

# COMMENCEMENT



Graduates (l. to r.) Bradford Patterson, Michael Johnson, Michael MacBride and Zack Kelehear pause for a photo during the day's celebration.

Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Dean Bo Rutledge (left) and Law School Association President Jennifer Auer Jordan (J.D.'01) (second from left) are presented a check representing the Class of 2015 pledge of \$60,000 by 3L Class Vice President Robert Arrington and 3L Class President Sara Richards. The money will support law school programs and services.

Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Before the ceremony (l. to r.) Hannah Jarrells, Ann Tipton Lesslie, Hali Hill and Jill Hauserman smile for the camera.

Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



View more 2015 commencement photos at [www.law.uga.edu/photo-gallery](http://www.law.uga.edu/photo-gallery).

## Order of the Coif named

Each year, the Georgia Law community gathers to recognize the outstanding achievements of its students and faculty during Awards Day. Honors range from outstanding performance in an individual class to induction into the school's Order of the Coif, which is one of the highest academic accolades a recent law school graduate can receive as membership is reserved only for those who finish in the top 10 percent of the class.

Class of 2014 Order of the Coif inductees include: (front, l. to r.) Katie O'Shea, Bryan Lutz, Lindsay Jones, Allison Hill, Victoria Cuneo, Ellen Clarke, Anne Baroody, Brian Abrams, (back, l. to r.) Dennis Vann, Matthew Traut, Steven Strasberg, Jordan Seal, Kimberly Scott, Maggy Randels and Thomas Powell. Also inducted but not pictured are: Wayne Cartwright, Melissa Conrad-Alam, Joseph Crumbley, Charles McCranie, Joe Reynolds, James Roberts and Koleen Sullivan.



# CLASS of 2015

Trisha Starks takes a moment to snap a photo with her great uncle William Rogers.



Nicola Rossi stops for a photo with Associate Dean Erica Hashimoto and her daughter, Naomi.



George Ray (right center), the inaugural Kenneth L. Millwood Scholarship recipient, enjoys the day with his father, George M. Ray; Sharron Millwood and his mother, Patsy Ray (right).

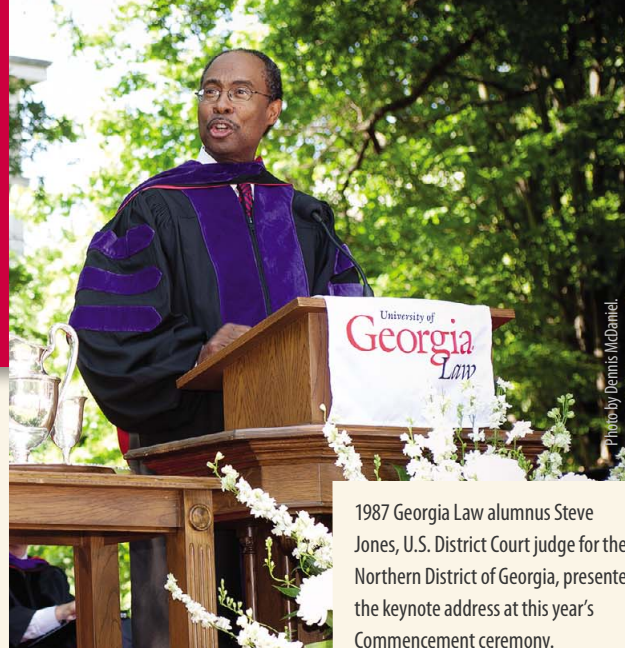


Photo by Dennis McDaniel.

1987 Georgia Law alumnus Steve Jones, U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia, presented the keynote address at this year's Commencement ceremony.

## Jones encourages graduates to be 'drum majors for justice'

Serving as keynote speaker at this year's Commencement was Steve C. Jones (J.D.'87), U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Jones commended the graduates for their commitment to facing challenges and overcoming hardships and for being "such an outstanding graduating class."

He said, "Your accomplishments here at UGA are many, and I have no doubt that each one of you all will be very successful attorneys in whatever practice of law you enter."

Jones identified three concepts that he believes make an attorney successful: responsibility, honor and service.

He explained the responsibility of representing the legal profession.

"What you do or say in every respect of your life will have an effect on the public's view and how the public thinks about lawyers," he said. "You will have the responsibility to represent the legal profession in a positive manner. In the communities you go to live in, you will be the symbol for the law. Through your words and actions, you will become the face of the legal profession."

To have the opportunity to be a lawyer is an honor, Jones added.

He noted that lawyers often sacrifice lifestyles, popularity and friends to ensure that the constitutional rights of all citizens are protected.

Being a lawyer is "a privilege that you must respect" and you should be thankful for the opportunity. "It is a tremendous honor to have someone trust you to represent them," Jones said.

He also encouraged graduates to work to make a difference in society through helping others.

"I highly recommend to you that one of the best ways to represent the legal profession is through community service," he said. "One of the greatest opportunities you will have as a lawyer is serving other people."

In closing, Jones challenged graduates to "become drum majors for justice," to make a difference in their communities and to become symbols of the law. He also asked them to remember one last thing: "It's great to be a Georgia Bulldog."

## Join the Challenge ...



### Maybe it's to support students like Hannah ...

She is a Georgia resident who, from age seven, knew she wanted to be a lawyer. "Actually, when I was seven, I wanted to be on the Supreme Court," she said. Though she applied to numerous law schools throughout the South, it was Georgia Law's generous scholarship offer that made law school a possibility for her. After one year, Hannah has made a strong impression. Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey (J.D.'90) said Hannah has the "outstanding advocacy skills" needed to be a future lawyer.

*A gift to the Law School Fund is an investment in students like Hannah.*

### Maybe it's to support the next generation of leaders ...

Georgia Law alumni have simultaneously led all three branches of state government – executive, judicial and legislative – twice in Georgia's history. Georgia Law graduates include 11 governors, numerous U.S. and state senators and representatives, distinguished federal and state judges and prominent community and business leaders.

*A gift to the Law School Fund is an investment in our future leaders.*

### Maybe it's to support your own professional advancement ...

If you are like the majority of Georgia Law alumni/alumnae, you have tremendous pride in your law school. You expect your law school to have a dedicated faculty of excellent teachers, scholars and practitioners. You understand it must continuously align its curriculum to better meet the needs of the demanding legal marketplace. You want it to provide a first-rate legal education to your future colleagues. You believe alumni/

alumnae investment increases the value and prestige of your law degree.

*A gift to the Law School Fund is an investment in the legal profession.*

### Whatever your reasons for giving to Georgia Law ...

Your charitable gift has never been more critical. Since the climate surrounding today's law schools is increasingly competitive (rising tuition costs, declining applications and uncertainties in the legal employment marketplace), private giving to this law school provides the margin of excellence you have come to expect from your legal alma mater.

*Your charitable gift has never had the potential to be more powerful than it does this year.*

### A Challenge Fund

In support of Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge's vision, several benefactors established a Challenge Fund that will match, dollar for dollar, all new and increased gifts to the Law School Fund. The Law School Fund has been strategically realigned to place an even greater emphasis on scholarship funding. This Law School Fund will direct more resources to scholarship funding than ever before. For example, your new Law School Fund gift of \$250, with the Challenge Fund, will have the impact of a \$500 gift. Our goal is to raise significant new money for new scholarships – as many as 60 new three-year scholarships at the \$5,000 level for your future colleagues: tomorrow's local, state and national leaders; and students just like Hannah.

**No more maybes, join the challenge.**



## Moser to lead advancement team

On May 1, Anne S. Moser became the interim senior director of development at Georgia Law. She takes over the leadership of the Office of Law School Advancement from Gregory C. "Greg" Sowell (J.D.'83), who served as the law school's senior director of advancement and as an adjunct professor for the past three years and who has provided the law school with numerous years of volunteer service including being president of the Law School Association in 2009–10.

Moser has been a member of the law school's staff for more than one decade. She has served as the school's director of development and, most recently, as its principal gifts officer. Throughout her tenure, she has worked to secure private donations to support the school's efforts in providing first-rate legal training and producing world-class scholarship in service to our state and nation.

## Rob Swartwood: Answering a call to serve

“I had always envisioned from a young age that I would do several things. I would become an Army officer. I would become an airborne ranger. I would go to West Point, and I would lead soldiers in combat,” said 2009 Georgia Law alumnus Robert L. “Rob” Swartwood II. “And then all of those things happened to me.”

Swartwood has always aspired to serve and spent most of his formative years orienting around these military ambitions, considering serving his country and fellow man to be a calling rather than a goal.

He spent three years as an enlisted soldier before enrolling in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Just three months after his graduation, the terror attacks of Sept. 11 shook the foundation of the nation. Four months after arriving at his first assignment, Swartwood – then an infantry officer in the 82nd Airborne Division – was placed in charge of the lives of 82 men on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Swartwood looks back on his military career with fondness, attributing much of his development and preparation for life to that time. However, after tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq, where he earned two Bronze Star Medals for his combat service, he felt it was time to leave the military and serve in a different way – through law.

Hailing from Michigan, he and his wife, a Georgia native, discussed moving to the Atlanta area to be close to her family and to raise their own. Thus, he found himself enrolled at Georgia Law.



“What I like most about the law and working with clients is this idea of being their counselor.”

Very early into law school, Swartwood developed an interest in business law. He thrived in the area, becoming the president of the Business Law Society in his third year and, with the help of Business Law and Ethics Program Instructor Carol Morgan (J.D.’79), he assisted with the formation of Georgia Law’s negotiation competition program.

After graduation from law school, Swartwood entered the world of corporate law.

“My timing is impeccable,” he said. “Just as I graduated from the military academy at a time in which our nation was going to war, I graduated law school at a time when our economy was in the tank.”

All jokes aside, Swartwood said he thoroughly enjoys his work as an associate in Sutherland Asbill & Brennan’s Atlanta office.

“What I like most about the law and working with clients is this idea of being their counselor,” Swartwood said. “With my military experience I’ve been able to earn a lot of trust from clients and engender a spirit of understanding of their plight as business owners and executives who are charged with the responsibility to go into the marketplace and offer a service and return value to the owners of the company. That’s something I can sympathize with and relate to.”

In 2012, Swartwood and his wife became business owners themselves when they took over Ranger Coffee, which is a company that had been started by a West Point classmate. The coffee product is hyper caffeinated, meaning the beans used in the blend are infused with twice as much caffeine as a normal bean. A distinctive feature of their business is the promise that 50 percent of distributed profits go toward programs that benefit and empower veterans.

“[Our coffee] is sold for the purpose of making an impact. We believe the veteran community is uniquely postured to come home and serve America even after they’ve decided to stop serving in uniform,” Swartwood said. “We want to invest in the programs and organizations that are mentoring [veterans], growing them, helping them transition and making them better stewards of the experiences they’ve been given so that they can go out into the world and continue to serve America in exceptional ways. That’s our mission.”

And it is also another way Swartwood has found to answer the call to serve.

—Courtney Lee Brown

## Audrey Boone Tillman: A need to understand

Georgia Law alumna Audrey Boone Tillman (J.D.'89) has always felt a passion for learning what was interesting to her, even beyond what she needed to know.

"I've always been led by what is interesting to me, even down to course selection. I took classes as an undergraduate following certain professors," Tillman said. "I would take all five of their courses because I liked their way of thinking, their approach or how they made me think, even outside my major."

This drive followed Tillman to law school, where she continued to mold her studies around what she was attracted to, regardless of what others recommended or how the course might relate to her future career plans.

"At [law school], I didn't take some of the 'core' courses that everyone says, 'You have to take these.' I didn't take them. I took Women in the Law, Rights of the Confined ... things that were interesting to me," she said. "You have a certain amount of time, right? I'd rather do something where I will learn or increase my knowledge of the world, rather than 'I've got to do this just for this test.'"

Tillman's unique style of learning has certainly benefitted her throughout her career. She began working for Aflac in 1996 in the labor and employment law division with Georgia Law alumni Kathleen V. Amos (J.D.'82) and Joey M.

Loudermilk (J.D.'78). Though she has served as an executive vice president and as general counsel for the past year, it was her work outside the legal field for the company starting in 2001 that expanded her knowledge of the insurance provider and allowed her to explore new ways to work with people.

"Our CEO asked me if I would consider an opportunity to go and lead human resources, which was a big promotion for me, level wise and responsibility wise, because we're not really trained as lawyers to manage people," Tillman said. "I'm typically pretty good with people. It goes back to wanting to understand things and understand people. I always was able to pride myself on being able to get along with people and rally people around a common goal."

Tillman's work with the employees of Aflac has been a truly public success, with the company being named to *Fortune's* "100 Best Companies to Work For" list for 17 consecutive years. In 2013, she was named to *Black Business's* "25 Influential Black Women in Business" list. While these accolades are certainly nice, they hold a somewhat different meaning for Tillman.

"What I'm so pleased with is even if we didn't get any of [the awards], if *Fortune* didn't say we were one of the 100 best places

to work for, our employees would still think so. If *Black Enterprise* didn't think our company was one of the best places for diversity, our employees would still think so," she said. "I see my role as making sure we are who we say we are."

One thing Tillman said she has learned about managing people is that you do not do it all by yourself.

"I am attributed a lot of success and great things because of hard work that people working with me have done," she said. "Conversely, sometimes I've taken lumps for things that my hand didn't touch, but it's the team. You have to take everything that comes with it."

Tillman hopes her goals for the company and the work she does influence all of those who are watching.

"I want everyone to know that me being in the positions I've been in, and been afforded the opportunities I've been afforded, it's attainable and

it's doable," she said. "[Everyone] has the responsibility then to do [their job] well, and to do it so people coming behind [them] will find it easier and it will be better for them."

—Courtney Lee Brown



**"I'm typically pretty good with people. It goes back to wanting to understand things and understand people."**

## Rick Shackelford: Helping others discover health law

Georgia Law alumnus Richard L. “Rick” Shackelford (J.D.’79) believes there is something about the health care industry that attracts individuals who are passionate about helping people. He never imagined himself where he is today, but he is hoping to help others find their way.

An avid reader and lover of history since childhood, Shackelford studied the ancient Greco-Roman era as an Honors Program student at UGA. His goal was to obtain a Ph.D. in history, but his plans were altered.

“There was a glut of history Ph.D.s as I was told by my faculty adviser at the time, and getting Ph.D. placements would have been difficult, and finding a job would have been difficult,” Shackelford said. “I remember my faculty adviser saying, ‘You should go to law school. There would be a lot more opportunity.’”

He began law school in 1976 and took summer courses in order to earn his degree by December of 1978, knowing marriage to his wife, Honey, and a job with his brother, 1967 Georgia Law graduate L. Michael “Mike” Shackelford (now deceased), in real estate law were awaiting him. After a short time working with his brother, he realized real estate law was not what he wanted to do long term, so he began looking for work at business litigation firms in Atlanta. He was coming very close to accepting a job at a large law firm when an associate at what is now Bondurant Mixson & Elmore “salvaged his résumé out of a trash can” and decided to give him an interview.

When Shackelford accepted the job, Bondurant Mixson & Elmore was one of three firms with health care law practices in Atlanta. He worked in business litigation but got involved with those working in the area of health care when they needed his expertise. He enjoyed the work so much that he joined the group full time and specialized in health care litigation/government investigations for almost 35 years.

**“There is a high percentage of nice folks in health care, because I think the field attracts that kind of person.”**



In 1985 Shackelford joined King & Spalding, where he was a partner and practiced until his retirement from law practice in December 2014. While at King & Spalding, he served as the national practice leader of the firm’s Healthcare Practice Group

and became active in the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA). He served as president of the AHLA during 2010–11.

As Shackelford approached his retirement, he felt the desire to help others discover what a rewarding field health care law can be. To that end, he teamed up with Georgia Law Professor Elizabeth Weeks Leonard (J.D.’99) to set up and fund Georgia Law student memberships in the AHLA.

“By having those memberships, students get access to all of the content that AHLA publishes, which is a massive amount: updates on existing health care issues; all kinds of regulatory analyses; email alerts of any new policy, law or regulation that’s been adopted; and a great deal of information on the Affordable

Care Act, the health care reform law,” he said.

Shackelford is pleased with the curriculum in health law that the law school is now offering and is optimistic about the future of health care law and the potential it holds for Georgia Law students.

“When you say something is large, complex and highly regulated, it’s perfect for lawyers. The need for lawyers is always going to be there,” Shackelford said. “It’s a field of people who are interested in health care, and I think many of the people who work in health care companies went there because they want to be involved with the delivery and improvement of health care. There is a high percentage of nice folks in health care, because I think the field attracts that kind of person.”

After 35 years of hard work, Shackelford is looking forward to his retirement. He and his wife have a second home in the Classic City, where they plan to spend a lot of their free time.

“I owe so much to the university. It’s a very important part of my life,” he said. “That will continue in retirement, and I’ll be spending a lot of time in Athens. My wife and I like to walk our dog through campus. Just seeing the students and being in Athens with young folks around, it helps us feel young. We look forward to that.”

—Courtney Lee Brown

# Hunnicutt, Loudermilk and White given DSS Award



served as editor-in-chief of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* as a student and has authored articles on both international trade and aviation issues. Additionally, he has served on the law school's Board of Visitors.

Active in professional and industry associations, Hunnicutt was a member of the steering committee of the American Bar Association's International Trade Law Section. He is an active member of the ABA Forum on Air and Space Law. He served as vice president of the American Society of International Law. Additionally, Hunnicutt is a former president and board member of the Washington Foreign Law Society and the International Aviation Club.

Loudermilk currently serves as a judge with the Juvenile Court of Georgia's Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, where his primary responsibility is to preside over cases involving children under the age of 17 from Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Talbot and Taylor counties.

**C**harles A. "Charlie" Hunnicutt (J.D.'75), Joey M. Loudermilk (J.D.'78) and Rebecca Hanner White are this year's Distinguished Service Scroll Award recipients.

This accolade is the highest honor given by the Law School Association and recognizes outstanding dedication and service to the legal profession and law school.

Hunnicutt serves as senior counsel at Thompson Hine in Washington, D.C., where he leads the firm's International Trade and Customs Practice Group. He specializes in all aspects of transportation and logistics, with particular emphasis on government regulatory matters and international policy.

Prior to joining Thompson Hine, Hunnicutt served as the U.S. Department of Transportation's assistant secretary for aviation and international affairs, during which time he was responsible for commercial aviation policy including economic and regulatory issues as well as other international transportation and trade matters. He also gained experience in international trade while serving as legal adviser to the chair of the U.S. International Trade Commission and as executive assistant to the Under Secretary for International Trade at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Hunnicutt's influence at Georgia Law spans four decades. He currently serves as chair of the Dean Rusk Center for International Law and Policy Advisory Board. He has played a role in several Rusk Center conferences focusing on both trade and aviation. He



2015 Distinguished Service Scroll Award winners are: Joey Loudermilk (J.D.'78) (left), Hosch Professor Rebecca Hanner White and Charlie Hunnicutt (J.D.'75).

# IN MEMORIAM **B. Avant Edenfield**

**O**n May 9, 2015, Georgia Law lost an accomplished alumnus, faithful supporter and longtime friend of the law school with the passing of U.S. District Court Judge B. Avant Edenfield (J.D.'58).

"My family and everyone at the law school extend our deepest personal condolences to Melvis, his wife, and the Edenfield family," Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge said. "Judge Edenfield was a man of impeccable character, who cared deeply about history and the power of ideas. He was a fierce patriot who embodied the ideals of the independent federal judge enshrined in our Constitution."

He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from UGA. Upon graduation he became an enlisted member of the U.S. Army and the Georgia National Guard. Edenfield, a Georgia native from Bulloch County, began practicing law with Francis W. Allen in Statesboro in the firm that would eventually become Allen, Edenfield, Brown and Wright. He served as a deputy assistant attorney general of the state of Georgia and was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1964.

In 1978, he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia by President Jimmy Carter, a



## Notable judicial appointments

Below are some of the Class Notes “notables” from December 2013 to April 2015 showcasing recent federal and state judicial appointments of Georgia Law alumni/alumnae. For a full listing of all Class Notes, please visit [www.law.uga.edu/alumni](http://www.law.uga.edu/alumni).

Julie E. Carnes (J.D.'75)	U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
Ron Mullins (J.D.'76)	Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Superior Court
R. Chris Phelps (J.D.'76)	Northern Judicial Circuit Superior Court
Joey M. Loudermilk (J.D.'78)	Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court
Brenda G. Trammell (J.D.'78)	Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Superior Court
Jane Cook Barwick (J.D.'79)	Fulton County Superior Court
Clay D. Land (J.D.'85)	U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia (chief judge)
J. Kelly Brooks (J.D.'87)	Waycross Judicial Circuit Superior Court
Marcia M. Ernst (J.D.'87)	Sandy Springs Municipal Court
Suzanne Smith (J.D.'88)	Cherokee Judicial Circuit Superior Court
Kelly A. Lee (J.D.'93)	Fulton County Superior Court (Drug Court)
M. Keith Siskin (J.D.'97)	Sixteenth Judicial District Circuit Court for the State of Tennessee (presiding judge)
Dean C. Bucci (J.D.'97)	Paulding Judicial Circuit Superior Court
Leigh Martin May (J.D.'98)	U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
R. Stanley “Stan” Baker (J.D.'04)	U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia (magistrate judge)
Hillary A. Cranford (J.D.'07)	Cobb County Probate Court

He recently retired from Aflac after a 31-year career where he served as general counsel, executive vice president and corporate secretary. In 2013, Loudermilk was selected for *Ethisphere Magazine's* list of “Attorneys Who Matter” in leading their companies “to the top of the ethics and compliance world.”

From 2010 to 2011, Loudermilk served on the Georgia Board of Education, a post he was appointed to by then-Gov. Sonny Perdue. He presently serves on the board of Goodwill Industries, the board of directors of Columbus Regional Health and the board of trustees of the Columbus State University Foundation. He is a member and former president of the Rotary Club of Columbus. He also serves as vice chairman of the Harris County Board of Commissioners, where he has been a member since 2008.

Loudermilk is the author of two books. In 1998, his short story, *The Lawyer Riddle*, won the fiction writing contest sponsored by the *Georgia Bar Journal*. He has also written a weekly column for the *Harris County Journal* for the last 11 years.

Loudermilk graduated with honors from Georgia State University in 1975 before attending Georgia Law. He worked in private law practice in Columbus before joining Aflac in 1983 as head of the company’s newly-formed legal department.

White served as the leader of the law school from 2003 to 2014. Highlights from her deanship can be found on page 22.

She joined the law school’s faculty in 1989 and served as associate provost and associate vice president of academic affairs for UGA prior to being named the first female dean in Georgia Law history. In 2000, White received the Josiah Meigs Award, UGA’s highest honor for teaching excellence. She has been selected by law students six times as the recipient of the Faculty Book Award for Excellence in Teaching and has also received the O’Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations. She served as a UGA Senior Teaching Fellow in 2000–01 and has been inducted into UGA’s Teaching Academy. In 2002, she was selected as a Senior Faculty Fellow for the university’s Foundation Fellows Program.

White’s scholarship has been cited by federal and state courts across the country and includes numerous articles on employment discrimination and labor law. In addition, she is a co-author of *Employment Discrimination* and *Cases and Materials on Employment Discrimination*.

U.S. District Court Judge B. Avant Edenfield (J.D.'58) received the law school alumni association’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award, in 2008.

position he held for nearly three decades. He served as chief judge from 1990 to 1997 and assumed senior status in 2006, after which he was still a constant presence at the federal courthouses in Savannah and Statesboro.

In 2008, he received the law school alumni association’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award.

Edenfield is survived by his wife, Melvis; his brother, Gerald; his sister, Susie Waters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

