

INTRODUCING
YOUR NEW DEAN,

Bo Rutledge



On January 1, 2015, Georgia Law welcomed its 13th dean – Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge. As is customary, whenever there is a new leader of the law school, the editor of the *Advocate* will sit down with the dean to provide readers some insight as to where he or she plans to direct the school, the challenges he or she will face and the opportunities that lie ahead.

How important is the law school’s role within the overall university? How does it contribute?

The law school is an important partner to the university’s mission. It helps to train some of the state’s future leaders. Its scholarship helps advance the university’s research goals and, at times, can build bridges with other units on campus.

In your communications thus far, you have emphasized the school’s need to provide first-rate legal training and produce world-class scholarship in service to both our state and nation. Can you elaborate on this statement?

These are some of the pillars that make our law school special. First-rate legal training comes in forms such as the law school’s clinics and its nationally renowned advocacy programs. World-class scholarship comes from our professors whose work helps inform decisions by judges and policymakers. And service is a quality built into many of our students when they are here and manifested when they go on to serve as judges, lawmakers, civil servants or in other public service capacities.





In 2008, Rutledge served as a moderator of a Q&A with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, for whom he clerked in 1998–99. Rutledge said co-teaching a class on the federal common law with Thomas in the fall of 2014 was one of his most memorable experiences thus far at UGA. “The level of intellectual exchange and commitment of our students was simply extraordinary,” he said.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing law schools today? How do we overcome this challenge?

To be a good return on investment for students. Recall that students applying to law school already have had an undergraduate experience. So, by applying, they are committing themselves to additional years of schooling and a profession. Law schools constantly need to be sure that they are providing programs designed to help students achieve their professional goals.

What do you think distinguishes Georgia Law in legal education today?

It is a community where professors get to know their students and many alumni and alumnae feel a close connection to the place even after they graduate.

How has being dean been different than what you anticipated?

There are always surprises. What’s been most heartening has been to see the sense of loyalty among the law school’s alumni and alumnae base.

What has been your biggest personal challenge since becoming Georgia Law’s dean?

Trying to get to know everyone. Even coming from within the school, you quickly realize the vast number of alums, colleagues, students and university officials who are bound to the school in some way. There are only so many hours in the day so you just try your best to build bridges with them to help take the institution forward.

How would you describe your leadership style?

Collaborative. I try to meet with the various units within the school to formulate goals and to discuss how to realize them. We have a tremendous team here, and they are an important part of the process of developing those goals.

How do you handle the stress of your work? How do you relax after a stressful day?

Spending time with my family – whether reading with them, playing board games or a quick pick-up sport in the backyard.

What do you consider your greatest academic contribution?

Helping students realize their professional dreams.

What did you want to be when you were younger? If it was not a lawyer, how and why did you decide to pursue the study of law?

I vacillated between being a lawyer (especially after reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*) and a professor (near the end of my years in college). Eventually, I learned there was a vocation out there that allowed me to combine both passions.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Treat everyone with respect.

Which individuals in your life have influenced you the most? In what ways?

My wife – she is the best teacher I know and a pillar in our relationship.

What advice do you have for current law students?

Use your resources. Approach your professional training proactively. Some of you may have a plan upon entering law school – invest your time in pursuit of that plan. Others may not. I was that way. In that case, be sure to seek out advice and guidance from faculty, alums and others who can help you make the most of your time here.

What is your favorite thing about living in Athens?

The people are unfailingly friendly.

What is the one thing that will surprise people the most to learn about you?

I was once hypnotized in front of a crowd at a state fair and made to believe I was Miss Piggy from “The Muppets.”

If you could travel back in time and give the younger you one piece of advice, what would it be?

Never pass up an opportunity to learn.

PHOTOS OPPOSITE PAGE L to R:

During the 2013–14 academic year, Rutledge continued a classroom conversation with a student in the hallway. While he is currently not teaching a class, Rutledge does intend to get back into the classroom as he considers working with students to be one of “the most gratifying parts” of being a professor. Photo by Bob Brussack (J.D.’76).

Rutledge shared a few words with Randy Frails (J.D.’97) (center) and Bill Fleming (LL.B.’50) at the Georgia Superior Court Judges Reception in January.

Rutledge Highlights

Rutledge led a class outdoors on Herty Field during the fall of 2011.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia School of Law

2015–PRESENT
Dean

2013–2014
Associate Dean for Faculty Development

2012–PRESENT
Holder of the Herman E. Talmadge Chair of Law

2011–2012
Professor of Law

2010–2011
Fulbright Visiting Professor (at the University of Vienna Law School in Austria)

2008–2011
Associate Professor of Law

Catholic University of America

2003–2008
Associate Professor of Law

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering

2001–2003
Associate

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (Austria)

1999–2001
Juristischer Mitarbeiter

U.S. Supreme Court

1998–1999
Law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

1997–1998
Law clerk to Chief Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III

PUBLICATIONS

Author of *Arbitration and the Constitution* and co-author of *International Civil Litigation in United States Courts*, and author of more than 10 book chapters and more than 25 articles in a diverse array of journals such as *The University of Chicago Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Law Review* and the *Journal of International Arbitration*.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Rutledge advises parties on matters of international dispute resolution, and he has served as an expert in both litigation and arbitration. He has testified on several occasions before Congress on pending arbitration legislation. In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court appointed Rutledge to brief and argue the case of *Irizarry v. United States* as *amicus curiae* in defense of the judgment below. Additionally, he regularly files briefs and advises lawyers in matters before the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts.

COURSES TAUGHT AT GEORGIA LAW

Civil Procedure, International Litigation, International Arbitration, International Business Transactions, International Law Colloquium, Appellate Litigation Clinic, Federal Common Law.

AWARDS/HONORS

2014 Faculty Marshal (Georgia Law)

2009 John C. O'Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations (Georgia Law)

2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 Professor of the Year (Catholic University of America)

2006 Faculty Marshal (Catholic University of America)

EDUCATION

B.A. *magna cum laude* in Government, Harvard University; M.Litt. in Applied Ethics, University of Aberdeen; J.D. with high honors, University of Chicago (member of the Order of the Coif and executive editor of *The University of Chicago Law Review*)

FAMILY

Wife (who teaches in the UGA German Department) and four children (ages 13, 8, 8 and 5)

HOMETOWN

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but raised all around the United States



At the 1L Weekend Reception held in February, Rutledge listened intently to an attendee.