

SPRING 2016

THE TORCH

NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW NEWSLETTER

FEATURE STORY:

**TENNESSEE
SUPREME
COURT HEARS
ARGUMENTS AT
THE NASHVILLE
SCHOOL OF LAW**



WHAT'S INSIDE:

NSL NEWS

- 3 Tennessee Supreme Court Hears Arguments
- 5 Judge Waverly Crenshaw Joins Board, Douglas Fisher Retires
- 6 Law School Pro Bono and Public Interest Summit
- 9 NSL Offers Juvenile Court Custody Clinic
- 10 NSL Hosts Virtual Law Clinics
- 11 Sports and Entertainment Law Society Formed
- 12 NSL Celebrates Investiture of Dean Koch

FACULTY

- 5 Moot Court Students Honor Tom Carlton
- 6 Faculty Profile: Carlton M. Lewis
- 7 William L. Harbison Named Nashvillian of the Year
- 25 Faculty Notes

STUDENTS

- 8 Grammy-Winning Student Hopes to Practice Entertainment Law
- 9 Police Sergeant Blessed to be at NSL
- 14 2015 Cooper Term Graduation
- 16 2015 Henry Term Graduation
- 23 2015–2016 Scholarships

ALUMNI

- 10 Senator and Judge Haynes: Alums Who Improved Government
- 18 Alumni Profile: Siew-Ling Shea
- 20 Antonio Aguilar Enjoys Giving Back
- 21 Mary E. McCullohs Fighting Medicaid Fraud
- 22 In Memoriam
- 22 Cooper Named Metro Law Director
- 24 Alumni Class Notes
- 26 NSL Honors Three Graduates and Legal Pioneer
- 27 NSL Alumni Events
- 30 Class of '74 Bonds Again at Annual Event

PUBLISHER

William C. Koch, Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR
AND WRITER

David L. Hudson, Jr.
david.hudson@NSL.law

GENERAL INQUIRIES

615.256.3684
beth.mcdonald@NSL.law

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Carrying On The Tradition

The Nashville School of Law's traditions are important. This edition of the newsletter reflects how our students and graduates honor these traditions and how our school community continues to make these traditions relevant in today's world. It is an exciting time to be at the Nashville School of Law.

Our mission for the past 105 years has been to prepare men and women to use their legal education to serve others. This tradition has been shaped by the boldness, perseverance, and commitment to this tradition of our students, graduates, and faculty. The students who began their studies in August 2015 – like their predecessors – confirmed their commitment by undertaking to study law at night. The members of the classes that graduated in May 2015 and December 2015 likewise demonstrated their commitment by earning their law degree and then by boldly taking on the challenges of the bar examination and law practice.

In this newsletter, you will read about the personal and professional accomplishments of our students, graduates, and faculty, as well as their contributions to the vitality of their communities. You will also learn about transitions in the school's leadership, the Tennessee Supreme Court's precedent-setting visit to the school, and new programs that enable our students to provide legal services to disadvantaged clients.

During the past year, we have celebrated our school's traditions, not only at the annual recognition dinner but at six regional alumni

events. The enthusiasm at these events was remarkable, and we look forward to sponsoring additional events. We hope you will attend the recognition dinner on Friday, June 10th at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. At this year's dinner, Brenda and Doug Hale will receive our Distinguished Graduates Award; Hal Hardin will receive our Distinguished Faculty Award; and we will recognize the historic achievements of Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey with our Community Service Award.

Please help carry on our traditions by being actively involved in our school community. There are many ways to serve. As reflected in the new name of this newsletter and in our refreshed seal, we invite you to join your classmates, fellow graduates, and friends in proudly carrying our torch into an exciting future.

Sincerely,

William C. Koch, Jr.
President and Dean

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS AT THE NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW

On Feb. 10, 2016, the Tennessee Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two criminal law cases at the Nashville School of Law. It was the first time in the school's 105-year history that it hosted oral arguments of Tennessee's highest state court.

The Court conducted its business in the William C. Koch, Jr. Appellate Courtroom, but video was transmitted to other classrooms at the school, permitting nearly 200 students to appreciate the challenging process of appellate advocacy.

The first case, *Frazier v. State*, involves whether a criminal defendant who pled guilty can challenge his conviction under a procedure known as a writ of coram nobis. The state argued that Tennessee law allows such challenges only after a trial, while the defendant contended that the procedure also should be available to those who plead guilty.

The second case, *State v. McCormick*, involves whether a law enforcement officer unconstitutionally seized a defendant when he pulled behind the defendant's stopped vehicle and activated his blue lights. A key question is whether the officer acted as a community caretaker or as an enforcer of the criminal laws.

Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee, Associate Justice Cornelia Clark, Associate Justice Jeffrey Bivins, and Associate Justice Holly Kirby presided over the cases. "It was an honor to hold court at the Nashville School



of Law," said Chief Justice Lee. "We enjoy the opportunity to meet future lawyers at the Nashville School of Law. This school fulfills a vital role in legal education by producing practice-ready attorneys across the state. I admire the grit and determination I've encountered in many students educated at the Nashville School of Law."

"It was a real pleasure for us to hear these cases at the Nashville School of Law," said Justice Bivins. "I truly enjoyed getting to meet and speak with many NSL students. The students' passion for the law and desire to learn was quite evident. I hope that the chance for them to witness actual appellate arguments provided them with a unique opportunity to learn more about real-life appellate arguments and strengthened even more their desire to be a part of the legal profession."

Pictured Above (left to right): Justice Holly Kirby, Justice Jeff Bivins, Senior Judge Don Ash, Chief Justice Sharon Lee, Justice Cornelia Clark, and NSL Dean William C. Koch, Jr.



Pictured Above:

1. NSL students Alysse Gregory, William Johnson, Michael Webster, Amanda Stacey, and Shauna Perkerson
2. Lt. Col. Brett Rypna, Tom Lawless, Chief Justice Sharon Lee, James R. Tomkins, John Tomkins, and John Lewis
3. Jacques Cabell, Teresa Smith, and David Hudson
4. NSL students William Johnson and Meghan Blackwell listen to Justice Holly Kirby.
5. Reception before the Tennessee Supreme Court holds court at The Nashville School of Law.
6. Dianne and Wayne Sutter
7. Nancy Corley and Justice Jeff Bivins
8. Justice Cornelia Clark
9. Dean Koch, Lisa Rippy, and Justice Frank Drowota

Nashville School of Law students appreciated the chance to meet the Justices and see them on the bench.

“The value of seeing the actual application of legal theories and doctrines was immeasurable,” says Tim Horne, a fourth-year student from Blountville, who will graduate in December 2016. “The justices were approachable and I really appreciated them giving us the invaluable opportunity to see them hold court at the Nashville School of Law.”

“The thorough preparation of all the Justices, the thoughtfulness behind their questions, and the ferocity in which they protect the law on our behalf was inspiring,” says Christian Cahill, a fourth-year student who graduates in May 2016. “The veritable who’s who of the Middle Tennessee legal community coming out in force showed just how special the Nashville School of Law is to have been given this opportunity.” ●



Pictured above (left to right): Judge Waverly Crenshaw, Douglas Fisher, and Aubrey Harwell



Moot Court Students Honor Tom Carlton

Stalwart Moot Court instructor Thomas I. Carlton, Jr. retired from teaching at the Nashville School of Law in early 2016. Carlton graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 1965 and began teaching Moot Court at his alma mater in 1978.

Carlton is a senior partner with Cornelius & Collins, a law firm he joined in 1970. He taught Moot Court for third-year students at the Nashville School of Law for several decades.

“Tom has a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from years of trial work, great instincts and well-earned reputation for being a top notch trial lawyer and well-respected member of the bar,” says Dan Berexa, who works with Carlton at Cornelius & Collins and also teaches Moot Court at NSL. “He loves to teach and the students responded to his enthusiasm and excellent instruction. Tom is also deeply grateful for the opportunities that were made possible by his NSL education and has been deeply committed to the school’s mission and students.”

His students appreciated his keen insights, wealth of experience, and approachability. “I appreciated Mr. Carlton always being positive in our class,” recalls NSL alum Shannon Walker (2014). “He encouraged us to consider the facts, circumstances, and our approaches to handling our case from different perspectives as he shared from his experiences in his career. I remember when I had a question about our case and had to call his office, he was immediately available, responsive and willing to spend the time to help.” ●

Pictured above (left to right): Shelby Mathews, Katie Herman, Tom Carlton, Mark Jackson, and Brittany Holland

JUDGE WAVERLY CRENSHAW JOINS NSL BOARD OF TRUSTEES; DOUGLAS FISHER RETIRES

U.S. District Court Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr. joined the Nashville School of Law Board of Trustees on January 1. Crenshaw replaces Douglas M. Fisher, who was an inaugural Board member.

Crenshaw served as a partner at Waller, a position he held since 1994. In February 2015, President Barack Obama nominated Crenshaw to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee. In April the Senate unanimously confirmed Crenshaw by a 92-0 vote.

Crenshaw earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Vanderbilt. After law school, he clerked for the Chancery Court in Nashville and then for U.S. District Court Judge John T. Nixon. He later served as an assistant Attorney General for Tennessee, handling consumer protection and antitrust issues. He then worked as an associate at Passino, Delaney & Hildebrand. In 1990, he became the first African-American attorney at Waller and the firm’s first African-American partner four years later.

He led Waller’s Labor and Employment Practice for many years. He also served on the firm’s Diversity Committee.

“I’ve grown up in Nashville and went to school in Nashville all my life,” says Crenshaw. “I am very excited to join the Board of Trustees at the Nashville School of Law. I long have admired the mission of the Nashville School of Law and the accomplishments of many of its graduates. Many excellent judges and attorneys have graduated from the Nashville School of Law. I look forward to the opportunity of helping the school and providing insight to the Board.”

“MANY EXCELLENT JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF HELPING THE SCHOOL AND PROVIDING INSIGHT TO THE BOARD.”

— Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr.

Fisher had served on the Board since its inception in 1993. The founder of the Nashville-based law firm Howell & Fisher, he also taught civil procedure at NSL for seven years. Board member, Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Frank G. Clement, Jr., calls Fisher “one of the true statesmen of the bar.” ●

Law School Pro Bono and Public Interest Summit Meets at NSL

The Nashville School of Law hosted the fourth annual Law School Pro Bono & Public Interest Summit on October 29 and October 30. The two-day event featured representatives from all six Tennessee law schools – Belmont University College of Law, Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law, Nashville School of Law, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, University of Tennessee College of Law, and Vanderbilt Law School.

The Tennessee Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee and the Tennessee Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission co-sponsored the event.

Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon Lee and Nashville School of Law Dean William C. Koch, Jr. spoke to the attendees about the importance of pro bono legal service and expanding legal services to those who cannot afford legal representation. John Lewis, Nashville School of Law's Director of Pro Bono and Clinical Education, also spoke at the conference.

Approximately 30 law student representatives from the six Tennessee law schools interacted in discussion groups with Access to Justice members and faculty members Brad Morgan of UT College of Law, Jeffrey Usman from Belmont, Andrew McRee from Duncan School of Law, and Spring Miller from Vanderbilt. Those discussion groups led to presentations from the different groups.

"This two-day event was a productive summit that led to serious levels of engagement by the student representatives from the different law schools," said Lewis, who extended his thanks to Nashville-based attorney Jonathan L. Williams (2008) and the Law Office of Larry Williams (1974) for sponsoring a social event at Jack's Barbecue on the first evening of the event. •

FACULTY PROFILE: CARLTON M. LEWIS

At the June 2015 Recognition Dinner, the Nashville School of Law bestowed its Distinguished Faculty Award on Davidson County Juvenile Court Magistrate Carlton M. Lewis. The award was richly deserved, as its recipient is admired by the legal community for his work on the bench, his teaching in the classroom, and his mentoring of young lawyers.

Born in Knoxville, Lewis attended public schools in his hometown, graduating from Holston High School. Early in high school, he became interested in government and law. He then earned his undergraduate degree from Carson Newman College in Jefferson City.

LIFE AS AN NSL STUDENT

After college, Lewis worked for a year but still knew he wanted to pursue a law degree. He examined his options and realized the most affordable choice was the Nashville School of Law. "My parents were very generous in helping me through undergrad," he recalls. "I couldn't expect them to help me with law school. I also knew that the Nashville School of Law was a fine school. I knew that Senator Albert Gore, Sr. had gone to school there."

Lewis enjoyed his NSL experience. "My civil procedure instructor, Douglas Fisher, had a fantastic reputation as a trial lawyer and he was equally great in teaching civil procedure," he recalls. "He not only had a total grasp of the black-letter rules but also he taught us the practical application of those rules and made them understandable."

He also appreciated the expertise of Judge Henry Todd, who sat on the Tennessee Court of Appeals and taught both evidence and ethics. "You cannot practice law successfully without a good grounding in evidence law and Judge Todd certainly provided that."

Lewis also appreciated the instruction he received from Thomas I. Carlton, Jr. and Jack Butler in Moot Court classes. "They both taught me how to try a case before a jury," he says.

He said he and his fellow classmates had such great respect for their instructors and that his fear of failure was all the initiative he needed to work as hard as possible to earn his law degree. His class began with somewhere between 130 and 140 students and 77 graduated.

LEGAL CAREER

During law school, he worked as a law clerk at the State Attorney General's Office under William M. Leech. "There was not a better example of what an attorney should be like than General Leech," Lewis says. "He was a perfect role model for me."

After graduating from NSL, Lewis joined the Metro Public Defender's Office where he gained valuable courtroom experience from 1985 to 1991. He then moved into private practice, joining the law firm of Petway & Blackshear. The named partners were Carlton Petway and Julian Blackshear, whom Lewis calls "wonderful mentors." He practiced criminal defense and plaintiff's personal injury work.



Lewis worked at the firm until the fall of 1998 when he received a phone call from a former NSL classmate – Juvenile Court Judge for Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Betty Adams Green, who asked him if he would serve as a juvenile court referee.

“I jumped at the opportunity to work as a referee and then as a magistrate,” Lewis says. “I had represented juveniles in private practice and felt very fortunate to work under Judge Green until her retirement.”

He still relishes his role as a juvenile court magistrate and enjoys the respect of his colleagues, including the current Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway. “It’s not every day that you come across a Judicial Officer who is willing to give so much of himself to the profession of law and to the community,” says Judge Calloway. “Magistrate Lewis never hesitates to go above and beyond his job description to help others. Since 1998, when he became a Juvenile Court Magistrate, he has exemplified the meaning of a team player, a mentor, an advocate, and a servant.”

Lewis still enjoys his work. He explains it is especially rewarding to see young people who made poor choices get their lives back on track because of juvenile court intervention. “I remember one day eating at a restaurant when a young man came up to me and told me that the decision I made in his case allowed him to get into a special training program with the U.S. Army,” he recalls.

“It can be a very tough job because our decisions have such an impact on children and their families,” he explains. “But, we really try to look at creative ways of doing things to intervene and make a positive difference.”

TEACHING AT HIS ALMA MATER

In late 2001, Lewis received a phone call from NSL staff informing him that there was a new course in juvenile practice and procedure and that Dean Joe Loser wanted him to teach the class. He was surprised but also thrilled with the opportunity.

Lewis enjoys explaining the intricacies and procedures in juvenile court practice to his students and to young lawyers who appear in his courtroom. “I’ve had numerous former students practice before me,” he says. “It is a very rewarding feeling to see former students coming into the practice and see their legal skills develop. I can’t think of a more rewarding feeling.”

Within the past year, Lewis received a phone call from the current Dean of the Nashville School of Law, William C. Koch, Jr. “He asked if I could come see him at his office,” Lewis recalls. “I initially thought — ‘oh no, I’m going to the principal’s office.’ But, Dean Koch advised me that there had been a vote, and the vote was to honor me with the Distinguished Faculty Award. It was such an honor coming from my alma mater.”

Nashville School of Law students are indeed fortunate that Magistrate Carlton M. Lewis is willing to devote his time to educating the future lawyers of Tennessee in juvenile law and procedure. •

William L. Harbison Named Nashvillian of the Year

Nashville School of Law instructor William L. Harbison earned “Nashvillian of the Year” honors with co-counsel Abby Rubinfeld from the *Nashville Scene* for his advocacy challenging same-sex marriage bans.



William L. Harbison

Harbison, a partner at the Nashville-based law firm Sherrard & Roe, normally works in the areas of corporate law and trusts and estates. But, he used his legal acumen in challenging Tennessee’s same-sex marriage ban in the case of *Tansco v. Haslam*.

While Harbison and Rubinfeld failed to convince the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit to invalidate Tennessee’s ban on same-sex marriage, he and Rubinfeld ultimately prevailed. In June 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that bans on same-sex marriage violated the Equal Protection Clause.

Harbison did not lose hope after the adverse Sixth Circuit decision. “The decision by the Sixth Circuit was extremely disappointing,” he recalls. “Our team decided to try to appeal to the Supreme Court right away, and we were hopeful that they would take the case. Our decision created the circuit split that is the biggest reason for the Supreme Court to grant a cert petition. I was still hopeful that we would go all the way.”

Harbison relished the opportunity to change legal history and advance social progress: “This experience is at the very top of my work as a lawyer. It is the only time a case on which I have worked was taken by the Supreme Court, so it was a first for me in that and many other ways.” •

GRAMMY-WINNING NSL STUDENT HOPES TO PRACTICE ENTERTAINMENT LAW

Most law students do not scale the heights of the music profession before leaving it behind for the challenge of law school. But, that is exactly what Grammy-award-winner and current fourth-year NSL student Benjamin J. (BJ) Goss did.

After graduating high school, Goss did not enter college. Instead, he started at the bottom of the music business before eventually becoming a recording engineer and producer. “I was sweeping floors, making coffee, doing whatever I was told,” he recalls. “I needed the money. But, I started climbing up the ladder, slowly but surely.”

In a sense, the choice of plunging into the music business made sense, as the Goss name was synonymous with music. His father Lari, who passed away last year, was an internationally known producer of gospel music and later a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Goss’ wife Julie is a professional singer.

BJ remained in the music business for 20 years, working with gospel music but also dabbling in country and jazz. At the age of 23, he won his first of two TELLY awards, the premier award for film and video production. In 1996, he came to Nashville and began working and recording different gospel choirs.

In 2002, he won his first Grammy Award for Best Gospel Choir Album through his work with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir and their album “Be Glad.” Two years later, he garnered a second Grammy for his work as an engineer/mixer for the album “Live – This Is Your House.” In total, he has received four Grammy nominations.

Goss learned he won his first Grammy from a phone call. “Honestly, I thought it was a joke,” he recalls. “The guy said, ‘Mr. Goss, this is not a joke, this is real.’ I finally believed the guy and I was thrilled.”

In 2008, Goss decided to leave the music business. “I hadn’t seen my family much and all the travel and long hours in the studio were wearing my body down.” Additionally, Goss said he had a burning desire to further his formal education. He earned his undergraduate

degree from Liberty University and planned to obtain a master’s degree in religion and philosophy.

He credits his father-in-law, T. Allison Scott, with giving him the idea and encouragement to go to law school. “It seemed insurmountable to me, but he kept encouraging me. Without him, I would not be here.”

Nashville School of Law was a natural choice for BJ, as his family had a home in Franklin. Still, he faced some trepidation in entering law school. Those fears escalated his first night of law school in John Lewis’ contracts class. “I looked around me and I was older than most of my classmates and John Lewis just scared me to death.”



Benjamin J. (BJ) Goss

“I didn’t know what a case brief was,” Goss said. “When Mr. Lewis talked about briefing cases, I innocently asked, ‘Do we have to brief all the cases?’ Professor Lewis was less than pleased.”

Goss came to appreciate the teaching styles of Mr. Lewis and his other NSL instructors. “Marshall Davidson is an awesome teacher,” he said. “I really enjoyed constitutional law and advanced torts. Judge Dozier was an amazing teacher as well.”

Goss said the most challenging aspect in law school is integrating all the necessary studying with the stresses of normal life. But, he says his NSL experience is rewarding.

He credits NSL’s staff with helping him and creating a “family-like atmosphere.”

When asked about his future plans, Goss says: “I’ll be praying a lot. But, I would really like to work in the field of entertainment law.” ●

POLICE SERGEANT BLESSED TO BE AT NSL

Fourth-year NSL student and Metropolitan Police Sergeant Carlos Lara knows the meaning of hard work. At times during his NSL tenure, he worked the midnight shift at the Central Precinct. But, that has never stopped Sergeant Lara from achieving his dream of obtaining his law degree.

After graduating high school in Boston, Lara attended a few semesters of college before deciding to enter the workforce in the medical field. He worked as a medical assistant in Boston, Rhode Island and later Nashville after he and his wife Rebeca moved south to be near her family.

Lara joined the Metro police force seven years ago and rose to the rank of sergeant. He also finished his undergraduate studies at Trevecca, majoring in criminal justice. Many of his classmates at Trevecca were law enforcement officers, court officers or firefighters, including recent NSL graduates Kenny Dyer, Ken Wilkinson and Lyell Sloan, and his fourth-year classmate Julie Riggs.

As an officer, Lara also received encouragement to give law school a try from an assistant district attorney and General Sessions Judge Casey Moreland, who teaches at NSL.

Lara chose NSL because it was affordable and gave him an opportunity to keep working full-time as a police officer. He was “excited” but “extremely overwhelmed” when embarking on his legal career. “With time management

and a lot of prayer, I began to find my groove,” Lara says.

He says he was most terrified when he took the midterm exam in Torts, a class taught by Marshall Davidson, whom Lara calls a “great teacher.” He has most enjoyed learning about torts, crimes and free-speech law.

His classmates elected the popular Lara to the Honor Council where he has served as past president. He was re-elected to serve another two-year term, meaning he will be on the Honor Council all four years at NSL.

Lara is grateful for the opportunity to be at NSL. “What I love about NSL is that my classmates come from all walks of life,” he explains. “They are police officers, firefighters, and business owners. I’ve learned so much from them.”

He is also grateful to his family — his wife and two children, Gabriel and Cristian — and to his church family at Rural Hill Church of Christ in Antioch. “The Lord has blessed me — I know it wasn’t because of me that I’ve made it this far.”

When asked about his future plans, Lara says “whatever the Lord decides.” He mentions working at the District Attorney’s Office or practicing immigration law as possibilities.

Whatever path he chooses, rest assured that Carlos Lara will handle himself with class and dignity. ●



Sgt. Carlos Lara

NSL Offers Juvenile Court Custody Clinic

Nashville School of Law students have an exciting new opportunity for experiential learning through the school’s Juvenile Court Custody Clinic.

Directed by Juvenile Court Magistrate Scott Rosenberg and John Lewis, the school’s Director of Pro Bono Programs, the clinic features students working with supervising attorneys on custody cases in juvenile court. Participating students gain invaluable legal experience and learn many substantive and procedural issues related to juvenile court practice.

“The new Juvenile Court Clinic at the Nashville School of Law is truly a ‘win-win’ opportunity,” said Magistrate Rosenberg. The clinic was founded to give pro-se litigants in contested parenting time cases an opportunity to have legal counsel they otherwise could not afford and desperately need.

“The clinic also offers a great opportunity to the students. The students not only obtain Supreme Court Rule 7 certification, they obtain real world experience trying actual cases. However, the ultimate winners in all these cases are the children who will have a much more meaningful and effective parenting arrangement.” ●



NSL Hosts Virtual Law Clinics

In August and October, Nashville School of Law students worked with attorneys — many of whom were NSL alumni — to answer questions submitted by persons needing legal assistance. These clinics are part of the Online Tennessee Justice program.

An attorney works with three NSL students to answer real legal questions submitted to Online Tennessee Justice. The clinics allow students to interact with attorneys, gain legal experience, and experience the joys of pro bono legal work.

Students enjoyed the experience. “The Online Tennessee Justice event was amazing,” said fourth-year student Christian Cahill. “First, to collaborate with a successful practitioner and actually help to dissect legal issues being faced in a real world situation was incredible. Then realizing that all the hard work that you have put in the classroom really has prepared you to practice law was so validating. Finally, the opportunity to assist someone that would not otherwise have access to legal assistance and knowing that even as a student we may have positively changed the course of their life is priceless.”

Nashville-based personal injury attorney Mitch Grissim (1981) participated in the clinic in August. When asked why he devoted his time to the cause, he explained, “First I believe it is my responsibility to help those with legal needs who economically cannot access the help they require. Second, I wanted to support the law school and encourage the students who gave of their free time to participate in such a worthwhile service. NSL gave me a tremendous opportunity 35 years ago and I am forever indebted to the school and the great leaders in the legal community that gave their time.” •

Pictured above: Nashville attorney Steve Wasserman (1993) collaborating with NSL students.

SENATOR AND JUDGE HAYNES: NSL ALUMS WHO IMPROVED GOVERNMENT

Senator Joe Haynes and Judge Barbara Haynes distinguished themselves as devoted public servants in state and Nashville-area government over several decades. The couple also both graduated from the Nashville School of Law before entering public service.

Joe Haynes grew up in Castalian Springs, Tennessee, where he attended a three-room school for five years before moving to Gallatin. After graduating from Gallatin High School, he attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he met his future wife.

Born in Nashville, Barbara Haynes attended Isaac Litton High School before matriculating at the University of Tennessee. She said her father instilled in her the necessity of helping others, particularly those who couldn't help themselves. “We were raised to work hard and to help others,” she recalls. “My father would have us take our Easter baskets and give them to children who were less fortunate. That spirit of generosity and giving stayed with me.”

TIME AT THE NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW

Senator Haynes didn't seriously consider law as his future vocation until his father's lawyer, Richard Harsh, sat him down and told him that he “ought to be a lawyer.” After graduation, he went to work at DuPont in Old Hickory.

He followed Harsh's advice and attended Nashville School of Law, graduating in 1965. He enjoyed his classes, particularly those taught by Ervin Entrekin, Leroy Ellis, and Judge Henry

Todd. “The Nashville School of Law prepared me very well for the practice of law,” he recalls.

Barbara Haynes didn't enroll in law school until later. She worked as a teacher and then as legal secretary at the office of Senator Haynes, who had since become her husband.

At Joe's urging, Barbara took a domestic relations class at the Nashville School of Law. She loved it and decided to enroll full-time. “I loved my classes at the Nashville School of Law from start to finish,” she says, though she particularly enjoyed Leroy Ellis in Conflicts and Clay Bailey in Constitutional Law. She excelled in school and graduated in 1976.

PRACTICING LAW

After graduating, Joe opened up his practice in North Nashville but then moved his office to Goodlettsville. “I've always liked the small community atmosphere,” he says, reflecting upon his decision to practice in Goodlettsville.

One of his favorite memories practicing law occurred in a personal injury case before Judge Joe Loser, who later became dean of the Nashville School of Law in 1986. “When I walked into the courtroom, the attorney on the other side said they would offer \$45,000. I told my client – ‘They are offering \$45,000, what do you want to do?’ My client said no, that she wanted a trial. We tried the case and the jury awarded us \$150,000.”

“I walked back to my client and said: ‘Aren't you glad you didn't take the \$45,000?’ She replied: ‘What \$45,000? I don't remember you telling me that.’”

Sports and Entertainment Law Society Formed at NSL



The Nashville School of Law's Sports and Entertainment Law Society (SELS) held its first meeting in late August, electing board members and discussing ideas for its impact. Leighton Linning, Colton McGee, and Meredith McGinnis were elected, respectively, as the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of the student organization.

"The Sports and Entertainment Law Society is our school's first law society and is an important piece to our evolving school and the education that is provided at NSL," explained Linning. "The society will strengthen relationships with our alumni, the community and the sports and entertainment industry. Graduates will not only leave here 'practice ready,' but will now be more equipped to serve Music Row and the sporting industry."

Ramona DeSalvo, who teaches Intellectual Property at NSL, serves as the group's faculty advisor. •

Halloween Torts



Pictured above: Hon. Marshall Davidson and several of his students from Torts class enjoying the Halloween spirit at the Nashville School of Law.



Pictured above (left to right): Senator Joe Haynes, Hon. Barbara Haynes, Gregg S. Treadway, Kimberley Reed-Bracey, Russell E. Freeman, and Kirk Clements

"I told her, 'Well I'm glad you didn't hear me, because we just tripled it.'"

Law school also opened doors for Barbara Haynes, who later got certified in tax court and served as co-counsel on cases in New York and California. "My law school education opened doors that I never dreamed possible," she recalls. "It helped me make a real difference in Tennessee."

POLITICS AND THE BENCH

Joe Haynes began serving on the city commission in Goodlettsville in the mid-1970s. He enjoyed his law practice but found that he loved politics. In 1984, he earned a seat in the State Senate where he became known as "the Rock of the Senate." Haynes loves politics. "It is the give and take, the debate, the issues, trying to outsmart your opponent," he says. "I dearly loved it."

During his long tenure, he chaired the Government operations committee and the Ethics Committee, headed the Democratic Caucus, and advocated for open government.

"From my time as a Public Service Commissioner and Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority for 19 years, I worked with Joe Haynes and always found him in support of the consumer and the working man and woman in Tennessee," says current State Senator Sara Kyle (1987). "I have a new profound appreciation for all Joe Haynes did to make Tennessee a better place to live and work."

"Politics was his calling," says Judge Haynes. "I watch him fight some hard battles for the

Constitution. He was more than a politician, he was a statesman."

He also helped see through a bill in 1989 that rewrote the state's criminal code. The 1989 commission that rewrote the criminal code was chaired by none other than Judge Barbara Haynes, who was asked to do so by Governor Lamar Alexander.

She made an impact throughout her career in the judiciary, first serving as a General Sessions Judge in 1982 and then as a circuit court judge beginning in 1990. She served as a circuit court judge for the Third Circuit in Davidson County until her retirement in late 2011. "It was my opportunity to create what I thought was justice under the Constitution," she recalls. "I thought people's rights were being abused. I enjoyed serving as judge for the people in Davidson County."

She was one of the first women to serve on the bench in Davidson County. "I don't regard myself as a trailblazer," she says. "I was one of a group of women that wanted to make a difference."

Female attorneys in Nashville attest to Judge Haynes' path-breaking career and positive impact on the profession. "When I was licensed in 1980, there were no female judges," says Helen Sfikas Rogers (1980). "She certainly is a wonderful person and a great mentor to women attorneys. She also was a great settler of cases."



NSL CELEBRATES INVESTITURE OF DEAN KOCH

On September 26, 2015, the Nashville School of Law held an investiture ceremony honoring the appointment of former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William C. Koch, Jr. as the school's fifth dean. The school's first four deans were Owen Hughes, Ferriss C. Bailey, Sr., J. Gilbert Lackey, Jr., and Joe C. Loser, Jr.

The event featured an impressive array of speakers who lauded the school's history, its mission, its student body, faculty, alumni, community connections, and the choice of its new leader.

Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Frank Clement, a member of the school's Board of Trustees, emceed the event with characteristic aplomb and wit. Two of his fellow Board of Trust members, Frank Drowota and Aubrey Harwell, began the ceremony. Former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Drowota delivered a moving invocation, lauding this "unique law school with its special mission." Aubrey

Harwell spoke on behalf of the trustees, describing Dean Koch as the "perfect person" to become the school's dean.

Bill Harbison, who has taught contracts at the school for a decade, spoke on behalf of the faculty. He described his faculty appointment as a "life-changing event," addressed NSL's "vital role in our state and society," and expressed his admiration for the "diversity of backgrounds" of the NSL student body.

Fourth-year NSL student and business owner Christian Cahill impressed the audience with his oratorical skills. He described how when he and his fellow attendees walk the halls of the NSL campus, they can "feel the history." He expressed excitement over Dean Koch's appointment, stating that students are "filled with excitement, anticipation and enthusiasm that this torch has been passed to you."



Pictured to the right:

1. Tom Lawless, Chief Justice Sharon Lee, and Judge Richard Dinkins
2. Nashville School of Law faculty members at the Investiture of Dean Koch.
3. Mayor Karl Dean
4. Brenda and Doug Hale speaking at Dean Koch's Investiture.

Pictured on opposite page (left to right): Michael A. McConnell of Fort Worth, Texas, Dean Koch, Chief Justice of Virginia, Donald W. Lemons, and Justice Randy J. Holland of Delaware

Brenda (1977) and Douglas (1978) Hale, who practice law together in Franklin, addressed the crowd on behalf of the alumni. The married couple of 38 years expressed their love of the school. Douglas Hale emphasized the bonds forged among NSL graduates in the community, calling his fellow practicing alums “courteous, professional, knowledgeable, and committed.”

The former mayor of Nashville, Karl Dean, talked about the significant impact of the school on Nashville, called the school “a treasure” and handed Dean Koch a proclamation from the city of Nashville acknowledging the investiture celebration.

Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee delivered a powerful and personal keynote address, praising the school’s graduates and her former colleague on the Tennessee Court of Appeals and the Tennessee Supreme Court. Describing his love of learning and the law, the Chief Justice assured the audience that Dean Koch would continue to “improve the school’s commitment to excellence.”

The Chairman of the Board of Trust, Tom Cone, who has held that position since 1993, formally inducted Koch as Dean, charging him to “preserve, protect, and carry forward” the values and traditions of the school.

Next, Dean Koch expressed his heartfelt thanks for the high honor of being chosen as the school’s fifth dean. He noted that NSL has long been a place where “dreams are fulfilled, opportunities are created, and where lives have been changed.” While acknowledging the “splendid legacy” from Dean Loser and predecessors, he pledged his commitment to improving the curriculum and the school.

During his address, Dean Koch acknowledged R.B. Parker, Jr. (1950), one of the school’s oldest graduates who still practices law in the Middle Tennessee area. Dean Koch called Parker a “living bridge” who personally knew all of the school’s deans. In a particularly poignant moment, the Dean also acknowledged the love and “unfailing support” of his wife, Debby Koch.

NSL Board of Trust speaker Douglas Murray Fisher closed the ceremony with a stirring address to the faculty, telling them that students can “feel your thirst for learning.” Called by Clement a “true statesman of the bar,” Fisher taught for many years at NSL and expressed that passion for teaching at the investiture. He ended his address stating, “Never before in the proud history of the school has there been more reason to celebrate.” ●

1.



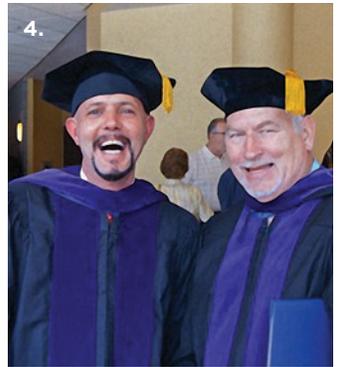
2.



3.



4.



7.



8.





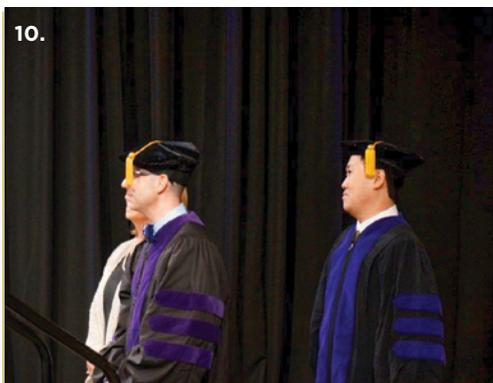
n May 23, 2015, 84 men and women graduated from the Nashville School of Law at a ceremony held at the Nashville Convention Center.

Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee delivered the commencement address, praising the graduates for their dedication and hard work. She urged them to think about service. “Our profession is one of service,” she said. “If you choose to serve others, I promise you, you will be a good lawyer.”

K. Harlan Dodson, III, who has taught at NSL longer than any active faculty member, gave a rousing faculty address without any notes. He talked about the faculty’s love of the school and its students.

Ashley Renee King delivered the student address and Megan Petree Ross closed the ceremony with the benediction. “Just remember, as Abraham Lincoln once said, The main thing to being a lawyer is ‘work, work, work,’ and during the last four years, we have certainly proven that we can excel at that,” she said.

During the ceremony, King, Christopher William Beauchamp, William Brian Crews, Kimberly Faye, Paul Grassmann, Denise Martin, David Roseberry, Donnavon Vasek, and Jimmy White earned induction into the prestigious Cooper’s Inn Honor Society, reserved for those in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. King won the Founders’ Award for having the highest grade point average and Beauchamp captured the Moot Court Award. ●



Pictured left:

1. Dean Koch congratulating graduate Lacey Mangrum.
2. Jordan Quintana and Ashley King
3. Harold Rushton, Kimberly Faye, Spencer Hassler, and Kim Stinson
4. Woodrow Tronsden and Jim Cook
5. Phillip Clark and Terry Cashion
6. Woodrow Tronsden and Betty Hillman Tronsden
7. Chief Justice Sharon Lee delivering the commencement address.
8. Hon. Frank Clement, Kimberly Faye, and Lynn Clement
9. Dean Koch congratulating Paul Grassmann.
10. Graduates James Witty and Ray Yan line up to receive their degrees.

Forty-eight women and men earned their law degrees on Saturday, December 12, from the Nashville School of Law in a ceremony held at the Nashville Convention Center and Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

The school's 107th commencement ceremony featured addresses from Metro Nashville Public Defender C. Dawn Deaner and Circuit Court Judge David M. Bragg of the Sixteenth Judicial District serving Cannon and Rutherford Counties.

Deaner applauded the graduates' accomplishments in graduating and urged them to think about public service in their chosen profession.

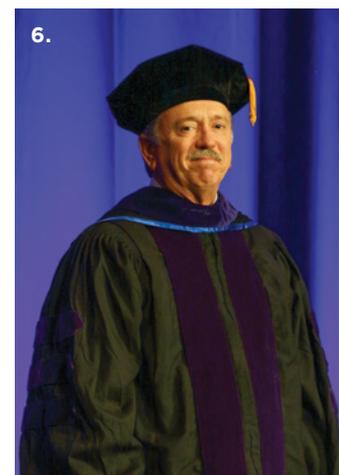
"What I want to suggest to you today is that your success in the future, as a lawyer, will be measured most by how well you use your education, your talents, your determination, and your vision in service of others," said Deaner. "I have learned over the years that justice is not only an outcome, it is a process."

"I challenge you to continue to learn," said Judge Bragg in his faculty address. "The law is constantly evolving. Resist the temptation to slow down and ignore what is happening in the legislature and the appellate courts. Treat every case as a new challenge to explore precedents and revisit statutory authority."

Five members of the graduating class earned admission into the prestigious Cooper's Inn Honor Society, reserved for those students who finished in the top 10 percent of their class. They were Cathryn Armistead, Charles Raymond Chadwell, Mary Hutto Cocke, Michael Todd Kuebler, and Daniel David Newbern. Armistead captured the Founders' Award for the highest overall grade point average.

Leighton George Linning and Kelley Louvenia Groover won the Moot Court Award, given to the students who demonstrate outstanding preparation and performance in the courtroom.

Dean William C. Koch, Jr., who presided over the ceremony, congratulated the graduates on completing their legal education at NSL and urged them to use their legal skills to improve their communities. ●





Pictured left to right:

1. Brad Kellum and April Odom
2. Robert Weaver, Terrance Rand, and Chase Lewis
3. John Hutson
4. Metro Public Defender Dawn Deaner delivers the commencement address.
5. Dean Koch congratulates Ectory Lawless.
6. Hon. David Bragg delivers the faculty address.
7. Founders' Award recipient Cathryn Armistead delivers the student address.



ALUMNI PROFILE: SIEW-LING SHEA

Family law attorney and civil mediator Siew-Ling Shea enjoys helping people resolve conflicts and move on with their lives — something she has been doing effectively as an attorney since graduating from the Nashville School of Law in 2006.

But her journey began not in Nashville, Tennessee, but in Singapore where she graduated high school. She decided to go to college in the United States. “I came to the United States with two suitcases and thought it was going to be a great adventure,” says Shea. “I have always been very independent, but this adventure was definitely challenging and life-changing. I learned to take the challenges as learning opportunities and to trust my instincts.”

She earned a scholarship to Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, which she attended for two years before transferring to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. “I liked Bryn Mawr but it was just too small,” Shea says. “I came from a big city.” She graduated from Michigan with a double major in sociology and communications.

Shea later moved from Michigan to the Middle Tennessee area where she worked for a health maintenance organization.

She noticed that law was pervasive in the industry and decided to go to paralegal school “to get her feet wet” in the law. She graduated from an accelerated program at Southeastern Paralegal Institute with honors in seven months.

She did not immediately attend law school, as she endured a divorce and had to support her son as a single parent. But, she later enrolled at the Nashville School of Law. It was a natural choice for Shea, who says, “I could work all day, make a living, and still go to law school.”

Shea enjoyed her time at NSL immensely but found it challenging. “I most enjoyed having contact with judges and practicing attorneys,” she says. “It was really good to make those connections in law school.” Shea remembers Judge Steve Daniel’s conflicts class as particularly rewarding. “He was a very tough but good professor. I remember he scared many of us in class.”

Shea conquered all challenges at NSL, graduating in 2006 as a member of the Cooper’s Inn Honor Society, a designation reserved for those who finish in the top 10 percent of their class. While at NSL, she began work as a paralegal for attorney Helen Sfikas Rogers

“I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES WITH TWO SUITCASES AND THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE A GREAT ADVENTURE. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN VERY INDEPENDENT, BUT THIS ADVENTURE WAS DEFINITELY CHALLENGING AND LIFE-CHANGING. I LEARNED TO TAKE THE CHALLENGES AS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND TO TRUST MY INSTINCTS.”

—Siew-Ling Shea (*Class of 2006*)

(1980), who previously had been her divorce attorney. “Helen Rogers is an excellent mentor,” Shea says. “She took me under her wing. I couldn’t have learned from anyone better.”

The goodwill is mutual. “I’ve had fun practicing with Siew-Ling,” says Rogers. “No one prepares a case better than she does and no one works harder than she does. We have a great collaborative process in our office.”

Shea practices with her mentor at the firm of Rogers, Kamm & Shea, where she is a named partner. She spends time at the firm’s offices in Nashville and Franklin.

Shea not only practices law but also contributes to legal scholarship with her superior writing skills. Her article — “When a Child’s Best Interests Are At Issue: Privacy of Mental Health Records in Divorce and Custody Proceedings” — appeared in the July 2013 issue of *The Tennessee Bar Journal*.

“I enjoy writing,” she says. “My mother was an English literature teacher who still corrects me and my sister is a published fiction

writer and novelist. Helen encouraged me to write for the *Journal* and I did. After the first article was published, I thought, ‘Don’t be a one-timer.’” She then authored another article — “New Statutory Parental Rights: Play Nice and Fair, or Be Punished for Misconduct Toward the Other Parent” — which appeared in the November 2014 issue. She has aspirations of writing a non-fiction book.

She remains grateful to Nashville School of Law for providing her with a legal education and looks forward to the school’s future. “I am very glad that NSL continues to grow and have such an impact in the legal community,” she says. “And I’m really excited that Justice Koch is at the helm.”

Nashville School of Law made an impact by affording an opportunity for a law degree to someone as talented and dedicated as Siew-Ling Shea. The public and the legal profession will continue to benefit from her good works. ●

ANTONIO AGUILAR ENJOYS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Nashville-based attorney Antonio Aguilar says his ability to adapt to changing circumstances in legal practice comes from his background. His father, Jose, worked for the Border Patrol and then the Drug Enforcement Administration, the latter a job that required the Aguilar family to move every few years.

As a result, young Antonio lived in different cities and countries, changing schools frequently. Born in El Paso, Texas, Antonio attended grade school in Mexico and then several schools in Texas. He graduated high school from the American School of Madrid in Spain in a graduating class of 36 students. He also became fluent in Spanish and French.

Antonio earned his undergraduate degree from Texas Christian University, where he developed an interest in politics. He majored in political science and considered a career in the Foreign Service. After graduating from TCU, Antonio worked as director of marketing and public relations for a physicians' practice in Fort Worth, Texas.

By chance, a friend of his told him about a potential job opportunity in 2004 at a law firm in Nashville. Marie Militana, an associate with the law firm Taylor, Pigue, Marchetti & Blair, needed a paralegal. Antonio took the job and loved it. "Marie taught me the basics, from drafting pleadings to helping answer discovery, as well as addressing other aspects of the law," he recalls. "It was incredible how much I learned from her."

"A partner at the firm, Richie Pigue, sat me down and said, 'You know you're pretty good at this, you should consider law school,'" he recalls. Pigue and others at the firm told him about the Nashville School of Law, where he could keep working as a paralegal during the day and go to school at night.

When asked what he enjoyed most about the Nashville School of Law, he doesn't hesitate – the professors. "Every time I talk to someone from a traditional law school, I realize they didn't have the hands-on experience that we had at NSL."

"I loved Bill Harbison's contracts class," he recalls. "David Hudson's legal writing classes were very helpful and practical. I learned a lot about remedies from Clark Spoden."

After graduating from NSL in 2010, he was offered a position as an associate by the partners at the law firm. "The job market was competitive at the time," he says. "I was very grateful to be offered a position."

He often assists partner Gino Marchetti, who serves as General Counsel for the Catholic Diocese of Nashville. He also works in the areas of creditors' rights, real property and transactional work. "It is an interesting mix of work at the firm," he says. "I also enjoy the management side of practicing law."

Antonio devotes a significant amount of time to pro bono and charitable causes. "I've always thought it helpful to give back to the community." His fluent Spanish has come in handy when he volunteers his time for the Clinica Legal of the Legal Aid Society, helping Spanish-speaking individuals with legal issues.

He also knows being an attorney affects people's lives. "What I do impacts people's lives in a direct way," he says. "I treat that type of power and responsibility with the respect and care it deserves."

Antonio Aguilar is an exemplar for how attorneys should conduct their professional affairs and give back to the community. •



Antonio Aguilar

MARY E. MCCULLOHS FIGHTING MEDICAID FRAUD FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE



Mary E McCullohs

Attorney Mary E. McCullohs represents the State of Tennessee in the Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division of the Tennessee Attorney General's Office. Previously, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney prosecuting violent crime offenders. Precious few attorneys reach these lofty heights and prestigious positions.

What makes McCullohs' career accomplishments even more impressive are the roads she traveled to reach these positions. For 20 years, McCullohs worked as a paralegal both in private practice and for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In 1986, she began working as a paralegal for the law firm Bass, Berry & Sims after earning a degree from paralegal school. She worked on medical malpractice, products liability and commercial litigation, including work with Bob Cooper, who later served as Tennessee Attorney General. She then moved to the U.S. Attorney's Office where she worked as a paralegal specialist in healthcare fraud.

She enjoyed the paralegal work but several attorneys she worked for told her that she should go to law school. "Jim Vines, the U.S. Attorney at the time, really encouraged me and went out of his way to help me go to law school," she recalls.

The best choice — indeed the only choice in McCullohs' mind — was the Nashville School of Law. "I needed to keep my day job and go to school at night," she says.

"Nashville School of Law provides a great service to those who work and have families."

McCullohs enjoyed her NSL experience immensely, especially the constitutional law class taught by then-Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William Koch. "Justice Koch's con law class was extremely challenging — but in a good way," she recalls. "He imparted so much information on us that our heads were spinning. But, his enthusiasm and dedication to the subject matter inspired many of us to work harder for him. He really challenged us and was an excellent instructor."

She also enjoyed an estates class taught by longtime NSL instructor Harlan Dodson. "His knowledge of the subject matter was just phenomenal," she says. "It was the kind of class that not only prepared you for the bar exam but also gave you information that helped you in your own life."

After graduating from NSL in 2007, McCullohs continued her work as a paralegal for the U.S. Attorney's Office but applied for an Assistant U.S. Attorney position, which she obtained in early 2009. "It was a culmination of all those years in law school and all the sacrifices my family made," she says.

She even argued two appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit during her time as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. "It was absolutely terrifying arguing in front of

the Sixth Circuit," she relates, "but it is truly an honor to represent the U.S. government."

She left the U.S. Attorney's Office to work under a new division created by then-Attorney General Bob Cooper — the Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division. "I had worked for General Cooper as his paralegal when I was at Bass, Berry & Sims," she says. "He knew what kind of person I was and my work ethic."

She relishes the work at the Tennessee Attorney General's Office. "I enjoy helping to recover tax dollars stolen from the State of Tennessee and stolen from the program that is created to help underprivileged citizens," she says. "Also, the complexity of the cases is very intellectually challenging."

She hopes to help grow the division and make it "as big and bad as the federal government" in fighting against healthcare and Medicaid fraud.

She attributes her successes to her work ethic and persistence — something she sees in many NSL students. "NSL students represent hard work and tenacity," she explains. "When you work full-time, have a family, and go to law school at night, you must be tenacious and dedicated. It shows the ability to persevere."

The State of Tennessee — and the U.S. Attorney's Office before it — are well served that attorney Mary McCullohs persevered and became a seasoned litigator for the government. ●

COOPER NAMED METRO LAW DIRECTOR



IN MEMORIAM:

Hon. James O. Bond (1971)

Joe M. Brandon, Jr. (1994)

Linda Morrison Butler (1985)

Dr. Thomas H. Coode (1962)

Arthur Crownover, II (1986)

Raymond Earl Grinder, Jr. (1976)

Randall C. Haynes, Sr. (1984)

C. Michael Lawson (1976)

Richard Liptock (2010)

James T. McMillen (1975)

Rev. Gordon G. Meadors (1978)

Hugh Douglas Shannon (1960)

Paul Foster Rice (1984)

William Clyde Russell (1959)

Lawrence Randall Travis (1969)

William C. Ward (1976)

Sam J. Watridge (1982)

William D. Young, Jr. (1968)

Jonathan B. Cooper (2004) was named Director of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville's Department of Law in late September by Mayor Megan Barry. Cooper previously had served as an attorney and office director for the Metro Council.



Jonathan B. Cooper

"It is a great honor to have been chosen by Mayor Barry to serve as Director as Law for the Metropolitan Government," Cooper said. "This is a very exciting time for Nashville given the current and expected growth, and I look forward to serving the city in this new capacity."

Cooper, a Middle Tennessee native, graduated from Hume-Fogg Academic High School and Middle Tennessee State University. He then attended the Nashville School of Law.

"I am truly grateful to Nashville School of Law for providing me with the foundation necessary to succeed as a lawyer," he said. "Since the law is my second career, I would not have had the opportunity to attend law school if NSL had not been an option. I have fond memories of sitting in Judge Cantrell's Remedies class and Dean Koch's con law class. I have relied on the concepts I learned in those classes throughout my career much more than I would have envisioned. I actually still review my outlines periodically for those subjects!" ●

SENATOR AND JUDGE HAYNES: NSL ALUMS WHO IMPROVED GOVERNMENT, CONTINUED

"Judge Haynes was such an effective judge because she read every word that was submitted to her," explains Nashville-based attorney Margaret Moore, who clerked for Judges Haynes. "She was always extremely prepared at whatever she had to do, whether that be as a mediator or as a trial judge. She had — and still has — an incredible ability to quickly pick up on the real issue and get to the heart of the matter."

Senator Haynes also admired his wife's work on the bench: "I took a good deal of pride in her success. I obviously never tried a case in front of her. Numerous people throughout the years told me what a good and fair judge she was. She made me proud."

For her accomplishments, the Nashville School of Law honored Judge Haynes with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award. NSL previously had bestowed the honor on Senator Haynes in 1994.

For his part, Senator Haynes has not retired and still practices law with vigor. "I can still try a good case," he says. He also serves as the city attorney for Goodlettsville, for Cross Plains, Davidson County ECD (911), and the attorney for the Tennessee Emergency Number Association.

He also has served as a mentor to younger attorneys, including one of his partners, Kimberley Reed-Bracey, who also graduated from the Nashville School of Law and currently teaches Business Associations at her alma mater.

"Not only has Joe Haynes guided my way for me to become a successful trial litigant, but he has helped me break every imposed glass ceiling when he asked me to partner with the firm years ago," she explains. "He is still very much a mentor to me. I learn from him daily. He may have retired from the Senate but he hasn't slowed down in the office."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



2015 - 2016 Scholarships

The 2016 scholarship awards were announced in December 2015. This year, 35 students received scholarships.

FEDERAL BENCH & BAR

Mr. Wayne Edwards
Ms. Galen Gray
Mr. Henry Miller
Mr. Stephen Nault
Ms. Anetra Smith
Ms. Sarah Vivet

JOHN B. DOWNEY, JR.

Ms. Brittany Davis
Mr. Gene Guerre
Mr. Jason Light
Mr. Andrew Lockert
Ms. Tiffani Pope

WILLIAM J. BLEVINS

Mr. Mark Atchison
Ms. Liz Hernandez
Mr. Billy Leslie
Ms. Jessica Schultz
Mr. Michael Weston

JUDGE CHARLES GILBERT

Mr. Andrew Bellm

LUTHER E. CANTRELL, JR.

Mr. Charles Vance
Ms. Amanda Stacy

PAUL HOLBROOK

Mr. Michael Rexroat

MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN HURD

Mr. Wesley Holder
Mr. Bill Pomy
W. P. COOPER
Mr. Andrew Nutt

CORYNNE BRAZZELL ARNEY

Ms. Alysse Gregory

J. G. LACKEY, JR.

Mr. William Sanders

CHIEF JUSTICE CHARLES O'BRIEN

Ms. Mary Stoner

JUDGE HARRY LESTER

Ms. SHERAL GAMBRELL

TULLY AWARD

Mr. Andrew Bellm

TRUSTEE & FACULTY

Mr. Blake Arnold
Mr. David L. Barry
Mr. Christian Cahill
Ms. Ashley Fine
Ms. Elizabeth Goetz
Mr. Samuel Guin
Ms. Keller Mizell
Mr. John Morris



Scholarship Recipient Speaks at Judicial Conference

Current fourth-year student Tiffani Pope did more than earn excellent grades, write a letter or essay, and fill out forms to earn a scholarship. She also spoke to the Tennessee Judicial Conference in October 2015 to express her appreciation for the financial support of a scholarship.

She received a standing ovation for her heartfelt comments.

“This scholarship has meant so much to me in helping to relieve that financial burden and to know there are members of the legal profession who understand the importance of giving back to the community and the meaning of ‘paying it forward,’” says Pope. “Speaking at the judicial conference was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so blessed to have been invited to speak to such an esteemed audience. This experience was one I will truly never forget.” ●

Pictured above (left to right): Hon. J.S. “Steve” Daniel, Tiffani Pope, Suzanne Keith, and Dean Koch

SENATOR AND JUDGE HAYNES: NSL ALUMS WHO IMPROVED GOVERNMENT, CONTINUED

LIFE LESSONS

These two local legends in the law draw inspiration from their family, including their seven grandchildren. They enjoy speaking more about their grandkids’ accomplishments and adventures than their own.

They also both speak about a love of learning. “You never quit learning regardless of what you are doing,” says Senator Haynes. “I’m happy I’ve had the opportunity in both politics and law to be able to help people.”

To current students at the Nashville School of Law, Barbara offers the following sage advice: “Always believe in yourself and somewhere you will find a niche where you can make a difference.”

Barbara and Joe Haynes certainly found their niches and made a difference. ●

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES:

1974

ED SILVA was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court as chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission. Silva also was named a Darrell Waltrip Automotive Group Hometown Hero for his leadership in improving the Main Street area in Franklin.

1978

LARRY D. CRAIG retired as city attorney for Kingston Springs, a position he held since 1982.

PHILLIP H. MILLER taught at the American Association for Justice Ultimate Trial Advocacy College at Harvard Law School.

1979

TOM PERRY won the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award for the *Nashville Business Journal's* CFO Awards.

1980

MARLENE ESKIND MOSES was elected President of the International Academy of Family Lawyers USA Chapter.

1982

JOE B. HUDDLESTON was named executive director for Ernst & Young's national indirect tax group in Washington D.C. Huddleston has served as Tennessee's Revenue Department Commissioner and Metro Finance Director in his career.

JOHN D. PARKER, JR. was appointed magistrate in Sullivan County by the Sullivan County Commission.

1982

JIMMY WAYNE BILBO achieved recertification as a Civil Trial Advocate from the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

1986

THE HON. DONNA SCOTT DAVENPORT, juvenile court judge in Rutherford County, delivered the commencement address for the morning graduation ceremony at Middle Tennessee State University.

JAMES BRUCE DUNN, District Attorney General of Cocke County, was elected Vice President of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference at their annual meeting. He

has served as District Attorney since 2006. Dunn also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Walters State Community College in May.

1989

THOMAS J. MARTIN received advanced level training from the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys on footwear and hazard lights in DUI cases.

1991

MICHAEL G. DERRICK was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve as a Commissioner on the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program.

1992

MARIA SALAS was named to the *Nashville Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar." She also was appointed Clerk and Master for the Chancery Courts for the 20th Judicial District.

RICHARD SEBASTIAN was one of the attorneys profiled in the cover story of the July 2015 issue of the *ABA Journal* "Zeal behind the wheel" authored by NSL faculty member David L. Hudson, Jr.

1996

AMY SMITH was named Director of Paralegal Studies at Volunteer State Community College.

2003

ANDREA ANTHONY was named coordinator of secondary education of Rutherford County Schools.

2006

KIM ADKINS was named Chair of the Metro Nashville Sports Authority's 13-member board.

2007

CHRISTOPHER GILDER has been promoted to the position of captain in the Metro Police Department in Nashville, Tennessee.

2008

C. TUCKER HERNDON joined the law firm Burr & Forman as a partner. Herndon's practice focuses on commercial lending and creditors' rights.

DYLAN MORSE was named vice president of business operations for Common Cents Systems, Inc.

2010

ROBERT DALTON was named Chief Legal Officer for Pan American Center in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

JEREMY ELROD was elected to the Nashville Metro Council for District 26. Elrod is the Director of Government Relations for the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association.

KATIE BELL KLINGHARD was named to the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland.

BARBARA BOONE MCGINNIS was named partner at the Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs. McGinnis joined the firm as an associate in 2011.

MARIAM STOCKTON was named an associate with the Nashville-based law firm Neal & Harwell. Stockton previously had served as a litigation specialist with the firm.

2011

JACOB FENDLEY received advanced level training from the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys on the subject of hazard lights. Fendley practices criminal defense in Clarksville.

SCOTT PILKINTON wrote the cover story for the May issue of the *Tennessee Bar Journal*. The article is entitled "Can a Felon Be a Fiduciary?"

JAMES TURNER received advanced level training from the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys on footwear and hazard lights in DUI cases. Turner practices criminal defense law in Murfreesboro.

2013

AMY SAVOIE passed the patent bar in 2015. She also had articles published in *IP Watchdog* and the *Nashville Bar Journal*.

2014

CHRIS BEAUCHAMP (2014) was hired as an associate at Lowery, Lowery & Cherry in Lebanon, Tennessee.

MICHAEL DAVID MARTIN and **LEE ELLEN OLIVER**, NSL classmates, were married in October 2015.

2015

DEREK JORDAN works as an associate with the Los Angeles-based law firm Barnes Law.

FACULTY

ROBERT E. LEE DAVIES was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court as Senior Judge. A former circuit court judge, Davies teaches Domestic Relations at the Nashville School of Law.

RAMONA P. DESALVO became the inaugural faculty advisor for the Sports and Entertainment Law Society at the Nashville School of Law.

K. HARLAN DODSON, III was named to the *Nashville Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar." He also delivered the faculty address at the May 2015 graduation ceremony.

BILL HARBISON was named to the *Nashville Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar." He received a 2015 Bill of Rights Award from the ACLU for his work on the same-sex marriage recognition case, *Tanco v. Haslam*.

ANDRA HEDRICK delivered the faculty address to NSL graduating students in December 2015. *The Tennessee Bar Journal* printed her speech in its June 2015 issue.

CANDI HENRY has been named a shareholder at Dodson Parker & Behm. She also was named a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Division. She also received "Star of the Quarter" honors for her service as Long Range Planning Chair for the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Tournament.

TREVOR HOWELL formed his own law firm, Howell Law Firm PLC, focusing on business-related matters and employment law. Howell teaches Business Associations and Employment Law at NSL.

DAVID L. HUDSON, JR.'S book *The Handy American History Book* was published in August. The book received a starred review from *The Library Journal*.

DEAN WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR. was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to chair the Indigent Representation Task Force. He was also appointed by Speaker Beth Harwell to the state's Trial Court Vacancy Commission. Koch was profiled by the *Nashville Business Journal*.

HON. PHILIP E. SMITH, a circuit court judge in Davidson County, received a 2015 "Good Guy Award" from the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee for his work in domestic violence.

M. CLARK SPODEN achieved recertification as a specialist in Civil Trial Advocacy and Civil Pretrial Advocacy from the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

LUTHER WRIGHT, JR. earned inclusion into the 22nd edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. Wright also was named one of the "Best of the Bar" by the *Nashville Business Journal*. He practices employment law and serves of counsel with Ogletree Deakins. ●



NSL HONORS THREE GRADUATES AND LEGAL PIONEER AT RECOGNITION DINNER

The Nashville School of Law's 22nd Annual Recognition Dinner honored three NSL graduates and a pioneer in the legal profession on June 12.

Held at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, the dinner drew more than 650 people, including hundreds of alumni, other lawyers, and community leaders from across the state for an exciting evening.

The school honored Martha Cone Beck and Robert H. ("Bobby") Goodall, Sr. as distinguished graduates. Beck graduated from the school in 1989, where she attended classes with her son and current law partner, Carson W. "Bill" Beck. Goodall, a former Vanderbilt gridiron great, earned his law degree from NSL in 1968. He practiced law for more than a decade before concentrating on land development and home building.

Juvenile Court Magistrate Carlton M. Lewis (1985) received the Distinguished Faculty

award. Lewis has taught a course in Juvenile Law and Practice at his alma mater since 2002. He thanked all of his former students in a heartfelt address.

The dinner also featured the bestowing of the Community Service Award to Charles H. Warfield, who has more than 50 years of contributions to the bench and bar and to Nashville's larger community. Warfield, who earned his law degree from Vanderbilt in 1949, earned a rousing standing ovation after concluding his remarks with the following advice: "Let me give y'all a tip: just live to be 90 and somebody will give you a dinner."

Nashville Board of Trust Chairman Tom Cone (1964) also presented a gift to Charlie Niewold (1985), for his effective leadership as Chair of the Recognition Dinner Committee. •

*Pictured above (left to right):
Robert H. (Bobby) Goodall,
Martha Cone Beck,
Carlton M. Lewis,
Charles H. Warfield*



NSL ALUMNI

Let's get together

NSL ALUMNI EVENTS

Many graduates of the Nashville School of Law attended one or more of the school's six alumni events from May through November in different counties across Tennessee.

The events were held in Davidson, Montgomery, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson Counties. The first event took place in Sumner County at the Goodlettsville-based law firm Haynes, Freeman & Bracey LLC. NSL faculty member Kim Reed-Bracey played a leading role in ensuring the inaugural event was a success.

The next event occurred on July 17 in Rockvale, Tennessee, at Anna Lee Acres. Murfreesboro-based attorney Rick Mansfield did yeoman's work to ensure that event was well attended and received.

In August, NSL graduates Brenda (1977) and Doug (1978) Hale hosted an event at their home in Franklin. The next month in September, Lebanon-based attorney Jack Lowery, Jr. (1985) helped

to ensure a successful event in his home city. Sharon Massey (1998) helped organize the October event in Clarksville. The final event took place at the Nashville School of Law in November.

At each event, Dean William C. Koch, Jr. informed attendees about developments at the school and encouraged alumni involvement. Furthermore, each event featured a current NSL student who spoke about life as an NSL student. Bill Sorrells, Mary Cocke, Blake Lilley, Cathryn Armistead, and Eric Lehman tackled this task admirably.

"These alumni events have been uncharted territory for us," said Stacey Angello (2010), NSL's Director of Alumni Affairs and Recruiting, who spearheaded these events. "But we have been pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm and participation of our grads. We have reconnected with friends and started new relationships all based on a common thread tying us all together — our love of the Nashville School of Law."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Recent NSL graduate Wayne Sutter (2014) attended several of the events. "When I meet an NSL alumni, we instantly have a bond of shared experience," he explained. "That shared experience has led to professional work relationships that will positively affect the rest of my life. The alumni meetings are a chance to meet other successful NSL attorneys, share our goals and aspirations and spread our network." •





Pictured left to right:

1. David Viele, Brenda Hale, and Dean Koch
2. NSL graduates, staff, and students enjoying the Williamson County alumni event.
3. Beth McDonald and Sam Edwards (1991)
4. Attendees at the Clarksville alumni event.
5. Jacob Fendley (2011), Deborah S. Evans (1992), Elizabeth Ann Hahn (2011), and Sharon Massey
6. Kathleen Hale McClellan (2009) and Stacey Angello
7. Chris Beauchamp (2015), David Hudson, and Nick Snider (2014)
8. Don Young and Betsy Welch

CLASS OF '74 BONDS AGAIN AT ANNUAL EVENT

More than 40 years after graduating from the Nashville School of Law, the Class of 1974 remains an exemplar of forging bonds and strengthening friendships. Thirteen members of the class gathered together on October 29th at Sapphire Restaurant at the Factory in Franklin, Tennessee for their 41st reunion.

The class invited NSL Dean William C. Koch, Jr., who willingly came and addressed the alums about events at the school and thanked them for their devotion to NSL.

After their 25th reunion in 1999, the class, who attended classes at the old downtown YMCA, began having regular gatherings. For many years they get together annually for friendship and remembrances.

Class member John C. McLemore credits the practical education received from NSL faculty. "Our class turned out good lawyers and very successful businessmen," he said. "And, we always had a solid respect for one another."

McLemore also praises the efforts of classmate Larry Williams, who later taught courses in

local government and evidence at NSL for 22 years, for being a galvanizing force behind the annual meetings. "It helps that we had one member of the class who just enjoyed keeping up with everyone and organizing lunches and dinners," explains McLemore. "Larry Williams has made it happen. He began with simple Dutch treat lunches. They turned into dinner parties at a member's house."

"The West Point Class of 1915 is known as the 'Class the Stars Fell On,'" says McLemore. "I have always considered the YMCA Night Law School Class of 1974 as a class the stars fell on. We did not take the LSAT. Anyone who could pay the tuition of \$65.00 per month was admitted... We bonded and stuck it out."

"The way that the Class of 1974 has stayed in touch with each other for 41 years is incredible," says Dean Koch. "It reflects the friendships that are formed among NSL students. I hope other classes will follow their example." ●





Pictured left to right:

1. John C. McClemore, Larry Williams, Bob Stroop, Jim Barr, Richard (Dickie) Norman, Sara Pettit, Bill Shuff, Ron Buchanan, Jackson Downey, Edmond (Covey) Johnston, Jim Lackey, Dean Koch, and Ed Silva
2. Kirk Scobey
3. Sara Pettit
4. Jackson Downey
5. Doug and Bob Stroop
6. Richard (Dickie) Norman and Larry Williams
7. Ed Silva and Dean Koch



NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW

4013 Armory Oaks Drive

Nashville, TN 37204

O: 615.256.3684

F: 615.244.2383

beth.mcdonald@NSL.law

NSL.law

Dates to Remember:

May 28th
Cooper Term Graduation
Class of 2016

June 10th
2016 Recognition Dinner

December 10th
Henry Term Graduation
Class of 2016