

MERCER LAWYER

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13

WALTER F. GEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW

THE MANY ROLES OF

General Counsels

FOUR ALUMNI PROFILES ON P. 9

JULIE BENNETT '92,
GENERAL COUNSEL FOR
BRISTOL MOTOR SPEEDWAY

PATRICK SAVAGE PHOTO

LAW SCHOOL LOBBY
NAMED FOR ILLUSTRIOUS
ALUMNUS BOB STEED
P. 8

CAREER SERVICES:
A STRATEGY FOR
GRADUATES' SUCCESS
P. 18

TRAILBLAZER DERYL
DANTZLER RETIRES
FROM TEACHING
P. 26

PROFESSOR LINDA JELLUM
EXAMINES THE ECONOMY
AND LEGAL EDUCATION
P. 28

INSIDE

Scene from Macon

Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore shops at Mulberry Street Market every Wednesday, in front of The Grand Opera House on Mulberry Street, just minutes from the Law School. The open-air market provides residents with healthy, locally grown produce, meat, baked goods and items from local artisans.



CONTENTS

FL
13

WALTER F. GEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW



COVER STORY

9 The Many Roles of General Counsels

A number of Mercer Law alumni occupy the important position within a corporation of in-house general counsel. We talk to several of them about the opportunities and the challenges that come with their positions. Profiles include Jim Gilbert '68, Sea Island; Ben Parrish '82, Tractor Supply Company; Tom Bishop '85, Georgia Power; and Julie Bennett '92, Bristol Motor Speedway.

FEATURES



18 Career Services Creates a Strategy for Graduates' Success

Find out how the Career Services Office is helping students prepare for success in a challenging job market.



20 2013 Commencement

Steve Berry '80, and *New York Times* best-selling author, delivered the commencement address to 156 graduating J.D. students in May 2013. This commencement also marked the inaugural graduating LL.M. class in Federal Criminal Practice and Procedure.

Mercer Law School recently welcomed its second incoming class in the Master of Laws (LL.M.) program in Federal Criminal Practice and Procedure, the only program of its kind in the nation. The class of seven students is composed of both recent law graduates and experienced attorneys.



DEPARTMENTS

4 On the Docket

Highlights from the Spring Semester

23 Student Profiles

Cameron Roberts and Erica Taylor

25 Faculty News

Faculty Profiles on Zack Buck and Deryl Dantzler

Faculty Essays by Linda Jellum and Jeremy Kidd

News and Scholarship

34 History Corner

The Law School in 1927

36 Alumni News

Class Notes

In Memory

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FROM THE DEAN



MINE MELIA PHOTO

Dear Alumni,

In late April, the Atlanta *Daily Report* invited me and each of the deans of Georgia's four other law schools to write an essay on "the single message you would like to impart to your graduating class." To complement the feature article on graduation in this issue of the *Mercer Lawyer*, I thought I would share my essay with you now. It appeared in the May 9 *Daily Report* and served two days later as the core of my charge at graduation to the Class of 2013:

Mercer Law School Graduates –

I have a simple message for you as you look ahead to life after law school: Don't be discouraged by the doomsday talk about law jobs that keeps appearing in the popular press. Is the job market for lawyers what it was five years ago? Of course not, but that hardly means that you've spent the past three years all for naught.

To be sure, big law firms are not growing by leaps and bounds any more. For the most part, though, 'big law' seems to have weathered the worst and to be moving into a period of moderate, but steady, growth.

The news is even better for those of you thinking about small and mid-sized firms – the principal destination of Mercer law graduates for many years. Those firms generally were less affected than the large firms by the economic downturn. Their future also looks good as long as they continue to be savvy and take advantage of the greater nimbleness and flexibility that come with their more modest size.

You also should be very heartened by the success of last year's graduating class in getting law jobs. According to employment data released by the American Bar Association in late March, Mercer ranked 25th among the nation's more than 200 law schools in the percentage of the Class of 2012 who, after nine months, were in full-time, long-term positions requiring bar admission. By any measure, that is very good news.

I also encourage you to keep in mind the many interesting jobs for which bar admission is not required but for which being a lawyer provides an edge. For illustrations, you need look no further than the Governor of Georgia, the Mayor of Macon, and the President of Mercer University – the first two of whom are Mercer Law graduates like you.

Last but not least, as the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Gideon v. Wainwright, holding that indigent defendants in felony cases have a constitutional right to court-appointed counsel, I urge you to be mindful of the enormous unmet need of the American legal system for adequate representation of the poor.

Countless indigent criminal defendants are represented by counsel whose caseload is far too heavy to allow them to render the quality of representation that Gideon seemed to promise when handed down. Perhaps even more striking is the number of the poor who go wholly unrepresented by counsel in eviction, deportation, and other 'civil' proceedings that fall outside the scope of Gideon but that have consequences for the individual no less devastating than a prison term.

A dwindling need for lawyers? Not from where I sit. Fulfilling careers of many sorts are within your reach. I wish you all the very best in the choices you make.

Best wishes,

Gary J. Simson, Dean and Macon Chair in Law

Students Raise Most Donations Among Law Schools in Annual Food Drive

Mercer University School of Law repeated as champion of the law school division in the Second Annual Georgia Legal Food Frenzy competition to help feed the hungry in Georgia. In all, the School gathered 8,037 pounds of food — more than double its total last year — to help support the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank. The state-wide food drive was organized by the Georgia Attorney General's Office and the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.

"There are many ways a law school can distinguish itself, but surely one way that everyone would recognize as truly important is in its members' public-spiritedness and philanthropy," said Dean Gary Simson. "The Law School's repeat of its first-place finish of last year is very much in character for the Mercer Law School community and something of which we should all feel proud."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GA. FOOD BANK ASSOC.
Mercer Law School receives the Attorney General's Cup for successfully raising the most pounds of food for the local food bank.

Lawson Moot Court Award to 1L Caitlin Colley

Caitlin Colley won the Hugh Lawson First-Year Moot Court competition held in April on Law Day. The judges named her best oralist, for which she received the King & Spalding Cup and \$500. The judges were: Hon. Marc Treadwell '81, Federal District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia; Dwight Davis '82, practitioner-in-residence at the Law School, longtime partner at King & Spalding, and Best Oralist in 1980 in the Lawson competition; Hon. Sam Olens, Georgia Attorney General and the keynote speaker earlier in the day at Mercer's Law Day celebration; Kamina Pinder, visiting professor at Mercer Law; and 3L Sarah Phaff, the Lawson winner as a 1L.



SALVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Student Attends Reenactment of Famous Supreme Court Case

Thanks to an endowed fund established by friends of the late Frank C. Jones '50 (see *Mercer Lawyer's* cover story on Mr. Jones in the spring 2013 issue), rising second-year student Ashley Vandevender became the first Mercer Law student to attend the annual reenactment of a leading Supreme Court case. Sponsored by the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society — an esteemed group of which Mr. Jones was president — the annual reenactment features arguments by two nationally prominent attorneys before a Justice of the Supreme Court. This year the featured case was *Flood v. Kuhn*, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor presiding.

Moot Court Roundup

Charleston Moot Court Competition

Mercer sent two teams to the Charleston Moot Court competition in February 2013. Both teams advanced to the quarterfinals, with teammates Brian Goldberg and Ashley Vandevender taking second place and receiving the Best Petitioner Brief Award. Teammates Taylor Brown and Lauren-Ashley Redmon placed third. The case being argued was modeled after one on the U.S. Supreme Court's 2012-13 docket and principally raised a 4th Amendment search-and-seizure question. Leslie Cadle '07, director of alumni affairs and associate director of development, coached the team.

Jessup International Moot Court Competition

In March 2013, Mercer competed in New Orleans in the Southern superregional competition of the 54th Annual Jessup International Moot Court Competition. The competition included 22 teams from law schools around the region. The Mercer team of Jennifer Findley, Matt Hurst, Tony Norton and Minerva Steele won three of four preliminary rounds before losing in the quarterfinals to Georgia State. Mercer's brief was named 7th best in the competition. Professors Scott Titshaw and David Ritchie coached the team.

John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition

Mercer's team of second-year students Christiane Cochrane, Geoff Bard and Catherine Bishop competed in the John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition and took home the award for

Best Respondent's Brief. The competition was hosted by Seton Hall Law School in Newark, N.J., on March 23-24. Mercer's team advanced to the quarterfinals before losing a close match to Ohio Northern Law School. The team was coached by Professor Jim Fleissner.



SALDOWA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Students Christiane Cochrane, Geoff Bard and Catherine Bishop brought home the award for Best Respondent's Brief in the Gibbons Moot Court Competition.

Students Raise Money for Local Charities

Association of Women Law Students Charity Auction

In March 2013, the Association of Women Law Students hosted the 15th Annual Charity Auction and Ball at the Armory Ballroom in downtown Macon. The ticket sales and auction, with skilled auctioneer Professor Chris Wells, raised over \$12,000 to benefit two local charities – Jay's Hope and The Methodist Home for Children.



BILLIE FINS PHOTO

Second Amendment Society Skeet Shoot

Mercer Law's Second Amendment Society held its Ninth Annual Charity Skeet Shoot in the spring, raising \$5,200 for Child Life Services of Georgia – a nonprofit organization devoted to helping children and their families overcome fears and anxieties associated with in-patient medical care. More than 75 attorneys, judges and their guests participated in the skeet shoot.

Phi Alpha Delta Talent Show

In January 2013, Mercer Law's Phi Alpha Delta chapter raised \$4,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia through its annual talent show and silent auction. The talent show included musical and other performances by various students, faculty band Sue 'n the Bastards (featuring Professors Creswell, Gerwig-Moore and Wells), and Dean Gary Simson. The silent auction included gift certificates from local businesses, bar prep courses, trips and more.

AWLS presents a \$6,000 check to Jay's Hope, an organization that helps children with cancer and their families in Central Georgia. In the past four years, AWLS has raised over \$45,000 to support local charities.



SALDUA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Mercer Law Ranks 25th in Nation in Key Measure of Graduates' Employment

On March 29, the American Bar Association released employment data showing that Mercer Law School ranked 25th among the more than 200 U.S. law schools in the percentage of 2012 graduates who, nine months after graduation, were in full-time, long-term positions requiring bar admission. According to Mercer Law Dean Gary Simson, the school's high rank in this important measure of graduates' employment "speaks volumes about the quality of our graduates, the education that they receive and, last but not least, the work that our Career Services Office is doing." (See related story, p. 18)

New Assistant Director Joins Career Services

Laura Wencl joined the Office of Career Services in early August as assistant director. She will primarily focus on individual student counseling, group programming and providing support for new Career Services initiatives. Wencl is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the University of St. Thomas School of Law. She practiced law for several years, primarily in the area of family law, before beginning work on a master's degree in academic advising.



ROGER IDENBERG PHOTO

Faculty Development: Neil Hamilton & Charlotte Alexander

In March, Professor Neil Hamilton of the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis spoke to faculty members on students' and practitioners' formation of ethical identity. Hamilton is director of the Thomas Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions and is the author of three books and more than 150 articles.

Also in March, Professor Charlotte Alexander of Georgia State University spoke to the faculty on her article "Anticipatory Retaliation, Threats, and the Silencing of the Brown Collar Workforce." An honors graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, Professor Alexander focuses in her teaching and scholarship on employment, immigration and risk.

24 Mercer Law Students Receive Stipends for Summer Internships

Twenty-four Mercer Law students received stipends to work in governmental or nonprofit law offices this summer. The stipends, which total \$90,000, are funded by a combination of endowment income, expendable gifts made for this purpose, and a grant from the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. The Law School's Public Interest Committee selected the recipients out of dozens of applicants.

"This is an extraordinary show of support for investing in students interested in careers that serve the public good," said Timothy Floyd, director of the Law and Public Service Program. "These 24 students will receive enormous benefits from these summer internships in attaining practical legal skills, in assisting legal offices that serve the public, and in determining whether they wish to pursue long-term careers in areas of public service."



STEVE SCHROEDER PHOTO

Mercer Law Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore Wins Emerging Clinician Award

Mercer Law Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore received the 2013 Shanara Gilbert Emerging Clinician Award from the Association of American Law Schools Section on Clinical Legal Education.

"Our students could have no better role model and mentor than Sarah Gerwig-Moore," said Timothy Floyd, professor of law and director of the Law and Public Service Program. "Her dedication to and passion for the clients of the Habeas Project have made a tremendous impact on the lives of her clients and the law of this state. Just as importantly, our students who work with Sarah learn valuable lessons in professionalism and advocacy."

Gerwig-Moore joined the Law School faculty in 2006 and soon after established the Habeas Project — the only pro bono effort in Georgia to focus on non-capital post-conviction cases. She and her students have handled 38 cases in the Georgia Supreme Court since 2006, and in total she has been counsel of record, co-counsel or collaborated in that court in nearly 100 cases. Additionally, she teaches in Mercer Law's Public Interest Practicum, is chair of the Macon-Bibb County Planning and Zoning Commission and serves on the board of directors of the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative.

The award was presented to Gerwig-Moore during a luncheon at the American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education in Puerto Rico at the end of April.

Mercer Law Lobby Named for Robert L. Steed

At a dinner on the eve of its April 19 meeting, the Mercer University Board of Trustees honored Life Trustee Robert L. Steed with the unveiling of a bronze bust to be placed in the Walter F. George School of Law. The Board also announced the naming of the Law School lobby in Mr. Steed's honor.

A double Mercer graduate who served six terms as a trustee, including a term as board chair, Mr. Steed was instrumental in the late

1970s in orchestrating Mercer's bargain-rate purchase of the former Insurance Company of North America building on Coleman Hill to serve as a new home for the Law School. He also played a prominent role in the formation of the Woodruff Trust that benefits the Law School to this day.

The Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution honoring Mr. Steed. It reads in part:

"Whereas Mr. Steed has received virtually every honor that can be bestowed on an individual by Mercer University, including the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Mercer Law School, an honorary Doctor of Laws, and, in 2008, election as only the seventh Life Trustee in the history of the University;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved in recognition of Robert L. Steed's lifetime of meaningful service to Mercer University, that the board of Trustees hereby designates the lobby of the Walter F. George School of Law Building as the 'Robert L. Steed Lobby,' in perpetual tribute to one of the institution's most loyal alumni and devoted Board members."

Chancellor R. Kirby Godsey, Chair of the Mercer Board of Trustees David Hudson and President William D. Underwood join Life Trustee Bob Steed, second from left, in the unveiling of a bust in Steed's honor.



ROGER IDENDER PHOTO

UPCOMING EVENTS

MERCER LAW SCHOOL FALL 2013

LEGAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM MOOT COURT COMPETITION

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, NOV. 14-16

The distinguished panel of judges for the final round will include Judge R. Lanier Anderson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, Judge Curtis Collier of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and Judge Cindy Morris '84 of the Superior Court for the Conasauga Judicial Circuit in Georgia. Alumni are

strongly encouraged to volunteer to serve as judges for the earlier rounds. For more information, contact Competition Editors at MercerLEAP@law.mercer.edu.

MERCER HOMECOMING SATURDAY, NOV. 23

Mercer vs. Stetson — Kickoff at 4 p.m. Join Mercer Law School for a football tailgate at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23. The Law School will have a reserved tent on the

intramural field. For a list of all homecoming events, visit homecoming.mercer.edu.

GEORGIA BAR MIDYEAR MEETING ALUMNI RECEPTION

FRIDAY, JAN. 10, 2014

5 - 6:30 p.m.

InterContinental Buckhead
For more information call Leslie Cadle, Director of Alumni Affairs, at (478) 301-2180.



THE ADMIRABLE ROLL CALL OF GRADUATES FROM MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

has included esteemed attorneys, judges, legislators, professors, political pundits and more. A significant number have made themselves invaluable as the full-time legal go-to person for a corporation's wide-ranging needs. We spoke to a handful of these in-house general counsels about their companies, their duties, and the ways their days at the Law School prepared them to wear the many hats such a job requires. >>



LOCHIE PHOTOGRAPHY JONES FAMILY



JIM GILBERT '68

“I’M STILL NOT SURE I WANT TO BE A LAWYER WHEN I GROW UP,” JIM GILBERT JOKES.

Yet at age 70, he scoffs at the notion of stepping down from a long career. “I’ll work till I die. It’s really hard for lawyers to retire — I don’t know why.”

In his case, location might have something to do with it. He’s in-house counsel for exclusive, sun-kissed Sea Island, just a few beats of a pelican’s wings from its Golden Isle sister, St. Simons. The resort is home to five-star destinations including the Cloister and the Lodge at Sea Island. But for Gilbert, it’s not always a day at the beach.

He deals with employment issues for nearly 2,000 staffers, transportation logistics, and other pressing situations including real estate transactions, fair housing, personal injury and environmental strictures.

“One of the primary jobs I have is recognizing problems, then finding the right help to deal with them,” he says, comparing his work to that of a General Practitioner: “It’s like being someone’s family doctor.”

His grandfather, O.P. Gilbert, a longtime editor of the *Christian Index*, graduated from Mercer University, as did all six of O.P.’s sons, including Gilbert’s father, in whose honor Mercer’s James Gilbert Scholarship was created. Other Mercer grads: a great- and a great-great-grandfather on his mother’s side, and literally dozens of his cousins. Oddly enough, though, Jim Gilbert initially enrolled as an undergrad at Duke University and indeed it turned out to be an uncomfortable match.

“I was sort of drifting,” he says, “not attending classes.” He left after two years and took a factory job. That’s when Mercer’s then-president Dr. Rufus Harris and its admissions director John Mitchell reached out to him and suggested he return to his family’s academic fold. “The institution,” Gilbert says matter-of-factly, “saved my life.”

After passing the bar, he joined his father’s and uncle’s law firm, where he practiced until becoming general counsel for Sea Island in 2001.

Of his time at the Law School, Gilbert fondly remembers Professors James Rehberg and Leah Chanin, as well as the late Dan Bradley, a classmate who was “as good a friend as I ever had — just another one of the great people Mercer has produced.” (See the spring 2013 issue of *Mercer Lawyer* for Professor Joe Claxton’s article on Bradley.)

Gilbert’s elder son graduated from Mercer Medical School and is a pediatrician in Gainesville, Ga. His daughter is a realtor in Jacksonville, Fla. Both are in their 40s. And he has a young son, Benjamin, turning 16 this fall.

“All three of them have great moms,” Gilbert says. They came from two marriages; he’s currently unwed. He calls Benjamin his “Alaska buddy.” They travel twice a year to a “tiny place” he has in the 49th state. Ben is also a gifted guitarist and a concert companion. They’ve gone together to see Black Sabbath, Def Leppard, Weird Al Yankovich, Van Halen, Heart, Jeff Beck.

Family and spiritual life are most important to Gilbert — he’s a member of the St. Simons United Methodist Church — but Mercer isn’t far behind. “The Walter F. George School of Law is one of the things for which I’m most grateful in my life,” he says. “I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing without Mercer.... I’d probably still be working in that factory.”



WOLF PHOTOGRAPHY



BEN PARRISH '82

THERE'S A FUNNY THING ABOUT TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY.

“We have some passionate customers out there who love Tractor Supply,” says the company’s senior vice-president and general counsel, Ben Parrish. “Other people have never heard of us. They say, ‘What do you sell? Tractors?’ Ironically, we don’t.”

Tractor parts, yes. And agricultural tools, fencing, products for lawns and gardens and pets, outdoor clothing, and just about anything you need for a life off the concrete slab of urban existence. Headquartered in the Nashville area, the steadily expanding farm and ranch chain now has more than 1,200 locations in 47 states.

A Georgia native who grew up 40 miles outside Macon in Jackson, Parrish had Mercer roots from the start ... by extension, anyway. Both his father and grandfather graduated from the Southern School of Pharmacy in Atlanta before it became part of Mercer University. “My father always received the Mercer alumni publications and considered himself a Mercer graduate,” Parrish says.

Pharmacy was not Ben Parrish’s calling. In high school, an African American teacher named Curtis Gaye “got me interested in politics, and planted the seed in my mind about law,” Parrish says. (Gaye later went to law school and became an attorney himself.) In the ’70s, Parrish was a reporter and photographer for the Jackson newspaper, earned a B.A. in political science at Mercer, then took a year off to campaign for Democratic state senator Peter Banks who was running for Congress. After that, he spent time on Capitol Hill working for Sen. Herman Talmadge of Georgia, taking government courses during the evening at Georgetown University before returning to Macon and the Law School in 1979.

“I had no lawyers in my family, so I didn’t have a real close-up view of what it was like to be a lawyer,” Parrish says. “But I sensed that law and politics were very much related. So it was really my love of politics that sent me in the direction of law school.”

His professional path followed a more corporate route. After being invited to be a summer associate with Atlanta’s King & Spalding, he joined the firm in 1982, working for nearly three years in the securities section of the corporate department.

Now, at Tractor Supply, he oversees a team that provides legal

services to internal clients. This includes managing litigation and claims, negotiating, drafting and reviewing contracts and leases, handling the company’s trademarks and working to ensure the company’s compliance with federal, state and local laws: “everything from securities and environmental regulations to OSHA requirements and local business licenses.” In addition, Parrish leads the company’s environmental sustainability program and governmental affairs efforts and serves as corporate secretary.

Father of an 18-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son, Parrish has taken his kids to many of the national parks out west. He and his sons go rock climbing and canyoneering in the national parks in Utah at least a couple of times a year. “I love outdoor stuff,” he says.

When he remembers the Law School, he remembers professors — Jim Rehberg, Hal Lewis, Jack Sammons, John Cole. He also remembers a lot of camaraderie — and pranks. Like the time he and his classmates commemorated Professor Larry Ribstein’s 1L tort class on “the banana peel case” by littering the room with those slippery fruit rinds. Or the time his whole class showed up wearing paper bags on their heads in a nod to the then-popular Unknown Comic. Or the time someone managed to get a key to the official announcement board to post notice that Jim Marshall’s property class was canceled. “I’ll never forget Jim Marshall standing in front of the empty moot courtroom with a perplexed expression on his face, confronting us as we passed by in the hallway and saying, ‘Why aren’t you coming to my class?’”

Pranks aside, Parrish says, “Mercer Law School prepared me well for my career.” He remembers fondly “that personal connection with professors and with other students in an environment that was not overly competitive. We were rooting each other on, rather than looking over our shoulder to see who’s coming behind us in class rankings. It was a collaborative, supportive environment. It was wonderful.”



SALDIVA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



TOM BISHOP '85

SOME CORPORATE EXECUTIVES RECEIVE SILVER BOWLS, MEDALLIONS OR FRAMED CERTIFICATES

to commemorate company milestones. Tom Bishop got a chunk of rebar. And he couldn't be happier.

That odd memento celebrates the completion of a 41-hour continuous concrete pour for the foundation of one of two nuclear power facilities being built near Waynesboro by Georgia Power, where Bishop has been senior vice president, compliance officer and general counsel since 2008. He was promoted to that job from the parent corporation, Southern Company, which he joined in 1993.

"If you had asked me years ago what I thought I was going to do, I was sure I was headed for a black robe and a bench somewhere," Bishop says. "When I went in-house [for Southern Company] in 1993, I thought I was going to get four, five years experience and move on. But I've had a really amazing practice opportunity here. Never a dull moment."

A \$14 billion project, the nuclear units will be a focus of his attention until their completion date in 2017. But his job entails all sorts of other demands: employment issues, for instance, and federal environmental regulations. "One of the great things about this culture is the commitment to compliance," Bishop says. "I've never been in a serious business meeting here where the first question wasn't, 'What's the right thing to do?'"

Often, the most immediate right thing for Georgia Power to do is to turn the juice back on. "When you ride with the crews and they're turning the lights back on after a storm, you see how much electricity matters," he says. "It drives technology, it drives health care, and it's such a major impact on uplifting the economy of the state."

One of the company's slogans is Honor the Past, Build for the Future. Bishop takes that seriously in terms of his own job. "Georgia Power hired its first general counsel in 2004, so I'm only the second in its history," he says. "You come into this job with a perspective that this company has been around for 120-plus years, so you're building the foundation for your successor to come in and carry it forward for the next iteration of the 20-year plan."

A Cartersville native who recently moved with his family to Acworth (cutting down on the commute time to his Atlanta office), Bishop and his wife have a daughter who's a sophomore in high school, and a son, Tyler, who graduated this past spring from Mercer's College of Liberal Arts. Bishop himself is a "Double Bear," having earned not only a J.D. from Mercer but also a B.A. in political science. He currently serves on the University's Board of Trustees.

"One of the things I always appreciated about the Law School experience was that we always had a good amount of interaction with the lawyers and judges in the local bar," he says. "And because of the section size, you always got one-on-one time with your professors — whether you wanted it or not."

"I'm constantly amazed," he adds, "by how many Mercer alumni I run into around the state. They're in office, they're in judgeships, they're in the legislature." He often meets Mercer law students, and when he does, "I tell them all the time: 'Look around. The relationships you build here are the foundations for the next 20 years. This is the beginning of your professional network.'"



PATRICK SAVAGE PHOTO

JULIE BENNETT '92

IN THE TESTOSTERONE-FUELED WORLD OF NASCAR AND THE NATIONAL HOT ROD ASSOCIATION

it might seem surprising that the in-house attorney for Tennessee's largest sporting complex is a woman. Or maybe not.

"Let me put it this way," says Julie Bennett, general counsel for Bristol Motor Speedway. "If people were surprised, they were smart enough not to say anything to me."

While practicing for 15 years at Hunter, Smith & Davis in her native Kingsport, Tenn., Bennett represented the Speedway in an employment discrimination case. "The way I represent a client, I get to know the company and get to understand their business," she says. It was her speediest case. A year later, in 2007, the Speedway — the fourth largest sports venue in the U.S. — approached her about being its first-ever in-house counsel. "Obviously," she says with a laugh, "a successful verdict never hurts."

Two years after coming aboard, Bennett was also named general manager of the Speedway's sister venue, Bristol Dragway. Even though she grew up in the area and her ex-husband followed the sport, she was sort of a latecomer to the racing scene. "But," she says, "coming into the business side of it is a very different animal than just turning on the TV on a Sunday afternoon and watching a race."

As the Speedway's general counsel and the entirety of its legal team (no secretary, no paralegal), she wears a lot of hats. "I do all of the contracts, trademark stuff and litigation — you name it," she says. Not to mention overseeing the human resources department and the logistics-driven events team (gates, parking, shuttles, ushers, etc.). When NASCAR comes calling, "at event time, my duties shift to a kind of hostess function for our VIP guests," she says. "I serve in the owner's suite and am there to greet and chat with our legislators and whoever else may be here for the race."

There is no such thing as a "typical" day for Bennett. A lot of meetings — that's the only constant. Bennett always makes time to attend her teenage children's events. Her daughter is a competitive gymnast, and her son belongs to the marching band and plays tennis. "I am very blessed to have very smart, very perceptive, well-grounded children," she says. "They both are very social and have lots of friends, so that keeps us busy."

And when does she sleep? She laughs. "Oh, you know — when I can."

While still an undergraduate at Auburn University, "I made up my mind what I thought wanted to do," she says. That was to practice law in Atlanta. So, to pass the Georgia bar, it made sense to study in-state. Bennett applied to Mercer and to Emory. ("And I applied to UT, just to humor my mother.") Mercer seemed like the right fit, and she still keeps in touch with Professor Tony Baldwin. After graduation, though, Tennessee called her home, and she appreciated not having to learn the ins and outs of a brand new city. (Her parents still live in Kingsport, where Bennett has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce.)

"I do have a pretty cool job and don't think I take it for granted," she says. "If you want to know who I really am, you probably need to understand that I have a very deep and abiding faith, that I believe God's path has taken me where I am, and I hope I can stay on it. I believe that the blessings come from Him and not from anything I've done."

Preparing for Success

A Strengthened Career Services Office Combats a Challenging Job Market

“A lot of students and graduates of law schools were caught off-guard when the job market for lawyers tanked in 2008,” says Stephanie D. Powell, assistant dean for Career Services. “We were coming off a high level of legal employment, nationally speaking, with some of the highest placement numbers seen in the last 10 or 15 years.”

New law graduates across the country found much less demand for their services than they ever would have expected when they began their legal studies. And Mercer law graduates were no exception.

Fast-forward to 2013: With the national economy gradually recovering from the recession, the job market for lawyers has begun a slow revival as well. Some law schools’ recent graduates are faring substantially better than other schools’, and Mercer’s are more than holding their own.

According to data released by the American Bar Association in late March, Mercer ranks 25th among the nation’s more than 200 law schools in the percentage of 2012 graduates – 73% – who, nine months after graduation, were in full-time, long-term positions requiring bar admission.

If Mercer’s 73% does not sound impressive in and of itself, keep in mind that it does not include 2012 graduates in full-time, long-term positions for which bar admission is preferred but not required, as well as 2012 graduates who continued in school to earn an LL.M. or M.B.A. Those two groups account for another 10%.

Mercer’s 73% in what, by any measure, are hard-core legal jobs is also eye-opening when compared to the percentages for various schools consistently ranked in the top quartile of law schools by *U.S. News & World Report*. Many such schools lag behind Mercer by 5-10% and some by as much as 25%. For the relevant ABA data for the nation’s law schools, see www.thefacultyounge.org/2013/03/-full-rankings-bar-admission-required-full-time-long-term.

Mercer’s success is no accident. In large part, it reflects the doubling of career services officers from two to four since 2011. The additional staffing has enabled the office to expand substantially its programming and individual counseling for students and to undertake for the first time a serious effort at employer outreach. In addition, as Dean Gary Simson is quick to point out, Mercer’s success owes a great deal to “the high quality and dedication of everyone in the Career Services Office and the outstanding leadership provided by Stephanie Powell.”

“We realized we need to be out, talking to employers,” Powell says. She and others of her staff get out on the road, visiting law firms and government employers who may be hiring and reminding them to keep Mercer Law students in mind. “We talk to them about their hiring process, what they’re looking for, and ways we can integrate our students into that process.”

Back on campus, Career Services offers programs and workshops to students throughout the year, providing pointers on things that may seem basic, but that can be hugely important – for instance, polishing cover letters and strengthening résumés.



SALDIVIA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

"It runs the gamut," Powell says. Career Services also provides hands-on training exercises. Last spring, for instance, a major focus was bolstering students' interview skills.

"For the first time, we held a speed-interviewing event, a little like speed-dating," Powell explains. Students were able to rotate among 20 current legal professionals, interviewing with each briefly to develop the skills needed to make the most of whatever job interviews they would ultimately secure.

For Powell and her staff, a central goal is to empower students to take an active, aggressive role in preparing to meet the job market head-on. "It ultimately comes down to how much work each student is willing to put into the job search and into building skills," she says.

But Career Services hopes to get additional support from one of Mercer Law School's greatest strengths: those who have already left Mercer and found their places in the professional

world. "While I do think we're headed in the right direction, I don't want to give the impression that we don't need any help from our alumni," Powell says. "Getting more involvement from them is critical to our doing well."

So how can alums help? Take a 3L to lunch and discuss personal experiences and share career tips. Sit on a discussion panel at a Law School event. Take part in Career Services exercises, like last spring's speed-interview session. If you learn about job opportunities for new lawyers, share that information with Career Services. "If alumni are willing to talk to students about what they do, and maybe take them to a bar meeting or to a professional organization they're involved with, that sort of interaction is extraordinarily helpful," says Powell.

To get involved, contact the Office of Career Services at (478) 301-2015 or careerservices@law.mercer.edu.

Commencement 2013

ON MAY 11, MERCER LAW SCHOOL AWARDED EIGHT DEGREES TO ITS INAUGURAL MASTER OF LAWS CLASS IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE AND 156 JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER STEVE BERRY, *New York Times* best-selling author and a 1980 graduate of the Law School, encouraged students to embrace the journey ahead of them while understanding the significance of being a lawyer (see pg. 22). Phillip Kyle Perry received the George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence and graduated *summa cum laude*, which makes three consecutive years in which the Law School has had a *summa cum laude* graduate. He earned the highest grade in 13



of his classes. Bryson Rives McCollum graduated salutatorian of the class. Associate Professor Karen Sneddon received the Reynold J. Kosek Jr. Excellence in Teaching Award, which is awarded annually during commencement to a member of the faculty by a vote of the graduating class. In keeping with the Law School's tradition of alumni hooding, 13 graduating students were hooded by a parent, spouse, sibling, or other relative who had graduated from the Law School.



The University Center was filled with love and support from hundreds of family members and friends.

ROGER DEARDEN PHOTOS

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

Phillip Kyle Perry

Magna Cum Laude

Thomas Christopher Allmond
Sabrina Lynn Atkins
Joseph Marshall Colwell
Eleanor L. deGolian

Mary Catherine Farrar
Timothy Craig Head, Jr.
Jenna Lynne Lasseter
Bryson Rives McCollum
Hallee Caitlin Moore

Kevin Paul Parker
Sarah Michelle Phaff
Jacquelyn Inez Smith
Eric Allan Trudell

Cum Laude

Martha Farley Andersen
Ashley Anne Akins
Brittany Nicole Bates
Jennifer Danielle Berry
Christian Robert Bonet
Sara Kathryn Brannan
Samuel Josiah Broucek
Adam Douglas Brown
Edward James Cochran

Julie Rachel Comer
Jeffrey Robert Daniel
Scott Daniel Dennis
Julie Elizabeth Dorchak
Tiphani Strickland Gay
Joshua Todd Hale
Kenneth David Hall
Kaitlin Nugent Hammill
William Gordon Hammill
Eric Jason Hartline

Pamela Christine Hartig
Mary Elizabeth Head
Foss Gilbert Hodges
Jared Harrison Jacobs
Keith Alan Johnston
Matthew Linwood Jones
Peter Frank Kellett
Patrick Grinstead McKenzie
Brian Patrick O'Grady
Yane Seo Park

Dustin Keith Peters
Matthew Allen Pittman
Lindsay Leigh Schafer
Lauren Nicole Schultz
Minerva Alexandra Steele
Monica Anne Sullivan
Gregory D. Taylor
Katherine Carroll Thompson
Richard John Thompson



Clockwise from top left: Faculty hooders selected by the graduating class included Professors David Oedel, Karen Sneddon (pictured), Michael Sabbath and Chris Wells; the inaugural LL.M. class stands to be recognized during the ceremony; Phillip Kyle Perry receives the George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence; and Tamorra Buchanan walks happily across the stage after receiving her diploma.

“A *LAWYER is the client’s warrior, one the client wants to be proud of, there to walk clients through their troubles, and solve their problems. We have to be both passionate and impassionate, knowing where that line is drawn, always ready, trying our best to never mess up. We have to care about winning, because not to do so makes us careless and indifferent. And we can never forget that deceit, rudeness, and arrogance foster only failure. That thing about representing or defending – no easy answer there, but trust me you will figure that one out.*

It all sounds easy, right? Actually, it’s not as difficult as you might imagine. It’s like writing novels. There are thousands of us who do it, but no two are alike. We each have our own style, developed from years of hard work, honed by our individual personality and background. No one writer is better than the other – only different.

I write a series with a recurring hero, Cotton Malone, a retired Justice Department lawyer, who lives in Copenhagen, runs an old bookshop, and stays in trouble. There have been 8 books so far, with more coming. Any writer who develops a series learns that the key to success is for each book to be the same but different – tall order, but it can be done.

And that brings me to one last thing I learned after leaving here, something that I never recall being mentioned: BEING A LAWYER IS SPECIAL. It truly is.

At every juncture in human history lawyers have been present. That is fact. And they were not there to obstruct or prevent.

Instead, they served as catalysts for change, using their minds for weapons and their words as tools. Today, each of you will join their ranks. It is a weighty legacy for sure, but every army requires fresh recruits. Your task has been defined by those who came before you. Your predecessors laid out the rules and drew the out-of-bounds markers. Many of those lawyers risked everything, including their lives, to prove their point.

It’s no coincidence that 35 of the Founding Fathers possessed legal training; that every treaty between nations you can name was drafted by lawyers; that all of the major pieces of legislation that have altered our society in significant ways – like the Civil Rights Acts, the Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act – were composed by lawyers. At a moment when this nation teetered on the brink of total dissolution, when secession dominated and the United States crumbled into civil war, it was a lawyer – Abraham Lincoln – who saved it.

And that’s what I mean when I say that being a lawyer is special. Welcome to the club! You are now honored members. Be conscious of that past, mindful of its lessons and responsibilities. For everything you do from this day forward reflects on all those who came before you.

Here today your family, friends, professors, and classmates all watch with pride in their eyes. You might think, ‘My journey has ended. Law school is over. I graduated. It’s done.’ But I assure you your journey has just begun.”

– Steve Berry ’80



ROGER DEGEN PHOTO

CAMERON ROBERTS

LEADING MERCER LAW TO SERVICE IN MACON

You led Mercer to the championship among Georgia's five law schools in both 2012 and 2013 in the state's Legal Food Frenzy Drive. Why did you decide to get the Law School involved in this competition to feed Georgia's hungry?

When we first competed last year, I wasn't quite sure how to get the word out, but I was overwhelmed by the response of people jumping at the chance to be a part of this amazing cause. At UGA I volunteered for the non-profit Conscious Alliance that raises donations and collects non-perishable food items that are sent to Pine Ridge, an Oglala Lakota Native American reservation in South Dakota. When I heard that Attorney General Olens established a food drive in the legal community, I thought it was great to get the law schools involved. Students want to get involved and feel part of their local community but often just don't know how.

You're very involved on campus and in the community. Unfortunately, we all tend to get busy and overlook the people and issues that we pass by every day. There are people all over the world that need help, but there are people that live right down the street that are suffering, as well. If each of us could provide just a fraction of our time to help serve our local community, the results would be overwhelming.

I was blessed to see the power of service first-hand when I worked with Conscious Alliance. Pine Ridge is the eighth largest reservation in the United States, and 49 percent of its residents live below the Federal poverty level. Additionally, 61 percent of those impoverished are under the age of 18. When you see how grateful the people are that you have helped in some way, it makes you want to do more. This is especially important to me since my mother is part Cherokee, and my family has always kept strong ties to the Native American culture. I want to help those who suffer from starvation and sickness on the reservations.

What sort of practice do you hope to do, and how do you think Mercer has prepared you for it?

I haven't quite decided on one particular area. Mercer has done a great job in providing opportunities to explore various areas with clerkships, internships and student organizations. I have done my best to get as involved as I can in order to discover where my place in the law lies. I am very involved with the Association of Women Law Students, which has provided a network of various resources for planning my future career and has allowed me to get involved with local organizations such as Jay's Hope and the Methodist Home. From those experiences, I have been able to expand my knowledge of how service and the law can work together to form a successful and rewarding career.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

ERICA TAYLOR

THIRD-YEAR WALTER F. GEORGE & OTIS REDDING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Have you connected especially strongly to any one class or professor at Mercer?

In terms of professors, I could never pick just one. In terms of classes, I connected the most with Poverty Law. The teacher, Ron Boyter, is a practicing attorney. He's done poverty law work for most of his career, and he was really down to earth. Our class was about the realities of working public interest, and I found the whole thing fascinating.

You graduated from Oglethorpe University with a bachelor's in psychology. Why psychology?

For most of my life, I knew that I wanted to be a lawyer. But I really didn't know a lot about beginning to pursue it. This is

a totally original idea in my family, and I am the first of my kind. I didn't know that "pre-law" wasn't an actual major. When I found out in the last semester of high school – I did not catch on quick! – I started researching the most popular majors for pre-law. The most popular were typically Politics and English followed by

Philosophy. But I really hate doing the same thing everyone else is doing. So I was still very undecided by the time I had been accepted to Oglethorpe. During an interview at Oglethorpe, the interviewer asked what I thought I wanted to study and if I had ever considered Psychology. It made sense to me. I like studying people's behavior. And after my first class in Psychology, I was in love. I even reconsidered my career plans briefly and thought about being a psychologist. I can't say that I was thinking highly strategically when I picked Psychology. But I definitely see lots of benefits to legal work. Most important, I learned to think analytically, use observation and induction.

In summer 2012 you interned in Atlanta as a discrimination claims investigator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. What kinds of cases did you work on?

I worked primarily on cases of race and disability discrimination. Disability is the area with the most current developments in Civil Rights law. The way we define and understand being disabled is really changing. I investigated several cases concerning requests for reasonable accommodations and a few reasonable modifications.

This past summer you had an internship at the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. What was that like?

I handled disability claims, gender discrimination claims and racial discrimination claims. I also did a bit more hands-on stuff. I went on site and was more involved in the process than I was the summer before. A lot of what I did back then was just reviewing data on cases that had been sitting on the docket for a while. I did the analysis on the cases so that we could clear them.

What legal field do you want to pursue after graduation?

I want to work in the public sector. My ideal job would be working for the government. But honestly, I just want to work where I feel like I'm making a difference. I picked Mercer because I knew it was one of the best options in the state for those interested in public interest law. I love the environment that Mercer fosters. Whether you want to work public or private sector, the school emphasizes the importance of not losing sight of what it is to be a lawyer and to join a profession. They drive home to us that it's a responsibility, not just a job.



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

Zack Buck

AT THE INTERSECTION OF HEALTHCARE AND LAW

Mercer Law School's newest professor, Zack Buck, specializes in health law. That focus came naturally.

"I have a family that's always been interested in health policy," he says. His mother, a nurse practitioner at a V.A. hospital in his native Indianapolis, works with soldiers returning from war. His father is a psychologist, his brother is earning his Ph.D. in psychology, and an attorney uncle in Chicago practices health law.

MTV didn't stand a chance.

You see, Buck earned a double major in journalism and political science from Ohio's Miami University. During those undergrad years he worked two internships — one for "Meet the Press" and another for MTV's "Choose or Lose" initiative to rally young voters for the 2004 presidential election.

"I always had a love of journalism," he says, "but instead of writing about reality, I wanted to actually affect policy."

At University of Pennsylvania Law School, his professional path grew clearer when he earned both his Juris Doctor and a Master's in Bioethics. "I'd had a meandering interest in health law, but when I started taking classes at the Center for Bioethics, then I really had an interest."

Prior to joining Mercer this fall, Buck practiced health care law and commercial litigation as a summer associate in Indianapolis and an associate in Chicago. From 2011 until this summer, he taught health law and bioethics at New Jersey's Seton Hall University School of Law.

"Health law is fascinating, because it's an intersection of two very important and complicated regimes," he says. "In health care, there is a certain set of rules, regulations and norms that we live by — things that we expect when we go into a hospital.

"Then there is the law, which is often clunky, overgeneralized, and has to be broad to apply to everybody. Where those two regimes intersect is a very complicated area."

That's true more than ever with advances in medicine and an increased interest in such issues as stem-cell research, beginning-of-life and end-of-life decisions, organ donation and surrogacy. "It's a wilderness, and it changes so quickly," Buck says. "Articles that were written 10 years ago are now outdated."

Add to this landscape the ongoing implementation of



the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a. Obamacare. "With so much dynamic change in health care, there are a lot of rough edges that still need to be worked out," Buck says. "What I find most interesting for our current era is this constant struggle between the individual's rights vs. what rights society has — and at what point do we draw that line?"

Buck moved to Macon this summer with wife Michelle and their two young daughters. Audrey turns 3 this year. Lucy was born just this past June.

A native Hoosier, Buck's sports interests extend to basketball, which he played growing up. "But people in Georgia kind of look at you when you say basketball," he says with a laugh. "It's like, 'Football or nothing!'"

Welcome to the South, professor.

MS. DERYL DANTZLER

enrolled at Mercer Law School as a 23-year-old separated from her husband and raising their infant son, Kennon. She was marking time, really. Law held no interest for her.

"But I got into my first term and thought, 'Where have you been all my life?'" she says with a deep chuckle. "Somebody is going to pay me for arguing with people?" What I had become skilled at, and that made me socially unacceptable, was suddenly *rewarded*."

So much so, in fact, that she's recipient of the lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, an award bestowed only in years when there is an especially deserving recipient.

A Law School professor since 1978, specializing in trial practice and trial evidence, Dantzler is retiring from her Mercer teaching duties after the fall semester, but she will continue as dean of the National Criminal Defense College, "as long as I can do it." (To read more about NCDC, see the Spring 2013 issue of *Mercer Lawyer*.)

A defender of the underdog and a buckler of convention, Dantzler describes her career as a process of "backing into" opportunities. You could say she was at the right place at the right time, often. In 1975, when she was a young attorney in Macon, the Federal Rules of Evidence were enacted.

"When there's a big change like that, lawyers already in practice tend *not* to stop what they're doing and learn it," says Dantzler, who mastered the new information to gain a courtroom advantage over older practitioners.

And a great deal of respect from colleagues. "Deryl has a form of knowledge of evidentiary rules that is very hard to find," says recently retired professor Jack Sammons. "This isn't something she has learned from books and articles. ... It comes from years of thinking about these rules in the full context of trials, which she does, almost instinctively, all the time."

Another example of Dantzler being in the right place at the right time: She changed the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* longstanding policy of referring to women only as "Miss" or "Mrs."

Yes, she was the first "Ms." referred to in the paper when it covered a 1970s federal case she was trying in Atlanta. It wasn't a matter of feminist principle, more of pique: "The way they

put it — 'Little girl, are you married or not?' — pissed me off enough that I took a stand on it."

Right place/time, part three: As junior partner at her Macon law firm, she was handed cases no one else wanted, often defending young dope smokers. It was a time when Fourth Amendment law was still developing, and criminal defense was seen as a poor-paying, red-headed stepchild of the legal profession. As in many other things, Dantzler wound up being ahead of the curve. Her work, reputation and client list snowballed.

"Cops would tell me, 'Yeah, when we arrested him he had your number in his wallet' — and I'd never met the man'," she says, laughing. "Apparently the drug community was passing around my number."

In straitlaced Macon that made her an outlier. Nothing new there. "You know that thing in the South, where the eccentric is tolerated and finally even *affectionately* tolerated?" Dantzler says. "That was always the role of my family."

She was born to two native Maconites. Her father was Marshall Daugherty, gifted sculptor and chairman of Mercer University's art department; his statue of John Wesley anchors Savannah's Reynolds Square. Her mother, Gertrude Earle Baker, was instructed by her own father to study home economics, but at heart was an artist-architect. She got a kind of revenge by marrying Daugherty, with whom she designed and built a striking mid-century modern home of stone, metal and concrete in east Macon.

Graduating from Mercer with a psychology degree, Dantzler moved with her then-husband to Savannah, where she engaged in her first Women's Lib skirmish. She aspired to be a personnel technician for the city, a job only offered to men. When she was grudgingly allowed to apply, she had to prove herself by devising

a sample performance test for workers at the landfill.

"I got on a bulldozer with their best operator and interviewed him as he worked – with the gulls circling and the stench rising."

Call it trial by funk. She got the job.

She next worked as assistant personnel director at the newly opened EEOC office in Atlanta. "Those were wild times," she says. "Every liberal in the state was working there. We would write 500-page grant applications over a weekend."

Eventually, Dantzler enrolled at University of Texas, Austin, for graduate study in clinical psychology. But, raising an infant alone with no friend or family network there, she retreated to Macon. The rest is Mercer Law history.

Litigating for eight years after she earned her J.D. in 1970,

she found her way to teaching through involvement with the Houston-based, federally funded National College for Criminal Defense. "In Houston, I was enjoying so much what I was learning by teaching that I wanted to do more of that as a support for my practice," she says. "I got incrementally better every time I tried to teach something."

So, the last thing she "backed into" was teaching full-time at her alma mater, then shepherding NCCD through its transformation into the independent NCDC seven years later.

One of her significant achievements as an instructor, she feels, is being able to demonstrate a sure-fire way to keep a trial witness in control: Only ask questions you know the answer to – more statements than questions. "My exercise is based on clothes: What

is the witness currently wearing?" she says. "I can teach anybody to do a quick, solid cross-examination in 10 minutes."

Dantzler doesn't suffer fools, and she makes her own liberal attitudes very clear – while always respecting the opinion of those whose beliefs are antithetical to her own. "I've always been upfront about where I'm coming from, and attempted always to be understanding that that was not shared universally. People always knew who I was, and the extremists on the other side have steered clear of me for the last 30 years."

Sammons says she has the mind of a great trial lawyer and the ability always to be one step ahead of anybody around – whether in the courtroom or a faculty meeting. But her dry, even gruff directness might belie her core nature.

"There is a warmth to Deryl, one she bestows on her friends and students that is a great gift," Sammons says. "... I think it is fair to say she is more *real* than most people are."

As she edges toward retirement, Dantzler says she'll miss her colleagues, but even more her pupils. "Mercer has got the greatest students," she says. "These are decent kids who basically have the potential for having their lives well-balanced and doing effective legal work and being happy in life."



STEVESCHROEDER PHOTO

The Economics of Legal Education



BY LINDA JELLUM
PROFESSOR OF LAW



From Jan. 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, I was on leave from Mercer University and served as the Associate Director for the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), an organization whose mission is to improve legal education. While legal education has been under attack for some time, I watched as the challenges to it intensified. For example, the *New York Times* wrote a series of articles about legal education, criticizing everything from the education provided to the high cost of tuition. Similarly, Professor Brian Tamanaha wrote “Failing Law Schools,” in which he condemned: law professors, whom he believes are overpaid and underworked; the federal student loan system, which he believes recklessly loans money to students unable to repay it; and universities, which he believes treat law schools as cash cows.

While the envy of other countries for years, American legal education seems to be in serious trouble. The AALS and the American Bar Association’s Section on Legal Education (ABA), the entity that accredits law schools, have been largely silent during this onslaught. While some individuals within the academy have tried to respond, as a whole we are playing ostrich to our industry’s demise. I am reminded of Blockbuster, landline phones, and newspapers, all of which similarly rejected any notion that their business model needed to change.

American legal education is in trouble, but not necessarily for the reasons suggested. The fundamental problem is economic. There are simply too many law schools graduating too many law students at a time when the demand for lawyers is down sharply. Currently, there are 231 law schools graduating more than 40,000 lawyers every year for an industry that needs less than 25,000. Job seekers significantly outnumber jobs.

Admittedly, a law degree is useful for more than law practice. Even so, it is heartbreaking to watch our graduates struggle to find employment in an industry that has never quite recovered from the last recession. While some believe that the legal market will bounce back, others more realistically understand that the downturn is here to stay. In addition to the oversupply and sluggish job market, legal tasks are increasingly being outsourced.

Technological substitutes, non-lawyers, and foreign nationals have eliminated the need for expensive American law graduates to perform some types of legal work.

A number of changes have been proposed, but none are optimal. Some suggest that law schools shorten their educational program to two years to lower student debt. While decreasing the cost of legal education and student debt is a laudable end-goal, this change would only increase the number of graduates in an already saturated market. Students would certainly pay less for a two-year degree, but they would get what they pay for and face an even bleaker job market. Moreover, the legal profession for years has been demanding that law schools offer more skills and clinical training, which would be even more difficult to fit into a two-year educational model.

Alternatively, some suggest a two-tiered approach to legal education, in which a few elite schools would offer theoretical, university-level training while less elite schools would offer trade school instruction with part-time instructors. Turning most law schools into trade schools would likely make legal education less expensive – surely a benefit, but at what cost? Many other countries follow this model, in which law is an undergraduate degree involving memorization of legal rules. In the U.S., legal education is more than an education in rules; it is a retraining of one’s mind to learn to think in a whole new way. Admittedly such retraining need not take three years, as any bored 3L will tell you, but it is unlikely to occur at all with a part-time faculty focused on teaching skills and rules rather than a full-time faculty engaged in thought-provoking research. In any event, the trade school/elite school option fails to address the supply-and-demand problem, even as it graduates less educated lawyers. Other proposed solutions (such as mandatory internships and clinical education) fail to address the economics in any meaningful way.

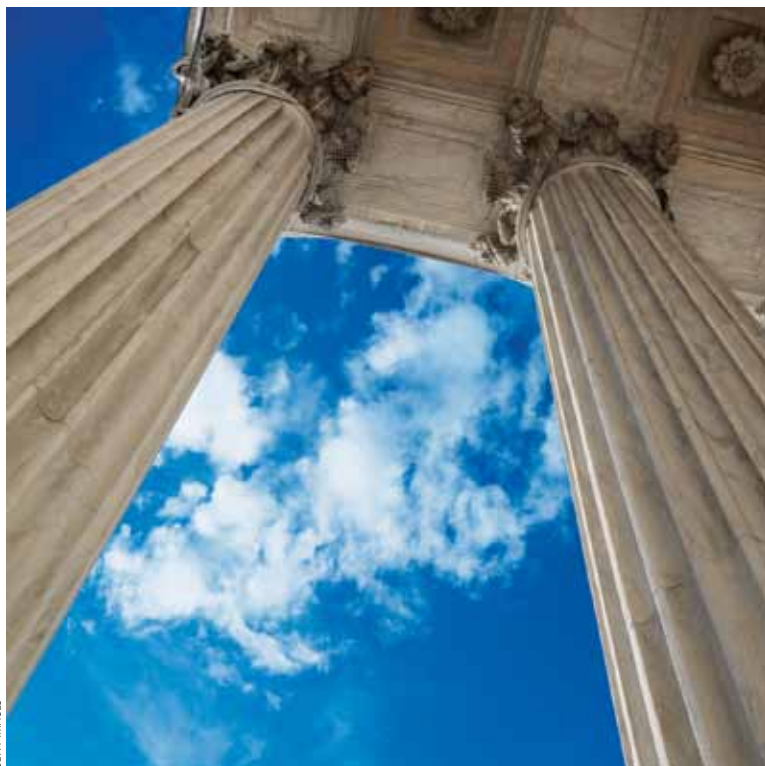
To find a solution, we need to address both issues.

First, we need to find a way to address the oversupply. There are too many law schools. After having been sued in the 1990s,

the ABA maintains a litigation-averse mentality to accreditation applications. It approves almost every law school that applies for accreditation and, thus, will likely not reduce the abundance. But economics will. With applications at a 30-year low, some law schools will fail. Unfortunately, it is likely that survival will be based on a school's rankings, rather than on the quality of its educational program.

Second, we need to address demand and the fact that, increasingly, legal tasks are being outsourced. Lawyers perform a variety of legal jobs. Only some of those tasks require deep theoretical analysis. Because there are various levels of legal practice, we might rethink legal education in light of the varying needs of the profession. For example, we might create a multi-level system of legal training, in which those successfully completing one year of legal education would be certified to work on basic legal tasks (a Master's in Law, for example), those with two years of legal education would be certified to work on more complex tasks, while those completing three years would be certified to work on the most complex and specialized legal tasks. Admittedly, law schools would have to significantly restructure their curricula, but a tiered approach has worked in countries like Britain.

Alternatively, we might rethink legal education in light of the growing importance of specialization. Legal education has always been a one-stop shopping experience. Law schools train all students in mostly identical ways, with a slightly different curriculum or emphasis. Specialization is unusual except for LL.M. programs, most of which are intended to be revenue-generating, not knowledge-enhancing. Thus, law schools might redesign the third year as a year for specialization. Students could take advanced skills courses (such as will drafting), classes in other, related fields (such as accounting), and clinical training, which experts practicing in the field could teach. In addition, law schools might also offer or require internships and externships to increase practical learning, reducing tuition to the extent that such learning takes place off-campus.



GETTY IMAGES

While I don't have *the*, or even a, perfect solution, I do believe that the process for reform will be critical. Currently, reform discussions are taking place at a micro-level: within the ABA, within individual law schools, amongst speakers at academic presentations, and within the literature. Yet meaningful change can only occur at the macro-level. We need a task force of all with a stake in legal education – including our graduates, faculty, deans, the relevant professional organizations, and students – to address these issues.

This process will take time, but we have the best legal education system in the world. I hope we keep it that way.

What Makes an Ethical Lawyer?



BY JEREMY KIDD
PROFESSOR OF LAW



What makes a good lawyer? Is it winning for your client, or is there something more than a win-loss sheet involved in the final analysis? Many clients are willing to sacrifice the law in order to win and will direct their lawyers to do whatever is necessary to win. Does a good lawyer always do what the client asks, or are there some lines that a good lawyer simply will not cross?

To be sure, lawyers are not the only group in society that faces ethical struggles in the course of daily life. And yet, lawyers are rightfully held to a higher standard than most. After all, the legal profession is one of only a few professions where clients must be able to confide in and trust their agents completely.

As many inside and outside of the profession have argued, however, we may be failing as a profession to live up to the ethical standards our clients deserve. This is especially true when those standards require telling a client that we will not pursue avenues out of a respect for the law.

If the profession's ethical standards indeed leave something to be desired, part of the blame must fall at the feet of the legal academy. Each lawyer is influenced by other lawyers, judges, and clients in determining where to set ethical boundaries, yet the first examples of legal ethics most lawyers will see are within the halls of academia. It seems that a little soul-searching may be in order to determine whether the law-student-to-lawyer process helps or hinders the formation of appropriate ethical standards.

Is it possible that law school rankings, class rankings, and various extra-curricular activities associated with "elite" law students could be degrading the legal standards of those students? To certain social psychologists, the answer is yes, at least insofar as those students come from non-elite backgrounds and are thrust into elite status.

According to those psychologists, law students who enter law school without any self-identification as "elite" may begin to feel isolated from their past (including their ethical foundations) if they achieve high status within law school. They may feel that they need to change their behaviors in order to accommodate their newly elevated status, but those changes may include abandonment of ethical standards, especially if their formal education in legal ethics presents the Model Rules of Professional Conduct as the only ethical standards a lawyer need apply.

Research in this area is still in the initial stages, but some recent research appears to indicate that there may be some evidence to support these theoretical conclusions. In a limited research study, law students at a top-50 law school were evaluated on their responses to a series of ethical scenarios. Those evaluations were then compared to a series of data collected from each student, including socio-economic factors (childhood income, prestige of undergraduate/graduate education, frequency of religious observance) and law-school-specific measures (class ranking, participation in *Law Review* and other well-regarded extra-curricular activities).

A number of the factors tested yielded interesting results: those who were raised in wealthier communities tended to offer less ethical responses, as did those who had achieved "elite" status in law school by being in the top 10 percent of their class; those who were frequent participants in religious activities and members of the *Law Review* tended to offer more ethical responses. Those who achieved higher academic status were more likely to come from lower income brackets and to have attended less prestigious undergraduate or graduate institutions.

These results may support the assertions of social

psychologists regarding the tendency of non-elites to lose touch with their ethical foundations when thrust into elite status. Alternatively, it may simply be that the bestowal of elite status creates a sense of entitlement regardless of the background of the individual.

Though preliminary, these results do indicate that there may be some connection between measures of class and law student ethics. They also indicate that being part of something larger than oneself, as manifested by religious participation and cooperation with others on *Law Review*, might be able to counter the effects of class.

What the results do not tell us is what changes should be made in order to give law students a better shot at maintaining their ethical standards as they leave law school and enter the profession. Forced religious observance is obviously not something we should consider, but neither is forced participation in any group, as it may be the voluntary nature of these associations which help students (and lawyers) maintain their ethical standards. However, law schools should, as part of preparing law students to be part of the legal profession, encourage students to become involved in their communities (civically, politically or otherwise) in order to create a society and a profession that reflect the standards that all lawyers should strive to meet.

Another option worth considering is a change in the way we structure law school grading and the way we rank law students. At many law schools, there is a constant reinforcement to



AMY MADDOX PHOTO

the top 10 percent of each class that they are the “elite.” We should be willing to ask whether that reinforcement is necessary or even helpful. Most judicial clerkships are awarded to those elite students, as are the high-paying jobs at large law firms, so financial and cultural rewards will almost certainly continue to be bestowed on those law students who excel in their coursework. Nevertheless, by reducing or eliminating the constant verbal reinforcement of elite status, we may be able to eliminate some negative ethical pressures and improve the ethical formation of our students and the profession as a whole.

** This essay is based on Professor Kidd’s article, “Rich, Smart, Honest?: Does Success Lead to Unethical Lawyering?,” which recently appeared in a symposium issue of the University of St. Thomas Law Journal.*



Professor Zack Buck

Recent Publications

Caring Too Much: Misapplying the False Claims Act to Target Overtreatment, 74 Ohio St. L. J. 463 (2013).

The Indefinite Quarantine: A Public Health Review of Chronic Inconsistencies in Sexually Violent Predator Statutes, 87 St. John's L. Rev. (forthcoming Dec. 2013).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Caring Too Much: Misapplying the False Claims Act to Target Overtreatment, American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics Health Law Professors Conference, Seton Hall University School of Law, Newark, N.J.

Honors, Awards & Activities

Selected as Health Law Scholar for Fall 2013 Health Law Workshop at Saint Louis University.



Professor Jessica Feinberg

Recent Publications

Avoiding Marriage Tunnel Vision, Tulane L. Rev. (forthcoming 2013).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Avoiding Marriage Tunnel Vision, New Scholars Colloquia, 2013 Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Annual Conference, Palm Beach, Fla.

Panelist, Developments in Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage, 2013 SEALS Annual Conference, Palm Beach, Fla.

Avoiding Marriage Tunnel Vision, Midwest Family Law Consortium, University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wis.

Avoiding Marriage Tunnel Vision, Feminist Legal Theory Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, Md.



Professor David Hrick

Recent Publications

Make Patent Trolls Pay in Court, The New York Times (June 5, 2013) (with Chief Judge Rader and Prof. Colleen Chien).

Property (3d ed. LexisNexis 2013) (with Profs. David Crump and David Caudill).

Patent Ethics - Prosecution (2d ed. LexisNexis 2013) (with Dr. Mercedes Meyer)

Honors, Awards & Activities

Served as law clerk to Chief Judge Randall R. Rader of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Appointed to the Professionalism and Ethics Committee of the American Intellectual Property Law Association.



Professor Stephen Johnson

Recent Publications

Teaching for Tomorrow: Utilizing Technology to Implement the Reforms of MacCrate, Carnegie, and Best Practices, Neb. L. Rev. (forthcoming).

The Changing Discourse of the Supreme Court, U. N.H. L. Rev. (forthcoming).



Professor Mark L. Jones

Recent Publications

Toward Human Flourishing: Character, Practical Wisdom, and Professional Formation (Mercer University Press May 2013) (with Profs. Paul Lewis and Kelly Reffitt).



Professor Jeremy Kidd

Recent Publications

Does Increased Litigation Increase Justice in a Second-Best World?, American Illness (Frank Buckley, ed., Yale University Press 2013) (with Prof. Todd Zywicki).

Rich, Smart, Honest?: Does Success Lead to Unethical Lawyering?, 9 St. Thomas L. J. (forthcoming 2013) (with Prof. Michael Krauss).

Select Speeches and Presentations

It's an investment, not a loan, Testimony before the National Conference of Insurance Legislators, Philadelphia, Pa.

Panelist, *Money, Politics, and State Courts: A Threat to a Fair and Impartial Judiciary?*, American Constitution Society National Convention.



Professor Patrick E. Longan W.A. Bootle Chair in Ethics and Professionalism

Select Speeches and Presentations

The Use of All Your Powers Along Lines of Excellence, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association Professionalism Luncheon, Atlanta, Ga.

Incivility in Litigation: Causes, Contours and Cures, State Bar of Georgia Labor and Employment Law Section CLE, Atlanta, Ga.

An Introduction to Professionalism Through the Life and Vision of the Honorable Harold G. Clarke, John Marshall Law School Professionalism Series, Atlanta, Ga.



Professor Teri McMurtry-Chubb

Recent Publications

Toward A Disciplinary Pedagogy for Legal Education, 1 Savannah L. Rev. (forthcoming 2013).

Select Speeches and Presentations

Panelist, *Symposium on The Doctrine of Legal Writing*, Southeast Legal Writing Conference, Savannah, Ga.

Presenter, *Beyond Creac, Creax, CruPac and the Tower of Babel: How Your Legal Writing Paradigm May Be Preventing Critical Thinking*, Southeast Legal Writing Conference, Savannah, Ga.

Honors, Awards & Activities

Remarks on tenure, employment equity, diversity, and transparency in the ABA Standards for Accreditation of Law Schools, Testimony before the Taskforce on the Future of Legal Education, San Francisco, Ca.



Visiting Professor Kamina Pinder

Recent Publications

Reconciling Race-Neutral Strategies as Race-Conscious Objectives: The Potential Resurgence of the Structural Injunction in Education Litigation, 9 Stanford J. Civ. Rts & Civ. Liberties 247 (2013).



Professor David Ritchie Professor of Law and Philosophy

Select Speeches and Presentations

The Moral and Rhetorical Aspects of the Immigration Policy Debate in the U.S., inaugural event of a program on comparative aspects of immigration policy, Federal Magistrates School, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Honors, Awards & Activities

Named Distinguished Fellow in the Institute for Social and Cultural Research at the Macau University of Science and Technology

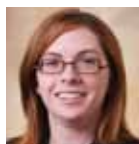
While in Asia, taught a short course titled "Economic Constitutionalism in Asia" at the Nankai University School of Law.



Professor Michael Sabbath Professor and SBLL/W. Homer Drake, Jr., Endowed Chair in Bank- ruptcy Law

Select Speeches and Presentations

Bankruptcy and the Elderly, Issues Involving Student Loans in Bankruptcy and The Supreme Court's Decision in Stern v. Marshall and Fraudulent Conveyances, South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association's 23rd Annual Seminar, Myrtle Beach, S.C.



Professor Jennifer Sheppard

Select Speeches and Presentations

Presenter, *Aspen's Custom Publishing: Why Legal Writing Faculty Should Take Advantage of This Opportunity*, Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference.



Dean Gary J. Simson Macon Chair in Law

Select Speeches & Presentations

Panelist, *Legal Education Crisis? Law School Deans Engage*, 2013 South-eastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Annual Conference, Palm Beach, Fla.

Luncheon speeches at various law firms in Atlanta and Macon on developments at Mercer Law School and in legal education generally.

Honors, Awards & Activities

Represented the Law School on various occasions, including: 11th Circuit Federal Judicial Conference, Savannah, Ga.; State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting, Hilton Head, S.C.; South-eastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Palm Beach, Fla.; and Investiture of Justice (and Mercer Law alumnus) Hugh Thompson as Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, Atlanta, Ga.

Continued to play an active role in Institute of Continuing Judicial Education as member of its Board of Trustees.

Met with alumni in Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Chattanooga and Sewanee, Tenn., and various cities in Georgia.

Named to the Board of Trustees of the Atlanta Regional Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Regaled audience at Macon's 11th Annual Bragg Jam Arts and Music Festival with rendition of three folk rock classics, including "Blind Willie McTell" — Bob Dylan's tribute to middle Georgia's legendary blues musician.



Professor Karen J. Sneddon

Select Speeches and Presentations

Speaker at the AALS Workshop for Beginning Legal Writing Law School Teachers, Washington, D.C.

Honors, Awards & Activities

Received the Reynold J. Kosek, Jr., Excellence in Teaching Award.



Professor Scott C. Titshaw

Recent Publications

Immigration for Same-Sex Couples in a Post-DOMA World, Huffington Post, (July 26, 2013), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-titshaw/immigration-for-same-sex-spouses-in-a-post-doma-world_b_3661282.html.

Immigration and the LGBT Client, Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook, 2013-14 Edition (American Immigration Lawyers Association) (with V. Neilson & E. Berndt).

Select Speeches & Presentations:

Panelist, *Immigration and the LGBT Client*, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, Calif.

Discussion Leader and Panelist, *Immigration Law Following the Supreme Court Decisions*, National LGBT Bar Association webinar.

Discussion Leader and Panelist, *Womb With a View: Surrogacy Issues and Immigration for Children*, AILA National Podcast.

The Future of LGBT Immigration: A Discussion of Immigration Issues in Light of Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Judicial Action on DOMA, National LGBT Bar Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, Calif.

TURNING POINT: 1927

By Joseph E. Claxton, *Professor Emeritus*

MERCER LAW SCHOOL has passed through three critical periods during which there was doubt whether it would survive, much less flourish. One of those was from 1933 to 1937, when the Law School felt the full force of the Great Depression. Two men — Dr. Spright Dowell, arguably the University’s greatest president, and William Augustus Bootle, a young acting dean later to become a legendary federal district judge — deserve credit for navigating the Law School through those very difficult years.

Another critical time for the Law School was immediately after the end of World War II.

The school had closed for the duration of the conflict. Would returning veterans, in reasonably significant numbers, choose to pursue (or resume) a legal education at Mercer? No one knew the answer, but it turned out to be a resounding yes.

Of course, the Depression and World War II would have had a significant impact on any law school, and certainly on a small, private one. Hidden away in the long history of Mercer Law, however, is an almost forgotten year of crisis — 1927.

That year, the dean of the Law School, Rufus Carrollton Harris, announced his resignation to accept the deanship of the Tulane University School of Law. (Harris eventually served as Tulane’s president for 23 years, then Mercer’s for 19.) Later in 1927, Dr. Rufus W. Weaver, then-president of the University, resigned to accept a senior position in the Southern Baptist Convention. Those two resignations occurred at a time when the University as a whole was in considerable disarray. In essence, Mercer University was undergoing an institutional identity crisis, decades before that phrase became embedded in American culture.

The crisis was brought into bold highlights when President Weaver and the Board of Trustees invited three leading Southern educators to conduct an in-depth examination of the University. Their 326-page *Survey of Mercer University* was a remarkable document for its time. The drafters relied on the language of *The*

Macon Telegraph to articulate (in blunter terms than they felt free to offer as their own) the basic issue that faced the University:

... [T]he question ... [confronting the Board is] ... whether Mercer shall go forward to a place as a university or whether it shall slip back into the position of simply another denominational college. Denominational colleges are very well, in their place, and this place is a rather important one in the present arrangement of society, but a sectarian school is not a university. The woods are full of “universities” which are just what Mercer is growing away from — small colleges, with an earnest Christian Faculty, their hands tied by sectarian dogma and their efforts hamstrung by sectarian tight-fistedness.

In effect, would Mercer be a genuine university, focused on a broad-based approach to the liberal arts in a religious atmosphere or something much more narrow — a “Bible college”?

The authors of the survey clearly doubted that the Law School fit the purposes of the University as a whole. In contrast, *The Telegraph* rose to the Law School’s support. (The school needed all the support it could get; at the time it had its “home” in a dormitory — Sherwood Hall.) For the newspaper’s editorial board, there was “such a thing as stunting the growth of any organism, or even choking it to death, by constricting. Something like this is threatening the Mercer Law School.”

The reality was that the future — survival — depended on the construction of a building for use by the Law School only. The American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools were demanding it, and an extensive portion of the survey’s conclusion was devoted to a discussion of the necessity for a building for the Law School if the institution’s viability was to be maintained.

The survey also emphasized, however, that the financial resources for such a building must not come from *existing* University resources, limited as they were. Sixty-three of the 756 students (or 8.37 percent) who enrolled at Mercer in 1927 were law



Sherwood Hall, home of Mercer Law School in 1927

students. Yet implicit in the survey's conclusion was that it would not be inappropriate to sacrifice the Law School if new sources of funding were not found.

Many years later, Judge Bootle wrote a detailed description of the response to what he quite correctly termed the "emergency" that confronted the Law School, new law dean Joe McClain, and Dr. Spright Dowell, who assumed the presidency of Mercer University in 1928:

[T]he necessity for larger and better quarters was obvious. The early accreditation had resulted from a certain spirit that the examiners of the accrediting agencies found among the faculty and students, and from a high quality of work accomplished despite a severe handicap in physical facilities. The school could not remain cabined and confined to one floor of the north wing of the men's dormitory, the old dining room area.

In 1928-29, the task of raising \$50,000 for a new building was not an easy one. Fortunately, there was a man named Thomas Edward Ryals, who was a friend and alumnus, a Trustee of Mercer, and a man whose identification with Mercer dates from

the beginning. His grandfather, Absalom Janes, was one of the founders of the institution

Mr. Ryals saw, in this emergency, an opportunity to accomplish a two-fold ambition: to serve Mercer, and to advance the cause of legal education. He offered one-fourth of the \$50,000, provided that friends and alumni would raise the balance. Thomas Halliburton, a Trustee, led a campaign in Macon duplicating Mr. Ryals' gift. Then Dean McClain and Dr. John G. Harrison of the Christianity department (finding no incompatibility between law and religion) through a statewide effort, raised the other half. There were 171 contributors in Macon and 252 others from other sections of the state. The building was thus assured. It was dedicated on June 2, 1930.

The Mercer Law School had its future. The building, ultimately named for T.E. Ryals, was an excellent structure. By the second half of the 20th century, its relatively small size would create new problems. At the time of its construction, however, the Ryals Building was literally a life-saver for the Mercer University School of Law.

Class Notes

1966

W. Carl Reynolds and **Joseph Boyd** ('04) of Reynolds Horne & Survant settled one of the largest worker's compensation claims in Georgia history for \$4.5 million.

1970

Charles E. Harris III was promoted to senior underwriter at Stewart Title Guaranty Company.

1973

Thomas M. Finn of Thomas M. Finn LLC was appointed a member of the Riverside Military Academy Board of Trustees.

Michael S. Haber joined the Atlanta office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC as a senior counsel. He will practice corporate law with a focus on financial institutions with a national practice centered on commercial transactions and bankruptcy law.

1979

Class Correspondents:

Danny Craig, drcraig@augustaga.gov
Mary Katz, mkatz@chrkglaw.com

1981

Vi Bennett was elected Wayne County State Court Judge in 2012.

1982

Micky Grindstaff was the commencement speaker at the University of Central Florida's summer graduation. Grindstaff is also currently the chair of the UCF Board of Trustees and a partner at Shutts & Bowen LLP.

1983

Betsy Griswold received the Lifetime Achievement Award in *Atlanta Business Chronicle* and the Association of Corporate Counsel, Georgia Chapter's 2013 Corporate Counsel Awards.

1985

Virginia Patterson announced her son Charles Patterson's enrollment at Mercer University for fall semester.

Carter Stout was awarded the Member of Distinction Award by the Real Estate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. He also received a Service Award from the Dunwoody Rotary Club for his service to the club during the past year.

1987

Nathan M. Jolles of Nathan M. Jolles PC was recognized at the State Bar of Georgia headquarters in June as the small law firm division winner in the 2013 Georgia Legal Food Frenzy. The firm collected a total of 7,093 pounds.

Hon. Victor Blake McKinney was elected by the Virginia General Assembly House of Delegates and Senate as a General District Court Judge for the 28th Judicial District, effective July 1, 2012.

Ray S. Smith III was named partner and is now head of litigation for the law firm of Thrasher Liss & Smith LLC in Atlanta.

1988

Chas Reynolds was named the new Construction Litigation Committee Chair for the International Association of Defense Counsel.

1991

Frank McKay was appointed by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to be the chairman of the State Board of Worker's Compensation, effective March 1.

1992

Marilyn Sutton married **Dr. George L. Phillips** ('13) on May 19, 2012, at St. Simons Island.

1993

Kellye C. Moore was one of four women featured in the cover story, "Women in Charge," in the June issue of the *ABA Journal*. Moore is the managing partner of Walker Hulbert Gray & Moore in Perry.

1995

Luna Phillips was elected in August 2012 to serve on the Florida Bar's Executive Council of the Environmental and Land Use Law Section. Phillips is a shareholder at Gunster Law and focuses her practice on governmental, administrative and environmental law.

1996

Class Correspondent:

Auden Grumet, auden@atlantallawyer.org

Margaret A. Reeves-Lottimore served as an insurer faculty member in the graduate program of the Federation of Corporate and Defense Counsel's 10th Annual Litigation Management College at Emory University in June.

Paola Parra was named Woman Lawyer of the Year by the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association and is incoming president of the Rotary Club of San Jose, Fla. She and her husband, Robert Harris, practice together at Harris, Guidi, Rosner, Dunlap & Rudolph PA and have two boys, Lucas (7) and Marcus (5).

Elise A. Redmond was named president-elect of The Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte, N.C.

Thomas O. Sippel of Leitner, Williams, Dooley & Napolitan PLLC has been recognized as a 2012 Georgia Super Lawyer in the practice area of Civil Litigation Defense.



DON MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Judge M. Yvette Miller '80 Receives Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys' Award

Judge M. Yvette Miller (center), a two-time Mercer University graduate and a Macon native, was named this year's winner of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys' Leah Ward Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession. The award recognizes those who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of black women in the legal profession.

Miller was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals in 1999, becoming the first African-American woman on the court. In 2009, she was unanimously selected by her fellow judges to serve as chief judge. She is serving her third term on the court as a presiding judge. "Judge Miller's exemplary career, first as a trial lawyer and now as an appellate judge, serves as a model for others to follow," said Jacqueline Bunn, the organization's president. "Judge Miller is a trailblazer whose indomitable spirit and drive prove that, with hard work and perseverance, you can achieve any goal."

Miller received her bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from Mercer University in 1977 and 1980, respectively. She received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Law School in 2010. Additionally, Miller holds an LL.M. from the University of Virginia.

Chris Thompson joined the law firm O'Neal & Brown in Macon.

1997

Scott C. Huggins opened his own law firm in Cumming, focusing on defense of state and federal crimes, asset forfeiture and civil litigation.

John W. McCown Jr. became the senior director of tax strategy for Home Depot at its Vinings headquarters in June.

Lynn Scott joined Kilpatrick Townsend as a partner in its newly formed Healthcare, Life Sciences and Technology team.

1998

Jonathan J. Tuggle was elected chairman of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia, effective July 1. He is a partner at Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle LLC in Atlanta.

2000

Class Correspondent:

William Noland, william@childsandnoland.com

Erick-Woods Erickson has become a Fox News political contributor, after three years as a CNN contributor.

2001

Class Correspondents:

Chad C. Hastings, chastings@lesserlawfirm.com

Michelle Pinto, michelle.pinto@harris.com

Laura L. Voght, lvoght@wwhgd.com

Susan Warren, susanwarren@yahoo.com

William W. Rambo was appointed Judge of the State Court of Sumter County by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal. He has worked at the Americus firm Gatewood, Skipper and Rambo since 2001 and currently serves on the State Bar's Lawyer Advertising Ethics Committee.

2003

V. Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield was installed as the president-elect of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's Annual Meeting.

William W. Gwaltney announced the formation of Garfield, Gwaltney, Kelley & White, a law firm dedicated to real estate matters.

Jennifer R. Harbaugh and her husband, Mundo Harbaugh, announced the birth of their son, Henry Gerard, on Nov. 19, 2012.

Darrell L. Sutton was installed as the 67th president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's annual meeting.

Carl R. Varnedoe received the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's annual meeting.

2004

Class Correspondents:

Lauren Pierce Thomas, lauren3003@gmail.com

Lauren Shurling Finley, laurensurling@hotmail.com

Jessica Cabral married Beau Odom in Sea Island on May 12, 2012. Also, Jessica received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's annual meeting.

Erin Smith Corbett and her husband, Buddy Corbett, announced the birth of their daughter, Helen Faye, on April 8. The Corbett family lives in Macon, where Erin is Of Counsel at Bullard and Wangerin.

Kristie Fitzgerald is in-house counsel for State Farm Insurance.

Elizabeth Hall returned to Atlanta to join the firm of Stites & Harbinson. Hall was named a Georgia Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2009 and 2010 and received the *Fulton Daily Report* 2008 Pro Bono Award for Juvenile Legislative Advocacy.

Karen S. Kurtz was named an income shareholder at the law firm Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta. She also received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public and the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's annual meeting.

Blanton Carl Lingold married Emily Ivey on May 18. The couple resides in Milledgeville, where Lingold has his own practice, Blanton Carl Lingold PC.

Brandon Peak and **Brooke Cottingham Peak** announced the birth of twin girls, Anna Grace and Sally Boyd, on June 13. Additionally, Brandon Peak was elected by members of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association to serve on the 2013-14 Executive Committee as an American Association of Justice state delegate.

Hansell Watt was named partner at Coleman Talley LLP.

2005

Brian Adams and his wife, Amy, announced the birth of their daughter, Annie Elizabeth, on July 10.

Kathleen B. Connell was appointed to the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law American Inn of Court's board of directors. Connell was also recently appointed to the Georgia Commission on Child Support by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal.

Christopher J. Mueller was named a shareholder at Taylor, Day, Grimm, Boyd & Johnson PA in Jacksonville, Fla.

Bryan Ramos '99 Among '25 Most Influential Asian-Americans in Georgia'

Three Mercerians are among the "25 Most Influential Asian-Americans in Georgia" according to a list published by the *Georgia Asian Times*. The publication's editorial staff as well as a selection committee of community, civic, media and professional organizations, compiled the list. Those named and honored at an awards dinner July 18 included (from right) Bryan Ramos, LAW '99, principal of Ramos Law Firm and president of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia; Sharon Lim Harle, BUS '86, '90, assistant vice president of alumni services and university special events at Mercer; and Farooq Mughal, CLA '00, managing partner of MS Global Partners.

Ramos is a workers' compensation trial lawyer with degrees from Florida State University and Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law. He opened the Ramos Law Firm in 2005 and was named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers magazine from 2010 through 2012. He has been selected to the *Georgia Asian Times* "25 Most Influential Asian-Americans in Georgia" list each of the past three years. He also serves as a special assistant to the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Atlanta in addition to his role with the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia.



Class Notes

Sarah E. White received the Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's Annual Meeting.

2006

John R.B. "Jack" Long was installed as treasurer of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's Annual Meeting.

Julianne Meggs Stokes was selected as a 2012 and 2013 South Carolina Super Lawyer Rising Star in the practice area of family law.

Conrad W. Ziegler was appointed associate magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Cherokee County.

2007

Sally M. Bowman joined the Charlotte, N.C., office of Gallivan, White & Boyd PA as an associate in the firm's complex litigation group.

Ivy N. Cadle received the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Bar from the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's Annual Meeting.

Jocelyn P. Daniell and her husband, David Daniell, announced the birth of their second daughter, Cora Jean, on Feb. 13. Jocelyn is currently president of the Houston County Bar Association.

Cari (Henderson) Huddleston and her husband, Jason, announced the birth of their son, Banner Matthew, on July 18.

George P. Milmine II joined Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shaw LLP, practicing small business representation and business litigation.

Robert F. Glass and **James A. Robson** announced the opening of their new firm, Glass & Robson, specializing in catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases.

G. Boone Smith IV is now a partner at Smith, Hawkins Hollingsworth & Reeves LLP in Macon.

Justin Studstill joined the Studstill Firm LLP in Valdosta. His wife, **Haynes Maier Studstill**, and father Daniel are also at the firm.

Kathryn Elmore Thomson and husband **Russell Thomson** ('05) announced the birth of their third child, Anne Sawyer, on Dec. 26, 2012. The family resides in Columbia, S.C., where Russell practices insurance defense.

2008

Megan E. Boyd's blog, *Lady (Legal) Writer*, was named in "Top 10 Legal Writing Blogs" by *legalproductivity.com* and added to the American Bar Association Journal's Blawg Directory.

2009

Class Correspondent:

Cayce Myers, mcmyers@uga.edu

Benjamin Bryant serves as assistant general counsel—financial services for InComm, a global provider of prepaid cards and technologies.

Lee Ann Feeley joined the DeKalb County's Office of the Public Defender as an assistant public defender.

Michael Eric Hooper of Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers PC was one of four individuals recently selected as a Trust and Estates Fellow by the Real Property, Trust and Estates Section of the American Bar Association.

Billy Joe Nelson Jr. married Kathryn Fletcher Brock at Shellman Bluff on June 29.

Sunny Ricker Sandos announced the birth of her daughter, Jacey Ashton, on April 4, 2012.

2010

Class Correspondent:

Rizza Palmares O'Connor, rizzapalmares@gmail.com

Greer Aiken and his wife, **Leah M. Aiken** ('11), announced the birth of their daughter, Walker Greer, on March 22.

Ashley Lanell Deadwyler announced the opening of Deadwyler Law and will specialize in the areas of DUI & drug defense, family law, immigration law, non-profit law and small business start-ups.

Alison (Marx) Duncan married Ryan Duncan on May 27, 2012.

Amanda Lewis finished clerking for three years for Superior Court Judge Samuel D. Ozburn and will now be the court coordinator for the newly formed mental health court for the Alcovy Circuit.

Joan McCallum completed her first federal jury trial, litigating for her firm, Sanchez Hayes & Associates LLC in the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division. In the employment case, the firm's plaintiff received a judgment in favor of all counts, and the jury returned a verdict for more than \$500,000.

Taylor McNeill married **Leah Christina Fiorenza** ('09) on March 9.

Adam Younker and **Justin Oliverio** announced the opening of Younker & Oliverio PC in Fayetteville. They will specialize in criminal defense, business and bankruptcy.

William Otto, Ashleigh Madison ('01), **Quentin Marlin** ('07), **Robert Hughes** ('04) and **Helen Bacon** ('06) were on the winning Kiss-A-Pig Team, raising money for diabetes research. Their team was called the Savannah "BOAR" Association, and they raised nearly \$43,000, more than any other team.

Katherine N. Willet and **Rizza Palmares** were elected to the Executive Council of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia on June 21 during the organization's annual meeting.

Rizza Palmares married **Daniel O'Connor** ('12) on Dec. 8, 2012.

Nicholas Pavlov and his wife, Samantha Pavlov, announced the birth of their son, Oliver Atwood, on Oct. 1, 2011.

Kristine Pham married David Samchok on July 27.

Jessica Morgan Phillips married Mike Phillips on Dec. 8, 2012.

Kelley Pierce Smith married **Robert Smith** on March 23.

Chase Swanson served as the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association New Lawyers Division co-chair for 2012-13 and is currently serving as division president of Cobb County Younger Lawyers.

Bardlay Taylor married **Danielle Lehman Taylor** ('12) on April 14.

Ben Wallace and his wife, Carrie Beth Wallace, announced the birth of their son, Wade Barnett, on Aug. 13, 2012.

Dustin Weeks announced the birth of his son, Gage Brantley, on Oct. 19, 2012.

Matt Wetherington completed the 2012 State Bar of Georgia, Young Lawyer Division's Leadership Academy. He also launched the Tire Safety Group, a nationwide consumer safety campaign. He works at Werner & Associates on product liability and consumer safety claims.

Michele Boothroyd Wetherington and **Katherine N. Willet** completed the 2013 State Bar of Georgia, Young Lawyer Division's Leadership Academy.

Jarrell Williams works at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Justin Williams married Jennifer Williams on June 1.

2011

Class Correspondents:

Brian M. Jasper, bjasper@wilkesmchugh.com

Bowen Reichert Shoemaker

Jonathan L. Simpson, jonathan.simpson.1@us.af.mil

Chasity L. Hawkins announced the birth of her daughter, Madeline Elizabeth, on July 25, 2012.

Tyler K.L. Hurst announced the opening of Stone and Hurst Law Office in Tazewell, Tenn.

Alex Landis was promoted to consultant at Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C., and co-wrote commentaries on appeals from the U.S. International Trade Commission, published in Volume 44, Issue 1 of the *Georgia Journal of International Law*.

Catherine Bell Mitchell joined Smith Moore Leatherwood in Charlotte, N.C., as an associate in their real estate practice group.

Ashley Muller and **Garon Muller** married in Honeoye Falls, N.Y., on July 6.

Philip Potter is an associate at Westmoreland, Patterson, Moseley & Hinson LLP. He works in the firm's Macon and Warner Robins offices and practices personal injury.

Andrew Smith married **Brittany Smith** ('13) on May 25, 2012.

Brooke Walker finished her clerkship with **The Honorable Marc T. Treadwell** ('81) in August and starts at Balch & Bingham in Atlanta as a business litigation associate in September. She married **David Gram** ('10) in March.

2012

Class Correspondent:

Justin Purvis, justinpurvis10@gmail.com

Janene Browder accepted a judicial clerkship with Superior Court Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit.

David Cheng announced the opening of his own firm, The Law Office of Attorney David Cheng, in Atlanta. He also is Of Counsel to Molden & Holley LLC and a contract attorney for the Dickason Law Group and the Dow Law Firm.

Daniel Cole joined the law firm of Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele in Marietta.

John Cranford joined the Coweta Judicial Circuit's District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney.

David Dorer practices law in Macon, became host of two podcasts, started a blog at daviddorer.com and became a 2013 Bragg Jam sponsor.

Ryan W. English joined Long & Hall LLP in Warner Robins as their new associate.

Maggie Hinchey married Christopher DeLeon in Savannah on May 11.

Justin Purvis married Lindsey Davis Purvis on May 19, 2012, and joined Young, Thagard, Smith, Hoffman, Lawrence & Shenton LLP as an associate practicing in civil litigation and medical malpractice.

William R. Richardson joined Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC as an associate in the Real Estate/Finance group and is a member of the firm's Emerging Companies team.

Jennifer Terry joined Miller and Martin PLLC in Chattanooga, Tenn., as an associate in the firm's Labor and Employment Department.

Randi Warren joined Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young LLP as an associate specializing in toxic tort and environmental litigation, premise liability and product liability.

Latoya Williams completed Mercer Law's LL.M. program in Federal Criminal Practice and Procedure and joined the Houston County Public Defender's Office as an assistant public defender.

In Memory

1950s

Raymond L. Dockery '51 of Douglas, Jan. 23, 2012.

Lee Roy Grogan '55 of Columbus, July 1.

Wayne F. Holmes '55 of Nantucket, Mass., May 12, 2011.

James P. Lamb '55 of Miami, Fla., Feb. 3.

A. Dale Albritton '59 of Macon, June 18.

John S. Eskridge '59 of Bemidji, Minn., March 16.

1960s

Joline Bateman Williams '60 of Camilla, April 7.

Daniel E. C. Boone Jr. '62 of Tampa, Fla., Dec. 8, 2012.

John M. Wyatt '62 of Opelika, Ala., Feb. 12.

James S. Owens Jr. '66 of Atlanta, Feb. 10.

Phillip K. Beck '69 of Bell, Fla., May 31.

1970s

Otis Hale Alamand Jr. '70 of Macon, July 9.

The Honorable Daniel Parks Camp '70 of Carrollton, July 9.

John Lawrence Merritt '71 of Cumming, March 10.

Harry W. Krumenauer '76 of Marietta, Nov. 15, 2012.

1980s

Clifford Basil Goad Jr. '83 of Savannah, March 8.

Howard W. Green Jr. '84 of Miami, Fla., Oct. 25, 2010.

Gary Michael Newberry '85 of Savannah, April 16.

Barbara Doster Pruitt '86 of Columbus, July 18.

1990s

Ron Lewis Jones II '90 of Lawrenceville, April 26.

Mercer Alumni Elected Officers of Young Lawyers' Division, Cobb County Bar

In the May 2013 elections, four positions on the Young Lawyers' Division of the Cobb County Bar Association board were filled by Mercer Law alumni. Chase Swanson '10 was elected president; April Holloway '09 was elected president-elect; Soo Hong '08 was elected treasurer and Darl Champion '07 was elected secretary.

Welcome New Mercer Law School Alumni Board of Directors Members

Jonathan L. Bledsoe '02 Anne Kaufold-Wiggins '05 Wendy Vonnegut '89
April Holloway '09 James E. Messer '93

Welcome New Board of Visitors Members

Thomas E. Cauthorn III, Maria Odom '97
CLA '69, LAW '72 J. Henry Walker IV '86

Hugh Thompson '69 Becomes Georgia Chief Justice

Hugh Thompson, '69, was elected unanimously by his colleagues to serve a four-year term as the Georgia Supreme Court's next chief justice. Chief Justice Thompson was sworn in on Aug. 15, 2013 as the 30th Chief Justice of the state's highest court. His duties include presiding over the court's arguments and administering court meetings. Former Governor Zell Miller appointed Thompson to the Supreme Court in 1994 and performed Thompson's swearing in ceremony inside the House chambers at the state Capitol. Prior to serving as chief justice, Thompson practiced law in Milledgeville, Ga., and has served as a judge on the Milledgeville City Court, Baldwin County Court and the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit.



MERCER LAW'S LL.M. in
Federal Criminal Practice
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- A distinguished faculty with substantial experience and expertise in both law teaching and federal criminal practice.
- Innovative and varied instructional methods, including a significant component of experiential learning in the form of simulation exercises and a clinical field placement.

For more information on the program, part-time enrollment tuition, financial aid and partial scholarships, visit law.mercer.edu/academics/llm or contact Professor and Program Co-Director Jim Fleissner at fleissner_jp@law.mercer.edu or (478) 301-2637.



Chief architect of the Mercer LL.M. program, James P. Fleissner was an Assistant United States Attorney before joining the faculty at Mercer Law School in 1994.

A portrait of Warren Power, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a purple and blue striped bow tie. He is looking slightly upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred interior space with a large, ornate chandelier visible on the left.

“HOW CAN I NOT GIVE BACK TO MERCER LAW?”

SALDWA-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

After graduating from Mercer Law in 1988, Warren Power

went on to become a founding partner of Power•Jaugstetter in McDonough, where he has achieved wide acclaim for his expertise in land use matters, especially eminent domain. Despite the demands of his successful practice, Power has not forgotten his beginnings at Mercer Law.

Years after selecting Mercer over various other law schools, Power maintains a lasting connection to his alma mater. He gives generously of his time and insights as a member of the Law School's Board of Visitors and as an Adjunct Professor of Law.

“I was making a commitment when I chose Mercer, and Mercer made a commitment to me,” Power said.
“I can't describe myself without including the phrase 'I am a graduate of Mercer Law School.'”

Recognizing the impact that alumni giving had on the quality of his education at Mercer Law, Power seeks with gifts of his own to do for later generations of Mercer Law students what his predecessors did for him. He credits his years at Mercer Law as vital to the success that he enjoys today.

Now a prominent litigator, a father of two, and a husband of 26 years, he looks back on his experience and poses the question, “How can I not give back to Mercer Law? I feel as much a part of Mercer Law as Mercer Law is a part of me.”

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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.

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SAVE THE DATE LAWDAY LUNCHEON MARCH 28 2014

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