

Darden and Jones honored with DSS Award

Atlanta attorney George W. “Buddy” Darden III (J.D.’67), senior counsel with McKenna Long & Aldridge, and Judge Steve C. Jones (J.D.’87) of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia were named 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 the law school.

A former U.S. Congressman, Darden has been an attorney with McKenna Long & Aldridge since 1995. His practice focuses on public policy and public finance and includes advising clients on conducting business with the state of Georgia and the federal government as well as developing strategy for legislative and government affairs issues.

While in private practice, he has served as an adviser and lecturer on behalf of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and has participated in programs concerning issues of national defense and ethics in Turkey, Senegal and Indonesia.

Additionally, he was a presidential appointee to the board of directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a government agency that provides political risk insurance and loans to help U.S. businesses in emerging markets and developing nations worldwide.

Darden has also been active at the state level and was an original member of the legal team representing Georgia in its water allocation negotiations with Alabama and Florida.

Prior to joining McKenna Long & Aldridge, Darden represented Georgia’s 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for six terms. During his tenure in Congress, he served on the House Armed Services Committee, the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (ethics).

He also served as a member of the Georgia General Assembly and as district attorney for the Cobb County Judicial Circuit.

He has been recognized in the “Most Influential Georgians” listings appearing in *Georgia Trend* magazine, and *JAMES*



Darden



Jones

Magazine named him one of “Georgia’s Most Influential People” twice. Additionally, he was honored by the State Bar of Georgia with its Tradition of Excellence Award in 2010.

A strong advocate for Georgia Law, Darden has served as a firm agent for the school since 2009 and as a member of its Board of Visitors from 1999 to 2002.

Jones was sworn in as a U.S. District

Court judge for the Northern District of Georgia in March 2011 after being nominated by President Barack Obama for the appointment earlier that year.

Previously, Jones served as a Superior Court judge in the Western Judicial Circuit of Georgia for 16 years. During that time, he also presided over the Western Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court, a judicial program that integrates alcohol and substance abuse treatment with court supervision.

His legal experience also includes working as an Athens-Clarke County Municipal Court judge from 1992 to 1995, as an assistant district attorney for the Western Judicial Circuit from 1987 to 1991 and as the director of the Athens Child Support Recovery Unit from 1978 to 1985.

Throughout his career, Jones has offered his time and leadership to numerous academic, community, legal and social organizations. He currently serves as president of the UGA Alumni Association – which includes memberships on UGA’s Board of Visitors, its athletic board and its foundation – and as president of the UGA chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Additionally, he served for three years as a member of Georgia Law’s Board of Visitors, which he chaired during the 2002–03 year. Jones is also the former chair of the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission and the Athens Area Community Foundation, and he has served on the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Commission on Equality and on its Domestic Violence Committee.

Jones has won numerous awards for his judicial and community service including the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service, co-sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism; the Gate City Bar Association’s Outstanding Jurist Award; and Leadership Georgia’s E. Dale Threadgill Community Service Award, among others.

Photo by Wingate Downs