

# COMMENCEMENT CLASS OF 2017



Bo Hatchett shares a moment with his daughter, Hallie Jean. His wife, Ashley Darby Hatchett, graduated from the law school last year.



Hanging out prior to the festivities are (l. to r.) Lindsay Reinhart, Hannah Sells, Nick Nunn and Alex Engler. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Trevon Smith (left) hugs Associate Dean Usha Rodrigues after the ceremony.



Tom Church (left) and Fabian Goffe celebrate as Commencement exercises come to a close.

## Hunstein encourages students to look for opportunities everywhere

Carol W. Hunstein, a justice serving on the Supreme Court of Georgia, presented the keynote address at the School of Law's 2017 Commencement ceremony.

The jurist, who earned her law degree from the Stetson University College of Law in 1975, encouraged graduates to look for opportunities in both success and failure and shared some of her personal experiences.

When she began law school, "there were six women in the class and that was the most that had ever been admitted to the school at one time," Hunstein said, adding that she loved the diversity of the Class of 2017.



Photo by Dennis McDaniel.

After graduating and passing the Georgia bar, Hunstein moved to Atlanta. She found it difficult to obtain a legal job as a woman in a male-dominated field and began taking misdemeanor cases at the Fulton County jail. From there she built a practice.

"It wasn't easy, but it can be done," she said. "There will be times when you may not succeed in what you're trying to do ... but with every problem comes a possible solution. It's an opportunity."

Hunstein said there were not many women who performed trial work when she was practicing and recalled one judge who was "just awful" to her.

"Now, my solution to that problem was to run for [judge on] the Superior Court of DeKalb County," she said. "Look for these opportunities. ... Don't let people dissuade you from doing what you think is right; what you think you're capable of. Put yourself out there and try."

Telling the Class of 2017 "as long as you have done the very best job you can do, you should be proud of yourself," Hunstein also encouraged the new graduates to use their degrees to be diligent in defense of the American legal system.

"When problems come along, it's how you address them that's important," she said. "... You have special knowledge and skills which enable to you to serve mankind. Use those skills wisely if you are to uphold the dignity, integrity and honor of our profession and the foundation of our democracy."



The Class of 2017 donated close to \$50,000 to the law school as their legacy gift. Class President and Legacy Gift Co-chair Carson Masters (left) and Student Bar Association President Robert Poole (right) presented the "check" to Law School Association President Wade Herring II (J.D.'83) (left center) and Dean Bo Rutledge. Photo by GradImages.



Faculty Advisor for the Master in the Study of Law Program Allison Hale (J.D.'89) (center) poses with the second class of M.S.L. students to graduate – (l. to r.) Gus Elliot, Shantée El, Steven Strickland and Brannen Wilson. Not present is Thomas Bell. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.

View more 2017 Commencement photos at [law.uga.edu/photo-gallery](http://law.uga.edu/photo-gallery). Watch the ceremony at [youtube.com/c/UGALawSchool](http://youtube.com/c/UGALawSchool).