



DSS AWARD

Davenport and Solomon honored

Chester C. Davenport (LL.B.'66) and Benna Ruth Solomon (J.D.'78) are this year's Distinguished Service Scroll Award recipients.

This accolade is the highest honor given by the Law School Association and recognizes outstanding dedication and service to the legal profession and law school.

Davenport is the law school's first African-American graduate. Born in Athens, Georgia, Davenport was a *cum laude* graduate of Morehouse College, earning his bachelor's degree in 1963. He graduated from Georgia Law in 1966, where he finished in the top 5 percent of his class and helped found as well as served as an editorial board member of the *Georgia Law Review*.

He began his career as an attorney in the tax division of the U.S. Department of Justice and subsequently served as a legislative assistant for California Sen. Alan Cranston. Following an appointment as an assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Davenport co-founded a law practice based in Washington, D.C.

Davenport is the founder and managing director of Georgetown Partners, a Maryland-based private equity firm specializing in leverage buyouts. He previously served as vice president of the R.H. Lapin Company and as chairman of GTE Consumer Services and Envirotec Systems. He is currently the executive chairman of Basho Technologies, a distributed systems company that develops disruptive technology to simplify critical data management challenges for enterprises.

In 2005, Davenport gave a gift to endow the Chester C. Davenport Scholarship Fund at Georgia Law. He also has served as a member of the Board of Visitors and the UGA Arch Foundation.

Solomon is the first Georgia Law graduate to serve as a judicial clerk for a U.S. Supreme Court justice. She earned her law degree in 1978, graduating first in her class. While a student, she was an articles editor and a member of the editorial board of the *Georgia Law Review*.

Solomon has dedicated her career to public service, beginning as a law clerk to Judge James I. Oakes on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. Following this clerkship, she served as a judicial clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White.

She has represented a number of major national organizations of state and local government officials in the U.S. Supreme Court and filed more than 100 friend-of-the-court briefs. While at the U.S. Department of Justice, Solomon provided oral advice and written opinions to the president, attorney general and cabinet officials, receiving commendations twice for her contributions and service.

Solomon is currently the deputy corporation counsel for the appeals division of the City of Chicago Law Department, where she is responsible for all appellate litigation involving the city in all state and federal courts, as well as providing advice as requested by the trial, transactional and counseling divisions. In more than 25 years with the city, she has filed nearly 2,300 briefs, participated in more than 800 moot courts and presented argument in 67 cases, including three in the U.S. Supreme Court.



Chester Davenport (LL.B.'66) (right) with fellow Athenian and first-year student Nathan Miles, who holds one of nine student scholarships supported by Davenport.



Benna Ruth Solomon (J.D.'78)