

Recent graduates get head start on legal career with clerkships

Judicial clerkships put students on a good career path, according to Jason M. Solomon, assistant professor and faculty adviser on clerkships.

“Lawyers don’t agree on much, but most agree that clerking for a judge is one of the best ways to start your legal career – for the inside look at the legal system, the mentoring and the leg up it gives you in getting better work at a firm or other legal job, and more options down the road,” he said.

Thirty-seven members of the Class of 2006 were successful in securing judicial clerkships. They are:

Federal Clerkships

Amanda E. Ballard – Judge Gregory A. Presnell, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida

Wilson G. Barmeyer – Chief Judge William T. Moore Jr. (LL.B.’64), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

C. Brock Brockington – Senior Judge Duross Fitzpatrick (LL.B.’66), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

Jason T. Burnette – Judge R. Lanier Anderson III, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

Michael A. Caplan – Judge Richard W. Story (J.D.’78), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Taylor M. Chamberlin – Magistrate Judge G.R. Smith (J.D.’78), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

D. Lee Clayton – Chief Judge Curtis L. Collier, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee

E. Helen Eisenstein – Judge C. Ashley Royal (J.D.’74), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

M. Kathleen Hart – Chief Judge J.L. Edmondson (J.D.’71), U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

Amy E. Hawkins – Magistrate Judge G.R. Smith (J.D.’78), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Michele J. Kim – Judge John S. Dalis (J.D.’77), U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Leland H. Kynes – Judge Charles R. Wilson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

Dustin R. Marlowe – Senior Judge William C. O’Kelley, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Christopher M. Ramsey – Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr., U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

Margaret O. Rentz – Magistrate Judge James E. Graham, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Meredith A. Stein – Senior Judge G. Ernest Tidwell, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Allison P. Stephens – Judge Clay D. Land (J.D.’85), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

Andrew J. Tuck – Senior Judge B. Avant Edenfield (J.D.’58), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Logan B. Winkles – Magistrate Judge Walter E. Johnson, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

State Clerkships

Francis L. “Bud” Barnes – Justice Harold Frend See Jr., Alabama Supreme Court

James B. Coleman – Judge Holly Brown, 18th Judicial District Court of Montana

Liegia B. DiFazio – Judge John J. Goger, Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Nick T. Hunter – Chief Judge Roger W. Dunaway Jr., Toombs Judicial Circuit

Santana T. Flanigan – Judge Jack Partain, Conasauga Judicial Circuit

Matthew B. Freedman – Judge Robert E. Flournoy III (J.D.’79), Cobb Judicial Circuit

Lauren A. Love – Judge John Lee Parrott (J.D.’74), Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit

J. Paul Mitchell – Carroll County Superior Court, Coweta Judicial Circuit

Tamika R. Montgomery – Delaware Court of Chancery

Charlsie K. Paine – Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet, Augusta Judicial Circuit

Christian L. Perrin – Conasauga Judicial Circuit

Christina L. Pringham – Cherokee Judicial Circuit

Kathryn E. Rhodes – Judge Frank J. Jordan Jr., Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

Jonathan L. Sharpley – Conasauga Judicial Circuit

Heather L. Stevenson – Judge Sheryl B. Jolly, Augusta Judicial Circuit

Stacey Suber-Drake – Judge Bonnie Chessher Oliver, Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Betsy B. Tanner – Judge Neal W. Dickert, Augusta Judicial Circuit

Britton G. White – Judge Joseph H. Booth, Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Georgia Law outshines other schools with ABA posts

Georgia Law students are some of the most visible and active student leaders in the American Bar Association. This is particularly true in the ABA’s Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), where Georgia Law students currently claim 12 TIPS student vice chair positions, more than any other law school.

Serving in TIPS student vice chair positions for the 2006-07 term are second-year students Sara C. Barnhart, M. Catherine Bates, Mark J. Boyd, Milind K. Dongre, Alphonso A. “Beau” Howell, John P. Jett, Sivram D. Prasad, Sarah M. Stephens and third-year student Lauren R. Kruck. Third-year students Catherine E. Clarke, James R. “Jim” Fletcher and Thomas C. Soldan are each serving a second year in their previous vice chair posts.

Additionally, Fletcher is the student liaison to the Long Range Planning Committee, and Aaron L. Walter, a 2006 graduate, is the Law Student Board chair.

“It speaks very highly of our students to have so many accepted in the program,” Fletcher said. “Because of the excellent work and deep involvement of UGA law students with the ABA, we have developed a reputation for dedicated and capable student leaders.”



John T. DeGenova: Excelling on and off the field

“Grandes. Off the bus.” Not many people can say they have been kicked off a small travel bus in the mountainous region of Costa Rica, but for former Georgia Bulldogs offensive lineman John T. DeGenova, it seemed like more of a joke.

“I was first off the bus and had to walk up the hill behind the bus and get back in. Then the bus driver would kick me out again,” DeGenova, a Louisiana native, laughs.

International travel study opportunities were one of DeGenova’s favorite perks of being a Foundation Fellow during his undergraduate career at UGA. Gaining a global perspective on issues is a central part of a fellow’s education, according to DeGenova.

Now, as a first-year law student, he relates his traveling to his legal studies. DeGenova believes some of the most valuable knowledge one can bring to the practice of law is knowing there are different sides to every issue. He sees the art of examining each side as an important aspect of the law.

Some of his Foundation Fellow friends who are ahead of him in law school have helped him to prepare for the rigor of the first year of legal study.

DeGenova also cites playing football for Georgia Bulldog Coach Mark Richt as instrumental in helping to get ready for the enormous amount of schoolwork. Being a former Bulldog taught him about perseverance and determination – two much-needed qualities in law school – as well as how to develop a strong sense of self.

During the fall semester, DeGenova made time on the weekends to watch his beloved

Dawgs play between the Hedges. He even got a little emotional at games watching from the stands instead of watching from the field.

DeGenova recalled stepping out on the field for the first time against the University of Kentucky in 2003. “Just to realize that all that work went into something was a moment I’ll never forget,” he said.

DeGenova has not gotten any negative responses from his classmates upon their learning that he is a former SEC football player. According to DeGenova, some are impressed that football players are smart enough to attend law school.

However, there is no question about the intelligence of this Dawg. His numerous academic scholarships – including the Law School Association Scholarship and the Frank Ramsey Memorial Scholarship, named in memory of a 1981 law graduate who died in a car accident and created for former UGA football players – speak for themselves.

Along with football, the college town atmosphere of Athens cemented DeGenova’s initial decision to attend UGA. He said he feels at home in the city and attending Georgia Law was just the natural course for him to take. “Georgia is my adopted state.”

While DeGenova is working through his first year of law school, he constantly evaluates his goals and where he sees himself in three years. He understands the breadth of the law and knows realistically that specialization is key to survival. “It can be a little intimidating thinking about all that you don’t know and all that you probably will never be able to get a grip on,” he said.

DeGenova does not appear to be too worried, however. His travels have sparked his desire to explore work in the U.S. intelligence field because he feels America needs positive representation. International law is also a strong possibility.



Nandi F. Campbell: Grass roots meets public defender

Second-year student Nandi F. Campbell came to Georgia Law with one specific goal in mind – she wants to become a public defender. In fact, at the age of 33, she woke up one day and decided to quit her job with the city of New York to go to law school.

Campbell does not allow her nontraditional status to stand in the way of her academic success. She is proud of her age. “I appreciate that I’m older. I think it comes in handy sometimes in law school,” Campbell said.

Being out of touch with the academic world has made law school a little more difficult for Campbell, but she enjoys the challenge. She balances out her tough academic schedule with work through Georgia Law’s criminal defense clinic course, which provides the opportunity for hands-on learning with the Western Circuit Public Defender Office.

Working with the public defender office is just one way Campbell connects with the local community. She also volunteers at the Athens Boys and Girls Club where she initiated a mentoring program called “My Sister’s Keeper,” modeled after another program she created while living in New York City. Campbell meets once a week with girls aged 10 to 13 to discuss salient issues like peer pressure and self-esteem.

She also spends her time volunteering on the board of the Boybutante AIDS Foundation in Athens. Campbell helps to plan their big fund raiser each year at the 40 Watt Club in downtown Athens to raise money for AIDS awareness.

Campbell's extracurricular involvement does not stop there. She also holds an office in four separate law student organizations.

Her apparent lack of free time does not bother this self-proclaimed "grassroots activist." She believes her commitment to these causes warrants at least 30 minutes of her time each week. "I think I get more out of it than I give," she added.

Currently, her favorite project to work on involves helping to organize the 2007 Working in the Public Interest (WIPI) Conference. Campbell recognizes the importance of staying on track to ensure the conference has a chance of benefiting future generations of law students.

Campbell sees WIPI changing lives in more ways than one. She cites the need for an opportunity to allow law students to graduate and work in the public interest without having to pay off enormous college loans. This would help change the image of public defenders and draw more talented lawyers into the field, according to Campbell.

Maintaining her integrity as a lawyer and staying grounded are just two of the benefits Campbell gleans from her involvement in so many organizations at Georgia Law.

However, the decreased amount of free time was not the only radical change for this Brooklyn native upon moving to Georgia. Campbell had to learn to drive. She has only been driving for one year. She bought her first car and learned to drive from her mother on the streets of Athens. "It's almost a joke – me and driving," Campbell said.

Second Annual Working in the Public Interest Conference

Georgia Law students will host the Second Annual Working in the Public Interest (WIPI) law conference March 30 and 31. The 2007 conference will host nine panels and 11 roundtables covering a range of important and current issues relating to poverty. To learn more about this year's WIPI conference, please visit www.law.uga.edu/wipi.



Mark P. Jones: Writing his way to the top

For third-year student Mark P. Jones, the end is in sight. Jones sees himself as a prosecutor after graduation in May. A judicial clerkship would also suit this academic.

"I'd rather write a report that's well thought out, where my sources are all correct, and I've really polished it," Jones said.

His passion for writing has led Jones to a recent win in the Oklahoma Supreme Court's Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition.

Jones entered the competition last spring after the Office of Legal Career Services alerted him to the opportunity. After collaborating with Georgia Law Associate Professor Peter A. Appel, the two worked out a winning topic for the paper.

Jones mentioned an interest in writing about Indian gaming because of its popularity in Oklahoma, and Appel suggested looking into Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff. The final essay analyzed Indian gaming law lobbying in light of the Abramoff scandal, according to Jones.

As part of the top prize, Jones received \$500 and attended the Sovereignty Symposium XIX in Oklahoma City, Okla., this past summer. His essay was also published in the symposium's compendium of materials, which are widely read among the native gaming population and scholars interested in Native American law. According to Jones, his paper was even referred to in one of the conference's lectures on Indian gaming.

This competition was not the only one, however, for this avid writer. Georgia Law Hosch Professor Anne Proffitt Dupre

(J.D.'88) provides the opportunity for students in her education law class to submit a scholarly essay to possibly be featured at the annual education law conference at UGA. Jones presented his work on Title IX during September at the symposium, and his work will be published in the *Education Law and Policy Forum*, an online journal.

Already entered in yet another national writing competition, Jones still finds time to hone his skills by participating in Georgia Law's Prosecutorial Clinic. In fact, his work in the Elbert County Prosecutor's Office has been his biggest challenge lately.

"Just the transition from school and academics to actually applying some of that knowledge strikes me. You get to see how the books differ from what actually happens out there," Jones said.

His prosecutorial experience has been helping to guide his career aspirations. At first, law school was going to be his avenue into politics. "My mom told me once that all these legislators are lawyers initially," Jones said. But now, he just wants to prosecute.

However, if prosecuting does not work out, Jones also sees himself in a clerkship with a judge. Of course, the writing requirements of a clerkship, along with the research aspects, draw him to the job.

"I hate arguing one side of the law because sometimes the law isn't with you. Instead, I really enjoy finding out what the law says at that time without trying to 'distort' it for the client," he said.

Jones also has fun practicing amateur gymnastics on Tuesdays with Athens Leisure Services. His specialty is the floor routine. "I can do a round-off back-handspring back-tuck combination," he said. Hopefully, he will refrain from catapulting across the graduation stage in May.

- All profiles written by Nikki Girard

Georgia
Law

Students hone skills in intramural advocacy tournaments

This fall, Georgia Law continued in its tradition of holding intramural competitions, allowing second- and third-year students to showcase their advocacy skills.

More than 36 students participated in the 2006 J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition, with second-year students Cameron D. Hawkins and Jennifer S. Blakely capturing the title.

Eighteen teams entered the 2006 Talmadge Moot Court Competition. Second-year students Tully T. Blalock and Emily E. Shingler won the final round, and second-year student Naveen Ramachandrappa was named the tournament's best oralist.

Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90), Georgia Law advocacy director, applauded the students for their hard work and emphasized the valuable training opportunities "in-house" tournaments provide students.



Participating in the 2006 Talmadge Moot Court Competition were: (l. to r.) second-year students Jennifer Blakely and Naveen Ramachandrappa; tournament judges Assistant Professor Sonja West, J.D. Smith (J.D.'71) and Michael Terry (J.D.'87); and second-year students Tully Blalock and Emily Shingler.



J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition final round participants included: (back, l. to r.) juror Horace Johnson (J.D.'82); presiding judge Callaway Chair Emeritus Ron Carlson; jurors Steve Jones, Advocacy Director Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90), Assistant Professor Erica Hashimoto, Ann Grier (J.D.'84) and Ken Mauldin (J.D.'80); (front, l. to r.) juror David Sweat (J.D.'79); second-year students Alexandra Yeager and Jennifer Blakely; jurors Melvin England (J.D.'56), Harris Hines, Robert Goldsmith (J.D.'80), Associate Dean Paul Kurtz and Lisa Godbey Wood (J.D.'90); and second-year students Cameron Hawkins and Chase Samples.



Justice Clarence Thomas speaks at a lunch with members of the Davenport-Benham Black Law Students Association.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thomas makes third visit to Georgia Law since 2003

In October, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spent three days at Georgia Law, where he lectured in constitutional law and education law classes, met with various student groups, held a question and answer session with the student body and mingled with alumni at a tailgate prior to the Mississippi State football game, which he attended as a guest of UGA President Michael F. Adams.

Remaining classrooms renovated

Renovations were completed this summer on the six classrooms awaiting updates – classrooms C, D, E, G, H and I. Although these rooms received a technology upgrade including the installation of wireless Internet access and multimedia teaching equipment in 2002, their physical appearance and furnishings remained virtually unchanged until this summer's construction project.

BEFORE



Old classroom C.

AFTER



AFTER



Classroom C as it appears now after renovations. Please note the individual electrical outlets that support laptop use, the multimedia teaching equipment and the new furnishings.