

Advocacy teams secure two national championships and other top honors

Georgia Law's advocacy teams had an outstanding season that included two national titles, two regional championships and domination at the state level, among other prestigious finishes and awards.

National Moot Court Competition

Georgia Law placed **second in the nation** out of more than 150 teams from across the country at the 63rd Annual National Moot Court Competition. Representing the law school were: (l. to r.) third-year students Lucas D. Bradley, Michael C. Gretchen and Matthew V.H. Noller. Additionally, Gretchen was named **best oralist** of the competition.



Legal Ethics and Professionalism Competition

It was an all UGA final at the Third Annual Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition, with teams from Georgia Law capturing both **first and second place**. Hosted by Mercer University, this is the second year in a row Georgia Law has won this national competition. Third-year students (l. to r.) Chandler L. Smith and Timothy F.J. "Tim" Dean comprised the winning team, while classmates Nneka A. Egwuatu and Scott F. McAfee finished second. Additionally, McAfee was named the tournament's **best oralist**.



National First Amendment Competition

Georgia Law captured the **top trophy** at the 23rd Annual National First Amendment Moot Court Competition, which took place at Vanderbilt Law School in February. Representing Georgia Law were third-year students

Mary Beth Martinez (left) and Katie A. Croghan. The duo competed against a field of more than 30 teams from across the country to earn the national title.

Intrastate Moot Court Competition

Georgia Law teams swept the Intrastate Moot Court Competition, making this the eighth consecutive year Georgia Law has won this tournament and the 10th its students have authored the best brief. Second-year law students Yasmine S. Antoine, Adam J. Fitzsimmons and Allison L. Hill were named **competition champions**, while second-year law students David B. Dove, Clayton O. "Clay" Knowles and Emily K. Westberry finished second. These teams also won first and second place for the tournament's **best brief**, respectively, and Knowles was named the competition's **best overall oralist**.

ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Second-year law students (l. to r.) Utrophia D. Robinson, Margaret E. "Maggy" Randels and Alexandria E. Seay were recognized for the **best brief in the nation** at the American Bar Association Law Student Division National



Appellate Advocacy Competition, which is one of the largest and more prestigious moot court tournaments in the country with more than 200 teams routinely competing. The Georgia Law team finished the contest among the **top 16**, after capturing first place at the regional level.

Hulsey/Gambrell Moot Court Competition

After a one-year hiatus, the Hulsey/Gambrell Moot Court Competition returned with a new name and with Georgia Law taking home the **championship trophy** and improving its record in this traditional rivalry between the universities of Georgia and Florida to 20-8-2. Third-year law students John A. Eunice and Jocelyn N. Maner composed the winning team.

Negotiation team places fourth in the nation

Georgia Law’s negotiation competition teams had another successful season, which was highlighted by a top four finish at the American Bar Association Law Student Division National Negotiation Competition.

Second-year law students Kenneth J. “Kenny” Bentley and Amanda J. Shaw represented Georgia Law in the tournament. The duo defeated teams from schools such as Stetson University and the University of California, Berkeley, to be named national finalists. They were one of only 24 teams, out of more than 220 from across the country, to advance to the national round after earning second place in their region.

Georgia Law also dominated the Southeastern Regional Transactional LawMeet this season with a first and second place finish.

Third-year law students Alessandra C. Backus and Christopher A. Knapik received the top awards for the buyer side, including regional finalist and best draft honors, while second-year law students Bryan W. Lutz and G. Taylor Wilson earned second.

“Competitions like these provide an excellent opportunity for our law students to hone their negotiation skills,” Director of the Business Law & Ethics Program Carol Morgan (J.D.’79) said. “I am extremely proud of them for their performance this year. I am also grateful for the hard work and dedication of alumni and faculty who helped to coach them.”



Top – Third-year law students Alessandra Backus and Christopher Knapik received the top buyer side awards at the Southeastern Regional Transactional LawMeet.

Right – Second-year law students Amanda Shaw and Kenny Bentley finished as one of the top four teams in the nation at the American Bar Association Law Student Division National Negotiation Competition.



EJF auction raises more than \$20,000 to support public interest fellowships

The 28th Annual Equal Justice Foundation Auction featured a lively evening of bidding that raised more than \$20,000 for the organization’s fellowship program.

This amount was combined with money from other fundraisers held throughout the year and allowed the group to award six full fellowships and four half fellowships to Georgia Law students serving in unpaid or low-paying public interest legal positions this summer.

This year’s recipients are working at locations such as the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, Gideon’s Promise, No Peace Without Justice, Pisgah Legal Services, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ball named this year’s Spurgeon Fellow

Second-year law student Kaitlin M. Ball was awarded the 2013 Spurgeon Public Service Fellowship, which is supported by the Edward D. and Carol J. Spurgeon Public Service Fellowship Fund. The purpose of this fund, created by former faculty member and Dean Ned Spurgeon and his wife, is to provide a fellowship to a Georgia Law student who has completed the first or second year of law school, is working in a low-paying or non-paying public service summer position and has demonstrated a commitment to public service.

Ball is in Sarajevo, Bosnia, this summer working with the Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she is focussing on war crimes and transitional justice.



Georgia Law student wins top honors at legal writing competition

Second-year law student Katie O'Shea was selected as a runner-up in the Grammy Foundation's Entertainment Law Initiative Writing Competition. As one of the winners, she presented her paper titled "Rebranding Digital Music Theft and the Graduated Response Model in the United States" to roughly 500 attorneys at the 15th Annual Entertainment Law Initiative Luncheon & Scholarship Presentation in February. She also participated in several other Grammy events while in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Beird Closing Argument Competition

First-year law student Whitney Judson (center) won the 2013 J. Ralph Beird 1L Closing Argument Mock Trial Competition. Other participants were: (standing, l. to r.) Callaway Chair Emeritus Ron Carlson (presiding judge), David Sweat (J.D.'79) (juror), Associate Dean Paul Kurtz (juror), first-year law student George Ray (competition finalist), Dylan Wilbanks (J.D.'02) (juror), Ethelyn Simpson (J.D.'90) (juror), Ed Tolley (J.D.'75) (juror), Susan Tate (J.D.'75) (juror), Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey (J.D.'90) (juror) and (sitting) Dean Emeritus Ralph Beird (juror).

Law School Life

State's top attorney visits law school

Each year a number of state leaders, distinguished legal professionals and top academics are invited to campus by law students to impart their wisdom. Among this year's speakers was Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens, who came to the law school in March to discuss current initiatives and litigation overseen by his office.



Students give back

In the spring, many students participated in a community service day organized by the Public Interest Law Council student group. They assisted with assorted tasks at locations such as the Project Safe Thrift Store, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, the Athens Area Humane Society and Colbert Veterinary Rescue Services. Above, second-year law student Morgan Klinzing (left) and first-year law student Laughlin Kane volunteered to weed the vegetable gardens at the UGarden, which provides produce to help alleviate poverty and hunger among Athens' senior citizen population.



Student group Street Law and alumna Emily Boness instrumental in the new Athens Peer Court

2010 alumna Emily Boness (standing), who is a public service assistant at the UGA Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, partnered with the law school student organization Street Law to develop and train youth volunteers to serve as judges, bailiffs, advocates and jurors for a new juvenile justice forum – the Athens Peer Court, which is designed for youth who have been charged with first-time offences. In its first year of operation, 52 cases were decided. Additionally, the court received the Western Circuit Bar Association's 2013 Liberty Bell Award in May.

Student Profiles

George Ray: Exploring life's options

Rising second-year law student George S. Ray likes to keep his options open. “There are a lot of opportunities out there, and I’m

a firm believer that if you work hard and do your best, they will present themselves when you keep your eyes open,” Ray said.

As an undergraduate, he studied business and public policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology. During this time, Ray landed an internship with the speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives.

“I got to see how the legislation really works and how laws are made, which was both an enlightening and hopeful experience,” he said.

He then worked as an associate for Georgia Tech’s Office of Government and Community Relations, upon graduation.

“I knew I wanted to go to law school, but working for a while before going was a great source of perspective,” he said.

He also served as a child-life volunteer at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children’s Healthcare of

Atlanta. He said working with the children at CHOA prepared his mindset for law school, and the children serve as his motivation and inspiration to always excel at what he does.

“One thing that was really impactful was the attitude of the kids and realizing that they are facing one of the biggest challenges of their lives – bigger challenges than I have ever faced – and they still had a positive outlook not only for themselves, but for the folks around them,” he said. “If they can do it, I should be able to without a problem.”

This optimistic attitude has persisted into law school, where he is the Kenneth L. Millwood Scholar. Despite the challenges faced during his first year, Ray said he still enjoys the study of law.

“I love the educational format of law school and the material, and I think it’s really interesting the way laws play on one another and the way they are formulated and interpreted,” he said.

After law school, Ray hopes to obtain an “exciting and fulfilling” career where he can litigate and have a platform to make an impact for individuals and for the community at large.

“I want to get out there and be an advocate for those who need representation, that’s something that’s near and dear,” he added.

Eventually, he might return to the Gold Dome in Atlanta.

“I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t interested in getting back down to the Capitol or staying engaged in a state policy discussion somehow,” he said. “There’s so much opportunity there, and I think there’s a lot that I can help contribute at some point.”

However, for now, he wants to explore his options at law school, and he is excited to see what the next two years will bring.

“I want to learn more of where my skills can get the best use and where I can excel,” he added.



Rose Priddy: Serving the underrepresented

Driving over to Alabama to handle the arguments in a parole hearing for an inmate was an opportunity Virginia Rose Priddy was elated to experience both as a third-year law student and as an intern for the Southern Center for Human Rights earlier this year.

“Being able to affect someone’s life so directly while still in law school is heavy, but I am glad I was able to take on the responsibility,” Priddy said. “I feel honored to have been able to play that role in somebody’s life, and I hope it continues.”

Priddy choose to attend law school after shadowing a public defender during her undergraduate studies at UGA and observing the attorney’s daily responsibilities. She was intrigued by indigent criminal defense law because she loves the aspect of getting the chance to assist others, listen to their compelling stories and elucidate the vast details of the legal system to them.

“So much goes on that I see in a courtroom that I don’t understand, and I can’t imagine what it feels like for somebody who’s in there and knows they are



Alaina Anderson: Taking a different route

Alaina T. Anderson knew she wanted to be an attorney when she was in high school, but her path to law school was one that took time.

Several months before beginning college, she decided to major in broadcast journalism since she enjoyed writing and public speaking, which led her to a successful career as a television news anchor and reporter.

After five years, she moved into pharmaceutical sales. However, when she started thinking about what would make her truly happy, she went right back to her high school dream of practicing law.

“I did all kinds of things while I was in TV, and I was good at it, but I didn’t really think that’s what I needed to do in life,” she said.

Anderson’s passion for the law stems from her family history. Growing up, she witnessed several family members, especially the elderly ones, being taken advantage of in various situations.

In one instance, someone changed Anderson’s great aunt’s will. The person fired her great aunt’s long-time nurse and prevented loved ones from speaking with her. Seeing this and other injustices inspired Anderson to want to help seniors stay educated about their rights.

“I want to be somebody that the elderly come to, not to just get wills drawn up, but I want to be able to give them advice on



what to do before something undesirable happens,” she said.

Now, as a rising third-year law student, Anderson is one step closer to fulfilling that dream and has found peace with her plan.

“I was stressed as a 1L, stressed when I was in TV and pharmaceutical sales, and now I kind of just let things work out. I still work hard, but I have learned how to find a balance,” she added.

Helping her find that balance was her involvement with the school’s Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice Program, where she served as a legal intern for the chief counsel at the Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Her internship at PHMSA reaffirmed her choice to become an attorney specializing in elder law.

“Being at the Department of Transportation and talking to a lot of attorneys, I saw that you really do have to be passionate about what

you want to do,” she said.

Although being a lawyer was not her first career choice, Anderson said returning to her high school dream of becoming an attorney is proving to be the right one.

“Even though law school is extremely challenging and I have friends who aren’t sure if they would do it again, I would. The things that I have learned while in law school have made me a better person,” she said.

facing charges,” she said. “Indigent criminal defendants are in a position where I think they are really in need of somebody who’s willing to sit down and take the time to listen to them because I think a lot of time, nobody really does.”

During her time at Georgia Law, Priddy’s participation in copious activities, including enrolling in experiential learning offerings almost every semester, has further instilled her passion for working with the underrepresented. Whether it’s the Criminal Defense Clinic, going to Atlanta to work for the Southern Center for Human Rights or being involved with the Working in the Public Interest Conference, she always aims to accomplish it all while still maintaining her enthusiasm.

“It makes graduation less of a shock when you have had the opportunity to kind of feel your way around,” she said. “My

professors have been great and have been very supportive and caring of me and my efforts.”

After law school, Priddy plans to serve as a public defender in the South, learn how to excel in the courtroom and become a respected trial attorney and, ultimately, she hopes to be a lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

“I’ve gotten such a plethora of experience here in Athens and meeting people in various professions has cemented what I want to do with my career,” she said. “Eventually, I would like to be able to use the knowledge that I gain from working with indigent criminal defendants and go into politics and affect things from a top-down perspective.”

—All profiles by Nina Kamber