

# NEW DEANS

Beck, Lanier and Weeks become associate deans



(l. to r.) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Randy Beck

Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning Ellie Lanier

Associate Dean for Faculty Development Elizabeth Weeks (J.D.'99)

Randy Beck, Eleanor “Ellie” Crosby Lanier and Elizabeth Weeks (J.D.’99) have been named associate deans. School of Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge views these positions as excellent professional development opportunities for faculty members seeking experience in higher education administration. As such, they will replace Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Lori A. Ringhand, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning Alexander W. “Alex” Scherr and Associate Dean for Faculty Development Usha Rodrigues, respectively.

“Lori, Alex and Usha have provided outstanding leadership and have advanced their strategic portfolios as evidenced by the strengthening of the school’s academic rigor and faculty scholarship and the expansion of our clinical programs during their respective tenures,” Rutledge said. “I am thankful for their service and look forward to Randy’s, Ellie’s and Elizabeth’s views on additional growth in these critical areas.”

**Beck**, who holds the Justice Thomas O. Marshall Chair of Constitutional Law, teaches Property, Trusts and Estates, Constitutional Law and Christian Perspectives on Legal Thought.

He joined the law school’s faculty in 1997 and was named the holder of the Marshall Chair in 2011. During the 2016–17 academic year, he served as the Garwood Visiting Fellow in Princeton University’s James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions.

His scholarship has been published in the *American Journal of Legal History*, the *University of Illinois Law Review*, the *Journal of Law and Religion*, the *Northwestern University Law Review*, the *Notre Dame Law Review*, the *UC Davis Law Review* and the *Washington and Lee Law Review*.

A dedicated teacher as well as scholar, Beck has on multiple occasions received the Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching and the O’Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations.

He was a judicial clerk for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Patrick E. Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

**Lanier** joined the law school faculty in 2005 to lead the Mediation Clinic, which teaches students the necessary skills to be certified as mediators by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

She is a pioneer in mediation and elder care law. Her current projects include: the Athens Access to Justice Initiative and pop-up clinics that provide pro bono services to those in need as well as engaging seasoned lawyers in pro bono work and mentoring. She has also developed a supported decision making interactive tool for those with aging parents.

Her scholarship has appeared in *Bifocal*, *Experience*, *Family and Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly*, the *Fordham University Law Review* and the *Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal*.

Associate deanships are excellent professional development posts for faculty seeking higher education administration experience.

# NEW FACULTY

## School of Law welcomes new profs

Lanier currently serves on the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging and the State Bar Access to Justice Committee. She has received numerous awards and was among the first class of inductees into the Elder Rights Hall of Fame. Additionally, the National Association of Senior Legal Hotlines created a scholarship in her honor that is awarded annually.

**Weeks** returned to the UGA School of Law in the fall of 2011 as a faculty member, and her teaching and research interests include torts, health law, health care financing and regulation, and public health law.

A holder of a J. Alton Hosch Professorship, she is the coauthor of *The Law of American Health Care and Healthism: Health Status Discrimination and the Law* (forthcoming). Her scholarship has appeared in the *American Journal of Law and Medicine*, the *Boston University Law Review*, the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, the *Minnesota Journal of Law Science & Technology*, the *North Carolina Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law* and the *Washington University Law Review*.

Earlier this year, Weeks was named a UGA Public Service and Outreach Faculty Fellow. She was also recognized as one of four emerging health law scholars nationwide by the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics in 2005.

Weeks presently serves as co-editor of the Health Law Section of the online journal *Jotwell*. Additionally, she is a former judicial clerk for Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips of the Supreme Court of Texas.

**Melissa J. Durkee** joins the School of Law faculty as an associate professor this fall. She will teach in the areas of international, transnational and business law.

Prior to coming to Athens, she was an associate law professor at the University of Washington, where she was presented awards two consecutive years for her scholarship, and a third year for her support of student journals.



Her research focuses on new forms of global governance, particularly interactions between government and business actors that affect the content and success of international legal rules. Durkee's scholarship has been published in prestigious journals such as the *Yale Law Journal*, the *Stanford Law Review*, the *UCLA Law Review*, the *Virginia Law Review* and the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. She also served for three years as managing editor of *AJIL Unbound* and has held a number of leadership positions in the American Society of International Law.

Before entering the legal academy, Durkee was an associate at the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, where she specialized in international litigation and arbitration. She also served as a judicial clerk for Judge Sidney H. Stein of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She served as an associate-in-law at Columbia Law School from 2011 to 2013.

Durkee earned her law degree from Yale Law School, where she served on the editorial boards of the *Yale Law Journal* and the *Yale Journal of International Law*.



**Lindsey Simon** joins the law school faculty this fall as an assistant professor, after serving as a visiting faculty member earlier this spring. Her research focuses on the bankruptcy system, drawing concepts from bankruptcy structure and procedure to address broader institutional design challenges. Her course load will include Bankruptcy, Secured Transactions and the Bankruptcy Practice Seminar.

Previously, Simon was an associate at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, where her practice involved a mix of commercial litigation and corporate restructuring matters. She also taught as an adjunct professor at the Georgia State University College of Law.

A former judicial clerk for Judge Beverly B. Martin (J.D.'81) of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Simon earned her law degree *magna cum laude* from the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, and her Bachelor of Music *magna cum laude* and Master of Education from Vanderbilt University.