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, dcraig@augustaga.gov
Mary Katz, mkatz@chkglaw.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
Kelhy 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@atlantalawyer.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.

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@wwgd.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 Americas 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 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, laurens hurling@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 Weltman 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.


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.


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, rizzopalmares@gmail.com

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

Ashley Lancell 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 verdict for more than $500,000.

Taylor McNell 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.


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.

Barclay 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, hjjasper@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.


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

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


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 LLM program in Federal Criminal Practice and Procedure and joined the Houston County Public Defender’s Office as an assistant public defender.

In Memory

1950s
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.

1970s
Otis Hale Alamand Jr. ’70 of Macon, July 9.
The Honorable Daniel Parks Camp ’71 of Cumming, March 10.
John Lawrence Merritt ’71 of Cumming, March 10.

1980s
Clifford Basil Goad Jr. ’83 of Savannah, March 8.
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
April Holloway ’09

Welcome New Board of Visitors Members

Thomas E. Cauthorn III, CLA ’89, LAW ’72
Maria Odom ’97
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 administrating 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.