Faculty Notes

The following will summarize the scholarly productivity of Georgia Law’s distinguished faculty during the calendar year 2009 and year-to-date 2010.

Peter A. Appel


Milner S. Ball (J.D.’71)


Robert P. Bartlett III


Ronald L. Carlson


Lonnie T. Brown Jr.


J. Randy Beck


James M. Bodansky


Hellerstein recognized for his contributions to the state tax world

Georgia Law Shackelford Distinguished Professor in Taxation Law Walter Hellerstein was named to State Tax Notes’ “All-Decade State Tax Team.” Only 15 individuals nationwide were selected for the list, which honored the “most influential people in the state and local tax world during the last 10 years.”

Hellerstein joined the law school faculty in 1978 and became the Shackelford Professor in 1999. He teaches in the areas of state and local taxation, international taxation and federal income taxation.

Widely regarded as the nation’s leading academic authority on state and local taxation, his scholarly works include the leading treatise in the state tax field, the leading casebook on state and local taxation and more than 100 articles in professional journals addressing state and local tax issues.

He has practiced extensively in the state tax field and has been involved in numerous state tax cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He is currently an academic adviser to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s Working Party on Consumption Taxes and participates in their technical advisory groups that are designing guidelines for consumption taxation cross-border trade in services and intangibles.

Hellerstein has received numerous honors for his work throughout his career, including the National Tax Association’s 2008 Daniel M. Holland Medal for distinguished lifetime contributions to the study and practice of public finance.
Gabriel awarded grant to research indigent defendants

Georgia Law Criminal Defense Clinic Director Russell C. Gabriel (J.D.’85) was awarded a grant to investigate the financial burden of prosecution on indigent defendants in the criminal justice system even though they are represented by appointed counsel. The Poverty and the Economy Faculty Research Grant, which is funded by the UGA Research Foundation, is a competitive seed grant program that is part of a campus-wide effort to address poverty in Georgia and explore ways that university teaching, research and service can help all Georgians become full participants in the economy.

Gabriel, in collaboration with UGA School of Social Work faculty members Dr. Larry Nackerud and Dr. Ed Risler, has titled the joint project “Poverty in the Courts: Exploring the Impacts of Financial Burden on Poor and Indigent Defendants.” The trio was one of only five teams from the university chosen to receive support for their research.

Gabriel joined Georgia Law’s Legal Aid and Defender Clinic as a staff attorney in 1988 and was promoted to associate director in 1991. In 1993, he went to work for the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta as an assistant federal defender. Three years later, he returned to UGA as the director of the Legal Aid and Defender Clinic, which is now the Criminal Defense Clinic.

In addition to overseeing the clinic, Gabriel also teaches courses on criminal procedure, race and the law, approaches to lawyering and capital punishment.


Harlan G. Cohen


Alan A. Cook (J.D.’84)


Julian A. Cook III


James M. Donovan


Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.’88)


Thomas A. Eaton


Matthew I. Hall


Erica J. Hashimoto


Paul J. Heald


Walter Hellerstein


Fazal Khan

Law library chief retires

A fter almost 16 years of service to Georgia Law, Alexander Campbell King Law Library Director and Professor E. Ann Puckett will retire June 30.

A nationally recognized leader in law library management, Puckett joined the Georgia Law faculty in 1994. In addition to overseeing the law library, computing services and educational technology for the law school, she has also taught Law and Disability.

“This job fulfilled all my hopes,” Puckett said. “All the challenges I’ve met at UGA have been very satisfying. It is a different place now, and I’m proud to have been a part of the transformation.”

One of the most visible changes during Puckett’s tenure was the remodel of the Carl E. Sanders Reading Room.

“It was such a huge undertaking. We had to entirely close all services in that part of the library and move them to the annex,” she explained. “It was a noisy, smelly, disruptive process, but unveiling the spectacularly beautiful result to the world at the rededication was profoundly satisfying.”

Puckett also oversaw the implementation of numerous technological innovations as well as other modifications to improve the overall environment of the library.

“This staff has completed unbelievably complicated and labor intensive projects in the past 15 years, and it shows,” she said.

A dedicated professor, Puckett added that one of her goals was to instill in her students the importance of being advocates of change.

“I hope my students gained a greater understanding of the importance of integrating people with disabilities into our communities and workplaces,” she said. “I’m so gratified that several of them have gone on to careers in public interest work and have written articles in the area of disability law.”

Puckett’s scholarship includes numerous presentations on library management, legal research methodology, trends in research technology, and law and disability. She has also maintained a national survey of law school computing services staffing. Additionally, she is the author of Uniform Commercial Code: Confidential Drafts.

Her impact on the field of library management is evident by her various professional leadership positions such as her service as an executive board member for the American Association of Law Libraries from 1993 to 1996.

Furthermore, in 2009 Puckett was named the recipient of the most prestigious award presented by the AALL, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, which is given annually by the association in recognition of outstanding, extended and sustained service to law librarianship and to the organization.

One of the letters nominating Puckett for this honor stated, “Ann’s lengthy career has been a testament to the ideals of law librarianship. She is an enthusiastic advocate for the profession [and her] extensive knowledge and love of [it] is unparalleled.”

Puckett earned her bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University and her law degree and master’s degree in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She served as a law librarian at the University of Kansas, Southern Illinois University and Northwestern University before becoming director of the law library and professor at the South Texas College of Law, where she remained until joining UGA.

“Long before this position opened up, I had described to myself my perfect job,” she said. “Everything came together here.”

Puckett plans to remain in Athens with her husband, Dr. Thomas A. Wilson, and intends to increase her volunteer efforts in the local community.

1987 alumna Carol Watson to lead library

Current Georgia Law Associate Director for Information Technology Carol A. Watson (J.D.’87) will become the new director of the Alexander Campbell King Law Library on July 1. A holder of four degrees and a Georgia Law graduate, Watson has worked at the law library for more than 20 years and has been active in the American Association of Law Libraries, where she was recently elected vice president/president elect of the Southeastern Chapter.

**Hillel Y. Levin**


**Julian B. McDonnell**

Revision of *Commercial & Consumer Warranties* (Matthew Bender, 2009); and revision of *Secured Transactions Under the Uniform Commercial Code* (Matthew Bender, 2009).

**Lisa Milot**


**James F. Ponsoldt**


**Lori A. Ringhand**


**Usha Rodrigues**


**Jamie Baker Roskie (J.D.’01)**


**Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge**


**Alexander W. Scherr**


**David E. Shipley**

“A Dangerous Undertaking Indeed: Juvenile Humor, Raunchy Jokes, Obscene

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**Remembering Gabriel Wilner**

A ssociate Dean and Kirbo Professor Gabriel M. Wilner passed away unexpectedly on May 21, 2010. A member of the Georgia Law faculty since 1973, his death is a tremendous loss, and he will be missed.

Wilner played many roles within the Georgia Law community. He was the associate dean for graduate legal studies, executive director of the Dean Rusk Center, director of the school’s study abroad program in Brussels and faculty adviser for the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law. He also taught courses on international law, international legal transactions, European Union law, international commercial arbitration and transnational investment.

In addition to his responsibilities at the law school, Wilner was also very involved in the legal community as a whole. He served as a legal adviser and consultant to various United Nations institutions and to African and Asian regional institutions. An arbitrator in transnational disputes, he was also a drafter of the 1988 Georgia Arbitration Code and received the Whitney North Seymour Arbitration Medal from the American Arbitration Association during 1991.

Wilner published numerous scholarly works on international law, domestic and international arbitration, international development law and private international law throughout his career. He also received a Fulbright Research Fellowship to India from 1983 to 1984. He earned his B.A. from the College of William & Mary, his D.P.A. from the University of Exeter in England and his law degree and Master of Laws from Columbia University, where he was editor in chief of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*. He also studied at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Wilner is survived by his wife, Gisele.
Materials and Bad Taste in Copyright” in 98 Kentucky Law Journal 517 (2009-10).

James C. Smith

Erwin C. Surrency (J.D.’48)

Travis M. Trimble (J.D.’93)

Christian Turner

Camilla E. Watson

Carol A. Watson (J.D.’87)

Michael L. Wells

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Faculty Accomplishments

Georgia Law’s Faculty Colloquium Series provides a forum for provocative and innovative legal scholarship by bringing notable legal academics from around the country to Athens to present substantial works in progress to the law school faculty. Below is a list of this year’s presenters.

Royce de R. Barondes, University of Missouri, “ABA Ratings of Federal District Court Judges and the likelihood of a Shepard’s Warning Signal”


Christopher S. Elmendorf, University of California at Davis, “’The Politics of First Best’: Depolarization by Design and the Voting Rights Act”

Angela P. Harris, University of California at Berkeley, “Color Chart and Gender Spectrum: Administering Race and Gender in a Post-Obama World”

Roderick M. Hills Jr., New York University, “Federalism and Distrust: The Gentry, the Saints, and the Federal Republic in Nineteenth Century America”

Michael S. Kang, Emory University, “Sore Loser Laws”

Kimberly D. Krawiec, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, “A Woman’s Worth”

Jason M. Solomon

Olivier Moréteau, Louisiana State University, “A Summary Reflection on the Future of Civil Codes in Europe”

Deborah Pearlstein, Princeton University, “After Deference: Formalizing the Judicial Power in Foreign Relations Law”


Nirej Sekhon, Georgia State University, “Taking Their Pick: Police Departments, Discretion, and Race”

Stephanie M. Stern, Loyola University at Chicago, “The Inviolable Home: From Iconic Property to Relational Privacy in the Fourth Amendment”


Michael J. Zimmer, Loyola University at Chicago, “The Ricci Decision”

The series is supported by the Kirbo Trust Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund and the Talmadge Law Faculty Fund.

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Public Interest Fellow combats homelessness

Georgia Law’s fourth Public Interest Fellow, Alison Spiers, has partnered with the Georgia Legal Services Program to advocate for the homeless and those at imminent risk of homelessness in Northeast Georgia. In May, she began offering legal services to citizens in Athens and surrounding counties to help them find and preserve shelter.

Spiers previously served as executive director of the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. There, she saw firsthand how the law can play a crucial role in combating and preventing homelessness.

“I realized that there was this great need for legal representation among those struggling with housing issues, so I decided to do something about it,” Spiers said.

Titled the Housing Aid Law Office (HALO) Project, her program will represent those facing threats to housing stability because of foreclosure, landlord-tenant disputes and consumer debt.

“Im many situations, steps can be taken to reinstate someone’s housing or to remove legal and social obstacles preventing someone from securing permanent housing,” Spiers explained.

She said the HALO Project will also take a “whole client” approach and work closely with social service organizations to address any issues that may contribute to a person’s inability to maintain stable housing.

“Through targeted outreach, the HALO Project will serve the most vulnerable in our community who otherwise may not have access to legal services. After resolving the underlying legal issue, our goal is to ultimately prevent the recurrence of a housing crisis,” Spiers said.

The Public Interest Fellowship Program offers lawyers the chance to provide civil legal services to needy Georgians while engaging law students in the process. Fellows are given two years to develop their initiative while working with a host organization that will potentially continue to support the project once the fellowship term has ended.
Recent faculty appointments and honors

Faculty and Access Services Librarian James M. Donovan’s article “Back Away from the Survey Monkey: Optimize Research Results with an Honest Assessment of Methodology” (14(2) AALL Spectrum 20 (2009)) received the 2010 AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award.

Hosch Professor Thomas A. Eaton was honored with the Southeastern Association of Law Schools’ 2009 Call for Papers Award for his article “The Contours of a New FRCP Rule 68.1: A Proposed Two-Way Offer of Settlement Provision for Federal Fee-Shifting Cases” (252 Federal Rules Decisions 551 (2008) (with H. Lewis)).

Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism and Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus C. Ronald Ellington received a UGA Blue Key Service Award in recognition of his career in the field of law as well as for his continuing support of academic programs at the university.

Dean Rusk Center Associate Director María Eugenia Giménez (LL.M.’89) was given a Diploma of Merit and medal by the Federal Military Justice of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, in recognition of her work with the International Judicial Training Program. Additionally, she was appointed to serve as an international expert member of the governing board of the International Institute for Justice Research and Training, headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Associate Dean and Hosch Professor Paul M. Kurtz was named chair of the drafting committee on the Visitation and Custody Issues Affecting Military Personnel and Their Families Act.

Chaffin Distinguished Professor in Fiduciary Law Sarajane N. Love (J.D.’73) was awarded an honorary doctorate by LaGrange College.

Associate Professor Usha Rodrigues was granted tenure.

Land Use Clinic Managing Attorney Jamie Baker Roskie (J.D.’01) was presented with the Trailblazer Award by the Newtown Florist Club for more than two years of work addressing land use and environmental justice issues in the Gainesville, Ga., area.

Associate Professor Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge has been appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Rules Advisory Committee.

An article written by Alston Chair in Corporate Law Margaret V. Sachs was referenced several times during the oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in Morrison v. National Australia Bank. Justice Stephen G. Breyer asked each attorney to respond to the argument she made challenging the conventional view on the extra-territorial reach of antifraud provisions in “The International Reach of Rule 10b-5: The Myth of Congressional Silence” (28 Columbia Journal of Transnational Law 677 (1990)).

Cobb Professor David E. Shipley was selected to be the UGA faculty athletics representative, making him part of the team responsible for ensuring academic compliance with NCAA regulations and academic success for student athletes.

Associate Director for Information Technology Carol A. Watson (J.D.’87) was elected vice president/president elect of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Dean and Hosch Professor Rebecca Hanner White became a member of the executive board of the U.S. branch of the International Society for Labor and Social Security Law.

Digital Commons serves as e-source for research

Georgia Law’s electronic repository, Digital Commons, contains the latest research by Georgia Law faculty as well as digital versions of recent lectures, presentations and conferences. Initiated in 2006, this growing database now contains more than 1,300 files. Access is free at digitalcommons.law.uga.edu.

Faculty scholarship e-alerts

Select Georgia Law faculty scholarly works can now be found at SSRN.com. If you would like to receive periodic e-mail announcements with the abstracts of the latest research written by the faculty and links to the full text papers, please register at SSRN.com.