

# Mercer Law Review

---

Volume 50  
Number 1 *Annual Survey of Georgia Law*

Article 2

---

12-1998

## Here's to 50 More!

R. Lawrence Dessem

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.law.mercer.edu/jour\\_mlr](https://digitalcommons.law.mercer.edu/jour_mlr)

---

### Recommended Citation

Dessem, R. Lawrence (1998) "Here's to 50 More!," *Mercer Law Review*. Vol. 50 : No. 1 , Article 2.  
Available at: [https://digitalcommons.law.mercer.edu/jour\\_mlr/vol50/iss1/2](https://digitalcommons.law.mercer.edu/jour_mlr/vol50/iss1/2)

This Special Contribution is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Mercer Law School Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mercer Law Review by an authorized editor of Mercer Law School Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [repository@law.mercer.edu](mailto:repository@law.mercer.edu).

# **SPECIAL FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **Here's To 50 More!**

One of the congratulatory letters that I received upon being selected as Mercer's dean back in 1995 was from a friend who stated that, while he was not generally familiar with the Walter F. George School of Law, he knew that Mercer had an outstanding law school because of the conflicts of law symposium published by the Mercer Law Review in 1983 and 1984. A few years later, I was informed that, at the initial meeting of the American Bar Association Commission on Separation of Powers and Judicial Independence, an ABA staff member distributed copies of the Mercer Law Review's 1995 symposium issue on federal judicial independence. More recently, the Law Review's 1997 symposium on the independent counsel statute has become the starting point for serious discussion about the re-authorization of the federal independent counsel statute, as this statute is debated in Washington and across the country. I therefore am proud to join William Tyson and Charles Adams in saluting the fiftieth anniversary of the Mercer Law Review.

In his article "*Lest We Forget: The History of Mercer Law Review*", Charles Adams very deftly describes the Law Review's founding and its growth and development over the past fifty years. The editorial board members mentioned in his article read like a *Who's Who* of outstanding Law School alumni. Over the past fifty years, the men and women who

have served on the Mercer Law Review have more than realized the hopes and dreams of individuals such as Dean Hodge O'Neal, Professor James Quarles, and students Bill Tyson and Frank Jones, who were, literally, "present at the creation" of the Mercer Law Review.

The Mercer Law Review is an indispensable part of the Walter F. George School of Law for several reasons. First of all, as any who have served on the Law Review can attest, membership entails a great deal of hard work. While the hours are long, this work is excellent preparation for the practice of law. As is the case in legal practice, there are no time clocks to punch in the Law Review office. Instead, students do as much work as is necessary to produce an outstanding review. There is no substitute for this hard work, for the essential attention to detail, or for the conscientiousness and dedication that outstanding law review service—and legal practice—demand. Service on the Law Review also requires a real team effort, which is essential to any successful legal practice. In addition, successive editors and members of the Law Review have set an extremely high standard of excellence for those who follow. All students are expected to give their very best, and they respond in kind.

The publication of the *Mercer Law Review* is also one important way in which the Law School serves the legal profession and works to maintain and strengthen the ties between the Law School and the bench and the bar. The Law Review has been known since 1950 for its *Annual Survey of Georgia Law*, a project that was the brainchild of Frank Jones and that was brought into existence by Bob Hicks, the first *Georgia Survey* editor. The *Georgia Survey* has become an indispensable resource for not only judges and lawyers within Georgia, but also for others who need to understand Georgia law. More recently, the Law Review has added its *Annual Eleventh Circuit Survey*, which contains the same helpful and straightforward survey of federal law for which the *Georgia Survey* has been known for so many years.

As is noted at the outset of this Article, the Mercer Law Review continues to serve as an extremely important means of advancing the Law School's reputation in the world beyond Mercer. Outstanding judges, lawyers, and law professors have graced the pages of the *Law Review* with their writings over the years, and these articles have been read, cited, and relied upon by individuals across the nation. The annual Law Review symposium, too, has brought outstanding judges and lawyers to the Law School, so that students, faculty, and others are able to enjoy "live" symposia even before they have been published in hard copy in the *Law Review* or posted electronically on the Review's web page.

Finally, the Mercer Law Review is an extremely important way by which significant traditions of the Law School and of the profession are passed from one generation to the next. The Law Review's 1983 and 1984 choice of law symposium was reprised in a 1996 Law Review symposium. At this symposium, Professor David Currie and others discussed and debated the choice of law theories of Professor Brainerd Currie, one of the Law School's best known graduates and professors. The recent independent counsel symposium included among its participants former Attorney General Griffin Bell, who recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation from the Law School. It is important that our current students hear from, and about, those who have gone before them at the Law School and within the profession. The Law Review provides one of the important links by which such traditions are passed to the newest generations of law students.

The Mercer Law Review has set a standard of excellence that will be hard for future generations of student editors to match. However, building upon the traditions established by prior members of the Law Review, I am confident that the students of today and of the future will rise to this challenge. Here's to fifty more years of the Mercer Law Review!

R. Lawrence Dessem  
Dean, Walter F. George School of Law

