

Brown named Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor

Lonnie T. Brown Jr. was awarded the university's highest honor for excellence in instruction – a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship – this spring.

Brown, who also holds the Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism, is noted for “liv[ing] by his word” and “teach[ing] by his actions.”



He joined the school's faculty in the fall of 2002 and served as its associate dean for academic affairs from 2013 to 2015. Over his 16-plus-year tenure at UGA, he has enjoyed a rotating teaching load that includes Civil Procedure, The Law and Ethics of Lawyering, Georgia Practice and Procedure, and Ethics in Litigation. In 2018, this portfolio of classes placed Brown among the law school faculty with the greatest student-contact teaching hours.

Brown's classes are educational and entertaining, but more importantly, they leave his students with a strong desire to continue to acquire knowledge, former student and now U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michele J. Kim (J.D.'06) said. “Each class during the semester was like an act in an award-winning Broadway play: there was a well-thought-out theme; you were presented with a legal issue that served as the plot line; there were many interesting anecdotes and witty remarks; the audience participated enthusiastically; the thought-provoking dialogue and lively banter were timed perfectly (even when totally unexpected questions or remarks were made); and sometimes there was music. You could not passively sit and watch the day's lesson. Rather, you were actively engaged in critical thinking that would eventually give rise to a deep understanding of the issues he taught; and at the end of the class you were left wanting to know more.”

This description is amplified by Brown being selected for law school teaching awards for 12 out of his 16 years on the faculty.

He is also one of the nation's leading scholars on legal ethics, authoring numerous articles and papers, chairing major symposia in his field and authoring the book *Defending the Public's Enemy: The Life and Legacy of Ramsey Clark* (forthcoming, Stanford University Press).

Rodrigues awarded University Professorship



Earlier this year, Usha R. Rodrigues was named a University Professor, an honor bestowed on UGA faculty members who have made a significant impact on the university beyond their normal academic responsibilities. Notably, only one professor is selected campus-wide each year.

During her tenure, Rodrigues has expanded curricular and experiential learning opportunities for students while also fostering a culture of women's leadership at UGA and the broader academy.

Rodrigues, the holder of the Kilpatrick Chair of Corporate Finance and Securities Law, served as the associate dean for faculty development in the School of Law from 2015 to 2018 and has served as the University Council's parliamentarian since 2014.

“Professor Rodrigues is an indefatigable advocate for students, colleagues and the role that higher education plays in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship,” Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Libby V. Morris said. “She is an exemplary leader who is richly deserving of the honor of being named University Professor.”

Rodrigues led a dramatic expansion of business law-related offerings in the School of Law, and she worked in collaboration with the Terry College of Business to establish a three-year joint J.D./M.B.A. She played a role in creating the Business Law Clinic, which gives law students experience in providing legal services to small business owners and not-for-profit organizations. In addition, she helped launch UGA's Corsair Law Society, a student organization that bolsters networking, leadership and career readiness for students interested in transactional law or corporate litigation outside of Georgia.

Rodrigues served as a leader in a faculty collaboration known as eHub that helped spur the development of UGA's Entrepreneurship Program, and she currently sits on the program's advisory board. She also chairs the board of Four Athens Inc., a nonprofit technology accelerator based in Athens.

“Her impact extends past the walls of the law school and even the university,” Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge said. “Usha serves as a role model for others – for students, faculty colleagues and staff alike. She genuinely cares about people and their successes. She is a mentor to many, including women and people of all backgrounds and races.”