

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAVID B. BELL

*The year was 1935. Franklin Roosevelt was president. America was still in the depths of the depression. My father had just completed two years of study at the Junior College located in Augusta. His dream was to attend law school.*



These were the days before an LSAT. Law schools admitted students after 2 years of college based upon grades alone. And my father had the grades, but finances were tight in 1935. Nevertheless my father applied for and was accepted to law school at the University of Georgia. What stood in his way? Tuition, room and board. To make my father's dream a reality, my Grandmother sold her wedding ring to raise the money.

How did my Grandmother's sacrifice pay off? My father graduated from our law school in 1938. Then my brother, John, graduated in 1972. I graduated five years later in 1977. Because of my grandmother's sacrifice, my brother's oldest daughter, Ansley Bell Threlkeld, and her husband, Paul, graduated in 2001. Then, seven years later, my sister's youngest son, John Bell Manly, and his new bride, Megan, graduated. Now my oldest son, David Jr., is a second-year student scheduled to graduate in 2012. He will be the eighth member of my grandmother's family to hold a diploma from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Our family's tradition at Georgia Law began with Grandmother's sacrifice. All of us who proudly call ourselves graduates of Georgia Law owe our success to someone who went before us.

Now is the time for us to show respect for the past by making the future available to others.

Our law school is worthy of our sacrifice. It is led by a wonderful dean who has a great respect for our past traditions while developing a vision as to how we must change and grow in order to meet the future needs and demands that will be placed upon our graduates.

Our law school attracts the brightest students from Georgia and out of state. They deserve both our admiration and our support. We must show our appreciation for an exceptional student body by giving our encouragement, opening opportunities for them upon graduation and monetarily supporting our annual fund.

Please join me in supporting this year's Law School Fund campaign. Our gifts will enable Georgia Law's future to be as bright and successful as its past. It is only together, and with the help of all, that our full potential will be realized.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. Bell', written in a cursive style.

David B. Bell (J.D. '77)  
Law School Association President