

## 2017 Alumni Speaker—Robert E. Gordon, Jr.



Robert E. Gordon, Jr. is the Director of the Archway Partnership, a University of Georgia public service and outreach unit created to assist communities across the State of Georgia in addressing self-identified community and economic development priorities. He previously served as the Economic Development Manager for the Carl Vinson Institute of Government where he led initiatives that included the Institute of Government's Applied Demography Program, Tax and Expenditure Data Center, and Fiscal Analysis Program. He also holds Faculty status in UGA's School of Public and International Affairs where he regularly teaches graduate courses on public finance and economic development.

Prior to his appointment to the faculty of the University of Georgia, Rob practiced law for King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta, Georgia and then Troutman Sanders LLP in Richmond, Virginia. Rob received his J.D. degree, *with honors*, from The Georgia Washington University Law School and his bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Georgia.

## 2016 Alumni Speaker—Governor Roy Barnes

Described as a “lawyer’s lawyer” and recognized by the American College of Trial Lawyers as one of the top trial attorneys in the nation, Roy E. Barnes knew from a young age what profession he wanted to pursue. At age 26, he was elected the youngest member of the Georgia State Senate. He went on to serve a total of eight terms and was a member of the Appropriations, Rules and Transportation committees. After an unsuccessful bid for the Governor’s Office in 1990, he was elected to the State House of Representatives, where he served for six years and was Vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Chair of the Subcommittee on General Law.



In 1998, Barnes was elected to serve as the 80th Governor of the State of Georgia. During his term, he concentrated on education reform, health care reform, and remedies for urban growth and sprawl. He created the Georgia Cancer Coalition and served as Chair of the Southern Regional Education Board, the Southern Governor’s Association, and the Education Commission of the States. He was defeated for reelection in large part because of his efforts to change the Georgia flag, a political decision for which he was honored with the 2003 John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Profile in Courage Award.

Roy Barnes received his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia and graduated with honors from the Lumpkin School of Law at UGA in 1972.

## 2015 Alumni Speaker—Judge Lisa Godbey Wood



Lisa Godbey Wood is the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. She was nominated by President George W. Bush on January 9, 2007. Wood became the chief judge in 2010. Prior to her appointment, Wood was a U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. Prior to that she was a partner in the private practice firm of Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford, and Martin. While in private practice, she was appointed to serve on the Georgia Public Safety Board, Georgia State Patrol, and Georgia Public Safety Training Center. She has served as a member of the United States District Court Advisory Committee, the State Bar of Georgia Judicial Evaluation Committee, the State Bar of Georgia Disciplinary Review Panel, and

she is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Judge Wood is a 1990 summa cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. While at UGA, Judge Wood was Chief Justice of the Honor Court.

## 2014 Alumni Speaker—Judge William Ray

William "Billy" McCrary Ray, II is a judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals. He was appointed to the court in July 2012 by Republican Governor Nathan Deal. Judge Ray began his legal career in private practice with the law firm of Andersen, Davidson & Tate P.C. From 1996 to 2002, he served in the Georgia State Senate. In 2002, former Democratic Governor Roy Barnes appointed Ray a Superior Court judge for the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit. Ray was re-elected in 2002, 2006 and 2010, and served in this position until his appointment to the Georgia Court of Appeals in 2012.



Judge Ray attended UGA, and served as the Director of the Defender/Advocate Society. He was also an advisor in the Office of Judicial Programs for Bill Bracewell.

## 2013 Alumni Speaker—David Robertson, Sr.



David Robertson, Sr. is the Managing Director at Wells Fargo Insurance Services. He is a former regional partner at Willis Group Holdings, and senior vice president at Marsh, a subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan Companies. Prior to joining the insurance industry, Mr. Robertson was a corporate banking officer at Citizens & Southern National bank, and worked for First Atlanta, a predecessor of Wells Fargo.

While at UGA, he was the Chief Justice for Student Judiciary, President of Student Alumni Council, VP of Lambda Chi Alpha, UGA representative to the Athens City Council, UGA representative to the Board of Regents, and a member of the Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa. Mr. Robinson is proud of meeting his wife, Beth, through Student Judiciary and that their two sons attended the University of Georgia.