

A Letter from the President



I write today to ask you to make a contribution to our law school, or if you are already a regular contributor, to consider increasing your contribution.

I write today to ask you to make a contribution to our law school, or if you are already a regular contributor, to consider increasing your contribution.

Many people whom I have asked personally to give have replied that they see no reason to do so because the school can merely use state funds for this purpose. This is a persistent myth, but it is not true.

The fact is that not a single penny of state money can be used for scholarships at Georgia Law. All student scholarships are funded from private funds, whether it is from the Law School Fund itself or other private endowments. If the law school wants to recruit a top student by offering scholarship money, the only way that this happens is with your support.

This is why every dollar that is donated to the Law School Fund has a real and lasting impact and is so critical to Georgia Law's ability to recruit the best and brightest to Athens. Indeed, because of the generosity of our graduates, Georgia Law was able to fund more than \$2 million dollars in scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year, more than ever before. However, compared with other top tier law schools, the amount of funds we provide for scholarships and financial aid is too low.

We should, we can, and we will do better.

Like for many of you, my experience at Georgia Law was life changing. I grew up in South Georgia and had always thought of Athens as a "big" town. And while this was true for the University at large, I found the law school to be a small, tight-knit community that was in no way like the nightmarish stories of competitive 1Ls stealing hornbooks and uncaring professors weaved by popular fiction. Indeed, the law school became a second home to me, and my classmates became a second family, during my time in Athens. I count many of my law school classmates as my closest friends, including my

husband who graduated the year before me.

I was fortunate to receive a Law School Fund scholarship, and I still think about how incredibly significant that was for me. The financial support it provided was vitally important for someone paying her way through school. And, it allowed me to graduate without significant debt.

Those concerns are at the forefront for many of our students today, and it is within our ability to increase the scholarship dollars, and therefore the opportunities, available to law students.

I know that most Georgia Law graduates, like me, strongly believe in the law school's mission of providing a superior legal education to the residents of this State through teaching, scholarship, and building a sense of community within the law school itself. It is for this reason that I am asking you to recommit to our law school and its students through increased financial support. Every dollar contributed to the Law School Fund is an investment in our law school, which in turn reflects on our state and its public education system and ultimately our communities.

I challenge each of you to think about how your life would have been different had you not attended Georgia Law. Then, donate to ensure current students will have the same opportunity that you have had. If you haven't been contributing back to Georgia Law, consider donating just a \$1 per day or \$30 each month – become a Georgia Law sustainer.

As Governor Sanders has said: *"The people of Georgia want and deserve nothing short of the best."* Georgia Law is living up to this credo, but all of us play a part in making the law school the best it can be.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Auer Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Auer Jordan (J.D.'01)
Law School Association President



Georgia Law is the second oldest school at the University of Georgia, the first state-chartered university in America.