



### 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.*