

WALTER F. GEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW

Measures of Mercer

Law and Public Service Program

Answering the Lawyer's Call to Public Service

Mercer
MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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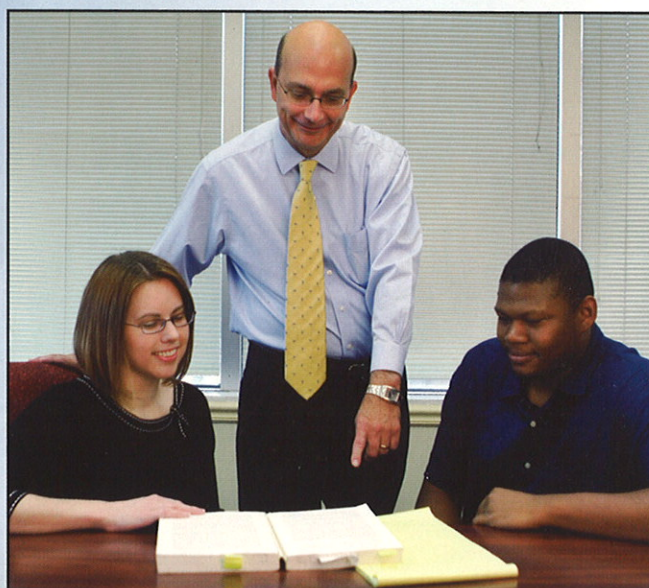
Integrity, character, and service to the community...

At Mercer, we recognize a lawyer's calling includes a call to public service.

We believe integrity and character are found in the service we offer our fellow citizens and community. The Law and Public Service Program at Mercer offers you many opportunities to begin living that ideal.

You can become part of the Mercer legacy of service at the Walter F. George School of Law. Since 1873, Mercer lawyers have mastered their craft and made an enduring commitment to service and the highest standards of professional conduct.

Comprehensive and designed to develop and inspire a public service ethic in our students, the Law and Public Service (LPS) Program continues this proud tradition. Through experiential learning you will earn credit while doing real casework, enhance your skills, and come to a deeper understanding of the practice of law in service to the public.



Current Pro Bono and Practicum Partners include:

The ACLU of Georgia

Court Appointed Special Advocates

District Attorney's Offices throughout the state

Georgia Advocacy (and Bibb Citizen Advocacy)

Georgia Appleseed

The Georgia Justice Project

Georgia Legal Services Program

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council

Office of the Georgia Capital Defender

Public Defender's Offices throughout the state

Southern Center for Human Rights

Superior, State, Juvenile and Probate
Court judges throughout the state

The U.S. Attorney, Middle and
Northern Districts of Georgia

JAG Robins Air Force Base

Pro Bono

LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM OFFERINGS: CLINICAL COURSES, PRACTICUM PLAC

The LPS Program is open to all students, and encourages a special understanding of a lawyer's obligation to engage in public service. The Program provides numerous opportunities to be of service to underrepresented persons and groups.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration with other Mercer students, you develop an appreciation for the broad reach of the law. By close collaboration with some of the finest attorneys and legal minds in the country, you build a valuable network of contacts and references for life and career.

You will also gain:

- practical insights into the legal process
- the writing, debate, analysis, and research skills that are the mark of an excellent lawyer
- summer and post-graduate employment opportunities
- financial support (for qualifying students and graduates)
- the distinction of being a part of Mercer's long-honored history of public service
- opportunities to serve and develop relationships with clients
- the chance to appear in court



The Habeas Project

This clinical course is the only effort in Georgia to provide pro bono representation in non-capital state post-conviction matters. Working closely with faculty, you will argue essential questions of constitutional criminal law on your client's behalf, prepare and file briefs, and provide counsel to prisoners in the Georgia penal system.

The Public Defender Criminal Defense Clinic

You will be sworn in under the Third-Year Practice Act, and be able to appear in court to assist in the defense of felony and juvenile cases. Classroom sessions provide opportunities to discuss ethics, professionalism, and fundamental criminal law issues.

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"In the Habeas Project, I drafted an amicus brief that we filed in the Georgia Supreme Court in support of a pro se defendant. Time to file had run out, and the habeas court would not grant him the right to an appeal. So he took it to the Georgia Supreme Court. Thankfully, we were successful, and so I will be helping him at his habeas hearing to convince the court to reinstate his appeal."



—Laura Harper

CLASS OF 2007,
GEORGE WOODRUFF AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE RECIPIENT,
MERCER LAW REVIEW EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER,
MOOT COURT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

BRIEF

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"As a student in the Public Defender Clinic, I am meeting clients, representing them, and bringing them a degree of attention that would not be possible for a staff attorney. Every aspect of a public defender's job, from jailhouse interviews through habeas appeal, is now within my ambit during my school day."



—Matt Butler

CLASS OF 2007,
LEGAL AID VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION,
PUBLIC DEFENDER REPRESENTATIVE

BRIEF

CEMENTS, AND PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Public Interest Practicum

Working in an approved non-profit public interest or governmental office, you will gain practical work experience. In addition to casework, you will engage in weekly journal writing to encourage reflective learning. A faculty supervisor leads weekly classroom discussions on topics such as:

- experiential and observatory learning
- conflicts of interest and confidentiality
- stories of lawyer “heroes”
- finding meaning and satisfaction in law practice
- work/life balance issues and dealing with stress

Public Interest Practicum/ Judicial Field Placement

One section of Public Interest Practicum each spring semester is comprised of students who are working for judges. These students perform research and writing assignments, and are expected to attend hearings, trials, and other proceedings. Each student keeps a contemporaneous journal of his/her experiences. The journal's contents are edited to maintain confidences and to otherwise comply with the student's ethical and professional obligation to the court.



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“I’m a 3L currently enrolled in the public interest practicum, working at the Bibb County DA’s office.



I like the hands-on policy they take towards us, in letting us observe everything in the various courtrooms and including us in pretty much everything they do. I like seeing how what we’re learning in law school really applies in the real world, and how the criminal justice system really works in practice—not just in theory like we read in statute books. I also like being able to work and interact with people like the witnesses we interview, detectives, and other people affected by and involved with the cases in which I’ve assisted.”

—Sally Marks
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Answer the highest calling of the legal profession

As you pursue the challenge of a legal career in service to the public, you can look forward to mentoring and support through the LPS program, including:

- assistance finding summer public service employment
- stipends during summer employment in a public service legal office
- loan repayment assistance for eligible graduates in full-time public service employment
- assistance in securing post-graduate fellowships in public interest law

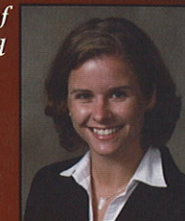
A variety of fellowships and three full-tuition scholarships are also available to students who demonstrate a commitment to public interest legal work.

Mercer students regularly receive summer fellowships with generous stipends at offices such as:

- Georgia Appleseed (working on systemic issues of social justice)
- Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest (environmental law)
- the Georgia Advocacy Office (representing persons with disabilities)
- the Georgia Innocence Project
- the Georgia Justice Project
- the Georgia Law Center for the Homeless

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“In the summer of 2005, I accepted the privilege of placement with the Georgia Law Center for the Homeless, through Mercer’s public interest grant program. I was able to supply everyday necessities and helped solve some of the causes of homelessness.



“Then in 2006, I was placed with a domestic and sexual violence and outreach/advocacy organization through HODAC. I got experience maintaining contacts, interviewing witnesses, drafting, filing for divorce, and working through custody issues for individuals with violent family histories. I did the work of a lawyer rather than a research assistant.

“Only through these placements could I have gained the insight and experience that I have. I’ve been afforded the opportunity to use my legal education to aid those who need legal help the most, but cannot afford the luxury of an attorney.”

—Amanda Kent
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Law and Public Service Program Faculty



**TIM FLOYD,
PROFESSOR
AND DIRECTOR, LPS**

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Ph: (478) 301-2631

- J. Hadley Edgar Professor and Co-Director, Clinical Programs at Texas Tech University School of Law (1989-2004)
- Extensive experience in death penalty litigation
- Member: Supreme Court of Georgia Equal Justice Commission Civil Justice Committee
- National Advisory Committee of Equal Justice Works
- Chair: Georgia Council for Restorative Justice
- B.A./M.A., Emory University; J.D., University of Georgia; Editor-in-Chief of the *Georgia Law Review*



**SARAH
GERWIG-MOORE,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

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- Former Senior Appellate Supervising Attorney with Georgia Public Defender system
- Winner, State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division's *Commitment to Justice* Award
- B.A., summa cum laude, Mercer University; J.D., Emory University; M.T.S., Emory University



**PATRICK LONGAN,
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS
BOOTLE CHAIR IN
ETHICS AND
PROFESSIONALISM**

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Ph: (478) 301-2639

- Developed award-winning first-year course "The Legal Profession"
- Teaches the Judicial Field Placement section of Public Interest Practicum
- A.B., Washington University; J.D., University of Chicago; M.A., University of Sussex

For program information, contact:

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www.law.mercer.edu/academics/service

If you would like more information regarding Mercer Law School, please contact the admissions office at:

TEL: (800) MERCERU, EXT. 2605
LOCAL: (478) 301-2605
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.LAW.MERCER.EDU

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WALTER F. GEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

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