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THE DOCKET

Volume 4, No. 1 A PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA STATE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION JANUARY 31, 1996

Interview with a GSU Law Founder

For nearly 50 years, attorney Clifford Oxford has practiced law in the city of Atlanta. Oxford has seen many changes in the past half century both in the law profession and in legal education in Georgia. As past president of the Atlanta Jaycees, Oxford led the legal battle to unmask the Ku Klux Klan. For this and countless other civic involvements, he was named Atlanta's "Young Man of the Year" in 1953. *The Docket* recently sat down with Oxford in his offices at McGee and Oxford, overlooking Buckhead.

Docket: *You graduated from Emory Law School. What was it that caused you to help create a new law school in Georgia?*

Oxford: When I graduated from Emory, they had an evening division, which they decided to drop. They felt that having a night division somehow "lowered" their prestige, and because they were trying to get the "Order of the Coif," they felt they would not achieve that goal with a night law school.

Docket: *What steps did you take when the decision was made by Emory to drop their night classes?*

Oxford: I told Emory's Dean, Ben Johnson, that I would move vigorously to help establish an accredited school in some other location that would be interested in both a day *and* night school. Then, I wrote a letter to the editor of the *Constitution* stressing the importance of a night law school in Atlanta, and suggested that it be at Georgia State. I then received a letter from Dr. Langdale, Georgia State's President, thanking me for the support, and appointing me to a steering committee, which included a number of prominent lawyers in Atlanta, to work for the establishment of the law school. In particular, Judge Luther Alverson was instrumental in helping us work towards our goal.

Docket: *Didn't you consider Woodrow Wilson College of Law as a possible site?*

Oxford: Yes. We worked for many months in that direction.But at the same time, I asked the state Bar Board of Governors to consider a resolution approving a law school at Georgia State, which was eventually done by a large majority.

Docket: *What role did the board of regents play in all this?*

Oxford: Well, we discovered that Atlanta University was considering a law school. This concerned us at the time because it would have been out of the question to have two additional accredited law schools in Atlanta at the same time. Judge Alverson and I visited with Governor Busbee to discuss the matter with him, and found a warm reception. After that, Judge Alverson and I started a correspondence with various members of the Board of Regents in an effort to win their support. Specifically, we met with Mr. Torbitt Ivy and Mr. Eldridge McMillanof the Board.

Docket: *How was the public reception to the idea at the time?*

Oxford: Good. After several members of the board of regents supported us, and we had gotten the support of the newspapers by way of favorable editorial comments, we wrote to the American Bar Association asking for their support, which they gave.

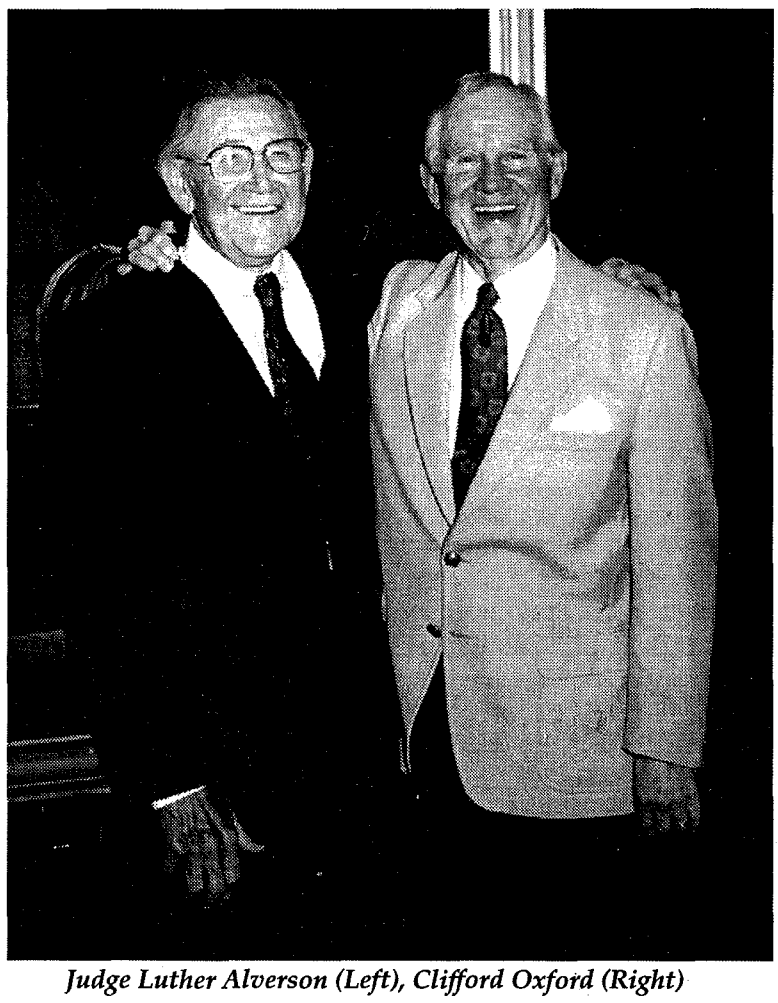
Docket: *What kind of support did you get from the University of Georgia?*

Oxford: Not very much. Dean Ralph Beaird felt that a second accredited law school in Georgia would be harmful to their enrollment.

Docket: *Once you received the go ahead, how did you select a dean for the new school?*

Oxford: Dr. Langdale informed us that the American Bar Association required that the dean had to be an acting dean of a law school or a prior dean. This eliminated a number of prominent lawyers, whom we

See "Origins," page 3



Judge Luther Alverson (Left), Clifford Oxford (Right)

Dean names new Director of Career Planning

The College of Law is very fortunate to have a staff that is dedicated to helping our students achieve your goals during your stay with us. As is the experience in all fairly large units, you inevitably have much more direct contact with some than with others, and the "front line" people become very important to you as we attempt to serve you well.

Obviously, the person who leads the Career Planning and Placement Office plays a critical role. As the second semester began, I was therefore very pleased to announce that Vickie Brown had accepted the position of Acting Director of that office, replacing Beth Kirch, who had earlier accepted a similar position at the University of Georgia's law school. Those of you who have worked with Ms. Brown in the context of our externship and litigation programs know how skilled and dedicated she is. Others of you will only now have the pleasure of working with her.

To facilitate your getting to know Vickie Brown, I have invited her to join Dean Stephens and me at the next Open Forum, which will occur on Thursday, February 8 at noon in room 170. Please bring your suggestions concerning how the Career Planning and Placement office can best serve you with its programming. We are eager to help you as much as we can.

As we look ahead to significant events this semester, let me alert you to the symposium which the College of Law and the Law Review are hosting on March 28 and 29 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Judge Nathaniel R. Jones, of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will deliver the 18th Henry J. Miller Lecture on the 28th. Distinguished academic historians and constitutional law theorists will also discuss *Plessy's* continuing impact in their fields. I hope that you will be able to attend and participate in what promises to be a very lively event and wish to thank Professor Steve Wermiel for undertaking the primary faculty role in planning the symposium's program.

Between now and then, of course, the February bar exam looms. I know how consuming it can be to prepare for that test. Good luck to each of you undertaking that challenge!

Marjorie L. Girth, *Dean*

The Docket gets a facelift

The advent of the new semester has brought with it a few changes here at *The Docket*. Our editorial staff has changed, slightly, and we hope to take the paper into a new direction.

First, you have probably noticed that we have switched to newsprint. We felt that this would allow us more article space and to be a little more creative with our new features. Also, starting next month, we will increase to 8 pages.

One of our new features is a monthly interview. We will strive to bring our readership interesting and even controversial figures in the field of law. We hope you enjoy this months installment, and you can look forward to a very thought-provoking interview with Judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in our next issue.

Additionally, we will be running short articles from law professors and students; featuring an Op-Ed page, and more. We will start to bring you these things starting with our February 14 issue.

We think the Docket can be among the best law school newspapers in the nation. However, we can only hope to achieve that goal with the help of our student body.

Joe Wyant, Jr., *Editor*

Not only was my cookie broken, but steel bars give me a rash...

Attorney Generals in 24 States each released their "Top 10" list of frivolous lawsuits filed by inmates in their respective states. Each year, thousands of these suits are filed, nearly all of them being funded by taxpayers. Here are some of the more "creative" ones.

Reprinted with the express permission of Parade Magazine

1. *Donald Edward Beaty v. Bury*: A death-row inmate sues corrections officials for taking away his Gameboy.

2. Inmate, calling himself a sports fanatic, complains that, as a result of cruel and unusual punishment, he was forced to miss the NFL playoffs, especially between Miami and San Diego, San Diego and Pittsburgh and Dallas and San Francisco.

3. *Brittaker v. Rowland*: Inmate says his meal was in poor condition. He claims his sandwich was soggy and his cookie was broken.

4. *Jackson v. Barton*: Prisoner who killed five people sues after lightening knocks out the prison's TV satellite dish and he must watch network programs, which he says contain violence, profanity and other objectionable material.

5. *Spradley v. Rathman*: Prisoner sues to be served fruit juice at meals and three pancakes instead of two.

6. *Brown v. Singletary*: Prisoner sues to be given Reeboks, Adidas, Pony or Avia high-tops rather than inferior brand sneakers issued in prison.

7. *Beverly v. Groose* : Suit says inmates working in prison law library should be paid same rate as attorneys.

8. *Young v. Murphy* : Prisoner sues for not receiving scheduled parol hearing, though he was out on escape when the hearing was to be held.

9. Murderer sues for $25,000, claiming a "defective" haircut resulted in lost sleep, headaches and chest pains.

10. *Trice v. Reynolds, et al* : Ex-chef sues because food was bad, yet he wanted bigger portions.

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President's Message

Welcome back!?! I hope each of you had a wonderful break and are back into the swing of things. This January began as most January's do but with an added twist-snow. If you were like me, my Monday classes did not actually begin until the third week of the Semester. Do not get me wrong, I have no complaints...except now our Monday class must make up two complete classes.

Enough about my troubles. The third-year students, believe it or not they do exist, are prone to sing the "bar exam blues." I admire you people but I often reflect upon what my father once said to me, "Son, be careful what you ask for, because you just may get it." I am happy the class of 1997 does not have a choice regarding the bar examination. Whether that is a blessing or not, only time will tell.

The SBA has made two new additions to its burgeoning staff of individuals: Machelle Redmond and Joseph Wyant. Machelle is our new Secretary and will serve out the remaining Semester in that capacity. If you see her in the halls, please welcome her to our Board. Joe is our newly acquired Editor-in Chief of *The Docket*. I say "newly acquired" because we were able to get him though free-agency. This acquisition was a major coup for the SBA. The SBA is very excited about these folks and know they will represent you well.

This semester the SBA has several activities planned for your enjoyment and fellowship. First, as many of you have already experienced, we have several "Coffee Talks" planned. We will have our next coffee talk on that sweet, sweet day--Valentine's, February 14. Please plan to attend in the lower lobby, and bring your sweet-heart if you wish. Additionally, the SBA will have another coffee talk on March 20 and will leave the April event up to the administration.

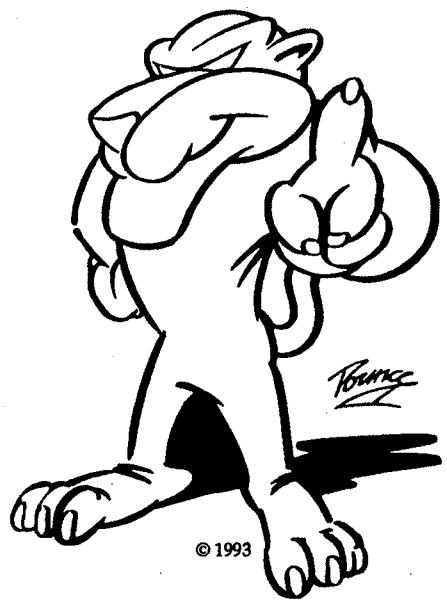
Moreover, the well-attended Barrister's Ball is slated for March 23, so please mark your calendars now. Jennifer Sandberg is hard at work putting the event together and if you are interested in assisting in any manner, please contact her.

Additionally, the SBA has planned to have another pizza gathering for the evening students. As you may recall, the day students enjoyed our gathering last semester and as an equal opportunity provider, the SBA will meet the hunger pangs of the evening students. Check the local bulletin boards for periodic updates.

Finally, there has been talk about a possible bowling tournament and talent show in March and April, respectively. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact your SBA representative.

Have a wonderful semester and please volunteer because we can use your help!

Brad Reed, *SBA President*



P.I.L.A. Recognized with National Award

The Public Interest Law Association (P.I.L.A.) accepted a national award from the National Association of of Public Interest Law in Washington, D.C. in October. The award was given to the school with the most increased fundraising. GSU's P.I.L.A. auction increased our fundraising by 180% last year.

Six P.I.L.A. delegates from GSU attended the awards dinner in Washington to accept the national award.

For further information please contact Vicky Perry, P.I.L.A. President at 404-816-3108.

(Left to right)
Vickie Perry, Nancy Turner, Laura Stephens, Kenn Margolf, Vicky Gribble, Jamie Smith

It's Springtime! It's Barrister's Ball Time!

Have you heard about the Barrister's Ball?

Each spring, the Student Bar Association sponsors a social event called the Barrister's Ball. All law students, professors and staff are invited and encouraged to attend. Feel free to come alone, bring a friend, bring a date, or bring a spouse--just make certain that you take this opportunity to socialize with a large group of your fellow law students and professors outside the four walls of the Urban Life Building.

This year, the Barrister's Ball will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel in Midtown. The hotel's magnificent twenty-fifth floor ballroom offers spectacular views of the city from the floor to ceiling windows on every side of the room. Light hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be provided, and there will be a cash bar. We also have a live band planned.

Tickets will cost no more than fifteen dollars. Around the beginning of March, tickets will be on sale in the law school lobby or from any SBA member. If you have any questions, please ask any SBA representative. We look forward to seeing you at the Barrister's Ball.

The GSU Sports and Entertainment Law Association invites you to attend

CAREER DAY

Saturday, February 17, 1996
10:00 a.m. - Noon
Room 170, Law School
Casual Attire
Featuring roundtable discussion with attorneys practicing in areas associated with sports and entertainment

Entertainment	Sports
Music/Records	Agents
Movies/Video's	Licensing
TV/Radio	Management
Publishing	Teams
Intellectual Property	Events

The Association will publish a booklet of resumes to leave with attorneys for future employment or volunteer opportunities. We will charge members $5 and non-members $10 in order to cover the cost of having the booklets reproduced.

If you would like to have your resume´ included in the booklet, please have it prepared by February 1. You may include a generic cover letter and up to two pages of resume´(total 3 pgs). Simply leave your submission and fee (cash or check payable to GSU Sports & Entertainment Law Assn.)in an envelope addressed to Jill at Box 505. For more info, call Jill at 525-8622 or 373-6412.

Free Textbooks!!!

Well, *your* textbooks are free for *you*. Many of the textbooks in the Bookswap have been replaced with new editions. Therefore, the old editions have no value and need to be claimed by their owners. THIS IS NOTICE that all out-of-date textbooks not claimed by February 29, 1996 will be removed from the Bookswap and given away because the past editions have absolutely no market value.

Please stop by the Bookswap during office hours to claim your old textbooks. Also, the paperback "supplements" that are printed each year to go with the textbook should never be left in the Bookswap because those are always reprinted each year. Please pick up those supplements with your textbooks, or they too will be thrown away after February 29th.

If you need access to the Bookswap outside the posted hours, please contact an SBA member to make special arrangements.

Redmond named new SBA Secretary

Machelle Redmond was recently elected into office by the Board Members of the Student Bar Association. She will serve as Secretary until the elections this spring.

Machelle is a graduate of the University of Georgia. She received a B.S. in Communications and Philosophy. While at the University, she served in the student government and was a member of the UGA Debate Travel Team.

After graduation, Machelle spent one year as a flight attendant and later became a stockbroker and Compliance Officer at Fidelity National Capital. She is currently enrolled full-time in the College of Law.

Machelle Redmond

Federalist Society to hold National Symposium

The Federalist Society's Fifteenth Annual National Symposium on Law and Public Policy will be held at Stanford Law School in Palo Alto, California on February 23rd and 24th, 1996. This year's topic is "Justice and the Criminal Justice System."

Registration is $5 for students and $20 for others. For those interested, there are partial travel scholarships available, and a few area students will host out-of-towners. You can pick up a registration package and obtain detailed information by contacting John Creasy at 404-264-9576.

Valentine's Day Issue Submissions

The Docket is asking for students to submit their Valentine's Day messages to Box 577 or to the SBA Office on the second floor. Messages can be serious, funny, strange, romantic, personalized or anonymous. We are asking for a $2 donation with your submissions, which will go to the SBA general fund.

THE DOCKET
EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief Joe Wyant, Jr.

Managing Editor Victoria Davis
Business Editor David Prassi

THE DOCKET is published monthly by the Student Bar Association of Georgia State University, College of Law. All students are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Please submit articles or comments to Box 577 or to the SBA office on the 2nd floor.

The views or claims expressed in THE DOCKET are those of the author/advertiser and are not necessarily those of THE DOCKET, its staff, the College of Law or Georgia State University

Openings at The Docket

Applications for the following positions will be accepted through Wednesday, February 7:

Features Editor
Opinions Editor
Faculty Liaison
Student Organizations Editor

All students are encouraged to apply by responding to "THE DOCKET" at Box 577.

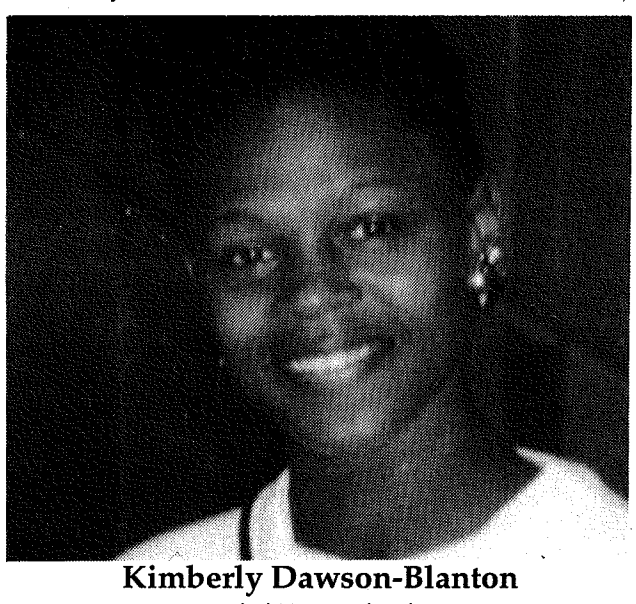
Law Student Remembered

As many of you know, we began this semester with the loss of a dear friend, fellow student and beautiful soul--Kimberly Dawson-Blanton. Kimberly, who suffered from schleraderma, passed on Sunday, December 31, 1995. She will be missed by all of us who had the great fortune of knowing her.

Kimberly began her law school career in the Fall of 1994 and immediately got involved. She was a SBA representative for her first-year class and ascended to Secretary in her second year. More importantly, she was an individual that genuinely cared about others and sought to serve others in whatever capacity she could get involved in. Professor Curcio aptly described Kimberly as a great person of dignity and conviction. I will truly miss her. She touched my soul as she did so many here at this law school.

The following poem best states what so many of us feel about the loss of Kimberly:

In Memory of our Beloved
(author unknown)
Several days ago, God saw you were getting weary,
So he did what He thought was best
He came and stood beside you and whispered
"My Child Come and Rest"
You told no one a last farewell
Not even a last good-bye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why
We've lost someone we loved and our
grief is hard to hide,
For we saw how you suffered so, and the hurt that was deep
inside.
Lord, put your arms around her and
treat her with special care,
Make up for all she suffered and all that seemed unfair,
For we loved her dearly, we miss her yet,
No matter how long we shall never forget
that she is no longer in our lives to share,
But deep in our hearts she will always be there
A golden heart has stopped beating as you lay there to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.



Kimberly Dawson-Blanton
12/4/69 - 12/31/95

Further, I am proud to be a part of a community that reached out in so many ways to help her and her family through this difficult period in her short-lived life. Each of you demonstrated that love knows no bounds and that life is a precious gift, especially as precious as Kimberly's.

Donations may be sent to (Please mark the "For" section of the check "Kimberly Dawson-Blanton"):
Schleroderma Federation
Peabody Office Building
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Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

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