



March 6, 2007

JMLS Student Newsletter No. 4

### Dean's Message

Great news is pouring in this week. First, congratulations to all the students on the ABA National Advocacy team and the ATLA Mock Trial competition! I know how much hard work went into both competitions and the students did an excellent job representing the rest of us. This is the kind of law school that should do especially well in advocacy contests, as well as client counseling and dispute resolution competitions. These teams established important standards for later teams to meet or exceed.

Congressman John Lewis has agreed to be our Commencement speaker on May 12, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. Even if you're not a member of the graduating class, you should attend, both to see friends graduate and to hear one of the remaining giants of the Civil Rights movement. <http://www.johnlewisforcongress.com/bio> <http://www.house.gov/johnlewis/index.shtml> His appearance will also call attention to the law school's mission and I'm sure he will encourage us to pursue it vigorously.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who attended the open meeting with the ABA site inspection team last Tuesday. The visitors were highly impressed with the turnout, with the articulate and well-informed students who spoke, and with your support for the law school and for its future. When their final report is written, that session with our students will be highlighted. As for what the team found when they were on campus, they were impressed with the faculty, of course, and with the new offices for career development and pro bono outreach & externships. They made a number of constructive comments and suggestions that we will implement. Frequently, the team's collegial advice, rather than just measuring us against minimum standards, is the best part of the process. So, thanks again for all that you did to help make the inspection successful.

Have a great week!

Dean Lynn

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*This week's announcements:*

- Summer 2007 Registration Information
- ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition Team
- JMLS Mock Trial Team Finishes Second!

- Externship Information Meetings
- Daylight Saving Time Reminder
- Truancy Intervention Project
- On Campus Interviews – Deadline March 7<sup>th</sup>!
- Lecture Series at GA State College of Law – Open to the Public
- Law Student Research Survey from UGA
- ABA Law Student Division National Student Directors Applications
- Pro Bono Opportunity for JMLS Student – State Emeritus Rules
- SBA News – Barrister’s Ball

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**Summer 2007 Registration**

Registration packets will be mailed this week. Please watch your mail for this important information!! Remember, if you have moved, it is your responsibility to ensure your address is up to date with the Registrar’s office!

Financial Aid and Parking renewal information will also be included in your registration packet.

Summer 2007 Registration Schedule:

Third-Year part-time students: March 12 - March 16, 2007  
 Second-Year part-time students: March 19 - March 21, 2007  
 Open Registration: March 22 - March 30, 2007

Drop/Add: May 14 - May 17, 2007  
 Drop/Add (One-Week Session): May 14, 2007

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**ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition Team**

Congratulations to Peter Acker, Roy Yunker and Marlene Zekser – members of JMLS’s ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition team – who competed in Brooklyn, New York this weekend. The team squared off against law school teams from Seton Hall (last year’s champion), University of Miami and Louisiana State University. The JMLS team beat both Miami and LSU at oral argument. The New York attorneys who judged us noted that we had an excellent style of presentation and knowledge of the facts and the law. Although we were not among the 16 teams to reach the semi-finals, at the end of the competition, we outranked at least 15 of the 34 teams, including teams from Penn State, St. Johns, Howard, Texas, University of Baltimore and The John Marshall Law School – Chicago. This year was JMLS's first foray into this competition.

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**JMLS Mock Trial Team Finishes Second!**

The John Marshall Law School Mock Trial team traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, this Thursday-Sunday where the team made an incredible showing. After the final tally, they finished second out of sixteen talented teams, losing in a squeaker in Sunday's final round.

While the entire team consisted of 8 members (Tracee Benzo, Laurel Creek, Eric Dec, Michael Holmes, Bert Hopkins, Dajari Patterson, Paul Sieg, and David Willingham), the traveling/competing members who went to Indianapolis were: Benzo, Dec, Holmes and Willingham (2 day students, 2 night students).

In the first round, our team (Benzo and Willingham) defeated Notre Dame. In the second round, John Marshall (Dec and Holmes) defeated the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In the third round, we (Dec and Holmes) defeated the University of Southern Illinois.

As one of three teams that were undefeated (3-0) after three rounds, we qualified for the semi-final round. In fact, John Marshall entered the semi-final round as the top seeded team (on both numerical scores and win-loss record).

In the semi-final round, the John Marshall team (Benzo and Willingham) faced and defeated the University of Indiana. Based on the first four rounds, we entered the final round in first place. Unfortunately, we were defeated, by a hair, in the final round. Although the three judges scored the round a tie on points, (76 to 76), 2 judges chose our competitor, a team from Valparaiso, as the winner of the entire competition. Only one judge chose our team as the best.

I cannot express how proud I am of our team's performance. Each of our competitors showed amazing skill and talent. More importantly, they conducted themselves with professionalism, the highest of ethical standards, poise and grace. All judges who evaluated the competitors were incredibly complimentary. I can attest that their success rested on the many days, late nights, and weekends during which they spent hour after hour preparing. Their success also rested on the strong support they received from the non-traveling members who challenged them, pushed them, critiqued them and urged them on, and on special guidance the team received from former team member Ted Cassert and from Professors deHaven and Tripp.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the whole team. While they are disappointed that they did not win, they really did our school proud!!!! -- Professor Wilson

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**Externship Information Meetings**

Monday, March 12th  
2:35p.m and 5:30 p.m.  
Room 703

If you are interested in an externship for Spring or Fall Semester, please plan to attend one of these MANDATORY sessions. If you cannot attend or have questions, please contact the Director of Pro Bono Outreach and Externships, Prof. Renata Turner at (404) 872-3593 ext. 251 or [rturner@johnmarshall.edu](mailto:rturner@johnmarshall.edu).

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**Daylight Saving Time – Reminder**

Don't forget – this year we move our clocks ahead by one hour at 2:00a.m. on Sunday, March 11, 2007.

Ever wonder *why* we change our clocks in the Spring and Fall?? Check out this website for all the information on Daylight Savings Time, including the history, incidents and anecdotes of Daylight Saving Time. <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/index.html>

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### **Truancy Intervention Project**

Here's A TIP: Volunteer To Help A Future Law Student

The Truancy Intervention Project ("TIP") was developed in 1991 to provide an early, positive intervention with children reported as truants. Volunteers from all walks of life are needed to make a difference in the lives of children in urgent need. Volunteers work one on one with children, as advocates both inside and outside the courtroom and as role models to children on the brink of school failure. If you are interested in becoming a TIP volunteer, the next training will be held on Friday, March 16, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You may register by calling (404) 224-4741 or visiting the website at [www.truancyproject.org](http://www.truancyproject.org). For more information contact Professor Turner at ext. 251.

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### **\*\*ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS\*\***

Employer: **First Financial Asset Management**

Interviewing: **Third years**

Position: Staff Attorney (perm/after graduation)

Description: FFAM is a rapidly growing company in two fields of the debt collection business. FFAM acts as a collection agent for a national group of clients. An associated company (FFPM) is one of the largest and fastest growing debt purchasing companies in the world. Both businesses require the application of negotiating skills and drafting acumen.

The successful candidate will be working directly with and for the General Counsel of the company, Thomas R. Slaughter. Tom has been an attorney in corporate and in private practice since 1965. He has been practicing in this specific area of debt buying and collection exclusively for the last twenty years.

The specific areas of the law to be addressed:

- **Contract negotiation and drafting**
- **Federal and state fair debt collection acts**
- **Responding to federal and state regulating agencies**
- **Directing attorneys nation wide in litigating against debtors**
- **Directing organizations that service probate and bankruptcy matters**
- **Appearance in local small claims courts**
- **Assisting insurance company attorneys in defending the company**

**Requirements:** Third year law student or recent graduate, planning to take bar exam within one year. They are looking for flexible individuals ready to work in fast moving informal conditions. Background in collection industry a plus.

**Salary:** Mid range for new Graduates

**RESUME DEADLINE:** March 7, 2007 (Please submit your resume to the Career Development Office by NOON)

**ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW DATE:** TBA

**Please contact the Director of Career Development for more information (404)872-3593 ext. 254.**

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**LECTURE SERIES AT GA STATE COLLEGE OF LAW**

Georgia State College of Law's Center for Law, Health & Society is hosting a lecture on "'Racially-Tailored' Medicine: 'Troubled History, Current Controversy'" on Wednesday, March 14 at 4:00 in Room 170 of the law school located at 140 Decatur Street. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Prof. Turner at extension 251.

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**LAW STUDENT RESEARCH SURVEY**

You are invited to participate in a research study titled "Law Student Interviewing Experiences 2007" conducted by James Bason, Ph.D., Director and Associate Research Scientist; 706-542-9082, [jbason@uga.edu](mailto:jbason@uga.edu)), on behalf of Ann Puckett, Professor of Law at the University of Georgia Law School.

The purpose of this research study is to examine how both interviewers and interviewees approach questions about disability. Students with or without disabilities at any stage of their law school careers are invited to participate if, while law students, they interviewed for a full time job (including summer associate jobs) in a position requiring legal training.

If you should choose to participate in this study, you will complete an **online survey** that includes basic demographic questions and questions regarding your interviewing experiences and questions about disabilities.

Completion of the survey is expected to take approximately 10 minutes. Please note that Internet communications are insecure and there is a limit to the confidentiality that can be guaranteed due to the technology itself. However, any information that is obtained in connection with this study will remain completely anonymous and no participant will be individually identified. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may withdraw at any time without penalty, or skip any questions you feel uncomfortable answering. There is no more than minimal risk anticipated with participation in this study, and there is expected to be no tangible benefit for you as a result of participation in this study.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask now or at a later date. You may contact James J. Bason, Director and Associate Research Scientist at 706-542-9082 or [jbason@uga.edu](mailto:jbason@uga.edu).

Thank you for the invaluable help that you are providing by participating in this research study. It is expected the results of this study will be presented at a conference on disability in the legal profession in September, 2007, at Emory University.

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <http://src.ibr.uga.edu/surveys/law/intro.htm>

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**ABA Law Student Division National Student Directors Applications**

The ABA Law Student Division is now taking applications for National Student Directors for each of the Division's four national competitions:

1. Arbitration Competition
2. Client Counseling Competition
3. National Appellate Advocacy Competition
4. Negotiation Competition

Previous competitors or students serving on their school's moot court board are perfect candidates for the 2007-08 Competitions National Student Director positions. Please forward this message on to your school's competitors and moot court board.

Applications for these appointed leadership positions can be found on the ABA website and are due by March 15, 2007. The leadership position begins August 1, 2007 and ends July 31, 2008.

The four Competitions National Student Directors serve on the Competitions Committee with legal practitioners and law professors. They are responsible for providing the student perspective and are involved with editing competition rules. Other Competitions National Student Director duties include:

1. Attending the Competitions Committee Meeting in Chicago in September.
2. Contributing to the planning and execution of the Subcommittee's goals.
3. Attending the competition finals.
4. Promoting the competition to schools across the country.
5. Submitting information describing the competition to the Student Lawyer Student Editor.

Please visit the ABA websites below for information and the application.

General Information: <http://www.abanet.org/lzd/elections/home.html#nsd>

Application: <http://www.abanet.org/lzd/elections/applications/liaison-nsd.pdf>

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**PRO BONO RESEARCH PROJECT**

The State Bar of Georgia Access to Justice Committee is looking for a law student to do a pro bono research project on the various Emeritus Rules for lawyers in other states. The student's work will be present to the Commission on Civil Justice appointed by Justice Leah Ward Sears. It would be great exposure for a student and JMLS.

The State Bar of Georgia Access to Justice Committee is entrusted with oversight of pro bono and legal aid policy for the State Bar. Mindful of the anticipated increase in the number of attorneys reaching traditional retirement age, and hoping to promote rules that will encourage that population to participate in pro bono work during and after the active practice of law, the Committee asks for assistance through legal research and scholarship to help determine the Committee's position on possible changes to the Pro Bono Emeritus Rules.

The current State Bar Emeritus Members provisions, Bar Rules 1-502 (Dues) and 1-202(d) (Emeritus) were added in 1995. The Committee has learned that other Bar Associations throughout

America have considered and adopted a variety of rules and approaches to the question of how to promote pro bono work from emeritus lawyers, and seeks a full compilation of that information. Moreover, the Committee asks that after due consideration of the information gathered that the author suggest and even draft recommendations for consideration by the Committee and, ultimately, by the Commission on Civil Justice that has been appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

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**SBA News**

THE BARRISTERS' BALL (aka Law School Prom)

March 10, 2007

The Fabulous Fox Theatre Egyptian Ballroom

8:00pm until 12:00am

Each year, the officers of the John Marshall SBA host the Barristers' Ball, creating an opportunity for friends and significant others to join with law students, faculty, and staff, dress up, and spend an elegant evening dancing and enjoying each other's company. So, mark your calendars and dust off those tuxes! The Barristers' Ball will be held March 10, 2007 at the Fox Theater's Egyptian Ballroom from 8pm until 12am. The Breakfast Club will provide the retro sounds of the 80's for your enjoyment and dancing pleasure. Also, there will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar (with your first four drinks being on the SBA, of course!). So, if your tux is a little snug, don't fret. Dress is black-tie optional. Put on your best interview suit and come on down. A good time will be had by all!

Five Simple Rules For Enjoying The Barristers' Ball

- 1) If you want to go, buy your date's ticket early as they may sell out.
- 2) It is more formal than a regular party, but you don't have to wear a tux. If something is called a "ball," attending in casual clothes is inappropriate.
- 3) Though a date is not required, this can be a good opportunity to introduce someone you're dating who's not in the law school to many of your friends and acquaintances at once -- and more to the point, to introduce them to your non-barrister significant other, so "The Loudmouth in Contracts" and "The Guy Who Saved My Torts Grade" will have faces matched to their descriptions.
- 4) Remember, YOUR behavior reflects upon OUR school!
- 5) Have fun!

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