

ROY M. SOBELSON
PROFESSOR OF LAW, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW
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EDUCATION:

LL.M., 1982	Temple University School of Law Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Freedman Fellow in Clinical Legal Education
J.D., 1976	University of Georgia School of Law Athens, Georgia Cum Laude Graduate Dean's List (all quarters)
B.A., 1972	Emory University Atlanta, Georgia Dean's List All Quarters Honors Graduate

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE:

Volunteer work on Fulton County Jail Project (interviewing prisoners to resolve issues such as failure to make timely release, etc.)(2005-2007).

Volunteer work for 1000 Lawyers for Justice (handling misdemeanor and felony cases in Fulton County)(1993-1994).

Special Assistant General Counsel for State Bar of Georgia (handling disciplinary cases against Georgia lawyers in the Supreme Court of Georgia. Participated in all phases of trials before Special Masters, including discovery and trial, as well as appeals to the Supreme Court.) (1993-1994).

Supervising attorney for cases handled by students in Temple University Legal Aid office (Domestic, personal injury, housing, Social Security, etc.) (1980-1982).

Managing Attorney, Brunswick Regional Office of Georgia Legal Services Programs (1978-1980).

Juvenile and Family law program specialist for Georgia Legal Services Programs (1978-1980). Assisted staff attorneys statewide in areas of divorce, adoption, juvenile law, and habeas corpus. Served as appellate counsel in several cases, including one of my own cases which went to the United States Supreme Court. (Webb v. Webb, 451

U.S. 493) (Grant of writ of certiorari in Webb occurred after I left Georgia Legal Services. I then co-authored briefs, and participated in oral arguments, etc. while in Temple Graduate Fellow program.)

Staff Attorney for Brunswick Regional GLSP office (1976-1978).

BAR ADMISSIONS:

GEORGIA (all courts) (1976)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA (1976)

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS, FIFTH CIRCUIT (1977)

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT (1980)

PENNSYLVANIA (provisional only for supervisory purposes, 1980)

LAW SCHOOL TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF LAW (1985-PRESENT)

Current or past teaching assignments in the College of Law include: Professional Responsibility; Evidence; Civil Procedure I and II; Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation.

Served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs from 1989 to 1990 and 2006 to present and as Associate Dean for Student Affairs from 2004 to 2006.

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Adjunct teaching Evidence and Civil Procedure I and II several semesters, (starting in 1990, most recently in Fall and Spring of 2006-2007).

Interim Director of the Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques, 2001-2002.

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (1982-1985)

Taught Civil Procedure I and II, Juvenile Law, Family law, Professional Responsibility, Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (1980-1982)

As Abraham L. Freedman Fellow and Lecturer in Law, taught courses in Legal Research and Writing, Civil Trial Advocacy, and Lawyering Process. Also collaborated with tenured full Professors in teaching Evidence, Property, and Civil Procedure. Also served as Instructor and Supervisor of law students working in the Temple University Legal Aid Clinic.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, OTHER TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE:

“The Ethical Propriety of Mining For Evidence on Social Networking Sites,” presentation to Georgia Public Defense Standards Council, July 2009.

Panelist on State Bar of Georgia program on pro bono, Summer 2007.

Presenter of commentary on ACC v. Page, Scrantom (Columbus breach of fiduciary duty case now on appeal to Georgia Court of Appeals) before the International Association of Defense Counsel, June 2006

Moderator of Discussion with Lobbyist/Lawyers for the Fulton County Daily Report (InPractice: Ethics in Lobbying), December 20, 2004.

Presenter on Crawford v. Washington to Younger Lawyer Section of State Bar of Georgia (November 2004)

Panel presenter on Academic Integrity in Law Schools, Conference on Academic Integrity (2004, Kansas State University)

Presenter to Public Defenders of Washington and Idaho on “The Ten Top Ways You Can Use the Federal Rules of Evidence to Help Your Client” (August 2004)

Presenter to Public Defenders of Washington and Idaho on “Ethics in Litigation.” (August 2004)

“Ten Ways You Can Be a Star...But Risk Your Standing at the Bar,” at Evidence and Ethics CLE program with Paul Milich and John Marshall (March 2004)

Faculty advisor and coach for Georgia State’s ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition Team, 1999 (Semi-Finalist), 2000 (Finalist), 2001, 2004.

Presentation on Professionalism by Administrative Law Judges, October 1999.

Presenter of “The Top Top Statements that May Make You Wish You Were a Law Professor,” at Auto Torts Seminar of the South Carolina Bar Association, Atlanta (December 1998).

Presenter at “Ethical Billing Practices,” Atlanta Bar Association (May 1998).

Presenter of “The Ten Degrees of Separation: Ten Ways to Get Yourself Disqualified, Disciplined, or Disgorged” at conference on “Current Issues in Federal Litigation,” Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (May 1998).

Presenter of “Silent Alarm” Professionalism CLE program for Nurse Attorneys Association, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, and other organizations.

Presenter of “The Challenges of In-House Counsel at Homewares Corporation, USA” at CLE program for American Corporate Counsel Association and law firms.

Speaker on Ethics and Lawyer Discipline, Lamar Inn of Court, March 1996.

Moderator of online Discussion List on Georgia law of Legal Ethics and Malpractice, Lexis Counsel Connect (1995-present).

Panel member, 1995 Vance Forum sponsored by Federal Bar Association.

Presenter of “Silent Alarm” Professionalism CLE program at numerous ICLE conferences (Rome and Milledgeville presentations to State Bar of Georgia members; Orlando and Atlanta presentations to Florida Bar and South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association)., for Nurse Attorneys Association, and for individual law firms and Town Hall meetings.

Faculty advisor and coach for NACDL Mock Trial Competition Team in 1994 (Winners of National Championship), 1995 (5th Place Nationally) -- 2001.

Faculty advisor and coach for BALSAs Southern Region Mock Trial Competition Team, 2002 (Champions), 2006.

Panel Member, Law and Media Conference (November 1994, March 1996).

Speaker on Professionalism, Motion Practice ICLE program (February 1994).

Special Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Georgia (March 1993-present).

Designer, author and moderator of Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Fall Ethics Program (October 1992).

Instructor, Kessler-Eidson Emory Trial Techniques Program (May 1992 - May 2001; 2003 - present).

Co-director, Instructor and co-author of materials for Georgia Institute of Trial Advocacy Introductory program (Athens, Georgia 1992- 1998).

Instructor, Atlanta College of Trial Advocacy, 1993 and 1994.

Panelist, Annual Malpractice and Ethics Seminar with Jeffrey Smith (December, 1990 and 1991).

Speaker, program on legal advertising and Formal Advisory Opinion Board (Mercer Law School, December 1991).

Panelist, Professionalism and Ethics program of DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (Decatur, November 1991).

Panel member, Professionalism Program at ICLE/Atlanta Bar program for solo practitioners (March 1991).

Speaker and Program Chair, ICLE program "Interviewing and Counseling Clients Professionally" (February 1991).

Speaker and Program Chair, ICLE program "Interviewing and Counseling Clients Professionally" (Albany, November 1990).

Speaker and panelist, American Law Institute/American Bar Association Program, "The New Model Rules in a Changing Legal Profession" (October 1990).

Speaker, "Prevention of Legal Malpractice," CLE program (October 1990).

Instructor for Georgia State University's Center for Continuing Legal Education. Designed and conducted programs dealing with Georgia ethics rules, trust accounts, conflicts of interest, legal advertising, and ethical issues in civil trial advocacy (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990).

Speaker, "Ethical Issues in Civil Trial Advocacy," Institute for Continuing Legal Education (April 1988).

Faculty member, National Institute of Trial Advocacy (Philadelphia, several sessions since 1981); Assistant Team Leader (Philadelphia, March and June, 1988).

Designed and conducted Continuing Legal Education Seminars for Hansell Post in 1986 and 1987, dealing with advertising and conflicts of interest in the representation of corporate clients.

Instructor for Oklahoma City University Continuing Legal Education Program in Juvenile Law (1984-1985).

Instructor for Temple University Continuing Legal Education Program in Trial Advocacy (1981 and 1982).

Developed and presented numerous training programs for Georgia Legal Services Programs, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, and Legal Services Corporation.

Materials covered included the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, adoption, management and skills techniques training, professionalism etc. (1976-1980, 1991).

Taught English as a foreign language in the Peace Corps/Iran in 1972.

COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Member, Atlanta Bar Association Reputation and Public Trust Committee

Reporter, Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Legal Education (2007-2008)

Member, Board of Directors, Georgia Innocence Project (2002-2006)

Atlanta Legal Aid Annual Fund Campaign, GSU Co-Chair (2003-2006)

Volunteer Hearing Officer, State Bar of Georgia Fee Arbitration Program (2003 – present)

Georgia Supreme Court Special Master on Disciplinary cases (2004)

Reporter and Ex-officio member for Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Evaluation of Disciplinary Enforcement (February 1995-September 1996, at which time the final report was formally presented to the Supreme Court).

Member, Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Long Range Planning Committee (1994-present).

Member, Atlanta Bar Association Committee for Law Students (1994-1996).

Member and/or advisor, Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (1990-present).

Member, State Bar of Georgia Formal Advisory Opinion Board (1985-1993, 2005-present).

Ex-Officio member, State Bar of Georgia Formal Advisory Opinion Board (1993-1994).

Member (or ex-officio), State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (1986-present).

Member, Committee to Evaluate Application for Certification of Fitness to Practice Law (1992-present).

One of co-founders of One Thousand Lawyers for Justice, volunteer effort to recruit non-criminal lawyers to represent indigent criminal defendants in Fulton County

(also acting as trainer and volunteer lawyer)(1991-present).

Member, Host Committee for 20th Anniversary of Georgia Legal Services Programs.

Volunteer Reader, Fifth Grade Discovery Class, Avondale Elementary School and Magnet School for the Performing Arts (1990, 1991).

Coordinator, Mentor Program jointly sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia and the Atlanta Jewish Federation.

Member, Lawyers Leadership Giving Society of the Atlanta Jewish Federation.

Member, State Bar of Georgia, Law School Subcommittee: Professionalism in the Law School (1988, 1989).

Member of planning committee, and speaker, for program by the Atlanta Bar Association on domestic violence (1988).

Member, State Bar of Georgia Code of Professional Responsibility Committee (studied Model Rules of Professional Conduct for adoption by State Bar of Georgia) (1985-1988).

College of Law Hunger Walk Representative (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994).

Member, Board of Trustees of State Bar of Georgia Clients' Security Fund (1987-1990).

Vice-President, Kehillat Chaim Synagogue, Roswell, Georgia (1988, 1989).
Member, Board of Trustees (1987-1988, 1991).

Chair of Legal Affairs Committee and Nominating Committee, Kehillat Chaim Synagogue, Roswell, Georgia (1994-present).

Fellow of the Georgia Bar Foundation (1987-present).

Chair, ACLU/Oklahoma Reorganization Task Force (1984).

PUBLICATIONS:

"Now That's Progress! What'll You Do Next?", The Atlanta Lawyer (April 2010), reprinted in Georgia Bar Journal, Vol. 15, no. 7 (June 2010).

"Legal Ethics," 56 Mercer L. Rev. 315 (Fall 2004) (annual review of developments in Georgia legal ethics)

"Legal Ethics," 51 Mercer L. Rev. 353 (Fall 1999) (annual review of developments in Georgia legal ethics).

"Legal Ethics," 48 Mercer L. Rev. 387 (Fall 1996) (annual review of developments in Georgia legal ethics).

"Marketing Your Law Practice in the 90's", contribution to booklet published by the Small Firm/Solo Practitioner Section of the Atlanta Bar Association, May 1996.

"The Challenges of In-House Counsel at HomeWares Corporation, USA." This is a video project commissioned by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. The materials include: (i) a videotape of several consecutive vignettes from one case; (ii) a participant's manual; and (iii) a Teacher's manual. I had a large role in developing and writing the problem and screenplay, a small role in the actual production and supervision of the videotape, and the only role as author of both manuals. Published by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism in February 1996.

"The Case of the Silent Alarm (GT Construction Company, Inc. v. the Sentry Company, Inc.): A Study in Professionalism." Similar to the materials listed above, but this one deals with problems confronting all private practitioners, rather than merely in-house counsel.

"Legal Ethics," 45 Mercer Law Review 287 (Fall 1993)(annual review of developments in Georgia legal ethics).

"Legal Ethics," 44 Mercer Law Review 281 (Fall 1992)(annual review of developments in Georgia legal ethics).

Problems for Professionalism Orientation Program given to incoming law students at Georgia State, University of Georgia, Emory and Mercer law schools in the Fall of 1993-present.

"Professionalism Page" in May 1991 issue of the Georgia State Bar Journal.

"Interviewing Clients Ethically," 37 The Practical Lawyer 13 (January 1991). Portions of this article are now reproduced in an ALI-ABA manual on law practice and as part of "The Audio Lawyer," ALI-ABA tapes for practitioners.

Materials for ALI-ABA program on "The New Model Rules in a Changing Legal Profession," (October 1990).

Materials for CLE programs on "Interviewing and Counseling Clients Professionally," (November 1990).

"Narrowing the Gap- Hither How? GSU's Response to the Task Force Report,"

26 Georgia State Bar Journal 164, 171 (May 1990)(one of several contributors).

"The Ethics of Advertising by Georgia Lawyers: Survey and Analysis," 6 Georgia State University Law Review 23 (1989).

"Lawyers, Clients and Assurances of Confidentiality: Lawyers Talking Without Speaking, Clients Hearing Without Listening," 1 Geo.J. of Legal Ethics 703 (1988).

"Ethical Issues in Civil Trial Advocacy," Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia (April 1988).

"1987 Georgia Legal Ethics Seminar: Conflicts of Interest" (materials published by the Center for Continuing Legal Education, College of Law, Georgia State University) on conflicts of interest in the representation of corporate clients (December 1987).

"Trust Account Rules for Georgia Lawyers." Georgia State Bar Journal (August 1987).

Editorial for Atlanta Journal/Constitution dealing with new IOLTA program (March 28, 1987)

Editorial on district attorneys' participation in selecting statewide public defenders, March 26, 2004. (attributed to Sobeson (sic)).

"1986 Georgia Legal Ethics Seminar" (materials published by the Center for continuing Legal Education, College of Law, Georgia State University). Topics covered are a general introduction to Georgia's ethical rules (including proposed new rules based on the Model Rules of Professional Conduct), conflicts of interest, imputed disqualification of associates, and current law on restrictions in law firm marketing (November 1986).

"Georgia Legal Ethics: Trust Accounts" (published by the Center for Continuing Legal Education, College of Law, Georgia State University)(May 1986).

"Legal Ethics Update," quarterly ethics column for Georgia State College of Law Law Letter (various topics, such as new rules of ethics, rules on confidentiality, etc.).

Materials (outline of discussion) for continuing legal education program on family and juvenile law (1984).

"Termination of Parental Rights after Lassiter: Ignoring Complexity and Protecting the Best Interests of Psychological Parents," 16 University of Richmond Law Review 731 (1982).

SCHOLASTIC AWARDS, RECOGNITION, ETC.:

Outstanding Professor of Georgia State University College of Law, 1996-1997.

Chosen by College of Law Graduates as Hooder/Presenter for Graduation on several occasions, most recently Spring 2007.

Who's Who in American Law, 1980.

Graduated Cum Laude, University of Georgia School of Law (1976).

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Georgia.

Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society, Emory University.

Jessup International Moot Court Team, Honorable Mention, Best Oralist, Southeastern Region (1975). Team advisor, 1976.

Recipient, 1975 Am. Jur. Award (Commercial Paper).

Order of Barristers.

Fellow, Georgia Bar Foundation.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:

Acted as expert witness and/or consultant in various cases with issues on matters such as the use of IRS 8300 forms and interference with the attorney client relationship, duty to supervise associates, malpractice in real estate closing, claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in death penalty case, duty of public defender to decline appointments due to excessive caseload, disqualification of prosecutor for unethical conduct in death penalty case, lawyer disqualification (of both public and private lawyers), conflicts of interest, representation of legal entities, and legal malpractice.

Ex-officio member, 25th Anniversary Planning Committee

Senator, Georgia State University Senate

Supervising Georgia State University College of Law Students in Fulton County Jail Project (2004-2005)

Parent graduation speaker, The Paideia School, Spring 2000

Chair, Georgia State University College of Law, Self Study Committee (for ABA evaluation), 1998-1999, 1999-2000; ex-officio member, 2005-2007.

Member, Board of Advisors for High School Mock Trial Competition, State Bar of Georgia, 1997-present.

Member, Recruitment Committee to select candidate for Lee Burge Chair in Law and Ethics, 1999-2000.

Judge, Quarter finals of RWA oral competition, Spring 1997, Spring 2001.

Judge for numerous practice rounds of argument by various moot court teams.

Interviewer of parents of prospective students at Paideia High School, 1996 - 2000.

Member, University Committee on Dispute Resolution.

Chair, College of Law Dean's Triennial Evaluation Committee (1994-1995).

Chair, College of Law Scholarships Committee (1994-1995).

Vice-Chair, College of Law Recruitment Committee (1994-1995).

Member, College of Law Continuing Legal Education Committee (1994-1995).

College of Law Honor Court Investigator (1994-1995).

Paideia School Mock Trial Competition Coach (1993-present)(finished second in region in 1994 and 1997, second in the state in 2001, and first in region in 2002).

Coach of Avondale Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind Team for Seventh Grade, Spring 1994.

Team Leader, First Annual Town Hall Meeting on Professionalism (Decatur, October 1992).

Group Discussion Leader and Moderator, Georgia's Annual Convocation on Professionalism (1988, 1990, 1991).

College of Law representative in Georgia State University Faculty Senate (1992-1993).

College of Law member on Georgia State University's Statutes and Bylaws, Budget, and Planning and Development Committees (2006)

Member, College of Law's Ad Hoc Faculty Teaching Committee (1991- ?).

Faculty advisor, GSU College of Law Student Street Law program (2006 –

present)

Faculty advisor, Jewish Law Students Association, Georgia State University College of Law (1991-1996).

Faculty advisor, Georgia State University College of Law Public Interest Law Association (1992-2004); member, Fellowship Applicant Review Committee (2006-2007).

Faculty advisor, Project to counsel the homeless through the Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Inc. (1991-1992).

Member of College of Law Faculty Grievance and Faculty Teaching Committees (1991-1992).

Co-chair of Financial Assistance Committee, College of Law (1991-1992)

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Role of Continuing Legal Education in the College of Law (Summer and Fall, 1990).

Faculty Member, Georgia State University College of Law Dean Search Committee (1990-1991).

Chair, Georgia State University Service Unit Climate Committee (part of University President's Task Force on Enrollment Management) (Fall 1990, Spring 1991).

Member, Student Affairs Committee, College of Law (1985-1986); Chair (1988-1989, 1990-1991, 1992-1993).

Chair of Faculty Committee which conducted Code of Student Conduct proceedings during summer (1988).

Member, Honor Code Revision Committee (1987, 1988).

Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a self study of the College of Law for ABA site visit (1987).

Speaker introducing first year Legal Methods students to the study of legal ethics (November 1987, September 1988).

Introductory program on briefing cases, presented to minority students in incoming class (August 1987).

Speaker and program designer, May 1986 and December 1986 presentation of

"Legal ethics: Trust accounts", Georgia State University Center for Continuing Legal Education.

Chair, Curriculum Committee, College of Law (1986-1987).

Legal advisor to hearing committee in case involving dismissal of tenured faculty member at Fort Valley State College (1986).

Graduate Council, University wide committee (1985-1986, 1992-1993).

Law school orientation speaker: "Effects of law school on a law student's family life;" "Introduction to Case Briefing;" "Introduction to the Court System," and Honor Code (1985, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992).

Planning committee for Georgia State University Continuing Legal Education Ethics programs (1985-1990).

Co-chair and panel member of First Annual Continuing Legal Education Program on Legal Ethics (1985).

Last updated August 25, 2010