

Successfully preparing U.S. Supreme Court and other federal court clerks

6 U.S. Supreme Court clerks in 9 years; average of 26 federal clerks annually for the last 5 years

Georgia Law graduates have performed well at the highest levels in the national employment marketplace over the last decade, specifically demonstrating the ability to meet the challenges and demands associated with clerkships at the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal courts.

Georgia Law alumnus Andrew A. Pinson (J.D.'11) clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas for the October 2013 term.

He is a member of a distinguished line of Georgia Law graduates who have served the U.S. Supreme Court as judicial clerks. Over the years, 10 alumni have worked for an array of justices including Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., Stephen G. Breyer, John Paul Stevens and Clarence Thomas, among others.

Furthering Georgia Law's record in preparing students for prestigious positions in the federal courts, in 2013, 28 alumni began judicial clerkships at the federal level. On average, 26 law school graduates have been selected to serve judges throughout the federal system each of the last five years.

Georgia Law graduates have clerked, or will clerk, for judges in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th and D.C. Circuits as well as the Federal Circuit. They also have worked for judges nationwide in districts such as the Southern District of New York; the District of the District of Columbia; the Eastern District of Virginia; and the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Georgia, among others.

These records of success reflect Georgia Law's status among the top echelon of law schools in the country for preparing federal judicial clerks.

Wilson joins school as leader of career development

Earlier this spring, Susan J. Wilson (J.D.'89) became Georgia Law's executive director of career development, overseeing the school's legal career services and professional development programs.

Dean Rebecca Hanner White said she was pleased Wilson was able to join her team to lead the school's important efforts in career services and professional development.

"This is such a critical area for our students and the law school," she said. "I am confident Susan will bring fresh insights and make valuable contributions to these programs and the law school more generally."

Prior to coming to Athens, Wilson was a partner in the Atlanta office of the law firm Alston & Bird, where her practice included negotiating mergers, acquisitions and other complex transactions, advising executive and board level management on corporate governance matters and performing internal investigations. Wilson served as chair of the firm's nationwide corporate transactions and securities practice from 2006 to 2011. While at the law firm, she also served as the law clerk for the City of Atlanta Board of Ethics and played a significant role in the Enron investigation.

Her other professional experience includes teaching as an adjunct law professor at Emory University and Georgia Law as well as serving as a judicial clerk for Judge J.L. Edmondson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

Law school launches new degree – Master in the Study of Law

This fall, Georgia Law will begin offering a new graduate level degree for professionals and recent graduates seeking to increase their knowledge of law relevant to their career or academic discipline.

The Master in the Study of Law is a non-thesis, 30-credit-hour degree for non-lawyers that can be completed in one year on a full-time basis or over three years on a part-time basis.

It will provide students with a solid understanding of the U.S. legal system and the opportunity to delve more specifically into law as it relates to a particular field such as employment law, health care law and environmental law, among others.

"This degree is ideal for those looking to build their knowledge of the law in order to increase their value in the employment marketplace," Paul B. Rollins, associate dean for administration and director of Graduate Legal Studies, said.

"This degree will not qualify candidates to sit for the bar or for the practice of law, but it will provide an understanding of basic legal principles that is increasingly important across a wide range of career fields," he added.

Master in the Study of Law students will take classes with traditional law students, and enrollment will be limited to maximize individual student support.