



Conference focuses on multidistrict litigation

The *Georgia Law Review's* 2019 symposium, "MDL Turns 50: A Look Back and the Way Forward," was based on the 50 years since the multidistrict statute was passed. Panel discussions centered on the rights of individual plaintiffs versus the interests of the group, individual plaintiff's interests against those of their attorney and the role of the judge in overseeing these lawsuits. U.S. District Court Chief Judge for the Middle District of Georgia Clay Land (J.D.'85) (left) and former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes (J.D.'72) discussed their experiences with these types of cases.

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"Fighting for the American Dream" at WIPI conference

The 14th Annual Working in the Public Interest Conference, "Fighting for the American Dream," explored issues facing lawyers working within the immigration and veteran systems in the United States. Two guest speakers were featured – MacArthur Foundation Fellow Lt. Col. (Ret.) Margaret Stock and Spc. Hector Barajas, the founder of the Deported Veterans Support House. Posing for a photo during the event were (l. to r.) third-year student Taylor Samuels, Stock, third-year student and conference organizer Dana Leader, Barajas, School of Social Work Professor Emeritus Ed Risler, Community Health Law Partnership Clinic Director Jason Cade and School of Social Work Professor Larry Nackerud.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald E. "Eugene" Wilkes, Jr.



A leading expert on the writ of habeas corpus, Professor Emeritus Donald E. "Eugene" Wilkes, Jr., passed away on June 7, 2019, at the age of 74.

Wilkes taught the courses Criminal Procedure, English Legal History, Postconviction Relief, Habeas Corpus and the Dreyfus Seminar during his more than four-decade tenure at the School of Law.

He was the author of over 325 published scholarly works, including five books, and more than 200 scholarly articles in professional journals,

magazines and newspapers, primarily in the areas of criminal procedure, capital punishment and postconviction remedies. Among his representative titles are: the *Federal Postconviction Remedies and Relief Handbook*, the *State Postconviction Remedies and Relief Handbook*, *Habeas Corpus Uncorpsed* and *Habeas Corpse: The Great Writ Hit*.

He served as a 1975-76 Fellow in Law and the Humanities at Harvard University. During his teaching career, he also spent time in England researching the writ of habeas corpus and in France investigating the renowned Dreyfus Affair.

Wilkes, who earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida, joined the law school's faculty in 1971 after serving as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Ben Krentzman in Middle District of Florida.

Wilkes was an active advocate for human rights in the community, and he marched in protest against war, corruption, inequality, police brutality and the death penalty.

In his later years, he developed a great love for birds and he spent much time studying their calls, their habits and their beauty. Because of this, he asked that he be remembered as "A Friend of Liberty – and Birds."

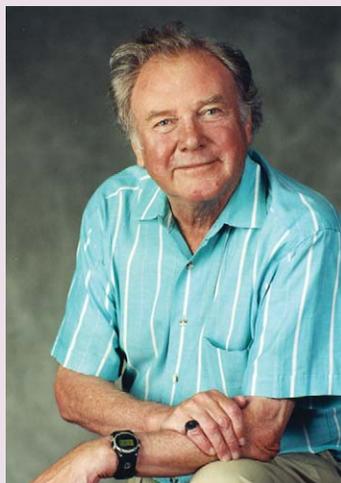
He is survived by his mother, Betty Frances Verdi DeSimone; his wife, Elizabeth Spainhour Wilkes, and her three children Phillip S. Marquez, Richard E. Marquez and Catherine E. Marquez; his two children Donald Eugene Wilkes III and Karen Suzanne Wilkes (J.D.'90); and one grandson. He is also survived by his first wife, Helen H. Wilkes.

A memorial service was held in UGA's Chapel on July 17.

Alan Watson

Alan Watson, one of the world's foremost authorities on Roman law, comparative law, legal history, and law and religion, passed away Nov. 7, 2018, at the age of 85.

Watson was a former Distinguished Research Professor and the holder of the Rogers Chair at the School of Law, where he taught for more than 20 years before retiring in 2012. His course list included: Comparative Law, Property Law, Slave Law in the Americas, Legal Philosophy, Legal History, Jurisprudence, Law in the Gospels and Western Legal Tradition.



A prolific scholar and master of more than one dozen languages, Watson had more than 150 books and articles to his credit, and his books have been translated into countless dialects. His scholarship includes the revolutionary books *Legal Transplants: An Approach to Comparative Law* and *Society and Legal Change* as well as *The Evolution of Western Private Law*; *Jesus and the Jews: The Pharisaic Tradition in John*; *Ancient Law and Modern Understanding: At the Edges*; *Sources of Law, Legal Change, and Ambiguity*; *Legal History and a Common Law for Europe*; *The Shame of American Legal Education*; and *Authority of Law*; and *Law*. In addition, he served as the editor of *The Digest of Justinian*, 2d ed., overseeing its translation from the original Latin into English. Notably, he coined the term “legal transplants” which is now ubiquitous in legal literature.

Watson held seven degrees from the universities of Glasgow, Oxford and Edinburgh as well as six honorary degrees from the universities of Belgrade, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Palermo, Pretoria and Stockholm. Of special note, he taught at all of these universities in addition to the University of Pennsylvania.

Among his many accolades are being elected a Visiting Honorary Professor of Private Law at the University of Edinburgh – the highest honorary award bestowed by the Scottish faculty – and a lifetime achievement award by the American Society of Comparative Law. Additionally, the University of Belgrade established the Alan Watson Foundation to promote a multidisciplinary understanding of law by encouraging scholarship broadly focusing on the correlation between law and society. And in 2014, the University of Edinburgh renamed its prestigious Legal History Discussion Group to the Alan Watson Seminar.

He is survived by his wife, Camilla Emanuel Watson (who now holds the Rogers Chair); his children Sarah Alexandra Campbell, Eleanor Ann McCulloch and David Jardine Watson; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in the Chapel at UGA on March 8.



Bruce Wheat Kirbo

Known for a lifetime of leadership, service and philanthropy, Bruce Wheat Kirbo (J.D.'51) passed away Dec. 22, 2018, at the age of 88.

His legacy of leadership began at UGA, where he was a member of the Blue Key Honor Society and Gridiron, was president of the Demosthenian Society and served two terms on the law school's Honor Court.

In 1951, he graduated from law school at the age of 21 and served in the military for two years. He then embarked on his legal career in family and corporate law in his hometown of Bainbridge. His professional highlights include being a member of the Board of Governors and other committees of the State Bar of Georgia, a special master for the Supreme Court of Georgia and a member of the School of Law's Board of Visitors. He was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and was presented with the law school's Distinguished Service Scroll Award in 2001.

Approximately five years ago the Kirbo Foundation Concourse was unveiled as part of a three-year renovation of the law school. This naming acknowledged the Thomas M. and Irene B. Charitable Foundation and the Kirbo family's continuous support of the law school and its academic programming. Hanging in the concourse is a portrait of Bruce and fellow alumnus and Distinguished Service Scroll Award winner Charles L. Kirbo (LL.B.'39).

Bruce was also heavily connected to the south Georgia community, where he represented the Decatur County School Board and the Bainbridge City Council as well as served as a member of the executive board of the Bainbridge College Foundation, president of the Kiwanis Club, chairman of the First Christian Church and a Sunday school teacher.

Bruce is survived by his wife of 63 years, Catherine “Cass” Cirafisi Kirbo; and his children Lillian Kirbo Ansley, Bruce W. Kirbo, Jr. (J.D.'82), Charles G. Kirbo, Ben J. Kirbo and Thomas H. Kirbo; and 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Bruce was preceded in death by his son, Robert David Kirbo. Notably all of his children hold degrees from UGA.