

Hashimoto receives UGA's highest teaching honor

She has been called “truly outstanding” by her students, “the embodiment of what I hope to be as a professor” by her colleagues and “a gifted teacher” by members of the legal community, and now Erica J. Hashimoto can add “Meigs Professor” to the list.

Hashimoto, the law school's Post Professor, was named a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor this spring. The honor is UGA's highest recognition for excellence in instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Each year no more than five professors campus-wide are chosen and this year only four were selected.

Hashimoto joined Georgia Law in the fall of 2004, beginning her career in academia after serving four years as an assistant federal public defender in the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Washington, D.C.

“With respect to her teaching, she is simply superb,” said former Dean Rebecca Hanner White, who nominated Hashimoto. “She came to the law school in the fall of 2004 as a brand new member of the teaching academy, and I have watched her blossom from a strong and competent teacher into one of the law school's finest.”

During her 10 years at Georgia Law, Hashimoto has taught both first-year and upper-level courses as well as created one of the school's premier experiential learning programs, the Appellate Litigation Clinic. This experiential learning opportunity is an intensive yearlong course during which students work in teams to review cases before the federal circuit courts of appeals and the Board of Immigration Appeals, identify the issues that should be raised in the appeal, draft briefs and present oral arguments before the courts.

“Being an admired and effective teacher for all three types of courses takes a tremendous amount of dedication, skill and flexibility,” White said. “Each of these courses demands a very different type of instructional delivery.”

Additionally, few law professors nationwide have diversified their teaching portfolios to straddle the long-established clinician/nonclinician line.

Her scholarship has been discussed during oral argument by a U.S. Supreme Court justice and was cited by the court.

Hashimoto has been honored in the past as the recipient of the O'Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations, as a Lilly Teaching Fellow and as a law school honorary graduation marshal. She twice earned the Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching, the law school's highest teaching honor.

View a video on Hashimoto's Meigs Professorship on her profile page at www.law.uga.edu/profile/erica-j-hashimoto.



Photo by UGA Photographic Services' Peter Frey.

Select quotes supporting Hashimoto's nomination

“In an atmosphere where most students were petrified of speaking, Professor Hashimoto inspired discussion and encouraged questioning. Not only was her teaching style remarkable, so was the amount of care and interest she showed in her students.”

—Former student Elizabeth C. Taxel (J.D.'09), a public defender in the DeKalb County Public Defender's Office

“In every important way, she has enriched our students and our program of education. She has done so as a now-highly-decorated classroom teacher, as the creator of a new and path-breaking clinical educational program, as a risk-taking innovator who has sought to bridge the divide between doctrinal study and skills training, and as a selfless supporter of students both in her formal service roles and in her behind-the-scenes efforts in support of important co-curricular activities.”

—University Professor & Caldwell Chair in Constitutional Law Dan T. Coenen, who received the Meigs Award in 1998

“She runs an absolutely first-rate program [in the Appellate Litigation Clinic], which has brought great honor to the University of Georgia Law School. And she has had this positive impact on the reputation of University of Georgia lawyers not only in this Circuit Court, but also in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.”

—U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit Judge Beverly B. Martin (J.D.'81)

Hashimoto named associate dean for clinical programs

Erica J. Hashimoto was recently named the law school's new associate dean for clinical programs and experiential learning. In this role, she will work to enhance and advance the school's real-practice learning offerings.

“Clinical programs are one of the law school's crown jewels and represent one of the many ways the law school can have an impact both in the state and beyond,” said Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge. “Professor Hashimoto is uniquely qualified to help strengthen these programs and to support the university's broader goal of expanding experiential learning opportunities. A first-class scholar, gifted teacher and dedicated advocate, Professor Hashimoto is a fantastic addition to the law school's senior leadership team.”

Burch honored with Young Scholars Medal



Photo by UGA Photographic Services' Peter Frey.

“Professor Burch’s work provides an innovative analysis of strategies for solving principal-agent problems in aggregate litigation”

—Goodwin Liu,
chair of the ALI’s Young
Scholars Medal Selection
Committee

Associate Professor Elizabeth “Beth” Chamblee Burch has been awarded the American Law Institute’s Young Scholars Medal, which is presented every other year to one or two outstanding early-career law professors whose work has the potential to influence improvements in the law.

Goodwin Liu, a California Supreme Court justice and the chair of the Young Scholars Medal Selection Committee, said the committee and the ALI are extremely proud of this year’s medal recipients – Burch and Michael Simkovic, a professor at Seton Hall University School of Law.

“These two exceptional professors have produced first-rate scholarship that is already having an impact in legal debate and policy. Professor Burch’s work provides an innovative analysis of strategies for solving principal-agent problems in aggregate litigation, and professor Simkovic’s research on consumer finance and credit markets has influenced courts, regulators, fellow researchers and the United States Congress.”

Georgia Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge said, “Beth represents the model of a world-class scholar whose writings have an impact on the academy and the profession. The ALI medal is a testament to Beth’s commitment to scholarly excellence, and I am very grateful to Rebecca White, who nominated her for this well-deserved award.”

Burch began her writing and research career while in law school at Florida State University, during which time she published five law review articles, three in journals of other law schools.

In the past eight years as a member of the teaching academy, Burch has published or had accepted for publication 15 full-length law review articles in journals such as the *New York University Law Review*, the *Virginia Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, the *Washington University Law Review*, the *Boston University Law Review* and the *George Washington Law Review*. She also has published eight shorter articles in law reviews and their online companions, one of which inspired a response from Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Additionally, in 2010, Burch was

selected along with three co-authors (Robert G. Bone, Charles M. “Charlie” Silver and Patrick Woolley, all at the University of Texas) to continue the late Richard A. Nagareda’s casebook, *The Law of Class Actions and Other Aggregate Litigation*. (Nagareda taught at Georgia Law from 1994 to 2001.)

Burch’s research focuses on class actions and multidistrict litigation, both of which straddle the divide between public and private law and share similar collective-action and principal-agent problems. Because these inherent problems are not unique to aggregate litigation, she takes an interdisciplinary approach to procedure and draws from literature that bears on collective action and group decision-making, including social psychology, behavioral law and economics as well as political policy.

Since becoming a professor, Burch has served on national panels and symposia and delivered more than 40 presentations. She was invited to present and partake in the important dialogue at George Washington University’s 2010 Aggregate Litigation: Critical Perspectives Symposium, which focused on the ALI’s *Principles of the Law of Aggregate Litigation*. Additionally, her work was selected as part of Vanderbilt University’s 2012 New Voices in Civil Justice Workshop and has generated invitations to present at the New York University School of Law and the American Bar Association’s National Institute on Class Actions as well as DePaul University’s 2015 Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy.

Burch joined the Georgia Law faculty in 2011, after holding an assistant professorship at the Florida State University College of Law. In 2013, she received the John C. O’Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations.

She earned her bachelor’s degree *cum laude* from Vanderbilt University and her Juris Doctor *cum laude* from Florida State University, where she served as the writing and research editor for the *Florida State University Law Review*.

Law school receives \$3.4 million from the estate of the late Gov. Sanders

In December, Georgia Law received a \$3.4 million gift from the estate of former Georgia Gov. Carl E. Sanders (J.D.'48).

Approximately \$2.4 million was used to create the Carl E. Sanders Law Scholarship Fund, which will provide scholarships to law students. The remainder of the gift was added to the Carl E. Sanders Chair in Political Leadership Fund, which was established in 2002 to support a faculty position for someone to “educate students about the roles of law and lawyers in shaping public policy and about the role of lawyers in positions of leadership.”

This donation is the largest single gift in the law school’s history and makes the late governor the school’s greatest individual benefactor.

The governor’s wife of 67 years, Betty Foy Sanders, said, “Carl was still a student at the Georgia law school when we were married in 1947. And from there he went on to achieve much for which he always felt deep gratitude to the university, and particularly the law school. ... This gift and our prior gifts to the law school reflect our sincere gratitude for what Carl’s legal education and his long association with the law school meant to him and to his legal career.”

During the 1960s, Gov. Sanders said: “The people of Georgia want and deserve nothing short of the best. The University of Georgia School of Law is, therefore, to be one of such excellence that no citizen of Georgia need ever leave [the] state because a



superior legal education is available elsewhere.” This statement is etched into the school’s outer wall, and it is evidence of Sanders’ desire to make Georgia Law one of the nation’s finest law schools.

Known as “Georgia’s Education Governor,” Sanders was responsible for the investment of more than \$2 billion in educational and training programs, including more than \$552 million spent on the state’s public colleges and universities. Expenditures for buildings in the University System of Georgia topped \$176.5 million during his term. Notably, he was instrumental in the provision of state funds to expand the law school’s facilities, including a new building for its Alexander Campbell King Law Library plus an additional \$1 million to purchase books for the unit.

During his lifetime, Sanders supported the law school with several significant personal gifts that established the Carl Sanders Law Library Fund and the Sanders Chair in Political Leadership. He served as president of the law school’s alumni association and on the school’s Board of Visitors in addition to heading the fundraising campaign to build Dean Rusk Hall. He also served as a trustee of the UGA Foundation and as president of the UGA Alumni Association. In recognition of these efforts, he was presented with the school’s Distinguished Service Scroll Award in 1967, and the main reading room of the law library was named in his honor in 2003.



Yates confirmed as U.S. deputy attorney general

Sally Quillian Yates, a 1986 *magna cum laude* graduate of Georgia Law, was recently confirmed as U.S. deputy attorney general.

Nominated by President Barack Obama late last year, Yates has been serving in an acting capacity in the No. 2 post at the U.S. Department of Justice. She replaced Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole.

“I applaud the Senate’s decision to confirm Sally Yates,” said Georgia Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge. “She is a dedicated public servant and a brilliant lawyer. She represents the very best about the University of Georgia School of Law.”

Previously, Yates was the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, a post she assumed in 2010. She also served as the first assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the Fraud and Public Corruption Section of the office.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office, she practiced law at the Atlanta office of King & Spalding, where she specialized in commercial litigation.

Justice Thomas teaches a class at Georgia Law

This past fall, Georgia Law students had the opportunity to take a class co-taught by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge.

The federal common law course focused on theories of federal common law, the social forces that led to its development, major Supreme Court cases including *Erie v. Tompkins* and the residual role of federal common law following *Erie*.

During his weeklong visit, Thomas also met with various student groups in small and large settings, talked with faculty and held a question and answer session for students and faculty.

This was the justice’s sixth visit to Georgia Law since 2003.





White honored with scholarship and university service award

Former Dean Rebecca Hanner White was recently honored by both Georgia Law and the University of Georgia for her contributions to the law school and to the greater university.

Georgia Law announced earlier this year the establishment of the Rebecca Hanner White Scholarship, named in honor of White who stepped down as the leader of the school after more than 11 years of service.

The scholarship was initiated by Georgia Law 1982 alumna and law school Board of Visitors Chair Kathelen V. Amos and her husband Dan, who agreed to match up to \$100,000 in new gifts donated to the school for the creation of the scholarship fund. To date, more than \$210,000 in gifts and pledges have been secured from alumni and friends for this effort.

"I am so grateful that Kathelen and Dan Amos have helped to honor Rebecca White," said Georgia Law Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge. "She inspired many to re-engage with the law school. It is a testament to Rebecca and her record of leadership that members of the Georgia Law community responded so quickly and generously to this fundraising challenge. This effort was dedicated to one of her top priorities during her tenure – growing private funding for student scholarships," he said.

Additionally, the UGA Alumni Association presented its Faculty Service Award to White during its 78th Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon. The luncheon, which took place during the university's Honors Week in April, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a deep commitment to bettering the university.

First presented in 1969, the Faculty Service Award honors current or retired UGA faculty and staff who have distinguished themselves in service to the university.

White, who was the law school's first female dean, served as the leader of the school from July 1, 2003, to December 31, 2014. A few highlights of her deanship include: a multiyear, multimillion dollar facilities renovation; the hiring of more than 30 new faculty members that not only greatly improved the student:faculty ratio but also significantly increased the scholarly output of the school; the elevation of entering law student academic credentials; the increase of graduates in federal judicial clerkship positions including the selection of six Georgia Law graduates as U.S. Supreme Court judicial clerks; the launch of a Business Law and Ethics Program; the creation of a new degree program (the Master in the Study of Law); the addition of six experiential learning programs; the establishment of study abroad programs at the University of Oxford and in China; and the creation of approximately 40 new endowed funds to support student scholarships and faculty, in addition to securing private funding for building renovations and substantially growing contributions to the law school's annual fund.

New clinic gives students a holistic approach to the legal world

In its first year, the Community Health Law Partnership Clinic has helped Georgia Law students hone their legal skills through a variety of different methods, including hands-on work and service to the community.

Also known as the Community HeLP Clinic, this experiential learning program is "a unique and collaborative experience," according to Assistant Professor Jason A. Cade, who serves as the clinic director.

Students involved in the offering partner with health care professionals at Mercy Health Center in Athens to tackle what can be considered "health-harming legal needs" that impact patients. These run the gamut from immigration to disability rights and from benefits to family law.

"These are people who would have no access to a lawyer if not for the clinic," Cade said, adding that students not only assist with initial issues but oftentimes find themselves working on outlying legal matters that can impact the health of the patient.

In the fall, students reviewed 25 cases of individuals whom medical professionals deemed in need of assistance due to poverty or other circumstances. From those individuals, the students took on the representation of those whom they felt had viable cases and were able to move approximately 19 of them forward. Students conducted research and interviews, developed evidence, drafted legal documents, advocated for their clients and offered legal counsel that their clients might not have received otherwise.

Because of the myriad issues that the students must research and handle, Cade said he often brings in other professionals to assist in addition to medical professionals, including disability and immigration lawyers as well as other units on the UGA campus like the Spanish translator program.

"There are not many opportunities in law school where students learn to work on a team with other professionals," he said.

The students also learn the basics of business management as they maintain and operate a legal office in downtown Athens, but the overarching goal of the clinic is more holistic, according to Cade.

"We try not to reduce anyone to a single legal issue," he said.

That sentiment is echoed by the clinic's law students. Second-year student Kristina K. Sick said her experience "has been a lot of work but very worthwhile" and has given her an opportunity to see many types of law in action.

"Going to a doctor can't solve the fact that a person doesn't have food security," she said. "... It's been really good to work with [Mercy] and see their mission to address their patients' needs, not just [those] in the medical field."

Kurtz gives 13th Annual Founders Day Lecture

Photo by UGA Photographic Services/Paul Efland.

Associate Dean and Professor Emeritus Paul M. Kurtz shared what he likes, what he dislikes and what he is still confused by after 50 years of living in the South as UGA's 2015 Founders Day Lecturer.

His speech, "A New York Yankee in Abraham Baldwin's Court: (Almost) Fifty Years Behind 'Enemy' Lines," explored Kurtz's journey in the South as a Northerner. He drew parallels between himself and Abraham Baldwin, a Connecticut native who was the founder of UGA.

Kurtz remarked he lived with the "noise pollution" on Milledge Avenue throughout the night and the politics of the region, knowing he was fortunate to live "in a very blue city in a very red state."

While boiled peanuts and "vegetables cooked for a week" still leave him shaking his head, the list of things he enjoys about the South was much lengthier and included the music, cuisine and characteristics of its people.

Two items in particular from the South that are the most important to Kurtz are "the beautiful, accomplished university and the wonderful town in which it is the main attraction."

Kurtz praised the university as well as the city of Athens for the accomplishments and growth of each during the past four decades since his move to the Classic City. He highlighted the university's increase in graduate and doctoral degrees, higher admission standards and additions of other schools and colleges, while praising Athens for its architecture, culture and extensive community service programs.

Third-year law student Carey A. Miller, a Georgia native, gave the student response to Kurtz's address.

Kurtz joined the Georgia Law faculty in 1975 as an assistant professor and worked his way up the ranks to hold positions such as the Law School Association Professorship and a J. Alton Hosch Professorship. In 1991, he became the associate dean for academic and student affairs, a post he held until his retirement in 2013. Active in law school and university affairs throughout his career, Kurtz served five terms on the University Council as well as two terms on the board of the Georgia Athletic Association.

—Courtney Lee Brown

REVERED LEADER LEAVES STRONG LEGACY

Georgia Law proudly remembers Dean Emeritus J. Ralph Beard, who served as the leader of the law school for a total of 13 years and officially served on the faculty for more than 20 years, although he taught at the law school for approximately four decades.

This revered leader passed away on August 14.

Beard was born September 27, 1925, in Gadsden, Alabama. On his 18th birthday, he registered with the draft board and soon joined the U.S. Army Air Force. After basic training, he was assigned to the 10th Army, which participated in the invasion of the island of Okinawa beginning April 1, 1945 (the largest amphibious operation in the Pacific theater of World War II). During his life, Beard vividly recalled the landing and the Japanese kamikaze suicide planes attacking the Allied ships.

A year later, he returned home and enrolled at the University of Alabama where he earned the B.S. degree in business in 1949 and the LL.B. degree in 1951. He earned his LL.M. degree from George Washington University in 1953.

In 1950, he wed Jeanne Ralls, a native of Gadsden. It was a devoted marriage of 60 years until her death in 2010.

The couple moved to Virginia where Beard joined the U.S. Department of Labor, rising to assistant solicitor, associate general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, and associate solicitor of the Department of Labor overseeing the caseloads of 1,200 attorneys in 28 regional offices.

In 1965, he came to Athens as a visiting professor for one year at Georgia Law and returned to Washington. He accepted a full-time professorship at the

law school in 1967 where he remained until 1989, serving as acting dean from 1972 to 1974 and dean of the school from 1976 to 1987. In 1974, he was named a University Professor – a designation denoting outstanding service to the institution beyond one's specific academic discipline – and counselor to the president of the university.

The growth in quality and program diversity of UGA's law school during Beard's deanship is evidenced in: the growth of its private funds endowment from less than \$450,000 in 1972 to \$17 million in 1987; the establishment of the Dean Rusk Center for International Law and Policy in 1977; the granting of an Order of the Coif chapter, the Phi Beta Kappa of legal education, in 1978; the 21 endowed professorships established by 1987; the founding of the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education in 1977; the growth of the advanced degree LL.M. program; the increasing academic credentials of entering students and bar exam passage rates; the expansion of

international programs; the addition of a 25,000 sq. ft. annex to the law library in 1981; the doubling of the law library volumes from 1973 to 1987; the conversion to the semester system; and other increases that led to ranking Georgia Law as among the nation's best. In 1989, he retired to private practice with the Athens law firm of Blasingame, Burch, Garrard, and Ashley.

He is survived by two daughters: Carol Beard Welsh of Marietta, Georgia, and Becky Beard Scarborough of Watkinsville, Georgia; three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

This obituary is based on the one authored by Barry Wood, who was UGA's public relations director during Beard's deanship and who is a close friend of the family.

