

# MERCER LAWYER

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MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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SALVINA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



## SCENE FROM MACON

Mercer Law School held Commencement on May 13, 2017, with 120 students participating in the hooding ceremony. The Honorable W. Louis Sands, Senior U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and 1974 graduate of the Law School, was the keynote speaker. In keeping with the Law School's tradition of alumni hooding, nine graduating students were hooded by a parent, spouse, sibling or other relative who had graduated from the Law School.





## President

William D. Underwood

## Dean

Daisy Hurst Floyd

## Editors

Billie Fry  
Steve Murray

## Faculty Editor

Steve Johnson

## Director of Development

Leslie Cadle

## Director of Alumni Programs and Engagement

Cheryll King

## Design

Ginger Harper

## Photography

Bauwerks Photography  
Cl Smith Photography  
Lisha Hocking  
Roger Idenden  
Caroline Joe  
Amy Maddox  
Alexis Moore  
Nicole Tyler Photography  
Saldivia-Jones Photography

## Contributing Writers

Professor Jeremy Kidd  
Stevie Watson

## Editorial Assistant

Janet Crocker

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1021 Georgia Avenue  
Macon, Georgia 31207

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### 20 Meet Mercer Law's Boards

In addition to the Board of Visitors and Alumni Board of Directors, Mercer Law has recently added a Young Alumni Council to help keep recent alumni engaged.



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## *From the Alumni Board President*

Dear Fellow Mercer Lawyers,

This is an incredibly exciting time to be involved with Mercer University School of Law. It is an honor to serve as your Alumni Association president and work with our board to increase alumni engagement and support of our Law School.

As we go through our decanal transition this summer, I would like to thank Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd for all that she has done to move Mercer forward. She has worked diligently with board members, local bar associations, alumni, faculty and students to ensure our legacy of service and excellence continues. The Board and the Alumni Association sincerely appreciate all of her contributions throughout the nine years of her deanship.


We welcome our own Cathy Cox, '86, as dean beginning July 1. The Alumni Association will continue to support the Law School leadership in their efforts to build on the rich history of our alma mater. We are excited about what the future holds for us.

Jennifer Chapman Reddington, '10, and David Siegel, '86, will be rolling off the board this year. We appreciate their commitment to the Alumni Association and Law School. They have dedicated their time, service and resources as board members for six years, and we are so thankful for their many contributions.

Our Alumni Association can be made even stronger with your help. I encourage you to support the students and alumni of Mercer Law School by getting involved in activities that interest you. There are many ways to stay connected and give back. Join us for Homecoming, the annual dinner in Atlanta or volunteer your time in a classroom.

I look forward to seeing many of you at alumni gatherings this year. Thank you for representing the best of Mercer Law wherever you live!

Sincerely,



Anton F. Mertens, '87, *President of the Mercer Law School Alumni Association*





# COX NAMED MERCER LAW DEAN

*Young Harris College President and former Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox has been appointed dean of Mercer University's School of Law, effective July 1.*

Cox, a 1986 *magna cum laude* graduate of Mercer Law School, becomes the first alum to lead the School — other than on an interim basis — since William Augustus Bootle, who was dean from 1933 to 1937. Bootle was later appointed to the federal bench and ordered the integration of the University of Georgia.

"I am very pleased that Cathy Cox has accepted our invitation to serve as the next dean of Mercer Law School," said Mercer President William D. Underwood. "She has provided extraordinary leadership at Young Harris College over the past decade, is well-known and highly respected throughout the State of Georgia, and has a deep affinity for our School of Law and Mercer University. We look forward to great things from Mercer Law School under her leadership."

Cox has served as the 21st president of Young Harris since 2007, leading its transition from a two-year college to a four-year institution and overseeing unprecedented growth. Student enrollment has doubled, as has the size of its faculty, and nearly \$100 million in new facilities have been added to the North Georgia campus.

"I am very excited about building on the deep foundation and rich heritage at Mercer's School of Law to educate practice-ready lawyers who want to make a genuine difference for their clients and have a positive impact in their communities," Cox said. "The opportunity to do this at my alma mater makes it even more meaningful."

"I have loved working with phenomenal trustees, faculty and staff during the past 10 years to transform Young Harris College into a thriving liberal arts college," she added, "and I hope YHC will continue to send some of its strongest graduates to Mercer's Law

School, just like the three who are enrolled there now."

Prior to assuming the Young Harris presidency, Cox served two terms as Georgia's secretary of state, and was the first woman in the state's history to be elected to the post, first in 1998 and again in 2002. As secretary of state, she moved the largest division of her office from Atlanta to Macon and instituted a universal electronic voting system, making Georgia the first American state to do so.

A native of Bainbridge, Cox began her political career as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, where from 1993 to 1996 she represented Miller, Seminole, Early and Decatur counties. Before being elected secretary of state, she served for two years as assistant secretary of state.

After graduating from Mercer Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Mercer Law Review* and a member of the Brainerd Currie Honor Society, Cox practiced law full-time for 10 years in Atlanta and Bainbridge. She has remained an active member of the State Bar of Georgia, and, in 2011, was presented with the Traditions of Excellence Award for General Practice by the State Bar's General Practice and Trial Section.

Cox was a newspaper reporter for three years before entering law school. She earned a degree in journalism, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Georgia in

1980 and is a 2013 inductee to the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication's Grady Fellowship.

A former member of the Mercer Board of Trustees, the Mercer Law School's Board of Visitors, and the Wesleyan College Board of Trustees, Cox was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Mercer in 2007. From January to May of 2007, she held the Carl E. Sanders Political Leadership Chair at the University of Georgia School of Law.



NICOLE TYLER PHOTOGRAPHY



## Law Review Symposium

The Law Review Symposium on Oct. 7, 2016, was titled “Educational Interventions to Cultivate Professional Identity in Law Students” as part of the 17th Annual Georgia Symposium on Professionalism and Ethics. The symposium featured nationally renowned scholars and focused on the development of professional identity, which refers to “a deep sense of self in role.” Professional identity includes a set of virtues, skills and dispositions that enables the lawyer to serve clients and the public in complex, stressful and uncertain circumstances, including ones that present questions of ethics, morality and professional responsibility.

“This symposium reflects Mercer’s deep commitment to promoting ethics and professionalism among lawyers,” said Patrick Longan, professor of law and organizer of the symposium. “We are grateful to Judge Hugh Lawson, without whose vision and leadership this symposium series, now in its 17th year, would not exist.”



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## MedLaw Partnership

Mercer University School of Law is pleased to announce a new partnership between The Medical Center, Navicent Health, Georgia Legal Services Program Inc. and the Law School. MedLaw, an interdisciplinary team composed of legal, social and medical workers, will provide free civil legal services to qualified Navicent Health patients.

MedLaw will have one staff attorney, who will work under Georgia Legal Services, and Mercer Law School will provide two externs per semester to work in the office. MedLaw will serve Navicent Health patients who are low-income or over the age of 60 and whose health, treatment or recovery is impeded by a legal need directly related to the patient’s health, after the patient’s previous attempts to remedy the situation have received an adverse response.



## BLSA Honored as 2017 Regional Small Chapter of the Year

On Feb. 4, 2017, at the Southern Region Black Law Student Association Convention in Atlanta, Mercer’s BLSA chapter was honored as the 2016 Regional Small Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row. Mercer BLSA was recognized for the outstanding community service initiatives, academic achievement, and professional and social events held during the academic year.

## Georgia Court of Appeals Visit

On Oct. 18, 2016, the Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia heard oral arguments in the first-floor moot courtroom at Mercer Law School. The annual visit provided an opportunity for students and the local community to observe the Court in action. The panel that heard cases at the Law School included Judge Nels S.D. Peterson, left, and Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard, right.



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## Mercer AWLS Auction Raises \$10,900

**M**ercer's Association of Women Law Students (AWLS) hosted its 19th annual Charity Auction and Ball in March and raised more than \$10,900 to benefit the Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Over the past six years, AWLS has raised more than \$82,000 to support local charities.



## First Annual Diversity Day

Mercer Law School held its first annual Diversity Day Celebration on Sept. 15, 2016. During the ceremony on the front lawn, faculty, staff and students came together to pledge to embrace diversity, promote cultural awareness and foster inclusion. Members of the community read and signed the new Diversity Pledge as adopted by the Student Bar Association. The event was sponsored by the Student Bar Association, the Student Diversity Committee and the Dean's Office.



AMY MAUDOX PHOTOS

## Lawyers for Equal Justice Incubator Program

**S**ince April 2016, Mercer Law School has participated in Lawyers for Equal Justice, an incubator program designed to help recent graduates build innovative, socially conscious law practices.

The program accepts fledgling attorneys in 18-month cycles. "Recent graduates share office space in Atlanta, get reduction in overhead, and get mentoring from more seasoned lawyers," Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd says.

The focus is on low- and moderate-income clients. The program's Executive Director, Stephanie Everett, says, "We'll have clients call and say, 'Is this for real? I've been trying to get a divorce for years, and I've never been able to afford it.' And we say, 'Yes, that's the whole point of the project.' It's really exciting to see clients getting served, who otherwise were going it alone, filing pro se."

Some clients require low-bono representation. Others just need advice about available legal resources. Since May 2016, Lawyers for Equal Justice has logged more than 2,000 consultations. But the clients are not the only ones benefiting. The program is equally devoted to helping young attorneys find their footing.

"We have structured pro bono tracks that give them experience working with clients and taking cases, appearing in court, handling litigations," Everett says.

Two Mercer Law School graduates are currently working in the program: Tamorra Boyd, '15, specializing in bankruptcy, business and corporate law, and Mark Stevens, '15, specializing in personal injury,

trusts and estates.

"I have obtained not only valuable courtroom experience, but also the soft skills that go into running a successful law practice," says Stevens. "We learn about marketing strategies, client intake, accounting and the technology that can help streamline these processes. I also feel like I have gained life-long friends."

Boyd joined the Lawyers for Equal Justice incubator after having been in solo practice

for a year, saying, "The program is wonderfully collegial and allowed me to escape the 'solo' feeling. I've made new friends and gotten several referrals that have helped me grow my practice."

Incubator programs have become increasingly popular. There are more than 60 around the country. Lawyers for Equal Justice is the first incubator to get 5013c exemption status and is the first designed to serve not just one university, but is a collaboration of all of Georgia's law schools and the State Bar.



CAROLINE JOE PHOTO

Mark Stevens, '15



# Mercer Advocacy Council Round Up

## ■ Mercer Wins Vale Moot Court Competition

Mercer Law School's team of third-year students Brian Aplin, Milinda Brown and Justin Sanders won first place in the 29th Annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition, held March 16-19, 2017, at Widener University Delaware Law School. Associate Professor Chris Wells coached the team.

Mercer Law School defeated Michigan State University School of Law in the final round of the competition, which included 20 teams representing 17 different law schools from across the country. Mercer has participated in the Vale competition 13 times since 2003 and has reached the final round eight times, but had never placed first until this year.

Additionally, a second Mercer Law team of third-year students Jenny Suggs, Nathan DeLoatch and Austin Gibson also performed exceptionally well during the competition. Alumnus and public defender Andrew M. Feagan, '15, coached this team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELAWARE LAW SCHOOL

## ■ Mercer Teams Take Top Two Places at ABA Regional Client Counseling Competition

Mercer Law School's client counseling team of third-year student Mandisa Styles and second-year student Lauren Rogers won the ABA Regional Client Counseling Competition held Feb. 4, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama. During the national competition, they advanced to the final round, beating every team but one.

In addition, the Law School's two other teams placed in the top five of the regional competition. Third-year students Ian McIntyre and Amber Robinson finished in second place, while second-year students Poneh Fetanat and Monique Bianco reached the semifinals, placing fifth overall. The teams were coached by Zandra Hall, '15.

Mercer Law students won the ABA's regional competition in 2015 and placed in the top 10 at the national competition.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

## ■ Final Four

Two Mercer Law School teams advanced to the final four in other national competitions. The moot court team — composed of Anelise Codrington and Jasmine Oliver and coached by Associate Professor Monica Armstrong Roudil — finished among the top four teams at the Charleston Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition, and the mock trial team — composed of Aliyah Baaith, Will Platt, Jackson Turner and Sarah Young and coached by Robert Cabe, '14 — placed among the top four teams at the National Ethics Trial Competition. Baaith was named co-winner of the Top Advocate Award at the National Ethics Trial Competition.

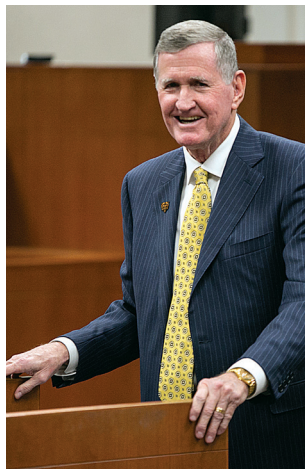




## 2017 Law Day Celebration

**M**ercer Law School held a Law Day Celebration on Friday, March 24, 2017, with a keynote address from noted trial lawyer Andrew “Andy” Haggard, ’67, senior partner of The Haggard Law Firm, P.A., in Florida. During his address, he discussed cases that impacted his life and the lives of his clients and how Mercer Law School prepared him to practice law and be able to give back to his clients, his community and the legal profession.

Additionally, Richard Palmer, Jr., presented the Class of 1974 Scholarship to second-year student Nalda K. Charles during the celebration.



## Leslie Street Named Law Library Director



Mercer Law School has appointed Leslie Street as director of the Furman Smith Law Library and associate professor, effective July 24. Street currently serves as clinical assistant professor of law and assistant director for public services at the University of North Carolina's Kathrine R. Everett Law Library.

“I am thrilled to be coming to Mercer Law and joining a talented group of librarians, faculty and other staff members who are committed to producing practice-ready law school graduates,” said Street. “It is a dynamic time to be working in academic law libraries, and I am excited to lead the Furman Smith Law Library through new challenges and opportunities of stewarding a collection and providing research services essential to teaching students to be ready to practice and enabling faculty research.”

## Mercer Wins Legal Food Frenzy

**M**ercer School of Law successfully retained the Attorney General's Cup and its title as champion of the Sixth Annual Legal Food Frenzy, a competition to help feed the hungry in Georgia. Mercer came out on top of the friendly yet competitive contest against the state's other law schools by providing 37.2 pounds of food per student, with all proceeds going to the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank. Four law schools competed this year and collectively raised the equivalent of more than 26,000 pounds of food for Georgia's food banks.



“Since the beginning of my legal education, Mercer has taught me that service is the foundation of the legal community. For the second year in a row, and fourth overall, we have shown the legal community that Mercer practices what it preaches,” said third-year law student Morgan Lyndall, who spearheaded Mercer's efforts for the competition.

## Student Articles Published Nationally

**R**obert Divis, a third-year law student, had his article “Paving the Road Less Travelled: Structuring Veterans Disability Compensation to Facilitate Readjustment” accepted for publication by the *Veterans Law Review*.

Roland Weekley, a third-year law student, had his article “Powder Keg: Lack of Standards in Reviewing Second Amendment Cases” accepted for publication by the *Albany Government Law Review*.

Jeff Rowe, a third-year law student, recently had his article “Five Years After *NFIB*: Is Medicaid Expansion Still Feasible?” accepted for publication by the *Journal of Health & Life Sciences Law*. The article argues that Medicaid expansion as envisioned by the Affordable Care Act has improved access to care, strengthened the financial stability of safety-net health care providers, and reduced rural hospital closures.



# Q&A

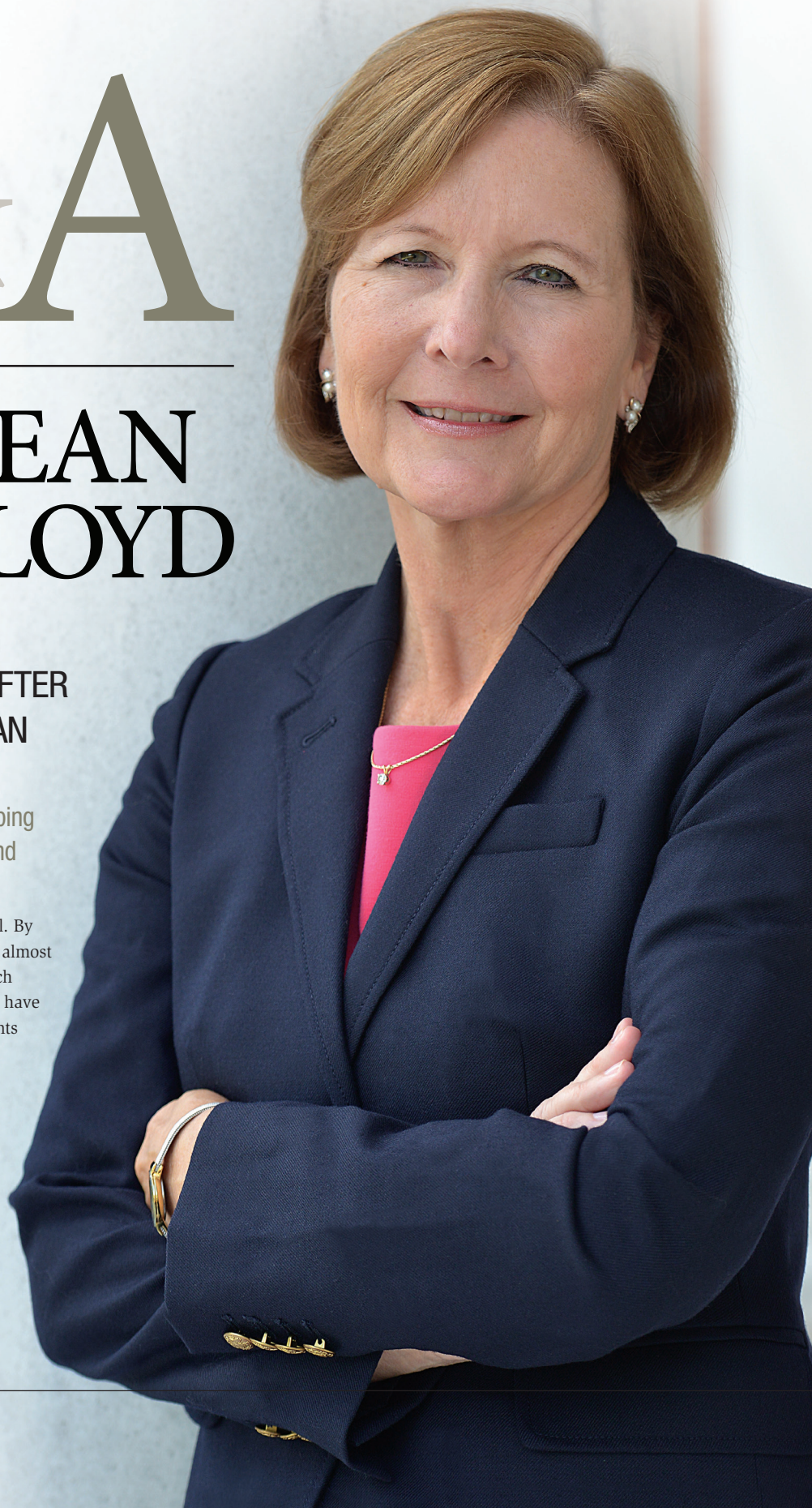
## WITH DEAN DAISY FLOYD

### THOUGHTS ON RETURNING TO TEACHING FULL-TIME AFTER HER SECOND TERM AS DEAN

This fall you announced that you're stepping down as dean in July 2017. What's behind your decision?

The reasons are both institutional and personal. By the end of this semester I will have been dean for almost nine-and-a-half years across my two tenures, which spanned 13 years. It's healthy for an institution to have a new leader after that period, likely one who wants to be dean for the next decade or so.

Even apart from that, this moment in the life of the Law School is a good time for a change in leadership. We've accomplished a lot over the last few years, and those accomplishments provide a foundation for the next dean's success. Looking forward, the Law School is preparing to start long-range planning as part of the University's process and to prepare for our next ABA site visit. Those are processes that will help a new dean to learn about us and







SALDIMA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

to lead the faculty and staff through some reflection on where we've been and where we are going.

On the personal side, I'm very fortunate that I have the option of returning to the faculty, a job I truly love, without the demands of administration. I'm glad that my husband [Professor Tim Floyd] and I get to be a part of Mercer and the Law School for a long time yet.

But it is also bittersweet. There's a lot I will miss about being dean.

### Such as?

One is getting to have the overall view of the institution. That includes being able to think about where we're going and to help develop the means for getting us there. Another is getting to work with wonderful people and see the ways in which each of them contributes their individual talents and interests to the development of the institution.

Another thing I'll miss is being the face of the Law School. That's just fun. As dean, you get to represent the Law School in a lot of different venues. Sometimes that's with prospective and current students or with their families. One of the best parts is interacting with our alumni, because it's really so exciting to meet alumni of all ages and see how a legal education has impacted their lives and the lives of a lot of other people, too.

For example, I recently met with our Half Century Club graduates, who've been out 50 years or more. It was wonderful to see what their lives have been like, due in part to the

legal education they received at Mercer. You hear their memories of Mercer, and in those interactions, you are the one receiving all of their warm feelings because you're there as a symbol of the institution. In that moment you represent Mercer Law School. That's a great privilege.

### Do you think the new dean faces particular opportunities or particular challenges?

The opportunities come from our being a law school with great programs, people, and physical facilities, located within a university that is thriving and in a part of the country with a strong economy. We have a deep identity as a school that prepares our graduates for practice, and we have a committed and talented faculty and staff, engaged alumni, an excellent reputation, and a beautiful building that continues to serve us well.

The challenges are those facing law schools all over the country: meeting the demands of a changing legal profession and the challenge of fewer law school applications, nationally, than was the case for a number of years. Thinking about how the Law School can responsibly meet the challenges of fewer applicants and a changing job market and continue to offer the kind of distinctive legal education we've provided for almost 150 years — that will be a challenge. But that's the kind of challenge that people in leadership like and that lawyers are good at meeting. I'm confident that we'll meet these challenges well under Cathy Cox's leadership.



SALDIMA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Daisy and Tim Floyd with Jane and Hugh P. Thompson, '69, during the inaugural Alumni Dinner in 2015.

When you mention the demands of a changing legal profession, what does that entail? Does it just mean that jobs are scarcer, or are there other things at work?

The practice of law is going to look different in the future. People aren't going to need lawyers to do the kinds of things that they used to. So the profession is spending a lot of time talking about what that's going to mean.

Also, we have an access-to-justice crisis. A lot of people who need legal services aren't able to pay what many lawyers are charging. One of the things law schools are grappling with is how to help prepare our graduates to make a living while also meeting currently unmet legal needs. There has to be some creative thinking in the way lawyers imagine their futures and their careers.

It's a cliché to say we need to be training our students to be entrepreneurial, but we do. How do they take advantage of new technology so that they can open up their client base to a wider array of services and fees, but still make a living doing that? The Law School must continue to be engaged on those issues.

### What do you see as your greatest accomplishment as dean?

That's difficult. So many things have happened during my time at Mercer, both big and small, of which I'm proud, but I don't think I can pick just one. What I am proud of every day is that we offer an education that's life-changing for our students and that has the potential to change the world through their careers after Mercer. Every time a student walks across that stage at commencement, you see the impact of their three years here, both for them and for the Law School. We're delivering an education that is transformative in the lives of our students and the lives, then, of the people they will serve — their professional colleagues, their family, their friends.

### Alumni may not completely understand what a dean does. What goes into the job?

People aren't always aware of the multiple layers that go into making an organism like this run smoothly. In some ways, it's like being the president of a small college. We have our own admissions and financial aid office, career services, library, registrar, etc., in



Dean Floyd with her namesake, granddaughter Daisy Tau.

addition to the academic aspect of the role, focused on curriculum and teaching. And the dean helps the Law School stay connected to both the profession and the broader legal education communities. While we have a great faculty and staff handling the day-to-day operational aspects of all those pieces, the dean must be hands-on in setting policy and troubleshooting as issues arise. You must be aware of the decisions that are being made — because in the end it will come back to you.

One great thing about Mercer is that we're small. We care about the personal touch, and everyone who has anything to do with the school has an equal claim on the dean's time and attention. I love that, but it can have a demanding side to it, too.

The thing about leadership is that it should often be invisible. If you're doing your job well, people aren't as likely to notice what you do. So it may be a good thing that a lot of people don't really understand the job. It's only when things go wrong that people start understanding what should have happened.

### Tell us about the capital campaign.

One of my priorities during this deanship has been to increase our alumni engagement, outreach and fundraising. That has included launching a capital campaign in January 2015. Funds raised through the capital campaign help the Law School in so many ways. They're



Dean Floyd celebrates with alumni Vernon M. Strickland, '06, (left), Professor David Hricik and State Representative William K. Boddie, Jr., '03, (right) at the launch of the Young Alumni Council.



especially critical in a time when we are working to get smaller and to limit the debt students have to take on, both of which mean that we rely less on tuition to fund our programs and depend on other resources.

One of our greatest assets is our alumni and the strength of their feelings for the Law School. Alumni support the Law School in so many different ways. Through the capital campaign we're asking them to think about ways they can give back financially to the Law School.

I don't think our current annual giving really reflects our alumni loyalty, perhaps because we haven't done as good a job as we can in explaining to them how their giving can make a big difference to the Law School. We're trying to get better at that.

People may think it's only the big gifts that matter to the School, when in fact small ones can matter quite a bit, especially when they're given regularly. Every gift, from a few dollars to those of six or seven figures, helps us reach our goals.

As an example, if I had 10 more people giving \$1,000 a year to the Annual Fund, I would have an additional \$10,000 to use toward student scholarships, or supporting student organizations, or funding an additional mock trial or moot court team, or sending faculty members to a conference, or supporting their research. Each person who gives makes a difference.

The capital campaign seeks to increase both the Law School's endowment and the annual giving. Both are critical pieces to the future success of the Law School.

Endowment gifts create a corpus that generates interest. We are able to spend the interest that's earned in our annual budget, and the corpus continues to grow, which ensures the Law School's future. Gifts to the Annual Fund, or other expendable gifts, are used in their entirety to support the Law School's needs.

We've taken the Annual Fund from \$150,000 to \$300,000 in the last couple of years, and our goal in the capital campaign is for the Annual Fund to exceed \$500,000.

## Where do you hope to see the Law School in 10 years?

One of the great things about Mercer is that we have continued to innovate while staying true to our identity. It's special for an institution to have done that. I don't know exactly what that's going to look like in 10 years, but I hope that we can hold true to that



President Underwood, Dean Floyd, Lesli Underwood, Tommy Malone, '66, and Professor Tim Floyd at the 2016 Annual Alumni Dinner.

dynamic — being an institution that values the individual, that cares about providing an education that enriches our students' lives, that is not afraid to be both academically rigorous and connected to the profession.

Mercer has always equipped our students with the skills they need to be successful, both personally and professionally. The Law School has a history of being bold in claiming that mission and in adapting to change in how that mission gets carried out. I value that about Mercer Law School, and I expect that it will still be the case 10 years from now.

## What do you look forward to doing in your (somewhat increased) free time?

Well, I have two grandchildren now, which I didn't when I first became dean. And I'm fortunate that my parents are both still living. So I look forward to having more time with them and, of course, with Tim. We like to travel, so I see more of that in our future. And I'm looking forward to focusing again on my teaching and writing.

## Do you have anything else you'd like to tell Mercer Law alumni?

It has been a great privilege to be dean and to have received the support that I have from the alumni. They really are great. It's so rare that I can't even think of an example right now when I've asked an alumnus to do something for the Law School and was told no. It just doesn't happen. So what I'd like to say to them is, Thank You!

# BEYOND *the* FINAL EXAM

## How We Are Measuring Student Learning Throughout the Semester

One of the oldest institutions for legal education in the United States, Mercer Law School has never rested on its history or past achievements. In a 144-year existence, it has always looked ahead to serve its students with an ever-expanding curriculum and practical methodologies that meet evolving times. It boasts a legacy of innovation.

As legal education evolved rapidly over the past several years, the American Bar Association has been looking to make sure law schools are adequately preparing students for practice. In recently released standards, the ABA is requiring heftier experiential education and assessment measures. These changes will ensure that all law schools not only give students the skills necessary to become a lawyer, but will also assess and improve students' learning during their courses.

Even prior to these new standards, Mercer Law School faculty and administration had put a great deal of thought into our experiential education and student assessment programs. The new standards give us a greater opportunity to reflect on our methodologies and ways we can continue to improve upon them.

"Our identity is that of a law school that prepares students for practice," says Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd. "Not only does that mean giving graduates on-their-feet skills required for their first day of practice, but also grounding them with a solid sense of

professional ethics."

Indicative of its commitment to innovation through the years, the Law School has twice won the E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award bestowed by the American Bar Association, honoring excellence and innovation, in 1996 and 2014. And in 2005, Professor Patrick Longan earned First Place in the National Award for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching Professionalism, awarded by the American Bar Association Standing Committee on

Professionalism, the Conference of Chief Justices, and the Burge Endowment for Legal Ethics.

A large part of the Law School's current educational bedrock comes from the Woodruff Curriculum, adopted by the faculty in 1988 under the stewardship of professor Dick Creswell and his colleagues, Professors Emeritus Hal Lewis and Jack Sammons. But the forward-thinking ideas behind the curriculum are in keeping with the Law School's emphasis on innovation.

"Even though the language around who we are and what we're trying to accomplish at the Law School may have changed over the years, its character really hasn't," Creswell says. "We're still very much a law school that is focused on teaching and that is focused on trying to prepare our students for the practice of law."

"It seems so obvious that it feels like redundancy just to say it, but it's not. The idea of assisting our students to realize their career objectives is more of an important goal of every faculty member here than it is of faculty members at most law schools. That's something



LISHA HOOKING PHOTO



that has endured during my decades here.”

“The Woodruff Curriculum is a critical part of our identity, and it continues to serve us well through new developments,” Dean Floyd says.

In 2015 the ABA released a long-in-the-works set of new accreditation requirements focused on student learning outcomes and law school assessment to measure each school’s institutional effectiveness — and to ensure that students are attaining the maximum comprehension of their academic work. Mercer Law School was already ahead of the curve in the ABA’s recommendations.

The standards require that all law schools ensure that students earn at least six hours’ credit worth of experiential education. “We don’t have as far to go as other schools have to meet that requirement,” Floyd says. “Our students were already getting four hours to begin with. Many of them were already earning six.”

In fact, Mercer Law has tended to be in the vanguard of change throughout its history.

“We’ve been around since 1873,” says Professor Karen Sneddon. “There’s a lot of time-tested things that we have done. In order to be relevant today to our students’ needs for the practice of law, we have to continue to change our program of legal education. That’s not a bad thing.”

Sneddon served as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding new ABA Standards on learning outcomes, curriculum, assessment of student learning, and evaluation in 2015-16 for the Law School. The committee’s charge was to make recommendations to the dean and faculty regarding the Law School’s adoption of rules, policies, and procedures to satisfy recently adopted ABA standards regarding learning outcomes, required experiential course hours, assessment of student learning, and evaluation of program of legal education, learning outcomes, and assessment methods.

One example of the innovations undertaken by the Law School in recent decades is the expansion of students’ opportunities to engage in externships. Thirty years ago, externships were rare in law schools. Likewise, so were clinics and legal writing programs, now considered essential tools for a complete legal education. The landscape is always changing to make

“Our identity is that of a law school that prepares students for practice. Not only does that mean giving graduates on-their-feet skills required for their first day of practice, but also grounding them with a solid sense of professional ethics.”



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Professor Karen Sneddon works with students throughout the semester to provide consistent feedback and evaluation of assignments leading up to the final exam.

room for improvements.

A main objective of the new ABA requirements is to modify the old, stereotypical teaching model of a student body being lectured to (or at) by an aloof authority figure.

“With the old sage-on-the-stage model, it was always about the professor who is up there, as if doing magic tricks,” Sneddon says. “Well, it’s not magic, it’s learning. I’m not supposed to be ‘up there,’ I’m supposed to be working with the students. And I think the millennials and other people respond more if you’re working *with* them and not talking *to* them.”

To assure that, the ABA is requiring a range of learning assessment devices utilized throughout all three years of the Law School’s curriculum.

“We do diagnostic, formative and summative assessment,”

Sneddon explains. “Diagnostic is pre-tests: ‘Where are our students, what are their needs, how are we going to adjust our courses?’ The formative is used while they’re still learning or forming their ideas. We’re kind of checking in. Are they getting it, or are they not? And then the summative is at unit end, which for us typically is the end of semester, to kind of say: ‘Yes, *this is what it is.*’”

Historically at most law schools, classroom assessment has always been a single exam at the end of a semester. The

ABA standards create many more opportunities for students to receive individualized feedback from a professor throughout the course. We can do this in multiple ways throughout the semester in part because of our small class sizes. This systematic approach to feedback allows the student to identify knowledge gaps. It also allows professors to decide how to adjust the course, if needed.

Professor Creswell, for example, has added multiple mid-semester writing assignments to his first-year Torts course. “After three weeks, I give my students a fact narrative and ask them to write a prediction of what would happen in a lawsuit. I grade and comment on those papers, then tweak the facts for a second assignment, including some additional issues but requiring them to rewrite some of the original issues. A third, graded written assignment before Thanksgiving break should have them feeling confident about issue spotting, fact application, and policy argument before they sit for the end-of-semester exam.

“It’s a lot of paper-marking, but it is a great individual teaching opportunity and it lets me see clearly what they are and are not taking away from our regular classroom work.”

“We’re still very much a law school that is focused on teaching and that is focused on trying to prepare our students for the practice of law.”

Third-year student Roland Weekley appreciates the individualized feedback from professors. “Mercer’s new assessment measures have provided me greater opportunities to engage with

the material throughout the semester. This has proven to be an invaluable means of assessing my strengths and weaknesses in a class. I will be a better lawyer because Mercer’s innovations and changes help to keep me engaged and thinking critically.”

The ABA doesn’t dictate the amount or specific methodologies required from class to class. Instead, it’s up to the professor to determine what assessment methods — which might include such things as multiple choice questions, journals, or essay exams — to use as he or she feels is appropriate.

“When I talk to alums, they often say how much they learned at Mercer Law School,” Sneddon says. “We have that commitment to student learning, which not every law school has. Yes, we could pack 200 people in a classroom and just talk at them, but that’s not our mission, it’s not what Mercer Law School is all about. The ABA’s new standards only reinforce what Mercer is all about: a commitment to innovative ways to ensure the best learning experience.”

## A Student’s Point of View – By Kristen Campbell, ’17

Professor Sneddon’s courses, in my experience, have always provided opportunities for students to receive feedback throughout the semester, not only on our writing, but also on our understanding of course material. Rather than receiving a grade based on one exam, a small percentage of our grade comes from exercises assigned throughout the semester that serve as a sort of self-assessment. For example, in Wills we had six writing assignments in addition to our final exam, and each assignment was designed to test our knowledge of the course material that had been covered up to that point. Completing these tasks was a great way to analyze how much of the material I had retained so far and highlight which areas I needed to study more.

In her intercession course, Legal Letters, Professor Sneddon took a similar approach to this topic. Rather than having one grade, students submitted assignments throughout the two-week course and received feedback on them. I then had the opportunity to edit those documents she had reviewed before turning them in as part of my final grade, which is a form file of 10 legal letters. Throughout all of Professor Sneddon’s courses I felt more confident in my understanding of the material because I received guided feedback well in advance of the final exam. This approach helped to reduce stress going into final exams, not only because that exam would not be 100 percent of my final grade, but because I had an awareness all semester of my understanding of the course material.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO





# MERCER ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

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Traditionally, many Mercer Law School graduates have developed practices in the cities and towns of the Southeast. In these years of globalization, though, others have pursued careers overseas or with international ties. We talked to a few of them to understand the opportunities and challenges of having a worldwide reach. >>



# SHEILA BARAN, '03

Senior Director, Legal Counsel for Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. | *San Diego, California*

**L**iving on the so-called Left Coast, Sheila Baran's job includes negotiating and drafting agreements related to the commercialization of cutting-edge developments, such as virtual reality and wearable and location-based technologies. It's stimulating stuff, she says: "We get to partner with some international companies, doing collaborations with these new techs."

Having those international collaborations at one time may have looked like a challenge for someone who describes her history as "very U.S.-based."

"I really didn't travel much, and I only speak English, which is a big regret," she says. "I never really thought I could do a lot of international work, but surprisingly, you can." Her learning curve was helped by her previous stint at Dow Lohnes PLLC in Atlanta. "I started doing some international projects there as an attorney, working with partners. It was a good learning ground, so coming into Qualcomm, I didn't have a big gulp moment."

She does have to deal with language limitations with clients. Some speak perfect English, some don't. "I might say a joke to set a mood, and it may not translate right," she says, for example. "You have to be careful, and with the thick accents on some

people, you really have to listen." Plus, of course, different nations have different legal systems, another challenge of the job. A reward, though, is meeting interesting people around the globe.

The Law School gave her the foundation she needed. "Mercer was so valuable to me, the education I received there," she says. "I'm not sure that this is true of all law schools, but Mercer teaches

you how to research and learn and analyze things, so that you can work across any legal field."

As much as the education, she remembers Mercer as a place of welcome. "I was a single mom at the time, and I felt that the Law School really embraced that," she says. "I felt very nervous, going there as a single parent, but I made very good friends there who kind of adopted my son, who was three or four at the time. It was probably the best three years for me and my son. We were really close, and the school fostered that."

She hasn't had any more children since, but she met her husband — a pilot — while practicing law in Atlanta. And here's a footnote for movie trivia fans: They live in a San Diego suburb, Coronado, home of the Hotel del Coronado, immortalized in *Some Like It Hot*.

"We're on the same street as that hotel," Baran says. "It's a fun, nice community."







# JUN LI, '01

Senior Director and Associate General Counsel  
at VMware, Inc. | *Currently on International  
Assignment in Beijing, China*

**A** nontraditional Law School student, Li was born and raised in China. But he'd lived more of his life in the United States than in his homeland, and was a professor at East Tennessee's Carson-Newman University, in teachers' education, in the 1990s when he was drawn to the notion of law school and enrolled at Mercer. At the time, he also had a consulting business, helping U.S. companies doing business or interested in doing business with China. "I felt a law degree would be helpful."

"It is a great program," he says of the Law School. "It is not known for being cutthroat. It is, rather, friendly and cooperative."

He remembers group study sessions, sharing notes with classmates, "and the wonderful conversations with various professors, with their open-door policy."

Returning to his birthplace after many years was not a completely easy transition. "In the last 20 years, China has evolved into something that in some ways is not what I knew. So in many ways, I'm still in reverse culture shock. But of course, deep at its core, there are many other things that are intimately familiar."

At VMware, a NYSE-listed company that is now a subsidiary of Dell Technologies as a result of Dell's recent acquisition of EMC, he is responsible for ethics

and compliance programs in the Asia Pacific and Japan region. His territory covers 20-something countries including Australia and New Zealand, and works closely with his counterparts in the Americas and Europe. "Having to have conference calls spanning the entire globe is definitely a challenge but also a necessity for any global companies these days," he says. Prior to joining



Jun Li on vacation in Antarctica.



VMware, which is headquartered in Palo Alto, California, Li worked at IBM in a similar role.

He's been married some 30 years (to the same woman, he proudly notes), and they have an adult daughter working as a law associate in San Francisco, and a son in college at Arizona State.

As for Mercer Law School's value for preparing students for an international career, Li says, "It provides a solid foundation for any direction of the law as you go into practice. From the day I first went to work as a summer associate at Bryan Cave (where he practiced 2001-2005) I've never been shy about telling people where I went to law school.

"I'm proud of Mercer Law — because it does a fantastic job."



# MARGARET REEVES LOTTIMORE, '96

Senior Claims Specialist, Argo Group International  
Holdings, Ltd. | *Pembroke, Bermuda*

**F**rom her seaside office, Reeves Lottimore laughs at the thought of colleagues who lose sleep worrying about litigating insurance claims worth a million dollars. “I’d sleep like a baby,” she says, since she’s accustomed to dealing with claims ranging from \$20 to \$100 million.

Like Jun Li, she was a nontraditional Mercer Law student. Raised in the Bronx, “I like to say that I was living a happily middle-class life as a paralegal before I subjected myself to the poverty of law school.” Practical reasons made Mercer her choice: She has extended family in Macon, “who would feed me and let me do my laundry at their house.” Also, she was offered a scholarship, which made the choice “a no-brainer.”

Her best Mercer memory is the day a favorite professor called and told her she’d been chosen for the Moot Court team, experience she knew would be ideal training for her plans to become a litigator. “I remember calling my mother up, being nearly hysterical with excitement, jumping up and down.”

Once she calmed down, her mother said, “‘Baby, I’m so excited for you ... Now, what’s Moot Court?’”

Reeves Lottimore came to the insurance business by degrees. Working in Atlanta for nine years, “I had been either a prosecutor or a criminal defense attorney, specializing in DUI,” she says. “In the meantime, I’d fallen in love with this guy from Bermuda.” While trying to decide where they should live — on her power-engineer husband’s 21-square-mile island homeland or in the States, “Lo and behold, I discovered that Bermuda is the center of the universe for excess and re-insurance.” (She worked as Claims Counsel for XL Catlin for more than 10 years.)

The move incurred some culture shock. “Imagine me, coming from Atlanta, living my life at 150 miles-per-hour,” she says. Back then, her daily commute to court was often “many times longer than

this island is big.”

Once she moved to Bermuda, her husband and mother-in-law took pains to prevent her from getting labeled an Ugly American. They acclimated her to the slower cultural ways. That means you have to begin every conversation with “good morning, good afternoon or good evening,” she says. And you never launch directly into a business meeting without first taking time to “visit a little bit” with the other people in the room.



Reeves Lottimore says Mercer Law School prepared her for the multiple phases of her legal life, including international work. “The skill I walked away from Mercer with that I use most now is writing. I walked in feeling like I was a good writer already — and got my feelings hurt! I didn’t know I could be exponentially better at it when I left the Law School.

“That was a learning experience: You can always get better.”





# THOMAS G. TRAYLOR, '02

Global Head of IT Governance, Celesio A.G. –  
A McKesson Company | *Stuttgart, Germany*

**I**n December, Tom Traylor faced one of the toughest challenges as a new German resident — obtaining a German driver's license. While Georgia may be the North American home to Mercedes-Benz and Porsche, Germany does not recognize reciprocity for drivers' licenses from the States. To obtain a new German license, Traylor had to start from the beginning:

"I've been in a complete German driving program, which includes a full day of learning first aid in German, a theoretical exam taken from 1,200 possible questions, several hours of driving lessons with an instructor, and a road test taken in German."

For the record? Traylor is far from fluent in German, but he passed the exam.

Traylor was working as senior legal counsel for the McKesson Corporation (#5 on the Fortune 100 List), supporting the Chief Information Officer and Chief Technology Officer. In 2015, the American-based pharmaceutical distribution company acquired German-based Celesio, A.G. Then, in the winter of 2016, Traylor was approached about taking an executive position at Celesio. Although Traylor did not previously anticipate working internationally, he was excited about taking on the role of Global Head of IT Governance, as it afforded him the opportunity to utilize his legal training and technology expertise while learning the European business.

"I have responsibility now for IT governance across Europe," he says, "including compliance, cybersecurity, portfolio management, vendor management and communications."

In addition to learning new driving rules, Traylor also learned certain nuances between the German and American culture. "The European business culture is different from the U.S.," he says. "They may be under a common European Union, having common interests and currency, but the countries are separate in that they all have little nuances and differences about how they make decisions and handle transactions."

While Traylor attended Mercer Law School, he did not anticipate an international career. "When I was in Macon, I never imagined I



would live and work in Germany," he says. "But my legal education helped prepare me for where I am today. One of the great things about a legal education is that it teaches you how to process complex issues, synthesize them into something that makes sense, and then translate the concept into easy-to-understand terms."

Recalling his time at Mercer, Traylor says, "You hear these stories about how cutthroat people are at law school. But I found my classmates to be very genuine, and I'm still friends with many of them today."

Traylor moved to Germany with his wife, Laura Baumgartner Traylor (who also graduated from Mercer Law School and currently works remotely for Atlanta-based MendenFreiman), and his two children aged 7 and 9. His children are learning German at the International School of Stuttgart. "They love their new school," Traylor says. "They now have friends from all over the world."

# MEET MERCER LAW'S BOARDS



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

The relationship between Mercer Law School and its former students is a mutually nurturing one, and it lasts long beyond graduation and passage of the bar.

“One of our real assets is our engaged alumni,” says Dean Daisy Hurst Floyd. “They’re not just engaged with the Law School, they’re engaged with the profession, the bench and the bar around the state, region, country and even internationally. One of the ways we want to build on that historic strength is to increase opportunities for alumni engagement.”

For many years, that engagement was personified mainly by the Law School’s two boards.

The Alumni Board of Directors is the governing body of the Alumni Association, meeting twice yearly. Its officers have two-year tenures and are chosen to provide diversity based on class year and geographic locations. Their main function is to help the Law School foster a sense of camaraderie amongst graduates, including assisting





SALIMA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



“One of our real assets is our engaged alumni. They’re not just engaged with the Law School, they’re engaged with the profession, the bench and the bar around the state, region, country, and even internationally.”

with the planning of the Annual Alumni Dinner.

The Board of Visitors (BOV), opposite page, was established by the Board of Trustees of Mercer University in 1971. The BOV is designed to provide advice to the dean and to support the Law School and its mission.

Now, joining these two Law School boards, there’s a new kid in town, so to speak: the Young Alumni Council (YAC).

“We saw a real need to engage the young alumni early on in their careers, both so we could be a resource to them and to encourage them to continue to be engaged as they move on through their careers,” Floyd says.

Like a lot of good notions, the inspiration for the group arose at an unlikely time and place.

“The idea for the Young Alumni Council was born at the Silver Skillet in Midtown Atlanta on the back of a napkin,” says its chairman, Justin B. Connell, ’05, now an associate of Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson LLP. “You can’t make this up. I was having breakfast with one of my mentors, Richard Gerakitis, ’81, and he challenged me to come up with a way to generate young alumni interest in Law School initiatives and activities. Richard has been heavily involved with the Law School for a long time, and he was asking me how I could get people in my age bracket more involved.”

That was in 2015, and the YAC was launched in June 2016. The Council is modeled partly on the Young Alumni Board of the University of Georgia’s Terry School of Business, where Connell earned his B.B.A.

“What it’s intended to do is get younger alumni involved with the Law School earlier,” Connell says. “A lot of times, people graduate and completely lose touch with the Law School because they get busy pursuing

their careers. The idea is to make sure our younger grads don’t lose touch with the Law School and understand that their alma mater can continue to be a great resource even after they graduate. The model of the YAC is to get individuals involved earlier in their careers.”

And no, not just financially. The Young Alumni Council is designed to benefit the Law School, yes, but even more important is its value as a resource for graduates to build their careers.

“It provides a great referral platform,” Connell says. “If something comes across my desk and it’s a niche outside my area of the law, I can refer someone I know from the Law School. I’ve actually got a case right now in South Carolina. I needed local counsel and one of my classmates in my section is serving as my local counsel there. I’m hoping to put together a database so you can literally go on and find where Mercer alumni are and what their specialty is.”

“I think the Young Alumni Council can provide an outlet, not only as a referral source but a great source for jobs and recruitment,” he adds. “My law firm is not that big, but as we sit here today we’ve got

four Mercer alumni that we have hired in the past seven years — and our law firm is a very Emory-based law firm. I hope the YAC can make the job search a little bit easier and a little bit more friendly.”

The Council is also just a way to reach out socially to former classmates. Connell himself has recently reconnected with an old Law School buddy. They’ve had dinner, plan to bring their families together, and have referred cases to each other. That’s happening with others who’ve gotten involved with the YAC. Connell says, “We’re getting a real sense of momentum.”



SALIMA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

# ROBERT DIVIS

## Military Veteran Continues Spirit of Service to His Country and Community

*Q. Before law school, you served as an infantry officer in the elite 82nd Airborne Division of the United States Army and were injured in the line of duty. Did those experiences influence your decision to attend law school?*

A. I had always hoped to attend law school after the Army. Getting hurt caused me to delay those plans. In the Airborne, the leader always jumps first, because you can't lead where you won't go. Rebooting my plans to attend law school was a way of setting a good example for others and squeezing the most that I could out of life.

*Q. You're married with three young children. Does that make your academic workload a challenge?*

A. Having kids just means that the choice between studying and going to a movie or a concert is replaced by the choice between studying and going to your 5-year-old's birthday party. The choices are often painful and my wife and children have worked as hard as I have.

*Q. Tell us about your work over the summer of your second year.*

A. I met a homeless veteran in

Macon in the summer of 2015. He was in all measurable ways a better soldier than I had been but had been denied essential services like health care because of an other-than-honorable discharge, the circumstances of which were highly inequitable. I wrote some letters and eventually found legal representation for him at the Emory Law Volunteer Legal Clinic for Veterans and King & Spalding. We filed his application for relief in July 2016 and are awaiting a decision.

*Q. Tell us about your article, which was accepted into publication by the Veterans Law Review.*

A. *Paving the Road Less Travelled: Structuring Veterans Disability Compensation to Facilitate Readjustment* argues that the current system of compensating veterans for disabilities is outmoded and counterproductive because it creates a disincentive to improved health and productivity. I propose a system that does the opposite, incentivizing and rewarding rehabilitation.

*Q. What do you hope to do after law school and how has Mercer helped prepare you for this?*

A. I hope to use my legal education to serve my country and my community, specifically by empowering other veterans to take their skills out into the civilian world and serve. I can't say what form that will take right now, but there is no shortage of people with a need for advocacy.

*Q. Any advice you would give fellow veterans looking into law school?*

A. Your watch has not ended. You represent the very best qualities of our society: courage, selflessness, generosity. You have lived and suffered with men and women of all races and religions and set aside difference in pursuit of common purpose. You know how to make it work because you've done it. I believe that if our country can heal its divisions, it will be because my veteran brothers and sisters stood up and shouted over the uproar, "follow me." Learning law and policy is one way to do that.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO



# STEPHANIE CAMPBELL

## International Connections and Experiences Fuel Continuous Pursuit of Justice and Protection of Human Rights

*Q. Tell us a bit about your background before law school.*

A. After double majoring in English and Spanish at Oakwood University, I returned home to New York. I worked as an executive administrative assistant at a process service company on Park Avenue. After several months, I grasped an opportunity to teach in Pune, India. While I was there for a short time, it was a life-changing and humbling experience. I'm certain my call to international human rights rang there. Following India, I relocated to D.C., where I worked as a paralegal for a year prior to law school.

*Q. How has your background as a child of immigrants influenced who you are today and your journey to law school?*

A. I am a first-generation American with British dual-citizenship, born to Jamaican parents. I was intentionally raised between the U.S. and Jamaica, to ensure that my Jamaica culture and roots were strong. Both of my parents are educators. Education, not only in class but also to travel and experience the world, contributes to a sagacious individual. This ignites love and respect for one another. It has shaped how I interact with people from all walks of life during my legal journey.

*Q. You participated in the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights last summer. Tell us about the program and the one key takeaway you learned.*

A. The Consortium hosts teaching and research workshops on human rights, global conflict, humanitarian aid, and peace building aimed at understanding and developing constructive solutions to today's problems. The spring program occurs in Oxford, England,



ALEXIS MOORE PHOTO

and focuses on Human Rights In and After Conflict. The fall program occurs in New York City and focuses on the Ethics of Human Rights and Development. One key takeaway learned is that amidst the continuous conflict between nations there will never be a perfect world, nor will total peace reign. What will exist is a continuous pursuit of justice and the protection of human rights. I vow to join the pursuit of peace and justice.

*Q. You are very active in the National BLSA Association. Why is that important?*

A. I first served as a 1L Representative, then during my second year I served as the Professional Development Chair, where I created and organized Etiquette 101, a five-part event designed to prepare law students for various network settings. Currently, I serve on the Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association (SRBLSA) as the Sub-Region 1 Director. Being an active member in BLSA is important to me because it is a community of brilliant leaders who serve and advocate with purpose and passion. BLSA has been my family away from home.

# Is It Bootleggers All The Way Down?



BY JEREMY KIDD



John Adams once said that we are “a government of laws and not of men.” He believed — and most of us likely agree — that it is better to live under “fixed laws, which the people have a voice in making” than under the whims of individuals. There remains another possibility, however, that we may live under a government of bootleggers.

Clemson economist Bruce Yandle famously wrote about coalitions of bootleggers and Baptists, unlikely partners with complementary goals. In the original scenario, the Baptists wanted to limit alcohol consumption for religious, moral reasons, and they pushed hard for various laws that made it harder to purchase alcohol, particularly on Sunday. As it turns out, that suited the bootleggers just fine, as each new law further limited competition for their product and allowed them to earn even higher profits. Moreover, the Baptists — being crusaders — cared far more about the broad goals while the bootleggers — being very careful about profit — made sure the details were just so. In the end, the Baptists likely patted themselves on the back for their efforts, largely ignorant of the aid and comfort they had given to the liquor interests.

Once you know what to look for, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that there are bootleggers everywhere. Just look for a government policy that seems to have failed the people it was designed to help, then look for someone who benefits from that failure. Those who championed the policy, making moral and ethical claims about how the policy was necessary, are the “Baptists.” The “bootleggers” are harder to see in most cases, and they like it that way, but you can find them if you look hard enough.

Of course, every rule has its exception, and so there are obvious

bootleggers. Mylan and the EpiPen fiasco is an example. By now, everyone knows that it is socially acceptable to hate Mylan for what they have done in raising prices so dramatically on this vital piece of medical technology. What many miss, however, is the role that so many Baptists played early on, with legislators and regulators requiring the EpiPen’s presence in the military, schools and a host of other locations. Drive up demand, do nothing about the FDA’s stranglehold on the supply of competing products, and watch the fiasco unfold.

Other examples of bootleggers are only slightly less concealed. Dentists creating rules banning anyone but dentists from whitening teeth. Funeral directors pushing laws banning the sale of caskets over the internet. Cosmetology schools pushing regulations requiring

“Once you know what to look for, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that there are bootleggers everywhere. Just look for a government policy that seems to have failed the people it was designed to help, then look for someone who benefits from that failure.”

hundreds of hours of training to braid hair. All done in the name of “consumer protection,” but for the obvious purpose of enriching certain entrenched interests at the expense of consumers and competitors. Certificate of Need laws do the same for doctors and hospitals in historically underserved areas, leading to less health care for those in most desperate need. Or the SEC rule on electronic prospectuses, which was defeated under the guise of avoiding the confusion of elderly investors at the behest of the paper and envelope manufacturers that profit from the current rule.

The most interesting cases of bootleggers and Baptists, however, are the ones that take a little more digging. Payday lenders are routinely demonized in the press for preying on the poor and the



“We may live in a world ruled by bootleggers, special interests who use the levers of government power to enrich themselves at the expense of their competitors and consumers.”



NIKOLAY LITOV PHOTO

financially unsophisticated, but when you dig deeper you find that the primary advocacy groups are funded by credit unions, the next best option for many poor borrowers. Hedge fund regulation in the Dodd-Frank Act — largely disclosure, disclosure, and more disclosure — accomplishes nothing to help consumers but infringes on the hedge fund business model, much to the delight of the large financial institutions that were far more to blame for the financial collapse. Safety regulations for large trucks do little to improve highway safety but they do harm the ability of long-haul truckers to compete with the railroads who, not coincidentally, have supported strict trucking regulation for nearly a century. Even Uber and other ride-sharing services find themselves buffeted by oppressive regulation that is pushed not only by the somewhat-sympathetic taxi drivers but also the large banks that hold the debt for most

cabs and medallions.

Not every instance of government failure is the result of a bootlegger — the world is a complex place and incompetence is real — but it is possible that we live in a nation neither governed by laws nor by the whims of men. Instead, we may live in a world ruled by bootleggers, special interests who use the levers of government power to enrich themselves at the expense of their competitors and consumers.

Why does it matter? Because to the extent it is bootleggers all the way down, many of the arguments for obedience to law begin to break down. Rather than support the rule of law, we may be contributing to its demise. Rather than furthering economic growth, we may be inhibiting the competition necessary for economic flourishing. It is worth considering.

# SUZANNE CASSIDY

*Retiring after 30 years at Mercer Law School, the Director of the Library wants to make something clear before she goes: “Everything is not on the internet,” Suzanne Cassidy says. “I say that at least once a day.”*

Since her first day on the job (Oct. 1, 1987, when she started as reference librarian), Cassidy has had a first-hand view of how the internet has changed the ways we gather information, for good and ill, from accurate to wildly bogus. If anything, librarians are more important than ever for law faculty and law students.

“It’s a blessing and a curse,” Cassidy says. “You have access to so much more information, but often it’s too much information. So one of the things that librarians do well is vet information — authenticate it, make sure that it is reliable and from a good source, not biased.

“Sometimes I use the word ‘filter.’ Somebody’s got to do it. It’s a good role for a librarian, to gather information and sift through it and make sure the most valuable and helpful information gets to the person who needs it.”

Not that she ever intended to be a librarian. A self-described “Air Force brat,” born in London, raised in places as far-flung as Kansas, Guam and North Dakota, she arrived in Macon age 12, when her dad retired and moved back to be close to



AMY MADDOX PHOTO



his family. As an undergrad, she studied social work at UGA, then returned to Macon. For three years, she served as a caseworker in the Bibb County Juvenile Court, working in the 1970s on delinquency and deprivation cases.

She enrolled at Mercer Law School, and never really thought about going anywhere else. “It was a no-brainer, because by then I had met John D., and we were pretty serious.” That’s her now-husband, whose family business, Cassidy’s Garage, was a Macon mainstay from the day it opened on Mulberry Street in 1915 as the city’s first gas station until it closed under John D.’s ownership in 2012.

Suzanne Cassidy says she has no regrets about choosing Mercer Law. She loved UGA. (“I had a very good time at Georgia,” she says with the kind of sly smile that testifies to its rep as a party school.) But Mercer was a completely different — the small classes, the close relationships with both classmates and faculty. “I really loved the intellectual stimulation,” she says. “It made me sorry that I had not taken full advantage of that when I was in college. Being exposed to all these new ideas made you think and understand things differently — it made you think like a lawyer.”

After graduation, she worked as an associate with Macon attorney (later Probate Judge) William J. Self, clerked for the late Middle District of Georgia Judge Duross Fitzpatrick, and then joined Dozier, Akin and Lee. It was there that she got an unexpected callback to her alma mater from a former professor and mentor. One of the students clerking at her firm breezed in one day and said that the Law Library’s director, Leah Chanin, had sent along a message that Cassidy should apply for the reference librarian position being vacated by Reynold Kosek, who was transitioning into teaching full-time.

And so it came to pass that Cassidy found herself back at one of her favorite places, Mercer Law School. She’s been here ever since. “You know,” she says, leaning in with a typical, generous laugh, “I’ve got a lot of people to thank.”

They include Chanin, Kosek, her legal bibliography professor; Pat O’Neal, the assistant law librarian when she was a student and who was a supportive colleague when she returned to Mercer; Patricia Cervenka, the library’s director after Chanin left; and the dedicated Law Library staff. “I’ve learned a lot from everyone I’ve

worked with,” Cassidy says. And from family, too.

She cites her aunt, Madrid (pronounced “May-drid”) Williams, who served as executive director of the Georgia Bar. “She could have been a lawyer herself,” Cassidy says. “She was just the smartest woman in the world and so well-regarded. She was a huge influence to me.”

In her decades at Mercer, Cassidy has seen changes in library science and study habits. The Law School had IBM Selectric typewriters when she started. She’s seen the arrival of computers, and was there when her boss, Professor Chanin, hired the first director of computer services. She was also there when the library verged on losing its collection during the flood of 1994. (See the Dick Creswell profile for more about that.) And she has seen the internet entice students to work more at home.

“Not as many people study in the library because they don’t have to be there to access the resources. But the library is still an important place,” she says. “We still provide resources, many in electronic format. We teach how to research effectively and

efficiently. We support collaborative learning with group study rooms. Or if people want peace and quiet, we can do that.”

While she loves being surrounded by the energy of young people, some even younger people are among

the reasons she’s retiring. She and her husband want to spend more time with their son, John D. Jr., and his wife and their two young grandsons in League City, Texas. They’ve also got good reason to visit Key West, where their other son, Patrick, lives on a sailboat and owns a business cleaning boat hulls.

Cassidy says, “Life’s too short. I want to spend time with family and friends I’ve neglected, for these many years.” But she’ll be missed at the Law School, in or outside the library.

Maybe the final word should go to the woman who connected Cassidy with the Law Library to begin with. Here’s part of an email Leah Chanin sent on learning of Cassidy’s retirement:

“From all I know and have heard you have been a fantastic director, professor and faculty member. I am sorry you are leaving, but it is good to leave when you are ready ... and to have people saying ‘oh please don’t go’ instead of ‘when will she leave?’”

“You have access to so much more information, but often it’s too much information. So one of the things that librarians do well is vet information — authenticate it, make sure that it is reliable and from a good source, not biased.”

# DICK CRESWELL

## *Finding Wisdom on the Water*

**R**iver water — roaring white or swollen brown — courses thru Dick Creswell's life just as steadily as the law. He was living in Nashville, following law school at Vanderbilt, when he joined a friend for his first experience with whitewater canoeing. A passion ignited.

Creswell's dad had worked for the YMCA, so he was already well versed in team sports. But the singularity of outdoor sports was new: "This wasn't in my vocabulary, to be in the mountains and woods. I acquired a taste for mountain streams and the beauty of nature at that time. It kind of stuck."

He met his wife, Elise, on a whitewater expedition. And the angry Macon flood of 1994 swept their riverside house away. No hard feelings: Even now, he's president of the Altamaha Riverkeeper, a non-profit dedicated to the preservation of Georgia's largest river system, including the stream that took his house.

Retiring after 40 years, Creswell comes from East Tennessee stock, though he never lived in that region himself. His folk-singer mother, though, collected the ballads of Appalachia and performed them at universities when he was a kid.

Known for teaching Torts at Mercer Law School, Creswell was working a four-year job as Executive Director of the Tennessee Law Revision Commission ("Big title, tiny agency, tiny salary," he quips) when he was introduced to whitewater and the wilds. It makes poetic sense, then, that when he first came to Mercer Law School in 1976, "one of the things they hired me to teach was environmental law." It was a wide-open legal area. "There was no casebook. It was a brand new field."

This was only one of the waves of innovation Creswell was part of. In 1978, he devised the Introduction to Law Study Course to replace the stodgy, "words coming in, words going out" orientation

lectures for entering 1Ls. The Intro course, subsequently renamed an Introduction to Law, remains a yearly institution in the week before regular classes start in the fall.

"Being a law student is unlike being any other kind of student," he says, perhaps especially in those disorienting opening weeks of a first semester. "The Intro course tries to prepare new students to take advantage of the first day of their substantive courses, and actually begin to acquire knowledge and skills."

In 1988, he and professors Hal Lewis and Jack Sammons were charged with responding to a \$12 million bequest from George Woodruff. As the Woodruff Committee, they designed the framework for the Woodruff Curriculum, helping to solidify Mercer Law School's reputation for graduating students already equipped with

the skills needed to practice law in the real world.

"The Woodruff Curriculum was designed to prepare people for law practice in the settings they were likely to encounter," Creswell says. "It was a heavily structured curriculum to ensure that our students were well grounded in the varieties of law that they would need. We chose not to use the

Woodruff endowment to increase faculty size and we essentially restructured what everybody was teaching in a way that would deliver the best educational experience.

"The biggest part of what we proposed was using the endowment proceeds to buy empty seats," he says.

Here's what he means: Since moving from its small building on the main campus in 1978 to the current site on Coleman Hill, entering classes had begun to swell up to and beyond the 200-student mark, as if to fill the larger space. "It was a mistake," Creswell says. "So the first thing on the Woodruff Committee's Curriculum's agenda was using the money to offset tuition and reduce the entering class

“What I’m still looking for every day are ways to help my class members become as good at being lifelong students of the law as they can be. I think that’s what the lawyer’s job is. It is a practice. It is something you never master. It is something you always — I hope — seek to improve upon.”



size substantially.”

“It was such a grand time in the history of the Law School,” he says. “We were getting to reinvent the school, and there was an incredible sense of opportunity.”

A few years later, in July 1994 when his house was being swallowed by the Ocmulgee, Creswell faced one of his biggest challenges while he was serving as interim dean. (Here comes that river theme again.)

The flood had shut down the city’s waterworks plant. Lack of water meant that none of the AC units could function at the Law School. It became a hothouse.

“Mushrooms sprouted from the carpet in the library,” Creswell recalls. “That’s kind of funny, but the library collection was in danger of being lost to mildew and fungus. Leatherbound, clothbound books — the library staff was going through with Lysol, trying to wipe everything down before we lost our entire collection.”

Creswell came up with a plan. An above-ground swimming pool was bought and erected in the Law School parking lot. He says, “A canoeing friend of mine knew somebody who worked at Brown & Williamson,” the tobacco company that once had a plant in Macon. “They had wells on their property, they had water — they were the ones supplying the Medical Center with tanker trucks.”

One of those trucks filled up the swimming pool, and the water was piped up to the AC units, cooling the School and saving the collection.

“It is probably the most entertaining thing I accomplished as interim dean,” Creswell says.

In the office he’ll soon be leaving, there’s a sort of shrine that includes a TAB soft drink can, a broken piece of brake tubing, and a shredded athletic shoe. “A student brought me his girlfriend’s shoe that was eaten by a Macon Mall escalator,” he explains. “These are classroom props — various things that students brought me — that commemorate tort cases that were at some time important.”

“I really enjoy working in this law school. You’d think, having taught first year law students for 40 years, that it would be old



hat. What I’m still looking for every day are ways to help my class members become as good at being lifelong students of the law as they can be. I think that’s what the lawyer’s job is. It is a practice. It is something you never master. It is something you always — I hope — seek to improve upon.”

Also in his office, as you’d expect from an outdoorsman like Creswell, photos of various whitewater canoeing expeditions hang on the walls. He and Elise will now have time to add to those photos and to protect the rivers they love.

For the next two academic years, Creswell plans to continue to teach his fall semester Torts class and Tort Law Seminar, but will have spring semesters off, fully retiring at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year.



## Associate Professor Jessica Feinberg

### Recent Publications

*Whither the Functional Parent? Revisiting the Need for Equitable Parenthood Doctrines in Light of the Increasing Availability to Same-Sex Parents of Avenues to Obtaining Formal Legal Parent Status*, 83 Brook. L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

*Consideration of Genetic Connections in Child Custody Disputes Between Same-Sex Parents: Fair or Foul?*, 81 Missouri L. Rev. 331 (2016).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Panelist, *Feminist Theory in Public Policy and State Regulation of Families*, U.S. Feminist Judgments Conference, Akron, Ohio.

Panelist, *Intimate Ordering After Obergefell*, Feminist Legal Theory Program, Law and Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Panelist, *Same-Sex Marriage and Its Implications*, International Society for Family Law, North American Regional Conference, Moran, Wyoming.



## Professor Timothy W. Floyd

*Tommy Malone Distinguished Chair in Trial Advocacy and Director of Experiential Education*

### Recent Publications

*Marking the Path from Law Student to Lawyer: Using Field Placement Courses to Facilitate the Deliberate Exploration of*

*Professional Identity and Purpose*, (with Kendall L. Kerew), 46 Mercer L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

Book Chapter, "Professional Identity Formation," in *Learning from Practice: A Professional Development Text for Externs*, 3rd edition (with Daisy Floyd) (Scherr, et al, editors) (2016).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Difficult Conversations*, Georgia Association of Legal Externships – Pathways to the Profession IV: Helping Students Chart Their Paths.

*Ethical Issues in Working with Law Students*, Houston County Bar Association.

*Professionalism for Local Government Attorneys*, 63rd Annual Institute for City and County Attorneys.

*Finding True North: Fostering Students' Formation of Professional Identity So They Can Develop Guiding Principles for Practice*, (with Terry and Kerew).



## Professor David Hricik

### Recent Publications

*Patent Ethics: Litigation* (4th ed., LexisNexis).

*Mastering Civil Procedure* (3rd ed., Carolina Academic Press).

*The Ethics of Client Development Using Technology and the Internet*, in *The Lawyer's Guide to Marketing on the Internet*, American Bar Association.

Combining Prosecution with Other Forms of Representation, a Chapter in *Drafting Patents for Litigation and Licensing*, ABA/BNA (2017 update).

*Writing Matters*, a regular column in the Georgia Bar Journal (co-authored with Professor Karen Sneddon).

Blogged regularly on Patentlyo.com, the nation's leading patent law blog.

### Select Speeches and Presentations

Professor Hricik gave more than 15 presentations throughout the country, including presenting in California, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

### Honors, Awards and Activities

Elected to the American Law Institute.

Selected as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.



## Professor Linda Jellum

*Ellison Capers Palmer Sr. Professor of Law*

### Recent Publications

Legislative Process, Statutory Interpretation, and Agencies: Cases and Problems (2016).

*The Shadow of Free Enterprise: the Unconstitutionality of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Administrative Law Judges*, 70 SMU L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017) (co-authored with Moses Tischer).

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

*Why the Securities and Exchange Commission's Administrative Law Judges Are Unconstitutional*, NYU School of Law's Corporate Compliance and Enforcement, March 17, 2017.

*Super Strong Clear Statement Rules Down Under*, JOTWELL, (Journal of Things We Like Lots), May 12, 2016, (article review).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*The Shadow of Free Enterprise: the Unconstitutionality of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Administrative*

*Law Judges*, Texas A&M School of Law Faculty Development Colloquium, Fort Worth, Texas.

Panelist, *Supreme Court Developments in Judicial Review*, American Bar Association, Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice's Fall Conference, Washington, D.C.

*The Shadow of Free Enterprise: the Unconstitutionality of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Administrative Law Judges*, Tulane University School of Law Faculty Development Colloquium, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Panelist, *Changing Jobs and Changing Roles: Perspectives on the Arc of a Legal Academic Career*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools' Annual Conference, Amelia Island, Florida.

### Honors, Awards and Activities

Reappointed Deputy Executive Director of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools.

Reappointed Secretary of the American Bar Association's Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section.

Appointed Chair of the Association of American Law Schools' Administrative Law Section.



## Professor Steve Johnson

*Walter F. George Professor of Law*

### Recent Publications

*#Better Rules: The Appropriate Use of Social Media in Rulemaking*, Fla. St. U. L. Rev. (2016).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*We Can Do More: The Course Source*, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) Conference, Atlanta.





## Professor Mark Jones

### Recent Publications

*Developing Virtue and Practical Wisdom in the Legal Profession and Beyond*, 68 Mercer L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

### Honors, Awards and Activities

Served as faculty supervisor (together with **Professor Timothy Floyd**) for a special student project contributing to the report "Imprisoned Justice: Inside Two Georgia Immigrant Detention Centers" published by Project South and Penn State Law's Immigrant Rights Clinic in May 2017.



## Associate Professor Jeremy Kidd

### Recent Publications

*Quacks or Bootleggers: Who's Really Regulating Hedge Funds?*, 75 Wash. & Lee L. Rev. (2017) (forthcoming).

*Clarifying the Probate Lending Debate: A Response to Professors Horton and Chandrasekher*, 93 Notre Dame L. Rev. Online (2017) (forthcoming).

*The Economics of Workplace Drug Testing*, 50 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 707 (2016).

*Trucker Shortage as Government Failure*, 1 Loyola U. Chi. J. Reg. Compliance 7 (2016).

### Amicus Briefs to Supreme Court

Brief of the Cato Institute as *Amicus Curiae* in support of Petitioner, Petition for Writ of Certiorari, *Blackman v. Gascho*, No. 16-364 (U.S. S. Ct. 2016).

Brief of the Cato Institute as *Amicus*

*Curiae* in support of Petitioner, Petition for Writ of Certiorari, *Schulman v. LexisNexis Risk and Information Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 15-1420 (U.S. S. Ct. 2016).

Brief of the Cato Institute as *Amicus Curiae* in support of Petitioner, Petition for Writ of Certiorari, *Frank v. Poertner*, No. 15-765 (U.S. S. Ct. 2016).

### Honors, Awards and Activities

Appointed as a member of the Georgia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Sworn in as a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar.



## Professor Patrick Longan

*W. A. Bootle Chair in Ethics and Professionalism*

### Recent Publications

*Professional Responsibility: Questions and Answers*, Carolina Academic Press (4th ed. forthcoming 2017).

*Educational Interventions to Cultivate Professional Identity in Law Students: Introduction*, 68 Mercer L. Rev. (forthcoming 2017).

*Legal Ethics, Annual Survey of Georgia Law*, 68 Mercer L. Rev. 167 (2016).

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Who's In Charge: The Ethics and Professionalism of Client v. Lawyer Control*, Valdosta Bar Association.

*Professionalism and the Future of Legal Services*, Georgia School Board Association School Law Seminar, Atlanta.

*Legal Ethics and the Future of Legal Services*, Georgia Tort Law Seminar, Macon.

Moderator, *Acting for Your Client*, Beginning Lawyers Program, Atlanta.



## Professor Teri McMurtry-Chubb

### Recent Publications

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

*Opinion for Loving v. Virginia* (1967), Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Opinions of the United States Supreme Court (Kathryn Stanchi, Linda Berger and Bridget Crawford, eds. Cambridge University Press 2016).

*#SayHerName, #BlackWomen'sLives-Matter: State Violence in Policing the Black Female Body*, 67 Mercer L. Rev. 651 (2016).

*The Women of Color-Blind Constitution*, A Submission to Alternate Constitution Day (#AltConstitutionDay 2016), RaceLawProf Blog.

### Select Presentations

Panelist, *The Changing Face of the War on Drugs: Mass Incarceration, Overcriminalization, and Evolving Drug Policy*, Intersectionality: An Intersectional Approach to Mass Incarceration, the War on Drugs, and Evolving Drug Policy, Detroit, Michigan.

Panelist, *The Historical Context and Framework for Understanding #SayHerName* Now We See It So We Can Change It: Making Visible Prioritizing and Redressing Police Violence Against Black Women, African American Women and the Law Conference, Washington, D.C.

Productive Scholarship Across the Tenure Spectrum, SEALS Workshop on Legal Education, Amelia Island, Florida.

*Dealing with the Elephant in the Elevator: How Race and Other Forms of Difference Live in Our Classes*, 17th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Portland, Oregon.



## Professor David Ritchie

*Professor of Law and Philosophy and Director of International Programs*

### Recent Publications

BRICS II: Institutionalization & Macau (Social Sciences Academic Press 2016) [Edited with Yanan Song].

*Towards an Institutional Structure for BRICS?* Yanan Song and David Ritchie, eds., BRICS II: Institutionalization & Macau (Social Sciences Academic Press 2016) [China].

### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Critical Perspectives on Human Rights*, Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, Magdalen College, Oxford.

*American Legal Reasoning*, Post-graduate Program at Veiga de Almeida University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*Economic Constitutionalism in Asia*, Graduate Program at Veiga de Almeida University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*The Moribund Nature of U.S. Supreme Court Jurisprudence: 1990-2016*, Fluminense Federal University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*Clash of Clans or a Partnership of Peoples*, First Annual Ethics, Leadership, and Service Lecture, Mercer University College of Liberal Arts, Macon.

*The Varieties of Constitutionalism*, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.



### Professor Michael Sabbath

*Homer Drake Jr. Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy Law*

#### Select Speeches and Presentations

Spoke at the W. Homer Drake Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, April 21, 2016, Savannah.



### Professor Emeritus Jack L. Sammons

*Griffin B. Bell Professor of Law*

#### Recent Publications

*Professional Development and The Art of Self*, 68 Mercer L. Rev. (2017).

*Brainerd Currie at Mercer*, 24 Journal of Southern Legal History 199 (2017).

#### Select Speeches and Presentations

*The Art of Judging in International Human Rights Law: A to Baroness Onora O'Neill*, Australian Catholic University's Institute of Religion and Critical Inquiry's Conference on Cosmopolitanism and National Identity, Rome, Italy.



### Gary Simson

*Senior Vice Provost for Scholarship and Macon Chair in Law*

#### Recent Publications

*Should No Garland Mean No Gorsuch?* National Law Journal (March 20, 2017).

#### Select Speeches and Presentations

Co-Chair of the Scholarly Research Committee of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS).

Member of the Board of Directors of Strategies for Youth – a national nonprofit dedicated to improving communications and relations between police and youth.

*Civil Rights and Religious Freedom Legislation*, event sponsored by Georgia Equality, Mercer University's Common Ground and groups at Middle Georgia State University and Wesleyan College.

*Students' Rights to Protest On and Off Campus*, Wesleyan College.

Served as a State Contest Judge to select Georgia's representative at the national High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, "A Constitutional Speech Contest."

Chaired a year-long Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Faculty Scholarship with one representative named by each of Mercer University's twelve deans, and took the lead in drafting a detailed report with recommendations to the Provost on tenure standards and procedures, support for tenure-track faculty and the availability of sabbatical leaves.



### Professor Karen Sneddon

#### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Challenges and Strategies for Changing Times*, Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Portland, Oregon.

*Tales from a Form Book: Stock Stories and Estate Planning Forms, Wills, Trusts and Estates Meets Gender, Race and Class Part II*, Oklahoma City University School of Law, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

*Teaching Trusts and Estates in the Age of Assessment*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS), Amelia Island, Florida.

#### Honors, Awards and Activities

Selected as a member of the SEALS New Scholars Committee and the SEALS Trusts and Estates Resource Group (2016-2017).

Selected editor-in-chief of *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*.



### Scott Titshaw

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

#### Recent Publications

*Same-Sex Spouses as 'Spouses' Under the EU Family Reunification and Citizens Directives*, *Journal Vreemdelingenrecht*, No. 2 (Netherlands 2016).

*Same-Sex Spouses Lost in Translation? How to Interpret 'Spouse' in the EU Family Migration Directives*, 34 B.U. Int'l L.J. 45 (2016).

#### Select Speeches and Presentations

*Federalism, Families and Citizenship*, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Conference in Prague, Czech Republic.

*Comparative Federalism, Fam-Migration and Citizenship by Descent*, SEALS Conference in Boca Raton, Florida.

*Comparative Federalism and Family Immigration: The Example of LGBT Families*, Radboud University Centre for Migration Law, Nijmegen, Netherlands, and University of Konstanz Research Center on Immigration and Policy Law, Constance, Germany.

*Genitori oltre confine: una comparazione dedicate ai profil privatistici, di diritto internazionale e dell'UE*, University of Florence Department of Legal Science in Florence, Italy.

*We Are Family! Stop Trying to Define Me*, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), podcast.

*Child Citizenship in a Changing World*, AILA annual conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Everybody Wants to Rule the World: Advocacy and Ethics* (discussion leader and panelist), AILA Georgia-Alabama Chapter Annual Conference, Atlanta.





SCHOOL OF LAW

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C. Jeffrey Kaufman '77  
Robert J. Kauffman '88  
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Jerry S. Luxenberg '70  
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Hugh B. McNatt '72  
Lynn M. McNatt  
James E. Messer '93  
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M. Yvette Miller '80  
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Frederick B. Murphy  
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George M. Peagler, Jr. '75  
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Bethany M. Rezek '06  
Laurie H. Ross '82  
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Thomas D. Applewhite '94  
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Sarah Ann Bartholomew '89  
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Andrew Benbow '09  
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Kristin K. Bloodworth '09  
Barbara S. Boyer '83  
Wesley J. Boyer '83  
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Edwin B. Branch  
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Barbara A. Brown '84  
James A. Brown '87  
Lizanne F. Carlson '13  
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Margaret C. Chambliss  
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David Cheng '12  
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† Current and former Law faculty/staff

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# CLASSNotes

## 1957

**Richard H. Mills** celebrated 50 years on the bench in Dec. 2016. He was sworn in as Circuit Judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit of Illinois in December 1966.

## 1966

**Tommy Malone** was re-elected Mercer's Chair of the Board of Trustees at the board's annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**W. Carl Reynolds** was installed as a new member of Mercer's Board of Trustees at the board's annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

## 1967

**Joel C. Williams** joined Taylor English Duma LLP as counsel in the firm's corporate and business practice group.

## 1970

**J. Carlisle Overstreet** received the Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016. He retired as Chief Judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit on Dec. 31, 2016.

## 1972

**Hugh B. McNatt** was recognized with the 15th annual Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award at the 2016 State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting by the Bench and

Bar Committee for demonstrating the highest professional conduct and paramount reputation for professionalism.

**David F. Sipple** of Hunter MacLean in Savannah was selected to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law.

## 1975

**John D. Barry** joined Spicer Rudstrom PLLC as of counsel in its Chattanooga office in April 2017. Barry is a retired lieutenant colonel of the JAG.

**Randall A. Meincke** became a full-time Associate Judge for Forsyth County Juvenile Court starting July 25, 2015. He was previously appointed part-time Associate Judge in August 2014.

## 1979

**R. Howard Jump** served as editor and contributing author for the insurance law section of the 2016 *Survey of Law*, published annually by the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. He is a past president of the association and practices in Chicago, Illinois.

**Donna Price** has relocated her law practice to Charlottesville, Virginia, where she represents individuals in security clearance adjudications and will be building a family compound.

**Jonathan A. Weintraub** married Amy Ratoosh Simon on July 9, 2016.

## 1982

**J. William Pierce, Jr.**, was listed as leading attorney in the area of real estate and secured lending by the *Chambers USA* 2016 guide. Pierce is an attorney at Glankler Brown, a Memphis, Tennessee firm. He was selected to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Real Estate Law.

**Jeffery L. Thompson**, of Atlanta-based firm Constangy, Brooks, Smith and Prophete LLP, was named to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* for Employment Law Management and Litigation in Labor and Employment.

## 1983

**Elena M. Albamonte** was featured in a *Washington Post* article on March 28, 2017, about her 30-year career as an immigration lawyer.

## 1984

**Nancy Grace** began a new five-year term as a member of Mercer University's Board of Trustees at the board's annual Homecoming meeting on Nov. 4, 2016.

**Lynne M. White**, an attorney with Baker Donelson in Orlando, Florida, was selected to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Real Estate Law.

## 1985

**Diana Strichard Barber** was appointed Assistant Professor of Hospitality Law and Liability in the Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality at Kennesaw State University. Previously she was a Senior Lecturer and Director of Study Abroad Programs at Georgia State University in Atlanta and taught there for 12 years.

**William Lee Robinson** was awarded the 2015 Indigent Defense Award by the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

**Darcee S. Siegel**, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil Circuit Mediator, was nominated to serve on the American Bar Association's Board of Governors for a three-year term commencing in August 2016. She was nominated as a section member at large to represent the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division of the ABA.

**Carter L. Stout** was named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary Club of Dunwoody for his leadership and service as Director at Large and Race Relations Director for the Club's 5K race.

## 1986

**Jill Anderson Travis** received the 2015 GACDL President's Award from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

## 1988

**Patrick A. Dawson** wrote an article, "Slaves, the Law, and the Banality of Horror," which was published in the *Journal of Southern Legal History* (23 J. S. Legal Hist. 161 (2015)). He also became a partner in the Cheeley Law Group LLC in June 2016.

**Jan A. Wheeler** was appointed Chief Juvenile Judge for the Appalachian Judicial Circuit in September 2016, serving Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin counties. Previously, she was Associate Juvenile Court Judge for the Appalachian Judicial Circuit.

## 1989

**Lisa Ritchey Craig** was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia on March 24, 2016.

## HOMECOMING 2016

Mercer Law School alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered for Mercer's Homecoming on Nov. 5, 2016. Hosted by Mercer Law School, the tailgate was graciously sponsored by the Macon Bar Association; the Young Alumni Council; Ivy Cadle, '07, Baker Donelson; Applied Risk Management; Michael Kaufman, '15, Kaufman Law; Health Law Society; Phi Delta Phi; Mercer Trial Lawyers Association; and the Student Bar Association.



CI SWITH PHOTOGRAPHY



## CLASSNotes

**Ellen S. Golden** was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to the Board of Trustees of the Judicial Retirement System of Georgia on Aug. 1, 2016.

**John D. Mills** received the 2016 President's Book Award from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association on Aug. 6, 2016, in the Florida Adult Fiction category for *The Hooker, the Dancer and the Nun*, published by Pono Publishing.

**Paul "Pete" Wellborn** was reappointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Technology Authority on July 5, 2016.

### 1991

**George H. Hartwig, III**, District Attorney for the Houston County Judicial Circuit, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council.

**Jonathan W. Hedgepeth**, founding partner of the Hedgepeth, Heredia & Rieder family law firm in Atlanta, has been named to *Atlanta Magazine's* Super Lawyers listing of top Georgia Lawyers for the past four consecutive years. Additionally, Hedgepeth's band, Goat Rodeo, hosted and headlined a major fundraiser for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in January 2017.

**Franklin J. Hogue** received the 2015 G. Terry Jackson Friend of the Constitution Award from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

**Charles Ray Sheffield** has been named president and chief executive officer of the George C. Woodruff Company effective Jan. 1, 2017. Sheffield has spent the past five years working as CEO of the Woodruff Company and was on the board of directors beginning in 2006.

### 1995

**Charles "Chuck" Hodges, II**, joined Jones Day as a partner in the domestic and international tax law practice.

### 1996

**Clyde L. Reese, III**, was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, effective Dec. 1, 2016.

**Rebecca Ashley Wright** was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, as the next Superior Court Judge for the Augusta Judicial Circuit to replace retiring Judge J. David Roper. Wright was previously with the District Attorney's Office for almost 21 years.

### 1998

**Jeffery N. Osteen** has been appointed State Court Judge of Liberty County by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Hon. Leon M. Braun, Jr. Osteen, who is currently the Liberty County solicitor-general, is an attorney with Jones Osteen & Jones in Hinesville.

**Jonathan J. Tuggle** of Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle was selected to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Family Law. He was also elected president of The Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law American Inn of Court.

### 1999

**J. Cameron Halford** became a managing partner of Halford, Niemiec & Freeman LLP. The firm has offices in the Rock Hill, Fort Mill and Lake Wylie communities of York County, South Carolina.

### 2001

#### Class Correspondents:

**Chad Hastings**, [chastings@lesserlawfirm.com](mailto:chastings@lesserlawfirm.com)

**Michelle Pinto**, [michellepintoesq@gmail.com](mailto:michellepintoesq@gmail.com)

**Laura L. Voght**, [lvoght@wwhgd.com](mailto:lvoght@wwhgd.com)

**Susan Warren**, [susanwarren@yahoo.com](mailto:susanwarren@yahoo.com)

**William Patrick Miles, Jr.**, was promoted to partner at Gregory, Doyle, Calhoun & Rogers LLC in Marietta.

**Connie Y. Min** appears in the CBS primetime reality show *Hunted* as an Intelligence Analyst. She is most recently a crime analyst with the Redmond Police Department in Washington state.

### 2002

**Tomieka R. Daniel** was promoted to managing attorney of the Macon regional offices of Georgia Legal Services. Daniel started with the office as a Dan Bradley Fellow while a student at Mercer Law School, and was hired in her fifth semester.

**Laura B. Traylor** joined MendenFreiman LLP as an of counsel attorney practicing estate planning, trust and estate.

**Kathleen L. Wright**, a partner at Gentry Locke in Roanoke, Virginia, was selected to the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Litigation-Municipal.

### 2003

**Vera Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield** married William Lindsey on March 18, 2017, at the Meldrim Woods Plantation in Brooklet.

**David L. Mincey, III**, was appointed Superior Court Judge of the Macon Judicial Circuit by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66, to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of the Hon. Tripp Self to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

### 2004

#### Class Correspondents:

**Lauren Pierce Thomas**, [Lauren3003@gmail.com](mailto:Lauren3003@gmail.com)

**Lauren Shurling Finley**, [laurenshurling@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenshurling@hotmail.com)

**Heather H. Lanier** was elected Superior Court Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit, covering Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Mitchell and Grady counties. Lanier, starting her tenure in January 2017, is the first female judge to hold this position within the circuit.

**Brandon L. Peak** was elected president of the Columbus Bar Association. Peak is a partner at Butler Wooten & Peak LLP.

**Lauren Pierce Thomas** joined Amazon as Senior HR Manager for Finance in December 2016. She was previously the Senior Vice President of TMX Finance.

**Amanda E. Meloun Trimble** was appointed Juvenile Court Judge in the Western Judicial Circuit, which includes Clarke and Oconee counties, on Dec. 1, 2016.

## COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS

Mercer Law School's Cocktails and Conversations event, sponsored by Alumni and Career Services, was held on Oct. 13, 2016, on the rooftop of the Lofts at Mercer Landing overlooking Five Star Stadium. The meet-and-greet amongst current students, fellow alumni, guests, faculty and staff was a great success as everyone enjoyed the beautiful sunset, the view of the campus, networking and catching up with old friends.



AMY MADDOX PHOTOS

**Stuart E. Walker** was elected president of the Macon Bar Association for 2016-2017.

### 2005

**M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins** received the Award of Achievement for Service to the YLD from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

**Floyd S. Mills, III**, was named one of Top Ten Personal Injury Attorneys in South Carolina for 2016 by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys. He was also recognized as a "Rising Star" for the

fifth consecutive year by Super Lawyers.

**Christopher J. Mueller** was named to the 2016 Super Lawyers list for construction law. In addition, on July 29, 2016, he spoke at the ALFA International Construction Practice Group seminar in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on the topic "The Building Code and Beyond: Government's Role in Construction and Construction Litigation."

**Jonathan E. Smith** was one of 25 attorneys named to the *Fulton County Daily Report's* "40 on the Rise." Smith is associate general counsel of the Atlanta Braves.



## 2007

**Jason W. Blanchard** joined the Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division. He will be stationed at the Augusta branch of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**Ivy Cadle** recently concluded his term as president of the William Augustus Bootle Inn of Court and as president-elect of the Macon Bar Association. He is currently serving as president of the Macon Bar Association (2017-2018), as well as chair-elect of the Eminent Domain Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

**Matthew O. Riddle** has been named a partner at Young Clement Rivers LLP. He practices primarily in the firm's workers compensation groups.

**James A. Robson** and his wife, Kate, announced the birth of their daughter, Lydia Charlotte, on Feb. 22, 2016.

**Amanda N. Steger** and husband **Brett Lee Steger**, '07, welcomed their second child, Andrew Brett, on Dec. 24, 2015.

## 2008

### Class Correspondent:

Bryan Babcock, [Babcock.bryan.o@gmail.com](mailto:Babcock.bryan.o@gmail.com)

**Jason T. Cummings** became a partner at Morris, Manning & Martin LLP on Jan. 1, 2017. Cummings represents public and private companies in the firm's corporate technology and securities practice based in Atlanta.

**Stephen D. Delk** and Suzanne Delk announced the birth of their daughter, Vivian (Vivi) Whitley, on March 15, 2017.

**Jonathan T. Edwards** was elected partner at Alston & Bird LLP. Edwards is in the bankruptcy and financial restructuring group at Alston & Bird.

**Charles "Chuck" Efratration**, Georgia State Representative, was appointed Administration Floor Leader by Gov. Nathan Deal, '66. Efratration also serves as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Criminal Justice Reform Council. Rep. Efratration led the House of Representatives on March 14 in welcoming Mercer Law students visiting the State Capitol.

**Rhett Fraser** and Heidi Fraser announced the birth of their son, Raleigh Garrett, on June 8, 2016.

**Kristin Pollard Kiel** was named by *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the Top 10 Black Women Attorneys You Should Know.

**Brittany Adams Lavalley**, husband, A.D., and son, Harrison, welcomed a new baby girl, Anna Maria Lynn, on Nov. 4, 2016.

**George T. Major, Jr.**, was named partner at Oliver Maner LLP. Major has been with the firm since 2009 and focuses his litigation practice in the areas of plaintiff's personal injury, wrongful death and products liability litigation and the defense of medical malpractice cases.

**Patrick M. Mincey** received an AV rating through Martindale-Hubbell in March 2017.

**Eric Trivett** and Carrie Keel Trivett announced the birth of their second child, William Bradley, born on Thursday, August 20, 2015. William joins big sister, Ellen.

**Katherine Miller Tucker** and Chad Tucker announced the birth of their son, Jackson Miller, on Feb. 22, 2017.

**Jamanda Newton Turner** married Brian Alan Teal on Dec. 10, 2016.

## 2009

### Class Correspondent:

Cayce Myers, [mcmymyers@vt.edu](mailto:mcmymyers@vt.edu)

**Lee Ann Feeley** welcomed her son, Augustus (Gus) Victor, on Jan. 24, 2017.

**R. Kyle George** was appointed clerk of court for the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia in April 2014 after having served as chief deputy clerk since January 2011.

**Bryan Johnson** and **Emily Griffin Johnson**, '09, welcomed their son, George Leo, on Sept. 22, 2016. He joins his three-year-old sister, Natalee Catherine.

**Ian M. McMullen** joined Waddell & Associates in Milledgeville in September 2015.

**Leah Fiorenza McNeill** and husband **W. Taylor McNeill**, '10, welcomed daughter, Maren, in April 2016. Leah was also recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star in Bankruptcy for 2017.

**Dave Meek** won second place for his story "Skyspaw" in the science fiction and fantasy category of the 2017 Zebulon Fiction Writing Contest. Meek is currently an attorney with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Washington, D.C.

**Anne C. Myers** was appointed senior attorney advisor at the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Roanoke, Virginia.

**M. Cayce Myers**, along with his Virginia Tech colleague, Wat Hopkins, published the book *Mass Communication Law in Virginia*, fourth edition.

**Brooke C. Obie** recently published *Book of Addis: Cradled Embers*, the first of a three-part literary fiction series. Her thesis for The New School's MFA in Fiction program, which became *Book of Addis*, was a finalist for a Fulbright Fellowship. She attended a writing workshop with Columbia University in Paris, France, and attended the Callaloo *Journal of African Diaspora Arts & Letters* workshop at Oxford University in July 2016.

**Richard A. Phillips** was named partner at Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers LLP in January 2017.

**Katie Powers** was appointed as judge to the State Court of Clayton County on Jan. 4, 2017. She married Stephanie Gallagher on April 8, 2017.

**Sunny R. Sandos** was recently named executive director of Planned Giving for East Tennessee State University. Sandos was also elected president of the Northeast Tennessee Young Lawyers Association, of the Tennessee Bar Association, covering a jurisdiction of nine counties.

**Emily McLarty Shuman** and husband, Bobby, welcomed son, Robert Gillespie, on Oct. 25, 2016.

**Lindsey R. Stewart** joined Mercer University's School of Law as Assistant Director of Career Services in 2016.

**Arthur R. York** joined Apolinsky & Associates in Decatur.

# CLASS OF 2016

## Final Honors

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

### Summa Cum Laude

Tyler Preston Bishop, *salutatorian*  
Thomas Alec Chappell, *valedictorian*  
Emily Louise Evett  
Lillian Taylor Hamrick  
Henry Thomas Shaw

### Magna Cum Laude

Chase Edward Boswell  
Ebony Jervonné Brown  
Louie Whit Carmon, II  
Laura K. DiBiase  
J. Micah Dickie  
Hillary Lynn Freesmeier  
Jordan Scott Johnson  
Steven Lewis Jones  
Danielle Marie Matricardi

### Cum Laude

Faatima Ally  
David Benjamin Anderson  
Natasha Sarah-Lorraine Banks  
James Forrest Banter  
Robert Britton Beecher  
Peter John Bigham, Jr.  
James Derek Brown  
Jessica Paola Cañedo  
Joseph Steven Clark  
Jesse Stephen Couch  
Megan Ryan Cramer  
Mary Elizabeth Gilchrist  
David Joseph Greenberg  
Crystal Marie Hendley  
Hannah Crook Hensley  
Robert Brady Herman  
Harris Kennedy Howard  
Alisha Ann Humphrey  
Barret West Kirby  
Aaron Benjamin Laga  
Margaret Ellen McCoy  
Jasmin Annette Morris  
Monique Octavia Nichols  
Leonard Stanley Riepe  
Ketienné M. Telemaque  
Zachary Tyler Thurber  
Patricia-Anne Upson  
Mark Louis Usher  
Jessica Marie Uzzo  
Alston Elizabeth Waldrip  
Joshua James Ware



**J. Carlisle Overstreet, '70**, and granddaughter Mary John Overstreet at the unveiling of his portrait on March 29, 2017. He retired as Chief Judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit on Dec. 31, 2016. The portrait was made possible by contributions from members of the local bar and friends.

# CLASSNotes

## 2010

**Class Correspondent:**  
Rizza Palmares O'Connor,  
rizzapalmares@gmail.com

**Jennifer Friend Block** and **Jesse Block**, '11, along with big sister Parker, announced the birth of their daughter, Emily Katherine, on April 9, 2016.

**Candice Branche** was named the deputy chief assistant district attorney for the Newton County office in the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. She has also taken a position as a faculty trainer for the National Drug Court Institute.

**A. Alexandra Brown** announced the merger of the law office of A. Alex Brown and the law office

of John R. Thigpen Sr. to form the firm Brown & Thigpen PC located in Waycross. Brown serves as managing partner. January 2017 marked the second year that Brown served as chairwoman of the board of directors of the Okefenokee Humane Society, located in Waycross.

**Elizabeth A. Carr** graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016. She was also promoted to Director of Career Services at Mercer University School of Law on July 25, 2016. She was previously the Assistant Director of Career Services.

**Tiffany Norris Cooper** and **Kyle Cooper** announced the birth of their daughter, Scarlett Rhea, on Sept. 27, 2015.

**Falen O. Cox** and **John W. Rodman**, '08, announced the formation of Cox, Rodman, & Middleton LLC, a litigation law firm practicing

criminal defense, personal injury, business formation, contract, family and employment law on Jan. 4, 2017, in Savannah.

**Audrey James Davis** and husband, Chip, announced the birth of their first child, William Cheek Davis IV, on Aug. 19, 2016.

**Richard H. Flournoy** and his wife, Michelle, announced the birth of their daughter, Alice Josephine, on Sept. 5, 2016. In October 2015, Richard was named deputy administrator for product management at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency.

**R. Walker Garrett** was elected to represent District 8 in the City Council in Columbus, on May 24, 2016.

**Tiffany Gardner** and husband, Ross, along with sons Liam (3 years old) and Neil (2 years old), welcomed a baby boy, Evan Kenneth, born on March 18, 2017, in Atlanta.

**Amanda N. Heath** graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016. She was also appointed to a four-year term to serve the Juvenile Court of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, effective Oct. 1, 2016. She is the first African-American female judge to serve in this position and is the youngest sitting judge in the Augusta Judicial Circuit.

**Danielle Phillips McBride** and her husband Ashley Steven McBride welcomed a daughter, Annabeth Audrey, born on April 1, 2016.

**Matthew Mitchell** and wife, Tasha, welcomed twin boys, Mercer Gage and Sawyer Rhett, on May 25, 2016.

**Rizza Palmares O'Connor** and **Daniel O'Connor**, '12, announced the birth of their second child, Evelyn Lee, on April 3, 2016.

**Justin L. Oliverio** was recognized in the Sole Proprietor category for raising 12,200 pounds of food during the 2016 Legal Food Frenzy.

**William K. Otto** joined the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) in Washington, D.C., as an attorney in the Office of Litigation and Policy on May 13, 2016.

**Nicholas J. Pavlov** and wife, Samantha, welcomed their third child, Fiona Jo, on Dec. 14, 2016.

**Rachel Worthington Purcell** and her husband, Walt, announced the birth of their son, Truett William, born Oct. 11, 2016.

**MaryBeth Tolle** and her husband, Brandon, welcomed their second child, a daughter named Ansley Jane, on Dec. 29, 2016.

**Jeannette Salter Waring** married **William Winburn Waring, III**, '10, on Oct. 31, 2015, in Mexico.

## 2011

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

**Dustin E. Davies** received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Bar from the Young

Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016. Davies was named a Georgia Super Lawyer Rising Star in Personal Injury for the fourth year. He also was named an associate fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.

**Hayley Strong Hall** married Daniel Hall on June 4, 2016.

**Emily Norris Harrell** married Jeff Harrell on Oct. 22, 2016

**Margaret E. Heinen** was elected chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Georgia in July 2016. In September 2016, Heinen became the editor of *What's the Decision?*, a members-only publication of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers that summarizes recent important decisions of Georgia's state and federal appellate courts.

**Alexandra E. Landis** started as Assistant General Counsel at Maryland-based Textron Systems in January 2017. Landis married Tyler Jones in October 2016.

**Collier W. McKenzie** was named partner at Jones Cork & Miller LLP, effective Jan. 1, 2017. In addition, McKenzie, wife Meredith, and son West, welcomed Harrison Moore, born May 10, 2016.

**Elizabeth Pool O'Neal** was named partner at Smith, Welch, Webb & White LLC. O'Neal has been with the firm since she graduated in 2011 and focuses her practice in the areas of family law, adoption, general civil litigation and juvenile law. O'Neal also received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

**Michael A. Rivera** graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

**Jordan Wiegele** married Christopher Carter in Breckenridge, Colorado, on Sept. 3, 2016.

## 2012

**Class Correspondent:**  
**Justin Purvis**, [Justinpurvis10@gmail.com](mailto:Justinpurvis10@gmail.com)

**Courtney L. Bodie**, associate attorney at Klosinski Overstreet, LLP married Matthew Patrick on June 4, 2016.

**James Daniel Cole** graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

**Norbert "Bert" D. Hummel, IV**, of Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, was named one of Georgia's Top 30 Attorneys Under 40 by the *Fulton County Daily Report*.

**J. Nicholas Phillips** joined Bloom Sugarman LLP as an associate to counsel corporate and individual clients in civil litigation in federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels. Phillips previously worked at Troutman Sanders.

**Ashley N. Pruitt** joined Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers in Atlanta as an associate in their general civil litigation section. Pruitt was previously with a national insurance company.

**Natalie Fears Sundeen** and **Chris Sundeen**, with big sister Channing, announced the birth of their

# In Memory

## 1940's

**William J. Neville**, '49, of Portal, Sept. 15, 2016.

**Ben Barron Ross**, '49, of Lincolnnton, Dec. 30, 2016.

**Jesse McDowell Sellers**, '49, of Jacksonville, Florida, April 2, 2017.

## 1950's

**Michael A. Deep**, '50, of Macon, May 9, 2016.

**William Penn Tyson, Jr.**, '50, of Springfield, Virginia, Dec. 1, 2016.

**Joseph Hyder Davis**, '51, of Roswell, Aug. 13, 2016.

**Cubbedge Snow, Jr.**, '52, of Macon, Dec. 4, 2016.

**Mitchel P. House, Jr.**, '59, of Macon, Sept. 6, 2016.

## 1960's

**Leon Eugene Highsmith**, '60, of South Jordan, Utah, Aug. 12, 2016.

**Robert Lee Steed**, '61, of Atlanta, June 4, 2016.

**Norman E. Fogle**, '62, of Neeses, South Carolina, April 6, 2014.

**John Albert Sligh, Jr.**, '65, of Snellville, Oct. 11, 2013.

**Edward Jerome Harrell**, '69, of Macon, Sept. 5, 2016.

## 1970's

**Richard A. Wagner**, '71, of Rockledge, Florida, Oct. 31, 2015.

**Fred E. Godwin, Jr.**, '72, of Warner Robins, Feb. 3, 2017.

**Brenda Lord Freeman**, '75, of Austin, Texas, June 23, 2015.

**Merton A. Hollister**, '75, of Green Cove Springs, Florida, Feb. 28, 2017.

**David Mell Langford**, '79, of Atlanta, March 21, 2017.

## 1980's

**George Harold Carswell, Jr.**, '80, of Monticello, Florida, Dec. 27, 2016.

**Frank R. Seigel**, '80, of Atlanta, Aug. 28, 2015.

**John Russell Mayer**, '81, of Decatur, Jan. 6, 2017.

**Hugh Thomas Arthur, II**, '82, of Camden, South Carolina, Feb. 3, 2017.

**Sue Ballard Gilliam**, '82, of Henderson, North Carolina, July 28, 2016.

**Nathan Curtis Lee**, '83, of Hopewell, Virginia, Jan. 1, 2017.

**Mildred Albert Hargrove**, '84, of Charleston, South Carolina, May 21, 2016.

**Gary E. Brown**, '85, of Live Oak, Florida, Feb. 13, 2017.

**Charles Edward Bagley, Jr.**, '88, of Atlanta, Oct. 5, 2016.

**William Michael Peterson**, '89, of Warner Robbins, Dec. 6, 2016.

## 1990's

**Michael Norman Soucy**, '98, of Alpharetta, April 1, 2017.

## 2000's

**Keith Corbin Hopkins**, '04, of Decatur, Alabama, Aug. 13, 2016.



## University Icon and Life Trustee

# Robert L. Steed, CLA '58, LAW '61

**D**istinguished Alumnus Robert L. Steed, who served as the University's seventh Life Trustee and was a tireless champion for Mercer, died at his Buckhead home on June 4, 2016. "Bob Steed was one of Mercer's most loyal sons," said President William D. Underwood. "His affinity for the University had no limit, and he served it faithfully for most of his life. Indeed, he was one of our greatest ambassadors. Bob was greatly beloved, and we will miss his wit, wisdom, warm personality and constant advocacy for his cherished alma mater."

Steed, a senior partner with King & Spalding's Public Finance Practice Group, served as bond counsel to the State of Georgia and to cities, counties and governmental authorities throughout the state and the Southeast.

He was a noted humorist and author. His humor columns appeared for many years in *The Atlanta Constitution* and in papers of the *New York Times* Regional Newspaper Group. Mercer University Press published several of his books, including *Willard Lives!*, 1981; *Lucid Intervals*, 1983; *Money, Power and Sex (A Self-Help Guide for All Ages)*, 1985; *The Sass Menagerie*, 1988; *Mail Fraud, The Laughable Letters of Robert L. Steed*, 1991; and *A Ship Without an Udder*, 1995. Steed's commentaries could occasionally be heard on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

While a student, he served as editor of *The Mercer Cluster* and wrote the paper's popular column "Willard Lives." Steed graduated from Mercer in 1958 and earned his law degree from Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law. In 1961-1962, Steed served as law clerk to Justice Carlton Mobley on the Supreme Court of Georgia. He joined King & Spalding in 1962 and became a partner in 1967.

Steed provided extensive leadership to his alma mater. In addition to serving six terms as a member of the Board of Trustees, including chairing the board for several years, he was a member of the board of the Walter F. George Trust, chair of the Mercer School of Law Board of Visitors and president of the Law Alumni Association. He served as the popular master of ceremonies for the Mercer

University Press Authors' Luncheon for many years, an event that raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Press.

"There will never be another Bob Steed," said Richard A. "Doc" Schneider, current trustee, former board chair and longtime law firm colleague. "He championed causes from starving artists to budding lawyers to his cherished Mercer and King & Spalding. If you were in trouble or needed a helping hand, there was no one better than Bob Steed. In Bob Steed, we had a friend."

Among his many honors, he was a recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Mercer Law School and the Journalistic Achievement Award and Honor Award from the Council of Authors and Journalists. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from Mercer in 1979.

"Bob Steed is practically the definition of Mercer," said Mercer trustee Gene Gabbard, who served several terms on the board with Steed. "I really enjoyed Bob and Judge (Griffin) Bell's jesting with him. I will never forget when Judge Bell said to me, 'Bob has written more books than he has read!'"

Steed also provided exemplary leadership while serving as executive vice chair of the Mercer 2000: Advancing the Vision Campaign.

Steed is survived by his wife, Lu; three children — Josh Steed, Nona Bickers and Georgia Vance; and 10 grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Mercer's Steed Scholarship by contacting the Office of University Advancement at (800) 837-2911.



son, Maverick Christopher, on Sept. 8, 2016. She was also appointed associate judge of Jackson's Municipal Court on Jan. 3, 2017. She has served as a public defender in Locust Grove's municipal court, as a juvenile conflict attorney in the Towalliga Judicial Circuit and as director of continuing legal education for Mercer Law School.

**Jennifer Terry** and husband Josh, along with their son, Luke, announced the birth of their daughter, Winifred Anne, born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on June 28, 2016.

**Dinh Tran** formed a partnership with Sherrod Seward and opened an immigration firm, Queen City Immigration Law, in Charlotte, North Carolina, focusing on providing immigration solutions for employers, investors and individuals.

**Ailya Zaidi** and husband, Hasan, announced the birth of their son, Zameer, on Jan. 5, 2017.

### 2013

**Ashley A. Akins** received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016. Akins joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an attorney in the

Atlanta office, where she will practice with the school and university law group.

**Keith A. Johnston** joined Spivey Pope Green and Greer in Macon as an associate practicing in the areas of business litigation, general civil litigation and corporate law.

**Kristi Marie Minor** graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

### 2014

#### Class Correspondent:

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

**Lindsey Anne Hansen** married **Adam Henry Miller, II**, '14, on April 17, 2016, in Norcross.

**Jennifer M. Howard** joined Joseph Law Firm PC, a full-service immigration law firm based in Aurora, Colorado, on March 13, 2017.

**Adam Michael Miller** joined GrayRobinson P.A. as an associate in the insurance defense practice group.

**Steven L. Pruitt, II**, graduated from the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia on June 17, 2016.

### 2015

#### Class Correspondent:

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

**Dallas C. Cox** became an Assistant District Attorney for Fulton County. He was previously an Assistant District Attorney for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit.

**Elizabeth E. Lambert** joined Scroggin & Company P.C. in Roswell as an associate and will be working in the firm's estate and business practices. Lambert recently graduated from the University of Florida Master of Laws in Taxation program.

### 2016

#### Class Correspondents:

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

**Wesley B. Beamon** was sworn in as Assistant Judge for Schley County Magistrate Court effective Jan. 1, 2017.

**Heather L. Bishop** married Matt Logan on Aug. 27, 2016, in Alpharetta.

**Jessica Paola Canedo** married **Donovan Jacob Wallace**, '16, at Oakhurst Farm on Oct. 15, 2016.

**Janet Cantrell** joined the Eichholz Law Firm PC in Macon 2016. Cantrell practices in the areas of plaintiffs personal injury, workers compensation and long shore workers compensation.

**Fabiani A. Duarte** was selected for the 2016-2017 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Emerging Leaders Program.

**Emily L. Evett** married Tyler Cooper on Oct. 16, 2016. Evett also joined Carver & DeBord P.C. in Canton as an associate practicing criminal defense, probate and juvenile law.

**Christina Faye Mathis** married Jacob Bloodworth at Crane Cottage in Jekyll Island on Oct. 22, 2016.

**Bryan William Miller** announced the formation of the Miller Institute for Public Policy in January 2017. The Miller Institute is designed to preserve the legacy of former Gov. Zell Miller, promote bipartisan solutions to critical issues facing Georgia and inspire stakeholders to work together to achieve results. Miller serves as chairman of the board and executive director of the Miller Institute.

# THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

## *Tom ('74) and Wendy Reiman*

Tom Reiman credits much of his success as an attorney, corporate executive and business school professor to the professional and business experience he obtained through his legal education at Mercer, saying, "Mercer Law School taught me how to write, how to think and speak on my feet and how to think critically, all very important skills in law, business and even teaching." As a result, he has a strong desire to give back to the institution that equipped him for such success.

He and his wife, Wendy, have been generous supporters of the Law School since his graduation. They recently established an endowed scholarship to help provide aspiring attorneys with opportunities for a quality legal education. It is their desire to have the scholarship awarded to students who are the first in their families to attend college or law school.

By establishing an endowed scholarship, the Reimans cherish the opportunity to experience giving in a personal, life-changing way. "We have the chance to meet students and contribute to their future by helping to remove a financial obstacle that might otherwise make a law degree impossible," says Tom. He encourages fellow alumni to join him in providing opportunities for other aspiring attorneys by making a gift to the Law School.

Gifts to Mercer Law make a difference in the lives of students and the quality of legal training they receive. For more information about giving to the Law School, please contact the Office of University Advancement at (478) 301-2232.

