Advocacy Program has record year; Brings home four national titles

Under the leadership of Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey (J.D.'90), Georgia Law had one of its best advocacy seasons ever with four wins in national competitions. Records indicate that this feat has only happened one other time in school history – during the 1996–97 academic year. In addition to the national trophies, several regional titles and individual and team honors were earned.

64th Annual National Moot Court Competition

Third-year students Steven Strasberg (right), Ben Thorpe and Emily Westberry represented UGA in the oldest and most prestigious moot court competition in the country – the National Moot Court Competition. The trio was undefeated and brought home the top trophy. Additionally, Thorpe was named the competition's best oralist. This is the third time in school history Georgia Law has won this competition. The other wins were in 1992 and 1997. Held at the New York City Bar Association, more than 190 teams from law schools across the nation competed in this year's contest.

Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship

Georgia Law captured the national title in the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship, which is an invitation-only tournament that had the top 16 moot court programs from law schools across the country, based on performances during the 2012–13 academic year, competing. Third-year students Maggy Randels and Utrophia Robinson were the only undefeated team through multiple rounds of competition. Additionally, Robinson was named the competition's second best oralist, and the pair prepared the tournament's third best brief. Photographed at the contest are: (l. to r.) Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Boyd, Texas Supreme Court Justice John Devine, Maggy Randels, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit Judge James Graves Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit Judge Jennifer Elrod, Utrophia Robinson, Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeff Brown, and former Texas Supreme Court Justice and current Andrews Kurth Partner Scott Brister.

Third Annual South Texas Mock Trial Challenge

Overcoming approximately 30 teams from law schools across the country, third-year students David Dove (right), Adam Fitzsimmons, Maggy Randels and Emily Westberry (left) were undefeated and won the South Texas Mock Trial Challenge. The group also prepared the second-best brief. Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey (J.D.'90) said she considers this mock trial tournament to be the best in the nation. Previously, Georgia Law teams finished this tournament as quarterfinalists in both 2012 and 2013.

29th Annual Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition

Second-year students Nick Stanojevich (far left), Xon Hostetter (center right) and George Ray (far right) teamed up to win the Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition, which had more than 35 teams competing for the top spot. Stanojevich was named the best oralist in the final round of competition, and the team was coached by law school faculty member Thomas Burch and third-year student Kenny Bentley (center left). Georgia Law also won this national tournament in 2002 and 2006.

Georgia Law posts strong finishes in negotiation competitions

Second-year student Andy Shin (left) and third-year student Taylor Wilson finished as semifinalists in the Southeastern Regional Competition of the National Transactional LawMeet, which was hosted by the law school in Athens.

Negotiation competitions provide another avenue for law students to develop essential and valuable skills they will need as lawyers. Each year, only eight second-year students are selected to join Georgia Law's competitive negotiation team.

In February, third-year student G. Taylor Wilson and second-year student Andy Shin teamed up to finish as semifinalists in the Southeastern Regional Competition of the National Transactional LawMeet, which is designed to give law students a hands-on experience in developing and honing transactional lawyering skills. Notably, Georgia Law hosted this regional contest.

Additionally, a pair of third-year students, Jerrod M. Lukacs and Maggie Schaufler, had a good showing at the Fordham National Basketball Negotiation Competition during March. They finished as quarterfinalists after negotiating several scenarios that an NBA player, coach, general manager, owner or franchise might encounter.

Students win national Tax Challenge

Georgia Law recently won the 13th Annual American Bar Association Law Student Tax Challenge, a nationwide contest where approximately 90 teams from law schools across the country competed in solving a cutting-edge and complex business problem that might arise in everyday tax practice.

Third-year student Morgan L. Klinzing and second-year student Benjamin "Ben" Newell represented UGA, and the pair was coached by Professor Camilla E. Watson.

According to Watson, this is the first year Georgia Law has had a team in this competition. "When I announced this opportunity to my class, Morgan and Ben responded. The competition judges were highly complimentary of their performance."

Other law schools represented in the contest were from the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Kansas, Florida International University and Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

In the ABA Tax Challenge, two-person teams are given a real world complex business planning issue with tax consequences to solve.

The pairs are judged on performance in two areas – a memorandum to a senior partner and a letter to a client explaining the result.

Based on these written materials, the field is narrowed to just six teams which are invited to defend their submissions before a panel of judges consisting of some of the country's top tax practitioners and government officials, including judges of the U.S. Tax Court.

Professor Camilla Watson (left) poses with the ABA Tax Challenge winners, third-year student Morgan Klinzing and second-year student Ben Newell.

Appellate Litigation Clinic students gain victories

This spring, Appellate Litigation Clinic students Victoria A. Cuneo and Steven L. Strasberg prevailed in a habeas corpus case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit.

After the 4th Circuit appointed the clinic to represent the client, both students devoted significant time and effort to fully briefing the case, according to Associate Professor Erica J. Hashimoto, who leads the clinic.

Strasberg presented oral argument before the court in January.

Agreeing with the arguments set forth by Cuneo and Strasberg, the 4th Circuit concluded that the client had established a presumption of judicial vindictiveness in sentencing and therefore was entitled to the grant of a conditional writ of habeas corpus.

This victory follows on the heels of another clinic success.

In this earlier case, which was also argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, 2013 alumnae M. Paula Briceno, Brittany M. Cambre and Crystal M. Johnson represented a franchisee who had brought suit against his franchisor and its former chief executive officer.

Johnson argued the case in the spring of 2013 in front of a panel that included retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The 4th Circuit certified the case to the Virginia Supreme Court, and the clinic partnered with a major Virginia law firm that presented the case to that tribunal. The state high court answered both certified questions in the client's favor, and the case will now be reconsidered by the 4th Circuit in light of those rulings.

Georgia Law students earn national and other notable honors

Over the past academic year, several law students performed well in national competitions and were recognized for their scholarly work. Some of the more notable accomplishments include:

Third-year student **A. Warren Adegunle** won the Center for Alcohol Policy's 6th Annual Essay Contest, which is intended to foster debate, analysis and examination of state alcohol regulation. The essay topic concerned the 80th anniversary of the 21st Amendment and whether or not the amendment has achieved its intended purpose.

Third-year law student **Kaitlin M. Ball** served as president of the International Law Students Association, which is a worldwide organization dedicated to educating students and lawyers across the globe on the importance of international law through academic conferences, publications, student chapters and the administration of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. She also moderated a panel titled "Emerging Trends and Challenges in International Legal Education and Scholarship" at the joint American Society of International Law/International Law Association conference held in Washington, D.C., during April.

Third-year student **Ellen R. Clarke** placed third in the International Association of Defense Counsel's 2013 writing contest. Her paper titled "A Duty to Over Preserve? How Disregarding Foreign Data Privacy Laws May Keep Litigants Out of a Jam" was published in the October 2013 issue of the *Defense Counsel Journal*.

Third-year student **Megan A. Cox** placed third in the nationwide competition for Phi Alpha Delta's Frank E. Gray Outstanding Clerk Award. This honor recognizes Cox's work with the law school's chapter of the professional law fraternity. Only 15 finalists were recognized as part of the organization's annual awards program.

Third-year student **Lindsay Sain Jones** participated in a panel titled "Wilderness Planning" at the "Role of Planning in Federal Land Management Conference" at the George Washington University Law School during March. Of special note, Jones was the only law student serving on a panel at this academic symposium.

Second-year student **Nicolas M. "Nick" Stanojevich** was awarded a Peggy Browning Fellowship. He will work for 10 weeks this summer at O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue in Washington, D.C., as part of his award. Applications were received from students from more than 140 law schools nationwide.

Georgia Law Review launches online companion journal; Calls for submissions

The *Georgia Law Review* has created an online companion journal, the *Georgia Law Review Online*, that features short, op-ed length essays by practitioners, judges and professors focused primarily on timely legal issues in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and legal issues raised by articles published in the print version of the journal.

To accompany these focused essays, the *Georgia Law Review*'s website also features a new student-driven blog that summarizes relevant cases published by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

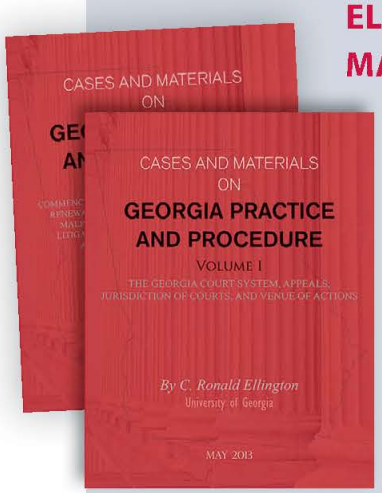
Editor-in-Chief for the 2013–14 academic year and third-year student Jerrod M. Lukacs said publishing the responses to printed articles online will provide a desired platform for expanded scholarly discussion about the important topics raised in the *Georgia Law Review*.

"We look forward to continuing the journal's tradition of advancing scholarly legal discussion, and we hope members of the legal community will take this opportunity to add their voice via our new online platform," he said.

Submissions are already being accepted for the *Georgia Law Review Online*, and essays are being published on a rolling basis. Pieces should be no more than 3,000 words and lightly footnoted.

Please note essays chosen for publication will be edited by *Georgia Law Review* staff members and will be searchable on the WestLaw and LexisNexis research databases.

For more information, please visit *www.georgialawreview.org* or email *info@georgialawreview.org*.



ELLINGTON'S CASES AND MATERIALS ON GEORGIA PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Two generations of Georgia Law students have taken Georgia Practice from Professor Emeritus Ron Ellington using teaching materials he authored. Many alumni report they keep their "red books" in their law offices and still consult them.

Last summer, a new up-to-date edition of these course books containing more than 1,000 pages of the leading cases and pertinent reference notes became available for sale to Georgia Law alumni. Proceeds go to the school's Law School Fund in support of scholarships.

The materials are three-hole punched for ease of use and placement in your own binders and will be shipped directly from the publisher for $124.95 plus shipping and handling.

To order, please contact LAD Custom Publishing at (877) 318-8800 or *customerservice@ladcustompub.com*.

Student Profiles

Michelle Tang: An advocate for change

Rising second-year law student Michelle L. Tang is not one to shy away from change, instead she is someone who embraces it.

Tang's passion for activism and change stems from her time spent as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, where the student body is often involved in social action on a variety of issues.

"Everyone around me was involved at such an insane degree of activism, which really instilled in me the question of, 'What can I do to make a difference?'" Tang said.

While in Southern California, Tang had the opportunity to experience a series of protests against increases in the school's tuition, known as Occupy Cal. She said it was hard to not want to immerse herself in the movement.

"I felt almost inferior," she said. "I wanted to be involved and make changes, but I am a rule follower and knew I could never be as drastic as my fellow classmates."

Although activism had become an important piece of her identity, Tang wanted to find a way to take the radical involvement surrounding her and confine it to the precincts of the law.

"I realized that practicing law would be a way for me to make everlasting changes while continuing to follow the rules within society's guidelines," she added.

When deciding where to go for law school, Tang once again let change be her guide. As someone who had never set foot in the South, she viewed coming to Georgia Law as a challenge and a new way to grow.

"Being from a big city in California, it was very easy to be a minority and fit in because everyone is so different," Tang, who is of Asian descent, said. "In Georgia, there is not as much diversity and being a minority really makes you stick out."

Tang wants to use the experiences she has gained from this situation as a way to better help and relate to people.

"If I hadn't ever come to the South, I would've had a huge gap in my knowledge and ability to relate to people who haven't been easily accepted into the society they are a part of," she said.

Her passion for change and wanting to help people has culminated in her desire to go into financial regulation.

More specifically, Tang wants to help the population which often feels neglected and without a voice, particularly in regard to financial services.

"[My work] will affect more people and, while the effect might not be instantaneously noticeable, it'll make a huge difference in the long run."

Ben Thorpe: Once a debater, always a debater

Recent graduate Benjamin W. "Ben" Thorpe has always been one for a good argument, especially when it comes to debate.

"I think in high school debate was a good outlet," Thorpe said. "I wasn't a very good traditional student. I cared a lot about learning but really struggled with the structure as a kid. It was a way for me to focus on learning, but on my own terms."

Realizing that he had a true love for debate, Thorpe continued to compete while he was an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. As a sophomore, Thorpe and his partner won the Copeland Award, which is a national honor given annually to the top two-person team before the National Debate Tournament. The following year, he and a different partner placed second in the contest.

Although debate provided him with a positive outlet, Thorpe left college in his junior year. As he describes it, he had a lot of growing up to do. On what he calls "the scenic route to Georgia Law," he made his way back to his hometown of Atlanta, where he ultimately earned his bachelor's in economics from Georgia State University.

"After leaving school my junior year, I really had to climb my way back to a productive

Lee Deneen: A citizen of the world

Growing up in a multitude of places around the world, rising third-year law student Lee A. Deneen regards his well-traveled upbringing as a significant part of who he is.

After having lived in South Carolina and California, Deneen and his family moved to France when he was 10 years old.

"Living in France definitely had a profound impact on shaping me into who I am," he said. "The experience was unparalleled, and I would not trade it for anything."

While he found the language barrier to be challenging at first, Deneen viewed the situation as a way to learn and grow. He believes this struggle played a role in giving him the traits he has today.

"My time abroad taught me to persevere as well as be bold and diligent when approaching a daunting task," Deneen said. "It is beneficial to put young people into situations that may make them uncomfortable because it teaches them to challenge themselves and be more adventurous."

Deneen said traveling at a young age instilled in him an excitement for adventure. He also developed a love for seeing new places – learning a country's culture and language and seeing how foreigners live.

When a study abroad trip to Brussels, Belgium, working for the European Parliament, presented itself the fall semester of Deneen's junior year of undergraduate school at Furman University, he jumped at the opportunity to once again explore his passion for new experiences and people.

"I was assigned to work with the Italian members of the European Parliament," Deneen explained. "It was fascinating because I was able to interact with people of all nationalities. It was not uncommon for me to talk to a lobbyist from a big business in the Netherlands or a Swiss journalist."

Spending his life experiencing different cultures, Deneen has learned that no matter where he goes or what he does, it is important to always remain true to himself. In fact, he embraces this philosophy while immersed in yet another culture – law school.

"I think a lot of people struggle with maintaining their identity outside of law school," he said. "It is tough going in because so much is asked of you and, at times, it is hard to not let the work completely consume you. I never want to get to the point where I have lost sight of who I am and distance myself from the things that are important to me."

Deneen's passions are at the heart of who he is. He hopes to one day integrate his two interests – the law and a need for different cultural experiences – into a career in international arbitration or litigation.

"I want to be able to have a career that allows me to maintain my international interests by working with people from all over the world," Deneen added. "It is a dream of mine to be able to use my background with France and the skills that I have developed to help different people in my everyday life."

sense of moving toward a career and finishing my degree," Thorpe said.

It was during this period that he was able to see a correlation between his skills as a debater and a career in law.

"Debate certainly made me realize that there were things about the law that I would like," he said. "The writing, researching, arguing and the types of people that are attracted to it are in some ways similar to lawyers."

Thorpe's argumentativeness may have helped him decide that law school was his next step, but his love for Atlanta and the support system of his family and friends he had there is what led him to study nearby at Georgia Law.

Once in Athens, Thorpe again found a way to use his tremendous debate skills, this time as a member of the Advocacy Program. In fact, he and two fellow classmates brought home the National Moot Court Competition Championship in February. He was also named this prestigious tournament's best oralist.

Although many view law school as an individualistic endeavor, Thorpe stresses the importance of working in collaboration with one another.

"Law school has been, at its best, very much a team sport to me," he said. "Though we all too often focus on individual accomplishments, the truth is that from 1L study groups to the *Georgia Law Review* and from the Appellate Litigation Clinic to the moot court team, all of my best experiences in law school have been about working with others."

Thorpe's team-oriented approach to law school is what he believes has truly taught him how to be a successful lawyer.

"My sense is that these collaborative pieces of the law school experience have been the best practical preparation when it comes to actually practicing law," Thorpe added.

After taking the bar, he will begin his career as a judicial clerk for Judge Frank M. Hull of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

–All profiles by Stephanie Ackerstein