

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

GREGORY C. SOWELL

*Her name was Misty.
I know this because it said so on her Wal-Mart
employee name badge.
She rang up my purchase at the cash register
and I handed her my check (yes, this was
before debit cards). She looked at the check for
a long moment and then she looked at me.
Are you the lawyer?"*



I replied "Yes," a little nervously, not sure of what might be coming next. The four people in line behind me seemed to be leaning in to listen.

"My Granny says you saved my life. She talks about you all the time."

She told me her Granny's name and then I remembered. A desperate heartsick lady had come to see me to ask for my help in getting custody of her granddaughter. The lady suspected her son and his wife of being drug addicts. It was not a pretty picture and the lady didn't have much money. But, we went to Court and permanent custody of Misty was awarded to her Granny.

This is why we went to law school. To help people.

AS WE CELEBRATE the 150th Anniversary of Georgia Law, please remember that this place gave you the education you needed to help people solve their problems and, because of this, you have been able to earn both a living and the respect of the community you serve.

I give to Georgia Law to show my gratitude for the skills that allow me to help my clients and my community. But I also give for the satisfaction of knowing that I have helped the law school to attract the brightest students and retain the best faculty, and that I am doing my part for the next generation of students who will join our profession. And I take

pride in having a diploma on my wall from one of the country's finest law schools.

These are tough economic times, and I know that all of us are hearing from myriad worthy organizations and institutions (and possibly family and friends, too). Despite the lawyer jokes and the ad hominem attacks on talk radio or from politicians, you know that we hear from so many seeking aid because we have proven so generous in the past; I trust that we Georgia Law graduates will dig deep to help wherever it is needed.

But let's not forget our law school, for this is where leaders and problem solvers are trained; together we can guarantee another 150 years of success at Georgia Law. So please join with me in investing generously in our School of Law - the Mistys of tomorrow are depending on us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Sowell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory C. Sowell (J.D. '83)

Law School Association President