

Class Notes

Class Notes items listed were processed between April 30, 2018, and July 31, 2018. In the event a Class Notes entry is not correct, you are asked to contact the Law School Advancement office at lawalum@uga.edu.

Professional Class Notes entries come directly from School of Law alumni and alumnae and should be submitted to lawalum@uga.edu. Photos to accompany a Class Note are welcome.

1950s

Frank W. “Sonny” Seiler (1957) of Savannah, GA, received the prestigious Circle of Distinction Award as presented by the University of Georgia’s athletic department during the Circle of Honor Awards held in Athens.

1970s

Gary Blaylock Andrews (1971) of Atlanta, GA, retired from the bench in July after more than 42 years of venerable service to the state of Georgia with 27 of those years being served on the Court of Appeals of



Georgia. **Thomas L. Hodges III** (1972) of Elberton, GA, retired from the bench after 20 years of venerable service as a Superior Court judge of the Northern Judicial Circuit. **Julie**

E. Carnes (1975) of Atlanta, GA, took senior status after more than 26 years of venerable service as a federal judge with her last four years being served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. **Joel O. Wooten** (1975) of Columbus, GA, received an Amicus Curiae Award as presented by the Supreme Court of Georgia.



James E. Butler Jr. (1972) of Savannah, GA, recently relocated to the newly opened Savannah office of his firm,

Butler Wooten & Peak. **Andrew H. “Drew” Ernst** (1977) of Savannah, GA, was highlighted in the prestigious *Chambers USA* for 2018 regarding his practice in the area of environmental law.



1980s

Therese G. “Terry” Franzén (1980) of Jasper, GA, was honored with the prestigious American Bar Association Business Law Section’s 26th Jean Allard Glass Cutter Award. **Keith E. Fryer** (1980) of Atlanta, GA, received a \$1.1 million verdict on behalf of his client, Camal Rashada. **E. David Hart Jr.** (1980) of LaGrange, GA, received the prestigious Maglin/Biggie TRSA Lifetime Achievement Award. **Jenny Wheatley Fletcher** (1981) of Atlanta, GA, was elected to serve on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation



Board of Trustees. **Ertharin Cousin** (1982) of Chicago, IL, was elected to the Board of Directors of Heifer

International. **W. Earl McCall** (1982) of Albany, GA, received a \$18 million verdict on behalf of his client, Johnny L. Williams. **J. Randolph “Randy” Evans** (1983) of Atlanta, GA, was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to

Luxembourg. **Richard A. Greenberg** (1983) of Tallahassee, FL, was sworn in as president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL) at their annual meeting in Miami Beach.



Wade W. Herring II (1983) of Savannah, GA, was highlighted in the prestigious *Chambers USA* for 2018 regarding his practice in the area of labor and employment law.

W. Scott Sorrels (1984) of Atlanta, GA, was honored with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award by the Northeast Georgia Council and the Boy Scouts of America.



Wiley A. Wasden III (1984) of Savannah, GA, was selected to serve on the University of Georgia Board of Visitors.



John J. Ellington (1985) of Atlanta, GA, was elected to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

William C. "Bill" Gentry (1986) of Marietta, GA, was reelected to serve on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia and was installed during the State Bar's annual meeting on June 9. **Stephen S. Goss** (1986) of Albany, GA, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia.



Stephen D. Kelley (1986) of Brunswick, GA, was elected to serve as president of the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia. **John M. Allan** (1987) of Atlanta, GA, was elected to serve on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Trustees.

Paul G.

Durdaller (1987) of Atlanta, GA, joined Burr & Forman as a partner in the Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy practice group.



Pamela H. Dillard (1988) of Athens, GA, recently joined Blasingame Burch Garrard & Ashley.

1990s

Terry N. Massey (1990) of Greensboro, GA, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as a superior court judge of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. **Kenneth B. Hodges III** (1991) of Atlanta, GA, was elected to serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia and was installed as the 56th president of the State Bar of Georgia during the 2018 State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting held in June.



Michael J. Keller (1991) of Pompano Beach, FL, has joined Halloran Farkas & Kittila as of counsel. **Harold D. Melton** (1991) of Atlanta, GA, was elected to continue his service as the presiding judge of the Supreme Court of Georgia, and will be elevated to chief justice following the retirement of Chief Justice P. Harris Hines at the end of August.

Tom C. Rawlings (1992) of Atlanta, GA, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as interim director of the Georgia



Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). **Jeffery W. Cavender** (1993) of Atlanta, GA, was sworn in as a judge of the United States

Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. **Joseph A. Fried** (1993) of Atlanta, GA, received a \$7.2 million settlement in favor of his clients against Arnold Moving Company, Vladimir H. Balsa, and Technology Insurance Company. **Elizabeth D. Gobeil** (1995) of Savannah, GA, was sworn in by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia. **Daniel B. Snipes** (1995) of Statesboro, GA, was reelected to serve on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia and was installed during the 2018 State Bar of



Georgia Annual Meeting held in June. **Emily A. Shouse** of Nashville, TN, was elected a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation during the annual Fellows' Dinner

held in May. **Stephanie L. Friese** (1999) of Atlanta, GA, was selected by the *Daily Report* as a Best Mentor from a small firm.



2000s



Ellen W. Smith (2000) of Atlanta, GA, joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein as a partner in the firm's Atlanta office. **Charles J. "Charlie"**

Bethel (2001) of Atlanta, GA, was reelected to serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia. **Brian M. Rickman** (2001) of Atlanta, GA, was elected to continue his service as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia. **Aretha V. Blake** (2002) of Charlotte, NC, was named to the 2018 class of 40 Under 40 by the *Charlotte Business Journal*. **Charles B.**

"Charlie" Thompson (2003) of Atlanta, GA, was selected to serve on the University of Georgia Board of Visitors. **Dominique I.H. Holloman** (2004) of Atlanta, GA, was selected to serve on the University of Georgia Board of Visitors. **Meaghan Goodwin Boyd** (2005) of Atlanta, was included on the *Daily Report's* On the Rise list for 2018. **Oksana V.**



Wright (LL.M. 2005) of New York, NY, was elevated to partner at Fox Rothschild and named to *Benchmark Litigation's* Under 40 Hot List

as an emerging leader in law. **Tiffany Carter Sellers** (2006) of Atlanta, GA, was featured in NewPowerPAC regarding her role as chief judge of South Fulton, GA. **Lauren A. Watson** (2006) of Colbert, GA, was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve as a superior court judge of the Northern Judicial Circuit.

Emily E. Shingler (2008) of Atlanta, GA, joined Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs as of counsel. **Darren M. Tobin** (2008) of Brookhaven, GA,



was included on the *Daily Report's* On the Rise list for 2018. **Melanie C. Walker** (2009) of Chattanooga, TN, was elected to shareholder at Baker Donelson. **Joby F. Young** (2009) of Alexandria, VA, was appointed to serve as chief of staff of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

2010–2017

A. Brooke Bowen (2010) of Atlanta, GA, was recognized by the University of Georgia Alumni Association as a member of the 40 Under 40 Class of 2018. **Lauren**

A. Villnow (2010) of Atlanta, GA, was included on the *Daily Report's* On the Rise list for 2018. **Jeffrey A. Zachman** (2010) of Lilburn, GA, was included on the *Daily Report's* On the Rise list for 2018. **Adam R. Abbate** (2011) of Atlanta, GA, was included on the *Daily Report's* On the Rise list for 2018. **Yvonne S. Godfrey** (2011) of Savannah, GA, received a \$18 million medical malpractice verdict on behalf of her client, Joan Simmons. **M.**



Leanna Degenhart (2012) of Nashville, TN, joined Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis as an associate. **James C. "Jake" Evans** (2012) of Atlanta, GA,

was included on the *Daily Report's* On the Rise list for 2018. **William R. Keyes** (2013) of Washington, DC, was recognized by the University of Georgia Alumni Association as a member of the 40 Under 40 Class of 2018. **Matthias "Matt" Ohm** (LL.M. 2014) of Atlanta, GA, was featured on Atlanta Lawyers On The Move. **Maria Rivera-Diaz** (2015) of Atlanta, GA, helped launch a new pro bono initiative A VER PR (Attorney Volunteers for Emergency Relief in Puerto Rico) for the purpose of providing legal assistance to victims of Hurricane Maria. **Shaina O. Thompson** (2015) of Nashville, TN, was promoted to lead attorney of the Family Law Section for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and The Cumberlands' Nashville office. **Michael F. "Mike" Gibson** (2016) of Atlanta, GA, a member of the founding team and Director of Operations of Rapchat, Inc., led the company in closing a \$1.6 million investment round. **JD Howard** (2016) of Atlanta, GA, joined Morris Manning & Martin as an associate.