

Dean White announces

Earlier this spring, Rebecca Hanner White, who has served as the leader of the law school since 2003, announced her decision to step down from her position as dean of Georgia Law. Her plan is to remain as dean until her replacement is found and then she will return to the law school's faculty.

She said it has been an honor and a privilege to lead the law school for the past 11 years. (The current average term of service among ABA-approved law school deans is less than four years.)

"Our students, faculty, administrative team and staff are outstanding," she added. "Our law school has accomplished much over the past 11 years. Our law school, and I, have enjoyed strong support from the university, and I could not ask for a more loyal and supportive alumni base. Together, we all have made a good law school an even better one."

UGA President Jere W. Morehead (J.D.'80) said White's record as dean of the law school has been "simply extraordinary" and her service as a senior leader of the university has been "profound."

When White became the leader of the law school on July 1, 2003, some of the objectives she set included: enhancing the academic reputation of the law school, enriching the learning environment and increasing private giving. The following will provide some highlights of the numerous advances made under her guidance.

The school has undergone a multiyear, multimillion dollar renovation. Designed with students in mind and to address overcrowding, almost 4,000 square feet of building space was "captured," a "private" courtyard was created and most of the school's primary building has been beautifully transformed.

The academic offerings of the law school have been enhanced. The school launched a Business Law and Ethics Program to help students with building essential skills in negotiating, legal drafting, critical thinking, counseling and creative problem-solving. The first-year curriculum has been revamped. Additionally, a new degree – the Master in the Study of Law – will be offered starting this fall, and the J.D./Master of Social Work joint degree program was created.

The school added six experiential learning programs. They are: the Appellate Litigation Clinic, the Business Law Clinic, the Corporate Counsel Externship, the Mediation Practicum, the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (starts this fall) and the Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice Program.

The Sutherland Courtyard was transformed during the law school's multimillion dollar renovation. It is now a popular spot for members of the law school community.

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Rebecca White, who is the first female dean of Georgia Law, said leading the law school for the last 11 years has been a labor of love and that she will long treasure the friendships she has made. In 2003, when she assumed the deanship, White said, "I love our school and am committed to doing my level best to make it an even better school. I do not expect everyone to agree with every decision I make, but I do hope the various constituencies of the law school will understand that I am making the decisions that I believe are in the best interest of our law school."



Photo by UGA Photographic Services/Andrew Davis Tucker.



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she is stepping down

Search committee named

UGA Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Pamela Whitten has appointed a committee to lead a national search to fill White's position.

The search and screening committee will be chaired by College of Pharmacy Dean Svein Øie.

Other members of the committee are:

- Kathelen V. Amos (J.D.'82), chair of the school's Board of Visitors and president of the Aflac Foundation
- Kent H. Barnett, assistant professor
- Elizabeth Chamblee Burch, associate professor
- Julie E. Carnes (J.D.'75), chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- Kellie Casey (J.D.'90), director of advocacy
- Dan T. Coenen, University Professor & Caldwell Chair in Constitutional Law
- Andrea L. Dennis, associate professor
- Evelyn A. French, rising third-year law student
- Erica J. Hashimoto, associate professor
- Timothy Meyer, assistant professor
- David E. Shipley, Georgia Athletic Association Professor in Law
- Gregory C. "Greg" Sowell (J.D.'83), senior director of law school advancement

Whitten said she appreciates White's willingness to serve as dean while the national search for her successor is underway.

"Under Dean White's outstanding leadership, the School of Law has seen its stature as one of the nation's top public law schools rise dramatically," Whitten said.

International work and study abroad programs were created and expanded. The semester-long study abroad program at the University of Oxford was established. The Summer Program in China with study opportunities in Beijing and Shanghai debuted. The long-running summer study abroad initiative in Brussels, focusing on the European Union, became accredited by the ABA and was expanded to include time in Geneva and an emphasis on the World Trade Organization. The Global Internship Program has grown to include work opportunities with one of more than 70 organizations in more than 35 countries spanning the globe.



Among the study abroad offerings established under White's leadership is the Georgia Law at Oxford Program. This is one of the few ABA-approved, semester-long study abroad opportunities offered by an American law school.

The size of the faculty has increased with the hiring of more than 30 new faculty members since 2003. The law school now has a student:faculty ratio of 11.48:1 versus 22.18:1, the ratio in 2003.

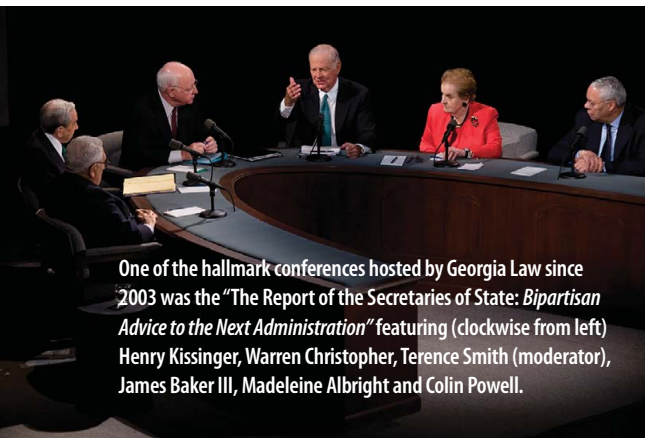
Student academic credentials have risen over the years. The most recent entering class, the Class of 2016, boasts a median LSAT score of 163 and a median undergraduate GPA of 3.69.

No fewer than 500 outside speakers – including national and foreign high-ranking officials – and approximately 220 professors have visited campus since 2003, greatly enhancing scholarly debate and dialogue at Georgia Law.

A few notables are current and former U.S. Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas, Stephen G. Breyer and John Paul Stevens as well as the participants in "The Report of the Secretaries of State: *Bipartisan Advice to the Next Administration*" featuring Henry Kissinger, James Baker III, Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell.

During her deanship, approximately 40 new endowed funds supporting student scholarships and faculty have been created, along with private funding for renovations, and the annual fund has more than doubled, now raising over \$900,000 each year.

Six Georgia law graduates have served as U.S. Supreme Court judicial clerks in the last nine years. And, on average, 26 Georgia Law alumni have served the federal courts as judicial clerks for each of the last five years.



One of the hallmark conferences hosted by Georgia Law since 2003 was the "The Report of the Secretaries of State: *Bipartisan Advice to the Next Administration*" featuring (clockwise from left) Henry Kissinger, Warren Christopher, Terence Smith (moderator), James Baker III, Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell.