



Women's leadership initiative

CELEBRATES PATHBREAKERS IN LAW, BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Approximately 100 years after the state of Georgia authorized women to practice law, the School of Law launched Georgia Women in Law Lead (Georgia WILL), an initiative that celebrates the achievements of women in law, business and public service.

Principal events organized by three of the law school's associate deans – Diane Marie Amann, Lori A. Ringhand and Usha Rodrigues – include:

All three associate deans led "Women's Leadership in Legal Academia," a roundtable discussion that took place at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools. Academics discussed the roles and challenges related to service in administrative positions, as law school deans or as directors of centers, clinics or libraries, and as university provosts or presidents. The event was co-sponsored by the AALS Section on Women in Legal Education.

Ringhand, an election law expert, also spearheaded "Georgia Women Run" at which a diverse group of state and local officials discussed their experiences running for and holding elected office. This February event began with remarks by state Rep. Stacey Godfrey Evans (J.D.'03) and a panel discussion among DeKalb County District Attorney Sherry Boston, state Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick (J.D.'07), Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Carla Wong McMillian (J.D.'98), Superior Court Judge Kathy Palmer (J.D.'79), state Rep. Regina Quick (J.D.'87) and

Columbus Consolidated Government Mayor Teresa Tomlinson. After the presentation, attendees had opportunities to talk with panelists during a Q&A session and in small groups.

In March, Amann welcomed nearly 100 policymakers, practitioners and academics, from as far away as Kosovo and Hong Kong, for a two-day conference celebrating the 10th birthday of IntLawGrrls, a blog to which more than 500 women, and a few men, have contributed. Speakers at this event, which was sponsored by the law school's Dean Rusk International Law Center, included retired federal Judge Patricia M. Wald, American Society of International Law President Lucinda Low and several former White House and State Department officials.

Rodrigues is organizing a Georgia WILL event for this fall in connection with the visit of Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves (J.D.'06). Montgomery-Reeves, who is the first African-American and the second woman to serve on that court, will teach a class on advanced topics in Delaware law and also participate in an event with Georgia Law students and graduates.

Select Georgia WILL events during the 2016–17 academic year also included:

Sloane G. Perras (J.D.'02) spoke to law students at a discussion titled "Business Ethics: Red Light, Green Light, Wrong or Right?" Perras is the vice president, chief

The law school hosted a roundtable discussion for women who are or wish to become leaders in academia at the Annual Meeting of the AALS during January. Photo by Orange Photography.

legal officer and corporate secretary of The Krystal Company & On The Border Mexican Grill & Cantina. A recipient of the Women's In-House Counsel Leadership Institute Award, she serves on the advisory council of the National Association of Minority & Women Owned Law Firms.

Monica Allison-Ceruti (J.D.'82), chief counsel at NASA Stennis Space Center, visited the law school in February, on invitation from the Davenport-Benham Black Law Student Association. In addition to her work at NASA, Allison-Ceruti is a retired U.S. Air Force Reserve colonel. During her visit, she met with small groups of students before giving a keynote lecture on her career and what Black History Month means to her.

Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, a renowned international arbitrator and professor at the Geneva University Law School in Switzerland, delivered the Second Annual Hendrix Lecture of the Atlanta International Arbitration Society at Georgia Law's Atlanta facility.

Special thanks to the school's Women Law Students Association for co-sponsoring all Georgia WILL events.