

Alumnus Otis Brumby to Provide Gift to Create First Amendment Law Professorship

Veteran Georgia journalist Otis A. Brumby Jr. (LL.B.'65) is making a major gift to the University of Georgia to establish a professorship in First Amendment law.

Brumby, publisher of the *Marietta Daily Journal* and *Neighbor* newspapers, will donate \$500,000 to create the position, which will be shared by Georgia Law and UGA's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

It will be the first faculty position at the university devoted specifically to teaching and research about the First Amendment, the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press in America.

Brumby said he is creating the professorship to help law and journalism students better understand the importance of First Amendment guarantees and convey that understanding to the public.

"After a 40-year newspaper career, I am constantly reminded how many of our citizens regard freedom of information laws as special interest legislation for the media and not derived from our First Amendment guarantees," Brumby said. "I hope this professorship will help future law students and journalists and those they influence to better understand why we should always be a grateful and vigilant nation on First Amendment issues."

UGA President Michael F. Adams said the gift would enable the university to focus expertise on a complex but critical issue in America.



"The principles embodied in the First Amendment are fundamental to democracy, and it's essential that citizens appreciate both the legal basis of these freedoms and how they impact our lives every day," Adams said. "Otis Brumby is a valued friend and alumnus of this university, and we're grateful he is helping to bolster our leadership in explaining, protecting and strengthening First Amendment rights."

Brumby heads a company that publishes two daily Georgian newspapers and 28 community newspapers in 11 metropolitan counties. A member of the Cobb and Georgia bar associations, he is a past president of the Georgia Press Association, past chair of the National Newspaper Association and was a director of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association. He has been on the journalism college's Board of Advisors and is a trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation.

Both the law and journalism schools at UGA teach First Amendment law as part of other courses, but the professorship will allow a more focused emphasis on the topic, Interim Dean Rebecca H. White and Grady College Dean John Soloski said. The pair will seek a nationally known scholar whose teaching and research will enhance the curricula in both schools to hold the professorship.

"This professorship will foster collaborative work between these two outstanding units and allow us to provide a richer curriculum in this critically important area of constitutional law," White said. ■