



## Jon Thames

January 2, 1939 - January 14, 2023

Jon Thames, age 84, of Conyers, distinguished Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina and John Marshall Law School, passed away Saturday, January 14, 2023. He is preceded in death by father, Lefloure Elson Thames, mother, Maxie Loree Dawson, mother, Luna Sue Thames; daughter, Holly Skipper. He is survived by his wife, Seong Ja-Leikness Thames; sons, Ripley Thames, Joel and Siobhan Thames, Clayton Leikness; daughter, Christine Leikness and Craig Wilson; brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Chae Thames, Eugene and Dorothy Dawson; sister, Jacqueline Jumonville, Jennifer and Mark Faircloth; 11 grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 12:00 pm at Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel with James Thames officiating. The family will accept friends the morning of the service beginning at 10:30 am. Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 21. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

## Service

JAN 21. 12:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall



“ *Scot Ward Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Jon Thames*



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**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - January 21, 2023 at 10:04 AM

TH

“ *This great lawyer used the jury system to destroy educational segregation in Mississippi. My litigation mentor - though he was disappointed that I went into business. I will keep him in my heart forever. Praying for his family.*

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**Timothy Holly** - January 04, 2025 at 07:50 PM

MS

“ *Professor Thames' class on Constitutional Law was the first class I attended at USC Law School in 1980. I had to use my brand new Black's Law Dictionary to look up most of the words, in the first case discussed Marbury v. Madison.*

*I still use both books to this day in my very active practice which involves issues on both the South Carolina and US Constitutions.*

*I still remember him describing the law continually changing, like a pendulum swinging back and forth.*

*Not much of it sense in August of 1980, but all of it rings truer than ever today.*

*Thankyou Professor,*

*Michael W. Sautter  
USC Class of 1983.*

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**Michael Sautter** - January 27, 2023 at 12:40 PM

EP

“ *Jon was a wonderful man. He loved life and could make any event a real occasion. He loved people and was the most fantastic teller of stories! He really had a passion for life. He was an inspiring law professor as well and truly cared about his students. I am so sorry for his loss and will always remember him with much love.*

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**Elizabeth Potter** - January 27, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ *Jon was like a father to me as a young child. I'll always remember his humor, love for life, and big heart.* ”



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**Mike Mallin** - January 27, 2023 at 07:02 AM

RH

“ *So sorry for your loss. My late husband and I each had a couple of classes with Ihim at USC. His classes were always inspired and full of real life examples that made his lectures a bright spot in the day of a law student. I frequently share some of his sage legal advice with my staff. So thankful I had him for a professor back in the day almost 40 years ago.* ”

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**Rebecca Hale** - January 26, 2023 at 08:43 PM

DB

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Prof Thames at the University of South Carolina. I served in the US Air Force with his brother Tim, at Whiteman AFB in Missouri. I offer my condolences to all. I would really like to get in touch with Tim. May God's comfort be near you all.* ”

*God Bless,  
Danny Brackett  
Florence, SC  
Danny.Brackett2765.db@gmail.com  
843-496-2265*

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**Danny Brackett** - January 26, 2023 at 06:01 PM

WH

“ He was my Constitutional Law Professor 27 years ago. I'm not a "Con Law" lawyer, but he was so colorful. I can always remember when reading from a case where the judge was "waxing eloquent", as he tucked the spine of the book into his tummy, pushed his glasses back onto the bridge of his nose and read, he would say, "man, he's riding the eagle pretty hard." He said, "if you ain't been to jail for your client, you ain't practic'n law." I will always remember him; just a sweet old man.

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Wendell Hawkins - January 26, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jon Thames.



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January 20, 2023 at 06:10 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jon Thames.



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January 19, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jon Thames.



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January 19, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ 57 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - January 19, 2023 at 12:35 PM

JB

*Truly one of the best law professors I had, at University of South Carolina. He pushed us, and was always available.  
Jim Bogle, Columbia SC*

**james bogle** - January 22, 2023 at 10:30 AM



*I am sad to learn of the passing of Prof. Thames. His classes were always interesting and informative. He became a friend to so many students. He was always available for discussions and help when needed. Thank you Prof. Thames.*

*William Witherspoon  
USC School of Law  
Class of 1991*

**William Witherspoon** - January 26, 2023 at 04:24 PM

PH

*When I think of my law school professors Jon Thames is the one who comes to mind first for his humor, his support of students and his instruction which went beyond the books and extended to first hand, practical examples and suggestions. Rest in peace. May God bless your soul and your family in the days ahead.*

*Pat Hudson  
USC Law School  
Class of '80*

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**Pat Hudson** - January 26, 2023 at 05:36 PM

JT

*Jon Thames was my criminal procedure professor. He was that rare professor who imparted the fundamental theoretical principles of criminal law with an equal command of the realities we would encounter upon graduation in practice. My first appointment to the bench was a criminal court from a primarily civil practice. It was his candid common sense teachings about bonds, preliminary hearings, exclusionary hearings etc. that made me prepared in that role and representing the occasional criminal client of a friend or their family without representation. He was the quintessential southern gentleman lawyer that debunked every single preconceived notion of your initially meeting him. Thanks for sharing so generously your brilliant mind and humble and caring heart . James Turner USC Law Class of 1990*

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**James Turner** - January 26, 2023 at 07:04 PM

CJ

*Professor Thames was my evidence professor in 1974-75. I loved his classes. My favorite story (and one I still use) involved a paper we all had to write on evidence law. I have no memory of the particular topic we had to cover, but I will never forget his comment to one of my classmates as he was handing the paper back. He looked at the paper, paused, looked up at the student, and said, "I have not seen this much s--- in one place since the buffalo herds went through South Dakota." Funny as it was, it still contained a lesson -- anything you submit to the Court needs to be tightly written and factually and legally correct. One does not want his work compared to the trail left by buffalo herds in South Dakota.*

*Jon Thames was a good man and an excellent example of what a lawyer should be. He will be missed.*

*Chuck Welborn  
USC Law 1976*

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**Charles Welborn, Jr.** - January 26, 2023 at 09:34 PM

SB

*Professor Thames was a true mentor to me. He pushed me and encouraged me. In my 1L legal writing class, he taught me to be an advocate for myself as well as for my clients. He then took me under his wing to lead the editing of his criminal law book (graciously giving me co-author credit), assist him with his evidence class, and serve as a 3L TA for his legal writing class. I am grateful for his influence in my training as a lawyer. Blessings to his family, of whom he was so very proud.*

*Suzanne H. Bauknight  
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge  
Eastern District of Tennessee  
USC Law Class of 1997*

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**Suzanne Bauknight** - January 27, 2023 at 11:03 AM