

Sixth Georgia Law graduate in nine years selected to clerk for U.S. Supreme Court

This fall, Andrew A. Pinson (J.D.'11) will assume a role many law school graduates dream about but rarely obtain – clerking for a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

“Several people who helped me through the application process have compared being selected to clerk for a Supreme Court justice to catching lightning in a bottle, so I was absolutely surprised and humbled to even receive an interview,” Pinson said.

His invitation from Justice Clarence Thomas to clerk for the October 2013 Term makes him the sixth Georgia Law graduate in nine years to be chosen for one of these prestigious posts at the court.

“A Supreme Court clerkship is one of the most distinguished appointments a law school graduate can obtain,” Dean Rebecca Hanner White said. “I am extremely proud of Andrew, and I know he will make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Pinson graduated first in his class from Georgia Law, where he was the executive articles editor of the *Georgia Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. He then served as a judicial clerk for Chief Judge David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Currently, Pinson is an attorney with Jones Day in Washington, D.C., where he works in the firm’s Issues & Appeals Practice representing clients in various stages of civil litigation.

“My clerkship with Judge Sentelle proved to be a tremendous opportunity to develop as a lawyer and to gain a new perspective on how judges interpret the law,” Pinson said. “I applied for a Supreme Court clerkship for similar reasons.”

Pinson said that beyond the additional writing experience, working in Thomas’ chambers will help him hone his own views on jurisprudence generally and better understand some of the big legal issues America is facing today.

He also hopes the experience will provide him with insights into how the various justices approach all types of cases – particularly what they look for in a brief and what sort of arguments might resonate with them.

“All of these things are readily applicable to the appellate practice I plan to continue when I finish clerking,” Pinson added.

Pinson said he first began thinking about clerking for the nation’s highest court while earning his undergraduate degree, but considered it a “pie-in-the-sky dream” at the time.

“I read Justice Thomas’ memoir my senior year at UGA and was struck by what a neat experience it would be to clerk for him,” Pinson said. “It’s certainly a testament to the many wonderful people in my corner – Judge Sentelle, Dean White and professors Rutledge, Coenen and Turner, to name a few – that I will be clerking for him next year.”

Pinson said he believes this is why Georgia Law has been so successful in supplying clerks to the U.S. Supreme Court in the last decade.



“I am certain that I would not have clerked for Judge Sentelle, nor would I have this opportunity with Justice Thomas, if not for the amazing support from everyone at Georgia Law,” he said. “Knowing Georgia Law’s recent record with clerkships on the Supreme Court and elsewhere, that support clearly makes a difference.”

Pinson’s clerkship will bring the total number of Georgia Law graduates who have clerked for U.S. Supreme Court justices to 10.

The other nine alumni who have served the highest court in this capacity are: Brian C. Lea (J.D.’09), clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas for the October 2011 Term; Merritt E. McAlister (J.D.’07), clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens for the October 2009 Term; Jason T. Burnette (J.D.’06), clerked for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. for the October 2007 Term; Adam M. Conrad (J.D.’05), clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas for the October 2006 Term; John H. Longwell (J.D.’99), clerked for Justice Stephen G. Breyer for the October 2005 Term; Anne Proffitt Dupre (J.D.’88), clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun for the October 1989 Term; Bruce P. Brown (J.D.’84), clerked for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger for the October 1986 Term; Glen M. Darbyshire (J.D.’84), clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall for the October 1985 Term; and Benna R. Solomon (J.D.’78), clerked for Justice Byron R. White for the October 1980 Term.

KATHELEN VAN BLARCUM AMOS FOYER



Photo by Dennis McDaniel

Renovations continue to improve law school space; foyer named for Amos

The appearance and functionality of the law school's facilities have greatly improved over the past two years.

Most recently, the Rotunda and cupola received a face-lift. This historic space presently features black granite and white marble flooring and is much brighter due to the "opening up" of the cupola, which now provides natural and enhanced lighting.

Additionally the second floor walkway, accessed by the law library entrance, was renamed in honor of Kathelen V. Amos, a 1982 graduate of the law school. The dedication ceremony included a portrait unveiling of Amos, whose likeness now hangs in the space that bears her name – the Kathelen Van Blarcum Amos Foyer. Amos and her husband, Dan, made a leadership gift to the law school to assist with its renovations and have been longtime supporters of the school.



Above – The law school's historic Rotunda is now brighter and many of its unique features have been accentuated to highlight its detailing.

Top of page – Regarding the naming of the Kathelen Van Blarcum Amos Foyer, Dean Rebecca White said, "I cannot say enough about what Kathelen and Dan have done throughout the years to help ensure a bright future for Georgia Law. Kathelen is an outstanding advocate for and a dear friend to the law school, giving unselfishly of both her time and money."

In the summer of 2011, approximately 4,000 additional square feet of building space was created when the Sutherland Courtyard was enclosed and transformed into a wonderful study and gathering space for students and faculty.

This work to repurpose underutilized areas and to address overcrowding also included the creation of a large student lounge (which has a Jittery Joe's Coffee shop), seven group study/interview rooms, a large locker room and additional student organization offices.

The scope of the project also involved the installation of a grand staircase and a "glass wall" spanning all three levels of the north end of the law school's primary building providing natural lighting and exterior views of the new courtyard as well as resulting in wider walkways and supplemental gathering space.

Further progress will be made this summer when the hallways on the second and third floors are renovated to "link" with the work completed on the first floor, the Rotunda and the northern end of the building and will aesthetically connect "the old with the new." Work began after classes finished in May, and it is scheduled to be completed in August before students return.



View more images of Georgia Law's renovations at www.law.uga.edu/building-future.

Brown named associate dean of academic affairs

Lonnie T. Brown Jr., who joined the law school faculty in 2002, will become Georgia Law's associate dean of academic affairs July 1, upon the retirement of Paul M. Kurtz.

Dean Rebecca Hanner White said she was pleased Brown agreed to take on this important responsibility. "I am confident Lonnie will do an excellent job for us all."

Brown is not a stranger to the administrative side of academic life. For the 2007–08 year, he served as the inaugural Administrative Fellow in UGA's Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. This full-time, one-year fellowship exposed him to the inner workings of academic administration, including university governance, promotion and tenure, crisis response, policy development and budgeting.

Specializing in civil procedure and legal ethics, Brown is the current holder of the A. Gus Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism at the law school.

He is also very active in the legal community, serving on the Drafting Committee for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam and on the State Bar of Georgia Formal Advisory Opinion Board. Additionally, he was recently selected by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia as the principal substantive consultant for the court's Local Rules Revision Project.

Brown has received the Student Bar Association's Professionalism Award six times and has been presented with the Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching. He also was selected on two occasions to be an honorary faculty marshal at graduation. At the university level, Brown has served as a Senior Teaching Fellow, and he is a member of the UGA Teaching Academy.

Prior to coming to Athens, Brown was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Law and a visiting assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. He served as a judicial clerk for Judge William C. O'Kelley of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Additionally, he practiced law as an associate and a partner at Alston & Bird in Atlanta from 1991 to 1999.

Brown earned his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*. He earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University, where he was student body president and the recipient of the Marion Luther Brittain Award, Emory's highest student honor.



Georgia Law alumnus to be next UGA president

By unanimous vote, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved Jere Morehead, a 1980 graduate of Georgia Law, as UGA's 22nd president. He will assume leadership of the state's flagship institution of higher education on July 1.

Morehead, who is currently senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at UGA, has been described as "a quiet and brilliant academic with an unparalleled understanding of the university's inner workings" and as "a collaborative type more likely to make thoughtful, nuanced changes to the institution as opposed to an overhaul."

University System Chancellor Hank Huckaby said Morehead's appointment "is the right decision for UGA. I have known and worked with Jere for many years and am delighted he will have this great opportunity to serve the university he loves so well. Our students will be in excellent hands under his leadership. Jere will bring the vision and energy essential to UGA advancing its land grant mission."

Morehead said being named UGA's next president is a dream come true.

"While the University of Georgia faces many economic challenges, I believe that if we focus on our academic priorities, we can and will reach new heights as an institution," he added. "The university is poised, thanks to our faculty, staff and students, to become one of the greatest public universities in this country. That belief will filter every decision that I make, how I spend my time and how I devote the university's resources in the coming years."

In some ways, Morehead's thought process as president will be a continuation of the philosophy he has applied in his current position.

"When I became provost I said that I thought our institution needed to be less bureaucratic, it needed to be very responsive to our faculty, students, alumni and supporters, and that is an issue that I will continue to confront and to address going forward."

Morehead also said one of the most important things he can do as president is to keep the university focused on being "the strongest academic institution that we can possibly be."

"That requires getting our entire structure behind a major capital campaign to move the university forward because we can't assume that, in these economic times, we're going to get our resources from any place other than our own friends and supporters."

Morehead's career covers a wide range of faculty and administrative posts at UGA. Prior to his current position, which he assumed in 2010, he served as UGA's vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the Honors Program and acting executive director of legal affairs.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Morehead is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business, where he has held a faculty appointment since 1986. He also directed the law school's Advocacy Program from 1986 to 1995.

Assisting Morehead with his move to the president's office is Georgia Law Dean Rebecca Hanner White. She is a member of his 12-person Presidential Transition Advisory Committee, which is gathering information on key issues facing the university and sharing ideas for a successful presidency.

Also, Kathy Pharr, the law school's director of communications and public relations from 1993 to 2001, has been appointed the new president's chief of staff.



Adams to retire after 16 years

One of the country's longest serving university presidents, Michael F. Adams will step down from his post on June 30. Under Adams' leadership, student quality at UGA has risen steadily and the campus has been transformed, with more than \$1 billion in new construction, renovation and infrastructure and 6.2 million square feet of new space completed. Also, during his 16 years of service, UGA has attained its highest rankings ever, has become the most selective in its history and has grown from roughly 29,000 students to almost 35,000 students. He was named the university's 21st president on June 11, 1997.

\$1.5 million *cy pres* award goes toward scholarships

Last year, U.S. District Court Judge Clay D. Land (J.D.'85) entered an order directing \$1.5 million of a *cy pres* remainder fund to Georgia Law to endow a new scholarship fund.

Georgia Law alumni Joel O. Wooten (J.D.'75) and James E. "Jim" Butler (J.D.'77) represented the class that obtained the class action settlement and were members of the Remainder Fund Committee that made recommendations to the court on the distribution of the remainder funds.

The scholarship will provide financial assistance to deserving Georgia Law students "who have demonstrated an intention and commitment to dedicate a significant part of their professional career to the representation of individuals in civil matters who, due to their financial circumstances and the nature of their legal problem, would be unlikely to be able to privately retain legal counsel."

Georgia Law introduces two new experiential learning programs

During the spring semester, Georgia Law launched two new practical skills offerings – a Business Law Practicum and a Community Economic Development Clinic.

The Business Law Practicum offers students the chance to represent local entrepreneurs, small business owners and nonprofit organizations on transactional matters such as entity formation, corporate governance and contracts.

Heading up the new effort is Willow M. Meyer, an Athens attorney who is very involved in the local community and started her own nonprofit several years ago. Previously, Meyer worked for the National Health Law Program as a consultant and policy analyst and taught in the Legal Studies Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

“The practicum is great for any student who is interested in business law,” Meyer said. “It not only gives students the experience of working directly with clients in a transactional setting but it also exposes them to a myriad of business law issues, allowing them to gain confidence in putting what they have learned in the classroom into practice and demystifying what it is a transactional lawyer does.”

In the Community Economic Development Clinic, students represent a variety of Athens organizations in the fields of poverty alleviation, housing, entrepreneurship, education and leadership, with the goal of strengthening the local community and providing economic opportunity for low-income Georgians.

“No two client matters are the same, and seldom do the matters present strictly legal questions, but the CED Clinic brings legal thinking and problem-solving to bear on strategic issues faced by our client organizations to help them more effectively serve their target populations,” clinic instructor Jared R. Bybee explained.

For example, this past semester, students represented the Athens Land Trust in a study of a local neighborhood. They also researched several local retail corridors and engaged with owners of underdeveloped properties to help create commercial opportunities.

The program is a joint effort with the UGA Fanning Institute for Leadership Development. Bybee, who has a background in real estate law, joined the Fanning Institute staff in 2012. Previously, he served as an Academic Careers Research Fellow at the New York University School of Law, where he focused on current issues in real estate finance and U.S. housing policy, and was a real estate attorney at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City.

Georgia Law is also in the process of developing a Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, where students will work closely with medical treatment providers on civil legal issues that directly affect the health of a client. Potential concerns to be addressed are shelter, family matters, immigration status and/or disability issues.

This initiative is slated to launch in the fall of 2014 and will bring the total number of experiential learning programs offered by Georgia Law to 14.



Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Carol Hunstein and justices Robert Benham (J.D.'70) and Harold Melton (J.D.'91) enter the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom to hear oral arguments during a special session held in Athens during January.

State's high court holds special session in Athens

Georgia Law welcomed the Supreme Court of Georgia to the Hatton Lovejoy Courtroom during January for oral arguments in a criminal death penalty case and a civil medical malpractice case.

“To see our state’s highest court in action is a tremendous opportunity for our law school students,” Dean Rebecca Hanner White said. “One can learn a lot from watching legal counsel and justices interact at this level.”

The justices normally convene at the State Judicial Building in Atlanta but conduct one or two special sessions outside the state’s capital each year. This is the fourth time since 1993 that the court has held oral arguments at Georgia Law, the last being in 2004.

In front of a packed courtroom, attorneys presented their arguments in the case of *Edenfield v. The State*, where David Homer Edenfield appealed the murder conviction and death sentence he received for the 2007 killing of 6-year-old Christopher Barrios Jr. in Glynn County, and *Shekhawat et al. v. Jones et al.*, where two physicians with the Medical College of Georgia appealed a Georgia Court of Appeals decision that found they were not entitled to sovereign immunity in the face of a lawsuit brought by the parents of an infant they treated who suffered a lifetime disability.

Among the attorneys representing clients that day were Georgia Law alumni Jackie L. Johnson (J.D.'97) and Beth A. Burton (J.D.'92) for the appellee in the *Edenfield* case and Gary B. Blasingame (J.D.'61), Andrew J. Hill III (J.D.'77) and Josh B. Wages (J.D.'98) for the appellees in the *Shekhawat* case.