

Courtroom named for Butler family

Late last year, the School of Law dedicated the James E. Butler Courtroom in Dean Rusk Hall, honoring three generations of the Butler family – James E. Butler, 1977 alumnus James E. “Jim” Butler Jr. and 2008 alumnus James E. “Jeb” Butler III.

Jim Butler has had, and continues to have, a large influence on the legal profession both inside and outside the courtroom. Four times during his distinguished career he was lead counsel in a case setting the record for the largest verdict in the state of Georgia. He has litigated cases in 31 states and served as lead counsel in five cases where the verdicts exceeded \$100 million.

He also has been a generous donor to the law school, establishing the James E. Butler Scholarship, assisting in the creation of the *Sic Vos Non Vobis* Scholarship and helping to launch the school’s Challenge Fund during the 2015–16 academic year. Notably, the Challenge Fund doubled the law school’s annual fund in 2016 and created new resources for student scholarships.

“Jim Butler’s investment in the School of Law is an investment in the people whom it produces and the values they will reflect as they join him in a noble profession,” Georgia Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge said. “Thanks to his generosity, present and future law students will hone their advocacy skills and learn from judges in the courtroom bearing his family’s name – and be reminded of a great courtroom lawyer and the values he represents.”

In addition to Jim Butler’s family, in attendance were UGA President Jere W. Morehead (J.D.’80), former deans Rebecca Hanner White and David E. Shipley, Associate Dean and Professor Emeritus Paul M. Kurtz, numerous members of the state and federal judiciary and colleagues including Joel O. Wooten Jr. (J.D.’75), Jim Butler’s longtime law partner.

The highlight of the dedication was the unveiling of Jim Butler’s portrait, by artist Beth Stephens, which now hangs outside the courtroom.



Above photo: At the Butler Courtroom dedication were Jim Butler (J.D.’77) (right) and fellow Georgia Law alumnus and longtime law partner Joel Wooten (J.D.’75).

Left photo: Jim (left center), at the courtroom dedication and portrait unveiling with his children: Catherine Butler (left), Emily Patteson and Jeb Butler (J.D.’08) (right).

Photos by Ian McFarlane.



U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Beverly Martin (J.D.’81) poses with Naomi Hashimoto (right), who unveiled Martin’s portrait during a celebration honoring the jurist.

U.S. Court of Appeals judge portrait unveiled

The portrait of Georgia Law alumna and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Eleventh Circuit Beverly B. Martin was presented to the law school during the spring.

The event, attended by Martin’s friends, family, legal colleagues and law clerks, was held in the School of Law’s Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom, and it included remarks by Georgia Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge as well as Martin’s former schoolmate Donald F. “Don” Samuel (J.D.’80), who serves as an adjunct professor at the law school.

Martin’s portrait was revealed by Naomi Hashimoto, the daughter of former Georgia Law Associate Dean Erica J. Hashimoto, who directed the school’s Appellate Litigation Clinic, which argues cases before the judges of the Eleventh Circuit.

A 1981 Georgia Law graduate, Martin was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2010 to her current seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals. Previously, she served for nearly a decade as a U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia. Martin worked as a U.S. attorney and assistant U.S. attorney in the Middle District of Georgia from 1994 to 2000 and represented the state of Georgia as an assistant attorney general from 1984 to 1994. She also practiced at the firm Martin & Snow in Macon after graduating from law school.

Martin’s portrait currently is on display at the law school.