

# NSL NEWS

NASHVILLE SCHOOL of LAW NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

## FEATURE STORY:

# NSL COMMITTED TO PRO BONO INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

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## Pursuing Excellence

Great things have been happening at the Nashville School of Law since the publication of our last newsletter. Two more classes have graduated, and many of these graduates are now living out their dream of practicing law in Tennessee. The class that embarked on their legal studies in August 2014 was one of the largest classes we have admitted in many years, and the number of applications for the August 2015 entering class exceeds last year's.

Our graduates enjoy the reputation of being more practice-ready than other law school graduates. We are enhancing that reputation by strengthening the curriculum and by placing a new emphasis on legal writing and on internships and practical-skills training. This newsletter's lead story describes how our students are learning their craft by participating in programs that enable them to assist low income persons with their legal needs. In addition to acquiring new skills that will serve them well in their practice, these students are learning how lawyers must provide meaningful access to justice by providing free or reduced cost legal services to persons who cannot otherwise afford legal assistance.

The story of our school is a mosaic of the inspiring stories of our students and our graduates. We are highlighting several graduates in this newsletter, and we will profile others in future newsletters. With the help of a group of committed volunteers, we are establishing

an alumni association to further involve our graduates in the life of the school and its students. As a result of this effort, we will be holding alumni receptions in six counties in Middle Tennessee during 2015. We hope to see many graduates at one or more of these events.

Finally, the annual recognition dinner will be held on Friday, June 12, 2015 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. This year, we will recognize Martha Cone Beck and Robert H. (Bobby) Goodall as distinguished graduates. We will give our distinguished faculty award to Nashville Juvenile Court Magistrate Carlton Lewis. We will also confer our Community Service Award on Charles H. Warfield in recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the bench and bar and to Nashville's broader community.

I look forward to seeing you on June 12th to celebrate the school, its graduates, and our common commitment to justice and the rule of law. You are also welcome to come by the school to see what is going on for yourself.

Sincerely,

Dean William C. Koch, Jr.

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# NSL COMMITTED TO PRO BONO INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

**T**he Nashville School of Law has introduced several new programs designed to provide its students with practical, hands-on experience. These programs feature NSL students working with attorneys and different groups to further access-to-justice needs. The groups include Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville, Tennessee Alliance for Legal Service's Online Tennessee Justice, and Davidson County Juvenile Court.

Longtime NSL faculty member John Lewis has spearheaded these pro bono efforts. Lewis has been very active with the Tennessee Bar Association in helping members of the National Guard complete legal tasks, such as wills and powers of attorney, before deployment. His work in the TBA Hometown Support and his involvement with the TBA's Access to Justice Committee introduced him to the Law School Pro Bono Committee.



*John Lewis*

## HABITAT WILLS CLINIC

"My initial concept was to have students draft wills," Lewis explains. "After my work with the members of the National Guard, I knew there were people that needed these types of legal services."

Habitat approached Lewis about their need for having legal documents drafted for their clients. A key player in the synergy between Habitat and NSL is John Roberts, chief financial officer for Habitat and a 4th-year student at the school.

"Mr. Lewis and I were talking in the hall at the law school one evening," Roberts recalls. "He was excited about starting the NSL Pro Bono program and heading it up. We agreed that wills for Habitat homeowners might be a great service and provide a very workable arrangement for attorneys and students, given that our offices are only two blocks from the law school."



*Pictured Above:  
John Roberts consults with a client at Habitat for Humanity.*

“The Pro Bono program would not exist and could not function without the leadership of Professor Lewis,” says Roberts. “He brings his wealth of legal knowledge along with practical experience administering pro bono programs for military families. He is the catalyst who engages and energizes the attorneys and the NSL students. He is able to understand the needs of the Habitat families as well as the required structure to ensure effectiveness of a pro bono program.”

Lewis also turned to advice from fellow NSL faculty member and Davidson County circuit court Judge David Randall Kennedy, who helped him understand the process and brainstormed with Lewis about how best to create a program.

Shannon Walker (2014) participated in the program as a student at NSL and continues to support the program as a practicing attorney. “The Clinic is not only an excellent learning opportunity, but is also a great way to be of service to others,” Walker explains. “The Nashville School of Law has given students a great opportunity to be a part of this pro bono initiative. I intend to continue volunteering my time with the program.”

#### VIRTUAL ONLINE CLINIC

NSL students soon will begin participating in a virtual legal advice clinic under the auspices of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (TALS), a group which has worked with law schools across the state in creating such clinics. The Online TN Justice Clinic allows students to work with attorneys in answering legal questions from members of the public.

NSL students will participate in the clinic in August, October, and December. At each clinic, there will be seven attorneys and twenty-one (21) NSL students. Three students will work with an attorney to help the attorney answer the legal questions.

NSL law students will benefit from their involvement as they interact with practicing attorneys to evaluate legal questions and gain guided practical experience by assisting with answering the questions.

“The Online TN Justice virtual legal clinic offers law students the opportunity to research and assist attorneys as they answer the real - world legal questions of vulnerable Tennesseans,” says Samantha Sanchez, Online TN Justice Site Operator and Operations Director for TALS. “The Online TN Justice virtual legal clinic offers law students the opportunity to research and assist attorneys as they answer the real - world legal questions of vulnerable Tennesseans.”



*Back row, left to right: Dean William C. Koch, Jr; John Lewis; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville CEO Danny Herron; and NSL student Shyanne Coe.*

*Front row, left to right, Habitat CFO and 4th year NSL student John Roberts; attorney Elizabeth Greer (2013); 4th year NSL student Betsy Shirley.*

The result has been a series of wills clinics, where a group of NSL students assist volunteer lawyers. This consists of students meeting and interviewing the clients, preparing worksheets, and drafting wills. “The students love it,” Lewis says. “We generally have three students to each practicing attorney.”

The first clinic occurred March 25, 2014. At the time of this writing, there have been five wills clinics.

## JUVENILE COURT

Another avenue for NSL students to garner invaluable experience will be working in juvenile courts.

Lewis identified a need in juvenile courts similar to the clients at Habitat. “Dean Koch strongly encouraged us to pursue other opportunities where students could be advocates,” says Lewis. “I learned that many people in juvenile court had a similar need to Habitat. This program will afford our students the opportunity to be advocates in court on parental terminations.”

Davidson County Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway says there is a “pressing need” for this type of work in juvenile court. She also emphasizes that the exposure students receive in juvenile court will assist those students later when they open up their own practices.

“The rules and policies in Juvenile Court are so unique from any other court system that it requires a special skill set in order to handle the cases,” Judge Calloway says. “For students, they get the opportunity to learn the policies and procedures in juvenile court before having their own cases.”

Judge Calloway explains that she, the magistrates, and other juvenile court staff are looking forward to working with NSL students. “We understand the importance of teaching students early in the game about the issues in Juvenile Court. We know that not only will the students have an opportunity to learn more about Juvenile Court, but also we are looking forward to the chance to learn more from the students.”

The Nashville School of Law’s leadership supports the mission of access to justice and welcomes opportunities to instill that mission in its students. “The Nashville School of Law’s increased emphasis on using Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 to provide our students with opportunities to serve those who cannot afford a lawyer will help more of our students embrace the value of service,” explains Dean Koch. “It will also help our students learn practical lawyering skills and gain real experience that will make them more practice-ready when they graduate and pass the bar exam.”

Lewis also remains committed to increasing pro bono opportunities for NSL students. “I’ve been affiliated with the school for 40 years and I want our students to have as many opportunities for pro bono work as possible,” he says. “I hope that one aspect of my legacy is that besides having taught more than 4,000 students, is to leave behind a pro bono legal clinic program for the next generation of NSL students.” ●

**“THE RULES AND POLICIES IN JUVENILE COURT ARE SO UNIQUE FROM ANY OTHER COURT SYSTEM THAT IT REQUIRES A SPECIAL SKILL SET IN ORDER TO HANDLE THE CASES.”**

**– Judge Sheila Calloway**

## Faculty Updates:

**HON. DAVID BRAGG (1994)**, Circuit Court Judge for Division II of the 16th Judicial District, joined the faculty to teach courses in Secured Transactions and Negotiable Instruments. Judge Bragg also won a second term in 2014.

**HON. ROBERT E. CORLEW, III**, retired from teaching at NSL in 2014 after joining the faculty in 2000. He was elected second vice president of Lions Club International in July 2014.

Governor Bill Haslam appointed **MARSHALL DAVIDSON** to a six-year term on the newly created Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

**JEFFREY DEVASHER, GLENN FUNK**, and **CANDI HENRY** joined the faculty to teach courses in Introduction to Law and Legal Writing. DeVasher is in charge of the appellate division for the Metro Public Defender's Office. General Funk is the District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District. Henry is of counsel with the law firm Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella and serves as the associate editor for the *Tennessee Tort Law Letter*.

The *Tennessean* profiled **JUDGE STEVE DOZIER (1984)** visiting an employee of Goodwill who previously had appeared as a defendant several times in Dozier's courtroom. Judge Dozier congratulated Damell Whitworth on the positive changes in his life. Dozier, who has taught at NSL since 2000, also won re-election to Division I of the Criminal Court of the Twentieth Judicial District.

**HON. DANIEL B. EISENSTEIN** retired from the Davidson County General Sessions Court. The Tennessee Senate sponsored a joint resolution to honor his time on the bench. He has been teaching Mental Health Law at NSL since 2005.

**HON. MARK FISHBURN (1979)** was re-elected as Judge of Division IV of the Criminal Court for the 20th Judicial District

# JUDGE DAVID BRAGG EXCELS ON THE BENCH AND IN THE CLASSROOM

**J**udge David Bragg has accomplished many successes in his legal career and life, including owning a profitable newspaper, practicing law in his hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, presiding over the bench and drug court, and teaching at the Nashville School of Law.

Bragg of the Sixteenth Judicial District comes from a family of prominent civil servants and political figures. His father John Bragg was a legendary member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, who chaired the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee for more than twenty years. His brother Tommy served three terms as mayor of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



Judge David Bragg

David Bragg has made his own mark and contributed to the legacy of the Bragg family, distinguishing himself as a fine jurist and as an educator at the Nashville School of Law.

His efforts on the bench have earned him the respect of his colleagues on the bench. "I have been impressed with Judge Bragg's work ethic and his knowledge of the law," says Senior Judge Don Ash.

Bragg has wanted to be a lawyer even before he was a teenager. Born and reared in Murfreesboro,

Bragg attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and earned a degree in education. His first year out of college, he taught history and civics at Oakland High School, before earning a Master's Degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in psychology. He served as an assistant dean of students for several years and later served for several years as Director of Housing.

He then embarked into the world of business and journalism by purchasing a newspaper with his brother Tommy. In 1981, Bragg and his brother purchased the weekly newspaper *The Cannon Courier* with advice from their father. "My father was a great salesman and assured us it was a great investment." It became a full-time career where Bragg had to juggle

many balls. "I worked there for 10 years," he says. "I took pictures, sold and laid out ads, wrote stories, and distributed newspapers."

The newspaper business turned out to be profitable enough to give Bragg the opportunity to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer. He enrolled at the Nashville School of Law. "I can remember Judge Steve Daniel telling me that he thought I could do well in law school and that the most enjoyable part of his legal career was his time in law school. That really left an impression on me."

## MEMORIES OF NSL AS STUDENT

He fondly remembers his time at NSL. “We started in the basement of the Y with the basketballs bouncing overhead and the aroma of a gym lofting through the room,” he recalls. “We started with 150 students in the class – only 57 graduated.”

He fondly remembers John Lewis, who still teaches contracts at the school. “Mr. Lewis was the best impersonation of Professor Kingsford [from the 1973 film *The Paper Chase*]. He made a great impression on all of us.”

“NSL gave me an opportunity to change my life, to learn a new way to approach problems, provided me with a better ability to support my family,” he says. “The faculty directed me to the practical application and understanding of law and legal process in this state.”

Bragg says he was surprised that he finished in the top 10% of his class, earning a place in the Cooper’s Inn: “I was very surprised and very proud but I remember sitting through my graduation ceremony thinking – ‘I need to be home studying for the bar.’”

He credits his wife of forty years, Nancy, with helping him overcome any feelings of self-doubt and lack of confidence during the law school years.

## PRIVATE PRACTICE AND THE BENCH

After graduating law school and passing the bar exam, he decided to open up a law practice with Rick Mansfield, who graduated the year before him at NSL. They decided to enlist the help of former chancellor Whitney Stegall, who said he would join the young lawyers on one condition – ‘don’t argue with me.’

The firm was called Bragg, Mansfield and Stegall. “Our most fruitful area of practice was real estate law but we were able to practice estate law, criminal law, domestic law and

other areas of law interesting to us.”

“When Judge Daniel retired, a couple people approached me about applying for the position but I didn’t think I had enough experience at that time,” he says. However, in 2008, he decided that he had enough experience and became circuit court judge, succeeding longtime Judge James Clayton.

He won re-election in 2014, earning another eight-year term. During his time on the bench, he has presided over more than 9,000 cases.

As a judge, he has enjoyed presiding over drug court. “Drug court has been very rewarding, helping people move forward in their life,” he says. “All of us make mistakes and face challenges. We all need help to get through those challenges. Every day I try to look at people and treat them with the same dignity and respect that they would treat me.”

## TEACHING AT NSL

For many years, Bragg has not only presided as a circuit court judge but also taught undergraduate and now law students.

Bragg taught for many years at Middle Tennessee State University before joining the NSL faculty in 2014. He enjoys teaching negotiable instruments and secured transactions at his law school alma mater: “Teaching other people is an opportunity to serve, an opportunity to have an impact on other people’s lives. It is a tremendous honor as well as humbling.”

He appreciates the challenging circumstances of working all day and going to school at night. “Part of the NSL challenge is to handle everything in your normal day and then still obtain a legal education and find time to study and learn the law.”

Bragg hopes to continue teaching for many years, “helping people reach their goals like I’ve been able to reach mine.” ●

(Davidson County). Judge Fishburn has taught at NSL since 2013.

*The Nashville Bar Journal* selected **BILL HARBISON** and **HARLAN DODSON** as its 2014 Best of the Bar. Harbison practices law at Sherrard & Roe PLC and Dodson practices at Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella PC.

**DAVID L. HUDSON JR.** was named Director of Academic Affairs and Legal Writing at NSL. He also authored the book *Teen Legal Rights* (3d. ed.)(ABC-CLIO). Hudson has taught at NSL since 2005.

**HON. RANDY KENNEDY (1977)** was re-elected to Division VII of the Circuit Court for the 20th Judicial District (Davidson County). He was first appointed to that position in 2003. Judge Kennedy has taught at the school since 2003.

**JOHN KITCH** received a three-year appointment to the Tennessee Board of Responsibility. Kitch has taught at the school since 1999.

**JEFFREY MOBLEY** joined the faculty to teach Wills & Trusts. He practices with the firm Howard & Mobley.

**HON. CASEY MORELAND (1984)** has been re-elected to Division 10 of the Davidson County General Sessions Court. He has taught at NSL since 2009.

**HON. JERRY L. SMITH** retired from the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in August 2014. Smith had served on the court since November 1995, when he was appointed by Governor Don Sundquist.

**M. CLARK SPODEN** joined the law firm Burr & Forman as a partner. He has taught at the school since 2003.

# NSL STUDENT AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OWNER HOPES TO PRACTICE BEFORE COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**C**hristian Cahill has done many things in his life – playing professional soccer, operating his own business, completing ironman triathlons, and obtaining a Customhouse Brokerage License – but he has always wanted to be a lawyer. “Since I was seven or eight years old, I wanted to be an attorney,” he says. “It has been a lifelong goal.”

Cahill’s path to self-actualization consists of running his successful business during the day and going to classes at night at the Nashville School of Law. His demanding schedule poses challenges, but Christian Cahill has never backed away from a challenge.

Cahill attended the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), where he played four years on the soccer team. He also participated in a student exchange program and traveled to the University at Liverpool for part of a year. Cahill’s athletic prowess earned him a spot on the English school’s soccer team that played in the British Collegiate Cup.

Cahill followed his athletic dreams, playing professional soccer in Greece and the United States. He contemplated law school after finishing college but a sobering tragedy dissuaded him. “A friend of

mine killed himself during his first year in law school at Ole Miss,” he recalls. “That is why I didn’t go to law school at that time.”

Instead Cahill moved to Miami and played semi-pro professional soccer for a Uruguayan team. Down in Miami, Cahill’s father was teaching a course for individuals interested in obtaining a brokerage license. “My father James Cahill was with the U.S. Customs Service,” Cahill explains. “When he retired, he consulted in the private sector. He also taught classes instructing people how to pass the federal examination to obtain a Customhouse Brokerage License.”

His father enlisted Cahill to help teach the class and then encouraged his son to take the test. Cahill passed the test in a year when the nationwide passage rate was under 10%. Cahill then played professional soccer for the next three years. It was not until he met his wife Gena that he decided to hang up his boots and start using his license. He credits all his success in business and at NSL to the support of Gena and their two children Lindzi and Yale.

His success in business culminated in his own company called Cahill & Dunn that helps U.S. businesses import goods (like expensive wines) from overseas by acting as a liaison to our federal regulatory agencies. Though he developed a successful business, Cahill still



yearned to go to law school. When a potential business client from Sweden declined his business because he wasn't a lawyer, Cahill decided to take the plunge.

Nashville School of Law was a natural choice even though he had scholarship offers from other law schools. "I wanted to be able to see my family, run my business and go to school at night," he explains.

He has been nothing but happy with his choice. "I am learning the law from actual judges and practicing attorneys," Cahill says. "One of my favorite things about NSL is I can be sitting in a classroom and one of my instructors may say, 'in this case, I held.' I see my instructors' names on the cases I read."

The biggest challenge law school presented Cahill was getting back into school and taking tests after many years out of the school environment. "I have learned to be an excellent time manager at NSL," he adds. "I thought training for the six ironman triathlons that I completed made me a good time manager but NSL has forced me to take it to a higher level."

When he graduates, Cahill hopes to use his law degree to further his business opportunities. "Hopefully with a law degree to go along with my Customhouse Brokerage License, I will have rock star-like status in my industry and get new clients," he says. "I also hope to be representing clients in the Court of International Trade."

Christian Cahill undoubtedly will achieve more success after graduating from the Nashville School of Law – he knows no other way. ●

**“ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT NSL IS I CAN BE SITTING IN A CLASSROOM AND ONE OF MY INSTRUCTORS MAY SAY, ‘IN THIS CASE, I HELD.’ I SEE MY INSTRUCTORS’ NAMES ON THE CASES I READ.”**

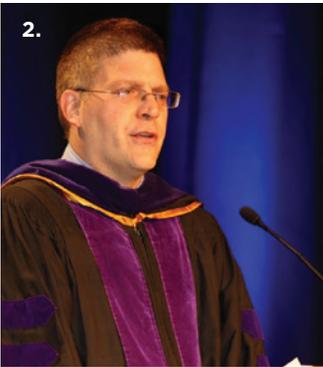
**—Christian Cahill, NSL Student**

*Pictured above: Christian Cahill*

1.



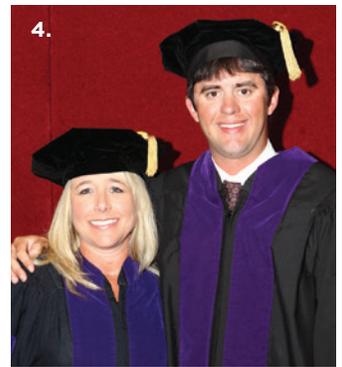
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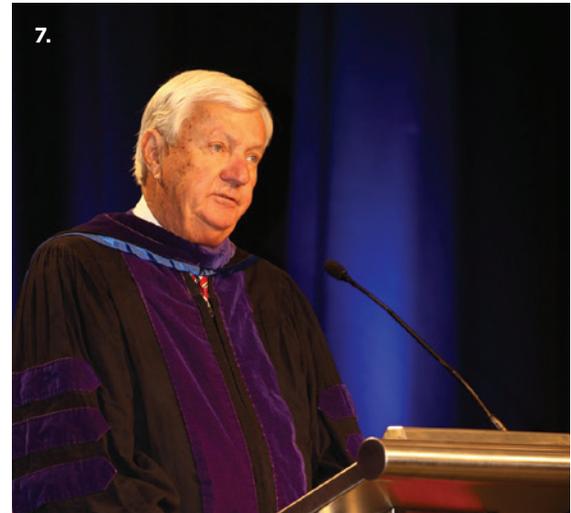
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6.



7.





## NSL ALUMNI

# Lets get together:

May 15, 2015  
Sumner County

July 17, 2015  
Rutherford County

August 21, 2015  
Williamson County

September 18, 2015  
Wilson County

October 15, 2015  
Montgomery County

November 20, 2015  
Davidson County

For more details,  
including times and locations  
call 615.256.3684 or visit

[NashvilleSchoolofLaw.net](http://NashvilleSchoolofLaw.net)



On Saturday May 24, 2014, seventy-six (76) men and women graduated from the Nashville School of Law at a ceremony held at the Nashville Convention Center. Faculty member David L.

Hudson Jr. delivered the commencement address, congratulating the students on their accomplishments and urging them to think about preparation, professionalism, and priorities as they embark on their careers as lawyers. NSL Board of Trust Chairman Tom Cone delivered a moving remembrance of the late Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr.

The members of the Cooper's Inn Honor Society were Shawn Applegate, Chase Cunningham, Beth Fleming, Eddie Gravitte, Michele Hodges, Paul Kraft, Monica Mueller, Mark Peckham, and John Russell. Monica Mueller earned the Founders' Award for the highest grade point average in the class and John Ballard won the Moot Court Award.

Peckham delivered the student address, conveying the graduating class' heartfelt appreciation for the Nashville School of Law: "We will continue to support the school and wish NSL the best as we depart, thankful for the opportunities presented, doorways opened and dreams the school has allowed us to fulfill. "Applegate closed the ceremony with the benediction. ●



*Above: NSL board member Justice Frank Drowota speaking at graduation.*

**Pictured Left:**

1. Mark Peckham delivers the student address
2. David L. Hudson Jr. delivers commencement address
3. Graduating classmates (left to right) Monica Mueller, Robin Rochelle, Tina Silva, and Shauna Balfour
4. Robin Rochelle and Chase Cunningham
5. Mr. Hudson hooding Olivia Ashton Fisher
6. Connie Chadwick and Rose Tignor
7. Tom Cone, NSL Board of Trustee Chairman





n Saturday, December 6, 2014, fifty-four men and women graduated from the Nashville School of Law at a ceremony held at the Nashville Convention Center.

Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins delivered the commencement address, drawing on the wisdom of famed UCLA basketball coach John Wooden in his remarks. He urged the graduates to emulate Wooden by exhibiting humility throughout their personal and professional lives.

Andra Hedrick entertained the audience in her faculty address with a humorous, self-deprecating account of various lessons she had learned in the practice of law. Wayne Sutter served as the student speaker and emphasized the tight bonds forged by members of the graduating class, stating: "I am confident the relationships formed at NSL will continue for the rest of our lives." Fellow graduate Fatima Robertson closed the ceremony with the benediction.

During the graduation, Ernie Gilkes, Heather Momchilov, Jarod Mullins, Pamela Williams, and Timothy Wilson earned induction into the prestigious Cooper's Inn Honor Society, reserved for those who graduate in the top 10% of their class. Mr. Wilson won the Founders' Award for having the highest grade point average and Brittney Finn captured the Moot Court Award. ●

**Pictured Right:**

1. Classmates: Ryan Haynes, Derrick Garner, Jarod Mullins, and Brian Crews
2. Karen Brady and Bylinda Bell
3. Andra Hedrick delivers the faculty address
4. Dean Koch confers degree on Bryan Hammers
5. Fatima Robertson gives the benediction
6. Dean Koch speaking at graduation
7. Justice Jeff Bivens gives commencement address
8. (Left to right) Sherry Wilson, Robert Bryant Wilson, III, Tim Wilson, and Mari Beth Fortner Wilson





# ADVANCING HEALTHCARE THROUGH POLICY

## VIRGINIA TROTTER BETTS (1978)

**A** person possessing a law degree doesn't have to argue in a courtroom or even practice law to make a significant impact in the world. Just consider the story of Virginia Trotter Betts, a 1978 graduate of the Nashville School of Law, who has made an indelible imprint on the nursing profession and mental health policy in the state of Tennessee and beyond.

Betts has served as Commissioner of Mental Health in Tennessee, led the American Nurses Association, taught nursing and public/health policy at Vanderbilt, the University of Tennessee Health Services Center (UTHSC), and other institutions, and worked closely with a U.S. Surgeon General.

Betts' passion for nursing came natural, as her mother and aunt were in the nursing

profession. She grew up in East Tennessee and went to high school in Sevierville, where two of her classmates were musician Dolly Parton and Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Gary Wade.

She earned an undergraduate degree from UT-Memphis and a masters degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing from Vanderbilt. She then worked in the profession for about ten years before deciding to plunge into law school. "Being a nurse, I was extremely interested in how law could be utilized in a positive way to get people to follow legal standards of practice," she said. Her passion for legal knowledge and credentials only increased after her mother died because of medical malpractice and during the litigation process she became convinced that the overlap between health care and the law was a matter of great importance.

At the time she considered law school, she did not want to give up her nursing job. She said Vanderbilt previously had a flexible program of study offering law classes on the weekends and some evenings but the school had ended the program. "Thus, for me, the only option for a legal education while working as a nurse was the Nashville School of Law," she says.

She attended law school at NSL with her former husband Stephen Betts, who had an engineering background. "It worked out well for us," she says. "We were able to be supportive of each other in taking class notes and studying for exams."

She fondly remembers the teaching of Vance Berry, who taught at the school for many years and later served on the Board of Trustees. "I loved Ben Cantrell," she adds, calling him a "kind man and a fabulous teacher."



*Pictured right: Virginia Trotter Betts*

Though Betts performed well in law school, she always intended to use her legal education in nursing and health care. “I never intended to practice law,” she says. “My complete commitment was to obtain the degree and then use it to advance the nursing profession and improve health care.”

Betts certainly has made a difference in improving standards of care for professional nursing and for improved policy and treatment of mental disorders. In her illustrious career, she has served as the Senior Advisor on Nursing and Policy to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Director for Health Policy and Professor of Nursing at UTHSC in Memphis, and as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities from 2003 until 2011 under Governor Phil Bredesen.

In her position with HHS, she worked closely with U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher in releasing reports on mental health policy, such as *Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General* and *Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Suicide*.

“I am very proud of the work I did with HHS and with the Surgeon General,” Betts says. “I was involved in the creation of some cutting-edge materials which, I believe, made an impact on policy in this country.” She spearheaded an informal, inter-governmental group that led to parity in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans, which served as the model for the comprehensive Federal Parity Act of 2008 and then incorporated into the Affordable Care Act.

Betts says she would never have risen to such influential positions and job opportunities

without her law degree. “Having a legal education really prepares you to speak up and deal with important issues in an objective and persuasive way,” she explains. “Legal education helped me to learn how both to stand my ground and win my points. The law degree also gave me enhanced credibility in certain circles.”

Betts, who recently retired from her teaching career at UTHSC, is now both consulting and working as a health/mental health community activist. She feels good about her career and its varied and different trajectories. She should because Virginia Trotter Betts has made a major impact in nursing and mental health policy. ●

## IN MEMORIAM:

*William L. Baker (1960)*

*Col. Russell E. Baugh (1979)*

*Barry Bedford (1975)*

*William B. Bradley (1969)*

*Hon. Bobby Capers (1975)*

*David Scott Coleman (1987)*

*Dr. Thomas Hodges Coode (1962)*

*James L. Cook  
(2014 – Henry Term)*

*Bobby C. Cunningham (1963)*

*John Hopkins Dillon (1967)*

*Frances Tignor Dockins (1980)*

*Prentice Roscoe Easterling (1970)*

*Joseph V. Ferrelli (1986)*

*Heidi Helwi Fulks (2007)*

*Curt Hopper (1992)*

*James Palmer Kelly (1963)*

*William Abbott Kemp (1976)*

*James H. Kinnard (1965)*

*Lee Franklin Kramer (1970)*

*Beverly Walter Landstreet (1949)*

*Hon. Joe C. Loser Jr. (1959)  
Dean: 1986 – 2014*

*Joe D. McClure (1987)*

*Wirt Cate McKnight (1973)*

*James E. Newman (1977)*

*Anthony Papuchis (1957)*

*Robert F. Spann (2015)*

*John Brown Tirrill Sr. (1962)*

*Walter McKinley Werth (1977)*

## ALUMNI NEWS

# FORMER NSL FOUNDER AWARD WINNER DEVOTED TO LEGAL AID AND HELPING THOSE IN NEED

**L**egal Aid Society staff attorney Rae Anne Seay (2008) always knew she wanted to use her talents and legal skills to help those less fortunate whether they be children, domestic violence victims, the elderly, or the poverty-stricken.

Prior to law school, Seay focused her energies on social work in education and in life. She earned her undergraduate degree in social work from Harding University in Arkansas and her masters in social work at the University of Tennessee. She then spent ten years in the public child welfare system. “I’ve always been drawn to providing services for children,” she says.

Seay explains she planned to go to law school when her children were old enough. Nashville School of Law provided the “perfect fit” for her, as she needed to keep working to support her children and attend classes in the evening.

“I had an overwhelmingly positive experience all four years at NSL,” Seay recalls. “I have very good memories of my classmates. It felt like everyone at NSL was in it together. There was a spirit of unity and support among the students rather than competition and conflict.”

Seay also had an overwhelmingly positive experience academically, as she finished first in her 2008 graduating class and garnered the

Founders’ Award. She enjoyed her classes, including one that she did not think would be that interesting at first – Federal Taxation taught by Mark Westlake. “It was a very enjoyable, well-taught class that helped me with other law school classes, as well as in my personal life and in my law practice,” she says. “I

sincerely encourage all NSL students to take Mr. Westlake’s Federal Taxation classes.”

Seay reiterates that NSL prepared her well for the practice of law. “Several of my colleagues who graduated from other law schools have mentioned how impressed they are with the practical, Tennessee-

focused education that NSL students receive,” she explains. “One attorney told me that she’d never seen a complaint or motion during law school, much less written one.”

She also appreciates the cost-effective education provided by the Nashville School of Law. “One of the things I most appreciate about NSL is —unlike most other law schools— I could graduate without any student debt,” Seay says. “Debt is a significant stressor for many law school graduates and can unfortunately limit their options.”

Seay worked at the Legal Aid Society during her final two years at the Nashville School of Law. This non-profit organization provides



*Rae Anne Seay*

# METRO POLICE CHIEF SAYS LEGAL EDUCATION EXTREMELY VALUABLE

**M**etro Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson believes strongly in the value of a legal education and is living proof of how a law degree from the Nashville School of Law can impact decision-making in a profession other than law.

“Whether you are an accountant or a plumber, the skills learned from a legal education can serve you for the rest of your life,” Anderson says. “It certainly helps in my work – just as much today as it did 20 or 30 years ago.”



*Chief Steve Anderson*

Anderson grew up in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, and graduated high school in Trenton, Tennessee. He started his collegiate studies in engineering at Tennessee Tech and finished up with a degree from Belmont. He had his eyes set on Nashville because he wanted a legal education. “I came to Nashville for the express purpose of going to law school,” he says.

He started his career with the Metro Police Department in 1975, but wanted a legal education. In 1979, he followed his dream and enrolled at the Nashville School of Law. He fondly remembers his criminal law instruction from Tom Shriver and his civil procedure instruction from Doug Fisher. “Doug Fisher taught me to use rules and to think like a lawyer,” Anderson recalls. “He was very thorough in his approach.”

He appreciated the fact that his instructors not only gave him academic instruction but also passed along their real-life experiences as practitioners and judges.

Anderson says the greatest challenge during law school was time management, balancing

the demands of a career and challenging classwork. “Back in those days, we worked rotating shifts, which meant one month I would work day shift and then another month night shift,” he says. “I learned good study habits and studied when I could.”

Anderson graduated from NSL in 1983 and initially thought of becoming a prosecutor. “I think I would have enjoyed being a prosecutor,” he says. “I’ve certainly worked with different prosecutors during my time with the police department. I consider that an enjoyable part of my job.” He says on occasion when he has time, he still likes to go to court to observe good trial lawyers ply their craft.

But, Anderson never became a prosecutor. Instead, he stayed with Metro and worked his way up the ranks. He excelled in many different capacities, heading the Administrative Services Bureau, the Investigative Services Bureau, and the Field Operations Bureau. In 2010, Mayor Karl Dean appointed Anderson Chief of Police.

IN MEMORY OF  
DEAN JOE C. LOSER, JR.  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Chiozza  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herrell  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Nixon

IN MEMORY OF HARLAN MATHEWS  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mathews

IN MEMORY OF  
JAMES R. EVERETT, JR.  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Chiozza

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT F. SPANN  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rieke

IN HONOR OF  
DEAN WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR.  
Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee  
Justice Cornelia A. Clark  
Justice Janice M. Holder  
Justice Gary R. Wade  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hurd

CHARLES GILBERT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
Harris A. Gilbert  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Zager

NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW  
Daniel Berexa  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Blevins  
Judge and Mrs. David Bragg  
Wilton Burnett, Jr.  
John R. Reynolds  
Adam Smith, through Caterpillar

IN KIND  
DONATIONS:  
Daniel Buehler – Furniture  
Judge Thomas A. Higgins—  
Jury Instructions (bound volumes)

## Alum Donates Furniture to NSL

Daniel Buehler (2013) remembered many a late night in the library study rooms at the Nashville School of Law. Thinking an upgrade in furniture might help current and



*Daniel Buehler*

future students, Buehler donated a bevy of tables and chairs to his alma mater. His generous gift has provided the study rooms, the jury room, and the robing room with an enhanced ambiance.

Buehler worked in the healthcare architecture business before landing a job with one of his clients, Amsurg, a company specializing in developing outpatient surgery centers.

When Amsurg consolidated its corporate headquarters, Buehler seized the opportunity, obtained furniture at a discount, and donated it to NSL. “With my architectural background, I’d been thinking about what I could do for the school in regards to its physical plant and this seemed like a perfect opportunity,” he explained.

“NSL contributed so much to me and my fellow students, and I will always be indebted to the staff, faculty, and great facilities that NSL offers,” said Buehler. “I hope my small contribution will add to the comfort of those poor souls sitting in those same rooms, muscling through toward the admirable goal of calling themselves an NSL graduate.”

“Mr. Buehler’s generosity has enabled the school to upgrade the professional ambiance and functionality of the jury room, the library’s group study rooms, and the classrooms,” said Dean Koch. “His gift will benefit the students and others who use our facilities for many years to come.”

## FORMER NSL FOUNDER AWARD WINNER DEVOTED TO LEGAL AID AND HELPING THOSE IN NEED, CONTINUED

free civil legal services to low-income people who have nowhere else to turn. She currently works at the Tullahoma office of at Legal Aid, where she practices many types of civil law. On a given day, she may seek an order of protection for the victim of domestic violence, assist a juvenile in legal matters, help an elderly person subject to a consumer law scam or advise the staff of a non-profit organization on how to incorporate.

Seay remains committed and focused on using her considerable legal skills and acumen to helping those less fortunate. “I would love to be able to continue my work in supporting the mission of the Legal Aid Society.”

The legal community in Middle Tennessee and the community at large are well served by having Rae Anne Seay fulfill that mission. ●

## METRO POLICE CHIEF SAYS LEGAL EDUCATION EXTREMELY VALUABLE, CONTINUED

**“I ENCOURAGE OUR EMPLOYEES TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES...A LEGAL EDUCATION HELPS WITH DECISION-MAKING AND MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS WHEN THERE ARE NO CLEAR ANSWERS.”**

**—Chief Steve Anderson, *Metro Nashville Police Chief***

“It certainly is an honor to serve Nashville as police chief,” Anderson says. “I feel a great responsibility not only to the public but also to all of our employees as well.”

Anderson received praise for his handling of protests in Nashville in the wake of events in Ferguson, Missouri. When asked about his handling such a potentially volatile situation, he replied: “In any decision making process, equal consideration should be given as to whether this is the best decision for the moment, for tomorrow, and for next year.”

Many of his employees on the police force have obtained law degrees from NSL or currently are NSL students. “I encourage our employees to further their educational opportunities,” he says. “If anybody approaches me and asks

my opinion, I tell them how valuable a legal education is. A legal education helps with decision-making and making tough decisions when there are no clear answers.”

Anderson hopes to continue to grow and develop the department to meet the demands of the city. “I believe the Department is in a good place right now. I look forward to the challenges ahead.”

Despite his many successes in law enforcement, Anderson remains grateful for the opportunity for a legal education. “I’m extremely thankful for the Nashville School of Law and the format in which it is presented,” he says. “I would not have had the opportunity to go to law school if it were not for NSL.” ●

# 2014 - 2015 SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2015 scholarship awards were announced in December 2014.  
This year, 68 students received scholarships.

These scholarships are funded in various ways. The Federal Bench and Bar Library Fund scholarships were divided among 13 recipients. Individual donors and class gifts were awarded to 17 students. Finally, the school's Trustee and Faculty Scholarships were awarded to 38 students.

## FEDERAL BENCH & BAR

Mr. Blake Arnold  
Ms. Shyanne Coe  
Ms. Ashley Fine  
Mr. Ryan Hagar

Mr. Jeff Kuykendall  
Mr. Carlos Lara  
Mr. Jason Light  
Mr. Thomas Martin

Mr. James McCoin  
Mr. Deshad Omer  
Ms. Tiffani Pope  
Mr. Ryan Pratt  
Ms. Amanda Stacy

TENNESSEE JUDICIAL  
CONFERENCE FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIP HONORING  
HON. J.S. "STEVE" DANIEL  
AND SUZANNE KEITH  
Mr. Daniel Newbern

CHANCELLOR IRVIN  
KILCREASE SCHOLARSHIP  
Ms. Ashley King

DONALD FRANKLIN PAYNE  
SCHOLARSHIP  
Mr. Christopher Beauchamp

JUDGE CHARLES GILBERT  
Mr. Andrew W. Nutt

LUTHER E. CANTRELL, JR.  
Ms. Cathryn Armistead

SCOTTISH RITE  
Ms. Ashley King

J. CARLTON LOSER  
Ms. Mary Cocke

JOE C. LOSER, JR.  
Mr. Daniel Newbern

JOE C. LOSER, JR.  
Mr. Austin Lucas

PAUL HOLBROOK  
Ms. Kim Faye

W. P. COOPER  
Mr. Christopher Beauchamp

CORYNNE BRAZZELL ARNEY  
Ms. Kelly Groover

J. G. LACKEY, JR.  
Mr. Eugene Guerre

TULLEY AWARD  
Mr. Steve Gawryst

HON. LEON RUBEN  
Ms. Andrea Smith

CHIEF JUSTICE  
CHARLES O'BRIEN  
Mr. Michael Weston

2014 COOPER CLASS /  
WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR.  
Ms. Elizabeth Hernandez

2014 COOPER CLASS /  
JOE C. LOSER, JR.  
Mr. Michael Rexroat

JUDGE HARRY LESTER  
Ms. Alysse Gregory

## TRUSTEE & FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Craig Amabile  
Mr. David Barry  
Ms. Seannalyn  
Brandmeir  
Mr. Christian Cahill  
Mr. Philip Clark  
Mr. Nathan Clouse  
Mr. J. T. Conway  
Mr. Chris Cronk  
Mr. Bryant Cruce

Ms. Elizabeth Goetz  
Mr. Jon Graves  
Mr. Sam Guin  
Ms. Emily Harvey  
Mr. Spencer Hassler  
Mr. Andy Hill  
Mr. Tim Horne  
Ms. Benita Hudson  
Mr. D.J. Jones  
Ms. Julie Kuchenbecker

Mr. Andrew Lockert  
Mr. Martin Lykins  
Ms. Joy Matanguihan  
Gallagher  
Ms. Keller Mizell  
Ms. Melissa Morris  
Ms. Tamika Parker  
Mr. William Pomy  
Ms. Sheral Pratt  
Ms. Jessica Scott

Ms. Courtney Secrest  
Ms. Andrea Stout  
Mr. Chase Smith  
Ms. Jamie Tarkington  
Mr. Shane Uselton  
Mr. Charles Vance  
Mr. Donnayon Vasek  
Mr. Rod White  
Mr. Tim Woodard  
Ms. Charli Wyatt

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES:

## 1962

**HON. SETH W. NORMAN** was re-elected to a fourth term as judge of Division IV of the Criminal Court for the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Davidson County).

## 1977

**HON. STELLA L. HARGROVE** was re-elected to the Circuit Court for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties). She has served as circuit court judge since 1998.

**HON. JEFFREY F. STEWART** was re-elected to the Chancery Court for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties). He has served on the bench since 1989.

## 1979

**HON. CHERYL A. BLACKBURN** won re-election to a third term as judge of Division III the Criminal Court for the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

**HON. FRANK G. CLEMENT, JR.** was re-elected to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, a position he has served since 2003. Judge Clement is the presiding judge of the Middle Section of the Tennessee Court of Appeals and continues to serve on the Board of Trust of the Nashville School of Law.

## 1980

**MARLENE ESKIND MOSES** was elected President-Elect of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers USA Chapter. She also was named by Super Lawyers Magazine as one of the top 2014 Mid-South Super Lawyers.

**HON. LOUIS W. OLIVER III** was elected to the Chancery Court for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Sumner County).

## 1980, CONTINUED

**HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS** was named Chairperson for the Family Law Section Executive Council of the Tennessee Bar Association.

## 1982

**HON. CLARA BYRD** won another term as Judge for Division I of the Circuit Court for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale and Wilson Counties). Judge Byrd has been on the bench since 1998.

## 1983

**HON. SUZANNE M. LOCKERT-MASH** was elected to the Circuit Court, Division III, of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties). She had served as an assistant district attorney since 2000.

## 1985

**JOHN W. CARNEY, JR.** was re-elected District Attorney General for the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Montgomery and Robertson Counties).

## 1986

**VANESSA PETTIGREW BRYAN** won a second term as Public Defender for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District.

**HON. DONNA SCOTT DAVENPORT** was re-elected as Juvenile Court Judge for Rutherford County. She was first elected to this position in 2000.

**JAMES BRUCE "JIMMY" DUNN** has been re-elected as District Attorney General for the Fourth Judicial District (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties). He began his service as District Attorney in 2006.

## 1987

**LAWRENCE A. SIMONS** had his book of poems, *Water, Wind, Spirit, Stone*, published. He read from his work at Parnassus Books on May 12, 2015.

## 1989

**HON. WILLIAM T. AILOR** won election to Division II of the Circuit Court for the Sixth Judicial District (Knox County). Judge Ailor previously served 17 years as an administrative law judge for the Tennessee Department of Education.

**CARSON W. "BILL" BECK** won a race for the 51<sup>st</sup> District Seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

**HON. FOREST A. DURARD** was elected to the Circuit Court, Part I, of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Bedford, Marshall, Moore, and Lincoln Counties). Governor Bill Haslam appointed Judge Durard in 2013.

**HON. TIMOTHY LEE EASTER** was appointed Judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, by Governor Haslam in August 2014. Previously, Judge Easter served as a Circuit Court Judge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties).

**HON. DURWOOD G. MOORE** retired as General Sessions Judge for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District. Judge Moore had served in that capacity since 1974.

**HON. DAVID PATTERSON** was re-elected to Part II of the Criminal Court for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam and White Counties). He first ascended to the bench in 2006, after serving 16 years as chief deputy district attorney.

**HON. HOWARD W. WILSON** won election to the Chancery Court for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Cannon and Rutherford Counties).

## 1989, CONTINUED

He previously served as an administrative law judge for the Tennessee Department of Education for 15 years.

## 1990

**DONNA ORR HARGROVE** has been re-elected District Public Defender for the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties). She already had served two full terms in that position for her re-election.

## 1993

**HON. JEFF PARHAM** was elected to the Circuit Court for the 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Obion and Weakley Counties).

## 1995

**HON. DOUGLAS T. JENKINS** has elected to the Chancery Court for the Third Judicial District (Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, and Greene Counties). Governor Haslam first appointed him to that position in 2013.

## 1996

**HON. TODD BURNETT** won another term as General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge for Fentress County.

**HON. DARYL COLSON** has been elected as General Sessions Judge for Overton County. Judge Colson previously has served for 16 years as the county attorney for Overton County.

**STEVE QUALLS** won election as to General Sessions Judge, Part I of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

**HON. MARSHALL A. (“MARK”) RAINES, JR.** won election to Marion County General Sessions Court Judge.

**VIRGINIA TOWNZEN** retired as associate dean from NSL. She served for 14 years.

## 1997

**WILLIAM MICHAEL “MIKE” CARTER** was selected as the General Sessions Judge for Summer County in March 2015.

## 1998

**HON. BARRY TIDWELL** was elected to Part II of the Rutherford County General Sessions Court.

## 2000

**BRENT COOPER** was elected District Attorney General for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties). General Cooper had been an assistant district attorney for 14 years.

## 2001

**AUBREY GIVENS** was elected to the Democratic State Executive Committee. He serves the 17<sup>th</sup> District.

## 2003

**CRAIG MONSUE** won election as General Sessions Judge for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District.

## 2007

**STEVEN W. PHARRIS** was elected to the Board of Directors, Association of Social Work Boards.

## 2008

**HON. MICHAEL MEISE** won election as Juvenile Court Judge for Dickson County.

## 2009

**JEANA HENDRIX** was named assistant general counsel for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

**HON. MICHAEL HINSON** has been elected General Sessions Judge for Lewis County.

## 2010

**VIRGINIA CONNELL** joined MTR Family law. The founding member of the firm is Marlene Eskind Moses (1980).

## 2000, CONTINUED

**CLARENCE (“EDDIE”) PRIDEMORE JR.** won election for Chancery Court, Part II in the Sixth Judicial District (Knox County).

## 2011

**STACEY ANGELLO** was named as the Director of Recruiting and Alumni Affairs for the Nashville School of Law.

**JACOB FENDLEY** was granted founding membership into the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys.

**LANCE FRIZZELL** was elected to the Republican State Executive Committee. He serves the 14<sup>th</sup> District.

**NATHAN NICHOLS** was appointed Cannon County Clerk and Master.

## 2012

**RHONDA LEE** was named a Distinguished Alumna by Pellissippi State Community College.

**LEIGH WILBURN** was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives serving District 94. The Somerville native succeeded fellow NSL alum Barrett Rich, who served three terms in the House.

## 2013

**BARRETT RICH** was appointed in November 2014, by Governor Haslam to serve on the Tennessee Board of Parole. His term is effective through December 31, 2019.

## 2014

**STATE REP. RYAN HAYNES** of Knoxville was elected chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party in April 2015.

**EDDIE HERBERT** joined The Collins Law Firm.

**WAYNE SUTTER** is clerking for Senior Judge Paul Summers.

# RECOGNITION DINNER HONORS DEAN LOSER

**T**he Nashville School of Law's 21st Annual Recognition Dinner honored the life and legacy of the late Joe C. Loser Jr., on June 6, 2014.

Held at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, the dinner featured video and in-person tributes to Dean Loser, who passed away the previous month at 81. Loser, who graduated from NSL in 1959, served as the school's dean from 1986 until his death.

The video tribute included comments from numerous leaders of the Nashville legal community including NSL board member Justice Frank Drowota, Howard Gentry Jr., Marlene Moses (1980), and Mary Beth Boone

(1998). "He was a tremendous visionary," Moses said. "He will always be remembered for having transformed the school."

His son and NSL staff member Joseph C. Loser III ("Chip") delivered a moving speech about his father that brought many to tears.

"The Recognition Dinner was one of his favorite events of the year, and he was so immensely proud to be the honoree," said Chip. "The law school was everything to him, and he was exceptionally dedicated to it."

Chip recounted how his father impacted the lives of many: "Since May 11th, countless people have shared stories with me about how my dad affected their lives. How he gave

them a chance when no one else would, or how he helped them to get started, or even how he helped them financially. But, this wasn't the first time I'd heard these stories. I've been hearing them for years."

Loser served as the school's dean for 28 years from 1986 until his death last year. His legacy includes changing the school's name, moving the school from the Downtown YMCA first to a location on Sidco Drive and then to its current location on Armory Oaks, and upgrading the school's faculty.

"For nearly 30 years, Dean Loser was the face, the footprint, and the heartbeat of the school," said NSL Registrar Beth McDonald. •



**“DEAN LOSER  
WAS A  
TREMENDOUS  
VISIONARY. HE  
WILL ALWAYS  
BE REMEMBERED  
FOR HAVING  
TRANSFORMED  
THE SCHOOL.”**

**– Marlene Moses, *Class of 1980***

*Pictured Above:*

1. (Left to right) Julia Stovall (1986), Joanie Abernathy (1985), Marcy Shelton, and Ed Schell (1989)

2. (Left to right) Sharonda Greene, Beth McDonald, Judge Lynn E. Alexander and Heather Carr

3. (Left to right) M. Lee Gregory, Barbara Gregory, Mildred “Millie” Loser, Lynn McDonald, Becky Bilbrey, Kendra Bilbrey, Jeff Bilbrey, Joseph C. Loser, III (“Chip”)



## NASHVILLE SCHOOL of LAW

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## *Dates to Remember:*

**May 15**

*Alumni Event  
in Sumner County*

**Sept. 18**

*Alumni Event  
in Wilson County*

**May 21**

*Patrons Reception*

**Sept. 26**

*Investiture of Dean Koch*

**May 23**

*Cooper Term Graduation,  
Class of 2015*

**Oct. 15**

*Alumni Event in  
Montgomery County*

**June 12**

*Recognition Dinner*

**Nov. 20**

*Alumni Event in  
Davidson County  
(at NSL)*

**July 17**

*Alumni Event  
in Rutherford County*

**Dec. 12**

*Henry Term Graduation,  
Class of 2015*

**Aug. 21**

*Alumni Event  
in Williamson County*