

Building on the Momentum



2007-08 Board of Visitors members are: (l. to r.) Kay Deming (J.D.'78), Julie Lumpkin (J.D.'90), Chair Mike Bowers (J.D.'74), Elsie Dunlap Henderson (J.D.'76), Jim Ellington (J.D.'87), Kevin Gooch (J.D.'04) and Jim Butler (J.D.'77). Not pictured are: Kathleen Amos (J.D.'82), Roy Barnes (J.D.'72) and Ed Garland (LL.B.'65).

A letter to alumni from the Board of Visitors

Many of you are aware that the university's Archway to Excellence capital campaign will come to a close on June 30. The School of Law has had a very successful effort, raising more than \$19 million to date. (The school's stated goal was \$17 million.) These important dollars will primarily be used for student scholarships and faculty support.

In today's educational environment, fundraising is growing more critical by the day, especially for schools that are thought of as state funded. Increasingly, all levels of government are facing more and more demand for limited tax dollars. Thus, many schools must aggressively seek private funding, and

our law school is one of them.

Money is needed to keep *our* law school from merely just maintaining the status quo or, worse yet, from falling behind (remember, a large majority of other law schools are currently making fundraising a priority as well).

We are fortunate that large strides have been made in this area in recent years under the auspices of the Archway to Excellence campaign. Through the efforts of Dean Rebecca H. White, the members of the Capital Campaign Committee, the Law School Association Council and Board of Visitors, and the school's development staff, dollars have been raised for Georgia Law to continue to attract a quality student body by having more scholarship funds, providing various study and work abroad opportunities, fostering a strong advocacy program and aiding our student journals, just to name a few.

Additionally, contributions to the law school have been used to recruit and retain an outstanding corps of professors who want to excel in the classroom and as scholars. We all want to learn from those who are at the top of their field, and money to recruit outstanding faculty aids this goal. Furthermore, having an engaged faculty helps to attract the best students just as much as having a top notch student body is very inviting to

the best professors.

Donating your hard earned dollars to the School of Law is a very worthwhile investment for each and every one of you. It is difficult not to be proud of being a Georgia Law graduate when the school announces that it has added another stellar faculty member specializing in a dynamic, new legal field or that one of its faculty has received UGA's highest teaching honor or that it has once again captured a national moot court or mock trial championship. For these very reasons, and because your professional success can be traced back to the education you received in Athens, you need to make *our* law school a part of, if not a priority in, your charitable giving each year.

While the Archway to Excellence campaign may be coming to a close, the need to remember the law school in your future philanthropic plans continues. We need to build on the momentum of the past few years and help our alma mater build on its successes; educate the next generation of leaders for our state, region and country; and continue to be counted among our nation's finest public law schools.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bowers

Michael J. Bowers (J.D.'74)

2007-08 Board of Visitors Chair