

Editor's Note

As editor of *Mercer Law Review's* thirty-third *Annual Survey of Georgia Law*, I have become aware of distinct traditions. There are the great traditions of the law of Georgia, a state rich in nearly two centuries of its own common-law heritage. The enactment of the Code of 1981 is but the latest development in that long tradition of legal growth. The following page contains an explanation of *Mercer Law Review's* new system for citing the Georgia Code, and the reader is urged to study these comments.

The authorities cited in this issue range from the earliest session laws of the state to the most recent judicial opinions in the advance sheets. The period under scrutiny in this issue closed, however, with the cases that were available in the *Georgia Law Reporter* on May 31, 1982. Some cases reported after that date have been included in this issue when necessary to round out a discussion. Other developments will be included in next year's survey.

I can make so confident a prediction about next year's survey because of the long traditions of *Mercer Law Review* and of the *Annual Survey of Georgia Law* in particular. Through thirty-three years of surveying Georgia law, many customs have developed to ensure the full dissemination of all major developments. I feel that we have taken a significant step towards preserving these valuable customs by expanding the survey in this and future years to include all the major survey topics. To this end, we have instituted a section on recent developments. This section includes major cases and legislation for each topic not covered by a survey article. Experience has taught that the survey of twenty-one general topics covers essentially all of the areas of interest to most Georgia lawyers. These topics are: Administrative Law; Appellate Practice and Procedure; Business Associations; Commercial Law; Conflict of Laws; Contracts; Criminal Law and Procedure; Domestic Relations; Environment, Natural Resources, and Land Use; Evidence; Insurance; Juvenile Law; Legal Ethics; Local Government Law; Real Property; Remedies; State and Local Taxation; Torts; Trial Practice and Procedure; Wills, Trusts, and Administration of Estates; and Workers' Compensation. In this issue for the first time, all of these topics are surveyed, with the lone exception of Conflict of Laws. That topic will be surveyed later this year in *Symposium: Conflict of Laws (Part I)* (in *Mercer Law Review*, Volume 34, Number 2). We also are very pleased this year to institute a tradition by inaugurating a long overdue survey of Legal Ethics.

As life in today's society grows ever more complex, the need to rely on the strains of tradition embodied in the common law grows stronger. Similarly, I perceive that the traditions contained here, in the *Annual Survey of Georgia Law*, will provide today the sure foundation that the attorney must have if he is to build the traditions of tomorrow.

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