

EDITH HOUSE LECTURE

Federal judge shares her story as a mother and jurist

U.S. District Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson presented “Reflections on My Journey as a Mother and a Judge” as the School of Law’s 35th Edith House Lecturer.

“This speech is about how I’ve managed to keep it all together as a judge in the federal trials system who moonlights as the mother of two daughters,” Jackson said.

She noted that while women have advanced in the field of law, it is still extremely challenging to simultaneously be a mother, wife and a judge. “The hours are long, the workflow is unpredictable, and there is little control over your time and schedule,” she said.

She highlighted the importance of a healthy work/life balance as a female lawyer, and she offered female law students and lawyers in the audience some of the same advice she gives her own daughters:

1. Work hard at everything you are called on to do.
2. Prioritize work over play.
3. Do what you need to do before doing what you want to do.
4. Require and exhibit respect for other people, no matter who they are or what they do.
5. Look for mentors and role models in each situation you encounter.



“It has been a lot of hard work trying to balance work and motherhood,” Jackson said. “I am very busy, but I am also very satisfied with my work and my life.”

The Edith House Lecture is sponsored by the Women Law Students Association in honor of one of the first female graduates of Georgia Law. House, a native of Winder, Georgia, was co-valedictorian of the Class of 1925, the first class to graduate women.

This year’s event was a part of the law school’s Georgia WILL (Georgia Women in Law Lead) initiative, which celebrates the achievements of women in law, business and public service.

—Emily Johnson



Thanks to Jim Smith

After 33 years of service on the Georgia Law faculty, James C. “Jim” Smith, the holder of the Martin Chair of Law, retired at the end of the spring semester. Specializing in property, real estate transactions and commercial law, he has taught Property, Real Estate Transactions, Secured Transactions, Housing Law, Water Law and Real Estate Development.

Smith said it would be impossible to pick a “greatest memory” from his more than three decades at UGA. “One highlight for me has been the opportunity to teach in many of our global programs over the years,” he said. “I’ve taught in Belgium, Mexico, Germany, China and England. Georgia Law has become a leader in global outreach, including offering our students opportunities to enrich their legal education in different settings.”

He added that he will miss interacting with the school’s “talented and dedicated students” on a daily basis but that he will continue to engage in scholarship and professional activities and service. “I hope to teach courses periodically on a part-time basis,” he said, while using his free time to be with his family, travel, hike and backpack.

Smith’s scholarship includes several books: *Property: Cases and Materials*; *Real Estate Transactions: Problems, Cases and Materials*; *Federal Taxation of Real Estate* and *Neighboring Property Owners*. He assumed authorship of the best-selling treatise on real estate law, *Friedman on Contracts and Conveyances of Real Property*, in 2005. He has also published numerous articles and book chapters and has served as a Fellow of CALI (the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) to develop electronic teaching materials for property law.

Smith said he has truly enjoyed working with and interacting with his colleagues and friends at UGA and in the broader teaching academy in various areas – including scholarship, teaching, student support, governance and social events. “I would like to be remembered as a team player and contributor in these settings,” he said.