

Butler Commitment

GUARANTEES FINANCIAL AID FOR EVERY VETERAN

With great pride, the School of Law launched the Butler Commitment – which is a new initiative that will guarantee financial aid to 100% of veterans who matriculate in the fall 2019 entering class.

“Thanks to the generous support to date, the School of Law has reached the point where every veteran currently enrolled in the entering class will receive financial aid,” Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge said. “What better way to honor military women and men for their service than to provide them monetary support for their education.

“I am grateful to renowned trial attorney and 1977 law school alumnus Jim Butler for supporting this initiative. After serving our country, just as Jim’s father and brother did, these men and women are seeking to build their careers. It is an honor to be able to support them in their efforts to become lawyers and to obtain justice for others,” Rutledge continued.

“Knowing that people are helping you pursue your dreams after taking the time to serve our country means a lot to me personally, and I’m sure a lot of veterans feel the same,” veteran and rising second-year student Jacob R. “Jake” Bohn said. “It means a lot knowing that your service to your country is appreciated.”

Butler said that since he was unable to serve in our nation’s military due to injuries suffered in a car wreck, “It is a great honor for me to help those who did serve.”

The number of veterans pursuing a law degree at UGA has increased over the last few years. In 2017 three veterans matriculated and in the fall of 2018 eight veterans enrolled.

“We hope this upward trend will continue,” Rutledge said. “Not only will these service men and women be receiving first-rate legal training, they will also have the opportunity to assist former veterans through work in the Veterans Legal Clinic. The clinic is already having a tremendous impact on the veteran community and on the law students who are learning what it means to serve a client.”

In June 2018, the law school opened the Veterans Legal Clinic through which veterans living in Georgia can receive legal assistance particularly with claims before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. A lead gift for the clinic was also provided by Butler in memory of his father, Lt. Cmdr. James E. Butler Sr., who was a U.S. Navy fighter pilot as well as the grandfather of James E. “Jeb” Butler III, a 2008 graduate of the law school.



Jim Butler (J.D.'77), who initiated the Butler Commitment. Photo by Ian McFarlane.



Earlier this year, a group of veterans enrolled at the law school gathered for a photo. They are: (back row, l. to r.) Nick Mugge, James Heuser, Steven Miller, Miles Mitchell, (middle row, l. to r.) Richard Meadows, Gabriel Justus, Andy Bastone, Jake Bohn, (front row, l. to r.) Ashley Marie Ho, Patrick Testa and Michael O'Brien.

Negotiation team wins inaugural Magnolia Cup



Third-year students Joseph Natt and Meryl See won the inaugural Magnolia Cup.

The School of Law’s negotiation team, under the direction of Clinical Professor & Business Law and Ethics Program Director Carol Morgan (J.D.’79), had a successful season during the 2018–19 academic year.

Third-year students Joseph Natt and Meryl See won the inaugural Magnolia Cup, a national transactional law negotiation competition hosted by the University of Mississippi. See also received the Professionalism Award. Notably, UGA’s second team – comprised of second-year students Andrew J. “Andy” Klemm and Savannah B. Phinney – finished with the second highest score of the tournament.

In the Tulane Law School’s Professional Football Negotiation Competition, third-year student Samuel Baker and second-year student William C. Phillips finished as first runners-up. The pair competed in six rounds of negotiations in the School of Law’s first appearance in this tournament.