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LAW LETTER

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

FALL 2000

Alverson Receives Ben Johnson Award

The College of Law presented its seventh Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award to Judge Luther A. Alverson on April 27, 2000. This annual award is given to a Georgia lawyer whose life and career reflects the high tradition of selfless public service exemplified by the career of the college's founding dean, Ben Johnson Jr.

Judge Luther A. Alverson (right) is congratulated by Ben F. Johnson III.

After graduating from Atlanta Law School, Judge Alverson began his distinguished legal career at the law firm of Hooper Hooper & Miller in 1941, where he remained until his entry into the U.S. Army during World War II. Released as a lieutenant at the end of the war, he returned to participate in the formation of the law firm Woodruff, Alverson and O'Neil.

Alverson was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1948 and continued to serve until the completion of the 1952 session. Ahead of his time, he proposed consolidating government services in the city of Atlanta and Fulton County. This plan was approved by the voters, and, as a result, Atlanta received the All American City Award in 1952, for the only time in its history.

As a legislator, Judge Alverson visited the Milledgeville State Hospital and was shocked by what he saw. So began his deep interest in mental health. He believed that the city and state should have a mental health association. With a little help he successfully raised $100,000 in a one-day campaign, with which the city and state office of the Mental Health Association was established. He was later elected president and chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Mental Health.

In 1952, Judge Alverson was elected to the Criminal Court of Fulton County where he served until 1956. This service was followed by his election to the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit where he served for over four decades.

Judge Alverson felt that every great university

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Last year the faculty completed a self study in preparation for the February 2000 visit to our law school by a joint American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools accreditation team. In a recently issued report, the team described our self study as professional and commended the law school for "a high *esprit de corps* among the students, the faculty and the students, and the faculty." This self examination will be used to shape our strategic plan this year. Strengths and weaknesses were addressed, allowing the faculty to better evaluate whether new or amended goals should be incorporated into our strategic plan and action statements.

This year the faculty's curriculum committee will begin an examination of the effectiveness of our courses of study in preparing students to practice law in the new millennium. Our first year program, with year-long, six- credit courses in property, torts, contracts, and civil procedure, has worked well. However, comparisons with the first year curricula of other law schools might yield some new ideas for improvements or adjustments. At the American Bar Association's annual meeting in London last summer, legal educators in both the United States and the United Kingdom expressed the view that American law schools need to do a better job of helping students understand our legal system by comparing it to those of other countries. This comparative approach might be integrated into both first-year and upper-level courses.

The college continues in its pioneering efforts to maximize the use of technology as a tool to further its teaching, research, and service missions. Plans for this year include a renewed focus on making it easier for faculty members to explore the innovative use of technology in the classroom. Faculty members increasingly have become interested in learning how to design effective PowerPoint presentations and online course pages. This fall, staff members are evaluating the college's web pages that have mushroomed in the past few years. We have begun an extensive effort to streamline our web site and to add new content where needed, as in online text relating to alumni and development activities.

One of my top priorities continues to be the creation of a professional advancement, development and fund raising program. We will give better recognition to our benefactors in future months. The pressing need for scholarship funds remains at the forefront again this year. The lack of scholarship funding at the college leaves it at a disadvantage in recruiting highly qualified students who show great leadership potential and add to our diversity. We are most grateful to our Board of Visitors members who are helping us in our scholarship endowment endeavors.

I have highlighted a few of our plans for the coming year. We are moving ahead, and I'm confident that we will experience another year of accomplishments.

Janice C. Griffith

The ***Law Letter*** is published by the Office of Development three times a year for graduates, students, faculty, staff and friends of the College of Law. Please send address changes, graduate news, comments and requests to:

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Trammell Foundation Completes Leadership Gift to Tax Clinic

The Mark and Evelyn Trammell Foundation recently completed its $200,000 pledge to the Tax Clinic. The foundation's several leadership gifts to the clinic reflect the late Trammells' interest in education and in assuring that persons from all walks of life are fairly represented in their dealings with the tax administration system. Mark and Evelyn Trammell were Atlanta residents who experienced success in business and pursued charitable interests during their lifetimes. Philip C. Cook, partner at Alston & Bird, LLP, is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the foundation.

The Tax Clinic was originally underwritten by a three-year, $90,000 grant from the Trammell Foundation. A continuing annual $500 award for the outstanding clinic student was also established by the foundation at that time. In 1996, when the clinic was on the verge of closing its doors, the Trammell Foundation pledged an additional $200,000 to the Tax Clinic. "The College of Law owes a great deal of thanks to the Trammell Foundation for its demonstrated commitment to the Tax Clinic from the very beginning," said Dean Janice Griffith.

Flashback to 1996: From left, Philip C. Cook, chairman of the Trammell Foundation's Board of Trustees, hands Dean Janice C. Griffith and Professor Ron Blasi, Tax Clinic Director, its $200,000 pledge.

The Tax Clinic is the College of Law's first "live-client" educational program. Under the direction of Professor Ron Blasi, it provides students with a unique educational experience while assisting low-income taxpayers with their Internal Revenue Service disputes. Both the IRS and the U.S. Tax Court have authorized the clinic to represent taxpayers.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the Georgia State College of Law's Tax Clinic is one of the nation's largest providers of tax representation to low-income families. It has been recognized by visits from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, by senior administrators of the General Accounting Office, and by senior staff members of House and Senate tax writing committees. Most of the approximately 90 current cases handled by the students are post-audit matters and approximately 80% of all cases are resolved in the taxpayer's favor.

Wiseman Honored for Innovative Use of Technology

Professor Patrick Wiseman's trailblazing use of technology in teaching recently won him the first-ever Tom Creed Compassionate Pioneer Award from the Teaching, Learning and Technology Affiliate of the American Association of Higher Education.

The TLT Group established the Tom Creed award to recognize those who have improved their teaching and their students' learning through technology. The award was named after a pioneer in computer-based interactive learning who was a psychology professor at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in Minnesota until his death last year. Creed was committed not only to teaching, but also to helping his colleagues find their way down the information superhighway.

According to Georgia State Provost Ron Henry, Wiseman is a "pioneer who exemplifies the philosophy and actions of Dr. Creed." Henry and the university's Teaching and Learning with Technology Subcommittee nominated Wiseman for the honor.

The National Jurist's recent naming of Georgia State University's College of Law as one of the top 20 "most wired" law schools in the country was due largely to Wiseman's work. "Patrick is *the* main reason that the College of Law is widely recognized among law schools as one of the most technologically advanced and forward thinking," said Roy Sobelson, a colleague at GSU's College of Law.

College of Law Professor Patrick Wiseman

Wiseman's innovative use of technology in recent years has included the development of the College of Law's web site in 1994. The school's "Law and the Internet" course, for which he won a 1997 Georgia State Instructional Innovation Award, is conducted almost entirely online.

Where Are They Now? Alumni Profile

William A. Pannell

Although he comes from a family of lawyers, including his father who served in the legislature with Ben Johnson Jr. and a brother who is a federal judge, Bill Pannell never thought that he would become one.

He was the owner and manager of a contracting business and finishing his undergraduate degree at GSU part time when the law school opened in 1982. He enrolled, graduated from the college in 1986 and changed his profession.

Bill Pannell's practice concentrates on environmental law, toxic torts, personal injury, class actions and mass torts. Pannell is the lawyer for 650-plus middle Georgia residents who sued over a chemical plant in Fort Valley, claiming that its owners and operators contaminated the surrounding neighborhood with arsenic. This is one of the largest classes to sue in Fulton State Court. The case was settled for some $10.75 million.

What is less well known is that Bill has a theatrical and entertainment side, which is "front and center" in his delightful personality and sense of humor. A successful environmental lawyer, Pannell had all but given up on show business after studying acting with Lee Strasberg and teaching at Northside School of the Arts for a year. Then he read an article in the *Journal-Constitution* about the death of the cabaret scene in Atlanta, which mentioned Northside classmate, Libby Whittemore. Libby needed a place to sing and she found a stable backer in Bill whose love of entertainment was still alive and well. And so, *Libby's: A Cabaret*, located on Northside Parkway, was born.

Bill's star student from Northside was RuPaul. During a recent visit to the Pannell home by RuPaul, Bill's daughter was able to ask the entertainer one question. She inquired, "How do you keep your legs looking so good?"

William A. Pannell, Class of 1986

As a legislator, Charles Pannell, Bill's father and a former Georgia Court of Appeals judge, introduced two bills that knocked down Georgia's segregation laws in 1961 by keeping the schools open at a time when politicians were clamoring to close them in light of federal lawsuits to integrate. Although he ventures into the theatrical world, Bill Pannell carries his father's legacy of justice with him in the practice of environmental law.

Student Bar Association Receives Award

The Georgia State University Student Bar Association won the Regional Student Bar Association Award of the Year at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association's Law Student Division in New York. The College of Law's region is made up of the fourth, fifth, tenth and eleventh circuits and includes 13 states as well as Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Applications submitted by the American Bar Association representative at each school were required to address the following areas: overall organization and structure; performance by members as a team; total number of programs; quality of events; interaction with faculty and administration; extent to which student government voices and addresses the concerns of students; and interaction with the local legal and non-legal community.

Dean Janice C. Griffith stated that the success of the College of Law's annual Law Week, in which students engage in pro bono activities, was undoubtedly a factor in the selection process which led to this award.

Graduate Leadership Council

The Graduate Leadership Council held its first meeting for this academic year in early September.

The new officers for this year are:
- Marlo Orlin Leach – President
- Chris Chan – President-elect/ Vice president
- Vicki Bell – Secretary
- Scott Hilsen – Treasurer
- Kim Dammers – Parliamentarian

The new class representatives include:
- John Austin – Class of 1985
- Andrew Lohn – Class of 1986
- Tom Jankowski – Class of 1990
- Anne Lewis – Class of 1989
- Lee Biola – Class of 2000
- Samuel Brannan – Class of 1990
- David Hungeling – Class of 2000
- Dawn Jones – Class of 2000
- Suzanne Sturdivant – Class of 2000

All class reps are looking for volunteers to help with the Annual Fund Drive. Please contact Christine Hill, development assistant, at 404-651-4360, if you want to volunteer.

FACULTYBRIEFS

Mark Budnitz presented "Contract Issues: When is There an Offer and Acceptance? Is Your Agreement Worth the Paper It Isn't Written On?" at a Continuing Legal Education program entitled, "Doing Business Online: Marketing and Transactional Issues." He organized, moderated and made a presentation for a program at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting entitled "Consumer ADR in the Borderless Online Marketplace." The 2000 supplement to his book *Counseling and Representing Financially Distressed Businesses* has been published.

Anne Emanuel was on a panel regarding proposals to amend the Rule Against Perpetuities to allow for perpetual trusts at the Fiduciary Law Institute sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in July.

Victor Flatt was a visiting associate professor at the University of Washington School of Law this summer, and in May was a visiting "Parson's Scholar" at the University of Sydney Law School in Sydney, Australia, where he gave lectures on international treaties to control natural resources and U.S. anti-discrimination laws. He also spoke at the National Law School Admissions Council Conference with Cheryl Jackson, in Vancouver in June, on the recruitment of gay and lesbian law students. While in Sydney, he was invited to meet with the Honorable Justice Michael Kirby of the Australian Supreme Court to discuss the James Dale (gay boy scout) case.

Shubha Ghosh wrote an article on the 11th amendment immunity and intellectual property, forthcoming in the *San Diego Law Review*. His article on antitrust and economic downturns published in a special issue of *Antitrust Law Journal* is to be presented at an American Bar Association antitrust section special symposium at American University. He also wrote an article on gray markets and cyberspace, which appeared in *The Journal of Intellectual Property Law*. He presented a paper on antitrust and e-commerce at the annual ABA Antitrust Section meeting in D.C. this past April. He will be visiting the National Law School of India in Bangalore to lecture on intellectual property and antitrust.

Bill Gregory gave two lectures on international arbitration in Linz, Austria, as part of the program GSU sponsors each summer.

Janice Griffith's article "Judicial Funding and Taxation Mandates: Will *Missouri v Jenkins* Survive Under the New Federalism Restraints?" was published by the *Ohio State Law Journal*, Volume 61. Griffith made presentations on "Managing Technology" and "Relationships of a Law Dean with Alumni, Bar, and the Legislature" at the Seminar for New Law Deans in June.

Julian Juergensmeyer spoke at the South Texas College of Law in late March as a special environmental law lecturer on "Environmental Mitigation Programs: Recent Developments." He made a presentation on "Environmental Mitigation Impact Fees: the Case for Cash" at the University of Houston's 2000 A.L. O'Quinn Symposium in Environmental Law on April 28. Juergensmeyer was a guest lecturer in June at GSU's Dispute Resolution Program in Linz, Austria, on the topic of "Alternate Dispute Resolution for Environmental Controversies: Advantages and Disadvantages."

Neil Kinkopf published "The Progressive Dilemma" in the *Notre Dame Law Review*; and "Executive Privilege: The Clinton Administration in the Courts" in the *William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal*. He presented "The Scope of 'High Crimes and Misdemeanors' After the Impeachment of President Clinton," as part of a symposium entitled, "The Constitution under Clinton: A Critical Assessment" at the Southeastern Conference of the Association of American Law Schools (August 2000). He is the special editor of Volume 63 of the *Law and Contemporary Problems* Journal.

Michael Landau was a visiting scholar at the Institute for Information Law at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, for July and August. Among the articles and books he has written are the following: "It's Yours, It's Mine, It's Ours?: Problems with Recent Determinations of Joint Works", chapter 3, *2000 Wiley Intellectual Property Law Update*; "The Case for a Specialized Copyright Court: Eliminating the Jurisdictional Advantage," 1 *Hastings Communications & Entertainment Law Journal* 717 (1999). Landau was a guest lecturer at Emory law School on the topic "Music and Sound Recordings." He spoke at Vanderbilt Law School on the topic "The Internet and Copyright: Do Content Providers Have Protection?.

Paul S. Milich gave a presentation on demonstrative evidence to Georgia prosecutors and solicitors at their summer conference on Jekyll Island.

Ellen S. Podgor's "The Ethics and Professionalism of Prosecutors in Discretionary Decisions," appeared in volume 68 of the *Fordham Law Review*. She taught as part of the Georgia Trial Skills Clinic in Athens in June and received an award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys for her writing of the amicus brief on behalf of NACDL in the case of United States v. Webster L. Hubbell. She also authored the amicus brief in the case of Cleveland v. United States, a case that will be heard by the Supreme Court this coming term. Professor Podgor attended the National Security Law Institute for two weeks this past summer.

Charity Scott has been appointed faculty associate in law at Emory University's Center for Ethics in Public Policy and the Professions for the academic year 2000-2001. In this capacity she will work with clinical faculty from Emory's medical school who teach ethics classes to third-year medical students during their clinical rotations. She recently served on an interdisciplinary panel to review grant applications for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a new program to investigate the impact of law on public health. She has been serving this past year on the Steering Committee of the Georgia Collaborative to Improve End of Life Care. She also served on the Planning Committee on E-Health of the American Bar Association's Health Law Section to organize its first conference on e-health issues.

Patrick Wiseman has recently accepted an invitation to join the Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) Editorial Board. He gave a presentation at CALI's June conference on "Every Law School Needs a Programmer." He is the first recipient of the Tom Creed Compassionate Pioneer Award.

Doug Yarn met with Attorney General Reno at the invitation of the Department of Justice to discuss conflict resolution among youth. He and adjunct professor Wayne Thorpe conducted a session on the proposed modifications to the model rules of profession conduct affecting lawyer-neutrals at the American Bar Association dispute resolution section's annual meeting in San Francisco in April. Yarn lectured on the biological foundation of a "sense of justice" at the Gruter Institute on Law and Human Behavior where he is a research fellow.

Law Week 2000

Third Annual Law Week Dedicated to Public Service

The American Bar Association fosters links between the community and the legal profession by annually recognizing Law Day as a day dedicated to increasing public understanding of and respect for the law, the legal process and the role of the legal profession. Students at the Georgia State University College of Law have expanded that day of recognition to an entire week. This annual event brings well-known and experienced attorneys, judges and non-legal professionals to campus, and allows for increased interaction and communication among students, faculty and the surrounding community.

Law Week 2000 took place Saturday, April 1 through Saturday, April 8, under the leadership of Student Bar Association president, Dawn Jones. The theme "Partnership Through Diversity, Celebrating Our Community" was chosen to publicize and better focus the event, which was dedicated to providing community service and learning how legal professionals can give back to their communities

This year's opening speaker, Cathy Cox, is the first woman to be elected Secretary of State in Georgia and the first female Democrat elected to a statewide post. She spoke about how lawyers are perceived by the community at large and how to dispel the less than complimentary perceptions.

The majority of law student organizations participated by sponsoring and planning events throughout the week. Volunteer students prepared meals for homebound AIDS patients through Project Open Hand and filed huge backlogs of legal documents in the civil division of the Fulton County Courthouse.

Speakers sparked discussions on a variety of subjects such as hate crime legislation, pro bono work and the transition from law school to law firm to in-house counsel at a dot com company. A legal profession fashion show featured stylish and appropriate apparel for Atlanta-area law firms. Information for students on how to prepare for summer positions at law firms was offered.

Other events included a fellowship luncheon, a student/faculty mixer at Manuel's Tavern and a blood drive. A 5K run/walk was held on the last day, with proceeds going toward a Public Interest Fellowship. The final event of Law Week 2000 was the Barristers' Ball at the Fox Theater, sponsored by the Student Bar Association.

Dawn Jones '00, Student Bar Association president, and Dean Janice C. Griffith celebrate the end of Law Week 2000 at the Barrister's Ball in the Egyptian Room of the Fox Theater.

Black Law Students Association Conference

The Black Law Students Association, working in conjunction with other organizations in the university and the community, hosted a successful working conference for students on black reparations.

Over 200 students attended the conference, which took place the weekend of September 9-10, including a number from institutions around the southeast. There were presenters from New York, Washington D.C., Chicago and New Orleans and participation by local community organizations.

The BLSA did a great job of putting Georgia State on the map with respect to a subject that is currently generating a great deal of interest among both legal scholars and civil rights organizations.

Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute Seminar

Lawrence Ponoroff, professor and vice dean of Tulane University School of Law, visited the College of Law for the week of Sept. 18. As a visiting professor selected by the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, Prof. Ponoroff team taught with some of the faculty and conferred with those doing research in bankruptcy law. He also delivered a lecture entitled "The Dubious Role of Precedent in Bankruptcy Reform." The lecture/ luncheon was attended by those faculty who teach in the bankruptcy area as well as the advisors, officers and directors of the SBLI.

CLASSACTIONS

1987
Cynthia (C. J.) Becker was elected to the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia, to succeed Judge James H. Weeks on January 2, 2001. C. J. was previously a partner in the law firm of Chambers, Mabry, McClelland & Brooks, LLP, where she had a general civil practice for thirteen years.

Catherine T. Crawford was appointed an administrative law judge in Atlanta in August.

Aasia Mustakeem has joined the firm of Powell, Goldstein, Frazier & Murphy, LLP, as a partner in their Atlanta office.

Carol Walker-Russell was sworn in as an administrative law judge in Atlanta in August.

1987
Phillip Jackson was appointed an administrative law judge in Atlanta in August.

1991
Roxanne Douglas has accepted a position with AT&T as president of the law and government affairs department in Florida. Her organization has offices in Miami, Naples, Tallahassee, Jacksonville and Ft. Lauderdale.

1992
David van der Griff has joined Lifeguard, Inc., a small health plan based in San Jose, Calif., as an associate attorney in June.

Linley Jones has become of counsel to Taylor W. Jones & Associates. She will specialize in civil litigation and personal injury law.

1993
G. Mark Cole has become a partner at Autry & Horton, LLP. The firm continues as Autry, Horton & Cole, LLP.

1994
Anita Cowley (formerly Singh) is currently an associate with Ruegsegger Thomas, LLC, located in Denver, Colo.

Devon Orland is a new assistant attorney general for the State of Georgia's Office of the Attorney General.

Penny Brown Reynolds (formerly Artis) has been appointed to the State Court of Fulton County by Governor Roy Barnes.

1995
Jeff Hannah has joined the litigation practice group of Kilpatrick Stockton in Atlanta. He will focus on representing corporate policyholders in insurance coverage disputes.

John T. Lueder has recently started the law firm of Evans & Lueder, P.C., after returning to Atlanta from the Pacific Northwest.

1996
John K. Rezac has joined the law firm of Holland & Knight LLP in midtown Atlanta.

1998
Corin McCarthy has joined the firm of Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, in Atlanta.

1999
Wenona C. Belton has been appointed to the position of staff attorney to Hon. Nina Hickson, Fulton County Juvenile Court.

Jill Alexander Folino has joined the West Palm Beach, Fla., office of Arnstein & Lehr in July as an associate in the litigation department.

Joyce Gist Lewis became associated with the firm of Casey, Gilson, Williams & Shingler, P.C., in Atlanta in March.

2000
Lyla Hinton has been appointed assistant district attorney in Newton County, Georgia.

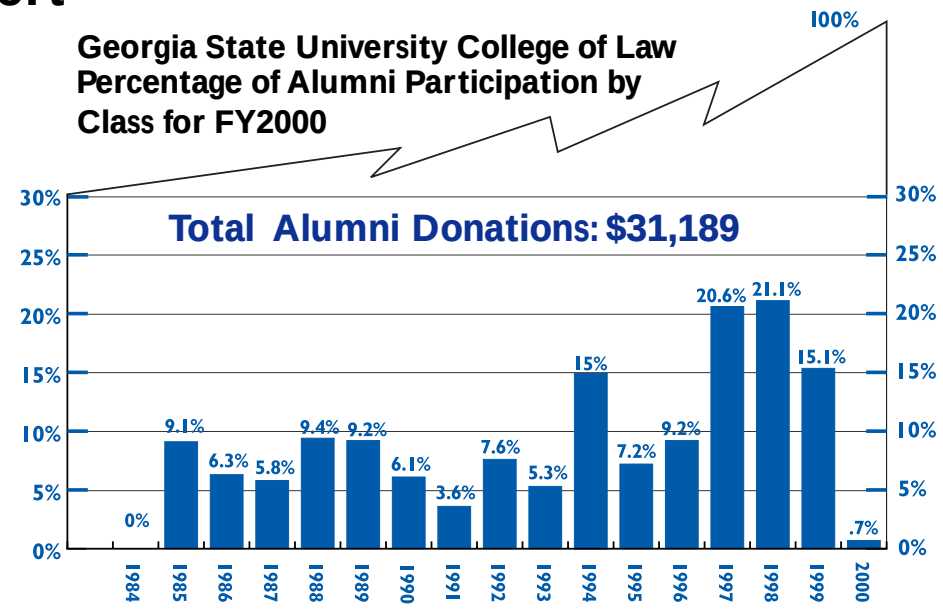
ClassActions Corrections
The correct e-mail address for Jean Padberg '89 at Jean Padberg & Associates, P.C., is jpadberg@aol.com.

It was inaccurately reported that James E. Dangerfield '99 had opened his own practice in Atlanta.

Uwanda S. Carter '97 has started her own practice in Atlanta, which focuses primarily on entertainment law and business law. She had previously worked with the Human Resources Administration Office of Legal Affairs in New York City.

Development Report

We are pleased to report that last year, the college's alumni contributed over $31,000 to the annual fund campaign. This represents contributions from nearly 12% of our graduates. The graph demonstrates the percentage of alumni participation by class. We congratulate the classes of 1997 and 1998 for their 20% plus participation! This year, our goal for the college is to grow from 12% to 20% participation for all classes combined. Every gift counts and helps us reach our goal of 20% and beyond.



ALVERSON *continued from page 1*

needed an accredited law school and that every great city should have an accredited law school in its community to make the study of law available to those who could not afford to go to expensive universities. In early 1980 he was elected chairman of the committee to seek the installation of just such a school at Georgia State University. In 1988 Georgia State University awarded the Golden Staff to Judge Alverson for his work at the law school and in the community. This is the highest award that GSU bestows.

The Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award acknowledges Judge Luther Alverson's career of professional achievement and service. Dean Janice Griffith stated that she was honored to present this award to Judge Alverson "to honor your outstanding public service contributions to your profession, your city, your state, and nation. This is an award that you richly deserve for your willingness to extend a helping hand to those with less advantages."

Past recipients of the Ben Johnson Award are A. Paul Cadenhead, Esq.; Randolph W. Thrower, Esq.; the Honorable Dorothy Toth Beasley; the Honorable Harold G. Clarke; Donald Lee Hollowell, Esq.; and the Honorable Elbert P. Tuttle.

Please help the Alumni and Development Office in the College of Law

step into the electronic age.

Send your e-mail address to lawcmh@langate.gsu.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALUMNI BREAKFAST

The Alumni Breakfast, held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia's midyear meeting in Atlanta, will be Friday, January 12, 2001, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Swissôtel. This year's guest speaker will be Julian Juergensmeyer, the first Ben F. Johnson Jr. Chair in Law, who arrived at the College of Law in the spring of this year.

LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM

The Law Review Symposium will be held Thursday, February 1, 2001, in the Urban Life Building. The theme for this year's symposium is "Planned Growth."

IN MEMORIAM

Patience Russell '97 died in July. Russell embarked on a law career as a public defender at the age of 60, after working 36 years in the field of respiratory therapy.

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