

Fifth Georgia Law Alumnus Chosen for Prestigious U.S. Supreme Court Clerkship



John H. Longwell

It is often referred to as one of the best jobs a young lawyer can have, and earlier this year, John H. Longwell (J.D.'99) learned he had been chosen from a pool of hundreds of top-notch law school graduates to clerk for a U.S. Supreme Court justice. His coveted clerkship will begin in October 2005, and he will clerk for Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer. Longwell is the fifth Georgia Law graduate to be selected for a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship.

"It [the clerkship] is a great opportunity, and I am very fortunate to have it," Longwell said. "With all the excellent candidates, one can't help but recognize that a lot of luck comes into play."

Former Supreme Court clerk and current law professor Anne P. Dupre (J.D.'88) says clerkships on the nation's highest court are very selective and are actively competed for by the country's top law graduates. "A clerkship provides an exceptional learning opportunity for those in the early stages of their legal career. This experience will truly benefit John in his future," she said.

Longwell currently specializes in telecommunications and appellate litigation at the Washington, D.C., office of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. He clerked for Chief Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and Judge Vaughn R. Walker of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. He also practiced with the D.C. law firm of Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd & Evans, PLLC.

While studying at Georgia Law, Longwell participated in the school's accomplished advocacy program, was senior articles editor of the *Georgia Law Review*, and served as a research assistant to then-Georgia Law professor Richard A. Nagareda. He credits Nagareda and professors R. Perry Sentell Jr. (LL.B.'58), C. Ronald Ellington and Michael L. Wells with "vastly enriching" his law school experience.

Originally from Short Hills, N.J., Longwell earned his bachelor's degree with high distinction in 1993 from the University of Virginia. He was a reporter for the *Athens Daily News/Banner-Herald* before attending law school. He and his wife Natalie have two daughters, Lily and Dorothy.

Background image: "Contemplation of Justice" statue that graces the north side of the Supreme Court Building's entrance. The photograph is from the collection of the Supreme Court of the United States and was taken by Lois Long.

By statute, each of the nine U.S. Supreme Court justices can have up to four clerks per term. A typical appointment is for a period of one year.

To date, only 32 law schools in the country and only four in the Southeast (Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Virginia, and Washington and Lee University) can boast that five or more of their graduates have been selected for U.S. Supreme Court clerkships. Longwell's selection elevates Georgia Law into this elite group. ■

Georgia Law Alumni Who Have Clerked for a U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Benna R. Solomon, a 1978 graduate who clerked for Associate Justice Byron R. White in 1980

Bruce P. Brown, a 1984 graduate who clerked for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1986

Glen M. Darbyshire, a 1984 graduate who clerked for Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1985

Anne P. Dupre, a 1988 graduate who clerked for Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun in 1989

John H. Longwell, a 1999 graduate who will clerk for Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer in 2005

Faculty Who Have Clerked for a U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Associate Professor J. Randy Beck (r.) who clerked for Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy in 1990

Hosch Professor Dan T. Coenen (l.) who clerked for Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun in 1979

Professor Anne P. Dupre (J.D.'88) who clerked for Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun in 1989

