

Students answering public service call in record numbers

Thanks to additional funding sources, the law school provided 48 students with monetary support to pursue public interest work in a variety of settings this past summer. This number more than doubles the number of participants from two years ago in 2016.

The total amount of funding has grown significantly as well, from \$53,000 in 2016 to more than \$83,000 in 2018. In addition, the number of funding sources has grown to eight, including new grants supporting work in health and municipal law.

“Seeing our students answering the call of service is very rewarding,” School of Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge said. “The law school’s mission is all about preparing our students with a first-rate legal education and connecting them with opportunities for real-world training so they can become future leaders for our state and society. Ensuring our students have access to public interest fellowships speaks to the heart of our mission.”

School of Law students performed criminal justice, nonprofit and governmental work throughout the state of Georgia, the nation and the globe.

Select placements in Georgia were: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta Legal Aid, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, the Augusta Public Defender’s Office, the Chatham County District Attorney’s Office and the Georgia Public Defenders Council.

Out of state positions included: the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C.; the Victims Rights Law Center in Boston, Massachusetts; the Mental Health Project in New York City, New York; King County Bar Association Pro Bono Family Law Services in Seattle, Washington; the Institute for Justice in Austin, Texas; the Cook County State’s Attorney Office in Chicago, Illinois; and South Carolina Legal Services in Greenwood.

International locations were the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in Samoa, Boat People SOS in Thailand and No Peace Without Justice in Belgium.

“Students secured virtually all of these positions on their own. I am grateful to our graduates and to our other sources of financial support, which are enabling students to gain real-life legal experience with work that benefits society and helps students build their careers,” Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning Alexander W. “Alex” Scherr said.

Three new sources of fellowship money for the summer of 2018 included: the State Bar of Georgia Health Law Section, the law school’s Sumner Memorial Fund and the Milner S. Ball Fellowship Fund.

School of Law hosts Supreme Court of Georgia

The Supreme Court of Georgia held a special session at the School of Law during the fall 2017 semester. This unique opportunity to connect firsthand with the court and witness its proceedings offered students a front-and-center view to the legal system in action.

Notably, all nine members of the state’s highest court attended the day’s events, which included oral arguments on two cases.

The first case, *Chrysler Group LLC v. Walden*, focused on a question of tort law concerning a claim made by parents over the death of a child who was killed in a car accident. The

second case involved the criminal trial involving the death of South Georgia teacher Tara Grinstead. The case, *WXIA-TV and 13 WMAZ-TV v. State of Georgia*, was an appeal of an earlier trial court’s gag order that restricted prosecutors, law enforcement and others from speaking about the case.



The members of the Supreme Court of Georgia posed with School of Law students who attended the special session held in the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom.