNT CRESTED BUTTE IN COLORADO

What are the biggest changes you've seen in your 29 years at the law school?

The U.S. News rankings perverted the perception of what makes a law school good. Imagine if U.S. News were able to convince sports fans that the football national rankings would be based on which team has the larger budget, faster and bigger athletes, better PR machine, higher previous year's ranking, etc. It has convinced the public that educational quality doesn't matter as much as prior rankings and LSAT scores and has devalued good law schools.

Where do you hope to see the law school in the next 10 or 20 years?

With the Woodruff Curriculum in the 1990s, when most schools emulated Harvard, Mercer Law had asked, "What courses and co-curricular opportunities do our students need to make them effective lawyers in practice?" The answer was traditional courses plus a large dose of lawyering skills. That took faculty courage, because most law schools thought skills were inappropriate subjects and those who taught them were not worthy of tenure. Woodruff became a new model. But as other schools adopted skills education, Mercer became less distinctive. I'd like to see the faculty ask itself the Woodruff question again, start with a blank slate, and redesign the curriculum. We are not Harvard, don't need to be, and shouldn't want to be.

In your mid-20s, you started cycling, climbing mountains, backpacking, kayaking. Do you expect to continue being active and seeking adventure?

Owing to peripatetic childhoods, Miranda and I have travel and adventure in our blood. We will still travel, cycle, backpack and climb the occasional 14er. But Miranda is doing more knitting and I, more fly-fishing. We have a first grandchild, Hank, who, with daughter Caitlin and son-in-law Jon, has just moved to Fort Collins, where Miranda and I have a place. Our son Davis lives in Macon. We'll spend time in both places.

Last summer we spent a month in Uganda helping Caitlin with her elephant DNA project and then a month in Central Europe seeing if the food and wine are still up to snuff. We hope to continue to support good causes, watch our kids prosper, and mooch off family and friends around the world.

Can we still count on you playing guitar with Sue 'N the Bastards?

Dick Creswell and I started the band about 25 years ago just to entertain students at the annual Barrister's Brawl. Since then, we have played about every venue in Macon for charitable causes. We probably have a few gigs left in us.

Professor Ted Blumoff

Recent Publications

Pretrial Discovery: Strategy and Tactics, Thomson Reuters (2018).

Cathy Cox

Dean and Professor of Law

Recent Publications

Don't Repeat Voting System Mistakes of Georgia's Past, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Opinion, July 27, 2018.

Select Speeches and Presentations

Do Young Leaders Know They Matter To You, 2018 Georgia Forward, Macon.

Brooke Baldwin, *Interview* (CNN television broadcast Oct. 16, 2018).

Panelist, *Election 2018: What Happened*, Mercer University Department of Political Science.

Middle Georgia Spotlight with Ron Wildman, Interview (WMUB-TV television broadcast Dec. 20, 2018).

Multiple interviews with Georgia Public Broadcasting, *The New York Times*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Associated Press, on election issues during Fall 2018.

Renewing Dr. King's Call to 'Give Us The Ballot', M.L. King Jr. Day Community Celebration, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Macon.

Associate Professor Jessica Feinberg

Select Speeches and Presentations

A Logical Step Forward: Extending Voluntary Acknowledgments of Parentage to Female Same-Sex Couples, Feminist Legal Theory Program, Law and Society Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada.

A Logical Step Forward: Extending Voluntary Acknowledgments of Parentage to Female Same-Sex Couples, International Society for Family Law, North American Regional Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Professor Jim Fleissner

Select Speeches and Presentations

August 11, 1938: *Gordon and Barnesville at the Epicenter of American Politics*, Annual Franklin Delano Roosevelt Lecture, Gordon State College.

Panelist, *Constitution Week Program on the Second Amendment*, Georgia College & State University.

Professor David Hricik

Recent Publications

The Ethics of Using Artificial Intelligence to Augment Drafting Legal Documents, Artificial Intelligence Symposium Edition Texas A & M Journal of Property Law 465 (co-authored with Asya-Lorraine S. Morgan, '18 & Kyle H. Williams, '19) (2018).

Combining Prosecution with Other Forms of Representation, in Drafting Patents for Litigation and Licensing, Bloomberg BNA (2019).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Professor Hricik spoke at 15 conferences across the United States, including leading a judicial panel at the Bench & Bar Conference of the United States Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, participating in national webcasts, and speaking at events sponsored by major law schools and bar associations across the country.

Professor Linda Jellum

Ellison Capers Palmer Sr. Professor of Law

Recent Publications

Acing Administrative Law (2018).

Mastering Administrative Law (2d ed. 2018).

Judicial Review, in *Developments in Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice* (Robert Divis, ed.) (2018) (co-authored).

The Development of SEALS Committees, 86 UMKC Law Review 545 (2018).

You're Fired! Why the ALJ Multi-Track Dual Removal Provisions Violate the Constitution & How to Fix Them (invited

submission for symposium) George Mason Law Review (forthcoming 2019).

Who Cares about Law? Why the Arguments in the Amicus Curiae's Brief May Win the Day, Yale Journal on Regulation Notice & Comment Blog (2018).

Professor Stephen M. Johnson

Recent Publications

The Brand X Effect: Declining Chevron Deference for EPA and Increased Success for Environmental Groups in the 21st Century, Case Western Reserve Law Review (2018).

Professor Jeremy Kidd

Recent Publications

Probate Funding and the Litigation Funding Debate, 76 Washington & Lee Law Review (forthcoming 2019).

Mastering Sales, Carolina Press (2018).

The Emerging Probate Funding Debate and Its Flawed Origins, Litigation Finance Journal (2018).

New Metrics and the Politics of Judicial Selection, 70 Alabama Law Review (forthcoming 2019).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Judicial Supremacy and Rent-Seeking, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting.

Philosophical Reflections on the Rule of Law, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting.

U.S. v. Martoma and the Future of Insider Trading Law, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting.

The Unseen Perils of Regulatory Reform, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting.

Amicus Briefs

Brief of Amici Jeremy Kidd and the American Legal Finance Association in Support of Appellees, *Ruth v. Cherokee Funding LLC*, No. S17C2021 (Ga. S. Ct. 2017).

Brief of the Cato Institute as Amicus Curiae in support of Petitioner, *Frank v. Gaos*, No. 17-961 (U.S. S. Ct. 2018).

Brief of the Cato Institute as Amicus Curiae in support of Petitioner, Petition for Writ of Certiorari, *Frank v. Gaos*, No. 17-961 (U.S. S. Ct. 2018).

Professor Patrick Longan

W. A. Bootle Chair in Ethics and Professionalism

Recent Publications

Professional Responsibility, chapter in Overview of U.S. Law, LexisNexis 2nd edition (forthcoming 2019).

Introduction to a Conversation with Manley F. Brown, 26 Journal of Southern Legal History (forthcoming 2019).

You Can't Afford to Flinch in the Face of Duty: Judge William Augustus Bootle and the Desegregation of the University of Georgia, 48 Stetson Law Review (forthcoming 2019).

Legal Ethics, Annual Survey of Georgia Law, 70 Mercer Law Review 141 (2018).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Hot Topics in Professionalism: Then (1988) and Now (2019), State Bar of Georgia Mid-year Meeting, Macon.

Judge William Augustus Bootle and the Desegregation of the University of Georgia, Arc of Justice Institute Program, Macon.

Jury Selection Then and Now: A Debate Between Clarence Darrow and Dr. Jason Bull, W.A. Bootle Inn of Court (author and moderator), Macon.

Honors, Awards, and Activities

Appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia to a one-year term as one of 20 special masters to hear and make recommendations on lawyer disciplinary cases.

Professor Teri McMurtry-Chubb

Recent Publications

Magical Black Girls in the Education Industrial Complex: Making Visible the Wounds of Invisibility, 12 *Journal of Educational Controversy* (2018).

The Rhetoric of Race, Redemption, and Will Contests: Inheritance as Reparations in John Grisham's Sycamore Row, 48 *Memphis Law Review* (2018).

Honors, Awards, and Activities

Accepted a yearlong Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the University of Illinois at Chicago John Marshall School of Law, beginning Fall 2019.

Professor Sue Painter-Thorne

Recent Publications

Legal Writing, 4th ed., Wolters Kluwer (co-authored) (2019).

Moot Court Workbook, Aspen, (co-authored with Professor Karen Sneddon) (2017).

Professor David Ritchie

Professor of Law and Philosophy and Director of International Programs

Select Speeches and Presentations

Panelist, *Global Ethics and Mercer's Missions*, Department of Philosophy at Mercer University.

Critical Perspectives About Human Rights, Oxford Consortium for Human Rights and the Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, Magdalen College, Oxford.

Honors, Awards, and Activities

Dr. Ritchie was a visiting scholar at Universidade Estacio da Sa in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, participated in a symposium on "Comparative Perspectives on Judicial Deference" and spoke during three sessions of Estacio's annual conference on international education.

Appointed as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Human Rights Law and Practice* in India.

Professor Michael Sabbath

W. Homer Drake Jr. Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy Law

Recent Publications

Security Interests in Consumer Cases, Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute (2018).

Jack Sammons

Griffin B. Bell Professor of Law Emeritus

Recent Publications

The Legal Imagination and Human Rights, *Journal of Law and Humanities*, University of Warwick (Spring 2019).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Response to the Baroness O'Neil, Australian Christian University, Rome Campus, Conference on Cosmopolitanism and National Identity.

Professor Gary Simson

Macon Chair in Law

Recent Publications

Permissible Accommodation or Impermissible Endorsement? A Proposed Approach to Religious Exemptions and the Establishment Clause, 106 *Kentucky Law Journal* 535-628 (2018).

Symposium Introduction: Disruptive Innovation in Criminal Defense, 69 *Mercer Law Review* 671-74 (2018).

An Essay on Illusion and Reality in the Conflict of Laws, 70 *Mercer Law Review* (forthcoming Winter 2019).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Freedom of Religion vs. Freedom from Discrimination: The Issues That Masterpiece Cakeshop Left Unresolved, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville.

Moderator and Organizer, Discussion Group: *Making the Case for Legal Education and Explaining the Impact and Importance of Giving*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Honors, Awards, and Activities

Interviewer, Yale Alumni Schools Committee of Georgia.

Board of Directors, Strategies for Youth.

Co-Chair, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Scholarly Research Committee.

Judge, Golden Eagle Awards to exceptional high school seniors in Middle Georgia. *Macon Telegraph* (2019).

Professor Karen Sneddon

Recent Publications

Telling Tales: Transactional Lawyer as Storyteller, 15 *Legal Communication and Rhetoric: JALWD* (co-authored) (2018).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Voice, Strength, and No Contest Clauses, Wisconsin Law Review Symposium, Madison, WI.

Effective Motion and Brief Writing, Workers' Compensation Law Institute, Jekyll Island.

Where Are They Now?: Articles that Shaped the Legal Writing Discipline, Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Marquette Law School, Milwaukee, WI.

Brain Breaks for the Legal Writing Classroom, Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, Georgia State University College of Law, Atlanta.

Happily Ever After: Fostering the Role of the Transactional Lawyer as Storyteller, Biennial Conference for Teaching Drafting and Transactional Skills, Emory Center for Transactional Drafting, Emory Law School, Atlanta (with Professor Susan Chesler).

Discussion Group Participant and Moderator: *Beyond Stiffs and Gifts: Course Coverage in a Modern Trusts & Estates Classroom*, SEALS Discussion Group, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Professor Scott Titshaw

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law

Recent Publications

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) cited Dean Titshaw's interpretation of "spouse" in its decision *Coman & Hamilton v. Romania*. The ruling recognizes non-EU citizen spouses, including same sex spouses, may be granted a right of residence in the European Union.

Acquired and Derivative Citizenship (American Immigration Lawyers Association Practice Advisory) (2018) (Co-authored).

Family Matters: Modernise, don't abandon, ius sanguinis, *Debating Transformations of National Citizenship* (Spring 2018).

Throwing the Baby Out with the Patriarchy, *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice* (forthcoming 2019).

ART, Surrogacy, Federalism, and Jus Sanguinis Citizenship in the US, Australia, and Canada, *Asian Yearbook of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law* (forthcoming 2019).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Federalism and Inherited Citizenship, International Conference on Law, Gender and Sexuality (sponsored by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), Coventry University, Brunel University, & Brill Nijhoff Publishers), London, United Kingdom.

Panelist, *Crisis on the Border: Current Issues in U.S. Immigration Policy*, Mercer University Student Life Panel Discussion with Q & A, Macon.

Throwing the Baby Out with the Patriarchy, 2018 Symposium of the Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law and Justice, Berkeley, CA.

Panelist, *Acquired and Derivative Citizenship*, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Audio Seminar.

The Case of Coman, et. al, AILA Global Migration Section (GMS) International Podcast.

MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW HELD COMMENCEMENT ON MAY 11, 2019, WITH 129 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE HOODING CEREMONY.

Of the graduating students, 39 received a Legal Writing, Research and Drafting Certificate, and two received both a Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degree. Caitlin Wise received the George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence and graduated *summa cum laude*.

Sally Q. Yates, former acting U.S. Attorney General and current

partner in King & Spalding's Special Matters and Government Investigations practice, addressed the graduates and received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University.

In keeping with the Law School's tradition of alumni hooding, 13 graduating students were hooded by a parent, spouse, sibling or other relative who had graduated from Mercer Law School.

Jim Fleissner received his 14th outstanding teaching award, presented annually during commencement to a member of the faculty by a vote of the graduating class.



LEAN YETTER PHOTOGRAPHER

CLASSNotes

1962

Tommy T. Holland was honored by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the State Bar of Georgia with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Jonesboro District.

1967

S. Phillip Brown was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Lifetime Achiever in the field of Law in recognition of his role as a newly appointed Senior Superior Court Judge.

G. Douglas Dillard established Dillard Sellers, a zoning and land use law firm in Atlanta. Dillard was formerly a partner at Pursley Friese Torgirson.

1968

J. Virgil Costley, Jr. was honored by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the State Bar of Georgia with the 2017 Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service for the Covington District. Costley is a retired Juvenile Court Judge and currently coordinates the paralegal studies program at Georgia Piedmont Technical College.

George A. Shahood, Jr. was honored by the Florida Bar Association for his 50 years of membership at the association's annual luncheon in Orlando on June 16, 2018.

1969

Leonard O. "Pete" Fletcher was inducted to the Academy of Richmond County Hall of Fame in October 2018. Fletcher is a founding partner of Fletcher Harley & Fletcher in Augusta.

Hugh P. Thompson is among 12 individuals awarded the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award by the *Daily Report* for leaving a lasting imprint on the legal community of Georgia. Thompson was chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court and is enjoying retirement in Milledgeville with his wife, Jane.

1970

William "Bill" E. Boyes was named to the 2018 Florida Super Lawyers in the areas of Estate Planning and Probate.

1972

Hugh B. McNatt of Balch & Bingham in Vidalia was selected as 2018 Georgia Super Lawyer in Civil Litigation: Defense for the second year in a row.

David F. Sipple was selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2019 in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law.

1973

George C. Reid launched a new boutique mediation firm in Atlanta, Bridgewater Resolution Group, focusing on high-net-worth families and closely held businesses.

1974

G. Keith Murphy published his first novel, *Where Long Beards Grow: Untold Stories of Full-Timbered Men, Spanish Florida 1819*. Murphy lives in Moultrie.

W. Louis Sands was recognized with the Tradition of Excellence Award at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June 2018. The award is presented to four outstanding Bar members by the General Practice & Trial Law Section.

1975

Jack G. Angaran, managing partner at Georgeson Angaran, announced that his firm has joined the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Reno, Nevada, beginning Nov. 1, 2018.

John A. Draughon formed the Draughon Law Group in the latter part of 2018. The firm, based in Macon, specializes in business litigation with its primary emphasis on eminent domain and hospital law.

Kenneth A. Jones was named among The Best Lawyers in America for 2019 in the areas of eminent domain and condemnation law. Jones is of counsel at Roetzel & Andress in Fort Myers, Florida.

1976

Ann B. Bishop received the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from the Workers' Compensation Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia. This award is presented to members of the bench and bar who have made outstanding contributions to the practice and/or development of workers' compensation law. Bishop was honored by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the State Bar of Georgia with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Atlanta District. She joined Hall Booth Smith PC as of counsel in its Atlanta office. Bishop was formerly with Sponsler Bishop Koren & Hammer PA.

Randall A. Jordan joined the litigation practice group of HunterMaclean as a partner in its Brunswick office. Jordan is a frequent speaker on issues relating to the transportation industry.

Robert M. Ott, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Monterey, California, was appointed president of the Episcopal Church Province 8 (Ecclesiastical) Court of Review, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Utah, Hawaii and Micronesia.

1977

William "Bill" Adams was recognized by the Macon Bar Association as the Lawyer of the Year in May 2018.

Arch W. McGarity retired September 30, 2018, as Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the Flint Circuit, Henry County, Georgia.

1978

Thomas C. Bobbitt, III was reappointed to the board of commissioners of the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia by Gov. Nathan Deal. '66. Bobbitt is the chief magistrate judge of Laurens County and has served as a municipal judge for 37 years.

Howard C. Kaufold, Jr. was appointed Superior Court Judge in the Oconee Judicial Circuit by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. Kaufold filled the unexpired term of Judge H. Frederick Mullis, '79.

1979

Class Correspondents:

Hon. Danny Craig, dcraig@augustaga.gov

Mary Katz, marykatz@gmail.com

John C. Carbo, III retired after 29 years on the State Court bench in Clayton County. Carbo now serves as a senior judge, filling in Superior and State courts throughout metro Atlanta. He and wife Linda celebrated 40 years of marriage on June 24, 2018.

Daniel J. "Danny" Craig earned a Master of Theology degree from St. Leo University in August 2017. After five years of formation, he was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate of the Roman Catholic Church for the Savannah Diocese in May. Craig is a Superior Court Judge in the Augusta Circuit. He and his wife, Crystal, have three children and seven grandchildren, all living in Augusta.

Donna P. Price, JAGC, USN (Retired CAPT), was selected as an OUT100 honoree representing transgender military service veterans and recognized for her service at the OUT100 Gala in New York City in November 2017. Price is serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond School of Law.

Jonathan A. Weintraub was appointed Chief Judge of the Municipal Court for the City of Stonecrest in September 2017.

1980

Pete Robinson joined King & Spalding as a partner in its government advocacy and public policy practice and will be based primarily in Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

1981

Joseph M. Finnerty, chair of Barclay Damon's media and First Amendment law practice area, was honored by the *Investigative Post* for his contributions to journalism and his support for the publication.

Michael F. Kemp was appointed chairman of the Armstrong Foundation of Georgia Southern University Board of Trustees. Kemp is senior vice president at Synovus Trust Company in Savannah.

1982

Raymond C. Mayer, a retired Georgia prosecutor, published his first book, *From Valor, Triumph*, a work of military historical fiction.

1983

Lovett Bennett, Jr. was appointed Superior Court Judge for Ogeechee Judicial Circuit by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. Bennett was previously the municipal court judge for the cities of Brooklet and Register.

Jimmie H. Brown was elected to the Superior Court of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit in 2016. He and his wife, Tina, live in Leesburg, where he is a deacon and Sunday school teacher.

Luanne Clark was selected as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer. Clark practices alternative dispute resolution at Moore Clarke Duvall & Rodgers in Atlanta.

Gregory W. Edwards was honored by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the State Bar of Georgia with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Albany District.

2017 – 2018 GIVING REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Mercer Law School has once again benefited from the generous support of its alumni, faculty, staff and friends! The financial commitment provided by the Law School's donors enables us to offer an exceptional education.

Thank you to everyone who made a gift during the 2017-2018 school year. You can view the giving report online at law.mercer.edu/givingreport.

CLASSNotes

Marty Fiorentino was recognized by the *Jacksonville Business Journal* as a 2017 Ultimate CEO. Fiorentino serves as president of The Fiorentino Group, one of the largest government affairs and business development firms in Florida.

Michael S. Meyer von Bremen was appointed to the Dougherty Magistrate Court, taking the seat of retiring judge John F. Salter, effective May 24, 2019. Meyer von Bremen is managing partner of Hall Booth Smith PC in Albany.

1984

Vickie S. McWaters was sworn in as chief magistrate for Troup County on Dec. 21, 2018. McWaters was first elected to office in 1986 and was unopposed in the last election.

Maxine C. "Cindy" Morris was appointed to the State Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. Morris is a Superior Court Judge for the Conasauga Judicial Circuit and the presiding judge for its Domestic Violence Accountability Court.

1985

Mitchell D. Broudy was named the 2018 recipient of the Family Law Service Award by the

Virginia State Bar's Family Law Section. He is a senior assistant attorney general for the Eastern Virginia Regional Legal Division of Child Support Enforcement in Norfolk, Virginia.

Christina L. Hunt married Steven Davis on April 22, 2017.

D. Fred Lee joined Drew Eckl & Farnham as a partner and opened the Drew Eckl Albany location on March 1. Lee is formerly a partner in the Lee Orłowski firm.

1986

Class Correspondent:
Elizabeth Flourney Thompson, liz@rtzlaw.com

Henry "Chip" Bachara was reappointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to serve the Fourth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission until July 1, 2022. He has been recognized by his peers as Construction Lawyer of the Year in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America. Bachara is the managing partner of Bachara Construction Law Group in Jacksonville, Florida.

Sarah Stevenson Harris, Judge of the Probate Court of Bibb County, was recognized by the Council of Probate Judges of Georgia with the 2019 Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year Award. Harris served as the Council's president during the 2018-19 term and was instrumental in achieving the Council's goals. Harris is the first female probate judge of Bibb County.

C. Michael Johnson, Judge of the Oconee Circuit Superior Court, married Jennifer McDaniel on May 1, 2018.

Karen Karabinos was selected to join the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), an invitation-only association for lawyers and insurance executives who represent corporate and insurance interests around the world. She is a partner at Drew Eckl Farnham LLP Law in Atlanta.

Jill Anderson Travis was named executive director of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Travis previously served as deputy legislative counsel for the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Dianne Goetz Yamin and her husband, Robert Yamin, were recognized with an Official Citation by the State of Connecticut General Assembly during Danbury Day at the Capitol for their considerable civic and philanthropic efforts. She is serving her seventh term as probate judge for the Danbury district.

1987

Kathryn M. Schrader was honored by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and the State Bar of Georgia with the 2018 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service in the Lawrenceville District.

Pamela White-Colbert was sworn in as chief civil and magistrate judge for Macon-Bibb County on

Dec. 28, 2018. White-Colbert is the first female to hold the office. She served as an assistant district attorney for 30 years.

1988

Lise L. Hudson joined The Expert Network, an invitation-only service for distinguished professionals. Hudson has been chosen as a distinguished lawyer based on peer reviews and ratings, recognitions and accomplishments achieved throughout her career.

Robert A. Mason was named a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and was named chairman of the N.C. Board of Legal Specialization by North Carolina State Bar Council.

Charles E. Reynolds, II was one of two attorneys in the state of Florida appointed by the Florida Bar Board of Governors to serve on the Supreme Court's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee. The committee issues written opinions regarding judicial conduct both in and out of the courtroom, including election issues. His term runs through 2022.

Kimberley S. White was elected chief judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit, which includes Halifax, Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg and Prince Edward counties in Virginia.

Alumni REUNIONS & EVENTS



The class of 1983 celebrated their 35-year reunion at Carmel Sanders' house.



The class of 1968 celebrated their half-century reunion at the Idle Hour Country Club, November 2018.



Alumni and students gathered for the 2018 Cocktails & Conversations hosted by Alston & Bird.



2018 Law School homecoming tailgate was very well attended. Save the date for next year's Homecoming: November 9, 2019!



The class of 2008 enjoyed their 10-year reunion with a tailgate, Mercer football, buffet dinner and karaoke!

1989

J. Christopher Clark was recognized with the Tradition of Excellence Award at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June 2018. The Tradition of Excellence Award is presented to four outstanding Bar members by the General Practice & Trial Law Section. He is a partner at Clark & Smith Sizemore LLC in Macon.

John D. Mills published his seventh novel, *Pineland Gold*. He lives in Ft. Myers, Florida.

David A. Phillips was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to Superior Court Judge in Judicial District 27A, Gaston County. Phillips has been a criminal defense attorney in private practice at The Phillips Firm PLLC in Gaston County for more than 25 years.

1990

Sally B. Akins was recognized with the Tradition of Excellence Award at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June 2018 and was selected as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer. She was elected as Secretary of the State Bar of Georgia. Akins is a partner at Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams in Savannah.

Michael P. Boggs was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Justice Boggs is a member of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia in Atlanta. He serves as a member of the Mercer University School of Law Board of Visitors.

J. Jeffrey Deery has been named chairman of the Board of Trustees of ELEVATE Orlando, a Central Florida nonprofit organization that equips and empowers underserved youth with in-school instruction, 24/7 mentoring and postsecondary preparation. Deery is a shareholder with the law firm of Winderweede, Haines, Ward & Woodman P.A. in Orlando, Florida.

1991

Denise Dell-Powell was inducted as a fellow into the American College of Bankruptcy on March 16, 2018, in Washington, D.C., in recognition of professional excellence and exceptional contributions to the fields of bankruptcy and insolvency. Dell-Powell recently joined Dean Mead as chair of the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group.

1992

Lloyd N. Bell was featured in an executive profile in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in June, which focused on his specialized practice at the Bell Law Firm. He founded his own firm in 1999 and has since recovered more than \$100 million for patients and families of people killed or injured due to medical malpractice.

Kenneth M. Brock was elected a partner at Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP. Brock focuses his practice in the area of worker's compensation defense, where he represents employers, insurers, self-insurers and third-party administrators.

Margaret "Meg" Heap was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Heap is the district attorney for Chatham County. She is the current president of the District Attorney's Association of Georgia.

Brad J. McFall was reelected to serve on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia, where he has been serving continuously since 2001. McFall is a partner at Gammon Anderson & McFall in Cedartown.

Gina Naccarato-Fromang announced that her son, Mark, signed his National Letter of Intent to play college football at Centre College during National Signing Day in February.

1993

Victoria F. Darrisaw was appointed Superior Court Judge for the Dougherty Judicial Circuit in July 2018 by Gov. Nathan Deal. '66. Darrisaw was formerly Chief Judge of the Dougherty County State Court in Albany.

Ann-Marie McGaughey was appointed the new managing partner of the Atlanta office of Squire Patton Boggs.

Joy R. Parks was appointed Superior Court Judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit by Gov. Nathan Deal. '66. Parks was previously chief magistrate of the White County Magistrate Court.

Chris Wolfe, a partner at Chambliss Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs LLP in Macon, was awarded the Macon Bar's William A. Bootle Professionalism Award for his representation of the best of a lawyer's ideals over the course of his 25 years of practice.

1994

Rebecca L. Grist was named 2018 Solicitor-General of the Year by the Georgia Association of Solicitors-General at the Prosecuting Attorneys Council Annual Meeting in July 2018.

Frank B. Turner, Jr. was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Turner is a partner at Greer Stansfield & Turner in Covington.

1995

Richard C. Foster joined Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP as partner. He focuses his practice on motor carrier liability, commercial insurance coverage and general commercial insurance defense.

Ross S. Schell was named partner at James Bates Brannan Groover in Macon.

1996

Kevin M. Farmer was elected Judge for the Fulton County Superior Court in a runoff held on July 24, 2018. Farmer was senior assistant district attorney for Clayton County in Jonesboro.

Mark E. Powell joined the international law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP as a partner in its tax, trusts and estates practice group. A fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Powell has practiced in Southern California since 1996.

1997

Class Correspondent:
Auden L. Grumet, auden@atlantlawyer.org

Kimberly A. Reid was named Sylvester city attorney. Reid served as interim city attorney since July 2018.

Clayton W. Thompson, II joined DLA Piper's intellectual property and technology practice as a partner in its Silicon Valley office.

1998

Mark E. Beatty was promoted to senior vice president for the Executive Compensation and Benefits Department of CBS Corporation in New York City.

Todd Hedgpeth joined the public accounting firm MBAF as a director in the tax and accounting department, and will be based in the firm's Boca Raton, Florida office.

Robert S. Register was named principal for Beasley Allen Crow Melvin Portis Miles PC. Register practices personal injury law in the firm's Atlanta office.

Bryan Scott has stepped away from his law practice to launch a retail business named Worthwhile Pursuits that has produced a hide-and-seek game for kids called *Find Me Funzy the Fox*.

Jonathan J. Tuggle was recognized as a Super Lawyer in the area of family law. This is the eighth year in a row for Tuggle, a founding shareholder of Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenberry in Atlanta.

1999

E. Trenton Brown, III was appointed to serve as a Judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals. Brown formerly served in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Superior Court.

Matt Cook and Kate Cook, '02, partners of Gainesville's Cook Law Group, successfully tried a plaintiff's case wherein a Cobb County jury returned a \$2.7 million verdict.

James M. Freeman and his wife, Leah, announced the birth of their son, Maxwell Drayton Freeman, on Dec. 1, 2018. Freeman was appointed municipal court Chief Judge for the City of Perry, Georgia.

Jeffrey R. Harris was named to the Georgia Super Lawyers' Top 100 list of attorneys. Harris, a partner at the Savannah firm of Harris Lowry Manton, is an 11-time Georgia Super Lawyer and a two-time Top 100 honoree.

2000

Class Correspondent:
William Noland, william@nolandlawfirmllc.com

David M. Gould became board-certified in juvenile law by the Florida Bar.

Matthew R. Hall joined Mercer University as an assistant general counsel. Hall was previously with Spivey Pope Green & Greer in Macon.

CLASS OF 2018

Final Honors

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

Nathan Cunniff-Lund
William Prater, valedictorian

Wagner Cunniff-Lund
Matthew Bottoms, salutatorian

William Bennett
Spenser Berrios
Hannah Couch
David Cromer
Ebony Hayes
Jessica Haygood
Michael Hibdon
Laura Hicks
Eric Kramer
Jena Lombard
Alex Myers
Nathan Nicholson
William Platt
Philip Seward
Krysta Tate
Cosette Troidl
Christina Waller

Court-Lund

Alayah Baalith
Jarrod Baskin
Lillian Bristow
Beau Brogdon
Brian Carter
Gretchen Connick
Katelyn Fischer
John Edward Gordy
Beatrice Hancock
Sara Jones
Jackson Kendrick
Kelsey Kicklighter
Daniel Kilfoyle
Jessica Lill
Robert Malone
Gabriel Medford
Nathaniel Meyers
Andrew Moody
Scott Seraty
Giovana Soto
Howard Spiva
Autumn Triplett
Anna Usry

CLASSNotes

2001

Class Correspondents:

Chad Hastings, chastings@lesserlawfirm.com
Michelle Pinto, michellepintoesq@gmail.com
Laura L. Voght, lvoght@attorneykennugent.com
Susan Warren, susanwarren@yahoo.com

R. Ross Burris is currently a shareholder in the healthcare litigation group at Polsinelli PC in Atlanta. Burris and his wife, Meredith, have two children, Ben and Caroline Faye.

Chad C. Hastings is a partner at Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith practicing personal injury law. Hastings is married to Carrie Ann and has two children, Landon and Alessandra. He completed his term as the chair of the Martin County United Way, and he serves on the Martin County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Board as well as the Legal Aid of Martin County Board. Hastings lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Rachel R. Krause was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to serve as judge on the Fulton County Superior Court, effective Jan. 7, 2019. Krause was most recently a partner with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Atlanta.

Leslee L. Mitchell of Nashville, Tennessee, became a photographer in 2009, specializing in several genres of photography including interior design, landscape architecture, product, environmental and wedding photography.

Gregory K. Smith joined Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP as counsel in its construction law practice in Atlanta.

2002

Bradley M. Harmon was selected as 2018

Georgia Super Lawyer in business litigation. Harmon was also selected as one of the Best Lawyers 2019 in the area of litigation — construction. Harmon serves as managing partner of HunterMaclean in Savannah.

Adam M. Walters was selected by the American Health Lawyers Association to serve as vice-chair of the Physician Organizations Practice Group for the 2019-2021 term.

2003

William K. Boddie was elected House Minority Whip for the Georgia House of Representatives. Boddie serves as representative for Georgia District 62.

Jason E. Downey joined the Law Offices of Nancy W. Phillips, Staff Counsel for Allstate, Encompass and Esurance Insurance Companies as senior trial attorney. He was appointed to the State Board of Education by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, representing the 8th Congressional District.

V. Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield was recognized as a name partner with the renaming of Statesboro law firm Edenfield Cox Bruce & Edenfield.

Matthew M. Myers announced the formation of his new firm, Myers Law Group, which is a dedicated real estate law firm serving Middle Georgia and beyond. Myers Law Group's practice areas include commercial real estate, corporate transactions, residential real estate and tax beneficial transactions.

Darrell L. Sutton was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Sutton was installed as president of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting in June 2019, and serves the Alumni Association Board of Directors as president-elect.

Carl Varnedoe obtained a \$2.2 million verdict for a client who sustained major injuries as a result of

a fall through an open hatch on a casino ship. The verdict was featured in the Jan. 11, 2018 edition of *Fulton County Daily Report*.

Walter B. Yarbrough joined Taylor English Duma LLP in Atlanta as part of the firm's expansion of its insurance defense practice. Yarbrough will focus on transportation and trucking litigation, governmental and constitutional litigation and insurance defense.

2004

Class Correspondents:

Lauren Pierce Thomas, lauren3003@gmail.com
Lauren Shurling, lshurling@pacga.org

Amanda M. Morris married Wendell Russell Trice on April 21. Morris is a partner at Hall, Bloch, Garland & Meyer LLP in Macon.

John Anderson "Andy" Ramay started The Ramay Law Firm in December 2016 with offices in Hazlehurst and Saint Simons Island. The firm handles divorce, personal injury, real estate litigation, probate and criminal law.

Lauren C. Shurling married Kelly Paul Kirkland on April 7, 2018. The couple resides in Swainsboro. Shurling serves as assistant district attorney for the Middle Judicial Circuit.

Amanda E. Meloun Trimble is serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. Trimble is a juvenile court judge for the Western Judicial Circuit.

Charles G. Warren was appointed as military judge in the United States Air Force, effective July 2018. As part of his selection, he also graduated as the Distinguished Graduate of the Joint Military Judges Course, ranking first out of 42 in a class composed of military judges selected from all five military services.

2005

Kathleen B. "Katie" Connell was named a Fellow

of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Connell is the youngest attorney in Georgia to receive the distinction of Fellow and is one of only 32 Fellows in Georgia and 1,650 across the United States. She was also recognized as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer. Connell is a founding partner of the Atlanta-based family law firm Connell Cummings LLC in Atlanta.

Matthew P. Cutchen was promoted to commander in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. He previously served in the Pentagon and as adviser to the Justice Center in Parwan, Afghanistan. He currently supports the strategic deterrence mission at Submarine Group Ten.

Jill U. Edmondson joined Georgia Power as the new ethics and concerns manager in January 2019. Edmondson was previously with The Home Depot for 13 years. She serves as a member of the Mercer Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Canon B. Hill rejoined the Macon firm Jones Cork LLP, practicing in the areas of education and employment law, following a brief absence when she practiced in Charleston, West Virginia.

Walter E. Jones, of Balch & Bingham in Atlanta, was selected as 2018 Georgia Rising Star in business litigation.

M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins, a partner at Balch & Bingham in Atlanta, was selected as 2018 Georgia Super Lawyer in personal injury general defense. Kaufold-Wiggins received the Rising Star distinction for this practice area in 2017. She was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission and serves as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Nicholas J. Laybourn, of HunterMaclean in Savannah, was selected as 2018 Georgia Rising Star in business litigation.

MIDDLE GEORGIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Bill Adams, '77, served as Judge of the State Court of Bibb County for 19 years until he retired in 2017. Upon retirement, Judge Adams began an effort to create the Middle Georgia Access to Justice Council, Inc. with a mission to support and supplement existing systems for providing legal assistance to those in need by identifying gaps in services, developing new programs and facilitating collaboration among existing legal service providers. Part of the Council includes the Middle Georgia Justice Incubator Program, which offers recent law school graduates the opportunity to start a solo law practice in a supportive setting at a reasonable fee. In exchange for the strong support provided to them, attorneys selected to participate in the program will be required to do a certain amount of pro bono and reduced fee legal work. The attorneys in the eighteen-month program will start and operate their own law practices. In 2018, **Robert A. Divis**, '17, became the first participant in the program and founded Divis Law LLC.



Sarah E. White Park and husband Brannen welcomed twin daughters, Elizabeth Hadden and Mary-Stuart, on Feb. 23, 2018. Park is a partner at Westmoreland, Patterson, Moseley & Hinson LLC in Macon.

Jeffrey H. Perry and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their second son, Jack, in April, 2018. He joined his brother, Ben. Perry joined Nelson Mullins as a member of the firm's growth and venture capital practice in Atlanta.

Kathy Harrington Sullivan was promoted to partner in the Atlanta employment law firm Barrett & Farahany.

Jonathan E. Smith was promoted to vice president and deputy general counsel of the Atlanta Braves.

2006

Jason T. Allen was appointed to the Florida Elections Commission by Gov. Rick Scott for the term ending Dec. 31, 2020. Allen is a partner at Bass Sox Mercer in Tallahassee, Florida.

John R.B. "Jack" Long was elected to serve on the board of governors for the State Bar of Georgia representing the Augusta Circuit.

2007

Ivy N. Cadle was elected as member of the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors and its Executive Committee. He practices in Baker Donelson's Macon office.

Quentin L. Marlin was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Marlin is a partner at Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams in Savannah. He serves as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

James A. Robson and his wife, Kate, announce the birth of their son, Peter, on Aug. 11, 2018.

2008

Class Correspondent:

Bryan Babcock, Babcock.bryan.o@gmail.com

C. Courtenay Miller DuFour married Brian Christopher Dufour in Savannah in December 2017. The Dufours live in New Orleans.

Elizabeth F. Latta joined Huff Powell Bailey LLP, as her firm Forrester & Brim announced a merger with Huff Powell Bailey in April 2018. Latta will continue her civil trial practice, including the defense of health care professionals.

Michael Memberg and his wife, Beryl Firestone, announce the birth of their son, Max Fletcher Memberg, on Sept. 8, 2017.

Patrick M. Mincey was recognized as a 2018 Legal Elite in Criminal Law by Business North Carolina. He was also recognized by North Carolina Super Lawyers magazine as Rising Star in White Collar Criminal Defense. Mincey is the chair of the white collar and criminal defense group at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP. Mincey and wife, Lydia, also announce the birth of their daughter, Marielle Poe Mincey, on April 17, 2016.

Kevin C. Patrick, wife Tracy, and son Michel announce the birth of Catherine Ann on June 27, 2018. Also, Patrick was awarded the Ethics and Professionalism Award by the Young Lawyers

Division of the State Bar of Georgia at its annual meeting on June 8, 2018. Patrick's law firm in Atlanta focuses on personal injury and wrongful death.

Jay H. Scholl and his wife, Jessica, announce the birth of their son, Everett Hayden, on July 1, 2017.

2009

Class Correspondent:

Cayce Myers, mcmeyers@vt.edu

Darryl Davis was recognized with the Safe and Stable Homes Volunteer of the Year Award by the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation at the Atlanta Bar Association Luncheon held on Oct. 19, 2018.

Nicole W. Hull was appointed as member of the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Dispute Resolution. Hull has her own law firm in Athens and is currently director of the Academy of Dispute Resolution.

Jennifer S. Lowndes was elected as partner at Jones Walker LLP. Lowndes focuses her practice in the area of construction and represents clients in the United States and abroad.

Michael E. Mayo and **Michael B. Hill, '13**, formed the law firm Mayo | Hill based in Macon. The firm serves clients throughout the state, specializing in cases involving catastrophic injury and/or medical malpractice. Mayo taught "Introduction to American Government" as an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department of Mercer University.

M. Cayce Myers was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Virginia Tech.

Susanna G. Patterson announces the adoption of her fifth child, Charlotte Joy, on June 18, 2018. Patterson serves as court-appointed special advocate for children at the Central Georgia CASA in Macon.

Kathryn L. Powers was appointed Superior Court Judge of Clayton Judicial Circuit by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. Powers was previously a State Court Judge for Clayton County. Additionally, she was sworn in to the State Commission on Family Violence by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, on Aug. 15, 2018.

Charles W. Wills and his father, John P. Wills, formed Wills Law Firm LLC, with offices in Thomson and Augusta. The attorneys in the firm have more than 40 years of combined legal experience focusing in the areas of bankruptcy, real estate, timber law, estate planning, probate and general civil litigation.

Arthur R. York joined Atlanta-based Rafi Law Firm in March, 2018. He will continue to represent individuals and families impacted by death or catastrophic injuries in cases involving negligent security, car and trucking crashes and other types of negligence.

2010

Class Correspondent:

Bethany L. Whetzel, blwhetzel@gmail.com

Elizabeth A. Carr was named assistant dean of career services at Mercer Law School in December 2018. She served as director of career services for the past three years.

THANK YOU to ALL OUR SPONSORS who made our alumni events during the 2017-2018 academic year successful!

Because of you, we were able to raise \$45,000 in sponsorship to host 24 events for 800 alumni!

Balch & Bingham LLP
Bergen and Bergen PC
Bowen Painter Trial Lawyers
Burnside Law Firm LLP
Burr & Forman LLP
Butler Wooten & Peak LLP
Clark & Smith Law Firm LLC
Daniels Law LLC
David B. Bell PC
Debrow Law PC
Drew Eckl and Farnham LLP
Elarbee Thompson
Elizabeth F. Thompson, ESQ. P.C.
Attorney At Law
Ellis, Painter, Ratterree, and Adams LLP
Fisher & Phillips, LLP
Gautreaux Law LLC
Glass & Robson LLC
Greenberg Traurig
Hall Booth Smith PC
Hollington Brown LLP
Hull & Barrett PC
Innovative Mediation Solutions LLC
James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP
John R. B. Long PC
Kalka & Baer LLC
Kilpatrick Townsend Stockton LLP
Klosinski & Overstreet LLP
Macon Bar Association
Nimmons & Malchow PC
Page Scrantom Sprouse Tucker & Ford PC
Pope McGlamry
Robert L. Allgood PC
Sutton Law Group LLC
The Fiorentino Group
The Law Office of Tanya D. Jeffords
and Associates PC
The Minor Firm PC
Troutman Sanders LLP
Vaughn & Clements PC
Wargo French

Brian P. Adams '05
William P. Adams '77
Ann Baird Bishop '76
Jonathan L. Bledsoe '02 &
Virginia Bledsoe
Veronica E. Brinson '99
Carl C. Brown '73 & Dalline Brown
Leslie L. Cadle '07 & Ivy N. Cadle '07
Joshua A. Carroll '07 &
Ashley E. Carroll '08
Yvette M. Chapman '89 &
Michael L. Chapman '89
Justin B. Connell '05 & Katie Connell '05
The Honorable Claire
Cornwell-Williams '83
Cathy Cox '86 & Mark Dehler
Falen O. Cox '10
Ray Doumar & Pam James
Zandra V. Hall '15
Charles E. Hodges, II '95 &
Christi L. Hodges '96
Nathan M. Jolles '87
Clayton L. Jolly, III '84
The Honorable Sheryl B. Jolly '83 &
Mr. Ed Turner
William F. Jourdain '86 & Lori Jourdain
The Honorable Rachel R. Krause '01
Quentin Bernard Lynch '08
Edward T. McAfee '02
Rhonda Wilcox McCurtain '02
The Honorable M. Yvette Miller '80
Henry S. Morgan '98
The Honorable Rizza P. O'Connor '10 &
Daniel J. O'Connor '12
Paul W. Painter '07 & Stephanie Painter
Bethany Rezek '06
Lamonte E. Scott '83
The Honorable Robbin K. Shipp '96
Rusty A. Watts '92

The Mercer University School of Law and its Alumni Association are looking for businesses and individuals to help sponsor alumni events. For future sponsorship opportunities, clubs and benefits, please contact Leslie Cadle at 478-301-2232 or cadle_l@law.mercer.edu.

CLASSNotes

C. Troy Clark joined Crowder Stewart LLP as partner. He focuses his practice in the areas of federal criminal and complex civil litigation, including appeals. Clark previously served the Southern District of Georgia as Assistant United States Attorney.

Michael A. Coots and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their daughter, Chloe Haven, on March 30, 2017. She was born in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Sarah S. Dumbacher joined FisherBroyles LLP as partner in the Atlanta office, defending individuals, health plans and plan administrators in hospital billing dispute litigation. Dumbacher was formerly with Drew Eckl Farnham LLP.

John M. Franklin and his wife Susan, along with son George, announce the birth of Susan Constance on Feb. 4, 2018.

Margaret A. Head announces the birth of Harrison on Feb. 23, 2018. In addition, Head was appointed Associate Judge of the Cobb County Probate Court in July.

Nicholas E. Kelley was named one of four new shareholder partners at Flake & Kelley Commercial and serves as executive vice president. Kelley resides in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Emily Macheski-Preston was named a partner of Coleman Talley LLP. Macheski-Preston specializes in local government law, zoning and affordable housing property management.

Matthew N. Massey and wife, Amy, announce the birth of their second daughter, Olivia Burke, on Oct. 12, 2017.

Allison C. Monyei was named staff ombudsman at Clemson University. Monyei was previously associate ombudsman at the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products.

Brooke Pettis Newby was named managing partner of Walker, Hulbert, Gray & Moore LLP in Perry. She was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Rizza P. O'Connor was named one of the 2018 Georgia Asian Times's 25 Most Influential Asian Americans in the state, chosen for their impact in areas that influence every aspect of Georgians' daily lives. She was recognized by the Daily Report with the 2019 On the Rise Award given to promising lawyers under the age of 40. She completed her term as president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia for 2018-2019. O'Connor is Chief Magistrate for Toombs County.

Erica L. Opitz was promoted to shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka. Opitz practices corporate, securities and finance and often serves as outside general counsel to her clients.

Jarell Williams Oshodi joined the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as associate chief privacy officer. Oshodi was formerly with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Kristine S. Pham joined the Georgia Department of Public Health as associate general counsel focusing on maternal and child health.

Jessica M. Phillips was named partner at Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP. Phillips practices commercial litigation in the Atlanta office.

Brittany Flowe Reese and her husband, Matt, announce the birth of their daughter, Lander Elizabeth, on Nov. 22, 2017. She was welcomed with love by big sister Merritt. Reese is associate counsel for Hubbell Lighting Inc. in Greenville, South Carolina.

In Memory

1940s

Druid Douglas Barnard, Jr., '48, of Augusta, Jan. 11, 2018.

Thomas Baldwin Martin, Jr., '48, of Macon, April 24, 2018.

William A. Crawford, Jr., '49, of Palm Harbor, Florida, March 9.

1950s

Julie B. Greene, '50, of Macon, Nov. 19, 2018.

Juan L. Cruz-Rosario, '51, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15, 2018.

James M. Kirby, '51, of West Columbia, South Carolina, April 23, 2018.

Gerald S. Mullis, '51, of Macon, July 4, 2018.

Irwin J. Parkerson, '52, of Stone Mountain, March 17, 2018.

Robert Edward Barfield, '53, of Amarillo, Texas, March 19.

James Edmund Greene, '57, of Cartersville, Nov. 7, 2017.

Albert Sidney Johnson, '59, of Vidalia, May 27, 2018.

1960s

Max B. Asbell, '60, of Warner Robins, Jan. 13.

Paul C. Armitage, '61, of Greenville, South Carolina, March 14.

Joseph H. Briley, '61, of Gray, Dec. 2, 2018.

John F. Schindelar, '61, of Young Harris, Feb. 3, 2018.

Jerry M. Vanderhoef, '62, of Daniel Island, South Carolina, Feb. 17.

William M. Wheeler, '62, of Thompson, June 28, 2018.

Thomas Joseph Lee, '64, of New Orleans,

Louisiana, May 25, 2018.

David S. Baroody, '65, of Marion, South Carolina, Dec. 5, 2017.

Barry A. Cohen, '66, of Tampa, Florida, Sept. 22, 2018.

Searcy Slaton Garrison, Jr., '66, of Sandy Springs, Jan. 21, 2018.

Marvin W. Mixon, '67, of Albany, May 13, 2018.

James E. Peugh, '67, of Milledgeville, Feb. 21.

Robert Douglas Brooks, '68, of Columbus, Ohio, May 26, 2018.

Jesse M. Cleveland, Jr., '68, of Conyers, April 6.

John M. Crevis, Jr., '68, of Good Hope, Oct. 26, 2018.

Harmon Terrell Griffin, '68, of Maitland, Florida, Feb. 21.

David Daniel Kleckley, '68, of Duluth, Jan. 10, 2016.

H. Norwood Pearce, '68, of Columbus, May 13.

George A. Shahood, Jr., '68, of Hobe Sound, Florida, Sept. 12, 2018.

John C. Swearingen, Jr., '68, of Columbus, June 17, 2016.

J. Coleman Tidwell, '69, of Macon, March 3.

Andrew "Buddy" J. Welch, Jr., '69, of McDonough, March 23, 2018.

James M. Wootan, '69, of Macon, April 21.

1970s

Emily Wortman Lawyer, '70, of Tampa, Florida, Jan. 5.

Warren G. Martin, '70, of Wayne, Nevada, Nov. 27, 2017.

John H. Moore, '70, of Marietta, Nov. 6, 2018.

George B. Hagood, '71, of Savannah, Oct. 1, 2018.

Walter E. "Gene" Harrington, Jr., '71, of Warner Robins, Dec. 12, 2017.

Judson Leon Green, III, '72, of Dublin, Oct. 31, 2018.

John F. Manning, '72, of Norcross, Sept. 1, 2018.

Rolland W. Baker, '75, of Clifton, Texas, Aug. 1, 2018.

Dale L. Buchanan, '75, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Feb. 28.

George A. Collins, '75, of Byron, Feb. 17, 2018.

W. Russell Hamilton, III, '75, of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, Nov. 18, 2018.

Lorraine Lynn Andrews, '76, of Ormond Beach, Florida, May 3, 2018.

William A. Dinges, '76, of Atlanta, Nov. 23, 2017.

David L. Roberts, '77, of Columbus, Sept. 16, 2018.

Lew Spruill Barrow, '78, of Fortson, June 10, 2018.

Stephen W. Irving, '79, of Clarkston, Jan. 5.

1980s

Glen Edward Ashman, '80, of East Point, Aug. 17, 2018.

Rodney Heartsell Roberts, '80, of Gray, Feb. 21.

Cecero David Turk, III, '80, of Dahlonega, Sept. 14, 2018.

William Brek Barker, '81, of Macon, Jan. 12, 2018.

Jack T. Brinkley, Jr., '81, of Columbus, Nov. 16, 2018.

Thomas Mark Moss, '81, of Buford, April 4.

Wallace M. "Rowe" Brogdon, Jr., '82, of Statesboro, Oct. 20, 2017.

Murphy Alan Cooper, '82, of Savannah, April 23, 2018.

David F. Wood, '82, of Inman, South Carolina, Nov. 1, 2017.

James Phillip Bond, '83, of Macon, Jan. 29, 2018.

E. Martin Putney, III, '84, of Atlanta, May 21, 2018.

Maxine Blackwell, '85, of Milledgeville, Oct. 5, 2018.

David Alan Fowler, '85, of LaGrange, Aug. 1, 2018.

Bobby J. Lindsey, '86, of Macon, Aug. 15, 2018.

Bennett T. Willis, Jr., '86, of Johns Island, South Carolina, Oct. 18, 2017.

Mary Katherine Durant, '87, of Stone Mountain, Nov. 11, 2017.

Karen Kelly Daniels, '88, of Macon, March 18, 2018.

1990s

Bruce Fielding Morris, '90, of Atlanta, June 29, 2018.

Daniel Wayne Sweat, '92, of Greenville, North Carolina, Dec. 14, 2017.

Robert Jerald Angerer, Jr., '93, of Tallahassee, Florida, Aug. 7, 2017.

Alexander T. Galloway, III, '93, of Marietta, Aug. 24, 2018.

Samuel A. Murray, '98, of Griffin, June 12, 2018.

Jana M. Bruner, '99, of Kathleen, April 11, 2018.

Plez Higdon Hardin, '99, of Americus, April 8, 2018.

2000s

Larry Donell Brox, '05, of Macon, Aug. 27, 2018.

2010s

Bertila Ivane Delora Boyd-Bostic, '11, of Sumpter, South Carolina, Oct. 29, 2017.

Andrew Thad Bell, '16, of Columbus, March 4, 2018.

Philip Walter Subacz, '17, of Atlanta, May 6.



Chris Clark, '89, received the Mercer Law's 2019 Manley F. Brown Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award in May presented by Judge Marc Treadwell, '81, and Dean Cathy Cox, '86. He has been an adjunct professor over the last 20 years teaching Pre-Trial Advocacy and Advanced Litigation Drafting. He received the award for his personal example of the highest standards of ethics and professionalism, for his excellent service as an adjunct professor, and for his commitment to the mentoring of law students and new lawyers, which made him a model attorney for the students of the Mercer University School of Law.

Wesley C. Turner and his wife, Laura Jane, announce the birth of son Daniel Moss on July 20, 2018.

Dustin B. Weeks was named partner at Troutman Sanders LLP. Weeks practices intellectual property in the Atlanta office.

2011

Class Correspondents:

Brian M. Jasper, bjasper@wilkesmchugh.com
Bowen Reichert Shoemaker,
eb shoemaker@gmail.com
Jonathan L. Simpson,
jonathan.simpson.1@us.af.mil

Thomas E. Branch, III has been named president and chief executive officer of Pineland Paper Company.

Jacqueline R. Bretell was named to the Top 40 Under 40 in Nevada by the National Trial Lawyers, and was also listed as a 2018 Rising Star by Super Lawyers. Bretell is a partner at Bighorn Law in Las Vegas.

Dustin E. Davies was selected for the sixth year in a row as a 2019 Rising Star in personal injury by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. Davies was recently named partner at Hasty Pope in Gainesville and represents the Class of 2011 in the Mercer School of Law Young Alumni Council.

Mary Susan Fitzgerald was appointed as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. Fitzgerald, who lives in Savannah, was previously employed by the Chatham County District Attorney's Office.

Brooke N. Gram was promoted as partner at Balch & Bingham in Atlanta. Gram focuses her practice on civil litigation.

Corrie E. Hall was promoted to partner at James Bates Brannan Groover in Macon.

Margaret Elizabeth Heinen married Brandon Alexander Bullard on Oct. 28, 2018. Heinen serves as assistant public defender in the Atlanta Circuit.

Heather K. Hudson was named equity partner of the firm Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC in Panama City, Florida. She also earned recognition as a Board Certified Specialist in Education Law by the Florida State Bar.

Michaela L. Mericle joined the family law firm Hedgepeth, Heredia, Rieder LLC in Atlanta as an associate attorney.

Elizabeth Pool O'Neal was appointed to the board of directors for the Georgia College Alumni Association. In April, 2018, she and her husband, John, announced the birth of their first child, Olivia. O'Neal is a partner at Smith, Welch, Webb & White LLC in Atlanta.

Adam Owenby was appointed a member of the board of directors for the Koinonia Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Fairfax County, Virginia, providing assistance to the underprivileged.

Bowen Reichert Shoemaker has joined the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia, Macon Division. She and her husband Matt Shoemaker, '12, welcomed their second child, a daughter, in April, 2018.

Christopher A. Steele was promoted to shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka. Steele practices trusts and estates in the firm's Atlanta office.

2012

Class Correspondent:

W. Justin Purvis, justinpurvis10@gmail.com

Janene Browder received a 2018 Award of Achievement for Service by the Young Lawyers Division during the State Bar of Georgia's annual meeting in Amelia Island, Florida. Browder was also appointed to the standing committee for Communications/Cornerstones of Freedom by the Bar president. She joined the Georgia Department of Law as assistant attorney general in the Regulated Industries and Professions Division. Browder was previously with the Georgia Department of Community Health.

David Cheng married Kian Wint on Sept. 18, 2018.

J. Daniel Cole was appointed to the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Division for the 2018-2019 year and served on the Young Leaders Council for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta. Cole joined the Atlanta firm Parks Chesin & Walbert PC as an associate in January 2018.

Emilie Taylor Cook opened Cook Law Firm LLC in Milledgeville to serve the Ocmulgee Circuit in the areas of probate, wills and estate and child dependency law. Cook is formerly a partner at Cansino, Petty & Stribling LLP.

John H. Cranford, Jr. was appointed district attorney of the Coweta Judicial Circuit by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, effective Feb. 7, 2018.

Maggie Hinchey DeLeon was assigned to Major Crimes Division's Special Victim's Unit focusing on crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence and domestic-violence homicide in the Chatham County District Attorney's Office. DeLeon was previously in prosecution of elder abuse and domestic violence in the DA's Other Felony Crimes Unit.

Clayton D. Franklin, and wife, Allyson, announced the birth of their son, Chandler Franklin, on Nov. 27, 2018.

Jonathan S. Futrell graduated with an LL.M. in environmental and land use law from Georgia State University College of Law and joined the City of Atlanta administration as assistant city attorney in its infrastructure and real estate group.

J. Travis Griffin was named partner at the new Hogue Hogue Fitzgerald & Griffin LLP in Macon, focusing on criminal defense.

Norbert D. "Bert" Hummel, IV of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Atlanta was installed as president-elect of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 8, 2019. Hummel and wife, Christina, also announce the birth of daughter Mary Olivia on June 22, 2018.

Jake W. Kacynski joined Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation in Nashville, Tennessee, as a corporate tax associate in October 2017.

Marshall Lee Portivent, Jr. joined Hasty Pope LLP practicing worker's compensation law in Canton. He was formerly with Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele LLP.

R. Matthew Shoemaker, formerly with Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, joined Jones Cork, LLP in Macon. Shoemaker has a general civil litigation practice, including insurance defense, premises liability defense, products liability defense, insurance coverage, business litigation and medical malpractice defense.

Benjamin A. Vaughn was appointed as the new county attorney by the Butts County Board of Commissioners. Vaughn is also the Monroe County attorney and the attorney for the Monroe County school board.

Jessica L. Wallace was named Pro Bono Champion of the Carolinas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. This award recognizes attorneys for their community-mindedness and dedication to the provision of expert immigration legal assistance to underserved members of the immigrant population of this country. Wallace is an associate at Ibrahim & Rao in Greenville, South Carolina.

Randi Adkins-Warren, joined Aflac as corporate counsel. She was also selected as a 2019 Georgia Rising Star.

Bryan S. Wilson was promoted to deputy general counsel for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

2013

Ashley A. Akins was recognized with the Award of Achievement for Service to the Bar by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 8, 2018.

Walter Booth, Matthew Jones, and Minerva Steele established the law firm Jones, Steele, & Booth, focusing on the practice areas of plaintiff's personal injury and workers' compensation, and wills and probate matters. The firm celebrated its one-year anniversary in September.

Nathaniel E. Edmonds joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP's general litigation practice group as an associate. Edmonds and his family live in Macon.

Joshua T. Hale was appointed to serve on the Foundation Board of River Edge Behavioral Health. Hale is the owner of Lighthouse Law Firm in Macon.

Kaitlin and William Hammill announce the birth of their daughter, Emery Kate, born April 16, 2018.

Eleanor L. DeGolian Kasper graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy. She joined the United States District Court in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as law clerk to the Hon. Kathleen Tafoya. Kasper was previously with Alston & Bird in Atlanta.

Andrew G. Paradis was honored by the New York State Bar Association and the New York County Lawyer's Association for outstanding work and dedicated pro bono service to the New York County Lawyers Association on Oct. 26, 2017.

2014

Class Correspondent:

Jordan Quinley Johnson,
danielle.j.quinley@gmail.com

Belle-Anne Bowen joined Drew Eckli & Farnham as an associate. Her practice focuses on civil litigation, including general casualty, premise liability and insurance coverage.

Lauren M. Childs graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy. Childs practices personal injury law at Adams Jordan & Herrington in Macon.

R. Lee Discher joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago, Illinois as an associate focusing on debt finance and complex business transactions. Discher was formerly with Alston & Bird in Atlanta.

Warner L. Kennon, Jr. graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy. Kennon works with Georgia-Alabama Land Trust Inc. in Columbus.

Whitney C. Kenner-Jones opened Kenner Jones Law LLC in Atlanta in February 2018, focusing on family law.

CLASSNotes

Christopher J. Perniciaro joined Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske in Atlanta as an associate where he will practice in the firm's insurance defense practice group.

Danielle M. Tyler joined the Discovery Inc. legal team as manager of legal affairs and was named to Knoxville, Tennessee's Top 40 Under 40. Tyler is also an associate professor at South College in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Michael S. Weldon established his own law firm in Atlanta focused on plaintiff's personal injury and wrongful death.

2015

Class Correspondent:
Elizabeth Lambert Cox,
elambert1988@gmail.com

Kathryn S. Dunnam married Bryant E. Harden. Dunnam works as an attorney in Albany for Hall, Booth, Smith P.C. Harden is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Florida in international relations.

Zandra V. Hall joined Mohawk Industries in Calhoun as an employment and litigation legal associate in 2018. She was formerly with the Department of Education in Atlanta.

Steven C. Ouzts was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Georgia on Oct. 1, 2018.

R. Andrew (Drew) Snider was recognized as a 2018 Rising Star in family law by the American Institute of Legal Advocates (AILA).

Mattie Hardin Tondreault joined the law firm of Hardin & Ball in Lakeland, Florida, as an associate practicing civil litigation. Tondreault was formerly an assistant state attorney in Bartow, Florida.

2016

Class Correspondents:
James F. Banter, *jbanter31@gmail.com*
Jessica Canedo Wallace, *jescan0818@aol.com*

Natasha Sarah-Lorraine Banks joined Gordon & Rees Scully Mansukhani as a member of its employment practice group in Atlanta. Banks was previously with Fisher Phillips.

James F. Banter completed a two-year federal clerkship with Federal Magistrate Judge Charles Weigle. In September, Banter joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP in the commercial litigation and financial institutions practice groups.

Brittany E. Bennett opened her own practice, Bennett Law & Mediation Services LLC, in Warner Robins focusing on business law. Bennett previously was with Sell & Melton in Macon.

Ebony J. Brown joined the Southern Center for Human Rights as a staff attorney in its Impact Litigation Unit in Atlanta. Brown previously served as a clerk for the Hon. Leslie J. Abrams, United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia, Albany Division.

T. Alec Chappell was appointed career clerk for the Hon. Edward J. Coleman III, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

Hillary L. Freesmeier joined Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP in Atlanta as an associate in the labor and employment practice group. Freesmeier previously served as clerk to the Hon. Thomas Q. Langstaff, U.S. Magistrate Judge, in the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia.

Alisha A. Humphrey and **J. Micah Dickie**, married on Sept. 23, 2018, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Humphrey works at Moore Ingram Johnson and Steele LLP. Dickie works at Buckley Beal LLP.

M. Elizabeth Gilchrist was selected to serve on the editorial board of *The Atlanta Lawyer* magazine. Gilchrist is an associate at Hill & Watchko LLC in Alpharetta.

Michael S. Gilly joined the Tennessee Department of Children's Services as an associate attorney in its Knoxville office on July 30, 2018.

David Greenberg won the ABA Section of Taxation's 17th annual Law Student Tax Challenge along with fellow student Dan Masciello. Greenberg is currently an LLM student at Villanova University.

Lee A. Hughes, JAGC, USN, LT, is serving as the sole legal assistance attorney for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, providing support for service members, their families, Department of Defense contractors and civilian personnel.

Sherry L. Johnson established the Law Office of Sherry L. Johnson in Macon, focusing on bankruptcy law.

Laci P. Kyles joined the Fulton County Public Defender's Office on Dec. 28, 2018. Kyles was previously employed with the Carroll County Public Defender's Office in Carrollton.

Christopher J. Lyle and **Alston Waldrup Lyle** moved from Gainesville to Columbus to merge with solo practitioner Don Morgan to create the firm Morgan & Lyle P.C. They specialize in general business law, estate planning and commercial litigation.

Nicole E. McQuiston joined Thomas Quinn LLP in its Houston, Texas office as a first-year associate, specializing in federal workers' compensation defense. McQuiston was formerly with King & Spalding in Atlanta.

Anna L. Myer and **H. Tony Diaz-Caballero**, '18, married on July 2, 2018 in Atlanta. Diaz-Caballero joined the in-house legal department at Progressive, and Myers works at Counsel on Call.

Jonathan O. Nwilo, Jr. joined the tax and wealth planning practice in the Atlanta office of James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP. Nwilo was previously with Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele LLP.

Kyle C. Owenby graduated from the inaugural class of the Zell Miller Leadership Institute in October in Savannah. Owenby joined the Macon Judicial Circuit as an assistant district attorney. He also received the 2019 Public Service Award from the Georgia Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units for his work prosecuting insurance fraud.

Joseph R. Padgett joined Roden Law as an associate in its Brunswick office. Padgett was formerly with Hall Booth and Smith.

Priya M. Patel graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Leadership Academy. Patel practices civil and business litigation at Smith Welch Webb & White LLC in Atlanta.

Nyonnohweah S. Seekie married Cecil Richard, Jr. on May 26, 2018, in Woodstock. Seekie established the Seekie Law Firm in 2019. She was most recently at the Macon Circuit Public Defenders Office.

Jamillynn Ann Brittain Stribos married Michael Stribos on Nov. 4, 2017, and now lives in Houston, Texas. Stribos works as an attorney investigator for Bashen Corporation, a human resources consulting company that investigates employee harassment and discrimination complaints for federal agencies and private companies.

D. Jake Wallace joined Morris, Manning & Martin LLP on Jan. 22, 2018, where he practices residential real estate, business law, and probate and estate planning. Wallace was installed as president-elect for Kiwanis Club of Harris County, effective September 2017.

Andrew C. Williams joined Garson LLP in April 2018 in Toronto, Canada, exclusively practicing U.S. immigration law. Williams was previously with Jaime Barron P.C. in Dallas, Texas. He completed his master's degree in Latin American and International Law in May 2017 at the University of Texas at Austin.

2017

Class Correspondents:
Elizabeth H. Manley, *e.hallmanley@gmail.com*
Amber M. Robinson, *arobin1029@gmail.com*

Adelyn B. Boleman joined Burr and Forman LLP in Atlanta as an associate in their corporate and commercial litigation practice.

E. Kayla Chiang married Fernando Chen on Oct. 6, 2018. Chiang practices insurance defense at Drew Eckl & Farnham in Atlanta.

Christopher D. Childress founded Childress Law LLC on June 1, 2018 in Zebulon. The firm practices criminal defense, construction law and personal injury. Childress was elected vice-chair of Pike County Parks and Recreation.

Caitlyn D. Clark joined James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP as civil litigation associate.

Anelise R. Codrington joined the State Court of Clayton County in February as a judicial clerk for Judge Shalonda Jones-Parker. Codrington currently serves the Mercer Law School BLSA Alumni Council as its secretary.

Graham W. Davis is an associate with Downey & Cleveland LLP in Marietta.

Mollie K. Davis joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Atlanta in September 2017.

Talia B. Davis joined Burr and Forman LLP in Atlanta as an associate in their commercial and corporate finance practice.

Robert A. Divis founded Divis Law LLC in Macon. Divis is a participant in the Middle Georgia Access to Justice Small Practice Incubator Program.

Katelynn N. Henderson graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy. Henderson serves in the U.S. Air Force JAG.

Shannon L. Mills was selected as one of 11 Equal Justice Works Fellows serving at Georgia Legal Services Program in Macon, a nonprofit legal organization. Mills will provide support and defense to tenants living in project-based Section 8 and public housing who are facing eviction or living in substandard conditions.

Matthew W. Padgett married Marcie McBride on Sept. 16, 2017. Padgett was appointed member-at-large to the Young Lawyers of Augusta Executive Board and was appointed a Southern District Representative to the State Young Lawyers Division. Padgett works for Huggins Peil LLC.

Hannah B. Reynolds graduated from the State Bar of Georgia's 2018 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy. Reynolds is an associate at Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP.

Ashleigh Provost Smaha, husband Ched, and son Asher Charles announce the birth of Miles David on Dec. 1, 2017. Smaha joined the Macon office of Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC practicing health law and data protection.

Jasmin N. Severino was selected to serve on the University of Georgia's Young Alumni Council. Severino currently serves as the Leadership Academy co-chair for the Georgia Latino Law Foundation. She is an estate planning and wealth management attorney at Davis Matthews & Quigley in Atlanta.

Trevor J. Vanzant married Brittany Byrd on Dec. 28, 2018. Vanzant is an assistant district attorney in Americus.

Roland Weekley joined Moore, Clarke, DuVall and Rodgers Law Firm in Albany, concentrating his practice in the areas of taxation and business law.

W. Jacob Worthan was hired as a civilian acquisitions and business attorney for the U.S. Air Force in November 2017.

2018

Class Correspondent:
Veronica Rogusky, *vrogusky@sgwmfirm.com*

Lauren E. Bridgers and **Nathaniel Q. Meyers**, '18, married on Nov. 17, 2018, in Savannah. Bridgers works for Santa Fe College in Gainesville while Meyers is completing his Tax LLM at the University of Florida Levine College of Law.

Hannah M. Couch was named to Atlanta's Power 30 Under 30, presented by the Apex Society, in June. Couch is currently completing a federal judicial clerkship in the Middle District of Georgia.

Jacob S. Langley joined Buzzell, Welsh & Hill LLP, a personal injury firm in Macon.

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