

Edenfield Jurist in Residence places judges in classrooms

Georgia Law has created the B. Avant Edenfield Jurist in Residence program, which allows law students to learn from federal judges through a series of mini-courses.

Made possible by a contribution from 2003 Georgia Law alumnus Allen W. Yee, a former clerk of the late Edenfield, the initiative will enable one or more Article III judges to spend a period in residence at Georgia Law each academic year.

The inaugural Edenfield Jurist in Residence will be Lisa Godbey Wood (J.D.'90), who currently serves as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. Her course will focus on sentencing.

Thereafter, David B. Sentelle, former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, will be the second Edenfield Jurist in Residence. He will teach a course titled Persuading the Judge and Jury.



"Judge Edenfield's astute legal mind and passion for justice made him a hard-working judge who demanded much of those in his courtroom. To those who clerked for him, he was a true friend and mentor," said Yee, who is a senior attorney with The Coca-Cola Company. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to create through my charitable giving to Georgia Law the B. Avant Edenfield Jurist in Residence fund. It honors my friend and mentor, Judge Edenfield, and continues, in a small way, his legacy of teaching and guidance to the next generation of lawyers."

Of special note, Georgia Law held a reception in the spring to reveal a portrait of Edenfield, which now hangs in Hirsch Hall. Edenfield was a longtime federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia who earned both his bachelor's and law degrees from UGA.

Chambliss returns as Sanders Scholar

Georgia Law students will once again learn from former U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss and Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Camila Knowles (who previously served as Chambliss' chief of staff).

The pair will co-teach the class Political Leadership and the Law, where students will receive firsthand insights into public service and explore the topics of ethics, campaign finance and negotiation.

Last year, when Chambliss and Knowles taught the course, several prominent guest speakers visited the class. They included: U.S. Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86), former U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, Gov. Nathan Deal, Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston (J.D.'80), Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and leading public affairs professional Arthur B. "Skin" Edge IV (J.D.'80).

This year's class will be taught as part of the law school's Atlanta Semester in Practice initiative and will be based at the law school's facility in the state's capital.

The former senator said he is honored to be serving as the law school's Sanders Political Leadership Scholar. "I look forward to sharing my experience of 20 years in public service with tomorrow's leaders," he said. "The University of Georgia School of Law is one of the top law schools in America, and to have the opportunity to be a part of the faculty is very humbling."

Established in 2002, the Sanders Political Leadership Scholar position is named for Georgia's 74th governor and 1948 Georgia Law alumnus Carl E. Sanders. Previous Sanders Political Leadership Scholars include: former U.S. Sen. J. Maxwell "Max" Cleland, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland Lee A. Feinstein and former U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Theodore W. "Ted" Kassinger (J.D.'78).



Former U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss will continue to serve as the law school's Sanders Political Leadership Scholar. Photo by UGA's Andrew Davis Tucker.